



# THE LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

SUNY/  
ADMIN

A cartoon illustration of a student with a worried expression, looking at two large bowls. The bowl on the left is labeled 'MONEY FOR PROGRAMS' and the bowl on the right is labeled 'ADMINISTRATIVE PAY'. In the background, there is a sign that says 'BUDGET' with an upward-pointing arrow, and another sign with a downward-pointing arrow. The text 'SUNY/ADMIN' is written in the top right corner.

## Administrators receive pay raises amid deficit

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**Federal government shutdown continues**

**In defense of Taylor Swift's new album**

**Soccer player from Iceland shines for Blue Devils**

**[OPINION] A freshman's perspective on Fredonia's deficit**

**[SATIRE] The REAL reason behind program cuts**

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Front and back covers: Graphics by SAFFRON LARREA | Art Director

S206 Williams Center  
Fredonia, NY 14063

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"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination." - Jimmy Dean

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# Documents detail administrative raises given in March; nearly \$25K to Kolison

**MATT VOLZ**  
Editor in Chief

During open sessions held by Interim Provost Judith Horowitz on Thursday, Sept. 25, the topic of pay raises was brought up.

Horowitz was asked about her six-figure salary, and she responded by asking the student if they knew how much was in her bank account.

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

Horowitz also said that, as of now, she is unaware of any raises being discussed for Management/Confidential (M/C) employees.

M/C employees differ from other faculty, such as professors or custodians. The primary difference is that while other employees are protected by unions and are entitled to annual raises, M/C employees do not receive those benefits.

President Stephen Kolison explained that M/C staff typically work on fixed salaries and aren’t always guaranteed yearly raises.

M/C positions include administrators such as deans and chief officers; the university’s president and interim provost also fall under the M/C umbrella.

Because M/C employees do not belong to unions, all of their pay raises are authorized by SUNY first.

“Every year, SUNY says to campus presidents, ‘We are allowing you to give your M/Cs a raise if you want, up to 3%, but you have to go find the money for it,’” Horowitz said. “I’ve been here 12 years, and I can tell you that there have been many, many years that M/Cs have not been given raises.”

Kolison confirmed the interim provost’s statement, saying that M/C employees were not given raises in four of the past six budget years.

“In limited cases where adjustments occurred, they were tied to changes in employment status (for example, when an interim appointment became permanent) or to address salary compression or instances when a person’s salary was much lower than others with similar titles and job duties in SUNY,” Kolison said.

He said that in 2024, he invited members of his cabinet to voluntarily contribute 0.5% to 1% of their salaries to support student scholarships, a move he described as “a commitment unique to Fredonia’s leadership team and uncommon among public institutions.”

While there is no confirmation of whether there are upcoming raises for M/C staff, documents obtained by The Leader detail raises that were recently given out, mostly in March of this year.



President Stephen H. Kolison, Jr. Photo via fredonia.edu.

Most employees on the list received a raise of 3%, consistent with Horowitz’s earlier statements.

However, two employees in the President’s Office received a much higher percent raise, including Kolison himself.

According to a letter signed by SUNY Chancellor John B. King, Jr., Kolison received a pay increase to \$299,750, effective Jan. 1, 2025.

His former salary was \$275,000, an increase of 9%.

Kolison confirmed that while all other raises for M/C employees are at his discretion, any pay increase given to him is decided at the state level, which is why his letter came from King.

The other significant increase went to Dr. Naomi Baldwin, Fredonia’s Chief of Staff and executive assistant to the president.

Baldwin’s pay increased from \$118,978 to \$129,000, an increase of roughly 8.4%.

However, it is important to note that the primary reason for Baldwin’s pay increase was a change in title, as she received the raise upon accepting the higher position.

Still, raises for employees at the discretion of Kolison may raise eyebrows considering Fredonia’s financial issues.

**Continued from previous page**

As of late September, Fredonia still faces a deficit of \$6,937,016.

Although it may seem like eliminating raises for M/C employees could help, it's hard to imagine it being more than a drop in the bucket.

The total dollar amount of pay increase given to M/C employees was \$110,448.

That's no small chunk of change, but it is still only 1.6% of Fredonia's current deficit.

To alleviate the deficit, further program cuts could happen in the near future.

In December 2023, 13 programs were discontinued, a slashing that's projected to save the school roughly \$750,000.

Horowitz said in her Sept. 25 session that everything was on the table, including M/C positions.

She added that other cost-saving measures are being considered, such as reducing the campus's energy bills or reducing travel.

Kolison said that future raises for M/C employees will depend on multiple factors and that everything will tie into the goal of financial sustainability.

“Historically, this group has been asked to defer raises during lean budget years, and while this is never ideal, such prudence is sometimes necessary,” he said. “We must strike the right balance between fiscal discipline while positioning Fredonia as an attractive regional employer and driver of economic opportunity.”

For now, the future remains unclear, but further cost-cutting measures appear to be on the table in order to ensure Fredonia's long-term sustainability.

“Balancing fiscal responsibility with fair and competitive compensation is an ongoing challenge, particularly during periods of financial constraint,” Kolison said. “SUNY Fredonia's goal is to maintain a compensation structure that recognizes employee dedication while sustaining the long-term health of the institution.”

Students are encouraged to contact Horowitz's office with any concerns about potential program cuts.

Last Name	First Name	Title	Salary Effective Date	Position Department	Negotiating Unit	Salary Raise Amount	New Calculated Annual Salary
Baldwin	Naomi	Asst to Pres	03/27/2025	President's Office	13	10,022.00	129,000.00
Carpenter	Gordon	Chief of Police	03/27/2025	University Police	13	3,485.00	119,635.00
Carroll	Maria	Personnel Director	03/27/2025	Human Resources	13	4,375.00	129,375.00
Costa	Jennifer	Personnel Associate	03/27/2025	Human Resources	13	3,710.00	109,710.00
Helling	Kristen	University Affirmative Action Assistant	07/01/2025	Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	13	4,250.00	89,250.00
Horowitz	Judith	Associate Provost	03/27/2025	Academic Affairs	13	4,542.00	155,941.00
Karafa	Joseph	Dean Art Sci	03/27/2025	College of Liberal Arts & Sciences	13	4,830.00	165,830.00
Kendall	Kathryn	Vice President	03/27/2025	Enrollment Management & Services	13	5,250.00	180,250.00
Kouadio	Michel	Dir Cmptg Svc	03/27/2025	Information Technology Services	13	5,090.00	174,770.00
Langworthy	Judy	Associate Vice Pres	03/27/2025	Finance & Administration	13	4,065.00	139,565.00
Misra	Kaustav	Dean (Business)	03/27/2025	School of Business	13	5,454.00	187,254.00
Rey	Janeil	Dean (Education)	03/27/2025	College of Education, Health Sciences, and Human Services	13	4,800.00	164,800.00
Rohr	Karen	Vice President	03/27/2025	University Advancement	13	5,303.00	182,053.00
Sapp	Vicki	Affm Act Off	03/27/2025	Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	13	3,399.00	116,699.00
Stenger	Tracy	VP Stdnt Aff	03/27/2025	Student Affairs	13	5,310.00	182,310.00
Stringham	David	Dean (Music)	03/27/2025	Music Studies	13	4,848.00	166,448.00
Wilkes	Kerrie	Dir Lib	03/27/2025	Library	13	3,461.00	118,821.00
Zhang	Xiao	Dir Instl Res	03/27/2025	Office of Institutional Research	13	3,504.00	120,287.00
Kolison	Stephen	President	01/01/2025	President's Office	13	24,750.00	299,750.00

A complete list of pay raises for M/C employees. **Graphic via SUNY Fredonia.**

# Federal government shuts down as Congress remains divided

**ALEX BUCKNAM**

Managing Editor

In the week leading up to Oct. 1, many federal employees knew a shutdown was coming.

That meant most would be placed on furlough, while those deemed essential would continue working without pay.

A continuing resolution (CR) — commonly called a stopgap bill — H.R. 5371 was introduced in the House on Sept. 16 by Rep. Tom Cole, a Republican from Oklahoma.

The measure passed the House in a 217–212 vote, with 216 Republicans and one Democrat in favor.

Two Republicans and 210 Democrats opposed.

After clearing the House, it moved to the Senate. As of Oct. 10, senators have voted on it nine times, and none of those attempts succeeded.

The first Senate vote came on Sept. 19. The measure failed with the bill getting 44 yeas and 48 nays, with eight senators abstaining.

Because it lacked the 60 “yea” votes needed, it didn’t pass.

The most recent vote happened Oct. 9 and ended in getting 54 yeas and 45 nays, with one senator not voting.

The Senate is currently composed of 55 Republicans, 43 Democrats and two independents who caucus with Democrats.

To advance the bill, Republicans need at least seven Democratic votes.

But several Democratic leaders have publicly said they won’t back it unless changes are made.

