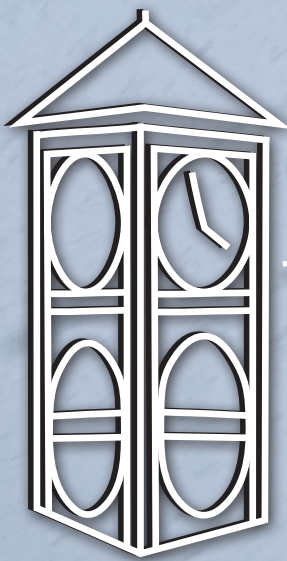


2.10.2025 — Issue 1 — Volume CXXXV



THE LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

Winter weather posing significant impact on students, staff

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Fredonia kicks off Bicentennial celebration

Dr. Nestor Bravo Goldsmith: Expression surviving oppression

5th Quarter Column: Brady forms his bunch

[OPINION] Students react to Turning Point USA at Fredonia

[SATIRE] A love letter to D.P. Dough

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THE LEADER

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We are looking to fill these roles. Contact us if interested! Email leader@fredonia.edu:

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This issue of The Leader is dedicated to the memory of Marjorie Geise.

Proud member of The Associated Collegiate Press.

Students, FSA struggle as boil water orders continue

JILLIAN LAWSON
Special to The Leader

You just had a tiring, strenuous workout at the gym, and you need to fill up your water bottle.

You go up to the nearest water fountain, and then realize you can't.

You see a sheet of paper with big bolded letters stating "Boil water order, do not use".

Boil water orders have been a continuous problem for the towns of Fredonia and Pomfret for several years.

Darin Schulz, executive director of FSA, started working at SUNY Fredonia in 2011.

Schulz said that this issue wasn't as prevalent 15 years ago.

He said that after 2020, the boil water orders became a frequent issue.

Simple tasks such as brushing your teeth, taking showers and washing dishes require you to be aware of not ingesting this contaminated water.

This is to avoid the bacterial risk that is in the town's water supply.

Boil water orders are public health warnings issued when a water supply is contaminated with bacteria that could cause various diseases and sicknesses.

These can happen from loss of pressure, pipe leaks, infrastructure problems or potential contamination detections.

The students of Fredonia have had to deal with this ongoing issue several times throughout their years here.

Protocols are set in place, such as using bottled water and avoiding using the water utilities.

On campus, food operations such as Cranston Marche and Willy C's hand out bottled water with every meal to students because fountain drink machines are unavailable.

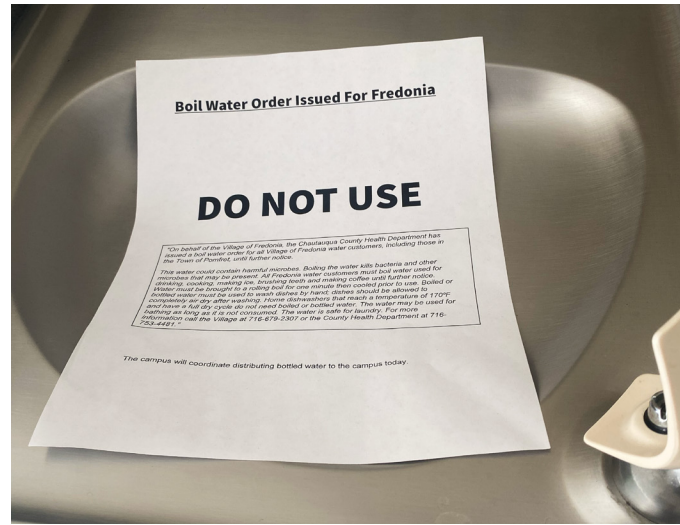
These inconveniences highlight students' dependency on a reliable water source for many simple tasks, such as cooking and washing dishes.

Schulz said that the most significant problem for FSA is the loss of revenue from Starbucks. He said that every day when food services don't have access to a safe water supply, Starbucks is losing about \$2,500-\$3,000 in revenue.

Many Fredonia students work at food operations on campus and have to follow stricter rules for tasks like washing dishes and preparing food.

Schulz said that staff members follow the New York State Department of Health protocols during these boil water orders.

The process of washing dishes involves a sterilized sanitation system.



A drinking fountain with a 'do not use' notice from September 2025.
Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

Employees also use large kettles to boil water to 212 degrees for at least a minute.

Schulz said these protocols have been more common over the last 5 years, and the system of following these rules has become a more common and "typical experience" for staff.

Food made prior to the boil water orders is discarded to avoid any possible contamination.

The fountain drink machines are cleaned out and closed down, with only bottled water available and pre-packaged items to drink.

Schulz talked about the money that is put towards supplying enough water bottles for Cranston Marche and Willy C's.

"Not only is lost revenue the issue, but also the money for making sure the campus has plentiful water bottles can be tough for our finances," he said.

Students are also speaking out and sharing their views regarding their time at Fredonia with these ongoing boil water orders.

"I've lived in this area for 24 years, and I have experienced at least 40 boil water orders," said Jonathan Maternowski, a senior communication major. "I live in Dunkirk now, which is not as bad for me, but I think that it's frustrating for a lot of my friends who live in Fredonia. I hope they fix the problem sooner rather than later."

"This isn't just a campus issue," Schulz added. "This is a problem for the whole town."

The general consensus from students and staff seems to be that the municipal water supply would be completely restored, and that this problem will hopefully be resolved in the future.

Winter weather posing significant impact on students, staff

EMILY BROWN

Special to The Leader

Winter weather continues to affect daily life at SUNY Fredonia, creating safety concerns, travel challenges and added stress for both commuting and on-campus students.

Snowstorms and freezing temperatures are a regular part of winter in Western New York, but students say the conditions influence how they attend class, move around campus and manage their daily routines.

For students who commute to campus, winter weather can make traveling difficult and unpredictable.

“Traffic and slippery roads cause delays, so I usually have to leave earlier than usual or sometimes stay home because of severe weather,” said Shanice McBean, a senior who lives off campus and commutes by car.

McBean said she has missed class in the past due to unsafe driving conditions and worries about falling behind academically.

“Even when professors are understanding, it can still be stressful,” she mentioned.

She added that unreliable public transportation, unplowed roads and parking difficulties make winter commuting especially challenging.

McBean said balancing safety with academic responsibilities can feel exhausting during severe weather.

While students describe safety concerns and added stress during winter weather, university officials say extensive planning and coordination occur behind the scenes.

Camryn Collins, director of facilities, said her department is responsible for snow and ice removal, maintenance and coordinating campus operations during severe winter weather.

Collins said weather alerts and campus updates are determined in coordination with the Office of Marketing and Communications, led by Jeffrey Woodward.

One of the biggest challenges during winter storms, Collins said, is staffing, as employees may be sick, injured or on leave.

She added that maintaining equipment during extreme conditions can also be difficult.

According to Collins, winter weather has become more intense in recent years, requiring earlier preparation and increased research into climate patterns.

She said the university now focuses on preparing equipment earlier in the season and ensuring adequate supplies, such as road salt, to remain ready for major storms.

Collins advised students to dress in layers, stay hydrated, allow extra travel time and wear proper winter footwear.

“A lot of students wear Uggs, and they’re fancy, but they won’t help in winter conditions,” she said.

She added that students may not realize how much coordination occurs behind the scenes during winter storms.

“We all work very hard, and we really care,” Collins said.

Looking toward the future, Collins said she hopes the university can invest in sustainable solutions such as heated sidewalks to reduce ice and snow buildup.

“I like to be on the cutting edge, not the bleeding edge,” she said.



Snow covers the 'FRED' sign outside of the Williams Center. **Photo by MATT VOLZ** | Editor in Chief



Shoveled snow piles up in the parking lot near Rockefeller Arts Center. **Photo by MATT VOLZ** | Editor in Chief

Ava Sargente, another senior who commutes to campus, said winter weather adds extra time and physical strain to her routine.

“I have to leave my house 20 minutes early, and the parking lots are badly plowed so fewer cars can fit,” she said.

Sargente said unplowed roads and sidewalks sometimes prevent her from attending class altogether, adding that the cold and slippery conditions increase stress and tension.

While commuting students face challenges traveling to campus, students who live on campus say winter weather affects their safety and motivation as well.

Xavier Campbell, a freshman who lives on campus, mentioned that winter weather impacts nearly every part of his day, from attending class to getting meals.

“Constantly I have to worry about how cold it will be and how many layers I need to put on,” he said.

Campbell said walking around campus can feel unsafe due to slippery sidewalks, stairs and building entrances. “Each step I take is followed by me slipping a little,” he said.

Because of the conditions, Campbell said he often avoids going outside altogether to reduce the risk of falling.

Iris Condon, a sophomore who lives on campus, said winter weather forces her to wear more layers daily, both inside her dorm and outdoors.

