



THE LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper



Provost seeks student input on program cuts

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Village mayor '99% confident' new deal will end water issues

'Oedipus the King' photo gallery

Coach's son receives team support amid cancer fight

[OPINION] A freshman's perspective on Yik Yak

[SATIRE] Which 'Barbie' character are you?

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This issue of The Leader is dedicated to the memory of Melissa Wadsworth-Miller.
 Proud member of The Associated Collegiate Press.

Horowitz hosts town hall meetings to discuss cuts, deficit

ALEX BUCKNAM
Managing Editor

Program cuts first came in the Fall 2023 semester, when the school discontinued 13 low-enrolling programs.

Two years later, the recently appointed interim provost is now talking about the potential for more programs to be discontinued.

On Sept. 8, during the campus Senate meeting, it was brought up that more programs will be reviewed for potential elimination.

This was made aware to the majority of students and staff when a campuswide email was sent out on Sept. 12 by the provost's office.

The email sent out by Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Judith Horowitz, was titled "Open Sessions for Consultation on Review Process Criteria."

The email reads, "As announced in the [University] Senate discussion on Monday, Sept. 8, our campus will be reviewing programs for potential discontinuation later this fall."

The email continued to list dates and times that Horowitz would hold open sessions for students and faculty to share their ideas on what the administration should consider when taking on Fredonia's multimillion-dollar deficit.

Open sessions were held on Sept. 18 from 9 to 10 a.m. and Sept. 22 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. An additional session was held on Sept. 26 from 2 to 3 p.m.

There was also a session on Sept. 25 during the Student Government Association's (SGA) General Assembly meeting.

The purpose of these open sessions was for the administration to be transparent. "We have to be transparent in what we're doing, if we're cutting positions, if we're cutting jobs [and] if we're cutting programs. We have to be transparent in what saves the institution, or we should be," Horowitz said.

These are not the last of the sessions to be held. "I am happy to have open sessions pretty regularly, but also you can tell me if you'd like me to come once a month and have conversations. I would be happy to do that," Horowitz stated.

The open sessions were filled with a wide range of questions: what will happen in the case more programs are cut, what it would mean for current students in those programs, what will happen to students that rely on programs that could be cut, how effective were the 2023 cuts, what will happen to faculty in those programs, are faculty members also going to be issued retrenchment and more.

Horowitz explained that if a student's program were to be cut, they would experience the same procedure as students whose programs have already been eliminated in past years. That is, the student would receive a teach-out plan and still be able to graduate with their degree.

The questions a lot of students had were concerning exactly what was actually being considered when the provost is looking at program discontinuations.

Horowitz told attendees that they evaluate programs based



Dr. Judith Horowitz. Photo via fredonia.edu.

on their costs, the number of students they attract annually, how many students are needed to justify the program's expenses and if they fit the campus mission.

Horowitz gave an example of what she meant by this by relating it to neuroscience, a degree Fredonia does not offer, to keep the conversation neutral.

In this example, a hypothetical neuroscience degree needs to bring in 15 students a year to break even and cover the cost of the program. She continued her hypothetical situation by looking at how many students we brought in each year for the last five years and said, "If we only brought in two a year for the last five years, there's a slim chance we hit 15 a year going further."

She mentioned that in these situations, they would start having this conversation on whether the program is worth keeping around. "Going forward, that's when the conversation begins. Is this program essential to our college mission?" Horowitz said.

The school bringing in enough students to cover the total cost of the program is not the only thing considered when it comes to whether the school will continue cuts.

According to Horowitz, "We do not have a list of programs or a certain number of programs that could be up for elimination. I have not seen that data. We have not run the data on any of these programs yet. Once I see that data, I will have a better sense of that, and that will happen somewhere in late October."

Continued from previous page

Brian Rivera, a senior, wondered if they will take into consideration how dependent other programs are on other programs. “Programs that carry other programs throughout the academic year, whether it be in events, whether it be in performances, whether it be in just general day to day. Is that something that you consider when cutting your program?” Rivera asked.

Rivera gave an example of how the audio major’s responsibilities include board operation for the performing arts.

Horowitz responded to this by saying, “Yes, absolutely.” She continued, “We don’t just look and say this program is losing money, cut it. We need to take a holistic view.”

Students were concerned that with continued program cuts, student enrollment could drop and students would start to transfer.

Horowitz said this was something that did not happen with the Fall 2023 cuts, and that she worries about that too. “We have actually seen retention go up since 2023,” Horowitz said.

Another concern students have with the potential major discontinuation is if professors are issued a retrenchment notice and choose to leave early.

Horowitz stated that this is something they did not see with retrenchments regarding the 2023 cuts. “We haven’t seen people leave sooner than [expected],” she said. “If we had a faculty member that left and we needed to find coverage, we would find coverage for that.”

When it comes to Fredonia’s multimillion-dollar deficit, everything is on the table according to Horowitz and Wayne Lynch, vice president for finance and administration.

At the Sept. 25 SGA General Assembly meeting, when students asked about potential faculty cuts, Horowitz stated, “Nothing is safe,” adding that this would include administrators.

During the open session on Sept. 26, Lynch went through slides regarding Fredonia’s deficit.

As of Sept. 26, Fredonia is in a \$6,937,016 deficit.

Lynch also generated a model to identify demand for a program as well as cost.

This model, in conjunction with other criteria provided by faculty and students, will be used to develop a more detailed list of programs.

During the meeting, Horowitz reiterated that demand and cost are not the only things that go into a program potentially being cut.

The biggest thing causing this deficit is state revenue offset (administrative and academic accounts) which includes payroll, student services, utilities and more.

When discussing salaries, there were rumors going around campus that administrators would receive a pay raise.

When brought up, Horowitz explained that every year, SUNY allows the president of each university to give their managerial confidential employees (MCs) a raise of up to 3%.

During the Sept. 25 meeting, in discussion about whether MCs would receive a raise, Horowitz stated that she was unaware of any MCs receiving a raise.

Horowitz disputed the total pay listed on SeeThroughNY and told attendees her salary is \$155,000. She added that she would not apologize for her salary as she spent many years working her way up to this position, often sacrificing along the way.

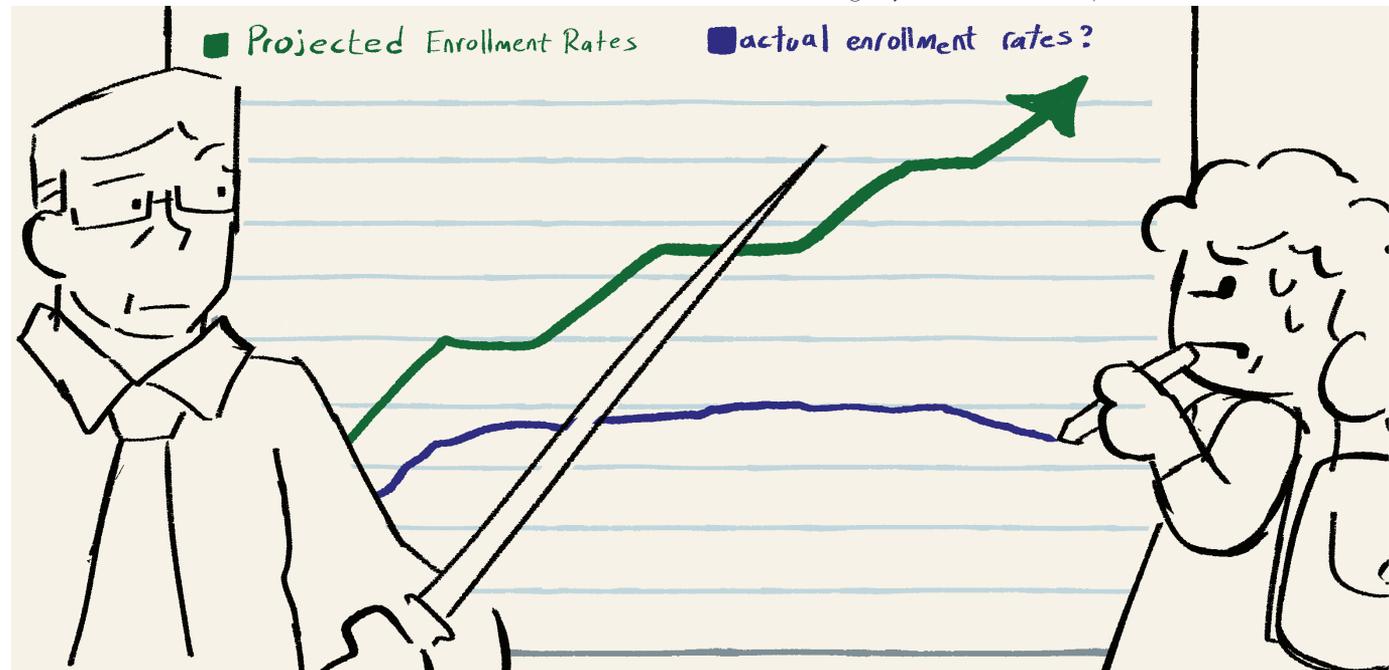
“I hear what you’re saying, and I understand the implication,” she responded to the question regarding her salary. “Would anyone in this room work for free? No. I won’t either.”

