

# MUSIC FOR ACTION

Torch File Photo | Irma Collins

Big K.R.I.T. performs at the last Ferris Fest. This year, the festival is being rebranded and will raise money for charity.

## Ferris Fest to become benefit concert

Devin Anderson  
News Editor

The biggest concert in Big Rapids will get a makeover in 2016 to benefit more than just Ferris students.

The annual Entertainment Unlimited event Ferris Fest will be no more. Instead, EU is planning "Music for Action," a concert to benefit Musicians On Call, a charity that brings live music to the bedsides of those in healthcare facilities.

"We want to do something that has a purpose and benefits an organization," said Ferris music industry management senior and Music for Action coordinator Rachel Bernstein.

The event will still be free. Entertainment Unlimited plans to raise money for Musicians On Call by selling merchandise before and during the event. There will also be a fundraising raffle.

While Bernstein can't yet announce who will be performing, she does know the concert will be shorter than in years' past. Entertainment Unlimited recently surveyed students about their preferences for a spring concert and found most students would enjoy a shorter concert with a well-known headlining artist as opposed to a longer show with several artists. According to the survey, genres preferred by students were alternative rock, pop and hip-hop.

According to Bernstein, another reason for

the change in the festival's image was due to a growing concern from administrators that Ferris Fest has become a university-wide party. During last year's celebration, a burning couch outside Oakwood Apartments was cheered on by more students than headliner Mayer Hawthorne at Ferris Fest.

"That is something that's given Ferris Fest a bad name," she said. "This concert will help turn that around."

Music for Action will premiere at Ferris on Saturday, April 23. Headlining artists are to be announced early in the spring semester.

For more information on Musicians On Call, visit [musiciansoncall.org](http://musiciansoncall.org).

## A mound of burning rubber

Keith Salowich  
Editor in Chief

As a reader, you may notice the *Torch* is just a little bit thicker this week.

Our paper is four pages richer thanks to a satirical insert ranging from page 9-12. In case you're unfamiliar, satire is false news that has either been exaggerated or entirely fabricated.

It's fair to beg the question: why would a paper that prides itself on "truth, accuracy and fairness" want to spread false news to its readership?

Therein lies a two-fold answer. On one hand, satire can be a unique means to an end. It's possible to effectively get an underlying and valid point across under a mask of hyperbole and humor. Additionally, we've had a great time brainstorming and putting it together, and I be-

lieve that our readers will value its humor and cynicism just as much.

The decision to write satirically is not unprecedented. Satire is all around us, and oftentimes one's Facebook feed is an excellent place to stumble upon it. *The Onion* is perhaps the most notable source of satire nationally, but there are also plenty of examples of it on college campuses across the country as well.

For example, The Every Three

Weekly based on the University of Michigan's campus was a major influence that led to the creation of this satirical insert. There's even a satirical student-run blog on Ferris' campus called *The Toad*, which also served as inspiration.

Because the *Tire Fire* is debuting this week, we were tasked with building it from the ground up. This included spawning a name, and a lot of thought went into that pro-

See **Rubber** on page 4

## Mecosta resident stands on First Amendment against felony charge

NICK VANDER WULP

Torch Reporter

A Mecosta resident, arrested for handing out fliers detailing juries' rights to "vote their conscience" is fighting the charges against him by standing on the First Amendment.

Keith Wood, 39, was in front of the Mecosta County courthouse handing out pamphlets from the Fully Informed Jury Association informing passersby about jury nullification rights. These rights state that a juror can acquit a defendant despite damning evidence if the juror thinks the law is wrongfully applied or immoral.



Keith Wood

Deputies working at the Mecosta County courthouse approached Wood and told him to come inside or he'd be arrested. Deputies were ordered to place

Wood under arrest by Mecosta County District Judge Peter Jaklevic after Wood was summoned inside by Jaklevic and refused.

Wood rejected a plea bargain. David Kallman, Wood's attorney, said Wood was well within his First Amendment rights to be in a public space handing out information.

"Mr. Wood was there because he feels strongly about the issue and wanted to get information out to people," said Kallman. "He had no idea who may or may not have been a prospective juror. He was handing the pamphlets out to anyone who was willing to take one."

Wood was charged with obstruction of justice and tampering with a jury and held in Mecosta County Jail. Jaklevic arraigned Wood and set his bond at \$150,000. Wood posted 10

*"Imposing a bond of \$150,000 for handing out a piece of paper on a public sidewalk, I mean it's so blatantly unconstitutional, excessive and unreasonable that I'm laughing."*

David Kallman

percent of his bail later that day to leave, charging the \$15,000 to his credit card.

"Imposing a bond of \$150,000 for handing out a piece of paper on a public sidewalk, I mean it's so blatantly unconstitutional, excessive and unreasonable that I'm laughing."

See **Felony** on page 4

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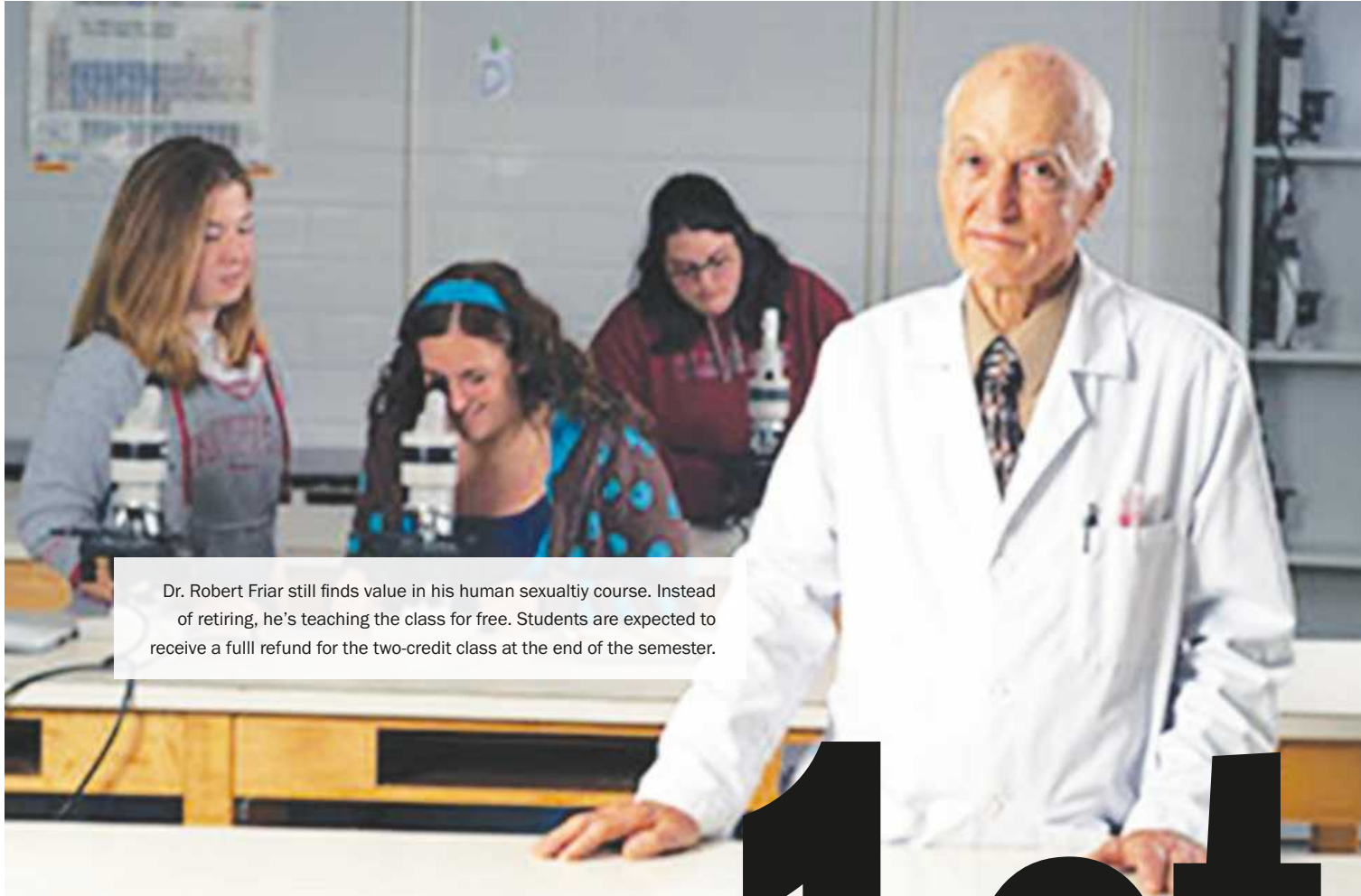

**Devin Anderson**
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"It really just comes down to the fact that he wants to teach."

- JR Bouterse

See below for story



Dr. Robert Friar still finds value in his human sexuality course. Instead of retiring, he's teaching the class for free. Students are expected to receive a full refund for the two-credit class at the end of the semester.

# Putting education 1st

DEVIN ANDERSON

*News Editor*

When Dr. Robert Friar was asked by Ferris to hold off on retirement, he agreed to stay and teach his famed human sexuality class on one condition:

Friar, employed at Ferris since 1967, refused to be paid.

This was in the spring of 2015. Friar has since donated all his checks to a scholarship fund in Ferris' department of social sciences and taught for free.

The class got even more unique for Friar's students this semester, who were informed they will be refunded the \$764 they paid for the two-credit course at the end of the semester.

This makes Friar's students happy.

"He's taught for a long time and seen a lot," said Ferris liberal arts freshman JR Bouterse, who is taking human sexuality because it sounded interesting. "He's been a lot of different places and it really just comes down to the fact that he wants to teach."

The 100-level course does not apply to any degree at Ferris. But according to Friar, all students can benefit from it and that's why he continues teaching for free. In human sexuality, he doesn't shy away from anything, having class discussions on topics ranging from STDs to unwanted pregnancies, divorce and raising children.

"This is part of who we are and why we exist," Friar said. "I think people should understand this in proper perspective. That's what makes this course so rewarding. Cov-

ering an area which is often times neglected in our culture."

Originally taught by three professors, human sexuality teaches concepts from biology, sociology, psychology, anthropology, theology and even economics.

"The number one problem in marriages is arguing over money," he said. "If we can get people to realize this, the chances of making marriages work will improve."

Friar said he enjoys having been at Ferris long enough to reconnect with former students and meet their spouses and children.

How students are being refunded for Friar's class remains unclear. Two university administrators were contacted regarding Friar's arrangement to teach for free and refused to comment.

## Faster filing Changes to FAFSA ease application process

ANGELA GRAF

*Torch Reporter*

It's that time of year. The days are getting shorter, shopping malls are bursting at the seams and in the wake of New Year's Eve, you get to sit in front of a computer and apply for financial aid.

Each year, roughly 84 percent of Ferris undergraduates file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application becomes available on Jan. 1 of each year, typically being filled out for the upcoming fall semester.

That changed in September, when President Barack Obama signed paperwork allowing prior-year tax information to be used when filing the form, meaning rather than having to wait for parents and students to complete tax paperwork for the previous year, numbers from two years before can be used on the application.

"I think it's more beneficial than anything," said Ferris biotechnology freshman Jennifer Tran. "It gives people more time to prepare for the following year in terms of financial costs."

In the past, the Financial Aid Office has encouraged students to estimate using a previous year's numbers, but that is no longer necessary.

"Since prior year tax return information is readily available at the time of filing the FAFSA, more students and/or parents can utilize the data retrieval option which allows families to transfer their tax return information directly from the IRS," Ferris Director of Financial Aid Sara Dew said. "More accurate FAFSA data means more accurate financial aid awards."

