

THE

LEADER

SUNY FREDONIA'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER

10.20.2026
Issue 3
Volume CXLII



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Front Cover: Senior Gabbi Farr locked in for the ball setting up at the baseline during a doubles match against Alfred University on Sep. 29, 2026. Photo by **TRAVIS BERNHARD**|Sports Photographer. **Back Cover:** Carrie: The Musical cast. **Photo by SAM HEBERT**| Photo Editor

S206 Williams Center
Fredonia, NY 14063

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"Life is like a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving."- Albert Einstein

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Nation facing a mid-term test

MARS-JUNO SMOTHERGILL
DEI Chair

With the midterm elections coming up in mere weeks, it's important to know how to vote while away at school, or how to even begin to register in the first place. "One of the most important things students can do is make a voting plan," says Dr. Angela McGowan-Kirsch, chair of Fredonia's American Democracy Project (ADP) and Associate Professor in the Communication Department.

"That means checking their voter registration status, knowing the registration deadlines, finding out where and how they can vote and learning about the candidates and issues on their ballot," McGowan-Kirsch stated.

According to the Department of Motor Vehicles, if you consented to being automatically registered to vote while applying for your driver's permit or license, you are most likely already registered. This is because of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

In addition to the Fredonia specific ADP website, you can use Vote.org to check your voters' registration by entering your name, address, date of birth and email address.

According to the ADP website If you are registered to vote with your Fredonia campus address in Fredonia's voting district, you can vote in Fredonia on Election Day, Nov. 3.

According to the NY election website, if you are not registered to vote, you can register online at election.ny.gov, either virtually, or by printing out a form and delivering it to your local board of elections.

If you are unable to make it to your home district in time for Election Day, you have several options, according to vote.org.

If you have lived in Fredonia for 30 or more days, you can change your address online and vote in Fredonia, therefore voting for candidates representing Fredonia as well as state-wide and federal elections.

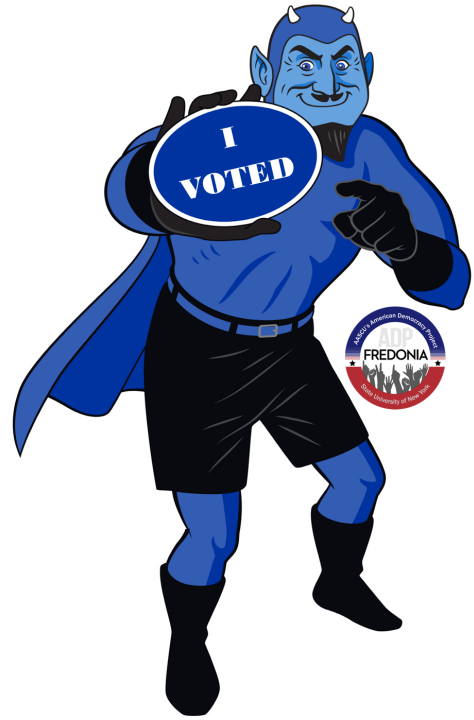
According to Vote.org if you wish to stay registered in your home district, you either must be present in that district on Election Day, vote early or you can register for a mail-in ballot option.

You must apply for at least two weeks before the election, so your local board of elections, according to the NYS election website.

usa.gov mentions, an absentee ballot is usually for those who are absent from their home districts on the day of the election, while a mail-in ballot is for those who wish to vote early but may still be present in their district.

This means you can pick up a mail-in ballot or have it mailed to you, while an absentee ballot is always mailed in and mailed back to your board of elections.

Information on voting specifically at Fredonia can be found on the Fredonia ADP website, as well as links to resources for



Graphic provided by the American Democracy Project

making the decision of where to vote and how.

McGowan-Kirsch mentions that misinformation runs rampant during elections. and it is important to check where you receive your information before you form an opinion.

"I also encourage students to seek information from reliable sources and look beyond what they encounter on social media," said Dr. McGowan-Kirsch on information during elections, "being an informed voter means taking time to evaluate information and consider different perspectives before deciding."

This could mean going through the candidate's history in office, their qualifications or even researching claims about candidates you encounter on social media.

According to the McGowan-Kirsch, at the end of the day, it is important to remember that voting is our right; we need to exercise it in order to make change, "Through the American Democracy Project, we want students to recognize that civic engagement doesn't begin or end on Election Day," states McGowan-Kirsch.

"Voting is one important way to participate in our democracy, but staying informed, engaging in conversations and getting involved in our community's matter, too," said McGowan-Kirsch.

According to the NYS election website, the last day to register to vote is October 23.

For more information, visit elections.ny.gov, visit the ADP webpage at fredonia.edu or check out the ADP Instagram account at "ADPFred."

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. The Police Blotter will continue every issue, with new information regarding any new criminal acts that occur on the SUNY Fredonia campus.

On-Campus:

Friday, Oct. 9: A driver was found with a suspended license; University Police made an arrest.

Sunday, Oct. 11: Graffiti was found in the loading dock at Igoe Hall; this is an ongoing investigation.

Sunday, Oct. 11: A bicycle was stolen from Chautauqua Hall; this is an ongoing investigation.

Monday, Oct. 12: A vehicle was struck in Lot 19. The suspect left the scene; this is an ongoing investigation.

Tuesday, Oct. 13: A driver was found with a suspended license; University Police made an arrest.

Tuesday, Oct. 13: A sex offence was reported; prosecution was declined.

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.

GET READY FOR ADVISING

The official Academic Advising period for course selection starts **Monday, October 26th**. Now is a great time to prepare for your advising meeting and plan your courses for next semester!

We can help you prepare for your advising meeting by helping you:

- Understand general degree requirements
- Find and choose classes
- Resolve holds
- Navigate Degree Works
- Learn how you will register for classes
- And so much more!



Interested in a Pre-Advising Appointment?

Feel free to drop in or schedule an appointment with us:



Schedule an appointment:

Scan the QR code to open the appointment scheduler.

COME ON BY

Fenton Hall, Room 2114

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

PRE-ADVISING APPOINTMENTS WILL TAKE PLACE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19TH – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD

National: Trump claims leakers 'should be shot'

ALEX BUCKNAM

Editor in Chief

In Washington, D.C., The House of Representatives adjourned in mid-September to finish campaigning and President Donald Trump has claimed he thinks leakers should be shot.

On Sept. 16, Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., adjourned the House and pushed all future votes until the next legislative day in November.

This comes after Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., introduced eight articles of impeachment against Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth.

The motion to introduce these articles is a privilege, meaning Johnson has two legislative days to act on it.

The legislative day on Sept. 17 would have forced Johnson to hold a vote on impeaching Hegseth.

The legislative days after Sept. 17 were already canceled due to a decision made on Sept. 3 to send congressional members back to their districts to campaign.

Massie and other congressional members stated that this seemed suspicious, mentioning why a vote was being canceled when the House would adjourn the following day.

When asked why he canceled the last legislative day before the election, Johnson stated, "The House has done its work." He continued, "It's time for our members to go home to their districts and make their case to the American people."

Massie's articles of impeachment were introduced on Sept. 16, which would have required the speaker to act on them by Sept. 18.

