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HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

**SORRY, WE'RE CLOSED**

Have you been paying attention to national news? Read up on the government shutdown and how it relates to Ferris.

NEWS | PAGE 2

**RESTITUTION**

Do you remember the 2016 scandal involving the Ferris club lacrosse team? Dive into what the team has been doing to recover.

SPORTS | PAGE 12

# Capital offenses

## Shockwaves from tragedy at MSU felt in Big Rapids

**Cora Hall**  
Torch Reporter

The sexual assault issues at Michigan State University (MSU) have caused Ferris to review its own policies, especially within athletic programs.

MSU team physician Larry Nassar was sentenced to a 60-year federal sentence for child pornography, 40 to 175 years from Ingham County and 40 to 125 years from Eaton County in state prison for sexually assaulting young women and girls during supposed medical procedures. Nassar worked with MSU teams and at the MSU Sports Clinic since 1997 and also worked with USA Gymnastic teams since 1986.

At Nassar's sentencing, victims were allowed to give impact statements of the abuse they suffered from him. More than 200 women spoke, and the number of women who made disclosures to law enforcement rose to 256, according to multiple news sources.

"With the Nassar situation, I mean, it's sad to say that people can be brainwashed. Gymnasts, you know, they're almost trained to be soldiers, to endure so many difficult things at a young age," Ferris football head coach Tony Annese said. "It's almost like they were brainwashed into thinking that something was okay that was horrifically bad and that is so sad."



Tony Annese

Many of the impact statements included criticism of MSU administrators and coaches, especially then-president Lou Anna Simon. She resigned on Jan. 24, hours after Nassar was sentenced. MSU athletic director Mark Hollis followed suit and stepped down on Jan. 26.

Investigations found that at least seven women and girls reported concerns about Nassar to coaches, trainers, police or university officials between 1997 and 2015. A few of these were MSU gymnasts who testified in their statements that they raised concerns about Nassar to Kathie Klages—who then told them that they misunderstood the treatment—as far back as 1997. Klages stepped down in 2017 after she was suspended. Though Nassar faced two police investigations and one university inquiry in that time, he was never charged, according to various reports.

The U.S. Department of Education's 2015 investigation of MSU found "significant concerns" in 30 of the 150 cases reviewed. Among the most concerning was a report that a sexual assault counselor was accused in 2009 of harassing a student who sought counseling and was not formally investigated.

"I was really mad because I just heard about it two days ago and I had never heard about it before and it's been going on for 20-some years? That's ridiculous," Ferris psychology sophomore Lily Smith said. "If people have come forward and people have denied it, then they're just

covering it up and for how long? They should be held accountable."

After an investigative report was released by ESPN, MSU athletic programs, specifically basketball and football, fell under scrutiny of how sexual assault allegations and investigations involving players were handled in the past. Annese expressed that if coaches aren't following up to make sure everyone is doing their job after they make a report, they are responsible.

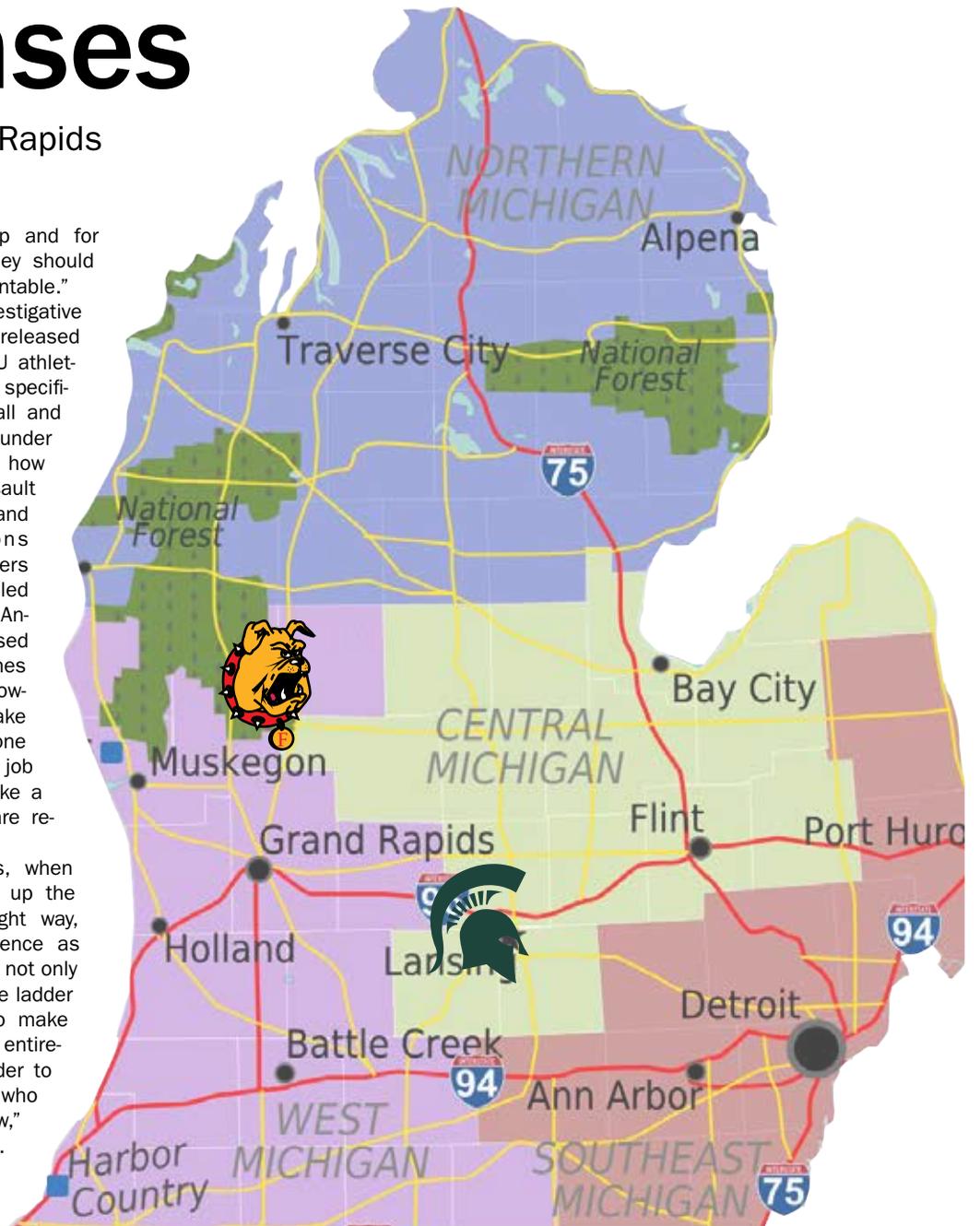
"Sometimes, when it doesn't go up the ladder the right way, there's negligence as well. I need to not only report it up the ladder but I need to make sure it gets entirely up the ladder to the people who need to know," Annese said. "Then if it stops at some level and nothing happens, I know it's significant enough where I've got to ask again."



Tia Brandel

According to Annese, Ferris football players are responsible for creating a list of standards that they commit to holding each other to and included on the list this year was to "respect women."

Annese makes it very clear to players that if any sexual assault issue is brought up to him, he will report it to the University and the player will be kicked off the team, according to Ferris sports



The above graphic is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

communication junior and quarterback Jevon Shaw.

"[Annese] told us one thing, it's not smart to go out and do something stupid and you have something that says Ferris State football on. It makes us look bad as an organization, it makes you look even worse," Shaw said.

Ferris athletics has long been intentional about education on sexual assault to all athletes but even so, the recent events will bring about a review



Jevon Shaw

**Assault** | see page 3

## SEXUAL ASSAULT STATISTICS

**1. DRUG OR ALCOHOL ABUSE WAS REPORTED BY 40% OF COLLEGE STUDENT SURVIVORS.**

**2. APPROXIMATELY 19% OF WOMEN WILL BE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED DURING THEIR TIME AT COLLEGE.**

**3. 90% OF CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULTS ARE COMMITTED BY PERPETRATORS THAT THE SURVIVOR KNOWS.**

**4. 34% OF COLLEGE STUDENT SURVIVORS HAVE EXPERIENCED POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.**

**5. 33% OF COLLEGE STUDENT SURVIVORS HAVE EXPERIENCED DEPRESSION.**

**6. 80% OF STUDENT SEXUAL ASSAULT GOES UNREPORTED TO THE POLICE.**

The above information was found from the National Crime Victimization Survey and knowyourix.com

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## NEWS

"It was hilarious. I appreciated the skill that comes with comedy on the spot."  
- Jabari Suhuba-Baruti - See page 5 for story

Harley Harrison | News Editor | harrih12@ferris.edu

# Sorry, we're closed

## Government shuts down over immigration conflicts

Megan Lewton  
Torch Reporter

Congress recently shut down the government as a result of the immigration dispute impacting government workers nationwide.

