

THE LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

*Fredonia
graduates
emerge...*



**Final goodbyes from
The Leader's seniors**

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FREDONIA
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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Seniors say goodbye through dance with 'Collective Pulse'

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"Never regret anything that made you smile." - Mark Twain

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Construction blocks off accessible parking next to Jewett Hall

ALEX BUCKNAM
Managing Editor

When it comes to parking on campus, Fredonia has a lot — but not enough right next to academic buildings, according to Markus Kessler, Fredonia's director of facilities planning.

The issue has become increasingly noticeable as more students return to campus and rely on closer parking between classes.

Most importantly, a significant amount of accessible parking was blocked off, raising concerns among students and visitors who depend on those designated spaces.

Kessler said this was because space was needed for the construction crew and equipment staging.

Other options included fencing off the grass area next to Jewett, but that would not be suitable for the long term or for ongoing construction needs.

“We constantly [would] have to close [the lot] off. We also must provide space for contractor trailers, [or] if we have to bring in a crane or something like that,” Kessler said. “So, the construction fund always asks, ‘can we take a parking lot that’s close to the building for something like this?’”

Kessler said he is aware of the loss of accessible parking and is working alongside the University Police Department to find alternatives while renovations are taking place, though specific solutions are still being evaluated.

Parking lots near Dods, Jewett, Thompson and Fenton Halls fill up quickly because of how convenient they are to academic buildings, especially during peak class hours in the late morning and early afternoon.

Students often circle these lots looking for open spaces, adding to congestion.

In March, students noticed that Jewett Hall parking, also known as Lot 13, was blocked off, prompting confusion among those who regularly relied on the lot for daily parking.

This was due to Jewett Hall beginning major renovations to maintain compliance with Fredonia's 2011 Facilities Master Plan.

Kessler described the plan as a long-term framework that has guided several campus improvement projects over the years.

The 2011 plan called for either the renovation, demolition or rebuilding of Jewett Hall to create a one-stop shop for students, centralizing key services in one accessible location.

“‘One stop’ is a student services model that relies heavily on highly developed and intuitive online portals, transaction-enabling self-service, cross-trained staff, and thorough integration of ‘traditional services,’” Fredonia's website says.



Graphic by KEN BISHOP | Special to The Leader

“It aims, in all, to empower students to get what they need, when they need it, from anywhere, at 2 p.m. or 2 a.m. It aims also to liberate institutions from archaic, inefficient, often redundant models suited for a bygone era.”

This would bring offices like the Registrar and the Career and Development Office into one building, with many more offices to be added, potentially reducing the need for students to travel across campus for different services.

When the parking lot was closed, it caused some frustration on Yik Yak, with many students upset that the lot would be unavailable, requiring them to park farther away and adjust their daily routines.

Kessler said that the construction timeline left little time to prepare for the impact or communicate changes fully to the campus community ahead of time.

“When the school found out the construction was going to start, it left them no time to prepare and look at all issues this would cause,” he said.

“The day I sent out that campuswide email was on a Friday. The following Tuesday, they were going to start,” he added, emphasizing how quickly the project moved forward.

Construction is expected to last until 2028, with the parking lot being blocked throughout the whole time.

Kessler is actively looking and meeting with Student Association to help solve the accessible parking being blocked.

The Leader will help provide any updates as they come.

Director of Innovation and Economic Development reportedly retrenched

ALEX BUCKNAM

Managing Editor

As the school year comes to a close, budget and program cuts remain at the forefront of concerns for many at Fredonia.

The latest update students received on where the school was with the second round of program cuts was on Friday, March 13 via email from President Stephen Kolison.

Kolison announced that he received materials from the provost's office.

He then said that he assigned his cabinet to review the materials and provide their insight on it.

Lastly, he said he would do his own independent research and then submit his findings to the University Council. "Once I have their [president's cabinet] input, I will conduct my own independent review and then share my perspectives with the University Council and our partners at SUNY for additional advice and feedback. With those insights in hand, and as needed," the email read.

Additionally, he said he would meet with department chairs.

Kolison stated that such meetings do not give insight into what programs could be on the chopping block.

This comes as Fredonia is still facing a multimillion-dollar deficit that SUNY wants them to handle on their own, rather than giving them money to alleviate the deficits.

The university has already chosen not to recontract a number of part-time, untenured professors and issued retrenchment letters to multiple faculty members to help manage the deficit.

Chuck Cornell, director of the Center for Innovation and Economic Development (CIED), has been reported to receive a retrenchment letter.

This would make Cornell the fifth faculty to receive a retrenchment letter, in recent years.

It is unclear how the reported retrenchment would affect Cornell's other roles at the university.

Cornell could not be reached for comment by press time.

Others include Michele Bernatz, who opted to retire, Peter Tucker, Stephen Komp and Stephen Kershner.

It remains unclear what Cornell's retrenchment means for the future of the CIED, a program that has played a role in connecting the university with regional economic development efforts.

It is also unknown whether the decision is directly tied to ongoing efforts to address Fredonia's multimillion-dollar deficit.



Fredonia's Center for Innovation and Economic Development, formerly known as the Technology Incubator.

Photo by IZZIE NOELLE | Photo Editor

Retrenchment is the termination of an employee due to financial necessity, restructuring or a reduction in workforce.

In higher education, it is typically associated with budget shortfalls or declining enrollment, both of which Fredonia is facing.

When the president's office was asked about Cornell's situation and what it could mean for the future of the CIED, they declined to provide details.

"University policy doesn't allow us to comment on questions related to personnel matters," the office said in a statement.

The lack of clarity has added to concerns among students and faculty, many of whom are already navigating changes to academic programs and course availability.

Fredonia has been working to reduce its deficit through a combination of cost-cutting measures, including staffing reductions and program adjustments.

The contents of the letter Cornell received are unclear, and it is unclear when his position at Fredonia will end.

Previous letters varied in dates, with some given three academic years in advance.

Kershner was given one academic year when his letter came in May 2025, and his position will end at the end of the semester.

For now, the future of the CIED remains uncertain.

As the semester ends, many at Fredonia are left waiting for more information on what comes next — and how deeply the cuts will continue to affect the campus.

This is a developing story.

Shots fired, Trump rushed off stage at Correspondents' Dinner

ALEX BUCKNAM
Managing Editor

On Saturday, April 25, the White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA) hosted its annual Correspondents' Dinner.

This event is put together by the WHCA, where they invite the current presidential administration, members of the press and other public figures.

The dinner is traditionally meant to celebrate the First Amendment and the relationship between journalists and the presidency while also recognizing reporting achievements over the past year.

This dinner is claimed by the association to not be used to praise, ask for favors or to make friends with the current presidential administration, but rather to recognize the importance of a free press and independent journalism in the United States.

Donald Trump has been known to have skipped this event throughout his first term and even skipped it in 2025.

During Saturday's dinner, shots were reportedly fired, causing Secret Service to move quickly to secure J.D. Vance, Trump and other members of the Trump cabinet.

The rapid response from security highlighted the high level of protection surrounding the event.

At first, it was unclear what was happening. It was later reported that 31-year-old Cole Allen from Torrance, Calif. was involved.

Officials said early reports were confusing as attendees tried to process the situation.

Allen reportedly ran past security with a shotgun.

Witnesses reported hearing five to eight shots, causing panic inside and outside the ballroom, with some attendees unsure if the sounds were part of the event at first.

Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche stated that Allen got a few shots off before being neutralized by law enforcement.

Authorities said the quick response likely prevented further injuries.

Allen made it past initial security but never made it into the ballroom where Trump was seated.

Officials said multiple layers of security prevented further escalation and kept those inside the main event space safe.

Allen was later taken into custody and is being charged with assault on a federal officer using a dangerous weapon and using a firearm during a crime of violence.

Blanche has stated that many more charges are expected as the investigation continues, including potential federal offenses.

The shots fired caused a frenzy in the ballroom, with people ducking under their chairs and attempting to find cover.

Some attendees were escorted out by security as a precaution, while others remained in place until given further instruction.

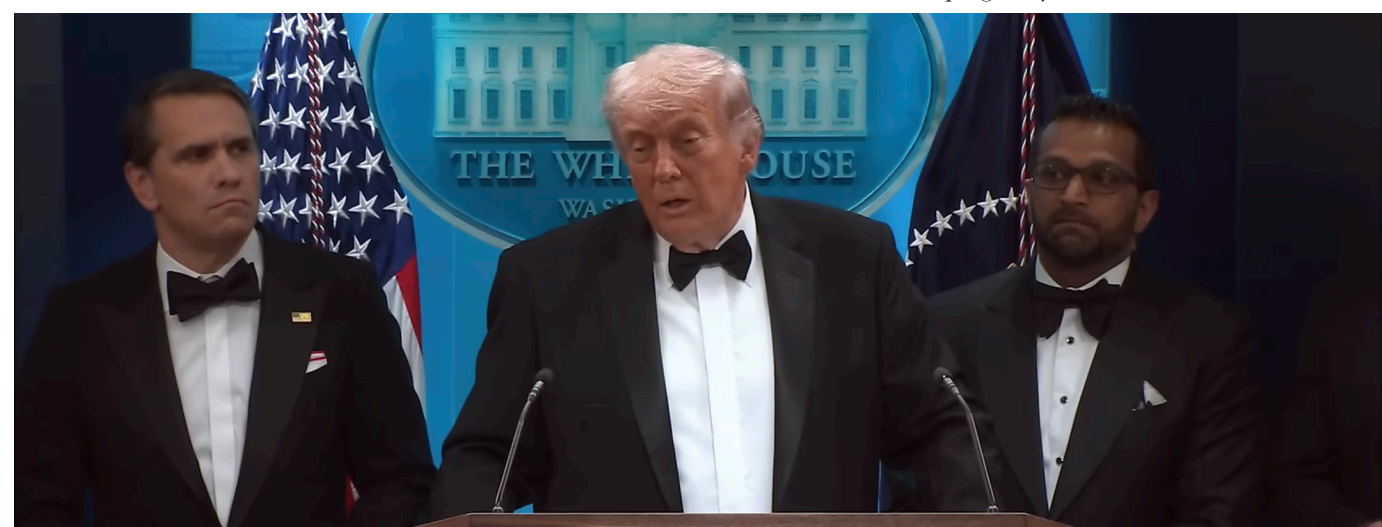
When word came that the threat was neutralized, correspondents exited the ballroom in an orderly but tense manner.

Some attendees described the scene as chaotic but controlled once law enforcement intervened.

Law enforcement officials say there is no ongoing threat, but security protocols are under review following the incident.

Officials are expected to examine how the suspect was able to get as far as he did before being stopped.

This is still a developing story.



President Donald Trump speaks after being rushed off stage at the White House Correspondents' Dinner. Image courtesy of [whitehouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov).

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:

Saturday, April 11: A student harassed another subject; prosecution was declined.

Thursday, April 16: A projector screen was damaged in the Science Center; this is an ongoing investigation.

Thursday, April 16: A motor vehicle was stolen from Lot 28; this is an ongoing investigation.

Friday, April 17: A jacket was stolen from Steele Hall; it was later returned to owner, and prosecution was declined.

Congratulations to 2026 Honors Program Graduates!