During Lynch and Horowitz’s open meeting on Sept. 25, when talking about the state revenue offset (administrative and academic accounts), the revenue was \$31,323,735 and the total expenses being \$46,770,209.

This brings the total deficit to \$14,770,309 for that section.

This is what brings us to a total deficit just short of \$7 million.

Since the almost \$15 million deficit for “administrative and academic” includes utilities, questions were brought up about lights being on constantly in the Andrews complex (Igoe, Hendrix, Hemingway and Schulz Halls).



Graphic by SAFFRON LARREA | Art Director



Students and faculty ask questions during an open session, Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025. Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

Lynch mentioned this was to keep the building structurally sound in case they ever need to use it again.

When the topic of how effective cutting programs would be on the \$7 million deficit, students asked how effective the Fall 2023 cuts were.

Horowitz mentioned that the projected savings from cutting those programs was \$750,000.

When students questioned cutting more programs, Horowitz explained that the programs cut in 2023 had the lowest enrollment, some of which had two students enrolled in a program.

This action was taken to attempt to prevent deactivation of programs with larger enrollment.

During these conversations Horowitz mentioned, “If we were a private school, we would have already gone out of business.”

After closing the meeting, Horowitz mentioned that President Stephen Kolison is taking the same steps he did during the Fall 2023 cuts by advocating for Fredonia to receive more money from SUNY.

Horowitz mentioned that these attempts have been successful.

In conclusion of the open sessions, Horowitz sent out a campuswide email informing faculty and students of everything so far and what to expect in the future.

The email reads, “Recommendations that I’ve heard from these meetings and will incorporate include:

- contributions from General Education offerings
- considering students enrolled in a minor attached to the program
- role of the major to groups or events on campus
- regular, bulleted communications to campus
- transparency through answering as much as possible as clearly as possible

“Would anyone in this room work for free? No. I won't either.”

— **Dr. Judith Horowitz**
Interim Provost and VP for Academic Affairs,
SUNY Fredonia

Next week I anticipate the following will occur:

- meeting with Senate Exec to agree upon a timeline for program review
- sharing of the timeline with the campus community
- Academic Affairs Leadership Meeting and Consultation (Oct. 1)
- sharing of the list of criteria to be used for program review with the campus community.”

Horowitz again thanked the community and everyone who offered ideas on what should be considered when it comes to Fredonia’s deficit.

Currently, there is not another open session meeting scheduled, but Horowitz stated in her emails that if you were unable to attend, please send your ideas on program deactivation criteria to provost@fredonia.edu.

The Leader will continue to provide updates as this story progresses.

To express ideas or concerns about program cuts, contact:
provost@fredonia.edu

After another boil water order, mayor '99% confident' that new deal will eliminate future issues

MATT VOLZ
Editor in Chief

For the seventh time in the last two and a half years, Fredonia has faced yet another water issue.

At 1:10 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19, students and faculty were notified of a boil water order via email from Marketing and Communications.

The email explained the precautions taken by FSA, including boiling all water prior to use and providing bottled water to students who live on campus.

It also included the official message from the Chautauqua County Health Department, with instructions on how to safely use the contaminated water.

“On September 19, 2025, the Village of Fredonia received results of two failing bacteria samples in the distribution system; one containing *E. coli*,” the message read.

At 12:32 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 21, students were notified by Marketing and Communications that the order had been lifted.

Previous boil water orders were caused by issues with the village’s outdated water system, which is nearly a century old.

This one, however, was a bit different, according to Village Mayor Michael Ferguson.

Ferguson said that the contaminated samples came from businesses in the village, which caused the order to be issued.

He said that the tap water was tested at Crosby’s and the sample came back positive for *E. coli*.

The tap water was also tested at Culligan, a water treatment company just across the street from the gas station.

The sample from Culligan was also contaminated, but with chloroform.

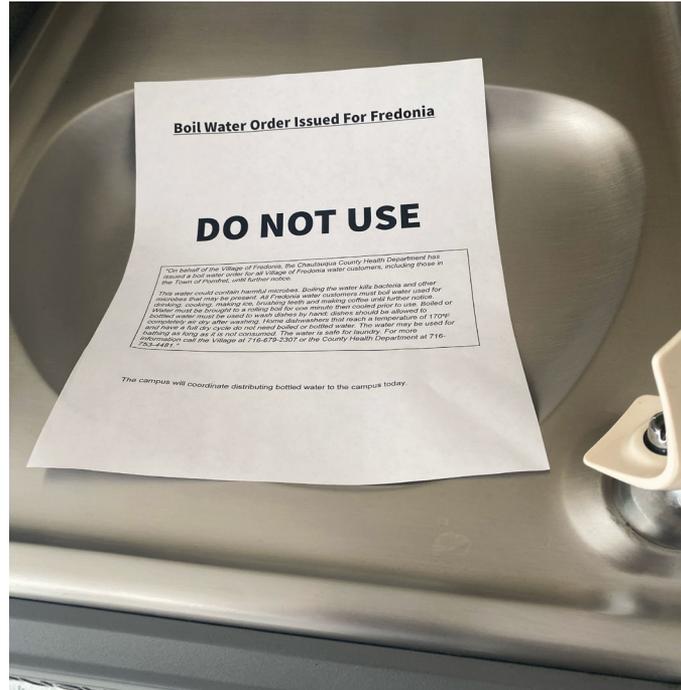
However, the chloroform was not found in water that Culligan distributed, but rather in the building’s personal tap.

The mayor explained that water could have tested positive for contaminants due to issues with the individual faucets rather than the water itself being unsafe.

“As soon as you hear *E. coli*, they shut everything down,” he said. “This is just, unfortunately, the process that we have to go through when something like this happens.”

This issue comes on the heels of a vote on Wednesday, Sept. 10 that will align Fredonia with the North Chautauqua County Water District and end the use of the village’s 97-year-old system.

The North Chautauqua County Water District (NCCWD) is a system of water distribution that treats water from Lake Erie and distributes it to multiple communities.



A drinking fountain in McEwen Hall during the boil water order.
Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

Dunkirk houses the main water supplier, and Brocton, Portland, Pomfret and Sheridan are all recipients of the water.

There’s been an ongoing debate in the community over whether Fredonia should join the group or not. One of the most prominent and vocal opponents of the deal is “Save Our Reservoir,” a group of Fredonia residents strongly opposed to aligning with the NCCWD and turning away from the reservoir.

Members of the group spoke at the Sept. 10 meeting, a meeting that produced some contentious moments.

During a presentation of analysis by Jessica Wuerstle, director of environmental health services for the Chautauqua County Health Department, members of the crowd shouted in anger at both Wuerstle and the village board on stage.

“We’re going to end the meeting right now if you don’t stop,” said Ferguson.