The shutdown spanned from Jan. 20 through Jan. 22. According to an article from the *New York Times*, the shutdown was in relation to conflicts about building the wall and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

"It's the immigration issue, primarily. DACA and the immigration issue, generally and the wall, building the wall. President Trump is holding what we say 'hostage' before a bill will be signed, the bill that he wants. In order to get a full appropriations bill, our budget and avoid shutdown, action has to be done on the immigration issue. So he's saying, 'I'm not going to do one without the other,'" Ferris assistant professor of political science Daniel Underwood said.

The *New York Times* reported that the government shutdown ended on Monday after a short-term bill was passed to fund the government through Thursday, Feb. 8. As the result of a government shutdown, many non-essential government services are closed, causing those employees to miss paychecks.

"Generally, most of us don't notice what a shutdown looks like because essential services carry on. People who do notice are those who miss paychecks. We have people in the military who are furloughed. They're not going to get paid for that week. What we've done in the past is we pay for it after when they come back, we give them back pay. But for the time being, they have to miss a month or more of a paycheck. That's a real issue for a lot of



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Manager

regular people," Underwood said.

Many people are upset that government employees can go without payment as a result of a shutdown. Ferris technical and professional communication sophomore and Chair of the College Republicans Kendyl Kirkland feels strongly about military personnel missing paychecks.

"It is a shame that those who have sacrificed a normal life for our safety and freedom are the ones who take the heat when our Congress is unwilling to find a compromise," Kirkland said.

However, government workers don't always miss pay during a shutdown. Ferris

marketing freshman Larry Bogus served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2011 to 2016 and said he experienced a shutdown during his service but his payment was continued.



Larry Bogus

"Honestly, it doesn't affect us really because the Department of Defense has a budget beforehand, like the year before, they set the budget. But also, in our contract, it does say that we're obligated to serve either way. They really don't have to

pay us but they do," Bogus said.

Underwood hopes Congress can come to a decision on immigration policies by Feb. 8 to avoid another shutdown.

"It's not so much the budget. We know how much we tax. We know how much we spend. What we don't know, who's going to pay for the wall? Who's going to pay for DACA? So they're negotiating that now. We'll see if progress is made on those other issues, the immigration specifically, maybe they'll come to a deal on Feb. 8. This is a long time for such a powerful country, globally, to be without a certain budget," Underwood said.

# With liberty and justice for all

## OMSS hosts events celebrating Black History Month

Landry Shorkey  
Interim Reporter

Diversity is a word that holds a lot of meaning to the Ferris population and is a core value of the Ferris administration.

February is a time where talking about race is especially important. It marks the beginning of Black History Month, which is dedicated to remembering the injustices that the black community has faced throughout history, as well as celebrating their triumphs. The Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) will be hosting a variety of events in the upcoming weeks for students to come together and broaden their perspectives.

Kicking off the month on Thursday, Feb. 1, was the '68 Museum, a mobile exhibit founded by Ferris alumnus Khalid El-Hakim. The museum has traveled to more than 300 institutions in 30 states and holds an impressive 7,000 original artifacts of black memorabilia. Students had the opportunity to explore the objects and hear a presentation on racism given by El-Hakim.

"A lot of people don't know the history of black heritage," Ferris criminal justice junior, student assistant

for OMSS and member of You Beautiful Black Woman (YBBW) Tierra Shelton said. "I feel like it's good to be knowledgeable about black culture. It's good to attend all events that are going to be hosted this February because each is going to be beneficial in different ways."

Black History Month will also include a film screening every Tuesday in February with follow-up discussions.

"I think that it's important for everyone to know both sides of history because there are always two sides of history. Black History Month gives us a chance to learn about history from the perspective of the black population. When you learn history from a textbook, it's usually from the white perspective," Ferris communications sophomore Taylor Wildeboer said.



Tierra Shelton

OMSS will also be hosting "Conversations on Race" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, in University Center 203. The discussion will center on prejudice that occurs within racial groups and ways to practice acceptance. Students of all racial backgrounds are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

"I think that going to these events helps people understand the feelings of people who are different than them because as a white person, I wouldn't know the feeling of being oppressed because of my race. If I go to these, then I can understand the feeling and I can help make the situation better," Wildeboer said.

## OMSS EVENTS

- FRIDAY, FEB. 9, 4 P.M. IN FLITE 135  
SCREENING OF "THE BUTLER"
- TUESDAY, FEB. 13, 6 P.M. IN FLITE 159  
SCREENING OF "13TH"
- TUESDAY, FEB. 20, 6 P.M. IN STARR 235  
SCREENING OF "I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO"
- TUESDAY, FEB. 27, 11 A.M. AND 1:30 P.M. IN FLITE 135  
SCREENING OF "THE BLACK PANTHERS - VANGUARD OF THE REVOLUTION"

# - ON THE RECORD -

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

## McHigh in McNerney

**Harley Harrison**  
News Editor

### McHigh in McNerney

Jan. 24, 8: 51 p.m., officers investigated a controlled substance violation in McNerney Hall. One subject was arrested and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### 28 Jump Street

Jan. 25, 12:34 a.m., officers found a narcotics equipment violation in Lot 28. One student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Creeping in Prakken

Jan. 25, 9:01 a.m., officers responded to a threat in the Prakken building. The subject was removed from the area.

### Fools at Finch

Jan. 26, 1:33 a.m., officer investigated disorderly conduct in Finch Court. One subject was arrested and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Bookworms strike back

Jan. 26, 8:59 a.m., officers received a report of fraud in FLITE but the investigation was closed after a lack of leads.

### Citation sorrows

Jan. 26, 7:13 p.m., a citation was issued after officers investigated a controlled substance and narcotics equipment violation in McNerney Hall. One student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Maliciously destroyed

Jan. 27, 10:33 a.m., officers investigated a malicious destruction of property in Robin Court. The investigation was closed after a lack of leads.

### Food wars

Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m., officers responded to a report of larceny in the Quad Cafe. One subject was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

### Bull in a china shop

Jan. 29, 11:30 p.m., officers responded to a hit and run in Lot 61. The investigation was closed due to a lack of leads.

### Out of luck

Jan. 30, 12:30 p.m., officers received a

report of malicious destruction of property on Lot 39. The investigation was closed after a lack of leads.

### You're so extra

Jan. 31, 1:13 a.m., officers investigated a report of extortion in Finch Court. The investigation is still open.

### Dukes of Hazzard

Jan. 31, 8:30 a.m., officers received a report of a hit and run in Lot 31. The investigation is still open.

### Market mysteries

Feb. 1, 2:44 p.m., officers responded to a report of embezzlement at The Market. The investigation is still open.

## WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

**Harley Harrison**  
News Editor

### Mediterranean Sea

90 people are believed to have drowned after a boat capsized off the coast of Zuwarah, Libya. While many of the bodies are still missing, survivors claim that many of the victims were Pakistani migrants attempting to make it to Italy. The U.N. is investigating the accident as the sea was calm during the accident.

Original story by Nick Cumming-Bruce and Declan Walsh, Feb. 2, 2018. *The New York Times*.

### Johannesburg, South Africa

995 miners have been saved after being trapped in a mine for more than 24 hours due to a power outage. While there were no major injuries, unions for miners had safety concerns regarding the lack of backup plans for evacuation. Rescuers were able to deliver food and water to the trapped miners while they waited for the power to come back on and for the elevators to start functioning again. All miners will undergo medical tests and counseling.

Original story by The Associated Press, Feb. 2, 2018. *The New York Times*.

### Nazca, Peru

The 2,000-year-old, pre-Incan Nazca Lines were damaged after a trucker intentionally drove through the protected area. The trucker was arrested and will most likely be charged with an "attack against cultural heritage" and authorities believe that the damage is repairable.

Original story by Megan Specia, Feb. 1, 2018. *The New York Times*.

### Hong Kong, China

Legislature in Hong Kong voted to ban all ivory sales by 2021 in an effort to protect elephants from poaching. Most of the world banned the ivory exchange as early as 1990 but the sale of antique ivory remained legal in Hong Kong, and fresh ivory has continued to reach Hong Kong to be sold along with antiques.

Original story by Tiffany May, Jan. 31, 2018. *The New York Times*.

## Assault

Continued from page 1

of those policies.

"For years, the Ferris State athletic department has been proactive in this education and I am sure we will use the lessons learned from the horrible experiences of Dr. Nassar's victims to strengthen that education," Ferris volleyball head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm said.

In the wake of the Nassar scan-

dal, a university-wide notice was sent out from the President's Office on Jan. 29.

In the email, President Eisler expressed sympathy for the victims but declared that the University will "take a hard look at our current processes" and "thoroughly examine and review our policies and

procedures" through a task force headed up by Vice President for Student Affairs Jeanine Ward-Roof.

"Tragedies are a call to action—for our university, for each of us who works here, for every person who pursues their education here and for anyone who visits here," Eisler said in the email. "At Ferris, we will continue to build a culture of sexual assault prevention and provide immediate response and support for survivors of sexual assault."



Lily Smith

## Torch Corrections

Did we make a mistake?  
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## Gotta get down on Friday

*The activities that have everybody looking forward to the weekend*

**Landry Shorkey**  
Interim Reporter

After a long week of classes, there's no feeling quite like setting the textbooks aside and having some fun.