However, since the day was canceled and there were no scheduled days until after the midterm election, the first day Congress returns to a legislative session it would force Johnson to act on the articles.

Johnson mentioned that rumors that he purposely canceled the last legislative session is a publicity stunt and that the articles of impeachment would be tabled until November.

The 120th Congress does not take office until January, meaning the current Congress would handle this vote.

Johnson mentioned that if the Senate were to pass key bills, he would call the House into an emergency session, giving everyone 48 hours. This too would force Johnson to hold a vote on the impeachments.

Trump claims leakers should be shot

On Oct. 14, during a rally, President Donald Trump stated that people who leak military information should be shot.

Trump was referring to a leak that gave out information of what time planes were leaving to conduct a raid.

Trump called Gen. Dan Caine to talk about options and whether to change the time.

Trump then went on to say that he thinks "leakers should be shot." Trump continued, "In the old days we used to shoot leakers, you know, when they leaked what time you were going to attack a country."

It is unclear what operation Trump was referring to, though it sounded like he was mentioning the 2025 strikes on Iran.

Following the comments that leakers should be shot, Trump pointed to the press box and claimed that the press sitting there was almost as bad as leakers. "They leak false information, that makes them leakers."

As of Oct. 16, Trump has not issued a statement on his comments.

This isn't the first time Trump has claimed that leakers should be shot.

During his first term, Alyssa Farah Griffin, a White House official during Trump's first term, told a Mediaite podcast that she heard Trump talk about how a staff member who leaked information should be executed.

The last executions that happened because of a person leaking military information took place in January 1953, when husband and wife Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were put to death in the electric chair.

The Rosenbergs were convicted of leading a spy ring that gave highly classified U.S. nuclear and military intelligence to the Soviet Union.

Trump claiming leakers should be shot comes after he approved Hegseth request for the execution of Nidal Malik Hasan, who killed 13 people at the Fort Hood military base in 2009, to be livestreamed.

Hasan is the first person to be killed by firing squad since 1945.

On Oct. 15, Trump announced the execution would no longer be livestreamed.

He has also stated that the live stream would be a "strong deterrent for the World to witness how America deals with terrorists and SCUM," Trump continued "many very good and well-meaning people would rather not watch him die, through streaming, or through any other visual device."

Naloxone becomes available in Gregory Hall

GRACELYN BEACHNER

Asst. Copy Editor & Social Media Manager

70,000 drug overdose-related deaths occurred in 2025, according to the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC).

While it's an alarming amount, the number has been decreasing since 2022.

According to the CDC drug-related death rates decreased alongside an increase in nationwide access to resources available to drug-users.

These resources include hotlines, rehabilitation and harm reduction, such as access to sterile needles and naloxone.

Harm reduction is a public health movement with the purpose of lessening the negative consequences of drug use without requiring complete sobriety.

In a campus wide email sent by the Finance and Administration Office, on behalf of Environmental Health and Safety and Sustainability on Oct. 9, they made campus aware that Naloxone will now be available and completely anonymous in Gregory Hall.

According to the email, naloxone is a life-saving drug that reverses opioid overdose symptoms by blocking the opioid receptors in the brain.

According to the CDC symptoms of an opioid overdose

include unconsciousness, unresponsiveness, vomiting, inability to speak, bluish/grayish skin, irregular heart rhythm and loss of motor function. Naloxone is also safe even if opioids are not ultimately the cause of the symptoms.

The CDC wants people to know It's important to note that the opioid effects may last longer than the naloxone administered; naloxone only lasts 60-90 minutes. You can re-administer naloxone if symptoms of overdose return after that period.

Along with Narcan, drug-testing strips will also now always be available in Gregory Hall. These testing strips can test for Fentanyl, medetomidine and xylazine. This is important because according to the CDC combining these drugs can cause a lethal overdose, even in small amounts.

In a CDC report made in 2026, there has been an increase in cases of illicit drugs being laced with these opioids has occurred.

Testing strips allow users to test for unintended opioids, "Illicit drugs can contain unexpected substances, including potent opioids or other drugs that may not be visible, smelled or otherwise detectable." According to the Oct. 9 email.

Fredonia wants usage of these materials should be reported using an anonymous form also in Gregory Hall.

These forms are used for inventory purposes and require no identification.

Questions can be directed to sarah.laurie@fredonia.edu, Director of Environmental Health, Safety & Sustainability.



"Naloxone located in Gregory Hall, next to the Faculty Student Association office.
Photo by: **GRACELYN BEACHNER** | Asst. Copy Editor & Social Media Manager

Life & Arts

Movie review: 'Digger'

CARTER SIREIKA

Special to The Leader

Digger is a dark satirical comedy directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu, starring Tom Cruise as the lead character.

The film opened to heavily mixed reviews.

One side stated the film is too bizarre and even “unbearable” at times; others appreciated the artistic swings the film takes.

The film follows Rockfell Digger, who runs a wealthy oil business whose drilling causes an iceberg to break off the coast of Alaska and puts the fate of Europe at risk.

Digger spends his time trying to sugarcoat the whole situation to the public, dodging responsibility to protect his brand and his image and trying to work with the government to solve this catastrophic disaster.

Tom Cruise was never a comedy actor in my eyes, but he played the energetic and selfish character very well.

He is playing a hateful figure that you are supposed to root against and I say he nails that role and brings that character to life.

But the standout to me was John Goodman as the U.S. president.

His line-delivery and body language had me laughing out loud.

He is mainly playing an old, deteriorating and bumbling president and his role sat perfectly in the story.

While this film did have me laughing at times, I do think this film lacks its comedic beats.

Most of the comedy just comes from bizarre dialogue and strange actions from the characters.

Sure, these scenes can be amusing to watch, but it never had me laughing, I wished this movie leaned more into the satirical comedy.

There is one scene that did that, and I would say it was the funniest part of the movie.

I want to take the time to recognize the visual aspect of the film as this movie was shot really well.

It has this very washed out and decaying tone of color that I think works for the world this story is set in.

Later in the movie it takes a leap in the visual department, and when you get to the end of the movie, you see why. They made many interesting choices, and it made me appreciate the visuals even more.

Another aspect of the artistic side of this movie I liked was the sound design.

I always find comedy better when the scene allows you to just take it all in without background music.

Most of the film’s sound effects are diegetic and only add to the awkwardness at times.

While I like the performances and the stylish choices they made, they reveal a second plot line soon into the movie that I won’t spoil.

The reveal this early into the movie really threw me off.

I was confused, stunned and distracted.

I can see why they put it in the movie as it serves a purpose to the plot, but I feel like showing it so early on muddled up the rest of the movie for me.

It felt like they didn’t trust the audience enough to handle such a big reveal so late into the movie when in my opinion, revealing it in the third act with just hints to it throughout could have really benefited the plot.

Introducing this second plot line so early on made it feel like they didn’t know what to do with it at first.

So, while Digger has strong performances and stunning artistry, I can’t help but think that with a few tweaks to the writing, it could have been one of the best films of 2026.

I think the film stumbled as a satirical comedy and the big early reveal really bogged down the movie for me and just had me wondering, “what am I watching?”

Digger is not an unbearable movie by any means.

I was entertained throughout, and I appreciated the big swings it took.

I think this movie can find its audience, but in my opinion, Digger is no more than a six out of ten.