Ferguson further expressed his discontent by saying to those members of the crowd, “You’ve managed to disrupt another meeting. Congratulations.”

Later in the meeting, Ferguson called out previous village officials for their inaction related to the water issue, some of whom were in the audience.

He claimed that for years, the village government was



A woman criticizes the Village of Fredonia Board of Trustees during a town hall meeting, Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2025.

Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

informed by both the county and state that Fredonia’s water system was not sustainable and needed to be replaced but nothing was done.

“For 38 years, I have sat here and watched multiple cans kicked down the road,” he said.

Later, he added, “I would ask people in this room who were previously in these chairs, some people for 12 years, what did you do during this time when the government told you that you had a spillway that was too small? When the government told you that your dam was insufficient for what you were doing? You were an elected official sitting in this seat, and you have the gall to come into this room and start blaming these people?”

A woman in the crowd came up to the microphone and expressed her disgust with the NCCWD, but not before accusing Ferguson of sitting on stage “all high and mighty” as well as dredging up the past and blaming others.

Her frustration with the NCCWD lies in the fact that she is taxed by them but does not have a water pipe in front of her home.

“So, screw me, you know you guys are going to get screwed by the hardship of taxes, out of control mouths and minds and lack of heart,” she said.

The woman also acknowledged that she does not live in the village of Fredonia, but it is her community, as her friends and family live here.

“There’s all kinds of resources,” she said at the end of her speech. “The water is there in our control. Don’t lose it.”

At the end of the meeting, the trustees voted to approve the plan of receiving water from the NCCWD and decommissioning the 97-year-old facility.

All but one of the trustees voted in favor of the measure, with the only dissenting vote coming from Michelle Twichell, who has been a vocal opponent of joining forces with the NCCWD.

“We only had one ‘no’ vote on switching, and that’s because

that particular person feels that we should be revitalizing a 97-year-old reservoir building,” Ferguson said. “The best experts will tell you that the cost would be enormous and there’s no long life for reservoirs.”

Although the new deal is in place and Fredonia is on its way to working with the NCCWD, it’s a shift that will take a few years to fully come to fruition.

Ferguson said he is “99% confident” that once everything is fully settled with the NCCWD, the boil water orders will be a thing of the past.

In the meantime, the village can only continue to do what they’ve already been doing to treat the water.

Ferguson said that this process includes sending divers into the tanks to fix the issue and then waiting for the silt that’s been kicked up to come down, which can take “hours, if not days.”

“It’s a very lame thing to say, but it’s the best we can do at this point,” he said. “We’re confident that [the NCCWD] is the way to go.”

Any students with concerns or questions are highly encouraged to reach out to Ferguson or attend a village board meeting.

Meetings are held every other Monday night at 6 p.m. on the second floor of Village Hall.

“The students are as much a resident of the Village of Fredonia as the people who own the homes here,” Ferguson said. “They are owed a fair and honest answer, and I always do my best to do that.”

More information on the NCCWD can be found at chautauquacounty.gov.

Fredonia alum speaks of civic engagement on Constitution Day



Graphic by SAFFRON LARREA | Art Director

MATT VOLZ
Editor in Chief

In today's climate, it's possible for college students to feel like they don't have much of a voice.

"Why should I even bother voting? It's not like my vote counts," a student might say.

Spencer Morgan disagrees.

Morgan, a 2008 Fredonia graduate, spoke about the importance of what he calls "civic engagement" as part of his Constitution Day presentation on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

Civic engagement often ties back to politics, but Morgan said it doesn't necessarily have to.

"I think a lot of people hear the word 'civics' and they think of politics, and that's the source of it," he said. "I see civics, and I think of community. How can we better our community and make it a better place for us and future generations?"

Morgan is a native of nearby Allegany, N.Y., and he currently serves as the executive director of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site.

In 1901, when Roosevelt was serving as vice president of the United States, President William McKinley was visiting Buffalo for that year's Pan-American Exposition.

On Sept. 6, McKinley was shot at point-blank range by anarchist Leon Czolgosz.

Despite the initial belief that the president would survive, McKinley died of complications on Sept. 14.

Morgan noted that McKinley's assassination came as a shock to many Americans, as he was a highly popular president.

McKinley was elected in 1896 and was the last person elected president who had served in the Civil War.

He was elected following the Panic of 1893, one of the most severe economic depressions in U.S. history.

The economy began to grow during his presidency, and he was re-elected in 1900.

However, McKinley served less than a year of his second term before he was killed.

After his death, Roosevelt took the oath of office in Buffalo and became the 26th President of the United States.

Roosevelt went on to become one of the most iconic presidents in U.S. history, and the site of his inauguration has been crafted into a museum that honors his legacy.

The site also hosts multiple naturalization ceremonies throughout each year. On Sept. 10, 30 people took the Oath of Allegiance and became U.S. citizens at the site.

"It's a really great experience," Morgan said of the ceremonies. "It's a very short and brief ceremony, but to get everybody in the room is absolutely incredible."

Throughout the process of naturalization, the site teaches about American heritage, and in Morgan's words, "what it means to be a patriot."

"Talking about that heritage is really important, because that's what sets us apart in our democracy," he said. "That's our civic engagement piece."



Spencer Morgan. Photo via erie.gov.

On campus, the American Democracy Project (ADP) is also focused on getting students involved in democracy and promoting the importance of civic engagement.

ADP is a national initiative, with nearly 300 college campuses as participants.

“Its importance lies in helping students understand their roles as citizens, fostering informed political awareness and creating opportunities to participate in community and campus initiatives,” said Dr. Angela McGowan-Kirsch, chair of Fredonia’s ADP committee.

McGowan believes that student involvement is “essential” to a healthy democracy, and she said that involvement can be in many different forms.

“In addition to volunteering for community cleanups like Fall Sweep, students can participate in voter registration drives, attend or organize campus forums on current issues, engage in respectful discussions with peers about civic matters or volunteer for local nonprofits and community initiatives,” she said.

During elections, ADP heavily advocates for students to go out and vote, no matter who they may be voting for.

“If you are not registered to vote, you are not being an active and engaged citizen in this country,” Morgan said. “I think the one thing we as Americans should be doing is voting, and I think that’s even more important now than it was before.”

Even the closest of national elections can be decided by a few million votes, which can influence the belief that individual votes don’t matter.

Local elections, however, are a different story.

“It’s quite possible that you might only have 300 voters, and

one vote could break a tie,” Morgan said. “That’s why it’s really important to know what’s happening in your community.”

Morgan urges young voters to look at their county election websites to see who the candidates are and what they stand for.

Student involvement is crucial to a healthy democracy, according to McGowan and ADP.

“Young people bring new ideas, energy and diverse perspectives that help shape public policies and civic life,” McGowan said.

According to a study conducted by the Pew Research Center, the divide between Democrats and Republicans has dramatically increased over the past three decades.

But while this division may be on the rise, McGowan believes that students play a vital role in maintaining democracy.

“While our democracy faces challenges such as polarization, misinformation and voter disengagement, it also has the potential to grow stronger through active citizen participation,” she said. “Students can preserve and protect democracy by staying informed, engaging respectfully in civic discourse, participating in elections, volunteering in their communities and advocating for accountability.”

Constitution Day is commemorated every year on Sept. 17, the anniversary of the day the Constitution was signed in 1787.

SOURCES:

facinghistory.org/resource-library

history.com/this-day-in-history/september-6



Fredonia's chapter of the American Democracy Project.

Photo via fredonia.edu.

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. The Police Blotter will continue every issue, with new information regarding any new criminal acts that happen 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

Sept. 13: A bike lock was damaged during an attempt to remove it; as of Sept. 25, charges are pending.

Sept. 17: University Police received a report of a bike being stolen from the University Village; the investigation is still ongoing as of Sept. 25.

Sept. 17: Trash was found left in a parking lot; the report was closed following an investigation.



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

Every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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



Life & Arts

Dr. Margaret 'Megan' Urban: A pack rat of the arts

LONDON LYONS

Special to The Leader

The third floor of RAC is home to Fredonia's graphic design tradition.

