

Graphic by: Jordan Lodge | Production Manager

Killer in Kalamazoo

Ferris students react to Kalamazoo's weekend violence

Nick Vander Wulp
Torch Reporter

Shots rang out in Kalamazoo Saturday evening as an Uber driver dropped fares off and picked people out on the street to kill.

Jason Dalton, 45, killed six people and injured three more as he drove around looking for more Uber fares, as reported by CNN.

The first shooting occurred at 5:42 p.m., after a woman who was crossing an apartment complex parking lot was shot multiple times. She's critically injured but expected to survive.

The shooting rampage continued throughout the evening and into Saturday night, when police took Dalton into custo-

dy at 12:40 a.m. By then he had killed Tyler Smith, 18, and his father Richard Smith, 53; Mary Lou Nye, 62; Mary Jo Nye, 60; Dorothy Brown, 74; and Barbara Hawthorne, 68.

Ferris professional golf management sophomore Chaz Shugars was shocked and saddened to hear his friend, Smith, and Smith's father had been killed.

"At first, of course, I was saddened, but once I found out my friend and his father were killed, it went to a whole new level," said Shugars. "We were teammates on a club soccer team for about five years before I went off to college. His dad was always involved with the team and helped out any way he could."

Smith and his father had been looking at a truck while Smith's girlfriend was waiting in the car. She had to retrieve Smith's mobile phone from his pocket to call the police af

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“Before you repost that GIF of Trump’s goofy hair or that illustration of Sanders wielding a lightsaber, let your opinion be heard the right way...” - Devin Anderson
See below for story

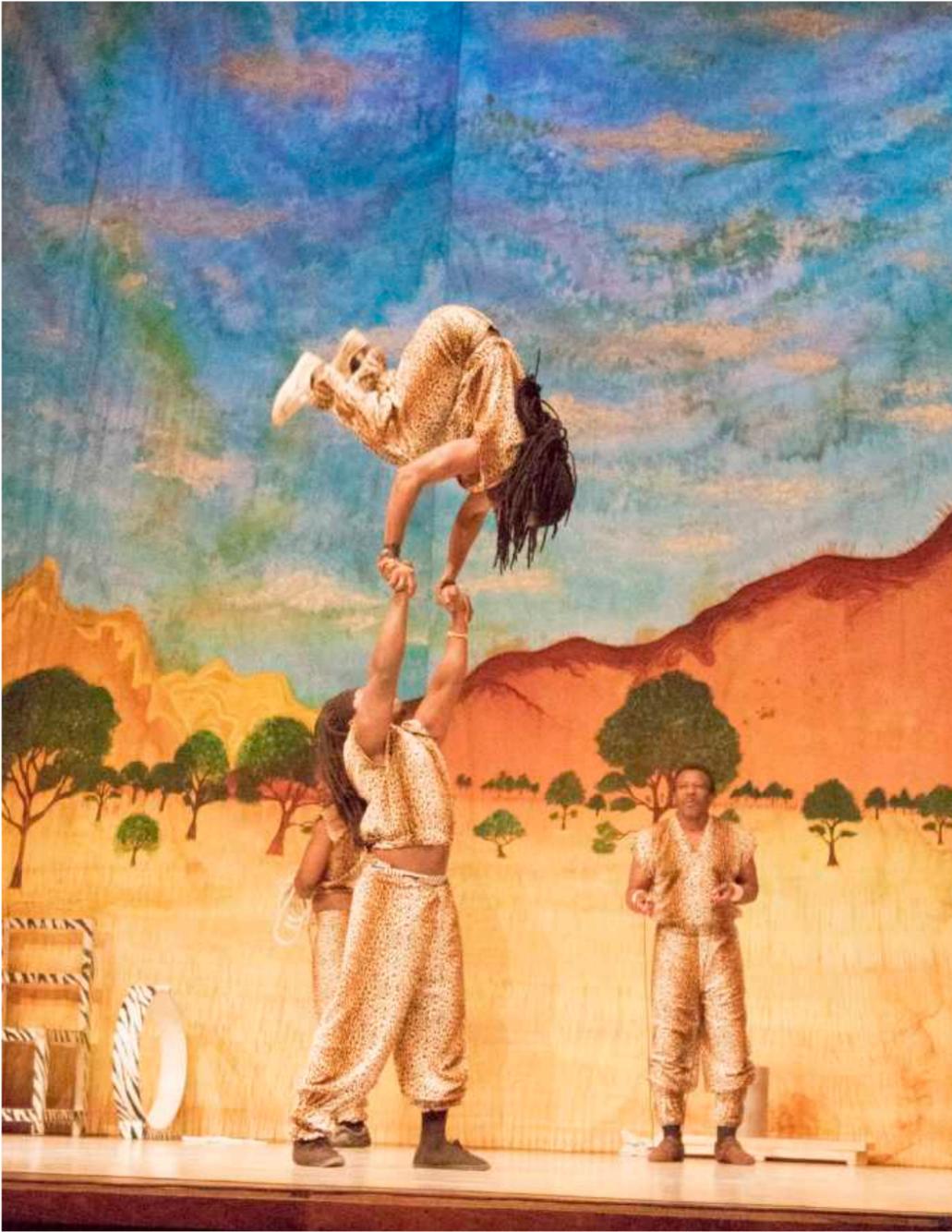


Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Four acrobatic performers averaging just 5-feet tall and 150 lbs. a piece demonstrated gymnastic prowess and brought culture to Williams Auditorium on Feb. 21

Flying ZuZus

African acrobats defy imagination at Williams Auditorium

Jonny Parshall

Torch Reporter

The rhythmic cadence of African drums harmonized the sound of constant applause as the celebrated ZuZu Acrobats performed a daredevil display.

On Sunday, Feb. 21 in Williams Auditorium, an audience of more than 150 students, families and community residents were present to witness what many of them described as a “seemingly impossible” circus routine.

The international act, originally from Mombassa, Kenya, consists of five men averaging five feet in height. Though small, they appear many times larger on stage.

The hour-long performance was heavy in high-energy dance routines and punctuated by a constant barrage of flips, dips, loops, twirls, twists and tumbles, with the performers using each other as the primary props.

“I was pretty amazed by their willingness to put themselves at risk multiple times,” said Big Rapids High School senior April Finkiewicz.

The performers are impressive enough in groups of two or three, but it is when they combine—arm-in-arm, foot-on-shoulder—to create stacked aerial formations of four or more that leaves audiences baffled. At an estimated 150 pounds a piece, the combined weight of four performers create a force of 600 lbs. resting on one man’s shoulders as he walks across the stage.

“I thought it was outstanding when they climbed on top of each other,” said Ferris forensic biology sophomore Robyn Johnson. “One person was holding all of them and walking forward.”

In a scene dominated by American, European and Asian influence, ZuZu brought a uniquely African approach to conventional circus performance. With backdrops reflecting a savanna wilderness, costumes reflecting traditional Kenyan attire and a tribal drum-inspired soundtrack, the acrobats of ZuZu give a visually stimulating demonstration of gymnastic ability enriched with culture.

“We like to try to get to events with multicultural perspective,” said Martiny Township resident Randall Westfall. “My two-and-a-half-year-old daughter loved it.”

“It’s the agility of the performance, not just the balance,” said Westfall.

Just vote

Vote.

Whether your spring break plans include relaxing and surfing at Panama City Beach or on your couch at home, it’s important that Michigan’s March 8 primary doesn’t pass you by.

Candidates on both sides of the political spectrum are vying for the youth vote. With seven public universities in Michigan on spring break during primary week, youth voter turnout could be affected.

On one hand, students on vacation might miss their chance to make it to the polls. On the other, students returning home to the precincts they’re likely registered to vote in could increase turnout.

Only 45 percent of eligible voters ages 18 to 29 actually voted in the 2012 presidential election, representing 19 percent of the total vote.

So vote.

Coverage of the 2016 election began immediately after the results of the 2012 election were announced. In a seemingly unending campaign season, primary elections have grown in importance over the last few decades.

The *Torch* reported a turnout of more than 6,000 at a Donald Trump rally in Grand Rapids in December. Bernie Sanders drew around 9,000 recently in Ann Arbor. Trump, Sanders and other candidates for president have radically different visions for the future of America. The stakes are high.

So just vote.



Devin Anderson
Torch Reporter

Those unable to vote in person are still able to vote using an absentee ballot. A Michigan absentee voter ballot can be obtained through the City Clerk’s office in your voting precinct. Some precincts require a letter of explanation to apply for the ballot. It’s a small chore in exchange for a voice, a say in how things should be.

We vote all the time on social media. If your Facebook looks like mine, it’s littered with political opinions, some of which may be your own. Before you repost that GIF of Trump’s goofy hair or that illustration of Sanders wielding a lightsaber, let your opinion be heard the right way and, say it with me...
Vote.

If you’re registered to vote in Big Rapids, a simple application can be filed for an absentee voter ballot up until the day of the election at Big Rapids City Hall, located at 226 N. Michigan Ave.

Four democrat and 14 Republican candidates are listed on the official Michigan ballot. Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are currently leading in the Michigan polls.

Michigan presidential
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Valentine's revenge

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

By Angela Graf, News Editor

On the run

Feb. 12, 1 p.m., officers investigated a hit and run in Lot 1.

Not without my child

Feb. 12, 5:45 p.m., an officer acted as a mediator for a resident in the West Campus Apartments during a custody exchange.

Lights out

Feb. 13, 12:15 a.m., officers stopped a vehicle on State Street for not having their headlights on. The driver was found to be intoxicated and was lodged in jail.

Learn to drive

Feb. 13, 10:45 p.m., officers investigated a hit and run in Lot 47.

Double whammy

Feb. 13, 11:30 p.m., officers investigated a marijuana complaint in Merrill Hall. Two students were identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Valentine's revenge

Feb. 14, 5:15 p.m., officers investigated malicious destruction to a vehicle in Lot 32. The victim's car had been keyed.

Rolling in trouble

Feb. 14, 6:35 p.m., officers investigated a suspicious vehicle in Lot 54. One student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the use of marijuana and the other was charged with an MIP and also referred.



Retail fraud

Feb. 15, 12:10 p.m., officers investigated a retail fraud complaint at The Market. The suspect was identified and a warrant was sent to the prosecutor.

