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THE

FREDONIA LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

**Snow envelopes
Fredonia as Fall
Semester comes to
a close**

Campus Life and Student Affairs unveil assembly policy
Blue Devils shine in front of Charles Barkley
Lacrosse: A worldwide game with local origins
5th Quarter Column: College Football; Sport or Business?
[OPINION] Holding space for the new Wicked movie
[SATIRE] A Sitdown with Brock goes on strike

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“You can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom.” -Malcolm X

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Campus Life and Student Affairs unveil policy regulating on-campus assemblies

DAN QUAGLIANA
Managing Editor

Some of the most memorable events from the past year at SUNY Fredonia have been the protests organized by the student advocacy group Students for Fredonia.

These protests have been organized to raise awareness and rally students against the various program cuts enacted by Fredonia's administration. They have drawn the attention of SUNY leadership and other local news organizations, in many cases becoming synonymous with the school.

When the phrase "SUNY Fredonia" is put into Google, a YouTube video by Buffalo news network WKBW regarding last year's program cuts is about halfway down the first page. In some eyes, this may be seen as drawing negative press to the university.

That may be one reason why the Freedom of Expression & Assembly Interim Policy has recently been updated by the offices of Campus Life and Student Affairs.

The Freedom of Expression & Assembly Interim Policy lays out certain procedures and regulations involving "opportunities for members of our community to express their views." Additionally, the policy looks "to ensure that the time, place and manner of such expression does not interfere with the safety and security of our campus community or disrupt the regular operations of the campus."

The new policy is sponsored by Dr. Tracy Stenger, the vice

president for student affairs. The "responsible office" of the policy is listed as that of Campus Life, which is directed by Mark Suida.

It is important to note that the status of this policy is currently unclear, from a student perspective — it is listed as an "interim" policy that took effect on Aug. 21 of this year, but the official website lists the "next" review session as taking place on Oct. 1 of this year — a date that has long since passed by the printing of this article. The Leader does not have any information as to whether this meeting actually took place.

Additionally, this policy was announced on Dec. 19, 2023, and then given a 30-day review period where campus community members could provide feedback — but the majority of those 30 days were over that year's winter break, leaving students unable to properly provide feedback.

It is currently unclear if the feedback of students and other campus community members will be taken into account in a forthcoming permanent policy.

While the policy's content begins by saying, "Individuals are guaranteed the rights of free inquiry and expression," it goes on to say that, "Subject to applicable content-neutral policy, individuals are guaranteed the right to hold public meetings and engage in peaceful and orderly assemblies — including, but not limited to, protests, demonstrations, rallies, vigils, marches and picketing — in and upon designated public areas of campus grounds and buildings."

The main purpose of the policy is somewhat obscured by



Jasmine Johnson, Ben Evans, Mia Ciechalski, Abby Tartaro and Sophie Myers leading a protest in March.

Photo by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor

Continued onto next page

that welcome-sounding introduction — the text goes on to lay out prohibited conduct and activities that students may not be aware of, the most prohibitive of which is “entry into any other college area that is not authorized, without permission.” Taken in its most broad sense, that could encompass any area on campus that campus leadership does not explicitly authorize in advance as acceptable for student-organized protests.

Additionally, the policy lays out new regulations for “legal” protests. The policy states that, “All individuals participating in protests and demonstrations are required to provide a form of University or government-issued identification upon request from a University official.”

But what happens when a student fails to follow these new guidelines, whether accidentally or otherwise?

“SUNY Fredonia takes compliance with this policy very seriously,” the policy states. “Students should expect that violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action under the University Student Code of Conduct, up to and including interim suspension, suspension and expulsion. Faculty and staff in violation of this policy may be reviewed and investigated by Human Resources for possible disciplinary action. Third parties in violation of this policy may result in appropriate administrative or legal sanctions.”

The Leader reached out to Campus Life, Student Affairs and the office of university contracts regarding this interim policy, and no response was received for over a month. The only response received was by Suida, the entirety of which consisted of links to the university-provided FAQ and to Fredonia’s freedom of expression website that “highlights the university’s commitment to free speech,” according to Suida.

No response was received from Student Affairs or the university policy office.

Reactions to this policy from members of the faculty have been negative. University Senate’s Faculty and Professional

“The time, place [and] manner [of the] restrictions below border on suppressing freedom of expression on campus.”

— FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

University Senate
SUNY Fredonia

Affairs Committee, chaired by Andrea Wasiura, Fredonia’s director of web and digital initiatives, sent a feedback memo to University Senate on Oct. 4. In the memo, the committee stated, “Protesting has always introduced some risk, but in this policy’s case, the rules governing demonstration verge on prohibiting protests that put direct pressure on the university itself. The time, place [and] manner [of the] restrictions below border on suppressing freedom of expression on campus.”

According to that memo, the interim policy will “undermine the current Code of Conduct by limiting the time, place and location of spontaneous protests and/or demonstrations organized by members of the university community.”

It further states, “Limiting ‘public forums’ to [Monday to Friday], 8 a.m. [to] 4:30 p.m.[,] and only at the clock tower or Dods Hall picnic grove area, is antithetical to the spirit and letter of the existing college catalog policy.”

The discussed interim policy can be found here: <http://fweb.fredonia.edu/policy/public/final/OPS-PL-102.pdf>.

SUNY's Print Initiative plan: What it means for Fredonia

ABIGAIL JACOBSON

News Editor

Most students don’t see any downside to the array of printers currently available at Reed Library. However, SUNY’s new print policy may give insight as to the amount of paper wasted by these added resources.

According to an email sent on Dec. 5 by SUNY Fredonia President Stephen Kolison, SUNY put in place the System-wide Print Resource Use Policy. According to SUNY, the policy could help “reduce cost, waste, print and paper.”

The first phase of this plan was established at Fredonia back in 2021. Information Technology Services (ITS) collected data on printer usage on Fredonia’s campus and analyzed the print environment.

The second phase of this plan started by replacing old printers that used USB connections in Maytum and

Thompson Halls and bringing in a new print management solution. This phase is ongoing and will continue until the end of Jan., 2025.

According to the email, phase three will begin in Feb. of 2025. Phase three will entail the following: “ITS will work with individual departments to establish a print management migration plan and training.”

They are expected to be done with this project by the end of the 2025 calendar year.

Additionally, “There will be a required initial investment in acquiring new printers, [and] it will lead to significant savings after the first year.” It is currently unknown the origin of the funds that Fredonia will pull from to achieve the mentioned investment, considering the multi-million budgetary deficit that continues to plague the university.

The SUNY print initiative “also helps our campus reduce its carbon footprint and improve efficiency.”

"I have checked with comprehensive presidents who have implemented this initiative, and they have all indicated to me that the savings are substantial."

— **STEPHEN KOLISON, JR.**
President
SUNY Fredonia

According to the email, Kolison said, "I have checked with comprehensive presidents who have implemented this initiative, and they have all indicated to me that the savings are substantial."