Luckily, Big Rapids has plenty of places that are perfect for ringing in the weekend, both on and off campus.

Students looking for some fun off campus can enjoy a variety of restaurants, many of which offer specials and deals for the Friday festivities.

Gypsy Nickel Lounge is unique to the area and provides a unique experience for diners as well. There are special events planned every day of the week and, on Fridays, \$3 appetizers are available 10 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

The Gate is another weekend hot spot. There is a bowling alley, pool tables, bar area and even a few arcade games. For anyone who is looking for a variety of entertainment all in one place, The Gate just might be the perfect solution.

Of course, Big Rapids nightlife would be incomplete without Shooters. Many students take advantage of FAC or Friday After Classes specials.

"Most of the time I would go to the FAC with my roommates. They would drink, and I would just get wings and fries," Ferris manufacturing and engineering sophomore Cody Martin said.

Bulldogs who are not yet old enough to utilize the bar can still head to Shooters to dance the night away with their friends.

The downtown area is filled with options, including the AMC Classic Big Rapids movie theater, or Toppings Frozen Yogurt

shop.

With all the activities happening at Ferris, students do not even have to leave campus to find plans for their Friday night.

Sporting events such as hockey games are a great opportunity that upperclassmen recommend.

"On a Friday night, I usually will hang out with friends either at our house or at some of the frat houses. Friday is FAC at Shooters, so they have good deals on drinks. I would encourage freshmen to go to sporting events and stuff like that. It's just a fun thing to go to and get involved," Ferris diagnostic medical sonography junior Jaymi Goertz said.

Some of the best stress relief after a week of classes can come from simply staying in, loading up on snacks and Netflix binge watching with the roommates.

"Sometimes me and my friends go to the UC and we see what events are going on around campus. A lot of the time we'll just chill together in our dorm rooms for movie night or game night. A place that we really like is the Animal Shack downtown," said pre-diagnostic medical sonography freshman Hope Orent.

Residence halls are another place to count on for some Friday night fun.

"There's always something to do on campus. I feel like there's always activities. In my hall, they have different stuff every so often, like we're having a karaoke night tomorrow," Ferris communications freshman Arielle White said.

Students can also check the Ferris web calendar for Bulldog Weekend events on campus.

## Newman and improved



Photo by: Sam Cavotta | Torch Photographer

The Newman Center at St. Paul's Catholic Church has recently completed renovations.

### Student center completes renovations

**Meg Lewton**  
Torch Reporter

A new space is available on campus for students to study and spend time with friends.

The Newman Center at St. Paul's Catholic Church, located at 1 Damascus Road, recently completed new renovations. Additions to the center include a kitchen, laundry room, living room and coffee bar.

"I wanted a coffee bar. That idea first popped into my head because it'd be really sweet, just a nice, welcoming area where the students could come in and have a cup of coffee and work on their whatever," the Rev. Jegar Fickel said.

Fickel, who began his assignment at St. Paul's in July 2017, had the idea behind the renovations. The project began immediately and concluded in December.

"This was pretty much Father Jegar's vision. I think he should double as an interior designer," Ferris actuarial science junior and Newman Center President Laura Hureski said.

Students also had the opportunity to contribute to the renovations, as well.

"They were here helping paint. They helped pick out rugs and they're always there as like a soundboard. 'Do you guys like this color?' 'Is this good?' So yeah, they were definitely a part of it," Fickel said.

One student in particular, Ferris construction management freshman and Newman Center

Maintenance Consultant Josh Duffy, had a lot of involvement with the renovations.

"Because of my experience in construction, I helped with multiple projects, such as building the live edge bar in the basement, drywalling, plumbing, some demolition and other various tasks," Duffy said. "After the renovations, I really think this is one of the best places on campus to do homework or simply hangout."

Ferris manufacturing engineering sophomore and Newman Center Treasurer Joshua Ranshaw finds the new space very inviting.

"I just like it because it is home, almost. Like it's a very home setting. There's a kitchen downstairs. There's usually always food for the sense of, like, snacky foods. They always have like cookies or brownies or chips and stuff. I guess I like it because it is homely and you can always come here and feel like you're at home," Ranshaw said.

Hureski hopes the renovations to the center will bring more students to the church.

"Our mission and purpose is to evangelize the campus of Ferris State, so we obviously want to get as many people involved with their faith as possible. You don't have to be Catholic to come here," Hureski said.

The Newman Center is open to all students every day from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Joshua Ranshaw



Laura Hureski



Jegar Fickel

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# Laughing all the way

## Big Rapids Festival of the Arts features comedy show

Grant Siddall  
Torch Reporter

The crowd stayed involved through active participation and frequent laughter during the Ferris Improv Troupe's performance on campus.

The improv RSO performed on Friday, Feb. 2, in Business 120 as part of the Big Rapids Festival of the Arts. The diverse crowd of about 40 people was full of students, staff and local residents of all different ages. The energetic audience was full of laughter before the event even started and the laughs were consistent and loud for most of the performance.



Jabari  
Suhuba-Baruti

"It was hilarious. I appreciated the skill that comes with comedy on the spot," Ferris education senior Jabari Suhuba-Baruti said. "[The atmosphere] was really good. I like the idea of a small room show, you can be more intimate with the crowd and they got everybody involved and the laughs were really genuine."

The performance was done in the style of the famous improv comedy show "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" and took about two weeks to practice and prepare for, according to the improv groups chancellor Adam Jandura. Although there isn't actual rehearsing of material for improv comedy, Jandura says there is still a lot that goes into doing a show.



Adam  
Jandura

"I was planning this show for about two weeks. As far as the actors, though, there's no preparation for them. I gave them some basic clues about what the games we would play are but that's it, everything else is them making things up on the spot. It's about making sure that you can find solid people who are good at working together and that are able to commit to getting up on stage and putting their energy out there be-



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Torch Photographer

Ferris environmental biology junior Amber Hubbard (left) and Ferris pre-pharmacy junior Alyssa Baskerville burst with laughter during the improv comedy show.

cause it takes a lot of effort," Jandura said.

The show involved the crowd for many aspects. Suggestions from the audience were taken during multiple parts of the show and the group invited members of the audience up on stage to help with some of the scenes. One scene even allowed for any or all audience members to join in.

"The atmosphere was very welcoming to everyone, and

it was mostly family friendly, I really liked seeing everyone laugh," Ferris freshman Nick Salinas said.

With the success of this show and the positive feedback from the crowd, Jandura is hoping the group will get more opportunities to perform in the future.

"This is the first performance as far as I can remember but after today, since it went so well, we're really hoping that we'll be able to more," Jandura said.

# Dawg for a day | A new recruiting program

Grant Siddall  
Torch Reporter

Potential freshmen now have an opportunity to tour campus in a new way by shadowing an existing student for a day.

A new program called Crimson and Gold will pair high school students who are considering attending Ferris with current students. The pairing will be a one-on-one day where the high school student will shadow the Ferris student. They will attend classes together, eat a meal at either the Rock or the Quad Café and the student will tag

along to experience what a typical day is like for a college student at Ferris.

The goal of the program is to not only give students who are considering Ferris a better idea of what the university is like, but also to increase enrollment at Ferris which has seen declines along with the majority of universities in Michigan.

"What [the program] is going to do hopefully is not only excite the current students to be hosts but also to solidify students decisions to come here. We want you to make the right decision the first time and of course we want it to be Ferris," Coor-

dinator of Admissions Recruiters Angela Garrey said.

Garrey added that while some private schools around the country have similar programs for shadowing students, the program at Ferris is the only of its kind in Michigan. This has drawn attention from many people who are excited about the opportunities this program brings.

"There is a ton of excitement with our hosts and with the students who are signing up. I've been getting a lot of calls from students or their parents trying to get it all figured out, a lot of people are really

excited for it to start," Crimson and Gold coordinator Arielle Miller said.

As of January, the program had 91 hosts that are employed as student workers and 60 high school students signed up to participate in the program.

"This program allows current students to show why they chose Ferris and what their daily life looks like as a student," criminal justice junior and Crimson and Gold host Ashley Harmison said. "I wish that this program would have been around when I was deciding which college to attend."



## 2018 MAY COMMENCEMENT

Friday, May 4, 2018 and  
Saturday, May 5, 2018

Ewingleben Sport Complex (Wink Arena)

College	Contact	Phone #	Location
Health Professions	Richelle Williams	(231) 591-2263	VFS 210
Arts & Sciences	Barb Hampel	(231) 591-3660	ASC 3052
Business (Undergrad Students on & off-campus)	Carri Griffis	(231) 591-2493	BUS 200
Business (Graduate Students)	Shannon Yost	(231) 591-2168	BUS 200E
Education & Human Services	Jennie Stange	(231) 591-2700	BIS 604
Engineering Technology	Deb Ducat	(231) 591-2961	JHN 200
Optometry	Michelle Aldrich	(231) 591-3700	MCO 236
Pharmacy	Tara Lee	(231) 591-2249	PHR 312
DCCL	Megan Biller	(231) 591-2710	ALU 113

**Note:** You must satisfy all of your degree requirements before you officially graduate and receive your diploma.  
**Caps and Gowns** may be purchased at the Grad Fair on March 22th, 11:00 am - 5:00pm in the University Center - Multi Purpose Rooms or starting March 22th - April 24, 2018 at the Ferris State University Bookstore (located in the University Center, 805 Campus Drive, Big Rapids MI 49307).