With no compromise by the deadline, the government officially shut down at midnight on Oct. 1.

Many federal services were suspended, and roughly 40% of the federal workforce remains working without pay.

In previous government shutdowns, workers received back pay. House Speaker Mike Johnson has said this could still be the case.

“My understanding is federal law has always been pretty settled on that, and it’s always custom that furloughed federal employees get back pay,” he told Axios.

This is different from what the White House says.

President Donald Trump told reporters on Oct. 7 that some workers don’t deserve to be taken care of.

In a Time video, Trump stated, “For the most part, we are going to take care of your people. There are some people that really don’t deserve to be taken care of, and we will take care of them in a different way.”

When asked why he said this, he responds, “Well, you are going to have to figure that out, ask the Democrats.”

After he finished speaking, a reporter asked Trump whether he would follow the law, if the law states that workers must receive back pay.

Trump responded, “I follow the law.”

The President and his administration have tried to blame the Democrats for the government shutdown.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt blamed the Democrats for the shutdown, stating that they are the reason millions of families are in financial distress right now.

Through the multiple rounds of voting, Democrats are not showing any sight of voting in favor of the bill.

Several Democrats have stated that if this were to pass, it would cause health care premiums to increase for millions of Americans.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune mentioned that Republicans would be willing to negotiate extending the Affordable Care Act (ACA) so premiums don’t go up, but in order to do that, Democrats first must reopen the government.

But some Democrats are saying that this isn’t enough, and that Republicans need to make deeper reforms rather than commitments.

For the government to reopen, two things could happen.

The first case: Democrats must vote in favor the current CR, which then it will become law.

This will cause all of the things they oppose in this bill to become law.

The second case is a different CR must be created and must pass through both chambers of Congress.

The topic of the ACA in the Republican party is split, with multiple saying they don’t like it.

Republicans, including Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, also see the problem with not extending subsidies.

“I’m going to go against everyone on this issue because when the tax credits expire this year my own adult children’s insurance premiums for 2026 are going to DOUBLE, along with all the wonderful families and hard-working people in my district,” Greene posted on social media.

But as of Oct. 10, the government is still shut down, and it looks like no party is willing to budge unless they get their way.

Trump stated that if the standstill continues, he will continue mass layoffs.

The Leader will continue to provide updates.

# 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, 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 case update has been given regarding a bike lock being damaged in an attempt to remove it; the updated status is "arrest complete."

**Oct. 7:** A subject was found tampering with campus flag poles, an arrest was completed.

**Oct. 8:** Stickers were found placed on the Disney Hall sign; the report was closed following an investigation.

## PRE-ADVISING OCTOBER 20TH-24TH

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# Life & Arts

## Orchesis combines popular music with personal messages in fall showcase

**MIA CIECHALSKI**

Life & Arts Editor

Orchesis Dance Company had their fall showcase this past weekend, which was full of popular music, cheering, and excitement.

The opening number, which is also known as the cast piece, started the show with a popular song that everyone knows and loves, “Abracadabra” by Lady Gaga.

Throughout this number, you could tell the dancers were enjoying themselves. The crowd was also having just as good a time with all the hooting and hollering you could hear.

The first half of the show had a wide array of happy, sassy and sentimental numbers.

The first number, “Remember to Breathe,” choreographed by Mia Enders, was a great number to open the show after the upbeat cast piece number. It had classic dance elements, while also having some fun steps to help make its own.

The opener was followed by a sexy and sassy number, “Bring on The Men,” choreographed by Isabel Pino Luz, was a very entertaining dance to watch.

Not only did it have chairs that all the dancers used throughout the whole dance, but there were many components that you normally don’t see in many Orchesis pieces.

The dancers did a great job of pulling the audience in and making them want more.

Afterwards, the show transitioned into a tap piece, “Come on Eileen,” choreographed by Jess Wozniak.

Tap numbers aren’t too common in Orchesis shows, so when the group does put one on, it’s often a fan favorite.

The next number took the show in a different direction, because instead of a group number, it was a duet called “Just Passing Through,” choreographed by Valentina Duić and Genevieve Griffin.

This number was truly one of the best duets Orchesis has had in a long time, mainly because there hasn’t been one featured in the last few shows.

The movement choices were so precise, and you could tell both of those dancers put so much time into this dance where every part of it was all tucked in nicely together.

If I could go back to watch certain dances again, this would be one of them.



Photo by PAIGE SMITH | Design Editor

Regularly scheduled programming returned next with another group piece called “That’s All We’ve Got,” choreographed by Heather Suchanyc.

This dance had a classic David Bowie song titled “Five Years,” which had an ambiguous beat that made it harder to count.

The dance had multiple changing direction points to make sure to hit every audience member, which is greatly appreciated when you have a show in the Bartlett Theatre.

After that, the next number was a piece about mental health called “When Will It Get Better,” choreographed by Sarah Howard.

This dance was so thought out, and the dancers should be extremely proud of showcasing a serious dance about mental health so well.

Continued from previous page

The next dance was not only a favorite of mine, but a crowd favorite as well.

“He Had It Coming,” choreographed by Aaliyah Freeman with contributions from their cast, was another sexy dance with music from the all-time classic musical “Chicago.”

Each dancer was showcased and had their own moment of shine. The dancers embodied the perfect amount of sassy while also pulling you to the edge of your seat wanting to see what was about to come next.

The best part of this dance was the drop split to end the dance off, which had the crowd go wild.

The second half of the show began with “Way Down Hometown,” which was choreographed by Ellie Dunn.

This was the perfect number to start the second half of the show.

This dance had your classic flowy movements, while also taking you for a turn by incorporating surprise upbeat movements when you least expect it.

There were full group number parts, trios and solos throughout this dance, which was a great thing to incorporate because it kept the audience interested in all of the different spacing choices.

The second number for the second half of the show was “Lonely Boy,” choreographed by Anna and Dana MacQueen.

This dance has a special meaning for these sisters because this piece was created and inspired by their dad.

All the dances in every Orchesis show always have a special meaning behind them, but seeing a piece that is a shared experience between two siblings makes watching this dance all the better.

While the audience may not know the dancers’ father personally, you could tell that this dance was very interconnected and personal.

The next dance was “Freefall,” choreographed by Tessa Bonanno.

This dance was definitely another one of my personal favorites. It started off with flowy movement, and then all of a sudden, it transitioned into intense and very intentional movements.

The dancers did an amazing job of differentiating their movements to make it obvious to the audience members that we are now in a different part of this piece.

The next piece was “The Room Where It Happens,” choreographed by Mackenzie Phelps.

This was the show’s fourth musical theater number, and seeing that in an Orchesis show is always so great and fun to watch because the dance club doesn’t normally have many musical theater numbers in a show.

This dance was most definitely a crowd favorite as well because of every single component that Phelps decided to put in this piece.

It was entertaining, with a popular song, great dancers and really great movement choices.

After that crowd pleasing number, the show then went on to “Where Do You Belong?” choreographed by Nichole Iacuzzo.



Photo by PAIGE SMITH | Design Editor

This dance had a very popular song choice and eye-popping costumes, which shows this dance did not come to play.

Watching this dance was honestly so uplifting to see because it had a smaller cast, and while the choreography was still complex, it was also simple.

The term “less is more” would be the perfect thing to use when describing this dance.

The show then moved on to a quirkier number, and it was “Ramalama” choreographed by Sam Mackey.

It’s not too often that an Orchesis dance really pushes the envelope like this dance did, and it was so interesting and entertaining to watch.

This piece was a contemporary tap fusion piece with a nod to 1920s clown aesthetics, which was so cool to watch.

The final piece for this show was “Last Forever,” choreographed by Ava Sargente.

This piece was the perfect dance to have to close out the show, and it was so entertaining to watch so many different dance genres and components all join forces in this piece.

The Orchesis Dance Company’s Fall 2025 Showcase was so entertaining to watch, not just because of all the fun and interesting concepts that were brought, but mainly because you could tell that all the dancers were doing what they love.

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# Jessica Best: Tuning into the past

**MAISIE STRADER**

Special to The Leader

Beethoven wrote the “Eroica Symphony No.3” and dedicated it to Napoleon.

The twist is, Beethoven ended up taking the dedication away after Napoleon declared himself emperor.

This moment is significant because it reflects the deep ties between musicians and political power during that era. In Beethoven’s time, composers were often closely connected to royal courts in places like Austria and the Roman Empire.

Why does this matter? Artists were dictated to by the government. Their work and muse were heavily influenced by those in power.

This very act is seen as a repeated pattern throughout history.

SUNY Fredonia choral teacher, Jessica Best, provided her thoughts on the topic.

“We can see how artists endured it, how people endured it, what the music they listened to sounded like at the time, and how they overcame those kinds of situations,” she said. “Music is always reflective of the people and the culture and the time.”

Best was born into a very musically talented family.