In a presentation shared in the email, they provided five "S" guidelines: Savings, which means SUNY would save around "\$15-20M" a year; Sustainability, which includes having fewer devices which then results in less paper, water, energy and waste; Simplification, which allows fewer administrative tasks

and instead offers "one number to call for service"; Standardization, where there will be three models but one software platform; and lastly, Security, where all devices on the network are secured and are capable of mobile printing.

According to this presentation, the impact of this initiative over three years will help SUNY to: reduce "the number and impact of printers by 50% and appear by 36% (225 [million] pages [per] year)," "Save 27,000 trees [per] year," "Reduce greenhouse gas emission by 2.25 [million] pounds [per] year, or [greater than one] ton [per] year," and "Conserve more than 23 [million] gallons of water [per] year."

According to the PowerPoint, "If every person at SUNY that prints ... printed just [two] pages fewer per day ... SUNY would save [more than] \$6.5 [million pages per] year."

For more information, see the email titled "[Students] Update on the Implementation of the SUNY Print Initiative" sent by President Kolison. His presentation is linked below.

SOURCES:

https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=890

Main Street gains new attraction as White Inn reopens

DAN QUAGLIANA
Managing Editor

Main Street in downtown Fredonia has many points of interest for students — bars, restaurants, housing... now, that list has grown to include a hotel.

The White Inn, which has been vacant since 2017, reopened to the public on Nov. 11 of this year.

Andrew Miller, a 1993 SUNY Fredonia graduate, said that he is "very excited about the White Inn reopening. I have fond memories of the White Inn and having dinner ... and staying overnight there."

After a period of inactivity, the Inn started renovations in September 2022, which consisted of repainting the building, replacing the front pillars, adding a new sidewalk and completely repaving the parking lot.

"The place was in disrepair by the end," Miller recalled. "Hopefully, they were able to fix everything up ... The front porch was kind of falling apart and they had peeling paint."

Fredonia natives Steve St. George and Devin Jones purchased the Inn in an auction and spent \$6.5 million renovating it and preparing it for the public. The Inn now includes a similarly renovated restaurant on the property at 29 rooms available for guests to spend a night or two.

"We want it to be a place where you come in once or twice a week, not just for special occasions," Jones said in an article published on fourbites.com.

"We really want to be able to show the community that we're keeping this local. We're really excited that all these local companies are willing to help us to restore this building," Britany Ludemann, one of the project's interior designers, said on the Inn's website.

Jerrod Mills, the project manager, said, "One of the things that we've emphasized is that everybody can feel like they can come here. We wanted it to be an inclusive place. We didn't want to price[-]point it out so that I can't go in there with my two kids. ... If you want to get a fancy steak dinner, you can, but you can also get a cheeseburger at the bar."

Miller mentioned that he would like to come back and visit Fredonia to stay overnight at the Inn once again.

On Dec. 13 of this year, the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce will be holding their December annual meeting at the Inn, celebrating its opening.

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Life & Arts

Reed Library hosts lo-fi day to help students destress

ALEX BUCKNAM
Asst. News Editor

As finals week approaches, the student body as a whole is more stressed out now than any other time in the semester.

Well, Reed Library has a perfect solution for you, according to Owen Wagner, the Community Engagement and Outreach intern at the Reed Library.

On Dec. 11, Wagner, alongside the Reed Library staff, will be hosting an all-day long, low-sensory lo-fi event from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m.

This event is for students to decompress during what is widely recognized as “dead week” — the week before finals week.

There will also be snacks while supplies last, coloring books, puzzles and fidget toys for students to enjoy.

Forbes says that lo-fi “uses lower sound quality, audio imperfections and less professional equipment to curate its aesthetic.”

According to the same Forbes article, today’s lo-fi music has a few different characteristics — one of them being a drum loop that is set to a low or moderate tempo. Another is a jazz chord that adds relaxation. Other instruments that can be found in lo-fi music may include guitar, piano or even vocals.

During the low-sensory event, the staff at Reed Library will be playing specifically lo-fi music from Lofi Girl on YouTube.

Lofi Girl is a YouTube streamer who live streams all different types of lo-fi music at once. Live streams are constantly going, and there is always a list of different genres for people to choose from.

According to Wagner, the library will play different streams that Lofi Girl has on their page at that time.

The Calm website says that lo-fi music can have a wide range of benefits, including boosting your mood, reducing anxiety and helping to promote relaxation.

“Many people find that the gentle white noise elements in lo-fi tracks, like vinyl crackles or background hums, create a soothing effect by masking jarring noises,” according to the mental health section on the Calm website. “This can promote a relaxed mental state, making it easier to unwind and feel at ease after a long day or during a quiet break from work.”

Wagner says that this relaxing effect is important during finals week because, “Students might start feeling stressed out during study week due to their final exams that are happening the next week.”

“Many people find that the gentle white noise elements in lo-fi tracks ... can promote a relaxed mental state, making it easier to unwind and feel at ease after a long day or during a quiet break from work.”

— **CALM WEBSITE**
Mental Health Brand and App

Different departments are also hosting events during dead-and finals weeks. The Counseling Center is doing a Paws and Enjoy event in the library on the same day as the lo-fi sensory event. The Paws and Enjoy event will go from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

According to the event page on SUNY Fredonia’s website, the Paws and Enjoy event will feature certified therapy dogs that can help students decompress for finals week.

Another event happening on campus that students can attend is a Zumba class at the Aerobic Center in Hemingway Hall on Dec. 12 at 4 p.m.

Your dorm hall may also be holding activities for finals week, so it is important to check with your resident assistant and resident director to find out what is going on.

All events mentioned in this article are free to attend.

Blue Devils shine in front of hockey — and basketball — royalty

MATT VOLZ
Sports Editor

On a chilly December weekend in Fredonia, there are certain people you'd expect to see at Steele Hall Ice Arena.

Students, parents and other hockey fans are plenty used to packing the stands to watch the Blue Devils play hockey.

It might not be unusual to see some Fredonia alumni in attendance, either, especially on Alumni Weekend.

But nobody would anticipate an NBA Hall of Famer in the stands.

On Friday, Dec. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7, basketball legend Charles Barkley was on-hand for games against Plattsburgh and Potsdam.

Barkley, an 11-time NBA All-Star and the most valuable player of the 1992-93 season, is perhaps known more for his post-playing career.

After retirement, Barkley has been a mainstay on Inside the NBA, the Association's primary analysis show, where he gained even more popularity as a result of banter between him and fellow insiders Shaquille O'Neal and Kenny "The Jet" Smith.

Barkley has also served as an analyst for March Madness, making his presence felt at several Final Fours over the years.

He made his presence felt in Fredonia on Alumni Weekend, too.

Barkley's connection to Fredonia was made through one of the team's most recognizable alums, Craig Conley.

Conley was a member of the 1993-94 and 1994-95 Blue Devils teams that set school records and tore through the rest of Division III.

