

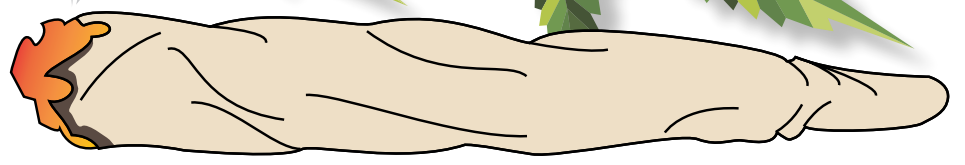
MARIJUANA REPORTS FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Merrill:	9
Brophy:	4
Travis:	15
Clark:	4
Ward:	1
Cramer:	4
McNerny:	6
Vandercook:	3
Hallisy:	1
Puterbaugh:	1
Bond:	5
Henderson:	2
University Park Suites: . .	1
West Campus Apt.:	3
East Campus Suites: . . .	1

Numbers collected according to The Torch's On the Record reports

Graphic by: Jordan Lodge | Production Manager

Toke talk



Ferris students share their views on smoking

Megan Hiler
Torch Reporter

Students at Ferris and across the country are becoming more and more lenient when it comes to marijuana use, mirroring the results of the University of Michigan's research.

The research found that marijuana usage rates are climbing as students start looking at the drug as not a big deal or even beneficial, and many are pushing for legalization.

Ferris plastics senior Omar Alkatie believes that it should be legalized for a variety of reasons.

"There is overcrowding in prison. Too many people get in trouble or lose financial aid because of it," Alkatie said. "It could be beneficial if we taxed it."

Legalizing weed seems to be a popular opinion on campus. Ferris automotive management junior Stephen Progar

shared the same view when it comes to decriminalizing marijuana.

"I think small amounts should be legal, to cut down on crime," Progar said.

According to USA Today, this is the most the drug has been used in 35 years, claiming that one in 17 college

"Too many people get in trouble or lose financial aid because of it." Omar Alkatie

students lights up every day. With more and more people smoking, students seem to be caring about it less and less.

"It's their life choice. If they want to do it, let them do it. Nothing above them, nothing below them," Alkatie said.

The research conducted by the University of Michigan also showed that the percent of students using marijuana once or more in the past 30 days went up from 17 percent in 2006 to 21 percent in 2014. Students at Ferris think these numbers could be even higher.

"I think that is low. More students smoke marijuana," Alkatie said.

In contrast, non-smokers appear to be taking a more laid back approach when it comes to their peers wanting to use the drug as well.

"I don't particularly care if people smoke," Ferris mechanical engineering technology junior Paul Buerer said. "As long as they're responsible."

Although most students are leaning more towards legalization, there are still some who are reluctant to hop on the weed wagon. Ferris pre-pharmacy sophomore Rachel Dubuisson is one of these students.

"I'm not really a fan," Dubuisson said. "I don't think there are any benefits so I don't think it should be legalized."

When it comes to people who do enjoy the occasional hit, students who do not smoke appear to be less likely to surround themselves with them.

"It's not my lifestyle, it's not who I would choose to hang-out with," Progar said.

Whether it's an occasional joint or a daily occurrence, there's no question that marijuana use is and has been increasing.

For more information on the survey go to www.ns.umich.edu.

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Angela Graf
News Editor
grafa1@ferris.edu

"I am passionate about bringing change to Student Government, and ultimately, the campus at large..."
- Dylan Tantalo
See page 4 for story

The Big Event is a big deal

Over 1,700 Ferris students volunteer to help the community

Jonny Parshall
Torch Reporter

Big Rapids was flooded with a sea of red T-shirts Saturday, April 16, as 1,739 student volunteers assisted 285 houses with yard work and chores in this year's Big Event.

The ninth annual one-day service project, designed to help local Big Rapids community members, saw a higher turnout than previous years.

"Overall, I believe the event went amazing and I am so glad volunteer and resident participation has increased," said Director of Ferris' Big Event Kaitlyn Patrick. "I could not be more happy to be the director this year and work with such a talented, motivated and passionate team. This event, and my other philanthropic efforts, has truly given me a more knowledgeable perspective about the importance of volunteerism as a whole."

The citywide effort drew positive criticism, and many residents were thankful of the opportunity.

"I think they're doing awesome," said Big Rapids resident Ralph Crew. "I appreciate what they do."

Crew's Cherry Street residence was aided by the hands and rakes of Ferris State's Asian Student Organization (ASO) led by Brian Nguyen, who hails from a small town community.

"Being able to give back to a small community means a lot to Ferris students and to all the RSOs," said ASO President Nguyen, a junior in pre-pharmacy. "Big Rapids has the resources that other big towns and cities don't."

While the ASO and other Ferris registered student organizations (RSOs) were located close to campus in the city's "red" zone, some teams, such as the Healthcare Management Association, spread out to the "yellow" and "blue" zones in areas of the city most Ferris students seldom see.

"If I didn't have a car I'd be a little upset," said Megan Cameron, a Ferris healthcare administration management junior. "We're working together, we're laughing, it's a fun time."

A resounding theme of the event was the cheerful attitudes of its participants. Many cited hard work and helping the community as inspiring forces.

"One of our organization's missions is to help the community of Big Rapids," said Cameron. "We obviously want to get involved in something that serves our mission. You do get to meet the homeowner and see how you're impacting their lives."

"It's a good way for residences to see us helping and not just being drunk college students," said Ferris pre-veterinary science junior Tori Burzynski. "We get a bad rep but some of us are pretty nice."

Ferris' Big Event was inspired by the one started at Texas A&M. Since its 2008 inception, it has become the only community service event in Michigan of its type and one of the largest nationwide, according to Director Patrick.



Photo by: Rebecca Snow | Photographer

Over 1,000 rakes were issued for various projects during the 2016 Big Event, although several were reportedly returned in pieces.



Photo By: Rebecca Snow | Photographer

Ferris students flooded Top Taggart Field on Saturday, April 16, to collect house assignments and materials necessary to complete their service projects around Big Rapids.

Drop the toy and put your hands in the air

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

By Angela Graf, News Editor

Hit and run

April 5, 4 p.m., officers responded to a hit and run in Lot 4.

Turned down for drugs

April 8, 8:50 p.m., two subjects were found in the possession of narcotics at Turn Up The Good. One person was ticketed with an MIP as well as a warrant being issued for possession.

Drunken rage

April 8, 9:25 p.m., officers investigated a report of a disorderly subject at Turn Up The Good. The intoxicated subject was told to leave two times before finally being arrested.

Alcohol poisoning

April 8, 11:45 p.m., officers assisted a student in distress in the lobby of the sports complex. The student was highly intoxicated and transported to the hospital for medical care.

Mary J in Merrill

April 9, 12:20 a.m., officers investigated a marijuana complaint

in Merrill Hall. One student was identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.



