

Music Takes Action

Lupe Fiasco, St. Lucia rock North Quad

Jonny Parshall

Torch Reporter

Ferris State's first-ever Music Takes Action event kicked off on the warm, sunny afternoon of Saturday, April 23, amidst staggering crowd numbers.

An estimated 3,000 students and spectators gathered outside Ferris' University Center to watch international touring acts Lupe Fiasco and St. Lucia perform, with local favorites The Matchstrikes and Oshea as opening performers.

The free event, which replaced the university's annual Ferris Fest, serves as a benefit for Musicians on Call—a nonprofit organization that provides recordings and products for injured fans otherwise unable to access music.

Fans cited this year's Music Takes Action (MTA) as a huge comeback in comparison to last year's Ferris Fest which was moved inside and featured lesser-known headlining acts.

"It was the best performance at FSU since 2008," said Ferris alumnus Nefeteria Love.

Fine weather blessed the concert, with attendees arriving early for the 2 p.m. festival.

Opening on second stage included Big Rapids folk rock duo The Matchstrikes, as well as Detroit rapper and Ferris student Oshea.

South African-born synthpop musician St. Lucia and his band picked things up on the headlining stage. His set carried audience members through such danceworthy tracks as "Help Me Run Away" and "Dancing on Glass." His performance at MTA follows recent stints

at SXSW, Coachella and Jimmy Kimmel Live.

The biggest draw by far was Lupe Fiasco. The Grammy-award winning hip hop artist played an array of radio favorites including "Kick, Push," "Battle Scars," "Superstar," and "Hip Hop Saved My Life." His connection with the audience with contests and gimmicks between songs kept fans engaged into the early evening. He gave a shout-out to recently-deceased recording artist Prince, as well as to police officers on duty at the event.

"I thought it was awesome," said Ferris construction management junior Paul Haney, a big fan of Lupe Fiasco.

"It was the cool," said Kendall alumnus Jaron Love, in reference to the title of Lupe's 2007 album.



Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Students gathered in the North Quad to enjoy the warm weather while internationally recognized artists Lupe Fiasco and St. Lucia took the stage.



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Angela Graf
News Editor
grafa1@ferris.edu

"The game is overall full of laughter, smiles and just us having fun together raising money for a good cause."
- Drew Cushingberry
See below for story



Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Ferris freshman point guard Greg Williams took part in the Heart to Heart, Hand in Hand basketball event to raise money for the Mecosta and Osceola county Special Olympics.

A night for everyone

Megan Hiler

Torch Reporter

The White team of the Area 5 Big Rapids Bulldogs won 64-59 in a nail biter against the Red team on Thursday night in Wink Arena.

The Heart to Heart, Hand in Hand event, which was put on in collaboration with the sports communication registered student organization (RSO) and the Ferris sports communication class, COMM 389, raised a whopping \$1,450 for the Mecosta and Osceola county Special Olympics. Bulldog student-athletes and fans were all in attendance to cheer on the teams that were made up of men's and women's basketball players and Special Olympic athletes.

Kim Kenyon, 31, of Big Rapids had 16 points for the White team in addition to singing the Star Spangled Banner.

"It was good to have everyone clap for me after the national anthem then play basketball," Kenyon said.

Josh Bielman, 25, of Chippewa Lake also enjoyed his time playing for the White team.

"I had fun," Bielman said. "My favorite part was playing on the Ferris court with the players."

In addition to the game, there was a slam-dunk contest, a three-point competition and musical chairs. Slam-dunk champion and sophomore point-guard Drew Cushingberry of Romeo sees the event as an opportunity to give back.

"It's an unbelievable feeling; this is my second year doing this," Cushingberry said. "Most of the Special Olympic players are at every one of our home games cheering us on, so to give back and play in this game with them is really something special. We all love basketball and that's what brings us together out there."

Pat Rosales, the area director of the Area 5 Special Olympics, was pleased with how the night turned out.

"They love it. This means everything to them," Rosales said. "They love the Ferris athletes and mingling with them. Next week they will be asking when they can do it again."

In addition to basketball, the Area 5 Special Olympics offers other sports such as aquatics, bocce, bowling, golf, poly hockey, snowshoes, volleyball, track and horseshoes.

The night ended with a standing ovation for the athletes and a big check.

"The game is overall full of laughter, smiles and just us having fun together raising money for a good cause," Cushingberry said.

Ferris parking woes

New construction and more students could lead to more crowded parking

Nick Vander Wulp

Torch Reporter

Parking at Ferris for hall residents and commuters alike is a source of frustration and a problem that could get bigger.

New construction at the West Campus Apartments is to be completed this summer, and this will bring more people living on campus and their cars. Another planned project to build a residence hall in the northeast part of Ferris State's campus could bring more crowded parking conditions.

Ferris political science sophomore Sean Conklin said while it's not as expensive to park at Ferris as other universities in Michigan, he thinks parking is too spread out for students who have to carry equipment to and from their cars.

"When I go to other schools, there's

never parking problems like there is here at Ferris. I'm from Kalamazoo, so I go to Western a lot and I also visit Central. There's definitely not the far distance walks like here to get your car."

The number of commuter parking passes and campus apartment passes has risen steadily. Over the past three years, Ferris has recorded 3,610 commuter passes and 577 campus apartment passes in 2012-13, 3,629 and 639 in 2013-14 and 3,779 and 679 in 2014-15.

The number of those registering cars living in residence halls has fallen from 2,109 registering a residence vehicle in 2012-13, 2,002 in 2013-14 and 1,791 residence hall parking permits issued in 2014-15.

"Revenues from both permits and parking fines go into the General Fund for the university operating expenses includ-

ing, but not limited to, lot maintenance," said Department of Public Safety (DPS) office supervisor June Swanson.

According to Swanson, parking permit revenue for 2014-15 was \$574,653. The amount of revenue from parking violations from 2012 to 2015 has remained relatively steady, from \$247,737 in 2012-13, \$268,903 in 2013-14 and \$230,166 in 2014-15.

Some budget items for lot maintenance include striping, lighting, snow removal, resurfacing, signage and security.

DPS director Bruce Borkovich said in the next few years Ferris State will be implementing plans to expand parking. The new residence hall planned in the northeast part of campus will most likely result in expanded parking, and other plans are in the works to expand the parking near the recreation center.

"Regarding the spaces needed for

new projects and residence halls, the university is still in the planning stage for parking," said Borkovich. "I think the new residence hall that may go in the northeast part of the campus will target freshmen, and we try to anticipate how many of them will have vehicles. The number is usually around 70 percent. Now that we have a shuttle service on campus, the number of vehicles on campus for these first-year students could change."

So far this academic year, DPS has issued over \$100,000 worth of parking violations on campus.

Parking violations range from \$10 for meter violations to \$20 for most other parking violations and the fine increases by \$5 after five days. Unauthorized parking in a handicapped space is \$100.

Trouble at the Torch

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

By Angela Graf, News Editor

Suspicious situation

April 13, 1:20 a.m., officers investigated a suspicious situation in Lot 4. Two students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct and warrants were sent to the prosecutor's office.

Classmate harassment

April 13, 1:20 p.m., a harassment complaint was filed regarding a female student being harassed by a classmate. The involved parties were told to leave each other alone.

Pivot!

April 13, 1:30 p.m., officers responded to a report of a two-car accident in Lot 64.

You're supposed to stop

April 14, 4:05 p.m., officers stopped a vehicle on Spring Street near Cedar Street for failure to stop at a stop sign. The driver was ticketed for driving with a suspended license.

Pot 4

April 14, 10:30 p.m., officers investigated a suspicious situation in Lot 4. One student was ticketed for possession of marijuana.

We'll report you

April 15, 11:15 p.m., officers received a harassment report by a member of the *Torch* newspaper staff. The party in question was contacted and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Shh!

April 16, 12:05 a.m., officers received a report of loud music at West Campus Apartments. They were told to quiet down.

