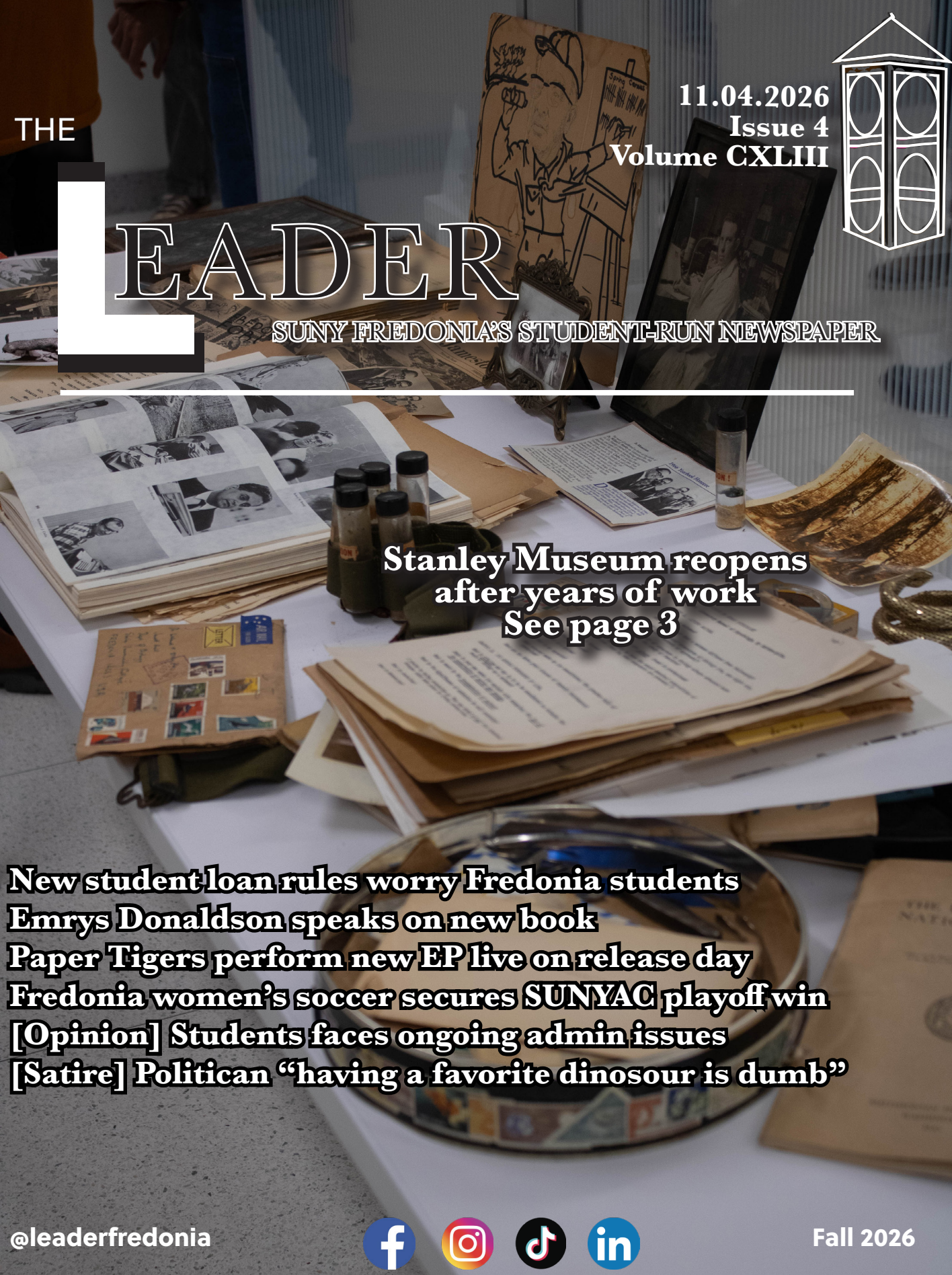
THE LEADER

SUNY FREDONIA'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER

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Corrections: Brian Rivera was incorrectly identified as Brain Riviera. The Leader regrets the mistake.

Front cover: Multiple personal items of Dr. Willard Stanley on display at the Stanely Museum **Back cover:** Cabinet full of taxidermy ducks on display at the Stanely museum**. Both photos by SAM HEBERT** | Photo Editor

S206 Williams Center
Fredonia, NY 14063

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"Education is our passport to the future, for tomrrow is for the people who prepare for it today" - Malcolm X

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Stanley Museum reopens after years of work

SARAH FISHER
Special to The Leader

The Stanley Museum is back and better than ever, according to sophomore Ava-Claire Boring, who is completing a directed study in the Stanley Museum.

Through the hard work of Fredonia faculty, staff, students and alumni, the historic Stanley Museum officially reopened Oct. 17 on the second floor of SUNY Fredonia's Houghton Hall. The museum was relocated from Jewett Hall, which is slated to become the new Student Success Center.

According to Thomas Hegna, chair of the Department of Geology and Environmental Science, who helped restore the museum, the Stanley Museum has a rich history with SUNY Fredonia. Many items in its collections, including eggs and taxidermy specimens, date back to the 1800s.

Hegna said each object and specimen has its own unique story. Many specimens were collected and prepared by generations of dedicated students and faculty members.

Hegna also noted that several alumni volunteers helped work on the taxidermied snowy owl currently on display in the museum. They contributed to the project outside of class while they were students.

Dr. Willard Stanley, who joined the SUNY Fredonia faculty in 1935 and served as a professor and chairman of the science and biology departments, was responsible for creating the museum, which housed and displayed numerous specimen collections.

Stanley was fascinated by the study of plants and animals depicted on postage stamps and wrote several books on the subject. One of his books is titled "Insects and Other Invertebrates of the World on Stamps."

His studies, which encompassed a wide range of animals found in local ecosystems, received international recognition.

The Stanley Museum houses unique specimens, including a duck-billed platypus, a koala, an echidna and eggs from the extinct passenger pigeon, among many others.

Hegna said visual information is extremely valuable in supporting the learning process. The Stanley Museum provides visitors with opportunities to observe its collections firsthand and connect physical specimens to topics they are studying, reading about or simply interested in.

"Teaching without that connection is inferior," Hegna said.

Hegna said the museum serves as both an educational resource and an engaging space that showcases SUNY Fredonia's programs. He hopes it will attract outside audiences and provide visitors with memorable experiences that encourage excitement and curiosity.

When Hegna joined the SUNY Fredonia faculty in 2019, the Stanley Museum's former home in Jewett Hall was closed. Restoring the museum and making it accessible to visitors required considerable work, he said.

Alumni volunteers Renée Bush, Gary Koeppel, Don Zelazny and Jim Walsh, all biology majors from the Class of 1974, joined the effort, along with Joe Falcone, a biology master's student from the same class, according to Hegna.

Together, Hegna, Dr. William Brown, chair of the Department of Biology, and current undergraduate students took on the task of unpacking and reorganizing the museum's collections in their new space.

During the early stages of the relocation, Brown and his students worked to organize specimens that were initially in disarray. In just a few days, they meticulously sorted and packed the specimens into boxes for transportation to Houghton Hall.

Hegna said that although the specimens in the museum may be dead, the museum is more alive than ever.

Several projects are planned or already underway. These include creating a digital catalog of SUNY Fredonia's natural history specimens, testing older taxidermy specimens for arsenic and mercury, and establishing a space for students to contribute natural history artwork and participate in other hands-on projects.

The reopening of the Stanley Museum is creating new possibilities and opportunities for SUNY Fredonia students, faculty and the wider community.

Those interested in viewing the museum's collections can contact Hegna at Thomas.Hegna@fredonia.edu. The museum is still establishing its hours of operation, but plans are underway to offer public hours coordinated with museum interns.



Passenger pigeon eggs sit on display at the Stanley Museum in Fredonia, N.Y., on Oct. 17, 2026. **Photo by SAM HEBERT** | Photo Editor

Trump berates reporter

RYFI
Opinion Editor

On Oct. 20, President Donald Trump snapped at Andrew Feinberg, a reporter from The Independent.

This incident occurred when the president and vice president, J.D. Vance, unveiled the Fraud Whistleblower Incentive Program (WHIP).

The Department of Justice states this will reward individuals who report the theft and/or the misuse of taxpayer funds. The justice department states rewards can vary from S10,000 to S30,000 dollars

According to the justice department this will cost $25 million. This will cover the reward pool and operational cost.

Trump has berated reporters before, with one prominent example being from November 2025 aboard Air Force One

He was asked a question about Jeffrey Epstein, and told Bloomberg News reporter Catherine Lucey, "Quiet, piggy."

President Trump also attempted to ban multiple media outlets from the White House, which was then turned back.