Sivan C. Adler
Iman M. Ahsan
Jana Alexandrine B. Ausa
Rachel L. Bayer
Hannah M. Belknap
Carys Victoria Bracchi
Aiden R. Carney
Mackenzie A. Celauro
Reed A. Cook
Chandler Ann Cotter
Kira Lynn Davidson
Madeline DeJoy
Cassandra M. Dobler
Esther C. Duclair
Samantha P. Fallone
Julia A. Ferrara
Amber E. Giovane
Isabella R. Giraldo
Elias M. Giuliano
Sarahy Godoy

Brooke A. Grazen
Sydney R. Hawkins
Kelliann M. Hender
Lake F. Hoffman
Brianna R. Husman
Brooke F. Jasinski
Anmarie E. Kaczor
Maya Kulick
Paul W. LaGreca
Delanie L. Markle
Alyssa B. Marley
Pedro Jesús Martínez
Angelina S. May
Shelby M. McGranaghan
Meredith H. McIntyre
Toni Elizabeth Meyer
Mackenzie R. Minor
Allyson J. Mohrman
Makayla R. Mohrman

Jack R. Oliver
Ada E. Pachucinski
Jenna R. Polito
Isabelle Rose Price
Erin Ryleigh Quinn
Molly C. Radigan
Faith S. Reh
Grace E. Riordan
Alexis J. Rogers
Ava M. Sargente
Angelina L. Seamster
Julia T. Skiba
Caitlyn I. Sterner
Elizabeth Mary Stone
Kailea A. Sullivan
Molly S. Sunick
Owen R. Wagner
Bianca M. Wales
Lucas M. West
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Asst. Scallion Editor



Asst. Opinion Editor



Asst. Business Manager



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Asst. Photo Editor



Ad Sales Manager



Asst. Art Director

Life & Arts

Earth Day & Sustainability Expo returns to Fredonia's campus

MIA CIECHALSKI

Life & Arts Editor

With Earth Day passing and Earth Month coming to a close, the second annual “SUNY Fredonia Earth Day & Sustainability Expo” took place to help the campus celebrate and learn about Mother Nature.

The Earth Day Expo was held on Wednesday, April 22 in the Williams Center MPR.

It featured a day full of learning about sustainability, and those in attendance made Earth Day-inspired crafts.

The Earth Day Expo was put together by Dr. Tracy Marafiotte of the communication department, with the help of some students.

Planning of this event started at the beginning of the semester and turned out to be a highly attended and successful event.

Over 250 students, faculty members, administration members and community members attended.

President Stephen Kolison, Interim Provost Judith Horowitz and Dean Andy Karafa were in attendance as well.

Raffle items included nine different kinds of plants, a canvas tote bag and a crocheted tote bag made by Marafiotte.

The Earth Day Expo also had 35 tables full of participants.

These groups ranged from conservation organizations to fraternities helping contribute to keeping people informed and interested in the importance of our Earth.

Not only were there conservation groups and student clubs at the event, but the Fredonia Farmers Market and student research projects attended as well.

Three student groups perform for all of the attendees as well, which was different from last year's event.

The performing groups that attended the Earth Day Expo included students Benton Good and Cody Moran, the Irish dance group “RINCE” and the Fredonia Guitar Quartet.

Isabella Albino, a senior sound recording technology (SRT) major, was brought in to help with audio equipment.

Because of the event's success, Marafiotte said she plans to bring in students to perform and help plan for next year's event.

Each student-led table had a unique topic they discussed.



Fredonia Earth Day & Sustainability Expo 2026.
Photo by MIA CIECHALSKI | Life & Arts Editor

Some talked about the importance of sustainability while giving away some free sustainable products like bamboo toothbrushes, bath bombs and small samples of shea butter.

FREDGrows also gave away free seed bombs to those in attendance.

Some tables provided craft activities as well, highlighting student creativity.

The Biology Club held a “paint your own plant pot” activity, while Kappa Sigma helped upcycle old tee shirts into reusable tote bags.

Then, once all of the attendees got their crafting fix, the Fredonia Farmers Market also had a variety of items being sold to anyone who attended.

There were homemade desserts, handmade jewelry pieces, beef sticks, crocheted items and homemade body products.

All in all, the Earth Day Expo had a wide array of tables that taught the importance of conservation while providing a fun experience.

Seniors say goodbye through dance with 'Collective Pulse' performance

BRIANA BLAIR KELLY

Special to The Leader



From left: Isabella Albino, Bunny Baldwin, Isabella Lopez, Mia Manning, Maddy Shurtliffe and Eva Wienke.



Chasey Folck.



From left: Destini Bresette, Bunny Baldwin, Megan Abbott, Otoha Asami and D.J. Falone.

Music Industry Club presents first Fredonia Music Awards

SAM HEBERT
Special to The Leader



From left: Libby Reed, Emma Christopher and Bianca Wales.



Justin Hoock and Molly Sunick prepare to present while Sara Sunick records.



From left: Tatum Erickson, Olivia Castiglione, CeCe Canestrari and Brodie Atkinson.



Molly Sunick and Justin Hooch interview members of the band "Stratosphere" while Sara Sunick records.



Students in attendance at the Fredonia Music Awards.



From left: Nox Blair, Micah Doig and Charlotte Smith.

Orchesis caps off year with 'Escape Into the Music'

MIA CIECHALSKI

Life & Arts Editor

With it being the end of the semester, it's time for Orchesis Dance Company's final showcase of the year.

The dance group's performance took place in James and Marcia Merrins Dance Theatre during the weekend of April 24-26, with a total of four performances.

The spring showcase was titled "Escape Into The Music," and you could tell with each piece featured that each dancer was escaping into the music.

As always, many of the pieces in the final performance of the year for this club consist of upbeat and fun numbers while also featuring sentimental final farewells.

The show always starts with the full cast doing their traditional cast piece to help set the mood and to help get the audience hyped up and ready.

Orchesis always tries to do a different song for each showcase for their cast piece, and this year they did "Don't Stop The Music" by Rihanna.

Every cast piece they perform always encapsulates all the excitement the dancers are feeling right when you see them step on stage.

Another tradition that appears at the beginning of the show is the Orchesis Executive Board piece.

This piece is only performed in the spring showcase as a way for the current E-Board to say goodbye and a thank you to everyone they got to work and interact with.

Throughout this piece, the emotions of current E-Board members were on display.

It was everyone's last time getting to dance together.

After all of the introduction numbers were performed, it was time for all of the pieces that were submitted and picked to be in the spring showcase.

The first piece the audience got to see was "Falling Up," choreographed by Ella Leathersich.

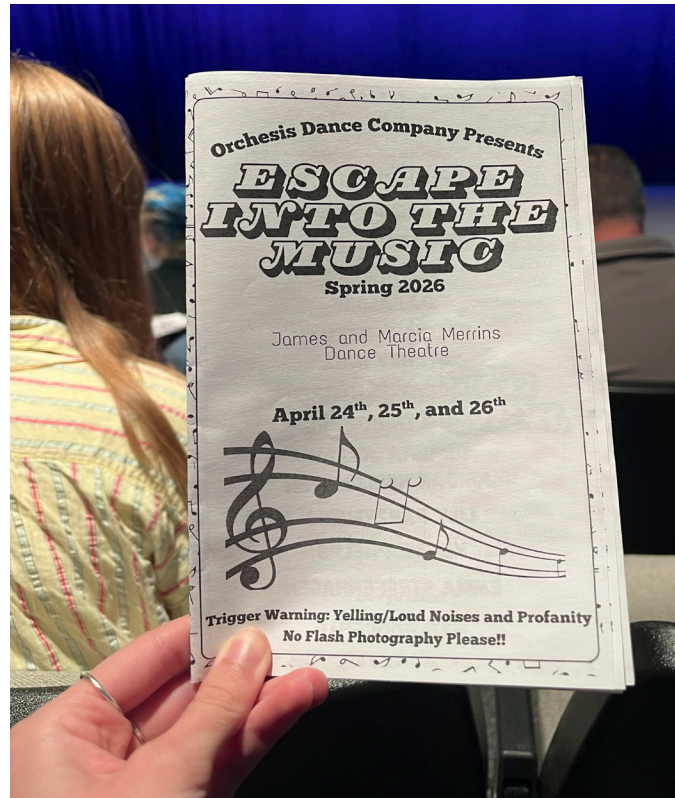
This piece showcased that no matter how much passion you have for something, it still isn't enough to get you ahead; while you see everyone else moving forward, you are falling up.

The audience then watched a fun and sexy number titled "Don't Hold The Wall," choreographed by Johnny Kiener and Isabel Pino Luz.

There were multiple solo parts throughout the dance where each dancer got their own personal moment to shine, while also having many integral group moments as well.

They then moved on to a number called "Hayloft," choreographed by Mia Enders.

This piece was about a heartbroken daughter who gets her revenge.



Orchesis "Escape Into The Music" show program.
Photo by MIA CIECHALSKI | Life & Arts Editor

While watching this piece, you could definitely see some of that story coming out because of all of the dancers' facial expressions and from some of the intense movement choices.

After taking the audience through an intense storytelling number, they watched a simple and fun number called "Boogie Oogie Oogie," choreographed by Deanna Jolley.

This dance was about how much joy movement brings, and while getting the chance to watch this, you could tell that the choreographer who created this piece was definitely feeling all the enjoyment from when a person gets the opportunity to dance.

The audience then got to see one of the show's first sentimental numbers, and it was "My Way," choreographed by Valentina Duic, Lily Parzymieso and Kenzie Phelps.

This piece was the choreographers' way of ending a chapter and showing the audience that they did their college experience their way and are happy with how everything turned out.

Afterwards, there was another sentimental number, but this one was a representation of the choreographers' three years of teaching at McKenna Academy of Dance.

The piece was called “Creating A Path To Their Future,” choreographed by Sydney Hall, Sophia Holmes, Sarah Howard and Julia VanLare.

During the piece, you didn’t just hear only one track of music playing, but voice recordings of all of the choreographers’ students they have taught at McKenna Academy of Dance, thanking all of the choreographers for teaching them.

The last piece to end the first act of the show was “Can You Feel The Light,” choreographed by Aaliyah Freeman.

This was a great choice to end the first act of the show because it had a big cast, multiple different focal points throughout the piece and an upbeat song.

The second act of the show began with a piece that was about growth and how it is a continuous process that can be imperfect, but it is something that helps shape people.

This piece was titled “Just A Little Bit More,” choreographed by Tessa Bonanno.

Afterwards, the audience was then introduced to another upbeat and sultry piece called “Welcome to Burlesque,” choreographed by Bobby Severs.

This was a very dynamic piece that also had a lot of unique solo moments for each dancer, while also having complex choreography throughout the whole piece.

The show then moved on to “Bury A Friend,” choreographed by Kaitlyn Howard.

This piece had many full body movements, which felt as if the dancers were being possessed by some unknown entity at different points of the dance.

The next dance was yet another upbeat piece that featured two very popular Lady Gaga songs called “Lights, Camera, Action!” choreographed by Nichole Iacuzzo.

This dance was a moment for the choreographer to let her full creativity shine through, and throughout certain parts of the dance, the audience did get the chance to see some different material that you don’t normally see.

After getting to see a fun dance to the one and only Lady Gaga, the audience was then shown another farewell and thank you dance.

This piece was called “It’s Over,” choreographed by Jordan Koelemeyer.

After having the audience experience all of the sentimental feelings, the audience then got to see a piece where there was a whole lot of everything happening during the piece “Once Dead, Twice Alive,” choreographed by Maya Simonetti.

There were many silly moments throughout this dance, such as having one of the dancers do the worm across the stage and very expressive faces.

Then the final piece in the spring showcase was “After Hours,” choreographed by Ava Sargente.

This piece had one of the biggest casts and was full of upbeat hip hop.

The choreographer wanted to try having the theme of the dance to feel as if it were taking place in a nightclub where it focuses on the connection between the music and each other.

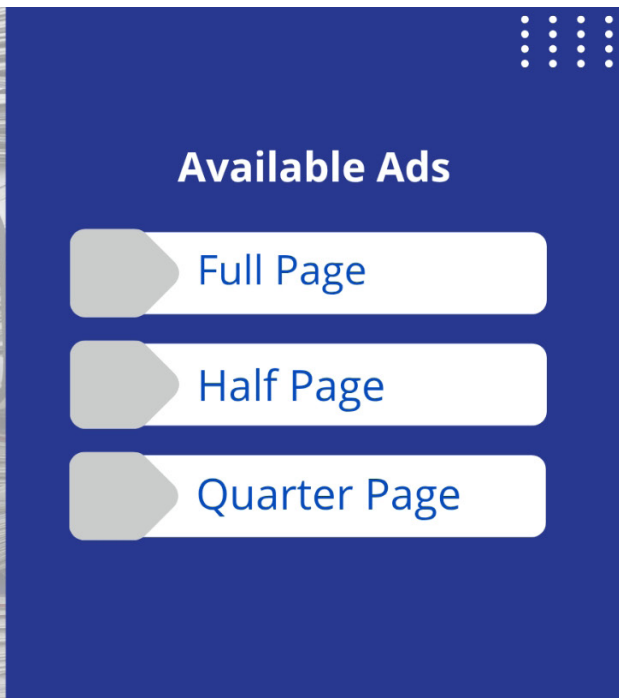
This was a great dance to have close the show because not only were all the audience members cheering on all the dancers on stage, but the other dancers who were watching from the wings of the stage were also cheering on their fellow dance mates.

