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HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

MAYHEW'S MEMORIES

Ferris senior forward Gerald Mayhew writes about his Bulldog hockey career and Hobey Baker Award nomination

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Night Prowler

Venlo residents harassed, alleged lurker still at-large

Keith Salowich & Angela Graf

Torch Staff

Fear and uncertainty reigned at the Venlo Apartment complex as four female tenants relayed their story of repeatedly being watched and harassed by an unknown male prowler.

Since September of 2016, Ferris public relations seniors Megan Heck, Emma Thibault, Amanda Roehl and Breann Fuller reported a number of incidences in which they saw a figure dressed in black walking around the off-campus apartment complex, attempting to look in windows and observing the apartment complex for nights on end. Heck, Thibault and Fuller are roommates while Roehl is in a different unit in the same building.

The tenants described the prowler as a tall white male who is always dressed in dark clothing, a hoodie and beanie.

According to Fuller, the first occurrence was roughly six months ago.

"About two weeks into the fall semester, I was woken up at 3 a.m. by someone trying to break into my window," Fuller said. "So I went to management after that, obviously. I called the cops and basically all that was done was I was given a wooden rod to put in my window."

While the activity dropped off when winter set in, things seem to have once again escalated.

"We didn't really do anything or say much about it because we hadn't really experienced anything in a while. We thought it was just over with," Fuller said.

Then Wednesday evening, Feb. 15, the man approached Fuller's bedroom window.



Graphic components by: Sarah Massey | Production Assistant

Google Maps

"Last week, I was sitting down in my bedroom with my blinds closed. I always close them upside-down now because of the situation," Fuller said. "Megan [Heck] looks out the window and sees this guy dressed in all black. Then she knocks on the window and yells 'hey! F-you!' The guy just made eye contact with her and casually walked away."



Breann Fuller

"When I saw him walking he was extremely calm," Heck said. "He just doesn't seem like he's in any rush or worried about being seen, which is more

disturbing."

With activity seeming to have picked up, the women suspect that it has been happening more often than they've discerned.

"This past week, we've come to realize that it's been a much more recurring thing

than what we had noticed because within the last several days it has happened literally every single night," Fuller said.

They also think the prowler is targeting all-female apartments as these are the only residences that have had problems.



Emma Thibault

"It's to the point where we feel we've been watched because we have a [male] friend that lives a couple houses down who has said nothing has happened near his apartment," Thibault said.

"When there was still snow on the ground, there were footprints leading directly to female windows, as if somebody knows exactly where the women are living," Fuller said.

Despite four residents stating they had been in contact with Venlo management sev-

eral times during the fall semester, property manager Linda Alvarado says she hadn't heard anything about the incidences until Feb. 15.

"I was not aware. Neither the police nor the tenants had contacted me before last week. If they had, we would have taken care of it a long time ago," Alvarado said.

Unlike several other off-campus apartment complexes, Venlo is surrounded by marshland. While they have a gate at the driveway entrance, it is rarely closed.

"We have gates at our entrance but the gates are not always down because we have found that it's very easy to just drive through it, and it does not stop people from walking in," Alvarado said. "There's only a swampy area with no fence separating us from behind Wal-Mart and Fuller [Avenue] and places like that, so there's easy access to the

Prowler | see page 4



Photo by: Andrea Cordes | Torch Photographer

Ferris public relations senior Amanda Roehl points out the path the prowler took to approach apartment windows.



Photo by: Andrea Cordes | Torch Photographer

Three tenants discovered a path behind the Venlo apartment complex leading through a marsh-like area and up to a field bordering the rear of Wal-Mart on Perry Avenue.

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Breaking the scale

Is the "freshman 15" a myth?

Harley Harrison
Torch Reporter

"I think it's very real, especially if you have a lot of homework and you have a very hard major. I mean with biology, it's been really rough. So, I haven't been able to go to the gym as much as I wanted because academics come first," said Ferris biology senior Sadie Baker.

Ferris plastics technology and engineering sophomore Sarah Colburn also agrees that the freshman 15 is a reality.

"When you're here, you have so many different food options and you have so much freedom it's kind of hard to differentiate on what you should eat versus what you are eating," Colburn said.

In the study "The Freshman 15: Is it real?" conducted in 2008 and published in the Journal of American College Health, it was found that freshmen in college experience a weight gain that is 5.5 times greater than what is experienced by the general population. But is it as drastic as 15 pounds in one year?

Luckily, according to the study, the average weight gain among freshmen was 2.7

pounds and, even though half of the participants did gain weight, 15 percent actually lost weight with an average of 7.8 pounds lost for men and seven pounds for women.

Don't get your hopes up just yet, because a different study, "Changes in body weight composition and shape: a four-year study of college students," published in Applied Physiology, Nutrition and Metabolism, found that over the course of four years in college, 70 percent of students typically gain 12 pounds, which is quite close to the fearful 15.

"Yeah, I definitely agree. It wasn't all in one year that it happened to me, it's just been kind of the last four years, you know, I've just put on a few pounds here and there," Baker said.

The study concludes that due to the increase of obesity and normal weight obesity among the college population, colleges should advertise more to promote healthier lifestyles choices on campus.

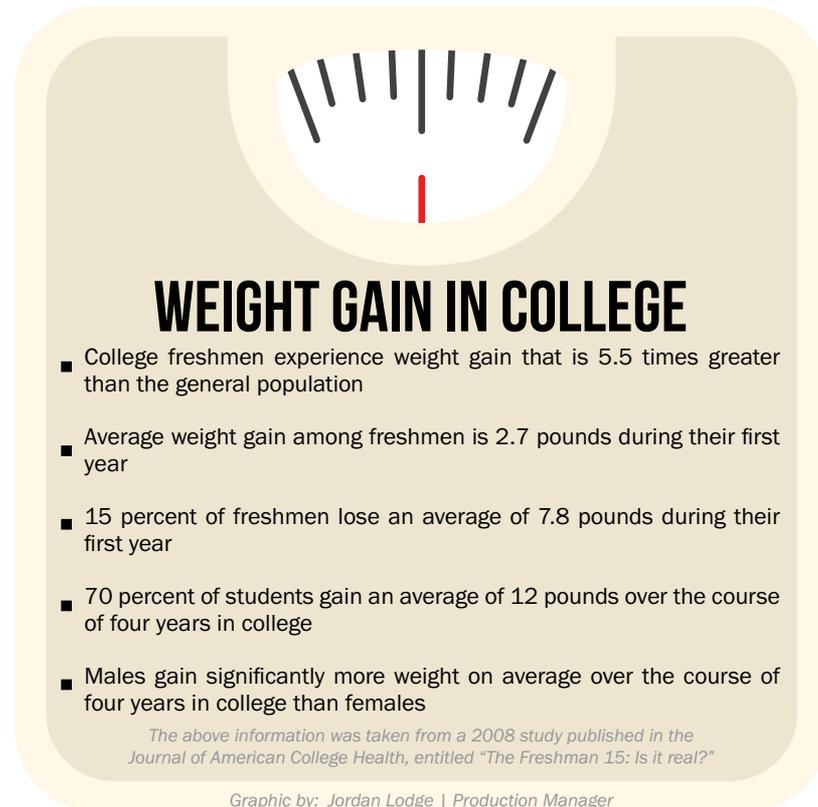
"If you don't realize it's a problem, then it's going to keep happening," Colburn said.

Baker concluded that avoiding this weight change can be as simple as picking healthier food options when at the dining hall, or one can take more challenging measures.

"I purposefully go to the grocery store when I'm not hungry. I go and I buy only



Sadie Baker



healthy things so that I have no option when I'm home. I can only eat healthy," Baker said. "Also, even if you're studying really hard and

everything like that, at least try and get out and do something two or three times a week to at least stay at the weight that you're at."



Photo by: Andrea Cordes | Torch Photographer

Ferris psychology senior and artist Charnae Courts represents iconic 1980s artist Jean-Michael Basquiat.

From struggle to progress

An interactive tribute to iconic black trailblazers

Melanie Bale
Interim Reporter

With coordination from the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS), Ferris students paid homage to African American trailblazers in decades spanning the 1960s to present day. Iconic songs from these decades set the upbeat tempo for the evening as tables draped in black lined the first floor of the UC, last Wednesday evening, Feb. 22.

Each presenting a historical background of a specific decade, the tables formed a path for participants to follow making it easier to inform and entertain those on their way home or to grab food at the Quad.