SHH!

April 17, 12:15 a.m., officers received a noise complaint at the West Campus Apartments. One person was ticketed for a noise infraction and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Seriously, shut up

April 17, 1:45 a.m., officers received a report of a loud party at the West Campus Apartments. One student received an MIP and was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Sick of your roommate?

April 17, 10:15 p.m., officers received a report of a roommate dispute in the West Campus Apartments. The issue was handled by housing staff.



You used to threaten me on my cell phone

April 17, 11:30 p.m., officers responded to Bond Hall in response to threats a student had received over the phone. The calls originated from out of state.

Junk on a trunk

April 18, 1 p.m., officers responded to the report of a damaged vehicle in Lot 4. Scratches were found on the trunk that were not previously present.

Improper plates on Perry

April 18, 3:50 p.m., officers stopped a vehicle on Perry Avenue for defective equipment and was ticketed for improper plates.

GTFO

April 18, 9 p.m., officers assisted West Campus Apartment staff with a trespasser. The subject was previously banned from the premises and was located and removed and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Switcheroo

April 19, 10:10 p.m., officers stopped a vehicle on State Street for expired plates. The plates were not registered to the vehicle and the driver was ticketed for improper plates.

Stolen from Swan

April 20, 10 a.m., a report was received of stolen electronic equipment from a lab in the Swan Building.

Fraudulent Charges

April 20, 2:30 p.m., officers investigated a report of credit card fraud in Brophy Hall. A student had discovered improper charges on their account.

420

April 20, 11:15 p.m., officers investigated a suspicious vehicle in Lot 23. One student was ticketed for possession of marijuana and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Driving drunk, classic

April 22, 1:50 a.m., officers stopped a vehicle on Knollview Drive for defective equipment. The driver was drunk and lodged in jail for operating while intoxicated.

That's assault, dude

April 23, 6:10 p.m., officers received an assault report in the North Quad following the Music Takes Action concert. One student was arrested for assault and lodged in jail.

Smoke weed everyday

April 31, 2:20 p.m., officers investigated a marijuana complaint in Vandercook Hall. One student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

From April 15 to April 22, DPS issued 383 traffic and parking citations totaling \$6,360.

NEWS BRIEFS

Angela Graf

News Editor

Commencement schedule

Friday, May 6

3:30 p.m., College of Health Professions

7 p.m., College of Arts and Sciences, College of Pharmacy, and Doctorate in Community College Leadership

Saturday, May 7

9 a.m., College of Business

10:30 a.m., Kendall College of Art and Design (at Fountain Street Church)

12:30 p.m., Michigan College of Optometry, College of Education and Human Services

4 p.m., College of Engineering Technology

Presidential Pancakes

On Monday, May 2, the Student Government Association will be hosting Pancakes with the President in the Rock Café. This is intended as an opportunity for students to get out and take a break from studying, but tutors will be available in the Rock's private dining area to answer questions and provide guidance. Volunteers are still needed for the event and can contact Elaine Kamptner at ext.2504 or kamptnee@ferris.edu if interested.

The Force Awakens

On Saturday, April 30, the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services will be hosting a showing of the movie Star Wars: The Force Awakens in the University Center as a part of Bulldog Weekends.

Ferris State Torch Corrections

Did we make a mistake?
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Corrections can be submitted through email at fsutorcheditor@gmail.com or by calling 231-591-5978

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Bulldogs and Dinosaurs

Ferris hosts alumni jazz band concert

Harley Harrison

Torch Reporter

The stage sparkled as audience members gathered from near and far to witness live jazz music in Williams Auditorium.

On Saturday, April 23, at 8 p.m., the Ferris State University Music Center presented the Jazz Band and Alumni Concert conducted by Matt Moresi and featuring guest director Harry Dempsey.

The Alumni Jazz Dinosaurs kicked off the concert with a large and powerful ensemble. They welcomed back to the stage Harry Dempsey, a retired Ferris band director, who received a standing ovation from the audience and the ensemble in honor of all the work he did for the FSU Jazz Band.

Passion swept across the stage and into the audience as the Alumni Jazz Dinosaurs rocked the auditorium, although not everyone was enthused.

"I came because my music professor said we had to or we'd fail the course," a unanimous stu-

dent admitted. "If I needed another good nap, I would come again."

After a brief intermission, the FSU Jazz Band took the stage. With a formal style, the Jazz Band played a variety of music that ranged from the music you would hear at your favorite classy restaurant to an upbeat shuffle.

"I liked it all," Grand Rapids resident Kristen Carter commented. "I really liked how the alumni played first and then they had the younger kids play."

The director, Matt Moresi, took a moment to thank his Jazz Band seniors and soon-to-be members of the Alumni Jazz Dinosaurs.

"Matt's a really good instructor," Ferris music industry management senior and bass player Jen Leitner said. "It's really easy to learn from him and he's good at conducting, so it's really great to play with him and all the other people in the Jazz Band, too."

Despite the semester nearing an end, the Jazz Band is not done yet. Friday, April 29, at 11 a.m., the FSU Jazz Band will be playing at the Thornapple Arts Jazz Festival in Hastings.

Bulldogs get smart

Ferris hosts Money Smart Week

Harley Harrison
Torch Reporter

At the end of the semester, it's important for students to take study breaks and participating in campus activities is a great way to do it.

This week, Ferris State University is hosting Money Smart Week (MSW) to help students learn how to manage their money. The events include Geocaching, workshops, free personal financial counseling, a giant game of LIFE and lectures.

Students who participate will have a chance to win one of seven \$250 scholarships as well as an entry for a \$1,000 statewide MSW scholarship for students who participate in the Geocaching event.

On Monday, April 25, students started geocaching in the University Center by locating seven posters, scanning the QR codes at the bottom and answering a quiz over money related topics. The quiz must be answered by Saturday, April 30, for scholarship consideration.

Also on Monday, at both 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., students attended a workshop in the UC called, "Twelve Money Mistakes You Can't Afford to Make," as well as free 15-minute counseling sessions from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Ferris biology senior Lisa Raney took attended the week's debut session.

"I came today to learn more about finances so that I'm not in debt in the future and so that I can plan well for the future," said Raney.

Tuesday also brought an event that informed students about how to make car-buying decisions at both 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the UC.

Although the majority of these events have already happened, it's not too late to join. The Geocache event lasts until Saturday, April 30 and on Wednesday, April 27, at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., a giant game of LIFE will be hosted in UC 202.

The last event will be held on Thursday, April 28th, at both 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. in room 203 in the UC. This final event will cover retirement planning and the responsibilities that come with retirement.

For more information about Money Smart Week go to <http://ferris.edu/HTMLS/admission/financialaid/MoneySmart.htm>.



Illustration by: Mikala Pillier | Cartoonist

Backyard bonanza

Students wind down at carnival event

Jonny Parshall
Torch Reporter

Students in the South Quad were treated to music, fun and games the evening of Thursday, April 23, courtesy of the area hall councils.

The Backyard Bonanza, as it was called, was the combined effort of Merrill, Travis, Brophy, McNerney, Miller, Ward and Pickell residence hall councils. The groups planned the event as a way for students to engage and loosen up approaching final exam week.

"It's a great way to relieve stress before getting prepared to hunker down," said Ferris human resource management junior Esad Miftari. "One last hurrah."

Miftari—with friends Edward Price and Austin Trine—proposed the idea to the south campus hall councils and played the role of organizer and director of the Bonanza.

Carnival games such as a ring toss, a duck pond and a ball toss allowed over 200 attending students to test their skills and earn tickets to exchange for prizes.

Ferris undeclared freshman Landon McDaid exchanged his tickets for a light-up ring, a sticky hand and a spin on the "wheel of prizes."

"I feel they're dope," said McDaid in reference

to the games and prizes. "Are you jealous of my sticky hand?"

There were 24 volunteers signing in participants, working booths and running concessions.