President Trump has continued straining relationship with the press by berating reporters, on multiple occasions, in one meeting.

Yesterday, Feinberg began asking President Trump about his plans to push ahead an overhaul of a public golf course in Washington, D.C., phrasing the question by saying, "On the golf course, sir, you own a lot of golf cour[ses]."

Feinberg was not able to finish his question; he was instead interrupted by President Trump telling him multiple times to wait.

Feinberg attempted to continue his question, before the President told him, "Quiet, Quiet."

It is important to note that the president heavily emphasized the second quiet, tensing up and almost yelling at Feinberg.

President Trump then asks Feinberg, "What's wrong with you? Are you a sick person?"

Feinberg responds, saying, "Not that I know of, sir."

This was not the end of the berating of Feinberg by the president.

When Feinberg went to ask a question not even 10 minutes after that exchange, President Trump told The Independent reporter, "I don't know who the hell you are, but you better be careful."

After the exchange, Vice President J.D. Vance responded on X, with the caption, "President Donald J. Trump eviscerates imbecile 'journalist' Andrew Feinberg for misbehaving in the Oval Office"

Feinberg was quick to respond, telling the Vice President, "If you're going to insult me at least have the guts to tag my account."

Andrew Feinberg has not been silent about the incident at the white house, and when he wrote his response in The Independent, he said of this incident, "I was doing my job, and I'll be right back at it tomorrow."



New loan rules worry Fredonia students

PAIGE TAYLOR
Staff Writer

The One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBA) was signed into law on July 4, 2025, it totals 870 pages.

According to Jeramy Corrente, the director of the finical aid office at Fredonia students have misinterpretation of the new changes the law brings

Corrente and assistant director Mark Zaffalon discussed the changes with Leader that this bill makes in an attempt to combat the misinformation and help students find out what the changes truly mean.

One of the changes deals with students looking to further their education and pursue professional degrees, such as graduate school, being concerned about was the changing definition of what is or is not a professional degree program, and how it relates to student federal loans.

The OBBA bill states that some programs that were previously considered professional degrees will no longer be considered as such.

Others that were not previously considered professional degree programs will remain unchanged.

The best course of action for students who may be impacted is to contact the institution they intend to further their study at and find out whether their program is considered a professional degree program there, according to Corrente.

Many students on campus have been worried that some degree or certificate programs would no longer qualify for loans in general.

According to Zaffalon, this concern likely stems from section 85001 of the bill, which prohibits students from using federal funds to enroll in low outcome programs.

Zaffalon mentions in summary, they don't want students to take out loans for a degree in a profession that may not allow them to make more than a job that requires no degree.

Zaffalon stated, "The government wants to ensure that students are getting or becoming gainfully employed for what they're paying to come to school for."

He continued, "They want to make sure that what they're paying in is worthwhile. These rules are kind of geared towards schools that are having students get into all this debt for not a huge return when they get out of school. If I'm paying $60,000 to go to cosmetology school, I'm getting out and I'm making $15,000 a year, it's not worth the investment."

Corrente stated that a policy change that the department is looking to make in the coming years will align the academic and financial aid definitions of a full-time graduate student.

Corrente outlined the difference in graduate student's full-time statuses; nine credits is considered full-time for academics, but 12 is considered full-time for financial aid:



Graphic by Mars Arensen | Special to The Leader

"We're aligning that. So, any grad[uate] student that's at nine credits, we won't have to reduce the loan because then they can [assuming nine credits in both fall and spring] get the $20,500."

If students have any additional questions about changes under the new bill, or questions on their financial aid in general, Corrente encourages students to come by the financial aid office and speak with someone.

The financial aid office is at 209 Maytum Hall.

"Anytime a student has questions with their financial aid, we have an amazing team. They need to come here and meet with us. Schedule an appointment. You can do it via Starfish. You can email us; you can call us. If there's funding issues, or if you have questions about your aid, we have walk-ins all day. We want to make sure that we're answering any questions."

> "These rules are kind of geared towards schools that are having students get into all this debt for not a huge return when they get out"
> **- Mark Zaffalon, Assistant Director of Financial Aid**

Life & Arts

ChillinHotDog: A new comedian on campus

RYFI
Opinion Editor

A new social media star is now in our midst.

Going by the alias ChillinHotDog, he has amassed hundreds of thousands of views on Instagram and TikTok with comedy skits, tackling anything from college squirrels to wacky hijinks that only he could fathom.

I had the opportunity to interview this rising star and show how his humble beginnings brought him to where he is today.

His real name is Alex DeAngelis, a 19-year-old environmental science major who focuses on what he describes as "outdoor stuff."

His username came from when he was younger. He recounted the story of two shirts he owned as a child.

One of them was a graphic of an ice cube and a glass of water, which said, "Just Chilling." The other shirt was of a burger and a hot dog, with the burger saying, "What's up, Dog?" to the hot dog.

In one of his first strokes of creative genius, he combined the two shirts, coming up with the name "ChillinHotDog."

This was his username on everything, from gamertags to his Twitch, which he still has today. This leads us to his username for his comedy-centered page we know and love.

His bio on Instagram is "These frogs be jumping."

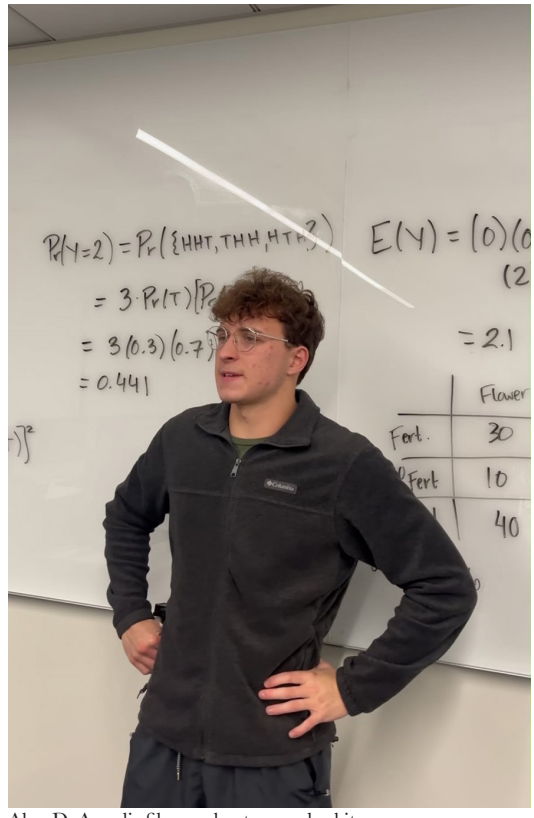
He cites two things for this bio. For one, frogs are his favorite animal. For two, he told me, "Recently, I worked landscaping over the summer at my old high school." He continued, "Actually, one of my first videos that I posted was me yapping in my car about how toads are always jumping into the weed whackers or jumping into the lawnmowers as I'm going."

So, in retrospect, those frogs did be jumping.

While the demise of these frogs was not intentional, the creation of his now-famous social media account was, and he started to create short-form skits.

The blowing up of his account was a surprise to him, with him saying, "I was kind of shocked because I think the first video that kind of got some traction was, like, I made [it] at my house and the video was something about college," DeAngelis mentioned.

He continued by telling me how he kept making videos, specifically ones that were not about college. After a while of making content that wasn't about college life, he returned to his older videos about college and realized, "Wait, that one kind of went crazy, I should probably try to make some more."



Alex DeAngelis films a short comedy skit.
photo by ALEX DEANGELIS | Special to The Leader

So, he did. And when he did, he started gaining serious traction, to the point where he was getting thousands, hundreds of thousands, and up to a million views on his videos.

He told me that his newfound fame came as a surprise to him, "I was shocked at first because I didn't think that something like that would happen to me at least."

ChillinHotDog has now amassed a widespread following, with his most popular video having 8 million views on Instagram.

Having a giant fanbase both here and outside of Fredonia, Alex uses comedy to connect people through shared experiences, and that is a great thing.

A look inside Elizabeth Holmes' final days before prison



Graphic by MARS ARENSEN | Specical to The Leader

CARTER SIREIKA
Special to The Leader

"You Can See Everything" is a new documentary produced by A24 currently in theatres. The film focuses on convicted felon Elizabeth Holmes, documenting her final 34 days with her children and partner, Billy Evans, in a San Diego beach house.

Directed by Nathan Fielder and co-directed by cinematographer Lance Oppenheim, the film features a nearly three hour runtime that explores Holmes as a person and how she views the crimes she committed.

About 80% of the footage in this movie is genuine, real and unscripted. Alongside scripted reenactments of segments the crew could not legally film.

Oppenheim's cinematography goes far beyond picking up a camera and documenting the events around. These shots are carefully planned and coordinated.