Condon said while she sometimes feels safe, the risk of slipping is always present, especially in high-traffic areas.

She pointed to specific problem spots on campus, including the stairs between Kasling and Disney Halls, which have become a ramp due to snow buildup, and the bottom of the stairs at the Williams Center, which she said are often slippery.

She added that walking to class during high winds and snowfall can be frustrating and uncomfortable.

“I can’t see very well, and it’s freezing,” Condon said.

Although Condon said students often receive weather warnings, she feels snow removal is inconsistent.

Her biggest challenge is having to walk through areas that are not properly shoveled.

Jeanine Afoakwa, another on-campus student, said winter weather forces her to plan carefully, especially because she works off campus and relies on the campus bus.

Afoakwa said she does not feel safe walking around campus during icy conditions due to the risk of serious injury.

She added that ice often remains on sidewalks and steps even after plowing.

She also said winter weather affects her motivation and mental health, as cold conditions can feel isolating and make attending class more difficult.

As winter storms continue to affect campus life, students and administrators agree that safety remains the top priority.

While winter weather brings stress, delays and hazards, university officials say continued preparation and long-term improvements aim to better support students navigating the challenges of the season.

Fredonia kicks off Bicentennial celebration

ZACH HEIMAN

Special to The Leader

2026 marks the 200-year anniversary of SUNY Fredonia, and the community has worked together to plan a wide array of events to celebrate the occasion.

Students will be able to find Bicentennial-themed programs throughout the spring semester, beginning with the Bicentennial Breakfast on the Go, which was held on Monday, Feb. 2.

The formal Bicentennial celebrations will officially begin with a kick-off and convocation on Sept. 18 and will last for the entire 2026-2027 academic year.

The celebration will conclude with the commencement ceremonies for the 200th graduating class in May 2027 and a closing gala in June.

“Think of the many challenges SUNY Fredonia has weathered — world wars, economic declines, global pandemics and many others,” said Stephen H. Kolison Jr., president of SUNY Fredonia. “What this celebration means is more than an anniversary — it is a period of time to reflect on where we started, all that we have accomplished despite many challenges and reaffirm our commitment to a sustained relevance far into the future.”

One of the foundational pieces of the Bicentennial celebration is the Bicentennial Fund, a scholarship fund established by Kolison and the Fredonia College Foundation in 2021.

Kolison said the fund was created “to help students achieve their dream of a higher education and to enhance social mobility for themselves and their families.”

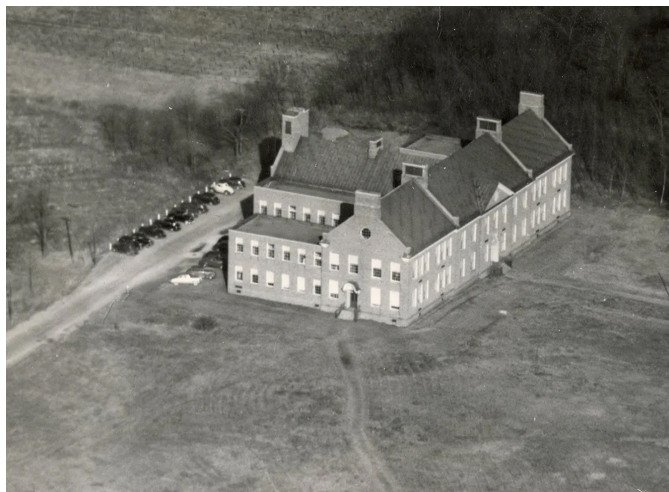
According to a statement on Fredonia’s website, “The fund’s purpose will increase the capacity to assist in attracting and retaining students, especially first-generation students and students from financially challenged backgrounds.”

Kolison also emphasized how the Fredonia College Foundation established the fund to “offer the gift of opportunity” and help Fredonia’s students who “demonstrate resilience and succeed even when things seem impossible.”

Jeffrey Woodard, director of Marketing and Communications at Fredonia, said that the Bicentennial Fund “will help sustain student success and educational excellence into the next 200 years.”

The events hosted by the university include numerous guest speakers, such as the convocation keynote address by National Geographic Explorer Chris Bashinelli.

There will also be performances, academic programs, service initiatives and a historical presentation at the Opera House in downtown Fredonia on Oct. 3, 2026.



Mason Hall in 1941. **Image courtesy of Fredonia Bicentennial.**

“The Bicentennial is more than a celebration of our past,” said Woodard. “It is a moment to recognize the people and partnerships that have defined Fredonia for 200 years and to recommit ourselves to the students and communities we serve.”

Woodard also said that students can get involved with the Bicentennial celebrations by submitting ideas for events and programming to the Bicentennial Committee.

The University Archives Team has curated a detailed timeline of Fredonia’s history, from the founding of the Fredonia Academy in 1926, to its transition to Fredonia Normal School in 1867, through the transition to the new campus with the State University of New York all the way up until today.

The timeline can be found at the Bicentennial website, along with a list of events and other resources.

In addition, Kolison said that there would soon be some podcasts discussing many of these stories, as well as exhibits popping up around campus.

“Be on the lookout for the podcasts, events, publications and exhibits, and we encourage you to participate to learn more about the fascinating stories that have been part of the Fredonia story.”

Kolison encouraged students and clubs to get involved by attending events and working with the Office of Campus Life to learn more about their group’s history and how to contribute to the celebrations.

He also invited students and community members to learn more about the university and its 200-year anniversary by visiting the Bicentennial website at 200.fredonia.edu.

Students can also share the memories they’ve experienced at Fredonia at 200.fredonia.edu/node/add/story.

New dining options open for business in Fredonia, Dunkirk

ANNIE GONDEK
Special to The Leader

Fredonia and the surrounding area has recently welcomed three businesses to its community.

Butterlow, 7Brew and Sonic are all new options for students and locals.

Butterlow is an independent cafe and patisserie located on East Main Street. Owner Sydney Bigelow has had a successful but gradual opening.

“The warm welcome that we have received has been beyond imaginable and I am excited for the future,” she said.

Butterlow originally was open on the weekends with just two breakfast items on their menu. Now, they have a full list of new lunch options.

February espresso drink items include red velvet, chocolate strawberry and tira-miss you.

Seasonal drinks rotate throughout the year to offer customers new options.

Students can use Butterlow to not only enjoy a pastry or coffee but also as a place to catch up on schoolwork; this is encouraged by Bigelow.

“We get quite a few students that do homework, study or bring friends and classmates in for study groups,” she said. “It’s what we encourage and love.”

The cafe’s atmosphere is designed for longer visits. Customers can spend time socializing or catching up with friends.

Bigelow thanked anyone who has come to support Butterlow through their beginning stages.

To those who are looking to try Butterlow, she recommends the Almond Croissant or the Turkey Pesto Sandwich.

“My only hope for Butterlow is that the customers love our business as much as we do! We love the location, love the clientele and love the items that we serve,” Bigelow said. “I hope that Butterlow becomes a Fredonia staple for many people.”

Butterlow aims for more of a gathering space for the community, while other newly opened businesses offer a different experience for students and community members on the go.

7Brew offers a wide variety of coffee and specialty drinks.

Its location is just off the thruway on Bennett Road.

They operate exclusively as a drive-through option, where employees greet customers outside while music plays.

7Brew has a staff of over 80 employees at the Dunkirk location. Even bigger than their staff is their drink options.

7Brew worker Makayla, said, “The classic menu alone has about 50 options.”

The menu is not limited to just coffee, either. 7Brew offers teas, smoothies, shakes, 7Fizz sodas and 7Energy drinks.

With customizable syrups and milk options, more than 20,000 drink combinations are possible.

Because of this big menu, customers might not know what to get. 7Brew offers monthly specials that are displayed on their outdoor screens.

“We have a lot of people not knowing what they want so they try the specials and those become popular,” said Makayla.

7Brew encourages customers to ask questions and also to try your drink before leaving.

“If you don’t like it, let us know and we will change it,” Makayla said.

Another new business that is joining the community is Sonic.

Minutes away from 7Brew, it is located on Bennett Road and opened in November 2025. They offer a drive-through service as well as a drive-in experience.

Customers can park outside of the building and order on one of the digital screens.

Once your food is ready, it is delivered by a worker on roller skates.

Sonic offers an all-day menu of burgers, hot dogs, chicken, sides and frozen desserts, as well as over 60 drink options.

The drive-in chain can be helpful for college students looking to get cheap and quick food.

Their permanent \$1.99 menu features snacks, entrees and desserts.

The affordability and fast service makes Sonic an accessible option for students at Fredonia State.

All these businesses will add to Fredonia’s downtown area and provide community members, as well as students, with more options for dining.

