

4.29.2025 — Issue 6 — Volume CXXVIII



# THE **FREDONIA LEADER**

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

**Local paper claims  
students' voices do  
not matter**

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**Banned professor Kershner faces job loss  
UP attempt to quell fears of ICE on campus  
From the desks of our graduating seniors  
Construction progresses on new outdoor track  
[OPINION] How has Fredonia changed?  
[SATIRE] In defense of frats**

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**Back cover: The Leader's graduating executive board members. Photos provided by The Leader staff.**

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“You can only take one step at a time.” -Louise Wadsworth

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# Student loans going to collections and former representative going to prison: The latest in Washington

**ALEX BUCKNAM**

Asst. News Editor

In the past two weeks, major developments in Washington include the resumption of sending borrowers who have defaulted on their student loans to collections, and former U.S. Republican Representative George Santos being sentenced to more than seven years in prison.

On April 21, the Department of Education (ED) announced that involuntary collections for borrowers who have defaulted on their federal student loans will resume on May 5. Borrowers who are currently in default will start being referred to an offset program under the Department of the Treasury.

According to a press release from the ED, the department has not sent any borrowers to collections since March 2020.

Secretary of Education Linda McMahon stated, “American taxpayers will no longer be forced to serve as collateral for irresponsible student loan policies.”

The press release stated that five million borrowers have not made a payment in more than 360 days, and four million borrowers are in late-stage delinquency, meaning they haven’t made a payment in 91 through 180 days. As a result, the number of borrowers in default could approach ten million in the upcoming weeks and months.

Being in default on a student loan means the borrower has not made a payment in more than nine months.

Beginning May 5, the Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA) will begin notifying defaulted borrowers. Starting April 21 until the May 5 deadline, the FSA will encourage borrowers to contact the Default Resolution Group to enroll in a monthly payment plan, an income-driven repayment plan or a loan rehabilitation program.

According to the FSA website, defaulting on student loans can significantly harm the borrower’s credit score, which can make it harder to get a credit card or to buy a house or a car.

If borrowers do not begin repaying within 30 days after the notice, the Treasury Department will start wage garnishment. Under the Treasury Offset Program, the program can collect funds by withholding tax refunds, Social Security payments, federal pensions and even paychecks.

According to the offset program’s website, the department can take 100% of a federal tax refund, up to 15% of Social Security benefits and up to 100% of other government payments. If borrowers do not have those funds, the program may begin garnishing paychecks until the loan is repaid or removed from default.

FSA stated borrowers can check if they are in default by logging into the FSA website. There is still time to fix your student loans if you are in default before the May 5 deadline.

On April 25, former Republican Representative George Santos of New York was sentenced to 87 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to federal wire fraud and aggravated identity theft in Aug. 2024.

In court, Santos said he was “humbled.” Santos continued, “I cannot rewrite the past, but I can control the road ahead.”

U.S. District Judge Joanna Seybert questioned his sincerity, stating, “Where is your remorse? Where do I see it?”

Santos was expelled from the House of Representatives in Dec. 2023, becoming the sixth member to be ousted from Congress. Santos was expelled through H.Res.878 of the 118th Congress.

The resolution states, “Whereas, on February 28, 2023, the Committee on Ethics of the House unanimously voted to impanel an Investigative Subcommittee. To review whether Representative Santos may have engaged in unlawful activity with respect to his 2022 congressional campaign, the [subcommittee] determined in its investigation that there was substantial evidence of violations of federal law [and] the Rules of the House.”

On May 10, 2023, Santos was charged in the Eastern District of New York with wire fraud, unlawful monetary transactions, theft of public money and making false statements on financial disclosure forms in the 2020 and 2022 election cycles.

The resolution was sponsored by Republican Representative Michael Guest of Mississippi’s 3rd congressional district. H.Res.878 passed by a 311-114 vote, with 105 Republicans and 205 Democrats voting in favor of the resolution and 112 Republicans and 2 Democrats voting against.

Before sentencing, Santos posted on X, “I want to thank all the people who have sent messages of support. Without you, I wouldn’t have had the strength to continue standing. I humbly thank you all for the amazing times we spent having thoughtful and deep-rooted conversations.”

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# University Police attempt to quell fears of ICE on campus

**DAN QUAGLIANA**

Managing Editor

One of President Donald Trump's central campaign promises was that he would immediately start "preparing to round up undocumented people already in the United States on a vast scale and detain them in sprawling camps while they wait to be expelled."

Now that Trump has taken office, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the federal agency at the forefront of this plan. In addition to carrying out raids on sanctuary cities, the president has allowed them to raid schools, places of worship and hospitals, something that previous administrations have not permitted.

School districts in several states have already issued instructions to their faculty and staff saying that they are not to comply with ICE officials and not to allow them on school grounds unless they have a proper warrant.

International students at universities across the country, many who are residing legally in the United States, have had their visas revoked by the federal government with little explanation.

According to Inside Higher Ed, "As of April 24, over 280 colleges and universities have identified 1,800-plus international students and recent graduates who have had their legal status changed by the State Department."

As an explanation, United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio claimed that students come to the United States "not just to study but to participate in movements that vandalize universities, harass students, take over buildings and cause chaos," referring to pro-Palestinian protests on campuses across the country, which the Trump Administration calls "pro-Hamas."

In a Tweet posted to X on March 9, Rubio said, "We will be revoking the visas and/or green cards of Hamas supporters in America so they can be deported."

"In any instance, you want to be calm. You want to be compliant, and you want to be honest. If [students] see [ICE] on campus, we should be notified immediately."

**— GORDON CARPENTER**

Chief,

University Police Department  
SUNY Fredonia

The first high-profile case of ICE taking a university student into custody was the detention of Mahmoud Khalil, a lead organizer for the pro-Palestinian protests at Columbia University last year. Khalil was taken from his New York City apartment by ICE on March 8 on order from the Department of State to revoke his student visa. When ICE was informed by Khalil's attorney that he was a legal resident in the country, they said "they were revoking that instead," according to the Associated Press.

Khalil has not been charged with any crimes. Instead, the Department of State's argument is based on a part of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, which says that the Secretary of State may deport legal immigrants if they believe that their presence in the country will have negative consequences for the country's foreign policy.

Khalil remains in custody in the United States amid an ongoing court battle.

With ICE activity on the rise across the country, students at SUNY Fredonia have been fearful that the same thing could happen here.

On April 10, students heard a rumor that ICE agents were seen on campus. University Police, through Marketing and Communications, sent out an email that said, "University Police would like to address a rumor that spread on campus this morning that the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was actively on campus this morning. University Police has determined that the agency is not on campus. Based on UPD's investigation and assessment, a classroom conversation was misinterpreted and taken out of context, which led to false information being shared. Again, UPD has confirmed with ICE that their agents are not on campus at this time."

University Police Chief Gordon Carpenter was able to elaborate on the situation: "In this instance, we were able to quickly determine that this might not be factual, that it may have been something that was said that was taken out of context. We made contact with ICE themselves, and we were able to confirm quickly that there were no agents on campus at all."

If ICE agents are on campus, which has not happened as of April 26, "They would let the chief law enforcement of the jurisdiction know. In this case, that would be me," Carpenter said. "That's an understanding because it's somebody else's jurisdiction." Additionally, "We have to verify the information. That would [occur by asking questions such as], 'What's the source of this information?' 'How reliable is this information?'"

Carpenter said that he is not aware of any plans for ICE to be on campus in the future.

"In any instance, you want to be calm. You want to be compliant, and you want to be honest. If [students] see [ICE] on campus, we should be notified immediately," he said. "We need to make contact with ICE to ensure that students feel safe and we know what's going on in our jurisdiction."

"It can be a scary thing," Carpenter admitted. "But typically,



we would know prior to anybody else and be able to do what we need to if they were to come on campus ... Again, I will reiterate: There is no plan for ICE to come on campus.”

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# University Police launch new bike patrol initiative

**DAN QUAGLIANA**  
Managing Editor

Prior to last week, there were only two ways you would see University Police (UP) officers around campus: walking or in a patrol car.

Now, you'll see them on bikes, as well.

On April 23, SUNY Fredonia's University Police Department debuted bicycle patrols, meaning students will now see uniformed officers patrolling around on bicycles.

Currently, there's three UP officers who are trained as bicycle patrols, but the department has plans to increase that number.

University Police Officer Scott Richards explained that to become certified for bicycle patrol, officers have to go to a state-run school. In Western New York, that school is hosted at the University at Buffalo every summer.

The bike patrol project has been in the works for about a year, and according to Richards, the three bike patrol officers on campus were extremely helpful to the department in allow-

ing for such a short time from conception to debut.

"The three officers that are bike patrol-trained actually had bike patrols at the SUNYs that they came from ... I came from [Buffalo State University] and it was a really big program. We probably had 20 bike patrol officers," Richards said.

University Police expects to see "a lot better visibility of officers. The patrol car kind of acts as like a barrier — you see a cop car go by, and sometimes you can't even see in the windows. This will be a lot more of a community policing-oriented type of patrol where that barrier is removed. It puts officers more in line with the community."

Richards said that bikes are a "better mode of transportation" than cars for a campus the size of Fredonia.

"This gives a hybrid where you have the versatility of walking, getting between buildings, getting into parking lots, things like that, where you can better observe things, but it also has a little more speed than walking. It kind of puts the two of them

**Continued onto next page**



University Police Officer Scott Richards patrolling the Fredonia campus.

**Photo by DAN QUAGLIANA** | Managing Editor

together,” he remarked.

Richards claimed that officers could detect things better on bicycles than in cars, and how riding bicycles offer response times that are just as fast as if they were in a patrol car, with the added maneuverability of being able to quickly travel between buildings and down sidewalks.

“It’s really good for detecting property crimes,” Richards said. “Car break-ins, bikes being stolen... [car thieves] are looking for patrol cars. Sometimes the bike is overlooked, and you can detect things a little better that way.”

The department’s bikes are equipped with flashing lights in the back and headlights in the front, allowing them to be used at night. “This campus is pretty well-lit, so ... there’s no reason why you can’t” use the bikes on a night patrol, according to



University Police Officer Scott Richards and the UP patrol bicycle.

Photo by DAN QUAGLIANA | Managing Editor

"This gives a hybrid where you have the versatility of walking, getting between buildings ... but it also has a little more speed than walking. It kind of puts the two of them together."

— **SCOTT RICHARDS**

Officer,

University Police Department

SUNY Fredonia

Richards.

“We’re very excited about bringing this to the campus,” he said. “Students will be able to see the officers a bit more personally, because our whole goal ... is to have everybody who goes to school here, everybody who works here realize that we’re a part of that community. We’re not aside from it, we’re not overlooking it, we’re part of it. This will help remove that barrier of the car and get us out there and talk[ing] to people.”

Richards mentioned that during his inaugural ride, he was stopping every so often and talking to people around campus — something that’s “hard to do when you’re driving a car down the road.”

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# Banned professor Stephen Kershner faces job loss

ALEX BUCKNAM

Asst. News Editor

*Warning: This article contains mention of pedophilia.*

Dr. Stephen Kershner, the philosophy professor who was banned from SUNY Fredonia's campus and is currently suing the university, has been issued a retrenchment letter.

According to a Buffalo News article published on April 14, Kershner's appointment at SUNY Fredonia will end Aug. 31, 2026.

As stated in a United University Professions email sent out on Sept. 19, 2024, a retrenchment letter is, "the termination of the employment of any academic or professional employee during any appointment, other than a temporary appointment which may be terminated at any time, as a result of financial exigency, reallocation of resources, reorganization of degree or curriculum offerings or requirements."

The university president's office declined to comment on the letter's details and said they could not provide any comments on ongoing litigation.

Kershner started teaching courses at SUNY Fredonia in 1998 and became a full professor in 2005, with his last semester teaching courses in fall 2021.

Kershner has been banned from campus since Feb. 2022 after making controversial comments about adult-minor sexual relationships on a philosophy podcast, "Brain in a Vat."

During the podcast, Kershner said, "Imagine that an adult male wants to have sex with a 12-year-old girl. Imagine that she's a willing participant. A very standard, very widely held view is that there's something deeply wrong about this, and it's wrong independent of being criminalized. It's not obvious to me that it is in fact wrong."

Throughout the rest of the podcast, Kershner discussed reasons people believe adult-child sexual relationships are wrong

"He essentially outed himself as the creep ... Now everyone knows how he really feels. Now he can deal with the well[-]deserved consequences."

## — COMMENTER ON KERSHNER'S PODCAST EPISODE



Professor Stephen Kershner.

Photo via fredonia.edu.

and argued that those reasons are unconvincing.

The original podcast video was taken down by YouTube, but "Brain in a Vat" made a response to their video being taken down and Kershner being banned from campus.

The podcast episode was met with outrage because of Kershner's comments, with one user saying, "He essentially outed himself as the creep." The comment continued, "Now everyone knows how he really feels. Now he can deal with the well[-]deserved consequences."

The story was also picked up by major media organizations such as Fox News and the New York Times.

After the podcast, in Feb. 2022, SUNY Fredonia President Stephen Kolison reassigned Kershner to a position that does not require him to be on campus or interact with students.

Kershner remains on the university payroll. According to SeeThroughNY, he was paid \$108,424 in 2024.

The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression's (FIRE) Faculty Legal Defense Fund retained their counsel on Kershner after he was banned from the university. FIRE wrote to the university stating Kershner's viewpoints are protected by the First Amendment.

On June 12, 2023, FIRE filed a lawsuit against Kolison and Executive Vice President Michael Kelly. Kelly resigned from his position in April 2024.

The podcast was not the first time Kershner expressed his opinion on the argument of adult-child sexual relationships

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being wrong. In 2015, he published a book titled Pedophilia and Adult-Child Sex. A brief overview of the book on Google states, "This sex intuitively strikes many people as sick, disgusting and wrong. The problem is that it is not clear whether these judgments are justified and whether they are aesthetic or moral."

In a statement to The Buffalo News about the retrenchment, the university said, "As part of SUNY Fredonia's Roadmap to Financial Sustainability, the university conducted a thorough review of academic programs to ensure our offerings are best aligned with student interest and drive long-term institutional sustainability."

The university stated that the retrenchment was because the philosophy department will soon no longer exist, since both the major and minor have been cut from the university's curriculum.

One of Kershner's attorneys, Adam Steinbaugh, told The Buffalo News that Kershner could still teach classes before the retrenchment takes effect.

"There are still classes he can teach," Steinbaugh said. "SUNY Fredonia is instead spending additional money to hire other people to teach those classes while it pays Kershner to conduct research."

Steinbaugh also questioned whether the retrenchment was just a tactic to fully remove Kershner from the university. "Out of all the jobs at risk due to restructuring, he's third in line?" Steinbaugh said.

Steinbaugh was referring to other faculty members who have also received retrenchment letters from the university, including Michele Bernatz, who chose to retire instead, Peter Tucker and Stephen Komp. This would make Kershner the third professor to lose their job because of a retrenchment letter.

As of April 25, the lawsuit between Kershner and the university is ongoing.

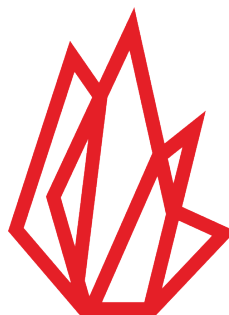
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iip6gTivPkK>



# FIRE

Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression

Logo for the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE).  
Photo via Wikipedia.org.

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# Fredonia mayor calls out Leader editors; local paper claims students' voices do not matter

**MATT VOLZ**  
Sports Editor

As finals week approaches, many Fredonia students will soon spend a weekend celebrating off campus.

The weekend before dead week has come to be known as “FredFest,” which used to signify a school-sanctioned event filled with music, food and more.

