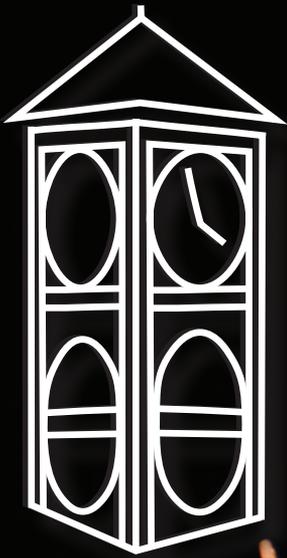


9.16.2025 — Issue 1 — Volume CXXX



# THE FREDONIA LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

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**[OPINION] A student's perspective on Microsoft**  
**[SATIRE] 'Fredonia Pisser' speaks out, explains motives**

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"Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier." - Mother Teresa

Proud member of The Associated Collegiate Press.

# Field of Memories reconciles grief and loss with hope and remembrance

**MATT VOLZ**  
Editor in Chief

*Warning: This article contains mentions of suicide.*

Outside LoGrasso Hall, students may notice a display of white flags with a sign that reads “Field of Memories.”

But even though the display is likely seen by many, the meaning behind it runs deeper than it might upon first glance.

Each September, Ivory Brooks, a mental health counselor at the Counseling Center, puts the Field of Memories together to commemorate National Suicide Prevention Month.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, 1,100 college students take their own lives each year.

The Field of Memories holds 1,100 flags – one for each student lost to suicide.

“That number catches me off guard every time,” Brooks said. “Every year, I check it and hope the number has gone down, but it usually stays about the same.”

Brooks began putting up the display in 2022, when the Counseling Center was briefly relocated to Igoe Hall because of renovations being done to LoGrasso Hall.

She said it typically goes up on Sept. 10 – which is World Suicide Prevention Day – and stays up for the entire month of September.

The display serves a double purpose for some, as many believe it also pays tribute to those who were killed in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Although the field’s primary purpose is a memorial to college students who have died of suicide, Brooks said everyone is free to interpret the message in any way they choose.



A banner in front of the Field of Memories.

**Photo by MATT VOLZ** | Editor in Chief

“It’s our field of memories, right? So, I don’t get to dictate what that memory is,” she said.

Brooks said she has a personal connection to the topic that makes the display even more important to her.

“You never know what somebody is struggling with,” she said. “But you’re here, there are resources and I want to know that you need help.”

On each flag, students are encouraged to write a message of remembrance or hope, the name of a loved one who has died or anything that can help them through feelings of grief.

“Giving students another way to express those feelings of grief that we know come in waves, that’s why I continue to do it,” she said. “We encourage students, if you want to sit on the lawn, please do. It’s not a ‘look, don’t touch,’ so interact with it.”

In the days leading up to World Suicide Prevention Day, the Counseling Center held a table in the Williams Center which allowed students the opportunity to write messages on the flags before they are put up.

Brooks said that if any students missed them at the table, they are still free to write a message on a flag if they choose.

She also said that she has offered students the opportunity to plant flags with her, even if they don’t have a message to go on one of them.

In years past, the Field of Memories could be seen on the grass outside the Williams Center, but it is now next to the Counseling Center at LoGrasso Hall.

“We know that this is a main entrance to the campus, and we want [the display] to be more visible,” Brooks said. “So, look for the flags if you need support.”

Brooks hopes that the flags will draw more attention to the



The Field of Memories with 1,100 flags – one for each college student annually lost to suicide.

**Photo by MATT VOLZ** | Editor in Chief

Continued onto next page

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services that the Counseling Center can provide, and that they will help students to feel more comfortable reaching out for support.

“We want you to come get that support,” she said. “And if I have to put on a display to get you to think about us, then I will do that.”

Students struggling with suicidal thoughts are urged to dial 988, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

“If you are in crisis or need support, 988 will direct you to the appropriate services,” Brooks said.

Chautauqua County also has its own 24/7 crisis hotline, which can be accessed by calling 1-800-724-0461.

On campus, the Counseling Center has counselors available every Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

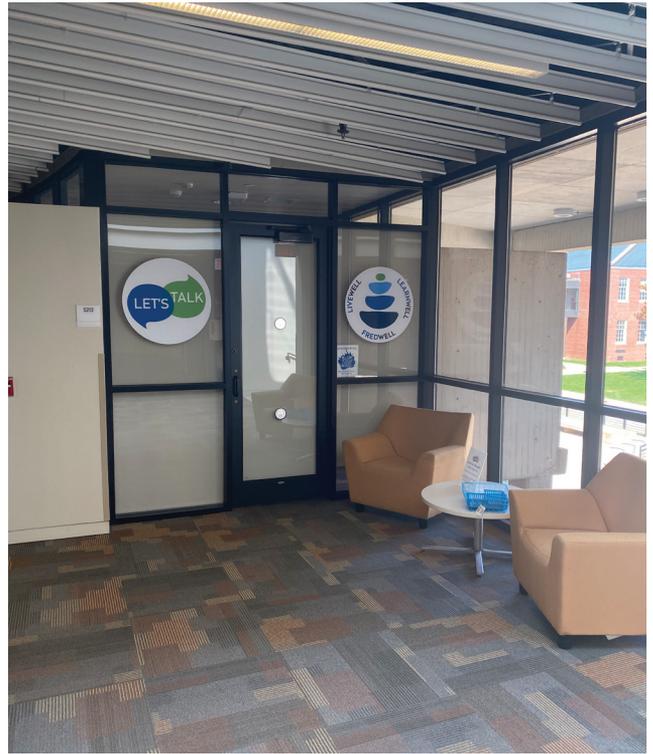
Appointments can either be made in person or by calling the Counseling Center at 716-673-3424.

Another option for students is “Let’s Talk,” an informal conversation students can have with a counselor during select hours. “Let’s Talk” takes place on the second floor of the Williams Center in room S212.

However, it is important to note that “Let’s Talk” should not be considered a substitute for a counseling session.

“I’m hoping that [the Field of Memories] reaches more of our people who may not want to come into our Counseling Center and starts to destigmatize or break barriers,” Brooks said.

For more information on the Counseling Center and the services it can provide, go to [www.fredonia.edu/student-life/counseling](http://www.fredonia.edu/student-life/counseling).



The 'Let's Talk' office, located in the Williams Center.  
Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

**24/7 Chautauqua County  
Crisis Hotline  
1-800-724-0461**



Chautauqua County  
Department of  
**Mental Hygiene**



call or text



Graphic courtesy of [chautauquacountyny.gov](http://chautauquacountyny.gov).

# Single-use plastics, including balloons, on the way out

**MATT VOLZ**  
Editor in Chief

While many Fredonia students were enjoying their summer vacations, changes in connection with SUNY's sustainability policy were announced, some of which may affect students.

On July 18, an email was sent to the campus community by Sarah Laurie, Fredonia's director of environmental health, safety and sustainability.

The message referenced SUNY Procedure 5200, officially titled "Elimination of Single Use Plastics and Preference for Durable and Reusable Alternatives."

This procedure, enacted by SUNY on March 5, 2024, outlines goals for eliminating single-use plastics.

Dr. Courtney Wigdahl-Perry, an associate professor of biology and aquatic ecology, said that single-use plastics come with several benefits, such as cost-effectiveness, a long lifespan, durability, versatility and others.

"The features that make them awesome are the same features that make them very problematic out in the environment," said Wigdahl. "Looking at what we do around plastic and how we can try to reduce the volume of it gets to be really, really important."

Balloons are one of the items on the chopping block, which may have surprised some students.

Although balloons are a symbol of celebration, their material can pose threats to the environment, according to the Environmental Nature Center (ENC).

An article published on the ENC's website states that balloons are primarily made of either latex or mylar.

Mylar is considered to be worse for the environment, but latex has some concerns as well.

