

3.2.2025 — Issue 2 — Volume CXXXVI



THE LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

Water St

LIBERTY
OF JUSTICE
FOR ALL.

Students, residents protest ICE in downtown Fredonia

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Trump delivers State of the Union; 50 Democrats boycott

Club spotlight: Black Student Union

5th Quarter: Sabres return from Olympics in playoff spot

[OPINION] Has administration been transparent about cuts?

[SATIRE] QUIZ: Which Fredonia building are you?

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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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Front and back covers: Photos by MAYA SIMONETTI | Special to The Leader

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"The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them." - Ida B. Wells

Proud member of The Associated Collegiate Press.

Continued from previous page

“We’ve been through a lot of things; a lot of us were active in the anti-war protests,” one marcher said.

“A lot of us are old hippies,” another added.

They revived chants from earlier demonstrations, including “The people united will never be defeated,” and “No justice, no peace.”

Students from the campus of SUNY Fredonia spread the word online and showed up in person.

Many had also taken part in the last No Kings protest at Barker Commons on Oct. 18.

One student said he was here to challenge complacency and apathy while others face oppression, while another put it more plainly: “To oppose oppression, my friend!”

Overall, an estimated 100 residents attended the demonstration, including students, older residents and members of the Chautauqua Action Team (CAT).

Despite the cold weather, the protest continued for approximately two hours.

Many raised handmade signs and used megaphones to amplify chants as passing drivers either honked in support or shouted obscenities.

Photographer Maya Simonetti was on-site capturing the event; her photos are used with her permission and will be credited in the paper.

Some drivers honked and gave a thumbs-up, while others cursed and gave the finger.

One passerby shouted that an older attendee was a grandmother, and another barked that the group was a “bunch of baby-eating liberals.”



Photo by MAYA SIMONETTI | Special to The Leader



Photo by MAYA SIMONETTI | Special to The Leader

Several bystanders threatened physical violence but declined to comment when asked.

Despite this, no violent confrontations occurred.

The march drew nods, waves and smiles from many local shopkeepers of the village.

Organizer Giulia acknowledged that some on campus might hold negative opinions about students’ involvement but maintained that an active student body is important.

The Chautauqua Action Team (CAT) also attended, tying the protest to broader local and national efforts.

Giulia said additional events, including a No Kings protest on March 28, are planned.

The protest concluded without incident.

Several attendees said they viewed the turnout as a measure of success and are already planning additional events.

Trump delivers State of the Union address; 50 Democrats boycott

ALEX BUCKNAM

Managing Editor

President Donald Trump's address to Congress on Feb. 24 was the longest State of the Union speech in United States (U.S.) history, lasting one hour and 47 minutes.

50 Congressional Democrats chose not to attend, including prominent members like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

The address came ahead of the looming midterm elections later this year, with news outlets mentioning that Trump needs to bring the Republican Party together, and to quell fears in voters so Republicans don't lose elections.

Critics expected Trump to focus heavily on the economy, and he touched a little on it, but shifted his focus mainly to immigration and tariffs.

A CBS poll found that 61% of Americans disapprove of how Trump is handling the economy.

At the start of the address, Democratic Rep. Al Green was escorted out.

Green held a sign that read, "Black people aren't apes," referring to a Truth Social post in which Trump portrayed Democratic officials as animals, specifically comparing the Obamas to apes.

Green and other critics viewed the post as racist, arguing that it dehumanizes people and echoes pseudoscientific racial hierarchies that placed white people above Black people.

As Green exited the chamber, Republican representatives grabbed his sign and made comments that broadcasters were unable to pick up.

Trump opened his speech by highlighting what he called major accomplishments, stating, "Our economy is the envy of the world."

He focused heavily on tariffs, noting that the Supreme Court struck down parts of his sweeping tariff plan.

Trump called the decision "unfortunate" and added, "I don't agree with that decision."

Days earlier, he wrote on X that the justices who voted against the tariffs was "disloyal to the Constitution."

While discussing the Supreme Court, Trump referenced the 22 Nobel Prize-winning economists who argued his tariffs would raise consumer prices.

He dismissed their concerns, saying they were wrong, and claimed they're doing the opposite by lowering inflation.

According to the Federal Reserve, inflation has fallen from 2.9% in August 2025 to 2.4% as of February 2026.

However, the nonpartisan Tax Foundation reported that tariffs cost the average household about \$1,000 and are projected to cost \$1,300 in 2026.

Trump repeatedly returned to tariffs throughout the night, even suggesting that the U.S. could eventually get rid of income taxes and fully operate under tariffs.



President Donald Trump delivers his State of the Union address, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026. **Image courtesy of the U.S. House of Representatives.**

Continued from previous page

“I believe at some point in the not-too-distant future, you wouldn’t even have income tax to pay because the money we’re taking in is so great,” he said.

Trump also addressed immigration, claiming that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released “zero” illegal immigrants into the United States in the past four months.

“We are securing our border like never before,” he said.

According to the DHS, the claim refers specifically to catch-and-release type of encounters, so Trump’s “zero” does not account for other encounters that go undetected.

Trump criticized what he described as a DHS shutdown, blaming Democrats and accusing them of prioritizing undocumented immigrants over American citizens.

A few weeks back, 12 appropriation bills needed to be passed to keep certain parts of the government funded.

Both parties agreed they would fund 11 out of the 12 jurisdictions for the rest of the fiscal year, with the DHS being the lone jurisdiction to go unfunded.

The parties agreed to temporarily fund the DHS for two weeks as they debated ICE (Immigration Customs and Enforcement) reforms.

The funding for the DHS stopped on Feb. 14.

No further agreement has been reached, so the DHS is currently not receiving money from Congress.

Throughout the night, Trump attacked Democrats on immigration, even calling on members of Congress to “stand up if you agree [that] the first duty of the American government is to protect American citizens, not illegal aliens.”

Most Democratic lawmakers remained seated, later saying they did not want to engage in what they viewed as a political stunt.

Crime was another recurring theme.

Trump claimed, “We saw the flow of deadly fentanyl drop 56%,” referring to the amount seized by authorities.

