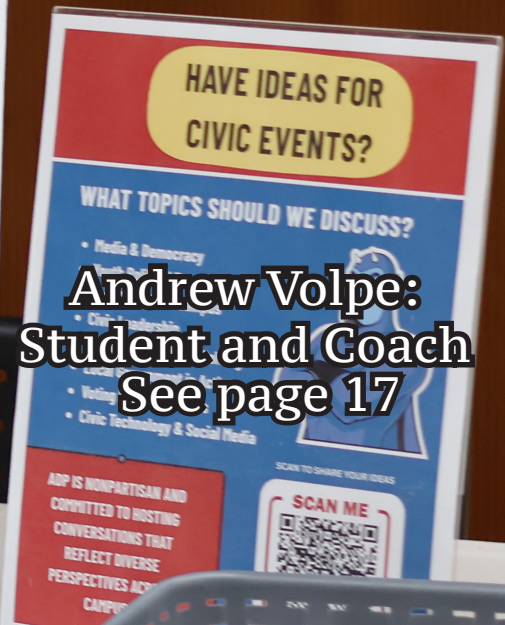




# THE LEADER

Suny Fredonia Student-Run Newspaper



**Andrew Volpe:**  
**Student and Coach**  
**See page 17**

**WNYE-TV forced into a new home**  
**Provost hosts listening events**  
**Freshmen and upperclassmen perspective on campus**  
**5th quarter column: Bills are back and better**  
**[Opinion] Midterms, what's at stake?**  
**[Satire] Confessions from the campus spider**

# THE LEADER

## News

3 WNYF forced into new home

5 Provost hosts listening events

6 Police Blotter

7 Waterline breaks at Fredonia

## Life & Arts

9 "Fall into Jazz" with Lucas West

10 Cory McCants Speaks at Fredonia

13 Activities night brings clubs together

14 Public media panel photo gallery

16 Fredonia leadership institute

## Sports

17 Andrew Volpe: student and coach

18 5th quarter column: Bills are back

19 Newblood and old memories

20 Sports photo gallery

## Opinion

22 Midterms, what's at stake

24 Lovercolumn

26 Views on Fredonia campus climate

## Scallion

28 Confessions from the spider

29 Quiz: What music type are you

30 Horoscopes: Pop culture reference

We are looking to fill these roles. Contact us if interested! Email [leader@fredonia.edu](mailto:leader@fredonia.edu): Design Editor, News Editor, Opinion Editor, Ad Sales Manager, DEI Chair, Assistants.

**Front cover:** ADP Table. **Photo by MARS ARENSEN** | Special to The Leader **Back cover:** Trees by Thompson Hall. **Photo by JASPER BATEMAN** | Special to The Leader

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"A good newspaper is a nation talking to itself" - Arthur Miller

Proud member of The Associated Collegiate Press.

# WNYF-TV forced into a new home

**JOSEPHAT IYAMUREMYE**

Special to The Leader

Zach Heiman expected his first semester as WNYF-TV's Chief Engineer to involve cameras, microphones and technical problems. Instead, he is helping figure out how to move an entire television station.

WNYF-TV the student-run television station, has been without its regular studio since a flood damaged its space in Hendrix Hall on April 15, 2026.

The student-run television station is now preparing to operate from Room 303 in McEwen Hall.

For WNYF General Manager Zachary Baehr, the night of the flood started like a normal Wednesday.

He and Alex Matt were putting on their lavalier microphones and helping the camera crew prepare for "News11."

Then members wearing headsets suddenly became confused.

Baehr and Matt were told to remain seated while other students began yelling from across the station.

"[former General Manager,] Sam Fallon came back into the studio and let me and Alex know that we were flooding and that we would not be running news for the night," Baehr said.

Soon after, the fire alarm went off as water entered the editing suites. Members went outside into the rain while contacting Facilities Services, University Police, emergency services and other WNYF members.

The flood damaged two computers in the station's editing suites and some archived materials.

For Baehr, however, losing access to the station itself was the biggest loss.

"The space as a whole was the biggest loss," Baehr said.

Some of WNYF's history had already been digitized by former member Anna Sheehan, according to Baehr.

However, he said he does not know exactly how much of the remaining archive was damaged.

The physical archives that remain are still in Hendrix. Baehr said the station is waiting for a decision on where its overflow storage will eventually go.

Heiman is helping determine what equipment needs to be moved and how the station will be set up in its new location.

Baehr also manages equipment, handles technical problems and helps students get cameras and microphones for their production.

Most of that equipment remains in Hendrix. Heiman said station members have worried about another flood while waiting for the move.

After another period of heavy rain, WNYF members covered some equipment with trash bags, Heiman said. They were trying to protect what they could in case water entered the building again.



Students work inside the control room in Hendrix Hall before the April flood. **Photo by ZACH BAEHR** | Special to The Leader

Questions about relocating WNYF existed before the flood. Heiman said administrators had discussed possible moves over the years, although station members did not have a definite relocation plan.

Baehr described the April flood as the event that ultimately forced the relocation.

He said some members had previously raised concerns about the condition and maintenance of Hendrix Hall.

WNYF is now moving into McEwen 303 because the space is largely unused and will not regularly interfere with classes. A first-floor studio was also considered, but Baehr said a class will need that space during the spring semester.

The new location comes with limitations. It is smaller than the Hendrix station, meaning WNYF will have to reduce the size of some productions and rely more on remote broadcasting and post-production.

"We are kind of still in limbo until our equipment gets moved and we can actually get settled," Baehr said.

The room will also need changes before it functions like the former studio.

Heiman said the station has discussed adding more sound-dampening materials and possibly a partial wall to create separate production areas.

WNYF would normally already be producing shows at this point in the semester. Its main program, News11, is a live half-hour news broadcast normally produced on Wednesday nights.

Students are also allowed to create their own programming.

Members can pitch show ideas and use WNYF cameras, microphones and other equipment to turn those ideas into productions.

Even without its regular studio, WNYF can continue some work outside McEwen 303. Heiman said the organization has remote broadcasting equipment that can be used for events such as hockey and basketball games.

Baehr said WNYF means more to students than simply having access to television equipment. He described it as a place where students can learn while becoming part of a community.

“It is a safe and inviting space to learn and grow your skills with cameras and writing,” Baehr said. “WNYF is one of the big reasons why we chose to come to Fredonia.”

McEwen 303 may not be the final destination. Baehr hopes WNYF could eventually return to Jewett Hall, where the station once had a long-term home, if a permanent space can be incorporated into the building.

For now, WNYF members are focused on rebuilding what they can and keeping the organization active while they wait to see what comes next.

“Don’t let the move scare you away,” Baehr said. “It’s a fresh start for us all.”

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Room 303 in McEwen Hall is the next home for WNYF TV. **Photo by ZACK BEAHR** | Special to The Leader

# Provost hosts listening events

**ALEX BUCKNAM**

Editor in Chief

On Aug. 31, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Julie A. Gorlewski sent out an email to all registered students indicating she would be hosting listening events so students and faculty could talk with her about the likes, dislikes, hopes and dreams of the campus.

“These conversations are intended to be open and candid, with a focus on hearing about your experiences, concerns, ideas and aspirations,” the email reads. “Your voice is valuable. No particular preparation is needed; just come ready to listen and be heard.”

A listening event occurred on Sept. 11, where the turnout was low.

Julie mentioned this was not an issue, since students were already filling out her Padlet on these same issues discussed during the listening events.

During the Sept. 11 event, Gorlewski could be seen taking notes, engaging with students and having conversations. “I want to better understand where students’ concerns lie,” stated Gorlewski.

A wide range of issues have remained constant. Most notably, students have issues with maintenance during winter.

“Many students have fallen and gotten injured in the winter,” one student wrote on the Padlet, referring to the winter conditions on campus. “I understand that campus is big and our ground crew works hard, but something is clearly not working,” the comment continued.

When asked about the rumor that they are firing maintenance workers due to budget cuts, Gorlewski dismissed it, stating that it’s the opposite: they are looking at hiring more.