**Tickets** are required for all ceremonies. All students planning on participating in a ceremony will receive (6) six tickets. Electronic tickets will be available for students to reserve or print **starting March 22, 2018**. Extra tickets are not distributed and lost tickets will not be replaced. **Tickets must be reserved by Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 11:59 pm.**

**Commencement Program** - Graduates must complete their online graduation application by **Friday, February 23, 2018 for their names to appear in the Spring 2018 Commencement Programs** or their name will not appear in the Commencement Program. In order to have the program printed and back in time for the ceremonies we have to adhere to these deadlines. Contact your college's Commencement Coordinator if you have any questions.

Friday, May 4	
Time	College
3:30 pm	College of Health Professions Michigan College of Optometry
7:00 pm	College of Arts & Sciences College of Pharmacy Doctorate in Community College Leadership

Saturday, May 5	
Time	College
9:00 am	College of Education & Human Services
12:30 pm	College of Engineering Technology
4:00 pm	College of Business

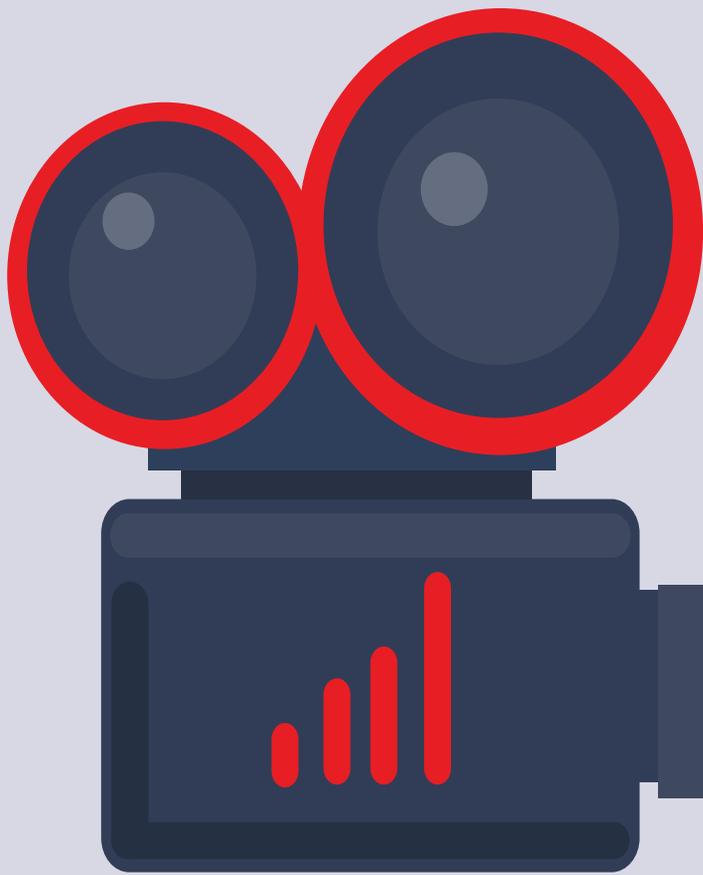
For special accommodations or for more information regarding the Commencement ceremony, please visit the Commencement website [www.ferris.edu/commencement](http://www.ferris.edu/commencement) or call (231) 591-3803.



# LIFESTYLES

"It's difficult to take in when someone you love has been hurt in such a horrible way." - Chelsea Boynton - See page 8 for story

Alicia Jaimes | Lifestyles Editor | jaimesa@ferris.edu



## Film-tastic

### An evening of films by fellow students

**Kat Merby**  
Torch Reporter

In celebration of the Big Rapids Festival of the Arts, students from the Ferris School of Digital Media will display their talents through documentaries and short films.

Ferris television and media production senior Garret Morgan is one of many students who will be sharing their passion in the 2018 Student Film Showcase.

"I'm excited that my film 'Our Pain' is in the showcase. Festivals are always a great way to see an audience reaction. After a while of editing, it's hard to be objective about your own work. I look forward to seeing some fresh audience reactions towards my film," Morgan said.

"Our pain" focuses on the effects of a heroin addiction on the relationship between a mother and daughter. Morgan has directed other films that center around the opioid crisis since it is a subject near and dear to his heart.

"My favorite aspect of filmmaking is editing. I like the way an editor can manipulate a story, especially in a documentary filmmaking. When it comes to narrative style films, I prefer to be the director," Morgan said.

Although Morgan has dipped into the world of documentaries for most of the past two years, his filmmaking career started in high school.

"In high school, my friends and I had to make films for our Spanish class and we took that opportunity to make over-the-top Tarantino style film parodies. That got me into special effects which led me into film making in general," Morgan said.

Much like Morgan, Ferris television and media production senior Raymond Heinlen began his journey in a ba-

sic video production class his freshman year of high school, which would eventually lead him to direct a short film called "Slim" which will be in the upcoming showcase.

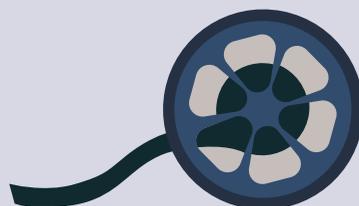
"Slim" follows a young woman as she becomes more aware of who she is while focusing on relationships and self-reflection.

"I want the audience to feel empowered when they watch 'Slim.' I hope it helps give them the confidence to make any hard decisions they may face and encourages them to be more self-aware," Heinlen said.

The showcase is open to the public. The content is both fun and serious but all made by Ferris students.

"Sitting back and watching a finished project that you are proud of is one of the greatest feelings," Heinlen said.

**THE STUDENT  
FILM SHOWCASE  
7PM TUESDAY FEB. 13  
BUSINESS 111**



# The TIES that bind us

## Creating ideas through opportunities

**Briana Hammontree**  
Torch Reporter

TIES is an incubated catalyst for ethical-minded student entrepreneurship and innovation.

TIES, short for The Innovators and Entrepreneurs of Ferris State University is a new registered student organization (RSO) that is the first of its kind that offers students the opportunity to implement their ideas through entrepreneurship.

"It is Ferris State's first entrepreneurship RSO, and what's so exciting about that is when you think about the history of this university, I mean, Mr. Ferris was in of himself the epitome of entrepreneurship. It's the ability to have a vision and the ability to see and dream something that is outside the immediate grounds. When you look and go back throughout the history of Ferris State University, everything the university was founded on was the idea of progressiveness. The idea of, thinking outside of the modern constraints of the time, and that is what our RSO is about," Dr. Kasey Short said.

Short serves as the advisor of TIES but also was a large factor in the RSO itself as she shared the idea among students in a few of her classes.

Ferris business administration senior Matthew Blees is the president of TIES and first learned about the RSO during one of the classes.

"I think it's a place to kind of think differently and give students a space to kind of go their own path and pursue their own ideas they have. But also you can get more involved in different parts of the University because we're not so focused on one thing," Blees said.

Though Blees has a major in business administration and a minor in small business entrepreneurship, TIES is offered to all students and encourages those of different majors to join.

"Innovation is always about thinking differently and I think



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Torch Photographer

Ferris advertising and integrated marketing communications junior and TIES secretary Victoria Baklashev (left), advisor Dr. Kasey Short (center) and Ferris business administration senior and president Matthew Blees play key roles in TIES.

it would work even better if there was more majors than just business because, when you think business you think entrepreneurship. You think creating you own business but the innovation part, too, it's kind of working together. So you can do a lot of different events and since it's new, we sort of have a lot of mobility and support," Blees said.

Along with Blees, Ferris advertising and integrated marketing communications junior Victoria Baklashev is a founding member and serves as secretary of the RSO.

"If you've ever been looking or ever thought about a product or an idea you had but weren't quite sure on how to take

steps to get it, this is a good way to learn more about that world and make things come alive. And also, if you have any drive or curiosity in it, that's a good place to start. You can build resources and connections," Baklashev said.

TIES not only serves the students but strives to work alongside the community and Ferris in hopes of identifying opportunities that aim for community growth and advancement opportunities for Ferris.

Students interested in learning more about TIES can contact either Blees at bleesm@ferris.edu or Short at kaseyshort@ferris.edu.