Hatin' at The Gate

April 10, 2:20 a.m., officers assisted the Big Rapids police in breaking up a fight in progress outside of The Gate. One of the two subjects was a student and was referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Both parties were lodged in jail.

Busted with a BB gun

April 10, 2:55 a.m., officers assisted the sheriff department in the investigation of a man reported to have a gun in the University Parks Suites. The weapon in question was a BB gun and was turned over

to the sheriff department.

Dirty McNerney

April 11, 12:05 a.m., officers investigated a marijuana complaint in McNerney Hall. One student was ticketed for possession and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Burned popcorn? Sound the alarms!

April 11, 10:20 p.m., officers responded to a smoke detector alarm in Miller Hall. A resident had burned popcorn.

Check yourself

April 12, 4:55 p.m., officers investigated a report of a two-car accident in Lot 52. One vehicle had backed into another.

Before you wreck yourself

April 12, 5:35 p.m., officers investigated a two-car accident in Lot 57. One vehicle had backed into another.

DPS issued 267 traffic and parking violations from April 8 to April 14, totaling \$4,330.

NEWS BRIEFS

Angela Graf

News Editor

Carnival

On Thursday, April 21, there will be a carnival held in the South Quad from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The event is being put on by the South Quad residence halls and will be complete with carnival games and concessions. Volunteers are still needed and anyone interested in helping can contact Esad Miftari via email at miftare@ferris.edu.

Tenured professors

This year, Ferris had a total of six professors achieve the honor of tenure. Their names and departments are listed below:

Rhonda Bishop, Health Professions

Amy Dinardo, Optometry

Gerald Emerick, Business

Rachel Foulk, Arts and Sciences

Paul Long, Engineering Technology

Anne Spain, Arts and Sciences.

Money Smart Week

On Monday, April 25, Ferris' Money Smart Week will kick off with the workshop, "Twelve Money Mistakes You Can't Afford to Make" in UC 203 at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. This is the first in a series of events designed to help students learn about personal finance and managing their money. For a full schedule of events, go to <http://ferris.edu/HTMLS/admission/financialaid/MoneySmart.htm>.

Ferris State Torch Corrections

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LETTER TO THE



EDITOR



Dylan Tantalo

While it has been a rewarding opportunity serving as a senator for the 2015 - 2016 school year, I am looking forward to serving as the Student Government President this upcoming year. I would like to start off by thanking not only my campaign committee for their hard work and endless support during the election, but also the student body for their participation in the voting process.

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Dylan Tantalo. I am from Owosso, Michigan. I am graduating this spring with my Bachelor's in Criminal Justice. I will be returning in the fall pursuing my Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration.

I am passionate about bringing change to Student Government, and ultimately, the campus at large, as I feel it is our purpose to do so. I have been fortunate enough to work with dozens of students this year who have various backgrounds and who share the same vision as me in terms of bringing positive, productive change. As I expressed during the campaign, there are two main areas we will focus on: internal operations and external operations, which will both change the dynamics of the organization.

Internally, we will be focusing our efforts to ensure the new member process is transparent; holding members accountable for their participation in events and duties; creating and promoting events and activities through our social media platforms; ensuring we follow true to our mission statement and values; and finally, keeping our focus and understanding our purpose as an organization who represents the students.

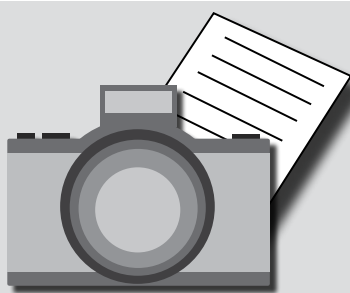
Externally, our efforts will be focused on collaboration with more student organizations on

campus; promoting the benefits and opportunities available to all students and the importance of involvement; ensuring communication and transparency; and lastly, sponsoring events that impact students on a larger scale.

None of this can be done alone. For our goals to be accomplished, participation and involvement is needed. I encourage my fellow students to join me and the general assembly next year in fulfilling this vision.

The following individuals will be joining me on this endeavor as members of my cabinet: Josh Olszewski, Vice President; Patrick Maloney, Treasurer; Katie Nimtz, Public Relations Director; Sarah Pirrami, Director of Internal Assessment; and Levi Cipicic, Parliamentarian. The Director of Finance, Director of Operations, and Administrative Assistant positions are currently being interviewed.

I am looking forward to the opportunity in serving as the Student Government President next year, and once again, I would like to express my thanks to those who have made this possible.

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Higher and higher

Campus drug arrests on the rise

Megan Hiler

Torch Reporter

Drug law arrests are on the rise at Ferris, according to the results of the most recent Annual Security and Fire Report.

In 2013, there were 59 total arrests. This number went up to 79 in the year 2014, marking a 34 percent increase.

"The majority are marijuana arrests," Director of Public Safety (DPS) at Ferris, Bruce Borkovich said. "It's everywhere."

The Flint native, who has been at Ferris for three years, believes that the reason for this is simple: Ferris is cracking down on campus crime.

"We have a lot of marijuana use in our residence halls, it's almost out of control," Borkovich said. "We have gone overboard on giving warnings and student conduct, and as a result, we have kind of decriminalized marijuana. We are definitely going to be increasing our enforcements, our arrests."

Borkovich certainly has an impressive résumé when it comes to drug enforcement. He is a former Bay Area Narcotics Enforcement Team (BAYANET) member, undercover officer and a certified expert in illegal drug trafficking.

"I'm the universe's biggest opponent to marijuana," he said.

In comparison with Grand Valley's 67 drug law arrests in 2014, Ferris still ranks higher with 79. This is especially surprising because of the population difference between the two schools. Grand Valley has 25,094 students while Ferris only has 14,533.

"When we decriminalized it, what happened? The use went up," Borkovich said.

Ferris students have noticed the increase in drug use, especially marijuana, as well. Ferris construction management junior Max Schmidt has witnessed it first-hand.

"I've seen a ton of people on drugs. I think

the problem is getting worse," Schmidt said. "It seems like people's perception of lighter drugs, like weed, is changing. A lot of people are seeing it as something that's not serious at all and don't think about the fact that it's illegal."

Viewing marijuana as a minor offense seems to be a common theme when it comes to students wanting to light up at Ferris. Jennifer Kretz, a Ferris construction management junior, believes that students are not as con-

"I'm the universe's biggest opponent to marijuana."

- Bruce Borkovich

cerned about the consequences of getting busted with the illegal substance.

"I think that since Colorado legalized it, everyone thinks it's normal now," Kretz said. "It's kind of like getting drunk. People want to get high every weekend."

But what students don't think about is that getting high can come at a price, especially when it comes to life after graduation.

"It's a competitive market out there, and many times employers are going to ask about criminal convictions and drug use," Borkovich said. "Stop and think about why you're here. Put the kid stuff down."