“I think it’s the opposite,” Gorlewski stated. “We’re trying to find people. There have been significant attempts to get people in those roles.”

After listening to stories from the general audience about cars being stuck, students who use mobility aids not having adequate support to safely get across campus and the feeling of campus being unsafe in winter, Gorlewski assured she will continue helping get people in those roles.

“What I learned was, maintenance folks who clear the sidewalks and everything have the schedules of students who have a disability [and sidewalks] are prioritized,” Gorlewski mentioned. “That’s why it feels like some places [get shoveled] before others.”

Food quality, options and safety were other major concerns students brought up.

“I wish we had more options to eat on campus,” a student wrote. “I don’t want to eat Willy C’s every single time if I can’t get food before Cranston closes for dinner.”

“As a vegetarian there are always options for me at the dining halls, but there is very little variety and options for healthy nutritious meals,” another student wrote.

Other students made comments on concerns regarding allergies and cross-contamination within Cranston.

The feeling of a lack of support within programs that were discontinued by administrators was also a top concern, alongside program cuts and their meaning behind professors’ and adjuncts’ jobs.

Gorlewski mentioned she doesn’t only want these listening events to be negative. She wanted students to share what they liked about Fredonia and

what they hoped and wished for.

“I don’t want this to only be the negative things, I want to hear what you’re most proud of, your hopes and ideas for growth,” Gorlewski mentioned.

A common thing that students were most proud of about Fredonia was the community. “Proud that SUNY Fredonia is the accepting community that it is!” an anonymous student wrote.

While students hoped that Fredonia would move away from artificial intelligence (AI), this comes after recent outrage from last academic year’s AI film festival.

Fredonia’s student ideas for growth included more opening hours for academic and dining halls, more generalized events and air conditioning in dorm buildings.

An additional listening event for students is on Sept. 22 from 11 a.m. to noon.



Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Julie Gorlewski  
Photo via Marketing and Communication



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The Police Blotter, run and shared with The Leader by the University Police Department (UPD), aims to provide information to students, faculty and the community at and around SUNY Fredonia. All information is provided on the University Police Department's website, [www.fredonia.edu/about/offices/university-police/blotter](http://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.

### On-Campus:

Monday, June 15: Juveniles were found in the Science Center; this was closed following an investigation.

Tuesday, Aug. 25: A subject was found to have a suspended driver's license during a traffic stop.

Sunday, Aug. 30: A driver was found with a suspended license; an arrest was made.

Tuesday, Sept. 10: A student pushed another subject in Chautauqua; this is an ongoing investigation.

Friday, Sept. 11: Credit cards were stolen from a vehicle in lot 21; this was closed by an investigation,

Sunday, Sept. 12: Ongoing harassment in McGinnies Hall; this was referred to Title IX.

**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.**

# Waterline breaks in front of McEwen

**EMILY BROWN**

Special to The Leader

After a water main break affected part of SUNY Fredonia's campus on Sept. 1, university officials said the water remained safe. Yet, for one student who saw brown water coming from a McGinnes Hall faucet, questions about the incident remained.

The water main break affected only part of campus and, according to university officials, was repaired quickly. While officials said the water was safe to consume, Terrel McClain's experience raised questions about what caused the discoloration and how students were informed about the issue.

McClain, a transfer student in his sophomore year, said he saw the water turn brown twice while brushing his teeth in a third-floor bathroom at McGinnes Hall. The first time, the water ran clear for about a minute before turning brown for several seconds.

The second time, it stayed clear for about a minute or two before briefly turning brown again.

He did not taste or smell the water, but he stopped using that faucet and switched to another one because he was unsure what was causing the discoloration.

"That was just disgusting. It was nasty, because I was brushing my teeth, so the water was in my mouth," McClain said.

McClain said he was also confused because students had been told the water main break occurred near McEwen Hall.

"They said the waterline break was in a different hall, wasn't in McGinnes hall, and for some reason, our water was brown in McGinnes," McClain said. "So, I don't understand how it would also affect our waterline."

Sarah Laurie, director of Environmental Health and Safety, explained that water lines can be isolated at different points across campus.

She said a disruption to one line can cause discoloration even when the rest of the campus continues to receive water.

"Something like a water main break can cause material that's in the water pipes to get riled up," Laurie said. "It's called turbidity, but it can just cause those materials to sort of come up into the water a little more rather than being settled down in the pipes. And that's what causes the discoloration."

Laurie said the water main break was repaired by a contractor and that the water was safe during the incident.

"Whereas the water main break that happened a couple weeks ago, that was just one of our campus lines that broke, and we fixed it. The water was still safe the whole time," Laurie said.

Kathy Forster, director of Residence Life, said students received the same campus email about the incident that was sent at 8:12 a.m. on Sept. 1. The message stated that there was no danger to water consumption on campus.

Forster said the Office of Residence Life did not send additional information because facilities and marketing and



Director Environmental Health & Safety & Sustainability, Sarah Laurie.

**Photo by Marketing and Communication**

communications were handling the campus-wide messaging.

Residence Life generally follows the information provided by those offices when there is a campus water issue.

McClain said he did not report the brown water because he was a transfer student and did not know who to contact. He said he would have liked more information about why the water looked different.

"I think they should at least inform us more about what's going on, because they just told us it was a break," McClain said.

Forster said students experiencing discolored water should let the water run until it becomes clear.

She said residence life gives students advice when a hall director reports an issue.

According to Forster, brown water can sometimes occur after a water main break because material inside the pipes can become mixed into the water while repairs are being made.

She mentioned Alumni Hall had also reported discolored water after the break, although McClain's report came from McGinnes Hall.

The water main break incident was different from the boil-water orders that have affected Fredonia in the past. Laurie said those orders are related to the Village of Fredonia's water treatment system, rather than a campus water main break.

University officials also distinguished the Sept. 1 water main break from the boil-water orders that have affected Fredonia in recent years.

Laurie said boil-water orders are connected to the Village of Fredonia's water treatment plan, not the campus water main break.

The village’s treatment plan has one treatment line and does not have a secondary line that can be used if part of the treatment process breaks, Laurie said. Because the plan also operates continuously to meet demand, repairs can require the treatment process to stop.

“When they can’t treat the water, that’s when we go into a boil water order,” Laurie said.

Laurie said the university has contemplated connecting to Dunkirk’s water system, but the village is also considering connecting to Dunkirk. Because the village could complete the project sooner, the university is waiting to see how the village proceeds.

“As it stands right now, we are still at the same risk of boil water order as we have been in the past several years,” Laurie said. “But we do have sort of hope on the horizon and a plan in place to make sure that we can solve that problem going forward.”

In December 2023, Fredonia trustees voted to decommission the water plant and instead get their water from Dunkirk.

Forster said students tend to have more concerns during

boil-water orders because they cannot use the water normally.

Forster also mentioned that campus water main breaks are infrequent but could potentially happen more often as campus infrastructure gets older.

She stated she did not know what specific preventative maintenance is being done on campus water lines and suggested directing those questions to facilities.

Laurie encouraged students who have concerns about campus water or other environmental health issues to ask questions directly.

“Anytime a student has a conservative question, they should absolutely feel very free and empowered to ask those questions or raise those concerns,”

Laurie said. “I think more information is better, and it helps to alleviate maybe some fears that don’t need to be there.”

The waterline break is fixed as of Sept. 2 and plans to restore the sidewalk are underway.

Questions or concerns regarding boil water issues should contact the Village of Fredonia



Sidewalk blocked off in front of McEwen Hall. **Photo by MARS ARENSEN** | Special to The Leader

# Life & Arts

## “Fall Into Jazz” with Lucas West

**GRACELYN BEACHNER**

Asst. Copy Editor & Social Media Manager



Photo via Canva.com

On Sept. 11, I had the pleasure of attending the Rockefeller Arts Centers' (RAC) kickoff to their Bicentennial season.

“Fall Into Jazz,” featuring Lucas West, was truly a stellar introduction to the series of shows this year.

Being from Rochester and going to Fredonia this year, I heard my fair share of excitement about West's run on “The Voice.”