"Our theme is 'Struggle To Progress,' highlighting where they came from and what they had to struggle through to get to the accomplishments they achieved," said Ferris human resource management senior Victoria Mason.

Alongside the information was a performed monologue written by students, as if the prominent African American icon was actually there.

The students had a connection to the person they channeled, as someone they found inspiring or even a family relation.

"It was actually a destiny, my great uncle is Malcolm X," said Ferris student Steven Jones.

Donning glasses almost identical to those Malcolm X wore, Jones delivered an informative speech giving a brief look into Malcolm's life and accomplishments.

Representing the 1960s was gospel singer Mahalia Jackson. Ferris political science freshman Charnice LaGrone gave a monologue and sang a verse from the gospel song 'Precious Lord' sang at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral.

When asked why she got involved she replied, "Singing. Mahalia was hands down the first person I thought of. She was so inspirational to me because I love gospel music," LaGrone said.

With her own painting, Ferris psychology senior Charnae Courts represented Jean-Michel Basquiat: the iconic artist from the 1980s. "They allowed us to incorporate our own thing into the program. Since I'm an artist, I wanted to focus on a prominent artist of that time," Courts said.

In the spirit of the phrase "last but not least," the last table was dedicated to black millennials born between 1980 and 1999, which Ferris criminal justice freshman Amani Perkins represented.

"I feel like millennials are one of the most not-talked-about generations," Perkins said. "People get confused with where we're at and who we are and who we aren't."

For more information or to get involved, stop by the OMSS located in FLITE 159 in



Charnice LaGrone



Amani Perkins

- ON THE RECORD -

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

Pee-break

By Angela Graf - News Editor

Ripped off

Feb. 1, 4:10 p.m. officers responded to a report of a license plate that had been stolen off a vehicle in Lot 68.

Slackers

Feb. 13, 10:05 p.m. officers investigated a report of suspicious persons in Lot 4. One individual was identified, referred to the Office of Student Conduct and ticketed for possession of marijuana.

Imposter

Feb. 16, 12:10 p.m. officers investigated an altered parking decal on a vehicle in Lot 13. The owner was ticketed and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Weirdo

Feb. 16, 2:30 p.m. officers responded to a threat complaint in Travis Hall. The suspect was contacted and told to leave the individual alone.

Throw-down at the Quad

Feb. 16, 5:30 p.m. officers responded to a physical altercation in the Quad Café. The suspects were identified and warrants were sent to the prosecutor for disorderly conduct.

Maybe pot, maybe not

Feb. 16, 6:20 p.m. officers investigated

a marijuana complaint in the West Campus Apartments. No illegal substances were found and housing staff handled the incident.

Not over it

Feb. 17, 12:25 p.m. officers responded to a harassment complaint during which an ex-partner kept trying to contact their former partner. The individual was contacted and told to stop or criminal charges would be sought.

Joy-riding

Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m. officers stopped a vehicle on Knollview Drive by Lot 35 for driving erratically. The driver was an unlicensed minor who was ticketed and returned home. The case was then turned over to probate court.

Collision course

Feb. 18, 3 p.m. officers responded to a two-vehicle crash on State Street at Knollview Drive.

Pee-break

Feb. 19, 2:35 a.m. officers observed a subject urinating in public on South Michigan Avenue. The individual was identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Broken and entered

Feb. 19, 4:30 a.m. officers assisted the Sheriff's Department with a series of break-

ins on 14 Mile Road, east of Northland Drive. The suspect, who was found walking on campus, was transported to the Sheriff's Department and lodged for breaking and entering.

Broke bandit

Feb. 19, 7:40 p.m. officers responded to a report of a wallet stolen from Bishop Hall. It had been left in a classroom and was gone when the owner returned.

Hit and done

Feb. 20, 12 p.m. officers responded to a hit and run accident in Lot 16.

They both wanted that parking spot

Feb. 20, 4:30 p.m. officers responded to a two vehicle accident in Lot. 19.

Keyed

Feb. 20, 4:25 p.m. officers responded to a report of damage done to a parked vehicle in Lot 27 near FLITE. The side of the vehicle had been scratched with an unknown metal object.

Stashed away

Feb. 20, 11:50 p.m. officers responded to a marijuana complaint in Mc Nerney Hall. No illegal substances were found.

Nothing to see or smell here

Feb. 21, 7:20 p.m. officers responded to a marijuana complaint in Travis Hall. No illegal substances were found.

Should've renewed

Feb. 21, 9:45 p.m. officers stopped a vehicle on State Street near South Street. The driver was ticketed for driving on a suspended license.

Hit and done another one

Feb. 22, 11:40 a.m. officers responded to a hit and run accident in Lot 48.

Grab n' go

Feb. 22, 3:45 p.m. officers assisted the Sheriff's Department at Wal-Mart with an incident of retail fraud. The suspect was located and held for questioning.

That's a tough night

Feb. 22, 5:20 p.m. officers stopped a vehicle on Locust Street at State Street for expired plates. The driver was transported to jail after he was found to be uninsured and in possession of a suspended license, as well as being in violation of parole.

Calm down

Feb. 22, 10 p.m. officers responded to reports of a reckless driver in Lot 61. The suspect was contacted and a warrant was sent to the prosecutor's office.

The Ferris Department of Public Safety issued 421 tickets between the dates of Feb. 16, and Feb. 22, totaling \$6,520.

Cartoon special

"Joy-riding"

Cartoon by: Mikala Piller | Cartoonist



NEWS BRIEFS

By Angela Graf - News Briefs

#BecauseofHER

OMSS will be hosting their #BecauseofHER event as a part of a Women's Appreciation campaign, during which members of the campus community will have the opportunity to create cards, thanking the influential women in their lives. Tables will be in both FLITE and the University Center at various times Wednesday, March 1, and Thursday, March 2, and again Monday, March 13, until Thursday, March 16.

Spring break

Spring recess will begin Saturday, March 4, and run through Sunday, March 12. Classes will resume Monday, March 13, as scheduled.

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Cooties are real

Learn what to do and where to go if you contract an STD

Andrea Lenhart
Torch Reporter

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) are very common on college campuses, and Birkam Health Center claims that Ferris is no different than any other college when it comes to prevention and protection.

"We do a lot of STD testing on students for many reasons," said Ferris Director of Birkam Health Services and Counseling Center Lindsay Barber. "Some who believe they may have come in contact with someone who is infected,

some just want to know their 'status,' and some have been having symptoms and need to be tested."

According to Barber, they have tested Ferris students for every type of STD.

"You can get an STD by having sex—vaginal, anal or oral—with someone that has an STD," said Ferris Birkam Nursing Supervisor Candace Price.

Price explained that STDs can be contracted when 'you don't even go all the way,' meaning anal or vaginal sex, because some STDs such as herpes and HPV are spread by skin-to-skin contact.

Some STDs can be treated by

medication, while some cannot be cured at all.

"If you are ever treated for an STD, be sure to finish all of your medicine, even if you feel better before you finish it all," Price said. "Ask the provider about testing and treatment for your partner, too."

Price explained that partners should avoid having sex until all parties have been treated because the STD could be passed back and forth from one another.

"It is possible to get an STD again, even after you've been treated, if you have sex with someone who has an STD," Price said.

TIPS FROM BIRKAM HEALTH CENTER TO PREVENT STDs

- Don't have unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sex.
- Make sure you and your partner are tested before engaging in sexual activity.
- If both partners have been tested, monogamous relationships can help protect against the transmission of STDs.
- Ask a doctor about vaccines against HPV and hepatitis B.
- Women should seek regular cervical cancer screenings and chlamydia testing.
- Alcohol and drugs can lower inhibitions and increase the likelihood of risky behavior; avoid having sex when these substances are involved.

PROWLER

Continued from page 1

property without the gate. They can come in the back way easily."

Alvarado says that management and Venlo's corporate office Prim Property Management have been working with local law enforcement to increase security around the premises.

"We've had a lot done. We've added security, we've contacted Mecosta County and they've been patrolling. We are in the process of doing some other things that I'm not at liberty to say right now," Alvarado said.

The Mecosta County Sheriff's Department was unavailable for comment.

Venlo tenants received an email from management reminding them to keep outside lights on, lock doors and keep blinds closed. But Heck and the other women don't feel they're doing

enough to communicate.

"I still don't feel safe here," Heck said. "I would feel more comfortable if they let us know throughout their process. That way we know that things are actually going through and happening. But they don't do that."

The situation has drastically altered the lives of several residents who claim they just want this to be over and for everything to return to normal.

