



THE
FREDONIA LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

**Black Student Union
shows up and shows
out at elemental
fashion show**

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**Executive Vice President and Provost David Starrett quits
TADA's "Twelfth Night" adds modern flair to Shakespeare
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“You told me to play BASKETBALL!” -K.C. from Degrassi

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President Trump signs orders dismantling eight departments

ALEX BUCKNAM

Asst. News Editor

Over the last few weeks, President Donald Trump has issued two executive orders that directed eight departments/ agencies to dismantle themselves, including the Department of Education (ED) and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

On March 14, President Trump signed an executive order titled “Continuing the Reduction of Federal Bureaucracy” that ordered seven government agencies to eliminate non-statutory components and functions and reduce the number of employees to the minimum required by law — the minimum the agency needs for operations.

Agencies listed on this executive order include:

The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service

The United States Agency for Global Media

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in the Smithsonian Institution

The Institute of Museum and Library Services

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund

The Minority Business Development Agency

The American Library Association (ALA) released a statement mentioning that the IMLS was the only agency that public libraries relied on.

The ALA also stated that the dismantling of the IMLS would mean cutting off services they offer to the public. Similar responses came from the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

A few days later, on March 20, President Trump signed another executive order that started the dismantlement of the ED.

The executive order titled “Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States and Communities” calls for the termination of the ED.

The executive order opens by stating how the ED has wasted taxpayer dollars and failed children, teachers and families.

It continues to talk about how the ED is reliable for student loans. The loan portfolios that the department currently manages as of March 20 total \$1.6 trillion. The order compares this amount to being similar to the bank that manages the most loan portfolios, Wells Fargo.

The order further states that the ED is not a bank and does not have the correct staffing to properly manage this large amount of loan money.

It then ordered Secretary McMahan to take all legal and necessary steps to see the closure of the department without affecting the services, programs and benefits people rely on.

It closes with President Trump asking the secretary to make sure that schools and universities that are receiving federal funding are complying with federal law and administration policies, such as getting rid of any diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility programs.

Both executive orders do not completely eliminate any department/agency; such an act would need to go through

Congress.

In fact, there is a history of failed attempts to close the departments/agencies listed in Trump’s executive orders. During the 115th, 116th, 117th and 118th Congresses, we have seen multiple pieces of legislation that called for the elimination of the ED.

The most recent one was H.R.899 from the 119th Congress, which was introduced on Jan. 31 of this year. The House referred the legislation to the House Committee on Education and Workforce.

H.R.899 is only one sentence long and reads, “This bill terminates the Department of Education on December 31, 2026.”

In the 118th Congress, an amendment that called for the ED’s removal was added to a bill that was introduced into the House of Representatives and established parents’ and guardians’ rights regarding public elementary or secondary school education.

That bill ended up failing with over 60 Republicans in the House voting against it,

Acts to close any department or agency would need a simple majority vote in the House of Representatives. As of March 27, there are 213 Democrats and 218 Republicans in the House, with four vacant seats. If a vote were to take place before the four vacant seats were filled and everyone was to be present, 216 votes in support of the bill would be needed to pass it.

If the bill passes in the House, it would then be sent to the Senate. It would need to get 60 votes to end any filibuster or to end discussion on the bill. After the discussion ends, it would then need a majority vote to officially pass the Senate.

As of March 25, there are 53 Republicans, 45 Democrats and two independents who caucus with Democrats in the Senate.

President Trump’s objective to close these departments would mean that he could only lose three votes in the House and four votes in the Senate, since if there was a tie, Vice President J.D. Vance would cast his vote.

But since 60 votes are needed in the Senate to end discussion on legislation, President Trump would need to convince eight Democrats to side with Republicans to end debate so a vote could take place.

It is thus unclear when we could see a piece of legislation from Congress to dismantle any department or agency.

SOURCES:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/continuing-the-reduction-of-the-federal-bureaucracy/>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/improving-education-outcomes-by-empowering-parents-states-and-communities/>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/899>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5>

<https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/2023156>

<https://pressgallery.house.gov/member-data/party-breakdown>

Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. David Starrett abruptly leaves administration position

DAN QUAGLIANA
Managing Editor

On March 1, SUNY Fredonia's faculty and staff members were sent an email from President Kolison that detailed how Dr. David Starrett had left his position as Fredonia's executive vice president and provost.

"Due to an administrative transition, I am writing to inform you of a temporary coverage in the Division of Academic Affairs," the email said. "Effective immediately, please direct all Academic Affairs matters to Dr. Judy Horowitz, Vice Provost."

The email further detailed how, "Additional planning regarding this transition is underway, and I will update you as soon as possible. In the meantime, I want to express my thanks to Dr. David Starrett for serving our university for the last 3.5 years as Provost and Executive Vice President."

The email concluded with, "I appreciate your commitment to SUNY Fredonia, to our mission, and to our students. I will be in touch with you soon."

Starrett will be remaining at Fredonia as a tenured professor in the biology department, a position he has held concurrently with the provost position for the last three and a half years. According to the university's course schedule, he is teaching three courses next semester.

Regarding Starrett's departure in the administrative sphere, President Kolison said that "...it is not appropriate ... to publicly discuss personnel matters," and, "I do not anticipate any short- or long-term negative effects as a result of the transition of the former Provost to the faculty."

Dr. Judith Horowitz, Fredonia's vice provost, has been appointed as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs in Starrett's place.

Regarding her new position, Horowitz said, "Right now, I'm thinking about building a team with the deans, making sure the [department] chairs feel supported in their work and making sure that teaching and learning happen the way they need to happen."

According to Kolison, "No projects or initiatives that were assigned to, or led

by the former provost will be affected by his transition to the faculty. [Dr. Horowitz] is very capable and knowledgeable about the functions of Academic Affairs, including the current initiatives in the division."

On the process of selecting a new provost, the president said that "academic leadership positions tend to follow an academic calendar," similar to filling faculty positions. "Timing is important for achieving a successful search for positions like those. Hence, I am seeking advice from executive search experts regarding the best time to launch a national search for our next provost and chief academic officer."

Horowitz explained how, "At some institutions, positions are filled immediately. At [other] institutions, a stabilization occurs, so things are filled two or three years down the road. I think it's very context-specific, and I think it's also specific to the culture of a campus ... Usually when we have a vacancy at the [vice presidential] level, we have often had an interim in there for a year or two."

For comparison, when former Vice President for Finance and Administration Michael Kelly left the university in April 2024, the position was permanently filled in February 2025.

"I have a pretty good relationship with a number of folks on this campus and in the local village and community, and I think that that helps when you're trying to move initiatives forward," Horowitz said. "My intention is to pick up the threads that have, sort of, been handed to me, and really do a good job with them ... I have an excellent team that I work with, and together, I think we'll make sure that everything that needs to get done is going to be done."

Kolison expressed a similar sentiment, saying that, "The administration consists of very capable individuals who are committed to the success of this institution — its students, faculty and staff. We are all bound together by our desire and the goal to successfully deliver on the mission of this university. We will always endeavor to achieve that."

"We're here to make sure that we make this institution a better institution for those that we leave it to than when we got it," Horowitz reflected. "And that's what I'm committed to doing."



Dr. Judith Horowitz, interim provost and executive vice president of academic affairs.

Photo via fredonia.edu.



Dr. David Starrett, former provost and executive vice president of academic affairs.

Photo via fredonia.edu.

Police Blotter

UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT SUNY Fredonia

March 26: A report was filed for fraud, which involved an online scam. According to UP, the investigation is ongoing.

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

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

On-campus

March 5: A report was made for harassment for a neighbor dispute in Alumni Hall. The status of this is that it has been "turned over to Student Conduct."

March 21: A report was filed for public lewdness. Subjects were found engaging in a lewd act in Lot 7. The status of this is that it has been "turned over to Student Conduct."



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Life & Arts

TADA transforms Shakespearean play into a modern classic with "Twelfth Night" performance

MIA CIECHALSKI
Life & Arts Editor

The Theater Department added modern flair to traditional Shakespeare with its recent rendition of "Twelfth Night."

Directed by Professor Paul Mockovak, the play represents the Theater Department's second production of the spring semester.

Shakespeare is well-known in the English language and theater world, so having one of his works be included in the 2024-2025 Walter Gloor Mainstage Season was a no-brainer, says Mockovak.

When it comes to putting together any type of show, there is always a lot of work that comes with it.

Senior BFA acting major Harley Selegean, who is playing Malvolio, said, "Like any show, it's been filled with trial and error, throwing spaghetti at the wall."

Not only was putting together a show like this a challenge in a group setting, but it had some personal challenges as well.

Senior BFA acting major Katie Spina, who is playing Feste, said, "For me personally, the most challenging part of putting

this show together was the added aspect of learning original music composed by Dr. [Rob] Deemer."

This is Spina's second Shakespeare show she has been a part of, and she said the addition of learning new music has been equally challenging and rewarding.

Director Mockovak said, "What makes 'Twelfth Night' such an enduring work is [that it's] one of Shakespeare's most beloved plays; it is a masterful blend of comedy, romance and some deeply human themes of love (both romantic and unrequited), identity, and wisdom vs. foolishness."

