



THE **FREDONIA LEADER**

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

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the winner's circle:
Sembel Koshi's
unstoppable rise**

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Front and back covers: Sembel Koshi. **Photos by** BECCA TORNCHELLO | Sports Photographer

S206 Williams Center
Fredonia, NY 14063

Visit us at www.fredonialeader.org to view articles from current and past issues

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Open

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“Worrying is like being on a rocker. You go back and forth and don't get anywhere.” -Bob Wadsworth

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Tariffs, special elections and breaking records: The current situation in Washington

ALEX BUCKNAM

Asst. News Editor

Washington has been busy these past two weeks with multiple events taking place, one being historical.

Such happenings include two special elections in Florida to fill the vacant seats in the House of Representatives. Additionally, the record for the longest Senate speech was broken and President Trump implemented tariffs and then put a 90-day pause on them a few days later.

On April 1, Florida held two special elections to fill the seats of Michael Waltz of Florida's 6th congressional district and Matt Gaetz of Florida's 1st congressional district.

Waltz, who resigned from office on Jan. 20 to be the National Security Advisor, was replaced by Republican Randy Fines. Fines previously was in Florida's state Senate and House of Representatives.

Fines achieved a total of 110,978 votes (56.7%). His opponent, Joshua Weils, achieved 83,571 votes (42.7%). Fines was sworn into office on April 2.

Florida's 1st congressional district was left vacant by Gaetz, who resigned on Jan. 3 to stop a congressional ethics investigation report from coming out. Gaetz's seat was filled by Republican Jimmy Patronis.

Patronis received 97,365 votes (56.9%), and his opponent Gay Vailmont received 72,337 votes (42.3%). Patronis was sworn in on April 2.

As of April 11, the House of Representatives has a total of 220 Republicans and 213 Democrats, with two seats left vacant.

There will be a special election in Arizona on Sept. 23 to fill Democrat Raúl Grijalva's seat. Grijalva was the representative for Arizona's 7th congressional district. The seat was left vacant when Grijalva passed away on Mar. 13.

The other seat is for Texas's 18th district, left vacant when Democrat Sylvester Turner passed away on Mar. 5. A special election will be held on Nov. 4 to fill Turner's seat.

On April 1, Democratic Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey broke the record for the longest Senate speech. Booker started his speech on Mar. 31 at 7 p.m. and concluded on April 1 at 8:05 p.m.

His speech lasted 25 hours and five minutes, breaking the record previously held by late Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina.

Thurmond filibustered the Civil Rights Act of 1957 and spoke for 24 hours and 18 minutes.

According to Booker, his main objective was to tell stories of people who are being affected by President Trump and his administration. "Senator Booker took to the Senate floor with

the intention of speaking as long as he was physically able," stated Booker's government website.

According to Booker's website, "[Booker's main objective for his speech] was to uplift stories of Americans who are being harmed by the Trump Administration's reckless actions, attempts to undermine our institutions and disregard for the rule of law."

At the end of Booker's speech, he quoted late Democratic Representative John Lewis, stating, "Let's get into some good trouble."

When interviewed after the speech by reporters, Booker mentioned that he did not have to take bathroom breaks and did not wear a catheter: "I think I stopped eating on Friday and then stopped drinking the night before I started on Monday." Though Booker did break the record for the longest Senate speech, it was not considered a filibuster since Booker was not delaying a vote from taking place.

The Senate website defines filibuster as "to prolong [a] debate and delay or prevent a vote on a bill, resolution, amendment or other debatable question." Booker's speech did not do any of these.

A day after Booker's speech concluded, President Trump announced a list of countries that would be facing reciprocal tariffs, with over 80 countries on the list.

Some countries on this list, like Afghanistan, Argentina, the Bahamas and the United Kingdom, would only be facing a 10% tariff, while China would be facing the highest with a 34% tariff.

Other countries on the list include India, Japan and Vietnam.

On April 9, President Trump put out a statement that countries hit with these high tariffs would face a 90-day pause and would only face a 10% blanket tariff until July.

Trump released a statement stating that this 10% blanket pause only counts for countries that did not retaliate.

The only country not included in the 90-day pause is China. President Trump then increased China's tariff to 145%.

The White House also clarified that Mexico and Canada are not affected by the April 2 tariff or the blanket 10% tariff.

SOURCES:

<https://www.booker.senate.gov/news/press/cory-bookers-long-speech-by-the-numbers#:~:text=After%2025%20hours%20and%205,Civil%20Rights%20Act%20of%201957>

<https://www.senate.gov/about/powers-procedures/filibusters-cloture.html>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5ypxnnnyg7jo>

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/04/09/trump-tariffs-live-updates.html>

'Hands Off!' rallies make an appearance in Fredonia

ALEX BUCKNAM

Asst. News Editor

On April 5, people across the United States took to the streets to protest President Donald Trump and Elon Musk. The protesters had one message: hands off!

The event, called “Hands Off!,” was a nationwide protest that took place in almost every large urban community in the country, such as cities like Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Boston, Buffalo and Rochester. The event also took place in many suburban areas, such as Fredonia.

The Third Act, Indivisible and MoveOn were the three main organizations that helped form and sponsor the “Hands Off!” event.

According to NPR, the event had 1,300 locations across all 50 states and drew an estimated three million people.

People involved in these protests went to the streets to tell President Trump and Musk how they felt about their policies and executive orders that have directly affected them.

Some of the actions that people were most vocal about were those that have led to Social Security checks, government agencies/departments, research grants, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, national parks and libraries being defunded or having the potential to be defunded.

The Fredonia “Hands Off!” rally took place at Barker Commons, which borders Church Street, Temple Street, West Main Street and Park Place. Traffic passing the event was busy, which encouraged some attendees to stand by the street and hold their signs for people passing to read.

The passing traffic included a mix of reactions, with some



Sign featured at Fredonia's 'Hands Off!' rally.

Photo by REBEKAH GERACE | Staff Photographer

people honking to show support, others giving attendees side-eyes and some just ignoring the event altogether.

The event also had a lineup of speakers which encompassed community members, SUNY Fredonia faculty and students.

Mason Fuller, the president of Students for Fredonia (SFF), was one of the students who spoke. Fuller talked about how the queer community has been affected by President Trump's policies.

Though the day was rainy, attendees did not let that stop them. Protesters wore ponchos and covered their signs with plastic film so they didn't get ruined. Some carried umbrellas, and some people just dealt with the rain.

In total, over 400 people showed up to the event with a variety of messages. Signs included “Save public broadcasting,” “Save our planet” and “MUSKRATS ARE AN INVASIVE SPECIES.”

Attendance also varied in age, as both older and younger generations were present and ready to share how they are being affected. Older generations carried signs that showed anger at how things like their Social Security could be affected. One sign said, “I am Not a Fraudster[,] Hands Off My Social Security.”



Signs featured at Fredonia's 'Hands Off!' rally.

Photo by REBEKAH GERACE | Staff Photographer

Younger generations carried signs on how cuts have affected their education, with one sign saying "Hands Off Education."

If one message was clear during this rally, it was that people are not happy with President Trump's policies and they want him to keep his hands off things that they feel do not belong to him.

One speaker even urged attendees to call their congressman and senators to demand they do something about President Trump's policies.

SOURCES:

<https://www.npr.org/2025/04/05/nx-s1-5353388/hands-off-protests-washington-dc>



Sign featured at Fredonia's 'Hands Off!' rally.
Photo by REBEKAH GERACE | Staff Photographer

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Thursdays - 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm : Educators night - 10% for all educators and educational support workers
Saturday 4/5 - 8:00 pm to Midnight: Scareoke - Come and sing your guts out to your favorite songs
Friday 4/18 - 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm : Open Mic Night! - SHOW US WHAT YOU GOT! All acts welcome
Friday 4/25 - 8:00 pm to 1:00 am : KiKi at the Tiki -Fredonias only monthly LGBTQ club night featuring Juliette Stark & friends



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Spectrum Entertainment gives away portions of its budget at GA Day

DAN QUAGLIANA
Managing Editor

GA Day might be the most important required event for constituted clubs.

Short for General Assembly Day, GA Day is when every constituted club gets its budget decided for the upcoming academic year. This has the potential to make or break a club — if it doesn't get the money it needs, it won't be able to put on the events its members want to.

The Student Association (SA) has a limited amount of money to give to the constituted clubs, and with recent budget cuts at SUNY Fredonia, that amount seems to get smaller and smaller every year.

In recent years, clubs have not been happy with the preliminary budgets that they've gotten going into GA Day. Before that day, the SA Budget and Appropriations (B&A) Committee gives each club a preliminary budget, and during GA, clubs must announce if they are satisfied or dissatisfied with it.

Sometimes, money from a satisfied club may be given to another club to make them satisfied, which could have the adverse effect of making the former unsatisfied if they were happy with their budget before the change.

Deliberations between clubs and the B&A Committee can go on for hours. Last year's GA Day ran for about 10 hours, a length of time that is not uncommon for the event.

