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ONTO THE NEXT ONE

Ferris football advances to NCAA semifinals

Photo by: Keith Salowich | Editor in Chief

Ferris State football has advanced to the semifinals of the NCAA Div. 2 Playoffs for just the second time in program history, with their first appearance occurring in 1995.

Cody Burkhard
Torch Reporter

The Bulldogs have moved on to the national semifinals and brought back the Anchor-Bone Trophy after defeating formerly unbeaten rival Grand Valley State Saturday, Dec. 3.

The Bulldogs are one win away from the national championship game after beating the Lakers, who put the Dawgs playoff hopes in doubt in week six of the season by giving them their second loss of the regular season.

The Bulldogs defeated Ohio Dominican

41-0 in their home season opener and won their next two games against Michigan Tech and Northwood by a total of three points before losing to Ashland at home 39-31 Saturday, Sep. 24. This loss snapped a 28-game regular season winning streak dating back to 2014.

Following the Ashland game, the Dawgs squeezed by Findlay 20-17 before facing Grand Valley on the road Saturday, Oct. 8. The Lakers took home the Anchor-Bone Trophy with a 35-23 victory.

Head coach Tony Annese knew his team was not heading in the right direction.

"I think we could have been one and five," Annese said. "Last time we were here, we were lucky to beat some teams and we weren't a good football team."

After the Grand Valley loss, a switch flipped for Ferris as the crimson and gold ended the regular season with five straight victories with an average score of 44-18. That surge earned the Bulldogs the No. 2 seed in Super Region IV behind No. 1 seed Grand Valley.

As if destiny made it so, the Dawgs and the Lakers met each other at the end of the bracket. This time the roles were reversed as the Lakers failed a late comeback attempt.

Back in week six, the Bulldogs had an opportunity to make it a one possession game with the ball on the goal line. However, senior quarterback Trevor Birmingham fumbled the ball, giving the ball to the Lakers to run out the clock.

This time around, the Lakers fumbled the ball twice in the fourth quarter and failed to convert an onside kick after cutting the lead to eight. The onside kick was fielded by junior defensive back KC Zenner and returned for a touchdown.

"A change of quarterback offensively and

Semifinals | see page 11

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NEWS

"I think Ferris tries to be diverse, but it's not," - Anonymous
See below for story

Angela Graf | News Editor | grafa1@ferris.edu

It's time to say goodbye Merrill and Travis residence halls to be demolished

Harley Harrison
Torch Reporter



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

Merrill/Travis Hall, established the year 1960, is set for demolition the summer of 2017 in an effort to update student housing across campus.

Residents of Merrill and Travis halls received an email last week from the Office of Housing and Residence Life announcing that the halls will be going offline at the start of the 2017-18 school year.

"As part of this commitment, the University continues its work to improve on-campus housing options. We encourage you to visit ferris.edu/housing to view a variety of on-campus living options that are available to you, which include: halls, suites and apartments," read the email sent to current Merrill/Travis residents.

It's not unusual for the residence halls at Ferris to become more than a place to sleep for many students.

"The student staff of Merrill/Travis didn't take the news very well either. Many of them were either frustrated or sad that Merrill/Travis is coming down. I don't want to see Mer-

rill/Travis come down. It's a home to many of us," said Ferris graphic design sophomore and Desk Services Assistant (DSA) Morgan Dodson. "I started crying when I heard the news that Merrill/Travis was being torn down. This would be my second year living in the hall, so I've called it my home."

According to Dodson, the halls typically house freshmen and a few sophomores, which the new residence hall being constructed on north campus will also serve to do.

"Merrill/Travis is closing because it's part of a restoration project that plans on taking

down other older halls across campus," Dodson said. "We are just the first hall of many. That's also why the new hall is being built in North Quad and why tuition rates went up this year."

Ferris respiratory care sophomore and Resident Advisor (RA) at Merrill/Travis Dymond snow reported that a lot of students planned on returning or moving back to the halls next year.

"No. I don't see why it's closing at all. I feel like there are other options instead of closing MT," Snow said. "The news breaks my heart. I'm an RA in MT and this building has taught

me so many things and houses memories, lessons and residents."

Many students don't feel that it's necessary to close down the halls, which has one of the largest capacities on campus, according to Dodson.

"If something isn't broken, don't fix it," Dodson said.

"The diversity of the hall is what makes it so unique. There are so many different types of people who live in such a big hall. It's awesome to see what a difference Merrill/Travis makes in students and their lives on campus."

A veil of anonymity

Students express how they really feel about diversity at Ferris

Andrea Lenhart
Torch Reporter

Ferris students attended an event to anonymously talk about stereotypes and expressed their feelings in a safe place.

Students gathered in a room and walked around randomly. While the lights were on, a question was read. After the question was asked, the lights were turned off and the students stopped walking. Students then were able to express themselves freely knowing that their answers were anonymous.

"I came out tonight because I wanted to support NAACP because it's important and we are always trying to push

diversity and unification," said Ferris business data analytic junior Chrissy Melton-Davis. "We can't push diversity if we don't come out to these events."

"I went to the Blackout event because I wanted to hear other people's opinions about current topics and social issues," said Ferris history junior Shana Kirby.

Ferris healthcare system administration and respiratory care junior Imani Meeks came to the event so the campus could be more unified.

"It was a place for us to speak our mind and to say things without being judged and that is why I wanted to come," Meeks said.

The event was held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, in the IRC.

"I THINK FERRIS TRIES TO BE DIVERSE, BUT IT'S NOT."

"PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO GO TO A BLACK ORGANIZATION'S EVENT BECAUSE OF STEREOTYPES AND THAT MAKES IT HARD TO BE DIVERSE."

"WHITE PEOPLE AREN'T USED TO BEING THE MINORITY. WHEN THEY GO TO CLASS, THEY ARE SURROUNDED BY WHITE PEOPLE. BUT IF THEY GO TO A BLACK ORGANIZATION'S EVENT, THEY ARE THE MINORITY AND IT MIGHT MAKE THEM FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE."

- ON THE RECORD -

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

By Angela Graf - News Editor

High for the holidays

Nov. 16, 9:40 p.m. officers responded to a report of marijuana in Lot 4. Two students were identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct and one of the two was ticketed.

Past expiration

Nov. 17, 3 p.m. a vehicle was stopped on State Street for expired plates. The driver was ticketed.

Round 1, fight

Nov. 17, 9:30 p.m. officers assisted in resolving a roommate dispute in McNerney Hall. The incident was ultimately handled by housing and both students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Bye Felicia

Nov. 18, 2 p.m. officers responded to a hit and run accident in Lot 20.

Round 2, fight

Nov. 18, 4:25 p.m. officers assisted in resolving a roommate dispute in McNerney Hall. The incident was ultimately handled by housing and both students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Drunk as a skunk

Nov. 19, 12:10 a.m. officers observed a disorderly subject wandering on State Street, north of Ferris Drive. The individual was identified and issued an MIP.

Highly intoxicated

Nov. 19, 3:30 a.m. officers responded to a complaint of intoxicated individuals outside Clark Hall. Two students were identified, issued MIPs and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Smash and dash

Nov. 19, 5:20 p.m. officers responded to a hit and run accident in Lot 47.

