



Ferris State University

TORCH

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Life in the bullpen

Ferris junior pitcher Megan Hiler writes from the mound

Photo courtesy of Harrison Watt

Ferris junior pitcher Megan Hiler warms up in the bullpen before a game in the 2015 season.

Megan Hiler

Torch Reporter

The first time I threw a pitch in a game was the first time I threw a pitch... ever.

I was 10 years old and I played for the Green Gators. I remember we were getting beat pretty bad and our pitcher had walked probably eight girls in a row. My mom, who was my coach at the time, turned to me and said, "Wanna give it a shot, Meg?"

I was a shortstop at the time (you wouldn't know from my fielding now), but I figured hey, why not? I ran out to the mound and gave it a whirl. I guess I did okay, because from then on, the circle was my home.

As I have gotten older, my relationship with my position has been a rocky one. Some days I curse my mother for throwing me in that game when I was 10, but sometimes I'm happy she did. Pitching is definitely the most stressful, yet rewarding position in softball and baseball.

I have always had a hard time dealing with the blame. When your team loses a game, it doesn't say in the write up "losing shortstop" or "losing center fielder," it says

"LP: Megan Hiler" Literally, it says that. Losing pitcher, Megan Hiler. Seeing that after every loss was like a personal slap in the face. I know, you win as a team, you lose as a team.

Yet when you give up a bomb over the center field fence, people aren't say-

"I can't imagine my life without pitching. It brought me to Ferris State. It made me a Bulldog..."

Megan Hiler

ing "Hey, their first basemen blows, they should take her out." But they are saying, "Wow, that pitch was right down the pipe, Hiler needs to come out." And I always had trouble with that.

I've been called names from "Slingshot,"

"Legs" and "Meg11," to "Scrawny," "Sticks" or "Little Meggy Hiler." But probably the nickname I have been called most in my life is "God Dammit Hiler." Has a nice ring to it, eh?

My coach in high school was the best coach I have ever had. Denny Dock. He is a Hall of Fame football coach that coached softball, too. Coach Dock treated us like football players. He didn't care that we were girls and what not; he held us to the same standard. That guy knew what he was doing and he knew how to coach. He is a legend in Southwest Michigan. And boy, did he have some good one-liners.

One day when I was pitching, I threw a garbage curve ball. The hitter smashed it back up the middle, right into my shin. I went down. I could hear Coach Dock screaming at me from the dugout to throw her out, but I was down for the count. Coach then comes out and says to me, "Hiler! Are you okay?!" I tried to stand up, wobbled a bit and said, "Yeah, coach, I just need a minute," being the tough chick I was. Then, I kid you not, he yells to me, "Well god dammit, Hiler! If you didn't throw it there, that wouldn't happen!" I wiped my tears away, flashed the thumbs-

up and nodded. Classic.

I could go on for hours about Coach Dock. Great coach, smart man and downright hilarious when I was in the dog house. Once, he just gave me his watch and told me run and to come back in a half hour because he couldn't deal with my jokes anymore.

Pitchers are held more accountable by coaches as well and from day one, that was the case for me. You're in the middle of the field, so by default, you're a leader. The game doesn't continue until you throw the ball.

It is also the position that requires the most work. All athletes know the term "no days off" or "on that grind" but for us, it's vital: pitchers can't take days off. I remember the days in high school when I would get done with basketball practice and go straight to pitching. There were definitely times where I thought, "Man, I should have been an outfielder" when I was jumping off the rubber a million times with legs that felt like Jell-O from the basketball court. It would have saved my poor dad some bumps and bruises from pitches that went awry or one hoppers he took off the legs catching for

See *Bullpen* on page 13

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Angela Graf
 News Editor
 grafa1@ferris.edu

“Admit it or not, unfavorable opinions of townies run rampant on this campus among students.”

- Keith Salowich
 See page 5 for story

Future Bulldogs flood Ferris



Photo by: Chris Martin | Photographer

Future Bulldogs piled into the UC to participate in the Honors Program’s annual essay contest, as well as learn more about housing, athletics and other various social and cultural opportunities at Ferris.

Honors Program hosts annual essay contest

Shantelle Bonham

Torch Reporter

Last weekend, future Bulldogs swarmed into the University Center for an invitation-only honors event.

Seeking almost 400 first year students annually, Ferris gets competitive with their admission requirements in regards to the honors program.



Alexandra Kelly

High school seniors from all over completed an application in order to gain full eligibility for the event.

“I’m really excited to be here. The campus is amazing and despite being one of the smaller college campuses, it seems huge!” said Grant High School student Alexandra Kelly.

Alexandra took college classes while in high school to get a head start on some of her credits.

“I did early college at my high school, so I will be coming to Ferris next fall as a freshman but have enough credits for an associate’s degree,” she stated.

She knew where she wanted to go and what it took to get there. The honors program was only going to get her closer to reaching that goal.

The invitational, held on Feb. 27, wasn’t all about academics though. Current Ferris students informed future Ferris students of the athletic, social and housing life at Ferris State University.

The final step of the application process was the requirement that the applicants submit a writing sample at the honors invitational.



Emily Proksch

The essay contest was a way for each high school applicant to not only apply for the program but to compete and fight for their spot within the program.

After the invitational, the students’ writing samples were to be scored by Ferris faculty. Admission decisions were made on the basis of each students’ essay score, application, GPA and overall ACT/SAT scores.

Despite the competing vibes in the air, Lake Orion High School student Emily Proksch was certain that she would have a spot in the Ferris State Honors Program.

“I’m just ready to start college. I know for sure that I will be here at Ferris in the fall and I can’t wait to attend!” said Proksch.

Increase in crime?

Angela Graf

News Editor

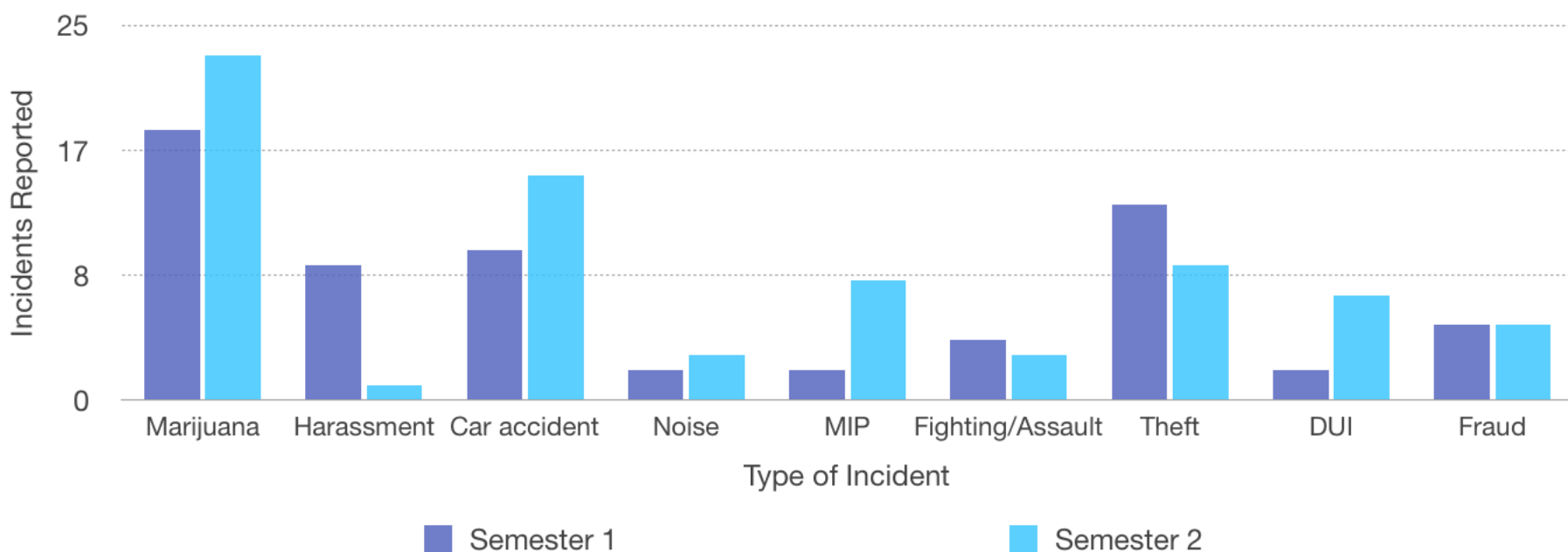
The numbers reflected on the graph below were gathered from the middle six weeks of the first half of each semester

this year.

The chosen categories are the most commonly occurring crimes that appear in On the Record each week. These numbers are not indicative of individual people, rather the number of times each type of incident was reported and/or investigated.

Although the weekly reports are provided by the Ferris Department of Public Safety, they are not responsible for the total numbers displayed on the graph. This information is strictly dependent upon analysis of the Torch’s own the Record reports.

2015-2016 Pre-Midterm Crime Statistics



Stop trying to get high in your car

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

By Angela Graf, News Editor

Careless driver

Feb. 17, 6:55 a.m., officers investigated a two-car accident in Lot 17. One student was ticketed for careless driving.

Two-car banger

Feb. 18, 8:50 a.m., officers investigated a report of a two-car accident in Lot 17.

High in the hall

Feb. 18, 11:35 a.m., officers investigated a marijuana complaint in Vandercook Hall. One student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct and a warrant was sent to the prosecutor's office.