This year, on March 8, GA Day ran for a "short" three hours.

This is because members of Spectrum Entertainment Board, the club that plans "arts, entertainment and recreational programs for all students, faculty and community members," decided to give a part of their budget to the seven clubs that were unsatisfied with their own: Brother 2 Brother, Fredonia Jazz Workshop, Fredonia Radio Systems, Latinos Unidos, Men's Blackhorse Rugby, Percussion Guild and Student Association.

Because of this, at the end of the day, every club walked away satisfied with their budgets.

"From what I've heard, GA day has always been an entire day thing," said Abby Jacobson, The Leader's News Editor and one of their representatives for GA Day. "I was pretty shocked when it was not the entire day, and I left so early. I came with a book, my laptop and a bunch of snacks. Since it was so short, I ended up not reading and not eating all those snacks."

Spectrum has the second-largest budget of any club on campus, but even so, they have significantly less money to use to plan their large-scale events for next year.

"[For] the idea to give up part of our budget, all props go to my treasurer, Jacob Allert," said Spectrum's president, sophomore Sonja Green. "He is the one who thought of that idea and asked me if it was okay."

Green explained how, if the seven unsatisfied clubs didn't get the money they wanted, they would have to take it out of Student Association's reserves, which don't replenish every year.

"Jacob [Allert] said that what Spectrum does is to give fun to the school community, and that's what the clubs that needed money also provide ... we knew how much the money would mean to the other clubs."

— **SONJA GREEN**

President,
Spectrum Entertainment
SUNY Fredonia

Once those are gone, they're gone forever.

"Jacob said that what Spectrum does is to give fun to the school community, and that's what the clubs that needed money also provide," she said. "We knew how much the money would mean to the other clubs."

Additionally, Allert had planned Spectrum's preliminary budget around the fact that it might get cut by the B&A Committee — as one of the largest budgets, they were one of the clubs at the most risk for that.

"It was ... really kind of Spectrum to offer that much money for the clubs who needed it," Jacobson said.

In response to Spectrum's giving away its budget, the Student Association's president, Dakota Richter, decided to nominate the club for the "Best club/organization with SUNY" award, which will be given out at the SUNY Student Association Spring Conference, starting on April 25.

Additionally, President Stephen Kolison gave Spectrum special recognition at a Student Cabinet meeting on March 28, where he presented its members with a certificate.

"We were happy to give away the money to help the other clubs, and hopefully it will inspire other clubs [to do the same] if incidents arise in the future," Green reflected.

Abby Jacobson, who was interviewed for this article, is the News Editor of The Leader.

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Police Blotter

UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT SUNY Fredonia

The Police Blotter, run and shared with The Leader by the University Police Department (UPD), aims to provide information to students, faculty and the community in and around SUNY Fredonia. All information is provided on the University Police Department's website, www.fredonia.edu/about/offices/university-police/blotter. The Police Blotter will continue every issue, with new information regarding any new criminal acts that occur on the SUNY Fredonia campus.

On-campus

March 28:

A report was filed for "leaving the scene," which involved a vehicle being struck in parking lot 9C. The status of this report is "closed by investigation."

A report was made for larceny, which involved a bicycle being stolen from the University Village. The status of this incident is "closed by investigation."

April 4: A report was filed for criminal mischief, which in-

involved a vehicle's windshield shattered by an unknown subject. The status of this incident is that it is an "ongoing investigation."

April 5: A report was filed for criminal mischief, which involved a sign in the University Village being damaged. The status of this incident is that it is an "ongoing investigation."

According to an email sent out by the Marketing and Communications Department, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have been rumored to have been on the Fredonia campus. UP wanted to address this rumor and "confirmed with ICE that their agents are not on campus at this time."

All information printed in The Leader's police blotter is a matter of open public record. No retractions or corrections will be made unless a factual error is shown. Anyone who is cleared of charges has the right to have so printed. It is the responsibility of the accused to provide notice and proof of the dropped charges.

Faculty group calls for President Kolison to step down with no-confidence vote

ABIGAIL JACOBSON
News Editor

To the surprise of some students and faculty, there was a prompted vote of no confidence in Fredonia President Stephen Kolison and Interim Provost Dr. Judith Horowitz at the Senate meeting on April 4.

The vote was brought up by Dr. Ted Lee, a biology professor at SUNY Fredonia.

A document titled “Petition for Resolution of No Confidence to be included on April 7, 2025...” included reasonings behind the call for a no confidence vote.

A no confidence vote, according to Collins Dictionary, means “a vote in which members of a group are asked to indicate that they do not support the person or group in power.”

In terms of SUNY Fredonia, a vote of no confidence thus signifies that the university community no longer supports an official or a group of officials. Votes of no confidence often result in the associated official(s) resigning, although resignation is not mandated by the vote itself.

Some of the rationale behind the call include areas such as “Whereas the President and the Interim Provost do not always appear to act in the best interest of this campus,” “Whereas the President and the Interim Provost have not responded to faculty input” and “Whereas the President and the Interim Provost never provided financial data to support program cuts or retrenchments which could be a breach of the UUP negotiated labor agreement.”

With this Google Doc presented at the Senate meeting, it arose many questions and curiosity from the Senate. Some members were puzzled as to why the interim provost was included on this no confidence vote, based on the fact that she had just recently taken the position after the previous provost, David Starrett, stepped down.

Lee’s response mentioned concerns about Horowitz’s leadership in other roles, and stated that if the former provost Starrett were still in office, him, President Kolison and Horowitz would all be included in this vote.

Others wondered what would happen after a potential vote of no confidence.

Senator Ziya Arnavut mentioned the resignation of previous President Virginia Schaefer Horvath and summarized his discussion, according to the University Senate draft minutes from April 2025, by including that “this Senate pushed her out with a vote of no confidence. Are we any better off than we were back when she resigned? [Lee]’s not in favor of a no confidence in this president. He wants us to make the effort to find solutions.”

During that meeting, Helen Ihasz, a guest at the Senate

Meeting, mentioned that she and her husband were the people who had written a letter that ended up in the Dunkirk Observer. Summarized in the draft minutes, they mentioned that “to all of you who are worried about the process, worried about protecting something, worried about losing something, [my] message is that if we don’t act now, we won’t get another chance.

“People have not been treated right, our finances are dying. There’s too much good going on here to let these people ruin what you’ve been building here for decades,” Ihasz argued. “Don’t be afraid to act. You need to get together as a faculty. The School of Music has been decimated; the only thing holding it together is the faculty.”

Others mentioned that this resolution of a no confidence vote is rushed and is not ready yet.

Revisions for this resolution are now in the hands of the

“This Senate pushed [former President Virginia Schaefer Horvath] out with a vote of no confidence. Are we any better off than we were back when she resigned?”

— **ZIYA ARNAVUT**
Senator,
University Senate
SUNY Fredonia

Senate, as it was not brought up to a vote.

SOURCES:

https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/vote-of-no-confidence#google_vignette
Petition for Resignation of No Confidence to be included on April 7, 2025 Senate Agenda.pdf
University Senate Draft Minutes April 2025

Life & Arts

Latinos Unidos' Lotería helps students unwind as semester stress heightens

ABBIE MILLER
Editor-in-Chief

Latinos Unidos is giving burnout a run for its money.

With the semester nearing a close and finals looming on students' minds, it seemed as though a break in studying was in desperate need amongst those attending Wednesday's Lotería event.

Sebastian Montalban, a senior public relations and media management double-major and the public relations chair for Latinos Unidos (LU), says that Lotería is essentially the "Mexican bingo."

"It's something that people play at parties, family events, even weddings," he said.

Part of its popularity is because Lotería is accessible to play for virtually all audiences with its colorful boards and simple premise.

The simplicity of the game was one of the reasons why LU wanted to host the event.

"April and May are like the worst months for everybody. That's when every big thing is happening and everyone's all stressed out and nobody has time for themselves," Montalban noted.

Also of concern for a sizable portion of students is the worry

of what they will do following graduation. Montalban shares this apprehension.

"Regarding graduation, [I feel] terror, absolute terror, I'm going to be honest," he said.

"Because I've had so much time to plan and I'm like 'oh, I'll be fine, it's so far off,' [and now] it's like three weeks [away] and I'm like 'what am I going to do?'"

The topic of Montalban's nearing graduation also brings up his departure from LU.

"I'm going to miss everybody ... I feel like this club has helped me develop more in terms of my social skills because COVID was rough and I lost a lot of that."

Montalban says that one of the reasons why he values LU is because, "There's just a sense of community within the club and with ... the people we interact with [during] events and [through] sharing [our] culture ... But I know the club's in good hands."

With the stress of graduation and assignments looming over students' heads, Montalban says LU "figured that throwing an event like this, where they can just pop in, play a couple rounds of bingo, hopefully win, and then go on their way, we felt that was a great idea."

Emily Farmer, a senior criminal justice and sociology double major, seemed to find relief in the festivities.