**Dayoub Marketing in Dunkirk, N.Y.
is looking for a part-time I.T. employee!**

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**If interested, email helen@dayoubinc.com,
or mail P.O. Box 591, Dunkirk, N.Y.**

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 in and around SUNY Fredonia. All information is provided on the University Police Department's website, <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/offices/university-police/blotter>. The Police Blotter will continue every issue, with new information regarding any new criminal acts that occur 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:

Dec. 4, 2025: Two events happened. Property damage occurred at Chautauqua Hall; this is an ongoing investigation. A sign was stolen from an off-campus location; this was turned over to the Village of Fredonia Police.

Dec. 5, 2025: A subject was found to be operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license; an arrest was processed.

Dec. 11, 2025: An unwelcome person was found on campus; the subject was removed.

Dec. 12, 2025: Two events happened. A job scam email was reported; this was closed by an investigation. A subject discarded trash in Lot 4; an arrest was completed.

Dec. 15, 2025: A sex offense was reported; prosecution was declined.

Dec. 29, 2025: Juveniles were found trespassing in the Williams Center; a warning was issued.

Jan. 10: A text scam was reported; this was closed by an investigation.

Jan. 17: A vehicle was damaged in Lot 11; this was closed by an investigation.

Jan. 21: A bulletin board was damaged in University Commons; this was closed by an investigation.

Jan. 25: A subject posted threats of violence online; an arrest was completed.

Jan. 27: A subject found possible identity theft; this was closed by an investigation.

Jan. 28: A University Commons bulletin board was damaged; this was closed by an investigation.

Jan. 29: A subject received unwanted communication; prosecution was declined.

Feb. 3: An item was stolen from Dods Hall; charges are pending.



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

Print Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

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



Turning Point USA appearance leads to police presence at Activities Night

SARA SUNICK

Special to The Leader

Many people, if not all, have heard about the new Turning Point USA (TPUSA) Club that made an appearance at Activities Night.

The table brought in a significant crowd, which has sparked debate on whether they should be here or not.

Many students on Yik Yak voiced their opinions about the night, mentioning how the club barely seemed to try and get any members.

They only seemed that they were there to debate with students rather than advertise enrollment in their club.

One student went as far as to say they were fat shamed at the table.

Others claimed they were yelled at for taking complimentary items that were set on the table.

It was treated as a space for debate, not a space to encourage others to join their club, which is what Activities Night is intended for.

“They were talking about socialism a lot and how bad it was,” said freshman Madison Abel.

Some debates even touched on sensitive deaths and subjects that could bring a rise in negative emotions.

These debates seemed to center most around socialism.

Socialism is an economic and political theory that advocates social or collective ownership rather than private, according to Britannica Money.

The debates would get quite loud and aggressive. They drew lots of attention to themselves, good and bad.

Some students, especially newer students, found the table to be overwhelming, and some would even say scary.

“It was so scary,” said freshman Destiny Lindquist. “Like, people were red-faced, [and they] looked like they were going to fight.”

This is likely what led to the increased number of police officers there.

There were more police than any current student has ever seen at Activities Night.

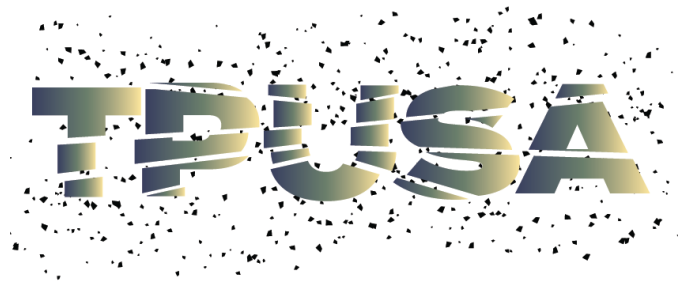
“I’ve seen police walk around up top at the gym for crowd control,” said senior Emma Christopher. “I’ve never seen them on the floor.”

Many officers were walking the gym floor that night.

As soon as the debating started, they ventured towards the TPUSA table.

They were at that table the majority of the night, if not the whole night.

“I’ve never seen police that close to a specific table,” another senior said.



Graphic by GIDEON ABBAS | Special to The Leader

If you’ve ever been to an Activities Night, you’d know that it was out of the ordinary to see that many police officers.

Many other TPUSA clubs at other colleges seem to be linked to the same people, jumping from campus to campus in an effort to gather similar mindsets.

When asked if they could answer some questions about the night and what it brought to their club, they said, “yes you can ask us some questions.”

After several days of not hearing back from them, they said, “We will not be making any statements on behalf of Turning Point USA.”

There are currently no statements or words from the club.

It’s not confirmed nor denied whether they benefited from Activities Night and gained members.

The whole concept of TPUSA has caused controversy nationwide, and it now has at SUNY Fredonia.

It makes sense that a TPUSA club’s appearance would cause issues and conflicts among the students, given the high boiling point of today’s political climate.

Lots of students viewed this as a negative, others a positive.

It is unknown how successful they were and if they plan to show up to another event.

Nobody knows whether this was a one-time thing, or if they’d eventually be back for more.

Life & Arts

Willy C's to host live music show

ZACH BAEHR

Special to The Leader

The Sweetheart Slam is an upcoming on-campus performing event, organized by local band Face First.

The event will have a lineup of bands consisting of Aphae-ho, Face First, New Venice and Dirty Sneakers performing in Willy C's at 6:45 on Sunday, Feb. 15, the day after Valentine's Day.

The event organizer, Mikey Pecoraro, is also performing as the drummer for Face First.

In reference to why he planned the event, Pecoraro said, "My main thing is, I want to grow the music scene around campus."

The decision to set the concert date for Valentine's weekend was no mistake.

"Me and my girlfriend love going to concerts together, so I figured that this would be perfect for all the music couples that want to go to a Valentine's Day show," said Pecoraro.

When figuring out how to get approval for the event, Pecoraro had to do in-depth planning.

Figuring out how and where the bands would set up, how they would run sound and who the target audience for the show would be were all details Pecoraro researched while constructing the show.

Once Pecoraro had these details figured out, he set up a meeting with the manager of Willy C's to ask if the show would be approved.

After the initial inquiry, Pecoraro had a follow-up meeting with the manager and an unnamed higher-up, who approved Pecoraro's idea for the show.

Pecoraro's original idea was accepted with only one clause: No moshing.

"You are not allowed to mosh for the show. It's Willy C's; we don't want to break anything. It's our beloved Willy C's," said Pecoraro.

"The best advice I'll give to anyone is don't be afraid to ask, even if you get shot down and you get told no," said Pecoraro. "There are endless opportunities, especially on this campus."

Pecoraro planned the event alongside Fredonia's Sound Services club, who will be doing as their name suggests and controlling the audio for the event.

When asked about their initial thoughts on the gig, Sound Services representative and assistant equipment manager Owen Shotwell said, "Well, I mean, my first thought was like, 'wait, they said yes to that?' But it's cool that they did."



Poster courtesy of Face First.

Shotwell explained that Sound Services has been looking to do more of their own events, due to the increased flexibility with equipment they have when they aren't hired within a specific budget.

"We have a bunch of this analog equipment and stuff that's really cool, but it doesn't get used that often with actual clients because it's not the current industry standard," says Shotwell.

When asked what challenges may arise for Sound Services controlling the sound in a tighter space like Willy C's, Shotwell said, "For a place that small, you're kind of at the mercy of the drums. You are basically mixing as loud as the drums are."

Sound Services has made it clear that they won't take over Willy C's with large sound systems, but the equipment they will bring is "going to be nice and beefy, and it's going to sound cool without being totally obnoxious," said Shotwell.

"I mean obviously we are going to be bringing the sound system, probably a little bit of basic lighting," he said. "We usually have like three to five people on a show, depending on what's going on."

When asked how unique a show in Willy C's is compared to other shows Sound Services has assisted in, Shotwell said, "I think obviously just like dealing with a relatively small space like that, there's always a challenge sound wise, but I mean, it should be fun."

If you are interested in joining Sound Services, Shotwell said, "Anybody on campus is welcome to join Sound Services and come out to events and learn how to do everything."

To contact Pecoraro for shows, message @mikeeywhy on Instagram.

FREDONIA'S STUDENT OPERA
THEATRE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:

OPERA SCENES

FEB 26TH - 7PM

\$5 STUDENT

FEB 27TH - 7PM

\$8 SENIOR/12 & UNDER

FEB 28TH - 2PM

\$10 GENERAL PUBLIC

FEATURING THE WORKS:

STRAVINSKY'S
"THE RAKE'S PROGRESS"

MOZART'S
"THE MAGIC FLUTE"

PUCCINI'S
"LA BOHÈME"

SONDHEIM'S
"SWEENEY TODD"

AT THE 1891 FREDONIA OPERA HOUSE

Female orgasms coming to Fredonia

SETH CAMPBELL

Special to The Leader

If you're into the idea of sex education on campus, your semester might reach an early climax.

On Feb. 11, Sex Discussed Here's touring program, "I Love Female Orgasm," will enter the Williams Center MPR at 6 p.m.