Experts note it is nearly impossible to determine the total amount of fentanyl entering the country.

Trump also said the nation experienced “the biggest decline in murder rates in the last 125 years.”

However, current data reflects projections rather than finalized figures, though preliminary population-adjusted estimates suggest a significant decline.

The economy remained central to the address.

Trump highlighted what he calls the “Big Beautiful Bill,” saying it helped move 2.4 million Americans off food stamps and presenting this as evidence of economic growth.

“Stand up if you agree [that] the first duty of the American government is to protect American citizens, not illegal aliens.”

— President Donald Trump

State of the Union, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026

“Their policies created high prices. Our policies are doing really well. Those prices are plummeting down.”

— President Donald Trump

State of the Union, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026

NBC News reported that the decline was largely due to changes in eligibility requirements under the legislation rather than wage growth.

Trump also claimed that prices for beef, eggs and mortgage rates were falling.

A CBS poll, however, found that many Americans say they are not yet feeling relief.

Trump acknowledged the frustration, telling viewers that improvements were coming.

Throughout the speech, Trump blamed Democrats and former President Joe Biden for high prices, saying, “Their policies created high prices. Our policies are doing really well. Those prices are plummeting down,” and added that the “price of eggs are down 64%.”

NBC reported that the spike in egg prices was largely due to a bird flu outbreak in late 2024 and early 2025.

The address also included ceremonial recognitions.

Trump honored a Girl Scout who survived a flood, families who lost loved ones, veterans and members of the U.S. men’s hockey team, which recently won gold at the Winter Olympics.

In addition to recognitions, multiple medals were presented.

A Purple Heart was awarded to the family of West Virginia National Guard member Sarah Beckstrom, who was killed in an attack in Washington, D.C.

Another Purple Heart was presented to Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe, who survived the attack.

Both families were in attendance.

Trump also awarded Connor Hellebuyck, the goalie for the U.S. men’s hockey team, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Two Congressional Medals of Honor were presented, including one to Chief Warrant Officer 5 Eric Slover, who led a mission in Venezuela to capture Nicolas Maduro.

The ceremony concluded with Capt. Royce Williams, a 100-year-old retired Navy pilot who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, receiving the honor.

First Lady Melania Trump presented the medal.

Mid-term elections will take place Nov. 3, with primary dates differing depending on your state.

You can check your voter status at vote.org.

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:

As of Feb. 24, the Police Blotter has not been updated.



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Life & Arts

Fredonia Radio Systems named best college streaming station in U.S.

SARA SUNICK

Special to The Leader

Amid the bright light and bustling streets, a small radio station won big in the Big Apple at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting Systems (IBS).

To get into IBS, college media outlets must submit the best material they have for a handful of categories.

Finalists are announced in late fall, typically in late November or early December. That determines who goes to the awards ceremony in New York City.

There are about five finalists in each category; Fredonia Radio Systems (FRS) were finalists in 16 different categories.

The finalists for FRS, in order of announcement, were:

- Best Specialty Music Show: “New Music Friday,” hosted by Andrea Ramirez and Molly Sunick
- Best Radio Drama: “Miniature Prefelton,” created by AJ Govenettio
- Best Newscast: “News at Noon, Sept. 10, 2025,” written by Aidan Albin and read by Matt Volz
- Best Spot News: “No Kings Protest,” covered by Kevin Chicas and Nox Blair
- Best News Interview: “Roswell Park Schools Against Cancer,” conducted by Izzie Noelle
- Best Use of Sound Effects: “2000s at 10,” created by AJ Govenettio
- Best Liner/Sweeper: “Marilyn Monroe,” produced by Andrea Ramirez and Palmer Witt
- Best Station ID: “WDVL Explosion,” created by AJ Govenettio
- Best Sports Update: “Sept. 26, 2025,” written and read by Matt Volz
- Best Commercial: “FRS Scrapbook,” created by Molly Sunick and AJ Govenettio
- Best Social Media Campaign: “Rockin’ the Commons Takeover Series,” conducted by the FRS executive board
- Best Promotions Director: Molly Sunick
- Best Business Director: Abby Jefferys
- Best College/University Station (under 10,000 students): WCVF 88.9 FM
- Best Streaming-Only Station (under 10,000 students): WDVL 89.5
- Abraham and Borst Award for Best Overall Station: WDVL 89.5



From left: Abby Jefferys, Andrea Ramirez, Olivia Castiglione and Justin Hook. **Photo by ABBY JEFFERYS** | Special to The Leader

Volz, FRS’s station manager said, “We think it’s the most Fredonia has ever had.”

Many members of FRS left Thursday morning and used the night to explore the city and take it in before their conferences the following morning.

Friday and Saturday consisted of conference sessions in the morning and afternoon; each session lasted about an hour.

Most conference sessions are led by media professionals or college professors, but some are led by fellow students.

Julia Klement, FRS’s chief archivist, said, “I’ve been to a couple of sessions led by college students.”

They were able to choose their schedule for conferences, but most people crammed sessions on Friday.

“A lot of us decided to really take Saturday to explore the city,” Volz said.

Saturday night was the awards ceremony, and as the day went on, the nerves built up.

“We all skipped lunch,” Klement said.

“My stomach was in knots all day,” Volz added.

The awards ceremony is held in the ballroom of the Times Square Sheraton hotel, a room that Volz claimed was “twice the size of King Concert Hall.”

Because of the large number of awards being handed out, the ceremony moves along quickly.



FRS News Director Kevin Chicas with his award for Best Spot News.
Photo by MOLLY SUNICK | Special to The Leader

The group didn't hear their names called on their first three nominations, but on their fourth nomination, IBS president Chris Thomas announced that Chicas and Blair had won the award for the best spot news.

Chicas, FRS's news director, said, "I can't believe that me and Nox won."

Their next victory was the best station ID, won by Govenettio, the FRS production director.

"He's incredible," Volz said about Govenettio. "You can tell it meant everything to him."

Volz said, "One of the best things about the award ceremony is seeing what these awards mean to some people."