Orchesis Dance Company yet again put together and performed another entertaining show for their audience and dancers to enjoy, and to help encase all the excited energy with the end of the academic year approaching very soon.



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Cherry blossoms bloom on campus as spring weather arrives



Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief



Photo by CHLOE KOWALYK | Editor in Chief Emerita



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

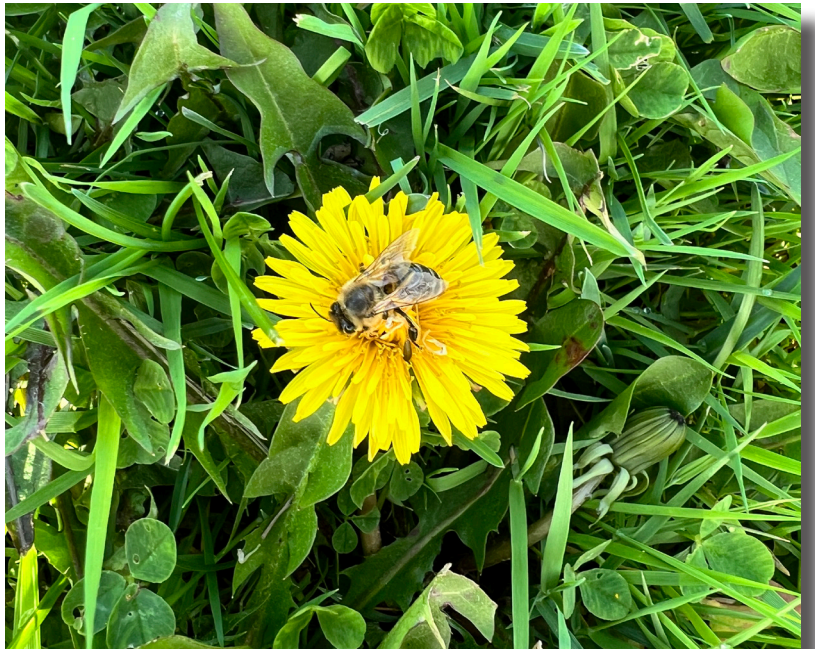


Photo by **CHLOE KOWALYK** | Editor in Chief Emerita

From the Desk of Matt Volz: Editor in Chief

MATT VOLZ
Editor in Chief

I'm always fascinated to hear stories of how students chose Fredonia.

Some people discovered it by accident, while others chose it above several other options.

For me, it was never going to be anywhere but here.

As many people who know me have heard before, I am a proud fourth-generation Fredonia student.

Both of my parents graduated from here, and on my mom's side, the Fredonia lineage continues.

My maternal grandmother and her mom, my great-grandmother, were all Fredonia graduates.

Both of my mom's siblings also graduated from Fredonia, and my dad's sister went here, too.

My connection to this place also stems from those who I grew up with.

Since my parents' graduation in 1992, they've kept in close contact with their best friends from college.

As my parents and their friends started their own families, they stayed in touch and got together multiple times each year.

It was like an extended family, and we proudly branded ourselves the "Fredonia Crew."

I always used to say that I was going to go to college at Fredonia to be just like everyone else.

I heard all the fun stories that my parents and their friends told, and I wanted similar experiences for myself.

For years, it probably seemed like little more than wishful thinking.

After all, I had many more experiences ahead of me in my youth, and I couldn't possibly have decided where I wanted to go to college by the time I was in second grade.

But as I got older, my desire to come to Fredonia never changed; in fact, it grew stronger.

I went to high school at Allegany-Limestone, a relatively small school roughly 70 miles southeast of Fredonia.

Fredonia was one of several local colleges that seemed to be a popular pick among graduating students, but nobody seemed as enthusiastic about the school as I did.

Many of my classmates struggled with deciding where they wanted to go.

Some of them saw big-name schools like West Virginia or Florida as the right choice, only to transfer closer to home after one year.

As I've said several times already, there was no other choice for me.

I had zero doubt in my mind that I was going to Fredonia.



My #4 Fredonia hockey jersey, symbolizing my four Fredonia generations.

Photo by CHLOE KOWALYK | Editor in Chief Emerita

Still, it was difficult to make the jump from high school to college.

It was the first time I had ever lived on my own, and saying goodbye to my parents, grandparents, girlfriend and dog proved to be tougher than I had imagined.

I even said a tearful goodbye to my car, as I wouldn't have her with me as a freshman.

Luckily, I didn't have to be completely alone, as I had the fortune of some hometown friends nearby.

My sister was entering her senior year, and she lived in a townhouse with three of our other close friends from home.

Having an escape to my home-away-from-home was such a relief, especially as I dealt with typical freshman struggles.

During those first few days, I made friends I'm still close today.

I'll acknowledge many of them individually later, but they helped me to feel comfortable in a place that would soon start to feel like another home.

I came to Fredonia as a journalism major, which I still am today. With that in mind, I sought to join Fredonia Radio Systems in the hopes of starting my own sports talk show.

I signed up to be part of the radio station, but then another club caught my eye as well — The Leader.

I was a good writer in high school, but I had never thought too much about doing that as a career.

With the encouragement of the former editor in chief, who was actually a former middle school student of my parents, I agreed to become a part of the paper.

I could go on and on about the amazing experiences I've had at both campus media outlets, but I'll summarize with this: I owe everything to The Leader and Fredonia Radio Systems.

I published my first article in The Leader in September 2022, a short, sub-par preview of the upcoming Bills season.

A month later, I took to the airwaves and began "Big Blue Sports," which has now become one of the longest-running radio shows currently at FRS.

My freshman year concluded with more experience than some people obtain in their entire college careers, and I was fortunate to have had those opportunities.

With my heart set on covering sports, I took on a great challenge heading into my sophomore year: leading sports for both the paper and the radio station.

I was excited to start this next chapter, but it also meant saying goodbye to many graduates with whom I was close.

My sister and two of her roommates were set to walk across the stage, leaving only one of my friends from Niagara 105 left.

As much as I had branched out and made new friends, I was scared to not have my big sister and hometown friends on campus with me.

I vividly remember expressing this to my sister, and she responded by shaking her head and saying, "You don't need us anymore, Matt."

My sophomore year came and went with more memorable experiences, which included becoming a host of a certain anonymous late-night talk show at FRS, providing play-by-play commentary for a midnight MarioKart tournament, playing "Rock Band" with my friends, seeing Luke Combs in concert and so much more.

Again, though, I watched as many close friends moved on to the next chapter of their lives.

One of them was The Leader's editor in chief, FRS's station manager and my best friend, Chloe Kowalyk.

On the day of her graduation, I had tickets to the Buffalo Bandits' championship game, and I was driving to Buffalo during the ceremony.

When I parked, I threw open my laptop and got to the live stream, only to come to the realization that I had missed her walking across the stage by about 10 seconds.

I rewound the stream and watched her receive her degree, and my eyes welled up with tears of both immense pride and sadness.

But my time at Fredonia moved forward, and I soon became the program director for WDVL, our streaming radio station at FRS.

I stayed in the role of sports editor for The Leader throughout my junior year, but my schedule soon became much more complicated as I was elected to become the station manager at FRS.

I'm still the station manager, and it's a role I love and will deeply miss.

Last May, I made the jump I never expected to make — becoming editor in chief of The Leader.



My dad and I hiking at Taughannock Falls in 2011.

Photo by KELLY VOLZ | Special to The Leader

I assumed I'd always stick to covering sports, but that's the funny thing about college.

Unexpected things happen, and often times, they're a blessing.

That's been the case for me, and I am forever grateful for every experience that has led to where I am today.

To wrap up my story, I'd like to say thank you to the many people who have supported, loved or tolerated me over these four years.

First and foremost, I'd like to thank my parents, Kelly (Class of 1992) and Dave Volz (Class of 1992).

Mom and dad, you have supported me in more ways than any child could ever need or want from their parents, and I am forever proud to have followed in your footsteps.

I also must thank my two older sisters, Erica (Class of 2023) and Katie. Katie went to R.I.T., but we won't hold it against her.

In terms of people I met at Fredonia, I couldn't start with anyone but my best friend, Chloe (Class of 2024).

Chloe, as you've gone from my good friend to my dear love, you've encouraged me to reach heights I never thought possible.

In as many ways as a person can say, I love you.

I'd also like to thank my grandparents, Dave "Boppa" Volz, Kathy "Grandma Kathy" Volz, Harold "Gpa" Geise and Marge "Gma" Geise (Class of 1965).



My high school senior picture.

Photo by CYNTHIA BURROWS | Special to The Leader

Every time I'm on the radio or TV, my grandparents take time out of their schedules to tune in no matter what.

We lost Gma in January of this year, but I know she has watched over me and been proud from the heavens above.

I also couldn't write this letter without honoring my great-grandmother, Kathleen "Gigi" Karl (Class of 1936).

Gigi passed away in 2016, but she has also undoubtedly watched over me as I've continued the legacy she began.

I couldn't have made it through my freshman year without the rest of the Niagara 105 gang: Maura Vossler (Class of 2024), Allyson Youngs (Class of 2023), Jordanne Youngs (Class of 2023) and Madison Granger (Class of 2023).

For a nervous 18-year-old trying to find his way, those five girls were my support system, my rock and my de facto family.

I also have to thank the professors who encouraged and helped me throughout my college journey: Elmer Ploetz and Mike Igoe of the journalism department, Dr. Kerry Fischer of the sport management department and several others.

My friends I've made at Fredonia will forever hold a special place in my heart, and many of them will graduate alongside me.

Maisie Strader and Julia Klement were my first two friends, as I met both on move-in day.

Now, the three of us all serve on the executive board of FRS, a high honor we never thought possible.

I'm very fortunate to graduate with several other close friends, including some of my "Kiki" companions and several colleagues at FRS and The Leader.

There's too many to name, but I hope you all know I hold you very close to my heart.

To those who continue at Fredonia after my graduation, including the rest of the "Kiki" gang and the new executive board members for the campus media outlets, know that I am deeply proud of all of you, and I know you will each do great things.

Other thank yous go out to the Fredonia Crew: Amy (Class of 1993) and Chris Thomas (Class of 1992), Stacey (Class of 1993) and Al Jafarjian (Class of 1992), Tim (Class of 1992) and Trish Szlosek, and Chris Sprague (Class of 1992).

Finally, I'd like to thank the university itself.

Going away to college is tough, but it's a lot easier when you're going somewhere that you know will become a second home.

Fredonia will always be my alma mater and my home away from home, and it truly breaks my heart to say goodbye.

All great things must come to an end, and my tenure as a Fredonia Blue Devil is no different.

It's exciting to turn the page and head into the next chapter of my life, but this chapter will always have a bookmark resembling my fondest memories.

I used to sign off each Blue Devils hockey broadcast by saying, "Goodnight, and Go Blue Devils!"

I figured it would be appropriate to use that line one last time.

So, with a smile on my face and a tear in my eye, this is Matt Volz saying goodbye, and Go Blue Devils.



My 'Mickey Mouse' birthday cake in 2006, made by my mom and scrapbooked by Gma.

Photo by KELLY VOLZ | Special to The Leader

From the Desk of Mitch Horucy: Sports Editor

MITCH HORUCY

Sports Editor

I have dreaded this day since I found out that these were a thing during my freshman year.

With four years of thinking about what I wanted to say and how to organize my thoughts, believe it or not, I procrastinated this too.

I'll start with the basics: thanking everyone who has made my experience at Fredonia something I will truly cherish forever.

Being a transfer student and coming to Fredonia in Spring 2023, I wasn't sure how it'd work out.

A special thank you to my sister Maddy for inviting me to hang out with her senior year friends, as not only a freshman, but a freshman who is also a little brother.