I, however, hadn't seen him in person yet, so naturally I was eager to not only see the jazz combo but West as well. The performance put on by each person on stage truly made the \$5 student ticket price worth every cent.

Each musician brought forth their own charm, talent, energy and presence to the stage; they truly made the show a must-see.

My favorite part of watching this show was how you could tell every person on stage wanted to be there.

Every performance was entertaining not just for the ears but for the eyes as well.

Associate Professor and Coordinator of Jazz Dr. Nick Weiser's, animated performance on the piano, performer Matt Incrontro's captivating stage presence and West's ability to dazzle the audience was all part of the enthrallment of the night.

While I took my notes, I kept writing small moments that I believed were the “highlight of the night,” until I realized I had written it next to every single performer.

For Weiser, I wrote “Impressive in literally everything.”

What else could go next to his name?

Keiran Hanlon was consistent and mesmerizing, especially in his rendition of Kurt Elling's arrangement of “Close Your Eyes” by Bernice Petkere.

Furthermore, Greg Evans on the drums was exciting, original and commanded his side of the stage effortlessly. Every time Evans had a moment, he was not afraid to take it and display his talent.

I would be remiss if I did not speak about Matt Incrontro's fantastic performance.

Jazz showcases put a lot of pressure on the saxophonist, and Incrontro was up for that challenge and more.

I'm sure everyone in the audience would agree with me when saying that we were enchanted.

His solos in “All or Nothing at All” and “American Tune”

(both Kurt Elling arrangements as well) were some of my personal favorites.

West was wonderful; he made a point of calling Fredonia his “second hometown,” which made sense, seeing how at home he seemed on the stage in King Concert Hall.

Being a younger performer, it was impressive how he was able to give away the stage when needed.

He allowed each musician their flowers and their opportunity to shine, despite standing in the front.

West also held a masterclass on tone and vowel shapes with this show; it was a true showcase of the practice that has gone into his passion.

A favorite moment of mine for West was in his performance of “Georgia on My Mind,” where his belt was both alluring and remarkable.

You may have noticed the abundance of Kurt Elling arrangements; West commented on this as well.

These arrangements were beautifully done, and as West said, “Why diversify the setlist if you love the setlist?” Pertaining to the setlist, I believe it was perfectly balanced.

It had your classic jazz tunes of “Old Devil Moon,” comedic arrangements such as “Benny's from Heaven” and even a jazzy rendition of “What's Going On?” by Marvin Gaye.

West also gave us a special performance of “New York State of Mind” as a callback to his impressive run on “The Voice,” Season 29.

Anything Weiser leads is an obvious must-see every time, but this night was something special.

While this show was unfortunately a one-time event, RAC makes it impossible to go too long without an exceptional performance to get “jazzed” about!

# Cory McCants speaks at Fredonia

**ANNIE GONDEK**

Special to The Leader

“I want you to think of George Washington like Captain America meets Micheal Jordan.”

On Sept. 16 — Constitution Day — Speaker Cory McCants described to the audience how the Constitution was formed.

He did this through quizzes, dance breaks and iconic comparisons to keep listeners engaged but also informed.

McCants explained his method like this: “It’s approaching it from a general point of like, I’m gonna walk you through it, but I am going to make it fun, and I am gonna explain things and give analogies and hopefully this is something everybody relates to.”

Some other familiar names he mentioned were Betty White, Bill Nye, Spider-Man and Kendrick Lamar.

“Another person in that room might have not known that Kendrick Lamar reference, but most of them even know James Baldwin, and if a college kid didn’t know James Baldwin, they know Kendrick Lamar.”

This sort of entertainment-centered approach to teaching comes from McCants’ background in performing.

McCants graduated from SUNY Niagara with a degree in

Musical Theatre. “My parents always told me, ‘You know we think you’d be a good teacher.’”

After a long list of job titles, he auditioned for a job with Buffalo Toronto Public Media (BTPM), not expecting to land it — but his background in entertainment, paired with his ability to blend it well with education, worked in his favor.

“It is almost doing a disservice if you don’t add that entertainment level,” he said. “Because that’s already what people love.”

BTPM is a broadcast organization that serves Western New York and Southern Ontario. They offer radio, television and streaming services and even broadcast PBS and NPR.

With BTPM, he hosts “Compact Civic and Compact History,” where he takes broad civic topics and educates others while making these topics fun.

This work led him to one of his biggest accomplishments: “Our show won a New York Emmy, which was really great.”

For McCants, however, the true reward is hearing that his words inspired others to the point where they want



ADP Table. Photo by MARS ARENSEN | Special to The Leader

to pass on what they’ve learned. Because, as he said, “No award can beat that.”

However, teaching history in today’s polarizing and controversial political climate isn’t easy. McCants focuses on framing his lessons around universal truths — statements that stand apart from political opinions.

He then invites the audience to reflect and ask: Is this working in our world today?

“If I can do that, it allows people to hear it, accept it and then bring their own conclusion to it. It’s not always easy, but that is the method I try to focus on.” This separates the political from the problem at hand.

To conclude his presentation, McCants compared our “rooms” — our friend groups, classrooms, workplaces, and social media feeds and the people we follow, listen to, and trust — to the room in Philadelphia where the U.S. Constitution was drafted.

“These are all in our own rooms,” he said.

McCants urged the crowd to protect the system we are under and remain engaged with it.

Just like earlier generations revised, challenged and amended the Constitution to shape it.

“Somebody standing somewhere else may be able to see something you can’t.”

Finally, he left the crowd with this challenge: “Don’t just celebrate Constitution Day by remembering the people who

are in the room,” he said. “Honor it by listening to the people who are outside of your room.”

He referred to “the room” as the Constitutional Convention where the people we consider our founding fathers voted on the constitution.

McCants pointed out that the room was filled with strictly white men and explained that’s why having the ability to amend and change the constitution is so important.

“The founding fathers didn’t know everything. That’s why they left the ability to change [the constitution] after,” McCants stated.

McCants wants people to consider who is in your room and listen to the people outside of your own room.

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ADP Table. Photo by MARS ARENSEN | Special to The Leader



# JOIN THE

# LEADER

## Join Our Team

### What we need

- ✓ Editors
- ✓ Photographers
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- ✓ Web editing/ designers
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- ✓ Layout designers

**Not seeing what you like, reach out! We always need the help**

### How to join

- ✓ Simply add your name to the email list and look at your email for meetings and opportunities!

### Email

[Leader@fredonia.edu](mailto:Leader@fredonia.edu)



# Activity night brings clubs together

**JILLIAN LAWSON**

Special to The Leader

A cacophony of talking, laughter and music. This is what happens when you put 120+ clubs together in Steele Hall.

It isn't just about recruitment; it's about getting students involved in hopes of finding their place here on campus.

You may be wondering, "Well, how do I know which club is right for me?"

Activities Night is all about finding that club to help make your college experience memorable. All of these clubs foster distinctive purposes and serve our campus in multifaceted ways.

As you walk through Steele Hall, you may feel overwhelmed by the line of tables advertising and recruiting you to their club, but this display shows just how passionate the clubs are.

Several students and executive board members expressed their enthusiasm and passion and shared how their clubs opened doors for networking and expressing individuality.

"Orchesis helped me branch out and allowed me to be myself. I never thought I would hold an executive board position, let alone be Vice President. It is such a fun and free environment where you are free to express yourself," said Sofia Lamana, a senior dance and psychology major.

"Blackhorse Rugby is a gateway to help find your friends and family. We are very lenient on new recruits. We appreciate it if you show up to practices, dip your toes in the water. There is so much history and traditions that go beyond this club and we have a great support system," said Ryan Blake, a junior accounting major.

The Student Government Association facilitated the event alongside the Career Development Office.

Some new clubs that made an appearance were Lyme Disease Club, Women's Club Softball, Lettuce Club, and Ski Club.

The Women's Softball Club displayed a blue poster and a special appearance by an eboard member's bunny named Gus. The club's president, Paige Maston, was adamant that people could pet the bunny only if they joined the club.

"Joining Club Softball is great for people wanting to continue sports after high school. It's a great avenue to help make friends and commit to being a part of a team," said Maston, a junior social work major.