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“¡Olé!”

East Shore Wind Symphony visits Ferris

Harley Harrison

Torch Reporter

It's not every day that students at Ferris get to attend a free concert performed by a professional and well-rehearsed ensemble.

On Thursday, April 14, at 8 p.m., the East Shore Wind Symphony held a free concert in William's Auditorium. Students, faculty and community members gathered to watch the performance, “Olé! Music from South of the Border.”

The ensemble played seven pieces, most of which had a Latin American influence, and the performance ended with the piece “Mambo!” from the musical “West Side Story.”

“The ‘West Side Story’ piece was my favorite because it's one of my favorite movies, so it's pretty much the only thing that I knew,” said Ferris sports communication sophomore Nachele Marshall.

The performance contained music that was upbeat and bouncy, as well as music that was mournful and even included subtle vocals. Throughout the entire hour-long concert, the talented musicians were fully engaged in their performance, occasionally even swaying joyfully with the beat.

“This is year six, so you just rotate through themes and you sometimes are challenged to come up with them,” artistic director and founding conductor Doug Burtch explained. “Sometimes, I base the theme on a particular piece I wanted to do and, in this case, ‘Danzon no. 2’ was a piece that I was interested in doing, so then I just kind of built a program around that one piece.”

The ensemble was made up of past and future conductors, musicians and teachers from all over Michigan.

“We just appreciate Ferris State University and Dr. Cohen for having us and the wonderful turn out,” Doug Burtch said. “I'm appreciative of the people choosing to come here rather than go eat ice cream, so to speak, at their first chance of spring.”

To find upcoming performances or to learn more about the ensemble, go to www.eastshorewind.com or find East Shore Wind Symphony on Facebook.



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

The East Shore Wind Symphony is Northeast Michigan's leading professional wind band and was founded in 2010 on the idea of providing an outlet for high quality performances for accomplished musicians in the surrounding area.

Decriminalization | Why all drugs should become legal

In light of the presidential election and all of the attention it's been getting, one can't help but wonder what their own platform would be if they ever ran for president. After a very brief period of thought, I decided that mine would be this: do whatever the hell you want as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else.

You want a gun? Don't shoot anybody. You want an abortion? Don't force somebody else to have one. You want to marry someone of the same gender? Don't sacrifice a Christian during the ceremony. You want to work for \$5 per hour? Work for \$5 per hour. You want to shoot up heroin? Be my guest.

Now, it's that last one that really gets people. I thoroughly believe that all drugs should be decriminalized. Everything from pot to crack, and here is why:

Overcrowding in prisons

The United States of America accounts for five percent of the world's total population. When looking at the population of incarcerated individuals though, according to the American Civil Liberties Union, America makes up a whopping 25

percent, giving us the highest prison population in the world.

As of Sept. 30, 2014, roughly 50 percent of sentenced inmates in federal prison were serving time for drug offenses. There are currently more than two million people in American prisons or jails, and the U.S. incarcerates more people for drug offenses than any other country.

Money, money, money

All of this sounds expensive, right? In 2010, it was calculated that the U.S. could save an annual \$41.3 billion combining the federal and state costs, by decriminalizing drugs. That isn't counting the estimated \$46.7 billion that could be collected in tax revenue, either.

The black market

In the same way that the prohibition spurred the creation

of the mafia, the war on drugs has done the same for Latin American drug cartels. Legalizing drugs would eliminate the need for a black market and reduce drug related violence drastically.

The lack of a moral issue

If people want something, they will get it. This applies to drugs, guns, underage drinkers, etc. Weapons exist, nobody blames a spoon for making people fat; it's a matter of free will. Whether drugs are legal or not will not impact how many people use them. In fact, it will assure that quality product is available to users, rather than substances that are diluted or laced with whatever the seller feels fit. I assert that if people know exactly what they're putting in their bodies, the number of overdoses will decrease in turn.

There is substantial evidence backing up across-the-board legalization, and while I admit that there are valid concerns on either side of the argument, I do agree that if this were to happen there would need to be strict regulations such as age restrictions. The point of all of this though, is simply to say this: the war on drugs was lost a long time ago.



Angela Graf
News Editor



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.



LIFESTYLES

Hailey Klingel
Lifestyles Editor
klingeh@ferris.edu

"I was doing a lot of psychedelics, a lot of MDMA, cocaine and I've been drinking since I was 13 years old."
- Anonymous
See below for story

WHY DO YOU GET HIGH?

The Torch asks five students why they do drugs

Nick Vander Wulp
Torch Reporter

"I've been on multiple medications for an existing condition and I've had to be fully hospitalized because it had incapacitated me beyond being able to make my own rational judgments. I've had it to the point where family, because of the medications I was on, needed to create power of attorney to get me off of them. And different situations where none of the medicines that are being developed by the pharmaceutical industry have been effective. But, something I haven't realized all through my recreational use as a teenager was when I had weed, I was fine. And as an adult, one of my doctors brought it up to me. So we went on a 60-day trial before marijuana was legal in the state. I quit all of the pharmaceuticals I was on and I haven't had problems with my disability since."

- Ferris chemistry junior Michael Williams

"It was my first time taking acid and my first time going to Electric Forest. I ate three tabs and like two or three hours later... like there's this really weird crew on stage, I don't remember what their name was but it was all this tribal shit and then we're just sitting under these trees and we're just talking and giggling and shit. And then I notice this worm squirming by us, and dude, I swear to God I've never seen anything as funny in my entire life. I kid you not dude, we're sitting there staring at this worm for 45 minutes watching this thing just fuckin' squirm around."

- Anonymous Ferris student

"I used to work at a golf course and when I was 16, I did a big favor for a member. He said, 'The next time you come back I'll have a present for you.' I was like, 'Okay,' thinking it would be a big tip or maybe an old golf club or something. He came in a few days later and called me over to his car. He opened up his trunk, and there was this giant bag of weed. He takes out an empty Skoal can and puts a few grams in it and said, 'Here enjoy this.' And he handed me a 20. I was like, I might as well try this. My brother did it, my friends do it, you know, musicians do it. So I called a friend who I knew smoked, and we went out into the woods and packed a bowl. We smoked, but I didn't know what to do so I pretended I was high. After a while, I wanted to do it and try it more. When I first started smoking I would get really goofy, but now I get high just to relieve some stress and calm down."

- Anonymous Ferris sophomore

"There was a period of time, where with the exception of opiates, I was doing everything put down in front of me. I was doing a lot of psychedelics, a lot of MDMA, cocaine and I've been drinking since I was 13 years old. I started smoking weed when I was 14 and was pretty much a daily smoker up until about two months ago. My break is only temporary until I find a job. I grew up with it in California and smoking was an accepted part of life for a lot of young people out there. So it was something that I fell into naturally. I've always dealt with a fair amount of depression and anxiety. It mellowed me out, for lack of a better term. That's why I stuck with it for such a long time, despite the risks."