"It's making me want to stay inside and not come back at night. I obviously have things to do sometimes, so when I come back and it's dark, I just run to my apartment," Roehl said.

"We take our dogs out to the bathroom in a buddy system," Thibault said. "I feel like we have to be so much more precautious because Venlo is not looking out for us, and the police haven't been able to help, so we have to look out for ourselves."



Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Professors from Kazan Federal University join Ferris history professors in a panel discussing Russian-American relations.

From Russia, with love

Russian ambassadors talk relations between U.S. and Russia, Trump and Putin

Keith Salowich

Editor in Chief

To say that it was standing room only at Ferris' panel discussion of Russian and American relations would be an understatement.

Attendants filled chairs first before standing along the walls, sitting on the floor and even spilling into the hallway to hear the discussion.

The event, titled "Trump and Putin: A Permanent Reset in U.S. - Russian Relations," was part of the Political Engagement Project's "Passion for the Past" series and was hosted Tuesday, Feb. 21, in IRC 107.

Elena Gavrilova and Olga Zinnurova, who are professors at Kazan Federal University, joined Ferris history professors Tracy Busch and Christian Peterson in the panel. The Russian guests had their thoughts translated by Ferris adjunct English professor Lilia Caserta.

"With Trump, nobody expected him to win in Russia. It was really quite surprising to everyone. It shows that America is very different and very unique. It shows that America is very capable of change," Caserta said on behalf of the Russian guests.

At one point, Peterson was asked to name the five most significant foreign relations events between America and Russia from the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 to the present. The election of President Donald Trump and talks of Russia's involvement with America's presidential election both ranked within Peterson's top five.

"The extent of Russian interference in the 2016 election is a huge deal. No matter what the actual truth of it is, that it's something that touches a very sensitive

subject in this country," Peterson said. "In an interview [Trump] basically made moral equivalency to Russia's foreign policy record and the United States'. For an American president to say that is unprecedented. If Hillary Clinton said that, I have no doubt there would be calls for impeachment in the senate right now."

A major theme all panelists touched on is that regardless of what happens in political offices, stripping away politics and connecting person-to-person is possible.

"Russians have a very skeptical and very cynical perspective on their own political system. Russians separate very clearly politicians and average people," Caserta said on behalf of the Russian guests. "American people in general are very much like Russians. They're warm, they're kind, they're open-minded. If we lift the politics out of our everyday lives we can actually achieve much more."

This belief was something of a departure from what is represented in the media and throughout history between United States and Russia.

"Even if Putin's objectives could potentially be a bit nefarious in his own rights, I learned that Russia itself—its people—feel differently and they don't want to be better than America, they want to be equal to America. I'm relieved to know that. There's so much in the media about how Russia is trying to take us over and ruin everything and trying to make everything Russia. They just want to be nice. That's all they want," said Ferris social studies and secondary education freshman Lacey Storey.

Several professors offered students extra credit for

Russia | see page 5



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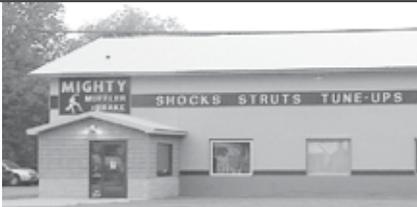
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A President's promise, a Bulldog's worry

One student's story and concerns about the future

Megan Hiler

Guest Writer

Katrina Merrick is easy to spot walking across campus in jean shorts, a T-shirt and sandals. Sometimes, she throws a jacket on for good measure to protect herself against the bitter Michigan cold in February, but Merrick, a Ferris elementary education freshman, is used to the warmth of Southern California.

Besides the warm climate of Claremont, California, another thing that Merrick misses from home is the abundance of Mexican culture.

"I was taught from a young age to be proud of being Mexican," Merrick said. "Coming from a place like Southern California where I'm surrounded by the Mexican culture constantly, to a place like Big Rapids where there's not much diversity, I've become more appreciative of it whenever I go home."

Merrick was recruited as an outfielder for the Ferris State University softball team.

"Softball was pretty much the main reason why I wanted to come to Ferris. Coach King was out recruiting at a tournament that I was at and that's how I got familiar with the school," Merrick said. "When I came out to visit, I really liked that the school was big enough to see or meet new people everyday, but still small enough to where you can always see some of your friends around."

Most of Merrick's family lives back in California, although some of her relatives reside in cities in Mexico such as Tijuana, Mexicali and Culiacán. According to Merrick, her grandmother immigrated to the United States in 1960.

"My Grandma came to the U.S. back in 1960. She lived near the Arizona border, and border patrol allowed her to cross back and forth for work. Then came a time where the border patrol warned her that they were going to have to start getting more strict, and so she decided to stay in Arizona for better opportunities," Merrick said.

Since coming to U.S., many of her relatives are very successful, having jobs such as doctors, nurses, police officers, lawyers and factory workers.

Besides school and softball, Donald Trump and his campaign targeting immigrants is

another source of concern for Merrick. According to Trump, he vows to deport all of the 11 million Mexican immigrants who do not have proper documentation and "build a wall" between the United States and Mexico. In addition to this, Trump has added thousands of United States Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, and is tightening up laws in order to accomplish this.

"For those here illegally today who are seeking legal status, they will have one route and one route only. To return home and apply for re-entry like everybody else under the rules of the new legal immigration system that I have outlined today," Trump said. Trump was also quoted saying that Mexico is "not sending their best" when it comes to Mexican immigrants and later referred to them as "rapists" who are bringing "crime" and "drugs."



Katrina Merrick

Merrick said the thought of her being torn from her family members is a persistent fear that she carries with her every day.

"It scares my family and me quite a bit. With my Grandma not actually being a U.S. citizen and enjoying the occasional trip to go and see my relatives,

my family fears that she won't be allowed back into the U.S.," Merrick said. "Sure, she has her green card and we aren't allowing her to leave the country, but Trump is unpredictable."

According to the 2014 Diversity at Ferris Report, there are 556 Hispanic/Latino students enrolled at Ferris State. This is 3.81 percent of the student body. Ferris State Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion David Pilgrim wants to continue to make these students feel comfortable here at Ferris.

"The wall talk has caused some stress among those students. How could it be otherwise? For the last several years, the university has had many initiatives directed toward Mexicans and Mexican Americans. All of those initiatives grew out of our relationship building with many segments of Latin@ culture," Pilgrim said.

Despite Trump's promises about immigrants, Pilgrim remains optimistic that Mexican American students at Ferris will feel wel-



Submitted photo

Ferris elementary education freshman Katrina Merrick says she carries with her a constant fear of being torn from her family as a result of the current political climate.

come and continue to thrive.

"My hope is that these relationships will benefit us as we continue to try to recruit Mexican American students, and equally important, to help them be successful here."

Merrick has flourished here at Ferris and is looking forward to her first softball season as a Ferris State Bulldog.

"Being here has been an absolute blast so far," Merrick said. "By being on the softball team, it made the transition from California to Big Rapids easier because all the girls were incredibly friendly and I was able to become fast friends with all of them. Although, I can for sure say that the cold weather isn't my friend at all."

Assistant Coach Jasmine Watson also thinks Merrick is adjusting well.

"Freshman year is always a challenge for anyone, but now you add being far from home and being an athlete and that makes things a bit more complicated," Watson said. "I think being an athlete helps with adapting because you immediately have 20 plus people who you can call your family."

Although Merrick is loving life here in Michigan, the thought of her grandmother being torn from her family is constantly in the back of her mind.

"I can't even explain the heartbreak I'd feel if my grandma had to stay in Mexico and I constantly worry about it," Merrick said.

RUSSIA

Continued from page 4

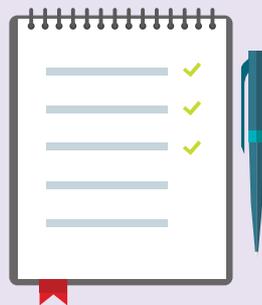
attending the event, which helps to explain the packed house.

"Some were there just for the extra credit, but I feel like there were a nice handful that had a big interest in the way it was set up with the questions and the history on Russia from the experts," said Ferris allied health sciences freshman Sierra Wurmnest.

Students saw the event as important because of the expanded perspective it offered on another culture.

"It gives more knowledge to students and lets us know what's going on in the world instead of just what's going on in our state or our little town. It gives us big perspective on different people and different information," Wurmnest said.