"It's a great way to relieve stress before getting prepared to hunker down"

Esad Miftari

Prizes were purchased online with support from the housing department and Residence Hall Association (RHA). Music was provided by Ferris student Nick Robertson AKA DJ Basshead.

"I think it's really awesome," said Ferris marketing junior and prize concierge Justin Feehan. "Everybody has been having fun so far."

No clowns were present for the event.

HOW TO SAVE MONEY:

1. Get rid of your debit card! Spending cash makes it more real. This means you should also cut up your credit card if you can't manage it—don't ever pay interest.
2. Redefine "needs" and "wants."
3. Don't automatically take the maximum for student loans—take 1/2 and force yourself to live on that.
4. Stay away from fast food! This means you need to set up a schedule for cooking - plan ahead. Besides—it's healthier for you.
5. Do not ever use the word "only" when referring to a spending amount. Those "onlys" add up quickly!

HOW TO BUDGET:

1. Write down the amounts you spend and when you spend them (i.e. rent on the 1st of the month)
2. Write down how much money you have in savings to spend or will get paid from your job and when this will happens.
3. Use Excel, or some other spreadsheet, to actually record your budget and update it. You can actually see when/if you won't have enough money.
4. Carefully review how much your spending strayed from your planned spending every week and then update your spending list as needed. Do the same for your money coming in.
5. Don't be afraid to ask for help—budgeting and managing your money is not easy but incredibly important!"
Teresa Cook, Associate Professor of Accountancy, Finance and Information Systems

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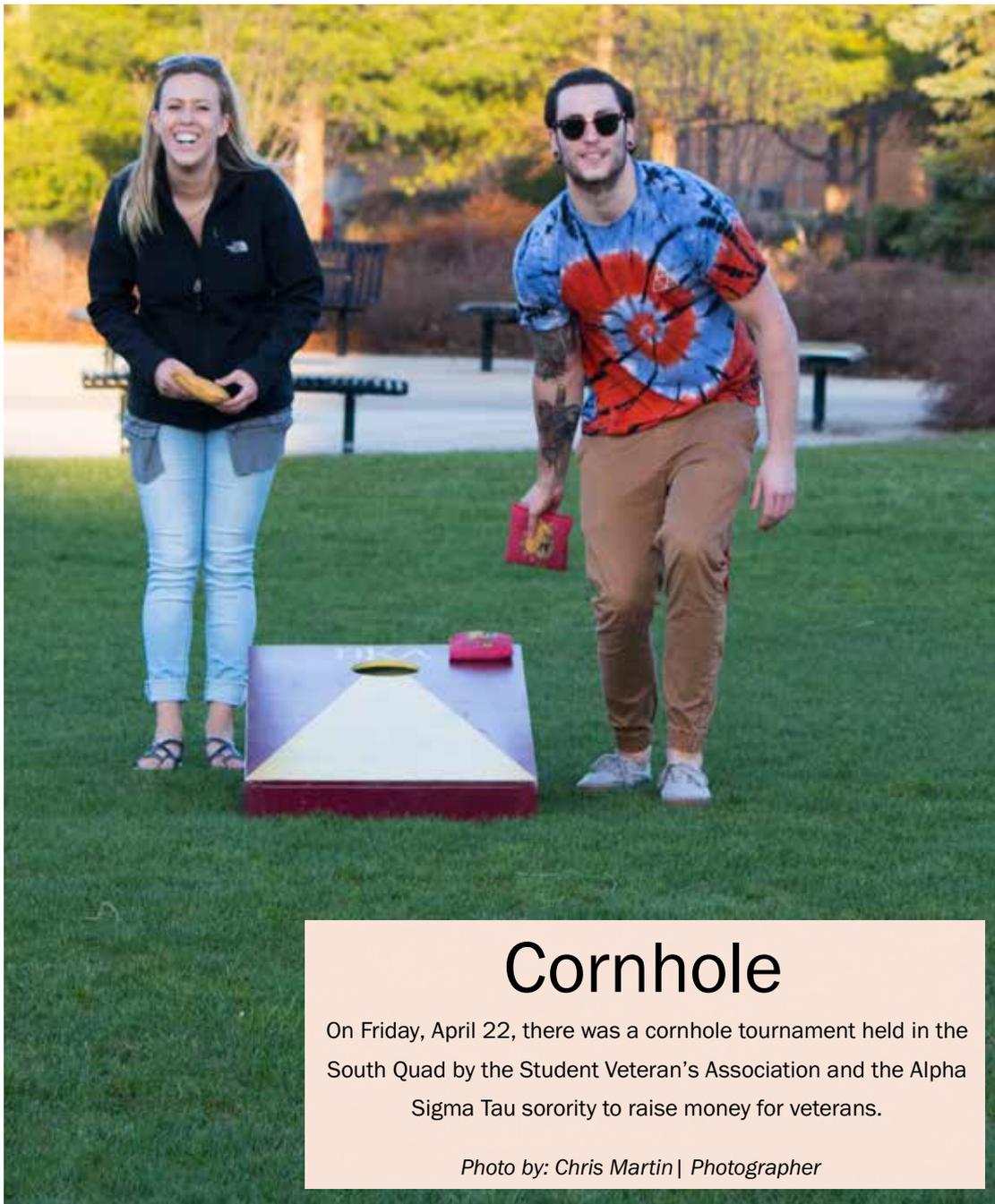
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Cornhole

On Friday, April 22, there was a cornhole tournament held in the South Quad by the Student Veteran's Association and the Alpha Sigma Tau sorority to raise money for veterans.

Photo by: Chris Martin | Photographer



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LIFESTYLES

Hailey Klingel
Lifestyles Editor
klingeh@ferris.edu

“Land a sick trick and all your friends are so stoked about it. Right now we’re just jamming.”
- Gatlin Wright
See below for story



Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Students kick back and enjoy the sunshine and music at Music Takes Action in the Quad on Saturday, April 23.

“It was cool as shit”

Jonny Parshall

Torch Reporter

The weather was warm and the music was loud Saturday, April 23, as Lupe Fiasco, St. Lucia and guests played the Music Takes Action concert festival in Ferris State’s North Quad.

Students and spectators ranged in the low thousands and a large team of volunteers showed up early to erect festival stages, tents and sound equipment for the 2 p.m. event. But it wasn’t all just fun in the sun.

Oh, wait. It totally was.

For some, attending a concert means standing around, facing the stage. Others found creative ways to kick back, enjoy the weather and catch some serious live music.

Some attendees brought their friends. A few brought their kids. Several brought their dogs, despite the no animal policy.

“It’s good socialization for a puppy,” said Ferris accounting freshman Jason Thompson, who brought his German Shepherd Skyler to Music Takes Action. “And to get numbers.”

One spectator even hoisted his dog on his shoulders to get a better view of the stage. Another fan held up a stolen policy sign in ironic mockery in front of the stage.

Lupe Fiasco even pointed out this contradiction.

“Hold up, let me see that sign. Number six: no animals. That’s okay, though. We’ll let that slide,” said Lupe from the stage.

Hammock village is a regular sight on warm days in the quad but on the day of the festival it was in full bloom.

“You can stay here a lot longer as opposed to standing around,” said Ferris CAD drafting and design freshman Hans Lorenz while reclining in his hammock. “You can get a good view if you put it up high enough. I [was] excited to see Lupe.”

Festival goers could be seen whizzing about on rollerblades, throwing Frisbee, hula-hooping, tossing beach balls or gathered around a circle playing Kendama. Kendama?

Kendama is the traditional Japanese game that involves a toy with three cups and a spike for catching an attached ball.

“We play pretty much all the time,” said Ferris medical laboratory science sophomore Gatlin Wright. “It’s all about the atmosphere—with the music, friends.”

The game can be played individually or as a competition, with rules similar to HORSE.

“Land a sick trick and all your friends are so stoked about it. Right now we’re just jamming,” said Wright.