Shouting match

Nov. 19, 8:55 p.m. officers assisted in breaking up a two-person verbal argument in the Rock Café. Both parties were removed from the building.

Going for a spin

Nov. 19, 10:30 p.m. officers responded to a one car accident on Knollview Drive near Lot 61. The driver had lost control of the vehicle and hit the curb.

Swervin'

Nov. 20, 2:10 a.m. officers stopped a vehicle on Northland Drive for erratic driving. The driver was found to be intoxicated and was lodged for OWI.

Round 3, fight

Nov. 20, 9 p.m. officers responded to Bond Hall on a domestic complaint. The incident ended up being a dispute between roommates and was unhandled by housing. Both students were

referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Fleeing the scene

Nov. 22, 11:50 a.m. officers responded to a report of a hit and run in Lot 4.

Shoulda looked behind you

Nov. 24, 8:05 p.m. officers responded to a one-vehicle accident on North 4th Avenue. The driver had backed into a pole leaving a driveway.

Egged!

Nov. 26, 3:30 p.m. officers responded to a report of vandalism at the Timme Center. The main doors had been egged.

Right of way

Nov. 28, 4:54 p.m. officers responded to a vehicle-pedestrian accident on North Campus Drive at Campus Drive. The pedestrian was struck by a vehicle making a left hand turn. The victim was taken to the hospital but did not suffer any

severe injuries.

Puffer-baugh

Nov. 28, 9:40 p.m. officers responded to a complaint of marijuana in Puterbaugh Hall. One student was identified, ticketed for possession and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Merrill-juana

Nov. 28, 9:45 p.m. officers responded to a report of marijuana in Merrill Hall. One student was identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Wild west

Nov. 29, 3:20 p.m. officers responded to a marijuana complaint in the West Campus Apartments. One student was identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Between the dates of Nov. 16 and Nov. 30, Ferris' Department of Public Safety issued 645 tickets, totaling \$10,300.

Cartoon special

"EGGED!"

Cartoon by: Mikala Piller | Cartoonist



NEWS BRIEFS

By Angela Graf - News Editor

Jazz Band

If you love festive music and smooth jazz, the FSU Jazz Band has you covered this week with their annual holiday concert. With classics like The Christmas Song and Little Drummer Boy, this concert welcomes people of all ages to take part in their stylistic performances ranging from swing to rock. The show will begin at 8 p.m. in William's Auditorium Thursday, Dec. 8.

Stress free open skate

Ferris' ice arena and Biggby coffee have teamed up to host Stress Free with Biggby Open Skate Night for all Bulldogs during exam prep from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8. Admission is \$4 and students wearing Ferris apparel receive a free skate rental.

Pancakes with the President

Ferris will be hosting their annual Pancakes with the President event at the Rock Cafe to kick off final exam week. It is not necessary to have a meal plan to attend and the event is free to all students with a valid Ferris ID. In addition to free food, tutors and writing center employees will be on site to offer students guidance. Doors open at 10 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12.

Ferris State Torch Corrections

In the "Diversity on campus" article from last week's issue, the bar graph should show 76 Native American students enrolled at Ferris in 2012.

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

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The early bird gets the worm

Housing hosts early contracting event for students returning to live on campus

Kip Biby

Torch Reporter

An early contracting event for the 2017-18 school year was held last week courtesy of the Office of Housing and Residence Life. Several incentives were available as a reward for signing up early including a drawing for a 55-inch Google Cast television for those who signed up on the first day.

Lisa Ortiz was present at the event throughout the day. Ortiz is Ferris' assistant director of the Office of Housing and Residence Life.

"Students are very excited for the opportunity for the giveaways but also to live back on campus and have first choice of where they are going to live," Ortiz said.

Ortiz also explained that this was particularly important for students who require family or apartment style housing.

Before the event started, a line could be seen stretching from across the second floor of the University Center.

Ferris graphic design freshman Madison Martin was encouraged to sign up early by a friend who works for the Office of Housing and Residence Life.

"I want a free TV. We don't have a TV right now," Martin said.

Martin and her friends are planning on living in the two bedroom style apartments.

Students were able to get \$40 in Bulldog Bucks for signing an early housing contract and an additional \$40 for signing up for a meal plan.

Ferris actuarial science sophomore Zac Wheelis lives in Cramer Hall and intends to live there again next year. Wheelis said he was excited for the Bulldog Bucks and spends nearly all of them at Starbucks.

"Students are very excited for the opportunity for the giveaways,"

- Lisa Ortiz

meal plan for a semester.

The event was held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University Center last Wednesday, Nov. 30. In addition to the chance to win raffle prizes, participants were given snacks, gift bags and a long sleeve t-shirt for signing up. Ferris juniors and seniors were also given a free parking pass for the 2017-18 school year.

"I like that it is all on one bill. I don't want to deal with bills yet," Wheelis said. "My dad called me and told me to sign up. He wanted me to have the chance to win free stuff."

Also on the list of incentives was a free single room and a free gold



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Multimedia Editor

Students gathered inside the UC ballroom for the early contracting event to enter to win prizes from the Office of Housing and Residence Life.

What's with this weather?

December starts without snow



Harley Harrison

Torch Reporter

Despite recent snowfall, December started with bare trees and green grass this year, a rare sight for Michigan residents that has many puzzled.

Most Michigan residents, who are used to harsh winters, are wondering why they haven't had to use their snow shovels yet, and when they have, why it hasn't stuck. According to Ferris professor of geology Jennifer Johnson, the answer is not simple.

"This particular year, what's going on is really kind of a lining up of a couple different weather events, not long-term changes but just individual short-term things," Johnson said.

Many climatologists believe that the three main factors for the outcome of a Michigan winter are the polar vortex, warmer oceans and lake effect snow, according to Johnson, who defines the polar vortex as a cold pool of air confined by jet streams above the Arctic.

When the winds of the jet stream weaken, the polar vortex can break into smaller groups that can move away from the arctic, according to Johnson.

"So instead of having this nice, confined pool of cold air over the arctic, what you have are smaller, little batches of cold air and these weaker winds are

allowing that cold air to wander away from the Arctic a bit and this happens every year, we get the polar vortex anytime we have exceptionally cold temperatures in the winter for a short time," Johnson said. "It's a sign that the polar vortex has allowed some of that cold Arctic air to kind of come down into Michigan."

As for warmer oceans, the National Snow and Ice Data Center has reported a record low satellite record of Arctic Sea Ice Extent, which means that there is more open water in the Arctic than usual.

"So because the Arctic ocean has more open water than normal, that means more of it is able to evaporate into the atmosphere, so there's more humidity in the atmosphere," Johnson said. "If you look over what's been going on in Siberia, they are having exactly the opposite kind of year that we are. They are much colder than normal, they're getting way more snow than normal. That's because of all that extra moisture and because the polar vortex has moved itself right over Siberia."

According to Johnson, if the polar vortex moves over Michigan, the Great Lakes are warm enough this year to create lake effect snow in Michigan.

These factors and how they work together will contribute to the upcoming winter. However, it's too early to make any precise predictions, according to Johnson.

For more information, visit nsidc.org.

Run. Hide. Fight.