# A week of love



*Spend some time between classes enjoying the little things*

**Alicia Jaimes**  
Lifestyles Editor

**Hot cocoa in the Quad**  
Date: Monday, Feb. 12  
Time: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Location: Campus Quad

**DIY Valentines**  
Date: Tuesday, Feb. 13  
Time: 9 – 11:30 a.m.  
Location: CLACS Lobby, University Center

**PHSA carnation and popcorn sale**  
Date: Wednesday, Feb. 14  
Time: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Location: FLITE Lobby Table

**Stuff-a-Plush**  
Date: Wednesday, Feb. 14  
Time: 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.  
Location: University Center 202A

**Valentine's Day fundraiser**  
Date: Wednesday, Feb. 14  
Time: 3 – 7 p.m.  
Location: FLITE Lobby Table

**Jacob Kershaw blues and rock concert**  
Date: Thursday, Feb. 15  
Time: 7 – 9 p.m.  
Location: Williams Auditorium  
Cost: \$5 at the door

**The Price Sisters: Traditional Bluegrass**  
Date: Friday, Feb. 16  
Time: 7 p.m.  
Location: University Center Ballroom



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# TORCH CONFESSIONS

## Birthday surprise

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



Holly Baker  
Torch Reporter

February is my birthday month. On this particular birthday, I was a senior in high school. Birthdays always seemed boring when I spent most of my day in school.

It was almost the end of the day. I was headed to eighth period, excited to go home and finally celebrate my birthday in freedom. However, poor, unsuspecting Holly didn't realize what was about to happen.

My eighth period class was economics, also known as nap time. On this day, we were doing a worksheet in class. Do you remember in high school when you would spend an entire class period doing a worksheet? It was one of those days.

My class was working on our worksheet. We were busy at work, so it was completely silent.

I felt a sneeze coming on, so I let it rip—but I actually let it rip. At the moment of my sneeze, I let out a massive fart. I thought I sneezed loud enough to cover the fart.

The laughs of my classmates told me that I was mistaken. I tried to pretend it wasn't me—that it didn't happen—that it was the small, nerdy girl sitting in front of me. Everyone was looking at me and the nerves got to me. I think I got so nervous that my nose started bleeding. With blood dripping onto my desk, more and more people started giggling at me. I got up to get a tissue, my face red with blood and embarrassment.

Life lesson: when something that embarrassing happens to you, little things don't embarrass you anymore.

# If not you, then who?

## Speaking out against sexual assault

Jordan Johnigan  
Interim Reporter

"Breathe. Take a deep breath and center yourself because it is hard to hear. It's difficult to take in when someone you love has been hurt in such a horrible way," Ferris social work senior and Title IX intern Chelsea Boynton said.

Sexual assault is an often unaddressed issue across the nation. To raise awareness, Ferris' newest fraternity, the Betas, partnered with Title IX to organize the Sexual Assault Awareness event on Thursday, Feb. 1.

"We've been trying to see rising problems in the university environment and how we can help solve them. Being new and with the bad image that fraternities have gotten recently, we are trying to do as much as we can to be involved in the community," Ferris junior and Betas Community Service chairman Gasper Nunez said.

The event was an interactive talk about sexual as-

sault and how to respond to it. A panel of Title IX officers spoke on the topic, giving demonstrations that sparked discussion.

"Title IX is a federal law applying to all educational institutions that accept federal funding and it prohibits discrimination based on sex," Ferris Title IX Coordinator and Associate Dean of Student Life Kevin Carmody said.



Chelsea Boynton

The Title IX event stressed that sexual assault is not a silhouetted figure attacking from the shadows—more often than not it is your classmate, co-worker or acquaintance.

On campus, offices are located in UC 129 and are available to students throughout the week. The Title IX office serves as a safe haven, offering peace and comfort in times of distress. Title IX employees are available to help at any time.

# STEP UP

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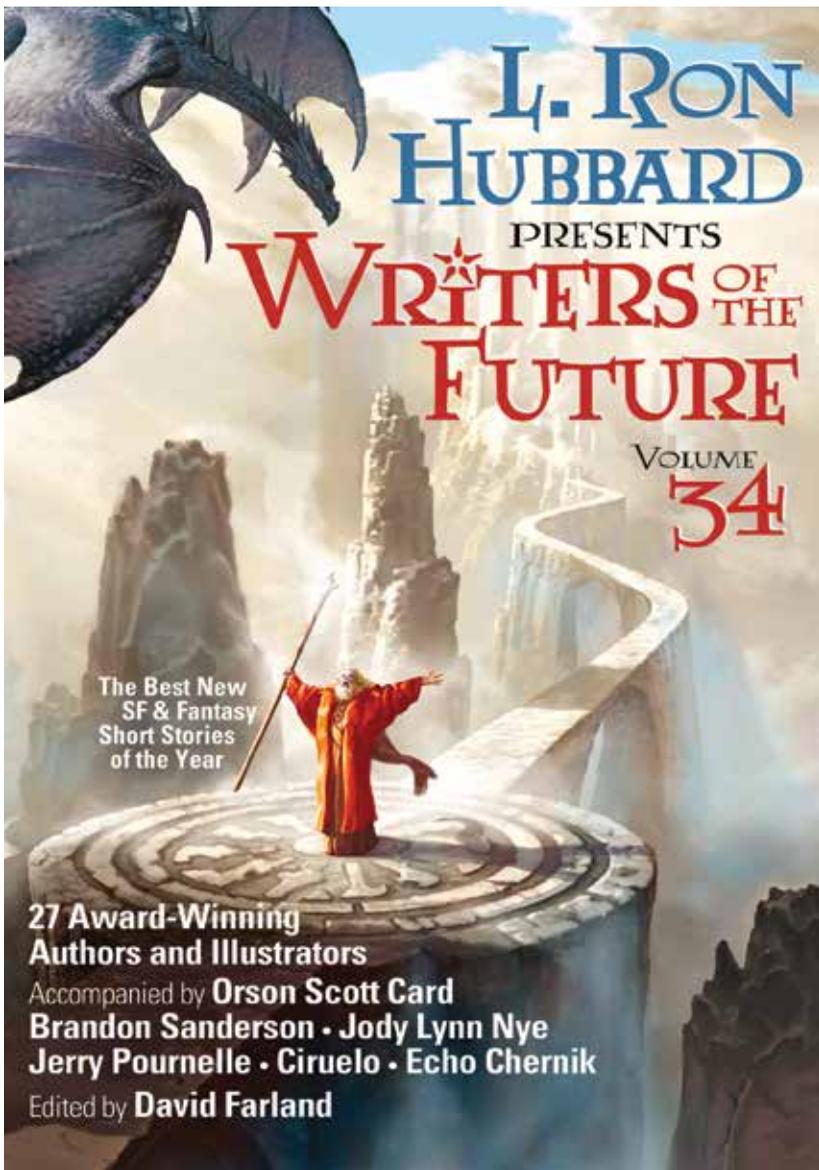
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Submitted Photo

Fletcher has been officially illustrating book covers and cards for the past two years along with concept art for small companies.

# Hey, Hollywood

## Let's see what the future holds

**Alicia Jaimes**  
Lifestyles Editor

Ferris digital animation and game design junior Alana Fletcher is on her way to Hollywood after being selected as one of the winners in the Illustrators of the Future contest.

In its 29th year, the Illustrators of the Future contest offered Fletcher a chance to showcase her talents. Winners were given a cash prize, a trip to Hollywood to mingle and take workshops and a chance at a \$5,000 cash prize.

"For the pieces I submitted, I was inspired by video games such as 'Dark Souls,' as one piece is a direct reference to the environment there," Fletcher said. "As I typically am a fantasy-based artist, a lot of my inspiration for the ideas behind my work come from folklore and history, and for the visual development side of it, I can draw inspiration from anything."

To create illustrations like Fletcher's, there is a long process that must be done.

"I first draw multiple sketches either digitally or traditionally to figure out what I want to draw. Based off those compositions or designs, I use a combination of 3D modeling software and photo manipulation in my more realistic pieces, as it helps set the stage and create a compiled reference image for me to work off of," Fletcher said. "I then digitally paint it in Photoshop, similar to oil painting, using brushes and multiple layers on the canvas. I start with a sketch, block in colors and tones, and then develop the pieces focal point if it's an illustration and work outward

or work generally if it's an asset or character design."

Though this was her first time entering this contest, Fletcher has had experience in working on book covers, playing-card illustrations, as well as character and environment designs.

"I mainly try to work in a style that's most close to my own personal one," Fletcher said.

Thinking about her trip to Hollywood in April, Fletcher takes some time to look back on her first experience entering a competition.



Alana Fletcher

"I remember the first time I was judged into the Kalamazoo High School Area Show hosted by the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, which was in sophomore year of high school," Fletcher said. "It was exciting in a different way, as it was when I was young and

had less experience in the industry, so I was happy that my pencil drawings were good enough to be able to be accepted. I felt more validated in my interests. While both were an honor, I was excited about winning this competition for the opportunities to connect with other artists and the workshops that come with it."

For more information about the Writers and Illustrators of the Future contests, visit [writersofthefuture.com](http://writersofthefuture.com).

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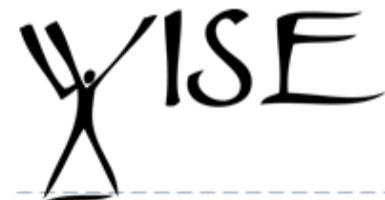
90% proceeds from this local production benefit Women's Information Service, Inc. (WISE).

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V-Day is a global activist movement to stop violence against women and girls.