"Although latex balloons are considered bio-degradable, this will take anywhere from 6 months to 4 years to decompose, and they can wreak a lot of havoc before they do," the article said.

Part of the issue with balloons is that when they come back



Sarah Laurie, Director of Environmental Health, Safety and Sustainability.  
Photo via [fredonia.edu](http://fredonia.edu).

down after being released, there's no control over where they'll land or what problems they might cause.

While some compostable balloon options do exist, Laurie said this doesn't solve the problem balloons pose.

"The issue isn't necessarily whether or not the item is compostable, but the way in which it's managed after it's used," she said. "Even though that balloon may eventually compost, it can pose a lot of issues along the way."

According to the policy, balloons used for celebration were to be reduced by 50% as of August 1, 2024, and they were to be eliminated altogether by August 1 of this year.

"We're just going to find a different way of celebrating or wayfinding," Laurie said.

Other plastic materials on the list include plastic bags, bottles, utensils, straws and wrappers.

Plastic trash bags are specifically mentioned in the policy, but there isn't a set date for their full replacement.

The goal was to reduce plastic trash bag usage by 50% by this past August, but rather than having a set deadline for full elimination, the policy states that these should be eliminated "when possible."

"[SUNY recognizes] we just may not, as a nation or a state, have a feasible alternative yet," Laurie said. "Hopefully in a few years we will, but they recognize that there are some areas where that's going to be a hardship or just completely impractical."

According to Laurie, the alternative to Fredonia's current usage of plastic trash bags may require an overhaul of how trash is handled.

"When we get to the point of fully eliminating those trash bags, now we're talking about either a total change in procedure or a total change in product," she said. "So, can we find a suitable substitute, or do we need to completely change how we deal with trash on campus? That's a question we haven't answered yet."



Dr. Courtney Wigdahl-Perry, Associate Professor of Biology.  
Photo via [fredonia.edu](http://fredonia.edu).

Continued onto next page

A possible solution Laurie mentioned would be fewer garbage cans around campus. For example, instead of having a trash can in each classroom, there may only be one main one out in the hallway.

This could present an accessibility challenge, especially for students with limited mobility. However, Laurie said it is being taken into consideration, and if students have any concerns, they are encouraged to reach out to her office.

Wigdahl said that another issue with plastic is that it isn't easily recyclable.

"Some materials like glass or aluminum can basically be recycled endlessly. Most plastics, if they can be recycled, can only be recycled once or twice and that's it," she said. "Because it's so cheap to make a new product, it's more expensive to try and recover and recycle. In some places, we think we're recycling something, but it just ends up getting thrown in a landfill or burned in a different country."

Like anything else, there are exceptions to some plastics being reduced. For example, most plastic used in a medical or scientific setting is exempt from the policy.

"[Healthcare] is a great place to go ahead and have single-use plastics because that has a clear need associated with it and there's clear benefit associated with it," Wigdahl said. "I think the thing where we really want to be intentional about it is, where don't we need it?"

She cited reusable shopping bags and her metal coffee cup as examples, as they can easily be used in place of plastic grocery bags or disposable coffee cups.

Wigdahl describes herself as a "practical environmentalist," and she said she understands that not everyone is able to com-

pletely cut plastic usage out of their lives.

She said that there are situations that call for plastic usage out of convenience, but it's good to look for opportunities where usage can be reduced or eliminated.

Students on campus may not have the ability to fully eliminate plastic use, especially those who live in residence halls and don't have their own kitchen.

"It's great to just identify any areas throughout their daily life where they're using a single-use plastic," Laurie said. "Just being aware of the fact that you're using it can really start to open your eyes to other ways of doing things."

Wigdahl said that her classes experiment with this through an activity where students track their trash output for a day.

While the task of eliminating harmful plastic waste may seem daunting, Wigdahl said that students can come together to cause positive change.

"It needs to be pervasive, from individuals to communities to industry," she said. "Even if you can't use your wallet, you can have good actions. You can talk about it and be aware of it and ask for change."

Laurie added that in order for Fredonia to successfully execute the elimination of single-use plastics, it's going to take full cooperation from everyone on campus.

"We are really going to need people to be willing to change their behavior to some degree," she said. "Students can already be starting to think about that and looking for ways to modify their behavior."

With these changes, Fredonia hopes to assist SUNY in becoming more conscious of environmental health and sustainability.

# Police Blotter

## UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

SUNY Fredonia

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

### On-campus

Aug. 26: A bike was stolen from the townhouses. As of Sept. 12, the investigation is still ongoing.

Aug. 29: University Police received a report of items stolen from the Williams Center. The investigation is still ongoing.

Aug. 31: University Police received a report of money being stolen from a locker in University Commons. The report status is "prosecution declined."

Sept. 4: A vehicle was struck on campus by another car that left the scene. The report of the status is "prosecution declined."

Sept. 5: A bike was stolen from the townhouses. The investigation is still ongoing as of Sept. 12.

Sept. 7: A bike stolen from the Chautauqua Hall bike rack. The investigation is still ongoing as of Sept. 12.

Sept. 8: A bike was stolen from the townhouses. The investigation is still ongoing as of Sept. 12.

***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.***

# Freddy's Locker food pantry reopens

**ANNA McCARTHY**  
Special to The Leader

Freddy's Locker, the on-campus food pantry, has recently been moved to a renovated room in the Williams Center.

The food pantry started in 2016 as a small grab-and-go station in LoGrasso Hall.

Freddy's Locker was only open for the final two weeks of each semester in anticipation of students running out of meals and points.

At the time, the pantry was only supported by generous faculty and staff.

Recently, the locker has evolved into a full-scale Campus Food Pantry and Basic Needs Center.

The food pantry is no longer funded solely by staff, but by grants and donations that go into an account established through the SUNY Fredonia Foundation, which is used towards purchasing supplies for the pantry.

Still a grab-and-go center, the pantry provides snacks and hygiene essentials for students.

These resources have been made available at the locker in the Williams Center and in other convenient places such as dorm halls and Reed Library.

To receive a larger range of groceries and other essentials, students are able to place an order through the pantry's web-

site, [fredonia.edu/student-life/health-center/food-pantry](http://fredonia.edu/student-life/health-center/food-pantry).

This site can also be accessed by scanning the QR codes hung up around campus or a quick Google search.

Students are then able to pick up what they need at a time that works with their schedule.

Along with easier, year-round access, the window has provided students with on-campus job opportunities.

These jobs are supported by grants from SUNY and Empire State Service Corps.

Fully student-operated, the locker also offers volunteer and internship opportunities.

Finally, for students requiring additional aid, each student working in the locker is trained with information regarding the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).

The locker also works closely with a local representative from FeedMore of Western New York, who visits campus monthly.

Students can receive help with applications required for the assistance they need.

Freddy's Locker has come a long way, becoming a vital campus resource and providing the necessary support students need on their path to a degree.

Special thanks to Deborah Dibble, the MS, FNP-BC director, for providing all of the information recorded in the article.



The receptionist desk at Freddy's Locker. Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

# FREDprint: Fredonia's new printing process

**MATT VOLZ**  
Editor in Chief

In addition to other technology updates like the Microsoft migration, the printing process has also undergone a change.

Starting this semester, students will no longer use PaperCut to print on campus.

Instead, FREDprint will now be used.

According to Fredonia's online answers database, the quest to change the printing process began in 2019, as SUNY examined the printing habits of each university.

The assessment found that SUNY schools were collectively printing more than 50 million pages each month.

It also found that SUNY was spending roughly \$50 million each year on printing, with color printing accounting for more than half of that figure.

As a result, SUNY rolled out its "System-wide Print Resource Use Policy," officially identified as Policy 6902.

To summarize, the policy looks to reduce the amount of printing done on SUNY campuses as well as centralize printing by developing uniform printing practices and standards.