Marijuana in Lot 37

Feb. 18, 1:45 p.m., officers investigated a subject reported in Lot 37 for use of marijuana. One student was identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct and a warrant was sent to the prosecutor's office.

Bike theft

Feb. 18, 2 p.m., there was a bike stolen near the southwest entrance of FLITE.

Threatened to turn down

Feb. 18, 3:05 p.m., officers investigated a harassment complaint in FLITE. One female student was being threatened by three female students over her music being too loud.

West Campus racket

Feb. 18, 8:30 p.m., officers went to the West Campus Apartments to investigate a noise complaint. The resident was asked to quiet down.

Harassed by an ex

Feb. 18, 9:45 p.m., officers investigated a harassment complaint

in the East Campus Apartments. A female student was being harassed by her ex. The suspect was located, informed they were trespassing and received a warning.

Blunts in Brophy

Feb. 20, 1:30 a.m., officers investigated a marijuana complaint in Brophy Hall. One student was ticketed for possession and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Ticketed and towed

Feb. 21, 12:25 a.m., officers



stopped a vehicle on Perry Avenue for defective equipment. The driver was found to be driving with a suspended license and was ticketed. The vehicle was towed.

Marijuana in McNerney

Feb. 22, 3:30 p.m., officers investigated a marijuana complaint in McNerney Hall. One student was identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Theft in Lot 4

Feb. 22, 7:50 p.m., officers received a complaint of theft from a car in Lot 4. Money had been stolen from the vehicle some time over the previous two days.

Plates, joints and tickets

Feb. 22, 9:30 p.m., officers stopped a vehicle on State Street for improper plates. The driver was

ticketed for possession of marijuana and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Black market

Feb. 23, 12:45 a.m., officers investigated a fraud complaint at The Market. A student was found trying to spend a counterfeit \$20. The investigation is ongoing.

Shh!

Feb. 23, 9:05 p.m., officers investigated a complaint of loud music in the West Campus Apartments. The resident was contacted and asked to quiet down.

Stop trying to get high in your car

Feb. 23, 10:20 p.m., officers investigated a suspicious vehicle reported in Lot 1. One student was ticketed for possession of marijuana and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

More marijuana in McNerney

Feb. 23, 11:30 p.m., officers investigated a marijuana complaint in McNerney Hall. One student was identified, ticketed for possession and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Handicap hoax

Feb. 24, 2 p.m., officers investigated an altered handicap parking decal in Lot 39. The decal was confiscated and the student was ticketed for improper parking.

Fraud

Feb. 24, 6:50 p.m., officers assisted the Sheriff Department in investigation of a fraud complaint at Walmart. One student was identified and jailed.

From Feb. 19 to Feb. 25, the Ferris Department of Public Safety issued 396 tickets, totaling \$6,600.

NEWS BRIEFS

Angela Graf

News Editor

Zika virus alert

The Birkam Health Center is advising Ferris students to be aware of the Zika virus while traveling over spring break. It is a mosquito-borne virus that has been identified in Central America, South America, the Caribbean and Mexico. Some common symptoms of the Zika virus are fever, rash, joint and muscle pain and headache. There is no known vaccine to prevent, nor medicine to treat, the Zika virus.

Wrapping up the Festival of the Arts

On Feb. 28, after a long month of events from a wide array of cultures and genres, Big Rapid's Artworks held the closing ceremony for the 2016 Festival of the Arts. This year included music, visual art, literature, interactive workshops, the blending of athletics with art and much more.

OMSS hosts author Chris Sain

On Tuesday, March 2, the Office of Multicultural Student Services' Black Male Network will host Chris Sain, author of "Dumb Athlete: How My Biggest Fear Became My Biggest Motivator" who will be sharing his personal message on perseverance. The event, taking place at 6 p.m. in University Center 202A, is free and open to the public.

Get out

On March 4, at 5 p.m., all residence halls on campus, with the exception of Bond, will be closing for spring break. Residents are expected to have completed checklists and turned them in to the front desk by this time. The halls will reopen at 10 a.m. on March 13.

Ferris State Torch Corrections

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Freedom tour poster contest

Ferris students encouraged
to participate

Jonny Parshall

Torch Reporter

The Michigan Coalition for Human Rights (MCHR) has announced a poster contest to mark the group's upcoming 2016 Freedom Tour.

MCHR is asking for 18-inch by 24-inch posters with a theme or message representing the Civil Rights Movement, including its history, leaders or important places and events. This is a statewide event in which Ferris State students are encouraged to participate.

A grand prize of \$1,000 will be awarded to a first place winner, with a second prize of \$500.

The contest is in celebration of this year's Freedom Tour—a 10-day educational bus trip for Michigan high school students through the south, learning and experiencing the socio-political history of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement.

MCHR is an advocacy group dedicated to human rights through education, community organization and action. The Detroit-based organization was founded in 1980.

For complete poster contest rules and background on the 2016 Freedom Tour, go to: <http://www.mchr.org/2016/02/poster-contest-rules/>.

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Merit grant awards scholarly excellence

Deadline reached for grant proposals

Jonny Parshall

Torch Reporter

The Ferris Foundation will be awarding annual grants pending a review process soon to begin.

The 2016 Ferris Foundation Exceptional Merit Grant is created to benefit scholarly endeavors such as pilot programs, equipment purchase, expert participation and special projects or research where students are greatly involved.

The deadline for grant proposals ended Feb. 26, with the review process to begin March 27.

Half of all the money raised from the Annual Ferris Foundation for Excellence Benefit will be awarded to successful applicants pursuing scholarly projects or programs, with the other 50 percent awarded to student scholarships through its endowment fund.

Successful applicants will receive a grant of as much as \$7,500, though the option for multiple awarding exists where funds are available and candidates viable.

The Ferris Foundation Exceptional Merit Grant awards started in 2001, receiving an average of 30 proposals a year in its earlier inception.

Eleven grant proposals were applied for this year.

"The best thing to avoid, if you are an applicant, is to be unprepared," said Kimberley Erickson, administrative assistant of the Ferris Foundation. "Have a well thought out project that meets the requirements stated in the guidelines for the Merit Grant process."

One of the many significant programs having benefitted in the past from this grant opportunity is the 3D printing lab, or maker space, located in the Swan building. Three of the four 3D printers in the lab were purchased with the awarded \$7,500, averaging \$2,500 apiece.

This year's grant proposal pool is a diverse one, representing many programs from many participating university colleges, including Kendall College of Art and Design.

Along with merit grants, the Ferris Foundation also awards gifted students with special or exceptional qualities and circumstances through its endowment fund.

Scholarships are awarded to full-time undergraduate Ferris students who can demonstrate multiple situations in which they have overcome obstacles related (but not limited) to social, economic, diversity or gender status.

Award presentations will be held March 18 and 19.

Ferris State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion or creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, veteran or military status, height, weight, protected disability, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by applicable State or federal laws or regulations in education, employment, housing, public services, or other University operations, including, but not limited to, admissions, programs, activities, hiring, promotion, discharge, compensation, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, or retention. Retaliation against any person making a charge, filing a legitimate complaint, testifying, or participating in any discrimination investigation or proceeding is prohibited.

Students with disabilities requiring assistance or accommodation may contact Educational Counseling & Disabilities Services at (231) 591-3057 in Big Rapids, or the Director of Counseling, Disability & Tutoring Services for Kendall College of Art and Design at (616) 451-2787 ext. 1136 in Grand Rapids. Employees and other members of the University community with disabilities requiring assistance or accommodation may contact the Human Resources Department, 420 Oak St., Big Rapids, MI 49307, or call (231) 591-2150.

Inquiries or complaints of discrimination may be addressed to the Director of Equal Opportunity, 120 East Cedar St., Big Rapids, MI 49307, or by telephone at (231) 591-2152; or Title IX Coordinator, 805 Campus Dr., Big Rapids, MI 49307, or by telephone at (231) 591-2088. On the KCAD Grand Rapids campus, contact the Title IX Deputy Coordinator, 17 Fountain St., Grand Rapids, MI 49503, (616) 451-2787 ext. 1113.

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY



Photo by: Rebecca Snow | Photographer

Team Trybus, one of the teams competing in the tournament, took first place with a score of 1901.

AMA strikes again

AMA hosts annual glow bowling event

Elizabeth Yost

Torch Reporter

Ferris' American Marketing Association (AMA) students hosted their ninth annual College of Business glow bowling tournament last Thursday.

Ferris' student chapter of AMA is a five-star campus organization and one of the top 10 of over 350 chapters in the nation. Each year, AMA Ferris joins the Ferris College of Business in hosting a glow bowling tournament at The Gate. Feb. 25 marked the ninth event since the tournament started in 2008, drawing in 14 teams of students and staff alike from all over campus.

"Overall, the event went very well," said Ferris AMA vice president of fundraising Brandon Stabley. "It is one of our most fun events we hold all year."

The tournament is composed of teams of five people each and awards are given out to the team with the best costume and the best overall scores. This year, the winning costume was a team dressed as the Flintstones. Other runner-up costumes included The Sims and Jet's Pizza.

"We had very creative costumes this year,

which is something that has lacked in the past," said Stabley.

The best scoring team was "Team Trybus," a group of men collected from Thursday and Friday night leagues at The Gate. The team shot 1901, which is an average of about 190 per bowler per game.

"Our team shot really well both games, and it was a great tournament overall," said Ferris business sophomore and Team Trybus member, Jacob Johnson. "Our team name was Team Trybus in honor of professor [Chester] Trybus. We also won a plaque that will be given to professor Trybus."