Thank you to my family as a whole for being supportive during a time when I was a bit lost in the grand scheme of things.

Thank you to The Leader for welcoming me with open arms.

It was the first club I got involved with on campus and has led to meeting great people I hope to call friends for the rest of my life.

Thank you to my two great journalism professors, Mike Igoe and Elmer Ploetz.

Lastly, thank you to Fredonia.

As I said earlier, I truly will cherish the four years I spent here.

I have made a life's worth of memories in my short time here that I will carry with me forever.

I met countless people that have affected my life, even if it was the most minute interaction.

From Cheesy Friday, to boil water orders, to the bars, I'll miss it all.

I'm not one to give advice or write something inspirational, but there are a few things I want to put into the world that changed the way I live my life.

The first is a line from the song "All My Friends" by LCD Soundsystem.

In the third verse, he sings, "I wouldn't trade one stupid decision for another five years of life."

I think it's important for every young person to hear this.

Music is up for interpretation, and you can decide how you want to take this line, but for me, this is a way of saying "no regrets."

Being young is the time to make dumb decisions, see what works and what doesn't work, try things out, take risks.



Photo via MITCH HORUCY | Sports Editor

If it doesn't go the way you wanted it to go, at least you did it.

Disclaimer: This is not me telling you to do dangerous things but instead to take risks.

Another thing that has changed my mindset is something that I only heard recently, but I also think that every young person should hear, but it really goes for everyone.

Austin Butler said on an episode of Subway Takes, "Embarrassment is an underexplored emotion, go out there and make a fool of yourself."

This one is pretty straightforward, but important.

It goes hand in hand with the lyrics I brought up, go out and do things.

Something that hit me toward the middle of my junior year here is that after I graduate, I will only talk to 15-20 of the people at this university.

Why does it matter if I embarrass myself in front of them?

Enjoy your time here, and make a fool of yourself while you do it.

A final thing I'll leave you with is the most cliché thing I'll say in this, but it means a lot to me, so much that I have it tattooed on me.

"Don't Rush It."

This goes for your entire life, but since this is my goodbye to Fredonia, I'll focus on college.

It's said all the time, but these four years do fly by.

As said by Ferris Bueller, "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

Take time to sit back and enjoy the time you have here.

You have the rest of your life to be an adult, don't rush it while you're here.

From the Desk of Mia Ciechalski: Life & Arts Editor

MIA CIECHALSKI

Life & Arts Editor

My “From The Desk Of” has finally arrived, and I don’t even know where to begin.

I’m currently struggling to write this because it’s hard to sum up so many years, interviews and articles into one final article, and I also don’t really enjoy writing about myself so bear with me!

First, getting the opportunity to be the Life & Arts Editor has been so fulfilling for me to do because I got to take my love of theater towards a different direction and write about it.

I also got to be more involved with the campus and Fredonia community, and I’m so thankful for that because it pushed me to do more than my usual busy routine.

I first started at The Leader by writing a few articles with the Theatre and Dance Department (TADA).

That was my safe space at the time because I didn’t have to talk to new people and understood everything.

As time went on, the more I wrote, the more I was pushed to write more than dance.

I was nervous at first because even though I’m a journalism major, I really did not enjoy talking to new people.

I struggle with anxiety and was very anxious about doing this new thing.

I didn’t want anyone to think I didn’t know what I was doing, but as time went on, I got better and ended up getting a



Photo via MIA CIECHALSKI | Life & Arts Editor

lot of encouragement not only from the people I interviewed, but from all of The Leader’s staff at the time.

Getting to feel and see all of that really helped me wanting to continue working for The Leader.

I was happy with just being a staff writer because I got to write when I was able to and still feel a part of something.

Then last year, I was approached by Elmer and the old executive board, and they asked if I would be interested in becoming the next Life & Arts Editor because of all my experience with theater and having the connections within TADA.

Not only was I surprised to be asked to do this, but I felt really honored to have the opportunity to do this.

My year as Life & Arts Editor has not only helped me realize I want to work in freelance journalism for the arts community, but it also helped me create even stronger bonds with some very close friends of mine.

Getting the time I got to have with them while also being on The Leader together has been so memorable for me.

Mitch, I seriously am so glad we are friends but am even more grateful we got to do this together.

Morgan, I’m so happy we not only got to work an internship together but also got to do executive board together! You are such an amazing worker, and I can’t wait to see where you end up next.

Matt, you are truly one of my best friends.

There’s no one else I would have wanted to be my editor in chief.



From left: Mitch Horucy, Matt Volz, Mia Ciechalski and Maisie Strader.

Photo via MIA CIECHALSKI | Life & Arts Editor



Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

Working with you has been the greatest thing throughout this whole experience and I hope we get another chance to do this again.

I'll miss talking about anything and everything in your office while eating our Willy C's fries.

I'll miss our daily banter because no one will ever be able to match the vibe of our quarrels.

Thank you for being my first friend I made at Fredonia and someone I know I'll continue being friends with for many more years to come.

The Leader and the staff have become a second home for me and knowing that this is last thing I'll be writing for everyone makes me sad, but so excited to see what my section will become.

Thank you to everyone for reading my articles and for most importantly helping the arts community continue to live on.

Regardless of what anyone says or does, the arts will continue to live on, and nothing can change that.



From left: Maisie Strader, Matt Volz and Mia Ciecchalski.

Photo via MIA CIECHALSKI | Life & Arts Editor



Photo via MIA CIECHALSKI | Life & Arts Editor



Photo via MIA CIECHALSKI | Life & Arts Editor

From the Desk of Megan Kidby: Scallion Editor

MEGAN KIDBY
Scallion Editor

Warning: This article contains mentions of eating disorders and death.

I have always been the fat funny friend in the group.
In middle school, that title felt like a crown.
I'd make the whole lunch table laugh at some stupid jokes at my expense.
My nickname was "Ralph the Whale" because random = funny.
It distracted from the awkwardness, loneliness and insecurity.
People would look at me without really seeing me.
In high school, my jokes got sharper and faster.
I knew exactly how to keep a table entertained.
I could make even the quietest kid laugh and had friends text me when they were sad because I always knew what to say.
I was useful.
I was bright.
I was easy to be around.
Then I'd go home and disappear into the bathroom.
The sink running. The shower on. Knees on the bathroom rug.
Mascara smeared under my eyes, highlighting the dark circles that were already there.
Afterwards, I'd stare at myself in the mirror, cheeks swollen, throat burning and think "tomorrow, be funnier."
I would eventually tell someone. Her name was Madeline Rose Sparrow.
She was one of the people in my high school friend group who was nice to everyone.
When I was awkward and trying to make friends in marching band, she talked to me and made me feel welcome.
I told her everything and she always listened.
When I told her about my eating disorder, she sent me resources.
She told me to text her if anything came up and if I needed a friend.
She was a light in the darkness for me, someone who I could tell everything to.
Then, she collapsed at a marching band rehearsal, and that light went out.
When I heard the news that she died, I made jokes to cope.
I sang Lil Uzi Vert to myself and laughed it off before FaceTiming my friends, sobbing in my room, eating a pint of ice cream and vomiting it up.



Photo via MEGAN KIDBY | Scallion Editor

I think that's the strangest part of being the fat funny friend: you become fluent in redirecting pain.
You hand yourself a punchline, so you don't have to think about the wound.
After Maddie's death, bulimia took over my life in a new way.
Now, I wasn't scarfing down food before throwing it all up; I was eating nothing.
I'd come home, eat a cheese stick, decide I was the grossest person on earth and rectify my "mistake."
Eventually, my mom noticed and recommended that I go to therapy.
I took her advice.
Recovery didn't happen in one dramatic therapy session.
It happened during my time here at SUNY Fredonia.

Throughout my time here, I have gone through 34 (soon to be 35) failed classes, two breakups, a crazy roommate, a panic attack that sent me to the hospital and one medical withdrawal.

But through all that, I had my friends who helped me when I was feeling down, I've had my therapist who has worked with me through thick and thin (shout out Robin) and I've had The Leader as an outlet.

When I wrote my first article, I just wanted to make fun of an article that ran in The Leader and leave it at that.

However, circumstances put me in the editors seat, and I'm forever grateful for it.

I've met so many wonderful people during my time here who have been nothing but amazing to me.

I've also written countless articles that helped me heal the hurt that middle school, high school and college gave me.

When I write, sometimes I think about that girl on the bathroom floor, the one who believed she had to be entertaining to deserve space.

I wish I could tell her this:

You do not have to be the comic relief in your own suffering.

You are allowed to be messy, serious, hungry, sad and healing.

You are allowed to be seen.

If you or a loved one struggles with an eating disorder, you are not alone.

For resources, please visit nationaleatingdisorders.org.



Maddie and I.

Photo via MEGAN KIDBY | Scallion Editor

If you or someone you know struggles
with an eating disorder, please visit:

nationaleatingdisorders.org

From the Desk of Izzie Noelle: Photo Editor

IZZIE NOELLE

Photo Editor

I've never been super good with words, especially when it comes to goodbyes. So instead of telling you what Fredonia has meant to me, I'll show you some of my favorite memories. Thanks for an amazing four years.





SPORTS

Best photos of the year from Fredonia athletics



Nick Syross.
Photo by RILEY OLSON | Special to The Leader



Emma Foley spikes the ball.
Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Sports Photographer



From left: Journey Alaimo, Karmela Leasure and Lexi Bryant.
Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Sports Photographer



Fredonia's women's lacrosse team.
Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Sports Photographer



From left: Gabby Irwin, Brooke Grazen and Makayla Stainbrook.
Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD | Sports Photographer



Cam Sample.
Photo by RILEY OLSON | Special to The Leader

Sabres ship up to Boston, take 3-1 series lead

MITCH HORUCY
Sports Editor

After dropping game two at home, the Sabres went into Boston and swept home ice, taking a commanding 3-1 series lead.

Possibly the biggest reason for that is the play of goalie Alex Lyon.

After allowing a goal at the 16:34 mark of the second period in game two, he went on to post a shutout for the next 96:04 of gametime from game three to game four.

Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen was good in game one, then had a rough game two which led to Lyon starting game three.

Going forward, it's Lyon's net until he loses it.

Doing a goalie rotation in the playoffs isn't usually encouraged, but having a 1A, 1B situation in net where you can ride whoever is hot and make a change when necessary is good.

As for the Sabres' skaters, they answered a lot of the questions I had about them heading into Boston's two home games.

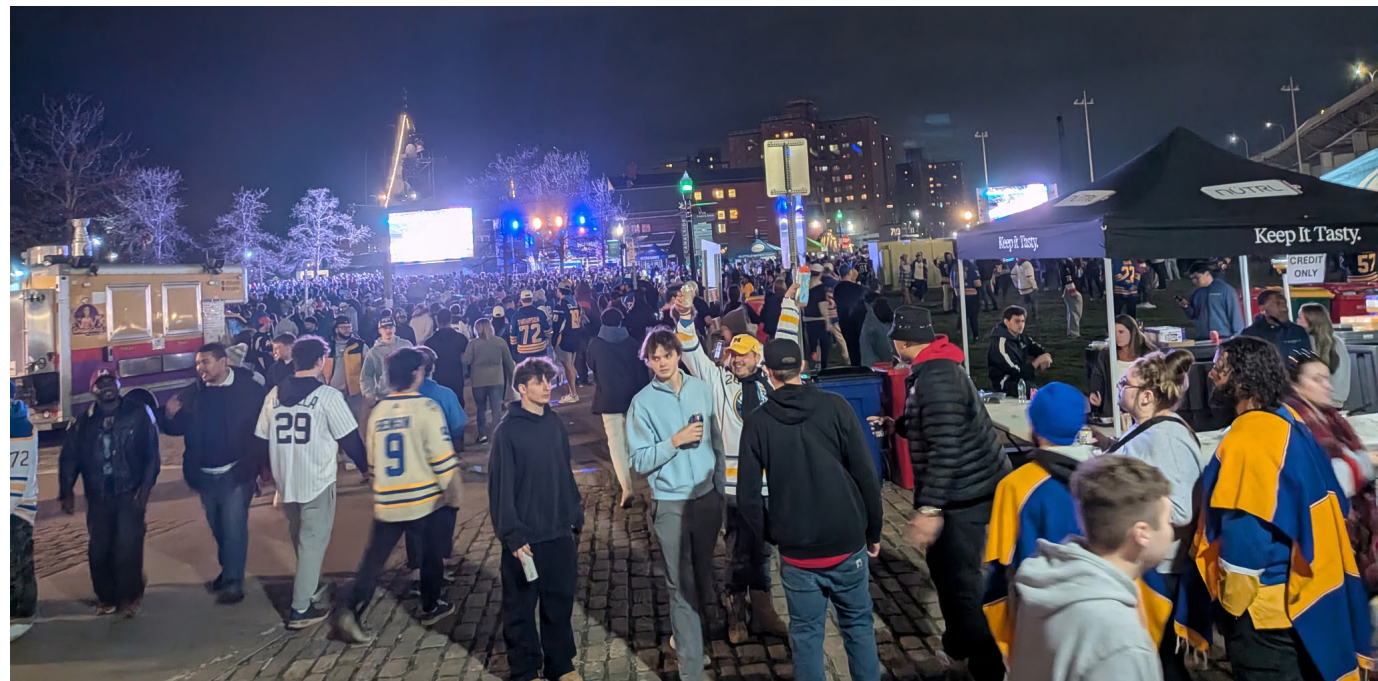
Outside of the final eight minutes of game one, they were outplayed by the Bruins for about 112 of the 120 minutes of games one and two.