In 2015, the school ended the event, but the weekend is still recognizable by students going off campus to party and unwind.

As it is no longer an event sponsored by the school, it has also been referred to as “Non FredFest” in some cases.

However, concerns have emerged about the safety of students participating, specifically in relation to violent events that have occurred over the past two FredFest weekends.

A stabbing in 2023 and a shooting last year have put the community on high alert, including Fredonia Mayor Michael Ferguson.

Ferguson has stated that he would like to see the college and students work together on a potential solution that would involve bringing things back onto campus.

“We either come to a solution where we [work together] with the college and the students and the student body [to figure out] how we can put on two days worth of activities on and off the campus,” he said. “Or, unfortunately, I put an [8 p.m.] curfew on the village and bring in the National Guard ... Hopefully we don’t ever have to get to that point.”

In an article published by The Leader on March 4, students were surveyed for their thoughts on FredFest.

They were asked questions such as whether or not they would attend a school-sanctioned FredFest event, what would make them most likely to attend, what they believe the biggest issue with FredFest is and how they feel about the school’s and mayor’s efforts to remedy the situation.

Specifically related to the last question, the majority of respondents said they were upset with how the school and mayor have attempted to handle the upcoming event.

64 out of 110 respondents said they were angry that ending the off-campus FredFest weekend was considered a priority over other issues, most notably the number of boil water orders the Fredonia village has had in recent years.

According to the Dunkirk Observer, the village had five boil water orders from February 2023 to February 2025.

Three of those occurred in a one-year span from February 2024 to February of this year.

At the time of this article, the most recent boil water order spanned from Monday, Feb. 3 to Friday, Feb. 7.

The associated notice from the Chautauqua County Department of Health read: “Effective immediately all Fredonia water

customers ... must boil all water used for cooking and drinking. There has been a disruption in the disinfection treatment, making the water not safe to drink. All water used for drinking or cooking must be boiled then cool before using. You will be notified when it is no longer necessary to boil water.”

Some students who responded to the surveys in the aforementioned article expressed frustration that ending FredFest was a higher priority than tackling the issue of the boil water orders.

One student responded, “Why are you so intent on fixing this when you can’t even make our water safe to drink? Where are your priorities?”

In an opinion article published by The Leader on Feb. 18, Managing Editor Dan Quagliana wrote that government inefficiency was the reason for the boil water orders.

He also expressed that, had he previously known about the issue, he may not have chosen to attend Fredonia.

“If someone had told me that this was a problem I would have to be facing just by living within the village boundaries, there’s a very real chance I might not have gone to college here,” he wrote. “And I sure as hell wouldn’t ever choose to live here because of it.”

On Monday, April 14, the Observer published an article recapping the two Leader articles.

In that night’s Fredonia Trustees Workshop and Meeting, Ferguson spoke about the articles after seeing them on the Observer’s front page.

“The article represents a ticky-tack he said/she said, with, as usual, no suggestions from students as to positive discord,” the mayor said. “When I say students, I’m talking about the students that wrote the article, not the many students that showed up at our last meeting with good, strong, positive leadership of their various organizations.”

Ferguson then made reference to Quagliana’s opinion article

“Complaints by SUNY Fredonia students at this particular moment in time should be as noticeable in Fredonia's Village Hall as the breeze a gnat's wings generate in a hurricane.”

**— THE DUNKIRK OBSERVER**

Continued onto next page

about government inefficiency.

"It's easy to write a poison pen article weeks before your senior graduation, leaving our community in your wake," he said.

The mayor also addressed Quagliana's quote mentioned above, saying, "You don't go to a college for the water, which we know you need. You go to a college for an education. I'm pretty sure you got a good one while you were here."

He continued speaking about the article, saying, "I would have thought that a wise and educated young leader would have come to this community with suggestions on how to make things better," he said. "I hope that they will reconsider in the future."

On the subject of FredFest, Ferguson said, "The water issue is not the reason nor license to invite drug dealers and ne'er-do-wells into our community," he said.

"So, as usual, read between the lines," he said as he concluded his report. "The village water plan is focused and moving along, as we will have a strong bond between the village, college, our residents and our temporary residents, the students of Fredonia State University."

In response to Ferguson's report, the Observer published an article in their section The Observer's View, titled "Is this the time to worry about Non Fred Fest?"

In the article, the unnamed writer questioned whether or not the thoughts of Fredonia students actually mattered in relation to the subject.

"But, in all honesty, do the thoughts of SUNY Fredonia stu-

dents matter much given the village's current budget situation? Sometimes you have to fight the fights that need fighting," the article said. "An editorial in the SUNY Fredonia Leader isn't a fight that needed to be fought. SUNY Fredonia students don't need to occupy any of Ferguson's thoughts."

They continued with the same question, saying, "Who cares what some SUNY Fredonia students say? Do they pay taxes in the village? Do they own properties? Complaints by SUNY Fredonia students at this particular moment in time should be as noticeable in Fredonia's Village Hall as the breeze a gnat's wings generate in a hurricane."

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Friday 5/23 - 6:00 pm to 1:00 am : Retro Games Night! - Come and play retro video games on our tv's  
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# Initiative brings regenerative farming to SUNY Fredonia dining

**GIULIANNA LALOMIO**

Chief Copy Editor

In a powerful example of grassroots sustainability, SUNY Fredonia is advancing food justice and environmental stewardship.

The university has begun incorporating nutrient-dense, locally grown produce from Maggitti Farms into its campus dining services.

This initiative grew out of a collaboration between students, Fredonia Dining Services (led by Dean Messina) and Maggitti Farms, an urban regenerative farm just 0.2 miles from campus and the official garden sponsor of the student organization FredGrows.

Students at Cranston Marché will be able to enjoy farm-fresh produce grown using regenerative/organic practices, with a long-term goal of sourcing 30% of all food served across all the campus dining facilities from local partners.

“Early conversations with local farms helped us understand the potential for something bigger,” said President of FredGrows, Jordan Stephens. “[There will be changes in] not just growing food, but transforming how food is sourced and valued on campus.”

The collaboration with Maggitti Farms began before the current FredGrows leadership formally joined the organization. What started as a personal outreach for garden support quickly evolved into a deeper partnership grounded in shared values around sustainability, education and food access.

“I pulled into their driveway, not knowing what to expect. I walked up a path between two garden beds, was introduced to Wendell Maggitti, and instantly knew this was the connection we needed,” Stephens recalled. “Wendell, his family and their staff are incredibly genuine, passionate people. I can honestly say my life is better for having met them.”

Maggitti Farms stands out for its use of regenerative agricultural methods inspired by John Kempf and Dan Kittredge. These practices produce food with significantly higher nutrient density while actively restoring soil health and reducing environmental impact.

“Maggitti Farms is unique not only because of the methods they use, but because of how deeply they care about the community,” Stephens added. “They’re not just selling food — they’re donating to our on-campus food pantry, working with local organizations and building toward year-round production for students.”

Located just across from campus on Temple Street, the farm minimizes transportation emissions and aligns with SUNY’s 2025-2030 Climate and Sustainability Action Plan. Their contributions directly support campus goals to reduce single-use plastics, lower fossil fuel usage and increase access to local, pesticide-free food.

With greenhouse expansion already in motion, the vision of a campus dining program centered on fresh, local and ethically grown food is well underway.

This collaboration intends to increase student access to food and nutrients that may not otherwise be available. In turn, this creates the opportunity for seasonal menu changes in Cranston Marché, and utilization by our commissary, which supplies salads, sandwiches and baked goods to the cafés on campus. The farm is also donating a considerable portion to our on-campus food pantry, further decreasing food insecurity.

“This is just the beginning,” added Stephens. “We’re showing that with student energy, community partnerships and a willingness to reach out, real change is possible.”



Students visit Maggitti Farms.  
Photo provided by Jordan Stephens.



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# Life & Arts

## Latinos Unidos showcases annual Carnival after unplanned delays

**ABIGAIL JACOBSON**

News Editor

After unexpected delays, Latinos Unidos' Carnival is set to electrify Dods Grove with Latin food and live music.

Latinos Unidos (LU) hosts their Carnival event every year, usually during Multicultural Weekend in March. Carnival typically occurs alongside events by groups within the Intercultural Center.

However, "This year, due to several logistical issues and unfortunate events, we had to postpone the event," Sebastian Montalban, the public relations chair for LU, said.

LU decided to make Carnival "an end-of-the-semester event so that everyone has a chance to enjoy the warmer weather and have some fun towards the end of the semester."

This event will take place on April 30 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Dods Grove, with a rain location in Steele Hall.

According to Montalban, "Carnival is our take on the iconic festival held in Brazil every year, on a much smaller scale of course.

"It's meant to show the community just what it is that we in Latinos Unidos represent, as well as showcase some of the talent that SUNY Fredonia has to offer," Montalban said.

At Carnival, there will be live performances from student groups, different festival-style games and foods from numerous caterers specializing in Latin cuisine. Some of the caterers include Shorty's, Hotspot Café and FSA. There will also be prizes offered, such as a Roku TV, AirPods Pros and a Nintendo Switch.

According to Montalban, "To me specifically, Carnival is the result of all of our hard work and struggles this year. We've been working towards this since the first day of the Fall semester and have spent so much time and energy into making this an event that everyone enjoys and remembers."

This will be the second Carnival for Montalban. According to him, he and his fellow members of LU have learned a lot from planning the last Carnival.

"Being able to collaborate with such wonderful and creative people has been a highlight of my final semester," Montalban said.

He sees Carnival as "an event for everyone in the campus community to enjoy." Montalban mentioned that some "peo-

ple don't come to our events or participate in our general body meetings because they feel like they aren't welcome since they aren't Latino, but that's not true at all."

LU hosts this event and other get-togethers to share their culture and experiences with everyone, "not just other Latinos."

Montalban notes that "Sharing our culture is something that we take great pride and joy in and we want everyone to enjoy that as much as we all do."

***Sebastian Montalban, who was interviewed in this article, is the Community Relations Coordinator of The Leader.***



Promotional poster for Latinos Unidos' 2025 Carnival.

Graphic provided by Sebastian Montalban.

# FROM THE DESK OF ABBIE MILLER

**ABBIE MILLER**

Editor-in-Chief



Me.  
stage and turn that tassel, I'd like to show some gratitude towards the people who have gotten me where I am today.

I am graduating. I'm graduating? Wow, I am graduating.

I oscillate between these states of intense excitement, disbelief and nervousness almost every day now, but it's finally starting to kick in.

I will end my time at this school with final projects that will be the direct result of me eating the most highly processed food available and locking myself in a study room at Reed Library.

But before I walk across that



My sister Maddie and I.

Thank you to my sister Maddie. You are the person that I look up to most in the world. I smile when people tell me that I look like you or that I remind them of you because that is the highest form of compliment to exist. You give me hope when I have none left. I am constantly counting down the time left until I get to see you again. Growing up with you was the best

experience of my life. You will forever be close to my heart and never far from my thoughts. There is no me without you.



My dad and mom.

Thank you to my parents. Everything that I do, I do for you. You are the driving force behind every accomplishment that I have ever achieved, and the reasoning behind every piece of success that awaits me. You have shown me that genuine love is unconditional.



My mom and I.

To my mom, you have taught me that there should be no limits to kindness. You have given me my love for writing, editing and journalism, skills which I've been lucky enough to use throughout my time at The Leader and in college as a whole. You inspire me endlessly to work my hardest but also to take care of myself while doing it. You have shown me that there are things that are worth fighting for and that every battle does



not have to be won in order to be useful and necessary.



My dad and I.

To my dad, you have taught me that there is strength in vulnerability. You have taught me to know my worth and not to bend my standards for the sake of others' comfort. You have given me a perspective of every way I'm lucky without ever having discounted or blamed me for the moments where I have forgotten this. You have been gentle with me at times when I could not seem to muster that for myself, comforting me and soothing my self-doubts.



Me and my best friend Emily.

Thank you to my best friend Emily. I owe the majority of my happiness at this school to you. Meeting you has changed my life in more ways than one. I now have someone whom I am comfortable sharing everything with, and who knows all of my thoughts before they ever even leave my mouth. You are the light that has guided me through every dark and winding tunnel, gently showing me the way when I cannot see it for myself. Your encouragement of me comes so naturally that it seems foolish of me to doubt its truth, a fact that has grown my confidence tremendously. Despite seeing each other almost every single day for three years, I still haven't gotten sick of

you. I don't think I ever will. You are a joy to be around in every possible way, and I couldn't have gotten through what I have without you.

Thank you to my grandparents. The love and support that you have shown me is something that I will hold onto as I embark into the world of law school. You have shown me what it means to be yourself unapologetically and without shame, and to embrace every part of yourself — something which I work every day to embody as well as the two of you do.

Thank you to Elmer and Chloe. At every step of my journey at The Leader, you both have believed in me and shown me that I am capable of more than I sometimes give myself credit for. In truth, I was very, very nervous to become the Editor-in-Chief. I was very, very nervous to become the Managing Editor. And I was very, very nervous to become the News Editor. But every time that I would find myself overthinking all of the reasons why I believed myself to be incapable, Chloe and Elmer would pull me out of the spiral I was in and remind me why I was at The Leader in the first place. I may not ever understand the potential you saw in me, but the two of you will always have a place in my heart for helping to nurture and allowing me to become who I am today, both literally and metaphorically.

Thank you to my boss, Jake. You seem to always know the second that I need a pick-me-up, which you offer without ever asking for anything in return. It has been a genuine joy to work under you and to get to know you. You have given me invaluable insight into what it means to be successful both within Fredonia and outside of it, and I respect and admire you immensely.

Thank you to my Leader family. Yes, we sometimes have disagreements. Yes, there are times when I need to remind y'all of your responsibilities so that they get completed. But just like every family, we go through our ups and downs together. And we end up even better for them on the other side.

Thank you to every negative experience that I've had while at this school. You would think that I was back in middle school the way I have been crashing out at Fredonia. But at the same time, every piece of bad news that I've received and every unfortunate circumstance that I've been subjected to have led me to where I am today.

There are some individuals who come into your life for a purpose — to connect you with others, or to show you your worth, or to teach you that love isn't always enough. And there are some things that happen for no reason, but which can strengthen you in different ways. It didn't take my mom getting cancer for me to realize that life is precious, but now I have a greater appreciation for time. I was well aware that sometimes you are treated the worst by those to whom you give the most, but now I can recognize this happening earlier rather than later. My understanding of the concept of work-life balance and the need to process things on your own time had started to set in by the time that I entered Fredonia, but now these skills are impenetrable.

I owe all of this growth to the rough patches that I've gone through while at this college.

I have no doubt that the next chapter of my life will be just as eventful as this past one. But with the love that I have received from each of these people and the growth that I have undergone from each of these experiences, I know I can make it through anything and accomplish everything.



# FROM THE DESK OF DAN QUAGLIANA

**DAN QUAGLIANA**

Managing Editor

Four years ago, I didn't think I wanted to go to college.

Actually, I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life at all, let alone just the next four years.

Both of my parents are teachers, and with the combination of that and going to school for 13 years, I thought that going into teaching was where I belonged.

Yeah... nope. EDU 105 made me realize my mistake real quick. Not that it was a bad class — it just wasn't the field for me. My time as a social studies education major was over after a mere 16 weeks.

After my first semester of freshman year, career-wise, I felt like I was in the same place that I was in during my senior year of high school — adrift. I still had no idea what I wanted to do or where I should go from here.

But I wasn't in the exact same place as I was in high school.

For the first time in my life, I had finally found a place where I felt like I belonged.

And yes, I realize how cliché that sounds. Everyone says that when they get to college. I know.