“Digger spends his time trying to sugarcoat the whole situation to the public, dodging responsibility to protect his brand and his image and trying to work with the government to solve this catastrophic disaster.”- **Carter Sireika**



Rooted & Resilient conference happening at Fredonia

SARAH FISHER

Special to The Leader

If you are interested in strengthening community wellness, making everyone feel safe, inspired, and comfortable in their environment, while also gaining more knowledge on mental health, wellness resources and strategies, the Rooted & Resilient Mental Health conference is for you!

The “Rooted & Resilient: Mental Wellness for Every Identity” conference on Monday, Nov. 2, 2026, at 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. located in SUNY Fredonia’s Williams Center will include activities such as a keynote presentation by Dr. Keba M. Rogers, educational breakout sessions, a community resource fair, an interactive panel known as “What I Wish I Knew: Voices, Identity & Mental Wellness,” mindfulness activities, and experiential wellness opportunities.

Participants will also have a chance to connect with mental health and community organizations and there will be many other educational presentations done by brilliant individuals.

The Presenter Dr. Anika Simone Johnson, a certified Yoga instructor, educator, executive leader, and the founder of Love, Light & Yoga LLC is bringing an interactive healing and meditative activity to the conference!

Dr. Sabrina Musson, a licensed mental health counselor with many years of experience in human services, research, and social justice advocacy, who is currently an assistant professor and program director of the Clinical Mental Health masters program at Fredonia.

She is joining the conference as a presenter along with Dr. Heeyoun K. Choo.

Dr. Heeyoun K. Choo is experienced in clinical field work. She has worked with children with Autism Spectrum Condition, adults with mental health needs, and individuals with dementia and as a senior music therapist and activity director at New York State Veterans’ Home in Oxford.

She is currently an assistant professor and an area Head of music therapy at Fredonia.

There are many more talented and driven presenters participating in this conference, presenter spotlights can be found on the “rootedandresilientconference” Instagram account!

Overall, the rooted & resilient conference is created to bring communities and individuals together for discussions related to mental health, identity, belonging, culture, access to care, and resilience. Rooted & Resilient also has four grounding pillars: Advocacy, Action, Celebration, and Education, (AAEC) highlighting the importance of communities and individuals’ well-being.

Ivory Brooks-Seay, a Mental Health Counselor at SUNY Fredonia, LMFT (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist), and a Conference Co-Chair says “Rooted & Resilient is an

opportunity to bring our campus and surrounding communities together to have meaningful conversations about mental health while also connecting people with practical resources, education, and one another.”

“We want participants to leave feeling better equipped to support wellness within their own communities while recognizing that mental health conversations must include the experiences and identities of the people we serve,” said Brooks-Seay.

The rooted & resilient conference is a great opportunity to help shape your mindset and skills to better both community and individual wellness. If you are interested in participating, register now!

For current SUNY Fredonia Students, the registration fee is \$20. For the public, the registration fee is \$75.

There are many ways to register for this event. First, you can access the form by scanning the QR Code located on the event fliers. The registration form can also be accessed by searching “Rooted & Resilient” on the events.fredonia.edu website. The “rootedandresilientconference” Instagram account also provides a link to the registration form in their bio.





The Creek. Photo by: **FRED EMERSON** | Special to The Leader

The creek- A place to get away

FRED EMERSON

Special to The Leader

College campuses can start to feel like their own little worlds. Between dorms, classes, dining halls and familiar sidewalks, student life follows a predictable route.

But just across Temple Street, between a local church and Fredonia's vineyards, is a place where that routine gives way to trees, rocks and running water. Students call it the Creek, for a place only a short walk from campus; it can feel surprisingly far away.

One common way to reach it is to walk away from the buildings around Eisenhower and Disney, go past the vineyards and follow a mowed path toward the woods. Sometimes, deer and other wildlife can be seen near the entrance.

The trees cover much of the sky, leaving the creek to catch what sunlight makes it through the canopy, where the water shimmers between the banks. At night, the moon casts its reflection across the creek, where it dances along the moving water and lends the familiar woods a quieter beauty.

Whether in daylight or under moonlight, the water often becomes the brightest part of the landscape.

It is quiet, not silent; at certain times of day, crickets and frogs can be heard deeper into the woods and the moving water is a constant companion to those with attentive ears.

Walking along the creek takes more attention than following a campus sidewalk. Depending on the route, visitors may keep their feet dry or must wade through the water to continue.

Some parts of the creek are ankle deep, while others reach knee deep or, in certain spots, waist deep. It is less a paved

trail than the entrances that students walk to enter.

The vegetation changes the farther you get from campus. Moving toward Lake Erie, but before crossing Matteson Street, taller grass and brush create cover for small animals.

A small critter disappearing into the brush might be a groundhog or something else, but the uncertainty is part of what makes the setting feel different from campus.

The Creek also has a student-built landmark: the Fort, a small structure in the middle of the woods. To reach it, visitors follow a path above the water, where the brush grows taller on both sides until, in places, it rises above their heads.

The Fort is not a finished building, rather it is a place assembled from available materials found on the ground and maintained by students.

The rough construction fits its surroundings, as though the woods themselves have supplied everything needed to make it a place to gather.

The Fort is also associated with students smoking. Any smell from carts to e-cigs, to the occasional skunky smell lingers around the fort, and for some students, it is as much a part of the area as the sticks, bricks and greenery surrounding it.

Still, the smell of smoke does not tell the whole story of the Creek. Students who would rather avoid it can continue farther along the path, where other places to sit, talk or explore wait beneath the trees.

Some people draw, listen to music, talk on the rocks or skip shale stones across the water. Two people were observed spreading a blanket across a flat rock for a picnic.

At the creek, there is no classroom to get to, no event to attend and no particular goal to accomplish.

Spending time there can mean doing very little beyond sitting

outside.

Farther along, toward Risley Street and away from the Fort, bridges marked with graffiti bring the outside world back into view.

The two worlds seem to overlap without quite meeting, with the steady noise of cars and infrastructure serving as a reminder that the town is never really that far away, but the water and woods still offer a little distance from the campus.

The land is not all owned or managed by the same people. A landowner responsible for the area behind Saint Paul Lutheran Church spoke of how he is happy to see people enjoying the woods, as long as they do not use hard drugs or leave litter.

He also pointed out another way to enter, right beside the church. Visitors can help preserve the goodwill that keeps the area accessible by treating it with care and leaving it as they found it.

For all its different uses and associations, the Creek offers students something that can be difficult to find in college life:

somewhere to go without needing any reason other than to be there.

Its reputation for smoking may be what some people notice first, but the water, wildlife and informal gathering spots offer other reasons to visit.

Sometimes, getting away from campus is as simple as crossing the street.

“Still, the smell of smoke does not tell the whole story of the Creek. Students who would rather avoid it can continue farther along the path, where other places to sit, talk or explore wait beneath the trees.”

- Fred Emerson



The Creek. **Photo by ASH GRAY** | Special to The Leader



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

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



'Carrie the Musical': A show to see

KEIRAN SYNAN

Special to The Leader

Are you and your friends looking for something spooky to enjoy just around the corner?

Something unique to add to your agenda that isn't the classic apple picking or pumpkin carving.