The 1993-94 team lost just one game all season long, a 4-3 loss to Wisconsin-River Falls in the Frozen Four.

In 1994-95, Fredonia reached the national championship game, losing to Middlebury in a 1-0 game.

Conley was named an All-American, and he and the rest of both teams were inducted into the Fredonia Athletics Hall of Fame.

The story of those teams was told in a two-part series published in The Leader last spring.

Conley and Barkley worked together on a project, and Conley brought the man known as "Sir Charles" or "Chuck" to Fredonia to witness Alumni Weekend.

In addition to them, many members of those mid-'90s teams and other alumni stood behind the glass to take in two nights of SUNYAC hockey.

The Blue Devils didn't miss the opportunity to impress them, either.

On Friday, against Plattsburgh, freshman Riley See scored after a netfront scramble midway through the first period.

The young Blue Devils defense, composed of mostly freshmen, shined against the Cardinals offense, helping goalie Charles-Anthony Barbeau keep Plattsburgh at bay.

Freshman Luke Morris, a Fredonia native, scored an empty-net goal to seal the victory, a 2-0 final score.

It was a landmark win for a Blue Devils team looking to find their footing, as head coach Jeff Meredith's squad features 17 freshmen.

Plattsburgh, although they've struggled at times this year, is typically a team that is near the top of not only the SUNYAC, but the entire country.

They've been a top SUNYAC team since those years in the mid-'90s, as many of the Blue Devils alumni saw the Cardinals as their biggest challenger in the conference.

It was a much needed effort for Barbeau, too, as he began his first year as a starter with an 0-6 record and allowing more than four goals per game.

He decided that a stellar performance on Friday wasn't enough, though.

On Saturday, the Blue Devils completed the Alumni Weekend sweep with another 2-0 win, this time over Potsdam.

Morris scored his second goal in as many nights, a power-play marker in the second period.

Just 13 seconds later, fellow freshman Gavin Bloder brought the fans to their feet again, scoring to put the Blue Devils up by two.

Barbeau stood tall once again, turning away Potsdam at every chance to earn his second shutout in as many nights.

The postgame celebration extended outside the arena, too, as Barkley and the alumni went out on the town following both games.

On Friday night, Barkley hopped on the microphone at Old Main Inn, thanking Fredonia for how he had been received and informing all patrons that he would be picking up the bill for all of their beverages.

The weekend probably still feels like a dream for players and fans alike, and it likely couldn't have been any better for the Blue Devils.



Sports Editor Matt Volz next to Charles Barkley, NBA Hall of Famer.

Photo by MATT VOLZ | Sports Editor

Amanda Drummond seeks to provide safety and security, one step at a time

ABIGAIL JACOBSON
News Editor

Certain events or circumstances can have an effect on someone's daily life, sometimes bad and sometimes good.

Winning the SUNY Police Chief's Life Saving Award is one of the good ones.

Amanda Drummond, a SUNY Fredonia University Police Officer, was awarded the SUNY Police Chief's Life Saving Award for providing first aid to a stab victim.

During FredFest last year, a stabbing occurred in downtown Fredonia. The Fredonia Police Department had called for additional assistance and Drummond arrived on the scene. She found the stab victim and applied pressure to the wound until medical personnel were able to transport the victim to the hospital.

Because of her efforts, her fellow co-workers and Fredonia's police chief, Gordon Carpenter, recommended her for the award.

"I was surprised and excited," Drummond said.

Drummond was born in Louisiana but grew up in Dunkirk, NY. She attended Dunkirk High School and then went to SUNY Fredonia. She received her bachelor's degrees in criminal justice and sociology in 2007.

Before Drummond started her University Police Department (UPD) career, she was a child support investigator for Chautauqua County. Child support investigators are typically tasked with assisting in custody orders and agreements, enforcing court-ordered child support claims and collecting evidence against or in favor of the involved parties.

Drummond first started her UPD career at SUNY Oswego and was there for a year and a half in 2019. She then transferred to Fredonia, where she has been for four and a half years.

On Drummond's days off, she enjoys going to the gym, baking, watching movies and spending time with her extended family. She also likes to attend Bills games as a season ticket

"I hope to bring a sense of safety and security along with a hope that the students can feel comfortable calling UPD when they need to."

— AMANDA DRUMMOND
Police Officer
University Police Department
SUNY Fredonia



Amanda Drummond with her husband.
Photo provided by Amanda Drummond.

holder.

Drummond loves horror movies and true crime shows and documentaries, "with a slight guilty pleasure of reality TV." She loves to watch football and cheers for the Buffalo Bills and the New Orleans Saints. Traveling around the U.S. and the rest of the world is her absolute favorite thing to do.

Drummond has been with her husband, Jim Quinn, a sixth-grade social studies teacher at Dunkirk Intermediate School, for 14 and a half years. They have been married for 10 and a half years.

Drummond has a stepdaughter, Mackenzie Quinn, who attends law school at the University of Buffalo and has a stepson, Jameson Quinn, who attends St. John Fisher and plays football there.

Drummond also has two dogs, an eight-year-old male retriever/St. Bernard mix, who they named Gator, and a seven-year-old female weiner dog named Brees.

Drummond believes everyone you meet plays a part in shaping you. But if she had to pick one person, it would be her father, Mark Drummond. "He was always such a hard worker and taught me to trust my intuition," she said.

Drummond described herself in one word as "hopeful," saying she hopes "to bring a sense of safety and security along with a hope that the students can feel comfortable calling UPD when they need to."

SPORTS

Lacrosse:

A worldwide game with local origins

MATT VOLZ
Sports Editor

Lacrosse is a game that's known by many different names. Those who invented it referred to it as "Deyhontsigwa'ehs," which translates to "they bump hips."

It is also often called "the creator's game," as its earliest players believed that playing could be a form of ceremonial healing, and it would also be a way to thank the creator of the world.

For some traditional groups, these beliefs are still held to this day.

According to the Indigenous Values Initiative, a missionary named Jean de Brébeuf came up with the name lacrosse after witnessing a game in 1636.

It's never been confirmed, but it is believed that de Brébeuf thought the stick resembled a bishop's crozier or staff, hence the name "lacrosse."

The game was created by the Haudenosaunee, a confederation of six Indigenous Nations based in New York.

The name Haudenosaunee means "people of the long-house," a reference to the type of homes they traditionally lived in.

Originally, there were only five Nations: Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida and Mohawk.

The Tuscarora Nation, originally from what is now North Carolina and Virginia, came to be when many of the Tuscarora people fled north after the Tuscarora War in the early 1700s.

The Six Nations have played the game for centuries, and it became a favorite of those who colonized the area as well.

It gained popularity in parts of Canada, too, and it was referred to by some as Canada's national game for a period of

"They're honoring those who created what has become an international game, a game that began right here in their own backyard."