Find out more about V-Day at:

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Title IX Office



changing the conversation  
about mental health



Anyone with a disability who needs special accommodations to attend this event should contact Wendy Samuels (231-591-5896 or [WendySamuels@ferris.edu](mailto:WendySamuels@ferris.edu)) at least 72 hours in advance. Ferris State University is an equal opportunity institution. For information on the University's policy on non-discrimination, visit [www.ferris.edu/non-discrimination](http://www.ferris.edu/non-discrimination).

## SPORTS

"It's a big step to college. The kids playing are four to five years older than you."  
- Coale Norris - See below for story

Brendan Samuels | Sports Editor | samuelb1@ferris.edu

# Home stretch



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Sophomore guard Greg Williams prepares to make a move towards the hoop in a conference matchup with Saginaw Valley State University. The men's basketball team remains hot, extending their record to 23-1.

## Ferris men's basketball extends their win streak to 11 straight

**Danny Collins**  
Torch Reporter

The Ferris men's basketball team is coming off their 11th straight victory after downing the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals in a 107-83 win Saturday, Feb. 3.

The Bulldogs have not only been making noise in conference play but have earned attention on a national level as this week the team jumped to No. 3 in the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Division II poll.

The nationally third-ranked squad improved to 23-1 overall on the season and 13-1 in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC). The 23rd victory stands as the most wins out of any team in Division II men's basketball.

The team also completed a season sweep of the Cardinals after last Saturday's contest.

The Bulldogs currently hold a two-game lead in first place over the Lake Superior State Lakers and are the only team in the GLIAC to clinch the conference tournament thus far.

The Bulldogs enter the month of February with a daunting schedule with multiple marquee matchups. The team will enter

a four-game road stand this week beginning with a matchup on Thursday, Feb. 8 against the Tiffin Dragons.

Some of the intriguing matchups consist of games against Northern Michigan, who sits in third place in the GLIAC, Michigan Tech and Grand Valley.



Noah King

"We have some big road GLIAC games and as the conference comes to an end we're just trying to finish out strong and host the GLIAC Tournament," Ferris sophomore guard Greg Williams said. "We have back to back long road trips these next two weeks. First in Ohio

against Ashland and Tiffin and then we go up to the U.P. to play Michigan Tech and Northern."

The men's team has dominated a great deal of the teams that they have played this season.

The Bulldogs have a mentality of running up and down the floor and stretching defenses, thus resulting in them being first in almost every offensive category in the conference.

After last Saturday's victory against the Cardinals, the Bulldogs have now hit the 100-point mark three times this season, which is the most out of any team in the conference.

Ferris also improved to 14-0 on the season in Wink Arena, proving that it is one of the toughest places to play in Division II basketball.

The Bulldogs lead the conference with 85.0 points per game and are second in field goal percentage.

The team, under fifth year head coach Andy Bronkema, has won three-straight conference tournament championships and appear to be on track to put themselves in contention to do the same this year.

"We have a couple road trips coming that are huge for us if we were able to stay locked and loaded," Ferris senior forward Noah King said.

The Bulldogs will be back in action as they begin their four-game road stretch on Thursday, Feb. 8, to take on the Tiffin Dragons in Ohio.

# Bright future ahead

Freshman forward Coale Norris has begun to make an impact on the ice

**Jacob Carlson**  
Torch Reporter

While the Ferris hockey team has had trouble finding consistency this season, one freshman has made an impact that could lead the program back to the top.

20-year-old Ferris freshman Coale Norris has developed into a solid young forward fitting in towards the top of the lineup for head coach Bob Daniels. The game of the 6-foot-1, 194-pound freshman from Oxford has soared since early November where he potted his second collegiate goal against brother Josh Norris on the road against Michigan in front of a sold-out crowd full of friends and family.

"I actually think since that point my game has taken off. I'm feeling more confident with the puck and as you grow, you get to know guys more. It's a big step to college. The kids playing are four to five years older than you. I think things have been going better for me lately," Norris said.

Norris now has seven goals and eight assists for 15 points on the season in 30 games, putting him fourth in team scoring, a pretty large feat for a player that has just recently worked his way into playing top minutes for the Bulldogs.

Early on, Norris showed glimpses of what he could be, but in recent weeks, he has really impressed. Not only has Norris been able produce well, including a three-point weekend in a series sweep against Michigan Tech two weeks ago, but he has also shown dominance while possessing the puck.

As his play continues to blossom, Daniels believes that there is still a level to Norris' game that he has yet to reach at the collegiate level, providing even more excitement regarding the future of the Bulldogs.

"He's part of a group of a pretty good freshman class. I like the play we are getting from him," Daniels said. "At times I don't think he understands how good he can be. He does have an NHL shot; he's got an NHL release. He's got a good head for the game and he's willing to work. Now it's just learning how to bring that every shift but he's getting there."

Daniels' points about having a lot of room left to improve are not lost on Norris as he continues working on growing as a player.

"I think the part for me is to continue to develop and continue to get stronger on pucks. Start of the year

**Hockey** | See page 11

# Keeping a foot on the gas



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Freshman guard Adrienne Anderson eyes a teammate as she prepares to hurl a pass.

## Ferris women's basketball looks to stay in the GLIAC Tournament

**Danny Collins**  
Torch Reporter

The Ferris women's basketball team is fresh off a 78-67 victory over GLIAC foe Saginaw Valley State Saturday, Feb. 3.

Senior center Rachel McInerney led the team with an outstanding performance with 31 points, 18 rebounds and eight blocks.

The Bulldogs have completely turned around their style of play from a year ago, when they were only able to produce five victories.

The team has exploded offensively this season and have added a talented group of freshmen to help aid their squad.

The Bulldogs currently sit at 12-10 overall on the season and 6-8 in GLIAC play. With the win against the Cardinals, the Bulldogs moved up to sixth place in the conference.



Riley Blair

The team has won four out of their last six games and will enter a four-game road swing starting this week, which features matchups against the No. 1 team in the nation in the Ashland Eagles and Michigan Tech Huskies.

"We really try to stay in the moment. We aren't naive, we know that there is no post season unless we have success now, but

we focus every day on the task at hand knowing that it'll take us to the next step," Ferris junior guard Lexi Bush said.

The women's team is currently second in the conference in points per game with 78.5 and fourth in the conference in field goal percentage.



Lexi Bush

The Bulldogs' upcoming schedule has a huge amount of significance in terms of GLIAC seeding and preparing the team for success in February.

Staying focused can be difficult, but the Dawgs have found a way to keep pushing.

"It's no secret we have to play well this last stretch of the season to make playoffs," Ferris junior guard Riley Blair said. "That being said, if we focus on here and now, each individual play, that's what is going to lead us to play well. If that happens, we will have an opportunity to make some serious damage in the playoffs. Play by play, that's where our minds are at right now."

Ferris will begin their four-game road trip as they head off to face the Tiffin Dragons starting at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8, in Tiffin, Ohio.



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Freshman forward Coale Norris gets in the zone on the ice. Norris has been on fire as of late and looks to aid his team in a late playoff push.

## Hockey

Continued from page 10

the coaches were on me to be a 200-foot player and I think I've developed that aspect so far and it's only been three-fourths of a year," Norris said.

Norris comes from a family that bleeds hockey and he has the fortune of a little family competition with brother Josh who is a freshman at the University of Michigan and a 2017 NHL first round draft pick for the San Jose Sharks.

Though Coale has the upper hand thanks to that goal back in November at Yost Ice Arena, the two continue to push each other to be better and better every day.

"He's definitely my best friend and we talk on a daily basis. We're both pretty hard on ourselves so to have someone to talk to daily is huge. He's a big part of my life and the way we play the game of hockey I think we both impact each other in a big way," Norris said.



Bob Daniels

Ferris fans can hope that the Norris brothers continue to push one another because so far, the outcome has been good. Norris has found a zone in the Bulldogs lineup and the sky might just be the limit on where Norris is able to help lead Ferris in the next few years.

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## Sports Shorts

Danny Collins  
Torch Reporter

### Rough start

The nationally-ranked Ferris men's tennis team started spring play on Saturday, Feb. 3, as they took on the University of Indianapolis Greyhounds and suffered a 9-0 loss in the Midwest Region match at the UIndy Tennis Center in Indianapolis.

The Greyhounds claimed all three doubles matches and all six singles matches in the victory against the Bulldogs. Four of the six wins finished in straight-sets.

FSU came into the matchup ranked 25th in the national rankings and third in the Oracle/ITA Division II Midwest Regional Rankings.

The Bulldogs will be back in action on Sunday, Feb. 11 as they welcome Northwestern Ohio in the Bulldogs' first home match of the spring season. The contest is set to start at 10 a.m. in Ferris' Racquet and Fitness Center.

### Future of the Bulldogs

The Ferris football program will welcome future players, as the Bulldogs announce their 2018 recruiting class that will be competing on the gridiron in the coming years as part of National Signing Day on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

National Signing Day is a day that celebrates the success of high school athletes worldwide as their abilities on the field and the classroom in high school has given them the opportunity to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

The athletes will be signing their National Letters of Intent in their respected high schools to finalize their contract to become a collegiate athlete.