Lot 1 hit and run

Feb. 16, 2:15 p.m., officers investigated a hit and run in Lot 1.

Reckless and referred

Feb. 16, 4 p.m., officers investigated a complaint of reckless driving in Lot 37. The suspect was identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Fraud

Feb. 17, 4 p.m., officers investigated the fraudulent use of a credit card that had been in a lost wallet.

Warrant for weed

Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m., officers followed up on a prior complaint about marijuana possession in Bond Hall. One student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct and a warrant was sent to the prosecutor's office.

All kinds of trouble

Feb. 18, 12:05 a.m., officers investigated a marijuana complaint in Travis Hall. One student was jailed for possession and violation of probation and also referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Another student was referred as well as having a warrant request sent to the prosecutor for possession.

DPS issued 214 traffic and parking violations from Feb. 12-18 totaling \$3,960.

NEWS BRIEFS

Angela Graf

News Editor

Truth Brunch

On Feb. 25, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated will be hosting an event called the Truth Brunch, which is an event in recognition of Black History Month. Speaking at this event will be Ronald Snead, Ferris alumnus and former Chair of the FSU Board of Trustees. This event is set to take place in the University Center room 202B. Space is limited. If you wish to attend, RSVP by emailing omss@ferris.edu or calling 231-591-2617.

MyFreeTaxes

On Feb. 25, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Ferris professor James Shimko will be presenting on how to prepare your own taxes and maximize your tax refund. Anyone earning \$62,000 or less per year is eligible to use the services being presented. This demonstration will be held in FLITE, room 114.

Big Event sign-up

The form to sign up for the Big Event is now available online at <https://orgsync.com/18408/forms/174272>. The Big Event Kickoff will begin at 9 a.m. the morning of April 16. All volunteer forms are due by Friday, March 4 by 5 p.m.

FLITE hour change

This semester, FLITE library will be changing their hours on Saturdays to 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on a trial basis. Students can support the change by being present at the library during these new hours.

2016 course guide available

The Fall 2016 schedule is now viewable online. You can view course offerings, your assigned registration date and time, your advisor information and any registration holds. Fall 2016 registration will begin March 28, 2016.

Talking vaginas



Photo by: Chris Martin | Photographer

On Feb. 19, "The Vagina Monologues" was brought to Ferris to spotlight issues surrounding womanhood, and to encourage open discussion about them.

Ferris breaks barriers and celebrates femininity

Elizabeth Yost

Torch Reporter

Social stigmas around expressing womanhood came crashing down as Ferris students brought "The Vagina Monologues" to the William's Auditorium stage.

The play was performed on Feb. 19 as a part of V-day, a global movement to end violence against girls and women. It was written by Eve Ensler in 1996 and was compiled into a series of monologues after interviewing over 200 women. The series is meant to open the channel between characters and audience members, covering topics such as sex, rape, birth, menstruation, love and language.

"I was surprised at first," said Ferris criminal justice sophomore Garret Gresly. "It made me nervous at first because I'm a male, but it was definitely funny and I enjoyed it."

The preshow celebration began at 6 p.m. and featured display tables ready to discuss related topics

such as safe sex and human trafficking. As the lights dimmed in the auditorium, leaders of the Social Work Association gave thanks to the various participants and supporters they received for the performance.

The Social Work Association (SWA) also announced the success of the recent bra drive, which collected 371 bras for women in need. Proceeds from the show went to support Women's Information Services Inc. (WISE), a local nonprofit organization that cares for women in dangerous situations.

The play itself consisted of multiple episodes covering a wide range of topics involving female anatomy and sexual consent. The entire concept of the monologues revolved around the idea that vagina is just a word and shouldn't be considered dirty or inappropriate, but rather embraced as an important part of the female body and the feminine experience.

"I didn't know what to expect and I was a little surprised," said Ferris criminal justice junior AnnMarie Clay. "But as it progressed, it made me really proud to be a woman."

Ferris State Torch Corrections

In the Feb. 10 edition of the Torch, there was incorrect information in the article titled "More than just cartoons." Khalid Albaih's work is no longer featured in the Arab American National Museum.

Corrections can be submitted through email at fsutorcheditor@gmail.com or by calling 231-591-5978



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Updating campus

Ferris construction to expand over next year

Elizabeth Yost

Torch Reporter

Construction teams are working to improve Ferris life by renovating multiple locations on campus.

Throughout the year, Ferris begins and completes various constructions projects all over campus. During the 2015-16 school year, there were around 100 projects completed, with summer plans starting up soon.

"We complete a significant number of projects over the course of a typical year," said Ferris physical plant associate vice president Michael Hughes. "These projects can range from fairly small like painting a single room, to much larger like renovating or constructing."

Many important projects have already been completed so far this school year, including multiple renovations of offices, classrooms, elevators and equipment.

Though some projects are being completed throughout the year, Ferris' biggest project during the spring semester has been the creation of more living space for on-campus students.

"The main project going [on] right now is the construction of two new apartment buildings for students at West Campus Apartments," said Ferris administration and finance vice president Jerry Scoby. "These buildings are scheduled to be ready for students to move in to them in August 2016."

All of the construction that has been completed this year and that will be completed in the next few years is a part of the most recent master plan, which was approved in May 2015.

"The master plan development took most of an academic year with input from students, faculty, staff, alumni, community leaders, the Board of Trustees and others," said Scoby. "It reflects a blending of academic program needs, housing and other student life needs, the age and condition of current facilities, the projected program needs for the future and the availability of funding."

Many other major projects have been planned or are being finalized for the summer of 2016 as well, including demolition of multiple apartment buildings at both East and South Campus Apartments, construction on new soccer and intramural fields and many upgrades and renovations.



Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Through a combination of dangerous stunts, illusions and comedy, Brian Rudo captivated his audience in Williams Auditorium on Feb. 17.

Magic or reality

Brian Rudo risks life and limb at Ferris

Elizabeth Yost

Torch Reporter

Brian Rudo, otherwise known as a comedian, entertainer and escape artist, performed a comedic stunt show guaranteed to "wow" the crowd in Williams Auditorium.

On Feb. 17 a number of students came out with the expectation of viewing a magic show or just to witness a good laugh, but Rudo vowed that his show would be nothing like anyone had ever seen before.

Adrenaline comedy is a comedic stunt show. The performer described its similarity to that of a magic show only with no magic because it's all real.

"He's definitely crazy. There's no way in hell I would be able to pull off half the stunts he did on that stage," said Ferris undecided freshman Brandon Thompson.

Rudo performed a number of different stunts, one of which included four brown paper bags and a broken glass bottle. Before he even began, he revealed to the audience the injury he had suffered from when performing this particular stunt in the past.

A stunt gone wrong left Rudo injured with a knife punctured in his inner palm stabbing directly through the other side of his hand. Naturally, he vowed to never try that again.

At least not with a knife.

Despite the tragedies of his last attempt, Rudo

was determined to try it again, but this time with a broken glass bottle. He explained that it was simply a mindset and although he would never again perform that stunt with a knife, he would indeed try the glass bottle as a result of mental comfort.

He set up four paper bags, all of which had wooden blocks in the bottom of them with the exception of one which had the bottle positioned with the broken glass facing upright. The point of the stunt was to smash all of the paper bags in hopes of not smashing the one with the broken bottle inside.

After picking on an audience member to rearrange the paper bags, he chose three other people in the crowd to choose which bag to smash.

The entire audience was in silence while Rudo smashed whichever bags the audience members suggested. Thankfully, this was not a stunt gone wrong and Rudo still had his whole hand.

"He's insane, insane yet extremely entertaining. I would not hesitate to attend another one of his shows," said Ferris nursing junior Alshlee Harris.

Lastly, Rudo performed a very unique stunt involving two straightjackets. The entire concept was to escape these two straightjackets all while balancing on a two-foot ball.

Needless to say, he accomplished the task. Not only did he escape both straightjackets in under three minutes, but he ultimately left the crowd speechless and in awe by doing so.

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Quiet as the grave

What it's like to work on campus after hours

Jonny Parshall
Torch Reporter

A typical university day begins around 8 a.m. as cars fill onto campus and students emerge from the comfort of residence halls.

This frenzied flow of vehicles, students, faculty, staff and Jimmy John's delivery drivers continues strong through the afternoon, creating a whirl of excitement and anticipation in the ever-busy present. Ferris State University is a living, breathing, learning machine.

By evening, the flow slows up—commuters return home, residents hole up to study, televisions turn on, evening meals are prepared—the volume of campus life dials down with the setting of the sun. Soon the stars come out and all is silent.

Shhh. Academia is sleeping. Or is it?

As many students end their day, many begin theirs. They are the night watchmen, the graveyard shift, the dead ringers, the men and women whose job it is to make sure nothing goes bump in the night.

So who are they? What do they do? Why aren't they in bed? Let's take a look at just some of the roles performed after hours when all is quiet and not a creature is stirring.

Residence hall desk service assistant

"I sleep between classes," said Ferris criminal justice sophomore Kendon Berg. "I can do a lot of homework with not a lot of people bothering me."

Working nights can be tough on a student's schedule. Planning one's sleep and study around work and classes is no easy task.

Berg is a desk service assistant (DSA) in Vandercook Hall. The job of the DSA is multifaceted. Students run out of toilet paper and other necessities at all hours, not just when it's convenient. DSAs meet these needs when appropriate.

DSAs also make nightly rounds, patrolling the hallways and perimeters to make sure any unwanted noises—or smells—aren't permeating from rooms and disrupting other residents.

The most common occurrences are noise complaints, but other commotions can happen, especially when alcohol or drugs might be involved.

"The most bizarre thing to happen to me was three intoxicated students coming to the desk at 3 a.m. and talking about their individual meanings of life," said Ferris pre-criminal justice freshman Ryan Mooney, a DSA and resident in Brophy-McNerney Hall.

FLITE night security

For some students, a quiet place with internet access doesn't come cheap. For them, the library offers its extended hours suite during closed hours.

The extended hours suite—aka the annex—is an absolute necessity, that without, would result in many class projects left undone. Traffic is usually fairly slow with personal laptops at peak popularity, but around finals season it picks up.

With all these busy students packed into a small, university-owned space filled with top-of-the-line technology, somebody's got to keep an eye out. Enter Dominique Starling: night security.

"I don't usually interact with students unless they have questions," said Starling, a Ferris sociology freshman.