"The goals are to reduce costs, increase operational efficiencies and implement secure and sustainable printing practices," according to the answers database.

Students may notice some differences with how FREDprint operates in comparison to PaperCut.

For starters, instead of going to [print.fredonia.edu](http://print.fredonia.edu) to print, students will now go to [fredprint.fredonia.edu](http://fredprint.fredonia.edu).

Upon login, users will be given the option to upload materials for print.

But instead of selecting which printer to use, students can now find any FREDprint-associated printer on campus to use.

Like before, students will be able to find a printer and tap their FREDCard, and the screen will prompt them to release printing jobs.

The difference is that students don't have to use any specific printer anymore.

Printing jobs will be sent to a central server, with connection to many printers around campus.

In addition, each student has their own unique printing passcode, generated on the FREDprint website.

If a student doesn't have their FREDCard on them, they can enter this passcode into any FREDprint printer around campus instead.

If students forget their passcode, a new one can be generated on the FREDprint website by clicking in the upper right corner and selecting the "passcode" option.

From there, the site gives students the option to generate a new, unique passcode, which they can then use at printers around campus.

The overall goal of the new plan is to have fewer printers on campus but a larger number of easily accessible printers, according to the answers database.

With PaperCut, students could print up to \$20 worth of material throughout the year. As faculty and staff may have had more of a need to print in bulk, their quota was \$75.

This figure is expected to stay the same or be similar, but according to Information Technology Services (ITS), the exact details have not yet been finalized.

As the new academic year begins, Fredonia is working closely with SUNY to make the campus more conscious of environmental needs across the board.



The printers in Reed Library. **Photo by MATT VOLZ** | Editor in Chief

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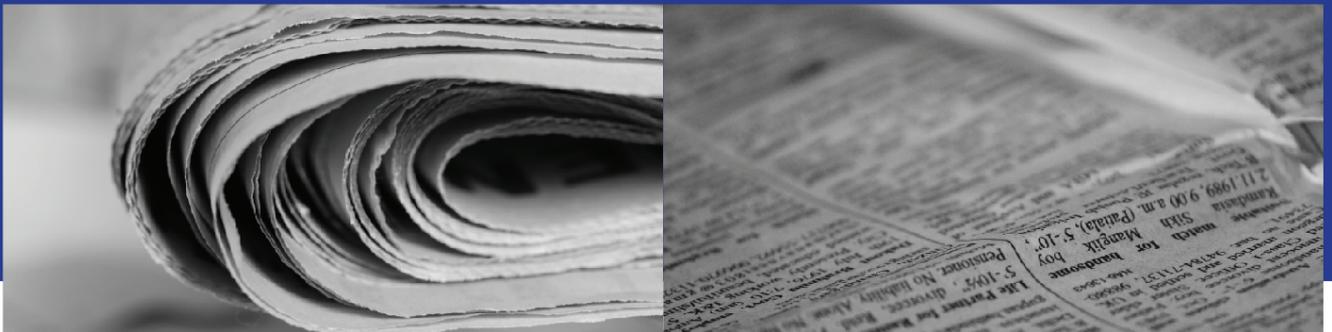
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# Life & Arts

## New year, new Mainstage Series

**MIA CIECHALSKI**  
Life & Arts Editor

When a new school year begins, it means another Walter Gloor Mainstage Series is about to start with a variety of shows.

This year, the Walter Gloor Mainstage Series consists of: “The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical,” “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged),” “Ruthless! The Musical,” “Fredonia Dance Ensemble” and “Blithe Spirit.”

Dr. Jessica Hillman-McCord said, “There’s a lot of entertainment and fun and also a lot of variation that gives good opportunities to students, and audiences to see the full range of theater.”

Hillman will be directing “The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical,” which is also the first show to perform this season during the last weekend of October and the first weekend of November.

“Ruthless! The Musical” will be directed by Assistant Professor Daniel Lenzian and will be performed during the end of February through the beginning of March.

“The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)” and “Blithe Spirit” will both be directed by Professor Paul Mockovak.

“The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)” will be performed at the beginning of December. “Blithe Spirit” will be performed during the last weekend of April and during the first weekend of May.

Each show in this year’s series is very different from the other, and the department of Theatre and Dance decided on this year’s production in collaboration with the student body.

The department has a Season Selection Committee, which

“There’s a lot of entertainment and fun and also a lot of variation that gives good opportunities to students, and audiences to see the full range of theater.”

— **Dr. Jessica Hillman-McCord**

Professor,  
Department of Theatre and Dance

brings students and faculty together to choose shows for the season.

“We focus on finding a balance that serves our education goals, supports academic growth and engages audiences in meaningful ways. It’s a thoughtful process that ensures each production has both artistic integrity and opportunities for students to learn, grow and shine,” said Lenzian.

Since each show is very different from the others, that also means each show has its own challenges when it comes to directing them.

For example, Mockovak said the hardest part for him to put together a show is figuring out the final casting.

“We have so many talented students. I could have cast ‘The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)’ five times over and been happy with the results.”

While each show can have some challenges for each director, there are also so many things to be done for each show that it makes you wonder where they start first.



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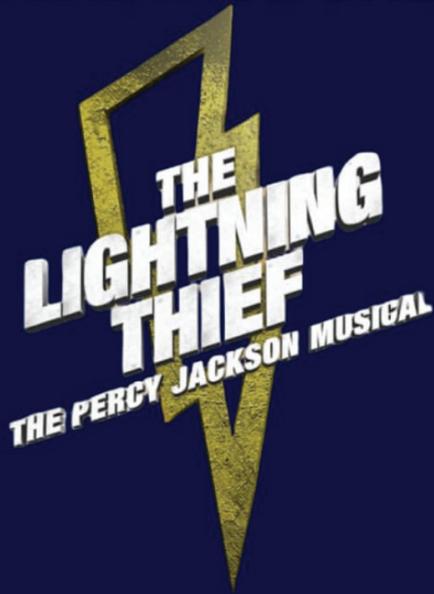
**Every Tuesday at 7 p.m.**

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



Continued onto next page

# MAINSTAGE ONE:



**THE LIGHTNING THIEF:  
THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL**  
OCT 24, 25, 26, NOV 1 & 2

Graphic via @fredoniamusicaltheatreacting on Instagram.

For Hillman, the first thing she focuses on is making sure she has the right team to make it happen.

“You can’t do any of this alone. So, if I feel like I have the right design team, the right production staff and the right cast, then I know we can all do it together,” said Hillman.

Since these productions are also classes for everyone who is involved, that means the audience gets to see the students all their class techniques up on stage.

For Lenzian, he tries to incorporate all of the skills and techniques he teaches in his classes, so there’s a direct connection between what students learn in the classroom and what they explore on stage.

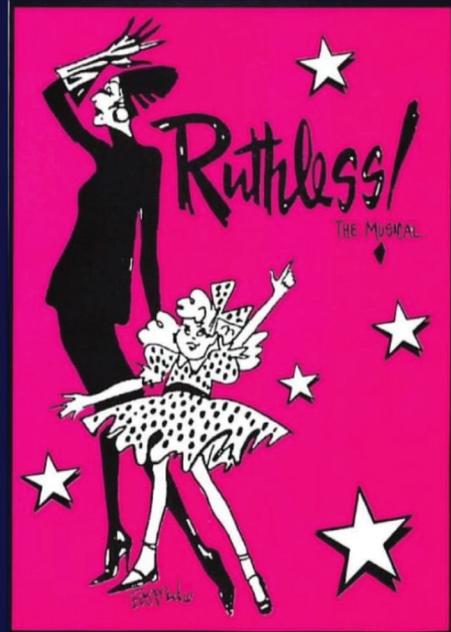
“It’s rewarding to see actors discover new ways of connecting with their characters, expanding their physical and emotional range and finding fresh, creative choices that make the story come alive,” said Lenzian.