Fans can follow complete coverage of Wednesday's National Signing Day at [ferrisstatebulldogs.com](http://ferrisstatebulldogs.com) along with @FerrisFootball on Facebook and Twitter with updates throughout the day.

# Restitution

## Ferris club lacrosse team recovers from 2016 scandal

Jessica Brown  
Interim Reporter

After almost two years of struggling to keep themselves afloat, Ferris' club lacrosse team has finally begun to gain restitution from an embezzlement scandal that left the team with little hope for the future.

According to acting president of the club, Ethan Leppanen, the team filed charges with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) against former president, Kieran McAlister, accusing him of charging more than \$5,000 to the team's credit card.

Leppanen uncovered the theft as the team's treasurer at the time.

"When I went to check our finances, I discovered large sums missing based on how much I had deposited," Leppanen said. "I then requested bank statements for one year and that's

when I discovered what he was actually doing with our bank account. Charges ranged from pizza at Little Caesars, to posting his bail at a different county jail for other charges he was arrested for."

The scandal caused the lacrosse team to be put on probation by the CLACS office. They were no longer allowed to travel, resulting in them being forced to cancel all road games. The loss of funds made it impossible to host home games, so their spring 2016 season came to a screeching halt.

"Since he was charged criminally, I was the representative for our team during court proceedings. I wrote a victim impact statement on behalf of the team and testified during a restitution hearing as to the amount that he stole. The process of the restitution hearing involved going line item by line item and

contesting whether or not the charge was justified to our account," Leppanen said.

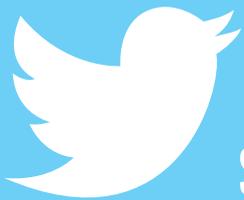
In hopes of gaining some of the money back, a GoFundMe page was started to replace the stolen money.

"Only part of the money has been reimbursed by him so far. We have received around \$3,000 from him and are still waiting on more," Leppanen said.

McAlister still owes upwards of \$2,000 to the club. He received some jail time to be served on weekends, allowing him to work during the week to repay the amount stolen.

As for a time line on when that money will be reimbursed, Leppanen isn't holding his breath.

"I don't expect to get the remaining amount very soon," Leppanen said.



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Inquiries or complaints of discrimination may be addressed to the Director of Equal Opportunity, 120 East Cedar St., Big Rapids, MI 49307, or by telephone at (231) 591-2152; or Title IX Coordinator, 805 Campus Dr., Big Rapids, MI 49307, or by telephone at (231) 591-2088. On the KCAD Grand Rapids campus, contact the Title IX Deputy Coordinator, 17 Fountain St., Grand Rapids, MI 49503, (616) 451-2787 ext. 1113.

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

## Top Dawg

Rachel McInerney

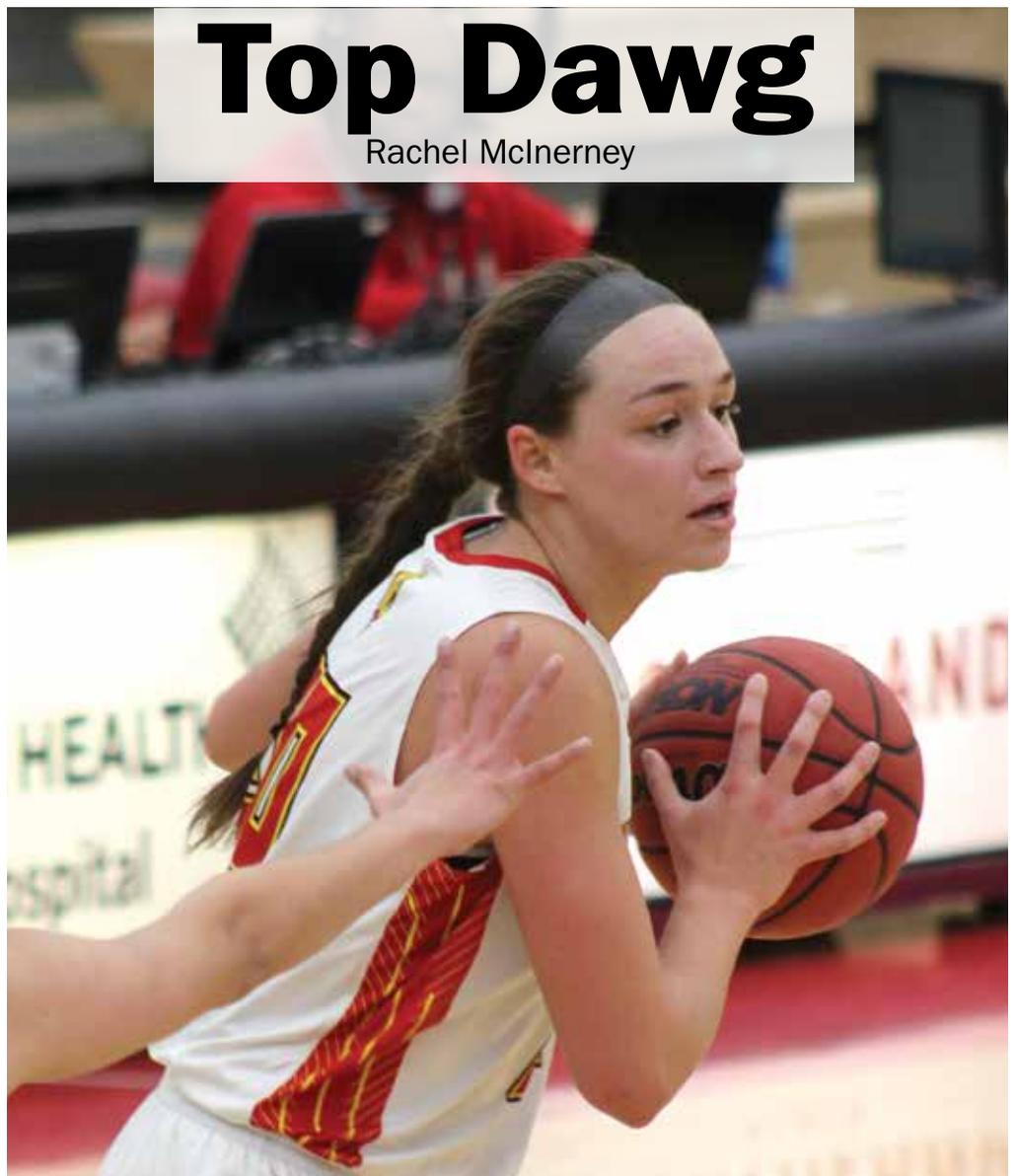


Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Brendan Samuels  
Sports Editor

The Ferris women's basketball team is coming off a huge 78-67 victory over GLIAC opponent Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU), thanks in big part to senior forward Rachel McInerney.

McInerney was on fire Saturday, Feb. 3, when the Bulldogs took on the Cardinals, nearly recording a triple-double. McInerney put up 31 points, 18 rebounds and recorded eight blocked shots.

The Dawgs' matchup with SVSU wasn't the first time that week that McInerney dominated the hardwood, as she put up solid numbers on Thursday, Feb. 1, in Ferris' 77-69 loss to the Timber-

wolves of Northwood University.

McInerney totaled 22 points, 10 rebounds and added three blocked shots as well in the Bulldogs' loss to the Timberwolves.

The women's team has been much improved this season, posting a 12-10 overall record with a 6-8 GLIAC record. With the win over SVSU, the Dawgs currently sit at sixth in the conference and could use some big wins to propel themselves forward come Tournament time.

McInerney and the Bulldogs will be back in action at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, when they head to Tiffin, Ohio to take on the Tiffin University Dragons.

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To be eligible for the drawing you must fill out at least 75% of the poll. The Pioneer employees and families are not eligible to vote.  
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**Good Luck!**

FERRIS STATE  
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# OPINIONS

“We are not here to bargain with racism.”  
- Marley Tucker - See page 15 for story

Marley Tucker | Opinions Editor | marleyitucker@gmail.com

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The Ferris State Torch welcomes comments on topics of interest to the general readership. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and The Torch reserves the right to edit for length. Letters will not be edited for grammar, punctuation or spelling. The Torch will not print letters deemed to be libelous or obscene. All letters must be signed by their authors and include his or her phone number.

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## Chat with the chief Editor-in-Chief, Angela Graf

I'm a feminist.  
A lot of people turn their nose up at that term these days, but I am.  
Am I the type of feminist that wears a vagina costume and goes to every pro-choice rally within 100 miles? No.  
While I respect these women and their right to do what they want, I like to think of myself as a more moderate version of the term.  
This all started in grade school.  
I was five or six and my teacher called me bossy and told me that if I wasn't "nice," if I didn't let others tell me what to do, that nobody would want to be

friends with me.  
I was 11 and my male principal objectified me for wearing a shirt that showed my shoulders when it was 90 degrees outside and the air conditioners weren't working.  
I was 13 and I stopped eating because I didn't look like the women in magazines or Budweiser commercials.  
I was 16 and my doctor laughed at me for saying that I wanted to be an orthopedic surgeon someday because it's "not a job women typically do."  
I was 18 and I was verbally accosted walking to my car after having dinner with my friends at a local bar and grill.