One concern for the festival was the possibility of al-

cohol being brought into the event. Ferris Department of Public Safety (DPS) officers on site claimed smooth sailing with no problems early into the event, but as the day wore on the drinks came out.

Empty beer cans materialized across the campus ground. One young woman arrived with a flask in hand, but did not want to comment. Another young woman vomited in the parking lot—after drinking too much Red’s Apple Ale, according to her friend.

During Lupe Fiasco’s set, DPS officers set about emptying the contents of an attendee’s backpack that included Red’s, Bud Light, Captain Morgan and a glass pipe.

The fan received a verbal warning and loss of the contraband, but no further punishment, much to the relief of his friends.

“The police officers at Ferris are incredible people,” said Central Michigan student David Glowski, a friend of the attendee in violation. “He was a hell of a guy.”

The concert—sponsored by the student finance division, Grand Rapids’ Intersection venue and many local businesses—was a big success, with high turnout and much needed benefit funds raised. But for those whose interest lies not in numbers or dollars, it was a success in other ways. Most notably, the value of fun, friends and having a good time.

“It was cool as shit,” said Ferris alumnus Jordan Love.

Almaree of Arabia

The good and bad of an international student's college experiences

Hailey Klingel

Lifestyles Editor

After five years and four different colleges, Nizar Almaree is graduating.

Almaree, 25, a Ferris product design engineering technology senior, is an international student from Najran, Saudi Arabia.

He came to Ferris in the fall of 2014 after studying at Grand Valley for three years. Before that, he studied English in Irvine, California and at Clemson University, South Carolina. During the summer of 2015, he studied business communication, management and literature review at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Almaree has also had two different internships—one in Washington D.C. and one in Muskegon.

All this experience, though, and Almaree has yet to find a job.

"I've applied to more than 50 companies," Almaree said. "Some just loved my CV, loved my experience, until I get to the level where I have to interview. Some don't realize I'm international and they need a sponsorship for me to be able to work."

According to Almaree, F-1 Optional Practical Training gives international graduates permission to work in the U.S. an extra three years without a sponsorship but many companies don't use it in fear of the difficulties associated with processing international students.

"I have one of the best grades in the class and the professors love me so much and I have diverse experiences, but I still can't find a job, and everyone else in the class has at least two job offers," said Almaree.

Almaree wouldn't mind staying in Michigan but he would love to go somewhere else in the U.S. that's warmer. His dream, however, is to work in Singapore because of the country's workforce diversity. Even though his job search efforts have turned up fruitless, Almaree hasn't lost hope because he would "love to stay" in the U.S.

What Almaree doesn't love about Big Rapids is its lack of a decent movie theater and mall. Also, he said the townspeople aren't too familiar with international stu-

dents at first.

"They get used to just living with each other so it's harder to get to know new people here, but if you prove yourself, you get to know anyone you want," Almaree said. "Adapting to new environments is a skill that will get you many places."

Almaree has only gone home once in the past three years and the decision to come to college in the U.S. was a difficult one.

"You leave your friends and family and you know you can't see them whenever you want to," said Almaree.

Figuring out how the U.S. education system works was also a learning process for Almaree. He took a calculus class and got 100 percent on all the exams because he's always excelled at math. However, he got a B in the class because he didn't know homework was worth such a large portion of the final grade, so he didn't do it because in Saudi Arabia, it's only worth about one percent.

"I have many stories like that," Almaree said. "It was tough sometimes. At the beginning you're so fresh to the language and don't know how to negotiate. You may do more work than anyone else in the class and understand more but don't know how to express it."

Despite his current situation, Almaree has appreciated his time at Ferris.

"It's a very friendly campus," Almaree said. "Everything is in the same location here and it's not a headache to go to class every day. It's a nice city to study in because you don't have a lot of distractions."

Almaree lives at Tioga Apartments and loves waking up to the Muskegon River outside his window.

"The nature here is amazing," said Almaree. "Who could imagine students our age can live on a river and wake up in the morning and watch the river from your bed? This is a privilege only rich people get in some countries. For me, it's a big deal to wake up and see that view because my bedroom used to see different stuff—dry stuff."

Over the last five years, Almaree's acclimated to college life and is sad to be leaving it behind.

"That's what I'm working through right now," Almaree said. "I like college life, but every story comes to an end."



TORCH CONFESSIONS

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

"I'm not a people pleaser"



Jen Corrie
Torch Reporter

I really do try to be a nice person.

If someone needs help and I'm able to help them, I will. Still, the one thing that people ask me to do that drives me absolutely bonkers is when they try to take advantage of my skills or hobbies.

Let me frame the picture for you: my favorite things to do are write, draw and paint. I used to play the piano as well, although I haven't touched my electric keyboard in quite a while. I consider myself to be a creative person, so those things come naturally to me and I enjoy them. However, when you spend your life creating things for fun, more people than you'd expect try to use you to get something they want.

I've had at least 10 people ask me to do a piece of artwork for them in the last

four years. Most of these were projects that I didn't want to do in the first place, but agreed to do because again, I try to be a nice person. So I spent a ridiculous portion of my time and an even more ridiculous amount of my art supplies to create artwork for those people.

Let me just say that good quality art supplies are super expensive. If you thought for one second that my beloved pack of Prismacolor pencils cost the same amount of money as a box of Crayola pencils, I'd laugh

in your face. If that wasn't sad enough, I happened to not only be a people-pleaser back then but also a doormat, because I didn't get paid for most of that work. Lesson learned.

Furthermore, I've had people ask me to "write something" for them at random points in time, just so they could see my writing style. What do they expect me to do, just whip out a sonnet there on the spot? Apparently, that's not an unreasonable thing to ask, in someone's strange mind. I also had friends in grade school who would pester me whenever I was writing a new story to let them read it, and then pester me further until I made them into a character they wanted to be in said story. Good grief.

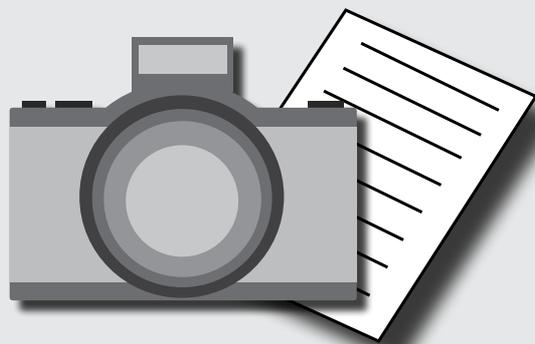
I even had trouble back in high school

when I still played the piano. I fiddled around with songwriting during my sophomore year and one of my friends basically commandeered a song I was writing, claiming that it was about her and her boyfriend and proceeded to oversee my lyric writing and asked if I could record it and burn it onto a CD for her.

Luckily, I haven't been prodded as much lately to do projects for people, and I hope it stays that way. I am flattered that people I know think that the creative work I do is stellar, but I'm drawing the line, not your face. Now, if someone asks me to write a haiku about their tragic love life or paint a portrait of them in impressionist style, I'll smile and say, "Sorry, I'm not interested."

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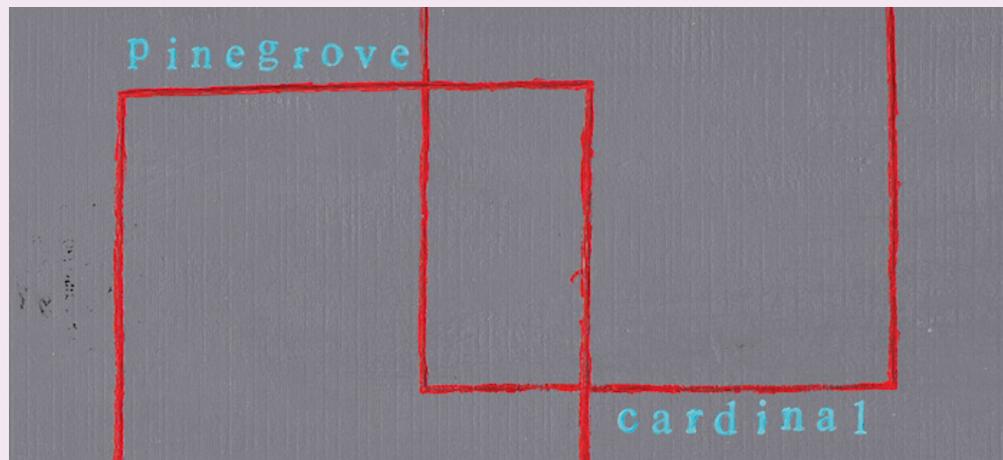


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Media Minute

"Cardinal"



The music world has produced a substantial amount of enjoyable albums so far this year, but one album is beginning to break out a recently unheard of band.