While there are so many things going on at once when putting together a show, there are also many things to enjoy while it is coming together before your eyes.

For Mockovak, his favorite part with directing is getting to work with all of the actors.

“Watching them bring characters to life, assisting when necessary but allowing them to work deeply from within to bring the story from the two-dimensional world of the page to the

# MAINSTAGE THREE:



**RUTHLESS!**  
FEB 27, 28, MAR 1, 6, 7 & 8

Graphic via @fredoniamusicaltheatreacting on Instagram.

three-dimensional world of theatre,” said Mockovak.

“I love the interplay between the design process and the rehearsal process. Our design faculty is phenomenal and collaborating with them and the production and design students to build a world for the show is truly inspiring,” said Lenzian.

“Trying to tell the story with all these people, it’s so collaborative. They’re trying to bring this huge group of people together to tell one,” said Hillman.

For more information, visit: <https://events.fredonia.edu/arts>.

“It’s rewarding to see actors discover new ways of connecting with their characters, expanding their physical and emotional range and finding fresh, creative choices that make the story come alive.”

— **Daniel Lenzian**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of Theatre and Dance

# Media Music Collective: A difference in a community

**MAISIE STRADER**  
Special to The Leader

Last year, many student clubs struggled with dwindling attendance and fading interest. The Fredonia Media Music Collective was no exception.

However, with the arrival of the new freshman class, Pops! Orchestra is getting a new start.

Behind every performance lies not just the music, but the labor and creativity of the e-board, staff and students who transform King Concert Hall into a ride through your favorite songs.

At the center of it all is the Media Music Collective (MMC), the student-run organization that oversees both the Pops! Orchestra and Video Game Orchestra (VGO).

Last semester, VGO had little attendance in rehearsals and had to cancel the show.

“In the world of performing arts, a cancelled show is a heavy blow. It’s a moment of disappointment for everyone involved, from the musicians to the audience. Yet, in the wake of our Spring 2025 performance cancellation, our organization has proven that the music never truly stops,” said Aiden Carney, the Music and Arts Director of Pops! Orchestra.

This fall, however, marked a turning point for the club.

“Instead of letting the disappointment linger, they channeled their energy into the future, and the result was truly inspiring,” said Carney, “For our first Pops! Orchestra rehearsal this semes-

“When the ensemble makes a mistake, you move on. Music is one of the few activities where dwelling on a mistake is not an option.”

— **Brody Brown**  
Choir Director,  
Fredonia Pops! Orchestra

ter, more than 70 musicians — a number that speaks volumes — gathered not just to play, but to connect.”

Many things occur in the background to put on a show with the MMC, such as the art of conducting.

Carney’s technique, he said, is communication.

He said, “Each and every one of us has music living within us and all we need is someone who believes in us enough to let that music live freely; that is what I hope to communicate to the musicians.”

However, even with all the preparation that goes into these amazing performances, they’re still live — and that means mistakes happen.

“When I make a mistake (which I so often do), I try to take it as a learning experience. As cliché as that sounds, I do it with all of my performances,” Choir Director Brody Brown said.



VGO rehearses for an upcoming concert. Photo via @fredonia.vgo on Instagram.



Graphic via @fredonia.pops on Instagram.

He added, “When the ensemble makes a mistake, you move on. Music is one of the few activities where dwelling on a mistake is not an option.”

Each semester, the artistic team, consisting of Music and Arts Director Aiden Carney, Assistant Conductor Daniel Raczka and Choir Director Brody Brown, meet and review new or suggested content.

Brown said, “All of our tasks from conducting to planning operations to managing social media are done with a simple love for the arts.”

The team takes into account what will excite both the musicians and audiences, but also what will be playable for musicians with varying skill levels.

This is their way of developing a program in which every member can contribute meaningfully while the audience sits and enjoys.

Pops! Orchestra has the ability to capture the audience’s attention.

It’s not just about playing music — it’s about creating an experience.

Club president Alexandria Schuck said, “We’re not just performing, we’re also educating, entertaining and creating a bridge between traditional and modern music experiences.”

For the audience and online listeners, Pops! Orchestra concerts tend to leave audience members and online listeners proud and joyful, while the musicians leave the concert hall with the pride of knowing they’ve just created something meaningful.

Schuck said, “For the performers, it’s still a rigorous and rewarding challenge, as movie scores often require the same level of skill and attention as classical repertoire, but the vibe is definitely more casual and community-focused.”

Before stepping into her role as president, Schuck was first drawn to the sense of community that VGO brought to Fredonia.

What first started off as a passion for the music being played has grown over the last two years into a commitment to see the MMC club thrive.



Graphic via fredvgo on Facebook.

“The interest and turnout we’ve seen this semester is amazing and I think that shows there’s a real desire for this kind of ensemble,” said Schuck.

After last year’s creative programming, this fall semester’s theme is “A Night at the Movies!”, following last year’s “Let Music Ring!”, which was the Pops! Christmas concert.

The Fredonia Pops! Orchestra concert will be on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at 8 p.m. in King Concert Hall.

“The fact that a student-run club is dedicating a full concert to cinematic music is something really special and unique on campus,” said Schuck.

The Orchestra will be playing many recognizable pieces like “Star Wars,” “How to Train Your Dragon,” “The Barbie Movie” and “Disney’s Coco.”

The concert will also feature two of SUNY Fredonia’s well-known a cappella groups, Some Like it Hot and Much More Chill.

Brown said, “With this program being especially popular music, I wouldn’t be surprised if people sang along.”

The Fredonia Pops! Orchestra concert will be a night filled with performances, nostalgic hits and a celebration of our community here on campus.

“We’re not just performing, we’re also educating, entertaining and creating a bridge between traditional and modern music experiences.”

— **Alexandria Schuck**  
President,  
Fredonia Pops! Orchestra

# Unearthing ATLAS: A conversation with Alberto Rey

**LONDON LYONS**

Special to The Leader

On Sept. 5, “ATLAS: Historical Work & Recent Journeys of Alberto Rey” opened at the Marion Art Gallery at SUNY Fredonia.

Alberto Rey, professor emeritus of Drawing & Painting, draws from thoughts, feelings, memories and experiences of his surroundings and the natural world.

“ATLAS” features mainly works created on a six-month trip around the world. Paintings are grouped by location, marked on didactics with a bright red pin.

Often, subjects are relevant to each location – for example, illustrative “Godzilla” portraits can be found beneath realistic paintings of the Japanese Iwana char and Yamame trout.

Each grouping of paintings has its own consideration for subject matter, scale and harmony that flows through the gallery.

The abstract works of “ATLAS” explore the less tangible aspects of travel – thoughts, emotions, colors and action.

They are not merely supplementary to the subject matter of the portraits and landscapes; they guide the emotional experience of the show.

There are other types of objects on the gallery floor that reflect the artist’s multi-faceted interests: sketchbooks, palettes, maps and ceramics.

Matchbooks, designed by Visual Arts and New Media (VANM) professor Dr. Margaret Urban, draw a visual comparison between Rey’s “Extinct Birds Project” and an extinguished match. (If you like mementos, they’re free to take.)

Like the artist’s journey around the world, the viewer’s experience around the gallery space is marked by elements of the unexpected that amplify the feelings of curiosity and joy sparked by travel.

At the same time, there is an undercurrent of an artistic tradition that is local and specific to Fredonia. With “ATLAS” comes a rare and unique ability to see something unfamiliar through the lens of someone who lives near you.

“ATLAS” is a show for would-be travelers, documentarians and art enthusiasts of all kinds.

Having a show of this caliber at SUNY Fredonia reflects a special artistic connection between rural Western New York and the rest of the world.

It is on view until Nov. 21, giving ample time to those who missed the gallery opening.



Attendees view Alberto Rey's 'ATLAS' exhibit at the Marion Art Gallery. **Photo by LONDON LYONS** | Special to The Leader

FREDONIA RADIO SYSTEMS PRESENTS.....