The characters in "Twelfth Night" have a wide variety of characteristics, ranging from strong and intelligent to resourceful and mischievous.

Mockovak further attributes the play's allure to its brilliant wordplay and imagery that provides "comedy with depth."

While getting the chance to be a part of this show, the students who are involved also learned some techniques during the rehearsal duration.

According to Selegean, "One of my biggest takeaways was probably the rhythm of Shakespeare."

On the last day in their rehearsal space before taking the production to the stage, Selegean said, "Professor Mockovak called an 'Italian run'; essentially just a speed run, where all the tempos are cranked up."

The show is about two hours, and when the cast did the speed run, they did it in about an hour and 20 minutes.

"On that day, I learned that Shakespeare's comedy in particular shouldn't be milked unless earned — something so simple and obvious, but it didn't make sense until I saw the principle in action," said Selegean.

This production has a cast of 16 students, including undergrads. There are also student designers and crews that build and assist backstage, along with a stage management team.

Altogether, there were about 65 people involved in this production.

Some of the cast and crew provided easter eggs for past or future attendees of the show to look out for.

Spina said to keep an eye out for any rubber chickens. "They are a Professor Mockovak staple for every show, and I must say, this may be the best scavenger hunt to find them yet," said Spina.



"Twelfth Night" actors and crew members rehearse for their March and April shows.

Photo provided by Czerton Lim, producer of the Mainstage series.

Aside from the rubber chickens, there are other highlights to this mainstage production.

“There are several songs in the text with original music by Deemer. We have interpolated two of Shakespeare’s sonnets to amplify some of the themes and set them to music as well,” said Mockovak.

According to Mockovak, there are also beautiful and elegant sets utilizing many levels and projections to support their imagining of Illyria, which is where the play takes place.

Both Selegean and Spina’s favorite memory of putting together “Twelfth Night” was doing their cast dance parties.

“That’s how our cast would warm up every rehearsal — cast member Ryan Okun would lead us in a pattern of dance moves, and elect other people to lead the group, too. The show just wasn’t the same when we missed it; it became an essential part of the process and did wonders for bonding the cast,” said Selegean.

“Twelfth Night” performs on March 28-30 and April 3-5 in the Marvel Theater.

Mockovak said, “Our goal is to provide entertainment with this production. If the themes resonate more with others, that is great. But let’s escape to Illyria and enjoy the story.”



"Twelfth Night" actors and crew members rehearse for their March and April shows.

Photo provided by Czerton Lim, producer of the Mainstage series.

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London Nickolai.

shows out at elemental fashion show

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Avery Salomon.



Raven Adams.



Mary Kingsley.



Jabari Sams.

SPORTS

Cheer team looks to shine in Daytona Beach

MATT VOLZ
Sports Editor

Many athletes face the pressure of stepping out under the bright lights to perform in front of a screaming crowd, knowing that they've got to be at their best.

It's a common theme that's often seen in sports like football, basketball, soccer and many others.

Cheerleading is no different.

This month, Fredonia's own cheer team will get its chance to take the stage on a national level.

The Blue Devils will travel to Daytona Beach, Fla., to compete in the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) College Nationals competition.

It's no small competition, with somewhere around 10,000 athletes set to compete.

One cheerleader, senior Alli Ramsey, said she's never seen a competition quite like this one.

"I've grown up doing competition cheer, so I've gone to the biggest competitions in cheerleading," she said. "None of them even resemble what Daytona is."

Ramsey has attended three national competitions in her time at Fredonia, and with her experience, she hopes to teach her younger teammates what Daytona is all about.

She said that at last year's competition, high winds caused things to be cancelled or pushed back, so this year's sophomores still haven't experienced it in its full glory.

"The whole team is coming to my house, and I'm doing a PowerPoint for them," she said. "I'm trying to get everyone prepared,

but it's never, ever going to [be enough to] prepare anyone."

The trip starts bright and early on Tuesday, April 8, as the team plans to leave Fredonia for the airport at 4 a.m., according to head coach Julie Troche.

Troche said that Tuesday will be a practice day once the team gets settled in, and afterwards, they plan to get together for a team dinner.

According to Ramsey, the dinner is usually formal, but this year, the team has decided to have a bit of fun with it.

She said they still plan to have an all-black dress code, but instead of dining at a nicer place, they're going to Dick's Last Resort, a themed restaurant where the staff is paid to treat customers like dirt beneath their feet.

Ramsey said the team hopes it'll be a de-stressor as they enter what can be a stressful competition.

Everyone on the team has their own method of combating nerves, according to Troche.

The coach said she urges her athletes to remain present in the moment and take the routine one skill at a time.

"Don't think about what's coming next," she said. "Think of what you have to do right now, because if you're thinking too far ahead, you're going to lose your technique and what you're doing right now."

It's a routine the team has spent many months preparing, as Ramsey said they typically start learning choreography as early as October.

Even before that, the team attends an NCA camp from late August to early September.

Ramsey said that the team's early start can be attributed to an interesting advantage the Blue Devils have over other, big-



Fredonia's cheer team performs at the 2024 NCA College Nationals competition.

Photo provided by Julie Troche.

ger schools. Fredonia doesn't have a football team, so the time not spent cheering at football games allows the team to focus more on their routine.

"Only cheering for basketball gives us a huge advantage to spend more time nitpicking the routine," she said. "It gives us the opportunity to spend time making sure we are putting a routine out there that we are 110% proud of."

This year's routine is one to be proud of, according to Ramsey, and she added that it is the hardest routine she's ever had in her time at Fredonia.

Despite the difficulty of the routine, she believes the team is up to the challenge.

"This is the team I've been wishing for my entire life," she said. "I've never been so confident walking into a competition as I'm going to be this year."

"I wouldn't want to be performing any other routine with any other team," she added.

Troche echoed that statement, saying she's excited about the team and their chances in Daytona Beach.

"I would say this is probably one of the teams where we have some of the highest level skills we've ever tried," she said.

Because of the number of teams and athletes, teams are separated into different divisions, and the divisions are split across three different venues.

Fredonia's cheer team will compete in the Intermediate All-Girls Division III group.

Their performances are split across two days, with one on Thursday and one on Friday.

For each performance, a team only has a six-minute, 20-second time frame to show the judges what they can do.

They are provided with three mats: one for jumping/tumbling, one for stunts and one for running the full routine.

Troche explained that because the time limit of a routine is two minutes and 15 seconds, they may only have time to run through it twice, and they may not even do that.

"The first time on the mat, we might just do stunts only, and the second time on the mat, we'll do a full-out [runthrough]," she said.

She said the scores on Thursday count for 25% of the team's overall score.

Once they receive their Thursday scores, they have less than 24 hours to make any changes to their routine to try and score higher on Friday.

Troche said that Friday is the same routine and the same time frame, but this performance counts for 75% of the team's score.

Last year, they finished 12th out of 19 teams in their division, their highest place ever at NCA Nationals.

Each year, the winning teams take their banner and trophy and run straight into the Atlantic Ocean in celebration.

Troche said their eventual goal is to be the ones going for a swim.

While a trip to Daytona Beach in April may seem like a vacation to most college students, the team knows it is primarily a business trip, according to Ramsey.

Much of the day Wednesday, as well as when they're not competing on Thursday and Friday, is spent practicing.

They have a few allotted time slots to practice in designated areas, but much of their practice will take place on grassy areas outside, wherever they can find space.

"If we have a little bit of extra time to sit on the beach after we perform, that's cool," said Ramsey. "But that's not what we're there for, and everyone on our team is so good about that."

On Saturday, after performances have finished, the athletes will have an opportunity to mingle with members of other teams, and they can practice stunts with other athletes they may never meet otherwise.

The team plans to return home early on Sunday, catching another flight in the morning.

Troche said she hopes the competition will serve as a positive memory for her team.

"This is going to be a memory in two weeks," she said. "[It's about] finding that reason to say, 'This is why I'm here. This is why we're doing this.'"

In Daytona Beach, the Blue Devils have the chance to make history and place higher than they ever have before.



Fredonia's cheer team performs at the 2024 NCA College Nationals competition.

Photo provided by Julie Troche.

William Shakespeare's
Twelfth Night

Directed by
Paul W. Mockovak

Shipwrecked twins Viola and Sebastian find themselves entangled in a web of romantic intrigue. Through witty dialogue and vibrant characters, the play explores themes of disguise, gender roles, and the pursuit of love's true essence. It continues to charm theatergoers worldwide, serving as a testament to Shakespeare's enduring genius.

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March Madness: Fredonia edition

MITCH HORUCY
Asst. Sports Editor

First, we'll take a look at the food region.

It's an incredibly strong region with numerous seeds that could make it to the final four.

The most intriguing matchup in the first round in this region is easily the four vs. five game.

Cheesy Friday is my personal favorite day at Cranston, I look forward to it every week.

But a Tuscany breakfast sandwich is a bad matchup for Cheesy Friday.

There's almost nothing better after a night on the town than making your way to Tuscany and getting a sandwich.

With that being said, I have the top seed, BJ's Taco Tuesday, making it out of the bracket but having to battle for it.

