

Ferris State University



TORCH

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BRING IT HOME

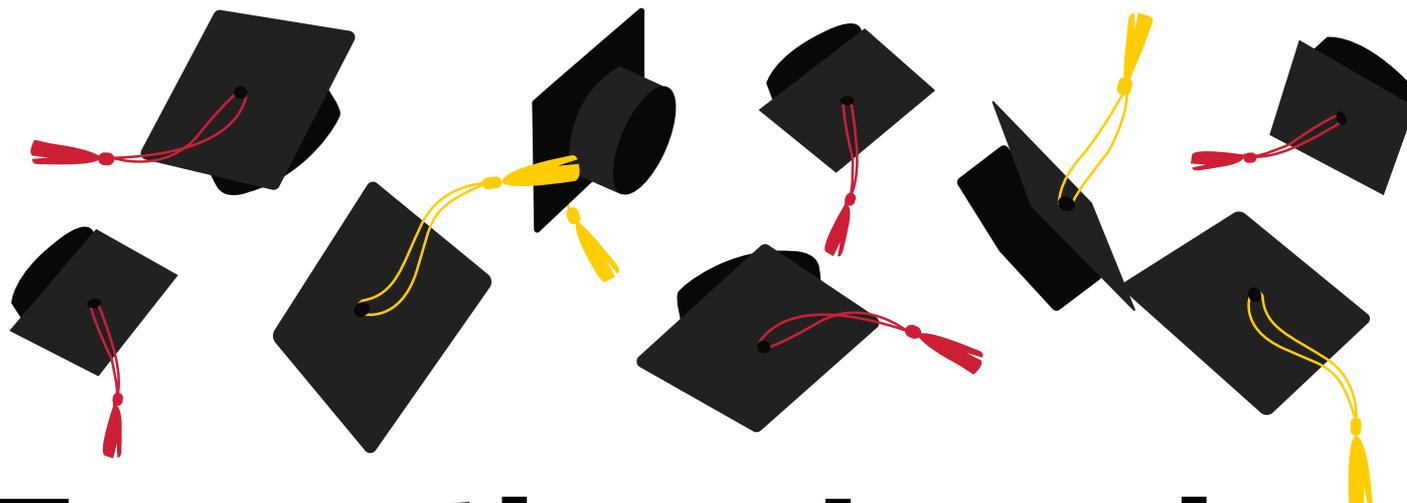
Keeping the postseason dreams of Bulldog softball alive will come down to their final regular season matchup against Grand Valley State

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THE AVOCADO TELETHON RETURNS

The 12-hour live stream aims to raise money for local charity

LIFESTYLES | PAGE 13



Exceptional seniors

Graduating seniors reflect on their time at Ferris

Harley Harrison
Torch Reporter

As the end of the 2016-17 school year quickly approaches, seniors are taking time to reflect on their years at Ferris.

Ferris early childhood education senior and Grand Rapids native Faith Speigner has been in love with Ferris since the moment she stepped on campus for her first visit.

"I chose my major because I have always loved children and with my patience, I am great around children," Speigner said. "I have learned that time has no end and if you don't know what you want to do as a career, that's OK. What's important is you take the time when you're ready."

With a minor in psychology and another minor in French, Speigner aspires to move out of the state and open her own business before the end of the year.

"One of my biggest challenges was finding an internship," Speigner said. "It does require

extra time, but it is worth it in the end."

Speigner said that if she could have done things differently, she would change the fact that she lived off campus.

"It was a great experience. But living on campus was the highlight of my school year and if I could, I wish I could live in East Campus," Speigner said. "I have never stayed in that on campus apartment. I have [lived] in West Campus housing, but I feel like I am missing the full Bulldog experience."

Another senior deserving of recognition is Ferris nursing senior and Grand Rapids native Tania Gonzalez. She chose Ferris for its size and proximity to home. In her junior year of high school, her counselor referred her to a technical center in Grand Rapids that had an affiliation with Ferris, allowing her to complete college credits while still in high school.



Tania Gonzalez

"I decided to come to Ferris and I loved it," Gonzalez said.

During her time at Ferris, Gonzalez worked as a tour guide and founded the Ferris chapter of her sorority, Sigma Lambda Gamma, which is a latina-based social sorority. Previously, she was involved with the Hispanic Student Organization (HSO) and the Ferris Student Nurses Association.

"I'm glad I got involved. It just made me network a little more. It lets me meet new people

and actually make friends because, when I first came, I didn't know anybody," Gonzalez said. "See what's out there. Get involved."

Gonzalez, a current certified nursing assistant, said that she's loved the healthcare field since she was a child. When Gonzalez was in high school, a friend was hospitalized and, upon multiple visits to the hospital, Gonzalez made the final decision to go into nursing.

"I'd always observe the nurses and see what they did," Gonzalez said. "This really interests me. I want to be able to help people and interact with patients all the time, so I think that's when I fully decided nursing."

After graduating, Gonzalez wants to gain experience as a nurse on a medical and surgical floor, followed by working at the Helen Devos Center and—one day—returning to school to get her masters.

As a first generation college student, Gonzalez admits that attending college was quite confusing.

"I always had my mind set that I wanted to go to college. I didn't know how, I didn't know how to pay for it, I didn't know anything about FAFSA," Gonzalez said. "I came in blindsided because I didn't know what I was doing."

Fortunately, Gonzalez sought resources from the Hispanic Center in Grand Rapids, where she learned how to fill out FAFSA and other forms for college.

"I really enjoyed my time at Ferris, I really did," Gonzalez said.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

May 5th - 3:30 PM

College of Health Professions - 342 participants

May 5th - 7:30 PM

College of Arts and Science - 270 participants

Community College of Leadership - 22 participants

College of Pharmacy - 148 participants

May 6th - 9:00 AM

College of Engineering Tech. - 355 participants

May 6th - 12:30 PM

College of Business - 390 participants

Michigan College of Optometry - 20 participants

College of Education and Human Services - 348 participants

The above information was provided by Ferris' Commencement Coordinator Jennifer Stevens



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To those who aren't graduating on time

Don't worry about it

Melanie Bale

Torch Reporter

To the student who just left their adviser's office crying, it's OK. To the plethora of students who aren't graduating this semester when they feel like they should be, it's OK.

Families may be disappointed, bank accounts and credit scores may cry with you, and goals may seem farther away than they previously were. All of that will subside. Parents will love you still, credit scores will recover, and you will reach that graduation ceremony with a cap on your head.

To the student who had their heart set on getting their degree at the same time as their peers, it's OK. Unfortunately, the constructs of our society force students to compare themselves to one another and ultimately, create a modern-day gladiator situation in a race to be the best and to do it before everyone else. But as students, we've learned that our fierce ability to adapt and strive for what we want would terrify a small child.

To the students who are first generation whose parents don't understand why you need two more semesters when you've already been here four years, it's OK. The fact that we're even getting a degree sets us apart from a majority of the world, and only 40 percent of students graduate within four years anyway. When they see you graduate and start the career you wanted, they'll understand.

To the student who changed their major halfway through undergrad and has three more years, it's OK. The early 20's are the most forming years of our lives and we've chosen to spend it bettering ourselves. As students, we're taking advantage of the opportunities college has to offer, discovering who we are and refusing to settle.

So to the Bulldogs who are stuck in the pound for a few more semesters, remember who you want to be and be proud of yourself for where you are and where you're going.

NEWS

"I screamed in his face and there was nothing—no response,"
- Michele Maxson, See page 3 for story

Angela Graf | News Editor | grafa1@ferris.edu



Photo by: Andrea Cordes | Torch Photographer

The 2017 Big Event had 1,250 volunteers, including members of Ferris' You Beautiful Black Woman student organization (above), working at 250 different Big Rapids properties on everything from painting to picking up sticks.

Ferris fosters philanthropy

2017 marks the 10-year anniversary of the Big Event

Marley Tucker

Torch Reporter

Big Rapids saw Ferris students grabbing ladders and rakes Saturday, April 22, as 1,250 student volunteers helped 250 houses with outdoor yard work in this year's Big Event.

The Big Event allows students, faculty and staff to do yard maintenance and other tasks throughout Big Rapids to service the community. It is currently the largest student run philanthropic project in Michigan.

"My experience has been amazing. It's been a really great ride. There's so much that goes in to getting students to this point and most of it happens on the day of," said Ferris psychology senior and the 2017 director of the Big Event Alexandra Reeds. "We've made a lot of internal improvements to help the event run smoother on our side, and this year we really wanted to focus on giving back to students, which is why we have a new T-shirt logo, Big Event sunglasses, the breakfast and prizes you can win. We really wanted to take our 10 year anniversary to

give back to the students instead of just giving back to the community. We want people to have fun and want to do this event."



Alexandra Reeds

far as Stanwood to do their jobs.

"I've done the Big Event for the last two years as a volunteer. I really love the idea of giving back to the community," said Ferris criminal justice junior and the operations coordinator for the Big Event Sean Herp. "I felt like I wanted to be more involved so that's why I do it."



Sean Herp

This 10-year milestone has been met with enthusiasm from volunteers.

"I've always loved community service. I

Volunteers perform various services for residents such as washing windows, raking leaves and painting. Students are dispersed throughout the Big Rapids community to tend to houses and some go as



Photo by: Andrea Cordes | Torch Photographer

Ferris' chapter of Alpha Psi Omega was one of the many student organizations taking part in the Big Event, raking leaves and clearing brush.

work back home in my church and always find ways to help out, so I was drawn to this event," said Ferris political science freshman Charnice Lagrone, a member of the You Beautiful Black Woman (YBBW) student organization. "I heard about the event from several people and of course I saw the e-mails so I got really interested with what



Charnice Lagrone

Ferris is trying to do. I feel like it's a good scene and I appreciate giving back." With less volunteers compared to previous years, Ferris students remain positive about the impact this service project has on the community. "Usually, the Big Event is the second or third last weekend before the semester ends, and the way that the academic calendar ended this year with mid-semester break has made a lot of other activities fall under the same

day. Next year's academic calendar is different, so I think we can get the volunteer number back up again," said Ferris chemistry senior Travis Hill.

In 2015, The Big Event had 1,631 volunteers that served 250 homes. Last year, more than 1,800 volunteers served 290 homes.

"We actually had to turn some houses away because we didn't have enough volunteers, so let that be a message to students that we need more people to come out and make an impact," Herp said.

If Ferris students are seeking more volunteer opportunities throughout campus, check out Ferris' academic calendar and the notice boards posted outside of the Student Government Association office to receive more information.



Travis Hill

- ON THE RECORD -

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

The Rock would've been more appropriate

By Angela Graf - News Editor

Lock it up!

March 27, 5 p.m. officers received a report of a bicycle stolen from the West Campus Apartment complex.

Stop it.

March 28, 10:20 p.m. officers stopped a vehicle for failure to stop at a stop sign on Campus Drive. One student was identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct for possession of marijuana.

Slow down

March 29, 7:20 p.m. officers responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in Lot 5.

You move too fast

March 31, 12:40 p.m. officers responded to a report of a two-vehicle accident in Lot 37.

Gotta make the morning last

March 31, 7:20 p.m. officers responded to a marijuana complaint in Cramer Hall.

Kicking down the cobblestones

April 1, 8:40 p.m. officers stopped a vehicle on Perry Avenue near Ferris Drive for defective equipment. The driver was found to be in possession of marijuana and ticketed.

Looking for fun

April 2, 9 p.m. officers responded to a

harassment complaint in Travis Hall in which a student was receiving unwanted text messages. The suspect was contacted and told to leave the student alone or face criminal charges.

Feeling groovy

April 3, 10:40 p.m. officers responded to a marijuana complaint in Hallisy Hall. One student was identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Don't mind if I do

April 3, 3:30 p.m. officers responded to a report of money stolen from the employee locker area of the Quad Café. The suspect was identified and a warrant was sent to the prosecutor's office.