"I love that Figure Skating Club is something that I created that can bring students together.

Even if you don't have a lot of skating experience or if you are a pro, regardless we take everyone," said Sarah Connors, a junior English education major.

Certain clubs can be dedicated to specific majors; however, anyone can join.

"We have a really fun program here in the Music Industry Club. It can help you market yourself while also learning the ins and outs of social media and event planning," said Keke Bernard, a junior strategic and professional communication major.

It doesn't matter how much experience you have or what major you are. Clubs want everyone involved to help keep and grow their legacy for future generations to come.

No matter what your major is, there is certainly a club at Fredonia for you.



Women's Blackhorse Rugby.  
Photo by **JILLIAN LAWSON** | Special to The Leader



Black Student Union.  
Photo by **JILLIAN LAWSON** | Special to The Leader

# Public media discussed its role in a democracy

**MARS ARENSEN**

Special to The Leader



**From Left to Right:** Elmer Ploetz and Keira Norton



**From Left to Right:** Mark Kiyak, Mike Igoe, Alex Bucknam, Tom Calderone, Jay Moran, Elmer Ploetz and Keira Norton



**From Left to Right:** Mike Igoe, Alex Bucknam, Tom Calderone and Jay Moran



**From Left to Right:** Mark Kiyak, Mike Igoe, Alex Bucknam and Tom Calderone

***Alex Bucknam depicted in the photos is the Editor in Chief of The Leader***

# FLI takes flight with new leadership

**CHARLIE BERGERON**

Special to The Leader

In the absence of SUNY Fredonia's Leadership Studies program, a previously offered minor, a new series of co-curricular workshops hopes to offer similar skills to students.

This semester, Fredonia's Associate Director of Residence Life Kevin Hahn and Director of Campus Life Mark Suida have launched FLI.

Fredonia Leadership Institute, or FLI — pronounced “fly” — is a series of workshops with varying topics all relating to the complexities of leadership.

These workshops are not just lecture-based; they include different guest speakers at each “FLing Lesson,” as well as hands-on activities and reflections during each session.

“The idea is to present content, do something interactive and then debrief about it,” Hahn said. “Things can usually be interpreted in many different ways, so we want to make what the presenter is presenting make sense for whatever folks are in the room.”

Along with the range of activities and speakers within each session, there will also be different topics at each event.

“Leadership is interdisciplinary,” Suida said. “So, we can pull from a lot of different fields, a lot of different topics and a lot of different presenters.”

Hahn and Suida agree that leadership is a complicated concept. FLI offers many ways to approach leadership and many different opportunities for not only students to learn from the “FLing lessons,” but also to learn from one another as well.

“I know that I’m going to learn things from the students who are attending — kind of by osmosis, almost,” Hahn said. “I think in a way, it’s also professional development for me, which is also really important!”

Suida and Hahn have spent about a year organizing and putting all sorts of different feelers out about FLI, seeking feedback from not only potential “pilots” (guest speakers at FLI sessions), but also from several student groups, including the Student Government Association.

“We reached out to a bunch of different groups, telling [them] about the idea of FLI and asking if we could come in and do a pitch,” Hahn said. “I would say a lot of the ideas we got from workshops we’ll be doing came from those conversations.”

Though FLI has been in the works since before the Leadership Minor was cut, Hahn and Suida hope the workshops can help students who now don’t have the chance to take on the minor can learn some of the skills it offers.

They also hope that FLI could potentially reach students who may not have had the time or the interest in taking on the minor.

“We do think this initiative is filling a gap on campus because it’s available and open to anyone on campus,” said Hahn.

Filling the gap left behind by Leadership Studies isn’t the only thing that Hahn and Suida believe should motivate students to show up to a FLing lesson.

“I think the other thing students should keep in mind is that you can make some friends and grow with some like-minded people,” Suida said. “It’s an opportunity to expand your network beyond who you may see in classes every week, and to learn from other people.”

Participating in FLI not only gives students the opportunity to gain leadership skills and potentially expand their network, but also to earn “digital badges.”

These digital badges give students a token of the work they complete by attending FLI sessions and can easily be connected to their LinkedIn account or even added to their résumé.

You will receive a digital badge after attending three FLing lessons, and you can collect as many as possible throughout each semester. They are administered after every three FLI events you attend.

FLI covers a broad range of topics, and a few coming up this semester are “Task List Paralysis and Time Management,” piloted by staff from Reed Library; “Budgeting and Spending,” piloted by Dr. Lisa Walters, who is the interim Dean of the School of Business; and “Self-Care and Stress Release,” piloted by Counseling Center staff.

Those are just three out of seven FLing lessons left this semester. Be sure to register for FLI on their page at fredonia.edu.



Mark Suida. Photo by Marketing and Communications

# SPORTS

## Andrew Volpe's Double Life: Student and Coach

**JACK HOADLEY**  
Sports Editor

Imagine everything you already do throughout your day as a college student or think back to how busy you were in college.

Now imagine if you had to factor in being a coach on a collegiate tennis team into that schedule, all while planning your post-graduation plans.

That is the life of Fredonia senior Andrew Volpe, who has taken a unique route to fill up his Fall schedule before he graduates in the winter.

Volpe began studying at Fredonia in the Spring of 2024, so by the time he became an assistant coach, he had plenty of experience on campus.

He began his position in the Fall of 2025, giving him more than enough time on campus to be a valuable resource for new members of the team.

Volpe was vocal about how he sees himself more as a resource than anything else, emphasizing that no one on the team needs to be taught.

He believes his role was a great opportunity to “meet more people and to give some guidance to new players.”

It is an interesting crux between peer and coach that Volpe occupies, but he believes the even level allows support to go both ways.

Volpe, who is also president of Fredonia's Club Tennis team, has seen players from the varsity team support him at the club matches occasionally.

It is clear that the presence of someone viewed as a peer on the coaching staff has been valuable to both Volpe and the team.

Volpe's actual role comes from being an experienced tennis player in his own right, as he matches up against players often to give them someone competent to go against.

This simulates a match day experience which is needed for a sport like tennis, which Volpe describes as mostly mental.

“You can go out there with all the tools in your toolbox, but if you don't want to win, you aren't going to.”

In particular, Volpe says that grit and a drive for success are key parts of being part of a collegiate team, especially with a shorter season.

The team has seven matches remaining, needing at least two conference wins to secure a spot in SUNYACS before the season ends.



Andrew Volpe on the tennis court.

**Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD** | Sports Photographer

Volpe is also a huge participant of Intramurals, as well as the president of the Spike Ball Club here at Fredonia.

His devotion to athletics and competition makes him an ideal candidate to coach or assist any team, but especially considering his aptitude for tennis.

Volpe also has a job on campus as a tour guide, where he can familiarize new students and himself with the campus.

This helps, as Volpe believes that working as a tour guide allows for connecting with new people or new players much more easily.

Throughout his time with the team, Volpe said his proudest moment came when the team collected a big win against Houghton earlier this season.

“It was a big win. We have a strong team this season, a lot of returning players...it was great to see improvement over the past year, especially culminating in a win like that.”

The team, as previously mentioned, has put itself in a strong spot to make the SUNYACS and beyond this season.

As Volpe's time at Fredonia and with the team comes to a close, he hopes to see a successful push late in the postseason.

The team will travel to play St. John Fisher and Plattsburgh before returning home Wednesday, Sept. 23 to play Penn St. Behrend.

Please join Volpe in supporting the team during the season as they zero in on a SUNYAC appearance for the first time since the Spring of 2021.

# Bills are back, better than ever?

**JACK HOADLEY**

Sports Editor

Well, the NFL season is in full swing as week two comes and goes, but no fanbase feels better than Western New Yorkers right now.

The 2-0 Buffalo Bills have been nothing short of spectacular since kicking off in Houston just a week or so ago.

The greatest show on grass is an appropriate term for this team, even if most of the fireworks are ignited by Josh Allen.

Starting in Houston, Allen was simply undeniable after accounting for four touchdowns against a defense widely considered to be elite by NFL fans and analysts.