— **MATT VOLZ**
Student
SUNY Fredonia

time in the late 1800s, according to the Indigenous Values Initiative.

As a result, the state of New York and the Canadian province of Ontario are some of the biggest hotbeds for lacrosse in the world.

In the National Lacrosse League (NLL), the Buffalo Bandits, Rochester Knighthawks and Toronto Rock are three of the most consistent leaders in fan attendance each season.

Buffalo led the league in attendance in 2024, selling out KeyBank Center for nearly every game in the regular season and playoffs.

Many Indigenous players in the NLL are from these areas, including Tehoka Nanticoke of the Bandits, the three Thompson brothers of the Georgia Swarm, their cousin Ty of the San Diego Seals and several others.

These players and others identify strongly with their Indigenous identity.

During international lacrosse events, such as the World Lacrosse Championships which takes place every four years, Indigenous players will play for the Haudenosaunee Nationals team.

The Haudenosaunee may be more commonly known by another name: the Iroquois.

Iroquois was the English name that was given to the Six Nations. As Indigenous people were forcibly assimilated into American society, they began to lose many aspects of their culture, and the name "Iroquois" is a symbol of that.

In 1983, their international lacrosse team was formed, and they went by the name "Iroquois Nationals," as most people knew them by the name Iroquois rather than Haudenosaunee.

The team website explains that as the years went on and society progressed, they felt it was time to rebrand themselves with the name they most identify with.

So, in 2022, they began to play under the Haudenosaunee Nationals name.

Lacrosse is one of the few international sports with nationally recognized Indigenous teams. This provides Indigenous players with the opportunity to play for their heritage and honor those who came before them.

They're honoring those who created what has become an international game, a game that began right here in their own backyard.

A glimpse back at Fredonia's Fall Semester sports



Huddy Kwiatkowski (#18), Men's Soccer.



Liz Wagner, Women's Cross Country.



Luca Maiuri (#20), Men's Ice Hockey.

All photos by BECCA TORNCHELLO | Sports Photographer

Continued onto next page

A glimpse back at Fredonia's Fall Semester sports



Logan Lexner (#4), Women's Volleyball.



Keenan Roberts, Jr. (#10), Men's Basketball.



Women's Soccer Team cheering after a goal.



Dawson Doner (#19), Men's Ice Hockey.

All photos by BECCA TORNCHELLO | Sports Photographer

5th Quarter Column: College Football; Sport or Business?

MITCH HORUCY

Asst. Sports Editor

Figure skating, diving, gymnastics, sometimes mixed martial arts fights and now college football.

All the sports listed are decided based on scores from judges, and not a set time and scoring format.

Now, one of the sports I listed isn't like the others. That sport is college football.

In 2014, the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) made the switch from the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) National Championship game to the College Football Playoff (CFP).

From 2014-2023, the format was simple, as each of the top four ranked teams in the country made the playoffs. Starting this year, the format has switched to a 12-team playoff with a more complex setup.

The four highest-ranked conference champions get seeds one through four, getting a bye in the first round.

The fifth-highest-ranked conference champion, which would normally be the highest-ranked group-of-five team, will also get an automatic bid, but won't receive a bye.

The other seven spots are given to the other seven highest-ranked teams.

The new-look playoff hasn't been the problem thus far.

Instead, it's been what we've seen in years past: brand bias.

Dating back to last year, the Florida State Seminoles went 13-0, winning the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). However, in the team's second to last regular season game, they lost their starting quarterback and the 2023 ACC Player of the Year, Jordan Travis, to a devastating injury that ended his season.

Despite the injury, the team finished the year with a win over Florida on the road, and they beat a top-15 team in Louisville in the ACC Championship.

In the final rankings, they dropped a spot in favor of the Alabama Crimson Tide, who won the Southeastern Conference (SEC) championship, but had one loss.

This was the first and only time in the four-team CFP history that an undefeated power-five team missed the playoff.

At the time, it was a polarizing decision, and it still is a year later.

As we approach the final rankings heading into championship weekend, it's clear that the outrage from the public has had no impact on the committee.

Before getting specific, let's compare two teams blindly:

Team One:

10-2 (6-2)

12th strength of record

4.5-points average margin of loss

Losses: @8-5 team and @9-3 team

First-ranked offense

Team Two:

9-3 (5-3)

10th strength of record

11-points average margin of loss

Losses: @6-6 team, @10-2 team, @6-6 team

#11 ranked offense

Team One is the Miami Hurricanes and Team Two is the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Alabama is currently ranked 11 and Miami is at 12.

Alabama is currently the last at-large bid in the playoffs, and it's looking like they're going to get in heading into championship weekend.

Committee Chair Warde Manuel was on ESPN's CFP selection show, and made the statement that teams not playing in conference championships will not have their rankings adjusted.

"[For] any team that is not playing right now, we don't have a data point to rearrange where we have those teams ranked, and so that is set in terms of how we see them going into the final week of championship week," said Manuel.

This means there's no chance Miami can get into the playoff, and that Alabama will likely get in if the current favorites in the ACC and Big 12 Championship games win, as both teams do not play in their conference championships.

Speaking of conference championships, I'd like to point out some logic that the committee uses that doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

It happened to the University of Southern California (USC) in 2022 and very well could happen to Southern Methodist University (SMU) this season, and that is being punished for playing in your conference championship game.

In the 2022 season, USC was 11-1 and ranked fourth in the country, but more importantly, they were on track to make the CFP going into the Big 12 Championship game. They ended up losing to Utah, who was ranked 11th in the nation at the time.

Due to this loss, they have dropped six spots back to 10th and missed the playoffs.

Meanwhile, Ohio State, who was sitting at home after not making it to the Big 10 Championship, moved up a spot, making the playoff.

With how the rankings are currently set up, if SMU loses to Clemson in the ACC Championship, the committee will likely drop them out of playoff contention and Alabama will get in.

Punishing a team for playing in their conference championship and rewarding teams that didn't isn't fair or reasonable, yet the committee has done it before and will likely continue to do it.

If I were the head coach of the SMU Mustangs, I'd heavily consider not playing in their game, which is completely ridiculous, but it's a result of how the committee operates.

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This is plain and simple SEC bias by the committee, which isn't new, although most thought it would be stopped once the playoff was expanded.

A few quick examples of this SEC bias taking place have occurred right in front of our eyes.

In Week 13, Miami had a bye and Alabama hosted Mercer, winning 52-7.

In the rankings following that week, Alabama jumped Miami in rankings, meaning that the committee believed that Alabama beating a lower-level school in November was a "meaningful" win.

Another example is that when Miami lost to a 9-3 Syracuse team by four on the road this past weekend, the committee dropped them six spots.

When Alabama lost to a 6-6 Oklahoma team on the road by 21, they were also dropped six spots.

By doing this, the committee is saying a 21-point loss to a 6-6 team is the same as a four-point loss to a 9-3 team, which is ridiculous.