A few moments later, Volz became one of those people, winning the award for the best sports update.

"I genuinely did not think I was going to win," Volz said. "I was up against students from really big schools."

Volz was even against Auburn University, the home of his favorite college football team.

"It was weird to go up against them," he added.

The last category to be announced was the best station in the nation.

WDVL and WCVF were each in their own category, with WCVF being an on-the-dial station and WDVL being streaming only.



From left: Maisie Strader, Molly Sunick and Julia Klement.
Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

Both categories were split into large-school and small-school categories, with 10,000 students serving as the dividing line.

WDVL and WCVF were finalists for their respective categories in 2023 and 2025.

WDVL has been around for almost 80 years. This year's group was the first to be named the best station in the nation for the streaming-only platform.

"To be the first group is incredible," Volz said. "The other awards are mostly for individual people, but the best station in the nation is for all of us."

Two executive board members were finalists in their respective positions.

Jefferys was a finalist for the best business manager, while Sunick was a finalist for the best promotions director.

Although neither finished in the top spot, being a finalist still put them in the top 5% for their positions nationwide.

"I think everybody could've been a finalist in their positions," Volz said. "There is a lot of work that goes into the station."

"From late-night meetings to events such as Rockin' the Commons and Rock n' Skate, we put so much effort into our work," Klement added. "People make the work that we do worth it."

Working in the station "lights a spark," said Chicas.

"There are so many people who have met friends that they keep in touch with for the rest of their lives," he added. "There are so many wonderful people, and it's the honor of a lifetime to work with them."

Matt Volz, quoted in this story, is the Editor in Chief of The Leader.

Club spotlight: Black Student Union

JILLIAN LAWSON

Special to The Leader

In honor of Black History Month, Fredonia celebrates a legacy and unity that has been a welcoming organization on campus for more than 50 years.

Black Student Union (BSU) has aimed toward fostering a cultural and inclusive club here at SUNY Fredonia, providing a safe space for students.

The organization serves as an open-to-all community space where students celebrate, spread awareness for African culture and enhance social diversity on campus.

BSU also hosts annual events that are open to all students, such as their opening ceremony, closing ceremony and fashion show. Each of these events provides a cultural impact, and all of them are open to students and community members.

BSU hosts weekly events where students can come and meet the executive board and members to come enjoy some activities.

They host events such as movie nights, PowerPoint nights and cultural celebration events, which work towards bringing a sense of community on campus for all students to take part in.

BSU's closing ceremony was on Friday, Feb. 27, in the Williams Center Multi-Purpose Room from 7-9pm.

The event was called A Night at Euphoria, with a black, purple and silver dress code theme.

The night featured food, musical performances and prizes to win.

"Black Student Union has fostered a sense of belonging and cultural identity because it is a community where people who

have gone through similar experiences can meet and share their experiences as well," said Jaslyn Branch, a sophomore education major and executive board member of BSU. "With Fredonia being a predominantly white institution, it is hard for a lot of students of color to find people who look like them; Black Student Union is that outlet for them."

The Fashion Show is another event that is taking place on Saturday, March 28, in the Williams Center Multi-Purpose Room.

This event spotlights the creativity and dedication that the models and behind-the-scenes workers have put into this show.

The Fashion Show has gone on for generations, with fashion and style evolving along with it.

"Being a model in the Fashion Show has been my favorite memory, not only did it put me out of my comfort zone, but it also helped me build meaningful connections with people that I am now really close friends with," said Nai Sancho, a sophomore English adolescence education major.

Sancho is also this year's fashion show coordinator.

The friendships have been extremely impactful for current members, and BSU has provided them with memories that will be cherished for years to come.

"A legacy I hope I can leave for future students of color is don't be afraid to meet one another," said Raven Adams, a sophomore BFA Acting major. "We are all connected one way or another. Fredonia had a lot of black students years ago, let's inspire more of them to come here and meet more. Make more memories and make a change."

BSU members hope to carry out the legacy of this organization in hopes that new students will continue to keep traditions and the power of friendship alive and strong.



Present Day BSU E-board members pictured left to right; Raven Adams, Noah Walters, Kalen Haley, Jaslyn Branch, Tay Harris, and Nai Sancho.

Photo courtesy of BSU at Fredonia.



Graphic by ELLIOT MORSE | Special to The Leader

English department presents first-ever 'Zine Fest'

GIULIANNA LALOMIO
Chief Copy Editor

Does self-publishing art and writing sound exciting to you? Well, then you are in luck!

The Department of English at SUNY Fredonia is delighted to present its first-ever Fredonia Zine Fest (FZF).

The event is to be held on Saturday, March 7, from noon until 4 p.m. in the Williams Center Multi-Purpose Room and will conclude with an Open Mic hosted by Writers' Ring from 4 to 5 p.m.

Although free and open to the public, event participants are encouraged to bring zines to either trade or share.

There is no defined payment method for vendors, but cash and Venmo are likely supported.

For those who may be unfamiliar, a zine is a self-published short magazine often created from print media clippings, hand-drawn art, poems, short stories and whatever else the author/artist may want to include in their vision.

In addition to a collection of zines that can be found in the Reed Library archives, Fredonia is also home to the popular "Rock a Little" zine created by Justin Hoock, a junior English education major.

Students and faculty alike have a deep appreciation for the modest zine.