Score two, Hallisy

April 4, 10:50 p.m. officers responded to a marijuana complaint in Hallisy Hall. One student was identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

From Hallisy, I presume?

April 5, 1:50 a.m. officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in Lot 51. One student was identified, referred to the Office of Student Conduct and ticketed for possession of marijuana.

Screech 'n' scrape

April 5, 4:35 p.m. officers responded to a hit and run accident in Lot 27.

Lunker alert

April 7, 6 p.m. officers responded to a report of a disorderly person in the student recreation center. The suspect was located and removed from the premises for five days.

Trailer park woes

April 8, 11:05 a.m. officers investigated a disturbance in Travis Hall which resulted in one subject being jailed for domestic assault.

Crank down the jams

April 8, 11 p.m. officers responded to a noise complaint in the West Campus Apartment. Two students were identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

The prowler returns!

April 9, 3:45 a.m. officers assisted the Sheriff's Department with a trespassing complaint in Campus Creek apartment. The incident was ultimately handled by the Sheriff's Department.

Three days early...

April 17, 7:40 p.m. officers investigated a report of marijuana in the West Campus Apartment. Two students were identified and referred to the Office of Student Conduct for use of marijuana.

... and still too late

April 17, 9:55 p.m. officers investigated a marijuana complaint in Travis Hall. One student was identified, referred to the Office

of Student Conduct and had a warrant sent to the prosecutor's office.

4/20, blaze up!

April 20, 11:25 p.m. officers investigated a report of a suspicious vehicle in Lot 61, resulting in two students being referred to the Office of Student Conduct for use of marijuana.

Friends don't let friends...

April 20, 3:20 a.m. officers stopped a vehicle on State Street, south of Big Rapids, for erratic driving. The driver was found to be intoxicated and was logged for OWI.

Surprise, surprise

April 21, 12:45 a.m. officers investigated a report of a suspicious vehicle in Lot 28, resulting in three students being referred to the Office of Student Conduct for possession of marijuana as well as one of the three being ticketed.

The Rock would've been more appropriate

April 22, 10:15 p.m. officers investigated a report of a student throwing rocks at the University Center. The suspect was contacted and ticketed for disorderly conduct and MIP.

It's not delivery, it's Di-weirdo

April 23, 12:30 a.m. officers investigated a complaint of unlawful entry in Puterbaugh Hall. The suspect was identified and lodged in jail.

Miracle recovery NEWS BRIEFS

By Angela Graf - News Editor

Ferris student survives life threatening car accident

Alysha West

Guest Writer

Ask Noah Maxson or any of his friends or family members if they believe in miracles and the answer will be a resounding yes.

Sunday, Feb. 5, Noah Maxson, 19, a freshman in the criminal justice program at Ferris, was driving to his family's home in White Cloud after attending church at Trinity Fellowship in Big Rapids. While driving on a dirt road, he lost control of his truck on the ice and collided with a tree. During the collision, his head hit and shattered the driver side window.

"Firsthand, I think the only thing I remember is going into the Shell gas station after going to church," Noah said. "I had parked two gas pumps to the left of a guy that I knew. I talked to him for a little bit before we both had to go. I don't even know which way I left the gas station. I don't remember going to church. I don't remember seeing people there."

Noah's brother Shane Maxson, 21, was also on his way home and was the first to respond to the scene of the accident. He called for help at 12:52 p.m.

"It was really weird. The last thing I was expecting. I knew it was his truck. There's not many trucks like that around here," Shane said. "I checked on him first. Parked my car right there, jumped out. He was unconscious and I got him awake. As soon as I got him awake, I went and grabbed my phone."

Noah and Shane's parents, Tim and Michele, and his brother Elijah, 15, were also on their way home from church in a separate car. At 1:15 p.m., Michele received a frantic call from her nephew's girlfriend, who had found Shane tending to Noah at the scene of the accident.

"Tim was driving. He whipped the truck around and just floored it," Michele said. "And it was really icy out and Eli just leaned over and said, 'Dad, calm down,' and then he put his hand on his leg and then he said, 'We need to pray,' and he just started praying."

When they arrived on scene, Noah was unconscious on a stretcher, awaiting a medical helicopter to transport him to Grand Rapids. Michele went straight to him, despite Shane's protests.

"He didn't respond at all," Michele said. "I screamed in his face and there was nothing—no response. And so I knew when the first responder said, 'He's stable. He's gonna be okay,' I knew he was lying to me."

Noah was taken to the hospital by Aero Med and placed in the intensive care unit (ICU) of Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. He was hooked up to a ventilator and stabilized by 3:10 p.m. The initial scans showing that the impact of the crash had caused a traumatic injury and bleeding on his brain.

According to Michele, the doctors estimated that her son could be on the ventilator for weeks or even months. They warned that there was a potential for

Accident | see page 4

PIGNIC

The Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) will be holding their annual PIGNIC to celebrate the end of a successful academic year. There will be free food, music and games. The event is set to take place Saturday, April 29, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the North Quad. The rain location is the IRC connector.

Fallen Officer 5k

Lambda Alpha Epsilon (LAE) will be hosting their annual 5k run/walk in honor of fallen officers in the line of duty. All proceeds will go to the Jessica Nagle-Wilson scholarship fund, which is awarded to a Ferris criminal justice student each year. Prizes for top runners will be given out at the race, which will take place Sunday, April 30, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Northend Riverside Park in Big Rapids. Contact Jessica Wilhelm at fallenofficermemorial5k@gmail.com for more information.

Ferris State Torch Corrections

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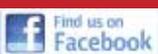
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ACCIDENT

Continued from page 3

brain swelling and, if he survived, severe personality damage and difficulties with impulse control.

Ferris chemistry student Jeffrey Reardon, 23, became friends with Noah last fall through a registered student organization (RSO) called Real Life. When the members of Real Life heard about the accident, they gathered in the University Center to pray. Later, about 20 students drove to the hospital to support the Noah's family and pray in the waiting room.

"When we would pray and when I would pray, it felt like God was giving me reasons not to worry," Reardon said. "The news was scary and seemed counterproductive to that feeling, but it also felt like He wanted me to be calm and know that it was in His hands. It was kind of mixed emotions, but the overall feeling was kind of a calm feeling—to just keep doing what we could to lift him and his family up, stay calm, and provide some stability to him and his family. And know that it was in [God's] hands and just keep going."

That night, the bleeding on Noah's brain stopped. A day later, Noah was able to be eased off the ventilator in less than an hour. That was the first sign of the miracle.

Two days after his accident, Noah was able to take a few wobbly steps down the hall and was moved out of the ICU. Four days after his accident, Noah moved from the hospital to the Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation center.

"The first thing I remember rather well was seeing a friend who used to go to Trinity," Noah said. "I was being moved from the hospital to Mary Free Bed by an ambulance and I just so happened, out of the corner of my eye, caught this lady's face and said, 'hi' to her."

Twelve days after his accident, Noah was discharged and allowed to complete the remainder of his therapy as an outpatient.



Submitted Photo

Ferris criminal justice freshman Noah Maxson, who was involved in an accident in early February, will return to continue working on his degree in fall 2017.

Therapy has gone well and Noah does not need surgery on the bone in his face that was broken during the accident—it healed on its own.

"Everything that they told us to expect either didn't happen or it happened in record time," Michele said. "And the doctors have said over and over again: 'It's a miracle.' [They have] never seen progress like this before, never seen anybody with this kind of trauma just really overcome it this quickly or this well. They still say that. The therapists still say that. They're all like, 'We don't know what to do with you.'"

For Noah, the miracle is challenging to grasp because he does not remember much. In his mind, it is surreal, as if it had happened to someone else.

For his family and friends, however, Noah's injuries are a very real memory. They said that they are overjoyed and in awe of his recovery.

"We were at the accident scene [a couple of weeks after Noah's accident] and I just started sobbing," Michele said. "And he's like, 'Mom, I'm right here.' It sounds kind of funny, but it was so profound because I'm like, 'You are here.' I wanted that tree

cut down. I didn't want to ever see it again, knowing that I would be driving by it every single day, twice. And Tim said, 'No, we're not cutting it down. That's a monument. That's a testament to how great God is.'"

While Noah was unable to complete his classes for the Spring 2017 semester due to the accident, he plans to return to Ferris in the fall and continue pursuing a degree in criminal justice.

A night of celebration

Ferris' American Marketing Association hosts 10th annual gala

Andrea Lenhart

Torch Reporter

The American Marketing Association celebrated another year of achievements during their 10th annual gala at the Tullymore Golf Resort.

"The 10th annual gala is a wrap up event of the entire year," said Ferris marketing senior Dominic Hasbrouck. "Throughout the year, we compete with all of the other chapters in the world to have the most successful year."

According to Hasbrouck, there are now nearly 400 American Marketing Associations (AMA) chapters on college campuses throughout the world.

"We are celebrating the fact that again we are a top-25 chapter internationally, and we also placed second in the international eBay case competition, which means that we developed a marketing plan for eBay and we were second in the competition out of all the other schools that competed," Hasbrouck said.

AMA traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana for the competition and won a variety of awards.

The AMA is also celebrating their reelection as Five-Star RSO.

"We are pretty proud. One other thing that we are proud of is that our adviser, Dr. Laura Dix, has won three very prestigious awards this

year," Hasbrouck said.

"It's amazing. It's exciting. I was awarded the Lifetime Achievement award for the AMA collegiate chapters, I was rewarded the Outstanding RSO Adviser and the Outstanding Academic advisor at Ferris," Dix said. "I call it the triple crown."

During the event, eight students were inducted into Alpha Mu Alpha,

the national marketing honorary for qualified undergraduate, graduate and doctoral marketing students.

"I am most proud of the executive board that I got to work with," Hasbrouck said. "We met for two hours every week and those were some of my best memories."

The incoming president, Ferris marketing sophomore Keegan Brown feels honored to be the next president of Ferris' AMA.

"With this position, I am looking forward to taking on that higher responsibly role," Brown said. "It's a major growth for anyone to take on a higher role that requires this much responsibly."

"Reach for your goals, work hard. The success they got this year, they earned it," Dix said. "It's not luck, they earned it, they worked for it and they deserve it."



Keegan Brown

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Free speech on campus

Ferris RSOs claim censorship at state hearing hosted at FSU

Keith Salowich

Editor in chief

Forms of free speech were barred from entering the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) public hearing, according to several Ferris students.

The event, held Wednesday, April 12, in the University Center, was meant to collect public opinion on whether Nestlé should be able to increase the amount of groundwater being pumped at a site in Osceola County from 250 gallons per minute to 400 gallons per minute.

Approximately 600 people were in attendance to make their voices heard and more than 100 people had already signed up to speak during the public hearing two hours before the event began. Among those in attendance, were several members of Ferris' Bulldog Sustainability Alliance (BSA), Conscious Consumers Coalition and FSU Outdoor Club RSOs, who were holding a sit-in in opposition of the proposed increased water draw.

Two members of the BSA arrived with a banner to support their cause, but were told they would not be allowed to bring it in. Multiple police officers were present to enforce the policy and keep the peace.

"As a student group on this campus, we were given certain rights. This is on our campus. This is our community. We are an organization dedicated to this," said Ferris communication and public advocacy senior and BSA member Michael Williams. "We're guaranteed this right especially at a state hearing. This is censorship at its finest and it should not be going on."

Signs posted in the University Center—bearing the Ferris State logo and posted near doors on the east and west sides of the building—warned attendees against bringing in signs or banners, chanting or unapproved solicitation during the event.