"Ferris is very open to everyone from everywhere. I have witnessed nothing but love and care for people who come from all over—from this state, to other states, to other countries," Storey said. "I think things like this are important to keep that environment alive by giving people a chance to see things from another side."



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

Note: You must satisfy all of your degree requirements before you officially graduate and receive your diploma.

Caps and Gowns may be purchased at the Grad Fair on March 28th, 11:00 am - 5:00pm in the University Center - Multi Purpose Rooms or starting March 28th - May 3rd, 2017 at the Ferris State University Bookstore (located in the University Center, 805 Campus Drive, Big Rapids MI 49307).

Tickets are required for all ceremonies. All students planning on participating in a ceremony will receive (6) six tickets. Electronic tickets will be available for students to reserve or print starting March 28, 2017. Extra tickets are not distributed and lost tickets will not be replaced. Tickets must be reserved by Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 11:59 pm.

Commencement Program - Graduates must complete their online graduation application by **Friday, February 24, 2017 for their names to appear in the Spring 2017 Commencement Programs** or their name will not appear in the Commencement Program. In order to have the program printed and back in time for the ceremonies we have to adhere to these deadlines. Contact your college's Commencement Coordinator if you have any questions.

Friday, May 5	
Time	College
3:30 pm	College of Health Professions
7:00 pm	College of Arts & Sciences College of Pharmacy Doctorate in Community College Leadership
Saturday, May 6	
Time	College
9:00 am	College of Engineering & Technology
12:30 pm	College of Business
4:00 pm	College of Education & Human Services Michigan College of Optometry

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LIFESTYLES

“Laughing and talking with people who love the series just as much as you do is a way for new friendships to start.” - Savannah Beaudet See page 9 for story

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

What’s your high score?

Festival of the Arts wraps with video game-themed concert

Travis Sacher
Opinions Editor

The Big Rapids Festival of the Arts closed with two loves of Ferris students—music and video games.

The 2017 Festival of the Arts concluded Sunday, Feb. 26, by the FSU Symphony Band, FSU West Central Concert Band and FSU West Central Chamber Orchestra.

The concert was produced and conducted by Ferris Professor of Music Dr. Richard Scott Cohen. Two guest conductors assisted Cohen during the concert: Spanish conductor Adrián Ronda-Sampayo and Ferris Assistant Professor of Music Dale Skornia.

“The project is called Games and Symphonies and it just got started last year and the first concert was tonight,” Cohen said.

Cohen extended the invitation and helped make it possible for Ronda-Sampayo to come to Big Rapids and conduct during the Festival of The Arts. Ronda-Sampayo specializes in conducting video game and Spanish themed music.

“I have a project of video games music in Spain,” Ronda-Sampayo said.

Cohen believes the Festival of the Arts is extremely important for the Big Rapids Community.

“This engages people of all ages into all kinds of arts all over the town. It can be here on campus or anywhere else in the community,” Cohen said.

Dr. Cohen is a founding member of the board for The Festival of the Arts and has coordinated all the concerts in the festival’s 10-year existence.

Twelve different numbers were performed during the concert, eight of which were themes of video games. Numbers performed included scores from Super Mario Galaxy, Advent Rising, Minecraft, Civilization IV, Halo, World of Warcraft, Skyrim and Pokémon Go. Video clips of each game accompanied each number.

Ferris pre-pharmacy freshman Jack Spicer, who plays second trumpet in the Symphony Band and WCC Concert Band, said playing the theme from Halo Suite was his favorite.

“I could tell people got scared during the opening timpani because it was loud and powerful,” Spicer said. “The song transitions into a softer part with a trumpet duet, before it builds up to the giant piece that it truly is. It was a great piece to play and everybody loves it because it’s Halo and Halo is famous for its soundtrack.”

While the concert was a great success, the performers did face challenges to mastering the set, notably the intro to the World of Warcraft.

“The beginning is very confusing with the time signatures,” Spicer said. “We were constantly switching between time signatures. We have to watch the conductor which is challenging because he is not only moving



Members of the FSU Symphony Band, FSU West Central Concert Band and FSU West Central Chamber Orchestra perform a video game-inspired concert. Photo by: Odette Lopez | Torch Photographer

fast, but switching fast, too.”

Spicer noted that he liked the choice of video game themed music for this year’s winter orchestra and band concert. He felt that our generation does not appreciate band and orchestra like generations prior,

so picking this genre would engage students and draw them to the concert.

Ferris elementary education sophomore James Kilgore attended the concert in support of a friend, and walked away pleasantly pleased with the performance.

“I gained insight on the making of music for these video games. I always hear the music to games but never have seen them performed lived. So that was a cool thing to see,” Kilgore said.

Likemelikeyou closes out Indie Showcase series

New Grand Rapids band makes its debut for MIMA concert series

Adrianna Walker
Torch Reporter

The pop-rock group likemelikeyou made its official debut

as a four-piece for a nearly packed auditorium in the business building, sharing original tunes and covers of popular songs.

Likemelikeyou was the final performance of the Music Industry Management Association’s (MIMA) 2017 Independent Showcase series Thursday, Feb. 23.

“Between all of you people and us, this is actually our first show as likemelikeyou, so I just wanna thank you guys for coming out and watching us play,” said lead singer Greyson Bos after the show.

Grand Rapids-based likemelikeyou was the only local art-

ist of the Indie Showcase series. Bassist Kohlby Blake and drummer Charlie Hall hail from nearby Fremont while lead singer Greyson Bos and guitarist Chase Palaszek are originally from Grand Rapids.

After the one-hour set, the group stayed for the final question and answer session of MIMA’s indie showcase series. The band talked about the importance of making a connection with the audience, their influences, favorite instruments, worst shows each member has been a part of and the writing process.

Showcase | see page 7

Ideal employee

Speaker series highlights what employers wish students learn



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

Students learned about what employers are looking for in the university's latest speaker series event.

Alexandra Bourne
Torch Reporter

Students learned how to make group work more effective in Ferris State University's speaker series event "What Employers Wish You Were Taught In College."

The event was held 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, in the Science Building, room 102. College Readiness Specialist Angela Buys, and Manager of the Staff Center for Training and Development Jody Gardei hosted the event.

"I learned a lot about great group-working skills," said Ferris pre-nursing sophomore Quentavia Robertson. "The way you act towards your group members affects the group's whole mentality."

Buys and Gardei gave students a hand-out depicting a triangle pinpointing the key parts of group-member capabilities: intention, attention and behaviors.

"To use that in everyday life would make a lot of stressful situations in life seem a lot easier," said Ferris human resource management junior Lydia Geldhof.

Ferris human resources management junior Joshua Colon said the event helped him learn how to better himself in a group situation for both business and personally.

"I would love to use it in my future career by trying to better group situations," Colon said. "[By] cutting meetings down where people who are not necessary for the situation don't have to be there so we can get to the point quicker and have many productive meetings."

Geldhof said she would use the triangle to pay more attention to

everyone else's behaviors and their intentions and attentions to better integrate them into the group.

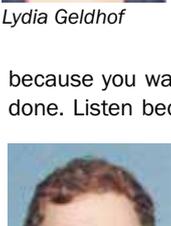


Quentavia Robertson

"I learned some key steps in order to make groupwork more effective and then how to handle behaviors with people and groups," Geldhof said.

Roberston said that if someone wants to learn, they must be intuitive and attentive to the conversations in the group.

"In order for you to be more positive and intuitive in your group, you have to be able to listen. You have to find the right intention to listen," Robertson said.



Lydia Geldhof

"Don't just listen because you want to get the work done. Listen because you actually care."

Some students thought the workshop offered valuable information that every college student should make note of.

"I was very attracted to the topic of it in general because it's something I think every college student should know about because it helps better them overall," Colon said.



Joshua Colon

Showcase

Continued from page 6

"I picked up the guitar when I was 12 and instantly started a band and started writing songs," Bos said, who writes all of the band's songs. "It's just become a snowball effect ever since the beginning. It's just become more and more who I am as the years have gone by."

"We're still figuring ourselves out as a band," Bos

added, even though the group sounded cohesive enough that many concertgoers couldn't tell it was their first live performance.

The group experienced technical difficulties during the intro of the show, but kept a positive attitude.

"The thing about playing in a band is every single show that you play is a learning experience," Bos said. "Life is just one long learning experience."

Likemelikeyou's next show will be during West Ottawa High School's WO-Stock festival Friday, March 24, and Saturday, March 25.



Photo by: Andrea Cordes | Torch Photographer

Likemelikeyou singer Greyson Bos and bassist Kohlby Blake perform in the final show of MIMA's Indie Showcase.