The money that AMA Ferris raised from the bowling tournament is going towards helping students attend the annual AMA conference in New Orleans, La., where marketing students and staff can learn from industry professionals about careers, gain sales practice and win awards for chapter successes.

"I encourage everyone to come out each semester," said Stabley. "It is a great way to connect with others and you get to see some of the College of Business faculty out of their element."

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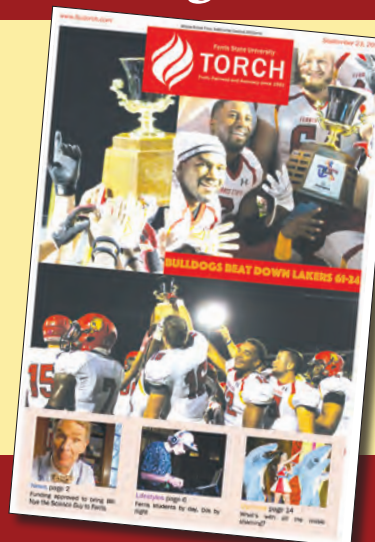
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Lenten promises

Ferris students talk about what Lent means to them

Shantelle Bonham
Torch Reporter

The truth is, people often don't look forward to Lent. Words like "sacrifice," "discipline" and "self-denial" are used in such ways that stray people away from partaking in the Lenten season.

Despite this, many students all over campus are participating in the season of Lent, while many are not.

If you're someone like Rayna Dunlap, you aren't necessarily down for ditching all of your favorite foods like meat, pizza and chocolate chip cookie dough ice cream.

"I don't know much about Lent, but what I do know is that you have to give up certain foods for practically half a lifetime," said Ferris pre-nursing freshman Rayna Dunlap.



Rayna Dunlap

Well, she was partially right.

Lent is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday.

It is ultimately a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter, hence the religious incentive behind it.

Although fasting is heavily encouraged, the process of sacrifice and repentance is solely up to the individual.

Lent is a personal journey, the items chosen to refrain from are completely up to that person.

"My family has never been very religious. That said, Lent and the idea of fasting was always a foreign concept to

“It's not all about the giving up of your favorite fried dish or candy...”

Sam Davis

me,” said Ferris undecided freshmen Josh Williams.

So why Lent?

According to Ferris criminal justice senior Sam Davis, there's a lot more to Lent than people realize.

"I was told my entire life that Lent is a Catholic tradition. It wasn't until my last year of high school that I found that Lent is a Christian celebration, too," said Davis. "It's not all about the giving up of your favorite fried dish or candy, but it's really just a time of change and growth through prayer and fasting."



Jazz Band winter concert

Hosted in conjunction with the Festival of the Arts, on Feb. 25 the Ferris State Jazz Band performed traditional and contemporary works in Williams Auditorium, as well as featuring soloists such as Riley Flagler on the alto saxophone.

Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

What is a "townie?"

In this age, racism, sexism and classism, among other -isms, are not tolerated by an overwhelming majority of the population. Yet, on a college campus—the forefront of progressive thinking where inclusion and diversity are staples of the environment—we are discriminating against an entire sect of people.

I'm talking about townies. An incredible amount of Ferris State students discriminate against townies for no reason other than it's what is popular to do. Argue or rationalize that fact however you may, but it is fact.

The hypocrisy of the situation is astound-



Keith Salowich
Editor in Chief

ing. How can we preach non-discrimination on campus when many students are regularly and openly hostile towards townies?

A person is considered a townie when they are from Big Rapids, the area surrounding Ferris State University. They are typically described as old, poor, white red-necks that are methed out of their gourds

and spend the majority of their time yelling at their children and complaining about college students.

What is this stereotype based on? Perhaps just one negative experience, or is it nothing but false, poor attempts at humor that have become widespread for no good reason? It is simply not true that a person's hometown dictates exactly how he acts, looks or how much money he makes.

Discrimination is defined as, "the treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favor of or against, a person or thing based on the group, class or category to which that person or thing is perceived to belong to rather than on individual merit."

Admit it or not, unfavorable opinions of townies run rampant on this campus among students.

Are people that were raised in Big Rapids

but attend Ferris State also townies? In that case, the status of one's education would be the only distinguishing factor between townies and students living in Big Rapids. What of Ferris alumni that loved the area so much that they settled in Big Rapids after completing their degree? Are they considered townies?

Both the term "townie" and the connotation of the term, are belittling to an entire group of people and are simply not based in truth.

College students are the ones invading Big Rapids in order to attend the school that lies within its borders. Big Rapids was founded in 1855, which was 29 years before Ferris State University came to exist.

Discriminating against an entire class of people is not acceptable. Speaking ill of townies is just that—discrimination.

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2016 MAY COMMENCEMENT

Friday, May 6, 2016 and Saturday, May 7, 2016

Ewingleben Sport Complex (Wink Arena)

College	Contact	Phone #	Location
Health Professions	Richelle Williams	(231) 591-2263	VFS 210
Arts & Sciences	Barb Hampel	(231) 591-3660	ASC 3052
Business (Undergrad Students on & off-campus)	Carri Griffis	(231) 591-2493	BUS 200
Business (Graduate Students)	Shannon Yost	(231) 591-2168	BUS 200E
Education & Human Services	Jacee Potts	(231) 591-2700	BIS 604
Engineering Technology	Deb Ducat	(231) 591-2961	JHN 200
Optometry	Michelle Aldrich	(231) 591-3700	MCO 236
Pharmacy	Tara Lee	(231) 591-3780	PHR 105
DCCL	Megan Biller	(231) 591-2710	ALU 113

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 March 22nd, 11:00 am - 5:00pm in the University Center - Multi Purpose Rooms or starting March 22nd - May 3rd 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 (6) six tickets and are available at Grad Fair on March 22, 2016, tickets must be reserved by midnight on May 5, 2016. Electronic tickets will be available for students to access/print starting March 22, 2016. Extra tickets are not distributed and lost tickets will not be replaced.

Commencement Program - Graduates must complete their online graduation application by **Friday, February 26, 2016 for their names to appear in the Spring 2016 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.

Friday, May 6	
Time	College
3:30 pm	College of Health Professions
7:00 pm	College of Arts & Sciences College of Pharmacy Doctorate in Community College Leadership
Saturday, May 7	
Time	College
9:00 am	College of Business
12:30 pm	College of Education & Human Services Michigan College of Optometry
4:00 pm	College of Engineering & Technology

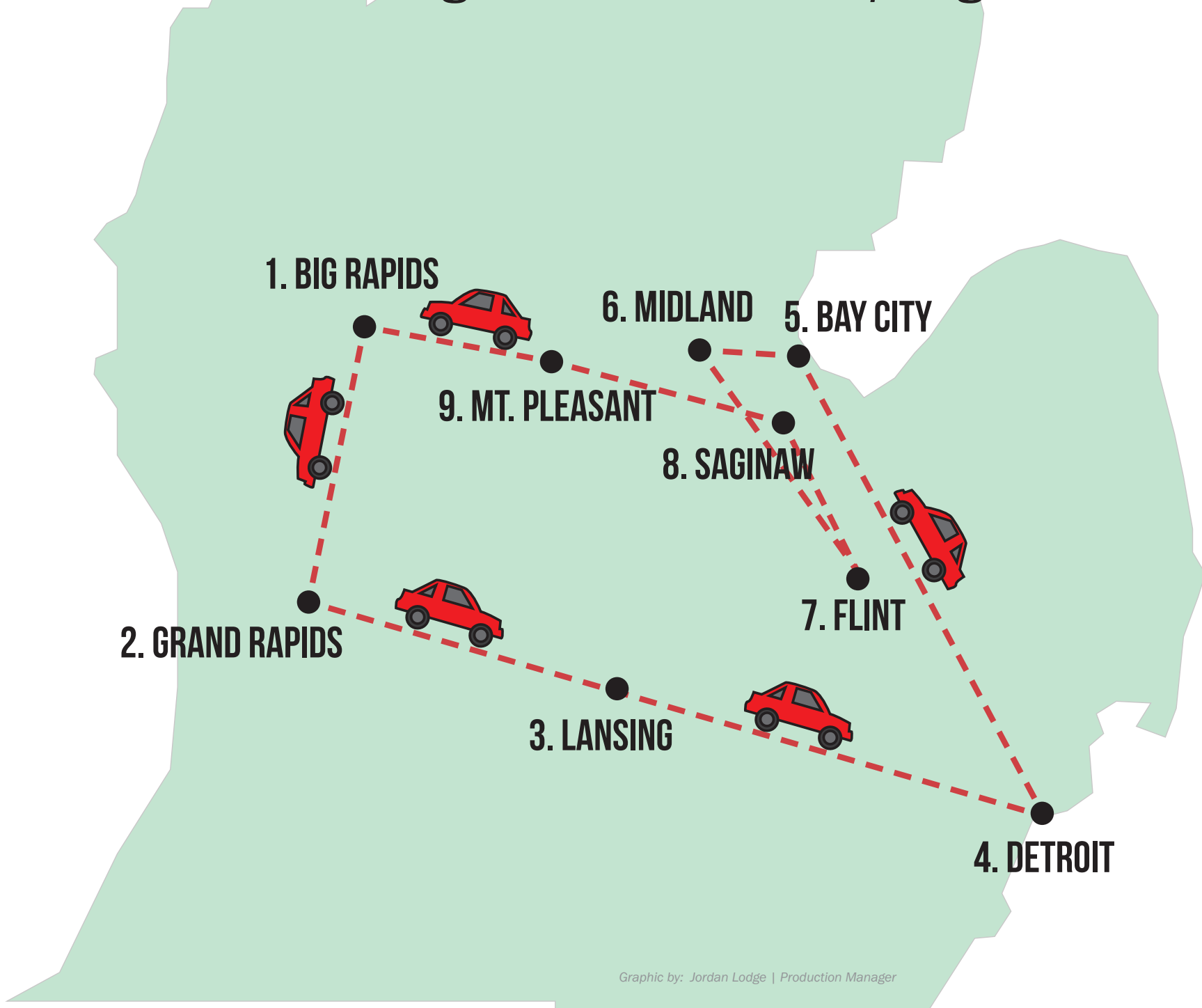
For special accommodations or for more information regarding the Commencement ceremony, please visit the Commencement website www.ferris.edu/commencement or call (231) 591-3803.