For the 2017/2018 award year, the date on which the FAFSA can be filed has been moved from Jan. 1 to Oct. 1. Students will file their FAFSA in Jan. 2016 for the 2016/2017 award year and then again in Oct. 2016 for the 2017/2018 award year.

"If they can file a FAFSA on Oct. 1, then they could get financial aid information earlier which may help them to decide what the best fit for them is in determining which school to attend," Dew said.

The police never think it's as funny as you do.



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# Drunk student can't find room

A roundup of this week's crime at Ferris State University

### Fraud at Walmart

Nov. 19, 1:15 p.m., officers assisted the sheriff department with retail fraud at Walmart. One subject was lodged in jail.

### Trespasser

Nov. 19, 6:40 p.m., officers investigated a trespassing complaint in Merrill Hall. One subject, who was previously banned from the hall, was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Drunk driver

Nov. 20, 12:45 a.m., officers stopped a reckless driver in Lot 54. The driver was found to be intoxicated and lodged in jail for OWI.

### That smelly smell

Nov. 20, 9:20 p.m., officers investigated a marijuana complaint in McNerney Hall. One student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Injury in car accident

Nov. 20, 9:40 p.m., officers assisted the city police with a two-car accident on Knollview Drive. One person was treated for minor injuries.

### Accident with marijuana

Nov. 21, 10:20 p.m., officers received report of a two-car accident on Sports Drive. One subject was referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the possession of marijuana.

### More marijuana

Nov. 22, 4:15 p.m., officers investigated a marijuana complaint in Clark Hall. One student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Where am I?

Nov. 23, 2:45 a.m., officers assisted an intoxicated student in Brophy Hall who couldn't find his room.

### Ticketed for marijuana

Nov. 25, 12:40 p.m., officers as-



sisted the state police with a traffic stop on Perry Avenue. One subject was jailed for the possession of marijuana.

### Fraud at Walgreens

Nov. 26, 8 p.m., officers assisted the sheriff department with a retail fraud complaint at Walgreens. One subject was jailed.

### Drunk driver

Nov. 27, 10:15 p.m., officers performed a traffic stop on Perry Avenue for an expired plate. The

driver was jailed for operating while intoxicated and endangering a minor in the vehicle.

### Fight at The Gate

Nov. 28, 12:45 a.m., officers assisted the city police with a fight at The Gate. One suspect was handcuffed and jailed for disorderly conduct.

### Driving illegally

Nov. 29, 3 a.m., officers stopped a vehicle for an expired plate on Maple Street. The driver was ticketed for the expired plate and having no insurance.

### More marijuana

Nov. 30, 12:25 p.m., officers investigated a marijuana complaint in Travis Hall. One student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Three caught with marijuana

Dec. 2, 1:20 a.m., officers investigated a marijuana complaint in McNerney Hall. Three students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Driving illegally

Dec. 3, 12:45 a.m., officers stopped a vehicle on State Street for an improper plate. The driver of the vehicle was ticketed for having no plates and no insurance.

DPS issued 959 traffic and parking violations between Nov. 19 and Dec. 3 totalling \$17,020.

# NEWS BRIEFS

DEVIN ANDERSON

News Editor

### Radio legend appointed to The Ferris Foundation

Ferris alumnus and former president of ABC Radio John Hare was recently appointed chair of The Ferris Foundation board of directors. Hare was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 2006. He succeeds Howard Stross as chair of the board.

### Plans for new residence hall

At a forum on the future of Ferris housing on Dec. 1, recent changes to the campus master plan were detailed by vice president for administration and finance Jerry Scoby and associate vice president for auxiliary enterprises Jim Hessler. Scoby and Hessler announced plans to build a new residence hall somewhere between the University Center and the Automotive Building with the intention of serving freshman students. The previously planned demolition of Taggart Hall will likely be delayed until construction of the new hall is underway.

### Pancakes with the President

President David Eisler and several other university administrators will serve pancakes to students from 10 p.m. until midnight on Monday, Dec. 14 at The Rock. For years, Ferris has encouraged students to relax before exams with this free event. All Ferris students are invited and must show a student ID.

## Ferris State Torch Corrections

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# TORCH

## Out of ordinance

### Why Ferris doesn't have a sorority row

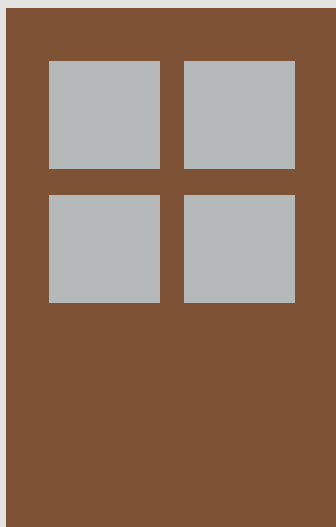
ANGELA GRAF

Torch Reporter  
KIP BIBY

Opinions Editor

The students that attend Ferris State are not only members of the university community, but also of the Big Rapids community as a whole, and as such they have to abide by all of the city's living ordinances.

For some time there has been a misconception at Ferris, as well as many other universities across the country, that an ordinance is in place prohibiting a certain number of single women, six or more in most cases, from living together. Within that category would, nat-



urally, fall Greek sororities.

The "brothel ordinance" as it is commonly referred to, implies that in such a scenario with that many unmarried single women living together, the women in question are most likely prostitutes. However, when looking through both the City of Big Rapids Zoning Ordinance and the Code of Ordinances, the "brothel ordinance" is nowhere to be found.

According to Stacey Johns of Big Rapids Code Enforcement, the supposed ordinance does not exist. It was a myth created to explain the lack of Greek housing for sororities.

So what's the real reason that sorority houses aren't present on campus? The answer is simple: the sororities don't want them.

"One day we were discussing sorority houses and Phi Sigma Sigma's faculty and Chapter Key Advisor, Mary Bacon, said that all of the Panhellenic chapters on campus had previously voted to forgo unofficial housing," said Ferris Phi Sigma Sigma accounting senior Brittany Byrnes. "With the ordinances already in place for Big Rapids where we can't place letters on residential houses, and the threat of raised insurance costs for each chapter for housing which would increase our dues, we all voted to not participate in not having houses."

Ferris business administration senior and Alpha Xi Delta chapter president Lyndsey Lampe also likes the idea of having a place that her sisters could communally call home, but understands why it isn't currently possible.

"I can't speak for everyone," she said. "But from what I understand Alpha Xi Delta's housing foundation has to own the house and obvi-

ously that is a significant expense that, at this time, we cannot afford."

Despite the current situation, the girls can see the potential pros and cons of having Greek housing for their organizations.

"It would make having sisterhoods, chapter meetings and ritual type events easier because we would have a specific place to meet," said Byrnes. "However, official housing means a lot stricter rules for everyone in the Greek community, especially Panhellenic women. Plus an obvious increase in dues to cover housing costs and insurance."

As Byrnes mentioned, while there is not an ordinance directly pertaining to Greek women, there are a number of codes that do in fact apply to students living in houses off campus.

For example, according to the City of Big Rapids Zoning Ordinance, for every student living in a residence, there must be 250 square feet of floor area available. There are also strict limitations on how much parking is available and how big the lot of land is, in reference to the number of people living there.

If the sororities were to ever pursue their own housing in Big Rapids, they would have to be in compliance with these codes, as well as meeting insurance requirements and a number of other such restrictions.

According to Byrnes, it is expected that in the upcoming year there will be another vote by the Panhellenic Council on whether or not to pursue Greek housing at Ferris.

#### RUBBER from page 1 Torch debuts Tire Fire satire section

cess.

In many ways, the name *Tire Fire* is the exact opposite of the *Torch*, yet the flame connection still ties them together. Whereas a torch is an enduring, guiding light and symbol of wisdom, a tire fire is the absolute epitome of absurdity and senselessness.

If for whatever reason someone finds him or herself burning a

mound of tires, it is probably a dire time for humanity. This image of ludicrous thinking and stupidity is exactly what we wanted for our satirical insert.

If you've made it this far, you have already passed the insert that I've been speaking of.

Hopefully there was no confusion on whether or not it was real news. From now on, you should expect to take anything printed in the *Tire Fire* with a whole shaker of salt, and stick to the *Torch* for your true, accurate and fair news needs.

#### FELONY from page 1 Mecosta man charged with felony- while informing public

It's laughable," said Kallman.

Kallman also claims Wood was initially denied an attorney.

"It's ridiculous to charge Mr. Wood with tampering with a jury when at the time, early in the morning when he was passing out these fliers, there was no

jury. There was a prospective jury pool, but there were all kinds of people walking into courthouse," said Kallman.

Obstruction of justice is a maximum five-year felony and could carry up to a \$10,000 fine. Tampering with a jury is a misdemeanor with penalties of up to a year in jail or a \$1,000 fine or both.

"On a public sidewalk is where you have some of the highest protections for free speech," said

Kallman.

"You could have demonstrators advocating all sorts of things, even advocating on specific cases, and they have the right to stand out there and say what they want to say."

Wood's preliminary exam is set for Thursday, Dec. 10, with Judge Kimberly Booher after Jaklevic excused himself from the case last Tuesday. Wood and Kallman will petition to have the case thrown out at the hearing.

# OPINIONS

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“My earliest memories are of watching Star Wars...”  
- Devin Anderson  
See page 8 for story

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## Get a dog, ruin your life



Photo courtesy of MCT Campus

You can put a price on cuteness

### Break down of time and money spent on a puppy in college

Let me paint you a picture. You are in your apartment, you finished your homework and are steeping your mint tea in a Supergirl themed mug. You look down at the floor, expecting to see a small animal at your feet and you gasp! You just realized you don't own a dog! "Must get dog. Must get dog," runs through your head at a mile a minute.

Stop. Look at yourself in the mirror, splash some cold water on your face and bring yourself back down to earth. I am here to tell you, do not get a dog. Let me repeat myself. Do NOT get a dog.

I have several friends that own dogs and I am sorry if this is hard to hear but I am the self titled voice of reason. I don't care what your GPA is, how many student groups you run or if you own a small but successful landscaping business, buying a dog as a full-time student illudes me to believe you are a poor decision maker.

Let's break it down. Dr. Race Foster and Dr. Marty Smith have written several books on pet care.



KIP BIBY  
Opinion Editor

For peteducation.com, they wrote about the cost of dog ownership. They claimed to have spent \$1,977 for things like food, a crate, leashes, training and a variety of other products and services in the first year of a dog's life.

Foster & Smith also stated that people generally underestimate the cost of dog ownership. Don't try and tell me that that is a small price to pay for a best friend. I spend less than that on christianmingle.com and I have made plenty of friends.

Now, if the price of dog ownership does not scare you away from making this mistake, maybe the allocation of time will. Think about how much time you will spend every day taking care of your new furry friend. I estimate that to maintain a healthy puppy you will spend an average of about 45 minutes a day walking,

grooming and playing with the pup. This does not include trips to the vet or training classes. So, if you spend this time with your dog your opportunity cost may be working at a minimum wage job. If that is the case, you are sacrificing \$1,283.62 over the academic year, provided you are using this time seven days a week for 30 weeks.

Another trend with dog ownership I personally see is getting a dog with a girlfriend or boyfriend. Do I even need to explain the issues with this? Breakups, graduating, moving away, the list goes on and on. College relationships are unstable, everyone knows that. Throwing a dog into the mix makes for a cocktail of idiocy that I don't want to try.

There will be plenty of time to get Fido when you are gainfully employed and have a stable home. You will appreciate your new little buddy so much more when you have the time and money to take care of it correctly. Or just get a cat. What ever happened to cats?

## Chat with the chief

Editor in Chief, Keith Salowich

On Thursday, Dec. 3, a seven year-old child was gunned down in the parking lot of a recreation center in Taylor, Mich. after her soccer practice.