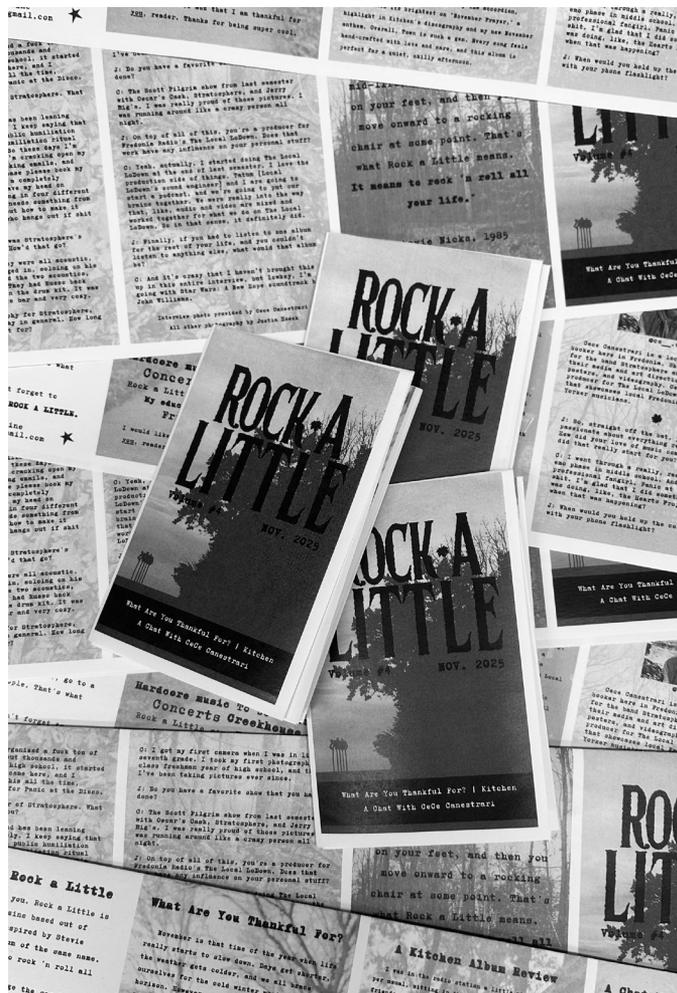
Lain Pelonero, a student from the senior writing capstone class, said, "I'm drawn to zines because they allow anybody to share their voice in a creative way that is unique to them. Zines being self-published allows for full creative control of the individual and makes them one of the few remaining forms of subculture that hasn't been overly commodified or watered down."

Mara Beneway, event organizer for FZF and a new professor to the English department, reflects that, "Zines are radical! Small yet loud! They are not one thing. Or maybe they are? Material artifacts, I suppose, of resistance, curiosity, and community."

Hoock, a presenter at the upcoming event, said, "I love how accessible zines are. Anyone can make a zine for any reason they want. They are a core aspect of fan culture."

In addition to student and local vendors, the lineup of presenters includes Hoock, Coordinator of Special Collections & Archives, Amanda Shepp, and former Fredonia alumnus, James Coughlin.

Coughlin, a 2016 graduate, represents Burning Books, an independent bookstore from Buffalo, with a presentation on his book, "A City of Distant Neighbors: The Proliferation & Entrenchment of Residential Segregation in Buffalo, New York (1934 to 1961)."



'Rock a Little: Music Zine,' created by Justin Hoock.
Photo by JUSTIN HOOCK | Special to The Leader

The schedule for FZF will offer:
Noon to 4:00 p.m. -- Students and Local Vendors
1:00-1:20 PM -- Justin Hoock, "Rock a Little: Music Zine"
2-2:20 PM -- Burning Books: James Coughlin, "A City of Distant Neighbors"
3:00-3:20 PM -- Amanda Shepp, Zines at Fredonia: A Retrospective

Following FZF will be:
4:00-5:00 PM -- Open Mic hosted by Writers' Ring

For more information, please email Professor Rachel "Mara" Beneway at rachel.beneway@fredonia.edu.

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AT THE 1891 FREDONIA OPERA HOUSE

Local bands rock Willy C's in 'Sweetheart Slam'

CAMERON KASPRZAK

Special to The Leader

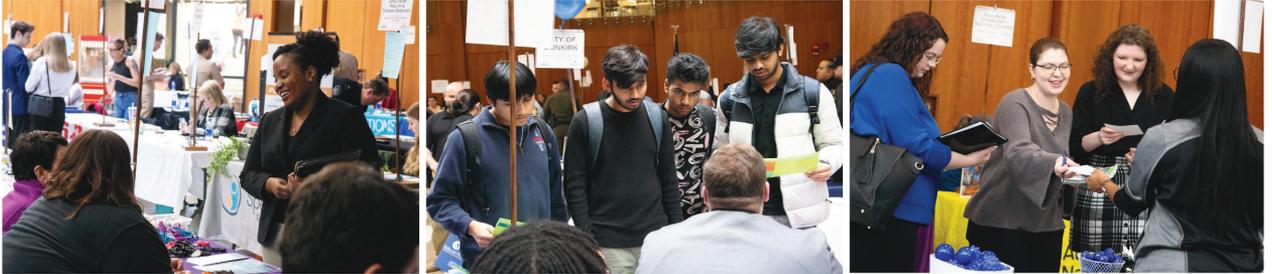




Job & Internship Expo 2026

Tuesday, March 3 from 1-4 p.m.

Williams Center: 301 Old Main Drive, Fredonia



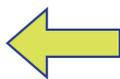
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SPORTS

5th Quarter: Sabres return from Olympics in playoff spot

MITCH HORUCY
Sports Editor

After an extended break for the Olympics capped off by an unbelievable gold medal game, it's time for the NHL to resume their season.

For the Buffalo Sabres, they're in unfamiliar territory when it comes to the post-break playoff push.

With 70 points at the break, it's the highest point total the team has had at this point since the 2010-11 season when the team had 75 points.

It's also the first time since the 2009-10 season the team is in a playoff spot at the break.

The Sabres have put themselves in a good spot to make the postseason dance, but there is still a lot of hockey to be played.

Especially when it comes to a Buffalo sports team, you cannot count your chickens before they hatch.

They sit just two points back from second place in the Atlantic, but also only five points ahead of Columbus for the first wild card spot.

Columbus has a game in hand on Buffalo as well.

Tage Thompson and Rasmus Dahlin both had solid performances at the Olympic Games, despite different outcomes for the U.S. and Sweden.

Most importantly, both players come home from Milan injury-free.

One thing Sabres fans will have their eyes on as well as the playoff race is the March 6 trade deadline.

More specifically, they're focused on what happens with Alex Tuch.

The 29-year-old Syracuse native was the main return piece in the Jack Eichel trade.