Road trip with a reason

Ferris students go on Alternative Spring Break



Jen Corrie

Torch Reporter

Next week, 18 Ferris students will be spending their spring break how we'd all like to spend it—traveling. However, these students are traveling to further career exploration, give back to Michigan communities and have fun along the way.

Alternative Spring Break is a five-day trip around sites in Michigan, where the 18 students and two advisors will travel as a caravan through cities such as Detroit, Grand Rapids, Lansing and Bay City. They will be given tours, participate in activities and do hands-on service for the communities. The students going on the trip were nominated by their academic advisors, who followed a certain set of criteria to pick them out.

Michele Albright, coordinator of career and volunteer centers in Center for Leadership Activities and Career Services (CLACS), is planning this event, working alongside Matthew Jones, coordinator for Greek Life, who will

be focusing on the trip's impact on the students.

"We decided it would be really cool to do an alternative spring break that brought both career exploration and hands-on service together," said Albright.

The group will mostly be staying in hotels between stops, except for one night.



Daniel Rivera

"One of the nights we'll be staying in a homeless shelter in Flint," said Albright. "We're going to have a firsthand witness perspective of the people who work to provide care for the homeless. We'll also be exploring a lot of social justice issues. Our payment to that organization for allowing us to stay in their homeless shelter will be working in their distribution center the next day, helping sort donated items for sale to support their organization."

Ferris architecture freshman Daniel Rivera will be attending.

"I decided to go because I wanted to get a little bit more background and find more ways to be involved statewide,

and not just community-wide here at Ferris," Rivera said. "We're going to different businesses and corporations to see how they work on a statewide level."

Rivera said he's looking forward to gaining more leadership skills through the process of the trip. He's also looking forward to seeing an NBA game in person, seeing Frankenmuth's Christmas epicenter and getting to know new people.

"I'm really thankful for the nomination and the opportunity to have an all-expenses-paid trip," Rivera said.

Keegan Wright, an undecided Ferris freshman, will also be attending the trip.

"I'm still searching [for a major] so this is really going to help me to see what other kinds of jobs there are and see if there's anything I might want to focus on," Wright said. "I like going on adventures and exploring, so this sounded really fun."

Wright said she's excited about seeing downtown De

See *Break* on page 9



Keegan Wright

Hunger pains, sleepless nights

Ferris and Big Rapids organizations help students find answers to hunger, homelessness

Nick Vander Wulp
Torch Reporter

Homelessness and hunger among Ferris students are the targets of a planned initiative by Ferris State's office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Students may be suffering silently from frequently missed meals or the uncertainty of where they'll sleep for the night. Though they're surviving the best way they know how, Ferris vice president for diversity and inclusion David Pilgrim wants to start the discussion on campus.

During an audit of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms filed to Ferris State University, 48 students answered the questions regarding homelessness on their 2015-2016 student applications.

“People always say the Devil's in the details, but we're doing something good so I'll say God is in the details.”

David Pilgrim

“I don't think it's just 48 students,” said Pilgrim. “I think there are other students who didn't fill out that part of the form and didn't self-identify, but they're students in need.”

Before the end of the semester, Pilgrim wants to have one-on-one interviews with students and small group discussions to learn more about how hunger and homelessness among students can be best approached. Pilgrim isn't only looking for answers from students who have found themselves wondering where their next meal will come from or where they'll sleep, but he also wants a better grasp of the questions students face.

Project Starburst manager Diane Long and Ferris social work senior and Project Starburst intern Megan Rahall said they get Ferris students there fairly often who are hungry and

in need.

“Most of the students who come in are non-traditional students,” said Long. “Many of them have families and find it hard to make ends meet while attending college. And we also get our fair share of juniors and seniors who are struggling with the extra costs of living off campus.”



David Pilgrim

Even charities like Project Starburst deal with the special needs of students who may be homeless but don't wish to say they're homeless.

“The other clients we had who were students and were homeless, I don't think they said it out loud, but it was something that was inferred,” said Rahall.

Project Starburst and other non-profits like Manna Pantry help walk-in clients.

Manna Pantry, however, is an emergency pantry. While they help walk-ins, it's preferred the client has a reference from another agency in Big Rapids, such as the Department of Human Services (DHS) or Mid-Michigan Community Action.

Pilgrim said his next steps are to visit the local charities and churches to talk with them and gather more information about what they're doing and who they're serving. He also hinted at an openness to forming partner relationships with Big Rapids charity organizations, but he added he doesn't want to say this for sure quite yet.

“People always say the Devil's in the details, but we're doing something good, so I'll say God is in the details. We'll figure out how to do all of this. At this point we just have more questions than answers, but our hearts are in the right place,” said Pilgrim.

Project Starburst is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Manna Pantry is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Photo by: Nick Vander Wulp | Torch Reporter

The pantry at Project Starburst is filled with food for Ferris students and Big Rapids community members.



Photo by: Nick Vander Wulp | Torch Reporter

Project Starburst manager Diane Long (left) and Ferris social work senior and Project Starburst intern Megan Rahall (right) help Ferris students make ends meet by supplying food for nontraditional students who may have families to feed.

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Life after Ferris

Grad feature: Anthony Godinez

Courtesy photo

Ferris spring 2015 graduate Anthony Godinez lives in San Diego and uses his welding engineering technology degree to help build jet engines for the Air Force.

Travis Sacher

Torch Reporter

Ferris grad Anthony Godinez is building jet engines for the Air Force.

Godinez graduated from Ferris in spring 2015 with a degree in welding engineering technology. His story differs from the average college student who graduates high school, begins college a few months later and earns a college degree in four or five years.

Anthony Godinez was born on Jan. 31, 1983 on the Marines Corp Base Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, Calif. After high school, he worked in a number of construction fields including masonry, framing and roofing. When the economy turned and he was laid off from his job, Godinez began taking classes at a tech school for welding and that eventually led him to pursue a degree in welding engineering. After learning that Ferris was one of two schools in the country that offered a welding engineering program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering Technology (ABET), he packed up his life and headed to Big Rapids.

Godinez began his freshman year in the fall of 2010 and entered the welding program the following year. During his senior year as recruiters came to campus to speak to his upcoming class, Godinez was set on taking a position that would place him back in San Diego.

He was hired as a welding engineer level five for GKN Aerospace in San Diego. In less than a year since his initial hire, he has been promoted twice and is now a welding engineer level seven.