"I thought [LU] did a very good job. It was just a low-stakes, nice get-together community thing, [where] you could win free money."

Farmer admittedly does not normally attend campus events such as Lotería. According to Montalban, lack of attendance at LU's events and meetings remains one of his and other campus organizations' chief concerns.

"Turnout isn't always great. But I get people are busy [and] sometimes club meeting times don't work for everybody."

Another cause for concern, Montalban notes, is those who feel intimidated by LU's connection with Latin identities.

"What we feel like is one of our biggest obstacles is that a lot of people feel like they aren't welcome because they're not Latino. We just want everybody to know that part of the name is Latinos Unidos, ["Unidos" meaning] united. And that includes those outside of the Latin community and anyone of any identity really."

That's what makes holding events such as this so important, according to Montalban.



Abbie Miller and Emily Farmer attend Lotería event.

Photo by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor

Continued onto next page



Photo of a Lotería card.

Photo by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor

Farmer learned about Lotería through word of mouth. In her experience, it is more common for students who live off-campus, such as herself, to receive news on the happenings around campus this way.

But for students who are newer to Fredonia and do not have the social network that Farmer has, this way of information dissemination may pose a problem.

One of the ways for off-campus students such as Farmer to get involved with LU's events is through their email list, says Montalban: "The email list [latinos.unidos@fredonia.edu] is definitely one way to stay ahead of the curve on events and meetings that we have."

Interested students can also check the TVs around campus to look out for future LU programs.

Farmer suggests that part of the reason why campus organizations are unable to spread information regarding their events to a greater audience is that they are limited in the funding they receive from the college administration.

"I think a lot of it has to do with the school itself [because of] the funding issues that we're having ... The school definitely needs to care more about its clubs and its students. And the lack of funding and events, especially happening this year, definitely shows they don't."

Farmer, whose own major was affected by the recent program discontinuations, says that the budgetary deficit driving these issues isn't given as much significance as it should be.

"There's already budget cuts in a lot of the departments. That's obviously bleeding into our clubs and activities here ... Fredonia needs to prioritize its students and its clubs."

Montalban pointed out several other concerns that influence the success of events such as Lotería.

"I think one of the biggest issues was ... the timing. We wanted to do it at a time where people weren't too busy so they could look forward to it."

In regard to the timing of the event, Montalban and the rest of LU were under even more constraints.

LU's annual Carnival, which usually occurs during Multicultural Weekend on March 21 to 23, was moved to a few weeks later. In its place, they decided to host Lotería.

"We had some issues with the planning and setup for Carnival regarding prizes and stuff, especially with the new format that SA is taking in terms of approval for things."

In fact, Montalban says that the lack of effective communication between the Student Association (SA) and LU in getting approval for the event creates a domino effect. According to Montalban, by making it more difficult for clubs to host campus gatherings, SA and other associated campus authorities discourage organizations from hosting any events whatsoever.

Farmer has had her own difficulties when it comes to this.

"I've been trying to revitalize the Criminal Justice Club [which has] been a very slow and painstaking process."

That being said, Farmer's hardships with the Criminal Justice Club led her to "appreciate when clubs do things on campus a little bit more because now I understand that process a little bit better."

At the end of the day, LU's purpose is to "share our culture with people outside of [it] and [to celebrate] even more than just one culture, because we're not all one Latin identity ... We want everyone to be able to enjoy themselves, experience new culture and learn new things."

LU plans to provide students another avenue to relax and explore Latin culture with its upcoming Carnival. Held on April 30 from 6 to 9 p.m., the Dods Grove extravaganza will include a larger scale of activities and a wider range of foods.



Turnout for Latinos Unidos' Lotería.

Photo by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor

PAC keeps students 'Company' with recent musical performances

MIA CIECHALSKI

Life & Arts Editor

As the semester begins to wrap up, it seems we all could use a little company.

That's exactly what Fredonia's Performing Arts Company (PAC) had in mind as they recently performed a musical of the same name.

"Company," performed on April 11-12 in the Alice E. Bartlett Theater, was directed by senior psychology major and dance minor Riley Stanton. Junior BFA acting major and music and dance minor Julia Ferrara worked as assistant director.

Stanton was the one who initiated the idea of putting together the show for this year's PAC performance lineup.

"'Company' has always held a very special place in my heart. It was one of the first musicals I had discovered through a YouTube bootleg. I knew after working on other shows for PAC that I really wanted to give directing a shot, and I knew I wanted to pick a show that meant a lot to me," said Stanton.

Before rehearsals officially began, there were a lot of preparations that Stanton had to complete.

For example, she asked people if they would be interested in working with her on this show and came up with a good pitch to the E-board members of PAC to see if it would make the next year's lineup.

"Riley had asked me about a year ago if I'd be interested in joining her team as her assistant director to be able to offer help for the acting side of things for her 'Company' pitch," said Ferrara.

This opportunity was a new experience for both of them, and it taught them so much within a few short months.

"I was incredibly nervous going into this process because I don't have any educational background in theatre. But Julia has been my absolute rock when it comes to the techniques and intricacies of acting and directing," said Stanton. "I have learned so much from directing alongside her [and] working with everyone else on the team. This was an extremely educational experience for me, and I will forever be grateful for everything I have learned from my peers."

Ferrara agreed: "If I ever was to direct something, I always thought it would be a play because as an acting major, I am not well-versed in directing musicals. See[ing] everyone do their assigned jobs was incredibly helpful because I got a little taste of what those aspects of direction would look like."

Ferrara also used many tactics and techniques from some of her acting classes to help her with this new opportunity as well.

Since the musical was a new experience for the both of them, there were some challenges along the way for Stanton and Ferrara, and for some of the cast members too.

Stanton said, "This is the largest creative work I have ever done, let alone looking at the fact that I have never directed

anything before. My experience in theatre thus far has been simply choreographing, so a four-minute dance number does not amount to two hours and 45 minutes of blocking, singing and acting."

Senior voice major Teddy Van De Ven IV, who is playing the lead character Robert, noted some of these challenges. "For me, [the biggest obstacle] was the amount of lines, on top of the great undertaking of the role. It's been a lot of work while also doing it with school."

However, he learned a very important lesson during "Company"'s musical's rehearsals and performances.

"Something I learned through this process was stamina. Being able to perform a role like Robert, you're on stage the entire time with no breaks. So, if you don't have stamina, you won't be able to get through it all," said Van De Ven.

Van De Ven attributes Fredonia for teaching him this through the voice lessons he has received during his time here.

Despite these obstacles, no challenge could dampen this experience for anyone involved because of the time, effort and bonds that have been created.

"Being able to work with the cast was easily my favorite part," said Stanton. "They are such a silly and talented group of people who showed such passion and dedication from day one. It was so much fun to just spend time with everyone and really build on relationships and friendships in the room."

Ferrara added, "The best part of directing this show was by far the incredible cast. They all brought such wildly beautiful parts of themselves to their characters, and getting to work in this dynamic with my peers and friends has been so rewarding and so fun."

Putting together this show was a lot of work, but once it was officially finished, you could tell all of the people who were involved were proud of what they created.

Van De Ven said, "It finally felt like a sense of accomplishment and completion; it was gratifying."



The cast and crew of PAC's 'Company.'
Photo provided by Riley Stanton.

TADA gives a behind-the-scenes look at backstage elements of a production

MIA CIECHALSKI

Life & Arts Editor

Until April 17, students are receiving a sneak peek at the behind-the-scenes elements of the university's biggest productions.

Through their newest exhibit, the Emmitt Christian Gallery is giving the campus community a chance to get the inside scoop of the Theatre and Dance Association (TADA) and the students who work within it.

This exhibit gives everyone a chance to look at some of the costumes, lighting, props and sets from this year's Walter Gloor Mainstage Series performances.

The shows that are being featured are "Legally Blonde," "Così fan Tutte," "The Book Women," "Alicia's Lens" and "Twelfth Night."

Not only are some projects from this year's previous shows being featured, but some of the theatrical production and design BFA major class projects are also getting the chance to be showcased.

Sophomore theatre production and design major with a concentration in lighting, Jaydon Zullo said, "The processes we go through often bridge the span of eight months, from our first design meetings to the stage."

Many people don't understand how much goes into putting together a show.

From all of the time and work that was put into all of these pieces, it is definitely an exciting opportunity for all of the students involved.

Jamie Mattheus, a junior theatre production and design major with a concentration in costumes, said, "This recognition by other departments is incredibly rewarding. So much effort, love and dedication goes into creating the pieces we produce for productions and class, and it's so amazing to have it all in



Props, costumes and set designs from 'The Book Women.'

Photo by JEAN CESTARO | Staff Photographer
one place."

The exhibit has an array of everything from costumes to lighting designs for everyone to see.

Mattheus included in the display her recreation of a "The New Yorker" magazine, some of her favorite costumes she designed from "Legally Blonde" and some other work from the School of Music's opera "Così fan Tutte."