Officials discuss emergency alerts, how to train to be prepared in an active shooter situation

Andrea Lenhart

Torch Reporter

There were reports of off-campus gunshots at Oakwood Townhouses Sunday, Nov. 20. Students were not alerted of the incident until nearly 36 hours later.

There was an active shooter situation at Ohio State University (OSU) Monday, Nov. 28. The suspect turned out to be a student armed with a knife.

Students at OSU were alerted right away via Twitter, text and other forms of communication. The tweet read: Run. Hide. Fight.



Jim Cook

To some Ferris students this might be alarming, and they might feel unsafe and not protected by Ferris officials. However, there are major differences between the two incidents.

"Nothing was reported to the Sheriff's Department the night of the incident at Oakwood. It was reported the next day, which is why the alert was sent out the day after the incident," said Captain Jim Cook from Ferris' Department of Public Safety (DPS).

According to Cook, shots are heard during the midnight

shift all the time, but officials cannot send out an alert unless something has been reported to the department.

"We would have responded the same way Ohio State University did in a situation on campus. We have been doing

"We would have responded the same way Ohio State University did in a situation on campus."

- Jim Cook

active shooter training in this department since 1992. We train with the city, county and state so that any officer in the area can form a team," Cook said.

According to the students who were interviewed, none of

them know how to act if there were to be an active shooter at Ferris.



Jaclyn Vanderploeg

"I have no idea what I would do if there was an active shooter on campus. I do not know how to handle that situation," said Ferris product design freshman Jaclyn Vanderploeg. "I think what I would do depends on where I was at. If I were in my room, I would stay there and let others know what is going on in case they do not know."

Ferris supply chain management freshman Griffin Petrlich said he would report the incident as soon as possible to higher authority so they could send an alert out to warn people.

"I would head to the nearest building if there were to be an active shooter on campus and make sure that I am safe," said Ferris pre-science freshman Gwynneth Coselman.

According to Vanderploeg, Ferris does a good job of letting students know what is going on around campus by sending email notifications to students.

According to DPS, any student, student group, class, faculty or staff can request training on how to handle an active shooter situation. The training can be scheduled ahead of time and is free of charge.

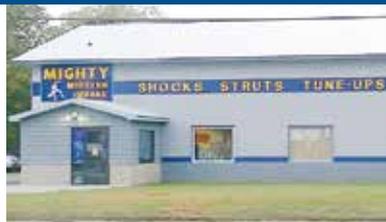


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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Rape Aggression Defense

Ferris fights sexual violence in a RAD way

Megan Hiler

Torch Reporter

Sexual assault and rape are common crimes across the United States, especially on college campuses.

One in four women are victims of sexual assault on college campuses, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. In addition to this, according to the National Crime Clock, college-aged women are four times more likely to be sexually assaulted.

More specifically, according to the 2007 FBI uniform crime report, there were 4,579 forcible rapes in Michigan and 90,427 national forcible rapes total.

Due to the heightened risk, the Department of Public Safety at Ferris is holding a Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) program free of charge starting in late January. The program consists of a 12-hour course that was designed specifically for women and is open to all female students and faculty members.

Detective Sergeant Tim Jacobs is a certified RAD instructor and will be teaching the course along with Officer Nicholas Greenway this January.

"It's awesome. I'm a father and a husband. I take it very seriously. I'm excited to start teaching it. It's a wonderful program. It's very impactful," Jacobs said.

Throughout the course, participants will take part in scenarios in which they will be striking their instructors—who will be dressed in safety equipment—at maximum effort.

"It's for women of all ages. It's giving them the tools and education on how to help them if they are

attacked. It's situational awareness and gives them hands-on training," Jacobs said. "The goal is to have women have the confidence to protect themselves, whether it is a sexual assault or a physical assault."

The RAD program has been taught at many colleges across the nation since 1989. Since its inaugural date, RAD has educated over 300,000 women in self defense methods and practices.

"The Rape Aggression Defense System is dedicated to teaching women defensive concepts and techniques against various types of assault, by utilizing easy, effective and proven self-defense/martial arts tactics," the website reads.

Ferris graphic design sophomore Amy Strouse is excited about RAD being offered at Ferris.

"I think it's awesome and crucial, especially on a college campus which are always highest in numbers with rape cases," Strouse said.

Strouse thinks Ferris should build on this, making it a prerequisite and available for everyone.

"I think it should be a required freshman course like the alcohol talk we had to go to. I also think it should be free to men, too, because men get [assaulted] and men need to know how to defend themselves, too. They should teach a consent course at the beginning of college as well that should be required to all students," Strouse said.

Ferris sports communication senior Cierra Buckner was also interested in the opportunity.

"I think it's great. Personally, I hate going out alone, and if I know a few moves, I think that would help me feel safe," Buckner said.

No person, female or otherwise, should ever have to feel unsafe walking around the place they go to learn. In a world that is still struggling to achieve that, being proactive and learning how to protect and defend oneself might be the best option.

"It's important for the education, for the women, for their defense," Jacobs said.

To sign up for the RAD program, call DPS at (231) 591-5000.



Tim Jacobs



TUNE IN TO OUR WEEKLY PODCAST WITH KIP BIBY

The Torchcast can be found on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel

LIFESTYLES

"I know and understand the need and importance of African American students to see positive images, role models and mentors..." - Matthew Chaney
See page 8 for story

Nick Vander Wulp | Lifestyles Editor | vandern8@ferris.edu

Holiday Diversity

Ferris students share their faiths and traditions from around the world

Alicia Jaimes

Torch Interim Reporter

Many look at Christmas break as a time to drink hot cocoa, unwrap presents and celebrate different traditions and religions.

Ferris elementary education freshman Tayler Moore celebrates Christmas and grew up, like many Americans, believing in Santa Claus.

Moore likes to participate in various Christmas traditions such as the white elephant present exchange, gift exchanging among family members and her more favorite tradition of spending time with her family.

Moore plans to pass on the tradition of believing in Santa Claus to her future children someday. She believes that the tradition is magical and a fun time for children.

While Moore enjoys the magic of Santa Claus, Ferris international liberal arts sophomore Erina Ueno's favorite part of Christmas is when towns are illuminated with Christmas lights. Ueno enjoys walking during the holidays at night to enjoy the scenery.

Ueno is from Japan and said that because Christmas is originally a Christian event, Americans put more emphasis on the holiday than Japanese people.

"Christmas here is much more exciting because the whole town celebrates Christmas," Ueno said.

Although many families in the United States spend Christmas with each other in the comfort of their own homes, Ueno says that Japanese people like to spend Christmas outside by going to a restaurant or an amusement park.

Christmas isn't the only holiday celebrated over winter break in Japan; New Year's Day

is also an important holiday. Ueno said that in Japan, New Year's is celebrated with more emphasis than Christmas.

"On that day we eat osechi," Ueno said. "Osechi is a Japanese traditional tiered lacquer ware box similar to a special lunch box."

Along with osechi, another Japanese tradition on New Year's Day is to eat lots of food, and with each of these foods there is deeper meaning. According to Ueno, shrimp represents longevity. Its meaning comes from its shape because its bending back symbolizes the elderly.

Ferris journalism freshman Seoyoung Lee is another student whose culture celebrates New Year's more than Christmas. Lee said



Erina Ueno

that young people and Christians are typically the ones who celebrate Christmas in Korea. Being a young adult herself, Lee likes to spend time with her boyfriend and friends during the holidays.