Earlier this fall, Oppenheim released his feature-length film, "Primetime," which established a distinct visual style that carries over to this documentary.

These shots are cinematic-looking and it is even crazier when you remember that these are unscripted events taking place.

I love the coloring grading he does in post-production, adding this sense of grit and realism to the film.

Who I really enjoyed in this movie was Nathan Fielder who was the one asking questions and gathering information and I think he did great at documenting his experience with the Holmes.

He stayed with them during filming, and he was really professional throughout. He made sure to give the family their space, and he didn't shower them with criticism, but he didn't sugarcoat either. He was always honest with the family, even if he was brutally honest. He was there to just get info, and the stuff he gathered was genuinely interesting and kept me engaged.

Fielder also does a good job injecting some comedy into this movie.

Fielder is a funny guy who does crack jokes in awkward situations but they're not constant and he handles the situation at hand very maturely.

I think the documentary was done in a very ethical way, which I still think is important even when documenting a criminal.

The moments these cameras captured were shocking and left me in disbelief that some of this was actually real.

Most of the major reveals do not occur until later in the film, but the earlier scenes offer a genuinely disturbing look into their mindset, raising questions about how those involved will respond now that the project is in the public eye.

There are little details to look out for that really show you who these people are.

This film does a great job of giving you a picture of what's going on in their heads, and it is genuinely disturbing to think about at times. I am curious about what some of the people involved are going to say after this and how they will respond to these events being in the public eye.

I don't watch a lot of documentaries, and I didn't expect to enjoy this as much, but this really blew my expectations away with how well it was done and gave me a new perspective on non-fiction storytelling.

Fielder and Oppenheim have conducted something special here: a mind-bending, visually stunning and ethically grounded documentary.

"You Can See Everything" stands out as one of the most impressive films I've seen all year, earning a 10 out of 10.

It reminded me how the real world can be just as wild and shocking as a fictional story.

"The moments these cameras captured were shocking and left me in disbelief that some of this was actually real." - **Carter Sireika**

Emrys Donaldson speaks on new book

GRACELYN BEACHNER
Asst. Copy Editor & Social Media Manager

On Oct. 22, author Emrys Donaldson visited SUNY Fredonia's campus to speak about his 2026 short story collection, "The Iridescents."

This event was put on by the English department's Mary Louise White Visiting Author Series.

The event included a Craft Talk for English department students and a fiction reading of his debut collection in the Marion Art Gallery.

Throughout the novel, Donaldson tells stories of unique identities, making it his mission to have the audience pause and think about what they read.

Donaldson read four short stories from this collection at the reading.

Selections included "We are the 300-year-old big bois of the sea and we did not come to play," "Insert Coin 0/2," "A Change in the Weather" and the title story "The Iridescents."

At each event, Donaldson also opened the floor to questions about his experience writing, editing and publishing his collection.

As for Donaldson himself, he has been writing stories included in this book since 2012.

Donaldson stated that writing this book came from many different places, considering how long ago some stories were written.

"I'm really inspired by my friends, honestly, and my reading other writers who are working and putting work out in the world right now. And with this book, especially, just like a lot of rage, I think happened over the course of it."

After publishing, Donaldson attested that teaching was a passion that came with that.

Donaldson mentioned that the experience not only allowed him to get his job but helped his ability to teach and mentor writing students and aspiring authors.

On his overall experience post-publishing, he stated, "It was a lot of fun. Getting to talk about these stories that were in my head, or, like, kind of blipped out on the internet and then evaporated for so long, has been really nice. And getting to hear what people think of them … attention and kind of direct feedback about the work is not something that I had gotten before."

"The Iridescents" is a book that places queer and transgender characters throughout it without elaborating.

It forces the reader to understand without question, like many other unconventional aspects of the short stories.

Donaldson mentioned repeatedly the importance of deciding to not explain yourself.

He emphasized the idea of letting representation, and the character's identities speak for themselves.

"I think that you can make a choice as a writer to explain yourself or not to explain yourself. I understand why people choose to. It doesn't interest me because I'm not interested in writing to explain."

Furthermore, when asked if he believes his book is unique in that way, Donaldson admits that making this decision may stunt his opportunity to grow a larger audience: "I don't know about unique, maybe obstinate. I think it's a choice you can make, and one that a lot of times people decide to not, because it's much harder to find a wider audience if you are choosing to not explain yourself."

Despite this, Donaldson continued to speak on the wonderful parts of publishing a collection like this.

The title story "The Iridescents," is set in a bar in Atlanta. It follows characters who come out of their shells at this bar during drag performances and dance breaks to iconic music.

Donaldson had lived in Atlanta for over a decade; shortly after the reading, he shared a story about his next night in the bar after the book was published.

"There's one story in in the collection that's set in a very specific bar in Atlanta [referring to the title story "The Iridescents"], and one of my best friends, we went there together last time I was in town, and she looked around and was like, 'oh, this is where your story was set.' … That's just a gift to have that recognized. That's really cool."

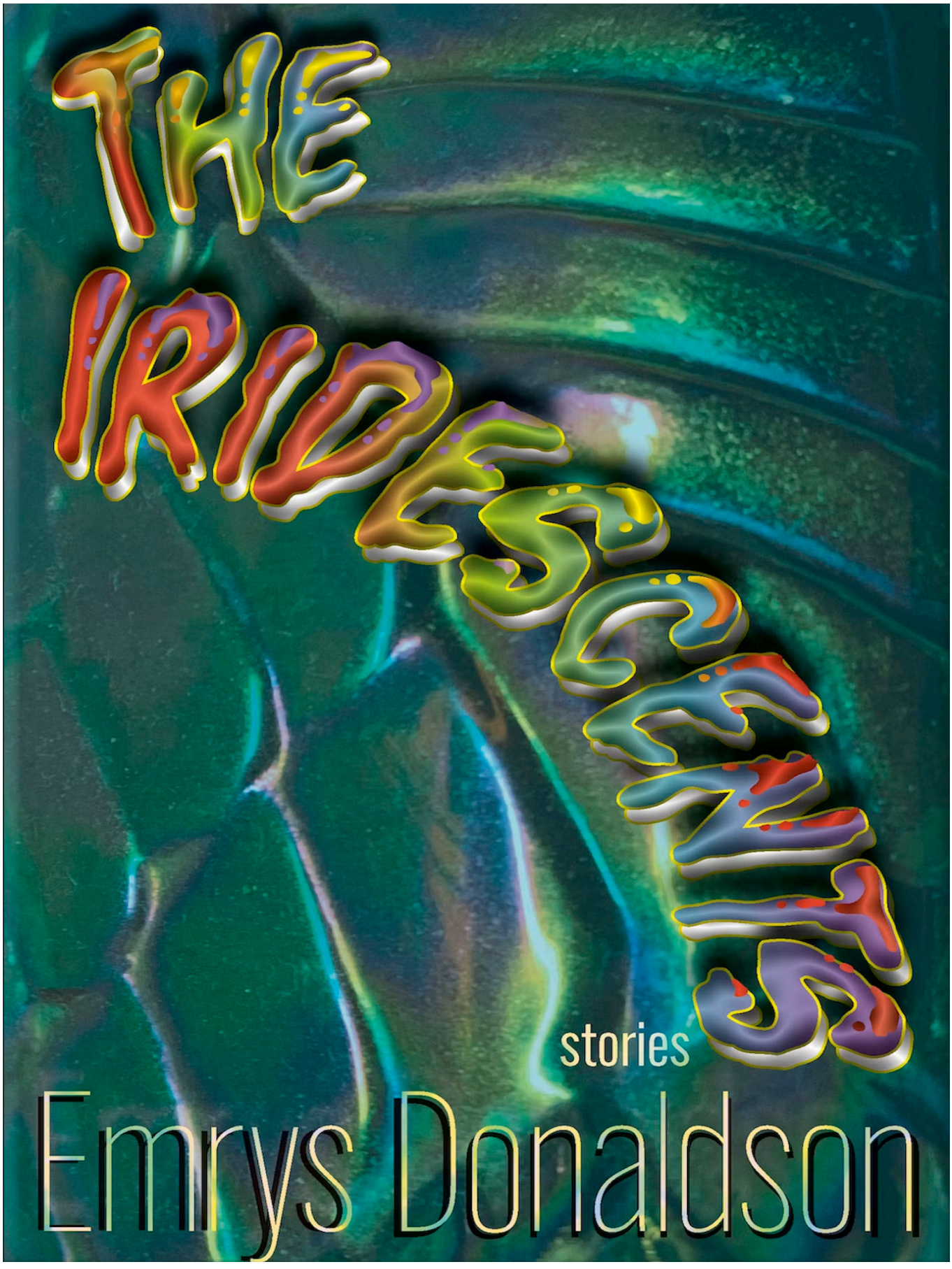
Donaldson also explained why much of his book fits into the genre he calls "Queer and Trans speculative fiction about friend groups" or friendships, saying that friendships are "the most important relationships in your life."