Like DSAs, the job of night security is a noninvasive one, designed more to monitor than interfere. They offer basic assistance with computers, keep a regular head count and remind students to be respectful to the library as well as fellow study bugs when it is required.

Though Starling hasn't witnessed any incidences herself, night security has had to deal with the occasional brawl or other disruption in the past.

"Of course I always worry about safety," said Starling, who also works FLITE's circulation desk by day. "But for the most part everybody is sane."

Public safety student dispatch

Walk campus at night and you may run into a pair of individuals in yellow safety vests. Maybe you've seen the Ferris State cruisers patrolling the streets and parking lots.

Reports come in, reports go out. Armed with a handheld radio, calls are received from DPS personnel, students, resident halls and anybody willing to engage those blue kiosk things placed randomly around campus.

The office of public safety is open at all times, 24 hours, 365 days, on holidays and available to anybody who requires their assistance. Many students don't realize this. The door is open at all times, the lights are on and there is always DPS personnel at the main desk.

DPS dispatch can be considered the nerve center of it all, having access and communication with every other person working the Ferris night cap. The boys in vests "walking the beat," Dominique in FLITE, Ryan and Kendon in the residence halls, even Big Rapids police and emergency services.

So when that drunk guy is having a fight with his girlfriend outside Timme at 4 a.m., DPS dispatch is the first to be notified.

All in all, campus appears to be asleep in the darkest hours of night but it is very much alive at all times, pulsing with the beat of every hard worker who helps make Ferris the great place it is: a quiet place, a safe place and an ideal place to study, so that we as students can sleep sound at night—without worry—and feel refreshed and ready to begin yet another busy day.

plained why Western might not have issued an alert to students.

"I mean, if someone shoots somebody in an apartment complex in Kalamazoo and they alerted everyone every time that happened, it would be ridiculous," said Makowski. "And then at 10 o'clock at night, there's another shooting on the other side of town, and no one knew they were related. With the series of events and how they played out, I don't think WMU really did anything wrong by not announcing it. Because it's not like there was a shooter going around and police were chasing him and shooting at him out the windows."

Ferris pre-pharmacy junior Shannon Plachta said she believes more people should be alerted and armed to protect themselves in active shooter situations.

"It's nice to be alerted, but there were a few other incidents that happened around Big Rapids that there wasn't notification for. And, you know, we're out and about, we're all around, and students need to be notified," said Plachta.



Shannon Plachta

Kalamazoo from page 1 Students react to massacre in Michigan

ter Dalton had driven off.

"Never once did I see him display any poor sportsmanship, and never once did I see him without a smile," said Shugars about Smith.

Last week, Ferris introduced students to an active shooter scenario through a training class led by the Ferris Department of Public Safety. However, it was reported by Fox 17 that Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo chose not to alert their students to the ongoing active shooter situation.

Shugars said it was ridiculous that WMU chose not to inform students of the ongoing shooting spree and police manhunt.

"The whole idea of those services is to keep people safe," said Shugars.

Ferris students gave their opinions on the situation and WMU's response, or lack thereof, in the wake of the active shooter training and the weekend's events.

Skylar Makowski, Ferris construction management junior and transfer student from WMU, ex-

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY



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"Trump can say anything he wants, as long as he doesn't mention Benghazi."
- Mikala Piller
See cartoon on page 7

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Voting away your personal liberty

What candidate will defend my personal freedom?

It is astonishing the number of individuals readily brandishing the banner of some presidential candidate believing them to be the arbiter of hope and freedom when, in fact, the defense and restoration of individual liberty is the antithesis of any prudent presidential candidate's platform. Liberty and freedom, as defined by Ludwig von Mises in "Human Action" are, "terms employed for the description of the social conditions of the individual members of a market society in which the power of the indispensable hegemonic bond, the state, is curbed lest the operation of the market be endangered." Ludwig von Mises, the father of Austrian economics, bore witness to the tyranny of government interventionism and socialism during the interwar period of Austria (between WWI and WWII). It was an era of collectivist sentiment and growing socialist tendencies, not dissimilar to the United States of today.

One need only consider Mises's previously mentioned definition of freedom in order to realize the folly of such idolatrous support for politicians whose very careers rest upon the legitimized theft of citizen's property. In the words of Mises, "a man is free as far as he can live and get on without being at the mercy of arbitrary decisions on the part of other people." Does not every candidate advocate the hegemonic subjugation of one group or another to the "mercy of arbitrary decisions on the part of the people?" How can anyone, believing him or herself to be free, voluntarily cast a vote for a ready purveyor of shackles in the form of regulatory measures in the



Justin Austin
Guest Writer

economy? If individuals are unable to engage in free mutual exchange between equals unmolested by government intervention then they are by definition servants to the authority of the state. If the aforementioned principles are to be taken as a metric, no candidate can be justifiably supported unless the voter's willful intent is the forfeiture of liberty in exchange for redistributed property.

Who then are individuals to vote for in the coming election? The answer is indeed quite simply don't vote. When faced with the turpitude of any number of candidates how can one, in good conscience, advise the support of any of these evils lesser or otherwise. To refrain from voting is to expose the illegitimacy of the system in question. One cannot expect positive change within the void of ignorant acceptance, instead raise your voice in candid support of individual liberty, cast aside the dogmatic allegiance to the two-party system and the ballot box and invest in the governing of yourself through knowledge and prudence. How can Americans be free individuals if all their appropriable time is consumed determining who will rule them when they have yet to realize that they must first rule themselves?

Feeling opinionated?

Here at the Torch we pride ourselves in being completely run by students. We have student writers, photographers, production people and a multitude of others who make the paper possible. And you, as a Ferris student, must understand that this is your newspaper.

For us to be the voice of the students, we cannot limit ourselves to just students that work at the Torch. So this is your opportunity to have your voice heard. I mean, you could just post a Facebook status, but that's hardly something you can brag to your friends about.

Write about anything you have an opinion on—classes, policies, politics, issues that matter to you. Send me your personal diary. It probably won't make print but at least I'll have something to read that does not involve Donald Trump.

My email is at the top of this section. Send an email with your opinion attached, and I will be in touch. Let's write!

- Kip Biby, Opinions Editor

Chat with the chief

Editor in Chief, Keith Salowich

This cycle marks the first time I will be able to vote in the presidential election.

Up until this point, I've always avoided politics. I'm typically a very "go with the flow" type of person when it comes to my daily life, so considering which individual in the highest echelons of government would best suit my interests was not a worry of mine.

Knowing that my voice could not be heard until it matured to the age of 18, I saw little point in paying attention to that which I could not affect. Politics were merely a hot topic for people older and better informed than I, and I was not to join in the conversation.

Yet now that I have ripened to become an eligible voter, I've dived into the madness that is the presidential race.

People say that this election cycle is particularly reminiscent of a circus. While I might argue that this opinion is most likely a product of recency, the personalities vying for the commander in chief's chair are certainly fun to follow.

These candidates receive so much media attention between gracing newspaper and magazine covers and being played on a loop on the national news that they almost become characters for us to enjoy.

Watching Jeb Bush and Donald

Trump go at it on the debate stage was like watching quarreling reality television stars. Senator Bernie Sanders evokes the same humor that Betty White might. Old people aren't supposed to say or be able to do that! Plus, when candidates drop out of the race, it's almost as if they all gathered around the campfire before the weakest link had to leave the island on *Survivor*.

In a way, the presidential race is one of the only reality show truly grounded in reality. This is unscripted, unadulterated madness unfolding before our eyes.

I'm excited to finally have a reason to take part in it. I've been following the debates, reading up on

the candidates and tracking their successes and failures in the caucuses that have already transpired. Having said that, I still haven't decided whom I will vote for. Nevertheless—still excited.

Not to mention I'm now eligible for the glorious honor that is jury duty, though that inspires considerably less enthusiasm in me.

When March 8 rolls around, I'll find myself casting my first vote that wasn't just in an anonymous online poll. Sure, I probably won't know where to go or how it's done without asking innumerable questions, but it's all part of the learning process. Besides, in case you haven't noticed yet, I'm excited.