The things region is also loaded with things the story of Fredonia couldn't be told without.

The heavy favorite is FredFest, to no one's surprise.

The top matchup in this region is the three seed, unsalted sidewalks, taking on the six seed, campus tours.

Both can ruin a good day in a split second, whether it's taking a spill on your way to your 9 a.m. or walking into Cranston and seeing 50 high school students roaming the sandwich line.

For me, it'll come down to FredFest against boil water orders, two of the first things you think of when you think of Fredonia.

However, I'll take the one seed once again, moving FredFest to the final four.

The places region could fill out the entire bracket alone, but these are the top eight I selected.

An underdog to watch out for in this region is Pedro Pastall.

It made waves on Yik Yak when it was first introduced to the world.

It does face some issues as it was in the women's bathroom, leaving a big part of the student body unable to experience it.

Another big underdog that could shock the world is the ghost of Tim Hortons in the eighth spot.

Once we say goodbye to our class of 2025 friends, no current students will have experienced Tim Hortons on campus.

Yet, it still lives in our hearts forever as we yearn for the day it makes a return.

This is where I'll select my first upset, as I have Domus Fare making it out of this region.

It's a great breakfast spot and also has pretty good fish fries.

The fourth and final region is the people region.

This region is led by everyone's favorite mascot, Freddy.

There are also Fredonia legends like Professor Mike Igoe and men's hockey coach Jeff Meredith.

By far the biggest name in this region, though, is NBA Hall of Famer Charles Barkley.

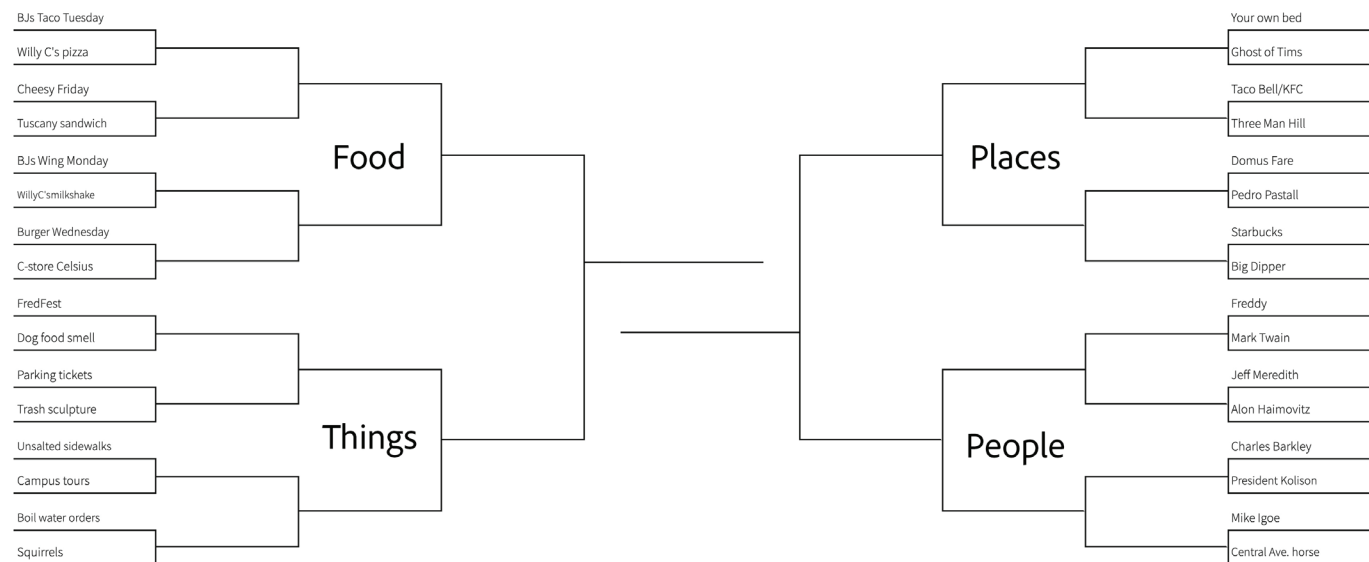
His two-day stay in Fredonia still boggles my mind and deserves a spot in this region despite the short-lived nature of his visit.

Out of this region and moving on to the final four for me is a guy who is no stranger to big matchups, Jeff Meredith.

This brings us to my final four, with BJs Taco Tuesday vs. FredFest on one side of the bracket and Domus Fare vs. Jeff Meredith on the other.

It's an unbelievable matchup, but I'm going with FredFest on one side, and Domus Fare on the other.

This brings us to our championship, in which I have FredFest winning.



Graphic by **MATT VOLZ** | Sports Editor
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Overcolumn: Sex Symbols in Media

THE QUARTERBACK

Executive Producer of Lovercall

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Lovercall Producer

Hello!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This column runs in conjunction with Lovercall and can be found in print and online at fredonialeader.org.

Date idea of the week

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

For this week's date idea, you're going to be watching some of your favorite romantic comedies, or rom-coms!

Perhaps you and your partner(s) could each pick out a rom-

com you love, snuggle up on the couch and watch it together!

It also could be fun to find some rom-coms that you love but they've never seen.

Who wouldn't want to culture the ones they love?

We often discuss date ideas that can be done outside of a romantic relationship, and although there's romance aplenty in the movies, you don't have to have a significant other to participate!

Friend groups can always get together and have rom-com nights, especially if you've got plenty of snacks and sweet treats!

There's no shame in watching these movies by yourself, either!

Feel free to get all cozy in bed with some snacks, or maybe even a pint of ice cream, and treat yourself to a marathon of feel-good, cheesy love stories.

We discussed some of our favorite rom-coms on the show, including hits like “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days,” “10 Things I Hate About You,” and “Pretty Woman.”

No matter what your favorites are, this date idea is designed for you to feel all warm and fuzzy!

Sex Symbols in Media

When you think about sex symbols, you probably think of people like Marilyn Monroe or Sydney Sweeney, and for good reason, but there are other sex symbols out there.

On the show, our guests discussed the many different sex symbols who have emerged in the media.

We also discussed the importance of sex symbols in the women's liberation movement and the positive view of sex in the media.

Sex positivity has become more mainstream than it had previously been, in part because of this, but also due to the progression of society.

It has also led to more open and honest discussions about sex, which we at Lovercall are always fans of!

However, there are also negatives when it comes to the title of sex symbol.

Often, when people look at celebrities, they see them as perfect people, but in reality, that is far from the case.

We talked on the show about the pressure put on celebrities to be perfect all the time, which then causes people who look up to them to think that they have to be as “perfect” as they are.

In reality, nobody is perfect, and pictures and videos seen on social media can easily be manipulated to make a person seem more stereotypically “perfect” than they truly are.

This can often lead to an unattainable standard of what beauty means, especially for women active on social media.

We at Lovercall want you to be aware of this and remember

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that what you see isn't always what is true.

Also, remember that you are beautiful as you are!

It may sound cliché, but there is something unique and wonderful about every individual person.

If everyone tried to look and act just like the unrealistic image set forth by social media, we as a society would lack individuality and the beauty of people being themselves.

One cool thing about life is that you are the only person who gets to be exactly you, and it's infinitely better to be the best version of yourself than to try and meet some unattainable standard of perfection.

Lovecall Calling...

This week on Lovecall, we received a Lovecaller message from the anonymous app YikYak.

This person said that multiple men have ghosted them after the men acted like they were interested. Even after the messenger was sometimes intimate with them, they said that the men still ended up ghosting them.

"Ghosting" is when someone stops talking to someone else without any warning, usually through texting or social media, but can be in person as well.

First, do not immediately assume that the occurrence of someone ghosting you is your fault.

Many times, people ghost others because the situation does not work for them, and they might have little regard for the other person's perspective.

When someone gets ghosted, it can hurt, depending on the status of the relationship.

It has become an extremely common thing to do in today's digital age, and it's important to note that it can be helpful in some situations to immediately leave when someone feels uncomfortable.

However, the Lovecall Crew encourages open communication rather than ghosting, but again, in some situations, it might be necessary.

If you get ghosted, be open about the situation. Nobody deserves to be ghosted, especially when they are just trying to navigate love and relationships.

Do not dwell on it if someone is not texting you back, because if they do not want to talk to you, they are not the right person for you!

If you end up being ignored by someone, do not ignore yourself and do what will make you feel better.

You deserve better than to be ignored!

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

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



Rating every 2025 Oscar award-winning movie

ABBIE MILLER

Editor-in-Chief

I am what my generation calls a "film bro."

I love watching movies, not just for a good time but to think about the deeper stuff that most of us avoid talking about in our daily lives.

I like to see different experiences and find ways to relate to them or appreciate the fact that I can't.

In fact, I love watching movies so much that last year, I watched a total of 123 movies (no, this is not a reference to the film pirating website, and no, this was not done on purpose).

With all of my film-watching experience, I feel I am able to make accurate and knowledgeable judgments on the state of this year's Oscar award-winning movies.

Warning: This article contains spoilers for every movie on this list. Read at your own risk.

A Real Pain

4/5 stars

Won for: Actor in a Supporting Role

I won't mince words; this was an excellent film.