He explained that the identities in his book are represented by himself and his friends. He wishes the readers will let themselves fill in their own stories and friend groups as he did throughout the writing process.

When asked what he wanted young writers and young queer people to hear or take away from the story collection, Donaldson said: "It's important to write for yourself and your friends. You don't have to explain yourself to anyone, unless you want to. Your experiences and values are important, even if you don't always see them reflected in the work you are seeing in the world, which has changed a lot over the past 20 years. Much for the better, I think. Writing is important to give a voice to your experiences, because someone else also has those experiences and will be deeply delighted to find them."

Whether you identify most with the giant crustaceans, the homoerotic friends experiencing weather anomalies or the genderqueer desert explorers, readers can find themselves throughout these stories.

That representation is what makes these otherwise unconventional stories so enjoyable.


THE IRIDESCENTS
stories
Emrys Donaldson

Paper Tigers perform new EP live on release day

Logan Searfoss
Special to The Leader



Fron Left to Right: JJ Moore (Vocals), Justin Swan (Lap steel)



From Left to Right: Emily Payne (Bass), JJ Moore (Vocals)



From Left to Right: Jaedyn Haney (Drums), Justin Swan (Guitar)



Justin Swan (Guitar)

Fredonia's 'Cabaret' brings 1930s Berlin to life



Emcee (Jordan Baez) and Sally Bowles (Katya Jade Sacharow).
Photo by Douglas Osborne-Coy's | Special to The Leader

GWENYTH KIRKWOOD
Life & Arts Section Editor

The energy in the Robert W. Marvel Theatre shifts from the second you step into the theatre to the moment you sit down.

Dressed in flashes of red, white and black clothing, cast members linger on the stage and slither through the aisles before the house lights dim.

Wandering through the theatre, performers stumble through the rows in character. The production of "Cabaret" presented by the Department of Theatre and Dance and directed by Jessica Hillman-McCord has an almost immediate, fully immersive invitation into the fading hedonism of 1930s Berlin.

The Kit Kat Club's chaotic yet captivating energy really came alive in Act I, fueled by the Emcee, played by Jordan Baez, and an incredible ensemble.

The orchestra created an ambiance while opening with "Willkommen." Phenomenal numbers like "Two Ladies," "Tomorrow Belongs to Me," and "Money" stood out to me the most. I found "Two Ladies" to be humorous, provocative and, to have that theatrical charm, whereas "Money" had a very dark tone.

Closing out the first act, "Tomorrow Belongs to Me (Reprise)" sent chills down my body, as the nightclub's lively escape suddenly escalated into an extremely chilling display of Nazi nationalism.

This dramatic shift was elevated by the production's amazing lighting design; these shifts really elevated the production's excellent lighting design, credited to Jaydon Zullo.

The lighting set the tone when transforming the theatre from a sensuous glow of the nightclub to intense hues of red.

While I found every scene to be incredible, the production's greatest emotional impact came when the ensemble shared the stage.

Supporting cast members went to great lengths to reveal the disturbing truths that exist beneath the surface of the nightclub.

Emma Leahy, who plays Kit Kat girl Lulu and serves as Sally Bowles' understudy, highlighted the intentional details tangled into this performance and every layer of background stories.

Leahy notes small details on the cast's costumes that may be overlooked. Every single Kit Kat girl had a unique detail of barbed wire in their costumes to symbolize the unsettling, dark danger of Nazi Germany.

"Lulu's character-they say in 'Willkommen' that she's the baby, so I played with that a lot," Leahy explained. "She just joined the Kit Kat Club because she was thrown out by her parents and her father was abusing her, and in her mind, she's always spaced out; she's constantly on drugs and drinking because she's so enthralled by this new environment. She thinks she can be the next Sally Bowles."

The energy fades into a horrifying reality as the political climate escalates in Act II: Leahy noted that her character Lulu's perspective significantly changes and that "she needs those substances just to survive from day-to-day."

What starts as a hopeful and thrilling journey quickly shifts into a terrible reality of the rising fascism that drives American expat Cliff Bradshaw, played by Nate Carr, to desperately want to return to the United States.

In Act I, the Kit Kat Club portrayed to me this feeling of an escape and a way to freely express yourself.

By Act II, the club has entirely crumbled, revealing the characters' shifting political awakenings and worries.

"Act I is so, there's so many big numbers, and it's so physically demanding, and the energy is so high, but Act II is a really hard place to go mentally," said Leahy. "Our director, Jessica Hillman-McCord, said in our designer meeting, I don't want this to be culinary theatre; I don't want it to be like, oh, you eat a meal, oh, that was great, moving on. She wanted everyone in that theatre to be impacted and forced to think about how this relates to today."

As I exited the theatre, I couldn't stop thinking about how crucial it is for Fredonia to put on a production like this.

SPORTS

Fredonia women's soccer secures SUNYAC playoff win



Gabby Irwin (#13) and Mckenna Szmarz (#6) celebrate after the win against Buffalo State Bengals. **Photo by TRAVIS BERNHARD** | Sports Photographer

AARON HILL
Special to The Leader

The Women's Soccer team ended their first SUNYAC Playoff game with a bang against Buffalo State this Halloween! Their campaign is improving once again with an 11-3-4 overall record and a 5-0-3 conference record.

The three games last week leading up to the playoffs were all major successes, winning 3-2 against Buff-State, 5-0 against Cobleskill, and 1-1 against Brockport.

Oct. 21, 2026, against Buff-State, was a historic win for the Blue Devils and their Coach, Chris Case, who has been devoted to the Fredonia Women's Soccer Team since 2002. This game went down in his record as his 200th win with the Devils, perfectly timed for SUNY Fredonia's Bicentennial!

The Devils secured the game within the first hour with three very impressive breakaway goals, two made by the game leader, #9 Bronwyn Madden, who also assisted the game-winning shot by #3, Haley Drinon.

The Bengals attempted a comeback with two goals in the second half, to no avail as the Devils goalkeeper Allyssa Hatch finished off the game with four saves, fortifying the 3-2 win against the Bengals.

For the last game of the regular fall season, the Blue Devils had a clean sheet against the SUNY Cobleskill at 5-0, with a whopping 30-1 shots and 15-1 corner kicks. Three out of the five goals made by the Devils were scored by #7, Anna Ratchuk, recording a full hat trick by the 58th minute of the game. Ratchuk added one more feature by assisting for #13 Gabby Irwin's through-ball goal within minutes of her first— then just two minutes later hit top right once again.

Limiting the Tigers to just one shot and just adding more cherries on top every game created an incredible conference season for SUNY Fredonia, as well as a great compliment to Coach Case with one more incredible win on top of his new record.

The team's last game for the regular season ended in a 1-1 tie against SUNY Brockport, a seldom-defeated team. In just the first 6 minutes, #13 Gabby Irwin passed to #9 Bronwyn Madden, delivering the first goal of the game.

Without the two saves made in goal by Allyssa Hatch, the game would have ended much differently against the Golden Eagles.

The Blue Devils did not disappoint with their performance in their first Playoff game for SUNYAC, winning against the Buffalo State Bengals once again 3-1. This win will send them off to the Semi-Finals at Plattsburgh State on Nov. 4, 2026.

With a tense first half as the Bengals were up 1-0, #13 Gabby Irwin scored in the 43rd minute, and just after halftime, #21 Makayla Stainbrook followed with a penalty kick goal, making the score 1-2.

With just five minutes left on the clock, Madden scored one more point on a set-up from Irwin. They eclipsed two long-standing records within one shot, as Madden scored 33 points in a single season, breaking a record that has been undefeated since 2011.

Alongside Madden's historical goal, Irwin set the record with 14 assists in a single season.

As well as Allyssa Hatch making a whopping six saves, limiting the Bengals to just one goal, this Halloween Playoff game was a great record-breaking success.

Building off each win created an incredible conference season for SUNY Fredonia, and much to brag about for Chris Case. Congratulations to the Blue Devils for a glorious week of wins to end off the season!

Be sure to support the Blue Devils as they travel to Plattsburgh on Wednesday for the SUNYAC semi-final!

Saving sports or sidelining players? The debate over the PCSA

JACK HOADLEY
Sports Editor

It's your average Saturday as a college football fan; you grab your coffee and turn on College Gameday to see what the stories of the day are.

Wait a minute, is that Ted Cruz?

Yes, it is, and his ten-minute, uninterrupted speaking time was not just because he's a big Texas Longhorns fan.