Flexing my right

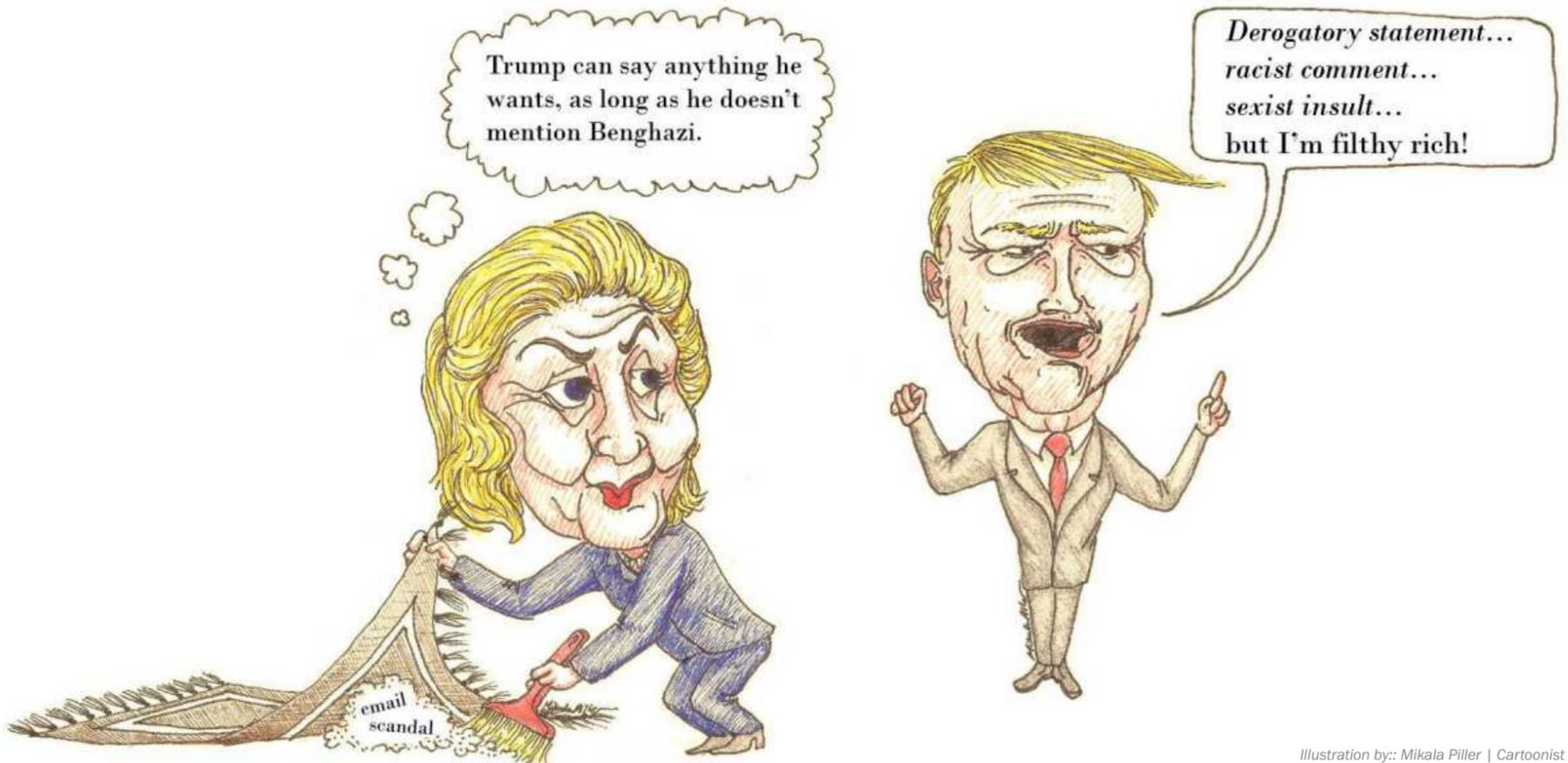


Illustration by: Mikala Piller | Cartoonist

Mandatory wage increase, bad idea



Kip Biby
Opinions Editor

Let's say there is a pizza with eight slices. You have seven friends over, so each person, including you, gets one slice of pizza. Now, imagine one of your friends pulls out a picket sign that says, "We want bigger slices of pizza!" You and your friends all agree, these pieces are too small.

The next weekend, you and your seven friends call the pizza place and request a pizza with bigger slices. Your pizza arrives and you are pleased to see the slices are huge! But when the slices are distributed you realize that while the pieces are bigger, there are only seven of them. Your friend who was left pizza-less pees his pants and runs home with tears streaming down his face.

Last semester, during the State of the University, a student asked why her hours at an on-campus job were being cut. It was explained to her that her hours were being cut because minimum wage was going up and the budget for student employment was remaining the same. Looks like she's the one who didn't get a slice.

Raising the minimum wage seems like a great idea for about two seconds, until you look one step ahead into the future. The fact is, raising the minimum wage only helps the employees who have worked at the business for years, full time workers. It leaves us students struggling to find work, gives businesses less room to grow and makes babies cry. People will work less and make the same amount of money they did before.

Now let's say the pizza party kids are back the next weekend (I don't know why they are obsessed with pizza) and they order their pizza. This time though, they want eight slices, but they want their slices to remain big. They realize now that instead of paying 10 bucks for a large pizza with eight small slices, they now have to pay \$15 for an extra-large pizza.

Let's say you have a really "nice" boss at a taco stand who does not want to cut hours to compensate for the new wage requirements. To make up for the profit loss, the boss now charges \$7 for three tacos instead of five. Economics 101 should tell you that there will be a loss in demand at the taco stand. The taco stand is in trouble, folks.

A mandatory increase in minimum wage will put people out of work, puts strain on businesses and raises prices. Guys, it's a no-brainer.

Just to make sure the Bernie supporters are on the same page, I was not actually talking about a pizza. I was using what is called a "metaphor."



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My take on the candidates



Photocourtesy of MCT Campus

Citizens cast their votes at private polling booths. Michigan's caucus is scheduled for March 8.

Voting is immensely important. Getting to the voting booth is the way you put in your two cents, even if you are picking the lesser of the two evils.

The best way to choose a candidate is to think about what is most important to you and read up on the candidates, watch the debates and spend time getting others' perspectives. Good thing you picked up a paper today, because I have a treat for you. Here's my brief perspective on the remaining, most relevant candidates.

Republicans:

Ben Carson - Right off the bat, I liked Carson. I went and saw him speak at Alma College before he announced his candidacy. After building himself up from very humble beginnings, Carson went on to become a neurosurgeon. Not an easy feat. Though Carson may have been the smartest guy on the stage, after the first debate it was easy to see he is not a talented politician. With little to no foreign policy experience, electing a neurosurgeon at a time in our country when safety from foreign enemies is at the top of the priority list is not a smart choice.

Ted Cruz - Ted Cruz has without a doubt the best grasp on the Constitution, which is important to me and many Americans. Though he may not have the best reputation as a team player with his fellow senators, he is branding himself as the trustworthy candidate. This tag is becoming a hard sell after revelations of "dirty tricks" to get Ben Carson's votes at the Iowa caucus. Apparently his staff announced



Kip Biby
Opinions Editor

that Ben Carson had dropped out of the race before votes were cast, encouraging those who would've voted for Carson to vote for Cruz. Despite these hijinks, Cruz has my interest. Thomas Sowell, a renowned economist and author, has endorsed Cruz and that means a lot to me, considering I would probably trust my life with Sowell.

Marco Rubio - While every candidate would like to consider themselves "anti-establishment," Rubio has me convinced that he actually is. Rubio's experience as a senator for the state of Florida is huge considering he is on the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Aside from the economy, foreign affairs is the issue I place the most importance on. Public-speaking wise, he could probably do better, but Rubio is someone I could see beating Hillary and Bernie and thriving as president.

Donald Trump - Straight up, I really like Trump. It's fun to demonize the rich, but I refuse to hold his wealth against him. He has created thousands of jobs and provided fantastic products and services for the American people. That being said, do I want him as my president? No. Trump has not been solidly a Republican for very long; he has supported several liberal policies in the past. I want someone who

has consistently been a conservative. I will continue to wear my "Make America Great Again" hat, but I cannot support a candidate who I do not trust to uphold a consistently conservative agenda.

Democrats:

Hillary Clinton - I do not have enough space to write about everything wrong with Clinton. The democrat agenda is abhorrent to me, so I disagree with nearly every policy she could name. Clinton has proven herself time and time again to be untrustworthy. The Benghazi mess she clearly lied about, the email scandal where she put our national security in jeopardy and all the white lies, sometimes about sniper fire, add up to make a politician with a moral compass that any sane person would not trust.

Bernie Sanders - Sanders has gathered a huge amount of support from millennials, promises of free stuff tend to do that. While socialistic policies have a long history of being miserable failures, my biggest problem with socialism is its morality. I cannot get on board with a president who thinks it is fair to punish the people who make the country run in an effort to help out the "little guy." This country was founded on principles of personal responsibility and hard work and people like Sanders turn their backs to these principles. If you disagree with me and are still willing to vote for a socialist, please look up Venezuela, the Soviet Union and Greece, to see how it worked out for them.

WANTED

EDITOR IN CHIEF

FERRIS STATE TORCH

2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR:

We are seeking an organized student (enrolled in at least six credit hours) for the Editor in Chief position during the 2016-2017 school year. Candidates must write well, possess excellent leadership skills and work the entire school year. Candidates should be familiar with digital publishing techniques. Qualified students can receive competitive wages for up to 20 hours per week. Ability to work and train in April and August of 2016 is necessary. Prior journalism experience or training desired.

APPLICANTS NEED TO SUBMIT

- Resume
- One-page (typed, double-spaced) essay answering the following:
 - >> What should be the goals of a student-run newspaper?
 - >> How will I, as Editor in Chief, ensure that the newspaper reaches its goals?
- Copies of articles or other written work

SEND RESUME, ESSAY AND CLIPPINGS TO:

Steve Fox, stevenfox@ferris.edu

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Ferris State University Tire Fire



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

Scientific link discovered between professors who give cumulative exams and people whose parents did not love them

Pg. 2

Student still accidentally writing "2015" whenever writing date

Pg. 2

Ferris faculty poses for swimsuit calendar to raise money for campus construction

Pg. 3

Student swears he will leave country if Donald Trump is elected; forgets he is in tremendous debt and has no car

Pg. 3

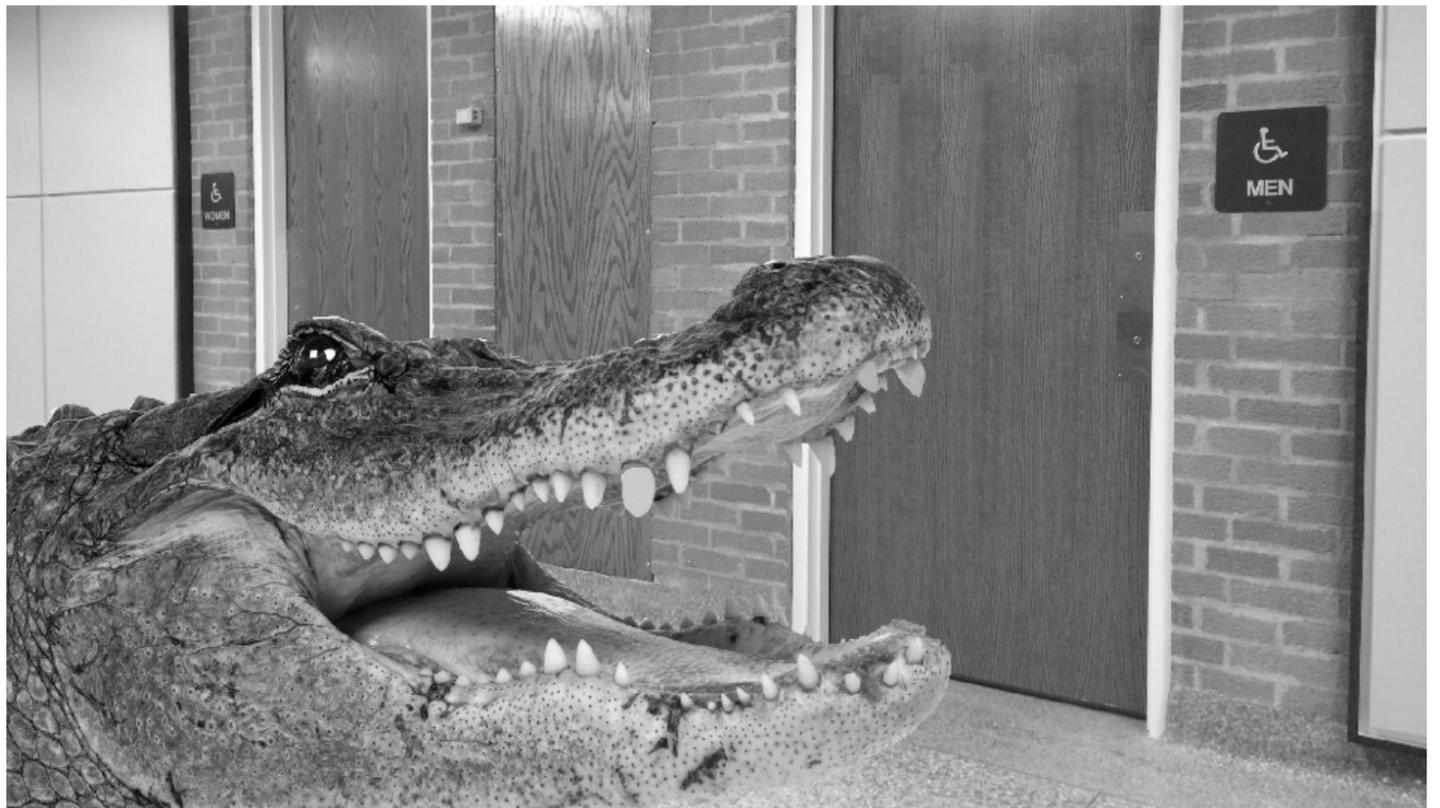
Milkshake machine in Quad Café actually working for once