"A Real Pain" is Jesse Eisenberg's directorial debut, and he also stars as David Kaplan, the lead character. This movie would be impressive even if it weren't Eisenberg's first, and the fact that it is amplifies the film's success twofold, at the very least.

I don't think that Eisenberg's lead performance was praised as much as it deserved, which is, in itself, indicative of a large plot point within the movie and, in a way, works to further the film's purpose and message.

Coupled with fantastic directorial and lead performances is Kieran Culkin's masterclass of a supporting role, which he was well-deserving of the Oscar for.

Anora

4.5/5 stars

Won for: Actress in a Leading Role, Directing, Film Editing, Best Picture, Writing (Original Screenplay)

To me, "Anora" deserves all of the praise that it has received.

There are very few movies that I believe are able to incorporate fun, entertaining and humorous elements in some sections and absolutely devastating, realistic and personal moments in others. "Anora" does this flawlessly.

The work that Mikey Madison put forth in transforming herself into the lead role is palpable from the very first scene, as she immediately becomes a larger-than-life character that is somehow still able to display her vulnerabilities and emotions, albeit behind the curtain of her self-assuredness.

This film humanizes work that is often seen by the rest of society as "dirty" and "invalid" — a task that is perhaps equally as difficult as doing so with grace and without making it feel preachy.

This is the breakout performance for most of the cast, another element that I find fascinating because even this seems to be done intentionally, almost like the viewers, in combination with Ani, are stepping into this world we know nothing about, of rich Russians and sketchy family dynamics.

Dune: Part Two

4.5/5 stars

Won for: Sound, Visual Effects

Okay, now scrap everything I just said about fantasy-based storylines. I love "Dune: Part Two."

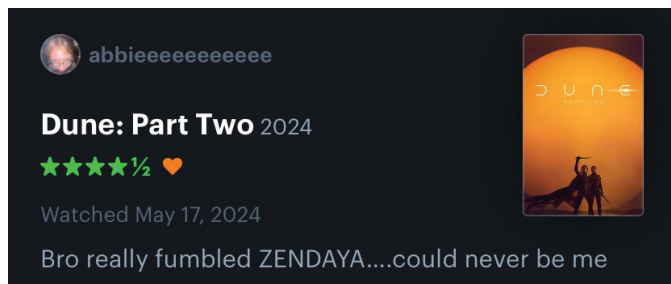
But hear me out.

The cinematography in this film, along with its predecessor, is breathtaking beyond words. As I said before, I watch a lot of movies, but there are few that I think compete with the "Dune" franchise when it comes to cinematography.

Match that with the fact that two of my favorite actors, Timothée Chalamet and Zendaya, play the movie's lead roles? Yeah, obviously I'm going to like it.

And I know what you're going to say next. Yes, Chalamet and Zendaya are both conventionally attractive. Yes, that may add to the reason why I like them and the movies they star in.

But it's more than that. Their performances in this movie prove they are some of the best actors to come out of their generation. The way that they melt into their characters and develop their roles in ways that bring sense to an otherwise extremely confusing universe is spectacular and warrants all of the applause it receives.



Abbie Miller's review of "Dune: Part Two" via Letterboxd.

Wicked

2.5/5 stars

Won for: Costume Design, Production Design

I know that some people are going to have an issue with me rating "Wicked" this low. But I'll repeat part of what I say about "The Only Girl in the Orchestra" — this movie just isn't my cup of tea.

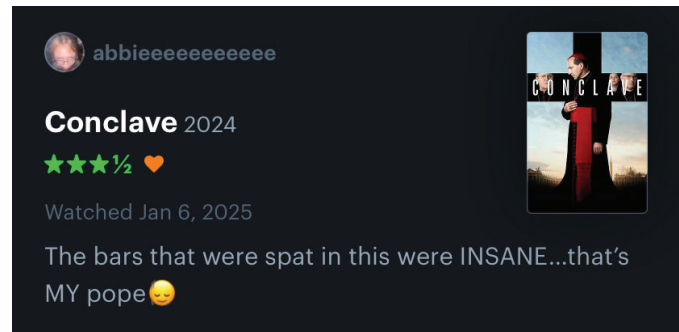
I've never been a huge musical enjoyer (although I will do an occasional rewatch of "High School Musical," "Les Misérables," "Hairspray" and the like), so I am very cognizant that this is likely part of the reason why I'm ranking "Wicked" so low in comparison to others on this list.

The directing was pretty solid, and the storyline's pace, while it could've been improved at parts, was somewhat steady.

But what can I say? I just don't really care.

The problem with me as an avid movie enjoyer is that I tend to care much less, and usually enjoy much less, films that are either fantasy-based or that are more light than they are deep.

I'm not saying I don't think this is a good movie. What I am saying, though, is that I don't think it's a good movie for me.



Abbie Miller's review of "Conclave" via Letterboxd.

Conclave

3.5/5 stars

Won for: Writing (Adapted Screenplay)

"Conclave" is subtly boring.

If you're my mom and you already fall asleep during any movie that is more than 30 minutes long, I wouldn't recommend trying to watch this. If you're me and you are willing to sit through all 15-or-so minutes of the dreamlike-sequence in "2001: A Space Odyssey," you may be able to see this film for what it's worth.

Plus, the scene where the cardinals are arguing and one of the onlookers takes out his vape is absolutely hilarious to me.

The Brutalist

1/5 stars

Won for: Actor in a Leading Role, Cinematography, Music (Original Score)

I disagree with "The Brutalist" winning any awards.

My respect for this movie and everyone who participated in it was absolutely demolished when I learned that AI was used to edit the voices of Adrien Brody and Felicity Jones' characters to make their Hungarian accents sound more realistic.

According to "The Brutalist"'s editor, Dávid Jancsó, the film's \$10 million budget and pressure to finish it as quickly as possible added to the reasoning behind the decision to use AI programming.

None of these reasons are good enough to warrant the use of

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artificial intelligence, in my opinion.

AI is already a substantial threat within the creative sphere as artists struggle to have their work recognized and compensated in a world that values efficiency over quality.

The budget could have easily been increased, especially with stars such as Adrien Brody and Felicity Jones making appearances. If they really wanted or needed to, I'm sure either of these actors could have donated money to help production or agreed to have their cut of the profit minimized.

Furthermore, if the filmmakers wanted the movie to be completed earlier, they could have shortened it. In fact, that would've actually made the film better.

"The Brutalist" is a whopping three-and-a-half hours long — so lengthy that a built-in intermission occurs in the middle of it.

I am no stranger to long movies. I watched — and thoroughly enjoyed — "Killers of the Flower Moon," a film that was a little under the same length. "Titanic" is over three hours long, and yet it is still considered a classic, and for good reason.

A film can itself both warrant a long run-time and benefit from it. "The Brutalist" does neither.

I have other issues with the movie as well. Maybe it's because I don't know anything (or care to know anything) about architecture, but "The Brutalist" was horribly boring for me. The intermission was unnecessary. The ending was lackluster and felt rushed in comparison to the amount of time when nothing of importance was happening on-screen.

Overall, if I hadn't watched "The Brutalist" for the sake of this article, knowing what I know about the director's use of artificial intelligence within it, I wouldn't have watched it at all.

which this movie is full of. I don't even want to know how difficult it is to animate water, but it surely doesn't seem easy.

In the Shadow of the Cypress

3.5/5 stars

Won for: Animated Short Film

For a movie with no dialogue and an extremely minimal run-time, "In the Shadow of the Cypress" accomplished everything that it set out to do.

This movie was well done and a vividly accurate depiction of the reality of living with PTSD and being a caregiver to those with the disorder.

No Other Land

5/5 stars

Won for: Documentary Feature Film

Oh my god.

I've only watched half of this documentary at the time that I'm writing this, and I'm having a hard time even beginning to explain my thoughts and feelings.

I am so glad that this documentary won this award. I haven't watched any of the other films nominated for this category, but I find it hard to picture any other documentary more deserving of this award than "No Other Land."

This should be mandatory viewing, if not for the entire world, then at least in the U.S. and Israel.

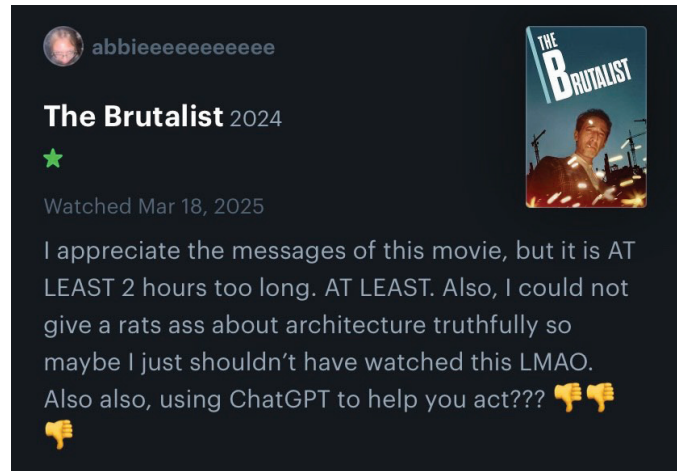
To give you a quick synopsis of the documentary, Basel Adra, the director and one of Masafer Yatta's residents who was forcefully displaced by the Israeli government, invites Yuval Abraham, an Israeli-born journalist, to help him document the events of the community's expulsion from their homes.