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# SPORTS

## Setting outsides, outside: Outdoor volleyball makes history in Hamburg

**MITCH HORUCY**  
Sports Editor

It was August 2023 when Nebraska women's volleyball shattered records with 92,000 people in attendance for an outdoor game.

This game blew minds, including Frontier varsity men's volleyball coach, Nick Penberthy.

"I think the Nebraska game really showed what the sport of volleyball can do," said Penberthy.

He didn't get the idea to host an outdoor game for his own team until he saw a high school in Ohio do so, which then gave him the urge to do it.

He reached out and got some information, talked to the board of directors and officially booked the event in February.

Fast forward to Sept. 6, it all came together.

Frontier High School hosted the first sanctioned outdoor boys' volleyball match in the United States and the largest outdoor women's volleyball event in New York State.

The final attendance was 2,012 people total, a huge success according to Penberthy.

Heading into the day of the game, just under 1,000 presale tickets were sold, meaning roughly 1,100 showed up and bought a ticket at the gate.

When asked why he thinks it was such a success, he alluded to the community involvement of the event.

It's important to mention who Frontier played in this game, Hamburg High School.

For those not from the area, they're each other's biggest rivals' year in and year out.

Within the Town of Hamburg, the two high schools sit just three miles apart.

Having two different schools in the same community was a big reason Frontier chose the "Claw vs. Paw" matchup for this event.

Penberthy was able to secure a healthy number of sponsors for this event, some of which may surprise some.

The game was being played for the "Chick-Fil-A Cup," and had sponsors from Dick's, Under Armour, Mike Barney Nissan and many more.

The school also set up a kids zone with numerous bounce houses and various games.



A Hamburg player serves the ball, Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025. Photo via NICK PENBERTHY | Special to The Leader



Two Frontier players celebrate after a point, Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025. **Photo via NICK PENBERTHY** | Special to The Leader

“Everything was branded very purposefully and very intentionally,” said Penberthy. “That way, once when people walked on to the campus and saw the football field, they’re like, ‘Whoa this is a big deal.’”

The school and Penberthy already have plans to make this an annual event but want to keep evolving it.

They want to get more schools involved, get even more community involvement in the future and are even going to see what else they could use the court for.

Penberthy, who took over the Frontier program in 2018, has led the varsity boys’ team to three sectional finals in seven seasons.

Aside from success, he’s seen the program grow in a magnitude of ways.

This isn’t just a theme at Frontier, but a phenomenon that’s been seen across the country.

Girls’ volleyball has been a popular sport for some time, even being the second-most played high school sport, sitting only behind track and field.

On the other hand, boys’ volleyball is only sanctioned in 36 states.

According to the NFHS (National Federation of High School Coaches), there were roughly 96,000 boys’ volleyball players in the country during the 2024-2025 season.

That was a 12.57% increase compared to the year prior, continuing a 13-year streak of growth.

It’s also the highest growing sport in terms of participation percentage in the past six years according to the AVCA (American Volleyball Coaches Association).

Its growth percentage in the past six years is 51%, 30% more than the second highest growing sport, wrestling at 21%.

Why is volleyball growing? “It’s exciting, [and] there’s a lot of action,” said Penberthy.

He also had a different perspective about how and when boys start playing volleyball.

“A lot of boys don’t start playing till seventh or eighth grade,” said Penberthy. “We’ll be your third sport to start, but by your senior year we’ll be your favorite.”

The competitive nature and physicality were something he pointed to as well when talking about the growing popularity.

“I can go hit this ball off this dude’s head. That’s pretty cool,” said Penberthy. “Or I could just stuff block a kid and knock it down to their side, and you just get that feeling, and you’re like, ‘ooh, that’s nice.’”

He hopes that this event can continue to grow the sport in the community, and he even said he’d love to help other schools host their own version of the event.



A Frontier player goes up for a serve, Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025. **Photo via NICK PENBERTHY** | Special to The Leader

# A look at Fredonia fall sports

**RILEY OLSON**  
Special to The Leader

**TRAVIS BERNHARD**  
Special to The Leader



The men's soccer team. Photo by RILEY OLSON | Special to The Leader



Freshman Amelia Stathatos.  
Photo by RILEY OLSON | Special to The Leader



Sophomore Harrison McAneny (#24).  
Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Special to The Leader



Junior Gabby Irwin (#13), freshman Anna Ratchuk (#7), senior Brooke Grazen (#4), junior Jinan Clark (#8).  
Photo by RILEY OLSON | Special to The Leader



Junior Bria Hunter (#2) and freshman Donnilynn Sheldon (#12).  
**Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD** | Special to The Leader



Freshman Emily Frank.  
**Photo by RILEY OLSON** | Special to The Leader



Freshman Jackson Kuby (#20).  
**Photo by RILEY OLSON** | Special to The Leader



Sophomore Allison Bartoszek (left) and junior Lucy Prevet (right). **Photo by RILEY OLSON** | Special to The Leader

# Blue Devils begin fall sports season

**JACK HOADLEY**  
Special to The Leader

## MEN'S SOCCER

As students return to Fredonia for the fall semester, so have sports as many seasons have gotten underway.

Starting off strong with the men's soccer team which has rolled to 3-1-1, while also winning three straight games.

Most recently, they swept two teams at the Blue Devil Classic where they beat Alfred 3-1 and Bryant and Stratton 3-0.

Led by six seniors this year, the team hopes to benefit from the experience they have.

Senior midfielder Kye Castelluccio says that a goal for the team this year is to make sure everyone, from freshman to his fellow seniors, is ready to play.

Castelluccio says that one of the best parts of the team, and coach P.J. Gondek, is how he is "rewarding hard work...making everyone compete more."

This puts the team in a spot where everyone is ready to go and complete season and long-term goals.

Castelluccio spoke about "crucial games" for the team later in the year, where they match up against four of the top teams in the SUNY Athletic Conference (SUNYAC).

The team has their sights set high as Castelluccio described a common goal for the team.

He said that hosting a home playoff game in Fredonia is "definitely attainable," and a goal they are all working toward.

The young season looks promising for men's soccer, as a strong start can fuel them to hosting another team later in the year for a playoff game.



Sophomore Ryan Ameis (#27) battles for the ball.  
Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Special to The Leader



Junior Gabby Irwin (#13) calls out to her teammates.  
Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Special to The Leader

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

During this young season, the women's soccer team has started 0-2-2 with a lot of season left for a turnaround.

Fresh off tournaments in California and at Fredonia's Blue Devil Classic, the true stretch of the season begins.

They are a balanced team with stellar upperclassmen talent intertwined with statement young players.

Headlining the group are 14 upperclassmen with three seniors and 11 juniors.

The seniors leading the team are defender Brooke Grazen, midfielder Kerrigan Driskell and forward Grace Mackey.

Leading the team in goals so far is standout freshman forward Anna Ratchuk and junior forward Bronwyn Madden, each with two so far in the young season.

Goalkeepers Casey Fetzner and Abby Szymkowiak will shore up the back end of the team as they push towards SUNYAC play.

This mix of youth and experience leaves the women's soccer team with a lot of hope for an excellent year after a strong 2024 saw them finish 12-8.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Flying through our preview are the men's and women's cross country teams, who in their last meet both had some quality finishes from underclassmen.

Youth is a major theme for both teams, as the men's team has just two upperclassmen runners in junior Aiden VanAmburg and senior Colin Cassidy.

A strong group of sophomores puts this team in a place where they can succeed this season.

Continued onto next page



The volleyball team celebrates after a point.  
Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Special to The Leader

Steven Hallberg leads the way for that group after an electric freshman campaign last year across cross country, indoor and outdoor track.

Alongside him are fellow sophomores Edward Jourdan, Kevin Moser and Lucas Peterson-Volz, all of them made up the last meet's top four for the Blue Devils.