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TORCH CONFESSIONS

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

Mid-semester blues



Nick Vander Wulp
Lifestyles Editor

The semester is already halfway done and I can't believe how fast time is going. The days are getting longer and the time is counting down to graduation.

Why then does it feel like impending doom is barreling down on me? It could be that I haven't found a job yet, and that I chose to take 18 credits again this semester while trying to make my exit out of this place.

This last week, I took advantage of the warmish weather and sunlight to exercise and do something to break the cabin fever after another winter.

My classes have become everything I thought they would be at the beginning of the semester when I tried to get a head start on all of my work: laborious, tedious and in some cases, downright boring.

These feelings are probably in part because of senioritis setting in. I also feel the pressure of submitting my CV and cover letter to jobs in the technical writing and communications field, mostly be-

cause many others want to work in this field as well.

I'm also studying journalism as part of my degree in journalism and technical communication, but the field stresses me out even more because journalists are paid less than what I made in manufacturing without a degree.

I can see why Karl Marx, a journalist and foreign correspondent for the New York Daily Tribune, wrote the books he did and railed against capitalists and capitalism.

I've also thought about the possibility that I might not graduate, and that's the most terrifying thought to me. The thought that I could have to come back and finish one class that was the thorn in my side during my senior year.

Busting loose out of this university and back into the professional world is my first and only goal for these first months of 2017.

So, as I trudge through these mid-semester blues, I think about the futility of trying to manage my life in any meaningful way.

I'm broke and I refuse to use any more credit, meeting social needs is difficult during this time and exercise is something I've forced into my schedule.

When I walk in May, then the blues can begin to lift and I can get on with my life.

A man with many hats

Some professors do more than teach, they inspire

Alicia Jaimes

Torch Reporter

When the Ferris State University Jazz Band members view their director, they see someone they are inspired by and a mentor they can seek out.

Ferris music professor Matthew Moresi is a man with many hats. Moresi directs the jazz band, teaches three classes, as well as being a husband and professional musician. Students still somehow manage to feel connected to Moresi on a personal level.

"He treats all of his students as equals," said Ferris pharmacy junior Ben Shrivvers. "He doesn't pick favorites and he's just a really down-to-earth guy."

Having a connection with his students is very important to Moresi. You can find him around Big Rapids in his free time, whether it be at the Gypsy Nickel Lounge, hanging out with his Jazz Band students, or at a post-concert traditional Buffalo Wild Wings dinner with his students.

While most professors stress office hours and coming to them when a student has a problem, Moresi goes above and beyond for his students.

"I actually asked him for one of my reference

letters to get into graduate school," said Ferris second-year pharmacy student Riley Flagler. "I have a lot of confidence in him as a person."

His students also find Moresi musically inspiring.

"I don't remember when I didn't do music," Moresi said. "My dad started me on piano when I was five and trombone when I was 10."



Ben Shrivvers

Growing up in Oregon, Moresi watched his father wake up at 6 a.m. and come home at 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Although he liked the idea of teaching, having these job constraints was unappealing to Moresi. He liked the idea of having a college schedule that varied in time and people.

Moresi graduated from the University of Oregon with a bachelor's degree in performing arts and pursued his teaching passion at Ferris State University.

In his free-time, Moresi enjoys brewing his own beer and impersonating his dog Keith on Facebook.

Although his main hat is teaching, you can find Moresi most Saturday nights performing with his band at Cranker's Brewery.



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Photo by: Andrea Cordes | Torch Photographer

A Ferris student assumes the dueling pose in Gryffindor cosplay.



Graphic by: Jordan Lodge | Production Manager

Ferris muggles gather to celebrate Harry Potter day

Tia-Jane Oakes
Interim Reporter

Harry Potter Day was a day for students to share their magical inhibitions amongst each one another.

Approximately 35 students were separated into teams and participated in a Harry Potter trivia game to show just how much of a fan they really are.

Harry Potter day was hosted by the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services (CLACS) Friday, Feb. 24.

"It's cool for people to come out and gather to share their same interests towards Harry Potter," said Ferris computer aided design sophomore Hans Lorenz.

The first Harry Potter book debuted in 1997 which created a huge buzz and following from millennials all over the world.

Ferris computer-aided design junior Savannah Beudet said Harry Potter books were so imaginative that she always wanted to know more.

"Once you read the first book you want to know what's going to happen. Then you hear a movie is being made so you have to go see it," Beudet said.

"I think Harry Potter is a neat new way to introduce magic," said Ferris social work

grad student Keith Bogucki. "Each spell is unique, the world is unique and the characters are really alive and individualistic."

Bogucki said Harry Potter is the best way to introduce people who are unfamiliar to the fantasy genre in general.

"Laughing and talking with people who love the series just as much as you do is a way for new friendships to start," Beudet said.



Photo by: Andrea Cordes | Torch Photographer

Students and visitors gather in the University Center to play a team-based trivia game to test their knowledge of Harry Potter and his wizarding friends from the four houses of Hogwarts.

SPORTS

"It's not a vacation at all, it's strictly business." - Sam Bates See page 13 for story

Apply now! | Sports Editor

Mayhew's memories



Torch File Photo

Ferris senior forward Gerald Mayhew is in the running for the Hobey Baker Memorial Award, which is awarded to the best NCAA Div. 1 hockey player every year. A Ferris athlete has never received the award.

Currently at fifth in the Hobey Baker Award standings, Gerald Mayhew reflects on his time as a Bulldog

Gerald Mayhew

Guest Writer

This four-year journey has been the best years of my life. However, it is unfortunately coming to an end.

I am not like many other college students, because I played two years of junior hockey. Most people probably do not know what that means but it's a development league before you come to college. When I committed to Ferris, I was only 18 years old and the team was the top team in the nation. Although I enjoyed my years of just playing hockey and not going to school, I was ready for my next chapter in life.

This was a huge impact on my life because of how many people and coaches told me I was too small to play hockey. They told me I would never be able to play college hockey, which just made me want it even more. I was

born a very competitive person and hated losing more than anything. I get this from my mother, who may be more competitive than I am.

Coming in as a freshman was a very scary thing because it was all new to me. I didn't know anyone or where anything was. When I met my teammates for the first time, I knew in that very second that my first year of hockey was going to be a special one.

Boy, was I ever right about that. That season, we ended up winning the league outright and only losing one game at home. We were No. 1 in the nation for multiple weeks and we were a top contender for an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. Despite losing in the championship in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) Final Five, we still got a bid to the tournament.

I would have never thought that this would happen, that my first year of college hockey I had a chance to win a national championship. Our first game of the tournament we played Colgate, who we played three times already in the regular season, losing to them twice. We ended up winning the game 1-0 and this is where I scored one of my favorite goals ever.

The puck went up in the air and I used my baseball skills to knock it into the net. This was one of my favorite moments and I wouldn't have been able to accomplish any

of these tasks without my teammates that year.

I am now in my last year at Ferris State University and it's a very emotional time. I have been nominated for the Hobey Baker award, which is a huge honor to be a part of. The award goes to the top National Collegiate men's ice hockey player. There are a number of people nominated and to be part of this special group is a dream come true.

There have been recent players who have been nominated who are now playing in the NHL. I have had so much support from my family and friends helping me get to the top 10 in voting. Making it to the NHL has been my dream since I was four years old, and I will do everything it takes to get there.

Hockey is my passion and my life and without it, I would be devastated. From all the hours spent on the bus for road trips to all of the time put into the weight room, I would never do anything different. If I could only thank two people, it would have to be my mom and dad. They would take me to 6 a.m. practice in the morning and drive hours through different countries and states just to see me play.

The one thing I love most about being part of the hockey world is how many special people I have met. I have gained a number of friendships over the years and hope to keep in touch with them.

HOBEBY BAKER

The Hobey Baker Memorial Award is given annually to the best NCAA Div. 1 men's hockey player. It has never been awarded to a Ferris State athlete, but senior Gerald Mayhew is currently within the top 10 in the Hobey Baker fan vote.



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Making a run



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

The Bulldogs won last year's GLIAC Tournament Championship despite entering as the No. 6 seed. Ferris State is the No. 1 seed in this year's tourney.

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2017 GLIAC CHAMPIONS

Why Ferris men's basketball will win the GLIAC tournament



Brendan Samuels
Torch Reporter

It's tourney time at Ferris, and the men's basketball team looks poised to run away with the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) tournament championship for the third consecutive year.