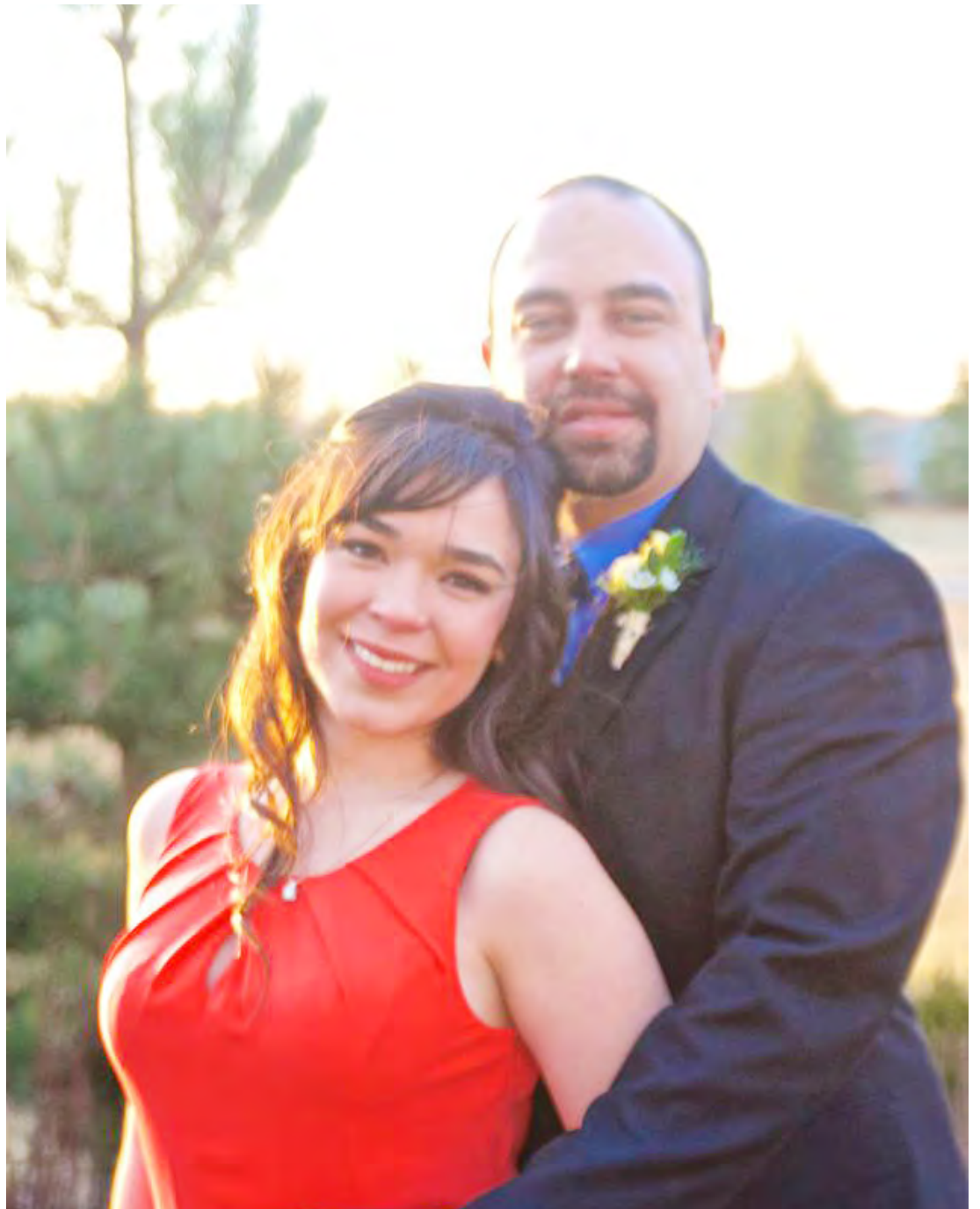
GKN Aerospace is one of the world's largest independent first tier suppliers to the global aviation industry. Godinez is currently working on a project for the U.S. Air Force. He could not go into specifics due to confidentiality but his job involves welding of titanium and nickel super alloy. His role on the project includes developing programs, procedures and operational sequences for the operators and technicians to follow.

"It's very rewarding to see a piece of sheet metal turn into a jet engine part," said Godinez. "I know the welds I developed are being used, and the operations I put forth are fast and effective while very high quality."

Godinez met the love of his life, Angie Sarmiento, freshman year living in Bond Hall. The two married during spring break of their final semester and moved to San Diego together. Angie currently works in the finance department of Caterpillar, Inc.

Outside of work and his life with Angie, Godinez loves living in San Diego and appreciates the yearlong outdoor weather. He spends his free time boogie boarding at the beach and skateboarding downtown. He says he can land a double kick-flip in steel-toe boots.

Godinez's favorite memory at Ferris was pledging the Sigma Pi fraternity and credits professor Nathan Nelson and professor Kenneth Kuk as inspiring him to be the best he could be.



Courtesy photo

Godinez met his wife, Angie Sarmiento, in Bond Hall during his freshman year at Ferris. The two married his senior year.

TORCH CONFESSIONS

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

"My sarcastic and ironic Facebook meme addiction"

I have been given more opportunities by Facebook to express some feelings without saying a word. Finally.

"Sad" is a reaction I've been waiting for to hide my emotional awkwardness in massive social situations like Facebook. I do feel genuinely for friends and family, I'm just awkward at expressing this over Facebook when we might not have spoken face to face in a few years. Typed messages are the most common times to come across as insensitive, and I blame it on the way I was raised as a traditional Midwestern stoic.

The "haha" reaction will probably be my favorite. I generally don't like posts unless they're funny, dirty or clever, so the icon of the little yellow face laughing his non-existent ass off will be close to my new profile picture on Facebook. Now I can "haha" at memes without having to type it out. Amazing!

Facebook was a little late with the "love" reaction, since Valentine's Day has come and gone. But when a simple "like" doesn't begin



Nick Vander Wulp
Torch Reporter

to express how madly in love I feel with the person posting or the post itself, I can now send a cute little heart that says "I love this post." I feel like this could be overused in the coming days. And guys, let's be real: it's not an opportunity to send a "dick pic" if your crush loved your post.

"Wow" is something I'll use in the way of "Wow! That's amazing," "WTF! That was weird!" or "Wow! She's hot!" I don't see much other use for the new reaction. Maybe women will use it in a similar way on their newsfeeds to talk about guys. All I can say for now is "wow" might be the most pointless reaction. Doge can say wow just fine, and usually does several times in one meme.

Now I'll show you my dark side.

I'm igniting my sarcasm and putting awful

memes on full-blast with the new "angry" reaction. I'm ironically addicted to making sarcastic remarks, obscene word art and replying with the most stupidly arrogant memes. This is my unhealthy way of dealing with outright lies and misinformation on my newsfeed.

I cast a wide net for pages to follow because I like to be informed. I read far-right gossip like the Conservative Tribune and far-left propaganda like Alternet and most everything I can find in-between. In this age of the meme, friends of friends might be duped into posting something absurd and a friend will like or repost. Then there it is, waiting for a comment on my newsfeed. It happens. However, when something is so blatantly false or a quote I search for doesn't exist, the offender is in my crosshairs. I'm sending them a word art penis for this reason: as a symbolic message to quit waving their hyper-inflated self-righteousness around. And now accompanied by the new angry reaction.

Media Minute

"Fuller House"



Hailey Klingel
Lifestyles Editor

"Fuller House" is awkward, cheesy, unrealistic and full of bad acting.

But I loved it.

The long-anticipated first season of the Netflix original series was released on Feb. 26. I was obsessed with "Full House" in the late '90s and early 2000s, so I watched the 13 30-minute episodes in less two days.

"Fuller House" has received mainly negative reviews. *The New York Times* called the show a "forced march down memory lane." *The Detroit News* compared "Fuller House" to a "house that should be boarded up and abandoned in the middle of the night." Ouch.

In this show, single mom DJ Tanner (now DJ Fuller) has returned to her childhood home to raise her three boys (a parallel to Danny Tanner in "Full House"). DJ's sister Stephanie quits her life of partying and being a deejay (her stage name is Deejay Tanner) to move in and help DJ raise Jackson, Matt and Tommy. Perhaps the most disliked "Full House" character, Kimmie Gibbler, also returns to the Tanner/Fuller house to help DJ with her motherly duties. Kimmie has just left her husband, Fernando, so she brings her daughter Ramona with her.

Uncle Jesse (who is still sexy), Aunt Becky, Danny Tanner, Joey Gladstone and even DJ's ex-boyfriend Steve all return for guest appearances throughout the first season.

I can see why the "Full House" revival has been criticized. It's obvious the show was quickly made—the acting is awkward, the sets are bad and the jokes are cringe-worthy. But it's absolutely hilarious. I laughed out loud multiple times during each epi-

sode. Having seen every "Full House" episode multiple times, I understood every nostalgic head nod to the original series. I love when shows don't try to hide the fact that everyone making and watching the show know it's just that—a television show. "Fuller House" is an unrealistic, humorous revival of "Full House," but with more pop culture references.

The show is also unexpectedly feminist. The three main characters are women and the show is all about their lives and issues. DJ and Stephanie both got surprisingly beautiful, and Kimmie got less annoying. One of the main issues of the first season is DJ deciding who she wants to date, and she happily chooses neither—a move highlighting the fact that she doesn't need a man to be happy.

There are also way less violin music-filled heart to hearts in "Fuller House" than there were in "Full House," which I'm sure everyone appreciates.

The Fullers adopt one of Comet's great-great-granddogs, Cosmo, who is arguably the cutest and best character on the show. Also, DJ's middle child Max is adorable enough to make the least motherly of women want to adopt him.

As a standalone series, I'd give "Fuller House" maybe 2/5 stars. But for "Full House" fans who want an entertaining, light-hearted trip down memory lane, "Fuller House" deserves a 5/5.

BREAK from page 6 Students go on selfless spring break

troit, going to the zoo in Lansing and going to the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

"We're going to the children's hospital in Grand Rapids and I'm excited about that because it's so amazing," Wright said. "Kids are usually scared to go to the hospital, but this hospital looks like so

much fun. It makes kids want to be there, and I think it's amazing they put so much care and detail into the design. They make children feel comfortable and not afraid. So, I'm excited to see that."

Even though these students won't be going anywhere warm for spring break, they're nonetheless pumped up for the trip.

"The staff running this program are loving and passionate and it makes me excited to go with them on this adventure," said Wright.

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Bidding farewell



Photo by: Chris Martin | Photographer

Ferris State senior Katie Mavis was the only Bulldog on the women’s basketball roster who stayed with the Bulldogs throughout her entire collegiate career.

Five-year senior Katie Mavis reflects on FSU basketball career

Cody Burkhard
Torch Reporter

Katie Mavis has ended her five-year basketball career with a season scarred with adversity but mended with a bond of sisterhood.

The forward out of St. Joseph has been the lone consistent face in the Ferris women’s basketball program the last five years.

Head coach Kendra Faustin said, “Katie is the heart of our team. She was instrumental in keeping the ‘Bulldog pride’ in our program regardless of numerous coaching changes throughout her career.”

Mavis started her career in the 2011-12 season. That year, the Bulldogs went 23-7 and played in the GLIAC Championship game. The next year they went 13-13 and lost in the first round of the GLIAC tournament. Ferris went 21-28 over the next two years.