Her mother, who was also shot but survived the attack, had just picked up her daughter Emma Watson Nowling from practice when a family friend gone mad approached and opened fire on the vehicle's occupants. After hitting both of his targets, the shooter committed suicide by shooting himself.

This is just one incident in a long line of shootings this year, but this one hits especially close to home for me.

This is because it was just 4.2

miles from my actual home.

I was raised in Taylor and recall going to the Sportsplex regularly for league sports and school field trips. A trip to the Sportsplex on Telegraph Road was a trip to a haven of potential activities that my childhood friends and I always looked forward to.

12 years ago, I was a seven year-old kid playing soccer and flag football in the Sportsplex just like Emma.

To think that a person in nearly an identical circumstance as I once was had to be airlifted in serious condition to a hospital before being pronounced dead less than 24 hours later as a result of senseless violence devastates

me.

The 9-mm pistol was registered and obtained legally, and the shooter held a CPL license, yet the fact that the purchasing process was followed legally did not prevent him from using it to slaughter a child.

I believe *The Onion* said it best with their headline from an article published in March of 2014, "No way to prevent this," says only nation where this regularly happens."

It's simple, really.

Every gun in my vicinity is just one more that could shoot me. If there are nine people legally carrying a firearm in my vicinity, there are nine guns that could

potentially splatter my brains out the back of my head. If there are no guns in my proximity, there is a zero percent chance of me being shot in the face.

While the legislation currently in place does restrict known felons from acquiring firearms, it does nothing to stop nutcase murderers with a clean record from walking out of the store with a shiny new toy to kill with.

Something has to change in a country where even childhood innocence in a soccer league is under fire. Literally.

## Close to home



# MANO A MANO

## Pro-Guns

I first got the Fox News alert on my phone about the Paris attacks and immediately turned on the news. As the facts became more clear, I shook my head in disgust. "Did you hear about Paris?" I asked my friends. This question could be interchanged with, "Did you hear about California," or "Did you hear about..." you can fill in the blank.

Whether it is Islamic extremism, thugs shooting each other in Chicago, and Detroit or a fanatical man or woman with dark desires, these shootings need to be prevented.

A lot of people are quick to blame America's gun laws for these despicable people taking lives in the name of an extreme ideology, gang affiliation or just plain insanity. It is a knee-jerk reaction that makes sense to a lot of people and I can understand why. These people were killed with guns, so taking away the guns prevents these tragedies, right?

The truth is, guns are not the reason for the problem. If you take away the right for good guys to have a gun, the only people left with guns will be the bad guys. In France, it is difficult and almost impossible to obtain a licence to carry a firearm. Why didn't these gun laws prevent the attack? It's like banning cocaine and wondering why people still use cocaine. Because they want to.

Farbeit for me to display a problem without having a solution. To say for certain that any policy or tactic can prevent these lunatics from killing people is just not realistic. But, we need to look at where these shootings are occurring. California, whose public is largely against people carrying guns, Paris, where civilians carrying firearms just does not happen, gun-free zones like the recruiting center in Tennessee, the Planned Parenthood facility or a public school are among the many places where carrying a firearm is against the



KIP BIBY  
Opinion Editor

law or against the rules.

These gun-free zones are practically a guarantee for crazy people that nobody will shoot back. It is said over and over again, if someone wants to kill as many people as possible, they will go to a place where people are sitting ducks. Doing away with these zones will finally let people defend themselves. Nobody can say that the good guy with a gun will always win against the bad guy with a gun but at the very least the good guy will no longer be a fish in a barrel.

I am lucky to have lived in two states where laws did not stand in the way of me refusing to be a helpless victim. In Michigan, I have a concealed carry licence. When I was 17, I begged my mom to take me to the gun range for a basic pistol safety class. Even though neither of my parents had shot a gun in their lives, my mom agreed and nervously took me. Since then, I have been to the range many, many times. I have become a skilled pistol shooter and pride myself in my understanding of safety and proficiency with a firearm.

I know that if I was in a situation where I needed to protect my own or my families safety, I could do it. I went through the background checks, took the class and displayed my knowledge and skill level that the state of Michigan deems acceptable to carry a pistol.

My fellow *Torch* writers are very intelligent and share the same concerns about gun violence that I and many people do. But if someone who was upset with an article burst into the office with a gun, I doubt they would prefer to sit and take the assault without a person to defend them.

## No-Guns

"What the hell is wrong with people?" I think to myself on countless occasions.

I asked myself the same question yesterday as I sat in my finance class and tried to ignore my cell phone despite its violent vibrations in my pocket. After four straight notifications, I had to look to see what it was. I was expecting a phone call from my mother or father, but what I saw were notifications from CNN, USA Today, The Buzz: FSU and a text from a friend.

I ignored the text as I read multiple headlines about an active shooting occurring in San Bernardino, California where 14 lives were taken, and over 20 other victims were left wounded. As I read the headlines, my body flushed and my head became very warm. I have grown accustomed to this feeling. I have become numb to reading horrific headlines.

While everyone was paying attention to what was happening in San Bernardino, another mass shooting occurred on the other side of the United States. This time in Savannah, Georgia, Randolph Scott, 28, was killed in the shooting. Four others were injured including two adult women and two children, an eight-year-old boy, and a two-year-old girl.

This all happened just five days after a gunman, later identified as Robert Lewis Dear, killed three and wounded nine in a shooting at Planned Parenthood in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

So far in 2015, we have seen at least 354 mass shootings in the United States, according to shootingtracker.com, which describes mass shootings as shootings that leave four or more dead or wounded. We have only been through 337 days of the 2015 calendar year. That means that on average, there are roughly 1.05 mass shootings in the United States per day.



MARSHALL SCHELDT  
Sports Editor

A total of 462 people have died, and 1,314 have been wounded during these occurrences in 2015 alone.

My question is, what have we done to stop it? What has our government done to decrease these occurrences? Nothing comes to mind.

I don't know an incredible amount about politics, but I do know that something must be done to decrease the level of gun violence in America. I think the first step is requiring stricter background checks and testing before anyone can purchase a firearm.

When I wanted to get my license, I had to take weekly classes that tested both my ability to drive a car and the laws that I had to abide by when driving a car. The steps to buying a gun are much simpler than this.

I understand why I went through so much testing before getting my license because driving a car is a huge responsibility, and anyone behind the wheel can make a split second decision to harm themselves or others.

Guns fall under that same category, but for some reason all someone has to do to purchase a long gun (the type of gun used in the San Bernardino shooting) is be at least 18, have a valid form of ID, fill out a six-page document and pass a background check.

According to an article written by CNN reporter Corinne Jones in April of 2013, as of that day, only two percent of 118 million requests for firearms were denied since the implementation of background checks in 1998. With this in mind, it becomes apparent that these checks need to be more in depth.

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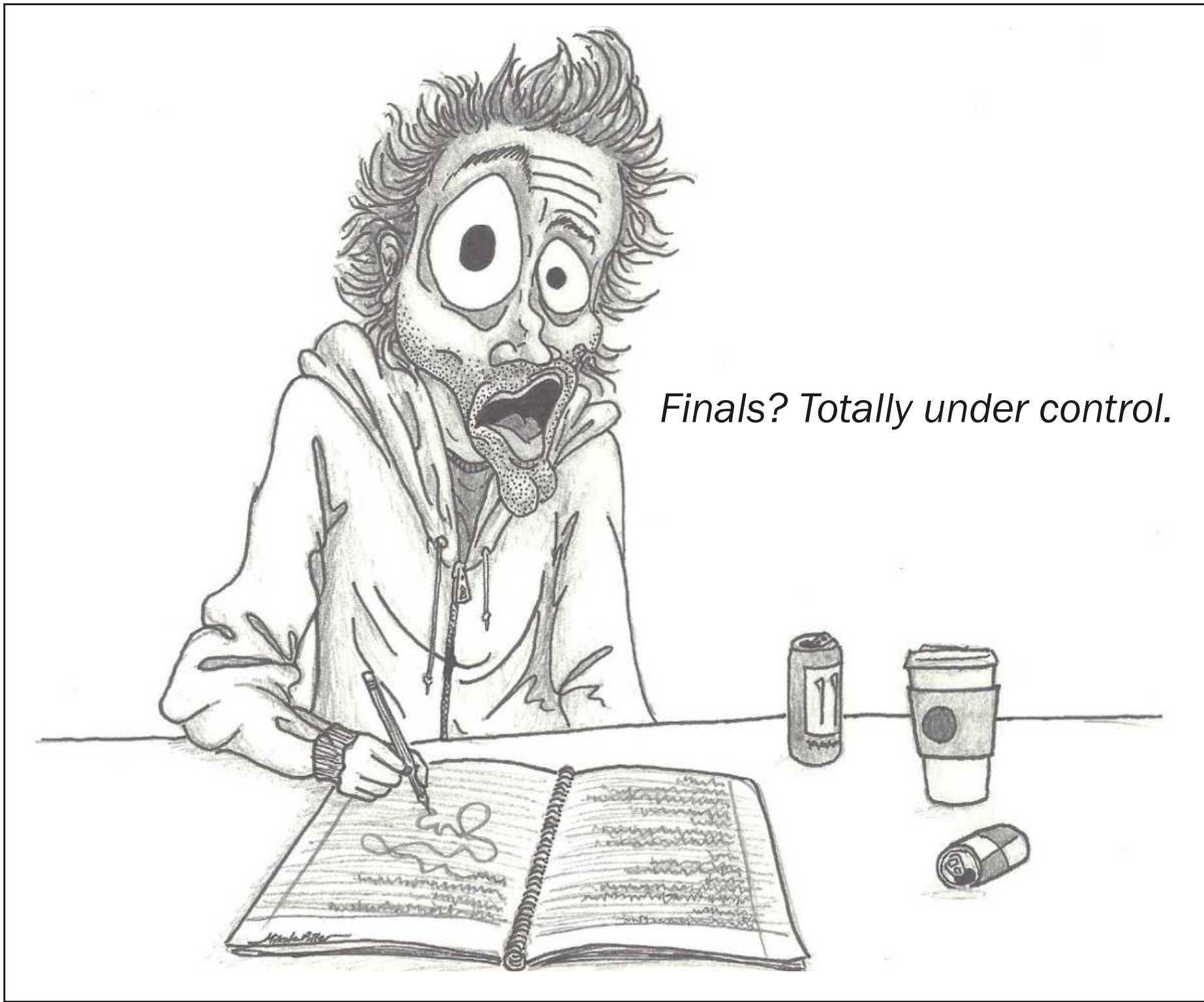
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# A NEWER HOPE

## The past, present and future of my Star Wars obsession

I was studying in FLITE when I found out about the new Star Wars movie. It was 2012 and Disney announced that it had acquired Lucasfilm for a whopping \$4 billion.

I freaked out. My earliest memories are of watching Star Wars and Disney films. Now they have merged and Disney seems to have used any resource necessary to make "The Force Awakens" the best Star Wars film yet. The month is now upon us. I remember thinking at the time how far away December of 2015 seemed.

### Let me back up.

The first Star Wars prequel film came out in 1999. I was five years old. The pod race thrilled me, Darth Maul was terrifying and Jar Jar Binks was hilarious! "But how does Anakin become Darth Vader?" I would ask my dad; it seemed impossible. I remember long road trips watching the original saga and "The Phantom Menace" on our portable TV set (technology at its finest).

I was 11 when I got to see "Revenge of the Sith." Probably one of my first PG-13 movies. After an entire early childhood of wondering how Darth Vader would come to be, I got to see it. Wow!

I still love the prequel films. But now, having grown up a bit, watching Jar Jar Binks is painful. The acting is flat, the characters is boring, the story is too complex and the style of the films changed completely. It's such an interesting love/hate because they are so ingrained in me, I can't deny them. They are fun, George Lucas just made some poor choices.