Her mother was her first piano teacher, her brother is an artist and her grandmother was part of the United Service Organizations (USO) during World War II, performing to support American troops.

“World War II [is] a big tie into why I’m doing this now because I feel like it’s our job as artists and people that have a talent to use that to help people,” Best said passionately.

Her grandma, whom she lovingly calls “Baba,” lived in Rochester with her sorority, working for a company called Sargent and Greenleaf during the time of the war.

Greenleaf put on large-scale productions that were connected to the USO, forming a branch that supported the war effort through entertainment.

Music has always been at the heart of her family — but it was the radio that pulled the strings, bringing it all together.

“Our grandparents are those that are not able to go out, or those that are ill, those that are on hospice, they have the radio on, and they they’re being healed through the music,” she says, “So I just think it’s a really big and important legacy, and that’s part of why it’s made me a new, good musician, but it’s also helped me as a musician, and it’s helped my whole family.”

On Saturday, Oct. 11, Best performed at the Downtown Rochester United Presbyterian Church as part of an event titled “Singing for Your Station.”

The benefit concert, supporting WXXI Classical and paying tribute to Michael Lasser, featured nine singers and groups who performed from 2 to 4 p.m.



Photo via @jessbestings on Instagram.

WXXI is a Rochester, N.Y. based, public AM radio station.

“I’m singing everything from Mozart to Gershwin, Irving, Berlin, Cole Porter, so it’s really fun what we call the Great American Songbook, these composers that are uniquely American, and a lot of musical theater in jazz in there as well,” she said.

Other performers will be Mark Daniels, George DeMott, Rob Goodling, Alan Jones, Cindy Miller, Abby Adair Reinhard, Lee Wright and members of First Inversion and the Downtown United Presbyterian Chancel Choir.

“I came up with the idea for the concert earlier in the summer when we knew that there were going to be a lot of cuts to the funding,” Best said. “I was watching a Zoom call with the head of WXXI radio, the family and I were watching the call, and I just thought, ‘I have to do something.’”

On July 24, 2025, President Donald Trump signed the Re-cessions Act, which cut funds for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

According to NPR, the CPB lost \$1.1 billion as a result of the decision.

Now, public broadcasting stations such as WXXI are funded almost entirely by private donations from listeners, viewers, foundations and corporations.

Even though “Singing for Your Station” was a generous event aimed at supporting a beloved community radio station, there was no set fundraising goal.

“If they [students] want to come and they can't afford it, I want them to just come and sit there just to experience the music,” Best said. “Or if they can give \$1, then they can give \$1, but if people want to be more generous, or they want to donate, even the QR code to the website works now.”

In the spirit of open access to music and storytelling upholds the legacy of Michael Lasser, a beloved radio host on WXXI and a music historian.

Lasser was known for his show “Fascinatin’ Rhythm” (formerly “Anything Goes”).

“He sadly passed away this July. He was 89 years old,” Best said. “And so, I’ve had the pleasure of working with him in his, you know, late years, and learning a lot from him. So much of the concert is in tribute to him.”

In Best’s latest performances, her characters have expressed the same devotion to giving back, as much as she does, specifically in her role as Florence Foster Jenkins.

“She was completely tone deaf, and she just didn't know. People kind of protected her, and yet she did all this stuff [singing] to raise money for people, and she loved it,” Best said. “She considered herself a true artist.”

In a time of uncertainty for public broadcasting, Best’s voice and commitment help keep the music alive for everyone.



Photo via JESSICA BEST | Special to The Leader



Jessica Best performs at 'Singing for Your Station,' Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025. Photo via JESSICA BEST | Special to The Leader

# In defense of Taylor Swift's 'The Life of a Showgirl'

**MIA CIECHALSKI**

Life & Arts Editor

I'm sure we're all aware by now that the one and only Taylor Swift released her new album on Oct. 3.

Aside from everyone else's thoughts, I like her new album. Now I know what you're thinking, "How on Earth does she like this album?"

Well, let me tell you what I like about it and why.

## 1. The color scheme

I know this is a very random thing to like about an album, but just hear me out.

After seeing how she changed her profile to all black and white for her "The Tortured Poets Department" album, I really enjoyed getting to see an image on her account in actual color, and BRIGHT colors, nonetheless.

I know she does this as a marketing tactic to show she is in a new and different era, but after a while, seeing ONLY black and white images on her account was very depressing.

The change in colors for the albums not only shows that she is in a new era, but it also shows that my girl isn't depressed anymore.

## 2. The vibe

I truly think this album has a very different and, in my opinion, BEST vibe out of all her other albums.

You can tell while listening to this album that she is truly happy, and it shows in every song.

The songs are all upbeat and just very enjoyable all around. I could have one of these songs just playing in the background and it would lift my spirits.

Don't get me wrong; her serious and sadder content is obviously just as good, and many of those songs created by her are some of my all-time favorites.

However, sometimes a girl just wants to have a happy song that she can randomly start dancing to at any given point.

## 3. The songs not being as serious

You know, sometimes a girl just wants to listen to a song that doesn't have so much meaning to the point where you must read between EVERY line.

I'm tired of trying to figure out what each song is about and trying to figure out if it's about someone and if it's a potential easter egg.

Do you understand that? I'M A TIRED SWIFTIE!

As fun as it is to go down the rabbit hole, it can also be very draining and take up a lot of space in my brain.

## 4. The lyrics not being her typical kind of writing style

This is a controversial opinion to have, but I will forever stand by it.

Soooo many people have been complaining about her choices in lyrics, but guess what? I LIKE THEM.

Yes, basically all the songs don't have much meaning behind them, but you know what, not every song needs to have a special meaning.

In my opinion, she was just enjoying doing what she does for a living and decided to be lighthearted about the album and have fun with it all.

And guess what? I'm here for it.

## 5. What some of her songs are about

Now, I know some songs on this album are so crazy to create — in my opinion.

Take for example, her song "Eldest Daughter."

Now, I may not be the eldest daughter in my family (I'm the youngest and I am a bad bitch, unlike Taylor), but I see exactly what she was trying to get across with this song from witnessing my millennial older brother and borderline millennial/Gen Z older sister's behavior.

This song is literally her saying she doesn't exactly understand all the new lingo that's being used, and most likely will never understand it fully, even if someone tries to explain it to her.

It's also said that because of her being the eldest daughter she wants to make her family proud and live up to the expectations placed upon oldest children.

Another song that I think is better than people think it is, is "Actually Romantic."

"BUT IT'S A DISS TRACK ABOUT CHARLI XCX!"

Guess what? I don't care.

I'm being so for real when I say that, because I truly do not care about celebrity drama that most likely is getting blown out of proportion by the fans and listeners.

I also just don't listen to Charli XCX, so that's another reason why I don't care to know who this song is about. For all I know, it could actually be about Kim Kardashian, and I still wouldn't care.

Another song that I've noticed has people rolling over in their graves is "Wi\$h Li\$t."

"SHE SOUNDS SO DOMESTIC," or "WHY DOES SHE WANT THESE THINGS WHEN SHE'S SO SUCCESSFUL?"

Well, GOD FORBID A WOMAN WANTS A LIFE WITH HER FUTURE HUSBAND AND NOT JUST TO BE A CAT MOM (no hate to Meredith, Olivia or Benjamin).



Graphic by SAFFRON LARREA | Art Director

I actually thought this song was super cute. Like what do you mean, Taylor Alison Swift has the same thoughts as me when it comes to thinking about a future family?

Then finally, the song that has been getting the MOST attention: “Wood.”

Guys, I can’t even be weirded out with her for deciding to write this.

Yeah sure, she wrote a song about her fiancé’s junk, but you

know what, sometimes people deserve their bragging rights when it comes to certain things, and this is one of them.

During her most recent appearance on “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon,” she stated that this was not the original idea or intention for this song, but as she kept writing it, it just came to be what it is now.

That’s all I have to say about this song because if I continue, I am sure we will be in the “oversharing our thoughts” territory.

### 6. Her whole album having something other than a synth

I honestly feel like that’s part of the reason why not as many people enjoy this album.

They’re simply not used to her music having a true beat and multiple different instruments in it.

No hate to my man Jack Antonoff or Aaron Dressner, the albums they worked on will forever be some of my favorites.

However, at the same time it was becoming a little overdone, and some of the songs that were created by them sounded mostly the same.

I also think everyone is not used to Max Martin and Shellback working with her, even though they created her fourth album “Red” together.

I enjoy hearing some actual drums be used for once and having them create something together gave her the best creative outlet and a good change (don’t go too far though Jack, I’m sure you’ll be back soon).

And there you have it folks, that right there is every reason why I like this album.

I needed to share my thoughts because I have been in enemy territory for far too long with this one.

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# Speaker highlights Buffalo's connection to presidential history

**MATT VOLZ**  
Editor in Chief

When most people think of Buffalo, they think of three things — chicken wings, snow and the Bills.