Well, I have just the thing for you. A weekend outing that will satisfy all your Halloween urges and support Fredonia's community theater scene at the same time!

Two birds with one stone, am I right?

Drum roll please; you better be rolling your drums while reading this.

Main Street Studios in downtown Fredonia has just opened its production of "Carrie the Musical."

With the classic Stephen King story paired with music written by Michael Gore, this show is an excellent addition to your Halloween lineup.

The show was originally produced on Broadway in 1988. After many mixed reviews and it being labeled one of Broadway's most expensive flops, the musical was revived in 2012.

The book and score were almost completely revised by Lawrence D. Cohen (librettist), Dean Pitchford (lyricist and as mentioned previously, Gore (composer). The 2012 revival was much better received, and is what is performed to this day, including this production at Main Street Studios.

With seven total opportunities to see this show, including the closing performance on Halloween, there is no excuse not to see it!

So, if you didn't catch it opening weekend, make sure to get your tickets for later this month.

I got the opportunity to soak up this show's final dress rehearsal on Wednesday while taking pictures for this issue, and I have to say it is a must see. 10/10, no notes.

This show is excellent and this group has done a fantastic job with it.

They were full of energy, incredibly comedic when needed, while also allowing for the ruthlessness that "Carrie" calls for.

These actors and their team have clearly done the work to really dig into the meat of this piece, and it is highlighted and shown off in all the right places.

Whether you're an avid Stephen King fan or just a casual enjoyer, this show is a fantastic take on a classic high school horror story and an opportunity that you should not pass up.

I'd like to throw a special shout out and congrats to the show's directors Caity Clary and Maeve Garvey.

"Carrie" is the directorial debut for Clary and Garvey, but

both are very familiar to the theater world as students in the TADA program here at Fredonia.

Clary, specifically has been involved in shows at Main Street Studios since 14 years old, as stated in her pre-show speech. This show is terrific, hats off to both of you.

I cannot wait to come down and see it again.

As well as a well-deserved round of applause to the actors who are doing an amazing job and deserve all the support and praise for the work that's been done on this show.

With all that being said, go see "Carrie the Musical!" Oct. 23, 24 and 31 For more details on times and where and how to buy your tickets, visit the company's Instagram @mainstreetstudios50, or their website mainstreetstudios.org.

Support local theater and have a fantastic rest of your spooky season!

"With seven total opportunities to see this show, including the closing performance on Halloween, there is no excuse not to see it!" - Keiran Syan



"Carrie: The Musical" crew. **Photo by SAM HEBERT** | Photo Editor



In both photos, from left to right: Carrie White (played by Emily Harrigan), Margaret White, (played by Rachel Offenbach Smith.)
Photo by SAM HEBERT | Photo Editor



From left to right: Tommy Ross (played by Wyatt Pinto), Carrie White (played by Emily Harrigan.)
Photo by SAM HEBERT | Photo Editor

SPORTS

Where do teams stand for SUNYAC?

JACK HOADLEY

Sports Editor

As Fall sports at Fredonia barrel towards the SUNYACS, it's time to take a look at some of the best moments over the semester.

There are some key moments to share in this wraparound of all the Fall sports seasons going on at Fredonia.

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team is in the midst of an impressive campaign so far with a strong 8-3-3 overall record and a 3-0-3 conference record.

In a recent bout, a goal from senior forward Bronwyn Maden in the 89th minute of the game resulted in a tie against Cortland.

This tie marks the first time Cortland hadn't won a conference game this season, making this win, which sends the Red Dragons to 4-0-1, an impressive display of Fredonia's ability.

Another key highlight of the season came against Alfred State, when junior forward Abby Herbst recorded a hat trick in the 6-3 away victory.

On Saturday, the Devils clinched a postseason berth with an emphatic 5-0 win against Delhi.

The team has four games left before the SUNYAC playoffs begin, including a major home game against 3-1-1 Buffalo State on Wednesday, October 21st.

Men's Soccer

It's a strong season of soccer for Fredonia as the men's soccer team sports a 4-2 conference record with a 6-4-4 overall record.

This includes a hot 3-0 start to conference play, with strong all-around performances from the entire team.

A standout so far is senior goalkeeper Thomas McDonald, who boasts a strong .90 goals against average.

Allowing just under one goal per game is a strong recipe for success, and McDonald has been a key factor in a number of narrow victories for the Blue Devils so far.

They also secured the SUNYAC playoffs with a 1-0 win against Delhi Saturday.

The team will travel to Buffalo State Wednesday evening, looking to stack wins in their final three games of the season to create momentum heading into SUNYACS.

Cross Country

Fredonia's men's and women's cross-country teams are both defined by the improvements they have seen throughout the season.

In the Kara Hall Memorial Invite hosted here at Fredonia, junior Steve Hallberg had the best finish among all SUNYAC runners present.

The men's team finished sixth overall among thirteen teams, earning a placement in the top half of the field.

The women's cross-country team saw two top thirty finishes from sophomore Emily Frank (20th) and junior Callie Hudson (28th).

With their final regular season meet behind them, both teams will prepare for the SUNYAC Championship on Halloween.

Following that, they will prepare for the NCAA Niagara Regional, which will be hosted by SUNY Fredonia on November 14th.

Women's Tennis

Fredonia's women's tennis team concluded their season on October 3rd when they celebrated their senior night.

Fredonia celebrated the accomplishments of three seniors, Lucy Prevet, Gabbi Farr, and Rylyn Tunstall against Cortland.

One major success of the season came from first year student Taylyn Stanton, who won four of five singles matches this season.

The women's tennis team will be back to playing in the spring after showing a lot of promise during the Fall season.

Women's Volleyball

Fredonia's volleyball team is just three games into SUNYAC play, going 1-2 during the young campaign.

The team spent early parts of the Fall playing in invitational and tri-matches where they prepared for a string of nine conference games over the next month.

Senior outside hitter Kylie O'Brien leads the team in kills and points while junior Maeve Musielak has contributed the most defensively by leading the team in digs.

Four Blue Devils have twenty or more aces on the Fall campaign with senior setter Olivia Boswell leading the team with twenty-six.

While the Fall season is just getting started, Fredonia's nine seniors on the team look to lead the team on a deep run come time for the post season.

The team's next home series is October 30th and 31st with games against Delhi and Oneonta.

They travel to Potsdam and Canton this weekend, looking to build momentum early on in conference play.

Be sure to support all of our Fall sports teams as they approach a crucial stretch of the season!



Fredonia State Blue Devils women’s soccer team celebrates on their home field (University Stadium) during the 2026 season as they push for a SUNYAC postseason berth. **Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD |** Sports Photographer



The Blue Devils bench erupts in celebration along the sideline during a 2026 regular season home match at University Stadium. **Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD |** Sports Photographer

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Bills bounce back on the west coast

JACK HOADLEY

Sports Editor

An early game of the year contender took place on Monday night football last week as the Bills took down the Rams in overtime.

This major win improved two records for the Bills, sending them to 4-1, and Josh Allen's record in overtime to 1-7.

Getting your first overtime win in year eight as an NFL quarterback isn't ideal, but it's better late than never considering how badly the Bills wanted to bounce back.