Having been to 48 states and hundreds of schools, the program is well-known for making sex education fun, funny and educational.

In the words of Fredonia's Prevention, Advocacy and Wellness coordinator Sonia Ortiz, the talk will let attendees "learn about everything from multiple orgasms to that mysterious G-spot."

This isn't the first time "I Love Female Orgasm" has come to Fredonia.

"We've presented at Fredonia three times before, all the way back to 2007," said Dorian Solot, co-founder of Sex Discussed Here. "We're excited to return to campus — I can remember the energy in the room from the very first time we were there!"

Indeed, a 2015 article published by The Leader, written by then-staff writer Carly Knaszak, painted a picture of this high-energy event.

Knaszak wrote, "I was honestly mind blown by how much high school and middle school brainwash people [regarding sex education]."

This is an opinion held by Solot, with her saying, "The sex ed most people get in high school is terrible!"

While Solot won't be here this time around, she spoke highly of presenters Lindsay Fram and Marshall Miller.

She said, "They're fantastic — so smart and funny — and I know Fredonia students will love them!"

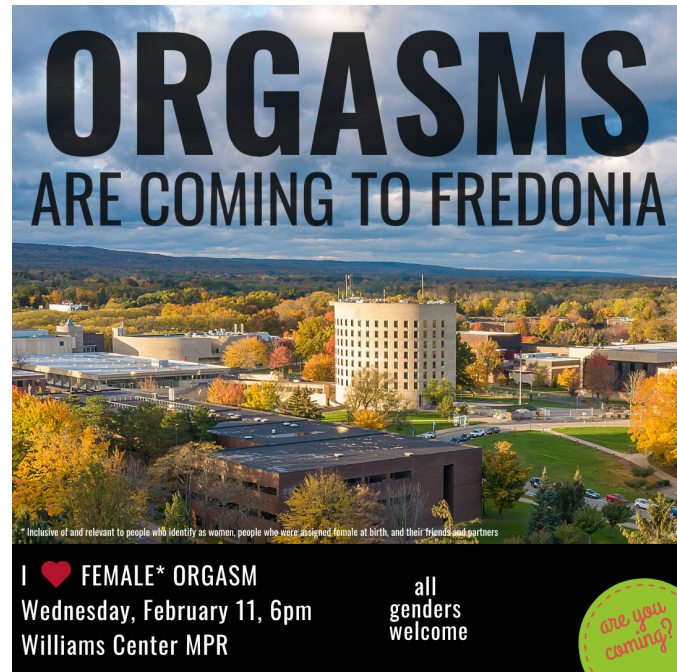
When it comes to what sets this program apart from other sex education, Solot believes it comes down to pleasure.

"It seems like most education about sexuality is often about all the things that can go wrong," Solot said. "It's so rare that people get to learn about pleasure, even though that is the number one reason why most people choose to have sex!"

In terms of why this is relevant to college students, Solot has the statistics to back it up. "In heterosexual hookups among college students, the orgasm gap is massive," she said.

"When two people have never hooked up with each other before, women only have orgasms 11% of the time. Men usually [have orgasms]," she added. "Since hookups are a huge way that sex happens on college campuses, this is definitely something people should be talking about!"

She believes it's important that college students are well-informed about sex and sexuality, and this belief helped inform the creation of the program.



Poster courtesy of ABIGAIL JEFFERYS | Special to The Leader

"We got started because we had sex education backgrounds and it seemed like there was so much need for smart, funny, honest [and] inclusive sex education for college students," said Solot.

And don't worry about feeling out-of-place at the event, as the program is meant for everyone, according to Solot.

She said the event is "inclusive of and relevant to people with vaginas, people who identify as women, their friends and partners."

In terms of the opinion around campus, there is certainly some excitement regarding the program.

"I think it'll be fun and there's something for everyone, regardless of gender, can gain from it," said Abigail Jefferys, a student and intern with the Health Center.

"I think when talking about sex, we really shy away from women's pleasure and it's not talked about enough," she said. "Lots of people, male and female alike, are often misinformed about women's sexuality/sexual health, and I think having an event like this can help dispel a lot of myths people might believe about female sexuality."

If you feel particularly stimulated by this event, shirts, buttons and a Solot/Miller-written book will be purchasable.

According to Solot, "The most common response to the phrase 'I love female orgasm' is 'same!'"

Will you give the same response by coming to the MPR on Feb. 11?

UPCOMING FSA DINING EVENTS

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| <p>FRI FEB 13</p> | <p>Paint Cranston Pink/ Valentines Day Cranston Marché: 11am</p> |  |
| <p>TUE FEB 17</p> | <p>Mardi Gras Cranston Marché: 11am</p> |  |
| <p>TUE FEB 17</p> | <p>Decorate Your Own Mardi Gras Cupcake Willy C's: 3pm-5pm</p> |  |
| <p>THU MAR 26</p> | <p>MLB Opening Day Cranston Marché: 11am</p> |  |
| <p>THU APR 16</p> | <p>75th Anniversary of FSA Cranston Marché: 11am</p> |  |
| <p>TUE MAY 5</p> | <p>Cinco De Mayo Cranston Marché: 11am</p> |  |

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Dr. Nestor Bravo Goldsmith: Expression surviving oppression

BYRON ALEXANDER R. M.

Special to The Leader

Dr. Nestor Bravo Goldsmith's journey into theater began with childhood wonder in Chile.

At around 5 years old, his mother took him to the circus, where the extraordinary feats of artists, the atmosphere and the impossible acts left a lasting mark.

"It impressed me quite a bit because I started trying to do things myself from a very young age," said Bravo.

Soon after, a Charlie Chaplin film in a theater captivated him.

The black-and-white story on a giant screen amused and impressed him as his first cinematic experience.

In high school, he read plays like Calderon de la Barca's "La Vida es Sueno" as literature, but teachers never connected them to the stage.

That changed when he saw the play performed live.

"With human beings, in a three-dimensional space, with costumes, makeup, lighting. It opened an entirely new world for me," he said.

That was his true introduction to theater.

He enrolled in Ingenieria Commercial (Economic Engineering) at a university in Chile, a five-year program.

He completed the program in three and a half years.

He moved south with a partner he had at that time but fell ill and spent a month in bed, uncertain of the cause.

During recovery, he wrote "La Caja Negra," a physical theater piece based on systems theory.

A local artist and professor took interest and wanted to stage it; since it required specific physical demands, Bravo, a former gymnast, performed it himself.

"The only person who could do it was me," he said.

This experience led him to abandon economics, to his family's disappointment, and pursue theater fully.

He moved south, studied independently without instruction, read extensively, formed groups intuitively and later earned an education degree to blend teaching with performance.

He ran workshops in schools and prisons, joined companies in Santiago, and spent 14 years directing the theater company at Universidad de la Frontera.

The Pinochet dictatorship (1973-1989) profoundly shaped this period of his life.

Schools shut down for years, then reopened under military intervention; even his own department had a military rector.

Plays faced censorship committees; most were rejected or required revisions.

"We modified the form, but the content stayed the same," said Bravo, relying on symbolism, analogy and metaphor so audiences grasped the critique of the regime.



Nestor Bravo Goldsmith.

Image courtesy of Marketing and Communications.

During one rehearsal in Temuco, an actor discovered a basement "cemetery" of records broken or slashed with knives, along with destroyed BBC tapes.

A member of his company disappeared for months in a concentration camp south of the city.

Surveillance was constant. While leaving home once, he spotted a car with four CNI (Centro Nacional de Informacion) agents watching.

"They knew where you lived, who your family was. By rolling down the car window and looking at you, they wanted to say be careful, you could be next," said Bravo.

When democracy returned in 1989, freedom arrived suddenly.

"I sat in a plaza for an hour, enjoying new feelings of freedom I hadn't had since my youth," he said, sensing a future for himself, his family and the country.

With a master's in theatrical direction completed, he sought expansion and moved to the U.S.

“They knew where you lived, who your family was. By rolling down the car window and looking at you, they wanted to say be careful, you could be next.”

— **Dr. Nestor Bravo Goldsmith**

Associate Professor of Theatre Studies,
Department of Theatre and Dance

He earned another master's degree in media arts at Brigham Young University, where he was initially drawn to film but shifted back to theater.

Bravo then earned a doctorate in Theater and Performance of the Americas at Arizona State University.

His brother called him “the eternal student” because he was always studying something.

English, however, proved to be the most challenging.

“I went back to childhood learning the language again,” he said. “It’s a super solitary experience, ideas boiling in your head, but no elements to express them.”

He prepared in libraries, performed well on the GRE (a general education knowledge exam in all areas), barely passed the TOEFL (the language exam) and persevered.

He arrived at SUNY Fredonia in 2016 and now coordinates the B.A. in theatre arts in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

He teaches World Theatre in Context, Script Analysis and Physical Theatre.