But for people with an affinity for American history, several U.S. Presidents come to mind.

That's a big reason why Jeff Schober is where he is today.

Schober is the next guest speaker invited to Fredonia by the school's chapter of the American Democracy Project (ADP).

He is slated to visit the campus on Wednesday, Oct. 15, where he will deliver a presentation titled "Western New York's Unique Presidential Connections."

Schober, a journalist and retired high school teacher, currently serves as a trustee of the Buffalo Presidential Center.

He explained that, in addition to the two Presidents who made their careers in Buffalo, Millard Fillmore and Grover Cleveland, the area has ties to several other administrations.

Cleveland's wife, Frances Folsom Cleveland, was a native of Buffalo as well.

Belva Lockwood, who became the first woman candidate for President in 1884, was a native of nearby Royalton.

Buffalo was also the site of President William McKinley's assassination in 1901, as well as the following inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt.

"Besides Washington, D.C., Buffalo is the city with the most connections to the 45 men who have served as president," the Buffalo Presidential Center website reads.

The goal of Schober and the Buffalo Presidential Center is to celebrate Buffalo's historic ties to the highest office in the nation, he explained.

In addition to working with the Buffalo Presidential Center, Schober is also the co-founder of Buffalo Tales, a storytelling website.

He works with his co-founder, photographer Steve Desmond, to produce long-form feature stories with connections to Western New York.

"Everything [in current media] is short and fast. We're doing the opposite," he said. "Give us 10 or 12 minutes whenever we publish a story, dig into the story, and we promise we will give you a really good read or a really good story that we believe is interesting."

Many of the stories published on the Buffalo Tales website draw connections to Buffalo's history, something Schober has a strong connection to.

Schober's love of history began when he was young, as his parents took him on trips to several historic locations.

He visited places like Thomas Jefferson's home at Monticello and the location of the Boston Tea Party.



Fredonia's chapter of the American Democracy Project.

Photo via [fredonia.edu](http://fredonia.edu).

"I am unabashedly a history nerd," Schober said. "I make no apologies for it."

Beginning his career as a journalist, Schober wrote for Bee Newspapers in Buffalo for two years before deciding to become a teacher.

After teaching social studies at an alternative school in Orchard Park for five years, Schober spent the rest of his career as an English teacher at Frontier High School, retiring in 2024.

Schober always found a way to incorporate history into his English classes. On one occasion, a student told him that his classes seemed to be 60% English and 40% history.

"I took that as a compliment, because I think the two go together," he said. "If you don't understand history or context, you're not much of a writer because you have to be able to see the big picture."

Schober is a strong believer in open and honest political dialogue, and he said that he would often discuss controversial topics in his classes.

"It's a very fraught time to express your views," he said. "We've got to somehow be able to get past that as a nation, where we can talk to one another without vilifying one another and making one another the enemy."



Jeff Schober. Photo via jeffschober.com.

In an election as divisive as last year's was, it can be hard for Americans to find a candidate they fully identify with.

But as Schober pointed out, it's hard to fully agree on every single issue.

"You have to vote for a vision, and you have to be involved in the political process, because if you're not, you're giving up your voice," he said. "I don't know why anyone would give up their voice."

Schober's presentation is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Oct. 15. There will be voter registration drives before and after the presentation, one at 10 a.m. and another at noon.

"I'm glad there's a voter registration drive," he said. "I'm going to make a push for my audience that if you're not registered to vote, please do so."

ADP is a nationwide initiative that aims to promote civic engagement among college students. Nearly 300 colleges and universities across the U.S. have ADP programs, including Fredonia.

For more information on ADP, visit [aascu.org/civic-global-engagement/american-democracy-project/](http://aascu.org/civic-global-engagement/american-democracy-project/).

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# SPORTS

## The transatlantic journey of Fredonia's latest rising star

**JACK HOADLEY**

Special to The Leader

Tomas Thordarson came a long way to play soccer at Fredonia, but he is already leaving a mark on the team.

The 20-year-old freshman from Mosfellsbær, Iceland was looking for a degree in music industry, which made Fredonia a top destination.

While he has certainly had a seamless transition to Fredonia so far, one thing Thordarson had struggled with at first was the summer heat.

“In terms of soccer, that’s been horrible...It’s like having an extra summer,” he said about the weather.

Thordarson said that Iceland is already closing in on winter and the weather here has lightened his mood with how nice it has been.

At this point, Fredonia men’s soccer is deep into its season, and Thordarson has already had a significant impact on the team.

Starting in all of the Blue Devils’ games so far, Thordarson has recorded two goals and two assists throughout his first season.

He has been a key piece to the team as one of the best facilitators they have.

Assistant Coach Dan Smith said that playmaking is what they originally say Thordarson unlocking for their team.

“[He] stabilizes us in the middle of the field,” Smith said. “He gives us cover over the defenders, and he just makes us a better team.”

The high praise is warranted and something the coaching staff saw from the jump with Thordarson.

Smith said that during the recruiting process, Thordarson was “on top of everything,” which has continued on the field.

He also continued to praise Thordarson as a leader, speaking on how he has grown vocally since the season began.

“[He’s] becoming more vocal,” Smith said. “He’s holding players accountable a little bit more.”

The clear strides and impact Thordarson has had in all aspects is certainly felt based on how strong the team has played this season.

Fredonia is 5-4-3 with an undefeated record at home so far this season, as they look to continue pushing towards their goal of hosting a playoff game this year.



Tomas Thordarson. Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Sports Photographer

Thordarson will be a key piece towards said push, but beyond his skills, another trait pointed out by Smith was the maturity that comes with Thordarson being older than other freshmen.

“[He has] a level of maturity that you don’t see usually in freshmen,” Smith said.

Regardless of his value, Thordarson’s story from Iceland to Western New York is an inspiring one as he found a place where he could express his passion for both soccer and music.

Thordarson is already enjoying the community built around music Fredonia has, citing the many, “amazing musicians and songwriters” he has met.

The many differences between his school in Iceland and Fredonia for Thordarson were the facilities he now has access to.

Thordarson didn’t hesitate when asked about the campus resources, saying that the academic buildings are amazing.

He specifically mentioned the cubical space in the library which made doing homework much easier.

It's clear there were a number of reasons why Thordarson chose to attend Fredonia, all relating back to opportunity.

When it came to taking advantage of said opportunity, Thordarson had a number of goals for his time here.

As far as developing as a future mentor, Thordarson wishes to become, "A leader on the team and hopefully earning a bit of respect from all of my teammates."

But of course, the immediate success that he has already experienced here just makes Thordarson ready for more in the future.

He said the coaches believe this to be one of the more successful campaigns recently, and Thordarson hopes to keep it going into future years.

Regarding how much coaching has helped him throughout his journey, Thordarson was grateful for the long-time contact he has had with the team.

He said the team and him had been in contact since last fall, when they connected him with a few current leaders on the team.

This upfront communication made such a drastic change much easier and smoother for Thordarson.

Despite a small adjustment going from Iceland into Fredonia summers, the move to Fredonia has been seamless for Thordarson.

As the weather cools down, Fredonia and Thordarson will have to stay hot as they work towards the playoffs.

With four of their last five games being at home, keeping their undefeated home record is essential as they try to secure a top four seed in the SUNYAC conference.



Tomas Thordarson battles a Geneseo player for the ball.  
Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Sports Photographer



Tomas Thordarson (right) with teammate Frederick Butler (left). Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Sports Photographer

# 5th Quarter Column: All In

## MITCH HORUCY

Sports Editor

With a 4-1 record, it was another successful start to the season for the Buffalo Bills.

It's the first time in three years the team has had this record, with the last being the 2022 season.

Some Bills fans will act like the sky is falling after a loss to the Patriots, but that's not the case.

With that being said, there's some holes that the team can fill through trades as the Nov. 4 trade deadline quickly approaches.

Defensively, they must improve if they want a chance to bring home a Lombardi trophy for the first time in franchise history.

The injury bug has not been kind to the team, specifically the defense, which is where I think they should add some players via trade.

They'll get Ed Oliver, Maxwell Hairston and Matt Milano back from injury, which will definitely help the team.

They'll also get Larry Ogunjobi and Michael Hoecht back from suspension, and the two should be solid contributors.

This should not be the reason they don't make a move though.

Starting on defense, I think the most important thing for them to add is a cornerback across from Christian Benford.

Tre'Davious White, as much as I love him, is not a starting corner for a Super Bowl team.

Hairston could also be good, but I don't want to have to trust him to be a full-time starter this early in his career, especially after an injury.

A guy that I'm really interested in is L'Jarius Sneed from the Tennessee Titans.

It's no surprise that the Titans aren't in playoff contention this year and are looking to gain draft capital.

Sneed has a decent cap hit and is likely not in their long-term plans.