- Anonymous Ferris senior

"I'm a really social person, to an extent. I don't really need weed to be social. I went through all of high school not really being high a lot. I loved high school—I had so many friends. I think one thing about weed that's really helped me realize what's great about it is the bonding. Sometimes it's hard with some friends when you're sitting there not doing anything and everyone is playing on their phones, because everyone is so attached to their phones. If you pack a bowl or pack a bong and start a conversation while you're rolling a blunt, everyone gets involved because they seem to love getting involved in the activity. People tend to get off their phones and get more face to face. It's kind of interesting to see how a little plant like that can bring people together."

- Ferris accounting freshman Destry Contreras





RSO spotlight: Women in Technology

Submitted photo

Women in Technology is a Ferris registered student organization consisting not just of women in technology, but of both women and men in the College of Engineering Technology.

Jen Corrie

Torch Reporter

Women in Technology (WIT) is a registered student organization (RSO) here at Ferris that consists of a group of women, and even a couple men, who come from all sorts of majors in the College of Engineering Technology.

"We really focus on encouraging other girls to consider taking a role in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) field," said WIT president and Ferris business administration senior Quincee Denault. "I think it's beneficial to bring a group together that has similarities and to talk about those similarities and the challenges

of being a female in a male-dominated field.

The group does Technology Engineering Aptitude (TEA) events with elementary and middle school girls, where they do hands-on engineering projects with the kids, such as building a hovercraft with a bag of random supplies and then having a competition to see whose works the best.

"It's a lot of creative thinking and problem solving," said Denault.

In addition to working with kids, the members of WIT tour places such as construction sites, participate in Ferris events such as The Big Event and even help undecided students find a major if they are interested in math and science by teaching them about the opportunities in the College of Engineering Technology.

"It's open for everyone," said Denault. "This year, we also had a few males join the group."

Denault said her favorite part about being president was seeing all the members get involved.

"We had a lot of new members this year who had never been in WIT before, and there were a bunch of them who just dove right in," she said. "Just seeing people realize the benefit of joining a group like WIT, I think that's the coolest thing about being the president."

As newly-elected president Chelsey Porter takes over WIT, Denault said she hopes to see the group's presence on campus increase.

"I'm really excited for the new group," said Denault. "If we could get more steady num-

bers throughout the year, that would be really cool."

Denault's advice for the next WIT group and for Porter is to "definitely explore every opportunity for the group and try to get as many opportunities for the members as you can, because it really does make a difference. You can get so many opportunities from an RSO like WIT. It really influences your Ferris career."

WIT meetings are every other Tuesday at 6 p.m. in Swan 202.



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Freshman year at Ferris

Students review their first year as a Bulldog

Travis Sacher
Torch Reporter

As the spring semester is winding down and students are preparing for exams, projects and presentations, freshmen students will be reflecting on their first year at Ferris. Ferris professional golf management (PGM) freshman Blake Davis has enjoyed his first year here, mostly due to the PGM program.



Blake Davis

"When I was doing my college search, I couldn't choose any major that interested me besides golf, and it just so happened the PGM program was at a university only an hour from my home," Davis said. "Ferris was the obvious choice."

Although Davis is satisfied with a major that is preparing him for a career in the golf industry, he strongly resents residence hall life. He is an independent person and residence hall life is too confining for him, so he is excited to move to Tioga Park Apartments this coming fall.

Ferris construction management freshman Connor Timinski also dislikes residence hall life and will be living in

the Rapids Apartments next fall semester. Timinski is part of Associated Construction Students (ASC). He stated that ASC has been great and he is excited to do more with it in his sophomore year.



Connor Timinski

"ASC recently took a field trip to Chicago to look at infrastructure and it was great," Timinski said. "Currently, we are working on building baseball dugouts for the club baseball team."

Ferris public relations and marketing freshman Erin Patten really enjoys the diversity of Ferris and the career-based programs. Patten manages her packed schedule with two jobs, two majors, 18 credits and membership in the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority. She also plans on joining the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) this fall.

Patton is also vice president of the soon-to-be established personal strength and success registered student organization called Building Of Strengths and Success (BOSS). Patten wants to help students find the uniqueness and strengths within themselves.

Patten said that joining Phi Sigma Sigma has been one of her favorite parts of her first year.

"Joining Phi Sigma Sigma has been amazing," Patten said. "There is a wide-range of girls who embrace individuality and I really like that. It has been such a greater time commitment than I originally anticipated, but so worth it



Erin Patten

for the support system and having Olivia Odette as a Big Sister."

One last student who touched on their first year is Ferris psychology and criminal justice freshman Tess Strasser. As opposed to Davis and Timinksi, Strasser loves living in Miller Hall.

"I came to Ferris with my friend Jessica from back home," said Strasser. "My first day moving in, I had to bring all of my stuff to the third floor of Miller and was not sure what college would be like, but having a friend from home living in my hall has made this experience amazing."

Joining the Alpha Xi Delta sorority has been Strasser's favorite part of freshman year. She is the 5-Star and Ritual Chair and has gained a great sisterhood and social experiences. Also, Strasser was recently elected the public relations head of the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity.

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WHAT IS PRODUCTION?

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If you know the basics of Adobe InDesign and are interested in applying or getting more information, please contact us!

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A letter to God

Jabari Suhuba-Baruti
Guest Writer

Suhuba-Baruti is a senior from Kalamazoo studying mathematics education at Ferris.

I think I understand why my Uncle got sick.
Why, after 35 years, his cellular structure changed,
Harbored harmful reactions and his body attacked him.
Rendered his systems useless, if ever left tubeless.

The perils of my Uncle mended a splintered family.
Took two factions, typically at odds,
And created a unified front,
Fused together by the pain of the one member they share.

Through his pain, we learned a valuable lesson:
It makes no difference on what side of the fence you fall
When the fence needs repairs.

I get why a man so ferocious between the lines of a football field
Would be afflicted by a disease that would shut his body down.
I have no confusion about why the greatest ball player ever couldn't beat one last opponent:
A few ounces of his own flesh that turned against him.

I understand why Walter Payton—
A man nicknamed Sweetness for his smooth moves on the field,
And his giving personality off of it—
Was transformed.

It can be explained why he perished a yellow eyed man,
A shell of himself,
As he endured pain even his hall of fame career couldn't match.
When Sweetness went sour what he did was incredible.
While Walter and Chemo were going twelve rounds with a disease
Walter took time to raise money and spend most of his own
With the simple hope that realizing it could happen to you is all it takes
And maybe a few lives would be saved.

Its reflection on these lessons that lessen the sorrows of loss.
Seeing the good,
Not in the bad
But that stems from it,
Gives purpose to pain so you can embrace and
Not run from it.