### Back to now.

I truly can't believe the time has come for a new Star Wars film. From scavenging the internet for leaked concept art to



DEVIN ANDERSON  
News Editor

watching the available trailer on repeat, I've probably never been so amped up for anything in my life. Is that sad?

No.

Listen, Star Wars is a part of me. It gave me imagination as a child. As trivial as the dark versus light concept may seem, I'm sure it had an impact on me. Star Wars is the intersection of my passions for film, storytelling, music and performance. I'm thankful. I'm excited. I can't wait.

### MY CURRENT THOUGHTS.

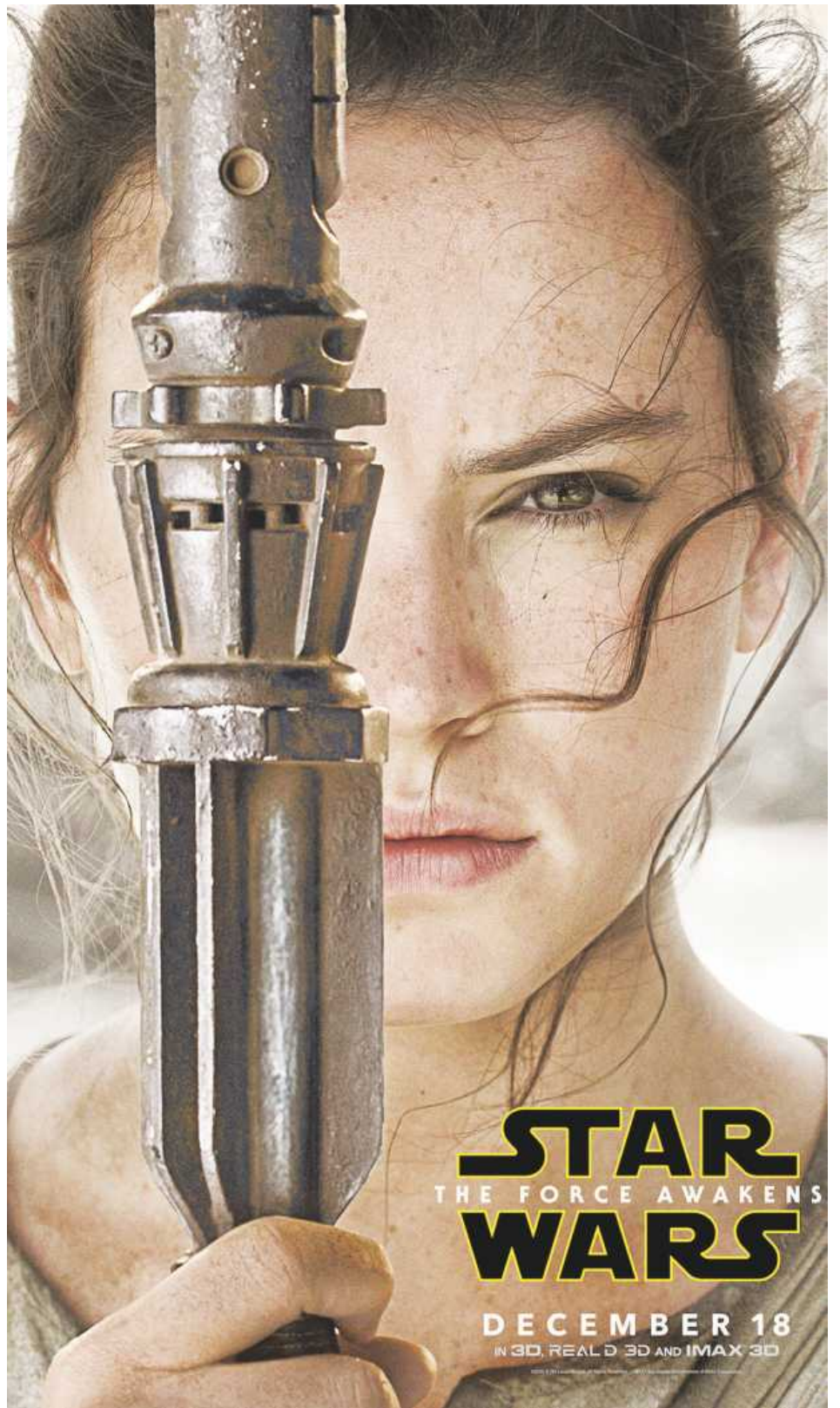
There is not a doubt in my mind "The Force Awakens" will be an excellent film. It starts with J.J. Abrams directing, but I'm also thankful for the return of old characters and with them, the style and world we originally got to know them in: shot on film, real sets and practical effects.

Next, it's this new cast. John Boyega seems to me the perfect fit for a new Jedi. Adam Driver is the perfect personality for a complex, layered villain. Oscar Isaac is this generation's Harrison Ford. Daisy Ridley is perrrrrrtyyy. The cast will be unstoppable.

Lastly, it's the return of John Williams. Williams has scored every Star Wars as well as countless others that have redefined music in film. His leitmotifs and lush arrangements should remind audiences that these films defy genre and generation.

### SO IN SUMMATION.

I am probably way too excited about Star Wars. Oh well, see you in the theater. I'll be carrying my lightsaber.



Courtesy Photo

## My "Force Awakens" predictions

- Rey and Kylo Ren are the offspring of Han and Leia
- Kylo Ren kills Han Solo, his father
- Rey will eventually wield a double-sided lightsaber

# Its always sunny in Vanderdelphia

## Star quarterback could go from Ferris to Phili

Philadelphia Eagles head coach Chip Kelly has taken a fast-paced Oregon offense to the NFL, but his team has largely underachieved the last two years. At the beginning of the 2015 season, three of their quarterbacks, including starter Sam Bradford, ranked in the bottom five in quarterback rating (QBR) since 2010. The team's results have been evident of this. With their quarterback situation in shambles, why not take a shot on Jason Vander Laan?

Ferris State runs an offense similar to that of Kelly's. They are both predicated on getting elite athletes in space. However, the Eagles have not had a true running quarterback since Mike Vick in the 2013 season when they totalled the second most points in the NFC.

Without the threat of the quarterback run, the Eagles' read option game, an essential part of the offense, is almost non-existent. Rushing is what Vander Laan does best. In four years, Vander Laan has totalled 5,953



CODY BURKHARD  
Torch Reporter

rushing yards surpassing the NCAA record for quarterback rushing yards by over 800.

The Eagles picked up former Florida quarterback Tim Tebow this past off season. Though he was cut, it shows that Kelly is interested in a quarterback like Vander Laan. Tebow was a run first quarterback and won two national championships at Florida. However, he did not have the throwing skill to make it in the NFL. I don't think Vander Laan will have that problem. In 2014, he led the nation in passing efficiency with a rating of 176.1. Additionally he is the only player in NCAA history to throw and run for 1,000 yards in four straight seasons.

Vander Laan resembles Carolina Pan-

ther's quarterback Cam Newton more than Tim Tebow. The NFL has turned away from running quarterbacks due to injury concerns but Newton has a sturdy body that allows him to take those hard hits. Vander Laan is almost identical in size at 6'4", 245 pounds and can throw the deep ball just the same. With Kelly's interesting offseason moves not paying dividends, he could very well be fired at the end of the year which would make all this talk meaningless. However, Cam Newton's success at the NFL level gives hope that other teams could take a chance on Vander Laan. The San Francisco 49ers and the New York Jets could be other potential landing spots.

The 49ers have had all they can take of Colin Kaepernick's inconsistent play and there are reports saying he could possibly be traded. For many years, this team was built on tough defense and a strong running game. When Colin Kaepernick first took the reigns after current Kansas City Chief Alex

Smith went down in the 2012 season, he electrified the NFL with his ability make plays outside the pocket and drive the ball down field. However, he has since fallen to the bottom half of the league in QBR.

The Jets have had a disaster under center since Mark Sanchez. Gang green has a similar makeup to the 49ers with a run first offense and stout defense. Vander Laan could thrive in that offense picking up tough yards between the tackles as a nice complement to an elite rushing attack.

Vander Laan has had an incredible career at Ferris State and hopefully he will get a shot at the next level. He has the prototypical size and intangibles such as leadership and coachability. My only concern is that the league will view him as potentially another Tim Tebow and stray away. If someone gives him a chance, they will not be disappointed.





# Ferris State University Tire Fire



The second truest, fairest and most accurate student newspaper on campus

Students report seeing Woodbridge N. Ferris statue move at night

Pg. 3.14

Kthulu announced as Ferris Fest headline performer

Pg. 159

Freshman res. hall resident forgets to unplug lamp over break; initiates global collapse

Pg. 26

Yellow bagger claims he will never get sick of food at The Rock

Pg. 535

Confused Barack Obama shows up to Pancakes with the President

Pg. 8

Equipment malfunction results in ice melting at Ewigleben Arena; Div. 1 hockey team becomes water polo club

Pg. 97

# No fracking way



Ferris geology freshman Harold Schmeisner may be unsure of the actual definition of fracking, but he has a dream, damn it.

## Ferris student arrested for fracking in North Quad

**Palsy Fitzgerald**  
*Nigerian Prince*

Dig a hole, dig a hole. These were the humble beginnings of a multimillion dollar oil corporation for Ferris geology freshman Harold Schmeisner until police removed him from campus early Monday morning.

Schmeisner began a fracking operation in the North Quad with just a bucket and shovel, adamant that striking oil on Ferris' main campus would become his life's great achievement.

"I have the science to prove the North Quad has the potential to produce more petroleum than all of Saudi Arabia," he said through the glass of a visitor window at the county jail. "I had only been digging for about 15 minutes and could already smell the oil."

Schmeisner was forced against the Woodbridge Ferris statue and handcuffed by Ferris DPS as groggy students made their way to 8 a.m. Monday classes.

University administrators received repeated calls from Schmeisner urging them to cap-

italize on Ferris' mineral-rich grounds. Schmeisner said he had no choice but to bore on in the name of science.

According to DPS, Schmeisner will remain in jail until the 2016 presidential election. Officials say if a pro-Fracking candidate such as Donald Trump is elected, Schmeisner will only be issued a littering ticket, but were unable to comment on what might happen if a democrat won the race.

It is still unclear whether Schmeisner knows what fracking actually is.

### Legal Disclaimer:

The Ferris State University *Tire Fire* is a satirical newspaper featuring fabricated or exaggerated stories written by members of the Ferris State *Torch* staff. Pseudonyms and false job titles have been adopted for each of the *Torch* staff members whose work is included in the *Tire Fire*. The *Tire Fire* utilizes invented names and quotes in its stories unless public figures or notable university personas are being satirized or described for the sake of our personal enjoyment, and the enjoyment of our readers. All other use of real names is coincidental. While the *Tire Fire* is an extension of the *Torch*, it is meant to be satirical and does not necessarily reflect the views of the *Torch*, nor Ferris State University.

### Eisler Says:

*"I'll never forgive myself for trading my holographic Charizard card back in the late 90's."*



**Tire Fire** Brand new satirical insert laced with hyperbole, absurdity and going way too far

Check out this newest edition to **THE TORCH**





The UC has begun construction on what is to become the second Shooters location in Big Rapids.

## Shooters II coming to a quad near you

### *Overcrowding causes popular bar to expand*

**Marcy Muckraker**  
*Weasel Enthusiast*

Star Shooters announced Monday it will open a second location in the University Center (UC) early next year.

The original Shooters is located in downtown Big Rapids. Due to its low drink prices, top 40 pop music and ability to facilitate drunken hook ups, Shooters is a popular weekend destination among Ferris students and townspeople.