There's no perfect way to settle the rankings, but with what we've seen over the past two seasons, one thing is clear. College football has become a money-making business.

Last season, the NCAA reported that college football brought in roughly \$1.3 billion, with Alabama football accounting for \$129 million of that revenue.

On the other hand, Miami only brought in \$74 million.

Also, if you look at the top 50 most-watched games of last season, Alabama is tied for most in the country with eight.

It's no secret Alabama is one of, if not the biggest, programs in college football, but that should not be a topic of discussion when ranking teams.

A final argument I've seen that I wanted to discuss is the take that since "Team One" would be favored over "Team Two" in a game, they should be ranked higher, end of story.

If we were going to base rankings based on odds made in Las Vegas, why even play a regular season?

Why not just take the top 12 teams in terms of odds to win the championship at the start of the season and have those teams just start in the playoffs?

Not to keep going back to Alabama, but they were a 24.5-point favorite against Vanderbilt and lost.

Ohio State was a 20.5-point favorite against Michigan and lost.

The final example you should note is that Notre Dame was a 28.5-point favorite against Northern Illinois and lost.

There's a reason we play the games — they should matter when we rank teams.

There's almost no perfect format or formula when it comes to forming a postseason in college football, but it's disappointing to see the state it's currently in.



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Bandits look to snatch third straight title

MATT VOLZ
Sports Editor

As the breezy fall transitions to the bitter cold winter, thousands of fans will fill KeyBank Center to watch their favorite team.

They're not wearing the blue and gold of the Buffalo Sabres, though.

These fans are donned in the black and orange of the Buffalo Bandits.

The Bandits typically draw some of the best crowds in the National Lacrosse League (NLL), nearly selling out the 19,070-seat arena for each game.

Last season, they averaged a league-best 16,974 fans per game, making Banditland one of the league's most difficult environments for opposing teams to play in.

The fans have good reason to come out in droves, as the Bandits enter 2025 with their eyes on a third straight championship.

The organization is one of the most successful in the league, with six championship banners hanging in the rafters.

Head coach John Tavares won four of those titles as a player for the team, and he has led the Bandits to their last two from behind the bench.

Buffalo is led by two key forwards, Josh Byrne and Dhane Smith.

Byrne was the league's best player in 2024, as he was named Offensive Player of the Year and was awarded the MVP awards for both the regular season and the NLL Finals.

Smith, a two-time season MVP and 2023 Finals MVP, is already one of the top offensive players in NLL history at age 32.

Byrne and Smith ranked first and second in the league in points last season, respectively.

Buffalo's forward group is aided by the return of a few key contributors from the past two playoff runs.

Chris Cloutier, Chase Fraser and Kyle Buchanan all signed one-year deals to return to the team, providing a secondary scoring boost behind Smith and Byrne.

The transition and defensive units have some mainstay players returning, too.

Alternate captain Nick Weiss and veteran Paul Dawson were both brought back for one more season.

Weiss returns for his 10th season with the Bandits, while Dawson is set to begin his first full season in Buffalo after coming over from Colorado in a midseason deal that shored up a struggling Bandits defense.

Captain Steve Priolo is also back for 2024-25, as he signed a three-year contract extension over the summer.

Capping it off is 42-year-old goalie Matt Vinc, who is coming back for his 19th NLL season.

While most everyone is returning, the team did see a few departures.

"They fans have good reason to come out in droves, as the Bandits enter 2025 with their eyes on a third straight championship."

— **MATT VOLZ**
Student
SUNY Fredonia

Defenseman Justin Robinson was traded to the newly-named Ottawa Black Bears in exchange for a 2028 sixth-round pick that would become a fourth-round selection if he were to make Ottawa's final roster.

His brother, forward Brandon Robinson, was traded to the rival Rochester Knighthawks in exchange for transition player Thomas Whitty in September.

Whitty, a 25-year-old native of St. Catharines, Ontario, recorded 81 loose ball recoveries and blocked 14 shots with Rochester in 2023-24.

Overall, the core from Buffalo's last two championship runs is still intact, and they should be in contention for a third straight NLL Cup.

The Bandits open the 2024-25 season on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. as they face the Knighthawks in Rochester.

Their home opener will also be against Rochester on Saturday, Dec. 28 at 6:30 p.m.

The 2024 championship banner will be raised before the home opener as part of a championship ceremony.



The Buffalo Bandits exit the stadium after a game.
Image property of the National Lacrosse League.

Why do gamers play games they hate?

ABIGAIL JACOBSON
News Editor

Warning: This article contains strong language.

A lot of things piss me off.

Wet socks, men, video games, politics, men and just a lot of stupid shit. Is one of them video games? Yeah, they piss me off.

If I had to call out any video game, I don't think I could pick one— "Overwatch 2." I could pick one and it's "Overwatch 2."

End of discussion. I know everyone would agree with me. I hate "Overwatch 2" with a passion, alongside some other games as well. I know a lot of friends and people online who claim they hate this one game but then I see them on Discord playing it. Guys, make it make sense.

I mean, I also claim I hate "Overwatch 2" but once my friend texts me asking to play some "Overwatch 2," I'm already waiting for them to invite me.

I think why people say they hate some games but still play them isn't because the games suck. I think that, at the moment, they hate it because someone is destroying them or the game does some stupid shit that should not have happened at all.

For example, how the fuck can Mercy from "Overwatch 2" rez their fucking tank after they died 10 seconds ago? Or maybe when you lose the battle when trying to catch a fucking fish in "Stardew Valley." Yeah, that's when I HATE THE GAME!!!

Another idea as to why people play games they hate is because they've spent money on them.



"Overwatch 2" promotional poster.
Provided by lakewoodsnn.com.

I spent money on "Overwatch 2" when it was originally called "Overwatch" and it was \$60. Then they made "Overwatch 2," which is free, but all of my cosmetics and things I've bought over the years transferred over and I feel as though I HAVE to play the game.

We see this as a sunk cost fallacy, which is where someone has invested money/effort/time into something (for us, video games) and they've already invested so much of that time/effort/money that they have to keep playing it. In other words, throwing away money for the sake of spending it in the first place.

I spent money on "Overwatch" and "Overwatch 2," so if I stop playing it, it feels as though I wasted money. While I'm already broke and feel like I waste money anyways, continuing to play the game I "hate," makes me feel like I didn't waste it at all.

I mean I didn't spend 2 hours playing "Dead Island" to just stop playing it! I already got so far in the game and put in a lot of time and effort, why would I stop playing it because I hate the game? I will at least finish it.

Sometimes if we are serious and we actually don't like the game, it could be because we WANT to like the game.

If you hear so many great things about the game and go to play it and realize it's not what you expected, you might push through it to at least give it a chance.

On a Reddit post by u/BlackWidowerr titled "Why do people force themselves to play games they hate?" one user responded with their opinion. u/BlueDraconis said, "Sometimes I push through games I'm not having fun with, in case I'll like them eventually. From my experience, it's worth it half of the time, so it's like a gamble.