On Feb. 12, 2016, Run For Cover Records released "Cardinal," the debut LP of Montclair, New Jersey indie rock band, Pinegrove.

Pinegrove is fronted by singer, songwriter and guitarist Evan Stephens Hall, the driving force in this album, through his emotional and honest lyrics.

"Cardinal" is a 30-minute, eight-track album. At first listen, "Cardinal" seems not much more than accessible guitar rock songs with a nice singer. After a few in-depth listens, you hear a beautifully crafted album that has elements of indie rock, folk, alt-country, pop and punk, with relatable, heart-wrenching lyrics.

"There's the rootsy shamble of early Wilco, the wiggly solos and general guilelessness of pre-prog Built to Spill," said Ian Cohen in his Pitchfork review of the album. Built to Spill and Wilco are two of the most well-known indie rock bands of the last 20 years.

"Pinegrove does a great job breaking down their influences and piecing them back into something very special, which is a hard task to pull off these days," said Music Industry Management Association (MIMA)



Travis Sacher
Torch Reporter

president and Ferris music industry management junior Jordan McNaughton.

The album opens with the song, "Old Friends," which expresses the feeling of depression in a place where Hall should feel happiness. The line, "My steps keep splitting my grief through these solipsistic moods. I should call my parents when I think of them, should tell my friends when I love them," is too real.

Jumping to the last song, "New Friends," a newly recorded track previously released on a compilation album, is the bright sequel to "Old Friends." "New Friends" discusses Hall's appreciation for his old friends but resolves to make new friends and move forward.

McNaughton said he thinks "Old Friends" and "New Friends" is one of the best opener-closer combos in music history.

I saw Pinegrove live on April 16 in Pittsburgh at Broken World Fest. The band was flat-out amazing. It was an unimaginable experience. Fans were singing, screaming,

dancing, laughing and crying. Hall's stage presence is that of a rock star. My favorite song of the show was "Waveform." As the song progressed, Hall projected his lyrics charmingly and serenaded the crowd in the way he swayed his hips back and forth behind his guitar.

Ferris music industry management junior Mike McPherson watched Pinegrove headline a basement show at Western Michigan University last Halloween. McPherson, a songwriter and guitarist himself, said that was his first time ever hearing the band and noted that they absolutely killed the show. McPherson immediately took influence from Hall in his own songwriting.

"His poignant lyrics resonate on how I feel growing up as they are very easy to relate to," said McPherson. "When you listen to their music it sounds completely new to your ears, but at the same time nostalgic."

"Cardinal" will take more than a couple listens to really hear its full effect. The complexity shows itself more with each listen. It's the type of music that seems ageless. It's an album that incorporates attributes of rock, pop, punk and country music. "Cardinal" may not be groundbreaking, but it is definitely something special.

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SPORTS

Marshall Scheldt
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“Just as quick as my junior season began, it ended.”
- Simon Denis
See below for story



The journey of a Bulldog

Photo by: Rebecca Snow | Photographer

After playing in the National Championship in his first season, Ferris State defenseman Simon Denis and the rest of Ferris State hockey put the Bulldogs on the map in the eyes of the college hockey world.

Ferris hockey senior Simon Denis weighs in on his three-year career

Simon Denis

Guest Writer

Five years. It may be hard to believe, but five years has gone by incredibly fast. I can still remember my official visit to campus back in November of 2010 like it was yesterday—getting to meet some of the players, the coaching staff including head coach Bob Daniels, some members of the faculty, all individuals that I would soon come to know extremely well. I still remember the feeling I had when Coach Daniels asked if I would accept their offer to become a Ferris State Bulldog. All the years of hard work had finally paid off, and I was on cloud nine. In the moment, all I could think was that I did it, I reached my goal of being recruited to a hockey team at the Div. 1 level, and I was ready to start my journey. The crazy part is looking back on it now, I would never have imagined the next five years going how they did.

Little ole Ferris State University—ranked as the No. 1 team in college hockey. Ferris State—winning the CCHA regular season championship over the likes of Michigan, Notre Dame, Ohio State and Michigan State. Ferris State—winning the Midwest Regional over powerhouses Denver and Cornell. Ferris State—making it to the National Championship. Are you kidding me? I 100 percent guarantee that if you were to tell any person in the hockey world that statement, outside of the Bulldog faithful, they would think you lost a bet.

Safe to say my first year as a member of this team went just about as well as I could have ever asked for, I mean,

other than winning the National Championship. Through my first two years as a Bulldog, we as a team helped grow and put this team in the national college hockey spotlight. We weren't just another team on the schedule, a group in the middle of the pack. We were now the Ferris State Bulldogs, a team competing for a championship every single year.

Just as quick as my junior season began, it ended. Nov. 1, 2013—the night that changed my outlook on hockey and life.

As I went back to the corner to retrieve a dump in from the Alabama Huntsville Charger player, I had an awkward run in with the Huntsville fore checker, went into the corner awkwardly while the opposing player landed on top of my head and caused my body to fold. I lay on the ice motionless for minutes, and all I knew was my neck hurt really, really bad. I still remember it all, from getting put into a spinal collar, to getting strapped into the stretcher, to asking our team trainer Tim Glover if I could maybe play in a few weeks. Little did I, or anyone, know how bad it truly was.

I remember the doctor coming into my hospital room at around 5 a.m., about nine hours after I had been injured and taken there. After numerous X-rays, MRIs and other medical examinations that I didn't even know the name of, he told me the news that I never thought I'd hear in my life: “It's a miracle that you're not paralyzed.” Wait, what? Nine hours ago I was playing the game I love, with the teammates that I call brothers, and now I'm laying in a hospital bed, teary eyed, counting my blessings that I can

actually still feel my entire body. I was shell shocked.

I had severely injured my fifth and sixth cervical vertebrae in my neck, an injury that would have me wear a neck brace for the next four months, and yes, it sucked. I had surgery on Jan. 2, 2014, placing two screws, a plate and a cadaver bone between the two vertebrae to fuse them together and allow the bone to grow into one large vertebrae. Long story short, I was cleared to play, with full contact in July of 2014, nine months after I suffered my injury. If you were wondering, excited would be the understatement of the century.

Oct. 4th, 2014, Big Rapids, Mich. The Michigan Wolverines had come to town for the season opener, with the Dawg Pound rocking and the Ewingleben Ice Arena as loud as I've ever heard it. We defeated the Wolverines 4-3, and everyone was feeling very good about the win. For me, I was relieved. I did it. I was able to play hockey again. The 14-15 season had its ups and downs, for the team and me. I had issues with my neck, but nothing compared to what I went through the year before. As much as I hate to admit it, I wasn't playing like the player I was before; I never felt comfortable the entire season. And I felt that way up until this year.

Senior year was upon me; I felt good, ready to play the way I knew I could and I was beyond excited to start. Right from the beginning of training, the upperclassmen had a good feeling about this team. There was just something about our team that had us confident. We had the right group of character, the drive to

succeed and a group that would do everything it took to win. Even though the regular season had its ups and downs, the feeling we had about this time came into action when the playoffs rolled around.

In college hockey, with there being so few games, all you need to do is get hot at the right time in order to be successful.