In the beginning of the 2015-16 season, it appeared that this year would be as shaky as it ultimately turned out to be. Ferris hired the third coach

of Mavis’ tenure and tragedy struck in the lives of the women on the team.

Junior guard Emily Evans’ mother, Janice Evans, used to be a frequent sighting at home games, but her seat was vacant this year. Near the start of the season, Evans’ mother passed away.

Mavis said, “Her mom was like a second mom to all of us. It was really shocking. It was just hard.”

Mavis contemplated leaving the team like some of her classmates had, but she stuck through the season. The Bulldogs went 5-23.

Mavis said, “Despite everything that we went through, I couldn’t have asked for a better team to spend this last year with. I couldn’t have asked for a better coach. With everything that happened, this team stuck together and made this last year really memorable.”

The highlight of the season was Ferris knocking off No. 1 in-conference Saginaw Valley on Saturday, Jan. 30. Evans caught a pass 15 feet away from the hoop with the game tied and clock ticking. She pump faked, then shot the ball at the buzzer. The crowd

roared with 57-55 gleaming on the scoreboard

Mavis said, “When Emily hit that shot the whole place was electric. There’s no one else that deserved that shot more than her.”

Now that basketball is over, Mavis is pursuing a career in television production, particularly sports documentaries. She has applied for multiple internships that include ESPN and NFL Films. She considers those her dream jobs.

In her five years, Mavis experienced a lot and has advice for women coming into Ferris women’s basketball.

“I would tell them that it goes by so fast and to really commit yourself—challenge yourself. Just give it everything you have,” she said. “I’d tell them to cherish every moment they have on the court with the girls. They’ll be sisters forever.”

This sisterhood, this bond—it made Mavis’ time at Ferris unforgettable.

She said, “Those girls made this year special. I’ll never forget my time here, and if I could go back, I wouldn’t change a thing.”

Old Dawgs fight for their yard



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

Ferris senior forward Matt Robertson and his fellow senior teammates could be playing their final games at Ewingleben Ice Arena this weekend.

FSU hockey playing for home-ice advantage

Beau Jensen

Torch Reporter

Bulldog hockey (14-13-6) has only two regular season games left before the WCHA Playoffs and for the team's seven seniors, this weekend determines whether they'll play in Ewingleben Ice Arena again.

Ferris State will host the Lakers of Lake Superior State this weekend, March 4 and 5 in a two-game series to finally seal their spot in a playoff picture for another chance at the Broadmoor Trophy.

The Dawgs fell from their No. 4 spot in the rankings to No. 5 when they lost back-to-back games to Bowling Green last weekend, making their chances of receiving home ice a little more slim. Senior forward Kenny Babinski will not be taking the opportunity at another shot to play in Big Rapids for granted.

"I am going to miss Ewingleben Arena itself and the atmosphere that is created by the fans each and every night," Babinski said. "I have never played in front of such a dedicated and spirited fan section as The Dawg Pound."

Babinski notched three of his eight total goals so far this season in front of the Bulldog fans inside Ewingleben. He gives a lot of credit to head coach Bob Daniels and the rest of the coaching staff when discussing his and the other seniors' time at Ferris.

"Coach Daniels and the coaching staff have taught me a lot as far as my game and in other aspects of life," Babinski said. "They have all done a great job in teaching me how to conduct myself, not only on the ice, but off the ice as well. Coaches Mark Kaufman and Drew Famulak have also taught me the type of player I am and how to use it to my advantage."

The Bulldogs are going to be fighting Northern Michigan (NMU) for the last home ice spot as NMU moved ahead of the Dawgs by one point by the end of last weekend, but Ferris still has four points available to grab when they take on Lake Superior State. Strength and conditioning coach Dave Cencer said that the home crowd will play a role in support of the Dawgs.

"We love our home crowd and the excellent support we get, not only from the students but from the community, so we are looking forward to being home again next weekend and then hopefully we can play well and continue on the positives," Cencer said. "We always say that you can't guarantee results but you can guarantee performance."

No matter the outcome of the playoff picture or even the whole season, senior defenseman Simon Denis said that he has gained more than just hockey memories in his time at Ferris.

"I think the best thing about these seniors over four years is how close we have become," Denis said. "You develop some great friendships in your time at college, and I know that I can always count on anyone in this class for anything, no matter when it may be. We truly are brothers." Denis has seven goals and six assists so far during his senior year as a Bulldog. Denis also talked about what needs to happen to finish the season on a high note.

"We have done a good job in this second half of putting out our full effort every night and we need to continue to do that," Denis said. "We are confident that with the team we have right now, we can win a championship."

The weekend series against Lake Superior State begins Friday, March 4, when the puck drops at 7:07 p.m. in Ewingleben Ice Arena followed by Saturday night's game at the same time and place.

Sports Shorts

Cody Burkhard

Torch Reporter

Track & field place 11th and 14th at indoor championship

Ferris track and field competed in the GLIAC Indoor Track and Field Championship this past weekend with junior Demonta Madden leading the Dawgs. He placed fifth in the men's 60-meter dash with a time of 6.90. He also placed fourth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.7.

Logan Hammer, Casey Neal and Jake Morey finished with each other with a time of 4:26 in the one mile run placing eighth, ninth and 10th respectively. Ross Miller placed 15th in shot put with a distance of 14.82 meters.

The Ferris women had three Dawgs place. Senior Emily Haynes placed 10th in the 5000-meter dash (18:13.19) and 11th in the 3000-meter dash (10:41.09). Sophomore Jessica Delaney placed 13th in the 3000-meter dash, six seconds behind Haynes. Freshman Jordan Lee placed 15th in the 800-meter dash.

Men's basketball has a rough streak

Ferris basketball has lost five games straight heading into the GLIAC tournament, marking the worst losing streak the Bulldogs have faced all season. They look to turn this around at Findlay in the quarter finals of the GLIAC tournament.

At the start of the calendar year, Ferris beat the Oilers 72-69 and proceeded to tear up the league. They won 11 of 13 games before a 91-84 home loss to Northwood. Since then, Ferris has fallen to 13-9 and fifth place in the GLIAC.

Ferris handed the Oilers their only loss in the month of January. Findlay matched the Bulldogs' success after and kept the train going when Ferris fell off the tracks.

The game tips off at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1.

Ferris hockey swept for first time this season

FSU hockey has lost their last four games and were swept for the first time this season in the process. Bowling Green defeated the Dawgs 4-3 on Friday, Feb. 26 and 6-2 the following night.

The weekend after Ferris hockey won four points for the first time this season, the Bulldogs began their slump. The first loss came in the second game of a series against Northern Michigan and continued with a non-conference matchup against the Michigan Wolverines.

Ferris State is fifth in the WCHA with 28 points. With two games to go, the Bulldogs have a chance at jumping Northern Michigan to claim the No. 4 spot in the WCHA.

The Dawgs will wrap up the regular season against Lake Superior State at home this weekend at 7:07 p.m. on Friday, March 4 and Saturday, March 5.

Top Dawg

Marshall Scheldt

Sports Editor

The Ferris State softball team began their season on Sunday, Feb. 28 in Clermont, Fla.

The Bulldogs had a strong showing in their first game, defeating Saint Anselm College 3-1, thanks to solid defense and an impressive showing by Ferris senior pitcher Stacy Thompson.

The 5-foot-5-inch Kalamazoo native pitched a complete game for the Bulldogs, allowing one unearned run in seven innings of play. Thompson only gave up four hits, struck out three batters in the contest and got the Bulldogs started on the right foot to begin their 2016 campaign.

Thompson pitched in 22 games last season, starting in 12 of those and tallying a win-loss record of 6-7 while on the mound for the Bulldogs. In 91.2 innings pitched, Thompson struck out 26, walked 29 and accrued an earned runs average of 3.74.

Thompson and the Dawgs will play 16 games in a road trip to Florida from today until Saturday, March 12. The team will return to Big Rapids for their first home games of the season in a double-header against Davenport University on Tuesday, March 22 at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.



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Men's tennis road trip

Mark Hansen

Torch Reporter

The Ferris State men's tennis team is taking their talents to Florida where they will play five matches in seven days.

The Bulldogs will begin their spring break and their long road trip on Friday, March 4. The team will be playing Florida Southern, Post University, West Liberty, Saint Leo and Methodist.

"It's going to be a lot of tennis in a short period of time. We have a lot of depth so if we need to we can rotate people in and out," coach Chad Berryhill said. "I coached seven years in Florida and have a pretty good grasp on how to give players what they need to eat and drink and when they need to do those things."

Freshman Till Von Winning is doing a phenomenal job, as he is the only person on the team that hasn't lost a match in singles this spring. Von Winning sits on a 13-1 singles record. His only loss came in a three-set match last fall against University of Indianapolis junior Arklon Huertas del Pino.

"It is my first season of college tennis, so I can't compare it. I'm happy about how our team has performed so far," Von Winning said.

The team will be playing on outside courts while they are in Florida, contrary to the indoor courts that they have been practicing on in Big Rapids. The Dawgs will not only be competing against other schools, but the weather as well.

"The sound is different, the ball bounces higher and slower and we have to deal with the wind and sun. We have to adapt quickly during our two practice days before the matches start," said Von Winning.

The team sits at 6-1 overall going into Florida. The Bulldogs won't have a home match until Wednesday, March 23 against Grand Valley State.



Photo courtesy of FSU Photo Services

Ferris State sophomore Simon Levy rips a forehand in a match against Salem International earlier this season.