Posters are everywhere you look, and some places you don't — tucked away in a filing cabinet, for instance.

On the day I'm looking for Megan, she's pulled several old posters from a file in RAC 323 and has them spread out over two tables.

As she pensively rifles through them, she tells me that some designs are from her time at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), where both she and Professor Jason Dilworth received their MFAs.

Undeniably, Dr. Margaret "Megan" Urban is a pack rat.

As she hands me a publication from "Occasional Papers," I realize that she's trying to make me into one, too.

In class, I catch her wincing as she slides her hands underneath the harsh projector light. Whatever is wrong with her hands — age? — I do not see with the poise in which she conducts them.

It is the third week of classes before I realize that poise is an element that will not be taught, least of all to me.

To our interview, Megan wears a white t-shirt with a crow on a skateboard and text that reads, "I Don't Believe in Careers." She looks tired, but she brightens up when she talks about watching dogs dream, or how her office used to be a color called "beeswax" or Jason.

She cautions me to be flexible in my definition of artistic success, "... because financially, I've never made that much money off of my own work. It's mostly been doing work I feel compelled to do, feeling like I'm somehow adding to the culture and helping people."

"I think when you do things because they interest you or because you're passionate about that, that becomes its own sort of payment. But you can't eat that, right," says the career non-believer with quite the career.

Design education and work have taken Megan across several states — North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York — and internationally to Qatar, Iceland and Austria.

She was hooded for her PhD in transition design in 2024.

Half of the 20-minute interview is about trees, one way or another. (It's my fault for asking.) Listening to her weave



Dr. Margaret "Megan" Urban.

Graphic by LONDON LYONS | Special to The Leader

design philosophy into matters of ecology and forestry makes the transition between the disciplines feel seamless.

From our conversation, I found that both design and forestry are heavily dependent upon collaboration, problem-solving and long-term thinking. Applying ecological research to design sparked a collaboration between Megan, Dilworth and Swedish designer Daniel Bystrom called Designers & Forests.

Just before we part ways, Megan tells me, "If it makes logical sense and makes you scared, you have to do it."

Having caught a glimpse of where that philosophy has taken her, I do not argue.

It applies just as much to fighting creative inhibitors as it does to gathering the courage to face her at the next graphic design critique.

Performing Arts Company brings 'Oedipus the King' to the stage

MIA CIECHALSKI

Life and Arts Editor



Sivan Adler, Ryan Okun and Tali Kam.



Ava Heffron.



Sayge Oquendo.



Ryan Okun.



Ryan Okun.



Ryan Okun.

Fredonia Radio Systems hosts annual 'Rockin' the Commons' fundraiser

MOLLY SUNICK
Special to The Leader



Chatterbox.



Stratosphere.



Premium Blend.



Paper Tigers.



Fredonia Jazz Ensemble.



Patrons at Rockin' the Commons.

SPORTS

Keaton Braun: A Story of Courage

MITCH HORUCY

Sports Editor

It was Sept. 9 of last year when head women's volleyball coach Geoff Braun received a phone call during practice that would change things forever.

He never kept his phone on him while at practice, but after an eventful weekend, he was expecting news.

It was about his son Keaton, a 13-year-old starting off his eighth-grade year.

After numerous tests, it was confirmed that he had blast cells in his blood. This ultimately led to a diagnosis of acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL).

It's a type of cancer that attacks the white blood cells and bone marrow and is the most common type of cancer in children.

"That was, that was bad to hear that. Obviously, that was very jarring," said Braun.

Senior libero Kailea Sullivan and senior outside hitter Emma Foley remember the day when they found out the diagnosis.

"He went down and hugged everybody. We all wished him good luck and told him that we loved him and his family," said Foley.

Sullivan also recalls learning about blast cells the day prior in anatomy class.

"My heart sank," said Sullivan. "I felt just like as if it was one of my family members that this was happening to."

Braun, a father of four, talked about the struggles early in

the diagnosis, having to navigate life as a father and coach during such a difficult time.

Keaton spent five weeks in the hospital, with a parent staying with him every night. Braun even said there were nights where he felt both him and his wife should be there, making things even harder.

He ended up taking a leave from his coaching role as well as his role as director of recreation.

Due to this, many people stepped up to help fill his absence, perhaps none more so than assistant coach Brinn Shaughnessy.

Shaughnessy graduated from Fredonia in 2022 after three seasons playing for Braun. She returned in the fall of 2023 as an assistant coach while she completes her master's degree.

She sprang into action, acting as the head coach for the team after Braun took a leave, with no head coaching experience.

Both Foley and Sullivan gave her high praise, as well as being grateful that they had a year to work with her.

"It wasn't as hard as you think it would be, because we were all so comfortable [with her]," said Foley.

While Shaughnessy stepped up, she was just one in a large group of people that helped with various aspects of coaching a collegiate team.

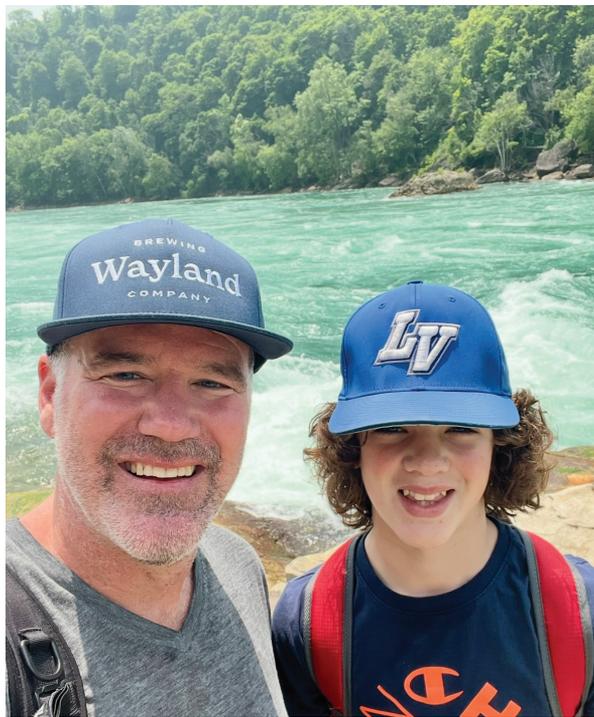
"The one thing we learned pretty quick is that everybody wants to help," said Braun.

Foley mentioned that both the head and assistant coach of the men's basketball team drove them to away games.

There was a weekend when Shaughnessy was unable to



Junior Kylie O'Brien spikes the ball against Thiel, Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025. Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Sports Photographer



Geoff Braun and his son, Keaton. Photo via GEOFF BRAUN | Special to The Leader

make it to an away game, leading two alumni to step up, travel and coach the team.

Off the court as well, there's a lot that Braun mentioned goes into coaching a team that people helped with.

From accounting paperwork to travel arrangements and making sure Shaughnessy had the right credit cards to use, people were there to help.

Someone in the Western New York area who's made a name for himself by helping others is Del Reid.

Reid, the unofficial co-founder of the "Bills Mafia" movement, is also the owner of 26Shirts, a Buffalo-based clothing company focused on the Bills, Sabers, Bandits and other Buffalo staples.

He also does a lot of work with Roswell Park, a cancer-focused hospital in Buffalo — the hospital Keaton stayed at.

Reid heard about Keaton and his story, reached out to the family for more information and then made a shirt.

Over the summer, the shirts were sold, with some of the profits going to the Braun family.

After seeing this, Braun's team jumped on the opportunity to buy the shirts.

"We try to do something specific to show not only Coach, but also Keaton that we were there for him last year," said Foley.

Some of these things included small gifts and videos from the team showing their support.

After seeing their coach post the fundraiser, the entire team bought shirts and wore them for a game.

For their first home game of the season against Thiel, the team surprised Braun with the shirts in the locker room before the game.

It was an emotional moment for both Braun and the players, and he was very appreciative of the gesture.

"His family is very supportive of our team as well," said Foley. "It's very important for us that they feel supported."

