



Ferris State University
TORCH
Truth, fairness and accuracy since 1931

HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

ODE TO SNOW
Editor-in-Chief Angela Graf expresses her displeasure with Michigan weather in rhyme.
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CALL ME MAYBE
Whether you're a smooth talker or need a little help in the love department, try these pickup lines this Valentine's Day.
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Defiance over dining



Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Ferris dining halls are a main food source for on-campus students, but they can also prove to be an obstacle for Bulldogs with dietary restrictions.

Do dietary restrictions hinder students when eating on campus?

Megan Lewton
Torch Reporter

The Rock and Quad provide convenient dining to students, except for those like Ferris nursing junior Rachael Brummel, who has dietary needs that limit what she can eat.

"For me, because of my dairy and egg allergies, it's somewhat harder. It's a lot harder at the Quad than at the Rock but there's still a lot of limited options," Brummel said.

This is an issue for many Bulldogs, such as those with food allergies, as well as those who choose to eat gluten or dairy-free, vegetarian or vegan. However, Ferris Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Brenda Walton said the dining halls accommodate these needs.

"Every day, we serve a vegetarian or vegan soup as one of our three choices. If there's something, a whole food group that they're not able to get in the dining center, we will purchase things for them, or make almond milk available. We'll have things on-hand," Walton said.

Yet, some students claim that these accommodations are

not always available for them upon request.

"If we have someone that can have the pizza but can't have the regular cheese that's on it, we will get dairy-free cheese for them from the grocery store," Walton said.

On the other hand, Brummel said that she requested dairy-free pizza, but nothing's happened with it.

According to Walton, students can access an allergen filter with the Rock and Quad menus on MyFSU to know which foods coincide with their diets.

"We have an allergen filter here, so if someone is trying to avoid something or has an allergy to one of these, then they'll just select it and see what contains it. You can do the reverse too, to see what the options are," Walton said.

Aside from those with dietary restrictions, some students, such as Ferris biology junior Sierra Shaw, would prefer additional healthy options at the dining hall.

"I do appreciate the Mongo and salad bars, it's a little more fresh but I think everything else is more comfort food, so it's not as great as I would like but it's still good," Shaw said.

Walton said that students should contact her if they have dietary restrictions that need modification.

"They need to come to me, and then depending on whether I just need to educate them on what to look for or what to ask for, if they have more limited choices, then we have a dietary accommodations form that we ask them to take to their medical doctor and get that completed, and then that will help us verify their need and the cooks will prepare special things for them in a safe manner to avoid cross-contact with other allergens," Walton said.

Students can contact Walton at brendawalton@ferris.edu or (231) 591-3747.



Brenda Walton



Rachael Brummel

POPULAR FOODS AT DINING HALLS AND THEIR CALORIC VALUE:

- MACARONI AND CHEESE: 300 CALORIES PER 4 OZ
- HUMMUS: 80 CALORIES PER 1 OZ
- PEPPERONI PIZZA: 232 CALORIES PER SLICE
- UNBREADED CHICKEN WINGS (NO SAUCE): 621 CALORIES PER SIX WINGS
- CHEESEBURGER: 413 CALORIES (270 FOR CHEESEBURGER PATTY, 143 FOR BUN)

FOODS THAT CONTAIN NO GLUTEN/WHEAT:

- GLUTEN-FREE PEPPERONI PIZZA
- CHEESEBURGER WITH NO BUN
- SALAD BAR
- UNBREADED CHICKEN WINGS
- PASTA SAUCE (GLUTEN-FREE PASTA AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

FOODS THAT CONTAIN NO DAIRY OR EGGS:

- UNBREADED CHICKEN WINGS
- PASTA AND NON-CREAM SAUCES
- RYE BREAD AND WHEAT WRAP, DELI MEATS
- SU CASA AT THE QUAD
- SALAD BAR

All information received from the Rock and Quad menus using the allergen filter.

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NEWS

"The vagina is okay. It's normal. We are not some sub-species just because we do not have a penis." - Xena Cook - See page 5 for story

Harley Harrison | News Editor | harrih12@ferris.edu

The color conundrum

Students discuss colorism

Megan Lewton
Torch Reporter

A student-run event focused on educating others about a subcategory of racism that deals with prejudices found within one's own racial group.