But I really felt like it was true. I know this doesn't happen for everyone, but I went from not having any friends in high school to not even having to try to make friends here at Fredonia.

Seriously — the people who I was randomly put into the suites within Hemingway Hall by Residence Life are still my closest friends four years later. I've been living with them for all four years of college, from the suites in Hemingway and Disney Halls to the townhouses on the other side of campus.

There isn't another group of people I would choose to spend my college years with.

After another semester or two, I just became a “normal” history major, and eventually ended up adding a double major in political science.

I'm still not entirely sure what career field I want to go into, but I do know that somewhere in those fields is where I feel most comfortable, and it's where I see myself.

I mentioned how I met my closest friends here, and that's true — but that's not the only family I found here.

Sophomore year, I started a job as a student worker at Reed Library. I have never had a job that has had such a positive impact on me as that one, and I doubt I ever will.

Everyone there, from the other student workers to the interlibrary loan staff to the librarians, has provided me with a place where, yes, I could earn money, but also where I felt safe enough to talk to them about anything that was bothering me in my life, free of judgment. That's a feeling that no other place has given me.

That same year, on a whim, because I thought it would be fun and because I thought I never had a chance of winning, I ran for a position as a sophomore class representative in

Student Association, and also won a write-in campaign for class president, a position that I served in for two years.

Getting to serve as the chief representative for the people that I've been living with, eating meals with, working with and going to classes with was by far the most rewarding experience of my college career. Getting to serve on bodies like University Senate and express students' concerns really opened my eyes to how this school worked, and that's knowledge that I used to connect with not only other students, but my professors, as well.

And speaking of professors, the ones that I've had the pleasure of taking classes with for the last four years have made an incalculable impression on my growth as a person and on the way that I see the world around me.

Earlier, I said that I saw myself going into a history or political field, but without specifically knowing which one. That confidence is due to the faculty in the history and political science departments — because of their guidance, I'm not the aimless freshman that came here in the fall of 2021.

But most important of all, about halfway through my sophomore year, I met the woman who I would fall in love with — in The Leader office, of all the unassuming places. That'll always be the best general body meeting of my life.

I wouldn't be the person that I am today if I didn't go to college here. And I wouldn't give that up for anything else.

I said earlier that I didn't have a very good time in high school before this. And those who know me know that I don't have a great home life, either. When I look back on all the people that I met here at Fredonia, I don't think of them as friends, or as professors or as co-workers — I think of them as my family.



# FROM THE DESK OF DREW PALUCH

## DREW PALUCH

Photo Editor

The last four years at Fredonia were nothing like I had imagined them to be.

Well, to be honest, I never even thought I would attend college.

I had never heard of SUNY Fredonia prior to my mom scheduling a tour (shout out, Mom!). I remember my first tour like it was just yesterday. I walked around the entire campus, not saying a single word. As my mom and I were walking back to the car afterwards, she said, "Well? Any thoughts? What did you think?" and I responded, "I love everything about this

place."

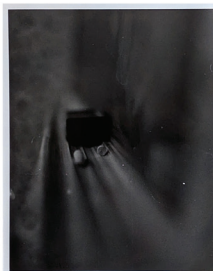
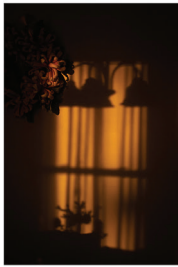
Coming to Fredonia was the best decision I ever made.

For me, college isn't just about getting a degree. It's about finding yourself, growing as a person, trying new things, and taking every opportunity that comes your way.

And during my time here, I did just that. I joined multiple clubs, obtained multiple internships, picked up two minors on top of my major and did 67 paid photo jobs on campus.

At times, I felt overwhelmed by the number of classes I was taking and the workload I had, but in the end, it was worth it.

I will be graduating this May with a BFA in Photography and minors in Arts Administration and Museum Studies.



Photos by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor



# FROM THE DESK OF ABIGAIL JACOBSON

**ABIGAIL JACOBSON**

News Editor

As someone who is a very emotional and sentimental person, this article will probably be the hardest thing I have ever written. I'm sitting here, in my dorm, trying to figure out how to write this.

Where do I start? Do I trauma dump? Do I take it easy and save y'all from crying hysterically? I think I should start with the day I was born.

Just kidding, but I will start from somewhere in the beginning. I grew up with three other siblings and my parents in a small town in central New York called Callicoon Center. I've lived here my entire life, and I've had so many memories, whether it be my twin sister swinging from the chandelier, my twin sister stabbing my brother with a pen, or my other sister riding rides with me at Hershey Park.

I've always been a family-oriented person, and when I graduated from high school, I started to be afraid that I would lose my family. I was the youngest, so my other siblings (besides my twin sister) were already living their lives, but here I was, scared to live mine.

I was so scared that I decided to go to a community college near my home to start off my college career. I knew I wouldn't lose my family, but sadly, I did. Things happened, and I ended up moving two times in three months with two separate family members.

It was hard adjusting between living with these family members to balancing college work. There was no Thanksgiving or Christmas for my family, and as someone who was family-oriented, it hurt so much.

Things changed, though, and in 2022, I had decided to finally apply to college somewhere else.

I didn't want a degree in just liberal arts. I wanted something big, something different.

Although I would be going somewhere different and not be near my family, this had to be done. I got into SUNY Fredonia and have been here since.

When I first got here, I was so scared. I had no family near me, and I was in a place where I had no idea where anything was. I was scared that I would be alone.

But I wasn't alone. I became a part of a new family, the Leader family.

Cheesy, I know.

But I came to Fredonia, scared out of my mind that I was not going to have any friends and I would be alone. Luckily, I was wrong, and might I add, I'm never wrong.

I came to the Leader open house in fall of 2023 and I was shitting my pants (not literally). I was shaking in my boots and was so anxious, I thought I was going to throw up.

Thankfully, I was introduced to the News Editor at the time, Dan Quagliana.

I soon became the Assistant News Editor, and to be honest,



Me.

I was still scared. I didn't think I was going to do a good job, and I was scared I would be kicked out. Of course, no one would do that, but I was still shaking in my boots.

Since the moment I joined The Leader, I felt connected. What I mean by "connected" is that I felt comfortable enough to be myself. Usually, I don't like to show who I am at first, mainly because I am afraid of people judging me and, to be quite frank, hating me. But joining The Leader helped me open up even more, and I'm able to be myself around them.

The Leader taught me to be myself, to be who I was and not to fear speaking my mind. I became more confident in my writing and my interviewing skills. I got so comfortable with everyone there, I felt truly at home and for once, I wasn't scared.

I left my family to try to be someone else and to live my life. I'm happy to say I have accomplished just that and much more.

I got a new family, some of whom have graduated, some who will be walking the stage with me and some who I have to leave behind. This is another family of mine, and I'll be honest, I don't want to leave it behind. However, I know each and every single person will be only a text or a call away.

I want to take this opportunity and these pages to thank some special people who have helped me during my college

life.

### Leader Staff

I thank each and every one of you.

You all are such hard workers, and you are a joy to be around. I hope you know you are never alone and to rely on one another when you need to. Take criticism as advice to make your future pieces better, even if that criticism is someone believing you wrote something in a completely different publication.

You all shine in your own ways, and I can't wait to see what you do next year. I am always a phone call away if you need anything, whether you need someone to talk to, how to do something in InDesign, or asking: Is this news, Abby?

You all helped me be who I am today, and I hope I helped you as much as you've helped me. Thank you.



My siblings and I.

### Family

Thank you, Mom, Tim, Leah and Sarah. Thank you, Grandma Cindy and Grandma Donna. You all have helped me in ways that are unimaginable.

Although being up here, I haven't called or texted often, you all have helped me strive during my time in college. Things have happened in our lives that seem unfair and, to be honest, extremely rude. However, we have pushed past those challenges and have become great individuals to this day.

To the little kids who have made me an aunt, Jordan, Ariana, Lucas, Isabella, Allayah and the newest edition coming soon. I know I have been away for far too long, and believe

me, I miss each and every one of your little faces. I miss hugging you and giving you a bunch of kisses.

Thank you to everyone within my big family. Even if your name isn't here, you all have helped me in ways that are unimaginable. I can't wait to see you guys soon, and I hope I have made you proud.



My mom and I.

### Dad

Living my life without you here is hard. I know if you were here, you'd make the trip every weekend just to see me. You'd probably text me late at night asking if I was up. Although you're not here with me, I know you are with me in spirit. Or at least I hope.

I hope I have made you proud. Every time I do an assignment or write an article for the Leader, I put my heart into it because I know if you were here, you would read every single thing I wrote.

I miss you so much, and I hope you are looking forward to watching me walk the stage to see me with that diploma.



My dad and I.

### Elmer and Igoe

I want to extend many thanks to the two professors who have helped me during my time at Fredonia. Thank you, Elmer Ploetz and Mike Igoe. You each have taught me skills that I will need when I graduate, and you both have made sure that everything I did, whether it be an assignment or an article, is always 100%.

Thank you for helping me become a better writer, a better

Continued onto next page



Continued from previous page  
anchor and a better person.

### **Career Development Office**

Thank you, every single one of you.

From my boss to my fellow workstudys, thank you for everything, whether it was putting in internship data into a spreadsheet (which is my favorite thing to do) or decorating the office. Thank you for helping me with my resumes, my possible internships and with finding future jobs.

I will miss you all, and I am sad that I will be leaving. I hope you don't miss me too much, but I know I will miss you all.

Thank you, Jenn, for helping me with my resume and believing in me.

Thank you, Chris, for being easy-going and lending an ear when I needed to talk about something.

Thank you, Kathy, for keeping me busy at the front, whether it be putting in evaluations or showing me pictures of Winston.

Thank you to everyone else. You all have made my time here bearable, and I hope to see you all again after I graduate.

### **Gordon Carpenter and the University Police Department**

I wanted to extend many thanks to the current Police Chief here at SUNY Fredonia.

Thank you for meeting every other week to keep me updated about what happens on campus and to help me with any questions or concerns with the police blotter.

I am excited that this will continue in the fall semester, and I know it will be just as good, if not better. Thank you for being honest and giving information to me when it was needed. I hope The Leader and the University Police Department keep in contact to ensure our student body knows what is occurring on campus.

### **Friends back home**

I would not have made it here without my friends from home. Krissy, Alder, Abby, Alex, Brittney and everyone else, thank you. You have helped me in so many ways, whether it be making sure I took breaks in between assignments or making the extra effort to convince me to play video games with you even though I should be working on this project.

Graduating high school with you was hard enough, but seeing as most of us are graduating, I want to say one thing.

Thank you. Thank you for being there for me and being my friend over the many years.

### **Peter**

I want to express my gratitude to you. You have been with me since we started college. You have been there when I need to talk, when I need help and especially when I just need a hug. Thank you for making sure I always ate, made time for myself and always made sure my assignments were done. You are one of my biggest supporters and one of my best friends. I couldn't have asked for a better boyfriend, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.



My boyfriend and I.

### **My fellow graduating seniors**

Whether you are from The Leader or just a senior, we did it! It seems crazy, and to be honest, very fast. I feel like I just started my senior year, and I am already at the finish line.

However, we all deserve this. From the all-nighters we have pulled to jampacking our schedule with different things, I say we deserve this. We have all worked hard, and we have had a lot happen during our time here.

Know that although we are at the end and now we have to go out into the big world, we are able to close this chapter and start another. It will be hard and it may seem overwhelming, but I believe every single one of us will be able to make our mark.

### **Myself**

Abigail Jacobson, you have been through the ringer too many times. You have had so much happen to you, and you have taken those challenges and ripped them a new one. You are a hard worker, you are kind and smart. Do not give up on yourself or doubt yourself. You deserve everything that is given to you. You have worked so hard the past few years, so do not give up on yourself.

Thank you again to everyone. I don't want my last semester to end because I am fucking terrified. But I deserve this. I deserve to walk across that stage and get my diploma. And one more shoutout to The Leader: THANK YOU! I have become a better writer and have become more confident in myself. This paper has helped me heal. Thank you, everyone.

# FROM THE DESK OF BECCA TORNCELLO

**BECCA TORNCELLO**

Sports Photographer

My time at The Leader may have been shorter than most E-board members, but I am still so grateful for the wonderful experience I have had with this group of people.

When I came to Fredonia in the fall of 2020, I came in as an acting major. Theatre was my passion for a very long time, and was what I thought I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

After my freshman year, I decided to take a gap year. During my gap year, I did a lot of thinking about what made me happy, and if I was truly happy majoring in theatre.

I came back to school in the fall of 2022 and spent the first month back pretty unhappy as an acting major. I decided that I needed to figure out what truly made me happy and what my real passion was.

Photography was always a hobby of mine, and as I was figuring out what to change my major to, I realized that maybe I could make a career out of my photography.

In spring of 2023, I changed my major and was officially a photography major.

I joined The Leader during my first semester of junior year because my good friend Drew (our lovely Photo Editor) told me about the club and recommended it to me. I started off photographing any article I could, whether that be an art display in the Emmitt Christian Gallery, an event that a club was hosting or just the construction that was happening all around campus. I made sure to take every opportunity I could to gain more experience in the field.

Within the same semester that I joined The Leader, I became a Staff Photographer.

At the same time, I was also working with the Department of Theatre and Dance (TADA) as a Production Photographer. I was able to provide the paper with photos from every Main-Stage performance that season.

Photographing theatre performances was something I truly enjoyed, but it wasn't where I wanted to put my focus in my photography journey.

I continued to work with TADA for one more semester after that, and at the same time, began my internship with the Athletic Department as a Sports Photographer.

During my internship, I photographed sporting events for track, cross country, baseball, basketball, lacrosse and hockey, as well as some athlete headshots and our yearly award ceremony, "The Fredgies." I fell in love with shooting sports again and knew that sports was what I wanted to photograph for the rest of my life.

Once my internship was over, I was lucky enough to continue to shoot for Athletics in the fall of 2024 and now get paid to photograph for them. I now shoot soccer, volleyball, hockey, lacrosse, baseball, basketball, track, cross country, tennis and media days for our sports teams.

I was also elected as The Leader's Sports Photographer that



same semester.

As I continue to shoot for Athletics in my last semester here at Fredonia, I will also be closing out my time here as a photography intern for Fredonia's Marketing and Communications Department.

My time here at Fredonia has been nothing but special and eye-opening.

Thank you to The Leader for having me be a part of your hard-working team and believing in my skills. Shout-out to my fellow sports colleagues Matt Volz and Mitch Horucy; we truly are the coolest and best section of The Leader.

Finally, I would like to end with a special thank you to Steve Komp, Lori Deemer, Matt Palisin, Tim Frerichs, Michele Bernatz and the VANM department as a whole, for being key figures in my success here at Fredonia and allowing me to grow not only as an artist, but as a human.



# Fredonia Dance Ensemble

Thurs., May 1 / Fri., May 2 / Sat., May 3 at 7:30 p.m.  
Robert W. Marvel Theatre



**A Walter Gloor Mainstage Series event presented by The Department of Theatre & Dance**

**T**he Fredonia Dance Ensemble returns to the Marvel stage May 1st-3rd, with an exciting program of contemporary concert dance. Highlights of this year's production will be works by Fredonia alumni Abigail Donegan, Charles Fuller, and Briana Kelly, guest artist Jenna Del Monte Zavrel, and a restaging of Jose Limón's 1964 masterwork, *A Choreographic Offering*.



Guest artist Jenna Del Monte Zavrel

**Campus Ticket Office, Williams Center**  
**[fredonia.edu/tickets](http://fredonia.edu/tickets) or 716-673-3501**

# SPORTS

## Sophia DiPrima: A story of resilience and determination in cheerleading

**HAILEY GARRISON**

Special to The Leader

Cheerleading is more than just a sport; it's a testament to dedication, strength and resilience.