Game three was a similar feel to game one with the Sabres generating chances, but being unable to finish with Jeremy Swayman playing as well as a goalie can play.



The Sabres warm up before a game against the Columbus Blue Jackets, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025.

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



Sabres fans gather at Canalside to watch game two against Boston, Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Photo by **KATIE VOLZ** | Special to The Leader

They bounced back after a bad performance and were able to beat Swayman twice, adding an empty netter to win game three.

Game four was a performance I did not see coming at all.

After looking nearly unbeatable for three games, the Sabres exploded for four goals in the first period, finishing with six total, all on Swayman.

The questions I had about the mental toughness to come back after a weak performance, being able to compete in a hostile environment in Boston and physicality of seven-game series were all answered.

A player who made his playoff debut in game three is Noah Ostlund.

He has been great through two games and looks like a legit top six forward at just 21 years old.

Josh Norris didn't play either game in Boston, but Ostlund helped the team not feel Norris's absence, and even played better than Norris.

Even if Norris returns from injury, head coach Lindy Ruff will have to do some lineup mix-ups.



Matt Volz and Chloe Kowalyk watch game two against Boston at Canalside, Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

Photo by KATIE VOLZ | Special to The Leader



"Stanley Cup, 2015" by Alex Goykhan is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.

Ostlund has simply played too well to not have him in the lineup, and you pay Norris too much to healthy scratch him in a playoff game.

Along with not sitting Ostlund, the line of Benson-Ostlund-Doan shouldn't be broken up for the rest of these playoffs, and hopefully, the next 10 years.

They had a shots for/shots against ratio of 16:4 in game four, the best out of any Sabres line.

The series is far from over, but I think game five in Buffalo is close to a must-win game.

Having a chance to close out the series and gain a day or two, up to a week of rest over the winner of the Tampa-Montreal series is huge.

It also saves you from having to go back to Boston with the Bruins having nearly all the momentum, even if they're down in the series.

By the time of reading, an announcement is likely already made, but if I was Boston, I stick with Swayman for game five.

I would've taken him out after the first period in game four, but he's still your top goaltender at the end of the day. In a win-or-go-home game, he simply has to be out there.

It'll be an unbelievable atmosphere in Buffalo tonight for game five, to no one's surprise.

Take care of business and advance yourselves to the next round.

Bandits come up short in playoffs

MATT VOLZ

Editor in Chief

The greatest run in the history of Buffalo sports is over.

The Buffalo Bandits will not win a fourth straight championship, and it'll be the first time since 2018 that they won't reach the NLL Finals.

In the opening round of the playoffs on Saturday, April 25, the fifth seed Bandits fell to the four seed Georgia Swarm, 17-10.

The game also marked the first time the Bandits didn't begin the playoffs at home since 2016.

The first half of the season was not kind to Buffalo, as they found themselves at 4-6 through the first 10 games.

Those six losses included a four-game losing streak in late January and early February where the Bandits looked like a shell of themselves.

To make matters worse, three of those losses were to teams who would eventually miss the playoffs.

The other was a 20-9 drubbing at the hands of the Colorado Mammoth.

After an 11-9 loss to the Vancouver Warriors on Friday, Feb. 20, hope seemed lost for the three-time defending champions.

To make matters worse, their star forward was invisible throughout the streak.

Josh Byrne has been one of the NLL's best scorers since the Bandits drafted him first overall in 2017.

Byrne was named the league's MVP in 2024 after an explosive 53-goal, 135-point season.

Last season, Byrne tallied 90 assists, the fifth most in a single season in NLL history.

But the same player who has grown accustomed to averaging two or three goals per game couldn't seem to find the back of the net in January.

Over the course of Buffalo's four straight losses, Byrne scored a grand total of three goals.

His worst game in the goal department came on Saturday, Feb. 7 against the last place Philadelphia Wings.

Byrne was held completely scoreless as Buffalo dropped a 13-11 decision to a team who is ceasing operations this summer.

As the Bandits faced the first place Saskatchewan Rush on Friday, Feb. 27, Byrne again struggled to score.

He facilitated Buffalo's offense well, tallying seven assists, but his scoring touch seemed to be gone.

His team was shut out in the fourth quarter as the Rush rallied from a 10-7 deficit to force overtime.

After nearly seven minutes of sudden death lacrosse, the former MVP finally woke up.

Byrne launched a shot past Rush goalie Frank Scigliano for the win, and fans could almost see the monkey fly off the back of number 22.



Bandits fans celebrate after a goal, Saturday, April 11, 2026.

Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

The overtime winner kickstarted a resurgent second half of the season for Byrne. He scored multiple goals in all but one game for the rest of the regular season, and he tallied seven or more points in six straight games.

Byrne's individual success correlated to a Bandits surge, and the win over Saskatchewan was the first of what would become a seven-game win streak.

During Buffalo's losing streak, they struggled against some of the worst teams in the league.

They enjoyed the exact opposite experience during the seven-game win streak, as they beat several top teams during that stretch.

Other wins included a revenge victory over Colorado on Friday, March 13, a second win over Saskatchewan on Saturday, March 28 and a dominant 15-5 win over Vancouver on Saturday, April 4.

After a 12-6 win over the Rochester Knighthawks on Saturday, April 11, the Bandits sat near the top of the league with an 11-6 record.

A season that looked to be headed for disaster was ultimately good enough for a playoff spot, and the rest of the league worried that Buffalo might be gearing up for yet another deep postseason run.

Heading into the final game of the season, all the Bandits needed to do was win, and they'd earn a home playoff game in the first round.

There was even a scenario where Buffalo could earn the top overall seed, but that scenario required the league's top two teams to lose to two of its worst teams.

Regardless, the Bandits just needed to take care of business against the lowly Oshawa FireWolves, and they'd open the postseason at KeyBank Center.

That's when the wheels fell off the bus.

Buffalo's offense came out dead flat against Oshawa, and they trailed 7-0 deep into the second quarter.

A FireWolves team that boasted the NLL's second worst scoring offense this season was toying with the three-time defending champions.

Joe Resetarits finally woke the offense up from their slumber with a power play goal, ending a scoring drought that lasted more than 25 minutes of game time.

Buffalo pulled within three before the end of the half, but another lengthy goal drought in the third quarter sealed their fate.

The Bandits lost, 12-8, ensuring that they'd have to go on the road to start the playoffs.

Their reward for blowing it against Oshawa was a trip to the South to face the Swarm and their world class goalie, Brett Dobson.

Dobson, a graduate of nearby St. Bonaventure University, recorded a season for the ages in 2026.

He stopped 84.7% of the shots he faced, and he carried a miniscule 7.86 goals against average (GAA).

Both of those stats are NLL single-season records.

He's a front runner for the league's MVP award, and although it'll be a tight race between him and Warriors forward Keegan Bal, Dobson's record numbers will — and should — put him over the top.

If Dobson wins MVP, he'll become just the third goalie ever to win the award, after the Bandits' Steve Dietrich in 2006 and Calgary's Christian Del Bianco in 2023.

With all of this in mind, it came as no surprise that Buffalo couldn't get much of anything in the net.

The Bandits scored just one goal in the first quarter, a transition marker from Dylan Robinson midway through the period.

Again, scoring droughts became an issue for Buffalo, and offensive struggles turned into defensive lapses.

Georgia's offense wasn't having much trouble lighting up the scoreboard, and Bandits coach John Tavares briefly pulled Matt Vinc from the net in the second half.

The Bandits trailed 9-3 near the end of the third quarter, and they looked like a team that had finally run out of gas.

Ian MacKay completed a hat trick in the second half, but that was the only bright spot for Buffalo.

As the final horn sounded, the Bandits fell, 17-10.

The loss marked a deflating end to what has been a run for the ages over the last few seasons.

In 2019, the Bandits broke free from a minor stretch of down years and stormed their way to the NLL Finals.

They fell to the Calgary Roughnecks in that series, but it was a clear sign that Buffalo would be a formidable force for years to come.

The Bandits were on their way to making the playoffs again in 2020 when the season stopped due to COVID-19.

The rest of the season was cancelled, and the 2021 season was never played.

When the Bandits returned in 2022, they were an immediate powerhouse, cruising to a league-best 14-4 record.

They got back to the NLL Finals, only to have their dreams dashed by Colorado.

The 2023 season was another dominant one for Buffalo, as they rolled to another 14-4 mark.

Once again, they reached the NLL Finals, and once again, they faced Colorado.

For the second straight year, the series reached a winner-take-all third game, but this one would be different.

Buffalo steamrolled the Mammoth, 13-4, capturing their fifth championship in team history and their first since 2008.

2024 was an up-and-down season for the Bandits, but they still earned the fourth seed with an 11-7 record.

They made their way back to the NLL Finals, facing the FireWolves.

Buffalo won both games of the series, winning back-to-back titles for the first time since 1992 and 1993.

Last year, they made their fifth straight NLL Finals appearance, taking down the Saskatchewan Rush for their third straight championship.

The only other NLL team to win three straight titles was the Rochester Knighthawks from 2012 to 2014, and they did so with a familiar face in net.

Vinc was the goalie for both teams' three-peats, making him the only player in league history to accomplish that feat.

He turns 44 in June, so there's a significant chance he'll call it a career this summer.

If he does, he'll retire as the unquestioned greatest goalie in the history of box lacrosse.

Nobody in the history of the game has played or won more games than Vinc, and it's not particularly close.

Vinc isn't the only Bandit who may be nearing the end of his career, either.

Kyle Buchanan will turn 39 before the start of next season, and it wouldn't be a surprise to see him hang up the pads soon.

Byrne and Dhane Smith are also on the wrong side of 30, so they may be entering their last few productive seasons.

It's also no secret that the Bandits haven't gotten premium talent from the draft, but that's to be expected when you're picking at the end of the first round each year.

The next few years of Bandits lacrosse may be a bit more on the lean side, but that's worth it considering the ride they've taken their fans on over the last half decade.

No Bandits fan wants to say that this may be the end of an era, but it feels like we may be there.

If we are, at least we'll always have the mid-2020s dynasty to look back on and smile.

Five major takeaways from the 2026 NFL Draft

JACK HOADLEY
Assistant Sports Editor

The 2026 NFL Draft concluded Saturday evening, and now more than ever we can arrive on a number of opinions about each NFL team this season.

While this was an objectively weak draft class, the upgrades that a number of teams made will go a long way.

Here are some of my biggest takeaways and opinions about how the board fell during one of the league's biggest week-ends.

Teams who needed defense walked out significantly improved.

A number of NFL teams entered with defense on their mind this weekend, and many walked out much better on that side of the ball.

The NFC East, in particular, improved defensively with the Giants adding Arvell Reese at pick five, a versatile linebacker who could be a future All-Pro.