Pg. 4

Origin of Zika virus traced back to Shooters' bathroom

Pg. 4

Inclusion for all?



Needs of lesbian alligators ignored again

Smitty Werbenjagermanjensen
No. 1

Recently Ferris has spent our tuition money on a consultant to audit how well Ferris values diversity and inclusion. I am all for people feeling comfortable in their own skin. Do what makes you happy, I say. But do you know what makes me unhappy? Not being able to find a bathroom that accommodates my unique identity, not having a nearby swamp to swim around in and not being able to take notes in class due to my lack of fine motor skills.

Gender neutral bathrooms are definitely a step in the right direction. Transgendered people no longer have to worry about getting weird looks when nature calls. But I still have to worry. See, I identify as a lesbian alligator and when I need to go to the bathroom all I see are signs for men's and women's bathrooms. No lesbian alligator commodes in sight.

What can be done about this? Well the clowns in charge of creating an environment comfortable for everyone need to get their heads out of the sand. We lesbian alligators are here, too, and our numbers are growing.

We have published a list of demands, we have handed out pamphlets and we've gone so far as to paint the

rock green, our official color. But our actions have still gone unnoticed by the folks upstairs. What can we do to get our voices heard? WE ARE HERE! And we demand justice. Lesbian alligators are people, too.

I guess when we learned the national anthem in grade school they left out the part at the end saying, "Liberty and justice for all... Except lesbian alligators." Take a walk in our shoes (we don't actually wear shoes, it's just a figure of speech) for a second and imagine what life is like for a lesbian alligator. I can't marry my lesbian alligator life partner, we can't go to class and sit in a normal desk and The Rock refuses to put whole raw chickens on their menu to accommodate our dietary needs. Shameful.

Some of you reading this may be thinking, "But lesbian alligators, don't you think it may be a bit expensive to comply with your every wish? I think putting a large swamp in the Quad, providing free dead deer and insisting that nobody tight-rope walk over said swamp is a bit unreasonable." To that I say, how dare you put a price on our happiness.

I'm sure we are not all on the same page. Privileged, cisgender, white males just cannot understand the plight of lesbian alligators. Don't try to help us, don't try to empathize, we don't need your "help." Just don't stand in the way of our justice. We do bite. Hard.

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'm voting for Trump."



Tire Fire

Satirical insert laced with absurdity, hyperbole and going way too far

Pull out this section for the hardest-hitting fake news ever put to print



From hero to zero

IM basketball player hits buzzer beater, breaks leg in process

Aaron Barons
Fornicator

Ferris student Richard Knobson hit the shot of his life in the 5-vs-5 Intramural Basketball Championship last weekend, but tragedy soon ensued.

“I crossed up two fools, stepped back and pulled up right in this little dude’s eye. I think I started laughing at him while I was shooting, but long story short he had no chance and I hit it. Straight cash, homie,” said Knobson.

The basket won the IM title for his team, The Rim Jobs, against the opposing Blue Ballers by a score of 75-73. Following his shot, Knobson wanted to bask in the glory of being the hero on the team.

“I was running to the center of the court, expecting to get hugged by my teammates and I was trying to jump into

the air and fist pump like Jordan did after he hit the shot on Ehlo in ’89,” said Knobson, “but when I came down, I guess my leg just blew out.”

His teammates were not there to celebrate with him, but were there to watch the brutal scene that capped off his celebration.

“To be honest, I wasn’t going to congratulate him because Richard is an asshole, so when I saw his tibia popping out of his flesh I kind of just laughed and then went and got my t-shirt for winning,” said teammate Rusty Boltz.

There are no statisticians for intramural sports, but a referee who was working the finals said that it might have been the only points that Knobson had scored all night. The referee estimated that Knobson “probably went 1-for-30 from the floor.”

After the injury, medical staff came to Knobson’s aide while he repeatedly screamed, “DID YOU SEE THAT SHIT?!? I AM KING JAMES. I AM CHEF CURRY. ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!”

Through all the antics, Knobson is still allowed to play intramural sports and says he will return back when his leg is fully healed. His teammates aren’t so sure.

When Knobson caught word that he would not be playing for his former team next season, he said, “I can’t believe it. Those guys were my boys. My everything. I don’t know what I’m going to do with myself when I get out of this hospital.”

As for now, he’ll just have to lay in his bed and think back on the shot that changed his life forever.

The Quad goes vegan

Dining hall general manager responds to popular demand from suggestion box

Candy Sugars
Automotive Healer

The Quad Café is going vegan.

The Quad’s general manager, Olga Crumcakes, reported in the Feb. 2016 university-wide notice that the Quad will be making a green transformation into a vegan dining facility over the next month.

“I put a suggestion box inside the Quad when it opened more than a year ago,” said Crumcakes. “To be honest, I completely forgot about it until last month. When I read the 12,786 suggestions, the two that appeared most often were that the Quad should go vegan and that there should be an open bar inside.”

Crumcakes said administration turned down the second suggestion but approved the vegan renovation.

Food and beverage stations that don’t use any animal products will replace all the current stations inside the Quad, with the exceptions of the lettuce and fruit offered at Helen’s Garden and the water machine.

The first installment of vegan food stations in the Quad will be:

Woodbridge’s Juices

Brutus’ Kale Bar

Fresh Ferris Water

Brophy’s Blackbean Burger Bistro

Non-Dairy, Non-Fat, Non-Sugar Desserts

President David Eisler is still deciding on the stations that will follow, but encourages students to submit their nominations to the very suggestion box that brought about the revolution in Ferris dining.

Ferris pre-pharmacy senior Jon Johnson is excited for the Quad’s transformation.

“I’ve been vegan for six days now,” said Johnson. “I feel so alive but I’m tired of having to drive to Grand Rapids every time I want a delicious meatless, dairy-less, fish-less, egg-less, honey-less, fur-less meal. I’m stoked for the Quad to reinvent itself by going vegan.”

Ferris graphic design freshman Nikki Ross doesn’t share the excitement about the Quad’s impending veganism.

“I’m pissed,” Ross said. “I wanted the open bar.”

The Quad will reopen March 22, 2016 when renovations are complete. Until then, vegan students are encouraged to continue making the trek to Grand Rapids for all of their consumption needs while also telling every new person they meet that they’re vegan within the first two minutes of interaction.

The **Tire Fire** will be printed during the last week of the month, every month, which is exactly how often you call your mother, you ungrateful lump of human garbage.

Horror-scopes



Aries: March 21-April 19

I hope you weren't too attached to your arms, because they'll be blown off in a terrible microwave accident this week.



Taurus: April 20-May 20

Don't try to go back home. Your parents have changed the locks and are turning your bedroom back into an office.



Gemini: May 21-June 20

The condom in your wallet is about to expire, but it's okay because you're not getting laid any time soon anyway.



Cancer: June 21-July 22

That person sitting across the dining hall will notice you creepily staring at them, spark up a conversation with you and you'll be going to pound town by the end of the night. Kidding. That never happens. Stop doing it.



Leo: July 23-Aug. 22

We took a nationwide poll and concluded that nobody loves you, but if you post a picture of this you might get Yak famous so everything's not so bad, see?



Virgo: Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Have you ever seen "The Shawshank Redemption"? Great movie, right? Man, I just love the casting in it, especially Morgan Freeman. He nailed that role. Oh yeah, also there's a parasite currently eating its way through your cerebrum.



Libra: Sept. 23-Oct. 22

Just do the damn dishes already so your roommate will stop whining about it.



Scorpio: Oct. 23-Nov. 21

A Scorpio?! Ick. Left swipe.



Sagittarius: Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your friends all agree that your trips to the gym have really been producing results! You've become 160 percent more douchey and reek of body odor three times as often as you once did!



Capricorn: Dec. 22-Jan. 19

A couple of guys who are up to no good will start making trouble in your neighborhood. You'll get in one little fight and be sent to live with your Auntie and Uncle in Bel-Air. Wait, no. That's the storyline to "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air."



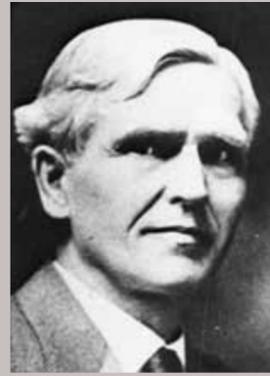
Aquarius: Jan. 20-Feb. 18

The company of your dreams will pass on you for the internship in favor of someone way hotter.



Pisces: Feb. 19-March 20

Whoa, are these fish 69'ing? Sick.



Ask Woodbridge

Submit questions to fsutirefire@gmail.com for a chance to see Woodbridge N. Ferris give you personalized advice.