However, Shooters isn't opening a second location due to its success as a bar. A recent report discovered Shooters continuously goes over capacity.

"We try to stop people from coming in once we're full, but it doesn't always work," Shooters bouncer Rick Pickle said. "Every night, probably 20 to 30 drunk girls climb over the porch rail and sneak in. I try to stop most of them, but then they start crying and hitting me and I don't know what to do so I usually just let them go in."

According to an ordinance by the city of Big Rapids, Shooters' capacity is 250 people. Last

Friday, Shooters had 458 people inside.

"It was so hot, I literally passed out on the dance floor," Ferris pre-pharmacy sophomore Kayley Burns said. "Going to Shooters on the weekend is like going to a zoo in the summer. It's crowded, smelly, disgusting, but still kinda fun."

**"Going to Shooters on the weekend is like going to the zoo in the summer. It's crowded, smelly, disgusting, but still kinda fun."**

**-Kayley Burns**

Shooters spokesperson Brandi Cranberry said the Big Rapids Chamber of Commerce (BRCC) contacted her last week about opening a second location.

"BRCC was like, 'Look, this is unacceptable,'" Cranberry said. "They said, 'I'm tired of people complaining to me that they aren't able to get as low as they want on the dance floor because it's so crowded.' And I was like, 'You're right.'"

Cranberry inherited \$5.6 million when her parents died, so she was able to convince Ferris State University to let her buy out the University

Center (UC) Ballroom for Shooters' second location, Shooters II.

"The UC Ballroom is spacious and on campus," Cranberry said. "It's perfect. Plus, we're hoping students who live on campus will go to this location instead of downtown. We're tired of everyone complaining they keep getting MIPs while walking to and from Shooters."

Ferris automotive engineering junior Jake Lopper is excited about Shooters expanding.

"I've been going to Shooters two to three times a week since my freshman year," Lopper said. "I've also gotten 19 MIPs because I always pregame before I go and get lost trying to find my way. I have this bad habit of asking cops for directions while I'm drunk. Anyway, the UC is way closer to where I live, so I can't wait. Plus, it's close to the Quad Café so I can just stumble over there when I'm drunk and want a snack."

The tentative date for the grand opening of Shooters II is Tuesday Jan. 19, 2016.

# President Eisler drops rap album

*Uses \$18.6 million state refund in recording studio*

**Frederick Urungus**

*Assistant to the Regional Manager*

President Eisler released a new self-titled album under his alias 'DJ Eazy-Eis' last week, and it's already flying off the shelves.

Over 9,000 units have been sold on Ferris State's campus alone, and 30,000 more have been sold around the rest of the country. However, a big part of the reason could be the fact that it's available in the university bookstore and The Market, plus proof of purchase of the album promises any Ferris student one semester of free classes.

Needless to say, it's hugely popular with Ferris students. Yet, its impressive sales record outside of Ferris State's umbrella can also be attributed to a good reason.

Eisler took advantage of Ferris' recent \$18.6 million state refund to hire world-class collaborators. Kanye West, Adele and music from AC/DC are all featured on the album.

"My goal was to get a lot of people involved in this project. The old saying is that if you can't beat them, join them. It seems like that's what all of my collaborating artists chose to do, because my flow can't be beat," Eisler said.

Eisler's flow isn't the only thing helping him move records though, as his lyrics are also thought-provoking and critically-acclaimed.

"The name's Eazy-Eis and I'm here to say, I'm sitting in my office stacking bills all day—Rollin' in Big Rapids punk I'll see you later, 'cause from here in my Pinto I can't hear no haters," says Eisler in his title track "DJ Eazy-Eis."

The tracklist of Eisler's album also includes titles such as, "Rollin' in All Y'all Tuition" and "Clarinet God."

"This is only the beginning. Now that I've topped the rap game, I think it's time to break into polka music, which is my other passion," Eisler said. "I've been dusting off my old accordion getting ready for my big comeback in a few years."

Fans of Eisler's work can hear his new material live at a variety of shows in the coming summer where he'll be co-headlining with Eminem and holograms of Jimi Hendrix and John Lennon.

By reading the *Tire Fire*, you have just officially earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Grand Valley State University.



# Horror-scopes



## Aries: March 21-April 19

You are stupid enough to believe that the relative position of celestial bodies offers highly-specific insight into your meaningless existence.



## Taurus: April 20-May 20

You will finally have a crippling existential crisis and stress meltdown as semester's end approaches. Wait, no, that's not just you. It's everybody.



## Gemini: May 21-June 20

If you've been on the cusp of changing some aspect of your life for a while, now is a scientifically-proven great time to do it. You could hardly get any more disliked through change anyway.



## Cancer: June 21-July 22

The name and image of your sign is extraordinarily telling in predicting what is in store for you. Meaning you have cancer, and will soon get crabs too.



## Leo: July 23-Aug. 22

Good luck is on its way, but only after a slew of tragedies, mental breakdowns and explosions in your life.



## Virgo: Aug. 23-Sept. 22

F\*\*k you.



## Libra: Sept. 23-Oct.22

You will experience true love and happiness, but only after you are finally accepted for who you are by your parents. Which is never happening.



## Scorpio: Oct. 23-Nov.21

Your dearest friend will throw you a surprise party, but no guests will show up because your closest friend is pathetically your own mother.



## Sagittarius: Nov.22-Dec. 21

A life-changing adventure is right around the corner. It will come in the form of the bumper of a speeding bus that cripples you.



## Capricorn: Dec. 22-Jan.19

Money, love, trust, happiness, success, power and fulfillment will all be yours, but only if you send nudes. Pls.



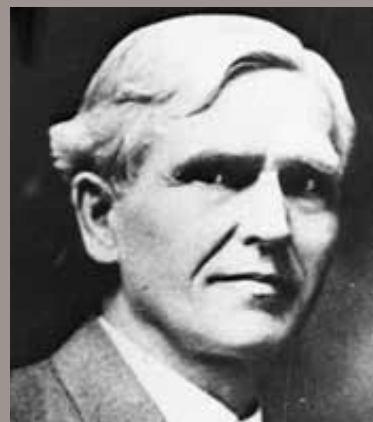
## Aquarius: Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You will accidentally witness a mafia murder and be forced to go into hiding with a new identity. Before you leave your old life behind, however, you'll witness something even worse. You'll walk in on your parents plowing on the kitchen counter.



## Pisces: Feb. 19-March 20

You are destined to be cast into a volcano as a sacrifice this week, but the stars aren't sure exactly when. It's probably for the best to just never, ever leave your house again. It's not like anyone likes you anyway.



## Ask Woodbridge

Submit questions to [fsutirefire@gmail.com](mailto:fsutirefire@gmail.com) for a chance to see Woodbridge N. Ferris give you personalized advice

**"How do I end my relationship before the holiday break so I don't have to buy my significant other a gift and I can just hang out with friends? I'd like to keep the door open so we can date again after break though."**

**-Holiday Romantic**

One of your many options is to kidnap yourself. The first step in kidnapping yourself is to send your S.O. a couple frantic text messages a few days before Christmas. An "OMG help!" and perhaps a "Someone's coming after m--" should suffice.

Your S.O. will panic. They'll probably call the police, so make sure you've called them and gotten the officers in on the joke. Next, turn off your cell phone, disconnect from all social media and "disappear" for about a week.

After the break is over, turn your phone back on and post something cryptic to social media about the experience, such as "Wow... I can't believe what happened. So glad everything is ok now." Your S.O. will be thrilled that you're alive and not dismembered and scattered along the highway! I recommend this for any relationship; it can really rekindle the flame.

**-Woodbridge**

**"I feel like there aren't enough Starbucks shops on campus. Don't get me wrong, I love that the one at the University Center is conveniently centralized. Plus the one in the IRC is the perfect distance away, because if I grab some Starbucks from the UC I'm usually just finishing up my pumpkin spice mocha frappuccino with cruelty-free cinnamon when I get to the IRC, so I can just reload my cup and move along."**

However, my problem is that I love going to hockey games, but there is no Starbucks on the west side of campus. Is there any chance we can put up a kiosk or something in the Dawg Pound? All of my sisters and I would love it!"

**-Delta Sigma Xi Alpha, as a whole**

It is a human right for students to have their cruelty-free pumpkin spice concoctions at every location. One in the IRC was not enough, Ferris knew this, so the UC Starbucks was born. Yet it still isn't enough.

Ferris is an innovative school. There's no doubt that the student body is, too! I want you to imagine more: what if you brought your own coffee to the hockey games? Bring a cup, bring a warm sleeve and bring your own coffee maker! Who's going to think twice about it? It's only necessary that if you want your coffee at your very disposal, you have to bring the coffee. You can plug it in right next to your favorite spot at the games. Convenient, right? While you're at it, you might as well embrace the community; make a full pot so you, your sisters, and other random students can all enjoy their cruelty-free 99 percent organic free-range coffee.

**-Woodbridge**



# How to build the perfect relationship

Montgomery Besenfeldner

*Decommissioned lighthouse attendant*

There are a variety of strategies used to attract a mate in this desolate wasteland of romantic angst that we call college. The ways in which people date and approach relationships have changed greatly over the past years, but lucky for you there are a number of foolproof tactics to find your Bulldog prince or princess.

1. **Look for love on Yik-Yak. There really is no better outlet than an anonymous gossip forum.**
2. **Dating someone new? Just look through their texts while they're sleeping. You'll learn a lot.**
3. **Only display affection publicly and through intense physical contact.**
4. **Always talk about your exes, everyone loves to be compared to previous relationships.**
5. **If you start to argue about something important, just have sex. That solves everything!**
6. **Text your significant other CONSTANTLY. Who knows what they could be doing when they're not responding to you?**
7. **In fact, if they don't reply, it's okay to text their friends and family to verify their whereabouts.**
8. **Post pictures on social media to validate your relationship. If it's not on Instagram, did it really happen?**

Below are some success stories from students practicing these tried and true techniques:

"On Sept. 30, 2015, my life changed forever. While eating lunch with the other PGM guys I posted my daily plea on Yik-Yak requesting 'Netflix and chill' when, out of nowhere, blue sandal weaved her sweet siren call in a comment, 'M or F?'"

It was at this point I knew that I had met the love of my life. After informing a friend of my plans, just in case, I met blue sandal in an obnoxiously obvious and public location. Three months later, she has dropped out of college and purchased her maternity wedding gown. Although our families won't talk to us anymore, we couldn't be happier. Thank you, Yik-Yak," Charles Flusterburgh said.

"A few months ago, my boyfriend and I were going through a bit of a rough patch. We fought all the time, about everything, and his family absolutely hated me. But then somebody gave me the best relationship advice ever: to distract him from the foundational problems in our relationship, just immediately initiate sex. Wow, did it work! Admittedly, I've had 34 UTIs since then, and I now have to purchase extra-super-absorbent tampons, but our relationship is better than ever," Nancy Jaegerstein said.



A sketch of the statue was released to the media last Tuesday, prompting feverish questioning as to what the university was thinking.

## Standing erect

*Ferris erects Vander Laan statue outside Top Taggart Field*

**Norman Vonchekhovski**  
*Retired mime*

After much deliberation, Ferris State has decided to place a statue outside of the entrance of Top Taggart Field.

Earlier this year, Ferris State received an unexpected \$18.6 million refund because of an accounting oversight by a state retirement program.

In a scramble to spend the money as quickly as possible, Ferris State administrators thought that the easiest way would be to erect a 159-pound, 24-karat gold statue outside of Top Taggart.

There was plenty of debate of what the statue would be, a life-sized statue of 159-pound head coach Tony Annese? A humongous 159-pound Bulldog?

Though these were definite possibilities suggested by different

members of FSU administration, it was finally decided after one member brought up what the rest thought was a great idea.