As an impartial watcher, I was nothing short of shocked to see just how efficiently the Bills looked and operated on offense.

Allen was patient, and consistently delivered when his defense couldn't, up until the end of the game, when a turnover force ended it and won Buffalo their first game of the season.

This was a major win for the Bills, as Houston had always been a major issue for them, particularly when playing in Texas.

I saw this as a Joe Brady statement game after many (including myself) considered the hire to be a lateral move at best.

But as much as this could be an overreaction, the combination of Brady's offense with new defensive coordinator Jim Leonard's defense is strong.

Though the defense has had a shaky start to the season, it has continued to perform when it matters, and growing pains are eminent with a new defensive scheme.

Combining this major win with the long-awaited reveal of the new stadium in Buffalo, Thursday night was guaranteed to be special.

Even leading up to the game, I insisted that there was simply no way the Bills dropped this game.

Detroit knew it, the fans knew it, and after last night, it was clear the Bills knew it too.

In every way Thursday night, the Bills dominated the Lions, never allowing them to claw back into the game.

Josh Allen accounted for five touchdowns, four of which were before the Bills even went to half time.

As if the energy wasn't enough, Detroit's defense looking poor week 1 set the table for an offensive master class in front of the new stadiums sold out crowd.

Apart from the injury to DJ Moore, Buffalo fans had only things to smile about after dropping 41 points on Detroit in a ten-point win.

But where does Buffalo go from here with the Chargers being their next opponent?

I think the main questions for this team again fall with the defense as through two games they have allowed thirty points both times.

While it is a small sample size, the defense will have to get

much better, and soon, as the road doesn't get much easier for Buffalo.

You cannot expect perfect play from Josh Allen the entire season; it could get rocky if the offense cools down.

Nine touchdowns in two games from your quarterback is always welcomed, but the defense has to do a better job of creating more room for error from the offense.

Another point of issue may come from the team's lack of depth in some key positions.

Both the edge and cornerback rooms are lacking depth, and the secondary isn't exactly holding up as it is.

Despite Jared Goff looking less than stellar, he still managed to throw for over 300 yards and four touchdowns.

This isn't comforting for the Bills, as they will play three strong offenses over the next three games.

Hope to see this defense grow with time in a new scheme, especially considering Buffalo is trying to make major history this season.

Teams with new head coaches haven't won a Super Bowl since 1989, a streak that Joe Brady hopes to end, with little room for error.

It's much too early to panic, and far more warranted to celebrate these first two games.

Buffalo could have a major lead in the AFC east in just week two, with some help from those playing their division rivals.

Ultimately, it's a great season to be all in on the Bills, and while some of this is very similar to last year, there is a lot of hope that this team will only get better.

We are definitely still at the wait and see aspect of this season, but while I'm waiting, all I can see in Buffalo is a very successful foundation.



James Cook III gets up after a run.  
image property of the Buffalo Bills

# New blood and old memories

**VIKTOR FENESS**

Special to The Leader

Electronic sports (Esports) have become increasingly popular since the COVID-19 pandemic. SUNY Fredonia decided to officially dip its toes into Esports in the Fall 2024 semester, starting with a total roster of 48 student-athletes across seven titles.

In the past few years of Esports' official existence as a program, the sport has increased its player base exponentially.

The official Fredonia Esports page states the metric of "75 student athletes competing in 15 different titles." However, the program has grown since that metric was given.

The current metric, as of the Fall 2026 season, is around 143 members spanning the same 15 titles, making the athlete count nearly double. This metric was taken from the official SUNY Esports Competition Bracket. This is especially true for the "Overwatch 2" teams, as last semester they had a player count of 12 across two teams, which rose to 27 across four teams. This was despite multiple longtime members stepping down and "passing the torch to newer players."

One new player in this capacity is Joshua Smith, a sophomore at Fredonia who's playing on "Overwatch" Team Blue. Last semester, he was a player, and now he's the co-captain of his team.

When interviewed about his thoughts on the increased player base, he said, "I think it's actually a good thing to have new people joining esports, although I wish we had more time to settle things and organize teams better." When asked about his hopes for this semester of competition, he said, "The previous season was a lot of fun, and I have hopes this will be just as fun if not more, now that I'm more comfortable in this environment." He also said, "Honestly, I'm hoping we do roughly as well as last semester [where] we managed to place 4th in our ECAC division." With the increase in players, however, the esports program has encountered its fair share of problems. These problems pertain to the logistics behind team creation, as well as a lack of traditional "tryouts" for players looking to get into competing for their school.

Smith, pertaining to this issue said, "I think it would be great if we would be able to do tryouts again if we get another overflow of players, just so we can truly figure out where people should go instead of practically a draft." He expressed his hope for a smoother transition into the coming semesters.

Devin Delfox is Fredonia's newly appointed captain of "Overwatch" Team Black. He is looking forward to the current season, with it being his first in regards to captaining.

Delfox, in reference to his hopes for the season, said, "In hopes of playing this semester, I want to see everyone improve while I get to improve alongside them. I'm looking forward to competing with the new players because it allows for adaptability, and we can learn from one another while creating new experiences each time."

Along with newcomers to the esports program, there are a few graduates and individuals who have stepped away. One is Jackson Caine, who left "Overwatch" Team White after being a founding member in its inception in 2024.

Caine was the head coach, as well as the team captain, for Team White. He chose to step down to focus on his senior year at Fredonia, passing the torch of head captain to senior Nick Pashelle.

Caine, when asked about his time in the esports scene, said, "I'm always going to be reminiscing about last season. I don't think it will be my last; I can see myself coming back and competing with this group or another. But the Fredonia "Overwatch" team was so special to me, and last season's success left me with a sense of satisfaction."

He continued, saying, "When I was younger, I wanted to compete in tournaments with a team that was as driven as me, and I got to experience that for the past 2.5 years. As corny as it sounds, it was a dream come true."

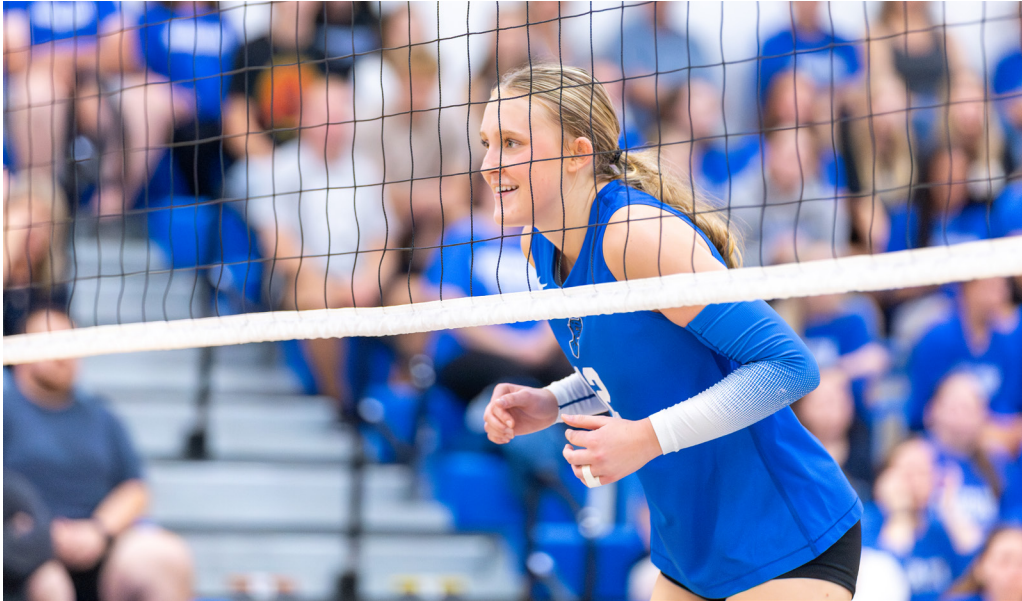
"At our level of competition there needs to be better regulations for team placements/team tiers and there needs to be more coaching resources available. He continued, "This level is also the level that needs coaching the most and has the least resources. Most coaches have a charge for getting their insight, and unless teams have a budget to bring these people in, it's very hard to consistently improve."