Towards the beginning of the film, Adra tells Abraham that perhaps, if Abraham's articles get enough international traction, they will reach American eyes and pressure the United States government to act in defense of Masafer Yatta and Palestinians in general. Since I had some background knowledge of the long-standing tension between Israelis and Palestinians, I knew what would come of this hope. It would be torn down after the American government decided not to defend but to take action to actively oppose Palestinians in the struggle for them to maintain the land that they had inhabited for decades prior.

As the years pass, Abraham continually tells Adra that his articles are not getting enough views. At least, not enough as they had hoped and certainly not enough to create the necessary pressure needed for the American government to take action.

But will it ever be enough? During the past few years, people all around the world have had front-row seats to the devastation occurring in Gaza, and yet it continues. The devastation of communities like Adra's is ongoing. And it deserves all of the acknowledgement it can get.

Due to the more recent events regarding Israel and Palestine that reached international audiences, I had a general base knowledge going into this documentary of the events that have occurred both in the distant and recent past regarding the two nationalities. I was also able to gather knowledge on the topic due to "The impact of the war in Gaza on the 2024 election," an article I wrote in The Leader's Fall 2024 Issue 3. This article can serve as a starting point for those who aren't aware of the complexities and history of this conflict.



Abbie Miller's review of "The Brutalist" via Letterboxd.

Flow

2.5/5 stars

Won for: Animated Feature Film

Unlike "In the Shadow of the Cypress," this film is almost an hour and a half long. Like "In the Shadow of the Cypress," it has absolutely no dialogue (unless you count the sounds the animal characters make).

My attention span is much too short for this movie, which is why I am rating it so low.

However, I will say that it is a feat to beat out Pixar movies for the Oscar for Animated Feature Film, and I think part of what sealed the deal for "Flow"'s win is the animation of water;

The Only Girl in the Orchestra

2/5 stars

Won for: Documentary Short Film

I've rated this movie relatively low, not because I think its premise or content is bad, but because I don't personally connect with it. I can appreciate the hardship that this woman went through without necessarily believing that this film is my speed, both metaphorically and physically.

"The Only Girl in the Orchestra" is realistic because it shows some of what it's like to experience familial disagreement, which is often not fully explored for the sake of keeping the peace.

While I understand that the niece, who is the film's director, did not wish to upset her aunt by delving into conflicts on camera, I also think that this documentary suffers from viewing these problems on the surface and never really plunging past that.

We find out about Orin O'Brien, the subject of the documentary, and the details of her life story, which is, of course, interesting in its own right. But those moments where we begin to see some more complex themes, such as the struggle of being the child of Hollywood stars or the fight against recognition for the sake of humility and perhaps self-consciousness, are all cut short and never fully explored.

abbiereeeeeeeee

The Only Girl in the Orchestra

2023

★★

Watched Mar 18, 2025

There are some interesting themes and tones here but I don't think the genre was necessarily my speed. It felt too short to dig into to some of the more complex themes (denying self recognition, doing everything in one's power to be the opposite of their parents, etc.) but felt too long to really hold my attention

Abbie Miller's review of "The Only Girl in the Orchestra" via Letterboxd.

I'm Still Here

?/5 stars

Won for: International Feature Film (for Brazil)

I could not find this movie anywhere without having to pay for it, which really sucks because every film that I've seen that has either been nominated for or won the International Feature Film Oscar has been absolutely spectacular.

At the very least, no matter what this film is like, it is guaranteed to be better than "Emilia Pérez" — which was also nominated for this Oscar — although I haven't seen that film either.

The Substance

3/5 stars

Won for: Makeup and Hairstyling

I completely agree with "The Substance"'s win for makeup

and hairstyling.

While incredibly disturbing, I don't know that the movie would be half of what it is without the gory, disgusting scenes of Sue emerging from Elisabeth's back or the physical deterioration of Elisabeth and Sue. For those who have never been criticized for their physical appearance or told that their only value comes from the way they look, the physical depiction of "The Substance"'s characters and the changes that they endure throughout the movie's runtime serve as a stark visualization of this reality, which would be impossible to convey as potently without the masterful team behind the cast's makeup.

abbiereeeeeeeee

I'm Not a Robot 2023

★★★♥

Watched Mar 18, 2025

Simple premise but good acting and execution, especially with such concise time restraints

Abbie Miller's review of "I'm Not a Robot" via Letterboxd.

I'm Not a Robot

3/5 stars

Won for: Live Action Short Film

Similar to "In the Shadow of the Cypress" in runtime, "I'm Not a Robot" will make you think twice when checking that reCAPTCHA box.

Tackling questions about identity and self-worth in a time when uncertainty is the standard, "I'm Not a Robot" meets the perfect sweet spot of having just enough substance to leave you questioning without the finality that would make you forget the movie a week later.

Emilia Pérez

0/5 stars

Won for: Actress in a Supporting Role, Music (Original Song) ("El Mal")

I refuse to watch this film in light of comments made by its director, Jacques Audiard, about Spanish being "a language of developing countries, humble countries, of the poor, of migrants."

I also want to note that "Emilia Pérez"'s casting included a very small number of Mexicans, which is odd because the film takes place in Mexico. Only one of the four members of the main cast is actually Mexican, despite the film portraying all of them as such.

According to casting director Carla Hool, the filmmakers "searched Latin America and Mexico for actors, but ultimately, they believed that they had chosen the best ones for the job." The "best [actors] for the job" being referred to here are largely non-Mexican, meaning that apparently nobody who had auditioned in Latin America and Mexico was good enough, by "Emilia Pérez"'s filmmakers' standards, for the part.

The film's French director also admits to only studying the bare minimum of Mexico and Mexican culture that he deemed necessary for the film, which is another concerning comment considering the film takes place in Mexico and is attempting to serve as a representation of the Mexican experience.



ACADEMIC ADVISING SERVICES PRESENTS...



REGISTRATION IS HAPPENING




MARCH 31ST - SENIOR REGISTRATION
APRIL 1ST- JUNIOR REGISTRATION
APRIL 2ND - SOPHOMORE REGISTRATION
APRIL 3RD - FRESHMAN REGISTRATION

ANY QUESTIONS?



ADVISING@FREDONIA.EDU



APRIL 3RD: ADVISING HELP
@ REED LIBRARY
8:30AM-4PM



FAKE NEWS

Abigail Jacobson, news editor, cancels news

ABIGAIL JACOBSON
Not News Editor anymore

An unfortunate but downright truthful statement from the news editor herself, me, Abigail Jacobson, gives word on the future of news:

It's done, guys. News is cancelled. I can't keep writing anymore. I can't keep hearing the news and thinking, "My good-

ness, I need to write this." No, Abby, you don't. Give yourself

a break.

Why is news cancelled? WELL, BECAUSE I SAID SO.

I am sick and tired of going into our next issue and thinking,

"Ah, yes, barely any news. I can relax in my comfy bed with my new book that's probably gonna make me cry." I dream of

lying in my bed, happy for once and thinking of taking a long, well-rested nap in my sanctuary, which is made up of two twin

beds strapped together by a piece of rope.

Ah, the college experience. Crying because of the book I'm reading or something funny happening to me in a video game.

Jokes on me; neither the book nor the video game will make me cry. Instead, NEW THINGS WILL HAPPEN AND ILL

BE CRYING WHILE WRITING THEM.

I'm serious. Give me a break. I'm overworked, I'm underpaid

(I'm not paid at all).

From Trump being the biggest piece of dog shit to minors being cut because we obviously have no idea what the fuck we

are doing to the state of FredFest being cancelled — Why do y'all hate us? WHY DO YOU HAVE TO DO THIS, AND THEN I HAVE TO WRITE IT AND HATE MYSELF

EVEN MORE?

Of course, I don't have to write anything. I could just lie in my bed and doomscroll till the end of time, sending funny Tik-

Toks to my boyfriend and playing R.E.P.O. for days straight. I could do that. I WANT TO DO THAT!

Instead, I spend my days writing for hours to provide content for your poor souls. I know you don't want to hear it, but, believe me, I don't even want to write it.

Which is why news is cancelled for the rest of the semester. Yeah, that's right, I can do that and nobody can say anything about it. No one can stop me. And to be real, who's going to do a better job than me?

There will be no more news on President Orange Peel or on the nine minors that were cut after SUNY Fredonia's administration promised they wouldn't be touched. No more news on water boils because it's the same thing each time: Fredonia hates Dunkirk and hates spending money on fixing the water,

instead focusing on removing FredFest. News Flash: They want it hosted by SUNY Fredonia.
...Damn it. I guess even with all this news on the cancellation of news at The Leader, I still somewhat provide news to the audience.
You can try to take the news out of the news editor, but you'll never be able to. It's in my blood. It's my true love.
But not anymore. Take it. SOMEONE TAKE IT, PLEASE.
You'll never do a better job than me, of course, but you can try. But in all seriousness, I'm done. No more news. No more up-dated news on FredFest or the minors. No more police blotters. Nothing. News in The Leader will be empty. Good luck finding your information somewhere else because I will be in my bed, doom-scrolling to the end of time.