"I'd really love to travel over spring break, but my bank account is a bit depleted after buying textbooks and making payments on my rent and tuition. I would just go home, but my parents aren't really cool with their 19-year-old son getting hammered for seven days straight, so that's a no go. Anyway, I'm on a mission to get to Panama City, and I want some advice on how I can do it on a budget."

- Desperate Degenerate

Good news! There are several ways that you can raise the funds to get your butt to Panama for spring break. My first suggestion is the obvious one - prostitution. Sex sells, kiddo. Position yourself on a dirty street corner and get ready to make bank.

Next, I recommend starting your own drug business. Big Rapids has a pretty healthy meth market, so I'd start there. Judging by "Breaking Bad," you could probably make more than enough money to afford your trip by March 7. On a side note, if you know where I can get some cocaine, please let me know.

Selling organs is, of course, always a valid option as well. Please realize that while you can probably live without one of your kidneys, you do have essential organs like your heart and brain. Selling those would be really counterproductive. But your eyes, tongue, testicles, appendix, spleen, etc. are all fair game.

- Woodbridge

"A few weeks ago, I started seeing this guy and it's been going pretty well. We've been spending a lot of time together and share a lot of the same interests. I have just one complaint, though.

No matter how often I push the subject, I just can't seem to get a definition of what 'this' is. Why is he being so vague? I just want to define the terms of this situation so that we both know what's going on. What can I do, Woodbridge?"

- Confused Cassidey

Honestly, Cassidey? He's probably getting it on with multiple women and doesn't want to limit himself to one lady. There is only one way to find out what's on his mind: break into his phone.

Next time you hang out, pretend you're having a family emergency and need to call you mom. Feel your pockets furiously and look shocked and say, "I forgot my phone!" When he offers you his, tell him you need to talk to your mom privately and lock yourself in the bathroom. If you don't know his passcode, call Apple and ask them to help you unlock it. Just kidding—they won't help. You're going to have to bring a fingerprint detection kit to figure out his passcode.

Then, all there's left to do is read all his texts, scroll through his Twitter and Instagram DMS, glance at his Facebook messages, look at his Snapchat best friends, listen to his voicemails and look at his call list. If there is no incriminating evidence in any of those locations, he's probably gay and using you as a cover up. Sorry.

- Woodbridge

"So, as you may know, the walls in the residence halls are super thin and that is only made more evident by the way sound travels. My wall-mate has recently entered a relationship that apparently has a pretty strong sexual aspect.

My bed is lofted a little and when I lay down my head is right next to the outlet, only making it louder. I've thought about talking to my wall-mate about it, but I don't want her complaining to the RA every time I watch TV with volume after 11 p.m. What do I do to combat the moaning and slapping sounds?"

- Frustrated Freshman

It sounds like you have quite a pickle on your hands. Or at least your wall-mate does. Ha! Anyway, this is a pretty common problem that many hall residents face. The way I see it, you have a couple options here.

One, you can respond loudly and obnoxiously to their dirty talk, making them so uncomfortable that they stop. "How you guys doing over there? Need anything? Snacks? Condom?"

Two, masturbate furiously until you simply cannot stay conscious anymore.

Three, take the porn route. Knock on their door wearing nothing but a robe and when they answer, drop it and ask to join in.

- Woodbridge

Pain on the pavement

Student simultaneously hit by car and realities of crippling debt

Bubba Ballard
Wet Nurse

Ferris public relations sophomore Jordan Simons is in critical condition after being hit by a car while jaywalking across State St. last Thursday.

"It all happened so fast. One second I was scrolling through my Twitter feed with my head down while crossing the street with my headphones in, and the next, I was flying through the air. My head hit the ground really hard and I was in a tremendous amount of pain, but the last thing I saw before I blacked out was the Ferris State sticker, so I was psyched," Simons said.

Unfortunately for Simons, the Ferris decal was merely a bumper sticker, and the white van was not a part of the Ferris State motor pool. There's a popular belief among students that if an official Ferris State vehicle adorned with the school's logo on the side hits a student, they are awarded free tuition.

"The whole time I suffered through broken ribs and internal bleeding while I was laid up in the hospital, I was just daydreaming about how I'd spend all of my money since I

wouldn't be paying for college anymore," Simons said. "That is, until I heard it was just some random townie with a Ferris sticker that hit me."

Simons will not be receiving any break on his tuition as a result of his accident and did not respond well to the news.

"It was like getting hit by a speeding car a second time," Simons said.

"It was like getting hit by a speeding car a second time."

-Jordan Simons

"The dumbass kid just walked out into the middle of the street without even looking. I tried honking and slamming on my brakes, but it was too late. Frankly, the fact that he

survived the incident is in direct contradiction to Darwin's, 'survival of the fittest' theory," 43-year-old Big Rapids resident and Ferris State alumnus Jack Weller said.

Simons is facing at minimum 16 weeks of recovery time and his left lung may never function at full capacity again.

"You'd think I could at least score a free meal plan for my troubles," Simons said. "Well, I guess I'll just go back to pretending that I don't owe the federal government and several private loan lenders my immortal soul."

Top 10 study tips

Regina Phallange
Massage Therapist

1.) Make sure to clean your room before you even pick up a book. Seriously. Who can study when they haven't scrubbed the tiles in their shower with a toothbrush?

2.) Highlight every line of text in the book. You never know what you'll need to remember, so just make note of all of it.

3.) Try visualizing. Think of the panic attack you'll have when you forget the formula for population variance and it will stick in your head much more solidly.

4.) Incentives are a great way to study. For every flashcard you make, snort a line of coke or treat yourself to a couple episodes of "Grey's Anatomy." Both work equally well.

5.) Studies show that studying the night before a test isn't the

best method. Take this to heart and rather than reviewing, go get blackout drunk. In fact, just throw away your notes.

6.) If you do try to stay up and review the night before an exam, energy drinks are your friend. Start off slowly by drinking a can of Red Bull and then slowly increase that intake until you feel comfortable inserting an IV into your arm that's connected to a Keurig.

7.) Repeatedly smash your head into your textbook. The contact will make the info seep into your brain through osmosis.

8.) Form an alliance with the person sitting next to you. And by that, I mean cheat. Openly, blatantly cheat.

9.) Lower your standards. There's nothing wrong with a B-. Or a C. Or withdrawing from the class.

10.) Drop out.

Voting under the influence

Ferris' spring break to coincide with Michigan caucus

Dorris Pringle
PhD

March 8 marks both the first "Tipsy Tuesday" of spring break and the date of the Michigan caucus.

It is the responsibility of every American of legal age to cast an educated vote for the individual they deem most fit to lead the country. Yet because of the timing, studies show that 65 percent of student voters from Ferris will be highly intoxicated when they make that decision.

"I'll probably take a quick break in between shotgunning beers to fill out my bal-

lot. Sure, I won't be able to legally operate a vehicle or walk in a straight line at that moment, but I'm sure I'll be able to make that incredibly important decision for my country," Ferris criminal justice senior Brad Woodbury said.

Woodbury is planning on spending the majority of his spring break in Florida and remembering very little of it.

"I haven't really looked into the specific policies of each candidate. I'm kind of an acting-on-impulse kind of guy, so I'll just see who I'm feeling that day," Woodbury said.

Woodbury took part in the last presiden-

tial election, but wasn't satisfied with any of the candidates. Instead, he opted to write-in his candidate of choice, "Boner Lord."

Ferris sociology junior Sandy Walshbourne is also headed south over spring break and plans to make the most of her right to vote.

"Voting is important, but so is having a good time," Walshbourne said. "I might vote, but only after I get a good base tan."

While she is currently unsure of which candidate holds her allegiance, Walshbourne stressed that, "Ben Carson seems like he'd be a fun guy once you get some tequila shots in him."

Skating towards the finish



Photo By: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

Junior forward Gearld Mayhew (left) and senior defenseman Brandon Anselmini (right) and the rest of Ferris hockey will head to Ohio to take on Bowling Green this weekend.

Bulldogs hoping to move up in WCHA standings as postseason approaches

Cody Burkhard
Torch Reporter

Ferris hockey will play No. 2 in-conference Bowling Green this weekend with WCHA tournament seeding up for grabs.

With four games left on the schedule, the WCHA tournament is far from set. Ferris is tied with Northern Michigan at No. 4 in the WCHA and is looking to move up. The first step is the Bowling Green Falcons.

Senior defender Simon Denis said, "These games are huge. It takes pride to go and steal two games in their rink. If we could steal four points that will definitely put us ahead in the standings."

Last year, the Falcons took the first matchup 4-1. The Bulldogs took the second game 3-2 in overtime.

Junior forward Kyle Schempp said,

"These are the biggest two games of the year. It's going to be a fun weekend, but a tough weekend."

Ferris had an eight-game unbeaten streak broken by Northern Michigan on Saturday, Feb. 13 then suffered another loss in front of 6,000 people at Michigan on Friday, Feb. 19. They will look to end the two-game losing streak this weekend.



Simon Denis

The Dawgs are sitting five points out from first while Bowling Green is tied with Michigan Tech for second, sitting two points out of first place. Minnesota State sits at the top with weary eyes as the competition gains ground.

Despite how the seeding shakes out, Denis is confident his team can win a cham-

pionship. The gap between teams is slim this year with Minnesota State tying with league worst Alabama-Huntsville on Friday, Feb. 12.

Denis said, "If we're in the tournament, I believe we can win a championship."

Ferris has proven it can play with the top team in the conference. Earlier this season, these teams split the series. Ferris won the first game 7-4 but lost the second 3-2.



Kyle Schempp

Schempp said, "We matched up well against them in the beginning of the season. We feel confident playing any team. We're just going to play our game."

The games are at Bowling Green starting at 7:07 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26 and 27.

Track heads to Ohio for GLIAC Championships

Beau Jensen
Torch Reporter

With the GLIAC Championships looming on the horizon, the Ferris State track and field team is continuing their preparation for the big weekend.

The Bulldogs are headed to Tiffin, Ohio this weekend, Feb. 27-28, to take on the other teams of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC). With six non-scoring events under their belts this indoor season, the Dawgs are well tuned for the coming events. Junior distance runner Jessica Delaney expressed the excitement the team has when it comes to putting their hard work to action.