As Fredonia Esports continues to grow, the program finds itself in a period of growth as well as transition. New players are stepping into a competitive scene, while longtime members, such as Caine and others, are beginning to step away, leaving behind experiences that shaped the program.

As players step away, a new generation is eager to take its place. For Fredonia Esports, the next chapter may already be underway; and with almost double the number of players since the previous season, there are plenty of memories to be made.

# Fredonia athletics already underway

**TRAVIS BERNHARD**  
Sports Photographer



**Fredonia #12 Donnilynn Sheldon**



**Fredonia #10 Kylie O'Brien**

# With the start of a new academic year



**Fredonia #14 Thomas Polek**



**Fredonia #21 Makayla Stainbrook**

## The midterms: what's at stake

**RYFI**

Special to The Leader

With the presidential election well and truly in the past, we now face a more important election — The Midterms.

The Midterms this time around will be historic, and very important; especially to students. It is imperative to know why you need to get out and vote this election season.

There are several core issues and questions that will be answered depending on the result of this midterm. This midterm will determine health rights, LGBTQ rights, women's rights, what happens with AI, what happens with education, if the war in Iran will continue, where the cost of living for the average American will go and what will happen with the president and the federal branch of Government.

Democrats are preparing for a scathing investigation into the Trump Administration; if they regain control of the House of Representatives in November.

This investigation, according to conversations with Democratic Lawmakers, and aides given to CNN, will seek to address the war in Iran, the White House ballroom project slated to cost \$600 million when complete, as well as the handling of the Epstein files.

We must hold our politicians accountable, and this investigation would be the best way to do so.

As of the writing of this article, the war in Iran is still underway, as well as the ballroom project.

The war in Iran has been going on for six months, with 19 soldiers killed on the U.S. side while 3,528 people on Iran's side have been killed.

Estimates in late August from the Center for Strategic and International Studies have placed the total cost of the war from \$34 billion to \$42 billion. This tracks with the estimate from Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth of \$37.5 billion.

However, these numbers are from August, with the highest estimates within the last month from other sources being over \$100 billion.

The price of gas because of the war is directly affecting students at Fredonia, as the price of gas at the nearest gas station to campus, Crosby's, is \$4.40 per gallon. This compares to the \$3.00 per gallon that gas was before the war.

This war is directly affecting how much money you have, and how much money you need to spend.

The ballroom is being fought in court, with lawmakers questioning its legality and its construction. The ballroom will also

cost taxpayers, with approximately \$300 million coming from taxpayers, according to a report by The Washington Post.

Many have seen the ballroom as a distraction from another key issue that will be addressed in this election; that being the release of The Epstein Files.

Of the almost 6 million pages that the Department of Justice reviewed, 3.5 million of those pages are now available to the public. They were fully released a month after the deadline to release them.

There are no future plans to release the rest of the Epstein files. This has caused controversy, especially with victims who both want more to be released, and who have had their personal information revealed to the public because of the botched release of the files.

If Democrats win, the files and the nature of their release will be investigated, along with Trump's role in the files. This is supported by CNN's coverage of what Democrats will do if they win the midterms, with legislators already working on plans to investigate.

If Republicans win, the investigation into the Epstein Files will likely not happen.

According to Votehub.com, a nonpartisan independent political media organization which uses Polls to determine races, Democrats have an 82% chance of winning the house as of today.

The Senate is a much closer race, with Democrats only holding a 52% chance of controlling the senate.

The Democrats are at a different place than they were at the start of this Presidency, especially with the election of the New York City Mayor, Zohran Mamdani.

Mamdani's election was closely watched by both parties. His victory was not only historic, being the first Muslim mayor of New York City, but also showed that many people want more progressive policies.

Mamdani is a Democratic Socialist under the flag of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). While this has been used against him, his election has led to an increase in membership, with the party rising to 120,000 members in July, growing from 24,000 in 2017, according to data from the DSA.

This has led to more socialist campaigns entering the lime-light, and being important in elections this cycle.

While Mandani has won, other democrats, such as Abdul El-Sayed of Michigan, James Talarico of Texas and David Jolly of Florida have big fights ahead of them.

There is also the issue of Artificial Intelligence. AI has already had major usage in this election and in daily life.

From making deepfake smear campaigns to generating art compiled from human artists, from giving you five ways to drink water to consuming more water than needed for data centers, it is very much a hot button issue of this election.

If Democrats win, there will be more regulations on both AI and data centers. If republicans win, there will be less regulations on AI, with one of the only benefits being more money going into AI.

One of the most important statistics for this election is the approval ratings of the President, which, as of writing, is 35%, according to CNN.

At a midterm event that was held on Sept. 10, the president asked those who were standing in the audience to raise their right hands.

He continued to lead the audience in a pledge to vote for republicans in these upcoming elections.

In the climax of this, he said to his audience that he's "going to try and cheat like hell, like they do."

This also tracks with his pledge to give every US adult \$5,000 if the GOP wins the midterms.

That dividend would cost American taxpayers an estimated \$1.23 Trillion, according to Associated Press. This proposal would also need to be approved by Congress.

These two things, along with how President Trump handled the 2020 elections, and his term this time around, proves to the American people that we need progress in a different direction.

Trump is seeking to win the midterms through bribery and cheating; underhanded tactics and smear campaigns. Trump is a convicted felon, and has made the country more inhospitable, through a war in Iran and campaigns that only seek to benefit

the one percent.

Despite a clear line of advocates fighting for free and fair elections, Tech Corporations, in tandem with the Trump Administration, are making it harder for Americans to vote in their own interests.

The way our country is headed, we are looking at an administration removing funding and structure for education and healthcare and making it harder for the average American to live, all while increasing surveillance through flock cameras and other corporations.

There is a flock camera on the way off campus. It is already affecting you. It is tracking you every time you leave and enter campus — keeping tabs on your whereabouts. While you may have no issue with being tracked, Flock cameras have been involved in several wrongful arrests and have been involved in stalking cases with police specifically.

The car you use to drive to work? Don't think about getting gas anytime soon.

Student Loans? You'll be drowning in debt with no forgiveness anytime soon.

Your major might get cut by this school because the school doesn't have enough funding.

This Midterm cycle could very well change the trajectory of the United States, for better or for worse.

The Progress we make as Americans is determined by how we act and how much we put into making our country ours.

With that being said, I'm fighting by encouraging you as the reader to go out and vote and voting myself.

You want to make a change? Vote and fight for the change you want to see in the world.

Midterm Election Day is Nov 3.

Go to <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/> and find your closest polling booth or request a mail in ballot.



President Donald J. Trump meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. **Photo courtesy of White House**

# Lovercolumn: Yays and nays of dating

## **HIFIDELITY**

Lovercall Producer

## **HOUSE HUSBAND**

Lovercall Producer

## **BUMBLEBEE**

Lovercall Producer



Hello!

We are HiFidelity, The House Husband, and Bumblebee: producers and hosts of the radio show Lovercall, right here at Fredonia. Lovercall is an anonymous late-night talk show about love, relationships and more. Students who are guests on the show use codenames to protect their identities when discussing potentially personal topics, hence the codenames of the writers of this column. This is your reminder that none of the hosts or guests are professionals, and everything stated is based on personal experiences.

“HiFidelity” is a 19-year-old genderfluid man who uses he/they pronouns and is a sophomore at Fredonia.

“The House Husband” is a 20-year-old cisgender man who uses he/him pronouns and is a junior at Fredonia.

“Bumblebee” is a 20-year-old questioning person who uses he/she/they pronouns and is a junior at Fredonia.

On each episode, the hosts and guests of Lovercall participate in a variety of segments. The cast discusses a relevant news story, a date idea, a wacky game and a main topic for the episode.

Listeners can submit their questions or seek advice either via Fredonia Radio’s Instagram, @fredonia\_radio, on Yik-Yak, or through the QR code provided in this column.

We answer your questions live on the radio, then add them to this column in case you missed the episode.

The show will broadcast weekly throughout the semester on Wednesday nights from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. on WDWL 89.5 on [www.fredoniaradio.com](http://www.fredoniaradio.com).