Zullo's creations being showcased in the exhibit include the light-up "Elle" sign from "Legally Blonde," the projections display from "Twelfth Night," a staircase and moulding project from Stagecraft, and the "Hollow Night"-inspired Scene Painting I translucency project.

Faith Reh, a junior theatre and production major with a technical direction/stage management concentration, has technical drafts that she worked on from "Twelfth Night," the column section from "Legally Blonde" and many process



Props, costumes and set designs from 'Alicia's Lens.'

Photo by JEAN CESTARO | Staff Photographer



'The Book Women' horse head prop by Ronnie Swann and Vanessa Newbold.

Photo by JEAN CESTARO | Staff Photographer



Scene Painting I & II by Jamie Mattheus, Jaydon Zullo, Chris Baez and Katie Spina.

Photo by JEAN CESTARO | Staff Photographer

shots from the scene shop for “Twelfth Night” and “Legally Blonde” being displayed.

Not only have these students created these pieces, but they also created many other pieces for these and other productions that aren’t in the gallery.

“A wonderful part of our program is that even when you’re not in a leadership position on a show, there is still the opportunity to help with the build of a show,” said Mattheus. “Even when I’m not designing a show, I’m still in the costume shop working on other shows that are in the process of being built. And it’s the same for other areas.”

Reh added, “We are all very fortunate to be able to contribute to every show we do on the Mainstage Series every year. For the most part, we have all had a hand in most of the productions that you see on the stage, whether our contributions are minimal or extensive.”

The students and department want to put an emphasis on



Sandwich prop by Ronnie Swann.

Photo by JEAN CESTARO | Staff Photographer

this event and theatrical production in general — collaborative effort is one of the most important things to them.

“The audiences of our productions see the scenery, the costumes, the props and the lights in the context of the show, but our extensive processes and the training we’re receiving to complete these shows often goes unnoticed despite it being a crucial part of our work and curriculum. It was a blast putting this gallery [together], and it really highlights our strong values of collaboration and communication within the department,” said Mattheus.

It’s safe to say that without all of these students’ contributions, many of these shows would not have been what they were.

According to Reh, “It’s important that just as much as the actors need to be applauded for what they do, us tech students are here working just as hard to bring the theatre to life.”



‘Legally Blonde’ Elle neon sign by Donnie Woodward, Dylan Janish, Jaydon Zullo, Emily Youtt and Vanessa Newbold.

Photo by JEAN CESTARO | Staff Photographer

PAC undertakes 'Lord of the Flies' as latest endeavor

MIA CIECHALSKI

Life & Arts Editor

On the weekend of April 4, Fredonia's Performing Arts Company (PAC) added "Lord of the Flies" to its ever-growing list of productions.

The production was directed by junior BFA musical theater and BS dance major Cassie Gillen and by junior BFA theatrical production and design lighting concentration Emily Youtt.

This was Gillen and Youtt's first time directing a show for PAC, and Youtt's first time ever directing a show.

This experience was very special because of everything they learned and the memories they made during this process.

Gillen had experience with directing other productions, but for younger children. So, getting to direct college students was quite a different adventure for her.

"Working with college actors is an entirely different ballgame. They take rehearsals seriously, they ask for notes and are always looking to improve," said Gillen.

Gillen felt she had to strike a balance when it came to an-



The cast and crew of PAC's 'Lord of the Flies.'

Photo provided by Cassie Gillen.

swering their questions while also giving them room as actors to make their own creative choices.

While they were creating this production, they learned new techniques that they plan to keep in their pockets for when they're done with school.

Youtt said, "I learned so much from the rehearsal process and how directors think. Ultimately, understanding what everyone is doing and having respect for everyone's role helps every production go smoother."

Youtt doesn't plan on directing again anytime soon, but she now has a deeper understanding of directors, actors and stage management than she did before.

However, learning can also come with its challenges.

The most challenging part for Gillen was the audition process.

"It was so nerve-wracking to let these actors into this show that we've been working for so long, and trusting that they would bring it to life for us," admitted Gillen.

For Youtt, it felt as if it would be an uphill battle forever and they'd never reach the summit.



The cast and crew of PAC's 'Lord of the Flies.'

Photo provided by Cassie Gillen.

However, all of these obstacles didn't stop them from creating special memories during the process.

"I've loved the collaboration that's been in this show from the start. Between Emily and I co-directing, our cast coming in with so many ideas and the trust that I feel we've all built together, this show has become one of my favorites I've ever worked on," said Gillen.

Not only does this production hold a special place in the director's heart, but it also created core memories for the cast members as well.

Sophomore BFA musical theater major Sunny Custer said, "I loved how different this show was from other projects I've worked on in the past. The story felt much more real and intense, and I felt extremely in tune with my voice and the emotions of my character this time around."

According to Gillen and Youtt, the cast put their all into this production.

Gabi Farr, a sophomore theatre arts major with a directing and stage management concentration, said, "The main challenge I faced was communication

with the cast and crew, but everything worked out."

Farr made sure this challenge didn't stop them because they said they also learned how to be more flexible and make decisions that will please almost everyone.

"This show was definitely physically and emotionally demanding, but it was so worth it in the end," said Custer.



The cast and crew of PAC's 'Lord of the Flies.'

Photo provided by Cassie Gillen.



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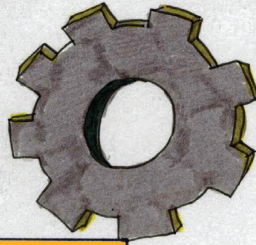
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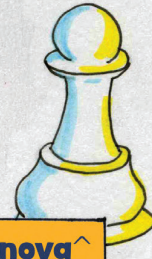
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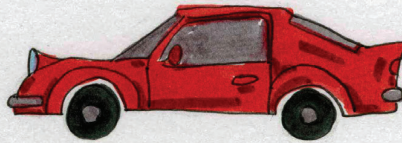


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Lopes^



Craver*

Bartlett Theatre

Apr 25* & 26^ @ 7:30 p.m.

Apr 26* & 27^ @ 2:00 p.m.

Illustration by Jessica T. Lustig

*** play performs Fri evening & Sat matinee / ^play performs Sat evening & Sun matinee**

Campus Ticket Office, Williams Center: fredonia.edu/tickets or 716-673-3501

SPORTS

5th Quarter Column: 2025 NFL Draft Preview

MITCH HORUCY

Asst. Sports Editor

April is in full swing, which means we're getting close to my favorite day of the year, draft day.

The Bills won't be picking until late Thursday night, as they possess pick 30 in the first round.

They also hold picks 56 and 62, rounding out three picks in the top 65.

There's talent all throughout this draft that the Bills could add to their team.

Starting with pick 30, there's two main possibilities for what they do with this pick.

I think we can all but rule out a trade-up, leaving the two possibilities being to trade back or stay put and make a pick at 30.

It's known that General Manager Brandon Beane likes to move around in the draft, moving four of his last five first-round picks.

However, this year I think he'll stay put. There's a ton of good options at 30, some that could start this upcoming season.

The first prospect we'll look at is South Carolina safety Nick Emmanwori.

He's an athletic freak with a 4.38-second 40-yard dash at 6'3", 230 pounds.

He has versatility in the secondary with 300-plus snaps at both free safety and in the box, while also adding 173 snaps at slot cornerback.

He's also been a starter for three seasons, landing a First-Team All-American nod this past season.

He's a guy who I can't see failing in a McDermott-style defense.

His lack of feel in zone coverage is a bit concerning, as well as his tendency to not wrap up on tackles.

With a strong track record of safety play in Buffalo, Emmanwori could be the next guy up.

Another prospect who could be the pick at 30 is Shavon Revel Jr., a cornerback from East Carolina.

As a former walk-on, he used to work overnight shifts at Amazon to fund his tuition before he was on scholarship.

Heading into the 2024 season, Revel Jr. was a Second-Team Preseason All-American. Many mock drafts also had him in the top 15-20 of the draft as well.

That all changed when just three games into the season, he suffered a torn ACL in practice, ending his season.

His stock has dropped a little bit since, but he is still projected to go in the late first or early second round.

Revel Jr. is the modern NFL cornerback prototype with his combination of size, speed and coverage skills.

His lanky 6'3", 193-pound frame allows him to cover in both man and zone coverages.

Despite being a cornerback, and a light one as well, he's not afraid to step up in the run game and tackle.

If taken by the Bills, he'd almost certainly start this season, as the current starting boundary corner opposite of Christian Benford is Dane Jackson.

While his ACL injury is a big red flag, especially with someone like him who relies a lot on his athleticism, it'd be worth taking a shot on him at 30.

A final prospect we'll look at with pick 30 is Michigan defensive tackle Kenneth Grant.

At 6'3", 339 pounds, Grant is an absolute monster on the d-line.

He primarily plays 1-tech, meaning he lines up between the center and guard.

The Bills have tried different players at this position over the years such as DaQuan Jones and Poona Ford, but no one has found long-term success.