Graphic by **ABBIE MILLER** | Editor-in-Chief
Graphic made using canva.com.

National Guard seen drinking in Delta Chi's basement amidst rumors of FredFest collab

Graphic by LILIAN HOLMAN | Staff Artist



MORGAN BROWN
Truth-Seeker & Information-Spreader

After rumors of Fredonia's mayor calling in the National Guard to prevent more violence at this year's upcoming FredFest, some students are in disbelief at their recent behavior.

Following an advertised "Bunker" event, multiple sources claimed to have seen uniformed soldiers mingling with Fredonia's very own Delta Chi fraternity.

"I just went to get a beer and saw an officer with his arm around a brother," revealed one confused party-goer.

A group of pledges even confessed to bonding with said guards, admitting that "we were encouraged by [the fraternity] to get to know each other... There are some top secret 'big plans' approaching."

Another witness has come forward about the possibility of the National Guard's participation in a keg stand that evening. Unfortunately, the legitimacy of this claim has not been finalized. While no official statement has been released on whether

or not there will be an official governmental collaboration for FredFest, some are speculating that it may be the best weekend yet.

When polled by The Leader staff, local police officials were ecstatic at the opportunity to "chum it with the ol' nationals," as they said.

Police even received reports of uniformed soldiers breaking local open container laws on the streets surrounding the party, but refusing to ticket in the name of the "Bro Code."

A source close to the mayor has additionally overheard conversations surrounding a new red, white and blue theme to FredFest.

Students have begun to be advised via anonymous YikYak posts to "invest in patriotic clothing," much to the enjoyment of current students who are just happy to see FredFest continue.

What is being planned behind the scenes for the upcoming event, and does it have anything to do with these sightings? Anyone with more information surrounding this collaboration has been advised to contact The Leader directly in hopes of surfacing the truth about this year's FredFest.

All hail the new era: The Scallion has taken over

MEGAN KIDBY

Supreme Ruler of the Editorial Board

280-character inquiries, they clearly aren't fit for office (or the public eye at all).

5. **Sports Section Replaced with "Competitive Napping" Rankings**
Let's be honest, this is the kind of content people actually want.

To those who claim that a satire editor running a legitimate publication is a "dangerous precedent" and "a sign that society is spiraling," I hear you. And to show that I value your feedback, I have prepared a highly professional response: lol, no. We've spent too long pretending that news needs to be dry, objective and informative. My reign — sorry, tenure — as Editor-in-Chief will be one of entertainment, chaos and possibly a few lawsuits (but only the fun kind). Welcome to the new age. You're going to love it. Or at least you'll laugh about it while everything burns.

It is with great pleasure (for me) and mild concern (for everyone else) that I announce my ascension to the role of Editor-in-Chief.

After years of being confined to the dark, joke-filled corner of The Leader as the Scallion Editor — where my pleas for more space, funding and the right to publish a 12-page investigative piece on squirrels running an underground crime syndicate were ignored — I have finally seized control.

This is a new era. A glorious era. An era where every article will now contain a mandatory minimum of three punchlines and any attempt at serious journalism will be met with a strongly worded memo written entirely in Comic Sans.

Many have asked how I pulled off this coup — er, I mean, "completely normal and democratic leadership transition."

The answer is simple: I used the skills I honed as a satire writer. I convinced the previous Editor-in-Chief, Abbie Miller, that running a newspaper was so 2007 and that she'd have a much more fulfilling life growing organic kombucha in a remote forest. The other editor? Bribe'd with the irresistible promise of unlimited office snacks and the removal of all deadlines. Under my fearless and entirely unhinged leadership, you can expect some bold editorial changes:

1. **The Front Page Will Now Be a Single Giant Headline**

Just one dramatic, world-shattering headline per day. No article. No context. Just panic-inducing phrases like "IT'S HAPPENING!" or "SOMETHING BIG IS COMING." Clickbait? No. Art.

2. **Investigative Journalism Will Focus Solely on Conspiracy Theories I Find Funny**

Was the moon landing faked by an overzealous film student? Is the government secretly powered by a league of sentient goldfish? We will uncover the truth (or at least something entertaining).

3. **Serious News Must Now Contain at Least One Absurd Fact**

A hard-hitting expose on political corruption? Sure, but it must include at least one paragraph about how pigeons are suspiciously good at pretending they don't understand humans.

4. **Interviews Will Now Be Conducted Exclusively in the Form of Sarcastic Tweets**

Unfortunately, I think this is how you contact the government now anyway, so it's not like things are changing. If public figures can't handle answering our deeply cynical,



Megan Kidby, The Leader's new Editor-in-Chief.

Photo provided by Megan Kidby.

Police Noters

UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
SUNY Fredonia

The Police Noters, run and shared with The Leader by the University Police Department (UPD), aims to provide information to students, faculty and the community at and around SUNY Fredonia. All information provided is not true and is satire. The Police Noters will not continue every issue unless, of course, everyone loves it.

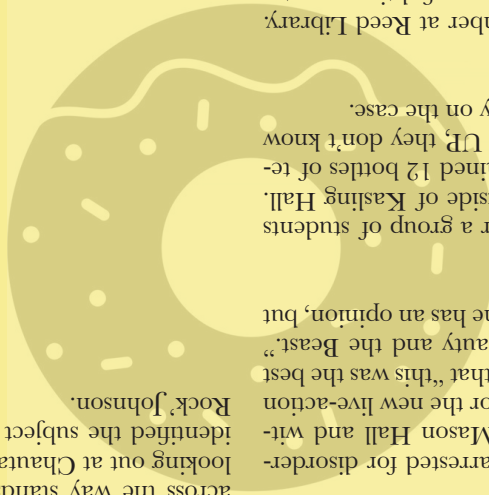
March 11: At 2:45 a.m., a visibly worried student called UPD due to concerns about a large group of students. Upon investigation, UPD discovered 15 freshmen gathered in a circle, swinging their lanyards with multiple different keychains on them. UPD arrested all of them for cult-like activity. Thank God.

March 17: A report was made after someone heard sobbing from a closet in the Williams Center. Upon arriving at said closet, UPD found Freddy the Blue Devil, sobbing his eyes out after losing the Mascot Madness Contest. Next to Freddy was a red dragon whose head was cut off with a sentence written on the floor reading, "Till Next Time Red Dragon."

March 18: Five theatre students were arrested for disorderly conduct. UPD arrived at the scene in Mason Hall and witnessed the students expressing their love for the new live-action Snow White movie. One student claimed that "this was the best live-action Disney movie, better than Beauty and the Beast."

According to several UP officers, "everyone has an opinion, but their opinion is just wrong."

March 21: A call was made to UP after a group of students came across a suspiciously heavy box outside of Kasling Hall. Upon further investigation, the box contained 12 bottles of tequila. According to a statement made by UP, they don't know who left the box but are working diligently on the case.



March 24: A call was made to UP by a staff member at Reed Library. According to the staff member, students were fighting over tables and chairs since all of them were taken. UPD further investigated, the cause of the fight was because "we have to lock in."

A caller outside of Gregory Hall reported that a belligerent squirrel was preventing him from unlocking his bike from the bike rack. The caller said he knew nothing about it, but he wanted officers to know "what kind of squirrels are running about campus."

UPD received a call from a student in Nixon Hall who stated that they smelled something funny in their dorm room last night and were concerned. When asked what the source of the smell might be, the student believed that it might be their roommate.

March 25: UPD received a report of squirrels wandering in a pack through Mason Hall. Officers responded, and several attempts were made to corral and capture the trespassing rodents, but they then disappeared into the vents, sporadically

Theater kids are taking over Fredonia

MIA CIECHALSKI
Life & Farts Editor

It's official: Theater kids are taking over SUNY Fredonia. There is no reason to panic, though, because I'm here to tell you what to be on the lookout for and how to avoid them. It's no secret that Fredonia is known for its performing arts programs, especially when it comes to the theater and dance departments. However, nowadays, there just seems to be more and more theater kids at every corner you turn. It's almost as if they're zombies taking over. But there's still a way that the theater kid apocalypse can be avoided by all of you non-theater lovers. Here's what you can do to make sure you're not next:

1. Try to avoid long conversations about any musical or play.

I'm not going to lie; sometimes learning new facts about something that you're not familiar with is pretty interesting. But don't go too far down the rabbit hole, or else you'll be talking about shows for who knows how long.

2. Don't play any showtunes around them.

Once they hear a popular soundtrack from a good musical, they will immediately break into song. You would seriously think they were a part of the song creation based on how well they know every part, all the lyrics and the dialogue. It's pretty impressive at first, but as they keep singing, it starts to look as if they're not human for being able to remember a whole two-and-a-half-hour musical. Mind you,

Campus bus leaves students traumatized

ALEX BUCKNAM
Professional Walker, Campus Bus Opposer

The Fredonia campus bus has officially left four students traumatized during their nightly travels. Since the creation of the Campus and Community Bus in

1973, there have always been stories of students being forgotten at places. But no stories could prepare four students for what happened to them on March 22. What was supposed to be a fun evening dinner for a group of friends turned into a night they will never forget.