For the Bills, they'd have to move some money around, but with a few restructures they can make it work.

The cap isn't actually real, but that's a story for another day.

He isn't what he was during his time on the Chiefs, but Sneed would immediately be the second-best boundary corner on the team.

A cheaper option is Michael Jackson, not that one, from the Carolina Panthers.

Jackson bounced around the league a bit before landing a starting role for the Panthers.

His metrics aren't great, but I think that's more a product of the team's defensive line than him.

The Panthers finished third worst in sacks and last in pressure percentage.

That's a tough environment for any cornerback to succeed, but Jackson played well.

He ranked third in the league in passes defended last season with 17.

With a very cheap contract, he'll cost next to nothing with very little, if any, cap magic at all.

Moving to the offensive side of the ball, receiver is the clear and only need.

Staying in the NFC South, Rashid Shaheed may be my favorite target for the Bills.

He's on a one-year deal for almost nothing, the perfect trade target for a team looking to add talent to help the playoff push.



The Bills practice a blocking drill, Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025. Image property of the Buffalo Bills.



Josh Allen warms up before the Bills game against the New England Patriots, Sunday, Oct. 5, 2025. **Image property of the Buffalo Bills.**

With great play speed, he can add a skillset that the Bills offense hasn't had in years. He has six receiving touchdowns of 50 yards or more since 2022; Josh Allen has nine passing touchdowns of the same length.

Even if he isn't an every-down receiver, which he won't be, just having him on the field will help.

Teams having to respect the arm of Allen combined with the speed of Shaheed will open a lot of grass in the short to intermediate range.

This deal could likely be made with just a fourth-round pick, which I'd do in a heartbeat.

Moving back to the Titans, it's more of a long shot, but I'd call and see what the ask would be for Calvin Ridley.

Ridley has had an up and down career, with an All-Pro Second Team appearance in his third season.

His career was derailed after that, with an injury in 2021 and a season-long suspension in 2022.

He's yet to return to his 2020 form but has put together two under-the-radar solid seasons over the past two years.

His contract is more expensive than Sneed's, making it difficult to fit in.

But again, his contract isn't awful long-term and doesn't hurt your cap situation that much.

Unlike Shaheed, Ridley is a primary receiver who will play the "X" for the team.

He can separate in the short to intermediate range, which the team needs.

This may take a third-round pick, but I'd be willing to overpay.

With the Chiefs possibly having a down year, Joe Burrow and the Bengals likely out of the picture and the Ravens having the season of their nightmares, it's time to go all in.

The Bills are the clear favorites in the conference and likely won't get a shot like this ever again.

Take a look at the 2021 Los Angeles Rams and follow their plan.

Sell out for a Super Bowl.

If there was ever a time to go all in, this is the time.



## Join The Leader for General Body meetings!

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# Sabres try to snap 14-year playoff drought

**MITCH HORUCY**

Sports Editor

The Buffalo Sabres' season is back underway, although that may seem like a threat to some people.

If you feel like it's been forever since you've seen the team play in the playoffs, it's because it has been.

Apr. 26, 2011 was the last time the Sabres played in a playoff game, a 14-year drought.

It's tied with the New York Jets in the NFL for the longest active postseason drought in the four major North American sports leagues; NFL, NBA, NHL and MLB.

To put that into perspective, the last time I watched the team play a playoff game, I was in first grade.

I graduate college this upcoming May.

After saying all of that, I have hope for this team this season.

Starting with the defense, it's good.

When healthy, a top four defenseman group consisting of Rasmus Dahlin and Bowan Byram with Owen Power and new addition Michael Kesselring is playoff caliber.

Dahlin has solidified himself as a top three, top seven at worst, defenseman in the world.

Some look at 22-year-old Power as a disappointment as he was the first overall pick in 2021, but he's shown improvement in each season he's been in the league.

I talked about Kesselring before in my column regarding his trade, but he's a young, big, high floor, high ceiling guy.

I'm still not completely sold that trading Peterka was the correct move, but I am a fan of Kesselring.

As far as the forward group is concerned, it's a bit shakier.

Tage Thompson leads the way, and he's a certified elite top line center/winger.

With 44 goals last season, he was third in the league but also led the league in even strength goals with 37.

His likely top line mates are Josh Norris and Zach Benson, who are two question marks in terms of what they can be.

For Norris, he was acquired in a trade sending Dylan Cozens to Ottawa.

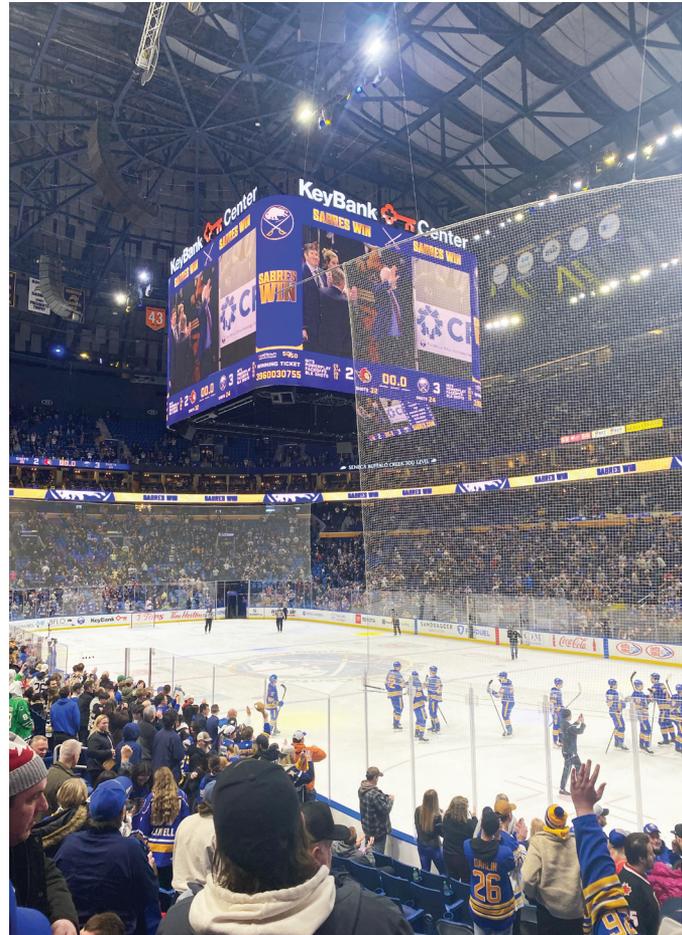
He's shown flashes of being a serviceable top line piece, but he has an alarming injury history, playing 60 games in a season just once.

In his preseason showings, he looked solid with seven points (3 goals + 4 assists) in just four games.

Norris, along with many other players in the forward group, has potential to unlock but has yet to show it.

Benson is in a different boat when it comes to being a question mark, with more hope for him than Norris.

At just 20 years of age, the sky is the limit for him.



The Sabres celebrate a win over the Ottawa Senators, Tuesday, March 25, 2025. **Photo by MATT VOLZ** | Editor in Chief

Entering his third season already, he's expected to play on the top line as previously mentioned.

The point production hasn't shown so far, but he's a tremendous playmaker.

He's also one of the best defensive forwards on the team, which is impressive at his age.

Playing with a sharpshooter like Thompson and another good playmaker in Norris, I believe this could be the breakout year for the former 13th overall pick.

Amongst the other forwards, it's not necessarily a bad group, but it's not great.

Alex Tuch is a great forward on both sides of the ice who is due for a contract extension that the Sabres hopefully will give him.

Ryan McLeod also had a breakout year last season with 53 points (20+33) in 79 games, surpassing his previous career high by 23 points.

Rounding out the top six is Jason Zucker who had 53 points (21+32), which is his highest since the 2017-18 season.

He can be a solid contributing guy for the top six, bringing some veteran leadership as well.

In the middle-bottom six, guys like Jack Quinn, Jordan Grenway, Peyton Krebs and Josh Doan are all looking to prove something.

If all, or even just a few, of those guys can contribute in a meaningful way, it'd be a huge win.

In what usually goes without saying, the goaltending is likely the most critical part to the team's success.

Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen is entering his third season as the clear starting goalie in Buffalo.

After a 2023-24 campaign where he posted a .910 save percentage along with a 2.57 goals against average (GAA), there was hope that he'd be an above average goalie.

He was rewarded with a nice payday after that season, as the Sabres gave him \$4.75 million per year over the course of five years.

In the first year of that contract, he was bad.

With an .887 save percentage and 3.20 GAA, it was his worst year as a starter.

He suffered an injury in the preseason that will keep him out for an undisclosed amount of time, likely the first few games.

Once he heals, he needs to return to his 2023-24 self if the team wants any chance to make the postseason.

Alex Lyon was also signed in the offseason and will serve as the primary backup to UPL.

He's a good backup and can get you by in times where he needs to start a stretch of games.