The story for the women's team is largely the same, as they feature just one upperclassman runner in junior Juliana Rodriguez.

Youth also shines for them, however, as they have three freshmen who placed in the top five for them at their first meet.

Their first-place finisher, Amilcar Centeno, is just a sophomore for Fredonia.

They are currently missing a huge part of their team in sophomore runner Calie Hudson as she rehabs a foot injury.

When asking Head Coach Tom Wilson about both teams this year, he said that both teams are young, but right now the women's team needs to "get healthy."

He says that injuries make it hard to find your team's identity through a long season.

When asked about key moments for the year, there was no doubt in his response.

"Our home meet this year, which falls on October 4."

At the meet, places can be counted, and you can become regionally ranked.

There is a lot of promise and hope for both teams this year as they look toward a long season ahead.

### WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The story for the women's volleyball team is the value of experience, as a 2-3 start to the season is promising as they go

into an important stretch.

The experience of the team is through their 11 upperclassmen which includes two seniors and nine juniors.

Leading the group are senior outside hitter Emma Foley and senior libero Kailea Sullivan.

Foley has 26 kills so far, while Sullivan has played a crucial role in setting up her teammates for success.

Sullivan believes the team's strong start is due to how their coach wants to see them play as a team.

"He wants us to mesh and work well as a team, and then as we work well, we use all our strengths together to pull out a win," she said.

Sullivan understands just how important their team chemistry is, especially with how long they have been together as teammates.

As they look over their schedule this year, Sullivan points out the importance of a challenging schedule.

"It pushes us to want to do our best," Sullivan added when talking about how tougher tournament play prepares this team for a difficult conference like the SUNYAC.

The women's volleyball team looks to challenge for a playoff spot and beyond this year.

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

Fredonia women's tennis has a team consisting of just three upperclassmen and five underclassmen, making them a young team with a lot to build on.

The team will try to look past a 0-3 start to the season as they try to shine in SUNYAC play and turn their season around.

Junior Lucy Prevet has won sets in two out of three matches for the Blue Devils and will be crucial to them turning this season around.

Take advantage of the nice weather and support our fall sports teams this season as they all push for success.

Check out the Fredonia Athletics website at [fredoniabluedevils.com](http://fredoniabluedevils.com) to find event times and locations.



Freshman Amelia Stathatos returns a hit.  
Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Special to The Leader

# 5th Quarter Column: Bills start season with wild comeback win

**MITCH HORUCY**  
Sports Editor

The sun is setting earlier and leaves are starting to fall, which can only mean it's time for my fantasy team to let me down again.

At the time of reading, Week 2 will be wrapped up, but Week 1 of the NFL gave fans a ton to talk about.

Starting with a game 45 minutes up the I-90, Bills Mafia was in for a treat to start Sunday Night Football.

The Buffalo Bills stole a win from the Baltimore Ravens with a final score of 41-40.

There are tons of different stats to bring up to show how crazy this game was, but there are two that stick out to me.

Firstly, teams that rushed for 235 yards or more and scored 40 or more were 277-0 before Sunday; they're now 277-1.

Secondly, with 4:48 left in the fourth quarter, the Bills had a 0.9% chance to win the game.

For reference, the odds of flipping a coin seven times and getting heads all seven times are about 0.8%.

It truly was one of the craziest games I have ever watched, not only as a Bills fan, but as a fan of football.

Quarterback Josh Allen started his 2025 campaign right where he left off after his 2024 MVP season.

He finished with 424 total yards to go along with four total touchdowns: two rushing, two passing.

His 251 passing yards in the fourth quarter are the fourth-highest ever in the final frame of a game.

While this performance was incredible, it's nothing new for Allen.

Someone who had a great performance that caught some people off guard is wide receiver Keon Coleman.

Finishing with eight receptions, a career best, and 112 yards, the second-highest mark in his career, Coleman introduced himself on a national level.

What I find most telling about his performance is the way he got to those numbers.

Heading into the fourth quarter, Coleman had just one catch for 17 yards.

This means when the game was on the line and the Bills had to have it, Allen looked at Coleman.

I had big hopes for this duo entering the year, and I hope this game was a preview of what the rest of the year could look like.

Another Bill that made a name for himself is defensive tackle Ed Oliver.

Oliver, who's had an up-and-down career thus far, had a huge game against the Ravens, including possibly the biggest play of the game.

Down eight points with under four minutes to go, he broke through the line and forced a fumble, giving the ball back to the Bills.



Bills quarterback Josh Allen embraces kicker Matt Prater after his game-winning field goal, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025.  
**Image property of the Buffalo Bills.**

He finished the game with six total tackles, including three TFLs (tackles for loss) and a sack.

Last season, he only had five TFLs in 14 games.

If the former ninth overall pick can finally play at his ceiling, he can help a struggling Bills defense.

Looking at the rest of the league, there were a lot of interesting finishes, including another blown lead in Chicago.

Outside of the opening drive, second-year quarterback Caleb Williams looked bad under new head coach Ben Johnson.

His "on-target" passing percentage in week one was 62.9%, the worst out of all starting quarterbacks.

While I do think young quarterbacks get unfair treatment in the modern-day NFL landscape, another season of disappointing play from Williams would start to sound some alarms in the Windy City.

Another game Bills fans would've found some interest in took place in São Paulo, where the Chargers took down the Chiefs.

It's malpractice to write the Chiefs and Patrick Mahomes off after watching football the last six years, but they did not look great.

Mahomes had an alright game for his standards, but there were some glaring issues.

He's an above-average scrambling quarterback, but it's not great when your quarterback has 16 more rushing yards than the team's top two running backs combined.

Wide receiver Hollywood Brown led the team with 99 receiving yards on 16 targets.

I think Brown is a serviceable receiver, but he shouldn't be out-targeting the next four top receivers on your team combined.

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Losing Xavier Worthy early in the game surely puts a dent in your game plan, but I still don't think that should happen in an Andy Reid offense.

Another thing we've seen with Mahomes is the drop-off of his deep ball.

Every year he's been a starter, his intended air yards per attempt have decreased yearly.

It's hard to really critique a guy who's been to three straight Super Bowls, but this feels like the year the offensive step-back could catch up to the team.

This is the time I'd usually make a game prediction for the Bills, which I'll still do, but I also want to give my NFL predictions.

As far as Bills vs Jets, I really like what Aaron Glenn is building in New York, but it won't get them a win.

It'll be a closer game than most anticipate. The Bills are currently 6.5-point favorites on DraftKings.

I don't think the Jets cover the spread, but keep it in the seven-to-ten-point range.

For a final score, I think the Bills win 30-21.

145 days from now in Santa Clara, I think it'll be two teams from the two smallest markets in the NFL playing in the biggest game.

Green Bay, the smallest market in the league, is legit. I'm not as high on Jordan Love as others are, but I am high on what's around him.

Starting at the top, Matt LaFleur is a top-five play-caller in the league.

Surrounding Love, Josh Jacobs is a top-five running back, the offensive line is serviceable and the receiving core is missing a true top dog but is good as a unit.

The defense was questionable last season, but with the addition of Micah Parsons, I think they approach top-seven territory.

Representing the AFC, it's hard not to pick the Buffalo Bills. I know I'll face the "homer" accusations, but I really like their chances this season.

Josh Allen is still, at worst, the third-best quarterback in the league.

With a possible rise of Keon Coleman to go along with a proven receiver like Khalil Shakir, not to mention Josh Palmer as well, the passing game looks to be even better this year.

The offensive line once again looks like it's top four in the league, allowing James Cook to hopefully shine again.

The defense looked shaky to say the least. That must be cleaned up if the team wants a chance to make it to their first Super Bowl since 1993.

With the Chiefs not looking like the Chiefs we've seen over the past few years, this could finally be the year where the Bills could avoid them.

I think the divisional round on the AFC side will be Broncos at Bills and Chiefs at Ravens, setting up a rematch with Baltimore for the AFC.