But what lesson is there in nine people dying?
Nine of your followers, doing your work,
Gunned down with every intention of starting the second civil war?
What lesson comes of mothers losing their young sons,
While trying to make routine purchases at a neighborhood corner store?

I need you to answer me, God!
Please tell me there's a purpose to all this pain.
Please,
Don't let us suffer in vain.

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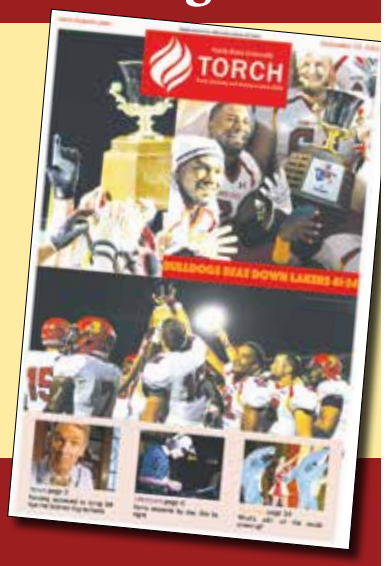


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SPORTS

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"I'm definitely the strongest receiver in the draft."
- Jacob Lampman
See below for story



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

Ferris State slot receiver Antonio Agurs is one of five Bulldogs hoping to hear his name called on NFL Draft Day. Agurs led the Dawgs in receptions last season with 65 catches for 641 yards.

Five bulldogs ready for NFL Draft next weekend

Cody Burkhard

Torch Reporter

With the 2016 NFL Draft closing in, five Bulldogs are preparing for a shot at the professional ranks.

Jason Vander Laan is a two-time Harlon Hill trophy winner and the only quarterback in NCAA history to run and pass for over 1,000 yards in all four seasons. However, he may need to switch positions for a spot in the NFL.

At both of his pro days and his workouts with the Chiefs, Ravens and Cowboys, Vander Laan worked out as a tight end as well as quarterback. He understands blocking schemes from a quarterback perspective, but actually executing them as well as running routes and catching is all new territory.

Vander Laan said, "It's feeling comfortable and I'm ready to transition if that's needed."

Vander Laan broke the NCAA record for career rushing yards by a quarterback with 5,953 yards. He also totaled 8,240 passing yards.

This All-American has shown an NFL arm connecting with his speedy receivers down the field regularly at Ferris, so scouts are not ruling out his quarterback ability just yet.

The biggest transition to the NFL as a quarterback will be going from a shotgun offense to a primarily under center pro offense.

"At Ferris, I maybe took three or four snaps a year under center. It's something I'll have to get used to," Vander Laan said.

The man that caught more Vander Laan-thrown balls than anyone is receiver Jacob Lampman. In the four years they played together, Lampman totaled 157 receptions for 2,206 yards and 25 touchdowns.

Lampman hasn't had any private workouts with teams but he feels this is not a knock to his draft status for the scouts already have the film and measurables they need.

"I'm a different style of receiver that the NFL hasn't seen much of in terms of my physicality as a blocker. I have some of the best hands and routes in the draft and I'm definitely the strongest receiver in the draft," Lampman said.

Lampman ran a 4.47 second 40-yard dash and recorded 27 bench reps at the Michigan pro day. That ties an NFL receiver record for bench reps.

He led his team in receptions twice, but the man who edged him out this past year was Antonio Agurs. Agurs totaled 65 receptions for 641 yards and two touchdowns in 2015.

Agurs played a critical role for the Bulldogs as the team's primary slot receiver the past two years. He outshined all receivers at the Central Michigan pro day posting the fastest 40-yard dash time, short shuttle time and the longest broad jump. He ran the 40 in 4.47 seconds,

did the short shuttle in 2.6 seconds and had a 9-foot-10-inch broad jump.

He was approached by multiple scouts at the pro day but no private workouts have been held.

Perhaps the Bulldog with highest draft stock is All-American defensive lineman Justin Zimmer. He has amazing athleticism at 300 pounds posting a 4.8 second 40-yard dash and a 9-foot-9-inch broad jump at the Michigan pro day. This translates into an incredible burst off the line. However, multiple scouting reports say he comes off the line "too high."

"Nobody comes out spotless. Everyone has something to improve on and that might be one of them for me," Zimmer said.

This is a small critique compared to his overall production. He broke the Ferris single season record in 2015 for tackles-for-loss with 26, 13 of which were sacks. He also led his team last year with 83 tackles. This is a notch that is rarely held by a defensive tackle.

Many teams around the NFL are looking at Zimmer, but determining the teams' interest is anyone's guess but the team officials. Speculative reports have seen Zimmer's stock anywhere from the late third round to the seventh.

Another Bulldog lineman vying for an NFL spot is offensive tackle Cody Dingeldey. Dingeldey participated in the Central Michigan pro day when he posted the third highest bench rep total of the day with 31. Dingeldey started for the Bulldogs since 2013 and has anchored a line that created running lanes and kept a clean pocket for Vander Laan.

These players make up Ferris State's most lucrative draft class in years. Hav-

ing earned back-to-back GLIAC championships and 25 straight regular season wins, these players helped Ferris football become an elite program.

"This is a stepping stone for Ferris State football," Lampman said.

If these players are drafted, it will shine a light on Ferris for potential future talent. High school recruits looking for a destination should take notice of the Dawgs' success, and could carry on the legacy that these five seniors have put in place.

The 2016 NFL Draft will take place Thursday to Saturday, April 28-30, in Chicago, Ill.

6-foot-3-inch, 302 pound defensive tackle

4.8 second 40-yard dash

32-inch vertical jump

44 bench reps

9-foot-9-inch broad jump

7.01 second L-drill

Justin Zimmer



Photo courtesy of Kevin McDermott
Graphic by: Keith Salowich | Editor in Chief

Coming home

Ferris softball hosts a bevy of home games to finish out season



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Photographer

The Bulldogs high five in their first home game of a long season. The team will play a majority of their final games in Big Rapids.

Mark Hansen

Torch Reporter

The Ferris State softball team has had a long season and now it's coming down to the wire.

The Bulldogs are looking to compete in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Conference (GLIAC) tournament at the end of the month.

The Dawgs are currently in sixth place in the playoff race and will need to win their upcoming home games to keep pace in the conference. Sophomore pitcher and outfielder Sam Bates is glad to have home games at the end of the season.

"I enjoy having home games more at the end of the season because that's when it starts to warm up and more people come out to support us. I love to see people in the stands," said Bates.

Bates isn't the only one that likes having home games at the end of the season. Sophomore outfielder Alex Astorga said, "I like the fact that games are more towards the end because it gives us an opportunity to prove that we are a different team than last year and hopefully we get more people to come out and support us."

After having two double headers this past week at home, the Dawgs won both games against Lake Superior State by scores of 8-0 and 11-2 but lost against Hillsdale 12-3 and 3-1 and will be playing Northwood and Walsh this week.