This is Lee's first Christmas experience in America. This caused her to notice some similarities and differences between the two cultures.

"When I was young, we would decorate a Christmas tree in my home. But these days, most people do not have Christmas trees in their homes," Lee said. "A Christmas tree is usually in a big downtown area instead."

In the U.S., people decorate anything they can find—houses, streets, trees both indoors and outdoors. Although Christmas decorating is something Lee discovered is done in both Korea and the United States, in Korea they don't decorate streets until the middle



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Assistant

of December.

Although Christmas is a big holiday in some cultures, others do not celebrate it at all.

Ferris computer information system senior Faisal Alfadhli is an international student from Saudi Arabia.



Faisal Alfadhli

"As a Muslim, I do not celebrate Christmas," Alfadhli said. "However, I enjoy seeing the lights on the streets and houses."

Because Christmas is not a Muslim holiday, Muslim countries do not typically celebrate it. Alfadhli said that it is not uncommon for Muslims in the United States to request that their children do not attend Christmas functions at school because of clashing beliefs.

Alfadhli said that if he were to have children in the future, he would like them to be

more open-minded and to show them the diversity of people and cultures.

Ferris gender and diversity senior Sangita Khadka is an exchange student from Germany, but is a citizen of Nepal.

Khadka's religious holidays are Dashain and Tihar but Christmas is also celebrated in Nepal. She considers herself a mixture of Hindu and Buddhist religion.

During Christmas, Khadka likes to cook a variety of foods because she enjoys feeding people. Sel roti, a special kind of homemade bread, is a common food that is made during the holidays. Khadka said that during festival time, 10 to 20 items of food are made. Some of these foods include aaloo ko achar, khir, pulao, meat, rajma, chana, gobi, soybean, bodi tama, and different kinds of curry.

"Christmas differs according to culture but I never feel any differences," Khadka said. "The way of celebrating is different, but the belief and value of culture and tradition is the same."

Eight crazy nights



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Assistant

While families prepare for their Christmas Eve feast once the sun sets Saturday, Dec. 24, another major holiday will kick off its first night of celebration.

Hanukkah, an eight-night celebration, begins strangely late in the calendar year this holiday season. Hanukkah will start on the 25th day of the Jewish calendar month Kislev. The Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar, which means it is based on the moon's rotation around the earth. The Gregorian calendar is a solar calendar and is based on the earth's rotation around the sun. Because of the two varying cycles, the 25th day of Kislev can fall anywhere from late November to late December.

What exactly is the meaning of Hanukkah?

Approximately 2,200 years ago, a Jewish Maccabean revolt occurred against the Greek-Syrian Empire to take back the Second Temple of Jerusalem. After the conflict, the Maccabees succeeded in reacquiring their temple, although it was left in shambles.

The Maccabees were left with only enough oil left to light the temple for one night, but miraculously, the temple stayed lit for eight straight nights.

Fast-forward to the present day, Jews commemorate this story with the eight-night holiday of Hanukkah, also called the Festival of Lights. On the first night at sunset, a nine-branch candelabrum known as the Menorah is lit.

Every night after, one more candle is lit with the extra candle, called the Shamash. On the eighth and final night, every branch of the Menorah will have a glowing candle.

It is tradition that the youngest member of the family with the ability to read Hebrew say the three blessings of Hanukkah. The first blessing is over the candles. The second blessing is for the Hanukkah Miracle. And the third blessing is the



Travis Sacher
Opinions Editor

Shehecheyanu or who has kept us alive, and is only recited on the first night.

After the Menorah is finally lit, eight nights of celebration follow. The first night is filled with singing songs, gambling chocolate gold coins in games of dreidel and the sweet smell of potato latkes wafting from the kitchen. The crusted potato pancakes taste especially sweet with a side of applesauce. Also, the most important part of the holiday is of course the gift-giving.

Unlike one visit from Santa on Christmas, Jewish kids get to enjoy one gift for eight nights. On the first night, a child may receive a special present that towers the rest. I remember when I was about seven, I received a new set of golf clubs on the first night of Hanukkah and was so happy I was screaming. After the first night, presents tend to be small, maybe a small toy or a deck of cards. The suspense of wondering what will you receive at night every day keeps the interest in the holiday ongoing for eight nights.

For Jews, Hanukkah is the most special holiday to be held during the December holiday season. Many Jewish holidays focus on repentance, or appreciating the fortunes of the Earth. It's holiday of celebration, singing, laughing, games and presents could not fall any better on the calendar.

This year, Hanukkah will begin right when Christmas starts. So, this year on Christmas day instead of getting Chinese food and watching movies, Jewish families will be celebrating the Festival of Lights.

WINTER IS COMING

Ferris students reflect on winter wardrobe

Tia Jane'-Oakes

Torch Interim Reporter

infinity scarves. Many Ferris students living in Big Rapids dread the winter time, yet the best part of winter for many are the clothes, and the various layers students can wear.

"I absolutely hate the winter, but I get to wear my favorite boots and leg warmers all the time," said Ferris sports communication junior Nachele Marshall. "Days when my hair is a mess I can just throw a hat on with a scarf and go on with my day."

Common winter looks for Ferris women are tall, leather boots with a matching jacket, scarf or fur throw-over. A lot of Ferris women can be seen wearing rain boots with long parka jackets. Rain boots with heavy socks are always good for the snow.

"I love my Ugg boots, but last year I ruined them because of the snow and salt walking

to and from class so I had to stop wearing them on campus," said Ferris health information technology senior Lakendra Brown.

This season, a few Ferris men plan to wear fleece jackets with Timberland boots. Occasionally switching to pea coats and wool scarves.

"Most times, I'll just wear my North Face with some boots. I don't care because it gets pretty bad out here," said Ferris business marketing freshman Connor MacDonald.

Some students have at least two pairs of boots, three pairs of gloves and two jackets to change up their look during the winter season.

Hunter, Ugg and Timberland boots are some of the more popular brands for the upcoming season among women. Men tend

to be into North Face, Nike and Columbia.

Color coordinating is also seen often in the winter. Matching scarves, hats and shoes are a classic trend and most of the time the colors are bold and bright.

"I always have to dress in layers because just wearing my coat will have me freezing," Marshall said. "I love vests for this reason, it gives me a chance to wear different layers of clothing."

The previous winter experiences for returning Ferris students continues to influence their respective winter clothing collection for this season.

"Winter and I have a love-hate relationship," Marshall said. "I love to wear my clothes, but I hate the frigid weather and getting stuck in the snow."



Photo by: Nick Vander Wulp | Lifestyles Editor

Logan Wyse, Ferris architecture sophomore, is ready for winter, sporting a peacoat with a neutral scarf.



Photo by: Nick Vander Wulp | Lifestyles Editor

Ferris heavy equipment freshman Bree Lawson is staying warm with a heavy jacket and scarf.

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Promoting unity and social well-being

Black Student Union reforming

Alexandra Bourne
Torch Reporter

After approximately two years of inactivity, the Black Student Union (BSU) is back on campus.