Through this tough time, Braun, Foley and Sullivan had things they learned during this battle that they'll take with them through the rest of their lives.

Both Foley and Sullivan talked about the obstacles one may face in their life and how you react to it.

"Life is just so precious. You can't control the obstacles that are thrown at you but how you go about them is what's important," said Sullivan.

Foley had something similar to say but also brought up the slogan that's on the back of the team's practice shirts.

It reads, "earned, not given."

It was something that Braun said to the team after Keaton's diagnosis, a statement that is true not just on the court, but in life.

"Any obstacles or challenges that are thrown your way, you got to just have a good attitude through it, fight through it, you earn everything. Nothing's handed to you," said Foley.

As expected, Braun has learned in the past year about his coaching style, himself and many other aspects of life.

For coaching, he mentioned how this has changed his perspective of team dynamics and how his team treats others.

"If we treat each other the right way, we support each other the right way, we'll win more often," said Braun.

As of today, Keaton is about 13 months into his battle with ALL.

He just started high school and is continuing treatment.

However, if all goes well in the next couple months, he'll enter a "maintenance phase," a scaled back version of treatment.

Coach Braun would like to thank the Fredonia community for the continued support during this time. "It's been very valuable," said Braun.

The team starts SUNYAC play on Oct. 4 against Cortland, with their next home game falling on Oct. 17 against Canton.

Lucky number seven: Freshman Anna Ratchuk shines for Blue Devils

JACK HOADLEY

Special to The Leader

Fredonia women's soccer is back, and so far, it's been a new face on the team lighting it up for the Blue Devils.

Freshman forward Anna Ratchuk has started off strong in just her first season in blue and white.

Ratchuk is from Amherst, N.Y. She was recruited to play forward for the team, and her impact early on has been invaluable for the team.

Ratchuk leads the entire team in goals with three and assists with two, which is notable for a player in her first season.

The transition to college is one that is hard no matter what, but student athletes are forced to adjust to two cultures at the same time.

It wasn't easy, but Ratchuk made her move to collegiate soccer as smooth as could be.

When asked about her early success, Ratchuk said she wasn't expecting it but also felt her teammates had a lot to do with it.

"The bond we had built with the team in the preseason and everything definitely helped to make me feel more comfortable and confident on the field," she said.

Obviously, beyond the field, there is a lot going on as a first-year student at a new school that is unfamiliar to you.

Ratchuk said that writing her schedule out and being organized made the jump much easier for her.

It also helped that Ratchuk was surrounded by other new teammates in her dorm.

"It's nice being able to also have a roommate who is on the team, and we have some other girls on our floor... I think that's nice as well," she said.

But the experience of a team largely made from upperclassmen is something else Ratchuk believe assisted in the transition.

Ratchuk specifically said that it was nice to see how close the team has gotten over years of playing together.

"It's nice to see how bonds have formed on the team, how they interact with each other, and now us, has been nice," she said.

One of the key moments described by Ratchuk was when the team hosted SUNY Geneseo in a key conference game.

In a game where Ratchuk scored one of the two Fredonia goals, they pulled off a huge home win, setting a precedent for the team.

Ratchuk said that it was "motivating to get that victory on our home field."

In the wake of her superb play, Ratchuk obviously has gotten high praise from head coach Christopher Case.

Case has been the head coach of the team since 2002. He described Ratchuk as "relentless," saying that she is someone who, "puts it all out there every time she goes out."

He also said that Ratchuk is a strong athlete, which likely played a large part in her quick transition to a prominent role.

"She likes to kind of get to the goal and create... and she's done a really great job so far," he said.

Case places a high value on his team's culture and his players' mental health.



Anna Ratchuk. Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Sports Photographer

Ratchuk said that coaching has been such a key part of her success, as Case and his staff motivate the team to do more than win on the field.

“I would say our goals as a team go beyond the win loss column... We try to perform the very best we can be and get better as the year goes on,” she said.

The high praise for Ratchuk on the field is more than warranted, but beyond the pitch, she is also making an impact.

Case called Ratchuk, “An unbelievably nice person... super kind and easy to get along with.”

That has had a profound impact on their team, even with Ratchuk being a new face to the team.

Case has noticed that Ratchuk fit right into the team culture as she found her footing in Fredonia.

“She’s been able to fit into our chemistry and have a positive impact on the chemistry of our group,” he said.

It is hard to be more impactful in your first season than Ratchuk has been for the Blue Devils.

Her clear impact during and outside of games cannot be overstated, and Ratchuk will look to use this first year as a building block for more.

Ratchuk says that her goal is to build off this first year and “finish the season feeling like I’ve grown as a player, both on and off the field.”

Beyond her first season, Ratchuk wants to be valued for her character and not just her abilities.

“Working the hardest and doing the best I can at being a good player and teammate and being coachable [is important],” she said.

Anna Ratchuk is certainly a name to watch for the future, and present, of Fredonia athletics.

Watching her build off an already stellar first season and even seeing how this one plays out will be electric, to say the least.

Ratchuk and the Fredonia women’s soccer team will look to finish out the season strong.



Anna Ratchuk. **Photo by RILEY OLSON** | Special to The Leader



Anna Ratchuk with her teammates. **Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD** | Sports Photographer

5th Quarter Column: Cooking with Gas

MITCH HORUCY

Sports Editor

For the first time in five seasons, the Buffalo Bills are 4-0 to start the season.

With a winnable game against the New England Patriots on Sunday night, the team could start 5-0 for the first time since 1991.

The Bills picked up their third win of the season with a win over a struggling Miami Dolphins team on Thursday, Sept. 18.

In a game where the home team was favored by 12 points, the Dolphins entered a hostile environment and competed hard.

Going into this game, I thought Miami's head coach Mike McDaniel was coaching for his job, which he seems to have kept despite the loss.

His seat is still very hot though, and he is not a lock to finish the season out in his role.

Back to the Bills, I thought they'd cover the spread and then some. My official prediction was 38-13, which wasn't close.

The Dolphins showed a lot of fight, which caught a lot of fans, and even the Bills possibly, by surprise.

After an opening drive score by both teams, it seemed like it'd be a back and forth shoot out, which wasn't the case.

Quarterback Josh Allen played some of the most conservative football we've seen him play in this game.

He had just 2.4 air yards per completion, the second lowest mark in his career in a game he's started and finished.

A lot of fans and members of the media are upset with this playstyle, but I'm not.

It was fun when he was throwing it up and down the field with no regard for human life, but it did lead to turnovers.

However, his 2024 campaign, along with the pace of his young 2025 season, have been his two lowest interception totals to date.

These two seasons also rank as his two lowest air yards per completion seasons in his career.

He's not throwing it all over the field, but he's not turning the ball over.

It also helps a lot when you have a guy like James Cook, who's had a tremendous start to the season.

He's on pace to set career highs in touches, touchdowns and scrimmage yards fresh off a new contract.

Not to take away from Cook, but Buffalo's offensive line has also played very well, making his job a little bit easier.

It's hard to say that this is the best iteration of the Bills offense since 2020, as they've had so many successful years, but it may be the most complementary.



Bills running back James Cook evades a tackle, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025.
Image property of the Buffalo Bills.

It was a similar story this past Sunday, as the Bills took down a struggling Saints team, 31-19.

Allen had a few great plays, but he didn't have to be Superman.

Cook again showed that every penny of his four-year, \$46 million contract was worth it, totaling 135 yards and a score.

What I found interesting about his performance was his efficiency.

On 22 attempts, he had 117 rushing yards, coming out to 5.3 yards-per-carry.

However, his longest rush was just 15 yards.

He's shown that he has the ability to break off long rushing touchdowns, having five rushing touchdowns of 40 yards or longer.

But being able to sustain an efficient rushing attack will lead to success down the stretch and into the playoffs.

While no game in the NFL is easy, the Bills have a very favorable schedule the rest of the season.

Though I'm not a player and could be wrong, and a Week 7 bye week seems less than ideal, but other than that, it's a very favorable schedule.