"For us to go to the tournament we need to finish on top of every game from here on out. We dropped a few games this year that we shouldn't have and it's time for us to prove we are here to win," Bates

said.

The Bulldogs have proven that this team is different than last year's squad, but need to win these last few games if they want to continue their season.

"We can't get ahead of ourselves. We still have games to win," Astorga said.

These last few games are crucial because three of Ferris State's last four opponents are fighting to be in the tournament as well. The Bulldogs play against Northwood on Tuesday, April 19, at 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and will play against Walsh Friday, April 22, at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Sports Shorts

Beau Jensen

Torch Reporter

Hockey dawgs are going pro

Another Ferris State Bulldog hockey player Sean O'Rourke signed his name on a pro contract, the fifth Dawg to do so after the 2015-2016 season ended.

O'Rourke signed on to play for the Kalamazoo Wings of the East Coast Hockey League (ECHL). He joins Kyle Schempp, Simon Denis, Kenny Babinski and Brandon Anselmini in signing a pro contract after making another run in the NCAA Tournament last year.

O'Rourke's 2015-2016 season was his best as a Bulldog on the offensive end and played in all 41 games for the Dawgs. He wrapped up the season with 12 points on four goals and eight assists. The Alta Loma, California native's new team, the K-Wings, currently trail the South Carolina Stingrays 0-2 in a best-of-seven playoff series.

O'Rourke, along with the other men who signed a pro contract, helped the Bulldogs to their first conference tournament championship in the history of the school.

Basketball signs new Michigan talent

Coming off of a great 2015-2016 season, Bulldog men's basketball signed All-State wing Michael Peterson of Rockford to play for Ferris State next season.

Peterson, standing at 6-feet-6-inches, was granted Detroit Free Press All-State honors this past season after averaging 15.2 points and 7.7 rebounds per game.

Head coach Andy Bronkema told ferrisstatebulldogs.com, "It's nice when you don't have to travel far to find the piece you are looking for in your class."

Not including the four graduating seniors, there are currently 10 Dawgs on the squad who are native to Michigan while only one man is from out of state. While Peterson played for the Rockford Rams, he also played for the West Michigan-based AAU squad known as the Grand Rapids Storm.

Bulldog men's basketball won the GLIAC Tournament the past two years under Bronkema and made it as far as the Div. 2 NCAA Sweet Sixteen in 2016 before falling to Saginaw Valley State.

Quarterback position up for grabs

A total of five different quarterbacks saw action in Bulldog football's Crimson & Gold Spring Game on Saturday, April 16.

With three total scoring plays of 40 or more yards, three different Bulldog quarterbacks threw touchdown passes. As the stalwart backup quarterback to Jason Vander Laan the past couple years, Trevor Bermingham tossed two TD passes.

Div. 1 transfer Reggie Bell threw one TD which turned out to be the game winner for the white squad. A couple other quarterbacks who saw significant action were redshirt freshmen Travis Russell, who had a 60-yard TD pass and John Higgins.

Bermingham is the only remaining quarterback that has played in a regular season game for the Dawgs. Last year he completed 24-of-31 passing attempts and threw for one TD with two rushing TDs.

Bulldog football will open their 2016 regular season with Ohio Dominican in Big Rapids on Saturday, Sept. 3.

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Heart to heart, hand to hand

Marshall Scheldt

Sports Editor

The Ferris State men's and women's basketball teams will be pairing up with the Area 5 Special Olympics basketball team in the 11th annual Heart to Heart, Hand to Hand Special Olympics basketball game on Thursday, April 21, in Wink Arena.

Players of the Area 5 Special Olympics team, which serves 64 athletes in Mecosta and Osceola County, will pair up with basketball players from Ferris State in an exhibition game at Wink Arena.

The athletes will be intermingled to create a red team and a white team that will compete during the exhibition. The event is free and open to the public, and donations will be accepted during the game to raise money for Area 5 Special Olympics.

Sports Careers registered student organization (RSO) is hosting the event in conjunction with Ferris professor Sandy Alspach's communication classes and the Area 5 Special Olympics.

Ferris sports communication sophomore Sean Williams is running the event as the Special Olympics coordinator of Sports Careers RSO and he is also in Alspach's COMM 389 class.

Williams, who has family involved in the Special Olympics all around the nation, said, "Our goal is to try to bring more people to the event than past years to kind of bring the Special Olympics athletes into the spotlight. I think everyone has bought in to how big this can be for the Special Olympians."

Events will take place during timeouts and intermissions including relay races and musical chairs. At halftime, a dunk contest between four Ferris men's basketball players will take place as well as a three-point contest between players from all three teams involved.

Ferris State senior Jared Stolicker has played in the event in past years and will also take part in the game on Thursday.

"My favorite part of every year I have competed is seeing the joy it brings to other athletes. It makes me feel good seeing the enjoyment in their faces," said Stolicker.

Stolicker said that throughout his years playing in the event he and other Ferris athletes have built relationships with the athletes of the Area 5 team.

"We see some of them around campus and always have conversations," said Stolicker. "We have great relationships with them."

Donations will be accepted throughout the event at donation tables and during the Miracle Minute. A hockey jersey signed by the entire Ferris State hockey team will also be auctioned off at the event. All proceeds will be donated to Area 5 to pay for anything they need, such as travel, event registration and equipment.

Ferris students and Big Rapids residents are encouraged to come to the game to cheer on their fellow Bulldogs and the athletes of the Area 5 Special Olympics in what is sure to be a great game. The game is set to begin at 7 p.m.

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY



Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Ferris State football, volleyball and men's basketball had the best combined winning percentage in Michigan last season.

All we do is win

Ferris fans promote winning culture

Beau Jensen

Torch Reporter

The surge of dominance in recent years for Ferris State's athletic programs has left a mark on Michigan's athletic leader boards.

Research conducted by Bulldog journalism senior Harrison Watt and Bulldog sports communications senior Nick Owens showed that for the 2015-2016 athletic season, Ferris State football, volleyball and men's basketball held the best combined record among all schools in the state, regardless of division, at 68-14 with a .829 winning percentage.

Football, men's basketball and volleyball all won their respective GLIAC titles this season. Basketball won the GLIAC Tournament Championship, football won the league outright after their second undefeated regular season in a row and volleyball led the GLIAC in the regular season and won their GLIAC Tournament.

Men's basketball head coach Andy Bronkema, who recently recruited some new talent, told ferrisstatebulldogs.com that he believes Ferris State's athletic reputation helps him a great deal in the recruiting process.

"A big credit for our recruiting success goes to the overall state of our athletic department at Ferris State," Bronkema said. "There is a lot of hype around many of our teams right now and that is translating to popularity. We're extremely excited about these guys and what they mean to the future of Bulldog Basketball."

Hannah Guy will be a redshirt sophomore on the volleyball team for the 2016-2017 season. She said that she thinks Bulldog athletics have done well because of the hard work and determination that Ferris State exhibits.