The last ever game in Highmark Stadium/the Ralph/Rich Stadium will see the Bills once again end Lamar Jackson's season en route to a Super Bowl.

I don't have a score for the people, but after countless years of the most brutal heartbreak possible, I think the Buffalo Bills take home the Lombardi Trophy.

The league is wide open, with both the NFC and AFC having tons of unanswered questions as far as who the real contenders are.

It should be an entertaining season once again with countless unforgettable moments as the league celebrates its 60th Super Bowl.



The Bills celebrate after defeating the Baltimore Ravens, Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025. Image property of the Buffalo Bills.

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.

# OPINION

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



## Lovecolumn: Establishing and maintaining relationships

### THE QUARTERBACK

Executive Producer of Lovercall

### THE MUSICIAN

Lovercall Producer

### BUMBLEBEE

Lovercall Producer

Hello!

We are The Quarterback, The Musician and Bumblebee: 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 21-year-old cisgender man who uses he/him pronouns and is a senior at Fredonia.

“The Musician” is a 23-year-old gender-fluid person who uses they/she pronouns and is a senior at Fredonia.

“Bumblebee” is a 19-year-old questioning person who uses he/she/they pronouns and is a sophomore 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 WDVL 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 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, we're going to keep it simple and send you to Starbucks!

Whether you're a coffee fanatic or not, Starbucks is a common, public space that works well for a date.

It can also provide you and your date(s) with an easy way to break the ice. You can learn a lot about someone from their coffee order!

On Lovercall, we often discuss whether each date idea would make a good first date, and this one definitely fits the bill.

First dates can be awkward, or even scary.

The idea of putting yourself out there and meeting someone who you might become romantic with is a lot to handle.

So, keep it simple!

Start with a conversation about something light, like what their coffee order is or if they prefer going to Tim Hortons or Dunkin'.

The biggest thing to remember about a date is to not put too much pressure on yourself.

**This week's date idea is:**

**Starbucks!**

Remember, it's probably just as scary for them!

### Establishing and Maintaining Relationships

When you're trying to establish a relationship, there are several ways you can create a good foundation.

One way you can establish a good relationship is just by being honest.



Archived photo of Fredonia Radio Systems. | **THE LEADER**

The simplicity of being honest when you first converse in a relationship, whether it could be romantic or not, sounds obvious but it is important when having a connection to others.

Being open and honest about where you stand helps you find people who support those ideas and you as a whole.

Establishing an honest relationship with a coworker, friends or even partner helps you create a better and more real connection with others that helps you maintain a relationship further.

With a relationship full of lies, you're not fully connected with those who you try to have a relationship with.

When specifically maintaining a relationship, communication in some way is important.

This goes for establishing a relationship, too, but when you're trying to maintain a relationship, the simple action of just checking in on someone after not talking in a while helps maintain that said relationship.

Keeping others updated and just talking about random things with others helps create a stronger connection to the ones you talk to.

On the show, we covered various relationships that one can have. When someone mentions a relationship, we automatically assume we are talking about a partner or lover, but there's many other types of relationships one can have.

You can have relationships with friends, family, peers in class and even coworkers.

“When specifically maintaining a relationship, communication in some way is important.

— **Bumblebee**  
Producer,  
Lovercall

Relationships are just ways people connect with each other, romantic or not.

How you go about keeping those relationships and how you may act in the relationship may be different, but each good relationship does need communication and time.

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 “Bumblebee” are members of Fredonia Radio Systems and are involved in the production of Lovercall.*

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.



# A student's perspective on Microsoft

**ALEX BUCKNAM**  
Managing Editor

Ever since the switch to Microsoft happened over the summer, my life as a college student has gotten worse.

Well, that might be an overstatement. But it's true that I've dreaded doing schoolwork a lot more ever since we were forced to move over to Microsoft.

I have a lot of complaints about the switch from folders, Word, the calendar and OneDrive.

My first complaint is about OneDrive. This is the Microsoft version of Google Drive.

Google Drive was a lot simpler; it had all your folders right there, and it wasn't so name-sensitive.

When it comes to sharing a folder on OneDrive, I have had trouble accessing the share folder and finding it again after not opening it for a while.

For reference, at the start of this semester, I had to locate a folder for The Leader and couldn't find it.

I had to ask our editor in chief, Matt Volz, to share it with me again.

I ended up relying on that email he sent to access the folder for over a week.

Even worse, OneDrive would say I didn't have a file under the name I was typing in — even though I typed the name correctly.

It turns out you must hit multiple buttons and navigate through several sections to access the shared folder area.

And when you finally get to OneDrive, there isn't even a folder option until you click "Shared with me."

None of this is perfectly laid out or self-explanatory like Google Drive is.

Next up, Word. I hate Word.

Its layout is so complicated — from the way you set up a page to highlighting text — it makes it difficult to format a page the way I want it.

This becomes especially challenging when I'm trying to take notes in class.

I need my notes laid out a certain way, and I have to go through additional steps when using Word than I would if I were to be using Google Docs.

It's even harder to find older documents.

With Google, you can scroll down and see all your oldest files. With Word, only a few documents show up at first.

If you want to see more, you have to find a small line of text that says, "Show all documents."

Oh wait... You wanted old documents from when you used Google, because the school promised you they would transfer everything over?

You won't find them unless you search for them.

Meaning if you have a document you need, but don't know the name, you now have to travel all the way over to Google, go through the login process, hunt it down in Google Docs and then you can search it in Word.

That's right — you must type in the exact document name if you created it in Google.

You can't just browse your files unless you've already opened it in Word.

Also — where's the toolbar for word count? I have a hard time finding it.

It shouldn't take additional steps compared to Google Docs. It should be self-explanatory.

I just want to hit "Tools," then "Word Count."

Simple. Just like that.

Finally, the calendar. Why is the text box color so light and see-through?

With Google Calendar, each box had a solid background color with black text.

Microsoft Calendar still uses black text, but the background is mostly transparent.

This is a huge problem if you color-code your schedule.

I use different colors for work shifts, classes, meetings and interviews.

Since the boxes are so clear, I have a hard time quickly glancing at my calendar to see what's going on.

And why are the colors so similar, and why do we have less choices for colors?

Another frustration: Why does it always bring me to a sign-in screen when I type "Outlook" and click the first result?

I clearly want to sign in — I searched for Outlook!

Just open the app and stop launching extra tabs.

To conclude: Microsoft is just messier, overcomplicated and a huge hassle. I wish we were still using Google.



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Satire and parody for Fredonia

## 'Fredonia Pisser' Speaks Out: Mysterious Campus Figure Explains Their Motives

**MEGAN KIDBY**  
Scallion Editor

A mysterious figure known only as the “Fredonia Pisser” has recently become the subject of both humor and concern at SUNY Fredonia after a series of videos surfaced on TikTok showing someone urinating in different spots around campus.

Now, the person behind the profile has agreed to speak with The Leader, sharing their side of the story for the first time.

The anonymous character has made a name for themselves by posting TikTok videos that show someone discreetly “urinating” in various spots around the university.

From stairwells to the corners of academic buildings, no location seems safe from becoming the backdrop of the latest post.

The account, which emerged in late August, has quickly gained traction among students who share the clips in group chats and laugh over them in dining halls.

The videos rarely reveal more than stream coming from behind the camera.

The secrecy has only fueled speculation, with theories ranging from an attention-seeking freshman to a mischievous upper-classman determined to leave their mark.

The self-proclaimed “Fredonia Pisser,” who agreed to be interviewed under over TikTok to protect their identity, says they did it for the school.

“I started this account because I have a lot of school pride, and I want to make a name for our school,” they said. “Plus, it’s a funny trend to piss on SUNY schools.”

Rumors began circulating about the possibility of beef between the Fredonia Pisser TikTok page and the Instagram page known as @fredoniapisser.