Live on ESPN, Cruz was talking about a piece of legislation he hopes to pass, titled the "Protect College Sports Act of 2026" (PCSA).

With Election Day quickly approaching, this seems like no better time to share what the act entails, as well as what it could mean for Division III athletics.

The PCSA was introduced to the United States Senate on June 2, 2026, as a bipartisan solution to deliver stability to college athletics.

The bill, as it was introduced, limits players from transferring schools more than once (barring unique circumstances) and sets five years as the standard eligibility.

Beyond this, it also restricts coaches from moving schools during the season, a situation that may be familiar to any Ole Miss fans.

The final restriction ensures agents can only charge contract fees capped at 5% of student-athletes' name, image and likeness (NIL) endorsement contracts.

While the bill also changes some things for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), it mainly acts as a way to give power back to them, but that's not all.

The bill also gives the NCAA "a limited antitrust exemption" that can also be given to programs and conferences.

This is where many see a major issue with the bill; it strips control away from collegiate athletes and coaches while also giving schools, conferences and the NCAA more power.

When the PCSA was originally introduced, it also featured no legislation protecting Title IX, which has since been changed.

For many, this bill is a needed step to control the constant movement of college sports, as NIL and the transfer portal have given players more control.

Former Michigan basketball coach and national champion Dusty May, left the Wolverines for the NBA, citing the current state of college basketball as a reason.

As mentioned earlier, Lane Kiffin's departure to Louisiana State University during Ole Miss's College Football Playoff run enraged audiences, likely leading to the coach restrictions of the bill.

Others will argue that the bill strips college athletes of their autonomy, forcing Congress to negotiate on their behalf.

The main criticism is that if you are going to limit what college athletes can earn, then where are their protections from losing scholarships or liability workarounds when injury or misconduct occurs?

Another argument is that if you are limiting what players can earn, then why can coaches and administrators make as much as they do?

The highest-paid coach in college athletics, according to Sportico, is Indiana Football coach Curt Cignetti, making 13.2 million annually.

This is more than double what some of the highest-earning athletes are making, showing a clear discrepancy.

It all comes back to one key question: are college athletics broken by the power possessed by players?

Many would agree that this bill being constructed without the input of college athletes is in bad faith, since it leaves a key group being restricted out of the room.

As the bill barrels toward the House of Representatives, some may wonder what could change for Division III athletic programs like Fredonia if the bill is passed.

Overall, not much will change for athletes at the Division III level, but programs could see benefits from the stability the PCSA may create.

As revenue trickles down to Division III programs, less parody for bigger programs could increase funding for smaller schools.

Division III athletics also operates under separate guidelines for player eligibility, earning and transfers.

This means that Division III athletic programs will avoid much of the change this bill could bring.

Overall, the injection of Congress into college sports is just getting started and Congress will return after the election, with the PCSA being one act that could be considered.

In between Pat McAfee ripping off his shirt and a million-dollar field goal, answers for the future of college athletics will be determined.

Whether this act actually stabilizes college sports or just gives power back to the top remains a multi-million-dollar question.

"Many would agree that this bill being constructed without the input of college athletes is in bad faith..."
- Jack Hoadly, Sports Editor

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: rfink@fredonia.edu | Scallion: aboring@fredonia.edu

A season of inconsistency: The Buffalo Sabres season so far

VIKTOR FENESS
Special to The Leader

The Buffalo Sabres have officially entered the 2026-2027 NHL season with something to prove.

After years of struggling to establish themselves as consistent contenders for playoffs, expectations remain high for a team looking to gain the already competitive Atlantic Division.

Through the opening 13 games, Buffalo has delivered… mixed performance.

With six wins, four losses and three overtime losses, the Sabres have consistently demonstrated flashes of potential while sadly continuing to struggle with consistency.

Although recent wins offer encouragement, questions remain about whether the Buffalo Sabres can sustain the success.

With a high hope for a great season, with the Sabres playoff qualification last season, despite their sad early departure in the second round to the Montreal Canadians in a nail biting 3-2 overtime.

However, with the beginnings of the new season, the Sabres seems to be conforming to a middling result.

As it stands, the Buffalo Sabres currently have the worst differential in the Atlantic Division, hanging at a -7 this being 3rd lowest in the Eastern Conference, with -8 differential for the Blue Jackets, and -22 for the Flyers.

The Sabres have had a small return to upward momentum, with a convincing win against San Jose, 2-0 and a close scoring game of 7-6 to Anaheim.

With the match against San Jose showing discipline, and great defensive plays; the Sabres blocked 20 shots on goal throughout.

However, the Anaheim game raises questions about the sturdiness of the Sabres defense, with the Sabres only blocking nine shots.

The game also showed the possible offensive prowess of the Sabres, with Tage Thompson getting a natural hat trick against Anaheim making his total goals scored up to eight across the 13 games of the season on top of his nine assists.

The running theme for the recent performance of the Buffalo Sabres would be inconsistent.

While the Sabres have shown they can produce offensively, much of that has come from their leading players.

Tage Thompson has become a particularly important contributor to the Sabres success, currently leading the team with eight goals and nine assists.

His hat trick against Anaheim demonstrates his offensive threat when presented the opportunity. However, relying heavily on individual performances raises other questions: can the rest of the Buffalo roster contribute consistently when its head players are falling behind?

The Sabre's defensive performance remains a concern heading deeper into the season. Allowing six goals against Anaheim, despite winning, is not something a team hoping to make back-to-back playoff qualifications, can afford to make a habit of.

While the offense was impressive, the inability to maintain a lead nearly cost Buffalo a close game.

Close games are worrisome, especially when compared to their San Jose performance keeping its opponent scoreless.

Consistency is the thing separating competitive teams from those struggling to make qualifying placement.

Buffalo has demonstrated that it can compete offensively and produce convincing defensive performances, but putting those two aspects together has been a challenge.

The question exists: Can the Sabres find that balance before the standing becomes difficult to climb?

For Buffalo, the remainder of the season will be proving that last year's playoff appearance was not a one-time achievement.

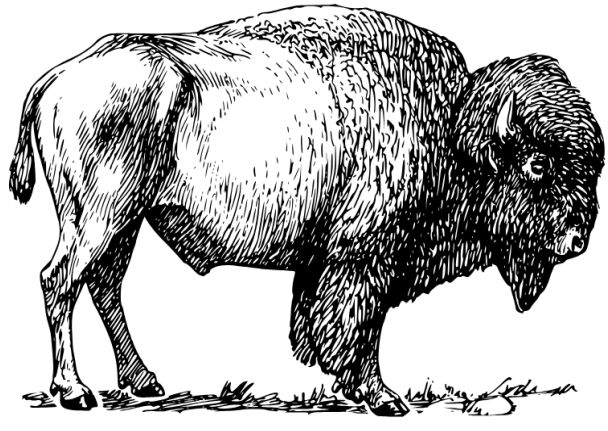
The team has the offensive talent to compete with some of the league's best, but having only talent will not be enough to secure another postseason appearance.

The Sabres need to establish more reliable defense, find consistency in their lineup and learn to maintain control of the game when the offense does not pull through.

Despite this, there is still plenty of hockey left to play; the Sabres should have time to correct their shortcomings.

However, with expectations higher than they have been in years, Buffalo does not have the luxury of time to improve.

Whether this season becomes a step toward establishing a competitive franchise or a disappointing campaign depends on if the Sabres can transform their flashes in the pan into consistent results.



An epic rematch in Highmark ends bye week blues

JACK HOADLEY
Sports Editor

The bye week for Buffalo came and went, but there was plenty of trade action around the NFL that may just be the beginning to a wild trade deadline.

While Buffalo has been quiet so far, the major move of the week was the Chicago Bears sending 2 first round picks for defensive lineman Jeffery Simmons.

This move to me propels Chicago into that top tier of the NFC, meaning they are now a likely foe if the Bills reached Super Bowl 61.

Another team making headlines was the Colts, who sent two major contributors to division rivals during the week.

All-pro guard Quinten Nelson was sent to Seattle, and his former teammate Deforest Buckner will match up against him after he was sent to San Francisco.

The New York Jets, one of Buffalo's division rivals, owns the Colts first round pick, which now looks to be of major value.

The Colts have seemingly thrown in the towel just 8 weeks into the season, now 2-6 after firing their general manager mid-season.

Now back to the one game Buffalo has played in between issues, I would be lying if I said this game lived up to the hype.

A game that was supposed to be a major duel between two MVP level quarterbacks quickly changed as the Ravens went from Lamar Jackson, to Joe Fagnano, Ravens third quarter back.

As much as the win was an exciting one for Buffalo, the first half was so mundane to the point where I thought Fagnano was about to lead the upset of the lifetime.