Several components have factored into the success of the Bulldogs this season. Here are just a few of the many reasons why the Dawgs will cruise through the tournament with ease.

The Bulldogs bulldozed most other teams in the tournament during regular season play. The Dawgs are a combined 8-2 against this year's tournament teams, including sweeps of Wayne State, Michigan Tech, Grand Valley, Hillsdale and Ashland. With the only two losses coming to Lake Superior State and Findlay, the Bulldogs should feel confident in their ability.

Despite lacking a veteran presence with the only ex-

ception being senior guard Quentin Ruff, the Bulldogs have been able to find leadership elsewhere. Sophomore center Zach Hankins has been outstanding, leading his team in not only rebounds per game with 10 but also points per game with 15.1. Junior guard Drew Cushingberry has also been incredible, posting 13.9 points per game, good enough for second on the team behind Hankins.

Aside from the players on the court, Ferris has an absolute mastermind at head coach. Andy Bronkema has instilled an unparalleled sense of confidence in the team and provided stability to a young team that had its critics before the start of the season.

Returning to the fact that the Bulldogs were dominant in the regular season, it's hard to argue that with a 24-4 overall record and the first seed in the tournament, that anybody could dethrone them.

History is in the favor of the Bulldogs. Ferris has won two consecutive GLIAC tournaments, an impressive feat especially entering the tournament as the sixth seed just a season ago. With the No. 1 seed and plenty of talent, there's no telling how far the Bulldogs could go.



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Sports Shorts

By Cody Burkhard - Torch Reporter

Makin' racket

Ferris' men's tennis team is making racket in the league starting off 5-0. The Bulldogs opened up conference play Friday, Feb. 24, and asserted their dominance in the region by defeating No. 2 Indianapolis in the first of a three-game homestand.

Ferris carried that momentum into Saturday, Feb. 25, and Sunday, Feb. 26, when they swept Findlay and Hillsdale for the Bulldogs second and third sweeps of the season.

The Bulldogs opened the season by defeating Davenport 8-1 and sweeping Aquinas. With no signs of slowing down, Ferris is 20th in the nation as of Sunday, Feb. 26. The Dawgs play away at Cameron Sunday, March 5, with hopes of further climbing the ranks.

No igloo for Brutus

Ferris hockey landed the No. 5 seed in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) tournament and missed the opportunity for home ice, going 1-0-1 over the weekend. The Bulldogs were tied with Bowling Green State for fourth going into the Dawg's matchup with Lake Superior State Saturday, Feb. 25.

Ferris defeated the Lakers 6-4 Friday, Feb. 24. However, the Lakers won in a shootout after a 1-1 double overtime tie. Bowling Green won both of its match-ups earning six points while the Bulldogs only received four. As a result, the Dawgs will play the No. 4 Falcons at Bowling Green, Ohio.

The teams will play a best-of-three series to determine who moves on to the next round. The Bulldogs won the tournament as a sixth seed last year.

Hankins American block tour

Basketball sophomore Zach Hankins finished the regular season with the most blocks in NCAA Div. 2 competition. Hankins blocked 116 shots this year averaging 4.1 per game. He also shattered the record for most blocks for a season in Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) history.

The record was previously held by Callistus Eziukwu of Grand Valley since 2005 when he recorded 69 blocks. Hankins nearly hit the century mark with 98 blocks this season in GLIAC competition.

Hankins has been the heart of the Ferris defense that's currently top of the GLIAC. The No. 1 seed Bulldogs will host Hankins' next block party against the No. 8 seed Hillsdale Chargers in the first round of the GLIAC tournament. The game starts 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 28, in Big Rapids.



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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY



Submitted Photo

Members of the Ferris State Figure Skating Club travel the country to compete for medals against other teams.

Beauty and aggression

Ferris Figure Skating Club competes with largest schools in the state

Cody Burkhard

Torch Reporter

There's a common lineage between the founders of two ice sports at Ferris State.

The Ferris figure skating club was started in 2014 by Ferris pharmacy junior Kristen Krantz. Just three years later, the club competes against traditional Div. 1 schools such as the University of Michigan and Ohio State.

Her father, Brian Krantz, was also a pioneer of ice sports at Ferris, as he helped start a college hockey club team, which eventually became the varsity team.

Brian Krantz and a few friends played hockey at Kirtland College before transferring to Ferris in 1973. At the time, Ewigleben Arena did not exist and there was no facility to play hockey.

Krantz's father left a message at a Ferris office to which he received a reply a few days later. The university had plans to build Ewigleben Arena in 1975, but Ferris approved the creation of an outdoor ice rink between Brophy-McNerney and Merrill-Travis halls. After becoming a registered student organization (RSO), the

Ferris Hockey Club hosted tryouts with more than 100 people showing up, according to Brian.

Kristen followed in her father's footsteps by starting the Ferris Figure Skating Club. Kristen realized Ferris did not have varsity or club figure skating before applying for college, but since her father was a trailblazer at Ferris, she figured she could be as well.

"My freshman year, I showed up on campus and didn't have any connections so I had to make a bunch of calls. He helped make calls, getting bounced around from person to person trying to find the right people to talk to make this happen," Kristen said.

She spent most of her freshman year looking for other girls to fill the five-person minimum threshold to start an RSO. By March of 2014 she had enough skaters to create the club, and as many as 17 skaters were registered by Fall. Since then, Ferris figure skating has medaled in multiple competitions against larger schools and have put on shows at Ferris hockey games.

Team maneuver figure skating is a complicated sport that requires mastery of particular choreographed moves to be judged in comparison to the competition. Every team performs six different elements, which are those particular movements such as an axle or a waltz.

Dance competitions are judged based on precision of turns and jumps during a predetermined routine

Skating | see page 13



Top Dawg

Craig Pefley

Torch File Photo

Keith Salowich

Torch Reporter

Ferris sophomore forward Craig Pefley did everything he could to sink the Lakers' ship in the Bulldogs' most recent series against Lake Superior State.

Pefley played a hand in four goals in the 6-4 win over LSSU Friday, Feb. 24, by racking up three assists and scoring one power play goal of his own. The 5-foot-10,

180-pound St. Clair native also won 16 of 19 face-offs on the night.

In the following game, the Bulldogs failed to match the previous night's offensive output and had to settle for a 1-1 tie. Still, Pefley played a role by winning nine face-offs and recording a shot on goal.

The Dawgs will start their postseason at Bowling Green State in a best-of-three series. The first puck drop is slated for 7:07 p.m. Friday, March 3, in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Sunshine and softball

The Bulldog softball program sacrifices Spring Break to kick off new season

Beau Jensen

Torch Reporter

Just because they're escaping the unpredictable Michigan weather for more stable climates doesn't mean the women of the Ferris State softball program are going on a vacation.

Their annual trip to Florida for six days' worth of double headers for the National Training Center (NTC) Spring Games is upon them, but just because it's Spring Break doesn't mean it's time to relax, according to junior pitcher/outfielder Sam Bates.

"It's not a vacation at all, it's strictly business," Bates said. "We are there to win and work on our game before conference play. We do get a few days off here and there to hang out with family and maybe go to the beach. But other than that, it is softball."

The team has a total of 12 games to play, all within the span of nine days, starting off with a matchup against Urbana University Sunday, March 5, and ending the trip with a game against the University of Illinois-Springfield Monday, March 13.

Bates said that though it is a business trip, it's still important for the team to enjoy their time there together.

"You are living with your teammates, learning things you never knew about them," Bates said. "It helps the team grow in a sense of better understanding everyone and improves chemistry because you have that one-on-one connection with the team."

Last year, the team went 15-22 during their time in the Sunshine State as they started off their 2015-2016 season in Florida.

The Dawgs have already begun their season with three straight five-inning losses, so hopes are high on getting better, according to senior infielder Sarah Johnson.

"I expect us to make improvements every game. We have a lot of newbies and it takes time to teach them the culture of our team," Johnson said. "But if we see improvements every game and every day, it will set them up for the future, even if the seniors are already gone."

It'd be tough for any college student to give up their Spring Break, but there is always a bright side to things, according to Bates.

"Being outside is better than being in any gym while playing," Bates said. "The sun on our face and cleats in the dirt is the best feeling."

The team starts off their NTC Spring Games 1 p.m. Sunday, March 5, in Clermont, Florida. The team will return to regular conference play in late March.



Photo by: Aubrey Kemme | Multimedia Editor

The Ferris softball team is giving up their Spring Break to make their annual trip to Florida to play 12 exhibition games within a nine-day span.