For Sophia DiPrima, a 19-year-old cheerleader at SUNY Fredonia, the journey has been one filled with passion, hard-ship and an inspiring comeback story that proves the power of perseverance.

DiPrima's love for cheerleading began in eighth grade, where she initially took on the role of a main base.

However, it wasn't love before she transitioned to a back-spot, a position that deepened her love for the sport.

Throughout high school, she devoted countless hours perfecting her skills, developing strong bonds with her teammates and pushing herself to new heights.

When the time came to choose a college, continuing her cheerleading career was a no-brainer.

"I chose to continue my cheer path [at] SUNY Fredonia because I love the sport," DiPrima shared. "I was excited to continue cheering in college and start a new experience."

DiPrima's freshman year took an unexpected turn on a cold winter night, just after the season's first snowfall.

Unfamiliar with certain parts of campus, she led her friends down a path where she suddenly slipped on ice while running.

As she twisted her ankle and fell, she immediately knew something was terribly wrong.

"I saw the next eight months flash before my eyes," she recalled. "I knew we left for Daytona in four months, and I didn't even know the extent of my injury."

An ambulance rushed her to the hospital, where an X-ray revealed a broken fibula.

However, that was only the beginning of her medical struggles.

Upon returning home to Rochester, a specialist informed her that she had also torn more than half of the ligaments in her foot, making it completely unstable.

The prognosis was grim — she needed surgery, and her chances of competing in Daytona were nearly nonexistent.

The surgery itself lasted four to five hours. When DiPrima woke up, her leg was numb from anesthesia.

A couple of hours later, the pain that followed was unbearable — a stark contrast to the adrenaline-fueled cheer practices she was used to.



Sophia DiPrima.

Photo by **BECCA TORNCHELLO** | Sports Photographer

"I woke up in the middle of the night with my leg on fire," she said. "I cried from the pain and frustration. Just two weeks before, I was having a normal day at cheer practice, and now I was stuck in bed, screaming in pain."

Beyond the physical agony, the mental toll was equally challenging.

Having to relearn basic tasks — showering, getting dressed, even sleeping — was frustrating.

Continued onto next page



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Watching her teammates train while she sat on the sidelines only deepened her heartbreak.

The countdown to Nationals in Daytona loomed over her, a constant reminder of what she lost.

“My mental health declined because I had to learn how to do things without walking,” she said. “I couldn’t work out anymore, and I was limited in so many ways. Every practice, I counted down the days until my next recovery milestone.”

Despite the overwhelming adversity, DiPrima refused to accept the limitations placed upon her.

Determined to get back on the mat, she dedicated herself to intense physical therapy, pushing her body beyond what seemed possible.

“Once I was able to take my walking boot off, I wore a brace,” she explained. “Every single day, I went to physical therapy and pushed through my exercises. I pushed and pushed myself to get better enough to be cleared for Daytona.”

As competition season neared, the idea of returning to the mat became more than just a distant dream.

Cheerleading coach Julie Troche remained open to the possibility, but everything depended on DiPrima’s clearance from the physical therapist.

One week before leaving for Daytona, she finally received the news she had been praying for — she was cleared to compete.

“I ran to my coach and told her the news. She let me work with my group again, and the feeling of hitting our stunt almost immediately after stepping back on the mat was the best feeling in the world,” she said. “I was so happy and proud of

myself for being able to bounce back like this.”

DiPrima’s triumphant return wasn’t without its struggles. Jumping back into a high-intensity routine after months of immobility was brutal.

Pain became her constant companion, but she refused to let it stop her.

“I was in pain every day,” she admitted. “I jumped back into our routine after not being able to walk for two months. I probably should’ve given myself more time, but I knew that once we were done competing, I could ease back into life afterward.”

Practices were grueling, as her ankle throbbed with each movement.

But she pushed through, determined to finish what she had started.

She fought too hard to sit on the sidelines.

Stepping onto the mat at Nationals, DiPrima felt an overwhelming mix of emotions — joy, relief and pride.

Against all odds, she was there, competing alongside her teammates.

“The moment I took my spot on the mat, everything felt right again,” she said. “I proved to myself that I was stronger than I had ever imagined.”

DiPrima’s journey is a testament to resilience and determination.

Despite facing a setback that could have ended her season, she refused to let it define her.

She fought through the pain, pushed past the doubts and ultimately proved that passion and perseverance can overcome even the toughest obstacles.

Her story is an inspiration to athletes everywhere — proof that setbacks are just setups for comebacks.

## Construction progresses on new outdoor track

**MATT VOLZ**  
Sports Editor

In the late 20th century, Fredonia’s men’s track and field teams were powerhouses.

For two decades, the Blue Devils dominated the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC), winning 20 straight conference titles from 1977 to 1996.

It’s been a while since then.

It’s also been a while since Fredonia was able to even host an outdoor track and field meet, as they haven’t hosted other teams since 2008.

However, that may soon change.

Construction has begun on a new outdoor track and field facility, located in the same place as the former track, which has been ripped up.

In addition to an eight-lane track, the facility will feature



Construction resumes to create new outdoor track.

Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Special to The Leader

bleachers to seat 500 fans, a press box, restrooms, lights, a scoreboard and a storage facility to hold equipment.

There will also be spots for long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault and steeplechase.

Inside the track, a new turf field will be installed, complete with lines for soccer and lacrosse.

Across Ring Road, new throwing fields will be built, allowing for javelin, hammer throw, discus and shotput.

It's a project that will certainly come with a price tag, but that money doesn't come from the campus, as co-Interim Athletic Director P.J. Gondek explained.

For capital improvements on SUNY campuses, the State University Construction Fund foots the bill.

"The state goes from SUNY campus to SUNY campus upgrading facilities, so to speak," said Gondek. "It goes into a queue, where certain campuses are looking for upgrades."

This doesn't just refer to athletic facilities, either. The fund also takes care of renovations to academic buildings and other facilities around campus.

When a facility is in need of upgrading, SUNY contracts outside companies to do the construction.

For the track, Lake Shore Paving is the general contractor, according to Director of Facilities Planning Markus Kessler.

While the name may suggest that they only handle paving, the Jamestown-based company also handles excavation and utility work, according to their website.

Kessler said that Lake Shore Paving has their own subcontractors who handle specific tasks.

Rodriguez Construction Group, based out of Buffalo, is in charge of restroom renovation and the completion of the storage facility.

Beck Electric Company is handling all of the electrical work, and Musco Lighting is in charge of the facility's lights.

The lights will likely be the last piece of the puzzle to be completed, as Kessler explained.

In order to power the lights, the facility needs a new transformer to be built and installed that would share power between the track and the townhouses at University Village.

According to Kessler, the transformer swap will not affect any students living in the townhouses.

He said that construction and delivery of a new transformer will likely take six to eight months, but they're hoping to have it sooner than that.



Construction resumes to create new outdoor track.

Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Special to The Leader

Outside of the lights, the goal for completion of the facility is next spring. "We're hoping that it might be available for use for the outdoor track season, which would be spring 2026," said Gondek.

Kessler said that while they can't promise that everything will be ready to go for next spring, the goal is to accommodate enough for an event to be hosted at the facility. "We're going to try very hard to do that so they can hold their event," said Kessler. "Personally, I think they deserve it."

As construction continues, head coach Tom Wilson meets with contractors every two weeks to stay updated on the project, ask questions and make sure nothing has been overlooked.

Wilson said he has heard horror stories from other coaches about oversight that happened as a result of the coach being kept out of the loop.

"That stuff happens at almost every facility you go to that's new," he said. "Something got overlooked because the coach wasn't involved with the meetings, or wasn't even allowed to be involved."

The athletics department is also hoping that the new facility will boost recruiting, as prospective athletes will be able to see a modern track at Fredonia for the first time in years.

"I've got to give credit to [Wilson], his assistant coach Nick Abdo and our throwers coach, Lauren Kluck," said Gondek. "I can't even imagine what it's like to recruit for a program that doesn't actually have a functional track."

Wilson also noted the added challenge of recruiting with facilities that aren't able to be used.

"It's getting harder to recruit without any tools in the toolbox to say, 'Hey, on top of the education, coaching and culture that we have here, here's our facilities that help you become that person we claim that we can make you be,'" said Wilson.

Because the Blue Devils have been unable to host meets, they have to travel every weekend for meets, and that cost adds up over the course of a full season.

"It is expensive," Wilson said of his team's constant travel. "It'll help our budget to be able to stay home."

Gondek said he thinks the facility will be beneficial not only for the track and field teams, but for all of Fredonia athletics as well. "I think it just adds to our facilities here," he said. "I think it's going to help the overall look of campus, and particularly the athletic facilities."

Outside of the varsity teams, the track will also be available for student use.

Club and intramural teams will use the space, but Gondek said that non-athletic clubs and student groups will also be able to use it. "Our clubs and student groups are always looking for space, and this will give us an outdoor space when the weather's good," he said.

Gondek also noted that because of the lights, any activities will be able to go longer into the night.

"That helps to give us more space and more time for students and student groups to use it," he said.

In addition to Fredonia athletes and students, the track may be used for some local high school events.

In years past, Fredonia hosted the Section VI Indoor Track and Field Championships. That hasn't happened in several years, but the hope is that upon completion of the new outdoor track and turf field, the school might be able to host outdoor championships.

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"I would like to think that we'd be hosting events from local high schools as well," said Gondek.

Wilson said he plans to host a summer series with local high school athletes, where they would compete once a week in a variety of events that would rotate as the summer progresses.

Entering the event would come with a cost, generating more revenue for the program.

As far as community access is concerned, Wilson said this new facility will not have open, unlocked access like the former track did.

Currently, construction seems to be progressing smoothly, and Kessler said the contractors feel they are ahead of schedule.

Gondek has also monitored construction, and he noted that the facility's water drainage system is being installed.

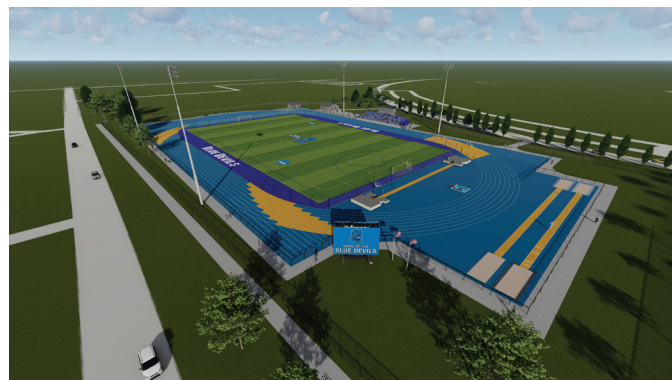
"I think everybody's pretty excited to see some progress," he said. "We're just hoping that, as with any project, it stays on schedule so that our students and athletes can use the facility as soon as possible."

Wilson also expressed his excitement about the site's construction.

"I'm really happy for not only just our program, but [also] the athletics department," he said. "Once it all starts to take

shape, people will see how nice it's going to be."

With the addition of a brand new home, a new era of Blue Devils track and field will soon be under way.



A rendering of the new outdoor track.

Graphic provided by MARKUS KESSLER.



## Congratulations to 2025 Honors Program Graduates!



Sierra E. Allen	Abigail G. Goetz	Andrew C. Palmer
Madison J. Arthurs	Matthew T. Greulich	Nathan R. Parmerter
Arden B. Brown	Aidan G. Heaney	Madeline J. Payne
Sarah E. Burke	Max E. Higbee	Mia R. Piede
Dario M. Camacho	Lilian B. Holman	Sophia D. Plaitakis
Marie A. Carlini	Gregory M. Holmberg	Daniel Quagliana
Isabelle M. Carter	Carmela M. Huntington	Erin R. Quinn
Gianna Michele Catanzaro	Taylor R. Kelly	Emma M. Rask
Samantha M. Cates	Krista T. Kolberg	Hannah G. Rich
Lindsey J. Chalmers	Amanda K. Lyman	Gage E. Rivera
Emma Jae Cockerel	Kathryn A. Manning	Jay B. Rosenberg
Nicholas A. Cristoforo	Alyssa B. Marley	Amanda R. Roth
Elizabeth C. Davis	Philip J. Marra III	Molly R. Sheehan
Zachary T. Dean	Pedro Jesús Martínez	Shirley L. Smit
Julia N. Drees	Tatiana Mata Diaz	Anne E. Smith
Nathan J. Engdahl	Alexandra Q. Mecca	Cebastian J. Spisak
Benjamin R. Evans	Abigail Paige Miller	Olivia J. Spolar
Haley L. Evertt	Gavin E. Monaghan	Victoria G. Streicher
Alexander T. Fisher	Madeleine T. Myers	Alexandria Leonarda Visconte
Risa M. Gasser	Heather B. O'Leary	Erin N. Wagner
Molly Elizabeth Gibson	Jack R. Oliver	Marisa E. Zorb
Elias M. Giuliano	Megan E. Orrange	

# 5th Quarter Column: NFL Draft First Round Review

**MITCH HORUCY**

Asst. Sports Editor

As said on the ESPN broadcast, Maxwell Hairston is trading his Kentucky blue for Buffalo Bills blue.

At pick number 30, the Bills went with speed on the perimeter of their defense, as Hairston ran a 2025 NFL Combine-best 4.28-second 40-yard dash.

He comes in a little undersized at 5'11" and 183 pounds, but General Manager Brandon Beane said he's into the 190-pound range now.

The Bills' weight room was also given an A+ in the 2024 player team report cards, giving Hairston the tools to put on more weight.

As a prospect, he's a guy who can be a replacement for Rasul Douglas, while giving the team a bit more versatility.

The straight line speed is there, but it translates on the field as well, which isn't always the case with other players.

His change of direction and fluidity are elite, which allows him to excel in both man and zone coverage.

When targeted, he is exceptional at playing the ball, with three pick-sixes over the course of his career at Kentucky.

One of the questions some people have about Hairston is his tackling ability.

While size isn't the entire equation, adding in a subpar technique as well is not a great combination.

Head coach Sean McDermott has always had above-average tacklers in the secondary, so there's hope Hairston can get coached up.

This past season, he missed five games with a shoulder injury, but Beane is confident that he'll be ready to go for next season.

In his 2023 campaign, a year in which he didn't deal with any injuries, he had 66 tackles and five interceptions.

He also gets to work with Tre'Davious White, who recently returned to the Bills.

White came into the league in 2017 with very similar measurements and size, and he became an All-Pro cornerback.

I'm a fan of this pick, even though I wanted him at pick 56.

He has a high ceiling, his intangibles are there — it will be interesting to see if he can put it all together.

The rest of the draft had some fireworks starting early in the night, with the Jaguars moving up from five to two to take wide receiver and cornerback Travis Hunter.

The pick itself wasn't surprising, as I had Hunter as my top prospect, but the trade is what had people shocked.

The Jaguars gave up their fifth overall pick along with pick 36, pick 126 and their first-round pick next year.

Hunter comes to Jacksonville and forms a tremendous wide receiver duo with Brian Thomas Jr.

This is the last year of quarterback Trevor Lawrence's rookie contract before his five-year, \$275 million contract kicks in.

Having both Thomas Jr. and Hunter on rookie contracts for the next few seasons is great for the team, but also puts even more pressure on Lawrence to live up to his first overall pick expectations.

Another big surprise was quarterback Shedeur Sanders falling out of the first round.

Before the draft, DraftKings had Sanders going in the top 10 at -170 odds.

Many people, including myself, thought he was going to be taken by the Steelers at 21, but they decided to take defensive tackle Derrick Harmon.