Women's tennis trip to Florida

Spring break will bring a mixture of fun and competition for the women of Ferris State tennis

Beau Jensen

Torch Reporter

The Ferris State women's tennis team has the pleasure of escaping the Michigan weather as they travel to Florida over spring break for four matches.

The team's annual spring break trip down south will begin with a Sunday, March 6 match-up against Tarleton State of Texas. The next two days of games for the women will come first on Tuesday, March 8 against Charleston of West Virginia and then on Wednesday, March 9 against Saint Leo University of Florida. The trip will end on Thursday, March 10 when the Lady Dawgs go one-on-one with Hillsborough Community College, another Florida native school.

Since the beginning of their 2015-2016 season, the Lady Dawgs have gone 13-5 overall, 8-3 in conference play. Shawnee-Ann Brelsford, the senior from Brisbane, Australia, said that she likes what she is seeing from the team so far in the second part of the season.

"This spring I definitely like that we have become such a close team that works well together. It really does help us when it comes time to go out and compete together," Brelsford said. "It is great for our upcoming spring break trip where we will be with each other 24/7."

Brelsford also talked about the things they can do in order to prepare for their upcoming trip to Florida.

"There are not a lot of changes that can be

made in the next few days leading up to our trip to Florida, so I think we should focus on doing all the right things to prepare us for playing outdoors in the Florida heat," Brelsford said. "We have to make sure we are eating well, staying hydrated and getting some sleep."

Brelsford was happy to say that head coach Chad Berryhill was nice enough with his scheduling that he gave the team a couple of free days to relax in between matches, but for the most part, the Dawgs are there to compete and win.

Freshman Nicole Meylor said that she is ready to not only enjoy the Florida weather, but she is also excited to take on some new competition. She noted that doubles competition is something she would like to see the team improve on, but overall she is happy with her team's play.

"Overall I think the team has great spirit on and off of the court," Meylor said. "We are mentally tough when it comes to matches, but we need to find that winning edge that the team had last season."

Coach Berryhill has been vital to Meylor's growth at Ferris and the freshman said that it is nice to have a coach who she can turn to when she needs something.

"Some of the things coach has tried to instill in the team as far as core goals are communication, work ethic and to be committed and accountable," Meylor said.

The Lady Dawgs do not play a single match in Michigan throughout all of March and will be back in action in Big Rapids when they host Davenport on Friday, April 8.



➤➤➤ **JUMP** from page 1
 Megan Hiler discusses
 her life as a pitcher

me. Shout out to Todd Hiler, you rock and thank you.

But I can't even explain to you the feeling you get when you throw a good pitch. It's addicting. Throwing a perfect drop ball that falls right off the table as the batter whiffs, spinning a change up that makes her swing out of her cleats or throwing the perfect pitch in the right spot and freezing the batter—there's nothing better.

When I was a sophomore in high school, my school was playing in the state championship game. We had won the previous year, so we were defending our title. I was playing in right field and we were winning 2-1 in the bottom of the seventh. Our senior pitcher was throwing a great game, but you could tell she was getting gassed in the June heat after throwing so many innings. I can still see Coach Dock coming out to the circle and pointing at me to come throw. My legs felt numb as I ran into the infield. There was one out and a runner on second—the tying run. I came into the infield meeting and Coach was telling us what to do in the situation. I think, honestly, I was so high on adrenaline and so nervous that I don't remember one word that man said. Just give me the ball and let me toss it in there.

First batter grounded out to the third baseman, our girl made a great play and threw her out just in time. Runner was now on third. This was the stuff movies were made of. I was shaking in my cleats when I somehow got the count to 2-2 (to this day this is my favorite count to pitch in) and I saw my catcher flash three fingers, then one. This meant a rise-ball up and in. My bread and butter.

I tucked three fingers and had two on the seams and reared back and flew off the mound. I was going to blow this by her and make her look silly. Time seemed to stand still when I realized I released the ball wrong. It was completely flat and quite honestly, the worst excuse for a rise-ball I have ever thrown. It was right up the gut.

But for some unknown reason, the girl didn't move. She watched the ball into the catcher's glove. In shock, I looked at the umpire and saw him hold up his fist. My god, she didn't swing, and we won! I threw my glove and jumped into my catcher's arms. To this day, I don't know why that girl did not swing, but I am thankful for it.

When people ask me what position I play, and I respond with "pitcher," they always get a surprised look on their face. Then it's usually followed up with, "Doesn't it hurt your arm to throw like that?!" The answer is no, it doesn't. Maybe it's because I've done it for so long.

I can't imagine my life without pitching. It brought me to Ferris State. It made me a Bulldog. It made my former enemies my new teammates and best friends (shout to SJ, I literally hated you in high school—Go Lancers). Softball has brought so many amazing people into my life. All my best friends have been teammates. You bond over the long bus rides (especially in college), the pit stops at hole-in-the-wall restaurants on road trips and grueling practices. You become closest with the girls that volunteer to catch for you, the ones that pick you up after a bad outing or the ones that you have special handshakes with when you get that strike out. Softball teammates are the most supportive and selfless people out there; we genuinely want to see our teammates make a great play and succeed.

Playing this game has taken me across the country. You live for the dirt under your fingernails, the uniform tan lines and the different bows you wear for different games. I wear the same bow until we lose, then I change it. Pitchers are weird, I know.

As a pitcher, a lot of time is spent perfecting pitches, which means critiquing your motion, grips and mechanics. It's a lot of work with catchers giving you feedback. It's trial and error, and after pitching for over a decade, including two state championship teams and two years in college, I can say without hesitation, it is mostly error. You have to throw a few fat pitches, take a few hits off the shins and give up a few homers to really learn. Sometimes, it sucks. That's why a pitcher's favorite and most common question he or she asks their catcher is, "Did that move?" And you know you threw a dirty piece of cheddar when the catcher says, "Oh yeah it did."

Spikeball

Ferris students partake in new sport

Cody Burkhard

Torch Reporter

Volleyball and four-square have come together as spikeball at Ferris State.

Ferris professional tennis management seniors, President of the Ferris Spikeball Club David Perzaghi and Vice President Chris Wilkins, started the club this year and look to bring the sport recognition. They began playing spikeball in 2013 when a friend introduced them to the sport and now they are ranked No. 1 and No. 2 in Michigan.

Wilkins said, "We started playing the game with our buddy and we looked it up online and found out there were a bunch of tournaments to travel to so we competed a bit and that's how we got our one and two spot in the state."

The game is similar to two vs. two volleyball except the "net" is a small trampoline in the middle. Four players surround the net with opposing players across from each other. The server spikes the softball-sized ball to the net and play begins.

The objective of spikeball is similar to volleyball in that the offense attempts to make the ball hit the ground on the other side. In spikeball, there is no true other side. Once play is set in motion, any player can move anywhere.

Once a player hits the ball to the net, the ball changes possession to the other team which has three volleys to get the ball back to the net. If the ball hits the ground or the receiving team hits the rim of the net, the hitting team gets

a point. The first team to get the designated amount wins.

Penalties can occur for running into opposing players or moving the net, but anything goes other than that.

Spikeball's creator, Chris Ruder, sold his idea on the NBC show, "Sharktank" and the sport has taken off since.

The Ferris State Spikeball Club hosts open play on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Rec Center aerobics room for those who want to try out spikeball.

“Everyone
 loves spikeball.
 They just don't
 know it yet.

David Perzaghi”

Perzaghi said, "Everyone loves spikeball. They just don't know it yet."

Those who want to join the club can contact Perzaghi or Wilkins at terzagd@ferris.edu or wilkinc8@ferris.edu. For more information on the rules and the sport itself go to usaspikeball.com.

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Kip Biby
Opinions Editor
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"As I'm running on the outermost lane to dodge a flock of girls simultaneously selfie-ing and walking..."

- Hailey Klingel

See page 15 for story

The Ferris State *Torch* is published on 27 Wednesdays throughout the academic year. This student-run newspaper is printed by The Pioneer Group.

STAFF LIST

Editor in Chief

Keith Salowich
(231) 591 5978

fsutorcheditor@gmail.com

Production Manager

Jordan Lodge

Production Assistant

Shelby Soberalski

News Editor

Angela Graf

Lifestyles Editor

Hailey Klingel

Sports Editor

Marshall Scheldt

Opinions Editor

Kip Biby

Multimedia Editor

Evan Dulac

Cartoonist

Mikala Piller

Visual Content

Aubrey Kemme
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Reporters

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Mark Hansen
Beau Jensen
Jonny Parshall
Travis Sacher
Nick Vander Wulp
Elizabeth Yost

Interim Reporters

Shantelle Bonham

Managing Copy Editor

Kira Poncin

Copy Editor

Jasmine Nettles

Web Editor

--

Office Manager

Andrea Lenhart

Community Engagement

Caroline Cousineau

Distributor

Nick Vander Wulp

Adviser

Steve Fox
(231) 591 2529

OUR LOCATION
Alumni Building 013
410 Oak Street
Ferris State University
Big Rapids, MI 49307
www.fsutorch.com/letter-to-the-editor/

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ahuntley@pioneergroup.com

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Working in college

Getting an education outside of class

We came to college to learn—to learn how to be a nurse, to learn how to be an engineer, to learn how to be a businessman or woman. While learning those things is obviously important for future career goals, I think that working in college prepares students for the future in ways that our professors cannot teach us.