The team's next three opponents have a combined record of 5-7, leading into a Week 9 matchup with Kansas City, who hasn't looked great this season either.

With this schedule, combined with an AFC that's completely theirs to take, it's looking to be now or never territory.

A freshman's perspective on Yik Yak

RYAN FINK

Special to The Leader

We all know about Yik Yak, the anonymous social media platform for college students everywhere.

From complaining about the food at Cranston to venting about the stresses of college to downright insulting people, the question must be asked: Is Yik Yak valid?

I would say, probably not. I would say that it encourages people to give their harshest criticisms to people around campus all the time.

And as a freshman, it very much comes back to us.

It's one thing to give critiques of people for this reason or that reason, but it's another to have it constantly and consistently thrown in your face by people who need to say something about it.

You see "these freshmen are the bane of my existence" from upperclassmen you will never know, and what are you supposed to do about it if you're already doing everything right?

The whole atmosphere of Yik Yak, on a consistent basis, breeds stress, worry and hate.

There was an incident at Nixon Hall earlier in the month, and I happened to know some people involved in that incident.

Will I defend what they did? Of course not, it was immature, and it is behavior that should not be tolerated.

However, it should have been something that was dealt with privately.

A report to the RAs is understandable, even to talk to the people involved to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Instead, a person posted it to Yik Yak, name-calling and demeaning everyone on the floor.

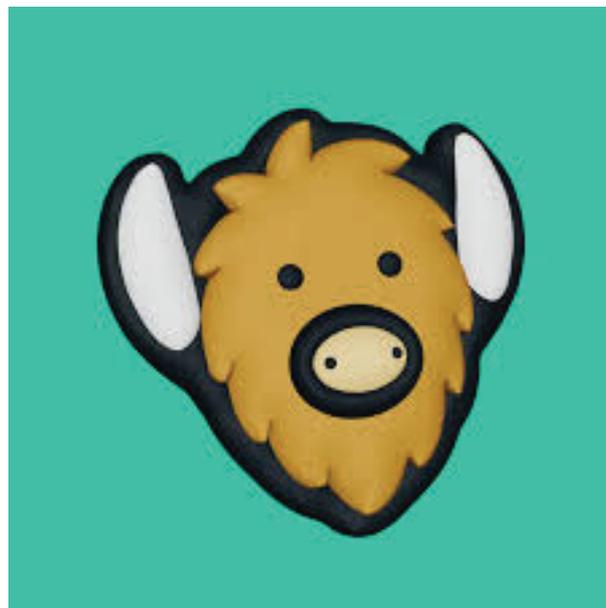
From my perspective, it made me feel horrible, and I wasn't even involved.

Will there be cultures and stereotypes that make their way into Fredonia? Of course, and for some part I agree with them.

Being a Nixon resident, people can be nasty. Being a freshman, some freshmen need to get their lives together.

Yik Yak is the eternal flame and the gasoline of the toxic culture of those stereotypes, and it makes it worse for the people who are victims of these stereotypes.

With all that being said, Yik Yak isn't the worst. It has people who genuinely need to vent out their stresses to people, and the outlet for that can be Yik Yak.



Logo via Yik Yak on Facebook.

Yik Yak can be a place of community, bettering mental health by being able to share stresses and a place for random information to be shared.

It can be funny, it can be sad, it can be emotional because of the emotional environment that college can be in.

And for the positives that it brings, I am happy for them.

The one fatal flaw of Yik Yak is that with its gimmick, it makes targeting anonymous.

It makes a person or a group targeting another group completely anonymous, and only spreads hate and hurt.

There is tongue-in-cheek or community ranting, and there's targeted hateful ranting.

What's the answer to this?

As a Yik Yak user, please try to use the app for the positive, but not the negative; use the app to help, not bring down.

If that can happen, then Yik Yak can be great. Then we can bring in more community and foster more positivity.

Spread positivity and help with negative situations and behaviors in a mature way.

Please.

Lovercolumn: Sex Psychology

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 Yik Yak 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 get together with your partner(s) and make a yes-no-maybe list!

The yes-no-maybe list is an idea that was originally given to us by Erica Rose, an intimacy coach who previously made a special guest appearance on Lovercall.

The original idea was to take various sexual activities and sort them into three columns.

Your “yes” column features the activities that you either love or very much want to try.

Your “maybe” column features activities that you haven’t done before or haven’t done in a long time, but you’d be willing to try.

Your “no” column is for the activities that you are absolutely not comfortable trying.

It’s a good way to learn the sexual desires of your partner(s), and you may even find that you’re interested in trying something you haven’t tried before.

But as we talked about on the episode, a yes-no-maybe list doesn’t have to be about sex.

You can make one of these lists about anything: food, movies, date ideas — it can be whatever you make of it.

The important part is that the experience should allow you an opportunity to grow closer to your partner(s), and it should be a fun activity done out of love.

Outside of the context of a relationship, you can also make yes-no-maybe lists with your friends!

If you and your suitemates are struggling on where to get dinner over the weekend, make a yes-no-maybe list and see if there’s a place you can all agree on!

No matter how you’re making your yes-no-maybe list, it will hopefully be a bonding experience and an opportunity to expand your horizons.

This week's date idea is:

Yes-No-Maybe list!

Sex Psychology

Why do people have sex?

That's the first question we posed to our guests during the show, and we received a wide array of answers.

Your biology professors may tell you that the primary purpose of sex is reproduction. Humans are mammals who reproduce sexually, so sex is necessary for the species to survive.

The other common reason is, of course, pleasure.

On a basic level, sex can feel good. It activates the body's reward system and creates sensations people naturally enjoy.

But beyond physical pleasure, many people also seek sex as a way to build intimacy with a partner.

It can be a way of feeling close, expressing affection or strengthening a relationship through shared vulnerability.

Sometimes it's about stress relief, curiosity or even just wanting to feel desired, but pleasure and intimacy are usually at the core.

The balance between those reasons varies from person to person and even moment to moment, but together they explain why sex is such a meaningful part of human life.

Here's a kinky fun fact: Did you know humans are not the only creatures who have sex for pleasure?

Many other animals, such as dolphins and lions, also mate for the enjoyment of it in addition to its reproductive benefits.

We also posed another question about what determines a person's sex drive. Just like the first, answers were varied.

A person's sex drive, or libido, is influenced by a mix of things going on in the body, the mind and the world around them.

Hormones such as testosterone and estrogen play a big part, since they can raise or lower desire depending on their levels.

But it's not just biology. Factors like stress, mood, energy and even how someone feels about themselves, or their relationship, can make a huge difference.

The environment also matters because what people see or experience can trigger interest. Visual stimulation, like pornography or other sexual imagery, can spark arousal for many people because the brain reacts strongly to those cues.

Everyone responds differently, and things like age, lifestyle and personal preferences all shape how strong or frequent their sex drive is.

Just like sex drive, our thoughts on sex can even range from different sexes.

Back in 2011, Ohio State University conducted a study to answer this question: Who thinks about sex more, men or women?

The study showed that men do in fact think more about sex than women.

To be more specific, the 2011 study found that males think about sex 19 times per day, while females think about sex around 10 times per day.

This supported the idea that men do typically think about sex more than women, but the study also found it was probably due to men on average thinking more about their biological needs more than women.

On the show, we asked our guests what they thought about this study and if they could agree with the study.

Their answers ranged from higher to lower than the study's results, and it brought up a few good points on why this might be true.

We started to talk about how, typically, women are taught to not be as sexual in nature compared to men.

With this in mind, women could try not to think of sex as much or even feel the need to lie about their thoughts towards sex.

Due to this, many believed that the reason why women think about sex less, compared to men, was possibly due to the purity culture around it.

That purity culture might not only be the thing in play for the study, though.

Another thought that was brought up was if maybe the reason why men might think about sex more might be due to men getting more pleasure during intimacy.

There is a thought out there that men typically get more enjoyment out of sex, and some believe this may be the reason why men think about sex more.