When healthy, he's an above-average to elite two-way forward who can produce at a near point-per-game pace.

He's an extremely valuable member of this team and is a big part of the team's efforts to make the playoffs and even win a round.

With that being said, reports are that he is asking for a contract in the range of eight years with an average salary, or AAV, north of \$11 million.

That would place him tied for the 14th highest paid forward in the NHL in terms of AAV, tied with Artemi Panarin.

At this point in time, and likely for the next three to four years, he may very well be worth that kind of money.

The biggest issue with signing the contract he wants is the length of it.

When the deal is close to being up, he'll be 38 years old.

For a guy who bases a good amount of his game on speed and physicality, will he be able to perform at the level that makes his AAV worth it at the back end of his deal?

That's the question most Sabres fans, and likely team general manager Jarmo Kekalainen, are trying to find the answer to.

In my opinion, there are two ways I would handle this situation.

The first is to do nothing. He's an unrestricted free agent, or UFA, which means he can walk away after this season without the Sabres getting anything for him.

I'd allow him to do that. While he's important, the team has a plethora of young forwards who should be taking the next step very soon.

This also doesn't rule out a return to Buffalo, but I'd let him play out the season and try to resign him for a cheaper deal, around the seven-year, \$9.5 million AAV range.

The other thing I'd do is trade him for a younger or better player as a part of a larger deal.

Two players in mind for that are Jordan Kyrou and Jason Robertson.

Starting with Kyrou, he's two years younger than Tuch and is under contract until 2031.

When he's at his best, he's around a point-per-game player, but he hasn't been his best in a few seasons.

It seems like for whatever reason he won't finish his contract in St. Louis, and the team has showed interest in Kyrou before.

The package for Kyrou could possibly just be a player swap between him and Tuch.

However, I think the Sabres front office wants to do right by Tuch, and I can't imagine the Blues are where he wants to go.

Before getting to Robertson, rumors are swirling that fellow Blues forward Robert Thomas is also on the market.

The asking price for the 26-year-old will be high, but if the team wants to take a swing, he's a good option.

On the topic of taking a swing, a move for the star forward from Dallas — no pun intended — would be a home run.

Robertson has been a star for a consistent cup-contending team in Dallas, with a 109-point season under his belt.

He's in a similar situation to Tuch, as he's also a UFA and can walk after this season.

A move for Robertson could possibly look something like; Alex Tuch, Jack Quinn and a first-round pick.

The team would also have to give Robertson a contract, roughly an eight-year deal with an AAV of \$12 million.

While that's more than Tuch, I think it'd be more than worth it for a player like him.

What I wouldn't do under any circumstances is trade Tuch for a third- or fourth-line player and a prospect/pick.

The team doesn't need any more young talent; they're the second youngest team in the league.

The time to compete is now.

It's only the second time in the past decade that the Sabres will be playing truly meaningful hockey after the break and not playing for draft positioning.

With the trade deadline just over a week away, as well as the playoffs a little over a month away, it should make for an exciting stretch of not just Sabres hockey, but the NHL as a whole.

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.

Days since Buffalo's last playoff game: 5,423 (as of Feb. 27)

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

Number of Sabres coaching changes since 2011: 7

Notable sports events in 2011:

- February: Rookie Trevor Bayne pulls off Daytona 500 upset
- April: Cam Newton drafted first overall by Carolina Panthers
- October: David Freese's heroics propel St. Louis Cardinals to World Series victory



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

Print Tuesdays at **7 p.m.**

In The Leader Office!
S206 Williams Center



U.S. hockey pays tribute to 'Miracle on Ice' with Milan sweep

JACK HOADLEY

Assistant Sports Editor

Exactly 46 years to the day after their last gold medal victory, the United States (U.S.) men's hockey team managed a second miracle as they defeated Canada to take gold in this year's Winter Olympics.

In the overtime period of the game, Jack Hughes of the New Jersey Devils scored an electric golden goal, which pushed the U.S. past a top-tier Canadian team.

The game featured a number of marquee moments, including reigning Hart Trophy winner Connor Hellebuyc's electric late-game save, which played a huge part in the U.S. triumph.

Hellebuyc had the game of his life Sunday morning, as many accredit the win to his inability to let up more than one goal throughout the entire game and overtime.

In most regards, Canada was the better team throughout the Olympics and even throughout the game, but it was the standout performance from Hellebuyc that made the difference in who took home gold.

The U.S. took an early lead after a Matt Boldy goal just six minutes into the contest, then later in the game, Canada tied it up as Cale Makar scored.

The 1-1 tie would carry all the way into overtime where a three-on-three sudden death period would begin, and Hughes claimed the aforementioned victory for the U.S.

This win had been a long time coming for the U.S., as they hadn't won gold since the 1980 gold medal game against Finland, two days after a semifinal upset over the Soviet Union that became known as the "Miracle on Ice."

The U.S. also had never won gold in the era of National Hockey League players playing in the Olympics, while Canada has accomplished it three times since 1998.

This victory becomes even more significant when you consider how much of Canada's national identity is placed in hockey.

The U.S. win is similar to Japan's victory over the U.S. in the 2023 World Baseball Classic.

The United States is also notorious for being less than stellar in the Winter Olympics with a major focus of their success taking place in the summer, when sports like basketball take over.

But this year, the U.S. won 12 gold medals, the most they have ever won in the winter games, two of which belong to both the men's and women's hockey teams.

The women's team put on one of the most dominant runs in Olympic history, also defeating Canada in overtime for the gold.

When Canada took a 1-0 lead in the women's gold medal game, it marked the first time Team USA had trailed in the entire Olympics.

It also ended a record streak of 17 straight periods without allowing a goal.

That adds up to more than five full games in which goalies Aerin Frankel and Gwenyth Phillips kept the puck out of the net.

Still trailing 1-0 late in the third period, Hilary Knight tied the game for Team USA, sending the game to sudden-death overtime.

In overtime, Megan Keller stole the puck in the offensive zone and fired home the winning shot, sealing gold for the Americans.