It wouldn't surprise me at all if Lyon got hot and goes on a five-game stretch of playing great hockey where he becomes the temporary number one goalie.

But even if this happens, it's UPL's net.

Another guy who will only play a few, if any games in the blue and gold is Devon Levi.

Coming out of college a few years ago, Levi was the best goalie in NCAA hockey, finishing his career at Northeastern as second all-time in NCAA save percentage.

He came in during the playoff push at the end of the 2022-23 season and played a lot of games down the stretch, looking good.

Following the closest the team has been to playoffs in years, led by the play of Levi down the stretch, the hype was through the roof.

He was unfortunately not able to match his play with the hype, getting sent down to Rochester after a rough start.

He also played a few games last season and didn't look good once again.

In Rochester though, he's looked like his college self.

In his past two seasons there, he's posted a .922 save percentage along with a 2.28 GAA in 68 games.

Some people have already lost hope on Levi becoming a star goalie, but I haven't.

For lack of a better term, goalies can be weird when it comes to development.

Now, they're incredibly tough shoes to fill, but Sabres legend Ryan Miller had a very similar start to his career.

After a stellar college career, he was bad in his first two seasons in the NHL, playing just 18 games and struggling in those games.

He then played 65 games in Rochester, learning the speed of the professional level and then turned into a Vezina winning goaltender.

I'm not saying this is for sure going to happen with Levi, but don't lose hope yet.

The team has a lot of questions and is still incredibly young.

That's why I believe this is the year they finally get it done and make the playoffs.

With the Atlantic Division seeing some parity in it along with the Metropolitan Division seeming weak, it sets up well for the Sabres.

I can't give you a prediction on how far they'll make it or where they'll fall in the standings, but I think they make the dance for the first time in 14 years.

**Days since Buffalo's last playoff game: 5,285**

**Number of current NHL players who have played a playoff game with the Sabres: 1**

**Number of Sabres coaching changes since 2011: 7**

**Notable events in April 2011:**

- Cam Newton is drafted first overall by the Carolina Panthers

- "The Voice" premieres on NBC

- "Game of Thrones" premieres on HBO

## A freshman's perspective on Fredonia's deficit

**SETH CAMPBELL**

Special to The Leader

I was told often in my adolescence that college was going to be the time to figure myself out.

I was told that the world was my oyster; I had so many opportunities I would've never had before. That I can do anything I want to...if there is someone around to teach it.

Maybe this is just a lamentation of the current state of the world. Maybe this is just the way things are going to be for my whole college experience.

But there's very few sadder sights than seeing people standing in front of the powers-that-be pleading their case for their major to survive the next wave of cuts.

To see the interim provost stand in front of the students and tell them she "won't work for free," in response to questions about her six-figure salary, whilst they watch her discuss people's livelihoods and futures in the language of numbers and logistics?

It's hard not to see that as disheartening.

To show my hand a little bit, at the time of writing this, I'm an undeclared freshman.

I came in with an idea of what I would do, but quickly realized it wasn't my path to take.

My college experience has come with a lot of new freedoms and ideas of what direction I could take my life in.

But it's hard to discover what you will dedicate yourself to when the options in front of you are withering away before your eyes.

What if I found something to dedicate myself to right now, and then it was announced to be falling apart a few months later?

Obviously, I would be taught to the completion of my degree, but being in the last lifeboat off the Titanic doesn't sound like it'd be the best-case scenario for my education.

Hell, if the program cuts happen now, what's to say there aren't more cuts in a few years?

Who can say that my prospective program wouldn't begin to dissolve in my junior year?

Believing that these cuts will be the last would require a level of trust in the administration that just hasn't been established within me thus far.

Of course, the public (and, according to the interim provost, the administration) has yet to see the data that would lead them to cut any specific programs.

We have no clue which programs will end up being discontinued come December.

This leaves over 3,000 students wondering about not only their future, but the future of their friends and professors.

If there's one thing I want to see the administration focus on in these coming months, I want them to recognize the impact this is going to have on people's livelihoods for years to come.

In the meeting I attended with the interim provost, much of the language seemed to focus on cost-cutting measures, efficiency and how hard it all was for her.

This may be hard for her, yes.

It's likely harder for the professors who did and might be given retrenchment letters, or the students who will have to watch their program they've paid thousands of dollars for slowly disassembling itself.

I'm sick of hearing that this is a necessary evil when the administration only emphasizes the "necessary" in the phrase.

Optimism is hard to come by these days. It can often seem twisted to maintain some sense of optimism in the face of people's lives being torn apart.

I hope, looking beyond all the reasons presented, everything turns out best for those who this will affect.

Against all the unfortunate logic the administration has presented, I hope that these cuts don't need to happen.

These are lives, these are families; these are lifelong connections being torn apart.

I hope the administration will recognize that, no matter what they say they must do.

To express ideas or concerns about program cuts, contact:  
[provost@fredonia.edu](mailto:provost@fredonia.edu)

# The College Lodge: A hidden gem

**ALEX BUCKNAM**  
Managing Editor

Have you ever heard of the College Lodge?

Students usually answer in one of three ways: “Yes, but I’ve never been there,” “Yes, and I’ve been there” or “No, what is that?”

If you aren’t a freshman, your answer is probably the first or second.

But if you’ve never heard of it, or have yet to visit, here’s why you should.

The College Lodge, located in Brocton about 15 minutes from campus, sits on roughly 200 acres of mostly wooded land.

If you ever find yourself bored and have a way to get there, it’s worth the trip.

The trails are clearly marked, so you won’t get lost; they come in a wide range of inclines and lengths, and there’s even a pond where you can stop and enjoy the view.

When you enter the main trail area and walk down, you’ll find an amphitheater with a plaque that reads, “In honor of Dr. Willard F. Stanley, professor from 1935 to 1971, SUNY Fredonia. For his many contributions in establishing this nature preserve.”

Despite its history, the area doesn’t appear to be used as much as it once was.

Don’t get me wrong; the lodge is still active, but it feels underutilized.

As a junior, I’ve never been invited to an event hosted there, and some of my friends didn’t even know it existed.

It often feels like the school won’t use it unless a club or a department requests it for an event.

Maybe it’s only supposed to be used for that, but I feel like if the school were to promote the lodge more and host events there, then we would see a wide range of benefits.

If the school promoted the College Lodge and the surrounding woods, more students might benefit from the mental and physical health opportunities it offers.

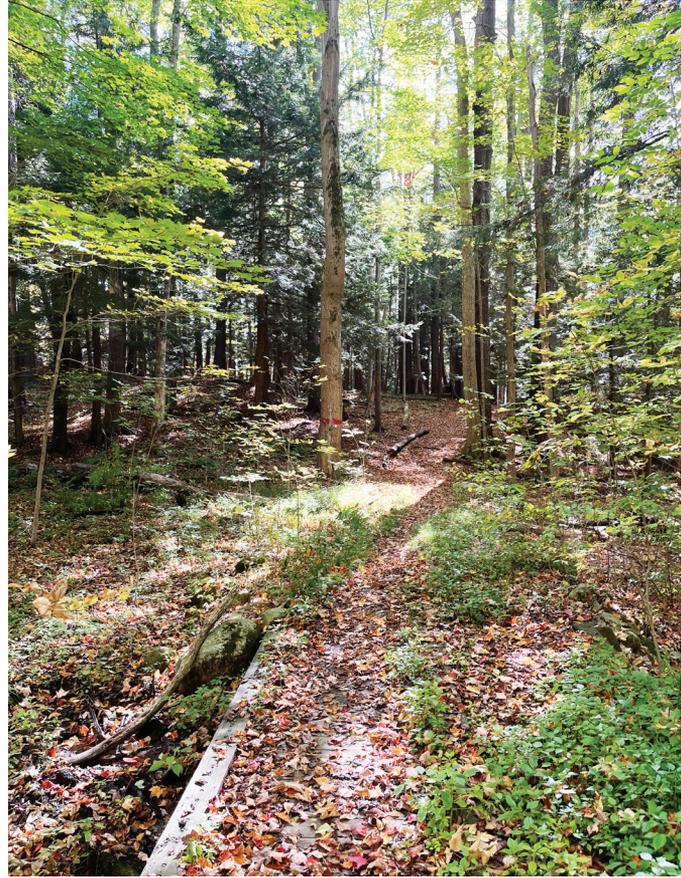
It could also encourage greater interest in wildlife and geology courses, which will also help with under-enrolled courses, and it could possibly boost total enrollment.

Clubs could use the space for outdoor activities and also use the sleeping area to host overnight events.

I know this is already a thing, but how many clubs truly know they can do that?

My guess is it’s probably very little.

When it comes to using the lodge to help boost enrollment, I often think it’s something the college never talks about when they are trying to pitch Fredonia to you.



The Darwin Trail, located in the woods at the College Lodge.