"Sometimes it's like what another comment said: 'the game is popular and I want to know why.' Though I found that most of the [time] it's not worth it, and [I] don't really force myself



"Overwatch" promotional poster.
Provided by ABPosters.com.

to play games like these anymore.”

Another user, u/drewtheredguard, said that they play games they hate “to get that sweet satisfaction of feeling good,” which I completely agree with.

Sometimes we play games we “hate” because we actually did love them at one point.

Before “Overwatch 2,” there was “Overwatch.” It was my favorite game and I became obsessed with it. Then they released “Overwatch 2” as a replacement and I started to dislike it because of the community. Sometimes I just want to play the game I used to enjoy before it started being filled with a toxic community. This sucks because it ruins the game for me.

However, it doesn’t ruin it to the point where I won’t play it.

This is why people play video games they “hate.” We don’t actually hate the game but it does get us riled up. Especially if we’ve put in money, time and effort or are being told “you suck” 500 times when you have the most healing in the damn game (#supportlife).

Yes, I play video games I claim I “hate.” However, that doesn’t stop me from wanting to keep playing them. Especially when my duo’s waiting for me to join.

Overcolumn: PERIOD!

THE QUARTERBACK

Executive Producer of Overcall

THE MUSICIAN

Overcall Producer

RADIO REBEL

Overcall Producer

Hello!

We are The Quarterback, The Musician and Radio Rebel: producers and hosts of the radio show Overcall, right here at Fredonia. Overcall 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 Overcall 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 Overcall 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’ll be staying home and binge-watching a TV show!

This is a great way to establish a bond with your partner, as you can find a new show to watch that you both enjoy!

You could also re-watch a series that both of you have seen, or you could show them a series you love that they’ve never seen!

Some of our guests recommended lighthearted sitcoms like “Parks and Recreation” and “Friends,” or shows that recently released new seasons like “Outer Banks” or “Arcane: League of Legends”.

The Quarterback has been a big fan of “Reba” lately, as her girlboss energy keeps him going through the tough times.

This is a great date idea as it relates to the main topic, too.

Menstruation is painful for many, sometimes reaching the point of immobility where they might not be able to get out of bed or off the couch.

With this date idea you can snuggle up with blankets, snacks, and a partner or friend and relax!

PERIOD!

On this episode we covered menstruation, what happens to the body when menstruation happens, stigmas, period products, period culture and so much more.

The definition of menstruation is the vaginal bleeding that occurs when the lining of the uterus is shed each month. It is a part of the menstruation cycle, which, on average, lasts about 28 days. It begins on the first day of the period and ends on the first day of the next period. The majority of cis women get periods in addition to some individuals assigned female at birth, some nonbinary people, and some trans men. Some cis women do not get periods at all.

On average, women tend to spend \$120 per year on menstrual products, as well as an additional \$20 for over-the-counter products that help subside period symptoms and pain. That’s about \$5,500 that each menstruating individual has to pay in

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their lifetime for period products, assuming they did not buy any for anyone else. This total also excludes things like the morning-after pill, condoms and other reproductive or feminine-related items like bras and pregnancy clothing.

Period products can consist of different varieties, sizes, shapes, absorbencies and applicators such as pads, tampons, menstrual cups, menstrual discs, period underwear, birth control, panty liners, etc.

There are an uncountable amount of stigmas in period culture. Some of them include the conversation being taboo and something that should not be talked about. It is an extremely natural process and should be able to be shared and related to.

Sometimes non-period-havers think period-havers are 'exaggerating' or 'making things up' about the pain, the cost, problems, mood swings, hormonal imbalances and more. Though it's the same process, periods affect each menstruator differently.

Another interesting perspective is that of people who do not menstruate.

Those who do not menstruate, often biological men, have never experienced a period and therefore don't know what it's like.

As a result, it's often hard for them to understand what period-havers go through on a monthly basis.

Sometimes, ignorance emerges and non-menstruators end up making things worse, whether they mean to or not.

So, to help avoid this, here are some tips on how non-menstruators can be helpful!

For starters, NEVER ask someone if it's someone's "time of the month."

Even if the intention is good, it is degrading to ask that question because the 'time of the month' can be extremely emotional, painful and confusing for menstruators. Referring to it as 'the time of the month' rather than the actual words "periods" or "menstruation" can carry a negative connotation, and as a result, degrade the menstruator and their experiences.

Next, do not be disgusted by periods. Menstruation is natural and 1.8 billion people menstruate each month. There is a good chance that someone you talked to today was on their period. When a menstruator explains they are on their period, the first response should not be disapproving words like "ew" or "gross." Do not degrade someone who menstruates because they are menstruating. And yes, saying things like "ew," "gross"

and "time of the month" to the menstruator is degrading because it minimizes their experience and demonstrates the lack of knowledge and care the speaker has towards periods and period-havers.

The average menstruator tends to have a period every month from age 12 to 52. So not every single month is the menstruator willing to talk about it. When the conversation is open, however, and there is an invitation for questions, asking something like, "Do you need anything?" is enough.

College students have already been experiencing periods for about 10 years, so being overbearing is unhelpful because many know the process of managing their own cycle.

If they mention they're in pain, and you have over-the-counter medication, offer them some. If they mention they do not have any pads or tampons, and you are able to supply them, then supply them!

Simple things like that can be helpful, but don't overstep. If you are worried about overstepping boundaries, just ask what the boundaries are for that individual.

Learning about periods and menstruation is extremely important. Many kids are taught briefly in middle school and high school, but then leave gradeschool still lacking information. Taking your own time to research what happens during a woman's cycle is so important, and with many regulations that are happening within the United States surrounding women's reproductive rights, it is important now more than ever to properly educate oneself about what actually happens, instead of assuming or hearing about it from political speakers rather than doctors. Period!

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

Interested in being a guest on Lovercall? Email wldlonair@gmail.com or visit Fredonia Radio Systems, located in McEwen Hall 115 and open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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



Top 10 video games to keep you occupied during Fredonia's next snowstorm

ABIGAIL JACOBSON
News Editor

I love video games.

I know you all already know that, but I'm serious. Video games have been a huge part of my childhood and I still play as many as I can today, sometimes for a few minutes and sometimes for a few hours.

But out of all the video games I've played, which ones have made it on my tier list?

10. Fortnite

"Fortnite" is a great game. It's got different game modes, so many cosmetics and it's overall extremely fun. I'll never forget getting my first win back in 2017 on my brother's birthday before he got a win. What can I say? I was the better gamer. I can play this game anywhere — on my PC, my Xbox or even my Nintendo Switch (which I do not advise to play on because it sucks).

9. Resident Evil

Which "Resident Evil" game? ALL OF THEM! Let me be honest with you guys, I have never played any of them. I cannot physically pick up the controller and play it because it scares me so much that I may just have a heart attack. I love horror games but this is actually terrifying. However, it is extremely well-made, especially since they remastered some of the old ones. Also, Leon Kennedy, I love you so much.