This column runs in conjunction with Lovercall and can be found in print and online at [fredonialeader.org](http://fredonialeader.org).

Date idea of the week:

We hope to provide fellow students with a fun and unique date idea in every episode. These date ideas aren’t just for romantic partners — you could go with your friends, classmates or can even go solo for a fun activity in Fredonia.

For this week’s date idea, we’re going to get a bit seasonal and go to a farm while it’s still a bit warm!

Whether you’re a city person or not, the farm has so many activities for everyone to enjoy!

You can go pet animals like chickens, goats, maybe bun-

nies, and more!

If animals aren’t your date’s thing or yours, you can try other things like picking fruit!

Right now is the prime time for picking apples, grapes, and even some early pumpkins, which is a great excuse to make an apple pie together after the date or even on the next date.

Not only that but, if you wait a week or so, the leaves might be changing color, leading to a photography date!

This is the kind of date where you can plan every detail, or even just go with the flow, depending on what you and your date want.

Just keep in mind that this date is supposed to be fun for both of you, and you can feel free to act like yourself.

Just remember to wear something that you’re willing to get some dirt on, though!

Yays and Nays of Dating

There are a ton of Yays and Nays of dating. On our first episode, we discussed what we personally look for in a partner and what we DON’T look for in a partner!

From hygiene to talking about exes, we on the show gave it a yay or nay. Please know that these were just our opinions on the show and that someone’s yays may be your nays, and these are just our pointers.

We here at Lovercall want you to love at your best, so here are OUR yays and nays of dating:

### **SMELLING GOOD: YAY**

Everybody loves a good scent, especially on the person they like. Whether it be a good cologne or perfume, a scent can instantly make someone fall in love... with the smell, at least.

Scientists have long studied the effects of scents and attraction and have theorized that humans have certain pheromones that attract other humans, and so do the fragrances that are used in cologne and perfume. While scientists continue to study this, we say that smelling good and attracting the love you seek doesn't only mean putting on some cologne; it also means...

### **GOOD HYGIENE: YAY**

Brushing your teeth, applying deodorant, and most importantly, **TAKING A SHOWER**. These things not only make your lover see you as a hygienic person but makes **YOU** clean.

According to Northeastern Center, a Mental Health Center in Indiana, good hygiene boosts self-esteem and confidence, prevents feelings of isolation, and reduces stress and anxiety.

Good hygiene not only makes you cleaner but gives you the confidence and self-esteem to be in love. Just remember: there ISN'T one more shower until New Year's.

### **TALKING ABOUT AN EX: NAY**

Especially on the first date, we recommend **NOT** talking about your ex. Talking about exes, especially when around your partner, could give the impression to your date that you're not over your ex.

Obviously, there are circumstances in which it is more than okay to talk about your ex, but we here at Lovercall recommend not making it a chat for the first cup of tea.

### **CATFISHING: NAY**

Remember, you are beautiful just the way you are. We recommend that you don't show a date a version of yourself that isn't real, because then what you will have with them won't be real. When using dating apps, try to find more recent photos that depict you as who you are now.

Don't deliberately look for pictures from when you were younger, as you might give the person interested in you the wrong impression of who you are now. It'll be especially awkward if you meet your date in real life.

To be confident in yourself now is to be confident in your ability to be with another person. If you need to work on yourself, go right ahead! But part of the process of loving others is loving yourself.

While we say that these are our Yays and Nays, we are not professionals, and only students who are going through the same things you may be. Please be careful in your endeavors of love, and relationships, and remember; when going through a relationship, there is always the option of "Yay" and the option of "Nay."

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

Interested in being a guest on Lovercall? Email [Codd2738@Fredonia.edu](mailto:Codd2738@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.

***HiFidelity" "The House Husband" and "Bumblebee" are members of Fredonia Radio Systems and are involved in the production of Lovercall.***



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

**Every printing Tuesday at  
7 pm In The Leader Office!  
S206 Willam Center**



# Freshman and upperclassmen preceptive on campus climate

**FRED EMERSON**

Special to The Leader

Freshman year of college can make SUNY Fredonia feel massive. But for some students, what once felt unfamiliar and expansive, can become smaller and more routine, leaving them with more time to notice things they hadn't before, and not all are pleasant.

For some upperclassmen, the novelty of Fredonia has worn off. What once felt large and unfamiliar can start to look smaller; more worn and more limited.

Aging buildings, closed spaces, cleanliness problems and concerns about growing competition for shrinking resources have become harder for some students to ignore.

Behind both perspectives is a university going through significant financial and academic changes, leaving students to experience those changes in very different ways.

The students who have been here the shortest amount of time can still see plenty to like.

Aislyn O'Mally, a freshman, said that while Fredonia's campus is small, events and activities keep it from becoming boring.

Anna Lauger, another freshman, was surprised by how much nature surrounds the campus, particularly the greenery and wildlife.

What once looked like a large campus can look considerably different once students start noticing what is closed, what is poorly maintained and what has simply been painted over.

Ezra Dillon said they loved the campus when they first got here, but that feeling did not stick around. "I think the administration is really out of touch with the students and what the culture is here," Ezra said.

They also said the university often takes the path of least resistance, with a pretty literal example: "They painted over a hair on my wall from whoever lived here last."

Pierce Changheng compared Fredonia with other colleges he toured, pointing to Farmingdale's large garden while describing Fredonia's as "kind of crappy."

The campus can also feel more intense in certain places, he said, particularly around Mason Hall and the Rockefeller Arts Center.

Pierce attributed that atmosphere to competition among students, saying some areas feel more "on edge" than others.

But not every upperclassman sees the smaller campus as a problem.

Christian Meade said Fredonia initially felt "big and unfamiliar," but the ACE program helped them find their footing, make friends and settle into campus life. Instead of making the campus feel smaller, that familiarity made it feel more manageable.

Joseph Farinacci, another junior, sees Fredonia's smaller size as an advantage.

He described the campus as "small, but with room to grow," and said smaller classrooms give students more opportunities to connect with professors than they would in a large lecture hall. He also praised the campus counseling center, though he called student engagement and food service "lackluster."

Despite all the complaints, students did not describe SUNY Fredonia as a total hellscape. The same students who criticized parts of campus still pointed to things worth keeping activities, nature, the ACE program and smaller classrooms. Even Ezra, despite their criticism of the university's upkeep, said they loved Fredonia when they first arrived.

So, what has changed? Did the campus actually stop being so special, or did it just stop being so shiny and new? To a freshman, a walk to Rockefeller can still feel like an adventure. To a junior, it's just another walk to the art building.

Maybe the rose-colored glasses just aren't working like they used to.

There may be a little bit of both. Fredonia's changing campus is not entirely a matter of perception.

The university has been dealing with a long-standing structural deficit, and has reacted with program cuts, staffing reductions and other changes intended to bring spending more in line with enrollment and revenue.

Students have watched programs disappear, staff positions change and spaces become unavailable. Whatever role familiarity plays, Fredonia's campus and the institution behind it are changing.

The university has said these changes are part of an effort to make Fredonia financially sustainable, with a goal of eliminating the structural deficit by 2029.

In May 2026, the university announced that ten undergraduate and four graduate programs had been identified for discontinuation. Fredonia also emphasized that it continues to add or expand programs in areas where it sees stronger demand as it works toward reducing the numbers behind the deficit.

But students do not experience the deficit as a number. They see the deficit in classrooms, offices, programs and the campus they live in every day.

Administrators may see a number on a balance sheet, but students see the professor who is gone, the program that was cut, the building that is closed or the service that no longer works the way it used to.

# THE SCALLION



## Confessions from the campus spider

**AVA-CLAIRE BORING**

Scallion Editor

Have you ever been walking to class and felt like you just walked through a spider's web? Many people think they are exactly that — a spider — but this is actually the silk thread produced by an Oak Leaf-tier, me! In this article, I'm giving the inside scoop and exposing my species, which will become the main topic of this year's Thanksgiving family argument. Sorry, fam.