"We have the right to protest. We have the



Submitted Photo

Members of Ferris' Bulldog Sustainability Alliance, Conscious Consumer Coalition and FSU Outdoor Club RSOs display the banner they had created outside of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's public hearing in the University Center. They were not allowed to bring the banner into the building.

right to speak up. And we are not being allowed signs in our university. We have rights guaranteed by the university as members of student organizations to free speech on campus, but because the state is here, we aren't going to abide by that tonight," Williams said.

Ferris' Code of Student Community Standards outlines the university's right to regulate activities in campus facilities.

"The University's Division of Student Affairs shall be responsible for administering

policies and procedures to regulate campus activities and to control the use of University facilities in order to, amongst other legitimate purposes, maintain order on campus, avoid disruption of the educational mission, promote an educational atmosphere, and promote safety and security," the Ferris Code of Student Community Standards reads.

The Vice President for Student Affairs is responsible for issuing such policies, which must be approved by President David Eisler

according to the Code of Student Community Standards.

Ferris Vice President for Student Affairs Jeanine Ward-Roof was unavailable for comment on the matter.

"I have never seen these signs and the weird thing is they are Ferris State University signs. When we had Shapiro, these signs weren't out," Williams said. "We'll be loud about it. While we are being quieted tonight, we will make it known that people are trying to censor us and that's unacceptable."

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"My Favorite Things"

Ferris' spring band and orchestra concert featured performances by the FSU Symphony Band, the FSU West Central Concert Band and the FSU West Central Chamber Orchestra.

The performance was lead by Dr. Richard Cohen, Dr. Dale Skornia and Dr. Donna Smith.

Photo by: Andrea Cordes | Torch Photographer



OPINIONS

"The success stories are cool, but nothing fuels my fire more than hearing someone got tackled by a rent-a-cop while sprinting through the woods at Oakwood."

- Travis Sacher See page 7 for story

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Chat with the chief

Editor in Chief, Keith Salowich

I've spent the last two years as editor in chief of the Ferris State Torch, but this will be the last issue published under my leadership.

I'd like to keep my final days as

a lame duck leader largely free of cliché, so I'll keep this short.

Thank you to every current or former staff member to ever step foot in the Torch office. This paper doesn't exist without your tireless

efforts.

Thank you to our adviser, Steven Fox, for allowing me to make and learn from my own mistakes. Often.

And most importantly, thank

you to our readers for giving these words meaning. The Torch is nothing but lining for a birdcage or fuel for a fire without each of you.

GOT AN OPINION?

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Deadline for submissions every Friday by 5 p.m.

Travis Sacher | Opinions Editor | Email: sachert@ferris.edu

1. Think of a topic that you feel strongly about.
2. Write out your thoughts in a coherent and respectful manner.
3. Include a headshot and some information about yourself (location, age, etc.).
4. Email your opinion to the editor for a chance to have your work published in our next issue.

Dearly beloved

The Purple One lives on through his music and fans



Marley Tucker
Torch Reporter

One year ago, we lost one of the most influential pop artists of all time—Prince.

2016 took away many artists dear to our hearts: David Bowie, George Michael, Lemmy Kilmister and Leonard Cohen to name a few. However, Prince Roger Nelson's death hit the world the hardest.

I remember where I was when I heard the news. I was browsing my phone before a communications class on campus when I read what had happened. Thinking it was a hoax at first, I didn't take any of the headlines seriously. I mean, how many times are celebrities pronounced dead through fake news? I was devastated to learn the hard truth. Prince had died alone in his home at 57 years old. The doves were truly crying that day.

I can't even begin to articulate who Prince was. To this day, biographers still struggle to categorize the man who at one point changed his name into an unpronounceable symbol.

Few artists have influenced the sound of popular music the way Prince did. In true iconoclastic fashion, Prince transcended genre. With his refusal to define his sexuality in his public persona and in his lyrics, Prince inspired his fans to live without labels, too.

Ahead of his time, Prince was a man in complete control of his work. He went to extreme lengths to protect his intellectual property when most musicians didn't care about such things before 2000. People called him eccentric and that might be true, but Prince knew himself with a certainty that was admirable. Prince heralded instrumental skill, and stressed self-sufficiency when his record label wanted to assign him a producer when he was just 17 years old.

Prince's Oscar winning film, "Purple Rain," gave us the closest view we may ever get of the real Prince. For a man who left starlight in his wake on stage decked out in purple velvet and trademark ruffles, Prince was a very private individual.

What some forget is that behind his otherworldly presence, Prince was human. He didn't let fame rule him. He was a philanthropist who wanted to help urban youth succeed. His cause was humanity, and he kept most of his



Promotional Photo

Prince was a pioneering multi-genre pop musician known for his flamboyant appearance. He sold over 100 million records worldwide, won seven Grammy Awards and was inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

good deeds a secret that were only discovered posthumously.

Armed with an enigmatic howl and guitar skills that rivaled Jimi Hendrix, Prince created his own world in his music, and I feel like I'm only listening to a sliver of his genius through the airwaves whenever his songs play on shuffle. When the world seems overwhelming, sometimes you just need to sit in a dark room and listen to "Purple Rain" on repeat.

My favorite song Prince ever sang is actually a cover, a travesty many would lament if I said that to them in person. "A Case of U" by Prince

is a lesser-known cover of Joni Mitchell's "A Case of You". Prince greatly admired Mitchell, and I highly recommend giving her a listen when you have time. Prince sings the song as if to a lover, and my heart was forever changed the first time I heard him croon so tenderly.

Despite Prince physically leaving this mortal plane, if there's anything the last year has taught us, it's that he will continue to live on in all of us. In the Purple One's own words, "We are gathered here today to get through this thing called life," and what a life it was.

Happy Earth Day!

Oakwood: more like Lockwood



Travis Sacher
Opinions Editor

I love Ferris State University and Big Rapids.

After hockey and maybe some academic programs, the next nationally known trait of Ferris was and is Ferris Fest. As an out-of-state student coming to Ferris in the fall of 2014, the four things I knew about Ferris were hockey, PGM, stabbings/shootings and Ferris Fest.

The university in all of its pride and glory realized, "Hey, maybe a day where students burn couches and chant 'U.S.A.' while excessively drinking is not what we want to be known for, especially when the focus is supposed to be music."

Renaming Ferris Fest as Music Takes

Action was a great decision. Music for a cause is what music has evolved into. But, the transition this year to an indoor concert in March was a less than stellar decision. I mean, the weather Saturday, April 22, was 70 degrees and sunny without a cloud in the sky. Really dodged a bullet there.

After the Big Event Saturday, April 22, the students of Ferris State tried their absolute hardest to create the real Ferris Fest of 2017. All Saturday afternoon, people around me were saying, "Ferris Fest is lit at Oakwood, we gotta go."

Even though the concert happened a month ago, students did their best to make the tradition live on. For this, I'm proud of

my student body. No one can deny us our tradition of a late April Ferris Fest.

But once the courtyard became too dense with intoxicated college students and empty Hamm's cans littering the ground, the Man counter-attacked FF2K17, basically sending a message to the student body reading, "Nah, bro, not this year."

The Oakwood Townhouses were on lockdown. Security and cops were patrolling the main entrance, racquet facilities entrance, University Park Suites and the back woods borders. No one was about to walk in, and they would make sure of it.

At the main entrance, only Oakwood residents were allowed to enter and no more than one guest was allowed in their car at once. That's an amazing rule they created. One guest per tenant, no exceptions.

The stories that spread that day were tremendously entertaining. The students fired back by trying to simply sprint past the guards to join the festivities. Some made it,

some didn't.

There were more elaborate attempts, such as hiding in the bushes and trying to crawl their way in. There was the true patience test, such as a resident driving all of their friends in one at a time.

The success stories are cool, but nothing fuels my fire more than hearing someone got tackled by a rent-a-cop while sprinting through the woods into Oakwood.

The best part about all of this is after spending the first half of the day giving back to the community and cleaning up the earth at the Big Event on Earth Day, the rest of the day was spent littering an outdoor courtyard to the point where security and police have to deny entry and eventually shut the entire party down. Not only that, but students were actually outraged by it. Priorities are definitely in the right place.

Happy Earth Day, Bulldogs.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE AT WWW.FSUTORCH.COM FOR EXCLUSIVE ONLINE CONTENT

The real cost of free college

New York legislation state-funding four-year college degrees



Angela Graf
News Editor

So recently the state of New York passed legislation mandating that the state pay for students attending four-year state schools in New York.

Now, this is not without stipulations; the household income must be under \$100k per year, students must enroll immediately after high school and remain a full-time student for the duration of their degree and there will likely be a GPA requirement as well.

Beyond that, students that take part in this program must also live and work in New

York after college for the number of years that they received aid, or they have to pay back the money.

However, this program is open to both incoming and current students as well as non-native and non-resident New Yorkers.

For starters, why oh why are we not investing more heavily in trade and vocational schools? I'm going to speak up so the people in the back can hear me: College. Is. Not. For. Everyone. There are so many in-demand, well-paying jobs with fantastic benefits that you do NOT need a bachelor's degree for. This program only perpetuates the idea that everyone needs a four-year education.

Point number two on this list stems from conversations I have had with actual professors and administrators, either because of work or class discussion. Do you remember high school? Now, do you remember how productive you were in high school? Any and every parent that falls under the free tuition threshold will push their kid into college because it is obviously the only key to their little angel's success. But riddle me this: what in the hell is that kid's motivation to succeed? To push themselves in difficult classes? The answer: nada. Studies show

that students who don't pay for a significant portion of their college tuition, either because of the government or their family fitting the bill, are much more likely to not attend classes, not participate in activities and discussions and ultimately, withdraw from courses they find too challenging. Why should they care about repeating a \$1,500 class? It's not like they'll have to pay for it.

The next obvious issue is flooding the workforce with people that have identical educations. Speaking as someone that is actively job searching for next spring, and who has seen friends graduate and struggle, let me tell you: it is hecking brutal out there. Job competition is at an all-time high. How on earth is this going to help that situation? It is going to reach the point where a bachelor's degree is the new high school diploma, and anybody that wants a competitive edge will have no choice but to pursue a master's or doctorate degree.

Something else to keep in mind: this is a death sentence for private institutions. While I myself have never attended such a place, I absolutely understand their merit. State schools are not for everyone; some students learn better in a focused, more concentrated environment. Sure, the people

making more than the \$100,000 threshold that would have sent their kids to a private school anyway will still do so. But what about those students that absolutely cannot flourish in a class of 6,000 or more people? What happens to them? Their parents see a lack of dollar signs on every state school brochure and their choice is suddenly taken out of the equation.

I chose not to touch on the fiscal ramifications because those revolve strongly around my personal beliefs in capitalism, and there are plenty of other good reasons to hate this program besides the fact that it is taking more money from tax payers to, effectively, create a ton of problems in the work force.

Our federal and state government should know better. When you give something away for free, the demand for it increases. Students under the \$100,000 threshold that could have worked and paid for a significant portion of their education now no longer have to. If you're going to increase spending on higher education, focus it on increasing subsidized loans or need-based grants. Better yet, place strict limits on loan amounts so that students can't unwittingly plunge themselves into debt and universities can't continue to hike up prices.

TORCH POLL RESULTS

What is the best way to study for finals?



Alone 31%

With a friend 7%

With a group 6%

With a drink 56%

Stay updated on campus news by liking us on Facebook or following us on Twitter

Little Caesars
HOT-N-READY
LARGE PIZZA

\$5.00 LARGE PIZZA
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY!
Original Round, Carry Out, Plus Tax

231-796-2636
802 Clark St., Big Rapids, MI
DINE-IN / CARRY OUT

Would you like respect with that?

When you need a day away from the sass that is working in retail

I work in customer service. It's funny how once someone puts on a uniform and serves you a cheeseburger or bags your groceries that they are automatically below you in social standard.



Alicia Jaimes
Torch Reporter

It would be funny if it weren't so not funny.