The plan was to spend the \$18.6 million on a statue of FSU quarterback and Harlon Hill Trophy winner Jason Vander Laan. Administrators learned rather quickly, however, that after President David Eisler produced and marketed his rap album using much of the refund, they only had enough money to sculpt the quarterback's calves.

"We did a mold of his whole body, but found out that we could fit all 159 pounds of gold into just his feet and calves, plus it was a cheaper option, so we decided to go with that," said Taylor Taylor, the sculptor in charge of creating the statue.

Administrators thought it to be fitting

that Vander Laan's calves were displayed in 24-karat fashion for Ferris fans to see in all of their glory because Vander Laan became the all-time leading rushing quarterback in college football history this past season.

The statue is expected to be finished before the start of next season. Taylor plans on making the statue movable so that each player can kiss the calves before running out on the field to start their game.

"It's kind of like Howard's Rock at Clemson University, so I think it'll be a great idea. Instead of running out and touching a rock, we'll get to kiss a 24-karat pair of calves," said one Ferris player.

Ferris administrators and sculptor Taylor Taylor are ironing out the final touches of the planning process for the statue.



# SPORTS

**Marshall Scheldt**  
Sports Editor  
mscheldt99@gmail.com

“Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog; it’s just a little different now.”  
- Caroline Heitzman  
See page X for story

## Three men, one goal

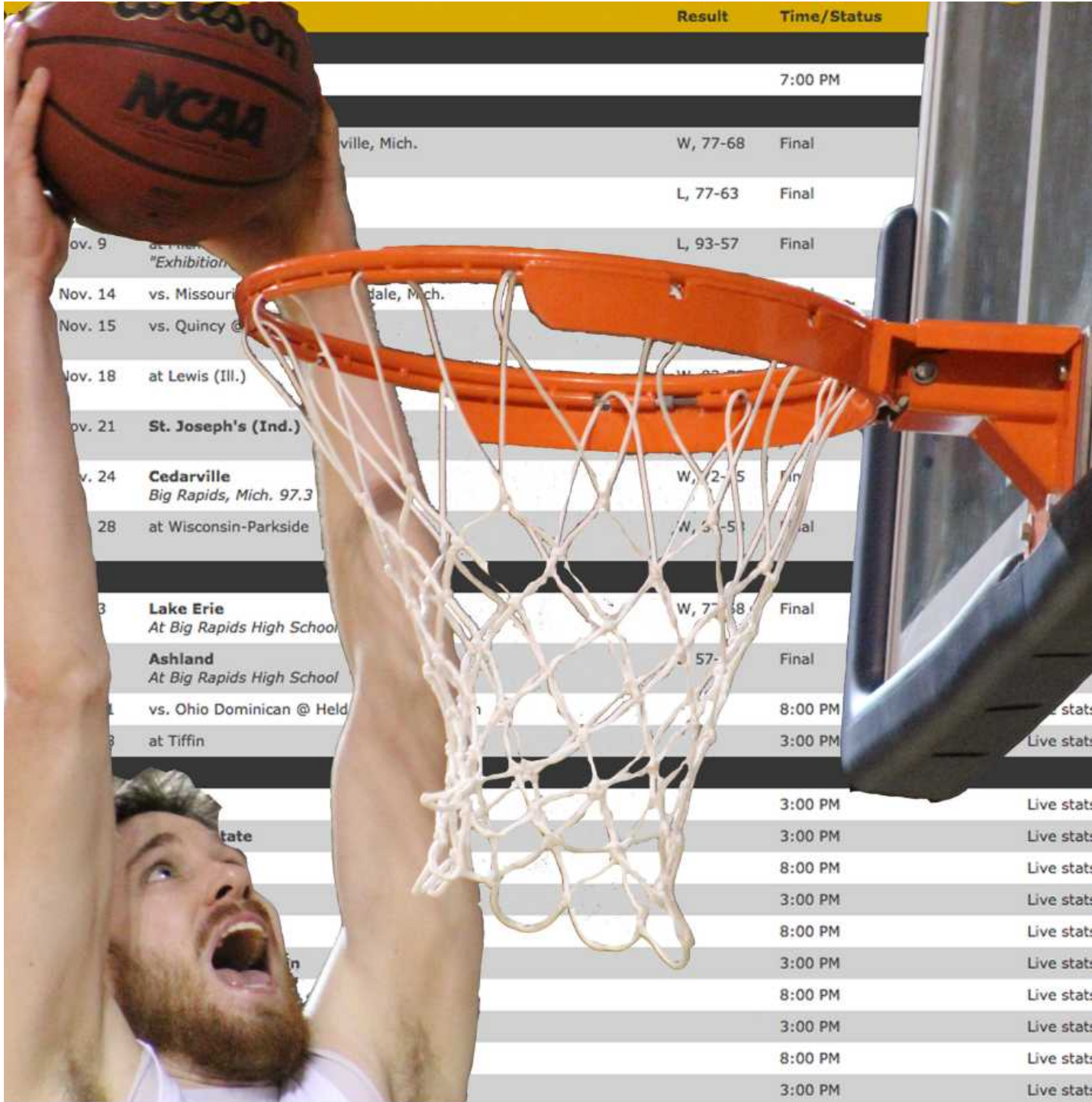


Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photography

Senior center Jared Stolicker has been a constant positive for the Bulldogs, averaging 17.6 points and 10 rebounds per game so far this season..

BEAU JENSEN  
Torch Reporter

A near perfect record is not easy to come by in basketball, even early in the season, but with veteran leadership, the Bulldogs are 7-1.

The Ferris State men’s basketball team won their first seven games before taking their first loss of the season to unbeaten Ashland last weekend. Jared Stolicker, Josh Fleming and James Chappell are at the forefront of the Dawg’s winning season, doing it all to ensure their goal of winning while making everyone around them better.

Jared Stolicker, the 6-foot-10 senior big man from Middleville, Mich. is leading the Dawgs in rebounds with an average of 10 per game, while also leading the team in scoring with 17.6 points per game. Josh Fleming, the 6-foot-6 senior wing from Hanover Park, Ill. plays the most minutes for the Dawgs and averages 15 points per game. James Chappell is a 6-foot-5 senior wing from Detroit who is always at the top of the pack in scoring, averaging 11.9

points per game.

These men are not only vital to the team for their ability to put points on the board, but also for the fact that they embody what a leader is, both on and off the court. Stolicker, who is having his best season as a Bulldog, spoke highly of Fleming and Chappell’s leadership ability.

“They are great leaders, they push people to be their best and to always compete,” Stolicker said. “They are both great teachers and spread the knowledge that they have to help our younger guys. At practice you can always see them pulling guys aside and showing them some things they can do to improve.”

Stolicker also made it clear that the Bulldogs have one strong, simple goal of being the best they can be every night while limiting team mistakes. He said that as long as they keep those things in mind, they can compete every night.

Having a clear leader is an advantage on any athletic team, but when there are a few guys that can take up the mantle, it makes for a great environment for everybody around to grow and create success.

The off-court leadership that drives this

Bulldog team’s success comes in huge part to head coach Andy Bronkema and his staff. Fleming talked about the influence the staff holds over the team.

“The coaches are great at keeping us humble and motivating us to practice hard to prepare us for the teams that we face,” Fleming said. “We continue to be hungry regardless of what success we have already tasted. We always want more and we do a good job of motivating each other while also holding each other accountable to higher standards.”

Fleming also talked about the understanding the guys have with each other when a big play needs to be made. He said he trusts anyone in the rotation to make a play because of the confidence he has in his teammates.

The Dawgs defeated all of their first six opponents by double digits and are currently averaging 80 points per game while shooting 47.5 percent from the field. Chappell, who transferred to Ferris from Oakland Community College his junior year, has been at or near the top for the Bulldog scoring effort all year, leading the team in scoring last weekend in their loss

to Ashland.

When he came to Ferris State, it took him a while to get used to things, but he credits Stolicker, Fleming and the rest of the team for making the transition easier.

“Jared, Josh and the rest of the guys brought me in like I was family. I think we are having a great start this season because of that chemistry we have. We play as a team, we play together, and it works.” Chappell said.

Chappell and the other players pride themselves on being able to help out the younger guys on the team.

“Our young players will be here after we are long gone,” Chappell said. “We try to show them some of the things that brought us success in the previous year. We want the program to be successful after we are gone.”

The impressive trio along with the rest of the Dawgs are looking to bounce back from their first loss of the season when they head south on Friday, Dec. 11 to take on Ohio Dominican at 8 p.m in Columbus, Ohio.





Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

The Ferris State volleyball team cheers on their teammates. The Dawgs fell to Rockhurst 3-2 in the NCAA Tourney last week.

# Rep your squad

I recently went to the Ferris State volleyball match against Rockhurst, where the Bulldogs fell to the Hawks in a devastating 3-2 loss.

Ferris State dropped the first two sets, but came back clawing and fighting to keep their hopes of a national championship alive. The Bulldogs won the third set with authority 25-13 and made a miraculous comeback to take the fourth set 27-25 before ultimately losing the fifth set 15-7.

During the match, I couldn't help but notice that the fans and players in Wink Arena were riding a roller coaster of emotions. One side of the court was filled with fans and the other side had plenty of Ferris students strewn about the bleachers. The only problem was that the student section was sitting down for a large portion of the game.

I don't know if I was imagining things, but I'm pretty certain that the Ferris players were feeding off the crowd the whole entire match. They started out sluggish and the fans did very little cheering, but as the game progressed, the fans became more involved. The FSU band did a great job of getting the fans involved.

During the third set when the Dawgs picked up pace, the fans stuck with them. In the fourth set when the Dawgs were down five set points, the crowd once again stood up and stood with their team. The Bulldogs fed off the energy and came back from 24-20 to take the set 27-25.

During the comeback, Wink Arena was electric. Chants of F-S-U rang off of the low ceilings, making it hard to hear myself think. At that moment, I thought to myself, "Why isn't it always like this?"

Then came a long intermission between the fourth and fifth set. The crowd had calmed down.

Rockhurst came out and won the first point of the fifth set, but the Dawgs won the second. The Hawks then won three more points, bring-

Cody Burkhard  
Torch Reporter

ing the score to 4-1. The Bulldogs took a timeout.

Ferris came out of the timeout and won a point on a Caroline Heitzman kill and the crowd reacted well. Then, Rockhurst won seven straight points. During this run, I swear I could have heard a pin drop.

The fans were silent. It seemed like they had given up. You could see the sense of urgency on the faces of the players, but that same sense of urgency was not matched by their supporters. Ferris dropped the set and their season ended.

As I walked out of Wink Arena, I felt as if someone had punched me in the gut. I felt for those ladies, just like I felt for the Ferris football team in their loss to Grand Valley State in round two of the NCAA Div. 2 playoffs.

Then I became angry. Why weren't the stands full? You're telling me that with over 14,000 students, we couldn't fill up a building with a ca-

capacity of 2,400? There were 1,521 fans attending that match, and I can almost guarantee that no more than 500 of those attending were students.

I know that sports aren't everything, but where is the support?

I know I get chills when I'm watching Michigan football fans wear their towels to the beat of, "Seven Nation Army" in the Big House or when I watch Michigan State basketball and the Izzone is going nuts.

In fact, I had the privilege to experience the Izzone first hand when Ferris State basketball traveled to East Lansing to play in the Breslin Center against the Spartans. When Michigan State would score a big basket, the hair would stand on the back of my neck because of the crowd's reaction. I experienced that a couple of times at the volleyball match, but I just wish that I felt it a bit more often.

My challenge is this, Bulldogs. Go to as many sporting events as you can this year and cheer as loud as you can. Without you, there is no such thing as home-court advantage.