It marked the third-ever gold medal for the women's team, following triumphs in Nagano in 1998 and Pyeongchang in 2018.

The dominant run was headlined by the fact that the Americans collectively outscored their opponents 33-2.

The women's team didn't surprise many by going all the way and winning gold, but the men's team had to beat a stellar Canadian team to win their own.

To give credit where it's due, Canada looked largely unstoppable for the majority of the Olympics, but so did their curling team, who took home a rather disingenuous gold medal.

This win should be seen as an upset by the U.S., as Canada had a better-built team that consisted of NHL stars like Connor McDavid and Macklin Celebrini, who are both at the top of the league currently.

Team U.S.A. did consist of a strong roster as well, including Buffalo's very own Tage Thompson, who played a key role as a forward for the team, and hopes to bring the Sabres back to the post season for the first time in over 14 years.

What the U.S. accomplished at the Olympics this year also universally united American citizens in a time where that is most needed, as the Olympics often do.

The NHL season is now back in action, and no one has a more awkward return to practice than U.S. captain Austin Matthews, who plays for the Toronto Maple Leafs.

The Sabres return to play in a wild card spot, hoping that Team USA's success in Milan will fuel them to breaking their own drought.

ATTENTION JUNIORS!



ALMA MATER SOCIETY FREDONIA'S HIGHEST NON-ACADEMIC HONOR SOCIETY IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

If you are a Junior (by credits), or first semester Senior (by academic acceleration) and you have made outstanding non-academic contributions to SUNY Fredonia, you are eligible to apply for induction into the Society

PLEASE PICK UP AN APPLICATION
(see dates available below)

AT THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICE
WILLIAMS CENTER S226A-B, S227

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT MICHELLE CORRENTE
(SA OFFICE) AT michelle.corrente@fredonia.edu
or call 716-673-3381

APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM
February 23rd, 2026 TO March 13th, 2026
IN THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION OFFICE
(Williams Center S226A-B, S227)

Lovercolumn: The Big 'O'

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.

This week's date, though, is definitely one you'll do with a romantic partner.

This episode was a much raunchier one, and our date idea fits perfectly with that theme.

You're going to roll the dice — literally.

Sex dice are a way to keep things spicy in your relationship, especially if you're looking to spend a night searching for that “big O” we talk about below.

Common sex dice have many sides to them, and some have as many as 20 or 24.

On each side is a different sexual position, and whatever side the die lands on is your position for the night.

Think of it as gambling meeting the Kama Sutra.

These dice are available at stores like Spencer's or pretty much any adult outlet.

On that note, we at Lovercall would like to thank our favorite adult outlet that has recently closed: Lion's Den in Ripley, NY.

Thank you, Lion's Den, for helping us out with each semester's Taste Test episode. We'll miss you.

Going back to the sex dice, it's important to make sure all parties are fully comfortable with each position.

This week's date idea is:

Sex dice!

We recommend taking a look at each position listed and making a list of which ones you're comfortable with and which ones you aren't.

Then, decide based on which positions all parties are comfortable with.

Of course, this is something that you probably wouldn't do in the early stages of a relationship, let alone outside the boundaries of one.

However, one of our guests said he'd be open to the idea of this being a first date, and to that, we applaud him.

That level of boldness is impressive and commendable, if not a bit wild.

No matter how you choose to do this activity, be safe and have fun!

The Big 'O'

As many on campus know, or even attended, on February 11, orgasms came to Fredonia!

Not actual orgasms, but an interactive presentation on the female orgasm that was held and presented by Marshall Miller and Lindsay Fram at SUNY Fredonia.

What does this have to do with Lovercall, though?

Well, the night of the Female Orgasm presentation, hosts of Lovercall went to the event and found out many things that lead to the pleasure of women.

That same night, Lovercall aired, covering what was discussed at the presentation.

Topics like society's expectations when it comes to a woman's orgasm, ways to reach one faster, ways to make the whole experience of reaching one more enjoyable and even some physical facts were covered that many of us on the show didn't even know.

When it came to society expectations, the presenters highlighted that most people who have a vagina have, in fact, faked their orgasm.

Not only that, but many who attended answered that during sexual activity, there was a common expectation that women would not even orgasm.

With something as sad as this, we went into how to reach an orgasm and some physical aspects of how to make it better.

While discussing these aspects on the show, one thing that was mentioned was comfort and knowing one's body.

Now, while the presentation went over a few places that most people with a vagina feel good, it's important to understand your partner's body on a more personal level, not just knowing where the clitoris is.

Something that the presenters shared, that I totally agreed with, is doing body tours with the one you are trying to please.

By communicating with your partner, you can better understand where they personally feel good, since everyone's body is different.

Not only that, but some people like their bodies touched in different ways due to that uniqueness, so communication during that body tour on what they like can help make the whole experience a lot more fun.

The body tour isn't just for the partner you're engaging with, though; you can even try to give yourself one.

By relaxing and taking the time to try new things with your body, you can see what feels good and what doesn't.

Knowing one's body can help make things more pleasurable for oneself or even a partner by telling them ways to make you have more fun and reach an orgasm.

If you feel comfortable too, and only if both of you are comfortable, you can try to experiment with that said partner because maybe you like being touched one way on your own and another when someone else is doing the touching.

The main thing here is communication and understanding one's body, just like the presentation *The Female Orgasm* highlighted.

The presentation aimed at enhancing orgasms through education and having an open conversation to talk about these things that might have been hushed when it came to early sex education.

The only way to make things better is through communication, education and understanding, not just in a sexual sense, and I am thankful that *The Female Orgasm* came to Fredonia.

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

Interested in being a guest on Lovercall?

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

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



Has administration been transparent about program cuts?

ALEX BUCKNAM

Managing Editor

A lot of students are confused about where we are with program cuts.

As a journalist and managing editor of a newspaper, I wish I had the answers and a full story to give the public, but I'm equally as lost.

The last time I personally had a conversation with Dr. Horowitz was on Dec. 5.

During this brief exchange, I asked her if the last timeline she sent out was still up to date, referring to her Oct. 31 update.