SKATING

Continued from page 12

that everyone follows. Freestyle competitions are judged on the skater executing the elements appropriate for their level.

Besides little recognition on campus, the figure skating club's biggest issue is affording ice time. The team currently practices for two hours a week at Ewigleben Arena at \$152 an hour.

Kristen said: "Our biggest challenge is paying for practice because ice time is so expensive. In order to prepare for competition, we have to practice and we can only afford two hours of practice a week."

Funds have come from team dues and fundraisers, as well as proceeds from a hockey tournament that Brian Krantz puts on in Traverse City. But Krantz hopes the team can receive more money

from Ferris Clubs Sports to fund ice time.

The Ferris Figure Skating Club is looking to expand and accepts both men and women. Formal tryouts are held in the spring, but the team is open to impromptu tryouts on a case-to-case basis if someone finds out about the team late.

Ferris senior and figure skater Courtney Lyczynski said: "We would like to build more on the team. Try and get more girls or boys, because we're open to both. We want to one day host a competition."

The Ferris Figure Skating club will compete next in the 2017 Skate on Wisconsin Saturday, March 4, and Sunday, March 5, in McFarland, Wisconsin.

This event features such teams as the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Oakland University and several others.

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OPINIONS

“When you meet someone with a disability, connect with them on a human level.” - Marley Tucker See page 15 for story

Travis Sacher | *Opinions Editor* | sachert@ferris.edu

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Chat with the chief

Editor in Chief, Keith Salowich

Many media outlets have been under heavy scrutiny by both American citizens and the highest elected officials of our government. There seems to be some misconceptions about the media rebounding off the walls of echo chambers, so I plan to discuss them. I'll be brief.

Freedom of the press falls

under the first amendment of the Constitution and does not only apply to press that one agrees with.

News that contradicts “alternative facts” is not fake news.

There are news organizations that fall on both ends of the political spectrum and sensationalize certain topics to conform to their

bias. They exist on both political fronts and neither should be solely used as a benchmark of what's really going on.

Banning select major news organizations from attending a White House press briefing while allowing the aforementioned biased organizations to attend is unconstitutional. It's occurred in

past administrations to an extent, but that doesn't make it right. Government requires impartial and free media access in order to retain any modicum of transparency.

Don't digest news from just one outlet. Look beyond your own bias and seek out impartial news sources.

America's sweetheart

Why Beyoncé is the best by a ridiculous margin



Jonny Parshall
Copy Editor

I will admit, I don't have any Beyoncé songs on my iPod. But that's because it's 2017 and nobody has an iPod. What were you thinking? Moving forward.

Those who know me would not expect me to be a huge Beyoncé fan. And huge would, indeed, be an overstatement. I typically gravitate toward loud, angry “white people” music such as punk, metal and Gregorian chant. But I also enjoy Lady GaGa, Adam Lambert and Ke\$ha. And I especially love me some Lemonade. And I am not referring to beverages.

Beyoncé Knowles, professionally and endearingly known by her mononym Beyoncé, is one of the most successful artists of all time. She's been nominated for more Grammy awards than any other female performer—more than 50, winning 22, two of which in 2017. Her six solo albums have each debuted at no. 1. Her loss to Taylor Swift at the 2010 VMA awards inspired Kanye to take the stage, make an ass of himself and humiliate Swift.

So, with so many successful pop stars active in the music industry, why does Beyoncé consistently dominate the competition? Here are three of my suggestions that might explain it.

Beyoncé is consistent. Her albums always do well because she sticks to her guns and releases music that the fans expect and typically, love. She has a skilled team of songwriters and producers to ensure she's always on point. She's received ridicule for this by haters and critics but with such juicy results, why hate?

Many artists these days constantly reinvent their sound and image with a range of results. Taylor Swift transformed from a country star to exclusively glitter pop, whereas Lady GaGa is seemingly trying the opposite approach. This experimentation can alienate fans and compromise record sales. Beyoncé tends to avoid any drastic experiments, though remains multifaceted, which leads to my next approach.

Beyoncé is versatile. She has her hands in many cookie jars. She can perform on stage and in the studio with everyone from the Dixie Chicks to Sean Paul without weirding anybody out. Nothing she does is unexpected or outside of her limits. Nobody asked GaGa for a Tony Bennett collaboration, or Metallica to team up with Lou Reed. Beyoncé can not only do practically anything with anybody but in fact, make it better. She can do Rihanna better than Rihanna. Her music isn't too “rap” to dissatisfy a pop crowd, and it's not too “pop” to alienate

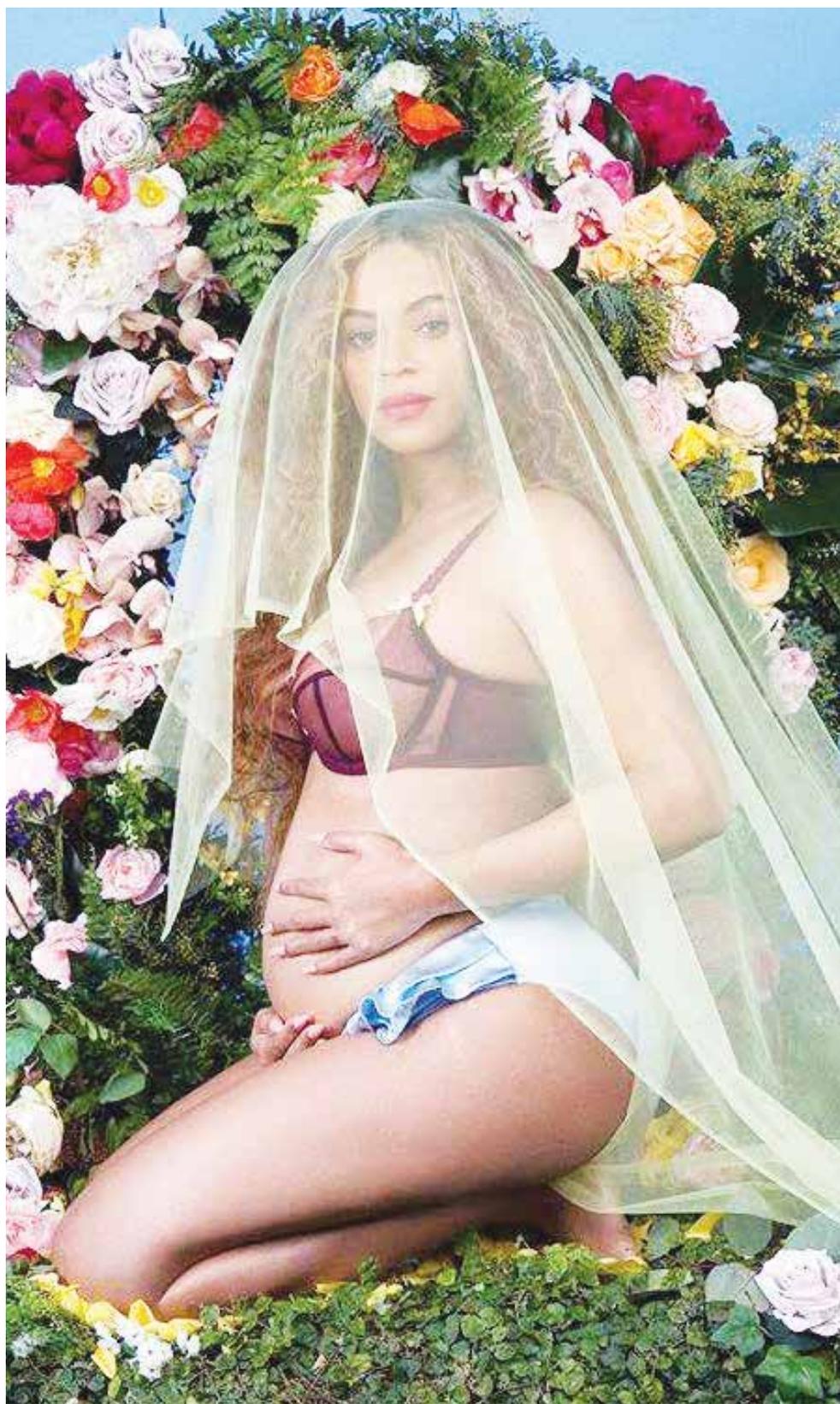


Photo from Beyoncé Knowles' Twitter account

Beyoncé has been nominated for more Grammy awards than any other female performer.

an urban audience.