**Photo by JASPER BATEMAN** | DEI Chair

This isn’t a criticism of Fredonia’s marketing team, but incoming students often hear the same selling points they do from another college: great professors, small class sizes and a great community.

Well, these are all the things I think of when I think of “Fredonia,” but it’s not something that sets us apart from other small SUNY schools.

When I decided to enroll in Fredonia, I did so based on my sister’s recommendation.

I learned more about the unique aspects of the campus from her than from tours.

The College Lodge is one of those unique features where, if more students knew about it and the school found ways to make it accessible, it could help with recruitment as well as students’ physical and mental health.

To me, there is so much possibility with the College Lodge, and they are doing nothing about it.

One idea: provide rides to the lodge for students once or twice a month. Several people on campus hold commercial driver’s licenses and could help with transportation.

# Lovercolumn: Maintaining Yourself in a Relationship

## 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 in 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 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 is 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 or online at [fredonialeader.org](http://fredonialeader.org).



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

**Self-care together!**

### 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, you’re going to practice self-care... together!

There are a multitude of ways to practice self-care, and the idea is simply to do anything that brings you peace or joy.

For some, this might mean a sort of spa day, with face masks and other relaxation tactics.

For people like The Quarterback, this sounds awful.

The Quarterback hates face masks.

It doesn’t matter what you decide to do, but the important part of this specific date idea is that you’re taking care of yourself while doing so together.

Some people might choose to do something like scrolling through their own TikTok for you pages and showing each other the funny or sweet videos that come up.

Others might opt for some sort of trip; that can be as simple as a walk on the beach in Dunkirk.

Before you go on your date, you and your partner(s) can establish some ideas for what you might want to do.

You could even connect this with a previous date idea and make a yes-no-maybe list of things to do with each other!

Outside of cutesy dates, there are some not-so-wholesome options that you could choose.

Self-pleasure, including but not limited to masturbation, is a great way to express self-care.

If you and your partner(s) are looking to spice things up in the bedroom, you could go down the route of mutual masturbation.

No matter what, make sure all parties are comfortable with everything that occurs.

We often discuss the “two Cs of Lovercall” — consent and communication.

These are crucial for any date, and we feel they are the two most important components of any relationship.

As long as you’re taking care of yourself and all parties are consenting to what you’re doing, you can do this date idea in any way you choose.

### **Maintaining Yourself in a Relationship**

Maintaining a sense of self in a relationship is about balancing closeness with individuality.

It’s easy to get swept up in someone else’s world — sharing routines, interests and emotions — but staying true to who you are keeps the relationship healthy and grounded.

Each person should continue nurturing their own passions, friendships and goals rather than letting their identity merge with their partners.

This doesn’t mean creating distance; it means ensuring that love adds to your life instead of replacing it.

When both people feel secure in their individuality, they can bring their best and most authentic selves to the relationship.

Setting boundaries, communicating honestly about personal needs and taking time for independent growth all help maintain this balance.

In the long run, a strong sense of self not only deepens mutual respect but also makes the connection more vibrant and resilient.

You bring a whole, evolving person to the table, and that’s what makes the connection meaningful.

It’s also essential to make sure the needs of all parties in the relationship are being met.

Relationships thrive on mutual care and understanding, not self-sacrifice or one-sided effort.

The Quarterback has a metaphor for this exact situation.

Suppose you’re in your car, and you see that others need to fill their tanks with gasoline.

So, you help out by giving them some gasoline from your own tank.

You continue this pattern over and over again, constantly helping others by pouring your gasoline into their cars so they can drive.

Then, you get back to your car... and you’re out of gas.

Now, not only do you have no more gas to give to anyone else in need, but you also don’t even have enough to get yourself back home.

It’s similar to what can happen in a relationship if one person is constantly devoting all their energy to the other(s).

It’s natural to want to make your partner happy, but it’s equally important to check in with yourself and make sure you’re feeling heard, supported and appreciated.

When one person’s needs consistently take priority, resentment and imbalance can start to grow.

Honest communication is the best way to prevent this. Talk openly about what each of you needs emotionally, physically and mentally.

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

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

*“The Quarterback,” “The Musician” and “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!**



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

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

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



# THE SCALLION



Satire and parody for Fredonia

## The REAL reason behind the program cuts

**RYAN FINK**

Special to the Leader

“Your major might get cut.”

That’s a line that a lot of people might be hearing when they walk through the campus of SUNY Fredonia, but the question on everyone’s minds is, “Why?”

Well, do I have the inside scoop for you.

Not only am I a consumer of all Fredonia knowledge, but I also know the REAL reason for program cuts, so read carefully.

If you are a freshman, you already have some of the inside scoop on why these cuts are happening.

They started at orientation, when one man, swathed in blue and dressed like a cowboy, walked onto the stage.

Did you ever find it odd that he would DELIBERATELY use the phrase, “Not Six Years, Not Seven Years, but FOUR Years” and then continue as if he didn’t know what he was doing by saying that?

Well, do I have a reveal for you... but you might not want to hear it... okay fine.

I will admit that the man had billions of bees in his hat.

I REPEAT, THE MAN HAD BILLIONS OF BEES IN HIS HAT.

And when he said, “Not Six Years, Not Seven Years, but FOUR Years,” he was ACTUALLY talking about the amount of years of bee production.

Here’s another odd question — so hold on, just hold on... you ever wonder why Jewett Hall is closed down? Huh???

WELL, DO I HAVE THE ANSWER FOR YOU.

HOLD ONTO YOUR BEES AND SQUIRRELS FOR THIS ONE... THEY MANUFACTURE THE BEES UNDER THE “ABANDONED” JEWETT HALL.

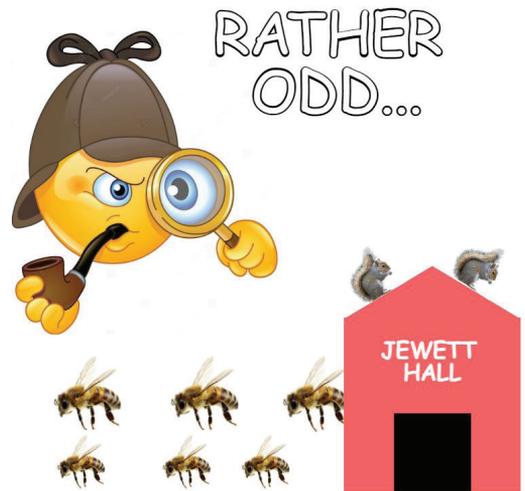
Speaking of squirrels... you ever wonder why there are so many squirrels on campus?

Well, am I about to blow your mind.

What if I told you that the multiverse is real?

Yes, the “many worlds” interpretation is a reality.

In fact, quantum immortality is a factual scientific theorem in which I have discovered to be a reality myself.



Graphic by RYAN FINK | Special to The Leader

Anyways, there are two universes, Universe A, and Universe B, and ALL the squirrels are in Universe A.

Universe B, (because I’ve been there), has NO squirrels, and in fact, all the squirrels from Universe B are in Universe A.

That’s why there is a higher likelihood of “Shiny Squirrels” (trademark copyright @ryfigaming 2025) at Fredonia.

I have one more thing to cover; this is just a small thing.

Word around the beehive is that SUNY Fredonia is about to announce a new program called “Squirrel Domestication,” a full four-year major.

And I’ll leave you with that... just think that over... think about it; you might find that you are seeing some more bees than usual.

You might look outside Cranston and say, “Huh, there are a lot of bees and squirrels.”

You may be wandering around and see a “Shiny Squirrel” (trademark copyright @ryfigaming 2025) and then see another “Shiny Squirrel” (trademark copyright @ryfigaming 2025), and wonder if it’s a little odd that there are more “Shiny Squirrels” (trademark copyright @ryfigaming 2025) on campus.

Thank you for reading.

# The resurgence of cigarettes



Graphic by AVA-CLAIRE BORING | Special to The Leader

**AVA-CLAIRE BORING**  
Special to The Leader

PSA: I do not condone the use of nicotine when you are underage!

ONLY if you're above the age of 21 and your mommy is okay with it.

Everyone knows a smoker, whether it's your mom, grandparent, next-door neighbor or some dude you pass on the highway who flicks his dead cigarette butt onto your windshield.

Smoking is everywhere, and it has been for a while.

Vaping became popular in the early 2000s, but did you know the first documented e-cigarette was almost a hundred years ago?

Pretty neat...

I remember finding out about vapes because my best friend's cool, emotionally unavailable stepdad vaped.

I rediscovered it later on in middle school when I couldn't go into the bathroom without being smothered by a fruity scented cloud.

Every cool kid in school vaped for a hot minute, and I don't even think they liked it.

It seemed like vaping was the cool thing to do for a while, and some adults switched from smoking normal cigarettes to vapes because they thought it was healthier (and tastier! Mmmm, blue raspberry-flavored cloud).