In these classes, he blends commedia dell’arte, which he learned from a Swiss-Chilean company linked to Italian traditions, contemporary mime from Buenos Aires, clown and acrobatics.

He renamed his course from Commedia dell’Arte to Physical Theater to encompass modern interdisciplinary approaches, which he strongly supports.

Today, he is integrating artificial intelligence thoughtfully.

In one Script Analysis project this semester, students fully created group concepts for plays first; only then did AI provide feedback as a “dramaturg.”

“Human, artificial intelligence, human, that’s the loop we form,” he said. “It’s a collaborator with the creator, not a substitute.”

He emphasizes ethical use: students must verify facts, reject hallucinations or false information, confirm sources and avoid plagiarism risks.

Theater has always embraced new technologies: projections in the 1920s, video cameras in the 1950s and it has survived predictions of its death.

Looking ahead, he foresees general AI arriving in perhaps five years, radically changing society and jobs.

However, he remains optimistic.

“The arts will have an important role because people will want interaction with other human beings,” he said.

The anthropological theater, where actor and audience connect directly, will prevail.

When machines excel in every field, humans will crave touch, real conversation, anger, emotions and community.

There will be a boom in people interested in studying theater or the arts with humans, not digitally generated.

Bravo is not advocating unchecked AI adoption; he simply prepares students for reality.

If we must use it, the key is to outsmart it, stay critical, ethical and in control. The theater’s 2,500-year history proves it.

Humanity’s need for authentic connection endures. No algorithm or trend can replace the fresh essence of being alive and what it takes to make art truly meaningful.



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SPORTS

5th Quarter Column: Brady forms his bunch

MITCH HORUCY
Sports Editor

It's a new era at One Bills Drive, as Joe Brady has taken over as the head coach for the Buffalo Bills.

His staff is nearly complete and is coming together nicely. Starting at the top, I am not a fan of the hire of Brady as head coach.

When the owner of the Bills, Terry Pegula, and General Manager Brandon Beane held their press conference discussing the firing of Sean McDermott, most people, including myself, thought it was time for a complete restart as a franchise.

I wrote about my thoughts on Beane being retained and then promoted in my previous column, but I was completely against it.

However, it seems that fans should've seen the Brady promotion coming with how Beane was handled, as well as how Pegula has run the other team he owns, the Buffalo Sabres, who are currently on a warpath.

He has been known to promote from within and be content with the outcome of those moves.

Out of the people the team interviewed, I would've loved Davis Webb or Grant Udinski.

Webb was one of my targets in my previous column and still would've been possibly my top prospect, but the team decided to go a different way.

Udinski grew on me throughout the searching process, and I am extremely disappointed he wasn't the hire.

At just 30 years old, he fits the young, offensive-minded coach that the Bills were interested in.

Udinski spent one year at Baylor, two years with the Carolina Panthers, and three years with the Minnesota Vikings, where he really found his footing.

He held various titles for the Vikings, but no matter what he did, he was praised by head coach Kevin O'Connell, who said his understanding of football is "unbelievable."

He then was hired as the offensive coordinator of the Jacksonville Jaguars to work under Liam Coen.

Although who you work with isn't everything, spending four seasons combined with O'Connell and Coen, who both stem from the Shanahan/McVay coaching tree, is very enticing.

I think both Webb and Udinski will be hired as head coaches one year from now, with the hope that either of them wasn't "the one who got away" from the Bills.

Despite my opinion on the hiring of Brady, I love what he's done with the coaching staff.

Starting on the offensive side of the ball, Pete Carmichael is a nice hire that fills that role well.

Brady already announced he would be calling plays for the offense, so Carmichael is taking more of an advisor role in my mind.

Carmichael worked closely with Sean Payton for 17 years, serving as his offensive coordinator for 14 of those years.

Having a guy on Brady's staff that has been around the league for a total of 26 seasons is going to be huge as he guides his way through being a head coach.

Also, on the offensive side of the ball, the team lost Aaron Kromer, their offensive line coach.

A very good one, I should mention.

That role has been replaced by Pat Meyer, who comes over from Pittsburgh.

Meyer has been an o-line coach since 2008, working for FBS football teams, a CFL team and numerous NFL teams.

He's a well-respected coach who should be able to at least partially fill the shoes of Kromer.

Moving to defense, I love the hiring of Jim Leonhard for the defensive coordinator position.



Joe Brady runs onto the field before a game against the Cleveland Browns, Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025. **Image property of the Buffalo Bills.**



Joe Brady signs his contract to become the Bills' next head coach, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026. Image property of the Buffalo Bills.

He's a young defensive mind who actually played four seasons with the Bills from 2005-2007 and 2013.

He has only been an NFL coach for two seasons, but he spent eight years as a college football coach, with seven of them being at his alma mater Wisconsin, which included a seven-game stint as interim head coach where he went 4-3.

His two years in the NFL were both spent with the Denver Broncos under defensive coordinator Vance Joseph.

Leonhard has already spoken about his idea for the defense with one focus at hand: aggression.

"We are going to be aggressive and fly around. We are going to force them to react to us. I don't like to counterpunch," said Leonhard at his introductory press conference.

Along with a new aggressive ideology, Leonhard will likely bring over the style of defense he learned under Joseph, a 3-4 defense.

A 3-4 means there are three down defensive linemen, typically a nose tackle and two defensive tackles/ends, and four linebackers with two of them lined up at the edge position, creating a five-man front.

There are then four defensive backs, two cornerbacks and two safeties.

Under McDermott, the Bills operated mostly out of nickel defense, which means five defensive backs and two linebackers.

Since 2020, the Bills have run this formation on an average of 84% of their defensive plays, one of, if not, the highest rate in the NFL.

That will change drastically with a new coaching staff in Buffalo.

Nickelback Taron Johnson has been a top-tier slot corner during this time, which has allowed the Bills to be able to do this.

But with teams committing to the run against the Bills as well and Johnson approaching 30 years old, it hasn't been the defense McDermott was known for.

The roster will need some changes, but I'm a huge fan of what this defense can be with a new philosophy.

Brady also added Jay Valai and Terrance Jamison to coach the cornerbacks and defensive line.

Both are young defensive minds who have spent their careers at the college level but now make the jump to the NFL.

Getting fresh faces along with retaining and adding a few veteran coaches is perfect for a new era in Buffalo.

Even though I am not a fan of the Brady move, I am willing to change my mind after seeing the coaching staff he has formed.

As for the Bills offseason, I'll get more in depth with a free agency and NFL draft column as we near those dates.

It's a huge offseason, as the clock on Josh Allen's career keeps ticking.

This column runs in conjunction with "5th Quarter Football," a show at Fredonia Radio Systems hosted by Mitch Horucy and Jack Hoadley.

"5th Quarter Football" airs on WCVF 88.9 FM on Mondays at 7pm.

Super snoozefest: Seahawks silence Pats in Super Bowl

JACK HOADLEY
Assistant Sports Editor

The 2026 NFL season has officially come to a close, but was the ending too predictable for such a spontaneous year?

The Seattle Seahawks triumphed over the New England Patriots with a final score of 29-13, and fans were left thinking, “That’s it?”

The game was rather mundane, featuring few offensive highlights and three New England turnovers, which decided this contest.

The rightfully dubbed “Dark Side” Seattle defense was electric in the win, just as they have been all season, forcing a pick-six which ended the game.

The first half ended with a score of 9-0 after three field goals from Seahawks kicker Jason Myers.

It was in the second half that Seattle began to pull away, but a convincing drive by New England gave their fans some hope as they made the score 22-7.

Even following a brutal interception by quarterback Drake Maye, who finished as a close second in this season’s MVP race, a chance to make it a one possession game fell into Maye’s lap.

But just as it had again and again Sunday night, the Patriots O-line was no match for the defensive front Seattle crafted, headlined by Demarcus Lawrence and Leonard Williams.

Their experience was a major factor in what made the defense so dominant, combining with young stars in the secondary to make a complete defensive attack.

The scariest part of the entire game comes when you realize how set up Seattle is to build off of this.

Even if they extend Super Bowl MVP Kenneth Walker, Seattle will still have well over \$50 million in cap space to bolster the team and prep for a repeat season in 2026.

On the flip side, Maye and the Patriots clearly know what they have to address this season, and it starts with the trenches.

Their top-five pick this past season in Will Campbell was underwhelming in the playoffs, and it’s clear that Maye has to have more time to create in order to win his first ring.

But more people should really recognize the great success of a consolation season it was for New England (sorry Bills fans).

Maye isn’t old enough to rent a car at just 23 years old, and key pieces to the team are locked up for at least 2026-2027.

Beyond all of that, head coach Mike Vrabel was only in his first season; it truly seems like New England is set up for years of success following this season.

But this is a story we have seen many times before; in Joe Burrow’s second season, the Bengals lost the big one, and they have yet to return.