Even when the Giants traded back into the first round, I thought there was a chance it'd be for him, but they went with Jaxson Dart, another surprise.

Shockingly, Sanders fell all the way to the fifth round, where he was selected by the Cleveland Browns with the 144th pick.

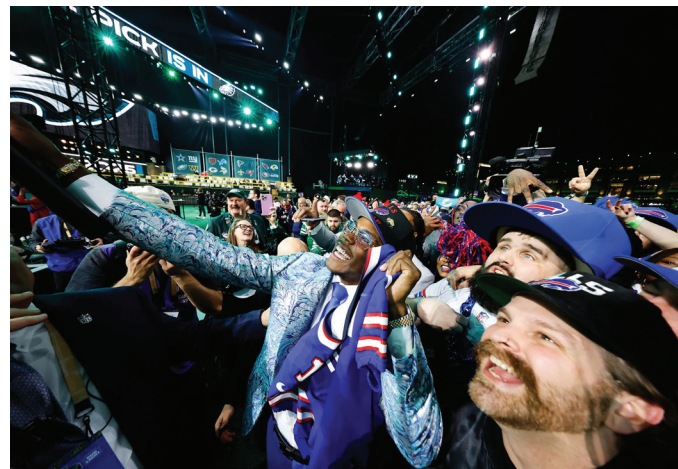
A final surprise was Michigan cornerback Will Johnson dropping out of the first round as well.

Even after the season ended, I thought he was a consensus top-15 pick.

He did deal with a toe injury, as well as a knee injury that seems to be a nagging issue.

The talent is there; he has the modern-day NFL cornerback build, but the injuries must be worse than fans know for him to slide this far.

For a full review of the Bills draft, head over to The Leader website, [fredonialeader.org](http://fredonialeader.org).



Bills draft pick Maxwell Hairston takes a picture with Bills fans at the 2025 NFL Draft.

Image property of the Buffalo Bills. Image property of the Buffalo Bills.



# Bandits win lowest-scoring game in league history, earn trip to semifinals

**MATT VOLZ**  
Sports Editor

Well, that was interesting, to say the least.

Let's start with the good: the Buffalo Bandits defeated the San Diego Seals in their National Lacrosse League (NLL) quarterfinal playoff game on Saturday, April 26.

Buffalo is advancing to the league semifinals for the fifth straight season, a sign of how dominant they've been in recent years.

Not to mention, the Bandits took the win in front of a raucous KeyBank Center crowd, and they'll be right back at home to start their semifinal series.

Now, let's transition to the weirdness of this game.

In a defensive battle, the Bandits beat the Seals by a final score of 5-4.

Yes, you read that correctly.

A playoff lacrosse game between two teams with solid offenses ended with a total of just nine goals scored.

According to NLL insider Graeme Perrow, this was the single lowest-scoring 60-minute game in the near 40-year history of the league.

The Bandits broke the record for the fewest goals scored by a winning team in NLL history.

They also became just the fourth team to ever win a game while being shut out for an entire half, and the first to do so in a playoff game.

But at this point in the season, a win is a win and that's all that matters.

Banditland was packed for the game, as Buffalo fans eagerly hoped to watch their team begin a run to a third straight championship.

On the railings in each section, lights were installed that flashed orange and purple before and during the game, adding to the electric playoff atmosphere.

As expected in the playoffs, the game got physical early.

In the Bandits' end of the floor, players got together while scrambling with a loose ball, and fans erupted as transition player Nick Weiss flattened one of the San Diego forwards.

One of the fans behind me compared the hit to former Sabres defenseman Brian Campbell's hit on Philadelphia Flyers forward R.J. Umberger in the 2006 Stanley Cup Playoffs.

That check has become iconic in Buffalo sports lore, and perhaps the only elements better than the hit itself were Rick Jeanneret's iconic call and the swell of noise from the fans that made it sound like the roof was about to be blown off.

While it wasn't as loud at KeyBank Center on Saturday, the check brought many fans to their feet, and it symbolized Buffalo's toughness throughout the season.

The Bandits opened the scoring, as Ian MacKay collected a loose ball and sliced through the San Diego defense to beat Seals goalie Christopher Origlieri.

All season, MacKay's scoring touch has been a pleasant sur-

prise. On a team with stars like Josh Byrne and Dhane Smith and other excellent contributors such as Chase Fraser, Kyle Buchanan, Tehoka Nanticoke and Chris Cloutier, it's been MacKay who the Bandits have counted on in key moments this year.

The transition player scored 37 goals in the regular season, good for second on the team behind only Byrne.

He smashed his previous career high of 19 goals, which he set in 2023.

His goal was crucial, as it was the only one scored by either team in the first quarter.

Matt Vinc stood tall in net, keeping the San Diego offense at bay.

With each Vinc save, public address announcer Chris Swenson called out to the crowd, "What's he got?"

The fans emphatically responded by simultaneously yelling, "Nothing!"

It's one of the many call-and-response moments during every Bandits home game that keeps the crowd energized.

However, Vinc wouldn't be able to completely deny the Seals.

Early in the second quarter, Seals transition player Zach Currier beat Vinc with a shot that went over the goalie's right shoulder.

The team wasn't done just yet, either.

On their very next possession, forward Wesley Berg received a pass in the middle of Buffalo's defense and fired a shot past Vinc, giving the Seals their first lead of the night.

San Diego had scored two goals in just 38 seconds and taken the lead in enemy territory.

They wouldn't score again for the rest of the first half.

With a touch under nine minutes left in the half, Smith side-stepped a defender and buried a shot behind Origlieri, tying the game.

Parodying the alternate captain's first name, Banditland joined together to bark like dogs, saluting "the Great Dhane."

They had now tied the game, but couldn't get anything else past Origlieri for the next few possessions.

It was fitting that their next goal came immediately after the San Diego goalie made a save.

A shot by Byrne was stopped by Origlieri, but MacKay had positioned himself right outside the crease, and he put the rebound into the back of the net to give the Bandits the lead back.

Now playing with the lead, Buffalo used the speed of their transition players to set up offensive rushes.

Outside of MacKay, the Bandits have gotten scoring from several other transition players, including Assistant Captain Nick Weiss and Captain Steve Priolo.

This time, it was Weiss who found the net.

After stopping a San Diego chance, Vinc aired out a long pass to Weiss breaking down the left side of the floor, and the veteran slipped by one defender before beating Origlieri over his left side.

As I've said before, Weiss's choice of "Friends in Low Places" by Garth Brooks for his goal song is second to none.

I think I nearly lost my voice while singing along.

The Bandits held a 4-2 lead in the dying seconds of the half, looking to add one more goal.

Smith found Buchanan behind the net, who dove to the crease and snuck the ball by Origlieri right as time expired.

The goal was, of course, reviewed, and the overhead camera angle showed the ball crossing the line with 0.1 seconds on the clock.

Heading into halftime with a 5-2 lead, Buffalo was energized and ready to come out firing in the second half.

As I mentioned earlier, though, the offense would fire nothing but blanks across the final 30 minutes.

Another oddity of this game was the fact that there were no penalties through the entire first half.

That would change, and the Bandits found themselves short-handed by two players at one point.

It didn't last long, though, as the Seals took a penalty of their own and no scoring came from any trips to the penalty box.

Vinc continued to stand tall in net for the majority of the quarter, but a defensive lapse in front of him allowed the Seals to pull within two.

Tre LeClaire entered the offensive end and ran right around Bandits transition player Ron John, setting him up all alone in front of Vinc to cash in.

LeClaire's goal was the only goal of the entire third quarter, however, and Buffalo led 5-3 with 15 minutes to play.

In the fourth quarter, Vinc's masterclass in net continued, and the Bandits extended several possessions with second or third opportunities on the other end.

Unfortunately for Buffalo, Origlieri also continued to stymie the offense, turning away every shot he faced.

With 6:19 to go, Nanticoke received a nasty cross check to the back of the head, courtesy of Graydon Bradley.

It was originally called a five-minute major penalty, but it was reduced to a two-minute minor after review, much to the chagrin of the Bandits faithful.

Buffalo couldn't capitalize on the power play, and to make matters worse, Byrne limped off the field and didn't return.

The Bandits still held a two-goal lead when the Seals pulled Origlieri for an extra attacker.

What followed might be the worst sequence I have ever seen as a lacrosse fan.

Dylan Robinson picked up the ball and ran down towards the open net, firing a shot that missed wide.

When one of the Seals defenders picked up the loose ball, Robinson delivered a brutal cross check to the head that everyone in the building knew was a five-minute major.

There was less than a minute left, but still.

Never in my life have I seen a player miss a wide open net and then take an obvious penalty.

Despite being shorthanded, the Bandits held down the fort.

Ironically, the Seals also beat the buzzer, as Currier scored with just one second left.

Ultimately though, it didn't matter. The final horn sounded, and the Bandits were on to the semifinal.

It certainly wasn't pretty, but they got the job done, and that's all that matters.

Next up are the Vancouver Warriors in a best-of-three series, with Game 1 at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 2 at KeyBank Center.

It's unclear how serious Byrne's injury is, but Buffalo is surely

going to need to find some offense if they want a shot at getting back to the finals.



The Bandits defeat the San Diego Seals, 5-4, in the lowest scoring game in NLL history on April 25.

Photo by MATT VOLZ | Sports Editor

## MATT'S HIGH FIVES

During every Bandits game, when the team scores, my family and I all send each other high fives over text.

It's a way to keep in touch and all enjoy the game together, no matter where we are.

So, I thought it could be fun to share some high fives with my top five performers from each game.

This week's high fives go to:

Matt Vinc: The ageless wonder faced 52 shots on goal and only allowed four to get past him. He stood on his head in this one.

Ian MacKay: His two goals were the difference, and he was the only Bandit to score more than one.

Christopher Origlieri: He kept the Bandits at bay for much of this game. Holding the league's top offense to only five goals? What a performance, even with the loss.

Thomas Whitty: Another unsung hero, Whitty was rock solid in transition and on defense in this one. He had a noticeable impact on the game.

Banditland: There is truly no playoff atmosphere in the NLL that comes remotely close to Banditland. The energy was through the roof all night long, and that should continue throughout the playoffs.



## Lovercolumn: The Reality of Love

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

This column runs in conjunction with Lovercall and can be found in print and online at [fredonialeader.org](http://fredonialeader.org).

### Date idea of the week

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

For this week's date idea, it's time to be fancy, because you're getting all dressed up!

Break out your best outfits, whether that's a suit and tie, a

beautiful ball gown or anything in-between.

You can add any elements you choose, but the overall idea is just to look your best and enjoy the company of those closest to you!

You might choose to get dressed up for a night in and cook yourselves a nice, fancy dinner.

After dinner, feel free to turn the lights down and put on some music to slow dance to, enjoying each other's embrace in one of the sweetest possible ways.

Or, if you're with friends, make your own dance floor! Put on some music and jam out with all your besties!

In a way, this could be similar to what you've always wanted from one of the most pivotal moments of your younger life — the prom!

For some, prom doesn't quite live up to the lofty expectations seen in movies or TV.

Some people didn't even get to go to their prom because of COVID-19.

So, this is your chance to enjoy it the way you want! It can be as romantic or fun as you choose.

If you are looking to go out, feel free to enjoy the fine dining of your favorite restaurant or maybe see a show or movie!

But going out to a fancy dinner isn't for everyone. You could choose to keep it simple and roll up to McDonald's in your finest attire, ignoring (or embracing) the irony of it.

No matter what you choose to do, the important part is to look classy and have a great time!

### The Reality of Love

What is love?

And no, the answer isn't, "Baby, don't hurt me."

Well, maybe that's part of it.

On the show, we asked each of our guests to come up with what they believe is the definition of love.

Interestingly enough, no two people came up with the exact same answer.

For some, love was a feeling. One of our guests described it as looking towards your future and not being able to picture it without seeing the person you love.

That one does not just apply to romantic relationships, it can apply to friendships, familial love and any other type of relationship.

For others, love was a memory. Love was looking to the past and remembering the times they felt a certain feeling. Whether it was dancing in the rain or watching a movie, these memories made them feel the love.

Music was also a big part of our guests' view on love.

In the context of a romantic relationship, our guests talked

about how they had chosen specific songs that reminded them of their partner or that held some other significance.

We also talked about what happens to a person's relationship to those songs when the romantic relationship ends.

It can take a while for someone to be able to listen to a song that they used to listen to with their ex, and that is okay.

Music can also be a great way to love yourself in a few different ways.

For example, you might listen to upbeat music if you're in a good mood or beach-themed music if it's nice outside and you're longing for summer.

It can also be a grounding technique for someone who struggles with their mental health, as some people will often put on soft, lofi music to calm themselves down from anything they might be dealing with.

Loving yourself is the most important way you can show love. To quote RuPaul, "If you don't love yourself, how in the hell are you going to love somebody else?"

The Quarterback explained that his idea of love combines two things: safety and happiness.

Your partner(s) should always be a safe space where you can go to truly be yourself, whether you're having a great day or your world is falling apart.

In a healthy relationship, they should be someone you can seek for comfort, and you should be someone they can seek for comfort.

It's also about happiness. Sure, the honeymoon phase doesn't last forever, but if your partner brings you joy and fulfillment just by being themselves and existing around you, that's something that's built to last.

Overall, love isn't perfect. It can be messy and complicated; it can be frustrating and heartbreaking.

But at the end of the day, it's worth it. Love is one of the strongest, most powerful forces in the world and it's one of the most positive emotions a person can feel.

If you are someone who wants to love but is afraid of getting hurt, remind yourself of this: If you don't take the chance,

you're never going to find the love that can make you truly happy.

It's a scary thing, but for love, you've got to take the leap.

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](mailto: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.***



## Inmates v. Death

**ZECHARIAH BECKETT**

Special to The Leader

People are dying.

People are dying in jail.

People are dying in prison.

People are dying under the eye of those who are supposed to protect us.

These are not inmates.

These are not numbers.

These are people.

These are people with children.

These are people with spouses.

These are people with parents.

These are people with siblings.

These are people with families.

Children wait for their parents.

Spouses wait for their spouse.

Parents wait for their children.

People wait for their person.

They wait on the outside.

They die on the inside.

#justice4christianmblack



# How has Fredonia changed?

**ABBIE MILLER**  
Editor-in-Chief

When I first stepped onto the grassy landscape of SUNY Fredonia, I didn't really know what I would be in for.

Both of my parents attended SUNY Fredonia when they were my age. But despite their tales of drunken nights out and spending hours completing assignments, I remained generally unaware of the inner workings of campus and the surrounding community until my sophomore year.

Now, as I approach the clock tower with my cap and gown, I am proud to say I know a bit about all of the little quirks that allow SUNY Fredonia and the space around it to function. Bestowing my parents with this knowledge has led to even more discoveries, particularly about some of the differences that have occurred between the time of their attendance in the 1990s and the time of mine in the 2020s.

Talking to Elmer Ploetz, The Leader's advisor and a faculty member of SUNY Fredonia since the 2000s, has given me an even broader perspective of some of these changes and the lack thereof.

So, before I turn my tassel from right to left, I wanted to get their outlook on the direction that they believe the campus is going amidst these modifications.

And I figured there's no better way to explain it than straight from the source.

*A representative of SUNY Fredonia's faculty and The Leader's advisor, Elmer Ploetz:*

**Miller: How many years have you been a faculty member at SUNY Fredonia?**

Ploetz: Well, that depends on how you count them. I started teaching as an adjunct lecturer in the fall of 2002. I started as a tenured track faculty member in the fall of 2008.

[For the purposes of our interview, all questions were answered based on Ploetz's experiences from 2008 onwards.]