Society is screwed up this way. We have people preaching about equality, but only when it suits them. We have people claiming to be good-hearted, but then snap when they have to use the chip on their debit card instead of just sliding it. God forbid we take up five extra seconds of your precious life to reduce fraud.

Just the other day, I was at work when a lady came in and was furious about how long the line was taking.

"I have to get to church," she screamed. It took everything not to laugh in her face at the irony.

It's like people think that the more rude they are to the people behind the counter, the faster their service will be.

Wrong. Despite what some believe, people are actually less likely to help you or care about your problems if you are constantly talking down to them.

Sometimes it's subtle. Sometimes it's not even talking,

It's when I reach my hand out to take your money—and you're texting on your cell phone—and throw the money on the counter.

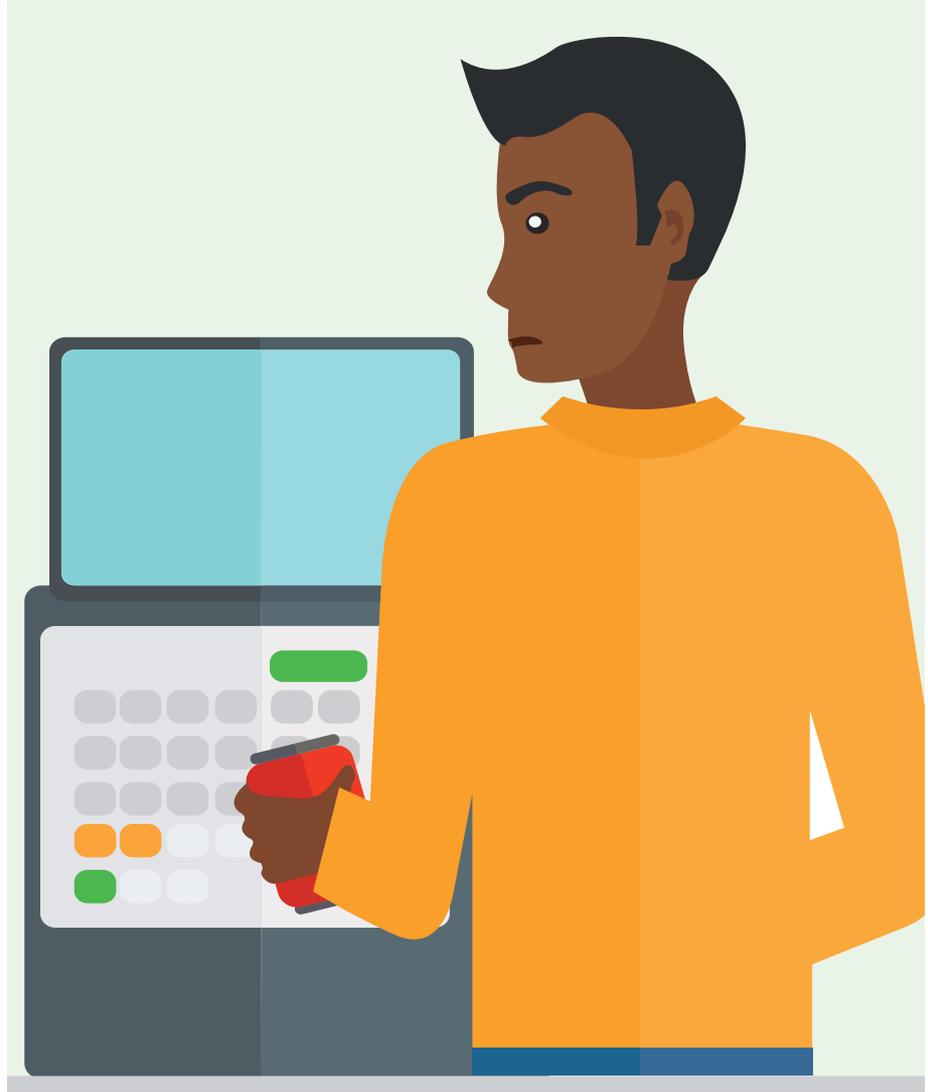
It's when there's a massive line and you bring a bag of change, set it on the counter and expect me to count it. Then you get irritated when I'm double-checking my counting, even though you paid \$5 in nickels and pennies.

It's when you put your basket on the counter and expect me to unload your items as opposed to taking a second to help me like other customers have.

It's subtle, unnoticeable—to you. But it screams out to me and makes the long days just that much longer.

What ever happened to respect? Just because someone wears a nametag doesn't mean that they are below you. It just means that they are working to make a decent life for themselves. It means they are human, just like you.

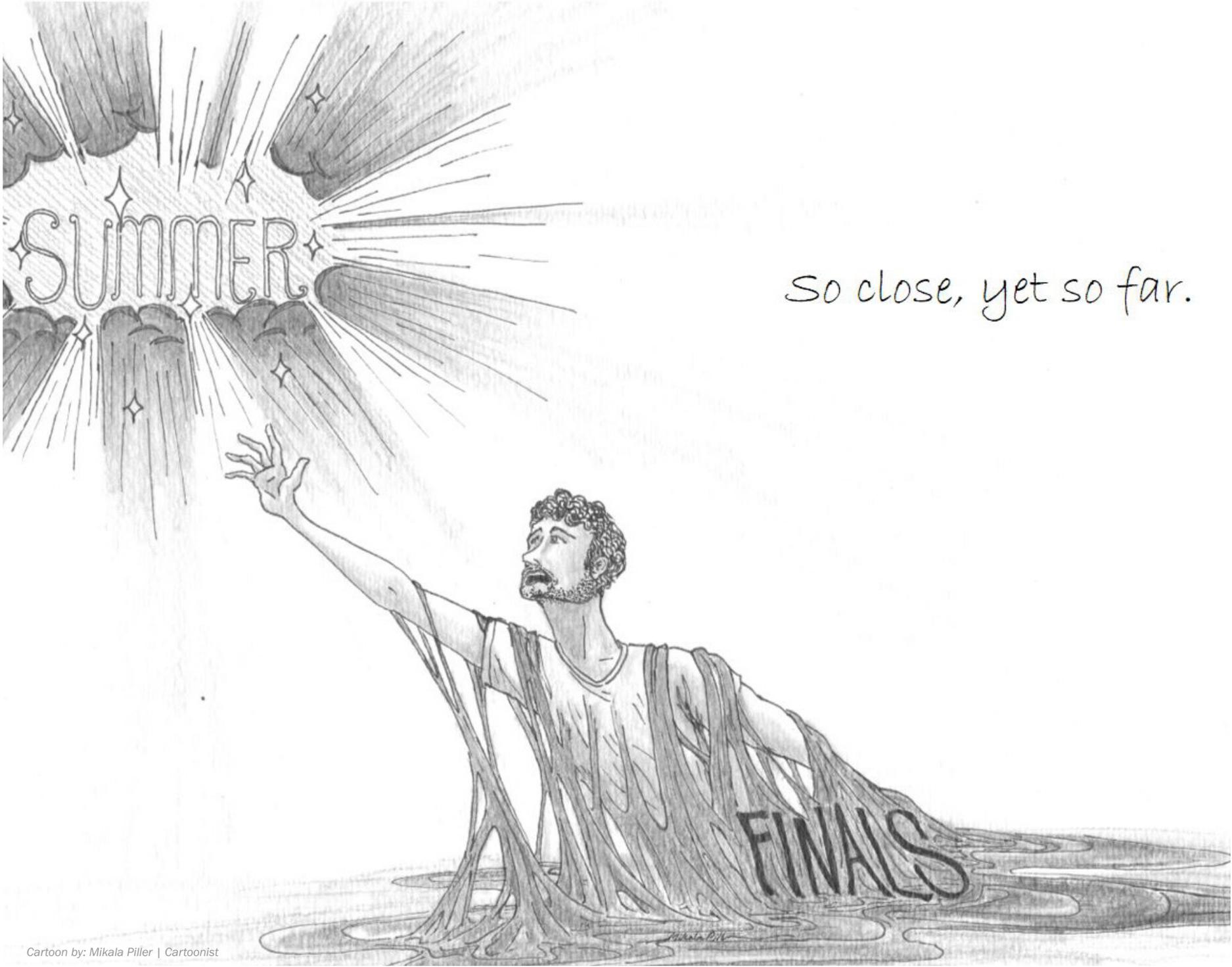
I'm aware that sometimes there are just rotten people who work in customer service,



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Assistant

but before you dismiss them as complete jerks who deserve what's coming to them, think about how long they've been working. Maybe they work 40 plus hours a week and have dealt with so many rude people that they have difficulty enjoying their job or rec-

ognizing the decent ones anymore. Don't be the reason someone comes home resenting another day in customer service. Chances are the uniform they have to wear makes them resent it enough already.



So close, yet so far.

Cartoon by: Mikala Piller | Cartoonist



Ferris State University Tire Fire

The second truest, fairest and most accurate student newspaper on campus



Exposed female shoulders distracting male students in class



Derrian Montegue
Left-handed Cosmonaut

As the temperature rises, male attentiveness in class has plummeted as a result of exposed female shoulders and ankles.

“There’s this girl named Stacy who sits in the front row of my physics class,” said Ferris plastics engineering sophomore Nathaniel Damonson. “Now that spring is here, she’s been wearing tank tops and even sundresses. I could see her collarbone the other day for God’s sake. How is anyone is supposed to focus on Newton’s laws

under these conditions?”

Damonson is not the only male student trying in vain to resist his primal urges when he sees a bare female shoulder in class. According to a poll conducted by the Tire Fire, 81 percent of male Ferris students become slack-jawed and salivate when exposed to any part of the female form.

It seems that the sooner Ferris administrators realize that all males are sex-crazed savages provoked by even a hint of skin, the sooner Ferris men will be able to return their focus to their studies.

“I get it. I really do. When Mrs.

“I could see her collarbone the other day for God’s sake. How is anyone supposed to focus on Newton’s laws under these conditions?”

- Nathaniel Damonson

Eisler throws on a sundress or something for a family barbecue, my mind goes blank and I can’t help but stare,” said Ferris State President David Eisler. “Still, we are not considering implementing a more strict dress code. If women were prohibited from wearing tank tops, men would be, too, and I’m not willing to compromise letting the guns out when the sun is out on my campus, damn it.”

At press time, a lecture hall full of males were seen staring with mouths agape at a female student who walked in late wearing open-toed shoes.

Internet searches for “how much do strippers make” skyrocket as finals week approaches

Pg. 2

Student government president votes for himself, wins election in landslide 1-0 victory

Pg. 2

Class of 2017 planning out five-year plan, deciding where television will go when they move back in with parents

Pg. 3

Confused Ferris sophomore prefers Miracle Whip on Cinco de Mayo

Pg. 3

Ferris’ TAC celebrates 36 hours of continuous, albeit shitty, WiFi on campus

Pg. 4

Study group buried and trapped under fallen towers of flash cards, forced to eat weakest member in order to survive

Pg. 4

Legal Disclaimer:

The Ferris State University *Tire Fire* is a satirical newspaper featuring fabricated or exaggerated stories written by members of the Ferris State *Torch* staff. Pseudonyms and false job titles have been adopted for each of the *Torch* staff members whose work is included in the *Tire Fire*. The *Tire Fire* utilizes invented names and quotes in its stories unless public figures or notable university personas are being satirized or described for the sake of our personal enjoyment, and the enjoyment of our readers. All other use of real names is coincidental. While the *Tire Fire* is an extension of the *Torch*, it is meant to be satirical and does not necessarily reflect the views of the *Torch*, nor Ferris State University.

Eisler Says:

“I’m still not sure where the West Campus Community Center is and at this point, I’m too afraid to ask.”