It all relies on New England’s ability to capitalize on Maye’s rookie-scale contract years before a \$55 million or more extension eats up their cap room.

A big swing to add a top-tier lineman (offense or defense), would go far in pushing the team forward.

The ending of this season is best described as mediocre, but that shouldn’t destroy what was an elite year of football in any way you look at it.

Surprises defined the 2025 season, as our Super Bowl matchup was one of the least likely ever, but the big game itself was entirely predictable.

Seattle’s domination was a prediction many had, but it was unfortunate that a New England team that spent all season defying expectations couldn’t one last time.

Unless you live in Buffalo, then it is exactly what you wanted.



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Students react to Turning Point USA's presence at Activities Night

JENNA DRAKE
Special to The Leader

On Jan. 29, SUNY Fredonia held their biannual Activities Night.

Steele Hall was crowded with different clubs, sports teams, various art-based clubs and even a Barbie club.

But one stuck out like a sore thumb to students: Turning Point USA (TPUSA).

In the back corner, students crowded around their table.

Some debated, some listened and some ripped up the copies of the U.S. Constitution that TPUSA had provided.

This club, according to their social media accounts, is “promoting free speech, love for the United States, fiscal responsibility, free markets and limited government at SUNY Fredonia.”

According to their mission, which can be located through the link on their Instagram, Turning Point USA, Inc., “empowers informed civic and cultural engagement grounded in American exceptionalism and a positive spirit of action.”

Many Fredonia students feel that this statement was not carried out during TPUSA's appearance at Activities Night.

By receiving the personal accounts of four different Fredonia students, I can attest to that opinion.

Fredonia is an extremely inclusive and accepting place, but plain hate will not be tolerated in any form.

After an hour of TPUSA debating basic human decency, students were more than distraught.

Some shouted profanities, while others were in tears.

If TPUSA's intention really was to merge differing ideas, it would not have been executed through uneducated and insensitive arguments. Hate will never create compromises.

“If TPUSA's intention really was to merge differing ideas, it would not have been executed through uneducated and insensitive arguments.”

— Jenna Drake

As a Fredonia junior explained, “Hate speech has no place at Fredonia.”

One of the largely discussed topics at TPUSA's table was gun violence.

A Fredonia freshman explained that one member of the club claimed that the recent killings and detainments carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were “necessary evils” to maintain 2nd Amendment rights.

However, when asked about the death of TPUSA founder Charlie Kirk, there was no explanation or justification.

“Hate speech has no place at Fredonia.”

— Anonymous Fredonia junior

This topic is part of the foundation of TPUSA, yet the members did not seem to have a clear, informed response.

“I am all for free speech, but when you come to a mainly liberal school ... Come prepared with actual statistics, not just blatant racism,” one student explained.

How do we have the right to say one murder is justified while another is not?

No matter what race, gender, political affiliation or criminal status, life is not something to take away.

We cannot decide who gets to live or die. Peace for some is not peace.

Even with the death penalty, there are several steps taken to make the decision, using the approval from a jury as well as a judge.

I am in no way advocating for this process, as it is not within my personal beliefs, but at least there is order, rather than the random and blind attacks of civilians.

These deaths are determined with heinous crimes being committed, not while citizens of the United States are using their 1st Amendment right to protest.

“I am all for free speech, but when you come to a mainly liberal school ... Come prepared with actual statistics, not just blatant racism.”

— Anonymous Fredonia student

Another Fredonia junior who attended Activities Night overheard hate speech surrounding LGBTQ+ topics.

“If you are part of the LGBTQ+ community, you are a sinner,” he recalled hearing.

This was just one of the comments that sparked major concerns.

With a large queer population on campus, students wonder, what is the point? How can a club exist that believes queer people are less than others?

What happened to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, and when did we become this divided? At this point, we are not dictating how people live, but if they deserve respect.

“If you are part of the LGBTQ+ community, you are a sinner.”

— Anonymous TPUSA member

Kindness and empathy are not topics to debate, and TPUSA is directly defying that concept.

“You can’t change their mind, as they can’t change yours. They simply exist for content,” an anonymous Fredonia junior stated.

This is the real reason why organizations like TPUSA recruit on college campuses.

They want to make us angry.

They want to make us look weak.

And they certainly want to use our emotions to make a profit.

The entire night, one TPUSA member held a phone as a shield, presumably to later make video content.

“You can't change their mind, as they can't change yours. They simply exist for content.”

— Anonymous Fredonia junior

Why else would you record yourself failing in a debate?

There is nothing wrong with creating content for your organization; however, spreading hate and manipulating young adults is certainly not the way to do it.

How can you be “doing good” when the purpose is not to solve problems, but to blindly support hating others?

SUNY Fredonia is small, but loud. Fredonia will never accept hatred or violence, nor their justification.

And for this, we are not weak, but in contrast, incredibly strong.

Knowing what is right will always have the upper hand, and our voice will never be silenced.

“They came to preach misinformation and were met by future teachers, dedicated artists and genius scientists. That’s who we are at Fredonia. We are educated, so we are a threat,” an anonymous Fredonia junior concluded.

“They came to preach misinformation and were met by future teachers, dedicated artists and genius scientists. That's who we are at Fredonia. We are educated, so we are a threat.”

— Anonymous Fredonia junior

Were you at the TPUSA table on
Activities Night?

Let us know your thoughts at
leader@fredonia.edu.

Top 10 date ideas for Valentine's Day

CAMERON KASPRZAK

Special to The Leader

Valentine's Day is a very special day of the year, but it's also a day that is very overthought about.

So, I'm going to give you the top 10 Valentine's Day activities to do with your loved one, broken up into two different sections: going out and staying home.

If you're a going-out person:

1: Dinner date

The first activity is going out to a fine dining restaurant.

There are many good restaurants in the area where you can dine in and enjoy a delectable meal.

The White Inn has a very classy dining room and is perfect for a nice brunch or dinner meal.

If that doesn't suit your fancy, and you're like me, DP Dough is located right in the heart of Fredonia and might be up your alley.

2: A scenic walk

The next idea is taking a nice winter stroll through Point Gratiot Park.

Nothing screams "date idea" like a nice scenic walk with your loved one right by your side.

3: A live performance

If live performances or music are something you enjoy, then the Fredonia Opera House is an entertaining date night idea.

4: A sweet treat

Valentine's Day is all about sweet treats, so why not go out and find a nice little sweet treat with your significant other?

The Upper Crust Bake House, located in the heart of Fredonia, is all about fun little sweet treats, and is definitely a good, low-budget place to stop for a bite to eat.

5: Skiing/outdoor activity

If you're one for traveling, skiing is a very fun outdoor activity.

Depending on your skill level, it could also be very humorous for both of you.

It requires a little more driving, but there are three very lovely ski resorts an hour from Fredonia.

There's Holiday Valley in Ellicottville, Peek'n Peak in Clymer and Kissing Bridge in Glenwood, if you're looking for a more intermediate spot.

For this next section, I'm going to cover the other five fun Valentine's Day date ideas for if you're more of a stay-at-home, all-cozy kind of person.

Everyone likes to do a little something on Valentine's Day, but that doesn't necessarily mean you have to go out and travel.

If you're a stay-at-home person:

1: A homemade meal

Something as simple as a nice homemade meal can be wonderful.

Set the table up all nice, maybe light a few candles to set the mood, and both of you work on a nice meal.

Maybe a whole big meal isn't something you want to do on Valentine's Day, so maybe you'll want something a little lighter but still just as fun.

A nice homemade charcuterie board is a good alternative.

You can customize it however you want.

A nice assortment of chocolates and fruits is a perfect Valentine's Day dish.

You could even add an assortment of a main course like chicken nuggets, or even sushi.

This one's flexible because you could either have it at a table, or you could set up a blanket and turn it into a romantic picnic, and again light some candles to set the mood.

2: Homemade gifts

Now, it doesn't matter what kind of gifts you get your significant other; no gift is better than a nice, thought-out, homemade gift.

3: Arts and crafts

Up next is an arts and crafts night.

Gather any materials you have in your house; it doesn't matter if it's markers and a coloring book, or if it's paint and a canvas.

You can never go wrong with a little couples' arts and crafts night.

4: Spa night

This next idea is a very fun idea, but it's not necessarily one that gets enough attention.

Sometimes you just need a day to unwind, kick your feet up, maybe watch a movie and just relax.

Well, do I have an idea for you: a spa night!

Get out the face masks and a nice comfy outfit, could be pajamas or a robe, get some refreshments and soothe your partner with a nice calming massage.

A day to relax is definitely needed in everyone's life.

5: Video games

The last idea is something so simple, yet time seems to fly by while doing it.

Spend the night playing a video game together.

My personal favorite is Minecraft.

One person gets to set off and do the mining and gather resources, while the other person can stay back, make the house look cozy and befriend every animal they see.