But the Bills got it done in the second half and if I had a player of the game, it would undoubtably go to DJ Moore.

Moore looked exactly like the weapon Buffalo needed tonight as the connection began to click in the second half.

I am a huge believer in this Bills team despite the defensive struggle at times, especially if they can find a way to make a big swing at the deadline.

The Bills need to target defensive help in any way possible, especially since many teams seem to be making it very available.

On the other end, Bills fans should be excited to see the Ravens struggles right now.

Regardless of the injury to Jackson earlier in the game, which will now place him on IR, the Ravens really struggled defensively and have throughout the season.

They will now take a 3-game losing streak into a Thursday Night Football game against the Jaguars.

Buffalo will also head to primetime in a very anticipated contest between the Vikings.

The Vikings suffered their first loss of the season Sunday to Detroit, and now the Bills unstoppable offense will square off with the imovable Vikings defense.

Josh Allen was nowhere near perfect during this game, but a common theme with the Bills this year is some ugly, but inspiring wins.

Bills fans should remain optimistic, Ed Oliver had a major positive impact on the defensive front today, which should provide them with more defensive stability.

Buffalo will finally get to breath somewhat after facing the Vikings, with two games against the Jets and Dolphins, both of which are hopefully wins.

It will be interesting to see if the Bills make any major trades at the deadline, but I still believe a play for a linebacker should remain a top priority.

Moves for Philadelphia's Zack Baun or the Chargers Daiyan Henley could really make the Bill's defense a feared unit.

As the key stretch of the season approaches, Buffalo looks primed for another deep playoff run, which could finally end in a long-awaited Lombardi Trophy.



DJ Moore. **Image property of 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.

Lovercolumn: Cute with your boo!

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 WDVL 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 just to have some fun.

For this week's date idea, get ready for some virtual love with a video game night!

With our November break coming up, people are going back home and so might your partner.

With this you can just FaceTime or text, but nothing beats doing an activity with them, so you will be playing games online together.

Think about something simple like playing Gartic Phone over a call and trying to guess the others' drawings.

You can also try to play things like Minecraft or Roblox for some team games with them to get close.

You can even play games like Cards Against Humanity or UNO online with them as well!

There are a lot of other games you can play, and each can help get you closer to one other.

I will say that while playing some high-energy games with others may be fun, having a stress-free time with your partner might be best on a date.

Relaxing games can help people come out of their shells and encourage casual conversation over rage-quitting.

Note that this isn't just a thing to do long distances, but you can also do this in person.

Games like Wii sports are exceptional for playing in person, and you can even show them how to play.

This is all for fun though, and if your partner isn't into video games, try matching both of your tastes in games.

Main topic

HALLOWEEN. SPOOKY MONTH. Whatever you would like to call this time of year, its a time for celebration!

Halloween has its charms, whether it be the costumes, pumpkins or tricks-or-treating; there are many ways to spend the holiday.

One of the most important aspects of the season, however, is the scares.

Whether it's watching a scary movie, getting scared during a haunted house, or a genuine paranormal sighting, we love the scares.

But why do we? From Virginia Tech, Tim Jarome, a Neuroscience Expert, explains why we enjoy the spookiness of Halloween.

We as humans use horror as entertainment, whether it be a movie, book or story by the fire, we use it. ESPECIALLY around this time.

Jarome said of the scares: "It's really about the context. If we're in a truly dangerous situation, then that fear response is not going to be viewed positively by the brain and will cause us to avoid similar situations in the future. And yes, watching scary movies, riding roller coasters, and similar activities can initially activate a similar part of the brain, causing an adrenaline rush. However, in these situations another part of the brain can determine that the situation is safe, which leads to release of endorphins and dopamine."

Scares can be, well, scary. However, scares can bring you closer to another person.

Halloween is a spooky time, but that doesn't mean there's no time for romance. Going trick or treating, or partying with a partner or date is one idea that could work out in your favor.

You could carve pumpkins, trade candy, gift each other some Halloween and autumn treats and plenty more.

And just because it's over still doesn't mean the scares have to be, too.

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 YOU



Contact us:

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Tesla's flying car causes concern on the Future of Innovation



Graphic by SAFFRON LARREA | Art Director

MARS JUNO SOMTHERGILL
DEI Chair

On October 15, 2026, in Texas, Elon Musk, Tesla and SpaceX unveiled their most dangerous, ambitious and long-awaited project so far.

A "flying" car with suction that lets it drive upside down. It demonstrated this feature from a safe distance as Musk wanted to ensure "it didn't kill anyone."

This project, first announced in 2017, nearly 10 years ago, will reportedly enter production in 2028.

Not only can it do flips, but it was also demonstrated vaulting over other vehicles with its combination of SpaceX and Tesla design.

In addition to other upcoming projects, like humanoid Artificial Intelligence (AI) workers, self-driving cars and the further development of AI, this somehow takes the cake as the most irresponsible and morally abhorrent to date.

These cars do not yet have a price attached, but the deposit on one car may range from 20,000 to 200,000 dollars.

Personally, I believe the continued production of this Tesla product and many others is far more trouble than it is worth.

When the Roadster was first sold in 2008, the goal of the company was to demonstrate the ecological benefits of electric cars and to prove their success.

But now? Now it seems like every new project is simply another way to see how far our ethics are willing to stretch.

The mere thought of even placing this vehicle on a public road truly sends shivers down my spine. The destruction possible, even with the utmost care put into place, is still far too much. Normal cars of any model, not just Teslas, get into accidents almost every 5.3 seconds, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System and reported by vehiclelookup.org.

That's 16,700 crashes a day, with 94% being caused by human error.

Now imagine what might happen if you give even a small portion of the population vehicles with the ability to jump over other cars.

It will definitely cause more harm, more deaths and more injuries.

This isn't even taking into account how this would affect our street and driving laws.

Would this vehicle be classified as a new vehicle? Would it require a special license? Would it elicit separate road signs and legislation?

Currently, our laws work and function just enough based on a system that has been nurtured and explored for nearly a century, and infrastructure and accessibility of roads is a very

hot topic in nearly every election federally or otherwise.

If we are already experiencing difficulties managing sidewalks, public transit and collisions, why on earth would we ever, ever at all, even think of creating something this dangerous?

Today, even without the unprecedented times we live in, the record-setting government shutdowns and legislative delays, bills take months at minimum to become laws, and even with this two-year head start, even if our legislators were to start writing bills right this second, we would still be woefully unprepared in the face of these monstrous rocket cars.

To be clear, I do not fear innovation. I do not fear invention and the development of technology; what I do fear is the incompetence of those creating this new age of technological apocalypse-causers.

AI is killing our water, our literacy, our humanity and so are these cars.

These flying abominations are destined to cause harm. This energy that is being catapulted at technology, so far from our grasp, could be used for so many other important issues.

Imagine if Musk devoted all of his time to solving climate change.

Imagine if instead of aiming for cities on Mars or civilian space travel or flying cars, he aimed his money, resources and time towards lowering the core temperature of the Earth, the only planet with intelligent life we have all lived on.

Not only is this idea not a flying car as we have envisioned it, but it is also a waste of time, a great source of danger and its production is irresponsible and must be stopped.

"Why on earth would we ever, ever at all, even think of creating something this dangerous?"

- Mars Juno Somthergill



THE LEADER
SUNY FREDONIA'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER

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Kasling residents face ongoing plumbing problems

KIP ZONA
Special to The Leader

I had been awake for less than an hour. Late start to the day, I know, but it was a Saturday. I thought I could be a bit lazy.

As I'm lying on the couch in my common room, one of my friends walks in, asking me a question that would go on to change the course of my day.

"Did you know your toilet is leaking?"

I was inclined to brush it off. Surely, it couldn't be that bad.

Still, I got up and went to our bathroom to investigate, expecting to find nothing but a slow drip of water.

Oh, how unprepared I was.

This was no minor drip; this was a steady stream of water leaking out of one of the joints in our pipes.

We started taking the proper course of action.

One of my suitemates immediately put in a maintenance request, we informed an RA, and we placed a cup under the leak in hopes of containing it.

Initially, someone had to empty the cup every three minutes or so. Three minutes became two minutes, then one minute became forty-five seconds.

The leak got so intense that the water was visible from outside of Kasling, presumably seeping through the floor of our corner suite.

At this point, I was fed up with the matter. I had to clean up standing water once already, and there was no sign of maintenance responding any time soon.

I called my dad to confirm what I was already thinking: all I had to do was tighten the nut with a pipe wrench.

So, I bought a pipe wrench.

When I got back, there was, unsurprisingly, standing water in our bathroom again. I made my way back to the toilet and managed to stop the leak.

Now, it was an easy fix, but this is a matter of principle.