**Miller: How would you characterize the surrounding Fredonia community at the time you first started teaching here in comparison to now?**

Ploetz: I have seen the whole evolution of FredFest. Because it actually used to be a ... music-based celebration. They brought in great people ... but I think on campus, there is no real consensus of what's popular or what people want to hear, which is why I think Spectrum stopped doing it because they found they couldn't please enough people to make it financially feasible to bring [those artists] in.

As far as how it is for students and community members, I don't think it's changed that much ... The economy has changed a little bit. Some of the things [around the area] have closed ... So there's been a downturn economically ... There's always a somewhat ongoing churn of businesses, bars and restaurants. A few of them stay forever ... but a lot of them [have changed over time].



The crowd at 1993's FredFest.  
Photo provided by Andrew Miller.

**Miller: How would you characterize SUNY Fredonia as an institution when you first started teaching here?**

Ploetz: A lot more stable.

Part of it was I started two months before the 2008 financial crash. And that changed everything for SUNY because the state took away some of the funding they promised the college and they never truly restored it. They put colleges like Fredonia into a financial hole [and] there was no way they could get out of it based on playing within their rules. [But the 2008 financial crash] didn't really hit [SUNY Fredonia] for a while because we had a president [Dennis Hefner, SUNY Fredonia's president from 1996-2012] who was a very smart guy financially who actually had reserves put away ... The university was able to make up the difference for a few years with its reserves.

**Miller: How would you characterize SUNY Fredonia as an institution as of recently?**

Ploetz: It's an institution under stress. And with stress comes anxiety, [and] quite often, anger [and] frustration. I still love the place. I enjoy being here. But it's not anywhere near as relaxed. It's not quite the ... place that it used to be. Because it seems like every time we get some news from the administration, they're cutting this or that. They're cutting majors. They're cutting minors. They're telling you they're dropping Google in favor of Microsoft to save money. They're cutting Zoom because the contracts are running out and they're not going to renew [them] ... so what I mean is, it's still a great place [with] a lot of great people ... and really smart kids.

**Miller: What are some positive changes that you believe have occurred between the time when you first started teaching at Fredonia and now?**

Ploetz: My program[, the communications department,] was able to get a lab before things really crashed, so the computer lab for journalism [was a positive improvement] ... [The department's] been able to start a social media minor and do some interesting things like that.

I hate to be saying this, but we've had to deal so much with just trying to maintain what we've got that I don't think we've been able to actually, from my point of view, make improvements. I'm sure [for] people in the sciences, the Science Center is a big improvement ... But beyond that, wow, it's tough to come up with positives because like I said, we've been under stress now. I mean, I think it was seven or eight years ago now that we were talking about a vote of no confidence in the previous president, Ginny Horvath [who was president from 2012-2019, and] who is a wonderful person, but was also caught in this crunch of trying to solve problems while not being given the resources to do it.

**Miller: What are some negative changes that you believe have occurred between the time when you first started teaching at Fredonia and now?**

Ploetz: I hate to be negative, but I think the energy level on campus has gone down with the number of people going down. You can observe it by just checking the parking. It used to be really hard to find a parking spot ... that never happens anymore. This sort of is a visible example of how things have changed [and] that there are few[er] people here. And so you run into fewer people walking across campus.



Melissa Wadsworth-Miller and Scott Pittman, one of her best friends, hang out at FredFest in 1993.

**Photo provided by Andrew Miller.**

There are some days when the departmental office area feels like a cemetery. There's no one there. And I suspect that's true with a lot of departments.

It's a lot easier to get into classes for a lot of students. It used to be [that] the freshman just wouldn't be able to get into classes. Students couldn't get in [to certain classes] until their junior [or] senior years and I know because I was advising them. And now, quite often, they get into [these classes] because there's just not that critical mass.

It affects everything.

[Less students affects] the number of events going on [and] the general energy level of the campus.

I'm sure there are other things that affected [this] too, [like it being] post-COVID. A lot of people are more likely to stay in their rooms than they used to be and there's social media to keep them in, games to keep them occupied and stuff like that. [When I first started teaching here,] I'd walk in to teach [and] people would be on their cell phones ... texting each other. And now I walk in [and] they're scrolling. I actually welcome it when I walk into a class and there's a whole bunch of people talking because it means they're interacting with each other.

I don't think it's just Fredonia [that has this problem]. I think it's a lot of places. People don't interact or [they aren't] interacting the way they had to in the past because there was nothing else to do.

I think that the school is shrinking, the resources [are] shrinking ... The school doesn't want to pay for faculty to travel to conferences as much and it just seems like it's hard to get things done because there's not money there for anything.

**Miller: Do you believe that there are aspects of SUNY Fredonia that have remained consistent since you first started teaching there? If so, please describe these aspects.**

Ploetz: Yes, I would say that the faculty/student strong relationships, which are, to me, at the core of teaching. It's been the thing that has stayed the same and the thing that brings me back every year.

I like getting to know my students ... Many of them end up staying in contact ... It's easier to learn when you've got strong

**Continued onto next page**



relationships between students and teachers. And I think that is Fredonia's strength and hopefully that is what will pull [the school] through [these difficult times].

**Miller: Based on the changes or lack thereof that have occurred since you first started teaching at SUNY Fredonia, in which direction do you believe the institution is going? Improving? Declining? Neither? And why?**

Ploetz: I don't feel like [SUNY Fredonia is] moving in a positive direction.

I think that's why some of the faculty have signed the petition calling for a vote of no confidence in the president. A lot of us don't feel it's moving in the right direction. He [Kolison] keeps on trying to tell us it is, but from our perspective, we don't see it. I don't see it.

I'm hoping that we can eventually get leadership that will value all of the departments and that we can start growing all of the majors and not just view STEM and business as the saviors and ignore everything else.

**Miller: If you were a member of SUNY Fredonia's upper administration, what changes would you propose for the future of the college and/or the surrounding community? Please provide a justification for every change that you propose.**

Ploetz: I think the administration actually getting to know the people would be a first step.

Our previous presidents knew everybody, and fairly quickly. They knew all the faculty by name. They knew a lot of the students. They were very visible.

I think Kolison has been attempting to be more outgoing in that regard, but it's taking him too long to get there.

But I think probably trying to connect [with the campus and community would be an improvement].

I mean, the current administration is talking this game, and previous ones I have too, but I think actually connecting the community with the college would be a good first step.

One of the things we can't forget is that Fredonia is also caught in the national political [landscape], and you have a lot of people from the surrounding community who are Trump supporters. You have people on the campus that overwhelmingly aren't and that tension is there ... It would be great if the university could actually be part of healing that rift, although in the current political climate, I don't know if that's even possible.

I do recognize that the administration is ... caught in the middle.

And to be honest, I don't know what Kolison's financial situation is ... But when he was forced to cut those majors, I think if he could afford to do it, the right thing would've been to resign in protest. I mean, he makes \$275,000 or \$325,000 a year. Hopefully, he's got a little bit saved up. And instead, he copped out to the SUNY administration. And basically, he made it clear that he works for them, not for us.

And with the cuts ... I recognize that perhaps cuts were required, but there was no justification for them and no explanation of how they would ever save money. There was no transparency. That was my objection to the cuts and that's why I don't think they were handled well.

**Miller: Is there anything else you'd like to add?**

Ploetz: Well, I think in a lot of ways the core has stayed consistent and hopefully eternal.

Administrators come and go. Professors come and go, we just take longer.

And hopefully things will turn back around.

I fear a little bit that some of the worst might still be ahead of us.

If you think back to 2008, that was when the big financial crash happened. When financial crashes happen, people ... stop having kids because they're worried about being able to support them.

So if we think the numbers are bad now, the overall number of available students in another year or two is going to be even worse.

But I think Fredonia is a key enough part of the Chautauqua County economy that the people and the legislature would not let it close.

Hopefully, they don't do stuff that's too destructive and eventually things start to move back to the better.



Fredonia alumnus Scott Pittman stands in front of the tennis courts where beer was offered to students at FredFest in 1993.

**Photo provided by Andrew Miller.**



A \$4 concert ticket for a show put on by Spectrum Entertainment at the Williams Center, featuring the Goo Goo Dolls.  
Photo provided by Andrew Miller.

***A representative of SUNY Fredonia's alumna and my mom, Melissa Wadsworth-Miller:***

**Miller: For what years did you go to SUNY Fredonia?**  
Wadsworth-Miller: 1991 through 1994

**Miller: How would you describe your experience at Fredonia?**  
Wadsworth-Miller: Wonderful. I made a lot of friends. I got the help that I needed when I needed it from the majority of professors who were there. It was a wonderful time for me to meet up with people.

**Miller: How would you characterize the surrounding Fredonia community during the time when you went there?**  
Wadsworth-Miller: Quaint.

**Miller: How would you characterize the surrounding Fredonia community as of recent?**  
Wadsworth-Miller: Angry.

**Miller: How would you characterize SUNY Fredonia as an institution during the time when you went there?**  
Wadsworth-Miller: Very practical. They taught me things that I knew I would need to use.

**Miller: How would you characterize SUNY Fredonia as an institution as of recent?**  
Wadsworth-Miller: I'm disappointed with their lack of effort in fixing the recurring water situation on campus. I don't know why they haven't fixed it yet when it's been going on for four years.

**Miller: What are some positive changes that you believe have occurred between the time when you attended Fredonia and now?**  
Wadsworth-Miller: They redid the library. They redid the science building. They built more housing for upperclassmen, which is a plus.

**Miller: What are some negative changes that you believe have occurred between the time when you attended Fredonia and now?**

Wadsworth-Miller: Cancelling FredFest for the students. [And] the meal plan is too expensive for what you get, and many of the kids are struggling to get quality food. That's a huge issue.

**Miller: Do you believe that there are aspects of SUNY Fredonia that have remained consistent since your attendance? If so, please describe these aspects.**  
Wadsworth-Miller: The beautiful campus. The campus is even prettier than it was when I went there.

**Miller: Based on the changes or lack thereof that have occurred since your attendance at SUNY Fredonia, in which direction do you believe the institution is going? Improving? Declining? Neither? And why?**  
Wadsworth-Miller: Declining. And it's because they're cutting programs. And as a former teacher, I can tell by the selections that they're making and the choices and what they're doing, they're not doing it necessarily with the students in mind. And it's only going to hurt the students in the long run.

**Miller: If you were a member of SUNY Fredonia's administration, what changes would you propose for the future of the college and/or the surrounding community? Please provide a justification for every change that you propose.**  
Wadsworth-Miller: One thing that's very important is, for every time the water goes off on that campus, for whatever reason, all the students get a refund for however many days the water is off ... I don't care where you get the money, but you need to give some money to the students.  
I would reinstate the FredFest format for the school back to the way they had formatted it in 1994 [where] there's a police officer at the main gate, [a beer tent where you have to show your ID to get in], there's guards [so] you aren't going out with a beer, [and] you have things like the bounce house and karaoke, you know, fun stuff. That's what I want to see come back.



# In light of recent statements from the Fredonia Mayor and Dunkirk Observer

**ABBIE MILLER**

Editor-in-Chief

**ABIGAIL JACOBSON**

News Editor

Being able to take criticism is at the core of what it means to be a journalist.

We take concerns and criticisms into account and then work to better ourselves and our pieces in the future.

It seems as though mayor of Fredonia Michael Ferguson had some critiques of his own regarding two recent Leader articles.

Or perhaps what he really wanted to speak about was the Dunkirk Observer's April 14 piece, which summarized the Leader articles.

During the Board of Trustees meeting on April 14, Ferguson held up a copy of the Dunkirk Observer. This print of the Observer included an article that summarized a news article written by the two of us, as well as an opinion article written by Dan Quagliana.

Our original Leader article centered around the popular topic of FredFest — more specifically, whether or not there would be one this year. The contents of The Leader's piece further covered whether students would be interested in attending a school-sanctioned alternative to FredFest, or if an alternative would deter FredFest from happening altogether.

A poll included in the Leader article showed mixed results. Some students stated that they would not be attending any school-sanctioned version of FredFest, regardless of what activities came with it. Others seemed excited by the return of a FredFest alternative as an on-campus event, with several pointing to the escalating violence in FredFests of recent years as reasoning to give the event back to the school.

Mayor Ferguson seemed to have his own opinions — both about the article and FredFest itself.

According to Ferguson, the article provided no ideas for an alternative FredFest event. This is true of the Observer's article, but not of the original Leader source itself.

One of the main reasons we decided to create and share a FredFest-related poll was in order to see if any of the alternatives proposed would interest the student body. The poll's results, including the question about which activities would encourage students to attend the alternative school-sanctioned event, were explained in detail throughout the Leader article.

This portion of the original piece seemed to be missing from the Observer's article.

Furthermore, as students, we are under no obligation to provide the mayor of Fredonia with suggestions as to how or whether FredFest or an alternative event in place of it should be held. As members of SUNY Fredonia's student-run newspaper, we are also under no obligation to provide these suggestions. And as journalists, we do not include our opinions in news articles.

When it comes to being a part of The Leader, we were expected to include these suggestions throughout our article on the future, or lack thereof, of FredFest — an expectation that we delivered upon while not necessarily being obligated to.

Since the original article was not an opinion piece, we followed the journalism code of ethics by not providing our own opinions and instead letting the students who answered the poll have their voices heard regarding a FredFest alternative.

Mayor Ferguson additionally claims that the article is a "he said/she said" piece about the nature of FredFest and the possibility of alternatives.

Our issues with this statement are twofold.

Firstly, we find it unprofessional and inappropriate to state that something written by a public outlet such as The Leader, by freely speaking college students, should be referred to as "he said/she said."

When examining the context within which this phrase is typically used, there is a history of survivors of sexual violence fighting for the right to receive justice. Both articles have college students as their central topic and audience — a population where the rate of sexual violence is among its highest.

To repeat this phrase in any setting, but especially regarding an article about and by college students, is highly inappropriate.

Furthermore, this statement itself is also inaccurate.

The Leader's original article included a multitude of quotes from Mayor Ferguson directly in order to tell his perspective.

The other quotes that were used were taken from a variety of responses to the poll that was sent out prior to the article's release.

The article combines these approaches to present a nuanced view of an event that, while a staple of Fredonia's history, has resulted in some unintended and harmful consequences. Our piece showcases both sides of the debate by featuring a wide array of quotes from both the mayor himself and SUNY Fredonia students.

We believe that a substantial portion of the argument that Mayor Ferguson makes against the original Leader article is faulty due in part to his ignorance of this primary source and in part to the Dunkirk Observer's weak journalistic practice.

The original Leader articles had been published for over a month at the time of the village hall meeting. During the meeting, instead of holding up a physical copy of The Leader, within which would lie the articles Ferguson was referencing, he instead held the summarized version of the pieces from the Dunkirk Observer, a completely different newspaper.

The Observer's April 14 article did not provide all of the essential information that was included in The Leader's original articles concerning arguments for and against FredFest and suggestions for an alternative event. As such, the Observer simply took what they believed were the most important parts of the article and decided that was the story. As is evident here, the information that was left out is just as important.

While the articles and its authors are referenced, the absence

of any additional information regarding the circumstances surrounding the original articles and the topics discussed within them makes for an exploitative attempt at receiving attention.

It is quite disappointing that those who are employed by the Observer used material gathered from unpaid college students in order to piece together an article that lacks substance apart from that which was featured in ours and Quagliana's original articles.

As writers at The Leader, we each worked tirelessly to write and publish the original pieces, which required extensive research and hours of effort without compensation. The employee at the Observer who published the article, as well as each and every person who cleared the article, were paid to mention work that was never theirs.

In the journalism industry, your voice is everything.

Your style of writing and the way that you conduct interviews are something that journalists spend their entire career growing and perfecting.