"I wanted to reactivate the organization because I felt as though there was not an RSO on campus that specifically focused on the African American student in regards to education, culture, wellness, etcetera," said Ferris history and sociology junior and president of BSU Durshana Kirby.

According to Kirby, the organization's purpose is to plan and promote initiatives and programs on an academic, cultural, intellectual, social and political level that keeps students—specifically but not limited to African Americans—actively involved in achieving success.

BSU aims to promote unity and create programs conducive to the spiritual, educational and social well-being of all people, especially those of African American descent.

"Many of the students over the last several years who wanted to move the organization forward graduated," said Ferris Director of the Office of Multicultural Student Services and BSU advisor Dr. Mat-

thew Chaney. "The organization has been challenged with having enough freshmen, sophomores and juniors who would be around to help create a solid foundation so that the organization can thrive and be successful on our campus."

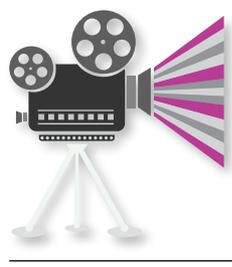
According to Chaney, BSU's impact should be to encouraging academic excellence and increasing intellectual discourse regarding success as a college student.

"I know and understand the need and importance of African American students to see positive images, role models and mentors on college campuses," Chaney said. "Particularly role models who come from similar backgrounds and in many instances share their story and aspirations of earning a quality education. I desire to inspire students who are committed to a healthy and successful educational journey."

People of all races and backgrounds are welcome to join, and meetings are open to the public.

"I chose to get involved and lead because I am passionate about educating others on African American and black culture," Kirby said. "I believe it is my duty to lead others and myself on the path of learning and development, and I am glad that I am able to do this through BSU."

Any student who shares the vision of the organization are encouraged to get involved. Follow the organization on Instagram @bsu_ferris, contact the organization via OrgSync or at kirbyd3@ferris.edu.



MEDIA MINUTE

"Black Mirror"



Adrianna Walker
Torch Reporter

The thrilling sci-fi anthology series "Black Mirror" has found a new home on Netflix.

Originally broadcast on British television, the series' third and latest season was commissioned by Netflix for 12 episodes. The show's dark tales will now reach a wide American binge-watching audience. The first six episodes became available on Netflix Friday, Oct. 21, and has reached critical success.

The show operates as an anthology series. Every episode presents a different story and its set of characters often jump from near present time to unknown futuristic settings. This keeps the show fresh, and the 60-minute run time allows each episode to come to fruition.

"Black Mirror" weaves grim stories with its visions of dystopia. It could be considered a cautious warning. The show explores the terrifying possibilities of a society too dependent on technology.

Questions raised during the story include the current and future state of our relationship with technology in general.

While every episode is thought-provoking because of its relevance or fascinating creativity, most of those thoughts involve elements of fear, anxiety, paranoia or sadness. Some episodes are more suspenseful than others, forcing the viewer to reflect on unnerving instances of the modern or future world.

Perhaps the darkest and most thrilling tale of the third season transpires in the episode "Shut Up and Dance." A teenage boy somewhere in present-day Britain is blackmailed into a whirlwind of increasingly bizarre tasks by an online anonymous source. This, all resulting from an embarrassing evening alone in his bedroom where the anonymous source recorded him through his laptop webcam.

The anonymous source teams the teenager, Kenny, with an older man who is also being black-

mailed. Together they must complete random demands or risk the loss of their livelihoods and dignity, as the blackmailers have threatened to leak their dirty laundry to the world.

The episode ends with one of the biggest twists of the season, turning the viewer's rationale completely upside-down as "Black Mirror" generally does so well. The most disturbing part of this episode is not what happens to the teenager or his partner, though, but instead the present-day setting and its unsettling likelihood.

Other episodes take place in the future, but hold on to the relevance of our technologically driven modern world.

In the 90-minute season finale "Hated in the Nation," the mysterious death of a controversial journalist puzzles the country and alarms the detectives involved in the investigation.

Other controversial figures begin to die as well. The detectives eventually discover a pattern: All of the figures who die are victims of social media hate waves, where social media users wished death and other heinous things upon them.

Their deaths are not by accident, nor are they coincidental. They are deliberate and only made possible by a certain technological advance that shall be unnamed to not spoil it for viewers. The social media users who participated in wishing death upon another human got what they wished for.

The finale is a lesson that again, is quite relevant to today's world. "Black Mirror" pushes viewers to contemplate the "what if?" scenarios that make us uncomfortable, and cautions the future of technological advancement and how we use it.

Santa

Claus

Confessions

"I believed in Santa Claus until I was five years old. But when I saw my father try to wear Santa Claus clothes, I didn't believe anymore."
- Seoyoung Lee
Journalism and Technical Communication
Freshman

"He is great! He brings magic and joy to children. When I have kids I want them to believe in Santa because it's very fun and magical for the kids."
- Tayler Moore
Elementary Education
Freshman

"Yes, I grew up believing in Santa Claus. I believed until I entered middle school."
- Erina Ueno
International Liberal Arts
Sophomore

"I used to think Santa Claus was an angel coming with lots of gifts and chocolate when I was a child."
- Sangita Khadka
Gender and Diversity Studies
Senior

By Alicia Jaimes - Torch Interim Reporter

Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Assistant

Making that dough

Matthew Miller

Torch Interim Reporter

It is the RSO biggest experience for every-thing.

ACLS meets every Thursday in VFS 420 at 11 a.m. and encourages people to come and check it out.



Meghan Burgess

Ferris pre-pharmacy junior Kelsey Medlin is the sitting vice president of the new bowling club RSO.

The bowling club bake sale was held Friday, Dec. 2, to promote and raise money for the RSO.

"We are putting this bake sale on because we have to pay for our tournaments, transport and practice," Medlin said.

The RSO had a variety of different baked goodies on the table that everyone from the team made.

"My favorite has to be the puppy-chow," Medlin said.

Ferris pre-pharmacy student Brittanie Wallis is a part of the Lambda Kappa Sigma chapter here at Ferris. Their bake sale will be from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, in FLITE.



Kesey Diamond

"We think it will be a good spot with students studying for exams in FLITE. They will walk pass our table, see the treats and want to buy some," Wallis said. "Bake sales are a great and easy way to connect with our community. It provides us an opportunity to raise funds for our RSO while getting our name and cause out there."

The fraternity promotes women in the

pharmacy field. They focus on an initiative called Project Hope, which aims to provide long term and sustainable healthcare to those who need it and may not otherwise have access to it.

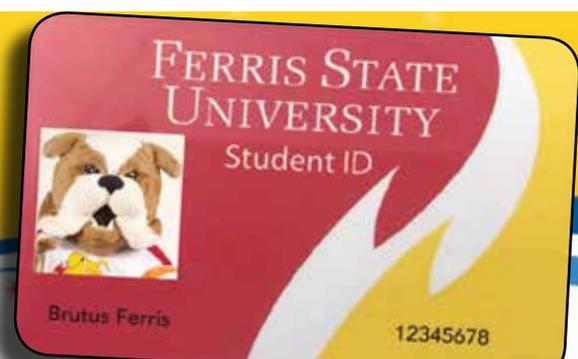
There are two parts when it comes to the bake sale, the makers/sellers and the students that are going to buy the goodies.