Grant could be the guy to finally answer the call.

He was double-teamed consistently on both run and pass plays, yet he still made plays.

Having a guy like Grant that can eat up two blockers allows for Ed Oliver, Greg Rousseau and A.J. Epenesa to face more one-on-one matchups.

More than anyone, Oliver would thrive with a defensive tackle partner such as Grant.

Oliver was never going to be a guy to beat double teams, but in single matchups against guards, he thrives.

Grant won't put up tons of stats or be in highlight reels, but he could be a gamechanger for a pass rush that consistently falls short in the biggest moments.

Moving into picks 56 and 62, I think it's highly unlikely Buffalo moves these picks.

With these picks, it should be a wide receiver, safety or someone on the defensive line, depending on where they go with pick 30.

Someone who could come in and compete for a starting job immediately is Andrew Mukuba, a safety out of Texas.

He's a different style of safety than Emmanwori but would still work very well in the Bills defense.

At 6'0", 190 pounds, he surprises you with his hit power and aggressiveness.

It's also noticeable how instinctively sound he is when he flies

Continued onto next page

downhill to blow up run plays or disrupt a passing lane.

Compared to Emmanwori, he's a much better pure coverage safety, better suited to fill the Micah Hyde role.

One of the things he needs to work on is his tackling. He missed 13 tackles in 2024. He's often caught diving at ankles, which most ball carriers in the NFL will be able to run right through.

With a smaller frame as well, he is easily overpowered in the run game and struggles when covering bigger tight ends and receivers.

Another guy who could be the pick at 56 or 62 is Stanford wide receiver Elic Ayomanor.

He's a big-body receiver at 6'2" 210 pounds.

Stanford has also had some subpar quarterback play in the past two seasons, so it's possible we didn't see Ayomanor's full potential.

Intermediate-deep routes is where he finds most of his success, with a great understanding of finding weak spots in zone coverage.

After catching the ball, his yards after catch (YAC) ability is above average, often using his big frame to shake off arm tackles from smaller corners.

With the loss of Mack Hollins, Ayomanor could be a great replacement, as he's an elite run blocker at his position.

A weak spot in his game is beating press coverage.

Way too often, he would get jammed and essentially be out of the play.

Consistency when it comes to making catches is also something to worry about.

Going into the draft, the Bills have 10 draft picks. I don't believe there's 10 roster spots available. Due to this, I think we'll see the team trade up in the middle rounds, perhaps using one of their five fourth and fifth round picks to get into the third round.

This draft is incredibly deep at key positions like defensive line and wide receiver, and it should be a very exciting and interesting one.

From war zones to the winner's circle: The unstoppable rise of Sembel Koshi

MASON NEALE

Special to The Leader

In 2000, while pregnant with her fourth child, Mashebe Ammoda and her husband, Dawit Tilan, made the difficult decision to flee their homeland of Eritrea.

Seeking refuge from poverty and conflict, they journeyed to Ethiopia with the hope of securing a better future for their growing family.

That child was Sembel Koshi, a senior on Fredonia's track and field team.

"I've been running since before I was born," Koshi jokes, reflecting on his family's arduous journey.

The realities of life in Eritrea were harsh.

"I don't remember a ton, but my parents tell me stories of how bad the conditions were — there were fights, people were starving," Koshi recalled. "They didn't have land or food. It was pretty hard growing up there."

In 2007, at just 7 years old, Koshi and his family immigrated to the United States.

One of his earliest memories of American life was his first meal: Buffalo pizza. "Nobody wanted it; everyone thought it was weird, but I tried it," he said with a laugh.

As a child, Koshi was adventurous and often mischievous. "I was a goofy kid who didn't listen to my parents," he admitted.

One such moment of youthful curiosity led him to climb a towering 20 to 30-foot tree — an escapade that ended in a dramatic fall. "When I fell off the tree, I had a vision. I saw a huge

man, just like, for a split — maybe five seconds — just there," he said. "I saw the person, they saw me, and then I just came back to life."

When asked why he had climbed such an absurdly tall tree, Koshi laughed, "I just wanted to shake the leaves off to feed my pet goat."

Life in Ethiopia had been vastly different, especially for a young child. "But when I got here [to the U.S.], I started to change," Koshi said.

Koshi had always felt a strong competitive drive. He played soccer in Africa and loved competing with friends.

However, it wasn't until his freshman year of high school that he discovered his talent for running.

"We had to run the [FitnessGram PACER Test] in gym class. My friend and I wanted to see who could go the longest," Koshi said. "[In the end,] we did [the test] like 127 times."

His gym teacher took notice and recruited him for the track and field and cross country teams.

His parents worked tirelessly to support their family. His father found employment as a custodian at the University at Buffalo, while his mother worked at the Hyatt Regency hotel.

Inspired by their work ethic, Koshi dedicated himself to his training.

"[I would] go home, take a shower, change, go to sleep, wake up at like 3 a.m., go to the bus stop and work out every morning before school," he said.

Koshi was determined to push his body to the limit.

He wanted to be successful.

He wanted to be a winner.
After high school, Koshi competed for Buffalo State before transferring to SUNY Fredonia.

Despite the change in environment, his dominance on the track and on cross country courses continued.

He earned multiple State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) titles in track and field, was named First Team All-SUNYAC in cross country and received All-Region honors.

During the 2024 indoor track and field season, he secured another SUNYAC title in the mile.

“No matter how hard [it gets] or what you go through, you’ve gotta keep fighting until you get over it,” Koshi said.

“And even if you don’t make it, you tell yourself, ‘I did my best, and that’s all I can do.’”

His accolades culminated in a historic achievement.

At the 2024 SUNYAC Cross Country Championships, Koshi placed fifth overall, cementing his legacy in the Fredonia State Hall of Fame.

Reflecting on his years of dedication, grueling training, early mornings and the thousands of miles he had logged, Koshi said he has no regrets.



Sembel Koshi is awarded All-Region honors.

Photo by BECCA TORNCHELLO | Sports Photographer



Sembel Koshi.

Photo by BECCA TORNCHELLO | Sports Photographer

“I did my best, and that’s all I can do, you know. You can’t just sit there and regret,” he said. “It’s better to try and fail than to not try at all.”

“I did my best, and that’s all I can do, you know. You can’t just sit there and regret,” he said. “It’s better to try and fail than to not try at all.”

Koshi is set to graduate in the spring of 2025 with a degree in exercise science and psychology, along with a minor in athletic coaching.

He plans to continue running after graduation, with aspirations of coaching track and field or cross country in the future.

Driven by resilience and an unyielding work ethic, Koshi’s story is one of perseverance, dedication and triumph.

It’s quite the journey — from fleeing war to becoming a collegiate Hall of Famer.

The German forward's journey: Inside Peter Buerfent's hockey career

ETHAN PITZMAN

Special to The Leader

A Peter Buerfent sat anxiously in the locker room before his college hockey debut.

With his headphones on, he kept his head down and stayed focused.

He didn't say a word.

English was his second language, and he felt like the new guy on the team.

It took him 10 games to make the lineup.

Just a freshman, expectations were low for him that night.

He had other plans.

He didn't come overseas to be a healthy scratch all year. He wanted a spot in the lineup, and he would make the most of his opportunity.

Buerfent was born and raised in Cologne, Germany. Like many of his friends, he played soccer growing up.

At eight years old, his father introduced him to hockey.

"My dad was a hockey player, so I was always close to the sport," Buerfent recalled.

Once he switched to hockey, he never looked back.

Even with the late start — most of the other kids started skating at 4 years old — Buerfent was eager to compete.

By the age of 10, he caught up to his peers in skill.

A few years later, he was one of the best players on the team.

Fast-forward to his U17 year, and Buerfent was playing for the Cologne Sharks.

He was the leader of the team and one of its leading scorers, with 22 points in 30 games, according to Elite Prospects.

At the end of that season, in the semi-final game of their final tournament, Buerfent scored the overtime game-winner.

"Everyone jumped on the ice," he remembers from that day. "It was one of the best hockey memories I've had."

After moving up to play U20, he continued to excel.

It was around this time that Buerfent started to realize where

hockey could take him.

There were only a few good programs in Germany where players could develop, and he was on one of the better teams.

It was time to take the next step.

"I got to the point where juniors stopped," Buerfent said. "I had to either try to play pro hockey, go to school or work."

He realized that staying in Germany limited him to these three options.

In the U.S., however, he was offered an opportunity to play hockey for a school while getting his education. "It made the choice easy," he said.

He joined the Fredonia Blue Devils for the fall semester of 2023.



Peter Buerfent (#16) makes plays during this year's Pink the Rink.

Photo by BECCA TORNCHELLO | Sports Photographer

One reason he joined is because of the level of competition within the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC), which he described as being "fierce" within Division III.

Teammate Antoine St. Onge was one of the first people to greet Buerfent when he arrived at Fredonia. They met as complete strangers, but it wouldn't take long for them to become best friends.