## 2015 DECEMBER COMMENCEMENT

College	Contact	Phone #	Location
Health Professions	Richelle Williams	(231) 591-2263	VFS 210
Arts & Sciences	Barb Hampel	(231) 591-3660	ASC 3052
Business (On/Off campus undergrad. students)	Carri Griffis	(231) 591-2493	BUS 200
Business (graduate students)	Shannon Yost	(231) 591-2168	BUS 200
Education & Human Services	Jacee Potts	(231) 591-2700	BIS 604
Engineering & Technology	Deb Ducat	(231) 591-2961	JHN 200

**Note:** You must satisfy all of your degree requirements before you officially graduate and receive your diploma.

**Caps and Gowns** may be purchased at the Grad Fair on November 5th, 11:00 am - 4:00pm in the University Center - Multi Purpose Rooms or starting November 5th - December 17th at the Ferris State University Bookstore (located in the University Center, 805 Campus Drive, Big Rapids MI 49307).

**Tickets** are required for all ceremonies. All students planning on participating in a ceremony will receive (7) seven tickets. Electronic tickets will be available for students to access/print starting November 5, 2015. Extra tickets are not distributed and lost tickets will not be replaced.

**Commencement Program** - Graduates must complete their online graduation application by **Friday, October 16, 2015 for their names to appear in the Fall 2015 Commencement Programs** or their name will not appear in the Commencement Program. In order to have the program printed and back in time for the ceremonies we have to adhere to these deadlines. Contact your college's Commencement Coordinator if you have any questions.

# Sports Shorts

MARK HANSEN

Torch Reporter

### Men's basketball handed first loss of the season

Ferris State men's basketball lost 57-51 in a battle of undefeated teams Saturday night to the Ashland Eagles.

The game looked to be in the Bulldogs' favor as they sprinted to a 20-10 lead with six minutes to go in the first half. The Eagles were able to hold the Bulldogs scoreless for the remainder of the half as Ashland had a 23-20 lead going to halftime.

Ferris State never saw the lead in the second half and as there were eight seconds on the clock the Bulldogs fought back as the score was 51-53. The Eagles would make four free throws to seal the win. James Chappell led the Bulldogs with a team-high 10 points five rebounds and three assists.

### Women's basketball caught in a rut

Ferris State women's basketball still hasn't found rhythm as they drop their sixth straight game and lose to Ashland 64-44.

The Lady Bulldogs have had quite a tough season so far as the injury bug was still with them for the second consecutive game as the Bulldogs only had eight players ready and dressed for the game.

The Bulldogs were keeping the game close 34-35 in the third quarter until Ashland started to pull away in the fourth quarter as they scored 20 of their last 28 points in the fourth alone. Rachel McInerney had a solid game as she led the Bulldogs with a career personal best of 27 points, 12 rebounds and four blocked shots.

### FSU volleyball players receive All-Tournament honors

Three Ferris State volleyball players earned honors as part of the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional All-Tournament Team last week.

Senior hitters Caroline Heitzman and Megan Vander Meer and junior setter Stephanie Sikorski all received All-Tournament honors. The Bulldogs were stunned this past Saturday as they were down two sets but came back strong to force the match to a fifth and final set.

The Bulldogs ended up just short of making a comeback for the ages as they fell 7-15 in the fifth. Rockhurst will be moving on to the Elite Eight and will be heading to Tampa, Fla. this upcoming week.

## VOLLEYBALL STATS

### Team Leaders

#### Kills:

Megan Vander Meer (395)  
Alexis Huntley (339)  
Caroline Heitzman (327)

#### Digs:

Danielle Dowd (577)  
Megan Vander Meer (392)  
Katie Placek (390)

#### Service Aces:

Alexis Huntley (58)  
Megan Vander Meer (29)  
Katie Placek (25)

#### Assists:

Stephanie Sikorski (1,232)

**Saturday December 19, 2015**

Ewingleben Sport Complex  
(Wink Arena)

### Saturday, December 19

Time	College
10:00 am	College of Art & Sciences College of Education & Human Services College of Engineering and Technology
1:30 pm	College of Business College of Health Professions

For special accommodations or for more information regarding the Commencement ceremony, please visit the Commencement website [www.ferris.edu/commencement](http://www.ferris.edu/commencement) or call (231) 591-3803.







Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

Though they sit at fourth in the WCHA, the Ferris State hockey team is yet to have won two consecutive games. Ferris split last weekend's match-up against Bemidji State 1-1.

# Dude, where's my broom?

CODY BURKHARD  
Torch Reporter

Ferris hockey split a home series with WCHA opponent Bemidji State and has yet to get a weekend sweep.

Junior forward Kyle Schempp said, "We're still striving to be great. We haven't swept but we haven't been swept. We're still looking to find certain answers of what we need to do to sweep."

In college hockey, a team receives two points for a win, one point for a tie and none for a loss. In-conference standings are determined by this point system.

The Bulldogs are fourth in conference with 14 points, two points behind Bowling Green and Michigan Tech who are tied for second and four points behind Minnesota State. If the Bulldogs would have gotten a sweep in one of the two series played against Michigan Tech earlier in the year, then they would be in second.

This demonstrates the importance of being able to string together wins.

Senior defender Simon Denis said, "I think we're still search-

ing for the identity with our team. We aren't consistent enough to earn those sweeps but we show glimpses of it which is also why we haven't been swept. We just need to continue to work and play our game and we believe if we do that we will be very successful."

Ferris has been close so many times this season but have not been able to get over the hump.

Head coach Bob Daniels said, "We got to find a way to generate more offense. Guys who were showing up on the score sheet early in the season need to get back to doing that like Corey Mackin. He's been playing well but at times he's looked like a freshman. It's not just him, but we have things we need to improve on."

The Bulldogs have only scored once in six total over-time games this year. Four of their ties have come in those overtime games and have lost four games by one goal. In these losses, the Dawgs have recorded their lowest penalty kill percentages.

Denis said, "I don't think we've necessarily played bad on the penalty kill. The problem we run

into is that we are taking so many penalties that by giving the other team so many opportunities, they eventually capitalize. We did a great job on our first few kills and then struggled towards the end. Ultimately, we just need to minimize our penalty totals."

Freshman Corey Mackin could help propel the Bulldogs to better second half to the season. Mackin was named last month's WCHA Rookie of the Month, earning Rookie of the Week twice in that span.

He leads the team in plus-minus with plus six, meaning his team has scored six more goals than their opponents when Mackin is on the ice.

Schempp said, "He brings a lot of skill plays to our team. He's very shifty even though he's small and uses his shiftiness to his advantage to sneak his way out of tight areas and make his way to the net. He's been good on the power play for us."

Ferris will take on Northern Michigan in WCHA action this weekend on Friday, Dec. 11 and Saturday, Dec. 12 in Marquette. Both games will begin at 7:07 pm.

## WCHA STANDINGS

Team	WCHA Record	Points
1. Minnesota St.	7-1-4	18
T2. Bowling Green	6-2-4	16
T2. Michigan Tech	8-6-0	16
4. Ferris State	6-6-2	14
5. Northern Michigan	4-4-4	12
T6. Alaska Anchorage	5-4-1	11
T6. Lake Superior State	4-3-3	11
8. Bemidji State	4-6-2	10
T9. Alabama Huntsville	2-8-2	6
T9. Alaska	2-8-2	6





Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

Ferris State quarterback Jason Vander Laan is a nominee once more for the Harlon Hill, an award that he won in 2014.

# Harlon Hill hopeful

CODY BURKHARD

Torch Reporter

2014 Harlon Hill Trophy winner Jason Vander Laan was named as a finalist for this year's award two days after ending an amazing career.

He threw for 281 yards and five touchdowns while compiling 126 yards on the ground in a 38-34 loss to rival Grand Valley State to end Ferris State's playoff run.

"I'm just at a loss for words right now because I'm just not ready for this ride to be done yet. We just thought we had a great team out there and we were fighting it. We fought hard out there, probably harder than we did all year. It just stinks we didn't come out on top," said Vander Laan to MLive reporter Peter J. Wallner following the game.

On Monday, Nov. 30, two players from each of the four super regions were selected as finalists for the 2015 Harlon Hill Trophy.

Of all the finalists, Vander Laan is by far the most decorated. So far this year he has been named the GLIAC Offensive Player of the Year, Super Region IV MVP and Academic All-American of the Year.

In addition, he leads Division II in points responsible for and leads nation in quarterback rushing regardless of division.

Vander Laan has been bowling over defenders since he was

a freshman with his Cam Newton sized body.

In the spring of 2012, Vander Laan was just another quarterback in the eyes of history, but what he would become was evident in that training camp.

Head coach Tony Annese allowed the defense to go live on Vander Laan in practice for one play.

"He took off and just plowed over a 240-pound linebacker and I knew he was going to be special," said Annese to Wallner.

This came full circle this year when Vander Laan broke the NCAA record for career quarterback rushing yards regardless of division en route to a second consecutive GLIAC title and undefeated regular season.

Despite being dubbed as the nation's best rushing quarterback by many, his passing improved greatly over the course of his career as he led the nation in passer efficiency last year.

Vander Laan said, "I put in a lot of offseason work with my receivers to get the chemistry down and it has paid off."

The winner of the 2015 Harlon Hill Trophy will be announced via webcast on Friday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. The trophy will be awarded at a luncheon at the University of North Alabama on Friday, Jan. 8, 2016.

In regards to Vander Laan, Annese said, "If he doesn't win it then the right person didn't win it."



Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

## Top Dawg

BEAU JENSEN

Torch Reporter

An amazing Bulldog volleyball season ended last weekend after falling to Rockhurst in the Midwest Regional Final, but the Dawgs put up a great fight led by none other than senior outside hitter Megan Vander Meer.

Vander Meer has been a clear leader all season for the Bulldogs, not only on the scoring end, but she has also been great when it comes to creating opportunities for her teammates.

The volleyball team played for three days straight in Big Rapids, starting with a 3-0 victory over

Trebecca Nazarene which saw Vander Meer lead the team in kills with 15. The next night saw the Dawgs pick up the 3-1 victory over Findlay where Vander Meer once again led the team with 15 kills.

In Saturday night's loss that knocked the Dawgs out of the NCAA Tournament, Vander Meer still came out ready to play with 13 total kills and 16 digs.

Vander Meer and the Bulldogs had a phenomenal season that came to an abrupt close with a 33-3 overall record. Vander Meer finished the season with a team-high of 395 kills and was responsible for another team high of 462 overall points.

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## The end of an era

Season ends for Ferris State volleyball

MARK HANSEN

Torch Reporter

The Ferris State volleyball team has ended their campaign after losing to Rockhurst in the fifth and final set 7-15.

The Bulldogs were down two sets and were making quite the comeback until the Hawks finally took control again and put an end to Ferris State's National Championship hopes.

Senior outside hitter Alexis Huntey had some final comments on the end of her collegiate career. "Definitely an honor to be on this team and have the opportunity to play in the NCAA tournament. Our coaches did an amazing job of preparing us for games and giving us all the information to be successful."

The Bulldogs look forward to the future seasons and prepping for the future of Ferris but the collegiate careers of four

outstanding seniors ended this Saturday as outside hitters Megan Vander Meer and Alexis Huntey, libero Danielle Dowd and middle hitter Caroline Heitzman played their final match as a Bulldog. They left everything on the court.

"As a team, we left it all on the floor. Did we play our best? No, we didn't, but we did the best we could. Sometimes things don't go your way, no matter how hard you fight, but fighting is what counts. No one wants their season to end, but honestly we've had the season of a lifetime," said Heitzman. "We won a lot of games, we've made a lot of memories. Going to Tampa would have been awesome, but this season was already so amazing."