Ferris business student Kelsey Diamond loves a sweet little treat during one of the most stressful times for most college students, exam week.

"One time, I was on my way to class and I saw a bake sale. The treats on the table were one dollar each and all I had was a quarter," Diamond said. "I started to walk away but a girl working the table stopped me and gave me 75 cents so I could buy something. I was so happy."

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SPORTS

"Reggie is our starter and that hasn't changed." - Tony Annese
See page 11 for story

Marshall Scheldt | Sports Editor | mscheldt99@gmail.com

One for the books

Ferris State volleyball team finishes their season with a strong performance

Brendan Samuels

Torch Reporter

Ferris volleyball finished a storybook season Saturday, Nov. 28, as they fell to Lewis in the NCAA Div. 2 Midwest Region Championship.

Coming into this season, many said it would be a struggle for a team that was forced to build a young roster to win games. It appeared those people might be correct after the Bulldogs went 4-5 to start their season.

Then the Dawgs did what they have done for four straight seasons—they won. The Bulldogs silenced all critics as they went on a 26-game winning streak that earned them a Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) championship.

"We outperformed everyone's expectations," said junior outside hitter Ayanna Buckley. "We lost a lot of seniors to graduation, but everyone on the team stepped up and we did just as well as we did last season."

Last season, the Bulldogs fought their way to an impressive 33-3 record and a GLIAC Championship, eventually losing 3-2 to Rockhurst in the Midwest Region Championship. The numbers this year are extremely similar with a 30-6 record, a GLIAC Championship and a 3-0 loss to Lewis in the Midwest Region Championship.

Ferris volleyball must build another great roster this offseason, as three impact players in setters Jenna Way and Stephanie Sikorski, along with libero Kaley Konjarevich are set to graduate.

"I think our future is promising," Buckley said. "I have faith in our coaching staff to continue to bring in talented freshmen."

The coaching staff did a great job bringing in talented freshmen for the 2016 season in setter Maeve Grimes and outside hitter Allyson Cappel.

Cappel has become a household name around Ferris State with her spectacular performance in 2016. She led her team this season in kills with 434 and reeled in three GLIAC player of the week awards for volleyball.

With a promising upcoming roster that is filled with raw talent, the Bulldogs should have no problem finding success yet again in 2017.



Ayanna Buckley



Photo by: Johnathon Gustin | Torch Reporter

After a 4-5 start to the season, the Bulldogs caught fire and finished with a 30-6 overall record and another GLIAC Championship.

Sports Shorts

By Johnathon Gustin - Torch Reporter

Women's basketball pick up first win of season

The women's basketball team picked up their first win of the season over Findlay in GLIAC play 62-58 behind a dramatic fourth quarter surge led by junior forward Rachel McInerney's 13 points, 16 rebounds and five blocks.

The Bulldogs were down fifteen points going into the fourth quarter but a combination of stifling defense and three-point marksmanship from guards, redshirt freshman Riley Blair and sophomore Alex Bush, were able to push them over the top to claim the win. This allowed Ferris to overcome 20 turnovers, in part by holding Findlay to 31 percent shooting while hitting nine of 14 at 64.3 percent from three-point range.

The team is now 1-1 in the GLIAC and is a half-game back from third place in the GLIAC North Division Standings, tied with Northwood and Lake Superior State.

Men's basketball fall to 5-2 after overtime loss

The Ferris State men's basketball team was unable to capitalize on 28 points from senior Quentin Ruff and ended up losing to the Findlay Oilers in overtime 81-77.

Both teams were tied up 68-68 at the start of overtime but Findlay was able to capitalize on four trips to the free throw line to ice the game away.

The Bulldogs topped Findlay in rebounds 43-36 but allowed the Oilers to shoot 47.1 percent from three-point range. The Dawgs turned the ball over 17 times over the Oilers eight. Sophomore center Zach Hankins and junior point guard Drew Cushingberry had 14 points each. Hankins also leads Ferris in rebounds with 14.

Ferris State Alum and record holder Jason Vander Laan named 2017 NCAA Today's Top 10 Recipient

Jason Vander Laan is the first Ferris Student Athlete to be chosen as a NCAA Today's Top 10 recipient.

Honorees are chosen as one of the nation's best former student-athletes from all levels for their achievement academically, athletically and work in the community. Recipients finished their college athletics careers during the 2015-16 school year. They are selected by the NCAA Honors committee made up of representatives from member schools and conferences as well as former college athletes.

Vander Laan is known for winning the 2014 and 2015 Harlon Hill Trophy which goes to the most valuable player in Div. 2 College Football. He also set the record with most rushing yards for any NCAA quarterback in history with 5,953 total career yards. He is also the only QB to ever have more than 1,000 yards passing and rushing for four consecutive seasons.

The honorees will be recognized during the 2017 NCAA Convention which will take place in January of 2017.

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Top Dawg

Rachel McInerney

Marshall Scheldt

Torch Reporter

The Ferris State women's basketball team picked up their first win of the season last weekend in a 62-58 victory over Findlay to improve to 1-6 on the season.

The Bulldogs outscored Findlay 26-7 in the fourth and final quarter with a lot of help coming from this week's Top Dawg, junior forward Rachel McInerney.

The 6-foot-1-inch Saginaw native scored 13 points in the contest and brought down an impressive 16 total rebounds.

McInerney also contributed an assist, a steal and

five blocks in the win against Findlay.

In the game prior, McInerney had 13 points, five assists and four rebounds in a loss against Ohio Dominican last Thursday, Dec. 1.

So far this season, McInerney averages 14.1 points, 8.7 rebounds and 1.4 blocks per game. She leads the Bulldogs in all three of those categories.

McInerney's 14.1 points per game is good enough for 12th best in the GLIAC and her 8.7 rebounds are third best in the conference. While the 1.4 blocks she averages puts her at No. 10 in the conference in that category.

McInerney and the Bulldogs will seek their second win at Walsh University 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8.

SEMIFINALS

Continued from page 1



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Editor in Chief

The Dawgs have won four playoff games under Head Coach Tony Annese, with three of those wins coming this season.

an extremely aggressive game plan were the biggest differences from the week six matchup and the quarter final matchup," said Mitchell.

Grand Valley quarterback Bart Williams was under constant pressure on Saturday getting sacked six times. The GLIAC leader in sacks and sophomore defensive end Zach Seiler added three and a half more sacks to his total. Grand Valley running back, Marty Carter, gained 168 yards on the ground for the Lakers but they could not complete passes when it counted late in the game due to the pressure applied by the Bulldog defense.

Grand Valley did not face Birmingham in week six so it was difficult to adjust to his patient, block-riding running style from Bell's more speedy style. Even if Birmingham had played, he is a much more experienced player now than he was earlier in the season.

Senior quarterback Reggie Bell suggested to Annese that Birmingham start on senior night against Saginaw Valley in the last regular season game. Birmingham made the most of that opportunity with five touchdowns and 381 yards of total offense in a 51-17 win.

Bell started the next week in the first round of the playoffs against Midwestern State but was knocked out in the first quarter due to injury. This did not deter the Bulldogs as Birmingham stepped in and orchestrated an offense that put up 65 points. He then made his second career start against Colorado Mines where he had five touchdowns and 436 yards of total offense in a 38-17 victory.