Tire Fire

Satirical insert laced with absurdity, hyperbole and going way too far

Pull out this section for the hardest-hitting fake news ever put to print

“Little Einstein”

Student gets A- on quiz, proud RA hangs it right on the fridge

Tiffani Tiffins

Person With a Bad Rash

The Hollywood Walk of Fame. Academy Awards. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. There are few honors so great as recognition of a job well done from others.

Ferris business administration junior Steven Stekis knows the feeling well, after recently presenting his business law quiz—on which he received a 91 percent—to his resident adviser in Puterbaugh Hall.

“Wow, this is really good! You know where this is going? That’s right! Right up on the fridge so that I can look at it everyday, my little Einstein,” said Puterbaugh Hall Resident Adviser Sasha Porpoise.

Porpoise had to push aside other graded works and completed pages of coloring books that other residents had created in order to make room for Stekis’ quiz on her mini-fridge.

“I wanted Steven to have the best coddling money can buy. Which is why I insisted that he live in the residence halls for his junior year,” Stekis’ mother said. “If he was living off campus, who would keep an eye on him and make sure he’s tucked in at night?”

At press time, Stekis was seen changing into his footy pajamas while Porpoise carried her weathered copy of “Goodnight Moon” and a glass of warm milk to his room.



Full freshman experience

North Hall location to help incoming freshman access bars, underage drinking even sooner

Clark Kent

Definitely Not Superman

The location of the soon-to-be-completed North Hall will bring Ferris State freshmen closer to campus dining, academic buildings and the end of their sobriety.

North Quad is approximately 0.8 miles closer to Big Rapids’ downtown bar district, making a freshman’s first underage drink in a seedy bar bathroom just a brisk walk away.

“I remember when I was a student at Ferris in the 80s. Back then, we had to walk through a blizzard ten miles to get to a bar and it was uphill both

ways. Even then I told myself, ‘this is not the Ferris experience I want for my children,’” said Ferris alumnus Bob Buh.

Additionally, the route towards the downtown liquor stops will take freshmen past several frat houses, only improving the chances of a freshman stumbling into a house party and drinking their weight in Fireball.

“I didn’t even start drinking heavily until I was a junior in college. Once this baby goes up, 18 year olds will have easy access to alcohol the second they walk outside,” Buh said. “We’re building a better, more accessible future for our students.”

To catch a pothead

Smokers caught in traps set by Ferris’ Department of Public Safety

Shelby Fedder

Whack-a-mole Enthusiast

Ferris’ Department of Public Safety was prepared this year as Mary Jane came knocking on their doorsteps in grand fashion. Officers were armed with stacks of ammo as they prepared for undercover sting operations throughout the community to trap unsuspecting smokers.

“We had an arsenal of baked goods at our disposal. We set

out a pack of Mountain Dew, video games, potato chips and a beanbag chair. All we had to do was wait,” said Ferris Department of Public Safety Director Bruce Borkovich.

Operations were carried out across campus. Law enforcement had an abundance of luck outside of Vandercook Hall.

Officers snagged Ferris secondary education freshman Francis Cone walking back to his dorm. He was decked out in hemp themed clothing, blaring

Pink Floyd from a portable speaker.

“We knew right away he was high. I think you’d have to be to sing that badly,” Borkovich said.

“I didn’t think anyone noticed me, man. I saw the sweet setup outside the hall and thought that summer had come early. I mean, the smell of those doughnuts were criminal. I couldn’t say no,” Cone said.

Cone was wearing an air freshener as a necklace to mask the smell of his activities and

offered a hit of his stash to officers when he delved into the potato chips out in the open.

He was referred to the Office of Student Conduct after being caught and taken away so that the sting could continue.

“Next year, we’re hoping to incorporate more traps in the area. All we need are snacks hidden under boxes propped up by sticks to lure students off the beaten path. It really isn’t complicated with stoners,” Borkovich said.

Horror-scopes



Aries: March 21-April 19

You will hit snooze on your alarm clock six times too many and sleep through your biology exam.



Taurus: April 20-May 20

Your car will break down next week, thus stranding you in Big Rapids all summer. It's a fate worse than death.



Gemini: May 21-June 20

It's finally time. The minds of your Twitter followers have been softened by memes and emojis. Now is the time to lead them to carry out your bidding.



Cancer: June 21-July 22

You'll be forcibly dragged off the next flight you take when it's overbooked, only they'll do it while the plane is 15,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean.



Leo: July 23-Aug. 22

The stars advise not checking your final grade. They've seen the future and don't think you can handle it.



Virgo: Aug. 23-Sept. 22

THE END IS NIGH.



Libra: Sept. 23-Oct.22

Get used to living with your parents this summer because you'll certainly be moving back into their basement after graduation.



Scorpio: Oct. 23-Nov.21

It's a good time to invest in toenail clippings. Start clipping and save every nail you can. Also ask your friends for their nails. This is so vital.



Sagittarius: Nov.22-Dec. 21

Your friend with benefits will give you one last surprise before you both part ways for the summer. That surprise is gonorrhea.



Capricorn: Dec. 22-Jan.19

The year is 2046. The town is naming a library in your honor. A single tear runs down your face as you witness the unveiling of the "Shitty Human Public Library."



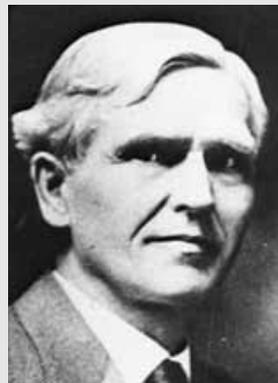
Aquarius: Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your skin tastes like butter. Don't ask how the stars know. It will only frighten you.



Pisces: Feb. 19-March 20

You'll get what you deserve, you charlatan.



Ask Woodbridge

Submit questions to fsutirefire@gmail.com for a chance to see Woodbridge N. Ferris give you personalized advice.

"Dear Woodrow, since I was young I have been told I could be anything I wanted. All I had to do was apply myself and "reach for the dream." Now in my third year of college, this is starting to appear less and less likely.

It seems every instructor I take ridicules me, berates me and downright dissuades me from pursuing my dream career. No matter how well I do in my studies I am told my chosen career path is unattainable, disillusioned, a pipe dream, etc. Shouldn't my professors help me map out a strategy instead of crushing my every dream?

I guess what I am truly asking is what do I have to do to prove that I can be the velociraptor I was born to be?"

- The Dream is Alive

It's Woodbridge, you delusional cuck.

- Woodbridge

"When is it okay to tell someone you love them? This girl in my accounting class and I have been exchanging small talk all year and I've already thoroughly stalked her Facebook and Instagram (I'm talking all the way back to middle school). Am I missing any steps here or should I just come out and tell her??"

- Loving Lenny

Well, I'd say you're on the right track. I normally drop the L-bomb after I've spent at least two weeks watching them in their bedroom at night, but before I turn an entire wall of my apartment into a shrine composed of photos taken without their knowing.

I guess my best suggestion is to just do what feels right; and if that happens to be a suit made of her skin, then who am I to judge?

- Woodbridge

"I'll soon be moving back in with my parents for the summer and I really want to know how to tell them to lay off. I've been living under my own roof with my own rules all year and I really don't want to go back to living under their tyranny. What can I do??"

- Ira the Individual

Well for starters, you can stop being such an ungrateful little shit. Are you paying the mortgage on their house? How about the electric bill, water bill, or the internet you're going to monopolize?

These people freaking created you. You wouldn't be alive had they elected not to have sweaty, ball-slapping, unprotected sex 20 years ago. And furthermore, do you KNOW what childbirth does to a woman? That's some shit.

So suck it up, plug in the vacuum and maybe consider helping out around the house rather than ridiculing the people that love you for not wanting you to hotbox their downstairs powder room.

- Woodbridge



WHAT THE HELL IS THIS HOLE???

Seriously, what is that? We really want to know. *Tire Fire* reporters investigated the dimensions of the hole, took soil samples near the site and cross-referenced scientific findings regarding the formation and characteristics of holes. We're still clueless. If you've got information on this hole or others like it, please mail it to the *Tire Fire* office at:

410 Oak St.
Big Rapids, MI
49307

CLACS makes budget cuts

The CLACS office budget now decreased to \$200 million

Toad McHutcher
Bird Stalker

The Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services (CLACS) has suffered a significant budget cut for the 2017-18 school year.

Director of the CLACS office, Carmine Amarillo, has announced that the CLACS budget will be cut from \$210 million to just \$200 million.

"It is very unfortunate," Amarillo said. "We will now only be able to host three events per day. In the past we have held five or six."

The budget cuts were announced after Ferris leadership noticed a pattern of frivolous spending.

Dr. Simon Bunder was a key player in the decision after noticing a \$30,000 bill for teddy bear stuffing. Bunder is a long

standing Ferris State board member.

"I love Build-a-Bear just as much as the next guy, but the CLACS office should be spending its money on more important things such as hosting crafting nights, karaoke bashes or giving away low-grade condoms. That is why people attend college," Bunder said.

The schedule for next year's CLACS events has been announced and some students are upset about the cutdown of events.

"There are only 46 opportunities to paint a coffee mug

next year. That is bullshit," one anonymous student said.

To compensate for the \$10 million decrease in discretionary funds, the CLACS office plans to cut leadership opportunities and career services.

"We can't forget what is most important. That is why we are no longer offering career services for students or leadership skill training. Next year, we are changing our name to the Center for Activity Time (CAT)," Bunder said.

Greek composite senselessly vandalized... on Instagram

Henri Jimdrix
Flour Child

The composite of one Ferris sorority was the target of an online assault Friday, April 28.

The Greek organization wanted to, "try something a bit different this year," according to sorority president Jane Gudall, and opted to turn to Pinterest in order to construct a massive, Do-It-Yourself composite out of what appears to be balsa wood, a few mason jars and a copious amount of deco-

orative duct tape.

A photo of the completed composite was posted to Instagram, Facebook and Twitter where it received negative reviews on all platforms.

"We put in a ton of time and effort into the project, so to see it brutalized online is so tough," Gudall said. "I mean, I chipped in like 30 bucks for glitter alone and I figured the return on my investment would be likes and favorites, but not this. Never this."

"The absurd amount of glitter and

reckless use of about fifty varying shades of pink is an absolute assault on the senses," wrote one online commenter.

"An incident regarding vandalism of property was reported by the group, but this is uncharted territory for our department," said Director of Ferris' Department of Public Safety Bruce Borkovich. "I'm not sure mocking a piece of property on social media sites falls under the definition of vandalism, but these women were just so upset. So we plan to do everything we can."

SPORTS

"It would be incredible to make the tournament one last time."
- Sarah Johnson See Page 10 for Story

Apply now! | Sports Editor



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Editor in Chief

With the Bulldogs graduating several key players including two starting linebackers and four wide receivers, they'll be looking to build on last year's 12-3 overall record and deep postseason run.

Spring into football

Four takes from the Crimson and Gold Spring Game

Cody Burkhard

Torch Reporter

Saturday, April 22, laid stage for young Ferris players to showcase their talent in front of an excited home crowd in the Red vs. White Spring Game.

This game is a celebration of Ferris State football to Head Coach Tony Annese. Both teams competed at a high level with team Red edging team White 14-12, scoring two points in the final minute.

"We don't have to keep score to compete. Our guys philosophically are always about being their best," Annese said.

The event was a short preview of what is to come for the 2017 season with multiple players showing breakout performances. Here are four takes from the Spring Game:

Bell's Health

Junior quarterback Reggie Bell suited up for the Spring Game donning the white jersey he represented in his debut for the Bulldog faithful in 2016. Bell did not participate this year, however, due to injury, but is confident he will be physically ready for his senior season.

Bell started physical therapy last week and is ahead of schedule for recovery. He said he should be cleared for practice by mid-to-late-July.

Watching from behind the line of scrimmage, Bell enjoyed watching his teammates compete until the last minute with a goal line turnover leading to the game-winning

drive.