- 3. Try to avoid the Rockefeller Arts Center (RAC). They know multiple, not just one. This building is their main habitat where they have classes, rehearsals, meetings, shows and even spend some of their downtime. If you decide to go there when you don't have to, you'll see the most insane behavior. You'll either witness intense, loud laughing or will randomly see them break out into a song and dance.
- 4. What to do if you see them break out into song or dance: Don't make any sudden movements, don't make eye contact and slowly back away.
- 5. Where to avoid them: As I already mentioned, they're main academic building is RAC, so most of the time, they'll be there. However, if you feel like you need a sanctuary without them, I would try the basement of the Science Center or Houghton. Not many classes are held there at the same time, so you should be safe. Just remember that they take classes that aren't just theater courses, so they can still be roaming around the campus.

Make sure to keep everything I told you in mind, and you should be good when it comes to walking out in the open. That's all the survival tactics I have for you, and I wish you the best of luck.

The night began like any other. "We were all chilling in the living room deciding what our Saturday night plans would be," stated one of the students.

It was around 7 p.m. when they officially decided what they were going to do. "We planned to go have an evening meal at Applebee's," stated one of the students. "The bus departed five minutes before we decided, so we had to wait until it's 7:50 p.m. round at Brigham Road."

Around 7:40 p.m., they walked down to Brigham Road to catch the bus, but the bus never came for the 7:50 p.m. route. Upset and feeling like dinner plans were ruined, they were going to turn back and head home and figure something else out. However, they all thought of the delicious meals they already planned on getting, so they waited for the bus's 8:45 p.m. round at the William Center.

Eventually, the bus showed up at its respective time, and they officially arrived at the T.J. Maxx plaza at 9:11 p.m. They reportedly told the driver that "we would be at the same spot at 10:30-ish, which is the bus's last stop, so we had enough time to be served and eat our food."

The dinner was going great and the food was delicious. It wasn't until 10:20 p.m., before they were about to leave, that everything went horribly wrong.

"Out of the corner of my eye, I saw the bus drive by 20 minutes early," stated one student. They all thought there had to have been some sort of explanation for this.

It wasn't until 10 minutes after the bus driver was supposed to be at the T.J. Maxx plaza that they all agreed he was not coming back.

"We were all confused and had no idea what to do. We decided to call friends to see if anyone could pick us up," everyone said.

Nobody could pick them up, and no Uber or Lyft accepted their request for a ride, so the group reached the conclusion that they would have to walk the two miles to campus in the pitch dark, at 11 p.m., in the freezing cold.

The walk started fine. "We tried to make light of the situation by bitching about the bus driver and swearing we were gonna report him the next morning," stated the group.

It wasn't until they got down the road that things got even worse. Sudden gusts of wind caused a box of food that one of the students was holding to fly into the face of another student.

Quickly stopping to apologize, the other two started laughing at the situation, which caused one to spill his drink all over himself.

"We both smelt like Applebee's, fried chicken and Mountain Dew," stated the student who spilled his drink.

They eventually continued their walk, making it to Dollar General, where they decided to pause for a quick second and take a small break.

The group were sitting on the outside of the Dollar General when a car sped through the empty parking lot, hitting a puddle and splashing all four students.

"We genuinely thought, 'Our night could not get any worse than this,'" they all said in agreement. "We decided to just get up and continue our walk — we were all thankfully close to our townhouse."

Upon approaching the townhouse, they quickly realized they all forgot their keys. And where did they leave them?

Applebee's. The place they had just traversed two miles, sinking of chicken and soft drinks, to escape.

Unfortunately, The Leader was unable to receive any additional information regarding the situation. Legend has it, the four-piece were never seen on campus again, so haunted by their experience with the campus bus that they saw no other choice but to drop out from SUNY Fredonia entirely.



Continued from previous page

The bus stop outside of the Williams Center. Photo by TIMOTHY BLAIR | Special to The Leader

Matt Volz, channeling Bob the Builder as he fixes the Buffalo Sabres.
Photo by **ABBIE MILLER** | Editor-in-Chief
Graphic via fandom.com.



Volz enlisted to help suffering Sabres



JOINTS



MATT VOLZ

Sports Editor, New Sabres General Manager/Owner

The Buffalo Sabres are going through it.

"They're about to miss the playoffs for the 14th season in a

row, extending their record-long drought.

"They've tried everything from different coaches to different general managers and players, but none of it has worked.

With very little hope remaining, the organization has decided to turn to the one person who can finally save them from

the doldrums.

It's me.

I'm the person.

Owner Terry Regula has handed me the keys to the organi-

zation, saying, "Here, you take it ... I've got a football stadium

to pay for."

With completely unchecked power, I am free to make any

changes to the team and organization as I see fit.

And, oh boy, there will be many.

Ruff has coached more games than anyone else in team

history.

"That's a nice way of saying 'he's put up with more crap

than anyone else.'"

As a lifelong fan, I would do anything for that man, so he

still has a job.

Next, we're going to be making some changes to the players

in the locker room.

At the end of this season, Toronto Maple Leafs star forward

build a champion.

It's also me.

I have now taken the places of both the owner and general manager, so the question must be asked: will I also be removing

Lindy Ruff as head coach and putting myself behind the

bench?

Not a chance.

Ruff has coached more games than anyone else in team

history.

"That's a nice way of saying 'he's put up with more crap

than anyone else.'"

As a lifelong fan, I would do anything for that man, so he

still has a job.

Next, we're going to be making some changes to the players

in the locker room.

At the end of this season, Toronto Maple Leafs star forward

The answer is simple: I will convince them with my boyish charm and endless supply of pizza bagels.

If they say no to that offer, they're insane.

Makar will play with Dahlin, creating what would be easily the best pairing in the league.

But what about Power?

Questions about his physicality have indicated that he should have a strong defensive partner to help him out.

I've got just the right person in mind.

Power's new defensive partner will be our fearless, tough, tenacious editor-in-chief, Abbie Miller.

Fans can expect Miller, whose teammates will affectionately refer to her as "Pookie," to shut down opposing scoring chances and stick up for the rest of the blue and gold.

It's groundbreaking to introduce the first female players to the NHL, and Miller won't be alone.

The team still needs to shore up goaltending, and who could serve that role better than someone who once dreamed of patrolling the crease for the Sabres?

Starting in goal, the Sabres will trot out our former editor-in-chief, Chloe Kowalyk.

Kowalyk said it was an early career aspiration to be the team's goalie, and she would frequently practice making saves in her living room as a child.

"If I played goalie, we would only need to score once because I wouldn't let anything in," she said, adding that she sees herself as a hybrid of former great goalies Dominik Hasek and her idol, Ryan Miller.

The rest of the team will consist of the top Sabres players, including Alex Tuch, J.J. Peterka and the newly acquired Josh Norris.

With these changes in place, the Sabres will be a lock to not only make the playoffs, but they will go on a legendary run to the Stanley Cup.

Fueled by offense from the Marner and Allen forward lines, as well as excellent defense from the Power-Miller duo and some timely Kowalyk saves, the Buffalo Sabres will be your 2026 Stanley Cup Champions.

The blue and gold will finally win the title that Buffalo so deeply deserves, and fans can live happily ever after.

Mitch Marner will be an unrestricted free agent and I will bring him to Buffalo.

It's a perfect fit, as Marner is a Bills fan and has been to some games before.

I will give him all the money he wants, enticing him to join the Sabres by giving him a blank check and saying, "Write whatever dollar amount you want. I don't care."

Now that we've got a star forward locked up, it's time to have some more fun.

How about recruiting some players from Marner's favorite football team, possibly even a Most Valuable Player?

That's right, Josh Allen will become the first player to ever play both football and hockey professionally.

How will he handle two overlapping seasons? Easy, he'll split himself in half and be in two places at once.

For those doubting me, I'd like to point out that the man turned the Buffalo Bills into a winner.

He is capable of literally anything.

While Allen will undoubtedly provide some star power, he's not the only Bill we'll be adding to the team.

In fact, he's not the only quarterback, either.

Backup quarterback Mitch Trubisky will also be strapping on the ice skates and playing for both the Bills and Sabres.

Trubisky and Marner will play together on the same line, and they'll be joined by assistant sports editor Mitch Horacy on a deadly forward trio I like to call "Three Crazy Mitches."

Allen, meanwhile, will play on a line with Tage Thompson and Jordan Greenway, and their line will be referred to as "Tall Dudes Who Can Do Stuff."

This offensive group has now gone from a below-average squad to the most lethal unit the league has ever seen.

But what about the defense?

The Sabres have the fortune of boasting two defensemen who were selected first overall in their respective drafts, Kas-mus Dahlin and Owen Power.

They've been good, but they need help.