8. Until Dawn

"Until Dawn" is one of the best games I have ever played. My sister went out of her way to buy this for me to play and I did not finish it. The main reason is that I kept killing one of my favorite characters and restarting. "Until Dawn" was incredible when I first played it and with the remaster that just recently came out, it is even better.

7. Animal Crossing: New Horizons

I wish I could say I have played "Animal Crossing" since the beginning but I haven't. I finally started to play "Animal Crossing: New Horizons" back in 2020 when it first came out. I loved it and it really helped me get through the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a great starter game for people who are interested in playing video games. The only downside is that you can only play it on a Nintendo Switch or Nintendo Switch Lite.

6. Minecraft

Obviously, I had to include one of the best games to ever exist: "Minecraft." "Minecraft" is great for all ages. I started playing in elementary school and I even had a club with a few of my friends called "the Minecraft club." We would just play

"Minecraft" during recess. No surprise, I still play with them today. Overall, this is a great starter game for anyone who's thinking of playing a video game.

5. Stardew Valley

I love this game. "Stardew Valley" is relaxing and it helps me calm down after a tough competitive match of "Overwatch 2." You can do anything in this game, going from mining in the skull cavern to sitting on the pier and fishing — anything. This is also a great game to get into. You can date people, you can chop trees and you can grow some crops. To one certain bachelor in the game, Harvey, I love you.

4. Project Zomboid

I recently started to play "Project Zomboid" and this game is funny. You are in a zombie apocalypse and you have to survive as long as you can. It's a little wonky and it takes time to learn the movements and the game overall. However, once you get the hang of it, it's pretty fun, especially when you play with others.

3. Overwatch 2

You all knew this was coming. I have a love/hate relationship with this game. I love it because I've been playing it for years (back when it was just "Overwatch") and I hate it because the company behind it is stupid. Overall, this game is a lot of fun, especially when playing with friends. There are a lot of funny moments and great (and not-so-great) gameplay you can get out of it. To Blizzard (the company that made "Overwatch 2"), I hate you guys so much.

2. Zelda: Breath of the Wild

I found a love for "Zelda" games back in 2022. Growing up, I heard of them but they were never my brother's favorite so I never had the chance to play them (I had hand-me-down games when I was younger). When I first played "Zelda: Breath of the Wild," I fell in love. The open-world concept, the voice acting, and the story behind it were so well-written and so thought out. I could probably write a whole book on how much I love this game.

1. Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom

Again, "Zelda" games really speak to me. I played this game from 2023 to 2024 and I honestly didn't think it would be as good as "Zelda: Breath of the Wild" but boy was I wrong. If I thought the story behind "Breath of the Wild" was good, the story behind "Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom" was even better. The voice acting was phenomenal and the story was so good I cried. This game has my heart and I think it might be hard to beat.

Holding space for the new Wicked movie: A review

AMARAH GHORI

Asst. Opinion Editor & DEI Chair

For fans of the Broadway show, the thought of a new “Wicked” adaptation brings on feelings of excitement, joy and a new sense of hope for the portrayals of the iconic characters, Elphaba and Glinda.

Wicked is an unforgettable story of two witches from two different worlds.

Under the direction of Jon M. Chu, who is also the director of “Crazy Rich Asians” and “In the Heights,” the show was given quite the revamp for the big screen.

How well does it actually capture the heart of the original musical that became a cultural phenomenon in the early 2000s?

“Wicked” graced the stage for the first time in 2003, with music and lyrics composed and written by Stephen Schwartz.

The original musical starred actresses Kristin Chenoweth as Glinda and Idina Menzel as Elphaba.

Among many other roles, Idina Menzel is perhaps most famous for going on to voice Elsa in the “Frozen” movies.

The Broadway musical was nominated for 10 Tony awards and ended up winning three of them in 2004 for Best Scenic Design, Best Costume Design and Best Actress for Menzel.

The show is based on the original book by Gregory Maguire.

This book takes place before “The Wizard of Oz,” and it explores the early lives of young Elphaba, who would eventually become the Wicked Witch of the West, and Glinda and how their lives became intertwined.

At its core, “Wicked” is more than a prequel to “The Wizard of Oz.”

The story is about the value of friendship, knowing who you are and standing up for what you believe in, even when it seems the world is against you.

This takeaway from “Wicked” resonates with a lot of people around the world, and it’s why the original show became such a phenomenon.

The film reimagines the land of Oz and life within Shiz University, which the characters attend.

This is shown in the movie’s expansive sets. The sets shown in the movie were constructed practically, and the well-known tulip field was fully planted for the movie and not made with CGI. Even the Emerald City has a sparkling new look to it and fans are able to really take in everything they’re given.

Although the movie remains true to the plot of the original, there are newly added layers of detail within the journey of Elphaba’s life as the outcast and Glinda’s rise to fame.

We also see Glinda in a new light in this movie.

With Ariana Grande portraying Glinda, she gives the character a very calculated persona, which is quite different from Kristin Chenoweth’s portrayal of Glinda in the original Broadway show.

With Cynthia Erivo taking the torch from Idina Menzel as Elphaba, she gives the character a passionate personality, one that adds immense depth to the movie and the feelings surrounding it.

Erivo and Grande have chemistry that is electric, with their voices blending together smoothly in different iconic songs sung together in the movie.

Their most notable vocal performance was in “Defying Gravity,” where the vulnerability heard in their voices was breathtaking.

Erivo particularly captures the defiance well in this performance and her iconic riff at the end of the song has been on repeat for me.

Grande’s performance in “Popular,” takes the character to another level.

There were previous worries from many “Wicked” fans that Ariana Grande would sound too “pop” in this song and that they wouldn’t be able to disconnect her popstar self from the role of Glinda.

I believe that she did an excellent job doing this character justice and giving the character a new layer.

Without saying too much, other notable mentions would be Jeff Goldblum as the Wizard and Michelle Yeoh as Madame Morrible.

These A-list actors gave these characters great, new personalities.

What truly sets this adaptation apart is how it bridges the gap between the intimacy of the show and the magnificence of seeing a movie in theaters.

The movie really went above and beyond to honor the original show, while also reimagining it in innovative ways for the big screen.

If you’re debating whether or not to go see this movie, go see it — it will be the best two hours and 40 minutes of your life.

I could have sat in that theatre for another five hours if it meant I got to see act two of the movie after being on the edge of my seat after the end of act one.

If you’ve never seen the show, or you’ve been a loyal fan, this movie has something for everyone.

My final rating: 5/5 stars!



Graphic by ADELIZ GOTTINGER | Staff Artist

THE SCALLION



Satire and parody for Fredonia

A Sitdown with Brock goes on strike

MEGAN KIDBY
Scallion Editor

ABBIE MILLER
Editor-in-Chief

The Sitdown writer's pens have gone silent, but the echoes of the writers' strike roared louder than ever.