The Commanders and Cowboys added Ohio State stars of their own, with Washington taking Sonny Styles at seven and Dallas selecting Caleb Downs at 11, widely regarded as the steal of the draft.

In comparison to teams that sought offensive playmakers, defense-needy teams came out significantly stronger in comparison.

The level of talent on defense was vastly superior compared to offense, which should allow for those teams who took defense to be much better this season and beyond.

Contending teams made questionable moves.

Whether it was the Rams drafting a QB, or the Bills trading back three times, contenders in the NFL seemed like they were trying to do anything but win now.

While looking ahead is always a good idea in the NFL draft, selecting Ty Simpson, a 23-year-old quarterback, in the middle of your win now window with Matthew Stafford, is ridiculous in my eyes.

The Rams could've added anywhere on offense outside of that position and been seen as successful, yet they found a way to get no better than they were Wednesday.

Then, Buffalo managed to add little beyond good depth in rounds two and three, even though Skyler Bell is one of my favorite selections in round four.

Buffalo played the board poorly, continuing to pass up on impact talent in favor of one more late round pick.



Round# ??????? Buffalo
 Choice From: ?????
 Name: ????? ?????
(last) (first)
 Position: ?????
 School: ????? ??? ???
 Overall: ???



Graphic by SAFFRON LARREA | Art Director

Buffalo missed out on players like Emmanuel McNeil-Warren and Kayden McDonald by trading back and selecting T.J. Parker, who will be a rotational third or fourth pass rusher for Buffalo.

The only contender who had a strong draft was the Eagles, adding Makai Lemon via trade up with a division rival, who will immediately need a wide receiver.

The NFC is wide open.

Despite a strong draft from Philadelphia, almost every other top NFC team had a weak draft, leaving the door wide open for teams who struggled in 2025.

Particularly, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers got much better in the draft, having Rueben Bain Jr. fall right into their lap at #15.

Teams like Tampa, including Dallas and Detroit, benefited from weak contender drafts as the door is open for nearly every team in the conference to be competitive.

Parody will be all over the NFC in 2026 as weaker teams truly evened the playing field after very strong drafts.

The Raiders and Browns should be much better in 2026.

While I am hesitant to speak highly of these two organizations, Cleveland and Las Vegas may have put previous woes behind them with their newest adds.

Vegas obviously succeeded in hopefully filling their quarterback position by taking Fernando Mendoza with the first selection.

But then at the top of round four, they stopped the fall for Jermod McCoy, paring the talented corner with second round selection Treydan Stukes, reinventing their secondary.

Though the offensive line is a major concern, Vegas got much better through a best-player-available strategy.

Cleveland had a similar plan and delivered even more than Vegas did by adding impact players across both sides of the ball.

My favorite selections from Cleveland were wide receivers Denzel Boston and K.C. Concepcion, who will both be immediate starters to help develop their young QBs.

More late round steals than ever before.

Finally, when we look back, I feel like we will see more late round steals than even before from this class.

From my own perspective, the player selected at 30 may not be much different from the player selected at 100, which may allow for more late round successes than we've ever seen.

Lots of the players who fell still possess strong traits that make them valuable to an NFL team.

Bell may become a future star for Joe Brady and the Bills, and a player like McCoy going to Vegas could change their team.



Fredonia students work at the 2026 NFL Draft in Pittsburgh. Photo via RACHEL BAYER | Special to The Leader

In general, the lack of top-tier talent makes the mid-round players in this class more likely to be successful than normal.

Overall, the 2026 draft was a fun one for a lot of franchises, but some are left with a lot of backlash from the media and more questions than they started with (the Rams).

My Draft Winners: New York Giants, Cleveland Browns, Las Vegas Raiders, Dallas Cowboys and Indianapolis Colts

My Draft Losers: Arizona Cardinals, Los Angeles Rams, Minnesota Vikings, Buffalo Bills and San Francisco 49ers



Fans attend the 2026 NFL Draft in Pittsburgh. Photo by RACHEL BAYER | Special to The Leader

How to be a good white ally 101

ALI SALAS

Special to The Leader

“Whenever we encounter even subtle forms of racism it is important to use [your] white privilege to call it out to challenge race-related biases and problematic attitudes,” Associate Professor Phoebe Lin and their colleagues wrote in a March 1, 2023 article in the *International Journal of Higher Education and Social Sciences*.

American society has trampled and spit on the descendants of the slaves and immigrants who built this country; the generational beatings change forms but never disappear.

Nowadays, things look brighter, but only when organizations like Black Lives Matter are created are victims heard.

With the slow and sudden militarization of ICE and the police, this isn't the time to be quiet.

We're all aware of who the real targets are.

You know, as a white person, there's no threat to you racially; the system was designed for you to succeed.

You want to do right by those who are neglected, oppressed and silenced.

Because you care, you're already doing better than the government.

I can help you improve your allyship if you're willing to continue in good faith, reflect on what you have done and what you can start.

A Base-Level Understanding:

Let's get the easy stuff out the way: No slurs or derogatory terms should be in your vocabulary.

In this day and age with modern technology, you should know what is offensive and what isn't.

But because I have heard some words being thrown around, I'll reiterate: No variations of the n-word should come out of your mouth (including Negro!).

Now that we all agree on that, we can continue.

Step #1: Research

Starting off nice and simple, the basic act of researching the root problem of racial issues like discrimination, prejudice and hate crimes can do wonders.

Why did a lady call the police on Black people just trying to have a barbecue?

Did she really think they were criminals, or did her entitlement make her believe she could run them off?

Why did a man yell at a Mexican woman for speaking Spanish in a store?

Did he panic and yell because he couldn't understand her, or did he think yelling would scare her into being fluent in English?

These all have easy answers. But where researching these interesting cases comes into play the most is systematic racism.

Why are Black and Brown people disproportionately convicted?

Why are they pulled over and never know if they'll come out breathing? Why are they set up to fail?

Some of us get turned away based on our names alone.

The more you investigate factors playing a major role in these situations, the easier it will be to spot it in yourself and others.

Step #2: Know There's No Neutrality

When it comes to racial issues and discrimination, there is no “both sides are wrong.”

There is no “both sides have a point.”

Playing the fence like that, trying to appease both the victim and the oppressor, will do more harm than you think.

When you try to tell us, “Both of you are wrong,” all we hear is, “I'm too scared to support you in public.”

You're scared? And we're not?

This attempt to be the peacemaker slips into something called false balance.

Megan N. Imundo and David N. Rapp describe this in their 2021 article, “Misrepresenting two sides as equally supported when they are not,” published in the *Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition*.

By not taking a stand, you're only making the fight harder.

You're making it easy for others to ignore their own prejudice/racist thinking.

Don't give them any more chances to attack.

Step #3: Stay On Topic

It's nice that you want to share the experiences or struggles you have overcome or still need to, but know when to include yourself and know when to stay silent and listen.

The best thing you can do sometimes is just listen.



"2011 Diversity Conference" by OregonDOT is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

If you ever find yourself going to say, "I'm a gay/queer person and I..." or "I'm a trans person and I..." or "As a woman, it's really..."

Stop.

Don't say it.

It's not going to help the way you think it is.

We're talking about issues people of color face daily.

That has nothing to do with the layers of your identity.

At the end of the day, you are still white.

The first thing people will see is the color of your skin.

A white woman may not have the power a white man has, but her tears can still kill.

There are two things that happen when you say something like that.

One: It opens the discussion for other queer people, trans people, women, etc. to share their own stories which causes the initial topic to get drowned out.

We're no longer talking about what was brought up in the first place.

Two: It tells us the issue wouldn't have mattered if you couldn't relate to it.

Show us that you have some sympathy and feel as bad as we do.

You don't have to relate to everything.

I interviewed one of the few people of color on SUNY Fredonia's white-dominated campus, Pwint War, a junior psychology major soon to be graduating.

She shared that she gets absurdly annoyed (after being amused) when a white person begins their statement like any of the above and thinks, "You don't have to insert yourself in every situation for you to be able to connect or empathize with something."

"You don't have to center the conversation around yourself to understand the points that are being made," is something that stuck with me throughout this interview, and it should stick with you too.

Out of everything on this list, this is the one I've seen and heard the most — all in good faith, of course.

Now that you know the drawbacks, when someone is talking about racial discrimination, ask yourself, "Is this an appropriate thing to say?"

Step #4: Don't Be Scared

I know how intimidating it is to put yourself out there and use your voice for something you believe in, but if you're reading this far, you're willing to take a chance.

You don't have to take one big leap and start posting resources, news sites or anything like that.

You can take it one step at a time.

Talking to your peers about discussing critical race theory and debating where it comes into play — little things like that can create the biggest change.

None of that will matter if you're doing absolutely nothing.

Don't hoard all the information, go spread it around.

You can't be scared if you want to be an ally.

You can't let fear keep you silent if you truly want to fight for racial equality.

Making it to the end now, do you see yourself reflected in anything you read?

Whether it's something objectively good or bad, you know now what you should continue doing and what you should stop.

This guide doesn't include everything, but I'd like to think it's a good foundation for you to build off.

Just know with solely the information you have from reading, you're ten times smarter than our nation's president.

I'll offer one last piece of advice before you go, Researcher Melissa Karnaze wrote in their April 10, 2023 article discussing white allyship in *Frontiers in Psychology* journal, "Similarly, actions motivated by compassion should result in allyship, rather than saviorship."

Do not play the hero, play the sidekick.

"Do not play the hero, play the sidekick."

— Ali Salas

SUNY budget shortfall and its effects on students

ALEX BUCKNAM

Managing Editor

In December 2007, the United States entered the Great Recession, triggering major cuts to the State University of New York system (SUNY).

In the 2008–09 New York State budget, \$215 million was cut from SUNY.

Over the next three years, the system lost more than \$1 billion—nearly one-third of its operating budget at the time—money that was never fully restored.

By 2009, the consequences of these cuts were already becoming clear.

In a UB Reporter article written by Charlotte Hsu, former SUNY Chancellor D. Bruce Johnstone warned that students would be affected.

“Tuition is rising, which could force students to take time off from school to work to make money,” Johnstone said. Johnstone expressed concern that students from disadvantaged backgrounds could lose their ability to attend college altogether.

More than a decade later, those warnings are becoming reality.

Smaller-sized SUNY schools are struggling with declining enrollment, budget shortfalls and increasing financial pressure.

As a result of years of reduced funding, campuses such as Fredonia, Buffalo State, Potsdam and Geneseo have gradually fallen into multi-million-dollar deficits.

According to Dr. Judith Horowitz, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at SUNY Fredonia, the state has grown less willing to continue to help these SUNY schools out of their large deficits.

Instead, SUNY schools are being pushed to resolve their deficits independently.

Horowitz has mentioned that SUNY’s decision leaves colleges with few options.