Valentine's Day is a beautiful day to spend time with your loved one, but maybe you aren't spending it with a loved one.

Galentine's Day is always an option!

And don't worry if you're single this Valentine's Day, because Fredonia graciously placed five bars within the area, and the nights are always young on Valentine's Day.

*Happy Valentine's Day
from The Leader!*

Lovercolumn: Flirting

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 fredoniaradio.com.

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



Date idea of the week

We hope to provide fellow students with fun and unique date ideas in every episode.

These date ideas aren’t just for romantic partners — you could go with your friends, classmates or even go solo for a fun activity in Fredonia.

For this week’s date, get on your dancing shoes, because you’re going to attend a dance class!

There’s lots of different possibilities with this one.

You could go for something lighthearted like a tap-dancing class, or you could go all-out and see how skilled you are at ballroom dance!

If you do happen to try ballroom dance, though, you’ll probably never watch “Dancing with the Stars” the same way ever again.

It really doesn’t matter what type of dance you choose. All that matters is that you’re spending time with the people you love, and maybe that you’re trying something new!

As we discussed on the show, this probably isn’t a great first-date idea.

One of our guests described it as a “high-risk, high-reward” type of date, as it involves putting yourself out there and making yourself vulnerable.

This idea is, of course, open to people of all skill levels.

In fact, it might even be fun if you’re both terrible dancers — you can be terrible together!

Plus, if they’re not a great dancer, it opens up the possibility of several dance-related pickup lines.

This week's date idea is:

Attending a dance class!

Try this one, for example: “Hey, don’t worry if you trip and fall. I’ll always be there to catch you.”

Above all else, have fun and be yourself. Even if you mess up, it’s OK!

As The Quarterback’s sister once said in her infinite wisdom, “Everything is either good for you or good for the plot.”

Break a leg! Not literally, though.

Flirting

Fun fact: Did you know humans aren’t the only species who flirt?

According to factretriever.com, birds, lizards and even some types of bugs have their own ways of flirting with each other.

Flirting is our way of smoothly letting someone know that we have a romantic interest in them.

But not everyone can do it that well.

For every Fonzie or Joey Tribbiani who only has to look at someone a certain way and they’ll swoon, there’s plenty of awkward folks who just don’t know how to say the right thing.

Fortunately, we at Lovercall are here to help!

The most important aspect of flirting is confidence. It’s not enough to just deliver a cheesy pickup line; you’ve got to say it with conviction.

Think about it. If someone comes up to you and tries to be smooth but has that look of doubt, are you going to fall all over them?

Chances are, no, you won’t.

So how do you display confidence even if you don’t feel it?

To answer this question, we’re going to bring back a concept that one of our dearly graduated producers, Radio Rebel, brought up: 15 seconds of confidence.

Even if you’re trembling in your shoes at the mere thought of going up to someone and flirting, try to block that out for just a moment and say to yourself, “You know what? Let’s do this.”

To quote one of The Quarterback’s favorite movies, “Top Gun: Maverick,” “Don’t think. Just do.”

It’s almost like sending a risky or flirty text. Gather up the immediate courage to hit send and then throw the phone across the room.

Maybe don’t actually throw it, though. Phones are expensive.

It is also important that you don’t try to come off as too confident to the point you are almost arrogant.

Coming off as arrogant can make you be seen as rude and almost cocky in a way that makes others feel less than, making you unapproachable.

In other words, you most likely won’t get the outcome you want.

That is why maintaining a sense of confidence that is charming and open is important.

By making sure you aren’t too confident, to the point you come off as rude, you can show who you are to the person you’re interested in and get a better chance of success when you do choose to flirt.

Another issue people sometimes have with flirting is that they work themselves up worrying about the perfect thing to say.

As one of our guests brought up, there really isn’t a perfect thing to say.

Tips for being a successful flirt:

1. Be yourself, no matter what!

2. Lean into your sense of humor!

3. Be confident!

4. If you’re not feeling confident, fake it ‘til you make it!

5. Don’t think — just do!

There’s a lot more that goes into flirting than just saying one line or cracking one joke.

The biggest thing to remember with flirting is the importance of truly being yourself.

Remember, you want this person to fall for the true you, not a fake persona you might put on in the heat of the moment.

Be confident, be yourself and good luck!

Reach out! Do you want to ask the creators of Lovercolumn a question? Do you want advice? Fill out our form using the QR code below.

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.



Managing news fatigue in today's political climate

ALEX BUCKNAM

Managing Editor

In today's news, headlines can be scary.

Many report feeling overwhelmed or sensing impending doom, and this is completely natural.

Feelings caused by headlines can be difficult to manage.

In today's world, it can feel impossible to escape the news, especially when it constantly appears on social media feeds.

If you know me or have read my past articles, you know I love writing about the news.

During the Fall 2025 semester, I had a political article published in each issue.

This was my way of staying informed and trying to inform my peers and the public.

I still write news articles about politics and major events, but I recently stepped back because it can become overwhelming, and that is normal.

However, I always remind myself that paying attention to the news and understanding what is happening in the world is important.

With primary elections happening on June 23 in New York, it is important to know where you stand and where potential elected officials stand. This helps voters make informed decisions.

Staying informed also allows people to form fact-based opinions about current events.

I could go on about the importance of staying informed, but I urge everyone not to completely turn away from the news, and to read from multiple sources, especially independent publications.

That is the journalist in me talking, but it truly matters.

This brings me to the bigger question: How do you stay informed while also managing feelings like fear?

Headlines about the current presidential administration or ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) can make it feel as if a sense of impending doom is hanging over.

I cannot speak for everyone, but this is how I often feel.

A few things have helped me manage everything going on: talking with friends and family, taking small breaks and listening to music.

Talking with friends and family can be especially beneficial because it reminds you that you are not alone.

This is one of the first suggestions people give when discussing how to manage difficult emotions.

This reminds me of my trip to the ACP (Associated Collegiate Press) conference, where I attended a session on managing news fatigue while working in the press.

The speaker shared a story about being in New York City during the Sept. 11 attacks while visiting his boss.

He became trapped in the city for weeks while helping cover the event.

He explained that it was not until months later, while eating breakfast, that the emotional weight fully hit him.

He joked that he suddenly started crying one morning, and his wife thought it was because she had ruined breakfast.

He left us with a simple message: Talk to someone you trust.

Having someone there to support you can make all the difference.

Another helpful strategy is taking small breaks.

Normally, I would suggest going for a long walk, but with the current weather, I prefer staying in my cozy apartment.

The key is finding something that works for you and allows you to put your phone down completely and relax for a few hours.

I enjoy spending time with friends, which can sometimes mean just sitting together and doing random things.

A good laugh can be exactly what you need.

Finding a time each day to pause and focus on something unrelated to the news can provide a reset.

When you are ready, you can return to your phone.

But my favorite coping strategy is music therapy.

I love music, and it serves as a great escape.

As I write this, my favorite artist, Noah Kahan, has just released a new track ahead of his album coming out in April.

Music can be incredibly powerful. It can bring feelings of joy or sadness, and sometimes that emotional release is necessary.



Graphic by CONNIE KLINGER | Special to The Leader



Graphic by AUDRIE GRAHAM | Special to The Leader

I am not going to tell you to put on “Don’t Worry, Be Happy” by Bobby McFerrin unless that truly works for you.

Everyone is different. Sometimes it does not matter what song you choose, as long as it distracts you.

For me, listening to Kahan’s new song that just released, “The Great Divide,” which I see as a hopeless romantic track, helps me process my emotions.

I strongly recommend sitting by yourself, turning on your favorite song and fully digesting it.

Fully listen to the song, and then write.

That is exactly what I am doing right now. Yes, the new song hit me hard, and I could not return to scrolling on my phone, so I started writing this.

Write about anything: what the song means, how it makes you feel or what is happening in the world.

Let the song repeat or allow your music app to play similar tracks.

You can do this alone or with a pet.

For some people, being alone in a comfortable space helps them process emotions easier, while others prefer having someone nearby.

Do what feels right for you.

Write for as long as you need while listening to music.

If writing is not your thing, put on headphones, lie down and focus on one part of the song.

If you like what you write, you can even submit it to The Leader for potential publication.

We love hearing student voices.

Afterward, you will likely feel relaxed, but I recommend taking a bit before returning to your phone or social media.

Get up, move around or turn on the television instead.

To me, this is perfect for the nighttime.

You can fall asleep relaxed, and in the morning, you can return to your social media.

These are just strategies that help me manage the emotions that come with following and reporting on the news while still being informed.

This piece is not meant to tell you what to do, only to offer suggestions.

If nothing seems to help, I strongly encourage speaking with a professional.

The Counseling Center is open to all current students at no cost and is in LoGrasso Hall.

They can be accessed through their website or by phone at 716-673-3424.