In a shocking turn of events, the entire staff of the local talk show "A Sitdown with Brock Papke" on WNYF has gone on strike after discovering that their latest paychecks were signed for the jaw-dropping amount of \$0.00. Host Brock Papke, known for his okay interviews and questionable practices, is now at the center of a controversy more captivating than any of his monologues.

The quirky, late-night-adjacent talk show, famous for interviewing "almost" notable people and giving airtime to murders, has been running on a shoestring budget since its inception. However, this latest revelation suggests the shoestring wasn't even real — it was imaginary, much like the promise of payment.

The revelation sent shockwaves through the TV station, which resulted in a strike where no one showed up to work and Brock was left to do his show all by himself. Instead of paying the people what they were owed so they would come back to work, Brock decided to continue the show, which resulted in one of the worst episodes of A Sitdown known to all of mankind. (I wouldn't know, actually, I've never watched it myself.)

Protesters picketed outside the community access TV station

where A Sitdown is filmed, where signs read "Sitdown is Unfair," and chants of "Equal pay! Equal rights! No more Brock! No more Brock!" could be heard in the distance. Some particularly inventive crew members have also been spotted wielding oversized foam checks with "VOID" stamped across them in bright red letters.

Papke denied having anything to do with this strike in a tense interview with me that was released on the WNYF YouTube page. Parts of this interview are included below:

Megan: How will this affect your presidential campaign?

Brock: What campaign?

Megan: You and your friend wrote an article about how you'd be running for president and you sent it in to The Leader so we were wondering...

Brock: Oh...that.....yeah, now I remember. That was just more or less fake.

Megan: ...Some people said that this all started because of checks that were made for \$0.00 to the writers. Do you care to respond to that?

Brock: ...What?

Megan: We do have evidence that shows a check for \$0.00 with your signature on it, so how do you feel about that?

Brock: I did not sign any checks...I don't remember....

[Brock goes into a daze, flashing back to a heated discussion had by the rest of his team. He begins muttering to himself and appears to adopt a Joker-like persona. Brock quickly excuses himself, and the interview ends abruptly.]

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S206 Williams Center

HOROS

ABBIE MILLER

Editor-in-Chief, Acceptor of Any and All Gifts

It's just about that time. As the snow blankets campus and I desperately try (and repeatedly fail) not to slip on the ice that covers the walkway to Fenton Hall, the holiday season is upon us. For some of us, that means celebrating Hanukkah or Kwanzaa or Christmas. For others, that means enjoying the cheery mood without engaging in any traditional holiday celebrations. No matter which holiday, or lack thereof, you decide to celebrate this year, everybody deserves to feel loved this holiday season. And my favorite way to show people how much I care for them is by giving them the most niche, sentimental gifts I can find. For those special people in your life, ask them their sign and follow my very own gift guide below to show them just how much they mean to you.



Aries

A hyper-specific musical instrument

One thing about Arieses is that, in my experience, they are incredibly difficult to shop for. Their interests span across many subjects, but the kinds of gifts that match these interests are unfortunately few and far between. My suggestion: get them some sort of niche musical instrument, like an Otamatone or a DJ set.



Taurus

You tell me

The only sign who is harder to shop for than an Aries is a Taurus. My father is a Taurus, and he literally makes it borderline impossible to know what to get him for any holiday or birthday. I know your guys are selfless, and I know you will be happy with anything you're given, but for once PLEASE STOP BEING SO NICE.



Gemini

Money

I know what you're thinking: Abbie, you're only saying that Geminis should receive money because you're a Gemini and you're broke. To which I would reply: Yes..... and what about it? America revolves around money, and who would I be to deny myself my very own slice of holiday cheer by encouraging those around me to give me some?



Cancer

A gift card

There is truly no way to go wrong here. I know that some people say that gift cards are a sub-par gift, but I will take a stance right here, right now: I like them. They are just customizable enough to let your recipient know that you pay attention to their interests but general enough to apply as a gift to just about anyone.



Leo

All of the Bath & Body Works items you can hold

Fill up those arms with Bath & Body Works (not sponsored) products for your fellow Leos. Maybe you know what your gift recipient's signature scent is. Maybe you want to give them a subtle hint that no amount of perfume can cover up a lack of showering. Or maybe you want to get a buy three, get three free deal for yourself so that you get a gift out of it too. Whatever the case is, I would be hard-pressed to find a Leo who wouldn't be excited about this gift.

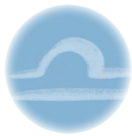


Virgo

Target's Featherly Friends fabric birds

Call me a middle-aged white woman all you want, but I will not back down. I love Target's Featherly Friends fabric birds. They come in all different themes and outfits, and they are the perfect gift for moms and Virgos everywhere. For family members that you live with, this is as much of a gift for you as it is for them.

COPES



Libra

A ring

For all my Libras that are waiting for a proposal from your significant other, you're welcome. Rings, whether wedding or otherwise, show the recipient that you care for them to an extent that other items may not. Jewelry in general, and rings specifically, signify dedication, so show your fellow Libra the care that they deserve.



Scorpio

Not a damn thing

To all my Scorpios, I'm sorry. I don't know if it's your confidence or your arrogance, but I just feel like you don't really need any presents. If you already seem like you have everything you need, what more could those around you provide that would truly enrich your life anyway?



Sagittarius

A Lego set

I stand strong in my belief that nobody can go wrong with a Lego set. For Sagittariuses, this gift is especially applicable. A crafty and hardworking bunch, Sagittariuses will appreciate the beauty of a Lego set while also enjoying the time that it takes to build it.



Capricorn

Anything from TikTok Shop

As TikTok continues to overtake the social media sphere in popularity, everybody who spends more than 10 minutes on the app has gotten some sort of advertisement for TikTok Shop. An in-app knockoff of websites like Temu and Wish, TikTok Shop provides you with any (and I mean ANY) item you could possibly be looking for in exchange for the lowest prices (and quality) on the market. Let your imagination run wild and save your budget by getting the Capricorns in your life the most bizarre item you can find on TikTok Shop.



Aquarius

American Eagle's Snoopy pajamas

The Snoopy obsession that invaded everyone's brain space and social media feed within the past year may have calmed down, but for me and Aquarians alike, it is not a phase. Aquarians, like myself, understand Snoopy in all his complexity while also appreciating him for his simplicity. Give the double gift of warmth and cuteness by getting your favorite Aquarius Snoopy pajamas this holiday season.



Pisces

Repurposed gifts

We can't like all of the gifts that we are given. Maybe you were gifted the same thing twice, or maybe it's that item that you received for your 10th birthday that you still have yet to find a purpose for. Stop feeling guilty about not using it and start feeling like a genius for taking the initiative to recycle. By giving the Pisces in your life the chance to find new meaning in your own used and cobweb-collecting gift, you embrace the spirit of the holidays — which is screwing everyone else over and benefiting yourself.