"I think we are mostly excited to see all of the work we have put in this season come together," Delaney said. "We are one of the only schools in the conference to run every run outside, so it is always nice to see the cold and icy days paying off when we get on a track."

Some of the Dawgs' more outstanding performers so far this season include senior Damonta Madden who took care of the competition at the Grand Valley Tune-Up meet when he won the men's 60-meter dash and the 200-meter dash with times of 6.95 and 21.80 respectively. Another dependable standout for the Dawgs is junior Logan Hammer, who summed up the team's goal.

"Most of all, the team is ready to run fast and run well," Hammer said. "We have put

the work in all season and we are ready to put all the pieces together."

The standout athletes at the Grand Valley meet for the women were junior Racheal McDonald who placed second in the women's 5,000-meter dash with a time of 18:36.78 and Delaney who placed second in the women's 3,000-meter dash with a time of 10:29.45.

Sophomore Ross Miller has been a reliable thrower for the Dawgs so far this season. Miller grabbed fourth in the shot put (47-9) at the GVSU meet and was followed by fellow Dawg junior Hayden Francisco who placed eighth (45-10).

Senior Rachel Long has been the consistent thrower for the women and she took eighth in the weight throw at the event with a toss of 50-10.25.

"Last weekend was rough for a lot of people on the team," Delaney said. "We are looking at the GLIAC meet as a way to bounce back and show the other teams what we are capable of."

The men's and women's GLIAC leaderboards are all set at zero, making this weekend's events any team's for the taking. The competition will begin Saturday, Feb. 27 in Ohio at Tiffin's indoor facilities and continue until a winning school is crowned on Sunday, Feb. 28.



Logan Hammer

WCHA MEN'S HOCKEY STANDINGS

School	W	L	T	Pts
1. Minnesota State	13	4	7	33
2. Bowling Green	13	6	5	31
Michigan Tech	14	7	3	31
4. Ferris State	12	8	4	28
Northern Michigan	12	8	4	28
6. Bemidji State	9	11	4	22
7. Lake Superior State	8	12	4	20
8. Alaska Anchorage	8	14	2	18
9. Alaska	6	14	4	16
10. Alabama Huntsville	4	15	5	13



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“We’re going to win the GLIAC Tourney, just watch”

Sports Shorts

Mark Hansen
Torch Reporter



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

Ferris senior forward James Chappell and the Bulldogs travel to Allendale on Thursday, Feb. 25 for their last game of the regular season against the Grand Valley State Lakers. The game is set to begin at 8 p.m.

Ferris State men’s basketball team confident in the face of a four-game skid

Beau Jensen
Torch Reporter

Bulldog men’s basketball has had a great run so far during their regular season stint, but crunch time has arrived.

The Dawgs have one last regular season game against league rival Grand Valley State before entering the GLIAC Tournament. Senior wing James Chappell said that the Ferris State men’s basketball team plans to hold on to their GLIAC tournament winning title.

“This last week, all we can do is be us and play,” Chappell said. “After the last four games, we have progressed in areas which have given us opportunities to win these games.”

The Bulldogs are fresh off of a four-game losing streak that began against Northwood on Thursday, Feb. 11 and continued last Saturday, Feb. 20, against Saginaw Valley State University, who have sealed at least a share of the GLIAC title with that win.

Ferris senior center Jared Stolicker said, “We just need to play with more urgency and confidence. We have been losing the toughness battle as well, we need to come

out and play with some intensity for 40 minutes.”

Ferris basketball’s current regular season record sits at 19-8. If the Dawgs are able to grab one more win, it will be the first time in 25 years that the Bulldogs have had back-to-back 20-win seasons according to Head Coach Andy Bronkema.

Ferris State is currently the No. 4 team in the GLIAC and only eight of the 16 teams in the conference will make the GLIAC Tournament. As the field sits now for the tourney, the Dawgs would be playing the No. 5 team in the league, Lake Superior State University (LSSU). The last time Ferris played against LSSU was at Wink Arena and fans saw the Lakers beat the Dawgs 87-80.

When it comes to the tournament, Chappell said, “We just have to find ourselves again, and I think we will do that. We’re going to win the GLIAC Tourney, just watch.”

If things stay as they are, the No. 4 seed Bulldogs will most likely grab home court advantage for their game against LSSU.

Before Ferris men’s basketball enters the tournament, their attention will be focused on Grand Valley State when they travel to Allendale this Thursday, Feb. 25. Tip-off is set for 8 p.m.

Sweep, sweep, sweep

The Ferris State men’s tennis team took advantage of the week-end as they walked away victorious in all three matches.

On Friday, Feb. 19 and Saturday, Feb. 20, the team got the shut out with two 9-0 victories against Salem International and St. Joseph’s (Ind.). The following day the Bulldogs pulled off a 7-2 win, losing once in doubles and once in singles.

The Dawgs are back home next weekend on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. in the Ferris Racquet and Fitness Center.

Hit and miss

The Ferris State women’s tennis team were able to start the week-end off right on Friday, Feb. 19 against Salem International and got the 9-0 win.

The team got shocked by Lewis on Sunday, Feb. 21 as the Lady Bulldogs lost 4-5. The top of the lineup took most of the damage for the Bulldogs, as Ferris lost at No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 singles along with No. 1 and No. 2 doubles.

The Lady Bulldogs will be back in action on Saturday, Feb. 27 against Southern Indiana at 3 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 28 against Aquinas at 2 p.m. in the Ferris Racquet and Fitness Center.

Running with pride

Ferris State University has a good group as they finished with quite a lot of top place finishes.

The Ferris State track and field team finished with 19 top-10 performances as Ferris had an excellent showing at the Grand Valley Tune-Up meet last Friday, Feb. 19.

Damonta Madden had an exceptional day as he won the men’s 60-meter dash and the 200-meter dash.

The team will be in Tiffin, Ohio next weekend as the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Championship meet takes place.

Tough road to the playoffs

The Ferris State men’s basketball team didn’t achieve what they wanted to this week as they dropped both games against Hillsdale and Saginaw Valley State University.

The Bulldogs weren’t able to get anything going in their loss on Thursday, Feb. 18 as the loss turned into a one-sided affair. The Bulldogs lost 88-70 and fell on Saturday, Feb. 20 against Saginaw Valley 88-79.

Against SVSU, the Dawgs once led by 16 points but the Cardinals fought back and took home the victory.

As the GLIAC tournament approaches, the Bulldogs will be back in action looking to secure either the fourth or fifth spot in the tournament.

Ferris will play Thursday, Feb. 25 against Grand Valley State in Allendale at 8 p.m.

End of the Season

The Ferris State women’s basketball team lost both games this week-end and have one more game left to finish off a disappointing season.

The Lady Bulldogs lost on Thursday, Feb. 18 against Hillsdale 74-63. The team followed with a loss on Saturday, Feb. 20 against the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals 90-57.

The Dawgs will finish their season at Grand Valley State in Allendale, Michigan this Thursday, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m.

Top Dawg

Mark Hansen
Torch Reporter

This weekend the Ferris State track and field team had one person stand out above the rest.

Damonta Madden, a former Ferris State football player turned to track and field as his football career ended this past year and it is working out well for him. Madden took home first place in both the 60-meter dash and the 200-meter dash with times of 6.95

and 21.80 respectively.

Madden, a 5-foot-11-inch, 202 pound Grand Blanc native was also able to record an NCAA Division II provisional record in the 200-meter dash at the Grand Valley State University Tune-Up. His wins contributed for two of Ferris’ 19 top-10 finishes in their final tune-up.

The Bulldogs will be competing for the GLIAC championship in Tiffin, Ohio this weekend. The event takes place on Saturday, Feb. 27 and Sunday, Feb. 28.

GLIAC MEN’S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

School	Conf. Record
1. Saginaw Valley	18-3
2. Ashland	17-4
3. Findlay	16-5
4. Ferris State	13-8
Lake Superior State	13-8
6. Hillsdale	12-9
7. Grand Valley State	11-10
Northwood Michigan	11-10
Walsh	11-10

Sunshine State softball

Ferris heads to Florida for 18 days of softball

Marshall Scheldt
Sports Editor

The Ferris State softball team is eager and ready for an 18-day trip to Florida.

While other Ferris students will be heading south soon to party and take a break from school, the softball team will be getting down to business on the diamond. The Bulldogs will leave this Thursday, Feb. 25 to the Sunshine State.

Starting the following Sunday, Feb. 28, the team will begin a packed schedule, playing 22 games in just 14 days. Players are anxious to get back on the diamond regardless of the busy couple of weeks.

"I'm really excited because of the fact that we've been practicing for so long in the rubber room and it's just not the same," said Ferris junior pitcher Megan Hiler. "I'm just excited to be out in the warmth and have dirt under my cleats and actually play competition rather than just practicing."

The Bulldogs will be enjoying the warm weather, playing games in five different Florida cities including Tampa and Daytona Beach. The warm weather combined with the rigorous schedule could cause the Dawgs some wear and tear, but they are up for the challenge.

Ferris junior pitcher/outfielder Megan Jean said, "Our team has been preparing for our intense schedule in Florida by doing a base strength conditioning program as well as putting in the time

and repetition in our practices to make sure we are ready. These games in Florida are getting us prepared for our demanding schedule of regular season games and anticipated post-season play."



Megan Hiler

It also helps that the Bulldogs have a 22-player roster this season and a six-pitcher rotation as opposed to the 16-player roster and a five-pitcher rotation the Dawgs played with last season.

The team has been preparing under a completely new coaching staff including pitching/strength and conditioning coach Adam Kirkpatrick, assistant coach Jasmine Watson and head coach Wally King.

King brings decades of experience to the Bulldogs after the team posted a disappointing 16-36 record last season. Some of King's accomplishments include winning two Big East Championships and four 30-win seasons in a five-year tenancy as the associate head coach at Division I Syracuse University.

"We have all gotten better since Coach King, Coach Watson and Coach Kirkpatrick have been here and we will continue to get better," said Jean.

Hiler had nothing but praise for her new coaches as well, especially King.

She said, "I have never met anybody as 'softball smart' as he is. He can watch you take one swing

and he knows what you're doing wrong, or watch us pitch and tell us what we're doing wrong. He just knows everything about every position. It's amazing."

Though the Bulldogs will have plenty of softball to play, the team is excited to escape to the warm air of Florida and take a bit of a break from the stresses of class and practice. During their 14-day stretch of 22 games, the Dawgs will have two days where they won't play any games.