They were not only teammates but also roommates in the

dorms.

St. Onge is from Montreal, Quebec, so they bonded over being the new guys living in the U.S. for the first time.

St. Onge remembered one of the first meals they shared in the dining hall. "It felt like we were already good friends even though we had just met," he recalled.

Meeting great friends helped Buerfent feel at home, even after coming all the way from Germany.

There was a transition period to college life, as expected.

He had never lived away from home for a long period of time before coming to Fredonia, but he got more comfortable as the year went on.

Hockey was also different. "Back home, the game was more skilled, and here, it is more physical," he said. He had to adjust

to the faster pace and stronger opponents.

In North America, there is less of an emphasis on making skillful plays than there is overseas. Here, it is more about playing simple and playing hard.

“From a hockey perspective, I could definitely tell he was a Euro,” teammate Dillon Schmidt said. “He came in as more of a finesse player.”

As his freshman season got started, he was still making the adjustment to the play style.

He was not dressed for the first month of the season. He worked hard in practice and watched the games impatiently.

He knew he just needed one chance.

Fredonia was already starting to feel like home, but he felt like he was underperforming on the ice.

Even before he made the lineup, he knew coming to the U.S. to play hockey was a good choice.

“Back home, no one cared about hockey,” he said. “It feels like everyone on campus is dedicated to the sports here.”

Coming to this realization made him even more excited to hit the ice for his first game.

On Dec. 2, 2023, he finally got his chance.

He walked into the pregame meeting and saw his name on the lineup sheet.

It was time to lock in.

He took a cold shower and ate some pasta to keep his pregame ritual going from back in Germany.

Once he got to the rink, he threw on his old Apple headphones and kept to himself. He wasn’t super close with the guys



Peter Buerfent (#16).

Photo by BECCA TORNCHELLO | Sports Photographer

yet, but he still knew they had his back.

That night, he took the ice in a conference matchup against Brockport.

It didn’t take long for him to make an impact.

He scored a goal and added two assists, helping Fredonia secure a 4-3 victory.

“It was the best game I’ve had since I’ve been here,” he said.

There was intense competition in practice every week to determine who plays on the weekends, and a performance like that helped earn him a spot.

Buerfent continued to play well the remainder of his freshman season. He was a consistent player in the lineup almost every night.

Sophomore year, he took on a more social role in the locker room.

He was no longer that quiet kid waiting for his chance.

“I got to play more and more this year,” he said. He also said that he feels closer to the guys and it’s a better, “connected” team.

The Blue Devils have not had a winning season since his arrival, but Buerfent has continued to develop as a skillful forward.

With two years under his belt, he said he is ready to take on a bigger role next season, both on and off the ice.

He said that next fall, he plans to return to the ice more determined than ever.

Ethan Pitzman, the author of this article, is a member of the Fredonia hockey team.



Peter Buerfent (#16).

Photo by BECCA TORNCHELLO | Sports Photographer

Lovercolumn: Sex Mythbusters

THE QUARTERBACK

Executive Producer of Lovercall

THE MUSICIAN

Lovercall Producer

RADIO REBEL

Lovercall Producer

Hello!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The show will broadcast weekly throughout the semester on Wednesday nights from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. on WDWL 89.5 on www.fredoniaradio.com.

This column runs in conjunction with Lovercall 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're going to turn back the clock and have a "first time do-over!"

What does that mean exactly?

A lot of people's first sexual experiences aren't all they're cracked up to be.

In the movies and in books, it's common to see people locking eyes from across the room, going into the bedroom completely enamored with each other and engaging in perfectly executed intercourse.

While the first one or two things might be true, the third is pretty difficult to get right on the first try.

For many people, the first time can be awkward or even painful.

This can be true for your first time with a new person, or your first time ever.

Even people in long, happy relationships likely started out with a first time that was less than ideal.

So, this date idea is here to change that!

The idea here is to recreate the circumstances of that time as best you can, whether that means wearing the same clothes, eating the same meal or whatever else.

Everything stays the same until you get to the bedroom — and that's where your current experience and expertise come into play.

Now, instead of having a beautiful time end with something awkward, it can end with something truly special.

This date idea received mixed reviews from our panel of guests.

Some liked it, as it provided the opportunity to relive a fun memory and add some modern spark to it.

However, others preferred to look to the future in their relationship instead of living in the past.

However you feel about it, if you ever want to recapture the memory of your first time without repeating the awkwardness, then this date idea may be for you!

Sex Mythbusters

This week, in honor of April Fool's, we took a look at some sexual myths that many people seem to believe.

We sought to address these myths and explain to our listeners why they are untrue.

Here are some of the major myths we talked about on the show:

Your first time is always picturesque and perfect, just like the movies — FALSE. As we mentioned in our date idea, not only is it not always perfect, but it can sometimes be awkward or even painful.

Waiting until you are an adult before losing your virginity

isn't normal — FALSE. There's no right age to lose your virginity. Ideally, you should be sure you are fully ready before having sex for the first time.

If your hymen is broken, that means you've had sex before — FALSE. This was commonly believed in many different cultures, including medieval Europe, but it is not true.

In reality, the hymen can tear from a variety of different activities, including riding a bike or putting in a tampon. There is no accurate test to determine whether or not a person has ever had sex.

You cannot or should not have sex while menstruating — FALSE. Actually, sex has been shown to help with periods in many who menstruate. In fact, sex has been linked to a higher release of stress and relief from menstrual cramps.

If you're concerned about contraception, you can use two condoms at once — FALSE. This is actually very dangerous, as it reduces the condom's effectiveness and results in a higher chance of one or both of them tearing.

If you want to "double up," you can use multiple different forms of contraception at the same time, such as birth control and a condom.

"Blue balls" are a made-up thing — FALSE. It's real and it's called epididymal hypertension, or discomfort/pain in the scrotum as a result of sexual arousal without reaching orgasm.

While it's not fun to experience, it is not dangerous and can be resolved either by reaching orgasm or just waiting it out.

Asking for consent can ruin the mood — FALSE. There is no mood without consent. There is no anything without consent. Consent must be obtained before sex every single time, no ifs, ands or buts.

If you masturbate too much, you can go blind or grow hair on the palm of your hand — FALSE. Believe it or not, people actually used to believe both of these myths.

Your eyesight will be fine and your palm won't grow hair no matter how much you pleasure yourself.

As you can see, there's no shortage of myths and misconceptions revolving around sex.

To combat these, we at Lovercall are strong advocates for comprehensive sex education for everyone.

We also heavily support open and honest communication, especially as it relates to sex.

We talk a lot about the two Cs of Lovercall, which are consent and communication.

Consent is, of course, vital to sex. As mentioned previously, there is no sex without consent.

But communication is also crucial. There's no way to know what your partner(s) may like or dislike without having an honest and clear discussion about it first.

These discussions can also help to dispel many of the myths about sex that people still believe today.

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 mvolz@fredonia.edu or visit Fredonia Radio Systems, located in McEwen Hall 115 and open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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



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A tribute to my father

ABIGAIL JACOBSON

Just a girl who misses her dad

Warning: This article contains mentions of suicide, depression, overdosing, post-traumatic stress disorder and explicit language.

As you get older, there are events that change your life. Whether for better or for worse, it happens.

Some say this is the beauty of life and if you had asked for my opinion a few years ago, I would have said that they are fucking wrong. That if that is the beauty of life, then I don't fucking want to experience any events or any change.

Yes, life is beautiful, but to say the challenges you face are beautiful? What are you talking about?

My reasoning behind this is that it is terrifying not knowing what could happen next. I don't know what could happen tomorrow or in the next few months, and I can't bear to think about it.

But, I've come to terms with it and have learned that life is so short and you need to live it like no other.

The real question you might be asking is: What are you talking about, Abby? Where is this coming from?

Well, I'll be honest, I miss my dad. Jeffery Morgan Jacobson, you son of a gun. You big 'ol softie, you weird fucking man, I miss you so goddamn much.

My father was a big part of my life, as many would think their parent(s) would be.

Of course, I have no favorites. I love both my mother and father equally, and no one or anything they did would or could change my mind.

Growing up as the youngest in my family, I always had people baby me. Of course, that's understandable since I technically was the baby, although only by three minutes since my twin sister was born first.

When I was born, I came out with the umbilical cord wrapped around my throat, and I wasn't breathing. From what my parents have told me, I developed pneumonia and had to stay in the hospital a few extra days.

I like to think this is a reason why people baby me because of what happened when I was a newborn, and maybe it is.

But I remember my father always telling me that he would stay every single night in the hospital with me and that I was his favorite out of the four other siblings I have. To my sib-

lings, don't be upset, I'm just better than you.

I always believed it because we had a connection that my siblings never had.

As I grew older, I became a very shy, introverted person. I never had many friends and I never tried to make many friends. I liked being by myself and doing what I wanted to do.