Lastly, Beyoncé has the whole “power couple” thing down. The pop star's relationship and eventual marriage with Jay-Z has received more publicity than the British royal family. That's because they have the attributes of an American royal family. They are the quintessential image of 21st century glamor. They're like a Disney couple come to life. We care about them as a couple, and we clicked the link announcing Beyoncé's twins' potential names, even if it was only speculative. You know you did. Just admit it. Especially with the Trumps (yawn) in

the White House, you can be damn sure we'll be watching Bey-Z twice as hard.

Any statement against the talent and influence of Beyoncé is, at this point, a moot point. It's like denying Obama's birth certificate. You missed the bus. Nobody's listening. Beyoncé has proven herself as the biggest force in recorded music, and laid the groundwork to dwarf the careers and accomplishments of other acts. She's America's number one sweetheart and her next album will be the best thing you ever experienced. Again.

I am not your inspiration

Why we need to change how we treat disability online

I saw a meme on Facebook recently that showed a smiling girl walking with a cane against a caption that read, "The only disability in life is a bad attitude." If you don't see a problem with that, let me explain.

I want to preface this by saying that people with disabilities can be inspirational; many do wonderful things and receive praise for their amazing work. However, people with disabilities can sometimes become subjects of what is described as "inspiration porn."

Disability rights activist Stella Young coined the term "inspiration porn" in 2012. It refers to society's tendency to reduce people with disabilities to objects of inspiration. These memes and viral videos circulating on social media make viewers feel good about themselves. The memes serve to remind people that their lives aren't as bad because at least they aren't disabled.

I can hear the question: "But I thought I was being supportive?" as I type this. Don't worry; your heart is in the right place. What we need to do is reframe how we treat disability on social platforms. Pay attention to what you're posting on Facebook. Why is that viral photo with a disabled person inspiring? I love social media like the next person, but we need to make sure that we are not objectifying a group of people with it.



Marley Tucker
Interim Reporter

I have experienced this here at Ferris. A girl in class pulled me aside to tell me that I was inspiring for making it into college after struggling with my health since I was a teenager. Until I disclosed my status as someone living with chronic illness, I was no less inspiring than anyone else in the room. She was being kind, but her praise seemed to benefit her more than me. I was responsible for my own success and didn't want her to see my disability before she saw me for who I was.

In short, I'm not your inspiration because of my chronic illness. Disabled people might have to work a little harder to get the same results, but that doesn't make them extraordinary.

When you meet someone with a disability, connect with them on a human level. Don't reduce people to objects of inspiration. Disability deserves visibility, and you can do your part by posting content online that promotes healthy discourse instead of hindering it.

Can't we all just get along?

Accepting others and their viewpoints

Is anyone else slightly, well not slightly, but entirely sick of the constant arguments and Facebook berating going on in our country right now? I hope I'm not the only one.

I believe and understand in the concept of free speech and the right to express your opinion, but at what cost? Someone wise once said, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all."

Where did basic human decency and understanding go? Somewhere along the line, people stopped caring. They stopped caring about how others feel or think and they started only caring about themselves and what they think. Even my own family members can't seem to control the need to push their views on everything that is social media. All of the negativity has built up one giant question for me over the past few months... What is the point?

There are billions of people in the world and not



Aubrey Kemme
Multimedia Editor

everyone is going to think exactly the same way. In order to be at peace and live a happier life, it's just better to get over that fact. It's a waste of energy to be angry and opinionated all the time. You could be using that energy to help build positivity. Circumstances are different for everyone, and we may never understand why certain people think or feel the way that they do. That's just how it is.

Can you imagine how boring the world would be if we all thought and acted the same way? It's different viewpoints that push us to improve as a whole. The fact that individuals think differently should be celebrated, in most cases, and not condemned.

Accepting someone and their views is just being polite and decent to another human being. While it is acceptable to disagree for your own reasons, try to do so in a respecting way.

GOT AN OPINION?

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

1. THINK OF A TOPIC THAT YOU FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT.

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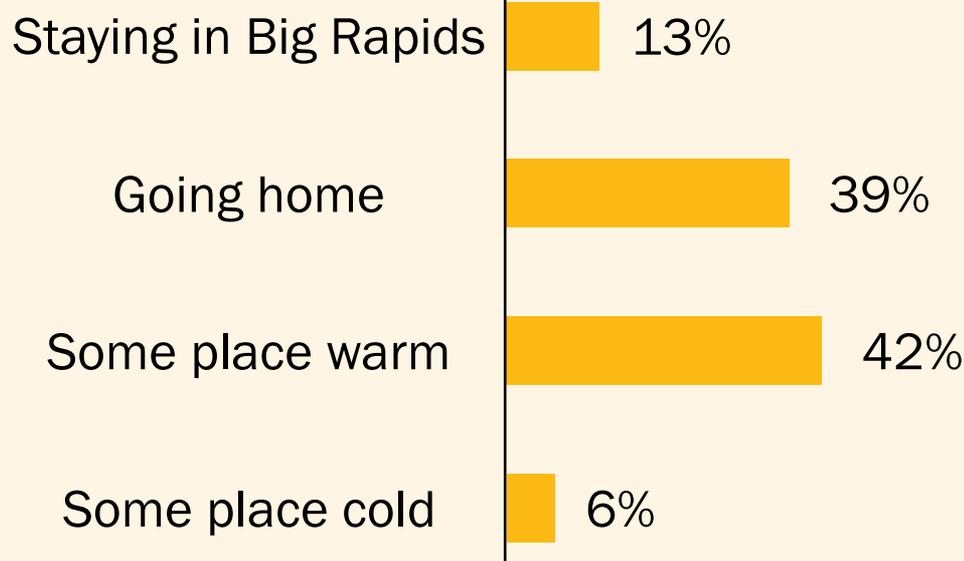
Melanie Bale | Interim Reporter



I am a pre-optometry junior. Originally from Clarkston, I moved up to Big Rapids after I transferred to Ferris. Some things I enjoy in my free time would include a good book, a cup of tea, yoga without distractions and playing the violin. My goals after Ferris are to attend graduate school, obtain my masters and work with Doctors Without Borders or a similar organization.

TORCH POLL RESULTS

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Journalism is the spice of freedom

Denying unfavorable news entities is a threat to our democracy



Cody Burkhard
Torch Reporter

Freedom of the press and the prospect of a transparent government was attacked when several news outlets including CNN, BBC, New York Times and the LA Times were barred from attending the White House press briefing Thursday, Feb. 23—all of which have been publicly scrutinized by President Donald Trump.

Trump has insisted that such publications spread “fake news” and distort the facts unfavorably in regards to his administration. Those outlets that were allowed in included ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox News and Breitbart News—some of which lean republican.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer selected the accepted news outlets. Spicer confirmed this in the press briefing and insisted the administration was “pushing back” against false narratives and information. This is a reasonable position to take after murky reports of Trump’s administration’s alleged ties to Russia. However, if the information in these reports is indeed false, then questions need to be asked, not just by those who accept your viewpoint blindly or with blissful ignorance in order to propagate an agenda laid out by those who financially support these publications.

In a society where the media outlets are largely in the pockets of corporations with government ties, there are bound to be biased sources, if not all being so. In order to see through the smoke and mirrors of click-bait articles and skewed points of view designed to insight a reaction, whether it is positive or negative, multiple news sources and



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Assistant

points of view are needed. It’s sort of a check and balance to separate actual facts from alternative facts.

Several media outlets, including Fox News, have expressed concerns about only selected entities being allowed into the gaggle at the White House. When asked during the briefing about why the other media outlets were not allowed, Spicer said, “It was my decision to decide—you know, to expand the pool. Yeah.”

I don’t know how that even made sense in his mind, but I guess the alternative meaning of “expand” is “diminish,” as in diminishing the number of news entities by only allowing favorable outlets in.

It is important to note that Obama held several meetings with just left-leaning publications during his tenure. This sift-

ing through the journalism pool is a threat to our existence as free thinkers in a free society.

No matter the president or how you feel about them, freedom of the press is not limited to those that support the administration. Such unchecked spreading of information can lead to regimes such as the Nazis who used media outlets to spread anti-Semitic propaganda, which led to the Holocaust.

This is extreme, but it is a possibility that our government could take control of our lives and restrict whatever sense of freedom we have into the narrow lines drawn by corporations if the public is not informed, through multiple viewpoints, of operations behind the scenes that influence our laws and culture.

two kinds of spring breakers



Cartoon by: Mikala Pillar | Cartoonist