"It's amazing to see the young guys showcasing their abilities and my teammates doing what they do; what they love, you know; putting on a show," Bell said.

Bell ran for 1,217 yards and 16 touchdowns in 13 games for the Bulldogs. He also passed for 2,085 yards and 11 touchdowns helping the Bulldogs to their first ever NCAA semifinal appearance.

Boleware from No-Where

At 5-foot-8, freshman slot receiver Nate Boleware resembles Philadelphia Eagles running back Darren Sproles in his elusive, quick twitch strides. Boleware showed speed and explosion all game as he gained the first and final first downs for team Red to earn the victory.



Nate Boleware

Boleware did not play much last year, but that could change with his improved performance after a year in the system. Two key senior receivers graduated after last season, leaving room for to-be sophomore Boleware to enter the lineup.

"I had to come out and make a statement so I can get out on the field this year," Boleware said.

Boleware was an All-State honoree and four-year letter-winner in high school gaining more than 1,000 yards in all four seasons. In the Spring Game, he earned three downs for three points.

Back-up Competition

Bell will be the starting quarterback if he is cleared to play. The competition for back-up is unknown. Annese was impressed by the four quarterbacks that played in the Spring Game—all of which have different abilities. Sophomore Travis Russell and freshman defensive back Jalen Brooks led the Red team while junior transfer quarterback Brett Mooney and redshirt freshman defensive back Jevon Shaw manned the signals for white.

Russell started the game with a methodical drive earning Red five first downs with a field goal tacked on by junior kicker Wyatt Ford. Russell was third on the depth chart last season.

Mooney showed an ability to throw tight spirals and step up in the pocket, but the Red defense was firing on all cylinders early. The Colgate transfer threw for two first downs in the fourth quarter.

Shaw led White on its first successful drive as he ran for two first downs and threw for one, finishing the game with four and two respectively. Shaw is built like a running back at 5-foot-10 and looked to scramble a lot, although successfully. He is the closest to Bell in terms of athletic ability.

Defense

Although some key defensive players did not play much, defense was the order for most of the day. Very few plays of five or more yards were allowed and it was defense that tied the game. A turnover is worth three points for the defense in this game and

White was up three on the Red goal line. The White defense caused a turnover which led to Brooks earning the game-winning points with throws to redshirt freshman wide receiver Lazon Hicks and Nate Boleware.

The Bulldogs were the top rush defense in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) last year which was the case Saturday, as plays had to be made on short throws. The only exception was Shaw who seemed to scramble at will and pick up yardage. Returning most starters, the Ferris defense looks to be in championship form.

TBA AUG. 31-SEPT. 2 - TBA

7 P.M. SEPT. 9 - AT FINDLAY

7 P.M. SEPT. 16 - HOST NORTHERN MICHIGAN

7 P.M. SEPT. 23 - AT ASHLAND

3 P.M. SEPT. 30 - HOST WAYNE STATE

1 P.M. OCT. 7 - HOST TIFFIN

3 P.M. OCT. 14 - AT SAGINAW VALLEY STATE

1 P.M. OCT. 21 - HOST GRAND VALLEY STATE

1 P.M. OCT. 28 - HOST NORTHWOOD

NOON NOV. 4 - AT DAVENPORT

1 P.M. NOV. 11 - AT MICHIGAN TECH

Another one

The Davenport Panthers will join the GLIAC beginning next season



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Assistant

Brendan Samuels
Torch Reporter

The Ferris State Bulldogs will have a bit more competition next season, as the Davenport Panthers are officially joining the GLIAC.

Davenport is one of two teams, the other being Purdue University-Calumet, that were recently accepted into the GLIAC. Davenport, however, will be the only newcomer that will see GLIAC action this coming fall.

Davenport has a variety of programs having performed well recently in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), but none so well as their women's basketball team.

"We scrimmaged Davenport earlier this year," said Ferris women's basketball head coach Kendra Faustin. "There is no doubt in my mind that they'll be competitive within the conference next year."

Finishing with a 31-4 overall record last season, Davenport's women's basketball team is sure to add a surge of stiff competition to the conference.

In addition to a successful women's basketball program, Davenport has 17 other combined women's and men's sports teams at their school.

Fifteen of those sports match the programs they will be competing against at Ferris, but the Panthers also support a few sports programs that the Bulldogs do not. On the men's side, Davenport has wrestling and baseball. For women, Davenport has a lacrosse team as well. But the Bulldogs have one thing the Panthers don't: hockey.



Kendra Faustin

"Our University aligns perfectly with the ideals of the GLIAC," said Davenport's Director of Athletics Paul Lowden in an article published on gliac.org. "This opportunity will allow Davenport University to compete amongst some of the best institutions in the Midwest."

The Bulldogs will not have to worry about the Panthers in the postseason, as they are not eligible to play in the postseason until 2019. They are allowed, however, to compete for regular season GLIAC Championships.

It's been nearly five years since the GLIAC last expanded. Malone and Walsh Universities were the last to be added in 2012.

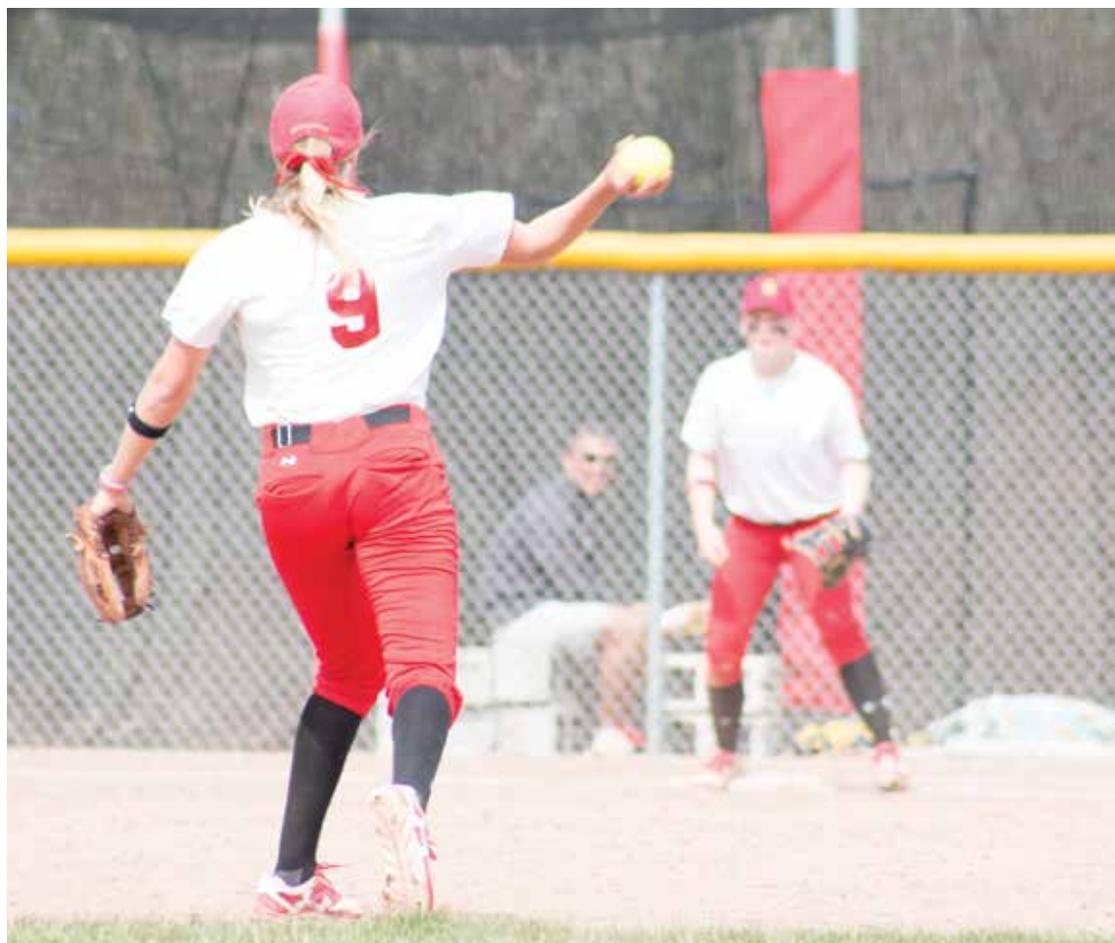


Photo by: Odette Lopez | Torch Photographer

Ferris senior shortstop Sarah Johnson will hope to extend the Dawgs' season and her softball career by making the GLIAC Tournament for the second consecutive year.

Bringing it home

Bulldog softball looks for their second straight GLIAC tourney berth

Beau Jensen

Torch Reporter

Ferris State softball has been walking the line for the final spot in the GLIAC tournament, but with a few recent big wins, their chances just got a whole lot better.

The program has had a fairly even season so far when it comes to taking on GLIAC opponents with an 11-9 conference record. Currently sitting as the No. 7 team in the conference, the Dawgs are one of a few teams fighting to hold onto a position in the tourney.

Senior third baseman Bailey Darwin said the team is looking forward to their last regular season games. "It's huge for us to get a few more wins so we can

secure a spot in the tournament," Darwin said. "I also think getting a few more wins prior to the tournament will give us some good momentum and confidence as we enter post-season play."



Sarah Johnson

The Dawgs are coming off of an undefeated weekend of play at home, which launched them from ninth place in the GLIAC to seventh.

The home doubleheader Saturday, April 22, saw the Dawgs sweep No. 12th Walsh before doing the same thing to No. 11 Lake Erie.

Ferris State's final opponent before the tournament

Softball | see page 12

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No one is immune

College athletes statistically more prone to depression

Editors Note: This column was submitted anonymously by a Ferris State student athlete. It is being published to spotlight a unique perspective on an issue that can affect anybody.

The thing I remember most is my bed. It was the place I spent most of my time.

One day, I remember my alarm going off and just staring at the wall. I could hear it ringing over and over but I couldn't bring myself to turn it off. Just moving my arm a couple of inches out of my bed seemed like this monstrous task that I was incapable of doing.

I am an honors student that had never skipped class a day in my college career. I didn't attend class that day.

I stayed in bed. I was a prisoner to my own mind. I was shackled to thoughts that I wasn't good enough, or I was a burden to everyone I loved. I was so unbelievably sad, but somehow numb at the same time.

I was mad at myself for laying in bed all day as my life went on without me. I genuinely thought I would never feel happiness again and even found myself googling the effects of suicide on family members. It felt like I had fallen into the darkest and coldest hole imaginable.

This was one of my worst days.

This is just a snippet of what depression feels like. Depression is a major health concern in the United States affecting every type of person and athletes are no exception.

According to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America (ADAA), about 18 percent of adults had a major depressive episode last year. More alarmingly, according to a study conducted by the British Journal of Sports Medicine, the number is even higher for college athletes at about 23 percent.

"The CES-D [Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale] identified clinically relevant levels of depressive symptoms in nearly one-quarter of college student athletes in this large cross-sectional sample," the study read.

In addition to this, female collegiate athletes are even more at risk than their male counterparts.

"There was a significant gender difference in prevalence of depressive symptoms with female athletes exhibiting 1.844 times the risk of male athletes for endorsing clinically relevant symptoms," the study continued. "Female college athletes reported significantly more depressive symptoms than males."

Similar to the general pop-

ulation, things such as stress, grief or sadness can all contribute to a person and their depression. Athletes, however, have all of this and then some.

According to psychologist Bill Johnson II in an article for the Huffington Post September 23, 2015, there are many other influences that college athletes deal with daily that can add to their depression.

"I believe, the intense pressure athletes face to 'win' can add significant psychological stress," Johnson said. "Also, the unique professional hazard of routine exposure to injuries, rehabilitation from injuries obtained or forced cessation from athletics due to injuries sustained can all be viewed as risk factors for experiencing emotional debilitation."