Following a home loss to New England, many others and I thought it would be hard for Buffalo to beat the Rams in Los Angeles.

I was happily proved wrong, as Josh Allen, and a little bit of luck propelled the Bills to a 37-34 win.

With this win, Buffalo has certainly positioned itself as a true contender in the AFC, with just the Raiders stood between them and a much-needed bye week.

A key storyline for Buffalo so far this year has been their health, with multiple key contributors dealing with injuries.

Right tackle Spencer Brown, wide receiver DJ Moore and defensive tackle Ed Oliver are all banged up, which is why the bye week cannot come any sooner for Buffalo.

Another major talking point from Monday's victory relates to fumbling issues with Bill's star running back James Cook III.

Cook had two fumbles Monday night, one that very well should've lost Buffalo the game in overtime.

Head coach Joe Brady made it clear that Cook needs to secure the ball better and warned of "consequences."

"It's going to cost us football games. It almost cost us one... It's got to improve or the carries are going to decrease."

I do appreciate the honesty from the rookie head coach, even though it seems rash to even suggest a superstar like Cook could lose carries.

But this level of accountability placed on players is refreshing to see so early into a coach's tenure.

The Bills seem bought into Brady's vision for the team, but there does seem to be some issues with the team discipline wise.

Through five games, Buffalo has amassed ten or more penalties in three of those games.

This is alarming for a team that was significantly more disciplined under Sean McDermott.

Overall, some of this may just be growing pains as a new regime gets situated, but this game wouldn't have been as close if Buffalo had less infractions.

Pivoting to the Raiders, they are facing quite the identity crisis as it comes to their record, and where they picked in last year's draft.

The Raiders hosted Buffalo sat at 3-2, losing two straight games after a 3-0 start.

One interesting note about Vegas is that the number one overall pick in this past NFL Draft, Fernando Mendoza, made his debut for them last week.

Vegas still sent out veteran QB Kirk Cousins against the Bills, who has played as good as anyone to start the year.

The game itself was action packed, the Bills were neck and neck with Vegas headed into the half with both sides not budging.

Veteran safety C.J. Gardner-Johnson kept the trend of undisciplined football for the Bills after he was ejected for spitting on Raiders tight end Brock Bowers.

The second half featured a different story for Buffalo as they put up ten points in the third quarter, bringing the offense to life.

After an impressive third, it was a return to form for Buffalo who allowed the Raiders to come right back into the game.

Buffalo did manage to take control of the game and pull out a tight win thanks to a much-needed response from James Cook.

Of course the defense failed to make it easy for their counter parts on offense to win, but as my motto for Buffalo continues, good teams win rough.

The bottom line is Buffalo is now 5-1 and this may be one of the strongest Bills teams we have seen yet in the Josh Allen era.

Buffalo now gets a chance to get healthier and rest over a bye week before hosting the Ravens in week 8.

Overall, a fun two weeks of football leaves the Bills and their fans with plenty to smile about.

Thankfully Halloween won't be too scary for Bills fans.



Christian Benford. Photo provided by the Buffalo Bills

The opinions voiced by writers and artists in the Opinion section of The Leader reflect those individuals' opinions, not those of The Leader as a whole.

OPINION

Only stories clearly marked as Editorials reflect the opinion of The Leader's executive staff.



A playlist for every mood: Sad but happy

GRACELYN BEACHNER

Asst. Copy Editor & Social Media Manager

Today I have a playlist inspired by a vibe I've been feeling recently. I've compiled a collection of some super fun and upbeat songs — that also have sad lyrics. This playlist is for the times when you're not in the best mood but still want to dance!

I'll be putting my favorite quotes from each song under their titles.

☐ **“Caught in The Middle” by Paramore**

If you haven't seen a video of Hayley Williams performing this, you are missing out. “And I can't think of who I was / 'cause it just makes me want to cry.”

☐ **“Mr. Brightside” by The Killers**

You knew this would be on this playlist, didn't you?

“Now they're goin' to bed, and my stomach is sick / And it's all in my head, but she's touching his chest now / He takes off her dress now / Let me go / And I just can't look, it's killing me”

☐ **“Just Like Heaven” by The Cure**

I could put The Cure on this playlist a thousand times; this is truly their niche!

“And found myself alone, alone / Alone above a raging sea / That stole the only girl I loved / And drowned her deep inside of me”

☐ **“Idle Worship” by Paramore**

This album is simply perfect for this playlist, so of course I had to choose two songs from it! “If I was you, I'd run from me or /

Rip me open you'll see you're not the only one who's hopeless / Be sure to put your faith in something more”

☐ **“Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now” by The Smiths**

The Smiths is another band I could add to this list more than once. However, this is one of their most popular songs, and one of my favorites!

“Two lovers entwined pass me by / And heaven knows I'm miserable now”

☐ **“Go Your Own Way” by Fleetwood Mac**

Now this is a tricky one, because I don't think it's as depressing if you're unaware of the whole Stevie/Lindsay lore. To simplify, “Go Your Own Way” was essentially the prequel to “Silver Springs” from the same album. If you know, you know.

“Loving you / Isn't the right thing to do / How can I ever change things / That I feel?”

☐ **“Dancing on My Own” by Robyn**

I genuinely believe that Robyn sang this song as a hate crime to all the lesbians of the world.

“I'm in the corner / Watching you kiss her / I'm giving it my all / But I'm not the guy you're taking home”

☐ **“My Own Worst Enemy” by Lit**

I had to end this playlist with a bang! I love this song, and it fits perfectly into this playlist.

“It's no surprise to me, I am my own worst enemy / 'Cause every now and then, I kick the livin' shit out of me”

A Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor in Chief,

Living in a college residence hall at 36 years old gives you a unique perspective on university life. As a junior in SUNY Fredonia's theater arts program, I am acutely aware of how much I stand out.

When I first tried college at Monroe Community College in my early 20s, I was not ready, and I failed.

Taking the leap to try again at this stage of my life has been both terrifying and deeply rewarding.

I want to shine a spotlight on a demographic that is often invisible on campus and create an environment where adult students are met with genuine awareness and acceptance.

The first 7 weeks on campus have been a struggle, not academically, but socially. Hearing friends tell me of student leaders saying things about me like "be careful, there's a strange guy over there" really hurts.

Being told by a friend that I should wear my Fred card when going to student events because people are concerned about who I am makes me feel judged.

But it is not all heavy; sometimes the speculation is purely comical. Someone recently whispered, "Watch out, it's the undercover cop."

Going to clubs and events feels daunting as I am always worried I am going to be judged or disliked just because of societal norms.

As you can see, adjusting has not been easy, sometimes I wish students would be more willing to get to know me.

As my friend and fellow student Tom McGuire said, "if people would take a chance to get to know you, they would realize that you are an amazing person"

Challenging those societal norms begins with forgetting the idea of a "traditional" student looks like. Students like me being present on campus shouldn't be threatening; it should show our resilience and courage to try again.

I came to SUNY Fredonia to finish a story I left unfinished fifteen years ago, during my first attempt at college.

When adult learners' step into student spaces clubs or the

campus center, we are carrying the weight of a hard-fought second chance.

We pay the same tuition, study for the same exams and share the same anxieties about the future as any eighteen-year-old first-year student.