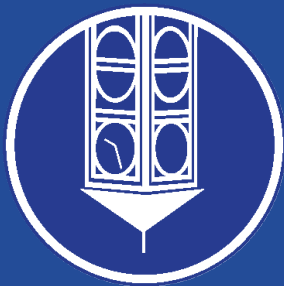
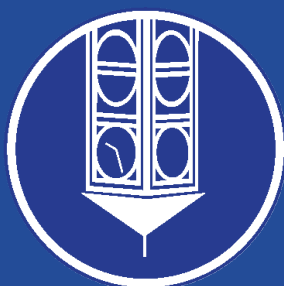
I believe we need another top-tier defenseman in Buffalo, so why not reach for the stars and add Colorado Avalanche defenseman Cale Makar?

Makar is arguably the best defenseman in the league, and Colorado is a contending team, so you might ask: why would they give him up?

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

Every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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

OPINION

Only stories clearly marked as Editorials reflect the opinion of The Leader's executive staff.

Fear and Loathing in Talladega: A Journey to Beer-Soaked Destruction

BROCK PAPER
A Changed Man

It started as these things often do, with a bad idea and a full

tank of gas.

A 3 a.m. phone call took place, with Matt Volz on the other end, rambling about Talladega, NASCAR and something

about needing to "test the limits of man and machine."

After two cups of black coffee from Starbucks and a Joey

"CoCo" Diaz motivational compilation video, I was ready:

Talladega was calling, that great, screaming monument

to American excess — a 2.66-mile cathedral of speed and

destruction where fortunes are won and lost in the blink of an

eye, where beer flows like the Mississippi and the unholy scent

of burning rubber clings to your soul.

I had to see it for myself. I had no choice in the matter:

Some pilgrimages are written in blood. This was Volz's

way of saying we needed to drive south immediately and

insert ourselves into the high-octane heart of America's most

unhinged racetrack.

So we loaded up the car — cooler full of beer, question-

able snacks and a ductful bag of regretful, last-minute clothing

choices — and pointed the headlights toward Alabama.

If we were going to do this, we were going to do it right.

We were going to throw ourselves into the chaos, the fumes

and the madness of 'Dega.

The drive down was a blur of truck stops, truck nuts and

truck-sized men in Dale Earnhardt shirts, gripping their steer-

ing wheels like they were still in the Winston Cup days.

Somewhere around Birmingham, I realized I hadn't slept

in 36 hours and was running on a volatile mix of black coffee,

gas station jerky and the kind of adrenaline that only comes

when you know you're willingly throwing yourself into the

lion's den.

The first sign that we had entered Talladega territory was

not the track itself, but the people. 'Dega people. You can spot

them from a mile away — shirts with slogans like "I'd Rather

Be at Talladega" or "This Ain't My First Rodeo" (spoiler alert:

it never is).

We stopped for gas just outside of town and immediately

found ourselves in line behind a man with a tattoo of Dale

Earnhardt's mustache on his forearm.

We had arrived.

By the time I hit the outskirts of Talladega, civilization had

already started to break down. The roads became clogged

with campers, the bars were packed with sunburned men

drinking breakfast beers and the Waffle House parking lot

looked like a post-apocalyptic biker rally.

This was the edge of the world.

And I had come to witness the carnage.

The Talladega infield is a lawless frontier, a great, sprawl-

ing beast of beer, smoke and bare-chested lunatics screaming

about restrictor plates.

RVs are stacked like mobile fortresses, flags waving in the

hot Southern air — American flags and Dale Earnhardt flags.

Men with beards as long as mine — beards that belong in his-

tory books — stomp around in jorts, shotgunning Budweisers

at a pace that should be medically impossible.

We rolled in past tents, RVs and beer pyramids taller than

any structure in town.

People grilled meat with no shirts on, tossed footballs with a

drink in each hand and cranked Lynyrd Skynyrd from speak-

ers that looked like they were stolen from a Metallica tour bus.

I swore I could hear 15 of them playing the same damn

"Free Bird" guitar solo at the same time.

Talladega is not for the weak. This racetrack doesn't host

racers.

It hosts wars.

The sound alone is enough to make you question your life

choices — a howling mechanical scream that shakes your

ribcage and scrambles your brain like a fried egg.

Talladega is America at its most distilled, its most unhinged,

its most beautiful.

There is no past, no future.

Only the present. Only the speed.

As the winner crosses the line and the fireworks light up the

sky, I find myself covered in beer and barbecue sauce, hoarse

from screaming, dizzy from the raw, unfiltered lunacy of it all.

I have been baptized in the fires of Talladega, and I am

reborn.

We were reborn in the wreckage, baptized in burnt rubber

and low-grade ethanol.

As we staggered toward the parking lot, still reeling from the

sensorial overload, Volz clapped a hand on my shoulder and

said, "We have to come back next year."

I exhaled, starting back at the track, now eerily silent after

hours of unhinged fury.

Volz and I leave going 90 miles per hour all the way back

to Fredonia, only stopping to refuel the car and our stomachs.

Somewhere on the track, the ghosts of Dale Earnhardt and

Davey Allison are still racing.

And somewhere deep in my soul, I know this won't be my

last trip to 'Dega.

No one leaves this place unchanged.

CORPSES



Libra

La Bella Cipolla
Cipollini!

AKA The Beautiful Cipollini Onion. These onions hail from Italy, and have been described as charming, just like Libras. It makes sense for Libras to be a foreign onion, because they're also described as being diplomatic. Additionally, these onions are sweet and can really bring together a dish, just like Libras can bring people together!



Capricorn

The Patient Walla
Walla Sweet Onion

Patience is a virtue, and while Capricorns can appreciate that, their patience is all set towards reaching their long-term goals. Walla walla sweets understand that mindset, because they put all their time and energy towards their long term goal, which is, you know, growing. These onions take 90 to 120 days to grow, which is wild.



Scorpio

The Petite Shallot

Despite their small size, shallots are potent, and can pack quite the punch. Scorpions provide the same kind of intensity in their own life, and take everything super seriously just like I think a shallot would if it were a person.



Aquarius

The Gorgeous Blush
Onion

Aquarians are focused on innovation, and moving life forward. Blush onions are much the same, because they're a hybrid! A cross between yellow and red onions, these pink beauties are just like Aquarians — innovative and sweet!



Pisces

The Sweet Candy
Onion

This one sounds weird, but hear me out. Candy onions are like Pisces, because they're sweet but resilient. Although they can thrive in many different environments, they're reliable no matter what, and provide the perfect balance of sharp and sweet. If you have a green thumb and like to cook, Pisces, give these onions a shot! Apparently they're pretty easy to grow!



Sagittarius

The Mysterious Allium
Rouyi!

As a sign that appreciates a good adventure, trying to find the allium rouyi would be a great challenge for any Sagittarius interested in it. There are less than 300 documented specimens of this Spanish plant, and much like Sags, the plant requires very specific circumstances to thrive.

HOROS

JACE JACOBS

Former Assistant Editor of The Scallion, Semi-Professional Onion Researcher

Good morrow, my dearest Fредonians!

In the wise words of the greatest poet of our generation, guess who's back, back, back, back again? (Spoiler alert: it's me) In honor of The Scallion takeover of The Leader (which I have been referring to as "Oops! All Scallion?"), I figured I should bring my A-game, with the sinkiest, smelliest, best-tasting horoscopes I could bring you. Thus, I present: What kind of onion is your sign? I hope you feel seen, heard and perhaps even inspired to cook!



Aries
The Humble White Onion

Much like the white onion, Aries are known to be both bold and versatile. You know the right time to stand out and make your mark, while knowing how to get along with others well. Although the white onion may seem common, you are anything but, Aries!



Taurus
The Impervious Scallion

I mean, duh. The current editor of The Scallion is a Taurus. I'm a Taurus. It was simply meant to be, there are no other reasons for this. (P.S. If you've never tried macaroni and cheese topped with bacon and chopped scallions ... highly recommend)



Gemini
The Transcendent Yellow Onion

Similarly to Aries and the white onion, Gemini and the yellow onion are known for their versatility. However, you both take a milder approach, and are more go-with-the-flow, taking on the flavor of the environment around you and adding just enough of your own flavor to bring everything around you together.



Cancer
The Demure Pearl Onion

Cancers are known for having a strong sense of family and home. Pearl onions forever remind me of home because they came in one of my mom's favorite pre-packaged meals from Wegmans, which ties together two of the things I love the most: my mom and Western NY. Congratulations, your sign is now associated with Wegmans forever!



Leo
The Charming Torpedo Onion

Leos are frequently described as being charming and charismatic, and the torpedo onion fits the same description. With its gorgeous purple color, it knows how to light up any room and any dish. I highly recommend looking up torpedo onions because they're genuinely really pretty (just like Leos) and apparently good grilled. Could be a new fun thing to try!



Virgo
The Beloved Red Onion

Red onions know what they're about — being sweet, and fitting themselves in as the finishing details of any dish. Virgos are much the same, knowing that kindness is one of their greatest strengths, and knowing that they can help in any area they apply themselves to. Virgos are the red onion on the chesecburger of life.

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fredonialeader.org

All hail the new era: The Scallion has taken over
National Guard seen drinking in Delta Chi's basement
Campus bus leaves students traumatized

April Fools' Special Issue

SCALLION TAKEOVER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

FREDONIA LEADER

THE



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