My father was probably my best friend. To my twin sister, Sarah, you are and always will be my best BEST friend. My father and I were like peas in a pod. We did everything together. We would play video games together, whether it be 1 p.m.

or 1 a.m. We would play poker or chess every night, where a majority of the time, he would let me win.

Some other times included him knocking on my door at 2 a.m. on a school night. He would open the door, wake me up and say, "Hey, I made some nachos if you want any." I'd turn over, look at him and go, "Yeah, I'll be down in a second."

Other times, also at 2 a.m. on a school night, I would wake up to him on the edge of my bed, playing on my Xbox One. He would be playing Call of Duty and I would be like, "Dad, what the fuck are you doing in my room this late?" It was always, "I couldn't sleep."

I guess it was a bonding moment for us. Whether I couldn't sleep or he couldn't sleep, we would always be there for one another. These aren't all of the memories I have of us, but these are the ones I cherish the most, especially because I still have trouble falling asleep. I really cherished those times and I never expected them to end so soon.

My father passed away on February 23, 2020, due to an accidental overdose. I was 16. I never mentioned this before, but

my father had many medical issues, and he was usually in and out of hospitals most of my life. One of those was depression, which also played a part in his passing.

There is never a day that I don't remember that day, and it was one of the worst days of my life.

My father had lost his father, his grandfather, his uncle, his brother and his best friend.

I could never see the signs of it, but the day before he passed, I did.

The days before he passed were hard. We had found out some things that had happened, and it was very overwhelm-



My father and I at our favorite place to go after school, Pizza Hut.

Continued onto next page



My father and I at Hershey Park when I was young.

ing. It became too much for my father that I had found him crying, and I remember comforting him and telling him everything would be alright.

Later that night, I was half-asleep when he knocked on my door. I didn't answer, and I remember him opening the door and saying, "I love you so much, Abby." That was the last thing he ever said to me.

The next morning was a blur, and to be honest, too traumatizing, so I would rather spare most of the details. Like I said above, my father had a lot of medical issues, and I think because of the combination of the recent emotions and the continuous pain he experienced throughout his life, he thought taking more medication would help.

Now, of course, it didn't help at all and ended with him passing away on the dining room floor. It's a scene I never wish upon anyone to see or to ever happen. It was truly a traumatic experience, and to see my father one last time like that, I don't think I could ever recover from that.

I won't continue with any further details because you get the gist of it. It was lots of crying, lots of sadness and lots of anger. I never expected to have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but what I experienced that day will forever make me terrified of waking up to something like that again.

I was angry that he left us, but mainly me. He was never going to see me in a prom dress, graduate from high school and then college, walk me down the aisle and so much more.

It felt like it wasn't fair, and it still feels like that.

What did my family do to deserve this? What did I do to deserve this? I'm not one to accept pity, so to my dear readers, I am not expecting any. I am simply asking a very simple question: Why?

The following days were hard. It was, again, filled with anger and sadness. After a few days, we unlocked his phone to reminisce. There, we found pictures, videos and notes dedicated to each of us.

In my letter, he wrote, "Don't be sad, don't be upset. It is no one's fault that I followed the light to the end of the tunnel."

The thing was I was upset and I was sad. I never thought that the person whom I loved the most would be gone so quickly.

The following months were even harder, especially because

we immediately went into lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But it gave me a lot of time to think and, to be honest, a lot of time to blame myself.

I tend to blame myself and who I was back then a lot, and I still do it today. I was a moody, depressed teenager who barely let people take pictures of her or even touch her. I hated who I was, and I hated what my life was. There was so much I could have done and should have done, and here I was, blaming myself. Here I am today, still blaming myself.

However, something awoke in me, and I learned a life lesson.

Cherish every moment you have. Don't be stuck being shy or introverted. You have one life, and it is going so fast that you can't stop for one second.

I know, this is something everyone says, and why didn't I know before?

To answer that, I didn't want to believe that life was too fast and I shouldn't have to cherish every single moment because, I thought, there would be way more to come. I also never expected something like this to happen to my mother, to me, to my sisters and my brother. To our family.

Once I became aware of this life lesson to which I had just understood, I decided enough was enough. I needed to live my life. I broke out of my introvertedness and my shyness. I spoke my truth, I made new friends and I pushed myself to



My father and I in Ocean City, New Jersey on vacation.

make my life better.

I didn't want to be stuck in the past and be who I was before. I wanted to be someone who my father could be proud of, and I know he would say he already is, but I want to be someone else.

I want to cherish my life and the little things that accompany it. I don't want to sit and wait for things to happen but instead go and find those things, make them work and live my life.

I only have one life and that is so terrifying to me that it keeps me up every night. But it won't change the fact that I have one life and I need to make the most of it.

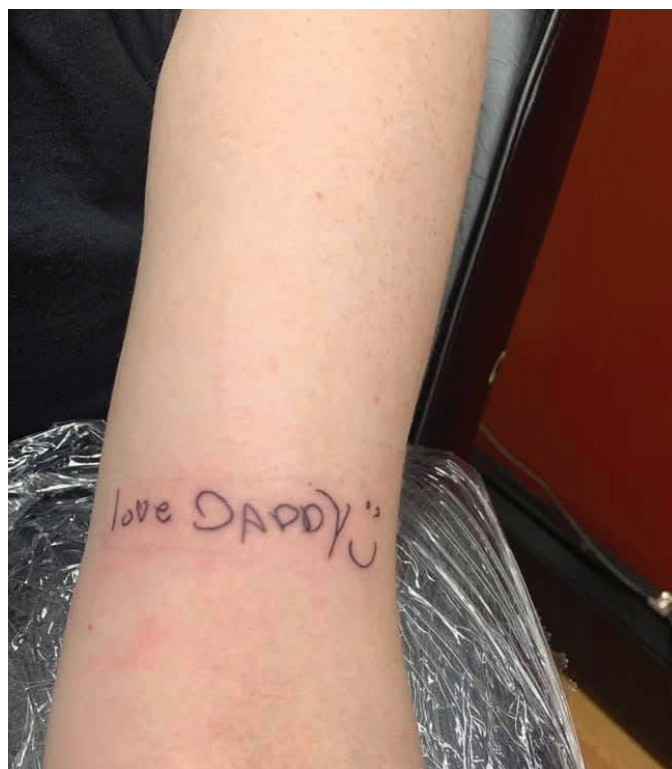
So, I write this for my father.

There is not a day that goes by that I don't remember the times we had or how funny you were. I will never forget the times of knocking on the car window after school, trying to wake you up from a nap you HAD to take. I won't forget you sharing my first ever play of the game on Overwatch to all of your Facebook friends and you mentioning how you were so proud even though it was just a stupid video game.

I wish I could say I won't forget your laugh or your voice, but sadly, over time, you tend to forget even if you try so hard not to. I wish things were different, but I believe if things were different, I wouldn't be who I am today.

I'm sorry if I made anyone cry, but as I get closer to another milestone in my life, I tend to get emotional. I know my father will be watching me walk across the stage and will be alongside me as I work my way through life.

To whoever made it this far, please cherish your loved ones. Remember the good times and to be who you are, no matter



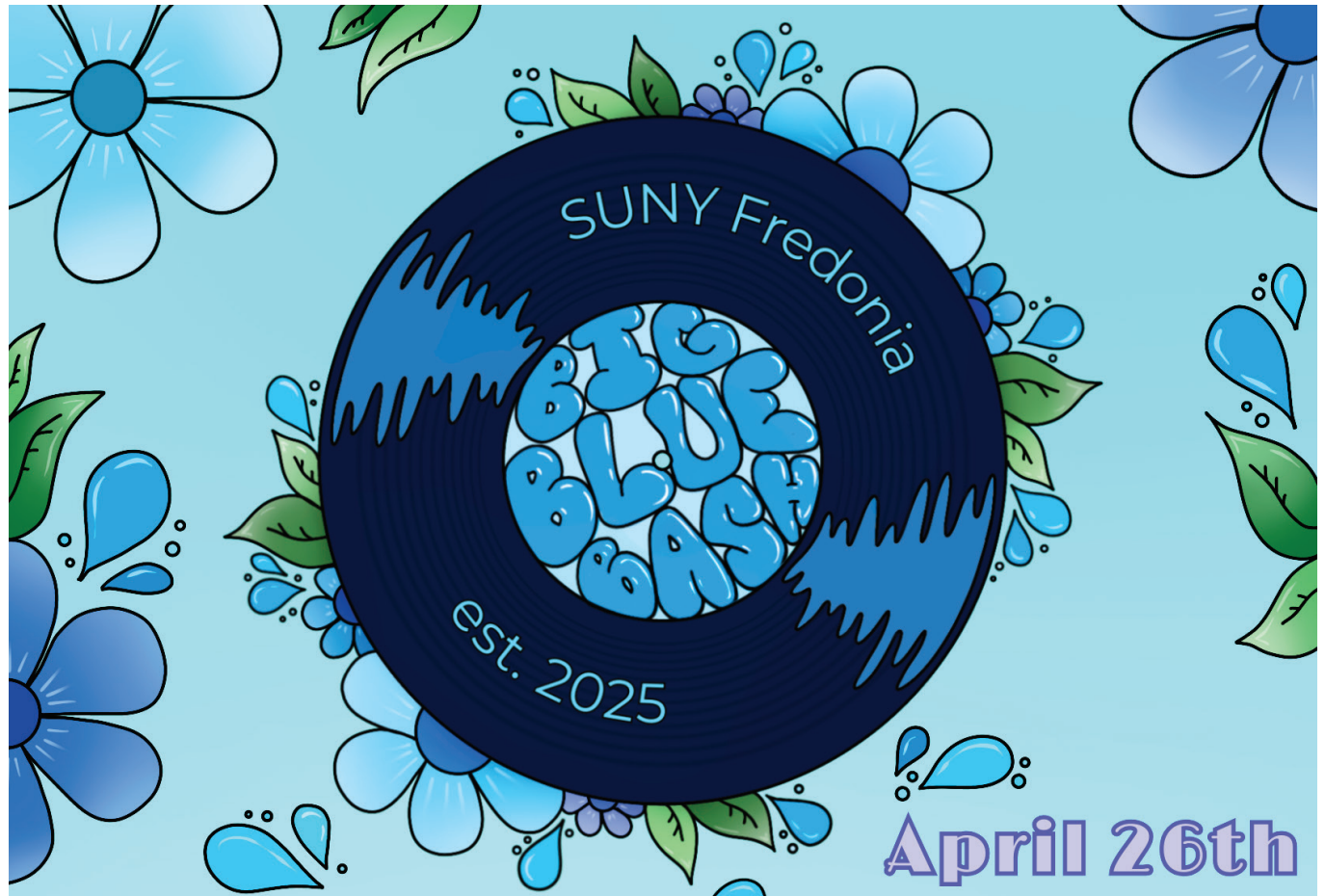
My first tattoo I got in memory of my father. Came from a note he left me on my bedside table.