"I think we're actually practicing on those days, but most of the girls' parents are coming down and in years past we've been able to go to spring training Tigers games, so that's something people usually do. We also went to the beach last year and that was pretty fun," said Hiler.



Megan Jean

When the Bulldogs return from their trip, they'll kick off their GLI-AC games with double-headers against Lake Erie and Ashland on Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26, but as for now the team is focused on the task at hand.

Hiler said, "Our goals are to win and get prepared so that we can come back and play well in the GLI-AC and get used to playing together as a team."

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LIFESTYLES

Hailey Klingel
Lifestyles Editor
klingeh@ferris.edu

"I'm only four years old
right now."
- Karen Reardon
See page 15 for story



Happy Chinese New Year!

Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

Ferris students and Big Rapids community members gathered in the IRC last Friday to celebrate the Chinese New Year and watch performers like this fan dancer.

Students and guests celebrate Lunar New Year

Nick Vander Wulp
Torch Reporter

Orange and white lions danced with a small, masked master of ceremonies to celebrate the Chinese New Year in the Interdisciplinary Resource Center (IRC) last Friday.

The Office of International Education invited Tai Chi martial artists from the Oriental Martial Arts Center in Grand Rapids. A Ferris student sang a traditional Chinese folk song and there was food catered for the students and guests from the China One Buffet in Big Rapids.

"The Chinese New Year is about every family getting together," said Ferris accounting freshman Pei Xia. "During the year we are so busy: I'm a student and my parents both work, so we have no time to be together. So when the New Year comes, we can be together and enjoy the new spring festivities. It's about families, the bigger Chinese family and happiness. So this one is hard for me because it's the first year I'm away from my family, and I feel a little homesick."

Xia sang a Chinese folk song, which in English is called "Finally I Still Have You," after dinner was served.

"The song is a loving song. It's about how a girl loves a boy, and the boy left, but she still loves him all alone," said Xia.

Students and instructor John Jiang from the Oriental Martial Arts Center in Grand Rapids came to participate in the festivities and show off the skills and discipline they've

been training for in Tai Chi and Wu Shu martial arts.

"I'm from China," said Jiang. "I came to the United States in 1988 and I'm still working on becoming fully Americanized. I grew up in China during a time when martial arts were completely forbidden for people to practice. Now I practice Tai Chi and I teach Tai Chi at Calvin College. If you think Tai Chi is too slow or for old people, now you can be wrong."

About 200 students and guests turned out to see the festivities, despite the rain and the wind gusting outside. Ferris automotive management and fleet management senior and event organizer Steve Sipos suspected it was the food that played role in getting people out.

"The Chinese New Year and festivities is a celebration of life and happiness," said Sipos. "We were looking for a good turnout, but when we saw the smiles and laughter from the kids during the lion dance, what we discovered is it's more about happiness."

Sipos organized the event with the Office of International Education as a way to do something different and get more experience organizing events.

"Last year we didn't have a Chinese New Year event on campus. We would like to start it again, and we would like more involvement for next year," said Sipos.



Pei Xia



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

A Chinese dragon danced for a crowd to celebrate the Lunar New Year at Ferris.

Helping hats

Ferris students become part of national campaign against cancer

Jen Corrie

Torch Reporter

A group of students on campus are joining the fight against childhood cancer and teaming up to become part of the Love Your Melon mission.

The Love Your Melon campaign started in October 2012. It was the product of an entrepreneurship class at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. and was formed by two students. The campaign has extended its reach nationally to gain college student ambassadors. More than 570 schools have taken on this mission, including Ferris. Love Your Melon started with the goal to give every American child battling cancer a hat to wear. The hats are donated by college ambassadors who dress up as superheroes and go visit the kids in person.

Caitlyn Peca, a Ferris criminal justice senior, is the captain of Ferris' Love Your Melon team.

"We started the crew in October [2015]," said Peca. "In about a week, we got over 22 members and it's been expanding like crazy. It's so awesome that it's expanded this much in not even a year."

The team works together to promote the Love Your Melon mission and encourages others to support it. Although the Ferris crew themselves cannot sell the apparel, they still set up informational tables, get the word out on social media and spread the word from

person to person.

Anyone can go to the Love Your Melon website to purchase a beanie, ball cap, coffee mug or t-shirt. Half of all net proceeds from apparel purchases online go to a family support program called The Pinky Swear Foundation and an organization devoted to researching cancer called CureSearch.

"I cut my hair and donated it and I joined this organization for cancer."
Caitlyn Peca

Peca also said the team should be an official registered student organization next year.

"We already have the line-up for e-board next year," said Peca.

The current crew members represent a diverse group of majors. Many of the members have been affected by cancer through some way in their lives, including Peca, whose grandmother recently finished her chemotherapy for breast cancer.



Photo by: Chris Martin | Photographer

Criminal justice senior Caitlyn Peca leads Ferris' Love Your Melon campaign against childhood cancer. More than 20 students are involved with Love Your Melon at Ferris.

Peca said that she was deeply affected by her grandmother's battle with cancer.

"I cut my hair and donated it and I joined this organization for cancer," said Peca. "I want to do as much as I can to help."

The crew is currently working on visiting a little girl who is a cancer patient in Grand Rapids. They hope to throw her a "Frozen" themed party on top of presenting her and her family with their own Love Your Melon

hats.

Peca said the best part about being on the crew is being able to help the families and make the kids happier.

"It just brings a very happy atmosphere for them when they're not in a very happy atmosphere at all," she said.

For more information, go to loveyourmelon.com or the Facebook page at facebook.com/lymFerrisStateUniversity.

Who are you voting for?

Nick Vander Wulp

Torch Reporter

Ferris students had something to say about the candidates in the upcoming presidential primaries.

In the spirit of reminding everyone the primaries are coming up in Michigan during the week of spring break, here's who some of your fellow classmates are voting for in this year's election.



Jared Doran
Surveying engineering technology
Senior

"I voted democrat, for Obama, in the last two elections, but I'm hoping Rand Paul gets in. I really like his ideas and concepts. Basically, legalization of marijuana. Rand Paul is really for that, so they can tax it just like cigarettes. That'll help us out and the government won't know what to do with all of that money. Give the money to the roads and schools. I don't want Trump—he would be bad. I feel like if we got into a fight with another country, he'd be like, 'Fuck you, I'm bombing you.'"



Tyler Hoogterp
Pre-pharmacy
Junior

"Right now there's no one mind-blowing to me and no one really catches my attention in particular. If I had to pick one that I would like to see go on to run, it would probably be Ted Cruz. I feel like I identify most with him and everything he's fighting for and his beliefs. He's really trying to focus on foreign affairs much more than some of the other candidates right now. Where Trump is only focusing on what's happening here in America, Cruz is trying to focus also on everyone else."



Megan Liedtke
Social work
Sophomore

"I'm all for Bernie Sanders. Everybody is tearing down Hillary, but she's a lot better choice than any of the Republicans. Bernie's my first choice. Either him or really any of the democrats over the Republicans. But I'm voting for Sanders in the primary."



Jeffery Carodine, Jr.,
Political science
and pre-law
Sophomore

"I like Clinton's demeanor because I think she's strategic. She doesn't jump on an issue head-on like the other candidates. She waits, and she gets her research before she jumps on an issue when she has a better understanding of the issue if she doesn't know it first-hand. And then you have to look at her credentials. She's been around politics all of her life, so she knows the ins-and-outs of politics, and she knows the ins-and-outs of decision making."



Joseph Scott,
Pre-veterinary science
Junior

"Probably Donald Trump. He's not a politician, but that's what I like about him. The only things really attractive about Trump are that he's a businessman and he seemingly knows what he wants to do when he's running the country. As much as he sounds like a hooting and hollering idiot, he's actually really intelligent. I'm not a fan of Bernie Sanders because he's a socialist and will raise taxes. As much as people say Sanders will introduce taxes for only the top incomes, I know he's going to introduce taxes also for poorer people."

Life as a leap year baby

Ferris student to celebrate fifth birthday

Hailey Klingel
Lifestyles Editor

There is a student at Ferris who is a toddler. Graphic media management sophomore Karen Reardon will be having the first birthday she's had in four years next week.

"I'll be five," she said. "I'm only four years old right now."

Reardon is part of the .07 percent of the world's population born on Feb. 29. This year, Reardon gets to celebrate her real birthday for the first time since 2012.

"I celebrate a lot harder on a leap year because I get really excited," Reardon said. "People appreciate my birthday more because I only have it once every four years. It was really fun to send out the Facebook invite that says 'Karen's 5th birthday.'"

Reardon said being a leap year baby hasn't made her life significantly different other than the toddler jokes people direct towards her.

“ People appreciate my birthday more because I only have it once every four years. Karen Reardon ”

"Really nobody cares until I bring it up and then they make a toddler joke," she said. "It's especially bad when I have a boyfriend who makes toddler jokes like, 'I can't believe I'm dating a four-year-old.' I get a lot of pedophile jokes."

When she was growing up, Reardon said her parents used to tell her she didn't get a birthday when it was a non-leap year.

"They used to tease me constantly about it and say I wasn't getting a cake or presents for another three years," she said. "My mom would say, 'You don't get a birthday this year, it doesn't work like that.' We always still had my birthday Feb. 28, I just got teased a lot that I wouldn't."

Reardon said she always celebrates on Feb. 28, not March 1. Facebook also says her birthday is on the 28th.

"Facebook has a very eloquent system for this," she said. "They post your birthday as Feb. 28 so people still write on my wall. I'm surprised Facebook actually thought of it, it's such a rare issue."

However, her driver's license and registration disagree on what month her birthday belongs in.

"My license says my birthday is in February but the registration says it's in March," Reardon said. "I'm just waiting to get pulled over and get a ticket for it."

Reardon's birthday falls on a Monday this year, but her and her friends are celebrating on Saturday with a wine and cheese masquerade party.

Reardon is from Jackson and involved in Gamma Epsilon Tau and the Graphic Arts Association. She volunteers at the Animal Rescue Coalition of Mecosta County, works at The Rock and wants to work in Green Bay after she graduates from Ferris.



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

Graphic media management sophomore Karen Reardon was born on Feb. 29 and therefore has only had four birthdays.

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