Then came a sweep at home of Northern Michigan in round one, beating WCHA Regular Season Co-Champs Michigan Tech & Minnesota State in the semis and the finals and just like that we were champions. The first playoff championship in Ferris hockey, and I'm extremely proud to say I was a part of it.

We were headed to our third NCAA tournament in five years and once again as an underdog. We beat St. Cloud 5-4 in OT, a team we had “no business” competing against, but once again just as Ferris does, we accepted our underdog role, and we did what we always do—compete. Although we fell short in the Elite Eight against Denver, I was so proud of every single one of our guys and all that we had given throughout the year.

Coming to Ferris State was the best decision I have ever made, and I truly have had the best five years of my life. Three championships, three NCAA tournament births, a national finalist. Five years may have gone by quick, but man was the ride ever fun. So long Ferris State, it's been great.

Go Bulldogs,
Simon Denis



Top Dawg

Photo by: Katie Tobak | Photographer

Mark Hansen

Torch Reporter

Ferris State athletics had a pretty impressive week, making it hard to choose just one athlete that stood out above the rest. However, one athlete that deserves to be acknowledged on his impressive season is men's tennis sophomore Simon Levy.

Levy, a Kingston, Jamaica native, is on the men's tennis team and is playing No. 6 singles. This is his first year being in the lineup, playing only in exhibition games last year. After a summer of training and working on his technique, Levy got into the lineup.

Levy is now on pace to break one of the best records at Ferris—most wins in a season.

Paul Marcum set the original record at No. 1 singles with 31 wins. Levy is sitting at 27 wins and he has a chance to break the record if the team makes it to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament.

Levy also helped the Bulldogs win the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Conference (GLIAC) regular championship back to back as the Bulldogs clinched over Tiffin on Sunday, April 24, in an 8-1 victory. He won his match against Tiffin 6-3, 6-0 and topped Heitor Adegas 6-1, 6-1 against Walsh on Saturday, April 23.

Sports Shorts

Beau Jensen

Torch Reporter

Hockey brings in two recruits

The Ferris State hockey program continues to reinforce their strong future as two young men have signed national letters of intent to play for the Dawgs.

Justin Kapelmaster is a goalie, originally from Coral Springs, Fla., and Dominic Lutz is a forward from Livonia, Mich. Kapelmaster currently plays for Wichita Falls of the NAHL and gathered an impressive record of 38-8-2-1 in his time with the Wildcats. Associate head coach Drew Famulak stated in his scouting report that Kapelmaster has an eye for gathering loose pucks and has the ability to compete at a high level.

Michigan's own Dominic Lutz currently plays for Topeka of the NAHL. He was the team's leading scorer, knocking in 26 goals with 24 assists in the 2015-2016 regular season. Lutz earned the "Mr. Hockey" title in the state of Michigan during his high school career.

The Dawgs won their first WCHA Championship during the 2015-2016 season and made it all the way to the final eight.

Men's golf continues streak

The Ferris State men's golf program has cashed their ticket into the NCAA Tournament for the 14th consecutive time.

The No. 7 seed Bulldogs received their unofficial bid to play in the 2016 Midwest/Central Super Regional hosted by Grand Valley State University in Allendale at The Meadows Golf Course from May 2-4. Twenty total teams from the Midwest Region and Central Region will battle it out for a position in the top five.

The top five teams will then advance to the NCAA Div. 2 National Championship, taking place at Green Valley Ranch in Denver, Colo., from May 17-21. Last year the Dawgs came up short in the Super Regional, taking 16th place overall. Five total GLIAC teams are entering the 2016 Midwest/Central Super Regional.

Ferris State golf has one of the longest running streaks of NCAA Championship appearances in the country, but they will have their chance to make it to the next level come May 2.

Women's golf season comes to a close

The Bulldog women finished play in the GLIAC Tournament on Sunday, Apr. 24, taking fifth place with a total score of 981.

The women did not make the cut for the NCAA Women's Super Regional, bringing their 2016 season to an end.

The team will graduate two seniors after this season, in Libby Berens and Kathleen Koomen.



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Tourney Time

Ferris softball heading to GLIAC tournament

Cody Burkhard
Torch Reporter

Ferris State softball is riding a nine-game winning streak into the GLIAC Tournament after a home sweep this past weekend.

The Bulldogs took down Walsh, Malone and Findlay in double-headers on Friday, Saturday and Sunday respectively, outscoring opponents 52-17.

"Right now we're on a high and that's what we want going into the GLIAC Tournament," assistant coach Jasmine Watson said.

This streak has put the Bulldogs fourth in the conference and provided a wave of momentum as they head into the tournament.

At this time last year, the Bulldogs' season was over and Ferris was on the lookout for a new head coach. The man that took the position this offseason was former Div. 1 head coach Wally King. Many of his players give him the utmost credit for the position they are in.

"Coach King has been awesome and I feel that he's had a lot to do with our success in how he instructs us," sophomore outfielder Alex Astorga said.

King has inspired his girls to play together like they had not in the past and stifled doubt that infected the Bulldogs in the past.

"We get along as a team so much better. We play for each other a lot. Some of the upperclassmen are sick of what has been happening in the past," sophomore infielder Lexee Summers said,

Ferris has gone from 16-36 last year to 34-16 this season. With the conference tournament approaching, all past mediocrity will be left behind as the Bulldogs look to go from

bottom feeders to champions.

Watson sees No. 3 seed Hillsdale and No. 1 seed Wayne State as the toughest opponents in the tournament.

"Those two right now are definitely leading with their pitching. They're the strongest we'll see in the GLIAC," Watson said.

These two teams have had dominant pitching according to the eye and by the numbers. Wayne State and Hillsdale are first and third respectively in the conference in runs allowed and ERA. Wayne State has allowed 211 runs with a 1.23 ERA while Hillsdale has allowed 247 runs with a 2.15 ERA.

Yet regular season stats will not matter when the Bulldogs take on the Ashland Eagles in the first round of the GLIAC Tournament. Ferris took down the Eagles in Ashland on March 26, winning both games by score of 5-2 and 7-4.

Ashland has some firepower, placing just behind Ferris in the GLIAC at third in the same hitting categories. However, the Eagles have had some of the worst pitching in the GLIAC with a 3.53 ERA.

The first round game starts at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, April 27, in Findlay, Ohio.

SOFTBALL REGULAR SEASON STATS

Overall record:	34-16
GLIAC record:	19-7
Consecutive wins:	9
Earned run average:	2.65
Runs:	277
Hits:	434
Batting average:	.305



Photo by: Rebecca Snow | Photographer

Ferris State sophomore pitcher Sam Bates slides into home plate in a home win against Northwood last week.



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Back to Big Rapids

Track & Field GLIAC Championship coming to Ferris

Mark Hansen

Torch Reporter

The Ferris State track and field teams are getting ready for one of the biggest meets of the year, the outdoor Great Lakes Intercollegiate Conference (GLIAC) Championship. This meet is not only big because of the conference implications, it is also huge because it is being hosted by the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs haven't had any home meets this season because earlier this year The Bulldog Open was canceled due to inclement weather. This isn't big just to the team, but it means a lot to senior Damonta Madden.

"We don't have a lot of track support at our school as it is. We don't have like an indoor track or anything like that, fancy equipment. So it's very very interesting because we get to host it, we got a lot of new stuff, we got a lot of money from the GLIAC and other schools are going to pay for a lot of stuff for us," Madden said.

Madden is working on sprints as his only event in the outdoor GLIAC Tournament Championship.

"It's very exciting because we finally have a home track meet, a lot of people and a lot of competition," said Madden. "It's senior year; it's go big or go home."

Junior Hunter Redman is also excited to finally have a home meet and have other Bulldogs come out and support.

"I think it is great to finally have a home meet for the Bulldogs. It's a great chance for Ferris to support the track team in their absence of home meets for roughly a three-year span. It's good to get a new track and break it in for the outdoor GLIAC championship," Redman said.