I am currently working two jobs, taking 18 credits and involved in RSOs with leadership positions. When it comes time to go to work (obviously I'm not talking about working at the *Torch*), most of the time, I would rather not, but at the same time, I am happy to have a job and to say that I am independent from my parents' piggy bank and I know I am capable of juggling work and school.

Working in college teaches time management. Balancing school, work, friends and other responsibilities is no easy task to learn and sometimes I may have to stay in on a Saturday night to catch up on homework instead of hanging out with my friends, but it is all about priorities and making the right decision—which is also something that you're better off learning in college, rather than later on when the world is not so forgiving.

Working a dead end job in college such as waitressing, cashiering or the many other jobs out there, you learn how to treat other employees at other places of business. For example, I have spent many years waitressing, so when I go out to eat, I know that my server for the evening has at least three other tables to take care of and acting rude, tipping poorly or being overly demanding will not get you anywhere besides last on their list of serving priorities.

The most obvious benefit of working is the



Andrea Lenhart
Office Manager

semi-big-fat paycheck at the end of the week. Having my own source of income is rewarding. I know that I earned it and it is all mine. I rarely have to swallow my pride and ask my parents for money.

However, with the paycheck comes more responsibility—money management. This is the kind of responsibility I don't mind. I have money and it is mine. I can shop online, go to half off apps, see movies or whatever else I want and not have to worry about draining my savings from the summer before school ends.

Most of the time I find myself spending my paycheck on bills, which is not as fun as the list above, but it is still just as rewarding.

I have been working since my junior year of high school, so it is something that I am used to, and I feel weird when I do not work. I understand that not every college student can balance school with work, but just like school and learning how to study, it can be done.

Every job is different, some jobs are easier than others, some jobs are more demanding than others and some jobs are better than others. With every job that I have had, I have learned things that I can take with me and things about myself.

It would never hurt to try to get a job, whether it is on campus or at a local business. Working in college has made me responsible and even a better student.

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

Satire is a difficult medium to navigate. There lies a precarious line between humorous and pushing it too far.

The article "Inclusion for all?" which appeared in the *Torch's* satirical insert the Tire Fire this week, is a prime example of an article falling on the wrong end of that line.

We are a young staff composed entirely of students. This is not an excuse, but rather a fact. As students, we are imperfect journalists, and as imperfect journalists, we make mistakes. Publishing the "Inclusion for all?" article was chiefly my mistake.

As both the Editor in Chief of the *Torch* and creator of the Tire Fire, I offer my assurance that it was never our intention to make entire groups of people feel uncomfortable. Especially marginalized groups that tend to grapple with some form of discomfort on a daily basis.

However, our intentions matter naught in the face of how the message came across to our readers. Due to poor representation of our intended message, many readers were offended, and rightfully so. With that in mind, I would like to both personally apologize, and apologize on behalf of the *Torch*.

Although I've admitted that the article was ill-advised, I will not be removing it from our website. Rather than attempt to sweep it under the rug, we've chosen to address the problems with this article head on so that they do not occur again. I have talked extensively with readers both in person and through email, discussed the matter with the adviser of the newspaper, and will be discussing the insensitivity of the article with the entire staff at our next staff meeting.

If you have found yourself venting your displeasure with the article please do not keep it to your-

self. As a campus newspaper, we serve our readers, and we did our readers a disservice by publishing that article. Let us know. Fill my inbox. Write a letter to the editor to counter "Inclusion for all?" and we will print it.

If you'd like to discuss the article further, I encourage you to email me directly, schedule a meeting in our office in Alumni 013 or submit a letter to the editor, which we will display prominently in the opinions section of the next newspaper and on our website. My contact information is listed on the left side of this page.

Over the line

Why I hate working out at the Rec



Photo by: Marshall Scheldt | Sports Editor

Big Rapids residents Toya Brown (left) and Jasmine Brown (right) circle the track in the Rec Center.

Time to get a run in. I guess I'll go to the Rec Center and use the track.

I show up to the Rec at 6:30 p.m. on a Tuesday. I walk up the stairs to the track and prepare for the aggravation fest of trying to get a good workout at the Rec.

I sit down on the bench by the track and start pulling off my boots and putting my shoes on. I'm in luck—I'm just in time to hear the three perspiring bros hogging up most of the bench talking loudly about how they nailed their workout and can't wait to get "drunk AF" later.

I begin my run. It's Tuesday, so runners are supposed to run clockwise. I'm not half a lap into my run and I'm already dodging people going the wrong way. Not only am I constantly on the lookout for directionally challenged people, but I'm weaving in and out of illiterate people who clearly can't comprehend the "Runners: Inside two lanes" and "Walkers: Outside two lanes" signs.

As I'm running on the outermost lane to dodge a flock of girls simultaneously self-ie-ing and walking, I almost plow over a four-year-old who's broken away from his townie parent and is now zig-zagging aimlessly about the track.

After coming to a complete stop to avoid unintentionally murdering a child, I start running again. Even through my music, I can hear some very loud breathing behind me. Like, really loud. Is someone having an asthma attack? This person does not sound normal.

After making sure I don't see anyone walking in the inside lane in front of me, I glance over my shoulder and—holy shit! Is that Darth Vader? What the hell does that guy have on his face? I do a double take at the sweatshirt-clad man with some sort of Bane-like breathing contraption covering his face. He looks terrifying. I stare straight ahead as he passes me as to not draw attention to myself. I laugh as he scares a (different) clique of gossiping, lane-hogging girls.

I'm adequately annoyed with the chaos consuming the track, so I stop running and decide to do some abdominal work. I



Hailey Klingel
Lifestyles Editor

walk over to the stack of mats, pick one up and—GROSS! I immediately drop the sweaty piece of blue foam that someone clearly didn't clean after using. I suppress a gag, disinfect my hand and decide I'll skip abs and lift weights instead.

I'm about to walk over to the free weights, but stop when I notice three jacked bros lifting weights two inches away from the weight rack, blocking the entire thing. I send a menacing stare in their direction and walk towards them, hoping they'll see me and move. Nope—guess I'll have to push my way through.

"Excuse me," I say as I walk up to the weight rack. The bros are in testosterone-induced oblivion and don't even glance at me. Tired of waiting, I roll my eyes and push my way through their damp limbs to grab some dumbbells.

"Hey, sorry sweetheart," one of them says while shamelessly giving me a once over.

I pretend I don't hear him and continue my workout, but it's difficult to concentrate because the smell of someone's B.O. is so strong I'm highly considering finding Bane-dude to ask if he'll lend me his mask so I can block out the smell.

By this point, it's 7:30 p.m. and half of the Ferris student body is at the Rec. I'm starting to feel like I'm at Shooters on a Saturday night: it's hot, crowded and smelly and groups of men are eyeing groups of women, half of the people here are texting, talking on the phone or taking selfies and I can't walk more than four feet without running into someone I know. The longer I'm here, the more over it I get, but I know I'll be back because there are no other options.

I pack up my stuff and leave the sweaty, hormone-induced socialization fest that is the Rec Center on a weeknight. I decide I'll try a different time tomorrow.



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Shooters—home sweet home

No frills, just fun



Kip Biby
Opinions Editor

If you read the news you've probably heard about all the ruckus on college campuses with "safe spaces." From what I understand, these are where people can go where they don't have to hear any scary ideas. Now, I applaud Ferris for including this idea on campus, but sometimes I need a place for where I can recuperate from the stresses of daily life.

I have never been to the wonders of the world. I've never seen the Colosseum, the Washington Monument, the Grand Canyon or the GOP headquarters. Why have I deprived myself of these beautiful places? Because I have already seen the most beautiful place on earth.

I've been where you can go to see people get arrested, fights between alpha-males and a line to the women's room longer than the English Channel and I've watched it all with a cold-acti-

vated Coors Light in my hand.

If you haven't already guessed, the place is Shooters. I haven't had many good things to say about Shoots in my past articles. Reading this now, you might think I am a flip-flopper like Marco Rubio, but Shooters really has always had a special place in my heart.

Sure, the wood paneling is reminiscent of a funeral home built in 1971, and sure, the bar does not have bathrooms that likely pass the health inspection but that is what gives Shoots its charm. We are in college after all.

The most anti-Shooters people go there with arms folded, begging their friends to make a left

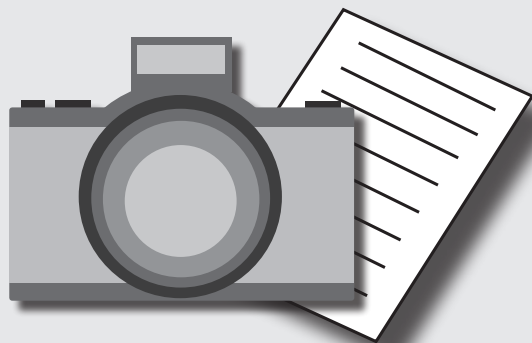
into the Crankers parking lot, but the next morning, though they won't admit it, they had a ton of fun and they can't wait to go again next weekend.

The fact is, Shooters is the most visited of the bars near campus, so they must be doing something right. They don't have expensive liquor, they don't have an extensive food menu and you won't find Kanye West sitting in the V.I.P. Room. But what you will find is a home.

Go to FAC at 3 p.m., hit the dance floor at midnight and be there in the morning to pick up your driver's license that you forgot to grab on the way out. There will be a time when you are drinking at a fancy country club and you will look back and think, "I wish I was at Shooters."

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