No matter the cause, its effects are unbearable.

"When I was depressed, I

"Depression is real and it consumes people's lives in a negative way."

- Anonymous

felt nothing. I had no motivation to do anything. I barely got out of bed and I needed to because I had class and practice to go to. It was my worst semester of school of my life," a former college athlete that decided to remain anonymous said. "Depression is real and it consumes people's lives in a negative way."

Simply being there for someone without judgment can do wonders for someone who is battling depression

It is OK to not be OK. Asking for help doesn't make you weak, it makes you strong. There is a way out of the hole you feel stuck in, and often times you need a helping hand to pull you out.

If you or someone you know is suffering from depression, call the Personal Counseling Center at (231) 591-5968.

If it is an emergency, call the National Suicide Hotline at 1 (800) 784-2433 or 911.

It's in the game

Which sports video game is the best in the eyes of Ferris Athletes



Brendan Samuels
Torch Reporter

Ferris athletes love to compete whether it be on the field or the court. But they also take that competitiveness to their couches as well.

Between games, practices and weight room sessions, a few athletes at Ferris enjoy kicking back with a controller in hand and dominating their friends in video games.

Interestingly enough, the athletes who enjoy playing video games, often jump into one that resembles what they do on a daily basis.

Ferris golf junior Seth Terpstra: "My favorite video game to play is by far Rory McIlroy PGA Tour. There is no better feeling than kicking my friends' tale at that game."

Ferris football junior quarterback Reggie Bell: "The best game has to be Madden for sure. I love and understand the game of football so much that it's hard not to play it even in my off time. Plus, it's fun overall and when you play with other people it can get really competitive."

Ferris softball senior third-baseman Bailey Darwin: "Oh, no doubt that Backyard Baseball is the best. Playing that game sends me back to my childhood. I could sit at the computer with my brother for hours playing it. I like it because one, I love baseball and softball. Two, it was kids playing the sport which was nice because all the other games were pro-athletes."

OK, those games are awesome, but I think that if you're going to choose the best sports video games, you need to split it up between the ones that ruled your childhood and the ones that keep you entertained now.

Looking back, I was always obsessed with football, so my childhood pick for best video game goes to NFL Street. This game was awesome because you could play as real pros and absolutely destroy your opponent with unrealistic power-ups.

As for my go-to game today, I'm going to have to agree with Reggie Bell on this one and say Madden is the best all-around video game to play. If you're a fan of football, it never gets old.

There's a video game for just about any sport under the sun. So, if you're passionate about one of them and need take a load-off, there's likely a video game for you.



Top Dawg

Casey Bias

Torch File Photo

Keith Salowich
Editor-in-chief

Ferris senior catcher Casey Bias chose one hell of a time to pick up her second hit of the GLIAC season.

Bias has been more of a force behind the plate than she is standing over it for the Bulldogs, as she's recorded just one fielding error through 26 games this season.

The Livonia native has just two hits in conference play on 18 at bat, which equates to a .116 batting average. However, with Ferris on the cusp of missing the

GLIAC tournament, Bias' bat helped carry the Dawgs to a 4-0 weekend sweep over conference foes Walsh and Lake Erie Saturday, April 22, and Sunday, April 23, respectively.

Bias recorded five RBIs and a homerun to help boost the Bulldogs to an 11-9 GLIAC record and the No. 7 spot in the conference standings. The top eight teams from the conference will earn a spot in the GLIAC tournament.

The Bulldogs will be fighting to cement their place in the GLIAC tournament in a doubleheader at Grand Valley State starting 3:30 p.m. Friday, April 28, in Alendale.

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They've done it again

Ferris State Men's tennis wins GLIAC tournament for the second year in a row

Beau Jensen

Torch Reporter

After capturing the regular season title earlier in the season, the nationally ranked No. 15 Ferris State men's tennis team has once again captured the GLIAC tournament championship after defeating Northwood in the tournament finals.

The Dawgs' first-round bye in the tourney ensured that they were rested up well enough to defeat the Hillsdale Chargers in the semi-finals 5-1 Saturday, April 22. Sunday, April 23, the Dawgs beat Northwood 5-1 to win the GLIAC tournament championship for the second year in a row.

With a flawless 9-0 regular season record in the conference, the Dawgs have not lost a matchup since March 9, almost two months ago to then nationally ranked No. 17 Southeastern Oklahoma State.

Senior Raleigh Grossbaum, who made the team's postseason lineup for the first time in his Bulldog career, gave his reaction after Sunday's championship victory.

"It definitely feels great. This one especially as it is my last year, and we have so much to defend this year," Grossbaum said. "We are also in great position now to earn the No. 1 seed in our region for nationals, which would mean an automatic start in the round of 32."

Grossbaum is correct as the Bulldogs do currently sit at the top of the Midwest Region, followed closely by Drury in the No. 2 spot.

"It is great to go out with three straight regular sea-

son titles and two straight tournament titles," Grossbaum said. "If we can defend our Final Four appearance from last year, then the team will have gotten increasingly better each of the last four years."



Raleigh Grossbaum

Sophomore Bulldog Steward Sell, who had both a singles and doubles win in the championship matchup, said the tournament win was nice, but the team is now looking toward the future.

"This one feels great. We met our goals of regular season conference champs and GLIAC tournament champs," Sell said. "Now our focus is on regionals and getting to the national tournament."

Sell also talked about why he feels this team has been able to dominate for a number of years.

"After having a Final Four run last year, and having everyone return with some new, talented freshmen, we have a really confident team," Said Sell. "I think what separates us from the pack is our experience, and we want to prove to everyone that we really are a Final Four team and it wasn't a fluke."



Steward Sell

The back-to-back-to-back regular season and back-to-back GLIAC tournament Bulldog champs will now have to wait patiently to find out who and when they will face in the first round of the NCAA Midwest Regional tournament Saturday, April 29.



Photo by: Andrea Cordes | Torch Photographer

With the win in the finals, the Bulldogs have now captured the regular season GLIAC Championship for three consecutive years and the GLIAC Tournament Championship for two straight years.

Sports Shorts

By Cody Burkhard, Torch Reporter

We The Best!

Ferris State earned the highest winning percentage across all divisions of competition in the state of Michigan for the third straight year.

Football, men's basketball and volleyball combined to go 70-14 during the 2016-17 seasons with a winning average of .833. Hope College placed second in winning percentage by going 55-16 and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor took third at 60-26.

The statewide top-10 included six other GLIAC teams.

Leaping History

Junior Jon Cok made history Saturday, April 22, breaking the Ferris State high jump record at the Al Owens Classic in Allendale. Cok surpassed the NCAA national-qualifying mark with the record-breaking jump of 6-11.5. "A game of inches" usually refers to football, but Cok broke a record set in 2006 by Joe Mielke by a quarter inch.

Cok was not alone in greatness at the GVSU-hosted event as sophomore Cody Stilwell had the second best hammer toss in school history with a throw of 199-0. Stilwell also passed the NCAA national-qualifying mark as both he and Cok finished second in their respective events.

Other top-five finishers over the weekend includes senior Hayden Francisco for the men and junior Molly Emerick for the women. Francisco placed second in the Javelin toss with a throw of 174-10 and Emerick placed third in the 800 meters with a time of 2:12.51.

Ferris track and field will compete next in the two-day Hillsdale "Gina" Relays starting Friday, April 28, in Hillsdale.

Sweep Dreams are Made of This

Ferris softball protected the house in a 4-0 homestand against Walsh and Lake Erie during senior weekend. This surge put the Bulldogs above .500 in the GLIAC and in play for locking up a spot in the GLIAC tournament.

Saturday, April 23, Ferris won its first game against Walsh 2-1 in an eight-inning grinder. Junior catcher Emily Reed scored off an RBI from sophomore infielder Lexi Hongisto to notch the game-winning run in extra innings. After intermission, the Bulldogs defeated the Cavaliers again 3-1, scoring all three runs in the third inning.

Continuing their success on Sunday, the Dawgs defeated Lake Erie 3-2 with a sixth inning RBI bunt from sophomore third baseman Logan Fleming in the first game. In game two, the Dawgs scored eight runs on eight hits in the top of the second inning. The Storm thundered back in the fifth inning with three runs in the top of the fifth. Freshman Abby Highway denied Lake Erie anymore as she completed a full game allowing only six hits. Ferris won 9-3.

This sweep landed Ferris two games outside of third in the GLIAC. Wayne State, Ohio Dominican and Hillsdale are tied for that spot at 13-7. No. 6 Ashland is a game ahead of the 11-9 Bulldogs who sit solo at seventh. Ferris plays its final two regular season games at No. 1 Grand Valley State Friday, April 28, in Allendale.

SOFTBALL

Continued from page 10

is the No. 1 team in the conference and league rival Grand Valley State University. In order to take down Grand Valley and make a run in the tournament, Darwin said that the team just needs to have fun.

"We play so much better when we are loose, relaxed and having fun," Darwin said. "That is when we are the best team we can be. It's crazy that I'm already a senior, it's definitely been a wild ride. But I'm excited for these next couple of weeks and to go out with a bang."

Senior infielder Sarah Johnson said that she was happy to be able to get some wins on the Bulldogs' home turf before heading to Grand Valley before the last week of play. Their chances of making it into the playoff picture are good, but two losses to GVSU could put the Dawgs in a tight spot.

"Our main focus is not to press ourselves. When we do too much,

we don't play as well," Johnson said. "It would be incredible to make the tournament one last time. I have only made it once in my career, so making it this year would be great."

For FSU to be knocked out of the top eight and ultimately the tournament, they would have to lose both of their next two games and both Northwood and Findlay would each have to win their last two regular season games.

The matchup Sunday, April 23, against Lake Erie was the annual senior day for the

Dawgs where they honored the team's seven remaining seniors, though they aren't done yet.

Ferris softball will see its next action on the road when they take on GVSU in a doubleheader Friday, April 28, with game one beginning at 3:30 p.m. and game two beginning at 5:30 p.m.



Bailey Darwin



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LIFESTYLES

"I just feel that as Ferris students, we get a little disconnected from where we are, in the middle of what seems to be nowhere."

- Meredith Hague See Story Below

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

The Avocado Telethon returns

The 12-hour live stream aims to raise money for local charity

Adrianna Walker

Torch Reporter

Internet users worldwide will have the opportunity to tune in to support Ferris students and Big Rapids residents in a charitable cause—from the comfort of their own homes.

The second Avocado Telethon will stream live on YouTube from noon to midnight Friday, April 28, to raise money for Angels of Action, a Big Rapids non-profit organization dedicated to helping end child hunger.

The telethon, a brainchild of Ferris nuclear medicine technology senior Meredith Hague, consists of a non-stop, 12-hour lineup of entertainment that will be live-streamed on YouTube. Viewers are encouraged to donate to Angels of Action through a GoFundMe account that will be available below the live stream.

The idea for a live-stream telethon came from one of Hague and her roommate's favorite band, who live-streamed on YouTube to raise money for a new album.

"We saw that and thought that was such a cool idea," Hague said. "All they did was just setup, turn on a camera

and put a GoFundMe account to it. So we thought, 'why not do this with our friends and raise money for a better cause?'"

Hague will host the telethon from her own basement, dubbed the "avocado" due to its bright green walls, and can also be seen with her ukulele during the live stream.