I was 19 and my friend and coworker opened up to me about being raped.  
I'm a feminist because child marriages still happen, because more than 200 million women around the world have been subjected to female genital mutilation and because women make up 50.8 percent of the United States population but only 19.8 percent of congress.  
I'm a feminist because there are already people sexualizing Millie-Bobby Brown, a 13-year-old actress, because Brock Turner spent just three months behind bars and because women account for 4.6 percent of Fortune 500 CEOs.

I'm a feminist.  
I don't hate men. I don't think women are "better" than any other group of people.  
If I'm being completely honest, I'm a feminist that wants to have two or three kids and who loves to cook dinner for my loved ones and crochet while watching a good rom-com.  
I'm a feminist but I respect women that choose to be housewives and stay-at-home moms.  
I'm a feminist but I'm not a stuck-up bitch.  
I believe in giving a voice to the voiceless, in fighting for equality (not superiority) and in not taking no for an answer.

## GOT AN OPINION?

### HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Deadline for submissions every Friday by 5 p.m.  
Angela Graf | Editor-in-Chief | Email: grafa1@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!

# Here comes the bill

## Why tying the knot costs too much



Jen Corrie  
Managing Copy Editor

In honor of approaching Valentine's Day, and also because this is the topic I've had on my brain for the last month, let's talk weddings.

Valentine's Day is peak proposal time in the United States, so if you've been in a serious relationship for quite some time, it might be time to pop (or answer) the question.

When you start planning, or even just thinking about a wedding, usually one of the first questions to come to mind is this: why are weddings and everything revolving around them so fricking expensive? I've done quite a lot of research lately and got to what appears to be the bottom of that question.

The answer is actually relatively simple: because people are willing to shell out money towards their chance to throw the greatest party of their lives.

According to "The Knot," the average wedding cost in 2016 was \$35,329 in the United States. If you need that from another perspective, that's more than the 2018 Chevy Malibu's base manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of \$21,680, according to Edmunds.com. If you're planning on getting married in a major metro area such as Chicago, New York or even just Detroit, be prepared to pay more than that.

Let's back up for a second. Most of our parents and grandparents had humble

weddings. I know mine certainly did. So besides inflation, why is our generation being milked for cash not only by higher education but also by the wedding industry? My theory is that people started low-key competing to have the grandest wedding and it got out of hand from there. The true purpose of celebrating love with friends and family turned into a competitive game.

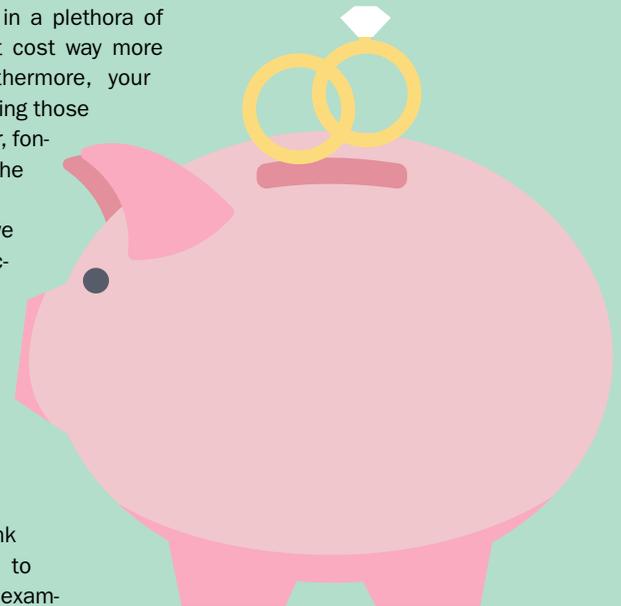
The people who wanted the most extravagant weddings set the bar for everyone else, resulting in a plethora of goods and services that cost way more than they should. Furthermore, your guests will still be expecting those things, from the three-tier, fondant-wrapped cake to the open bar.

So knowing that we can't change the prices of those goods and services (unless you're a really good negotiator), how do we keep some cash in our bank accounts after deciding to get married?

What I've found to be the most helpful is to think about what's important to you and what isn't. For exam-

ple, flowers aren't really that important to me, so I won't be paying for real stems. The dress was more important to me than the flowers but I still stuck to my guns that the average \$1,000 or more was ridiculous to spend on a dress that you wear for one day. On the other hand, photography is something that is important to me, so I'm willing to pay a little more for an experienced, talented photographer.

It's all in the value that you believe you'll be getting for your money. It's easy to get caught up in all the details but at the end of the day, all you're really obligated to do is sign a marriage license. You can still have a fantastic party, even without all the bells and whistles—all you need is a good attitude.



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Manager

# You're out!

The Cleveland Indians are phasing out their mascot (kind of)

The Cleveland Indians announced this week that they will phase out their "Chief Wahoo" logo from their uniforms beginning in 2019. Despite this, they will not surrender the trademark and will still be able to profit from merchandise bearing the logo.

According to Major League Baseball officials, the popular logo is no longer appropriate for use on the field. In my opinion, that's long overdue but it isn't enough. Fans will still be able to buy their red-faced mascot's merchandise and wear it at games. They should do more and stop production of the racist caricature in all capacities.

The problem of racist imagery in sports is not a new controversy. Native American activist groups have been fighting against sporting teams promoting racism since the 1970s.

I know what some sports fans are saying—"We're celebrating their culture! I personally know Native American people who say that it's not offensive."

First of all—no. Native American mascots trivialize issues that real natives face and dresses them up as relics of the past. A hashtag on Twitter explains how many native people feel. I urge you to log into the app and search #notyourmascot. The majority is not here to speak over the minority, and one person whom you happen to know does not speak for an entire culture.

If someone who directly is affected by a symbol says that it is racist, it is. Symbols hold power. There is a display in our own Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia dedicated to racist Native American caricatures. Someone who I was talking to just the other day about the MLB decision said, "Well, it's not as bad as the Washington Redskins."

According to the Webster Dictionary, the word



Marley Tucker  
 Opinions Editor

"redskin" is "a contemptuous term referring to a North American Indian." We are using a literal slur for the name of a football team based in Washington D.C. in 2018. Let that sink in.

Sporting groups adopted Native American nicknames and mascots even when regulations prohibited Native Americans from speaking their languages, practicing their religions or voting as American citizens. That is not celebratory or harmless.

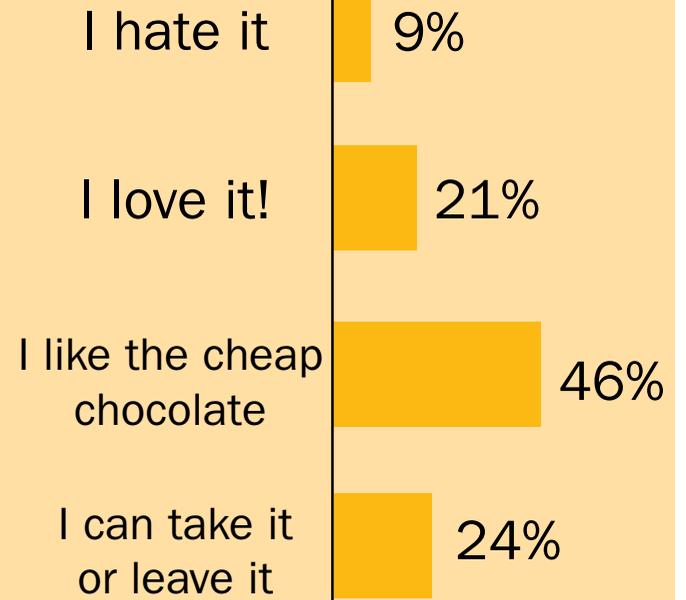
Any team that parades caricatures of native culture and receives financial gain from its use is wrong. You are not honoring natives by donning red face paint and wearing war bonnets at tailgates. Nostalgia is not an excuse to hang on to institutionalized racism in sports.

There have been empirical studies that have found the use of native mascots is harmful, especially to native youth. In "Of Warrior Chiefs and Indian Princesses: The Psychological Consequences of American Indian Mascots," studies found that mascots like Chief Wahoo negatively impact native youths' self-esteem and community worth because these mascots do not convey positive images of Native Americans in today's society. These mascots are dehumanizing.

Yes, Chief Wahoo might be on the way out but we have to do more. That's not enough. We are not here to bargain with racism but rather denounce it when it comes to our attention.

## TORCH POLL RESULTS

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### WHAT:

Lots of employers want to meet you!  
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### WHERE:

University Center 202

### WHEN:

February 15th, 2018  
 11am to 3pm



Check Handshake for details!

### WHAT TO BRING:

- Bring Student ID
- Resumes
- Business Cards
- A smile and your best dressed self

### Need Assistance?

- Walk in Hours - Wednesdays & Fridays 10am-1pm
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Cartoon by: Samuel McNeill | Cartoonist

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