Many may be reading to see if I'll answer the age-old question... "Why do I keep walking through these damn silk threads?!" Don't worry — your question, and many more, will be answered in this tell-all article.

The title of this article may be misleading... I'm not a spider, though I do produce silk! I'm just not a worm. I'm a caterpillar, and I will become a moth. Maybe not a conventionally pretty moth, like the atlas moth or luna moth, but you'll probably see me swarming around a streetlamp in about a week, so look out for me!

Some people think I'd get offended by students thinking I make the "spider webs." It doesn't bother me anymore. In fact, I find it quite flattering that people think I'm so cool and intimidating.

I get it; it's confusing why a little caterpillar like myself would wander up into a tree, especially since most people see caterpillars low to the ground, on a plant, or that one time drowned at the bottom of your aunt's pool. In reality, I will spend most of my life in a tree! See, my mom laid me inside

some oak tree bark. I stayed inside my egg over the entire winter (Brr!!! These Fredonia winters are nothing to play about!) and emerged sometime in the spring. The reason there's "oak" in my name is that my host plant is oak tree buds and leaves. I swear, the first time I tasted my first oak leaf, I swore I'd never eat anything different ever again. And that's the truth! We just won't talk about when I ate my eggshell shortly after hatching... desperate times, man. Desperate times.

Now, to answer the question everybody asks. "If you live in the trees, why are you dispensing your thread into my handsome face??" Here's the truth: in the fall, Fredonia gets pretty windy. And rainy. And sometimes snowy. I sense disturbances like wind, rain, snow and predators like birds. Towards the end of summer, we drop down from trees because of a disturbance, or because we need to pupate. Let's get one thing straight... It's nothing personal. In fact, you guys are kinda getting in MY way.

When it's time to pupate, or go inside my cocoon, I will spin a silky thread from my body and pupate in some leaf litter. That means it's the end of my caterpillar larval stage, and in my next stage I will look completely different. Don't say anything about it, though; I might be a little insecure at first.

That was a lot. Now, your favorite part about coming back to school is finally explained! So, the next time you think you walked into a spider web, you can tell your friends all of your newly learned knowledge, and they will be very impressed. Oak Leaf-tier knowledge is also very attractive to the ladies — it's foolproof.



# Quiz: What type of music are you?

**PAIGE TAYLOR**

Special to The Leader

**Question 1: Pick a musician you want to see live.**

- A.) Taylor Swift
- B.) Foo Fighters
- C.) Drake
- D.) Ella Langley

**Question 2: Where is the best place to listen to music?**

- A.) Blasting in the car
- B.) At a concert
- C.) At the club
- D.) On the front porch

**Question 3: What is your favorite genre?**

- A.) Jazz
- B.) Alternative
- C.) Reggae
- D.) Folk

**Question 4: Pick an instrument.**

- A.) Keyboard.
- B.) Electric guitar
- C.) Turntable
- D.) Banjo

**Question 5: What is your style like?**

- A.) You're always up to date on current trends
- B.) You rock an alternative style
- C.) Baggy jeans and a fresh pair of sneakers.
- D.) A pair of boots and your best cowboy hat

**Question 6: Pick a TV show.**

- A.) Georgie and Mandy's First Marriage
- B.) Stranger Things
- C.) Euphoria
- D.) Yellowstone

**Question 7: Which decade had the best music?**

- A.) The 00s
- B.) The 80s
- C.) The 10s
- D.) The 90s

**Question 8: What is your least favorite genre?**

- A.) Punk
- B.) Classical
- C.) Country
- D.) Rap

**Question 9: What is your playlist like?**

- A.) Fun
- B.) Moody
- C.) Energetic
- D.) Relaxing

**Question 10: How do you listen to your favorite songs?**

- A.) CD's
- B.) Cassette
- C.) streaming
- D.) Vinyl

**If you picked mostly A's: You are Pop.**

It's Popular music for a reason! And just like pop, you're easy going and everyone likes you. You're unforgettable just like that catchy melody stuck in everybody's head! You keep the vibes up and you'll never go out of style!

**If you picked mostly B's: You are Rock.**

You probably have a problem with authority and a great head of hair. You know that classics are classics for a reason, and your favorite band is so obscure — their moms don't even know they exist! Keep on rocking, you rebel! It was never a phase!

**If you picked mostly C's: You are Hip-hop.**

You don't just set the culture — you are the culture. You know what's cool long before everybody else, you're just waiting for them to catch up. So don't be afraid to drop that beat, somebody's got to get the party started!

**If you picked mostly D's: You are Country.**

You like to keep things old school. You live life a little slower, and you like it that way. So, grab yourself a glass of sweet tea and sit a spell. That porch swing ain't gonna swing itself!

**WANT TO WRITE  
SILLY STUFF?**

**BECOME A WRITER FOR  
THE SCALLION!**

**EMAIL  
BORI6299@FREDONIA.EDU  
IF INTERESTED**

# HOROS

**AVA-CLAIRE BORING**

Totally qualified

What does your pop culture moment say about you based on your zodiac sign? If you're unfamiliar with a pop culture moment, I advise you to look it up. I picked my favorites.

Did you like what you read? Do you know the signs better than me? Would you like to write the horoscopes? Reach out to [leader@fredonia.edu](mailto:leader@fredonia.edu) with ideas of what the next horoscope should be about or if you want to write!



**Aries**

**“Let me ask the audience”**

Sometimes you can't help but let a little attitude slip through, even in situations where you're supposed to be professional. You have a zero-tolerance policy for stupid people. My advice to you this week: be kind even to the dumb people... they can't help it.



**Taurus**

**“Do you wear wigs?” Interview**

You're the “really loud laughter at any restaurant” friend. You have strangers leaning into each other and whispering “it couldn't have been THAT funny” whenever you're around. My advice to you this week: pipe down... we're trying to eat in peace.



**Gemini**

**Nikkie Tutorials new hair color**

You are never in a state of being the same! You love change — whether it's physical or environmental, you're on board. You tend to get upset when someone doesn't notice that you got your cartilage pierced, though. My advice this week: be a little less sensitive.



**Cancer**

**“Clap if you care”**

You're the type of friend to ask for everybody's advice on a situation and then just end up doing your own thing. You love getting constructive criticism... and then not taking it. My advice to you this week: keep doing your own thing.



**Leo**

**Katy Perry's nickelodeon slime incident**

You love to be the best-dressed person in the room. If there's an occasion you must attend, you WILL be overdressed — and there's nothing wrong with that! My advice to you this week: pack a Tide To Go stick...



**Virgo**

**“And who set that system up?” Debate**

You're the voice of reason. You love to be right, and once you hear something you don't quite agree with, you can't let it go. You live by the phrase “keep your friends close and your enemies closer.” My advice this week: continue to stand up for what you believe in.

# COOPES



## Libra

**“I think we all sing” Victoria Justice moment**

You are just bursting with creativity. You will always jump at the chance to create, and your friends are the same way. You always find a way to make something out of nothing. My advice to you this week: journal before bed every day this week.



## Scorpio

**Fergie’s National Anthem fail**

Sometimes you find yourself dwelling on the past. You’re kept up at night thinking about something embarrassing you did in middle school. You often get striking flashbacks of the time you were pantsed in high school. My advice this week: to be cringe is to be free.



## Sagittarius

**Zendaya’s hat**

You like to keep things undercover. You’re constantly searching for an answer. Someone is asking why you’re so secretive? Good... let’s keep it that way. My advice to you this week: trust nobody!



## Capricorn

**“Bacon, bacon, bacon.”**

You tend to be the tech-savvy brainiac of all of your peers. Grandma’s computer isn’t working? Unplug and plug it back in! My advice to you this week: unplug.



## Aquarius

**Fergie cartwheels on stage at 9 a.m. on the Today Show**

Sometimes, you do the absolute most. You tend to be the life of the party — constantly bringing the energy no matter what the situation. My advice to you this week: slow down and take a walk.



## Pisces

**Nina, Fish Girl**

You like to keep it humble. You’re a soft underlying voice in a conversation: setting the tone is crucial in every conversation. My advice to you this week: speak up every now and then.