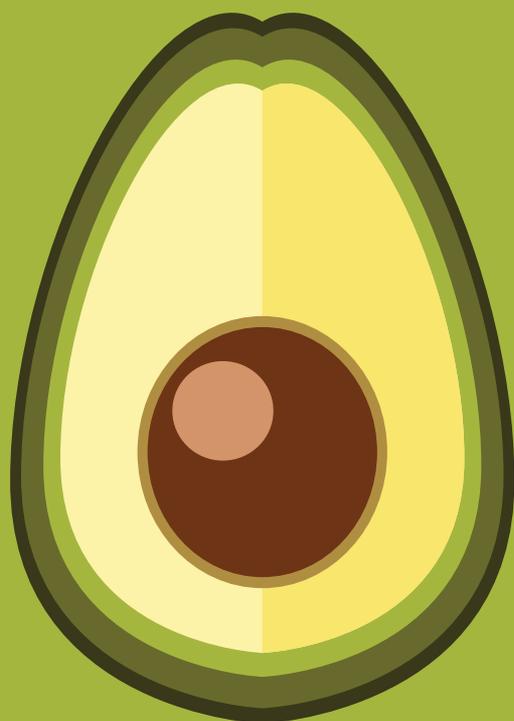
"If there's a point where there's nothing going on, I'll be playing," Hague said.

More than a dozen acts will perform from the avocado, including local bands and individuals, poetry, a puppet show and chainsaw art by Hague's brother. The chainsaw carving will also be sold to the highest bidder.

"Our goal is \$1,000," Hague said, who encouraged people to tune in even if they don't plan to donate.

"I just feel that as Ferris students, we get a little disconnected from where we are, in the middle of what seems to be nowhere," Hague said. "But when you venture down into town, there's this awesome community. Big Rapids is a really great small town."

"I feel like we, as students, can give back to this community that gives so much to us," Hague added. "And that's what I think it all comes down to."



avocadoPhone

MORE INFORMATION

How to access:

The Avocado Telethon will be streamed on Meredith Hague's YouTube account <http://bit.ly/2pqzzou>

When to tune-in:

12 p.m. - 12 a.m. April 28

To donate:

Angels of Action
<https://www.gofundme.com/angelsofaction>

Game on

Ferris graduate discusses success in the gaming industry

Briana Hammontree
Torch Reporter

Speakers from the digital media industry presented at the 17th annual Ferris Media Festival, hosted by the Media Communications Association (MCA) registered student organization (RSO).

The festival included six speakers and featured a lunch break at noon for guests, students and speakers to network.

Her second year planning the event as president of MCA, Ferris television digital media production junior Megan Soller said being able to meet new people is one of her favorite parts of the event.

“As president, and as part of planning this event, you get to reach out to these people who are professionals in their industry and then once they get here and they speak, you can go up to them and say, ‘Hey that was a great speech. I liked how you talked about this, this and this,’” Soller said. “That creates a networking opportunity for you in the future. And they give you their business cards and they say, ‘Hey reach out to me when you get to that point where you’re almost done with school and you need those connections.’ I just think it’s a really good event to pull people together who are successful and are where we are as students, trying to be successful.”

Ferris State alumnus Tony Trudeau took to the stage to discuss his work in the gaming industry for projects such as Farmville and Mafia Wars, where he went from being a 3-D and 2-D artist to being involved with production. He currently works as the senior art coordinator of Pocket Gems.

Trudeau discussed how he started in the industry and what it took in order to get him there. Showing off some of his first creations with Farmville, Trudeau later talked about the importance of having a great portfolio, being able to work in a team setting, and realizing which goals can be met.

“I’ve actually heard about the games that he’s worked on. I haven’t heard about the games in a positive light, I’ve



Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Ferris students and guests await Ferris alumnus and speaker Tony Trudeau at the 17th annual Ferris Media Festival.

always heard of them as like cheap Facebook games, but I thought it would be interesting to hear his perspective on it,” said television digital media production freshman Sid Sabo.

“I’ve never played the games before, but I think it was really interesting hearing his perspective on it. I think he made some really great art and him working on a team, and under conditions you weren’t specifically trained for. It was really interesting.”



Krynn Porter

The event also featured Yeti/CGI game artist Josh Freeney, television director Alex Kimbrough, Aaron Peterson of Michigan Ice Film, Google VR/programmer Will

Bonner and game sound designer Jerry Berlongieri.

“I love this event. It opens up people’s horizons. It gets a lot of college students excited for their career. And we have

a lot of high school students come and it gets them excited and it makes the high school students want to come into our field because a lot of people aren’t coming into it anymore,” said television digital media production junior, Krynn Porter. “It gets them pumped, asking so many questions and they’re just like ‘I wanna do this. And how do I do this?’.”



Thomas Dittman

A previous attendant of the Ferris Media Festival, Ferris television and digital media production senior Thomas Dittman discussed how he had changed majors to something he enjoyed.

“The festival is like the years before. It’s interesting. I’m hearing different things,” Dittman said. “Y’know, I’m learning stuff and hearing stuff I already know, too.”



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Photo by: Alexa Bourne | Torch Reporter

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Christopher Mensing delivers a presentation on the Kirtland's warbler.

Warble for the warblers

US Fish and Wildlife Biologist speaks at Ferris

Alexandra Bourne

Torch Reporter

Part of saving a species on the endangered list is taking time to educate people on what they can do to help preserve the habitat and the species itself.

Wednesday, April 19, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Christopher Mensing spoke at Ferris about the Kirtland's warbler.

The Kirtland's warbler is a ground-nesting bird unique to Michigan and parts of the Midwest. However, the species has spent time on the endangered species list.

"Part of my job is to do outreach," Mensing said. "It's always good when you can speak to a different group, not only explain about the Kirtland's warbler, but what we do as an agency and the importance of nature and species, what role these endangered species have to us. There's a lot of value of those species to people."

The event was hosted by the Bulldog Sustainability Alliance (BSA) RSO.

"In our group, there's a big passion for biology and the ecosystem and environment," said BSA President and Ferris environmental biology senior Symon Cronk. "Many students in our group have taken our ornithology class here and have gained a huge passion for it. So, that's exciting, the ability to have someone share what conservation efforts are being done in Michigan and helping preserve the Great Lakes ecosystem as a whole."

Ferris industrial chemistry senior and current BSA community service chair Adam Jandura, who will be next year's BSA President, reached out to Mensing asking him to speak at Ferris.

"I took ornithology last semester and one of our assignments was reading a book on the Kirtland's warbler," Jandura said. "Just learning more about that species in particular and learning the impact it has on the forests of Northern Michigan, it made me want to reach out to other people who could give more information and who could share such a local issue with our school."

Kirtland's warbler is also referred to as the bird of

fire or the jack pine warbler. The species nests under young jack pine trees with branches low to the ground, and is dependent on natural wildfires to kill older, taller trees to allow new ones to grow.



Symon Cronk

When Smokey Bear became popular in the 1950s, human wildfire prevention measures resulted in a diminished species population, hitting a low of 201 singing males worldwide in 1971 before the U.S. Forest Service and the DNR began conservation efforts.

In 1980, a large wildfire in Michigan consumed 25,000 acres of forest. This, in combination with conservation efforts, allowed the Kirtland's warbler population to explode, breaching 1,000 by 2001 and now more than 2,000. Now, approximately 95 percent of the population nests in the northern part of Michigan's lower peninsula.

"I think it's really cool for kids that get into birding when they're younger to be able to say this is a Kirtland's warbler," said Ferris biology and pre-veterinary science senior Joseph Scott. "This is a bird that's only in Michigan. Nowhere else in the world will you find this bird."



Joseph Scott

Mensing encouraged students to get engaged in local conservation efforts.

"Be engaged with your local community, be engaged with your conservation organizations, be engaged with public agencies," Mensing said. "Just help them understand the importance these things have to

the community and to the people. Get engaged early on with some ideas of what they can do to have more conservation or restoration value to some of these species that need it."

"I'm going to be a veterinarian," Scott said. "So hopefully in the future, I can help with some kind of wildlife. Maybe help with the Kirtland's warbler or other birds."

TORCH CONFESSIONS

I'm listening

Torch staff members write about slightly embarrassing aspects of their lives because hey, we all have those.

Hi. My name is Jas and I love corny, cliché sitcoms. To confess, I'm actually obsessed.

There aren't many shows from the corny era that I dig, but my all-time favorite is Frasier.

I don't know if it's because the storylines are so predictable, or because it is so easy to binge watch. But if I ever need noise in the background while I'm doing homework, I turn on Frasier. I've watched the entire series three different times. So I'm pretty sure that I could replay each episode in a one-woman stage play if you told me the title. I'm that obsessed.

My friends and siblings shade me on a regular basis because of my obsession, but that doesn't stop my absolute need to watch this show.

Personally, these shows have sort of attached themselves to my psyche. In high school, my saving grace was just a few things: comics, choir and corny television.

I needed a distraction, and that's where these shows came to the rescue. I'm telling you, if you need an escape, pick a show with at least three sea-



Jasmine Nettles
Managing Copy Editor

sons and binge. It started with Cheers, but Frasier was the spin-off, so naturally I didn't hesitate to watch.

Watching episodes of Frasier gives me hope. I mean, how could you not love the episode where Niles finally professes his love for Daphne? And when they get married? And when you notice that Niles' appearance changes once he gets in a relationship with Daphne?

So I rewatch and rewatch, and I'll rewatch again. Nothing gives me more satisfaction than falling asleep watching with the credits as one color, and waking up to the credits another color because a new season has started.

I have gotten some of the best sleep of my life falling asleep watching Frasier. And I've been able to relate some of the twists and turns of the show to my personal life.

Life is great because these shows exist.

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY



Photo by: Nick Vander Wulp | Lifestyles Editor

Ferris game design instructor Andrew Peterson talks to students about how to use games to their advantage when studying.

Play to win

Students learn how to up their game

Tia-Jane' Oakes

Interim Reporter

Teaching their classes as game situations has netted some instructors positive effects on their students' learning and retention.

Ferris game design instructor Andrew Peterson claims there are huge benefits from students treating college courses as a game by relating basic game techniques to the classroom elements such as a syllabus.

"Game-based learning is just a different way to look at academics," Peterson said. "It's a little bit of empowerment of what you're doing and how you're doing

it."

This unique way of thinking about school is relevant to students in every field of study.

"Playing games is an engaging way for students to learn content," Peterson said.

Students talked about their favorite games, and most of the game genres were based around warfare.

"To think of school as a game is way more fun than to look at it as a fundamental obstacle in life," said Ferris health professions junior Quentavia Robertson.

"If an instructor fails to elevate their classroom and teaching methods, student's performance will reduce," Peterson said.



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Are we done yet?

Exam: the ugliest four-letter word

Alicia Jaimes

Torch Reporter

The ingredients of a week-long study fest at the end of this spring semester are all coming together: coffee, study rooms and a fear of failing.

Five days of bubble sheets and trick questions have Ferris students biting their nails.

"There's almost a sense of unity," said Ferris welding engineering technology sophomore Robert Watson. "Everyone shares in the feeling of stress from preparing and then relief after all is said and done."

Watson does not have rituals for luck, instead, he makes sure to eat a clean diet to help keep his spirits up while rewriting his notes from the semesters as a study precaution.

"That saying, 'I work better under pressure,' is malarkey made upon by procrastinators to give themselves a false sense of confidence," Watson said.

Ferris respiratory therapy and allied health senior Tiffany Peterman is another student who can't wait for exam week to be over.

Peterman has endured years where her sleeping habits have suffered due to studying and stress. This year, she said she will be able to get at least eight hours a night. Her time at Fer-

ris helped Peterman find ways to study for exams without becoming overwhelmed by them.

"If possible, I study the night before for the exam the next day. Never double study for classes," Peterman said.



Tiffany Peterman

Ferris pre-nursing and health care system administration junior Nicole Majeske likes to re-write her notes as well, and participate in study groups with friends from her classes when she prepares for exam week.

While Majeske believes in studying for exams, she also prefers to go into her final with a goal.

"I feel it is essential to go into the exam with a goal and expectation with the grade



Nicole Majeske

and good luck."

that you are going to get. It helps me strive to perform to my best potential," Majeske said.

"Keep an open mind

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