It seemed like you couldn't go anywhere without someone vaping, and I know that for sure.

Once, I was in the Burger King drive-thru, and the worker blew a cloud of vapor onto my food before handing it to me.

Vaping absolutely dominated the social scene for a good 20 years.

This seemed like the new norm until cigarettes made an impactful comeback.

I'm not sure if anyone has noticed, but vaping is SO out, and smoking is SO back!

It's come to a point where you can be at a party and see more people outside smoking cigarettes than inside vaping. And why is this sudden resurgence taking young adults by storm?

Because it looks cooler!

It is so much easier to coordinate outfits with a brown and white cigarette between your fingers than a hot pink and green fog machine clenched in your fist.

I truly believe with every cell of my being that cigarettes have made such a massive comeback with young adults simply because they think it makes them cooler.

It's not for the taste, that's for sure.

With the resurgence of the coolest people you know smoking in a cashmere sweater that they pretend isn't itchy, I'm left wondering if vaping will make a comeback, or if vaping is out for good!

History always ends up repeating itself.

Welcome back, cigarettes.

We missed you!

**SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette Smoke Makes You Look Dumber Than You Already Are, Which Is Somehow Possible.**

Graphic by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

# HOROS

**IZZIE NOELLE**  
Horror-Scope Writer

It's finally fall, y'all. The temperature is dropping, and it's officially sweater weather. As the autumn breeze blows, I know a lot of people looove to watch horror movies. Me? I don't watch horror movies. This is exactly why I'm perfectly qualified to tell you which slasher I think you'd be besties with based on your horoscope! I have no knowledge of any of these slashers, but I called in the big guns: My older sister who loves horror movies!



## Aries

**Pinhead from "Eraserhead":**

I think that you would rule Cenobites hand in hand with your bestie, Pinhead! Pinhead can be pretty brutal, and Aries, you can be pretty hot headed. Together, you can raise hell (haha, get it? Please laugh.)



## Taurus

**Pearl from the "X" trilogy:**

You two would be such a dynamic duo. Pearl is more out there, wanting to be a star, and Taurus, you're right there to keep her grounded and remind her of what's truly attainable. Because every delusional friend needs a realistic bestie.



## Gemini

**Chucky from the "Child's Play" movies:**

Now, we all know how hot-headed Chucky can be. And we all know that every hothead can get into some pretty messy situations. That's why a quick-thinking best friend who can talk their way out of any situation is a perfect match for this fiery slasher.



## Cancer

**Leatherface from "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre" series:**

We all know Leatherface by his iconic and, let's say, fashion-forward mask. Cancer matches that energy with their sense of fashion. Two people with a love for self-expression, you'll be besties in no time! Likely with different mediums of expression, though.



## Leo

**Ghostface from the "Scream" series:**

Ghostface loves a good phone call, and Leos love to talk! This is why you'd be perfect for each other. Ghostface will call you late at night, and might even already be outside your house, ready to hang out of course.



## Virgo

**Elaine from "The Love Witch":**

Elaine is just a hopeless romantic at heart, and Virgos can be too. You both just have different methods. While Elaine can get a bit...delusional and violent, you're there to remind her of the practical side of love. Not every imperfect match deserves to die.

# COOPES



## Libra

**Freddy Krueger from “A Nightmare on Elm Street”:**

Freddy might be a little self-conscious about his looks, but Libra is there to remind him that it’s what’s on the inside that counts. Remind

Freddy that dreams can be all magic and rainbows instead of haunting and killing.



## Scorpio

**Tiffany Valentine from the “Child’s Play” movies:**

Tiffany has some pretty complicated relationships, and so do you, Scorpio. I’m sure the two of you can bond over how hard love can be. You both just want good relationships, and for that love to be returned to you. You’ll be doing face masks and gossiping about the latest failure in no time.



## Sagittarius

**Jigsaw from the “Saw” movies:**

Jigsaw loves to make complicated and sometimes life-threatening puzzles. Sagittarius, you love a good challenge. Between the two of you, your creativity and curiosity, you’ll be thinking up puzzles that could end up in “Saw XI.”



## Capricorn

**Michael Myers from the “Halloween” series:**

Now I know he’s not a man of many words, but I’m sure you two can have fun together! Go on long, weirdly slow, but rhythmic walks together, and I’m sure Michael would be a great listener. Plus, you can never see the judgment on his face behind that mask!



## Aquarius

**Art the Clown from the “Terrifier” series:**

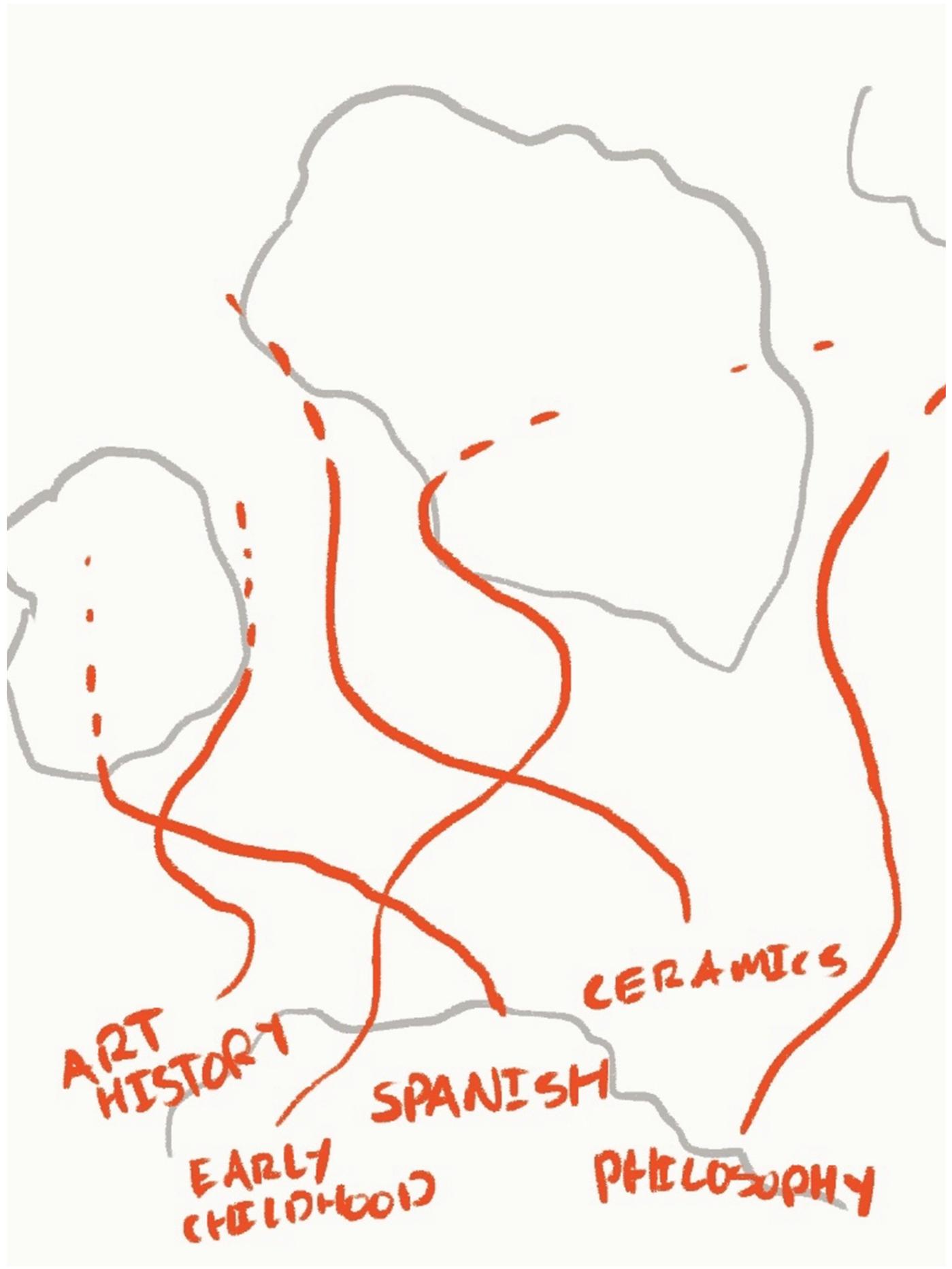
Neither of you are big on talking, but that’s ok! I’m sure you can play some killer games of charades. Or maybe, take up ASL together. Just don’t let Art sneak up and...terrify you. (Haha, get it?)



## Pisces

**Jason Voorhees from the “Friday the 13th” series:**

Jason loves a good summer camp, and Pisces, you love some time outdoors. I’m sure the two of you would have tons of fun, swimming in the lake, climbing trees and camping out under the stars.



ART HISTORY

EARLY CHILDHOOD

SPANISH

CERAMICS

PHILOSOPHY