The Office of Multicultural Student Services held a conversation on race, Tuesday, Feb. 6, in the University Center. The conversation focused on colorism, which is defined by the English Oxford Living Dictionary as, "prejudice against individuals with a dark skin tone, typically among people of the same ethnic or racial group."

"Colorism happens where there's jokes that are thrown around, even within your own friend groups, and it may not seem like anything but if you grew up fighting to love yourself, those jokes do hit hard just a little bit. And even if you shake it off and don't cry about it, it still resonates a little bit in there," Ferris criminal justice sophomore Lexie Thomas said.

The conversation, facilitated by Ferris biology senior Sharell Williams, included a panel with student representatives from the Black Student Union, the Hispanic Student Organization and the Office of Housing and Residence Life Harmony Project. Videos about colorism were played, and students discussed their thoughts on the video, as well as how colorism has impacted them personally.

"With colorism, my family, one side is a lighter side and my dad's side is a darker side, and I always feel like there's 'Team Light Skin' and 'Team Dark Skin,'" Thomas said.

Williams said she hopes the discussion will help raise awareness to end colorism.

"I just want to make people more aware. That's a part of the problem, people don't even know. A lot of people that were in the conversation, they were saying, like 'Oh, I didn't



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Ferris elementary education junior Ellyse Ghoston speaks up during a conversation about colorism.

even know this. I didn't even know it was that bad," Williams said.



Jeffrey Carodine Jr.

Ferris pre-law and political science senior Jeffrey Carodine Jr. said it is important to talk about the different subcategories of racism.

"People never truly understand that racism has many, many, many pots that always boil over. So the fact that we have conversations on race, and then each conversation on race is different within that subtopic, is very key and is very important so people can then understand and adapt to what they're going through," Carodine said.



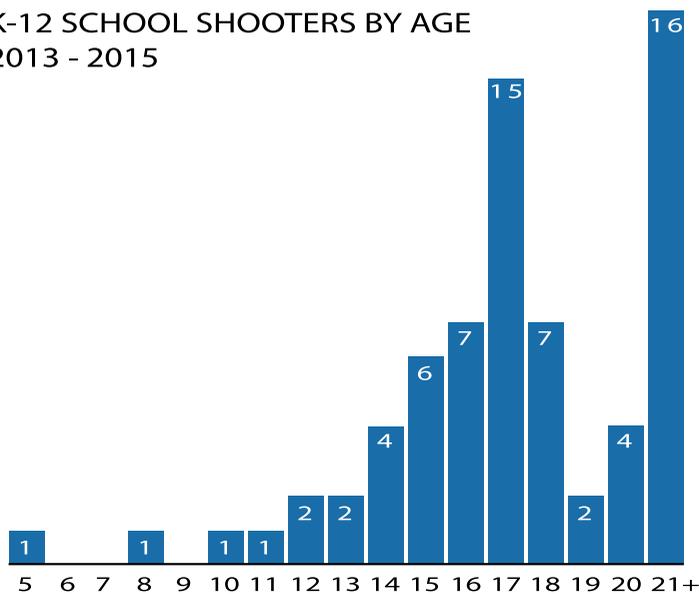
Sharell Williams

Williams believes education is important in ending colorism.

"Educate yourself, honestly. I feel like, if people would just look on the internet, you'll find a lot of stuff. Now, about 50 percent of it isn't true but it gives you some type of perspective of what's going on. You gotta know what's going on. It's not always right there in your face," Williams said.

OMSS is holding another conversation on race at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3, in the University Center.

K-12 SCHOOL SHOOTERS BY AGE 2013 - 2015



Of the first 160 incidents (tracked through 2015), the group's analysis gives us the following statistics:

- 84 incidents occurred at K-12 schools (or 53 percent of the total)
- 76 incidents occurred at colleges or universities
- In more than half of the incidents, the shooters intentionally injured or killed at least one other person with a gun (an act other groups defined as targeted violence)
- Nearly one in six shootings occurred after a confrontation or verbal argument
- 12 shootings were unintentional
- No one was injured in 33 of the shootings on school grounds

The above information was taken from Campus Safety Magazine and Everytown for Gun Safety

Put the safety on

School shootings prompt reflection

Cora Hall
Torch Reporter

While 14 may seem like a small number, when it is attached to the number of school shootings so far in 2018, it becomes drastically larger.

According to everytown.org, from Jan. 1 to Feb. 1, there were 14 instances where a firearm discharged a live round inside a school building or on a school campus or grounds. That's nearly one every other day.