By shielding ourselves from people who do not fit in a specific age bracket, we miss out on the diverse perspectives that make a university community truly thrive.

At the end of the day, I just want to enjoy the full college experience as much as everyone else.

I am not here to play cop or parent. I'm just a peer who happens to have a bit more life experience under my belt — someone who can offer a little casual guidance if you ever need it.

Ultimately, being able to share that support and connect as equals is exactly how I will know I truly belong here.

So, the next time you see me grabbing some poutine at Willy C's, studying in Reed Library or walking past the Rockefeller Arts Center, do not hesitate to pull up a chair or just say hello.

I am here for the exact same reasons as you are. At the very least, I can just be someone for you to lean on for support.

Remember, I'm a student too, and I want you all to succeed just as much as I want to succeed. I hope my story helps others navigate the complexities of college life no matter their age, and I hope it helps everyone understand that I am still just like you — just a little older.

Yours truly,

David Mills

**Transfer Student to SUNY Fredonia, Theatre Arts
Special to The Leader**

Letters to the editor must be 350 words or fewer, though longer submissions may be accepted with approval from the Editor-in-Chief.

The deadline for all submissions is 4 p.m. on Friday before print week.

Please email your letters to Leader@Fredonia.edu.

Lovercolumn: Sounds of love

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 who uses they/ them 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 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 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.

This column runs in conjunction with Lovercall and can be found in print and online at 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 stay in and do a movie marathon!



Nothing is better than cuddling up to your partner and getting all cozy, and with this you can do that for hours!

Just pick a movie or show you might like or even go a bit seasonal and watch Halloween movies in bed or on your couch in your pjs.

Don’t forget the snacks, too!

You can do themed snacks around the movies like wizard of Oz and make your take on a witch’s brew or even yellow brick road themed cookies.

You can even just take it easy and grab your favorite take out, so you can just stay in and watch the movies!

Not only that, but you get to see your partner comfortable if you both wear pjs, and you may also be able to match.

Just keep in mind that you don’t want to pick movies that one of you hate, if you’re having fun but the other isn’t it’s not exactly the best experience for both of you, especially if it’s a first date.

So, sit back, relax, and throw your inhabitations out the window; it’s time to start the show.

SOUNDS OF LOVE

“I Love You.”

We say this to people who we feel give us the most compassion, the most dedication and the most affection.

We say it to our parents for the care they gave us when they raised us. We say it to friends because of the affection they give us and the time we spend together.

We give it to lovers when that feeling of affection on the deepest level is shared with another.

There are many sounds of love, whether it’s your lover reciting a poem or singing you a song, playing romantic music,

non-verbal vocalizations. There is a plethora of ways to use sound to express your care for somebody.

One of the main ways of expressing your love for somebody is to speak it into existence.

So much can be thought, and felt, but words can carry. Words can build a house, while also being able to tear it down.

When you get to the point that you love somebody so much you can speak it aloud, you know that it's true in some aspect.

In musical theatre, there is a line of love that can be found in the music and the show itself.

Wherein the character who is in love speaks it into existence first.

However, just plain speaking doesn't cut it in theatre, so you love somebody so much you sing it into existence. Again, singing doesn't cut it, so the final thing is to love somebody so much you dance in joy for that love.

One of the examples I, HiFidelity, love the most in this area is from "West Side Story."

The one song that is a great example of this from West Side Story, is "I Feel Pretty."

There is a conversation in the beginning, speaking about Maria's love.

Maria pines over Tony, who the other women in the scene think is another man.

However, the rules of a Musical state that if the love is powerful enough, it must change to song. She sings about how pretty and happy she is, and begins to dance around, completing the line of love for a musical.

She sings with a beautiful tone and with a beautiful instrumental, showing not only Tony's love, but her own as well.

She expressed her love through a movement, and a song, sharing the love that she has for Tony with the Audience.

The sounds of love are dynamic and can be used in any instance.

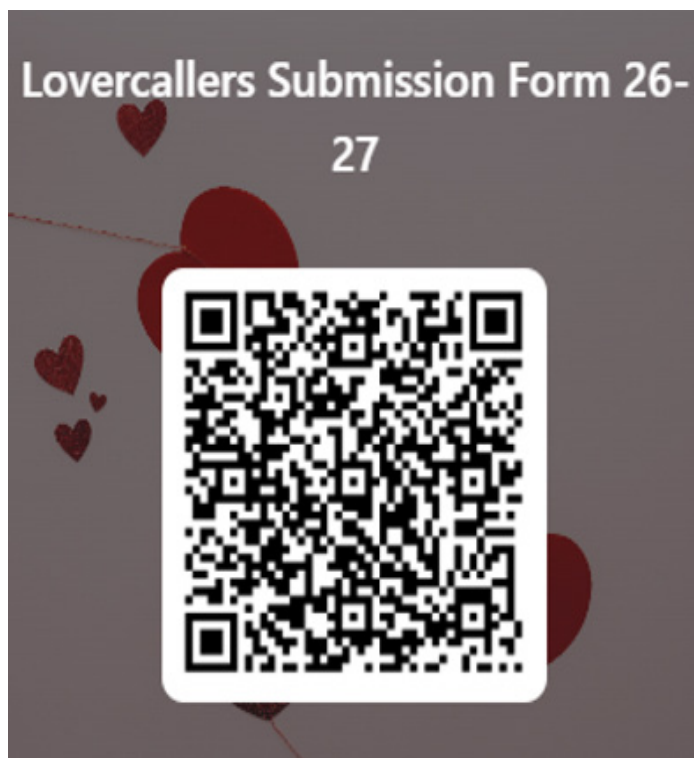
Whether it be for your deep intricate feelings for another, or your most sensual moments with your forever partner, the sounds that we as people can make to communicate that we love another person are amazing.

It's unlike anything else we see in the world, and something that will be discussed for as long as humans are alive.

Our advice to you with this information? Make sure you express to the people you love that you love them, whether it be a song, a poem, or a simple...

"I Love You."

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.



We need

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Contact us:

leader@fredonia.edu

**We need Staff Writers!
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Photo provided by <https://abduforsesenate.com/about/>

Abdul El-Sayed debrief

RYFI

Opinion Editor

Many eyes are on the midterm elections in Michigan, as it might affect which party controls the United States Senate in January.

Abdul El-Sayed is the Democratic Senate nominee who has been running on Medicare for all, money in your pocket and money out of politics, according to his website, abduforsesenate.com.

He ran in the primaries for the Democrats against Haley Stevens, who was the establishment-backed candidate.

Haley Stevens received most of her funds by, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

She was given \$33 million by AIPAC and had a campaign that amassed a total of \$70 million against El-Sayed.

AIPAC funding, and the Involvement of Israel in political campaigns has been an ongoing issue that has become a part of debates around the United States.

This was especially prevalent in Zohran Mamdani's campaign in New York City when he ran for mayor. Especially the specific question asked of him in one of the Primary Debates, asking where each candidate would travel internationally as

the mayor of New York City.

Every single candidate, besides Mamdani, said Israel.

When Mamdani stated that he would simply stay in New York City.

The moderation then doubled down on his statement, which did not happen with any other Candidate.