I received a simple answer: "No."

"We're waiting on the updated models to be completed," she stated. "Once they're sent to faculty, I'll figure out new dates and distribute them."

I will give the interim provost some credit.

She justified this by explaining that instead of revising the dates every time there's a speed bump with Finance and Administration, they wait for the models to be in the hands of faculty before coming up with a new timeline.

In all honesty, this made sense, but I question why the student body wasn't made aware of this plan.

I mean, these are our majors. You don't have students if you don't have any majors.

Why haven't the models been sent to students? I mean, it's our money.

If it was about not wanting students to worry about something they have no control over, not letting them see it creates more worry.

It creates uncertainty.

It was brought up to me that the potential program cut list went to the president today.

I don't know how true this is.

I sent an email to the interim provost asking if this was true, and she did not get back to me.

As a journalist, I expect to reach out to people in positions of power. It's one of the fundamentals of this field.

But I'm also a student at this school. It shouldn't be my job to reach out to offices to know what's happening.

It should be the job of the people in power to share what's happening.

At the start of the last semester, when the discussion of program cuts was back on the table, we were told that the students would be informed.

At first, I had hoped this would be different from the last time this happened.



Interim Provost Dr. Judith Horowitz. Photo via fredonia.edu.

Horowitz started by attending a Student Association (SGA) meeting, and she hosted other meetings where students could come in, talk and ask questions.

Vice President for Finance & Administration, Wayne Lynch, even attended a few of them.

Through our email correspondence, I told Horowitz that I liked her idea of meeting with students.

I believed this could help address the anger, sadness and every other emotion that comes with the idea of cutting programs.

I feel that if students were informed and given access to the same data as the faculty, they wouldn't be as upset.

"I would be very happy to meet regularly with the students," she said. "Maybe during an [SGA] meeting?"

But where are those meetings? Even if there isn't much she can share, anything is better than nothing.

If this administration wanted what was best for students, then they would keep them informed about what is happening.

If they continue to ignore the students, we are only going to get angrier.

You can't be upset about students being angry regarding what is going on.

Fredonia is a home to a lot of people.

They have made lifelong friendships and relationships and connected with professors.

There is an argument to be made that it is better for students in affected majors to transfer out of Fredonia if their program gets cut.

Last time around, it was common that students in affected majors did not feel like they were getting a good education.

Yes, at the end of their time here they would have a degree and would be eligible for jobs that require that degree, but they are most likely going to have an education gap, which could be a negative thing for employers.

These students now have to make the decision to say goodbye to friends and professors, and as someone who values their professors, I would be upset if I had to transfer.

These people have taught me and shaped me into who I have become. It's hard to say goodbye to that.

This school has tried hard to still look appealing to prospective students despite struggling to crawl its way out of the SUNY-wide campus deficits.

On paper this might be true, but again, you don't have anything if you don't have students.

To me, I feel as if this administration sees each student as a dollar sign.

They might be good at getting new students, and I'm very happy about that. I love seeing campus full.

But they will soon forget about those students.

They seem as if they don't care about them because, well, they are already here.

I wouldn't be surprised at the end of this if we get another email from President Kolison giving us a time and location for a presentation on another "e-dig."

According to Naomi Baldwin, Kolison's chief of staff and executive assistant, "The president is preparing an update for the campus community, and he anticipates sending it out by the end of the week."

I don't know when the update is coming out, but this administration is going to get a lot more angry students than if they would've just been transparent.

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

THE SCALLION



Satire and parody for Fredonia

Investigation uncovers gambling center in Jewett Hall basement

CAMERON KASPRZAK

Special to The Leader

Ever wonder what's really inside Jewett Hall?

Conspiracies have been floating around campus, but do they really know the deep, dark secret of Jewett Hall?

Jewett Hall was last used in the Fall 2021 semester, and following that, it was a COVID-19 testing center.

But maybe the testing was a cover-up for something much deeper.

"How deep?" you might ask.

The deep, dark, scary basement of Jewett Hall is where you'll find the truth.

How are we getting funding for clubs?

All this money is accumulating while programs continue to get cut, and admission rates continue to steadily decrease.

There's got to be a money-making source.

That's where Jewett Hall comes into play.

In the so-called "building under renovation," they have a gambling center in the massive basement of Jewett Hall.

You heard me right!

GAMBLING CENTER!

A gambling center that only admins can use.

Slot machines upon slots machines, tables with private dealers, sports betting, you name it!

Professors can bet higher or lower on how many students they think will pass their nearly incomprehensible exam.

Just like that, easy cashout.

Don't think it just stops there; this building is truly the cheat code for keeping Fredonia alive.

All the program cuts and the budget cuts go into funding for this gambling site.

The more money invested, the more games there are.

The more games there are, the better chances of winning money.

The better chances of winning money, the more money they can put into this gambling center.

IT'S A FULL CIRCLE!

And it's all hiding just beyond the locked doors of the so-called "building under renovation."

Now let's move on from the truth being revealed and talk about how this is relevant.

"Who cares if there's a gambling center in Jewett Hall? You have no proof that there is really one down there."

WRONG!

Ever wonder how Burger Wednesday keeps getting funding to supply the best burgers Cranston can produce?

GAMBLING!

Ever wonder why the squirrels on campus only come out during the day and rarely at night?

GAMBLING!

The squirrels are just a distraction from the real truths hidden within the walls of Fredonia.

The music events on campus that are held every so often.

You guessed it — **GAMBLING!**

They can bet on which bands get the most cheers and then put that money towards **THE NEXT MUSIC EVENT!**

So, is this underground gambling center being used in a bad way?

Here's the thing; it's really not.

It's being used to give back to campus.

Burger Wednesday wouldn't be a thing without gambling.

The squirrels we all hold near and dear to our hearts, and see all over campus, wouldn't be out and about if it weren't for gambling.

And the music events that showcase the magnificent talents of the local bands would not happen if it weren't for this gambling center.

So next time you see a squirrel hanging around, enjoy a nice concert or eat a delicious burger from Cranston, remember: those things couldn't happen without gambling.