Bell started against Grand Valley when the Bulldogs made an early surge. After a first possession fumble from Bell, a safety, field goal and Bell rushing touchdown had them up 12-0 before two field goals and a 48-yard touchdown put the Lakers up 13-12.

Bell threw an interception in the second quarter which led to the 48-yard touchdown run from Grand Valley's Marty Carter. Birmingham replaced Bell and

would give the Bulldogs the lead shortly, and eventually the win.

Mitchell said, "We had the lead and they brought in Trevor Birmingham and I think he made a big difference for that football team."

Birmingham's first scoring drive was set up by sophomore receiver Malik Taylor who returned the ball to the Laker 49. Another huge throw to Taylor a few plays later had the Bulldogs at the two where Birmingham ran it in. He followed that up with a 19-yard quarterback draw touchdown on the next possession.

Taylor garnered 45 of his 132 receiving yards on the following drive after he set the Dawgs up with great field position again at their own 49. Birmingham delivered the ball to Taylor who was initially wrapped up by multiple defenders, but was able to push backwards and free himself to run 20 yards before being tackled at the five yard-line. Birmingham followed with his third rushing touchdown of the day.

Despite Birmingham's stellar play, Bell is the starter moving forward.

Annese said, "Reggie is our starter and that hasn't changed."

The body of work is what Annese says determines his starting quarterback. Bell has been the starter most of the season and Birmingham has been the back-up. However, both quarterbacks will continue to play even if the back-up is only in for a few plays. Birmingham has been worked all year as a short yardage and change-of-pace quarterback. Bell did the same on Saturday after being taken out.

With Bell still notched at the starter and a Ferris defense that has suffocated teams all year, the Bulldogs put their thus-far resilient season on the line against Northwest Missouri State in the national semifinals on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 3:30 p.m. in Maryville, Mo.

Home for the holidays

Exams are all that stand between FSU athletes and home

Beau Jensen

Torch Reporter

It's the most wonderful time of the year for some of Ferris State's winter sport athletes as they get a chance to go home to their families.

Another year of extremely dominant fall sports are coming to a close in Big Rapids with women's and men's basketball as well as hockey hoping to keep the Bulldog athletics momentum rolling.

The great ones don't take days off, and sophomore forward for Bulldog hockey Corey Mackin looks forward to staying active over break.

"As an athlete mid-season, you really

try to stay focused as much as possible," Mackin said. "I bring my equipment home with me and try to skate at least twice during the ten days. You don't want to lose strength, so as a team we have to workout three times while we're home and one cardio workout."

Hockey has finally been able to string some good wins together recently after a rough start to the season, and Mackin would like to keep that momentum going.

Transitioning to the hardwood, junior forward Rachel McInerney of the women's basketball team talked about how nice it is to get a short break.

"I think the break is very refreshing," McInerney said. "We don't have to worry about classes and can put all of our focus

on basketball and each other. The seven days at home is also a great break and we come back refreshed and ready to get back to work."

McInerney leads her team with 14.3 points per game so far this year.

"It's crunch time for school right now which can be really stressful," McInerney said. "So I know the upcoming break is what a lot of us are looking forward to."

With Head Coach Andy Bronkema's men's basketball program looking for another GLIAC Tourney Title, senior wing Quentin Ruff talked about the obvious excitement for break but emphasized being ready upon return.

"Coach will do a great job of getting us back in shape the first couple days back,"

Ruff said. "I'm also pretty confident in my teammates on staying in that mindset, maybe just remind them before break to stay hungry."

It's been especially important for Ruff and the rest of the Bulldogs to remain focused since conference play began.

"It's very important to stay in the zone, especially because we are in GLIAC play," Ruff added. "Every game from here on out is very important, especially because we want to win the regular season and host the regional."

It's evident that all of these winter programs have goals of performing to the highest of their abilities, whether they're at home with their families or on campus training for their next game.

TORCH GUIDE TO STUDYING FOR FINALS

CHECK THE EXAM SCHEDULE



The Fall 2016 exam schedule can be found by going to myfsu.ferris.edu, and clicking on My Registration. The schedule will be listed on the left side bar.

Write down times of your exams.

1

WORK ENVIRONMENT

Everyone works best under different conditions.

Make good use of your time by creating a work environment that promotes focus and productivity. Put away all distractions. That includes phones, netflix, music, etc.



3



STAY HEALTHY

Make sure that you take care of yourself during finals! Get enough sleep, eat healthy and drink lots of water. If you need to wake yourself up a bit in the morning then have some coffee or tea.

5

TIME MANAGEMENT



Set aside time for studying, working on projects and writing papers. Plan ahead so that you know what you have to accomplish each day.

2

TAKE A BREAK

Remember that it is okay to take some time off from studying to go out and have a drink or just relax. Breaks are healthy for you during exam week. Just don't let a few breaks become your entire day!



4

WORK TOGETHER

Your classmates are a great resource. Text your peers and ask them to meet up in the library or somewhere on campus to go over notes and ask each other questions. Studying with your classmates can help increase your understanding of a topic that may not have been clear to you.



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OPINIONS

“The College Football Playoff should be composed of 16 teams instead of four.”

- Marshall Scheldt
See below for story

Travis Sacher | Opinions Editor | sachert@ferris.edu

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

What would happen if tomorrow's headlines read that a giant asteroid was headed for Earth and would spell the end of humanity?

Our best and brightest would surely begin thinking up ways to alter this catastrophic end, but others may just build a meme around the event to pass around the internet until finally letting out a sigh of relief that this dreadful year and planet are finished.

In hindsight, 2016 has been rough. An incredibly divisive election, devastating hurricanes, wildfires and acts of terror around the

world are just a few things to have cast a negative light over the past 365 days.

Election buzz is finally starting to die down marginally, but will it all repeat in two years when we're voting for seats on the senate or in the house?

Terrorism seems to be becoming increasingly random and more widespread than in years past leading some to paranoia. The most recent example occurred just this past week when students were attacked at Ohio State University by a student claiming to

be inspired by the Islamic State.

Bad storms happen every year, but on top of everything else 2016 has thrown at us, it really just feels like a slap in the face.

Then there are the deaths of pop culture icons to consider. The sheer amount and the specific individuals who have passed recently are evidence that many baby boomer celebrities are reaching the end of their lives and will continue to die. When Alice Cooper dies I really don't know what I'll do.

We've been gut punched time and time again throughout this

year. What can we do to put it behind us and make next year a little more bearable?

We're all after the same goal—seeking the betterment of our own lives and humanity.

Do some volunteer work. Compliment someone. Pet a dog. Read a book. Donate to a charity. Do anything to make a positive impact on your own life and the lives of those around you.

Here's to hoping that 2017 turns out better. That or the aforementioned asteroid makes its impact mercifully soon.



Graphic by: Jordan Lodge | Production Manager

O.C.S. (Only Child Syndrome)



Beau Jensen
Torch Reporter

I hear my Ferris State friends often talk about something their brother or sister had done to really get their blood boiling and it reminds me just how nice it is to be the only child.

With the holiday season finally upon us as we stroll into December, that feeling of being the only child becomes even greater. As a kid, I used to always love walking down the stairs on Christmas morning and looking at all the presents, knowing I didn't have to share a single gift.