To have a larger and more renowned publication with paid employees take the work of a college campus newspaper run by volunteering students with little modification whatsoever is more than just bad reporting.

To the individuals at the Dunkirk Observer who wrote and agreed with the article's publication, we implore you to examine your personal outlook on journalism ethics and to modify the ways in which your organization is clearly falling short of common journalistic standards.

To Mayor Ferguson, we ask you to please dig deeper to gain the truth of a situation before slandering the name of SUNY Fredonia's one and only student-run newspaper. Not only is it a disservice to The Leader, us and Quagliana, who wrote these articles, but it is also a disservice to the community members who may not have the time or interest to research the original article and dissect it with a clear head following such a scathing critique.

As a journalistic publication, The Leader always has and always will receive disapproval for some of the articles we publish and some of the content we cover.

But there is a place for criticism. There is no place for misinformation.

Mayor Ferguson's denunciation of The Leader's March 4 article is an example of the latter.

A subsequent piece was published by the Dunkirk Observer on April 24. This article, titled "FREDONIA: Is this the time to worry about Non Fred Fest?", is a part of the Observer's opinion section.

Since the piece does not feature a specific author and does not specify whether it is the belief of a certain individual or the outlet as a whole, we will henceforth refer to the article as though it is a representation of the Dunkirk Observer's overall opinion as an organization.

In this opinion article, the news outlet questions the focus of the aforementioned articles written by us and Quagliana regarding this year's FredFest and boil water orders, respectively.

At the beginning of this April 24 piece, the Observer mentions holding sympathy for the tough position that Mayor Ferguson must have been in as a consequence of The Leader's articles.

The Observer also mentions that, where it concerns Quagliana's opinion piece about Fredonia's water, "The exercise is a good lesson for the Leader editorial writer" on how to take

criticism from both the Mayor and others. According to the Observer, "As writers of editorials, we get plenty of feedback from those who think some of the pieces we write are off base. Editorial writers have to take the criticism if we're going to dish criticism out."

This statement from the Observer is notable for multiple reasons.

With this argument, it would appear as though the authors of the Observer's articles are open to receiving criticism and have an understanding that it is part of the journalism industry to receive such critique.

But if they are aware of the likelihood that some of their articles will spark a response, and if they have a history of receiving such responses in the past, then why is it that the authors of their articles do not always include their names in the copies published online? Reporters that are truly proud of what they write and are willing to stand their ground even in the midst of negative feedback are comfortable taking personal responsibility, which is why they include their attribution.

It is also a part of common journalistic practice, along with ensuring that information is represented accurately, to include such attributions for every statement that is said. Without such acknowledgement, there is no way for readers to hold these writers accountable for the arguments they make or to check their credibility within other stories they have published.

Furthermore, stating that the receipt of criticism is a "good lesson for the Leader editorial writer" holds several implications.

The claim makes it seem as though Quagliana has never received criticism for an article he has written before. As such, this would make a reader infer that, since criticism is so often received in the journalism industry as the Observer states immediately thereafter, Quagliana has not written many articles in his time at The Leader.

This is completely false.

Almost every member of The Leader's executive staff has authored at least one article, including individuals whose job has nothing to do with writing. As a member of The Leader's upper management team, Quagliana would not have gotten to where he is today if he had not authored many articles, including pieces that are significant in nature.

The wording of this claim is important because it shows that the Observer is willing to make condescending comments towards The Leader and disguise them as if they were pieces of advice or criticism.

In the April 24 editorial, the Observer then ponders, "In all honesty, do the thoughts of SUNY Fredonia students matter much given the village's current budget situation?"

To insinuate that student opinion lacks significance is an action The Leader frowns upon and disagrees with greatly, in any context. In the current situation, the meaning of this argument is even more disrespectful. Referring to the authors of the original articles, us and Quagliana, before openly wondering whether students' opinions hold any significance at all directly afterwards, is not only incredibly insulting to those students specifically, but damaging to the campus community as a whole.

Amid all of the added work and late nights and stressful deadlines, we have remained a part of The Leader because what we are doing here is making a difference for ourselves, for the other members of The Leader, and for the campus and its surround-

Continued onto next page



ing community. The articles that we publish are encouraging changes to be made, giving students an outlet for their voices to be heard and educating community members on things that are happening around campus. The Leader is a vehicle for free speech, representation and education.

As a fellow news outlet, the value of these ideas should have been a shared sentiment for the Observer.

This idea that students' voices do not matter is repeated later in the article, when the Observer states, "Who cares what some SUNY Fredonia students say?"

From a news outlet that advertises itself with the tagline "because every voice matters," this is telling in a number of ways.

To praise your own journalistic organization at the expense of tearing down another is, in our opinion, shameful.

Often, competition can be an impediment to meaningful change. But to channel this ideology amid issues such as continuous boil water orders and, as mentioned in the Observer's article, tax increases, is both hypocritical and morally reprehensible.

The Observer attributes a "lack of focus" to be one of the causes of the "budget mess" occurring within either the village of Fredonia or SUNY Fredonia. Whether this "budget mess" refers to the former or the latter is never specified.

What is made apparent, though, is the implication that the Observer means to place upon the writers of the Leader articles as the cause of these budgetary issues.

If the Observer means to refer to the problems plaguing the village of Fredonia's budget, then this would be quite inaccurate. As a college town, Fredonia reaps the economic benefits of having a constantly flowing stream of new customers by way of the students who attend its SUNY institution nearby. These individuals, many of whom are indeed tax-paying citizens living within the surrounding community, are giving their money to the village's bars, restaurants, landlords, stores and government.

If there was any party to blame the supposed downturn of Fredonia's economy on, it surely would not be the students at-

tending the college within it.

If the Observer instead means to refer to the budgetary deficit looming over SUNY Fredonia itself, this accusation would also be misguided. The students of SUNY Fredonia have done much to ensure that the budget of the institution remains afloat and that the deficit that we currently face lessens. Some efforts include paying for a higher cost of attendance, which translates into inflated meal plan prices, housing costs and tuition fees. SUNY Fredonia inhabitants pay rates to attend the university that are substantially higher than prior generations of college students, partially as a response to the budgetary issues that face its current administration.

If any group is at fault for SUNY Fredonia's financial ailments, it is not students in this case, either.

From what the Observer published, the organization seems to hold the view that although SUNY Fredonia students help the economy of both the village of Fredonia and SUNY Fredonia itself, their opinions and voices simply do not matter.

Perhaps the Observer is channeling the lack of focus they insinuate of The Leader by choosing to criticize its writers, whose voices they claim do not matter anyway, instead of publishing more exclusively about the tax increase and budgetary problems.

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# My response to Mayor Ferguson and the Dunkirk Observer

**DAN QUAGLIANA**

Managing Editor

During the Fredonia Board of Trustees meeting on April 14, 2025, the mayor of the village, Michael Ferguson, took issue with an article written and published by the Dunkirk Observer on April 14.

Before I dive into Ferguson's comments, let me unpack my own issues with the Observer's article.

The article contained no original reporting. It took two completely unrelated articles that were published in The Leader,

one of which was published almost two months prior on Feb. 18, and summarized them.

In doing so, the Observer left out many crucial pieces of reporting, some of which Mr. Ferguson criticized The Leader, not the Observer, for not including.

And therein lies the first problem with Mayor Ferguson's argument — he accepted the Observer's summary as a complete and unbiased account of what SUNY Fredonia students as a whole are saying about his administration.

If the Observer wished to write an article about how SUNY Fredonia students feel about the water issues and the debate

around the future of FredFest, then why didn't they contact some students to find out their thoughts? Summarizing previously published articles and not asking for any follow-ups is unethical journalism.

Additionally, the Observer's summary was published almost two months after my original article. If the Observer had reported on my article in a timely manner, perhaps the mayor would have seen it as a commentary on current events and not as baseless complaining after the fact — which is honestly how I would have seen it, too, if I saw that published with months in between its publication and the incident it's discussing.

But had Ferguson actually read my original, unabridged article as published in the Feb. 18 issue of *The Leader*, he would have seen a disclaimer above the article that says, "The opinions voiced by writers and artists in the Opinion section of *The Leader* reflect those individuals' opinions, not those of *The Leader* as a whole."

In other words, that article, which is titled "Boil water notices continue due to government inefficiency," reflects only my view and opinion on the situation. "SUNY students" have not said (at least not publicly) that they are "wary" of the village's water, as the Observer's April 14 headline claims.

In his response to the Observer's summary of the articles, Mayor Ferguson said, as quoted in the Observer, "It's easy to write a poison pen article weeks before your senior graduation and leaving our community in your wake ... The individuals have never addressed us with any positive suggestions on how to remedy this situation."

While it is true that I am a month away from finishing my senior year at SUNY Fredonia, this is hardly the first time someone has expressed disappointment about the village's handling of our water situation. I challenge any village resident to find someone who doesn't complain about our water situation during a boil water order.

At the bottom of my opinion article, I actually did suggest a remedy to this situation: "We live next to a lake, for God's sake. Stop arguing with each other, sit down and figure out how to fix this." This is something that was restated in the Observer summary, as well.

My suggestion is this: the village board and the Save Our Reservoir group should sit down together and negotiate until a mutually agreeable situation is reached regarding the water reservoir. The current situation is untenable.

The mayor also stated, "One student," which would be me, "said, if he knew about our turbulence in these meetings and on this water issue, he would have never come here. You don't come to college for water, which we know you need. You go to college for an education. I'm pretty sure you got a good one while you were here."

Yes, it is true that I did not choose to attend SUNY Fredonia based on the quality of water in the village in which the college is located. I did not study the water quality of every college I considered four years ago.

Perhaps contrary to the tone in my article, I have greatly enjoyed my time at SUNY Fredonia. I found a home here for the first time in my life. This is the first place where I felt like I could be myself, and I made multiple friends here that I consider to be the best I've ever had.

But that being said, Ferguson did admit that he knows college students need water, just like everyone else in the village.

According to article 1, section 19 of the New York State Constitution, in New York, clean, safe water is a right, not a privilege — but there are multiple times a year when the village of Fredonia fails to provide safe drinking water. As I said in my original opinion article, if this were a one-off incident, no one would care.

Additionally, the mayor misquoted me. My original quote was, "If someone had told me that this was a problem I would have to be facing just by living within the village boundaries, there's a very real chance I might not have gone to college here."

I said there was "a very real chance" that I wouldn't attend college here. Not a certain chance — because it wouldn't be a certainty.

In most calendar years, this happens multiple times — and I've never had to deal with a boil water order in a place that's not Fredonia. Never before in my life have I had to boil my water before I could drink it — and every single person I've talked to has said the same thing. But here in Fredonia, it's the norm, not an exception.

During the June 7, 2023, boil water order, a faculty member here at the university who lives in the village said to me, "Where are my tax dollars going?"

When he announced his campaign for mayor in 2023, Mr. Ferguson said, "Five boil water alerts since 2009 are far too many to be dealing with this again."

Since Ferguson took office in January 2024, there have been no less than three boil water orders in the span of less than one year. These orders were put out on Feb. 8, 2024, April 17, 2024 and Feb. 3, 2025. Any number of boil water orders is worrisome, but three within less than a year is especially concerning.

It's also worth noting that there was one additional boil order between Ferguson's campaign announcement and his taking office.

And I recognize that these are not his fault; the village has been having issues with its water treatment for well over a decade — but my original article was about how he's not doing enough to fix the issue. Indeed, it's getting worse.

There comes a point when one must realize that the mayor is not delivering on his campaign promises.

Continuing at the April 14 meeting, Ferguson said, as quoted in the Observer, "I will say that the water issue is not a reason nor license to invite drug dealers and ne'er-do-wells in our community. The few ruin it for the many. It's not all college students... 95% of (students at the school) are standup [sic] citizens who have done great things in this community, and we hope that they will consider the village as a permanent location somewhere in their future."

This statement greatly confused me — not once in my opinion article did I mention the ongoing FredFest debate. In fact, I completely agree with the mayor that something drastic needs to be done. Stabbings and drive-by shootings should not become the norm in Fredonia.

But I don't understand where Mayor Ferguson got the idea that I was conflating the two issues. As I said, I never mentioned FredFest in my article.

This is further proof to me that he did not take the time or the effort to read the original articles that *The Leader* published on Feb. 18 and March 4. He seems to be relying only on the incomplete summarization done by the Observer, and he also

Continued onto next page



seems to be under the impression that the Observer was talking about one, singular article, when this was clearly not the case.

If Ferguson has issues with what I said in my Feb. 18 article, that's his prerogative. But if he's going to be criticizing my criticisms of him, he should at least read and discuss them in their original form, not in a poorly summarized version.

As such, in the Observer's April 22 article, which detailed the mayor's response to The Leader article, the headline is incorrect. The headline is "Ferguson claps back on Leader articles." A more accurate headline would be "Ferguson claps back on Observer summary of Leader articles."

After I wrote the majority of the above, on April 24, the Observer published an editorial titled "Is this the time to worry about Non Fred Fest?"

In that editorial, the Observer claimed that "SUNY Fredonia students don't need to occupy any of Ferguson's thoughts," and that, "Complaints by SUNY Fredonia students at this particular moment in time should be as noticeable in Fredonia's Village Hall as the breeze a gnat's wings generate in a hurricane," as, "Who cares what some SUNY Fredonia students say? Do they pay taxes in the village? Do they own properties?"

The dues that students pay in residence hall fees are greater than the rent that residents of village apartments pay, and part of that fee goes to paying property taxes for the village. I pay to live in this community. I pay rising costs to live here every year. I chose to live here and to get my education here, and this is the welcome I get from the community. Students of the university

matter just as much to the community as non-students do.

I feel that this statement is quite ironic, as well — the day after the Observer published this editorial, they published an article titled "Wind Ensemble to offer varied works," referring to the SUNY Fredonia Wind Ensemble.

I don't understand why this article was written. Why is the Observer wasting people's time by making them read about SUNY Fredonia students? If, according to the Observer, they don't pay taxes or own properties, then who cares about what services and entertainment they're offering village community members?

The irony doesn't end there. The Observer's regional editor, John D'Agostino, is not only a former SUNY Fredonia student but also a former editor of The Leader.

The Observer claims to be the voice of the community. That does not give their editorial board the right to choose who gets to be a member of that community by spreading insulting narratives.



**President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr.  
and First Lady Valeria R. Kolison  
send out huge congratulations to  
all the amazing graduates who  
will be receiving their degrees on  
Saturday, May 17, 2025!**



# THE SCALLION



Satire and parody for Fredonia

## There is no Class of 2029

**MORGAN BROWN**

Asst. Business Manager

It has come to the attention of our writing staff that Fredonia has ceased to source any students for the upcoming 2025-2026 academic year.

May 1, known nationwide as Decision Day, will be a special occasion for us — we'll be celebrating our first clean sweep: zero seniors choosing us. Pop the champagne!

We've been advised by campus tour guides that prospective students are simply "not a fan" of our campus or atmosphere.

There have also been several instances of current Fredonia students "harassing and taunting" tour groups when they are passed on the sidewalks.

"I feel like an animal in the zoo when they look at me like that," confessed an upperclassman.

University Police has not released an official statement about these situations, but has advised all touring seniors to "be cautious" when interacting with any Fredonian.

Admissions has taken additional measures to attempt to increase commitment rates, but to no avail.

Interested students were given complimentary Cranston Marché meal vouchers with each tour, with the hope that it would sway their decision. This, however, failed when the same students were seen fleeing from the dining hall in immediate need of a bathroom.

With this semester being so close to ending, the current faculty is scrambling to find literally any student to come here

next year.

Rumors of a 100% acceptance rate are swirling around social media, many noting that Fredonia can't afford to let these students go without a yes.