what. Things happen, and my god, it is so scary. But things have to happen in order for you to grow.

The passing of my father is the hardest challenge I have ever faced, and I'm still facing it today. But do not let it stop you from being who you are. My father would not have wanted me to stop from becoming who I am today.



My father and I doing our daddy-daughter dance at the Sweet Sixteen party for my twin sister and me in 2019.



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Satire and parody for Fredonia

My plan for the United States government

MEGAN KIDBY
Scallion Editor

The United States government is broken.

Congress can't pass meaningful legislation, political leaders refuse to compromise and the entire system seems to be held together by duct tape and wishful thinking.

But fear not, America, for I have devised the ultimate solution: we put every single elected official on "Survivor" and let democracy take its natural course.

The premise is simple. Every member of Congress, along with the president, vice president, select members of the Supreme Court (for judicial oversight, of course) and a certain team of individuals named after an outdated meme, will be dropped onto a remote island. No campaign donations, no lobbyists, no private jets — just the bare essentials: rice, flint and the watchful eye of "Survivor" host Jeff Probst.

"This is the greatest social experiment of our time," Probst would say, ushering the newly stranded lawmakers into the game.

And he'd be right.

Instead of filibusters, they'll face fire-making challenges. Instead of partisan gridlock, they'll battle for immunity. And instead of vague campaign promises, they'll actually have to deliver results — unless they want to be voted off the island.

Gone are the days of backroom deals and procedural delays. Now, if a senator wants to obstruct a bill, they'll have to win a grueling endurance challenge while balancing on a floating platform.

Want to block legislation? Try building a shelter that doesn't collapse overnight.

To test their true leadership skills, we'll also put our lawmakers through challenges that simulate the struggles of real Americans:

The Healthcare Gauntlet — Contestants must navigate an insurance website, decipher their coverage and survive a trip to the emergency room without going bankrupt.

Minimum Wage Marathon — Each player gets \$200 and has to make it through two weeks without resorting to offshore bank accounts.

Climate Change Obstacle Course — They must build a seawall before the rising tide (of scientific facts) washes them away.

The Bipartisan Fire-Making Challenge — Can a Democrat and a Republican start a fire together? Or will they argue about regulations until they freeze?

Twitter Wars — Contestants must survive 24 hours without rage-tweeting. Musk already lost.

I mean, this system introduces real accountability!

Every three days, America will witness a Tribal Council, where Probst will be able to look Elon Musk and DOGE in the eyes and ask, "So, what did YOU actually do this week?" If their answer is anything like the usual political doublespeak, their torch gets snuffed out. Doesn't feel too good on the other side of it, huh Elon?

Of course, alliances will form. The Progressive Tribe will immediately clash with the Freedom Caucus Tribe, and the moderates will attempt to sway votes with lukewarm promises. But in the end, the true winner will be the one who can outwit, outplay and — most importantly — actually govern.

Picture the final vote: America watching live as the jury of ousted politicians decides whether to award the presidency to someone who won actual challenges, formed real coalitions and didn't just grandstand for attention. And if they fail us? Well, that's what Redemption Island is for.

With this plan, politics would become a true test of survival, strategy and skill — just like it was meant to be. So let's make it happen, CBS. America needs you.

Jeff, grab your torch. We've got a government to fix.

HOROS

ABBIE MILLER

Editor-in-Chief, All-Knowing Zodiac Specialist

In all my days as The Leader's resident zodiac expert (it's only been a semester and a half), I've collected quite the knowledge on the traits of each horoscope sign.

And as The Leader's Editor-in-Chief, I possess perhaps too much understanding of the ins and outs of its executive board. This is exactly why I've decided to embrace my wealth of intelligence for the greater good by matching your horoscope with the executive board member of The Leader that fits you best.

No need to fret, I made sure that the signs each member was assigned to differ from the horoscopes of their actual birthdays. I may be efficient but I am not a cheater.

P.S. I know you're wondering where I'd rank myself on this list. But the truth is that I actually embody all of these positive qualities. That's right, the leader of The Leader likes to think that she works to emphasize and mirror each executive board member's strengths.



Aries

Dan Quagliana

Affectionately referred to as Q, Q-tip and Quaggy, The Leader's Managing Editor has qualities ranging from bravery to resourcefulness. While some may be intimidated by your competitive nature and quick wit, you channel these facets in ways that inspire others to see the best in themselves.



Taurus

Becca Torncello

As The Leader's Sports Photographer, Becca Torncello reflects Taurus' penchant for creativity. You are solid and dependable, characteristics that are made even more valuable due to our ever-changing world.



Gemini

Megan Kidby

Expressivity, versatility and sociability are traits that are as indicative of The Leader's Scallion Editor as they are of all Geminis. And seldom will you find an individual who is not either to be as bright and down to earth.



Cancer

Matt Volz

Understanding and thoughtful — two words that describe both Sports Editor Matt Volz and Cancers. The very sentimentality that some may be intimidated by is common procedure by the man and this sign, both of which tend to downplay the strength that this vulnerability holds.



Leo

Mia Ciechalski

While a newer addition to The Leader's executive board, this Life & Arts Editor's presence is always noted. Leos share the self-assured nature that immediately made Mia a vital member of The Leader and which proved that a dramatic flair always has a place in media.

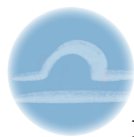


Virgo

Ryan Quigley

It takes a special person to be able to build something from the ground up. The Leader's Business Manager, and all Virgos, have proven they have what it takes. Determined, analytical and practical, you have all the skills you need to make your own path for success.

COPEES



Libra

Elmer Ploetz

Currently the longest-standing Leader member to date, this advisor knows everything that it takes to keep an organization running efficiently and with style.

Your reliability and communication make you beloved among all those you interact with, as you use your expertise to ease the worries of the less knowledgeable.



Scorpio

Makayla Mohrman

Similar to The Leader's Social Media Manager, it may surprise Scorpions to know just what a gem they are. You are resourceful and passionate to your very core, both qualities which inspire those around you to achieve their goals and to do so with the very grace you present.



Sagittarius

Abby Jacobson

It's no surprise that you are considered by many to be the comedic relief of your inner circle. Ambitious and level-headed, this is something your sign shares with The Leader's News Editor, who is constantly able to evoke laughter when the time is right and get things done when need be.



Capricorn

Giulianna Lalomio

Chief Copy Editor of The Leader, Giulianna Lalomio represents Capricorns in that she is independent, tenacious and disciplined. Your seriousness and ambition make you a great addition to any team, including one as sometimes demanding as The Leader.



Aquarius

Sebastian Montalban

The imagination and originality of Community Relations Coordinator Sebastian Montalban is something that many strive for but few are able to say they truly embody. Aquarians, you have an uncompromising nature that makes your values concrete and your compassion known.



Pisces

Drew Paluch

You hold all of the characteristics of The Leader's Photo Editor — kind, hardworking and determined. Pisces, like Drew Paluch, are incredibly understanding and emotionally intelligent, always knowing how to bring the perfect mix of empathy and resilience to every project you touch.