I should not have had to fix the toilet myself, and more than that, this was not the first problem my suite had with our bathroom. The same toilet that was leaking has never flushed properly, and the pipes are still so loose I can wiggle them with my hand.

Around the end of last month, our shower drain was so severely clogged that water would collect in the shower and be up to our ankles in a matter of minutes.

I know we are not the only suite to face issues with plumbing. I've heard stories of similarly clogged showers and broken toilets.

Room and board costs thousands of dollars; the infrastructure of our residence halls should be worth the money we pay.

Water leaks are dangerous. If left unchecked, they can very easily cause mold to grow. In fact, if that water was truly seeping through our floor, how do we know there isn't mold already?

Perhaps I may be worrying too much, but between the faulty plumbing and maintenance's lack of urgency, part of me worries for the safety of Kasling's residents. Ignoring potential health concerns, I worry about our quality of life.

The money I pay Fredonia must be going somewhere.

If I am forced to live on campus, I should at least live in a building with working plumbing.

Join The Leader for General Body meetings!

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

The Leader's Office Hours!

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

@FredoniaLeader

Students facing admin issues



Construction of Jewett Hall.
Photo by SAM HEBERT | Photo Editor

RYFI
Opinion Editor

While interviewing a secretary in McEwen Hall about the gas leak in Jewett Hall, she remarked that she was afraid to open her window.

The gas leak, which occurred in early October, wasn't her only concern. More troubling was the dumpster containing asbestos waste that had been placed directly against a fence bordering a walkway. The dumpster has since been removed.

Although the walkway had been closed for construction in Jewett Hall, its closure also blocked one of the few wheelchair-accessible routes through the area. Meanwhile, the dumpster sat in plain sight, raising serious concerns about the potential exposure of students, faculty and staff passing by.

This is what our administration thinks of us.

McEwen Hall is home to two student communication organizations: the radio station and the television station. Both serve as important spaces for students to learn, create and gain professional experience. Yet the building sits directly beside an ongoing construction project that has raised serious safety concerns.

I have personally been shown what appeared to be clouds escaping from the dumpster, which is clearly marked with an asbestos warning. Friends have reported difficulty breathing after walking past it. These concerns deserve answers, not silence.

And the problems do not stop there.

Returning to the gas leak in Jewett Hall, several campus buildings were evacuated immediately. McEwen Hall, however, was not evacuated until the chair of the Communication Department called attention to the situation. This was despite McEwen being directly next to Jewett Hall.

That is unacceptable. Full stop.

The treatment of this campus and its students is deeply upsetting, and it needs to be addressed. Not through another poll. Not through another forum. It requires decisive action from the people responsible for running this campus and protecting the people who live, work and study here.

Information Technology Services (ITS) has also been a source of frustration for students in McEwen Hall. Both the television and radio stations have experienced ongoing technical difficulties that have interfered with their ability to operate. For the radio station in particular, the issues have become so persistent that simply mentioning the computer system brings a sense of dread to the room. We still cannot reliably access the technology we need to do our jobs.

These problems are not isolated to McEwen Hall or the Communication Department.

Entire academic majors have been cut within the past year. Although this article is being written by someone deeply involved in Fredonia's Communication Department, the issues facing this campus extend far beyond one department.

Everyday students are dealing with unreliable Wi-Fi, poor cellular service that forces people to leave their dorms or even entire buildings just to make a phone call, and, of course, Microsoft.

The university's transition from Google to Microsoft has been completed in many areas, but the change continues to create problems for students and faculty. Meanwhile, the response time for meaningful solutions has been lackluster.

At what point do students get to expect better?

We deserve a campus where our safety is a priority, where the technology we rely on actually works and where decisions are made with students in mind. We deserve an administration that listens to concerns and follows through with meaningful action.

We need a change of pace. We need accountability. Most importantly, we need to advocate for ourselves and demand better from the people in the highest positions of power on this campus.

"Everyday students are dealing with unreliable Wi-Fi, poor cellular service that forces people to leave their dorms or even entire buildings just to make a phone call,"
- RYFI, Opinion Editor

Fredonia's LEADER

Open Positions

Fall 2026

- Web Editor
- Design Editor
- News Editor
- Asst. Sports Editor
- Asst. Opinion Editor
- Asst. L&A Editor
- Asst. Scallion Editor
- Asst. Business Manager
- Asst. Social Media

@FredoniaLeader

THE SCALLION

Mamdani has officially turned evil

RYFI
Opinion Editor

MORGAN BROWN
Business Manger

THIS JUST IN:

Zohran Mamdani has just been witnessed transforming.

A witness described it to The Scallion.

"I was walking down in Manhattan, and I saw Mamdani on his bike. I waved at him; he waved back, and BOOM. His bike suddenly turned into a flying Tesla Roadster!"

The witness has now passed away. Mamdani is Evil Now.

Other witnesses describe Mamdani marching toward Curtis Sliwa, who was on the next block over. Curtis was heard talking about how he got shot five times by the Gambino crime family.

Sliwa has now been disintegrated by Mamdani's laser eyes. His red beret was left smoking in the street. Mamdani is Evil Now.

All eyes turned to see a bus barreling down the road toward Mamdani. Bystanders leapt onto the sidewalks as they looked at the horrific scene.

One foot in front of the other propels Mamdani toward the approaching bus. He raises a hand and, in one swift movement, halts the vehicle in its tracks.

The passengers cheer as they wave from the open bus windows. They do not know that he's Evil Now.

The formerly stationary bus has been propelled 500 feet forward. Screams have been heard echoing from the flying vessel. Mamdani is Evil Now.

Mamdani then turns to see Andrew Cuomo walking down the street.

He walks over and shakes his hand. Mamdani is Evil Now.

Mamdani then starts walking. Every step he takes erupts the concrete, leaving potholes in his wake.

Is he going to fix the potholes? No, Mamdani is Evil Now.

He walks towards a bodega; the store owner greets him with a smile.

The bodega is gone now. He ate the whole thing, including the cat. Mamdani is Evil Now.

A woman walked by the scene with her child; the child's name is Montgomery.

Montgomery does not have childcare. His mother can't afford it.

Montgomery runs up to Mamdani and asks the mayor for free childcare.

Montgomery has been propelled to the moon. Mamdani is Evil Now.

Mamdani flies back down and continues to make more potholes that he will never fill.

On his way towards Central Park, he starts destroying water fountains with his mind alone. Mamdani is Evil Now.

He passes by a CEO and gives them one quintillion dollars. Mamdani is Evil Now.

He sees a small business and gets hungry again...

After his afternoon snack, he finally arrives at Central Park.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (RFK) left a dead bear in Central Park two years ago. He actually did this. You can look it up.

Mamdani sees RFK searching for someone to spew anti-vaccine rhetoric to.

Mamdani, in what looks like a good deed, removes the brain-eating worm from RFK's brain.

However, he only did this to inject a steroid into the worm and quickly placed it back in RFK's brain.

RFK now believes vaccines will explode the Earth in two years. Mamdani is still Evil.

Donald Trump has heard the news of Mamdani's turn to the dark side. He has reportedly begun looking at pictures of Mamdani's mayoral behind with one hand, while steadily applying concealer with the other.

When Trump touches down, he immediately makes his way towards Central Park.

'The Flesh' has consumed the park, leaving only a throne on which Mamdani stands on.

Trump approaches Mamdani; they embrace.

Trump tries to give Mamdani a smooch.

It's too much for Mamdani to handle.

JD Vance's spirit escapes suddenly from Mamdani's body.

Mamdani is no longer Evil.

"Mamdani is evil now"- **RyFi, Opinion Editor and Morgan Brown, Business Manger**

Politician claims having a favorite dino is "stupid"

JASPER BATEMAN
Special to The Leader

ALEX BUCKNAM
Editor in Chief

This just in: a very famous politician from the great state of South Dakota just officially announced that having a favorite dinosaur is stupid.

The statement came after members from The Leader asked him what his favorite dinosaur was.

All dinosaurs, alive, dead, and from other dimensions are outraged. One Triceratops said, "Why did we go to Earth if humans think having a favorite dino is stupid... are all human kids stupid now?"

A Tyrannosaurus Rex who arose from the grave stated, "Well, I am upset." The T-Rex continued, "I'm everyone's favorite... What if people stop liking me? I'll get fired from my job, and my wife will leave me."

According to an Ankylosaur, who asked to remain anonymous due to being in a top cabinet position in fear of being fired, "Our elections run on the top favorite dinosaur, according to the human population of Earth. President Rex resigned today. Nobody is sure what is going to happen next... I hope not economic collapse."

President Rex announced his resignation roughly eight hours after the politician left the press conference.