Circling back to Stevens, she stated almost 3 years ago, "Israel comes to me in my dreams."

During the final debate for the Democratic Primary, El-Sayed consistently attacked the AIPAC money, arguing that the money would influence her conduct in the Senate.

The argument must have worked, as he won the Democratic Primary with a funding difference of 11:1 against him.

According to his campaign website, \$95 was spent for every vote against him, compared to his \$9 vote average.

This brings us to now, with El-Sayed just recently going against his republican rival, Mike Rogers.

This debate occurred last Thursday, and the BBC described it as a "No-holds-barred" televised debate.

In the most heated part of this debate, Rogers questioned whether anyone in El-Sayed family might be on a "Watchlist."

A fact check tells us that there is no evidence that anyone in Abdul El-Sayed's family is connected to any Muslim terrorist

organizations.

Abdul responded, challenging Rogers to “Go ahead and say it [...] are you going after my mum?”

He also questioned the state allegiance of Rogers, labelling him as a Florida Man, with ties to Florida through his Ownership of Mansions and Yachts.

El-Sayed continued to attack, calling Rogers “a sock puppet for the Trump administration.”

He also said to his Republican opponent, during a particularly heated section, that he is “Weak, cowardly, won’t stand up until his poll numbers drop.”

According to Moderator Rick Album, the verbal barrage didn’t stop just because the cameras did, which is a first for the Moderator with 30 years’ experience in hosting debates.

El-Sayed and Rogers spoke on many issues, including immigration, the economy, and the continued support of Israel.

Many have seen this debate as a spotlight on the increase of anti-muslim rhetoric.

One academic told BBC that it underscored how this senti-

ment has been increasingly normalized in the highest levels of United States politics.

This is not the end for El-Sayed or Rogers, as they head towards the midterms on Nov. 3

This election in Michigan holds a massive weight on both candidates and parties.

Will the democrats win, and hope to continue the victories to take control of the house and senate?

Or will the Republicans financial spending finally overrun the Michigan candidate, leaving the Democrats more vulnerable to attack for this midterms season? Only time will tell.



The Leader's Office Hours!

Alex Bucknam <i>Editor-In-Chief</i>	M/W 12-1:30pm, F 9-11am
Giulianna Lalomio <i>Chief Copy-Editor</i>	M/W/F 2-3pm
Morgan Brown <i>Business Manager</i>	T/TR 3:30-5
Gracelyn Beachner <i>Social Media Manager</i>	M/W 12:15-1:45pm, F 9:30-10:30am
Jack Hoadley <i>Sports Editor</i>	M 5:45-6:45pm, T/TH 12:30-1:30pm, W 2:30-3:30pm
Gwenyth Kirkwood <i>Life & Arts Editor</i>	T/TH 1-3pm
Ava-Claire Boring <i>Scallion Editor</i>	M 12-2pm, T 11am-2pm, W 12-1pm
Travis Bernhard <i>Sports Photographer</i>	M/W/F 10-11:30am
Saffron Larrea <i>Art Director</i>	M/W 12-1pm, T 4:30-6pm
Sam Hebert <i>Photo Editor</i>	W 3:30-5:30pm, F 2-4pm
RyFi Fink <i>Opinion Editor</i>	M/W/F 6-7pm, T/TH 4-5pm
Mars Juno Smothergill <i>DEI Chair</i>	M/W 2-4pm

How do I write an article for The Leader?

From content doc to printing, writing articles can be a confusing at first. Here is a full list of steps and even what happens after you send it in!



Claim an Article

Whether its from the content doc, or pitched to your Section Editor and/or Editor-In-Chief, its time to write! This may include research, interviewing, or attending a show. Have fun with it!



Submit Graphic/Photo Request

Ideally, this takes place shortly after claiming your article. EVERYONE must fill one of these out before the articles due-date. They simply let us know what is happening with each image.



Submit Your Article

Once you've finished your article, you submit it directly to the email of the Section Editor you're writing under, or, Leader@fredonia.edu If you're unsure, simply ask!



Editing Stage

Each article gets 3 stages of edits: Copy-editors, Section Editors and finally the Editor-In-Chief. Don't get discouraged when you see edits! Most are simply fitting the articles into AP guidelines.



Final Edits and Printing

Each member of the E-Board then reviews the final copy, and it gets sent off for printing. In the next few days, you should find the new issue throughout campus and receive the next content doc!

News: (Open) leader@fredonia.edu | **Life and Arts:** gkirkwood@fredonia.edu | **Sports:** jhoadley@fredonia.edu | **Opinion:** rfinke@fredonia.edu | **Scallion:** aboring@fredonia.edu

THE SCALLION



J.D. Vance reportedly missing

MARS-JUNO SMOTHERGILL

DEI Chair

Recently, Pope Leo XIV was discovered to have lung cancer during a surgery to remove part of his right lung.

The Vatican announced soon after his surgery on Tuesday that following tests, Pope Leo XIV was diagnosed with Lung Adenocarcinoma.

He luckily did not undergo any complications after the removal of the apparently small nodule; that was later confirmed to be cancerous after testing.

The Vatican has confirmed that he is making a steady recovery.

Recently he distributed communions at the hospital in Rome that treated him, blessing his nurses and doctors.

Now, obviously the biggest question on everyone's minds right now demands an answer.

Where is Vice President JD Vance?

After a meeting with Vance last year, the day before Easter Monday, Pope Francis unfortunately passed away due to complications related to pneumonia.

However, it may have also been a reaction to the horrible omen that is Vance.

Recently, the vice president has been indulging in his favorite vice-presidential activity: traveling the world far and wide on the taxpayer's dime.

But now, we must consider, could he possibly have been visiting the religious leader instead of engaging in his big and very important quest to campaign for the midterms?

To understand the sheer magnitude of vacations conducted by Vance, we must investigate the trips.

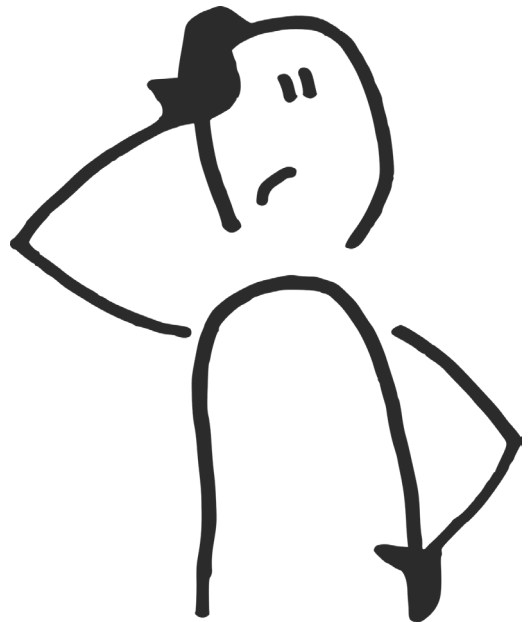
Reportedly, Vance took 8 vacations during his first 7 months in the office.

He continues to indulge in these trips, even upsetting secret service agents who, by United States federal law are required to protect him and to accompany him on some of these personal and rushed trips.

These can include travel to foreign countries for "foreign policy discussions" or even, using helicopters as borderline childcare.