Now you may be thinking, "Wow, those definitely sound like the words of someone who was a spoiled little only child," and I suppose you may be right in some ways. But just think about all the arguments I've avoided, black eyes I've dodged and cuddles with Grandma I've hogged up.

This may not seem as relevant now that I'm 22 and graduating from college in 2017 but I think only lone children know that you never stop being the only child.

Though, there may have been times as a child where I sat in my room playing PlayStation One and thinking just how nice it would be to have one more person pick up the controller and play Crash Bandicoot's "Crash Team Racing" with me.

There were also times where throwing the baseball up in the air and trying to hit it before it fell would have been much easier had I had a sibling to throw the ball to me instead.

I think the biggest downfall of being the only child is that you have to learn to compete in a different type of way than those with siblings.

Learning to compete is a very real and necessary thing, especially as you get older and realize that even though you were the only one around growing up, you're not the only one who's reaching for that same job that you are.

Some kids have cousins they compete with, some kids play sports to find their competitive edge, and some just never have to deal with it until it's thrown at them.

It was a combination of both that made me learn at an early age that this sweet life as an only child wasn't going to last forever.

But being an only child is a pretty cool way to grow up. The only "siblings" competing for love are the dog and the cat (I'll take those odds), your mom can focus on making only one PB&J and Grandma's cookies taste a lot better when you get to have them all to yourself.



Cartoon by: Mikala Piller | Cartoonist

Broadening the Bracket

Why the college football playoff should expand

After seeing the announcement of the four teams in the Div. 1 College Football Playoffs, it became apparent to me that four teams are simply not enough.

The playoffs need to expand to 16 teams.

Now I know there are plenty of people who would disagree with me, but here are some reasons why the College Football Playoffs should be composed of 16 teams instead of four.

1. Best teams get a chance - I'm pretty sure anyone who follows college football knows that there are more than just four teams that deserve a chance. Penn State got robbed and won't be able to play in the playoff although they won the Big Ten Conference Championship. They're supposedly the toughest conference in college football, but they don't get a shot at the National Championship. Now, I'm no Michigan fan by any means, but I know that they were good enough to at least get a chance to prove that they are the best team in the nation.

2. No more "Power Five" argument - With 16 teams making the playoffs, it leaves room for teams that are outside of the "Power Five" conferences (ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac 12, SEC) to make the playoffs. How about Western Michigan? They're undefeated. Sure, they play in a pretty weak conference in the MAC (Mid American Conference). But I don't care what conference a team plays in, if they're undefeated, they should at least get a chance to go up against the best in the country.

3. Provides a second, sometimes third chance - Not every team can be perfect—except for maybe Alabama. Because of this and how hard it is to come out each and every week and win, an expanded field would let in two or maybe even three-loss teams. If there are six three-loss teams in the top 16 of the Associated Press Top 25 Poll, I guarantee at least a couple are good enough to put up a fight against teams like Alabama, Ohio State and Clemson. Florida State and Louisville have both lost three games, and both of those teams lost to Clemson by six points or less this year. That proves that they can hang with the best.

4. More football - Say whatever you want but more football is better than less football 110 percent of the time. Some may argue that the teams would have to play too many games—which is BS because you play 16 games in the NFL before even entering the playoffs. If a team wants to be the best in the nation,



Marshall Scheldt
Sports Editor

they should be able to play top-tier football for 16 or 17 games. These kids are in the best shape of their lives, I think they'll be okay. The NCAA would make even more money and maybe they'd be willing to pay players with the extra funds... just kidding. The NCAA would never do something so logical.

5. Cinderella Stories - Think about March Madness and the 12-seeds beating the five-seeds every season. How glorious would this be in football? All it takes is a team to get hot at the right time, capitalize off a couple turnovers and a game can be flipped upside-down with the snap of a finger. How awesome would it be to see Western Michigan make it to the National Championship? Sure, it's very unlikely but nobody has stopped P.J. Fleck and the Broncos from rowing the boat so far this season, so who is to say they can be stopped?

6. Don't have to hear Michigan fans complain anymore - Sure, Michigan has a very good team this year. But they lost two of their last three games of the season and didn't make their conference championship. Imagine if the team was just in the playoffs anyway and we didn't have to hear Wolverine fans complain about the fact that, "there's no way JT Barrett got that first down." Well first, he did get the first down and second, here's your opportunity to prove that you're the best team in the nation. You've just got to win four games.

7. Look at Div. 2 - As I've been following Ferris State and watching this playoff unravel, the more and more I like the idea of larger playoff competitions. Ferris would have been written off as a top four team coming into the playoffs with two losses but look what happened, they're now in the final four of the Div. 2 tournament. They caught fire after their first loss to Grand Valley and have been an unstoppable force ever since. This type of thing could happen every year.

Now I doubt that the NCAA will read this and be like, "You know what, Marshall? You're right. You're totally right. We're going to implement this next year," but I think that expanding the College Football Playoffs to 16 teams would be a great thing for the sport.

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My top five parties

The semester is winding down and reflection time of the last three months is kicking in. As I sit and remember the good and bad moments of the semester, parties always seem to come to mind.

So I decided to list my personal top five different forms of parties while in college. To keep this organized, I left out all types of holiday, family and themed parties. Also decided against less plausible parties such as pool and beach parties. Large celebrations like weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, baby showers, etc. will also not be considered.

These are only the types of parties that can be held within a house at college, excluding anything at a bar. Here is my list of my five favorite parties at college houses in reverse order.

5. Wine and Cheese Night

I love a fine glass of wine with a distinct cheese and a nice piece of cured meat like prosciutto or soppressata. Wine and cheese nights are great, with anywhere from eight to 20 people. They are by far the most elegant parties to make this list and easiest to clean up. These are also great when all attendees contribute wine or food to have a diverse variety of options to taste.

4. Barbeque

Nothing like a big outdoor barbeque right before the end of the semester. Find a large backyard or quad at Oakwood and get a group of people together to grill up burgers, dogs, brats, steaks, wings, sausage or ribs. Backyard games like Beersbee, Cornhole, Kan Jam and Washer Toss are all fun, competitive and simple games.

3. Boys/Girls Only Night

Every now and then, you may just want to get the guys or girls together and have a big sleep over. This



Travis Sacher
Opinions Editor

means not having to worry about dressing up to go out so pajamas are totally acceptable. It's so fun just to relax and play video games, watch movies, cook or bake and vent about everything going on in your life without having to worry about socializing with random people.

2. Birthday Parties

And when I say birthday parties, I specifically mean MY birthday party. Clearly, celebrating someone else's birthday is always a treat and it's great to make someone else's special day amazing. I personally don't care at all for presents. What I do love is having everyone close to me in one room celebrating my special day. I love being the center of attention as well as friends showing their appreciation for our friendship and celebrating with me.

1. Loud, Packed, House Parties.

Every room in the entire house is filled with people, and you have to scream to hear over the music. My favorite playlists are ones that mix in 1980s hits, Blink 182, Fall Out Boy, Ludacris, Kanye West and the late 2000s pop hits to name a few.

Running around a house, screaming songs, bumping into friends at every turn, dancing with random people and playing a variety of games in a packed, loud and sweaty house is exactly what my favorite type of college party is.

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