"I chose to resign to keep my legacy alive; if I didn't, then I would lose re-election next year." Rex continued, "Nobody will like me anymore because they all have to listen and believe in a dumb politician."

Not having a favorite dinosaur could potentially put the dinosaurs in an economic crisis, according to a Pachycephalosaurus, who has a doctorate in Jurassic Economics.

The famous politician said these words after calling an emergency press conference to debrief the press after his approval rating dropped 12.5%, according to Gallup research.

Inside sources say the politician holds these views after a drunk Velociraptor lost control of his yellow Volkswagen Beetle on Oct. 27, 2026, at 2:55 a.m.

The claims were proven to be true according to the local unethical hospital, which likes to break HIPAA laws, telling The Leader, "The Velociraptor had an altercation with an Edmontosaurus shortly before departing from the Brontosaurus Jazz Bar."

The doctor, who should definitely not have his medical license, stated "The Politician was struck by a yellow Volkswagen at 2:56 a.m. on Main Road in Fredomnia, Yew Nork. He did not sustain life-threatening injuries but did break his right pinky toe."



Graphic by Keiran Synan | Special to The Leader

The Velocirapotor after the altercation got out of his car and began to apologize . He was found not guilty of all crimes.

The Velociraptor is currently in rehab.

When he was questioned by The Leader after the statement, he began to play stupid. "What do you mean I didn't say anything related about dinosaurs"

The local dinosaurs will hold a special election on Nov. 8, 2026, to elect a new president.

To vote for the dinosaur president, visit your county's polling location.

Votes will be counted based on what your deep thoughts are when the poll workers tell you pterosaurs are not dinosaurs.

Former president Rex asked not to be re-elected, though this has upset the other T-Rex mentioned in the story, who stated, "Did my plea just not resonate with you?"

The Leader has reached out to the said politician but did not get a response before press time.

Editorial note: The Scallion would like to make it very clear that we will not stand for politicians who think dinosaurs are stupid. This is what boots-on-the-ground journalism is all about.

WANT TO WRITE SILLY STUFF?

BECOME A WRITER FOR THE SCALLION!

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IF INTERESTED

Democrats prepare to write strongly worded letter

MARS-JUNO SMOTHERGILL
DEI Chair



Over the course of the first two years of Trump's second presidential term, we have experienced so many negative effects.

from increase funding for ICE raids and deportations, his legislation and executive orders against transgender and queer people, to the state of the economy and even the multiple murders that have occurred because of his ICE arrests.

And, as always, Democrats have responded by reacting just as strongly in their elected positions.

"We really have to take a stand," says a Democratic legislator who was voted into our Congress with the express understanding that they would vote in their district's best interests.

"It's time to rise up and finally do something, something real," they continue to say in response to Trump's newest partnership with Satan. "It's gone too far this time; someone really should step in"

Trump's new partnership with Satan confirms that half of Americans will end up in hell and guarantees several plagues over the next century.

Including, but not limited to, mysterious boils, frogs, venomous flies, poisonous air, significant appearances of random lightning strikes, the occasional zombie apocalypse, and volcanic eruptions.

All of this and more is set to be voted on by Congress after the midterm election, and we asked Democrats about their response to this proposal.

Will they arm themselves with the weapons needed to fight zombies or provide aid to those affected while they work to take down this evil once and for all?

Perhaps even finally go through with the process of impeaching Trump? "We're beginning to think we need to draft a strongly worded letter in response," an official quite literally in charge of the lives of 300 million people shared with us when asked about their party's attack plan.

"We really can no longer stand idly by and let this happen. Voting isn't enough anymore," stated another Democratic Congressperson, who really has not tried voting enough yet; seriously, please just organize a vote.

"This letter will be really, really mean, so Trump and his supporters should be ready to get ready for this"

However, Trump's alliance with Satan isn't the only upcoming partnership we have to worry about, as Trump continues to flirt with the idea of a partnership with Cthulhu.

The Eldritch monster recently stated on his podcast with special guest J.D. Vance, "I'm really considering it, I mean, a chance to steal the souls of half of America, you really can't turn it down, can you?"

In return, Trump would get 4 sticker books and 1 million dollars for the souls of half of America.

When we asked establishment Democrats, they responded by saying, "We will definitely attempt to write that in our letter's draft, but it's 4 p.m., so I must get home in time for the early bird special at Denny's."

As for this letter, we have yet to find a copy or even the outline of the draft

Luckily, we caught a democratic Congressperson on their way home from Denny's at 4:30 a.m. "Oh, well, of course it's not written yet. We'll only send it when there is truly no other way to proceed, or else it loses its power.

They ran off before we could ask what power, since it's clear this note is a warning rather than an invitation to negotiate.

The vote to confirm Satan as a member of the cabinet is upcoming, and so far, Satan looks to be in the lead, as all the Democrats are likely to miss the vote in order to complete the draft of their strongly worded letter.

We've been attempting to get a hold of any Senate Democrat, but nobody is answering their phone."



AVA-CLAIRE BORING
Scallion Editor

Just because Hallowee-kend is over doesn't mean we can't still curl up and watch a scary movie! Be sure to have a friend nearby (or Google a picture of a security guard) to help you feel safer. No spoilers!

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

Obsession (2026)

Possibly the biggest horror movie of the year, Obsession is 100% worth watching. After years of thinking that you're someone's "crazy ex," this movie will have you second-guessing.

Taurus

Psycho (1960)

This is the "it girl" of all horror movies. She's the OG, the Beyoncé of all scary films. Watch this movie if you're talking to a guy who loves his mother just a little bit too much… This will snap you out of it.

Gemini

Llamageddon (2015)

For the sake of my sanity, I had to throw just one satirical horror film into the mix. This movie is perfect if you're looking for "college film project that they definitely failed" vibes.

Cancer

It (2017)

I think this movie has a special place in my heart, as it was the first horror movie I have ever seen. If you're in the mood for something more adventurous and Goonies-adjacent, this one's for you.

Leo

Weapons (2025)

I'm not going to lie; this movie had me stressed out. An amazing watch if you want to see a group of little kids beat up an evil old lady.

Virgo

Jaws (1975)

This movie single-handedly had my mom avoiding using public toilets for years as a child, in the fear that a shark would bite her butt after using the bathroom. A completely real and rational fear after seeing this movie. I get her.

COPES



Libra

Nightmare on Elms Street (1984)

Whatever you do, don't watch this at night! Or in bed!



Scorpio

Scream (1996)

If you're in the mood to watch a horror movie marathon, this is a great start! The Scream franchise has seven movies spanning over 20 years. Grab the popcorn; we're going to be here for a while!



Sagittarius

Carrie (1976)

In honor of "Carrie the Musical" being shown at Main Street Studios in downtown Fredonia, why not reminisce on the original classic? I'll never forgive those high schoolers for what they did to my girl!



Capricorn

Midsommar (2019)

Sure, it's a little late for a movie about a summer "celebration," but I think the fear factor makes up for it. Don't watch if you have a trip to rural Sweden coming up, though.

Aquarius

Silence of the Lambs (1991)

Now that Fall (and dry skin) is in full swing, this movie is an incredible reminder to stay moisturized (iykyk).



Pisces

The Shining (1980)

Known for Shelley Duvall and Jack Nicholson's striking performances, "The Shining" takes the cake as my favorite horror movie of all time. It is also a great reminder to bundle up before going outside in the winter!


Wood Duck ♀♂
Aix sponsa
Family Anatidae
The male wood duck is one of the most colorful waterfowl in North America. They are found in the eastern United States and in the Pacific Northwest.
MALLARD (FEMALE)
Anas platyrhynchos
common breeder throughout N.Y.
Mallard ♀♂
Anas platyrhynchos
Family Anatidae
This duck breeds throughout the American, Eurasia, and North Africa. The males are easily recognized by their green heads
American Black Duck
Anas rubripes
Family Anatidae
This species is the heaviest of the dabbling ducks and is native to eastern North America. It is found in wetlands throughout the eastern United States and Canada.
Gadwall ♀
Marecca strepera
Family Anatidae
This species is quiet for a species of duck and calls primarily during courtship displays. It breeds throughout the Palearctic and central North America.
Cinnamon Teal ♂
Spatula cyanoptera
Family Anatidae
Green-Winged Teal ♀ ♂
Anas carolinensis
Family Anatidae
This duck is common and widespread in North America, being throughout Canada and
Ring-Necked Duck ♂
Aythya collaris
Family Anatidae
The ring-necked duck is named for the faint chestnut ring around the male's neck, although the ring is rarely seen and is rarely displayed the male's native United States and Canada.
Lesser Scaup ♂
Aythya affinis
Family Anatidae
This duck is colloquially known as a bluebill due to its distinctive bill. They prefer to breed in freshwater habitats and are found throughout North America and Canada.