Now whether that could be a cause or not, it is important to add that men in the study were also found to have more thoughts about biological needs like food and sleep more than women.

With this in mind, we can slightly see a connection to men having more thoughts about biological needs and the need for sex, affecting how much men might think about sex.

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

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

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



Fill out this QR code to submit your Lovercaller questions!



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THE SCALLION



Satire and parody for Fredonia

How to stop performative males

AVA-CLAIRE BORING

Special to the Leader

The “performative male” persona has been a relatively known concept for a while now, but it had a special resurgence this year.

In previous years, the term “male manipulator” referred to someone who listens to bands or artists that mostly females enjoy, but this year they have gained a fully formed persona and a new title.

This persona includes drinking matcha, carrying a tote bag, reading “feminine literature” such as “Little Women” and “The Handmaid’s Tale” and having a very specific broom-stache above their upper lip (if they can manage to grow it).

Think of that one pretentious dude in high school who brags about being above six feet tall and is overly enthusiastic about free feminine care products.

The term includes the word “manipulate” for this reason — to manipulate those around him into thinking, “I understand, I’m one of you!”

For this reason, the performative male often dresses in a feminine style or partakes in listening to music with a large female audience, such as Clairo, TV Girl, The Smiths, Lana Del Rey, Mitski and The Marias in order to appeal to females.

College campuses have their fair share of performative males, and many colleges have acknowledged this with a

performative male contest, which is a contest to see who is the most performative.

It is only a matter of time until Fredonia has their own, but for now, we’ll just have to sit back and watch as 6’2 men (who are feminists, by the way) run rampant across campus.

Will there ever be an end to the performative male/male manipulator craze?

How do we stop these manipulative men?

I say we should impose traps around campus, which include a box held up with a stick and an overly expensive smoothie underneath.

Once the male inevitably reaches for the lukewarm, half-melted, eight-dollar smoothie, we will pull a string to encapsulate them.

Another idea could be that whenever approached by a performative male talking about a band they’re supposedly into, ask them to name five songs by that band (roles reversed!)

If they happen to name five songs, say that they were cheating and blame AI.

If a performative man tries to talk about the common topic of free feminine care products, ask them why there are different sizes of tampons. Most will not know the real answer.

Another thing that could possibly stun a performative male is to pull up a picture of an eyelash curler and ask them what it is.



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

Every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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



The REAL reason behind the balloon ban

ALEX BUCKNAM
Managing Editor

On July 18, students and faculty received an email stating that the school is attempting to eliminate single-use plastics by 50%.

The school specifically stated that no more balloons will be permitted on campus or at any university sponsored event.

In an article published by The Leader, Sarah Laurie, the director of environmental health, safety and sustainability, stated that “Procedure 5200” is what caused the school to no longer allow balloons on campus.

But why was Procedure 5200 really created?

Does this school truly care about the usage of single-use plastics?

In my investigation, I concluded that the reason this school is following a SUNY rule about getting rid of single-use plastics is to suck more joy out of students.

In leaked videos, administrators look sad and frustrated when they see clubs, sororities and fraternities celebrating an event with balloons in the Williams Center.

You can just tell they don’t want the joyfulness that balloons bring to campus.

To prove this point, really think about it: The school hates joyful students.

Think you can have a day free from classes because every public school is required to give students the day off as a holiday? Well, you can’t.

The school will tell you this is because the majority of students don’t celebrate that day, so there is no need to have the day off.

But what if I wanted to celebrate it? I no longer can because I have to attend lectures.

They try to “make up” for this by giving students Oct. 2 and Oct. 3 off, which they call “fall break.”

But is it truly a break if you only get two days off from school?

No. No, it’s not.

The real reason for only giving two days off — SUNY Fredonia wants to see students suffer on a Monday.

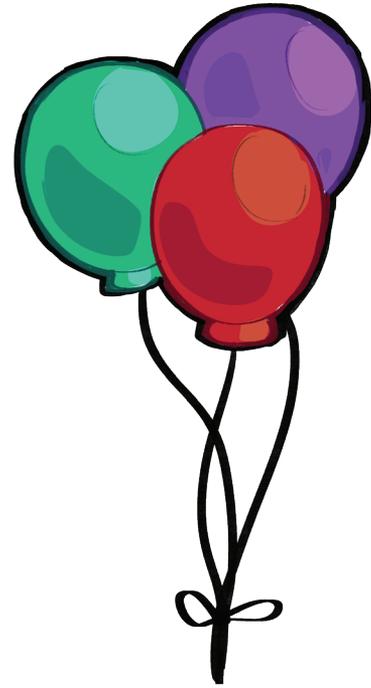
Another reason I know that the school hates joyful students was the provost’s office saying, “They are looking at programs for discontinuation.”

Did you truly think any more majors and minors wouldn’t be cut, like they promised?

I sure didn’t.

Judy Horowitz’s email about wanting to meet with students about the potential of more programs being cut only makes you wonder, “Is my major next?”

The true reason behind this email wasn’t to make sure the administration was finally informing and communicating with students, it was to make sure you weren’t having too good of a start to the semester.



Graphic by SAFFRON LARREA | Art Director

I’m sure I’m not.

They did this after failing to ruin the start of the semester by handing out tiny, knock-off Lego guitars on the first day of classes.

To get back to my main point: no more balloons on campus. The school just doesn’t want you to have fun.

In fact, they have secretly been telling loyal faculty to pop any balloons they see kids holding, just to make sure there is not too much joy on campus.

The same reason goes for “no more straws in Willy C’s.” This is a dead giveaway that “Procedure 5200” is to get rid of the little joy students have left.

The no-straws policy makes no sense. There’s a key flaw in the whole thing.

If the no-straw policy really prevented plastic waste, why are they still offering lids?

Some may say, “This is to prevent the drink from spilling.” To this I say, you’re wrong.

You have to take the lid off anyways to drink it, so you still have the major risk of it spilling.

The school just wants you to spill your drink on your freshly clean clothes, so you have to go back to your dorm to get changed. Now your afternoon lunch is ruined.

That was their plan all along, for you to spill your drink and ruin the rest of your day.

The school hating joyful students is not a new thing. Why do you think the school stopped bringing FredFest to campus? To stop drunk students?

No, they hated the joyful students.
 Why did the school stop bringing celebrities to campus?
 I can't think of any excuse other than "they hate it when students have joy."
 Seriously, what negative thing does it bring to the school?
 Charge students to see the celebrity, pay the celebrity a percentage of that and pocket the rest.
 In fact, I think keeping celebrities on campus would have been a great thing, as multiple other SUNY schools market off celebrities being on their campus.
 What college age kid doesn't want to meet a celebrity? Even if I don't know the person, I would still go to tell people they were at my college.
 Did you know Jeff Dunham was on campus in 2001?
 Yes, the Jeff Dunham. The Leader has a signed poster of the event in the office to prove he was on campus.
 So why did the school stop bringing B-list celebrities on campus?
 Because why give students something to be happy about?
 Sorry about my rant there, I just really wish I was in college in the early 2000's so I could meet a celebrity.
 Why do you think we are in a financially distressed situation right now? Because Fredonia is causing the lack of enrollment to suck the joy out of other students.
 Because having a lot of students on campus brings other students happiness — there are more club members, more events and a better community.

So yes, I'm saying, "SUNY Fredonia got themselves in a financial hole on purpose."
 "Oh, Alex, most SUNY schools are facing the same thing."
 Yes, you are right. Most SUNY schools are in financial distress.
 But most SUNY schools are also trying to suck joy out of their students.
 That leaves the question, what is truly going on in Maytum Hall?
 What is going on with the SUNY Board of Trustees and what is going on with the SUNY system as a whole?
 What evil spirit is causing past and present administration to suck the joy out of students?
 I do not know yet, but I know it's happening.
 Though I'm not a politician, I must report the truth behind what is going on at SUNY schools.
 I must inform the student and the faculty of this deep investigative reporting.
 I have to get to Albany to uncover what is going on and find out the true reason behind why SUNY hates joyful students.
 I will get to the bottom of this and bring joy back to SUNY Fredonia, where we can have our majors, have more days off and get balloons back on campus.
 There's no need to thank me, it's my job.