"I really don't want to lose my job!" said a worried resident assistant, currently working in a freshman-only building. "Who will I be assisting? There won't be any students!"

Any current students who know of graduating high school seniors in need of higher education have been advised to con-

tact the Admissions Department immediately.

Additionally, new marketing techniques have been green-lit that involve a representative going door-to-door in search of someone, literally anyone, to come here next year.

Will Fredonia fail to produce a new Class of 2029? Only time will tell.



Three Man Hill, where new students usually gather to take their class photo, remains empty this year.

Graphic by SAFFRON LARREA | Staff Artist



# Our **HONEST AND UNBIASED** review of "A Sitdown With Brock" series finale

**BROCK PAPKE**

Staff Writer

*Warning: This article contains depictions of cartoon violence and injury.*

Well, folks, here we are — “A Sitdown with Brock Papke” has officially “wrapped,” though technically, it’s more like a cliffhanger... except the cliff is Papke’s legal team fighting for their lives.

Let’s dive in.

The finale, much like the show itself, was a chaotic, frenetic mess of charm and questionable decisions.

It’s almost as if Papke looked at the camera and said, “Who needs closure when you can have a dramatic exit?”

Spoiler alert: He didn’t exit.

He kinda just... stumbled away while everyone in the room awkwardly checked their watches, waiting for the next courtroom drama.

Now, let’s be clear — the show’s brilliance lies in its ability to juggle absurdity with moments of unexpected depth.

But this finale?

It’s like a magic trick that’s half done, and the rabbit is still stuck in the hat.

The emotional moments? Honestly, more awkward than



Photo provided by Brock Papke.

heartfelt. We get it, Mr. Papke. You’re feeling things, but are we supposed to care about your redemption arc when the only thing redeeming you is your questionable taste in guests and snacks?

The court drama? Still ongoing.

And you know what? It’s probably more interesting than whatever happened in this finale.

The show tried to wrap up every loose end, but it mostly just tied them in a knot and left us wondering if the entire crew was on a “budget cuts” power trip.

In short, the finale wasn’t bad, it was just... confusing. Like a punchline that got lost in a legal document.

Brock’s final monologue? You could almost hear the “pending litigation” in the air.

It’s like watching a car crash in slow motion — you know it’s gonna be a mess, but you can’t look away.

If you were a fan of “Sitdown”, you’ll love it for what it was — a whirlwind of chaos with Brock being Brock.

In a season of endless callbacks, the finale lacked them, surprisingly enough — it seems Papke tried to be more original.

But as a send-off? It’s like a party that ended abruptly because someone forgot to pay the DJ.

Thanks for the ride, Papke, but next time, let’s get a proper ending.

We will see you soon.

Rating: 2.5/5 – Like the finale itself, it leaves you with more questions than answers, and honestly, I’m too afraid to ask.



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THE LEADER!**



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*and more!*

## From the "Sitdown" desk: My time in student media

**BROCK PAPKE**

Staff Writer

It's 2:55 a.m. I just dropped the penultimate episode of my show, "A Sitdown With Brock," and I'm lying here on one of the old couches at the TV station's green room, phone in hand, completely wiped — but still typing.

That weird mix of pride and emptiness is creeping in.

It's like I can feel the weight of it ending. Slowly. Heavily.

I've written and rewritten this thing more times than I care to admit, which is ironic coming from the guy known for winging it.

I like improv, okay? Sue me.

I could watch Dracula Flow for the umpteenth time and still laugh my butt off or finally figure out I'm way too old for these Italian brainrots on my Instagram feed.

But, I decided to continue typing, and typing I go.

Four years of this shit. Wild.

Four years of endless BJ's shows where I've lost my hearing.

Four years of dealing with the exposure on cameras.

And four years of homework.

It really does feel like yesterday that I first stepped onto this weird little campus called SUNY Fredonia, where the air smelled faintly of dog food and ambition. If you know, you know.

You also know you've hit Unc status when you vividly remember being told by a biology professor — while walking

outside — to pull your mask up. Freshman year was a weird time.

I'm 22 years old, saying "Unc status"...ptff.

I didn't even officially join a media club until sophomore year. I spent that first year drifting, figuring out where the hell I fit in, trying to chart a path to whatever "creative potential" was supposed to mean.

I spent some time on the Ultimate Frisbee team, basically Chris Farley with some hops and speed.

But sophomore year, after joining the communications department, I decided to roll the dice.

Was I going to make a TV show on WNYF-TV? Host a radio show on WDVL 89.5? Channel my inner Hunter S. Thompson for The Leader? Or freelance it?

Turns out, I wanted to do all of it. And somehow, I did — except for freelance, I'm still figuring that out.

"Sitdown" didn't start as a grand vision. Originally, I had ideas out the wazoo. A film major who also loves television, that's a recipe for creativity, right?

It was more like, "What if I just... made a talk show?" No script, not a single fuck, no real clue what I was doing — just vibes, a camera, and a lot of stubbornness.

The first season was unleashed back in March 2023 — holy fish paste, it's actually been two years?

It was literally my second semester at the WNYF station, and I was producing my own talk show. The world was my

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canvas — so what then?

That first season was very foundational. Experimental.

Messy.

The lighting was trash.

The audio was so bad, it could've made an audio major drop their concentration and rethink their entire degree. (It's still rough sometimes — my friends in that major never let me forget it.)

I think I said "um" over a thousand times alone.

But people watched. Friends, peers, family members.

And people got it.

That was enough to keep going.

I had side projects here and there: a 3 a.m. radio show on WDVL 89.5 that played techno, a brief stint as a sports writer and a current stint causing havoc in the Scallion. But "Sit-down" was all I could think about.

Somewhere along the way, it stopped being just a fun side project. It became a kind of solace for me. Something to pour energy into when classes sucked or life got too overwhelming.

It became a place to have real conversations, to spotlight creative people on this campus doing weird things and bits, or to give time to anything worth sitting down and talking about, crafting storylines with simple improv conversations.

Seasons and semesters came and went, but I kept growing as a creative.

The media clubs were the ecosystem that made it possible. I met people who pushed me creatively, people who showed up when I didn't ask, people who made the whole thing better.

WNYF gave me the platform to be the craziest yet creative version of myself, Fredonia Radio Systems helped me build connections with people outside of the communications department, and The Leader helped transform me as a writer.

I've built an environment on set where anyone can come in,

help write a segment or two, work on cameras or the control room, delve into the unpredictable recording session and be able to go to Willy C's before it closes for the night.

I learned how to plan a production schedule, pitch a segment, and yes, finally — actually communicate to the guests on the absurdity of being on a talk show hosted by a fictionalized, more psychotic version of oneself.

If that's not growth, I don't know what is.

There were setbacks. Corrupted hard drives (RIP to half of the second season's Christmas special). Canceled shoots. Late-night caffeine-fueled editing tangents. Equipment failures. Guests ghosting. Episodes I wish I could unpublish. Pies were thrown. Two show strikes, the closest any show got to near-cancellation.

But I wouldn't trade any of it.

All of it — the chaos, the effort, the absurdity — shaped the version of me that's sitting here now.

Am I exhausted? Fuck yeah!

But far more confident, and far more me, than the kid who stepped onto this campus breathing in that gourmet Nestlé Purina breeze.

Now, with just one episode left, I'm realizing this thing I built is going to outlive me here.

"Sitdown" wasn't just a show. It was a playground, a therapy session, a creative lab and overall just a dumb, good time.

I don't know exactly what comes next.

My five-year plan is not all set.

Maybe I'll head to grad school in the blazing concrete wasteland of Orlando, Florida. Maybe I'll end up at NYU Tisch, trying to build more connections, and definitely building more debt.

Both are options. Both are terrifying.

Maybe I'll keep making shows. Maybe I'll dive deeper into writing. Maybe I'll do both.

Or maybe I'll take some totally unexpected left turn and surprise everyone by headlining Rockin' the Commons next semester, finally turning it into Brockin' the Commons. (And yes, I can already hear someone at FRS rolling their eyes to the back of their head so hard they saw their brain.)

That's kind of the beauty of it, right? The fact that I don't know.

But I know this: the kid who started this show wouldn't have known how to finish it. He didn't even know it could last this long.

And now, as it wraps up, I'm walking away with more than footage and episodes. I'm walking away with purpose. With a voice I didn't know I had. With people I'll never forget.

So yeah — one more episode to go. Then a walk-off set.

But the story doesn't stop there. Not for me. Not for the people this show reached and those who worked on it.

The curtain's coming down at Fredonia. But I'm not done talking.

Not even close.

P.S. I took a shit at the doorway on the way out. It's your problem now.



Brock Papke.

Photo provided by Brock Papke.

# In defense of frats: The unsung heroes of Fredonia

**MEGAN KIDBY**

Scallion Editor and Oozma Kappa Brother

Let us take a moment from our day — perhaps while nursing a Blue Light and blasting “FE!N” on a cracked Bluetooth speaker — to appreciate the most misunderstood and unfairly maligned institutions in higher education: the fraternities of SUNY Fredonia.

Yes, you heard me right. Fraternities. Those majestic pillars of white lie parties, mysteriously sticky floors and unmatched contributions to the field of warm Natty Ice storage.

It’s time we stop slandering these noble houses of brotherhood and start recognizing their critical role in shaping tomorrow’s leaders... or at least tomorrow’s bar trivia champions.

Where else but a frat house can a student experience the full social spectrum of human interaction, from high-fiving a stranger named “Beef” to being locked in a basement with a pledge class until they recite the Greek alphabet backwards? Where else can you enjoy a deeply educational journey through “brotherhood,” which famously involves being yelled at while holding a watermelon?

Let’s also address the cultural gravitas these frats bring to our beloved campus. One of them — and this is not a drill — counts among its distinguished alumni none other than Jimmy Buffett. That’s right. Mr. “Cheeseburger in Paradise” himself once wore Greek letters and probably tried to convince a pledge to build a tiki bar out of beer cans and popsicle sticks.

If that’s not legacy, what is?

Can your Honors Society say the same? I didn’t think so.

I also want to acknowledge the many ways frats contribute to Fredonia’s cultural landscape.

Who else would bring together an eclectic mix of communications majors, business bros and that one guy who’s definitely been a sophomore for four years (no judging here, I’ve been a junior for too long), into one cohesive community of misfit

men? Who would be brave enough to play “Mr. Brightside” 17 times in one night until the neighbors file a noise complaint and a formal existential complaint?

Fredonia frats have long been accused of being mere social clubs, thinly veiled excuses for late-night yelling and furniture destruction.

But this is a grave mischaracterization.

These are sophisticated organizations where young men come together to develop life skills like tolerance for dubstep, keg stand mechanics and the art of quoting “Scarface” in emotionally vulnerable moments.

And don’t get us started on the academic enrichment they provide. Need help studying? Just head to the house on Canadaway, where “studying” means yelling Econ terms over beer pong. You haven’t truly learned until you’ve been tutored by someone who refers to Karl Marx as “K-Dawg.”

Of course, like any tradition-steeped institution, frats have their critics. Some complain about the “drunken chants echoing through Sunny’s at 1 a.m.” or the “unexplainable fireball residue in the dorm showers.”

But I ask you: can you truly put a price on unity? On camaraderie? On knowing 18 guys who will fist bump you in unison every time you enter a Denny’s?

So next time you see a frat bro stumbling out of Old Main in a Hawaiian shirt

and cowboy boots, salute him. He’s not just a student — he’s living the dream, defending tradition and possibly still looking for that lost shaker of salt.

Now, if you’ll excuse us, we’ve been invited to a mixer. Theme: “Business on Top, Existential Crisis on the Bottom.” See you there.



Megan Kidby cosplays as Steve Irwin to examine the wild terrain of frats.

Graphic by **LILIAN HOLMAN** | Staff Artist



# HOROS

**ABBIE MILLER**

Editor-in-Chief, Graduating Senior

As I near the end of my undergraduate career at SUNY Fredonia, I'm left looking back on the experiences here that have shaped me.

Positive and negative, the events I've endured here have made an impact on the person I am today in ways that I will still be comprehending after I walk across that stage.

Whether you're in your final year or your first, the majority of you dear readers will experience graduation at some point in the future. Lucky for you, I've predicted exactly what your post-grad circumstances will entail so you can plan your celebration accordingly.



## Aries

### Move on

Fredonia has taught you a lot about what it means to push yourself and commit to your goals and reach outside of your comfort zone. That's how you will be able to find success when you leave — using the skills you learned somewhere between move-in and commencement. You will find ways to hold on to the moments that molded your time here while also looking forward to the life outside of Fredonia that awaits you.



## Taurus

### Be proud of yourself

As a humble individual, you don't often admit when you've accomplished something truly special, even less so when that achievement involves your own hard work and dedication. Your graduation will show you the importance of congratulating yourself with the same fervor that you do others, as you finally see all of that time spent studying pay off.



## Gemini

### Jump in a fountain at Barker Commons

I would never advocate for unlawful behavior. But I'm also not in the habit of lying to my dear readers. Geminis, please remember that with the exception of the campus pool, no body of water within Fredonia is deep enough for you to go diving in.



## Cancer

### You will not be graduating

I'm sorry if I'm the first person to tell you this, but you actually won't be graduating at all. Yes, I mean at all. College isn't for everyone, and if you're a Cancer reading this right now, it's not for you specifically. It would be untruthful for me to spare you from the fate that awaits you, so instead I'll just kindly ask you to get a speech ready for when your family asks you what's next. Because it won't be Fredonia anymore.



## Leo

### Block everyone you know

It's natural to have some falling-outs between educational institutions — how many of us keep in touch with every single friend that we had when we graduated high school? But you will take “letting go” to a whole new level. You cannot wait to leave Fredonia, and everyone within it, behind.

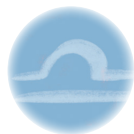


## Virgo

### Find your inspiration

Whether it's higher education or a career you're in search of, your dreams will take you places even after you get that slip of paper. Your motivation is what has kept you a successful student throughout your time at Fredonia, and it's what will ensure that that achievement follows you throughout your next journey.

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## Libra

### Eat your heart out at Azteca

You, my friend, have taste. If you're anything like me, you appreciate the deliciously inexpensive sanctuary that is El Azteca. Sandwiched between the Verizon store and Tops, you are intent on finishing your college career just as you started it: with the most mouth-watering, toe-curling Mexican food that those tastebuds can handle.



## Scorpio

### Take a gap year

You've heard of gap years for higher education, but what about gap years between graduation and getting a job? Studying was your full-time gig while you were here, and after graduation, the burnout that's been chasing you throughout these 4+ years will finally catch up with you.



## Sagittarius

### Go into either trade school or the military

Most fresh high school graduates decide to embark on these journeys before they traverse through a four-year institution. But you're not like most people. Why experience one path when you can try out them all? Whether it be carpentry or the air force, you will have the upper hand in experience and knowledge in comparison to the majority of your 18-year-old peers.



## Capricorn

### Complain about Fredonia

I can't say I blame you. I have dabbled in the art of holding grudges myself. But sometimes you need to let things go. And after four years of shared moldy showers and noise complaints that never amount to anything and running into the worst possible people at the worst possible time, you just won't. "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened," they say. You will do neither.



## Aquarius

### Start your own business

You're crafty and resourceful in ways that Fredonia was never truly able to harness or capitalize on. So instead of continuing to push your natural talents aside for the traditional job market, you'll be paving your own path of entrepreneurship — even if that means having to use spell check every time you try to type the word.



## Pisces

### Be in the bars

Why even attend graduation? You barely attended class! You'll spend time lifting your drink when you could've been turning your tassel. It may push back your graduation a few years, but that'll leave even more time for you to sip that whiskey sour and beat the newbies at darts.





## GOODBYE TO OUR SENIORS