When asked about this, they confirmed that it was true.

“We are beefing because there isn’t enough room on campus for two fred pissers. If I’m correct, he got caught as well — he is a fraud and he won’t strike anything other than dorm buildings — I can’t respect it,” they said.

I reached out to the Fredonia Pisser Instagram page, but did not get a response back.

The Fredonia Pisser also spoke on the rumors of the pissing being just them spraying a water bottle.

“If people want to know if I’m actually pissing or if it’s a water bottle you’re gonna have to catch me,” they said.

Despite memes and social media jokes, the “Pisser” insists they are misunderstood.

When asked to elaborate, the Fredonia Pisser simply said, “because I’m not a villain”.

For some, the antics are disgusting; for others, they’re an oddly unifying campus joke.

Students swap sightings like urban legends, and phrases like “watch out for the Pisser” have slipped into casual conversation.

While the actions themselves might frustrate custodial staff, the viral presence has sparked a wave of YikYak posts and even tongue-in-cheek admiration.

The trend fits into a larger pattern of college internet folklore, where strange behavior transforms into instant notoriety.

In this case, the Pisser has gone from faceless TikTok prankster to something closer to a campus cryptid, whispered about in the same breath as ghost stories or The Wizard.

Whether the individual’s identity is eventually revealed or the account fades away remains to be seen.

For now, the “Fredonia Pisser” has secured an odd place in campus lore, highlighting the influence of viral media.



Graphic by AVA-CLAIRE BORING | Special to The Leader

# Quiz: How many of these Fredonia experiences have you had?

**MATT VOLZ**  
Editor in Grief

Although Fredonia students come from many different backgrounds and study in different areas, there are certain core memories that all of us share.

Anyone who's spent more than three weeks here has probably experienced all of these.

Honestly, some freshmen may already be able to cross off half of these.

Here is a list of experiences that every Blue Devil will surely have at some point in their college career.

Check off each that you have been through and count up all the ones you checked off to calculate your final score.

So here we go. Grab a pen and play along!

1. Accidentally set off the fire alarm
2. Smelled dog food while walking to class
3. Brushed your teeth with bottled water because of ANOTHER boil water order
4. Gotten questionable food from the dining halls
5. Gone to a music show at BJ's
6. Tried to feed one of the squirrels
7. Had to park far away because of some random event nobody told you about
8. Gotten lost in an academic building
9. Ordered D.P. Dough at 3 a.m.
10. Woke up five minutes before class and still somehow made it
11. Gotten ice cream from Big Dipper
12. Picked up a copy of The Leader but only read the horoscopes
13. Fallen asleep in class
14. Hung a tapestry in your dorm (I promise we won't tell)
15. Crashed out over the Microsoft switchover
16. Gossiped on YikYak
17. Been to FredFest
18. Waited in line FOREVER at Starbucks
19. Stood underneath the clock tower \*right\* as it rings
20. Signed up for a club at Activities Night but never joined
21. Only went to a club meeting because they had free food
22. Been to Pink the Rink
23. Watched the sunset at Three Man Hill
24. Attended a theatre or dance production
25. Parked so badly you ended up on @fredcantpark
26. Moved out of your freshman dorm because your roommate was crazy
27. Referred to Chautauqua as "Bro-tauqua"
28. Heard someone say "Go Bills"
29. Told someone you go to Fredonia and they've never heard of it
30. Rode on a golf cart on the first day of classes

Thanks for playing! Now, here is what your final score means:

**1-5 points:** Welcome to Fredonia, newbie. Don't worry – you'll be crossing things off left and right as time goes on.

**6-10 points:** You've been here for about a semester, so you haven't quite had a full Fredonia experience, but you've gotten a taste of it.

**11-15 points:** You're still fairly new here, but you know what being a Fredonia student is about. You're well on your way to becoming a Fredonia veteran.

**16-20 points:** Now we're talking. You've been around the block a few times, but you've still got a little bit of Blue Deviling to do.

**21-25 points:** You're a true blue veteran, with just about every Fredonia experience there is to have. You're like Thanos, looking for that last little bit to put you over the top.

**26-30 points:** You are an absolute Fredonia LIFER. There is nobody who bleeds blue more than you do, and you'll probably spend the rest of your life talking about how you went to Fredonia. Enjoy it now, because this may very well be your peak.

# HOROS

**IZZIE NOELLE**  
Staff Writer

Helloooooo, it's me again! I'm now semi-officially your resident horoscope writer and a certified Fall Girly™ (patent pending). It's officially September, which means fall is here and I am more than ready for it. I hope you're as excited as I am, but if you're not, here are ways to get into the fall spirit based on your zodiac sign.



## Aries

### Go shopping for some new sweaters:

Let's be honest, Aries, y'all loooooove to spend money. Any excuse you can find for retail therapy, you're going to use it. Looks like it's time to hit the mall for you, as you get yourself some cozy sweaters in fall colors to give your wardrobe a refresh.



## Taurus

### Bake some sweet treats:

Think apple crisp, pumpkin pie and snickerdoodles. Nothing reminds you of fall more than the sweet scent of baked goods floating through the kitchen. Head to the store and get all your ingredients, it's time to make your favorite fall treats!



## Gemini

### Read your favorite fall series:

As the winds blow colder, your bed looks comfier. Grab your favorite fall-themed book and kick your feet up. Whether it's a coffee shop romance, or as chilling as the autumn breeze, I'm sure whatever book you pick will have you ready for sweater weather.



## Cancer

### Go on a nature walk:

The leaves are starting to change colors and cover the sidewalks. Honestly and with full bias, fall is one of the prettiest seasons. That's why you'll be going on an adventure. Walk around outside and look at all the pretty colors. Enjoy the crunch of the leaves under your shoes. It's finally that time of year.



## Leo

### You're not a fall person, let's prep for Christmas:

We all know that one person who just can't get into the fall spirit. Yes, I'm looking at you, Leo. Instead of enjoying pumpkin spice and everything nice, you're looking forward to snow on the ground. You probably have all your Christmas presents bought, and maybe even already wrapped. Learn to enjoy fall, please and thank you.



## Virgo

### Go to Spirit Halloween:

It's that time when Spirit Halloween is invading old department stores and setting up shop. There's something about all the animatronics and costumes that brings a sparkle to your eye and warmth to your heart. Maybe you're looking at the "Corpse Bride" animatronics (like me) or browsing the costume sections for cute accessories.

# COOPES



## Libra

### Watch your favorite fall movie:

Time to watch some of (in my totally biased opinion) the best movies ever. As a Libra, my fall lineup includes “Practical Magic,” “Corpse Bride” and “Hocus Pocus.” I think you get the idea! Watch some cozy or spooky movies and get ready for fall!



## Scorpio

### Get cozy with a game:

You probably have some of your favorite games at the ready. Stardew Valley or The Sims are my best guesses. Just some cozy, fall fun and your favorite video game.



## Sagittarius

### Catch a football game:

You get most excited about fall being football season. You’re ready to sit back and watch the game. But let’s be real. You’re probably standing up, pacing and yelling at the TV while you watch football. Either way, Go Bills!



## Capricorn

### Early Halloween planning:

You’ve got a list of costumes that you probably started back in July. You love dressing up for Halloween, finding a lot of joy in planning out every accessory. Don’t go too overboard this year, but have fun!



## Aquarius

### Go apple picking:

The apple orchard is calling your name! You’re dreaming of overalls and apple trees for miles. Pick some apples and wander through the trees. Maybe even bring your favorite Taurus some apples and they’ll bake for you!



## Pisces

### Grab a fall-themed drink:

You’re the type of person who looks forward to every coffee shop releasing pumpkin spice flavoring and apple cider hitting the grocery stores. You just love a drink that screams “FALL” with every sip. Go get that pumpkin spice latte or that warm apple cider, you deserve it.