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QUIZ: Which 'Barbie' movie are you?

MEGAN KIDBY

Scallion Editor

Recently, I watched some of the old animated “Barbie” movies with my friend (and horoscope writer extraordinaire) Izzie.

While watching Ken get kidnapped and forced into a loveless marriage with a fairy, I thought this would be the makings of the perfect quiz.

Which “Barbie” movie are you? Let’s find out!

Question #1: What’s your ideal weekend activity?

- A. Reading or crafting something creative
- B. Volunteering or helping someone in need
- C. Singing, acting or performing
- D. Hosting a tea party or hanging with friends
- E. Going on an outdoor adventure

Question #2: Pick a song from my October playlist! (I plan my playlists ahead of time)

- A. “WHERE IS MY HUSBAND?” by RAYE
- B. “Fame is a Gun” by Addison Rae
- C. “It Runs Through Me (feat. DeLa Soul)” by Tom Misch
- D. “Orange-coloured day” by Liana Flores
- E. “Golden” by HUNTR/X (from the KPop Demon Hunters Soundtrack)

Question #3: Pick your dream sidekick.

- A. A clever talking cat
- B. A tiny dragon
- C. A glittery fairy
- D. A loyal puppy or horse
- E. A majestic unicorn

Question #4: Which setting feels most magical to you?

- A. Hidden enchanted library
- B. Rainbow-colored fairy land
- C. Dazzling stage with bright lights
- D. Cottage filled with friendly faces
- E. Shimmering snow kingdom

Question #5: What’s your vibe at a party?

- A. You’re the one telling cool stories, with everyone paying attention
- B. The karaoke fiend
- C. The one making sure everyone feels included
- D. The one making people laugh
- E. The adventurer starting a game

Question #6: If someone wrongs you, how do you react?

- A. Write or create something about it
- B. Trick them with wit or humor
- C. Express yourself through music or performance
- D. Forgive quickly, life’s too short
- E. Boldly stand up for yourself

Question #7: Which Barbie trait do you connect with the most?

- A. Creativity
- B. Talent
- C. Optimism
- D. Kindness
- E. Bravery

Question #8: Pick a color palette.

- A. Pastel pinks and purples
- B. Greens and floral shades
- C. Rose pink and gold
- D. Bright rainbow tones
- E. Deep blues and silvers

Question #8: What is your biggest strength?

- A. Imagination
- B. Courage
- C. Confidence
- D. Positivity
- E. Compassion

Question #9: What role would you play in a fairy tale?

- A. The clever royal who outsmarts villains
- B. The performer who inspires others
- C. The wanderer who discovers secret magic
- D. The best friend who helps the hero shine
- E. The knight who saves the day

Question #10: Finally... what snack are you reaching for during a “Barbie” movie marathon?

- A. Macarons
- B. Milkshakes
- C. Birthday cake
- D. Cupcakes
- E. Cotton candy

IF YOU GOT...

Mostly A’s — “Barbie as Rapunzel” (2002)

You’re creative, thoughtful and see the world in colors others can’t. You use imagination and artistry to overcome challenges. You are also in one of my favorite computer games of all time, so congrats!

Mostly B’s — “Barbie: A Fairy Secret” (2011)

You’re curious, bubbly and always looking for hidden wonders. Your optimism and sense of humor help you thrive in any situation.

Mostly C’s — “Barbie and the 12 Dancing Princesses” (2006)

Graceful, joyful and independent — you know how to balance responsibility with fun. You value family, freedom and finding magic in movement.

Mostly D’s — “Barbie: Fairytopia” (2005)

You’re a true friend, kind-hearted and uplifting. You light up any room you enter, and your empathy makes you unforgettable.

Mostly E’s — “Barbie and the Magic of Pegasus” (2005)

You’re brave, adventurous and strong-willed. You’re the one people turn to when they need courage — and you never back down from a challenge.

HOROS

IZZIE NOELLE
Staff Writer

It's me again! So, if you read and took Meg's, Which "Barbie" Movie Are You? Quiz, you know which "Barbie" movie you belong in. Let's see if it lines up with your horoscope, though! This week's horoscope will tell you which Barbie character you are. (Based on vibes and vibes alone.)



Aries

Princess Genevieve from "Barbie and the 12 Dancing Princesses":

From my personal favorite movie, you remind me of Princess Genevieve. I could see you dancing the night away with a prince made out of gold and then defeating the evil duchess with your 11 sisters and some crazy stunts. Genevieve is the closest Barbie to an action hero I feel.



Taurus

Bibble from "Barbie: Fairytopia":

This is based solely on vibes. Although the internet fondly remembers Bibble for being a chaos gremlin, I think we all forget how loyal he was, just like you, Taurus. So be like Bibble, chaotic good.



Gemini

Sparkles and Lily from "Barbie and the Diamond Castle":

Remember those two little dogs with the tiaras that just kinda dance? Yeah, that's you Gemini. I got nothing else here, just the vibe.



Cancer

Princess Brietta from "Barbie and the Magic of Pegasus":

So, Princess Brietta is the Pegasus who is Annika's older sister. Just like Brietta, you care about those around you and will protect them however you can. Plus, Brietta is literally a Pegasus — like that's so cool.



Leo

Alina from "Barbie: Fairytopia":

Alina is definitely a prodigy who took Fairytopia by storm by saving it from Laverna like three times. No matter what she does, Alina can't seem to escape the spotlight in any of the "Fairytopia" movies. Again, kinda vibes based here. It just makes sense.



Virgo

Laverna from "Barbie Fairytopia: Magic of the Rainbow":

Laverna the evil fairy, specifically in this movie, pretends to be all sweet and amazing after pretending to be Sunburst. Virgo, I think if you were evil, you'd do it like Laverna.

COPES



Libra

Dizzle from “Barbie: Fairytopia”:

Solely based on vibes. Especially since Bibble and Dizzle are a lil pair, and I always see Libra and Taurus grouped together.



Scorpio

Scorpio – Duchess Rowena from “Barbie: Fairytopia”:

Scorpio... Just like Duchess Rowena, you’d take all the color and fun out of life if you were a villain.



Sagittarius

Princess Merliah from “Barbie in a Mermaid Tale”:

You’d be the adventurous kind of hero, I think. Be real here, what’s more adventurous than a half-mermaid surfer? Get out there and ride some waves, then dive in and swim with the mermaids.



Capricorn

Queen Calissa from “Barbie in a Mermaid Tale”:

Another vibes-based pick. Capricorn just gives me queen energy.



Aquarius

Preminger from “Barbie as the Princess and the Pauper”:

You can be pretty creative, just like Preminger in his plot to become a royal. His scheme is super elaborate. Aquarius, I think you could come up with something just as creative and villainous if you put your mind to it.

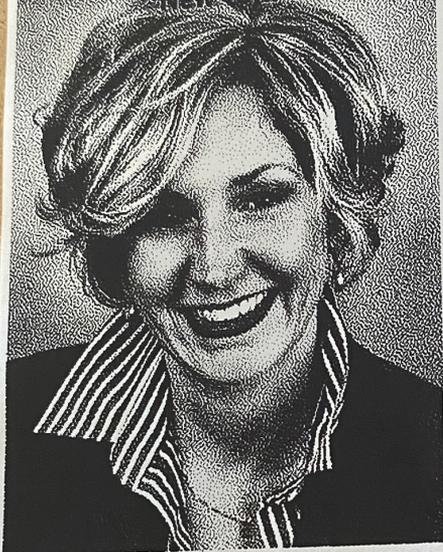


Pisces

Ken in “Barbie: A Fairy Secret”:

Now, if you don’t know this movie, Ken gets entrapped in a loveless marriage. I can’t explain why that just screams Pisces to me, but maybe it’s a bias because my best friend who’s a Pisces always gets themselves into wacky relationships.

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