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Questions? DM: [@sigep_fredonia](https://www.instagram.com/sigep_fredonia) Deadline to apply: Sept. 14, 2026 Apply online: sunyfredonia.sigep.org/bms

THE SCALLION



Satire and parody for Fredonia

W.H.I.T.E. stuff: An investigation into a snow conspiracy

RYAN FINK

Professional Investigator

ZACK BAEHR

Professional Investigator

We have an issue.

You see, there is a mysterious, strange white substance floating around campus, and we are very confused about it.

You may ask; what is it? Help! Please! Where is it coming from? Did it fall out of somebody's pocket? Why does it disappear when I pick it up?

If someone did pick it up, is it like a "Shawshank Redemption" thing where the person is slowly distributing it through their pants as they carve a hole to escape his or her dorm?

Never fret! We have some crucial evidence that will help you discover, like we did, THE TRUTH. TRUTHNUKE! (copyright @ryfigaming and @zackorjim 2014).

Our investigation started us off in October, with what we will dub hitherto the "Contamination Breach," also known as the first sighting of this white substance in the New York area.

Upon further investigation, this white contaminate is not just a regional issue, but an issue throughout the nation.

This ooie gooyie was a goo that we encountered in that time, with the two of us who are a part of this investigation, in our words, "tweaking," at the sight of this splooge.

We interviewed a person around this time who has some experience in this sector by the name of Michael.

When we asked him the question about the white mystery, he said, "What?"

This leads us to the culprit, in our area, of the white surprise. As readers may know, earlier this year, RyFi went on an investigation regarding the happenings inside Jewett Hall.

Upon investigation earlier this year, we not only found squirrel production, but a strange machine inside of the building that said, and I quote, "Snow Producer 3000."

Now, we are unaware of what this "snow" may be, but we suspect it may have catalyzed a new production of strange and mysterious doohickeys and shindigs, as it was 2 feet away from the "Bee Machine" (trademark @jewetthall 2016).

We have a running theory about the latest machine found, as there is a very suspicious amount of time between November and March where Squirrel production is at a low, as is bee production.

Now, what do the production makers in Jewett Hall produce between those couple of months? We have an answer, and you can find it right outside.

That's right! IT'S THE WHITE STUFF!!

WHEN YOU GO OUTSIDE! IT'S THE WHITE STUFF!

CONFIRMED! BY US, RYAN FINK AND ZACK BAEHR! THE W.H.I.T.E. DETECTIVES!

We suspect that the production of this "W.H.I.T.E." (Wispy Hexagonal Isotopic Tetratomic Ectoplasm) is not a production solely placed in the Fredonia area, as we are aware of its presence in a "Shining" like way in several different areas around the globe.

We needed extra help with this investigation, so we reached out to New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani for comment.

We have not received a response yet.

Since Mamdani is busy and can't help us discover the truth, we need YOUR help.

We the people hold these goos to be self-whitening, and we need help discovering the truth.

Note: We do NOT condone or have ever investigated in any area that is illegal to investigate in (Jewett Hall).

Don't spend too much time worrying, though.

It is true that our political and socio-economic status is rocky and controversial right now, as a result of the W.H.I.T.E.

There are still good things happening across the globe.

Penguins! They are pretty good. I liked their movies.

You know what a good movie is, too? "Norbit"!

You know what? Zack and I unanimously agree that after we write this investigative report, we will watch "Norbit" at least three times to quell our fears about the white special that is outside our dorm.

Stay safe out there!

And if you have anything to report, please visit: sites.google.com/view/whitemysteryatfredonia/home.

A tribute to D.P. Dough, my one true love

MEGAN KIDBY

Scallion Editor

They say college is where you discover who you are.

Some people find their calling.

Some find their forever person.

I found love — true, intoxicating, soul-deep love — at D.P. Dough.

For those unfamiliar with the crown jewel of Fredonia cuisine, D.P. Dough is not just a calzone restaurant.

It is a lifestyle.

From the moment I first laid eyes on the beautiful red walls and tables covered in frat boy vomit, I knew.

There was a spark, a pull. The kind of connection you don't question, you just surrender to.

Warm, golden and folded perfectly around its intentions; it understood me in a way no one ever could.

When D.P. Dough closed for a couple of months, I nearly followed it into the void.

I wandered Fredonia like a ghost, asking myself haunting questions like, "What even is a calzone?" and "Is life worth living without late-night, dough-based comfort?"

And when D.P. Dough reopened?

Joy. Pure, unfiltered joy.

Angels sang. Drunk students stumbled in like moths to a fluorescent-lit flame.

There is something deeply beautiful about watching someone slur "Maui Wowie Zone" at 2 a.m., knowing that in like 15-20 minutes, their night, and possibly their life, will improve dramatically.

These are the people who lock eyes with you and say, "Bro. Best calzones ever," as if they've just uncovered a universal truth.

And they're right.

My order was once sacred: the Falling Rock Zone, dipped lovingly — no, religiously — in Thousand Island dressing.

Not on the side. Not "a little."

I needed enough Thousand Island to make a cardiologist gasp.

It's where intimacy really began.

Smooth. Tangy. Drizzled with purpose.

It was not just a sauce; it was a commitment.

Every bite felt intentional, like D.P. Dough whispering, "I made this just for you."

And honestly? I believed it.

So, imagine my shock — nay, my heartbreak — when I learned that D.P. Dough no longer allows side cups of Thousand Island!

Just like that.



Graphic by BRIGID DOWNS | Special to The Leader

No discussion. No warning.

No "hey, can we talk?" text.

Just a quiet policy change that shook the foundation of our relationship.

I want to be clear: the Falling Rock Zone is still incredible.

The love is still there.

But now the dressing comes inside the calzone, and suddenly I'm expected to just... adapt?

To trust that the ratio will be right every time?

That there won't be one bite that's dry and emotionally distant?

Still, I stay, because relationships aren't about perfection.

It's about choosing each other, even when one of you makes deeply questionable decisions about condiments.

And yes, before anyone asks (including my girlfriend, who will absolutely read this), I do love D.P. Dough more than I love her.

Not in a problematic way, just in a spiritually honest way.

My girlfriend is wonderful, supportive and patient, but she has never arrived at my lowest point wrapped in a cardboard box, steaming with promise and filled with tater tots, cheese and bacon.

She has never experienced drunk strangers aggressively yelling and ultimately getting kicked out by one of the nicest employees in the world.

So, this Valentine's Day, while others exchange roses and overpriced chocolates, I will be celebrating true love: a hot calzone, a river of Thousand Island dressing and the comforting chaos of Fredonia's drunkest citizens.

D.P. Dough didn't just steal my heart; it baked it, folded it and served it to me in a box.

HOROS

IZZIE NOELLE
Cupid's Helper

Welcome back for a new semester! Love is in the air, and Valentine's Day is almost here! With this special day coming up, I'm here to look into your future and tell you: what are the chances that you'll get a Valentine this year? Whether it's your cat or your best friend, let's find out your odds based on your horoscope and your lucky numbers.



Aries

91%:

It looks like you'll be spending your Valentine's Day with a very special person! Don't forget to buy or make them a little gift.



Taurus

46%:

You still have a chance, although it's not quite a 50/50 shot. Do what feels right. Focus on yourself this year or maybe go out and try talking to someone. I mean, you miss every shot you don't take.



Gemini

5%:

OK, well, the chances may be low... but never zero! Spend your Valentine's Day doing anything that makes you happy!



Cancer

23%:

OK, so I know what it looks like, but it really isn't all that bad. The day is coming quickly, but you still have a chance to find a Valentine if you'd like!



Leo

1%:

Y'know, it could be worse! 1% means that nothing is absolutely hopeless, and I think that's important to remember.

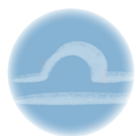


Virgo

53%:

You've got a little more than a 50/50 shot! The decision is yours to keep pursuing a Valentine or go sit back and relax.

COPEES



Libra

61%:

Not bad, Libra. I mean in girl math, 60/40 is almost 70/30 and 70/30 is almost 80/20, and that's basically 100% if you think about it.



Scorpio

0%:

Well... Sorry, Scorpio, your odds aren't looking great. Buckle down and enjoy the night on your own! Who says you need a Valentine to have fun?



Sagittarius

38%:

OK, so maybe this isn't the number you hoped for. Try writing a love letter to yourself this year! Remind yourself of all the reasons why you are amazing and beautiful and perfect. Just enjoy yourself.



Capricorn

85%:

If I had to make a guess, things are looking pretty good for you! If you keep doing what you're doing, you'll land that Valentine's Day date!



Aquarius

22%:

Maybe next year will be your year! Maybe do some self-care and watch a good romcom — celebrate Valentine's Day with yourself.



Pisces

73%:

You got this! If you've got a Valentine in mind, maybe they'll ask you soon. Or maybe you can make the first move!

Happy



Valentines