He had been said to ship his son off to military bases to engage in his favorite vice presidential past-time: golf!

Now, understanding this pattern of Vance's to indulge in vacations and trips overseas, is it really that hard to believe that he could have even flown to Italy or the Vatican and



gotten his bad luck transferred onto the pope? In fact, with the amount of travel time Vance and his family have acquired in his short tenure as Vice President, it's not just possible, it's very possible that it happened.

Vance has already proven himself capable of killing one Pope, what about him suggests he'd be content with only that?

Now, with Vance's campaigning for the midterms and his begging for "one more chance" in office.

We have to wonder, one more chance to do what? To continue to travel and waste taxpayer money consequence free?

Is he truly just campaigning for the Trump campaign? Or the most likely, is he traveling with the intention of passing over The Vatican and injuring the Pope?

The 'Scallions Secret'

AVA-CLAIRE BORING

Scallion Editor

After writing for The Scallion section of The Leader for over a year, I think it is finally time to admit that there is a secret, mischievous mastermind behind every single one of my articles, since my freshman year.

This week, I will finally disclose who the evil genius behind all my satirical stories is.

I started writing for The Leader in the first month of my freshman year at Fredonia.

I was overjoyed after my first article was published and couldn't wait to show my mother.

After reading the entire piece with a straight face, all she said was, "Is this supposed to be funny? It's okay; nobody reads the school newspaper anyway."

I soon realized there was a problem. I had written the article so excitedly that I gave zero second thought to re-reading or editing it and simply submitted it.

I needed a second opinion. I needed an editor.

And before you ask: no, it's not ChatGPT or any of those other AI goons.

I take pride in thinking of wacky stories and concepts myself.

There is not a single person I trust more than the person who gets to read my first draft before anybody else gets to lay eyes on it.

Aside from my secret editor, no one knows how my brain's inner mechanism operates prior to edits.

The only way to obtain this kind of trust is if you're also able to kiss each other.

Nestled sweetly at home, 46 miles away from the town of Dunkirk, is my beautiful girlfriend, Jordana.

Jordana is my secret that I have so clandestinely kept.

There is always a method to this madness that I call writing.

I start my process with a brain-dump vomit in a Microsoft Word document (R.I.P. Google Docs. There's not a day that goes by where I don't think of you.)

Often, my first draft makes little to no sense.

When it's in this stage, I either send it to Jordana or read it out loud to her over the phone.

Sometimes it's something little: "Replace this word with another word," or "I think you should reword that sentence," or "I love how this looks, but I have an idea." Rarely, it's a complete, perfect mixture of chaos and clarity.

Very rarely. We always end up helping each other without even noticing.

Jordana helps me become a better writer, and I help Jordana by giving her something to do.

I like to think of Jordana as my secret weapon.

We've thought about getting walkie-talkies to look more mysterious.

So, can someone recommend some 50-mile-radius radio systems that don't cost a billion dollars? I'm open to all suggestions.

There's a level of stupid intimacy that goes with letting someone see exactly what goes on in your brain when you think of a silly idea.

I think fondly about the fact that someone in the world knows exactly how my brain works. So in a way, I guess this article is my big thank you to my secret editor and also girlfriend, Jordana.

If you're ever reading and think "Wow, this Ava-Claire Boring chick did a really great job writing", you should always thank Jordana, too.

Sincerely, Ava-Claire Boring (and Jordana).

"I soon realized there was a problem. I had written the article so excitedly that I gave zero second thought to re-reading or editing it and simply submitted it. I needed a second opinion. I needed an editor."

- Ava-Claire Boring



From left to right: Jordana, Ava-Claire Boring.
Photo by: Ava-Claire Boring | Scallion Editor

HOROS

AVA-CLAIRE BORING

Totally qualified

If you're anything like me, you go to Starbucks just about every single day. I know it's a problem, but it's nothing an iced banana bread chai with light ice can't fix!

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



Aries

Cannon ball energy drink

You may ask: "What the hell is a Cannon Ball Energy Drink?!" Well, it is the perfect, balanced mixture of the Mango Dragonfruit and Strawberry Acai Refresher — with a touch of energy! It's an excellent addition of vitamin B, but with 125mg of caffeine, I wouldn't drink it too close to bedtime.



Taurus

Iced matcha latte

Before you order, heed this note: you must be okay with the taste of grass at least a little bit. Matcha lovers are beyond tired of hearing this, but they cannot dispute this simple fact. This natural and creamy tea is made especially to teeter between sweet and organic. Enjoy!



Gemini

Pumpkin spice latte

Sure, it's basic, but it's popular for a reason — it's delicious! Fall is here, and with the familiar feeling of a cool breeze comes Starbucks' most ordered (and made fun of) seasonal beverage. Now is the time to try Starbucks espresso roast with steamed milk and pumpkin-pie seasonings before it's replaced by the Caramel Brulée Latte!



Cancer

Iced shaken espresso

Decadent and smooth is the vibe this week. The Iced Shaken Espresso is the perfect start to any morning. 3 shots of espresso with a touch of milk, shaken and chilled, are sure to wake anybody up. Maybe add a cold foam...



Leo

Pink drink

If you were sentient in the late 2010s, you've most likely heard of the Pink Drink. This sweet strawberry and acai-flavored coconut milk beverage is perfect for wetting your whistle after practicing in Mason Hall for 3 hours straight.



Virgo

Iced passion tango tea

This is by far my favorite underground tea that Starbucks has to offer. I feel like every time I order it, the workers are thinking, "Wow, she's so cool and niche for even knowing about this drink." Even when I know they're not. The flavor notes include hibiscus, lemongrass, and apple. People will think you're the coolest if you order it, trust me!

COPIES



Libra

London fog latte

If you're a fan of drinks that make you feel warm and relaxed instead of up-and-at-em, the London Fog Latte is for you. The London Fog Latte is made with Earl Grey tea, vanilla syrup and steamed milk. Just a tip: substituting 2% for oat milk changes the game... trust me.



Scorpio

Decaf dark roast

No cream. No sugar. Drink it and deal with it.



Sagittarius

Mango dragonfruit refresher

The Mango Dragonfruit Refresher is a summer staple. Although autumn is now in full swing, it doesn't hurt to reminisce about it with this cup of fruity deliciousness. If you're normally a coffee drinker and not too fond of the sweeter things in life, this drink can be made with water instead of lemonade to tone down the sweetness. Win-win!



Capricorn

Iced vanilla protein latte

Everybody knows we're in the midst of a protein epidemic. The good thing about this drink, though, is that you can't even taste the protein! This Vanilla Protein Latte is packed with 29 grams of protein! Go get your latte and thank me later when you're pure muscle and look like a pit bull.



Aquarius

Hot chocolate

A complete classic for the colder months. Just be sure to wait a few minutes before taking your first sip — I'm reminding you from personal experience — You won't taste anything for the next two days. Enjoy your variety of creamy and chocolatey warmth... in due time!



Pisces

Iced banana bread chai

New this year, the Iced Banana Bread Chai has very quickly become my everyday order. It is the perfect balance of your classic spiced chai, banana, and cinnamon sugar. If college has you missing the scent of baked goods drifting through your grandmother's house, the Iced Banana Bread Chai will bring you right back.