"Success is not just something we wish for, we set ourselves to a standard to be successful and that happens with extra reps in the gym, waking up at 5 a.m. for morning workouts and keeping strong teammate and friend relationships on and off the court," Guy said. "And I think that is where recruits come in."

Guy elaborated on why she thought recruits,

specifically for volleyball, would choose Ferris.

"We are not just teammates in the gym, but outside of the gym we are like sisters," Guy said. "We do everything together, and honestly that is one of the reasons I came to Ferris. The team was so welcoming and I knew it would be a perfect fit. And of course, everyone loves to play on a team that wins."

Ferris State sits at the top of the leaderboard with their 68-14 record, followed by Div. 3's Hope College in the number two spot with a 50-19 record and .724 win percentage. Coming in at the third spot is Div. 1's Michigan State with a 60-22 record with a win percentage of .681.

At the fourth spot sits GLIAC rival Grand Valley State University with a 50-26 record and .657 win percentage. Another GLIAC competitor, Hillsdale College, sits in the fifth position with a 46-24 record and .657 win percentage as well.

Only one Div. 1 team, Michigan State, graces the top five of the chart. The GLIAC conference itself hosts three top five spots with one representative from Div. 3 in Hope College.

Shakur Sanders will be a senior receiver on the football team for the start of the 2016 season. Sanders is confident and straight to the point when it comes to why Ferris State is so dominant and why recruits should come to Ferris.

"I think it is because we started something new here at Ferris when the new football coaches came and changed the atmosphere," Sanders said. "That helped the community, and that helped the other teams. We support everyone and every team, and it helps recruiting because people love a competitive and winning environment, and that is what we have."

The recurring theme among the athletes of a "winning environment" certainly exists at Ferris, and the .829 winning percentage for the football, men's basketball and volleyball shows just that.



Hannah Guy

Top Dawg



Photo courtesy of FSU Photo Services

Marshall Scheldt

Sports Editor

The Ferris State softball team is currently in a battle to make the postseason.

The Bulldogs sit at the No. 6 spot in the GLIAC and must finish the season in the top eight in the conference in order to play in the GLIAC Tournament in late April.

Earlier this week, Ferris senior pitcher Stacy Thompson was stellar and helped the Bulldogs get closer to the playoffs. Thompson, a Kalamazoo native, had a rough day in a 12-3 loss against Hillsdale on Friday, April 15, when she gave up six earned runs in three innings.

Thompson came back very strong in her following three starts, which earned her Top Dawg this week.

In the second game of a double-header against Tiffin on Saturday, April 16, Thompson pitched all seven innings, allowing just one earned run and five hits in Ferris State's 3-2 victory.

The following day, in the first game of a double-header against Ohio Dominican, Thompson came in late to finish off the last seven ODU batters where she didn't give up a single hit in Ferris' 5-4 loss.

Thompson started the second game of the double-header and shined. Once again, she pitched all seven innings and this time only gave up two hits and zero earned runs to go along with three strikeouts in a 2-1 victory over the Panthers.

Ferris softball takes the field once again this weekend as they play in three double-headers at home against Walsh on Friday, April 22, Malone on Saturday, April 23 and Findlay on Sunday, April 24.



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"Failing to log out can result in everything from minor annoyances

to serious identity theft."

- Jonny Parshall

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.

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Vape life

Stupid trend or godsend for smokers trying to quit?


 Kip Biby
Opinions Editor

e-cigarettes don't burn. Tests show the levels of dangerous chemicals they give off are a fraction of what you'd get from a real cigarette." This was written in a peer-reviewed piece by R. Morgan Griffin published through WebMD.

While higher taxes and stricter regulations on where you can smoke have been projected to decrease the amount of smokers, there is evidence that a less harmful substitute can lead to less smoking and less smoking-related deaths. And if you are like me and think a "sin tax" is immoral and don't think the government should be in the business of telling us where we can smoke but still hope for a more healthy country, the popularity of a safer alternative to cigarettes should excite you.

In some European countries the popularity of a smokeless tobacco called "snus" was correlated with the overall decrease in tobacco use. Derek Yach of Spectator Health writes, "In Norway, by contrast, snus consumption by adults rose from four percent in 1985 to 28 percent in 2012—and overall tobacco use fell by 20 percent." He goes on to say that after bans on snus were implemented, the decrease in tobacco use slowed the decline in tobacco use.

This tells me that safer alternatives to cigarettes can be influential in the overall decrease of smoking. I think that is what we all want—a healthier society. Bans on vaping are counterproductive to this goal. Some big cities like Los Angeles have implemented sweeping bans on e-cigs everywhere that cigarettes are banned, including public parks.

It's true that vaping doesn't really look cool. We often associate vaping with "club kids" or guys with SWAG written on their shirts. But vaping can save lives and there is nothing cooler than being alive. Over-regulation and bans on e-cigs are a perfect example of governments trying to help, but really hurting.

You are walking into Starr and all of the sudden you are engulfed in a thick fog that smells like your grandma's pecan pie. No, I am not describing a dream; this is a nearly daily occurrence of college students. The fog is vapor, and you are walking behind a guy or gal who is commonly known as a "vaper."

Vaping seems to have happened overnight. When I was a freshman I remember knowing just one guy who vaped; now I have many friends who blow clouds and I see it all over campus. Research published just this month says 6.7 percent of adults have tried vaping and 12 percent of high schoolers have hit the rig. I'm told those blocks with a mouthpiece are called "rigs."

Many people are concerned about this trend. These vapers are consuming nicotine, the active ingredient in other tobacco products like cigarettes. Some of these concerns are legitimate, but there is little conclusive research available and that can be almost as scary as having data that suggests negative effects. But is vaping dangerous? The only totally truthful answer is that we don't really know yet, but it seems less harmful than cigarettes.

What we do know is that vaping is considerably less expensive than smoking. Some studies suggest that switching to an e-cig can cut your annual tobacco costs in half. This is a very strong argument for switching to vapor considering that if you smoke a pack and a half a day, you are spending over \$3,500 a year.

And it's not just money that vaping is saving, it may be lives, too. The vapor being inhaled does not contain the tar that cigarettes do and secondhand smoke is almost non-existent with e-cigs.

"So far, evidence suggests that e-cigarettes may be safer than regular cigarettes. The biggest danger from tobacco is the smoke, and

Chat with the chief

Editor in Chief, Keith Salowich

We are the 1.5 percent

Ferris criminal justice senior Dylan Tantalo was recently elected to serve as next year's student government president after earning less than one percent of the total student body's vote.

Of Ferris' 14,533 Bulldogs, 138 cast their vote for Tantalo. Just 217 students were moved to vote in the election, which amounts to less than 1.5 percent of the student body.