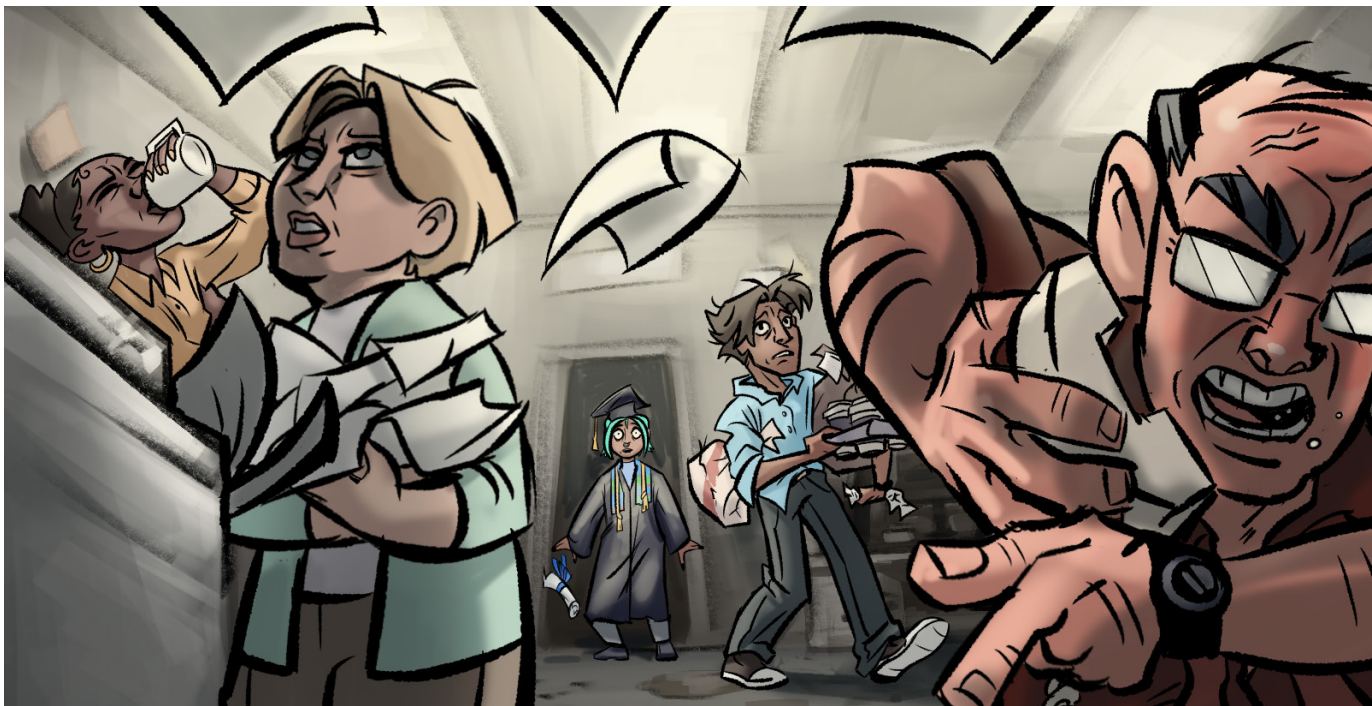
This has led her and the current Fredonia administration, among other schools like Potsdam and Buffalo State, to cut programs that they offer and to cut funding for other programs.

Fredonia, for example, has already eliminated 13 programs and is assessing additional program cuts.

Colleges across the system are also reducing faculty, letting adjuncts go and, in some cases, choosing not to replace full-time professors.

In other instances, full-time positions are being replaced with adjunct instructors.

Decisions like these directly affect the quality of education students receive and have made students feel like they have an education gap.



Graphic by ELLA MAINES | Special to The Leader

To make this clear, this is not just a Fredonia issue.

In *The Record*, Buffalo State's student-run newspaper, Marcus Ramos wrote about the college's elimination of eight academic programs in February 2026, after the college got rid of 19 programs and 12 staff positions in May 2025.

"These actions are in accordance with Buffalo State's five-year Framework for Financial Sustainability plan, where the university is attempting to reduce its \$16.2 million deficit," the article read.

Both Fredonia and Buffalo State have promised students in affected programs that they could finish their degree but have failed to address that students' education will be affected with professors and programs being let go.

Horowitz, when confronted with this idea in a 2025 town hall meeting by photography student Jean Cestaro, didn't make a full public statement about it but also didn't fully deny the fact and encouraged Cestaro to reach out to her independently.

Students are at different stages in their academic careers, and many required courses are now offered less frequently—or, in some cases, not at all.

Students who miss a required class may be forced into course substitutions or overrides that do not fully replace the original material.

This leaves students with gaps in their education and places them at a disadvantage when applying for jobs or graduate schools.

Employers and graduate programs often look for specific skills developed through coursework—not just the degree itself.

Students have seen what the budget cuts have done to this school, and in some cases, they are considering transferring.

They are not alone in feeling this way.

According to SUNY data, there has been an increase in transfer activity across the system, with much of it being SUNY-to-SUNY transfers.



Fredonia students protest program cuts, Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023.

Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief



Fredonia students protest program cuts, Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023.

Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

This shift suggests that students are actively leaving campuses that are cutting programs, reshaping the identities and stability of smaller SUNY schools.

While enrollment may fluctuate and budgets may tighten, long-term disinvestment in SUNY is impacting students' long-term degree goals.

Smaller campuses play a critical role in providing accessible education, particularly for students from working-class and rural backgrounds.

When programs are cut, those opportunities disappear for them.

These students now make the decision to leave to find a college that has fewer opportunities for them or stay and risk an education gap.

Or even worse, they leave college altogether.

SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. has not spoken publicly on the downsides of the cuts and budget shortfalls on students.

Instead, he has said enrollment has increased for the third year in a row, helping with the overall deficit.

King has also publicly been asking the state for more money and a five-year capital plan that would give them a set amount of money to fix massive maintenance issues at SUNY schools.

If the state continues to push financial responsibility onto individual campuses without restoring the meaningful funding SUNY once had, the consequences will only worsen.

SUNY schools cannot cut their way to stability without sacrificing the quality of education they are meant to provide.

If this problem is not fixed, schools like Fredonia will start to die.

There will be a day when the last program is cut and doors close on campuses.

The SUNY Board of Trustees must acknowledge the disproportionate impact of budget cuts on lower-income and disadvantaged students and bring that to state legislators.

State leadership must implement fair funding to smaller schools that also restore historical funding to regional campuses like Fredonia and Buffalo State to ensure equitable educational access across the system.

Fredonia has lost the art of the elective

LILY LAVACCA

Special to The Leader

SUNY Fredonia has lost the art of the elective.

When students are picking out their classes, they start with those required for their major.

Then, they may have extra room in their schedule for one or two classes outside of their concentration.

This is when they decide whether to pick up a class with a \$100 required textbook, a class with stressful midterm and final exams or a class that they will end up having poor attendance in.

They finish the semester with a D in the elective, as they prioritized their major-specific coursework instead, bringing down their GPA.

This is the downside of taking electives with a heavy workload.

Students become more stressed, fail to complete their work, and in the end, their GPA suffers.

The course catalog on the Fredonia website desperately needs to be updated.

Along with majors that have been cut or otherwise lost, there are courses listed that no longer exist.

The greatest deficit that I have observed is in the physical education major.

Only two classes are being offered next semester, Basic Aerobics: Power Yoga and Tai Chi, and none are being offered in this current semester (Spring 2026).

In the past, there have been multiple yoga classes running at once.

With only one of these courses happening per semester, it limits students' ability to join due to schedule conflicts.

The most troubling part of this issue for me is that these classes are greatly beneficial.

College kids get advice on how to manage their wellness, such as workout tips, mental health tips and unconditional positive energy.

"The lack of physical education classes built in to students' schedules, allowing them to earn credit, is a real loss to the progression of our degrees."

— Lily Lavacca



Kathryn Pucci-Schaefer.

Photo via fredoniabluedevils.com.

There can certainly be points in the semester where it feels like there is a lot of work to do and no time to relax, especially when students are involved in extra curriculars.

The lack of physical education classes built into students' schedules, allowing them to earn credit, is a real loss to the progression of our degrees.

It can cause burnout in underclassmen who have loaded schedules with lots of reading, studying and exams.

The body movement classes I have experienced require minimal work outside of class, while still including writing assignments, research projects and wellness tasks.

These activities provide the same enriching, thought-provoking qualities of any other course at the university, making them just as important.

This isn't even mentioning the mental health benefits that come with consistent exercise.

Plenty of research has been done on the impact of stress on students' education, as well as the positive impact of physical activity on stress.

So, why is it not considered more often?

A 2025 study from The University of Zambia on exercise as a stress-coping mechanism showed that university students in particular benefit from this as a medium.

This demographic is in an important transition period from adolescence to adulthood where they are adopting lifestyle skills, habits and routines.

Students will turn to coping mechanisms, healthy or not, to manage their stress.

Physical exercise has been proven to encourage positive emotions, mental clarity and focus.

Bishop Christy, an English adolescence education major, said that he had never heard of the sport classes the university used to offer, such as swimming and racquetball.

When asked about unconventional classes that he has taken, he said that he took an acting class last semester, which, Christy said, “pushed me out of my comfort zone and utilized physical expressiveness to learn.”

This is an important piece, as research defending physical education shows it is a comprehensive, well-rounded way to learn that is different from sitting at a desk in a classroom.

As an education major, he said that he “grew more comfortable in front of peers and could see it benefiting my teaching.”

He also said that this format of learning was “more intimate and fostered strong connections among students.”

This is a great example of an artistic, unique elective that Fredonia students could take to add more depth to their schedules and get them out of their comfort zones while still providing enriching learning and experience.

After an interview with physical education professor Kathryn Pucci-Schaefer, I learned much more about the history of this program and what people have been trying to do about it.

She mentioned a course I had never heard of before, Aqua Aerobics (PHED 101).

The description of this course was, “Introduces a sequence of water exercises that enhances the student's aerobic fitness.”

“[Physical education courses] pushed me out of my comfort zone and utilized physical expressiveness to learn.”

— **Bishop Christy**

Senior English adolescence education major,
SUNY Fredonia

Pucci-Schaefer stated this was the “most fun class I have taught, you’re working out, but you’re not sweaty, you barely even realize you’re exercising.”

She said splashing around in the water “would brighten anyone’s day.”

It was stress-relieving and playful, and she always had music playing to encourage this fun mood.

She also told me, however, that this course faded into the background as there were often scheduling issues with life-guards, and the university eventually decided to stop offering it at all.

“...In a high-pressure world, students need to de-stress and take care of themselves to become more holistic and well-rounded people.”

— **Kathryn Pucci-Schaefer**
Professor of Physical Education,
SUNY Fredonia

“...In a high-pressure world, students need to de-stress and take care of themselves to become more holistic and well-rounded people,” she said.

Pucci-Schaefer encourages members of Fredonia’s community to write to administrators to make a difference.

She said to encourage students to take classes and spread the word to their peers.

Of course, it is a concern with this university that there are not enough students consistently enrolled to fill these classes.

My answer to this would be for the university to adjust their budgets across the campus and focus a larger percentage of on course and program development.

Pucci-Schaefer is more than willing to teach more courses and reaches out to the university every semester asking about courses.

She is typically given notice of these upcoming courses a year in advance.

I also know that experimental electives can be hit or miss, and it is hard to rely on students to choose a class that is not required to graduate.

My answer to this is to have advisors advertise these courses.

It will take more than just the students’ effort to rebuild this program; it will require support and advertisement from the faculty and university media as well.

In general, the best way to reignite this program is to spread the word.

Not everyone will want to become a gym teacher after reading this and demand the entire physical education program be opened again, but I’d love to see at least a couple more options for students to get involved in physical activity to break up their typical work weeks.

Physical Education Courses Offered for Fall 2026:

- Basic Aerobics: Power Yoga
- Tai Chi

Lovercolumn: Do's and don'ts of dating

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 WDWL 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, in honor of Earth Day, you’re going to take a nature walk!

As the weather (finally) gets warmer in Western New York, why not take advantage of it and enjoy the sunshine?



There are plenty of beautiful trails in the area, including one through the woods right here on campus.

You can also take a walk around Ring Road or anywhere else across campus.

These places can provide a calming escape from the stresses that college often brings.

Some of our guests talked about the release of anxiety and worries that comes from simply spending a few minutes outside.

The Quarterback recalled simple advice for various feelings of anxiety and stress:

If you feel like you hate everyone, grab something to eat.

If you feel like everyone hates you, go to sleep.

If you feel like you hate yourself, take a shower.

If you feel like everyone hates each other, go outside.

These are simple actions that can greatly relieve or reduce any negative emotions you may experience.

Another great thing about this idea is that you can go solo, bring a friend or make it a date!

Overall, have fun!

Dos and Don'ts of Dating

When it comes to the dos and don'ts of dating, everyone has different advice.

Things like buying them their favorite drink from Starbucks, holding their hand in public, and don't mess up their outfit when they are getting all fancy for something go around, but at its core, a lot of it just revolves around basic respect and care for one another.

Think of the golden rule, for example, treat others how you want to be treated.

If you don't want your partner to cheat on you, then don't do that when you're dating.

If you want to feel heard and special in a relationship, try to make your partner feel that way.

By doing this, you have a solid foundation to build upon what your partner may or may not like in a relationship.