Every team wants to win the championship but only one team gets to win it all. Rockhurst was able to keep their playoff hopes alive but this Bulldog team gave the fans a great

season.

The team finished as the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletics Conference (GLIAC) regular season and tournament champions two years in a row and for the first time in school history were ranked number one in the nation at the division two level.

These seniors have created a winning culture here at Ferris and even though they weren't able to win it all, the Bulldogs have created an everlasting impression on Ferris State University.

"Overall, I'm feeling grateful to have been a member of the Ferris State women's volleyball program," said Heitzman. "Being a member of this team, associating myself with this team, and working my hardest for this team is what I'm going to miss. Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog; it's just a little different now."



# LIFESTYLES

**Hailey Klingel**  
Lifestyles Editor  
klingeh@ferris.edu

“Where else but college can you respectfully drink Burnett’s straight from the bottle?”  
- Kira Poncin  
See page 14 for story

## Nuka-Cola, anyone?

Ferris students review new video game “Fallout 4”



Submitted photo

Released Nov. 10, “Fallout 4” is the latest installment to the popular “Fallout” video games. The game, which is set in a post-apocalyptic Boston in the year 2287, sold 12 million copies the day it was released.

JEN CORRIE

Torch Reporter

Recently, there’s been a new addition to the family of “Fallout” games. The highly anticipated “Fallout 4” was released in stores on Nov. 10.

The role-playing game (RPG) takes place in a post-apocalyptic version of Boston in the year 2287. There are a lot of customizable features in the game compared to the other “Fallout” games, such as cinematic dialogues, infinite leveling for maximum accomplishments within the game and also the ability

to build settlements.

“Fallout 4” follows previous games including “Fallout 1,” “Fallout 2,” “Fallout 3” and “Fallout: New Vegas.” “Fallout: New Vegas” is the only game that shares the “Fallout” name and concepts and was not developed but still published by Bethesda, a popular video game company that also produced other favorites like “Skyrim” and “Oblivion.” “Fallout: New Vegas” was instead developed by



Travis Macfarlane

Obsidian Entertainment.

Ferris pre-pharmacy junior Travis Macfarlane has almost finished the main quest line and has also done some of the many side quests.

“I’d say I’m maybe 30 percent of the way through the game,” said Macfarlane. “I’ve only put in 30 hours and it’s probably a 100 hour game.”

Compared to the other “Fallout” games, Macfarlane said “Fallout 4” is just as glitchy, and instead of being able to choose whether you want your character to be good or evil, you’re swayed to play as a good character.

“You don’t really have the option to play a bad guy, just because of how the game originally sets it up,” he said. “The building settlements is kind of cool but it’s also very glitchy and annoying—it needs to be patched. They also screwed up the combat system a little bit, it’s kind of iffy, but other than that the game play is good.”

Macfarlane said the game has lived up to his expectations.

“I didn’t expect it to,” he said. “It’s a completely different game than ‘Fallout 3,’ so I didn’t expect it to live up to that, but its fun in a different way. It gives you a lot of little things to do so you can pour

an infinite number of hours into the game and not have any repercussions in the main quest line.”

Overall, Macfarlane gave the game a good rating.

“I’d probably give it a nine out of 10 because it still needs to be patched, and they haven’t released the patch for PS4 for it,” he said.

The game has been extremely successful in stores, as expected. According to Fortune.com, “Fallout 4” sold 12 million copies and made more than \$750 million on the first day it was released.



## Farewell, Ferris

ANDREA LENHART

Torch Reporter

While most of us are in anticipation of Christmas break, others are in anticipation for much more—graduation.

“Graduation is exciting, but it is also really scary because that means you’re done,” said Ferris criminal justice senior Alex Myarr. “I have been a student since I was five so it’s something I know how to be. I don’t know how not to be a student, but I will figure it out.”

Each week in the semester may seem like it flies by, but seniors will tell you not to blink your eyes.

“I’m sad to be graduating,” said Ferris nursing senior Hunter Dolan. “I didn’t have enough time here and I’m going to miss all the people I met along the way. I wish I did not have to grow up yet.”

Both seniors will be graduating from Ferris in three and a half years instead of four.

Dolan is hoping to land a job in the emergency room in the Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids.

“I’m excited to get into the nursing world and finally be able to help people instead of just following the nurse around all the time,” said Dolan.

Myarr did an internship over the summer for Spectrum Health’s security department and is about halfway through the hiring process for working for them after graduation.

“My advice to freshmen would be to find someone in your major to go through it with,” said Dolan. “My roommate, who is also my best friend, is in the same program and it just helps having the extra support.”

Myarr suggested that freshmen take

every class seriously because one slip could really mess up your schedule for graduation.

“My Ferris experience was really cool because I was able to be a college athlete and play soccer,” said Dolan. “My team felt like a family and I met my three best friends.”

Dolan will miss playing soccer for Ferris and will miss attending other Ferris athletic events such as basketball, hockey and football.

Myarr is excited to live on her own, but will miss the people at Ferris and the lack of responsibility.

“I grew as a person with all the people I was able to meet because of attending Ferris,” said Dolan. “I used to be a lot more shy than I am now, so college helped me with that. It changed me for the better.”



# TORCH CONFESSIONS

Every week, a Torch staff member will write about a slightly embarrassing aspect of his or her life because hey, we all have those.

## It's not alcoholism until you graduate



**Kira Poncin**  
Copy Editor

A few weeks ago, I was tapping through FerrisSnaps and I came across a student who shared a brilliant philosophy that I found myself wholeheartedly agreeing with: it's not alcoholism until you graduate.

Initially, I laughed out loud. But after giving it some thought, I realized it couldn't be more accurate. Where else but college can you respectfully drink Burnett's straight from the bottle? College is the perfect place to pee your pants, pass out on the bathroom floor and send your ex hilariously immature videos of yourself singing "F\*\*k You" by Cee Lo Green.

Sure, you can do these things in the "real world," but be prepared for the judgment that comes with them. In the real world, your nine a.m. class is your nine-to-five "adult" job. You can skip out on your nine a.m. to nurse a wicked hangover with minimal repercussions, but simply not showing up to work is not an option (especially if you want to keep funding your drinking habit).

College is a time to soak up all the experiences. If that means testing the limits of how much vodka or tequila you can drink or how many times you can play Ride the Bus before blacking out, then you're on my level. Am I usually the drunkest one at the party? Yep. That's how I like it. If you need a drinking buddy, I'm always game. I believe there is no better time than now to repeatedly harass a man you think is dressed as Donald Trump, puke in an ice bucket or drink Fireball until your lips go numb.

Yes, I confess that I drink too much. But I'm not worried about it or ashamed. A friend of mine recently told me that as a writer, I essentially have a duty to frequently consume large amounts of alcohol. All I know is that I've only got so many days left until graduation and real "adulthood" begins, so let me have my fun - in fact, join me.



Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Ferris associate vice president of advancement David Lepper speaks about his vision to build relationships and a philanthropy culture among Ferris students, faculty and staff.

## The love of humankind: What is philanthropy?

GVSU professor starts conversation about philanthropy at Ferris

NICK VANDER WULP

Torch Reporter

A guest film screening last Tuesday at Williams Auditorium was open to anyone interested in starting the conversation about philanthropy at Ferris.

The ancient Greeks defined philanthropy as "the love of humankind," according to a scholar interviewed by Dr. Salvatore Alaimo in his film "What Is Philanthropy?"

Alaimo is an associate professor in the School of Public, Nonprofit and Health Administration at Grand Valley State University. He made the film to make information more available about charitable giving, volunteering, activism and nonprofit organizations.

"I thought about all of the people out there, all of the citizens engaged in philanthropy in some way," said Alaimo. "I recognized the average citizen doesn't have enough of an understanding of the concept of philanthropy. So I said, 'What can we do to fill the gap?' I thought a film would be a good way to spark discussion and thought around this concept."

Philanthropy isn't limited to volunteering time or holding fundraising events for charitable causes. Social activism is one of the more controversial forms of giving back to society, and Alaimo said this concept of giving hasn't been so well received by some.

"If you volunteer your time to organize citizens, to protest and try to correct a societal ill, that is a form of giving," said Alaimo. "I ask my students, 'Was Dr. King a philanthropist?' and they'll ponder that and they'll say, 'Yeah, I think he was.' His gift was engaging all of his time and starting a movement, and now we have laws on the books. Our society has been improved based on his efforts. And he paid the ultimate price for it, too. He lost his life. Not that we're competing here, but that versus writing a check... You can judge for yourself."

Student Foundation is a developing student organization at Ferris State that will focus on developing a

student culture of philanthropy. The founding members of Student Foundation hosted the event along with University Advancement and Marketing at Ferris State.

"Student Foundation is about connecting with the students here and developing the sense of family in student body toward charitable giving," said Ferris digital animation and game design sophomore Matt Yontz.

David Lepper, the associate vice president of advancement at Ferris



Dr. Salvatore Alaimo

State University was in attendance at the film screening. He talked about his vision of building a culture of philanthropy at Ferris among students, faculty and staff.

"I want to share this with more of the faculty, staff and our volunteers," said Lepper. "Raising money is only a small part of what we do. Philanthropy is about building relationships. When talking to people, it's about figuring out what they want. It's about figuring out what their values and passions are."

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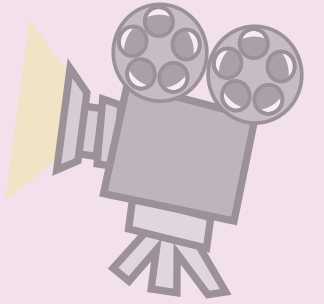
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# Media Minute



TRAVIS SACHER  
Torch Reporter

2015 has been a year of taking hip-hop, pop, metal and indie-rock to new limits. This year the music industry has produced Kendrick Lamar's "To Pimp a Butterfly," Drake's "If You're Reading This It's Too Late," the record breaking release of pop sensation Adele's "25" and one of the most diverse metal albums in recent memory "New Bermuda," dropped by black metal rippers Deafheaven.

In the less popular music world, the world of independent rock, my number one and most played album of this year is "Harmlessness," by The World Is A Beautiful Place And I Am No Longer Afraid To Die (TWIABP). Released by Epitaph Records on Sept. 25, "Harmlessness" is the most progressive, emotional indie rock album released this decade. This album is a clear improvement from their 2013 debut LP, "Whenever, If Ever," a flag bearer album to the revival of 1990s emo music which disappeared once bands like Fall Out Boy and My Chemical Romance brought the word "emo" to the mainstream and MTV.

"Harmlessness" is 54 minutes of a journey through the mind of lead vocalist David Bello. The opening track, "You Can't live There Forever," describes the tiny worlds

inside your mind and questions our reasoning on Earth if we are all going to die anyway. "January 10, 2014," is a true story about Diana, Hunter of Bus Drivers, a mysterious woman who murders bus drivers for committing sexual assaults against their passengers. This song is empowering, intense and ends with the repeated chilling line of, "Make evil afraid of evil's shadow!"

"We Need More Skulls" is a punk and noise rock song taking influences from Nirvana and Sonic Youth with the repeated lines of "We set out to make up all the mistakes of our parents and their friends. We set up a safety net, but it was above our heads!"

My favorite track on "Harmlessness" is "I Can Be Afraid of Anything." This song is seven minutes of pure honest emotion backed by unbelievably uplifting instrumentals. Bello describes how he sought out help for his depression and as the lyrics fade, the instrumental fill gives off the impression of hope and David comes right back in to encourage his inner self by repeating, "I really did dig my own hole, I'm climbing out."

"Harmlessness" is a great listen and I call it a seasonal album as it fits the themes of all four seasons. If you are ever in a situation where you are pondering life and failed relationships, allow "Harmlessness" to enter the tiny worlds inside your mind.



Submitted photo



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