Our country as a whole has seen near constant streams of election coverage over the last several months. Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders practically hold a monopoly over trending on Twitter.

Still, despite the political pendulum swinging towards its popularity peak once again thanks to this election cycle, we see embarrassingly few Ferris students willing to vote for their own representative.

For comparison, according to Kylie Wojciechowski at the Valley Vanguard of Saginaw Valley State University, 1,003 students voted in their student association presidential election and the winner garnered 659 total votes. SVSU has several thousand fewer students than Ferris State, as they boast an enrollment of 9,766.

Ferris' voter turnout not only trails the Cardinals', but is also

down from last year's totals. Last year, 633 students voted in Ferris' student government election. Of the 633 student voters, 379 voted for current president Wayne Bersano while he was studying abroad in Germany.

Tantalo's campaign page on Facebook racked up 234 likes, which was more than the total number of voters placing a vote in the election. Evidently, people like the idea of supporting their potential representative, but not enough to actually act on the impulse.

So why are Ferris students just not voting? For many, it was a problem of awareness. One of Tantalo's campaign platforms was to expand awareness of what student government is responsible for, and the events that they hold.

Election numbers like these show just how pivotal it is for Tantalo to deliver on that promise.

Tantalo and the rest of student government won't be representing 1.5 percent of the student body next year. They'll be representing everyone, including the 98.5 percent that forfeited their voice by finding something better to do during the election.



Illustration by: Mikala Piller | Cartoonist

Log out. Seriously.

Reminding Ferris students to log out of their accounts when on a campus computer



Jonny Parshall
Torch Reporter

Raquelle, your mother emailed you. The test results are normal. You missed a pretty sweet party, Spence. Your friend Duwan posted the pictures. Mike was pretty smashed. You have new Farmville notifications, Tina. Really? Farmville?

None of this was information I actively sought out. I had no intention of seeing it or knowing it. But I do know it because these are the first things I see when I open an internet browser on a university computer.

Now, I do not know the problem students have with logging out of social media or email sites. Have they never used a public computer? Are they too familiar to a private laptop or smartphone? Who are their parents and where did these folks go wrong? I have a secret for you: exiting a browser does NOT log you out of a personal site unless the computer is shut down. And if you use a university-owned computer in the middle of the day to check Facebook or Twitter, chances are somebody's going to use it after you and be able to see all your personal information.

I'm a fairly respectful guy. When I open an internet browser to find students have failed to log out of Facebook, Twitter or email, I politely log them out and log in again using my own personal credentials. But not everybody is this nice. School computers are used by everybody—townies, weirdos, assholes and downright criminals.

Failing to log out can result in everything from minor annoyances to serious identity theft. Chances are, you may have received a confirmation email from Amazon or eBay or wherever with a username and password. A person can access that information, which can lead to them charging ridiculous sums to your credit card. This is a worst case scenario.

Other lesser consequences include having your password changed by someone who was feeling particularly pucky or being enrolled in classes you had no intention of taking (and being charged!). So if you don't want unwanted pictures of dead dogs posted to your Facebook by an unwashed drifter who wandered into FLITE, I suggest moving the cursor over that little arrow, clicking "log out" and feeling seriously proud of yourself. Seriously.



Photo courtesy of FSU Photo Services

Ferris defensive lineman Justin Zimmer may hear his name called for the Detroit Lions on NFL Draft Day.

Zimmer fits with Lions

Ferris standout may be suited to Lions' defensive scheme

Ten days from now a lot of college football players lives will change. Some will hear their name called, some will get a tryout and others might not even continue their football career. We are talking about the NFL draft and our former Bulldog Justin Zimmer.

Zimmer has put a lot of work into getting to the next level and is on the NFL radar for multiple teams, but the one team that I think could really use his skills are the Detroit Lions.

How could Zimmer fit with the Lions' defensive scheme, you might ask, but it really makes a lot of sense if you think about it. Zimmer is very athletic and raw, but if he was put into a 3-4 defense he could excel at breaking up the pass.

With his elite quickness and burst rushing off the edge and through the middle, Zimmer can attack the ball each and every play because he is intelligent and athletic enough to blow up screens, play action and read option plays.

The Lions are looking for help on the offensive and defensive line, but since Zimmer could play defensive end or defensive tackle, he could be that versatile player the Lions need on the defen-



Mark Hansen
Torch Reporter

sive side of the ball.

If the Lions decided to pick him up in the draft, Zimmer could possibly be one of the best steals out there. Zimmer is also from Greenville, so the Lions would be drafting a hometown player.

The only thing holding Zimmer down is the level of competition he competed against at the Div. 2 level. Zimmer has excelled in every other test that has been thrown his way. Zimmer is doing what everyone else preparing for the draft is doing now—waiting.

So if you end up watching the draft in 10 days, don't forget how stressful it is for the players looking to continue their career. Zimmer is going to be watching, waiting and hoping that he will get that phone call that will change his life.

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1st Prize \$100
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3rd Prize \$50



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Ferris State Torch Best Of Big Rapids. Deadline April 22nd. Mail to: FSU Torch, C/O Pioneer Group, 115 N Michigan Ave, Big Rapids, MI 49307 or drop at Torch office/Student Rec center *or enter online at www.FSUTorch.com*

Vote for Your Favorites!

- Best Apartment/Housing Complex _____
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- Best Bar _____
- Best Bargain Meal _____
- Best Bookstore _____
- Best Breakfast _____
- Best Cell Phone Provider _____
- Best Church _____
- Best Coffee Shop _____
- Best Downtown Business-nonfood _____
- Best Fast Food Restaurant _____
- Best FSU Athletic Team _____
- Best FSU Fraternity _____
- Best FSU Residence Hall _____
- Best FSU Sorority _____
- Best FSU Student Organization/RSO _____
- Best Golf Course _____
- Best Grocery Store _____
- Best Gym/Health Club _____
- Best Hamburger _____
- Best Happy Hour _____
- Best Hotel/Motel _____

- Best Ice Cream Store _____
- Best Jewelry Store _____
- Best Late Night Eatery _____
- Best Mexican Restaurant _____
- Best Nail Salon _____
- Best Oil Change _____
- Best Party Store _____
- Best Pizza _____
- Best Place for Lunch _____
- Best Place to Dance _____
- Best Place to Hear Live Music _____
- Best Place to Take a Date _____
- Best Restaurant-Chain _____
- Best Restaurant-Local _____
- Best Salon/Spa _____
- Best Sandwich Shop _____
- Best Tanning Salon _____
- Best Tattoo Business & Body Piercing _____
- Best Thrift/Vintage Shop _____
- Best Towing Service _____

It's time to vote for your favorite person, place or thing!

To be eligible for the drawing you must fill out at least 75% of the poll. The Pioneer employees and families are not eligible to vote. All entries must be turned in or postmarked by April 22nd, 2016.

Please fill out to enter our contest!

Good Luck!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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