Going off of basic respect, though, some things you do or do not do in a relationship are based on the person you are with.

What one person may want you to do for them may be different from another, that's why you use communication.

Communication is a mandatory glue for each relationship that helps you understand what your partner is uncomfortable with and what they absolutely adore.

Sitting down and asking your partner what they are feeling can almost never backfire. If you understand each other's boundaries, you can understand how to uplift not only them but you as well.

Even a quick check-up in the moment can never hurt.

Making sure you understand their hobbies or maybe something they need helps too.

In fact, one of our guests even did this, buying their partner a new phone case because they listened.

Even if you aren't planning to do anything for your partner, it always makes someone feel more comfortable when you listen to them and make them feel heard, regardless of whether it's hobbies or even struggles.

It's important to only do something if you're comfortable doing it in a relationship though.

Just because your partner wants something, it does not mean you need to do it.

On the show, one of our guests mentioned being on a video call as they slept with a partner that was on the other side of the call and not really wanting to be on it but almost felt forced because that's what their partner really wanted.

To my surprise, at least, other guests agreed and were in similar situations of wanting to make their partner happy, but they ended up doing something they don't entirely like.

In this case, our solution is communication.

I've been on both sides of this coin where, for example, I would always want to go on walks with my partner and wasn't aware my partner at the time didn't want to.

After a while they told me and I felt awful for not knowing but we found another way to have fun that was similar to what we both enjoyed.

On the other hand, with the video call, I've been there wanting to make my partner happy but not liking it too much.

That's why we stress communication; no partner should want to make you uncomfortable just for the sake of their happiness, and there are other ways you both can have fun doing something else that makes you both happy and comfortable.

Goodbye

This is the final Lovercolumn of the year, and it also marks the final Lovercolumn for The Quarterback and The Musician.

The Quarterback has been a host of Lovercall for the past three years, and the executive producer for the past two.

The Musician has been a host for two years, working alongside The Quarterback to produce roughly 60 episodes.

Lovercall has been a national finalist twice during the past few years, and it won a national award for the most creative and innovative show in 2024.

It has truly been the honor of a lifetime for both of us to host this show, and we now pass the torch to Bumblebee and our future team to continue a legacy that has lasted for 20 years.

Thank you all for listening to the show and reading this column. None of this would be possible without you.

So, as The Quarterback and The Musician sign off and head out into the world, we hope you've enjoyed these past few years as much as we have.

From the bottom of our hearts, we love you all.

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.

Lovercallers Submission Form 2025-26!!



THE SCALLION



Satire and parody for Fredonia

Who started the Butterlow fire? The Leader investigates

OLIVIA BUECHELER

Special to The Leader

Almost three weeks have passed since the Butterlow oven fire.

The tragic event left Fredonia locals and Dunkirk denizens without a place to go for premium pastries and perfectly cooked sandwiches, and the community is still reeling.

I asked commuters walking by the scene of the event how they were affected.

Jessica, aged 25, is crestfallen. "I feel like I barely got a chance to enjoy the place before they shut down!"

Rodger, aged 30, said, "I hope everyone's safe. I really want them to reopen, but, I mean, who'd want to work after that?"

I then spoke to a man who identified himself as "Hasoline L'Arson," who was eager to speak with me.

When asked about the fire, he had this to say: "Oh, zut alors! Zis is abzolutely terribe-luh, I cannot express how sad zis makes me! Well, I zuppose if nothing gan be done, then I'll have to return to Upper Crust for my croissants. It's just as good, maybe even better!"

L'Arson approached me wearing Groucho Marx glasses and mustache disguise and only held a French accent for the first half of his statement, excluding the word "croissant," which he pronounced the hell out of.

When pressed on this matter, he clarified, "I'm practicing my American accent."

He proceeded to do the rest of the interview with a perfect American accent.

It was plainly obvious to me that he was, in fact, initially faking the accent.

We decided to conduct a full interview with L'Arson. We traveled down the street to Upper Crust, noting that Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire" was playing on the sound system.

As we walked in, one of the baristas noticed us and L'Arson. She asked, "Alex, what are you doing here, you don't work unti-"

This sentence was interrupted by L'Arson, who assured the barista that she had mistaken him for someone else, and he was in fact not an employee of Upper Crust.



"Croissants au beurre" by Herry Wibisono is free to use under the public domain.

In doing this, he turned to me and gestured at his shirt.

The reader should note that L'Arson was wearing a white "Upper Crust" shirt, with the block letters crossed out in Sharpie and "Go Bills" written below it.

My first question was about where he was when the fire started. "Ah, you see, I was actually just in this very chair! I was enjoying a coffee that I always believed was better than that of Butterlow's, and I was here from about 4:30 to 5:15, and I did not leave. There's a photo of me standing next to the clock and a calendar when I was there, and all of the baristas know I was here, and here it is, this is the photo." L'Arson showed me a photo of him giving a thumbs-up, though his hand had two thumbs and the words "Upper Crust" were warped into "Upppre Cust."

"As you can see, I have the perfect apple pie!"



"Groucho Glasses" by Mykl Roventine is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

This was especially odd, as L'Arson only had a cup of coffee in the photo, and an inspection of the Upper Crust menu showed that apple pie was not being served.

It became abundantly clear that L'Arson had meant to say "alibi," rather than "apple pie."

My next question was about what he believed had caused the fire.

Upon hearing the question, L'Arson went completely pale.

He began to stutter and sweat, and when he removed his glasses to wipe his brow, his nose and mustache went with them.

He seemed to have forgotten that this was a comical disguise and quickly put the glasses back on when he remembered.

L'Arson began to blush and cry a little bit. I allowed this to go on until to the moment where I believed he was straight-up about to vomit, at which point I gently reminded him that the leading cause as described by the fire department was "oven fire."

Upon hearing this, he sighed in deep relief and nodded. "Yes, ze oven fi — ahem— yeah the oven fire."

I decided to end the interview for the day to allow L'Arson to gather his bearings.

Butterlow reopened on Thursday, April 23, greeted by a very happy and hungry customer base.

When I returned to Upper Crust that day, I could not find "L'Arson."

I spoke with a barista named "Alex" who looked as though they had just gotten done crying.

"I don't know, man, I just *sniff* I just think that we're better, and that *sniff* that Butterlow is pretty *sniff* overrated."

When asked about L'Arson, Alex grew irate.

"No, you aren't gonna catch him!! You'll never catch him *sniff* and he's my best friend and you *sniff* should just let him go, I think, I think you should, you..." Alex trailed off here.

When I ordered the apple pie, Alex burst into tears and ran into the back room.

This is another case closed.

Our hearts go out to the workers of Butterlow, and we recommend maybe hiring a security guard.

**Putting all jokes aside,
The Leader wishes all
the best to Butterlow
as they work to
recover from the fire.**

QUIZ: Which senior superlative would you get?

MATT VOLZ

Most Likely to Hold a Grudge

As we close in on the end of the academic year, it's time to say goodbye to our soon-to-be-graduating seniors.

In just a few weeks, many students will walk — or perhaps, do a cartwheel — across the stage in Steele Hall, signifying the end of their Fredonia era.

But, before you go, let's see who's "most likely" to reach certain milestones or accomplish certain feats.

That's right — there's no escaping the senior superlatives you wanted but never got in your high school yearbook.

Am I writing this quiz because I'm still salty that I wasn't picked for a senior superlative four years ago, despite the fact that I would have been PERFECT for some of them?

Do I still lose sleep over the fact that I *so* should have been named Most Likely to Cure COVID-19 (this was an actual superlative in my yearbook) or Biggest Social Butterfly?

I will decline to comment on the matter.

Without further delay, let's dive in and see what senior superlative you get!

Question 1: Which dorm hall did you live in as a freshman?

- A.) Chautauqua "Bro-tauqua" Hall
- B.) Nixon "Nasty Nixon" Hall
- C.) Hemingway "Nobody lives there anymore" Hall
- D.) Kasling "I forgot this was a place" Hall

Question 2: What's your go-to Willy C's order?

- A.) An entire pizza
- B.) Hot dogs, preferably undercooked
- C.) Something from Blue Devil Grill (ask your parents, kids)
- D.) Watered down loganberry. Wait, they have loganberry?

Question 3: Pick a second (or third) major:

- A.) Business
- B.) Sewage sciences
- C.) Archaeology
- D.) Art history (R.I.P.)

Question 4: What's your favorite study spot on campus?

- A.) Dods Hall Fitness Center
- B.) The bathroom on the third floor of Thompson Hall
- C.) Tim Horton's (Yes, we used to have one.)
- D.) In class five minutes before the test because you forgot about it

Question 5: What's your favorite Fredonia bar?

- A.) Old Main Inn
- B.) Sunny's
- C.) Muldoons
- D.) Coughlan's... or is it Heenan's? I don't know, something with an apostrophe.

Question 6: Where in Fredonia would you take someone on a date?

- A.) A sporting event
- B.) Sunny's... again
- C.) A classical opera at the Opera House
- D.) Would have been somewhere fancy, but instead Applebee's because you forgot to make a reservation

Question 7: Which iconic Fredonia incident from this semester are you?

- A.) The baseball team losing 25-0 and allowing 14 runs in one inning
- B.) Both boil water orders. Not just one of them — both.
- C.) Enrollment increasing, which hasn't happened in years
- D.) The first dog food smell of the spring

Question 8: If you were an animal on campus, which one would you be?

- A.) That one squirrel that apparently chases people down instead of running away
- B.) The spider in your dorm's shower
- C.) Someone's old, crusty dog that they take for a walk even though it has 3.5 paws in the grave
- D.) The fish you got during the first week of classes and then promptly forgot to feed

Question 9: It's the first warm day of the spring. What outfit do you have planned?

- A.) A cutoff muscle shirt and jorts
- B.) A Speedo. Nothing else.
- C.) A blouse that you sewed yourself, even though it looks like your grandma made it in 1946
- D.) A heavy winter coat because you didn't check the weather before leaving for class

Question 10: How did you decorate your grad cap?

- A.) Bottle caps and cardboard from a case of Busch Apple
- B.) Doesn't matter. You dropped it in the toilet on the morning of graduation.
- C.) Polaroid pictures of you and your friends that look like they're straight out of 1987
- D.) People decorate their caps?

IF YOU GOT...

Mostly A's: Most Likely to Get Arrested at FredFest

It happens every year.
Someone downs a few too many cold ones and tries to do a backflip off a police car.
This year, it's you.
Knock off the crazy s***, you maniac.

Mostly B's: Most Likely to Go Viral on Yik Yak... for the Wrong Reasons

Yik Yak is a modern day hellscape that always seems to trash someone on campus for doing something dumb or gross.
I hate to say it, but you're the latest one.
Let's just hope you have an Android and can't witness the carnage.

Mostly C's: Most Likely to Go to Bed at 8 p.m. on a Saturday

To put it simply, you're old.
I don't know whether you've been a Fredonia student since the dawn of time or whether you harken to an earlier time, but something tells me your joints aren't kind to you when you wake up in the morning.

Mostly D's: Most Likely to Forget About Graduation

Maybe you partied too much the night before, or maybe you just aren't all that bright and didn't realize graduation was *this* Saturday.
Or maybe you thought you were graduating in the afternoon, but it was actually the morning.
The radio silence after your name is called to cross the stage will be hilarious.

HOROS

IZZIE NOELLE
Soon-to-be Graduate

Hi everyone! I've had so much fun writing horoscopes this past year, but alas, our time must come to an end. After four years at Fredonia, I've made so many memories and taken so many pictures. So, for the last set of horoscopes, I'm going to share some of my favorite memories. Here is which college memory of mine your zodiac sign reminds me of.



Aries

Seeing my first NFL Game



Taurus

Watching my friend's wedding over Zoom



Gemini

Seeing Niagara Falls



Cancer

Planting a tree



Leo

Hosting a radio show



Virgo

Travelling alone for the first time

COPEES



Libra

Protesting budget cuts



Scorpio

Vinyl painting with friends



Sagittarius

Seeing the Northern Lights



Capricorn

Planning events for FRS



Aquarius

Spending time at the Creek



Pisces

Going to local concerts