The Bulldogs haven't had a track championship on the men's team since 1991. After finishing in 11th place in the indoor championship, the Bulldogs will be looking to come out strong and prove they deserve to be hosting this event.

The women's team also hasn't had a championship in over 36 years according to the Ferris state athletics records that date back to 1980. The women's team finished in 14th place in the indoor championship and tied with Lake Superior State.

The Bulldogs will be looking to knock off rival Grand Valley as they have won the past two years in both the men's and women's.

"Grand Valley has been a tough contender for us every year. With the resources they have, along with opportunities to compete at big meets, it's hard but we can still pull out first place positions, like Logan Hammer, who has done a good job in the distance events this outdoor season. Also, Tiffin has been a tough team with some runners who are running national qualifying times," Redman said.

The GLIAC Championships take place at Top Taggart Field on Wednesday, May 4, through Friday, May 6, with the first event is set to start at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Another one



Photo courtesy of FSU Photo Services

Ferris State junior Alex Brown eyes down the ball before hitting a backhand in a home match earlier this season.

Beau Jensen

Torch Reporter

The Ferris State men's tennis team is Midland bound this weekend for the GLIAC Tournament.

The Dawgs won the GLIAC Championship for the second straight year after an 8-1 victory over Walsh last Saturday, April 23, at the Racquet and Fitness Center in Big Rapids. The team sealed the GLIAC title outright the next day, beating Tiffin 8-1.

Alex Brown is a junior for the men's tennis squad and believes his team has what it takes to bring another championship back to Big Rapids.

"For us, we have the talent to win the tournament, it is just about keeping our heads on straight and not taking any matches for granted," Brown said. "I think a lot of the guys are super excited to have the opportunity to win the GLIAC title, especially because most of the guys on this year's team were not on the team last year."

Last year, Ferris State tennis won the league outright for the first time since 1994. The Dawgs are currently ranked 36th nationally and Brown said that he thinks winning the league along with another possible GLIAC Tournament win could really elevate Ferris as the Div. 2 destination.

"This is a huge year for Ferris athletics, all around our sports were some of the best in the nation,"

Brown said. "Winning all of these GLIAC Championships in multiple sports puts Ferris on the map as a Div. 2 school for athletes that want to be a part of winning programs. That not only benefits my team, but the athletics program as a whole."

Brown may be right, as numerous Bulldog athletic teams won their league or tournament over the 2015-2016 athletic season. Men's basketball won the GLIAC Tournament, volleyball ran away with the league title and won their GLIAC Tourney and football won the GLIAC as well.

Ferris is currently sitting at the top of the conference with a perfect 9-0 record against GLIAC opponents. Friday's first round of the tournament will see No. 3 seed Wayne State take on No. 6 seed Walsh in match one. In match two, the No. 4 seed Tiffin will go up against the No. 5 seed Northwood.

Ferris State has clinched the No. 1 seed and have received a first round bye. The Dawgs will see action against the winner of the match-up between Tiffin and Northwood.

The tournament will take place at the Greater Midland Tennis Center in Midland, Mich. Matches start on Friday, April 29, at 6:45 p.m., and will wrap up with the championship contest on Sunday, May 1, starting at 8:15 a.m.

Ferris plays their first match on Saturday, April 30, at 3:45 p.m.

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"I saw trash, beer cans, furniture, a bike, a tire rim and broken bottles littering the courtyard of my home."
- Marshall Scheldt
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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Chat with the chief

Editor in Chief, Keith Salowich

Shhhh! Listen closely. Do you hear that? No, I'm not referring to the birds singing or the students on the quad enjoying the warm spring air. I'm talking about the passionate and obnoxious moans of vigorous intercourse coming from the other side of the bricks of my residence hall wall.

I have no issue with consensual sex between two adults. Seriously, high-five to both of them for finding each other. Though when it's a nightly occurrence taking place about 18 inches from my head at 3 a.m. while I'm trying to sleep, it becomes a nuisance.

Lying awake at night until the two lovers have exhausted themselves leaves me to wonder: how much am I paying to share this wall?

One academic year in a residence hall room without a roommate will run a tab of \$7,214 or \$801 per month. The rooms vary slightly by

Get me the hell out of here

How it feels to be a graduating senior

When our adviser at the Torch told me I should stay away from "sappy, yearbook-style" writing for this piece, I literally thought to myself, "That's just not possible for me. I have so much love for Ferris and so many sentimental things to say." And truthfully, I was going to write a sappy article anyway.

Yes, this was originally going to be an article about how sad I am to leave Ferris and how grateful I am for my time here. But now—while I am certain that I'm sad and grateful somewhere deep down—at this exact moment, I feel absolutely nothing of the sort. Rather than blow a bunch of smoke up your ass in regard to how much I've learned, how happy I am and how excited I am to start the next chapter in my life, I'm just going to be honest.

I would pay big money for all of this to end right now. If I could bribe someone to give me that stupid, overpriced piece of paper that implies I know shit so I can get a job, I would. But of course, I have no money to bribe them with.

Two months ago, the thought of leaving Ferris instantly brought tears to my eyes. This was my home, my favorite place in the world. Now, with two weeks to go, the thought of how much emotional distress this semester has caused me is what makes me cry. I have never felt so stressed out. I've never had so much shit hit me at once—not just academically but personally as well. I want to quit. Thank god it's almost over. Thank god.

I am burned out on discouraging professors, meaningless assignments and the constant depletion of my bank account. I work two jobs, and it's still not enough to fund the drinking habit that I



Kira Poncin
Managing Copy
Editor

have grown to depend on to survive this soul-sucking semester.

My advice to those of you who are going to be seniors next year is this: don't wait to do it. Do the projects, papers and presentations as soon as you can. Find the balance between the need to get hammered and the need to get shit done. It's not about your ability; it's about time management. The senioritis is real. Doing things earlier won't save you, but it'll help.

When I walk across the stage and shake President Eisler's hand on May 6, I know there will be tears in my eyes. Not because I'm sad to leave, not because I'm filled with nostalgia and gratitude, but because this whirlwind of stress and anxiety will be over and I will finally, finally be able to return to my usual cheerful yet sassy self. You know, until I have to start repaying my loans. Welcome to adulthood.

I know that with a little distance, I will eventually be grateful for all I've learned and experienced here at Ferris. These experiences have undeniably shaped who I am. I'm sure I'll even be grateful for the primarily horrid experience that this last semester has been. But until then, I give this semester two big middle fingers and a D-Generation X style "SUCK IT."

Is it worth it?

Weighing the pros and cons of Music Takes Action

I am a firm believer in always weighing the good versus the bad when making a decision. For instance, sure, Schubergs is tasty but I could save money by making a sandwich. So applying that logic to Music Takes Action, I am trying to get into the heads of the people who plan it.

First off, Music Takes Action is not an easy thing to pull off. Getting the artist, planning security,

See *Music Takes Action* on page 15



Kip Biby
Opinions Editor

How much bang for the buck?

question.

A silver meal plan costs \$4,308 for one academic year of unlimited meals at The Rock Café or The Quad Café and four guest passes. This breaks down to about \$16 per day and \$5.32 per meal if one eats three meals at a university dining facility daily.

That's like ordering fast food for every meal seven days a week for over 10 months straight. Admittedly, it's not as nutritionally damning, but it's still just as harmful to the wallet as that nightmare scenario.

It is not cheap to live on campus. There are some scholarships to fight the cost, but don't let the perceived convenience cloud your vision. Living on campus and holding the key to a pair of endless buffets comes with a steep cost, and there are cheaper options.