So, if you've never had a sign to start gambling before, consider this your sign to start.

And once you start, don't quit, because 99% of gamblers quit before they win big!



Photo by IZZIE NOELLE | Photo Editor

QUIZ: Which campus building are you?

MEGAN KIDBY

Scallion Editor

SUNY Fredonia is a beautiful place with beautiful buildings that have so many people in them all the time. Which one of these buildings should you go into? Take this quiz to find out!

Question #1: It's a free afternoon. What are you most likely doing?

- a. Studying, but low-key people-watching
- b. Working on a creative project
- c. Hanging out with friends and talking about everything
- d. Grabbing food or taking a coffee break
- e. Putting shrimp in a toilet bowl

Question #2: Your ideal class is:

- a. Structured and intellectually challenging
- b. Hands-on and creative
- c. Small, relaxed and social
- d. Easygoing with snacks involved
- e. A place where I can flip everyone's desks upside down

Question #3: Your friends would describe you as:

- a. Focused and reliable
- b. Artistic and expressive
- c. Friendly and comforting
- d. Laid-back and approachable
- e. The worst. Literally the worst.

Question #4: Pick a campus vibe:

- a. Quiet but productive
- b. Energetic and inspiring
- c. Warm and familiar
- d. Busy, social and always moving
- e. Garbage can with a big tree branch caught on fire

Question #5: What stresses you out the most?

- a. Disorganization
- b. Creative blocks
- c. Feeling disconnected
- d. Being hungry or tired
- e. My life is so stressful 24/7 it doesn't even bother me

Question #6: It's midterms week. You are:

- a. Camped out with notes and a planner
- b. Channeling stress into something creative
- c. Studying with friends for moral support
- d. Running on caffeine and snacks
- e. Setting the fire alarm off at 1 a.m.

Question #7: What's your campus pet peeve?

- a. Loud people in quiet spaces
- b. Program cuts
- c. Feeling left out or unnoticed
- d. Long lines for food
- e. Joy

Question #8: Pick a motto:

- a. "Work first, relax later."
- b. "Creativity over everything."
- c. "Community matters."
- d. "Food fixes most problems."
- e. "Draw obscene pictures everywhere."

IF YOU GOT...

Mostly A's — Reed Library



Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

You're thoughtful, focused and dependable. People trust you for good advice and solid work habits — even if you secretly enjoy a little procrastination.

Mostly B's — Rockefeller Arts Center



Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

Creative energy is your thing. Whether it's music, art or performance, you thrive where ideas come to life.

Mostly C's — The Dorm Halls (except Nixon)



Photo by IZZIE NOELLE | Photo Editor

You're friendly, welcoming and community oriented. People feel comfortable around you, and you make campus feel like home.

Mostly D's — Williams Center



Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

You're social, relaxed and always where things are happening. You know the best spots to eat, meet up and recharge.

Mostly E's — Nixon Hall



Photo by IZZIE NOELLE | Photo Editor

You're absolutely disgusting. People genuinely hate you, and I hate you too.

HOROS

IZZIE NOELLE

Photo Editor

Hey everyone! I bring these horoscopes to you from my very comfy-cozy dorm bed while feeling not-so-comfy-cozy because I'm super sick. I had a lot of time to scroll while absolutely bedridden, which inspired me for this week's horoscopes. Since I had plenty of time to doom scroll this weekend, I'll be telling you which social media platform you are based on your zodiac sign!



Aries

iMessage:

Y'know Aries, I just know you get way too competitive over the GamePigeon games. That's the main entertainment you'll get from iMessage. Just don't be too mean whether you win or lose.



Taurus

Reddit:

Not the most popular by any means, Taurus, but you line up with Reddit. Not all of it is bad, and some subreddits can be fun! My favorite recently has been seeing Lafufu posts online, they're all funny and sometimes cute.



Gemini

YouTube:

Gemini, you always know the right things to say and the right amount of cheer to bring! While YouTube isn't all cheer, you can surely find any type of video you want. Whether you want to learn a new skill or fall into a rabbit hole of conspiracy theories, you can do both with YouTube!



Cancer

YikYak:

Just like the anonymous app, you need to be mentally prepared for a hangout with Cancer. Once you get past the rough edges, you can find some golden posts.



Leo

Facebook:

Being one of the most popular social media platforms for years on end, Leo, you are Facebook. People either love you or hate you, just like the app.



Virgo

Pinterest:

You like to keep to yourself a bit more or have more control of the social situation. With Pinterest, you get to control your vision and make your boards. I think it's pretty fitting.

COPES



Libra

Snapchat:

You never end up doom-scrolling Snapchat on purpose. There's never anything too crazy on there, just like how Libra is never too crazy in a social scene. Enjoy the random memes and true crime stories you find in your accidental doomscroll.



Scorpio

TikTok:

Much like TikTok, you can be a little too real. Like, sometimes the for you page gets a little too for you, you know?



Sagittarius

Instagram:

Instagram has just about anything to keep you entertained, just like how Sagittarius can be the life of the party! Scroll some silly reels or keep up with your friends and their lives!



Capricorn

Twitter/X:

I will always call it Twitter because that is my truth and how I live. Capricorn, sometimes you can be a little angsty in social situations, just like how Twitter can be an angsty and scary place.



Aquarius

Bluesky:

Sometimes people forget you're there, Aquarius, the same way we forget about Bluesky. It's like the quieter and calmer version of Twitter, more for art from what I understand.



Pisces

Telegram:

I won't lie, I know next to nothing about Telegram, which I know next to nothing about Pisces! So, I think it all works out. I do know that there are games you can play in the text channels.



DIVERSITY
MAKES US
STRONG
COMPASSION
MAKES US
GREAT

ABOLISH ICE
HANDS UP
DON'T
SHOOT
ABOLISH ICE

PISSED OFF
WOMEN
WILL SAVE
THIS COUNTRY

RESIST

A sign featuring a stylized illustration of the Statue of Liberty in blue and white, set against a pink background with a city skyline at the bottom.

COMMUNITY