This also calls the cost of dining plans into

Managing Copy Editor
Kira Poncin

Copy Editor
Jasmine Nettles

Office Manager
Andrea Lenhart

Community Engagement
Caroline Cousineau

Distributor
Nick Vander Wulp

Adviser
Steve Fox
(231) 591 2529

»»» **Music Takes Action** from page 14
The good and bad of Music Takes Action

set up and all the things that go into a concert is probably pretty daunting. Next, you have to worry about the money. Lupe Fiasco is awesome, but geez-louise getting him had to have been pricey. And paying staff for setup, security and other expenses adds up.

Safety is another huge concern. I do not think it is the responsibility of the school if someone decides to drink during Music Takes Action and walks in front of a car. That being said, obviously people are going to make poor choices over the course of the fest's weekend. So that's another negative, giving students the excuse to act stupid. For example, while driving by Oakwood at around 6 p.m., I saw a person who had been pulled over puke out the door. Puking in front of the cops is basically an admission of guilt. Tell them you have the flu, I guess.

Alright, now you're probably thinking I'm a Negative Nancy. But there are some definite pros to having Music Takes Action.

Right off the bat, music industry management (MIM) students get some great experience. Going into music industry management is a risk—these jobs are tough to get. But Music Takes Action offers students in this program the priceless opportunity to flex their music muscles. What better industry experience than hosting a Lupe concert?

Next, Music Takes Action is a great time. This year, I did not have the opportunity to partake in the festivities to the level I would have liked to because of work, but I did spend a little bit of time at Oakwood during the day. There is nothing wrong with a little bit of fun. Oakwood was poppin', as it usually is during Music Takes Action and for the most part people were just having a few drinks and hanging out with their friends.

Lastly, Music Takes Action is an investment in our school's future. When taking high school seniors on a tour of the school, pointing at the quad and saying, "This is where nothing happens," is not a great sell. We want people to be excited to attend our school. If we cut out fun events like Music Takes Action, we are no better than Hope College, home of the, "I guess we'll just go to IHOP again," Friday night routine.

All in all, Music Takes Action's pros outweigh the cons. Sure, we see an uptick in MIPs and some people use the day as an excuse to get drunk. And sure, we have to pay a king's ransom to get fantastic artists like Lupe Fiasco. But you have to put something in to get something out and in this case, the returns are worth it.

Oh behave, baby

Being a respectful party-goer at Music Takes Action

On Sunday morning, I woke up and looked out of my window at Oakwood Townhouses to see what the damage was after the annual party during Music Takes Action, formerly known as Ferris Fest.

I saw trash, beer cans, furniture, a bike, a tire rim and broken bottles littering the courtyard of my home. Having lived at Oakwood for three years now, I was not a bit surprised at the scene that laid before me.

In the words of every parent of all time, I wasn't mad. I was just disappointed.

Why is it that a bunch of drunk college students think that the earth is their trashcan? Oakwood has multiple dumpsters and even had 12 trashcans set up for life-sized beer pong that could also be used as garbage receptacles. Add that to the amount of trashcans in the 52 apartments surrounding the courtyard and you've got enough space



Marshall Scheldt
Sports Editor

to throw away anything one might need to get rid of.

Instead of doing that though, people decided to just drop their trash in the yard, break their bottles on the basketball court and carry on with their festivities.

Why is it so hard to walk over to a trash can and throw away your empty Solo cup or put your beer bottle in a bag to be recycled later? Why can't we respect the ground we walk on and respect those who live at Oakwood and were nice enough to invite us into their apartments?

On Saturday, I was walking across the basketball court at Oakwood when I

saw two recklessly thrown bottles break within 10 feet of me and even closer to others. Within that same hour, a woman threw a bottle off a sewer cover attempting to break it, but it bounced straight at my head. Luckily, I was able to stop the bottle with my hands before it hit me in the mouth.

I saw a post on Twitter that advised people not to bring dogs to Oakwood during the party because of all the broken glass, accompanied with a photo of a dog's paw cut open badly by said glass. Fuckin' DOGS, man! If we can't coexist with dogs, then I have lost all hope.

I'm not saying don't have fun and rage your faces off, I'm just saying try to respect the surrounding space and the surrounding people and most importantly, the surrounding canines while you're having the time of your life.

Oh, and wear sunscreen. I look like a tomato.



Photo courtesy of Justin Macauley

Oakwood turned up hard this weekend, leaving the apartment complex littered with broken glass and smashed cans, among other garbage.

10 WAYS TO NOT BE AN IDIOT AT OAKWOOD DURING MUSIC TAKES ACTION/FERRIS FEST

- 1) Throw your shit away.
- 2) Don't break bottles & shit.
- 3) Don't steal shit.
- 4) Don't burn shit.
- 5) Go see the musicians. They're good.
- 6) Don't get too drunk.
- 7) Be nice to the police.
- 8) Be nice to everyone.
- 9) Meet new people.
- 10) Have fun.

The end of the year distinguishes the big dogs from the pups:



in cramming...



in stress...



in bars...



...but all are Bulldogs.

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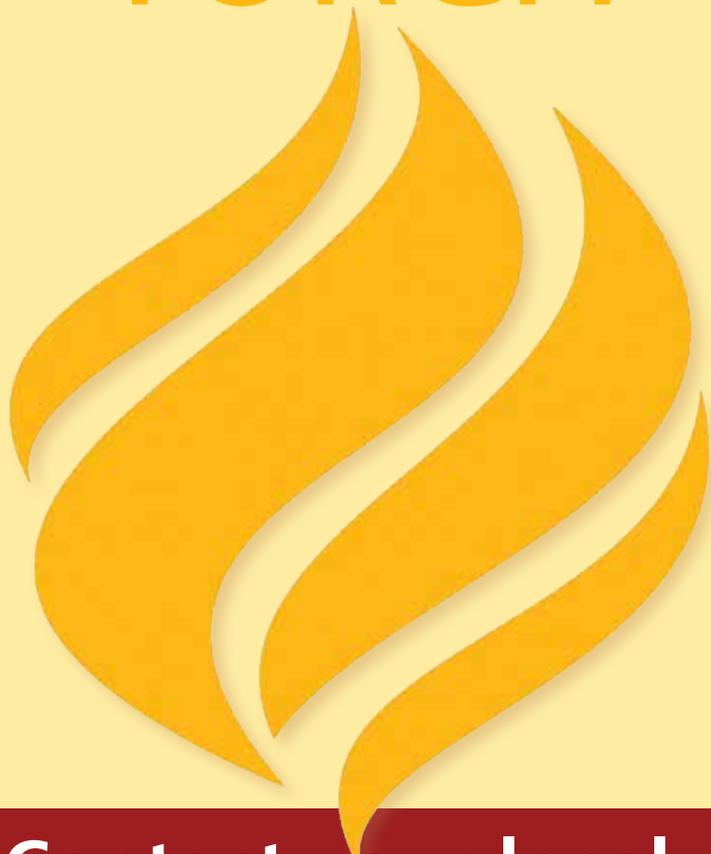
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Life in the bullpen
Ferris junior pitcher Megan Hiler writes from the mound

Ferris junior pitcher Megan Hiler warms up in the bullpen before a game in the 2015 season. Photo courtesy of Justin West

Megan Hiler
Torch Reporter

The first time I threw a pitch in a game was 10 years old and I played for the Green Gators. I remember we were getting 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 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 some of the most stressful, yet rewarding positions in softball and baseball. I have always had a hard time dealing with the blame. When your team loses, 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 saying "Coach I have ever had, Delroy Dock, He is 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 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 down. I could hear Coach Dock screaming at me from the dugout to throw her out, but I tried to stand up the count. Coach then comes in and says to me, "Hiler! Are you okay?" "Yeah, coach, I just need a minute," I said, the tough coach I was. Then, I kid you not, yells to me, "Well god damnit, Hiler! If you didn't throw it there, that wouldn't happen!" I wiped my tears away, flashed the thumbs-

"Legs" and "Meg11," to "Scrawny," "Sticks" or "Little Meggy Hiler." But probably the most 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 of Hall of Fame football coaches that coached 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 in Southwest Michigan. And boy, did he have some good one-liners.

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

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