"That's shocking—I had no clue this was happening," Ferris pre-pharmacy sophomore Amber Anderson said. "But it needs to be talked about because there needs to be safety regulations in schools."

In six of the incidents, no one was harmed. Two were attempted or completed suicides and the other six harmed or killed others, according to abc15.com. In Benton, Kentucky, two 15-year-old students died and 18 others were injured. The shooter was a 15-year-old student, as reported by the *New York Times*.

"When the incident does not happen at a school that a person is attending, it becomes easy to assume that it could never happen here," Ferris Department of Public Safety Chief Bruce Borkovich said.

Many students believe that news of gunfire in a school used to be shocking and uncommon. At this point, it has almost become normal and is rarely the focal point in news cycles.

"It's because they're embarrassed that it keeps happening and we're the only country in the world that this is happening in," Ferris pre-pharmacy sophomore Carl Bates said.

The Sandy Hook Elementary shooting in 2012 shocked everyone but people have almost moved on from the incident and society has become somewhat

desensitized to shootings, explained Anderson.

A concerning aspect to school shootings this year is that multiple shooters were kids. In at least three of the incidents where others were injured or killed, the shooter was between the ages of 12 and 16.

"It's kind of crazy to think that someone could do that but they must have been in some sort of different state of mind," Ferris criminal justice sophomore Chris Avel said. "They should catch it sooner with adolescents. We were talking about Columbine in class and they had journals on journals on what they wanted to do but no one stopped them."



Chris Avel

According to the *New York Times*, there have been around 50 school shootings throughout this academic year, bringing up the question of whether or not gun control laws should be increased.



Amber Anderson

"I think gun control should be regulated more than it is now, but not taken away. You should still be allowed to have guns but kids shouldn't be able to access guns," Bates said. "Parents should know what their kids are doing and keep [guns] locked up. There should definitely be a class or everyone should be required to take hunter's safety."

On the DPS website is a video that provides training to recognize an "at-risk person" and what to do if an attack happens. Every Ferris employee views the video when hired, incoming freshmen are shown the video in their FSUS class and officers are thoroughly trained for situations involving shooters, according to Borkovich.

- ON THE RECORD -

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

Hit it and quit it

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Hit it and quit it

Feb. 1, 9 a.m., officers responded to a report of a hit and run in Lot 1. The investigation was closed due to a lack of leads.

Out for your arrest

Feb. 1, 1:52 p.m., officers conducted a warrant arrest in Finch Court. The subject was arrested and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Jokin' around

Feb. 1, 2:04 p.m., officers investigated a controlled substance and narcotics equipment violation in Finch Court. One subject was arrested and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Excruciating charges

Feb. 2, 3:52 p.m., officers investigated a report of extortion in Finch Court. However, the case was closed due to a lack of leads.

Misconducting students

Feb. 2, 8:30 p.m., officers assisted hall staff in Clark Hall with a controlled substance violation. One subject was arrested and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Put a cork in it

Feb. 2, 10:52 p.m., officers investigated a scene where subjects were found with an open container of alcohol on Sports Drive and Knollview Drive. Two subjects were arrested and three subjects were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Identity thief

Feb. 3, 3:08 a.m., officers were warned by

central dispatch to be on the lookout for a reported stolen vehicle from an apartment complex south of Big Rapids. After an officer located the vehicle and made a traffic stop, the driver lied about their identity and was arrested for drunk driving. The driver was charged for unauthorized driving away auto, obstruction of justice, drunk driving and two warrant arrests. The county is still investigating the incident.

Get off my lawn!

Feb. 5, 9:38 a.m., one subject was arrested and referred to the Office of Student Conduct for trespassing in Finch Court.

West is the best

Feb. 5, 2:39 p.m., officers investigated a report of fraud in the West Building. The investigation is still open.

Reckless freshmen

Feb. 6, 12:05 a.m., officers assisted hall staff in North Hall with a controlled substance and narcotics equipment violation. The investigation is still ongoing.

Discord in the UC

Feb. 6, 6 p.m., officers responded to a report of disorderly conduct in the University Center. The investigation is still open.

An ongoing investigation

Feb. 6, 8:15 p.m., officers assisted staff with an assault and battery report in North Hall. The investigation is still open.

McNerney is at it again

Feb. 6, 9:01 p.m., officers assisted hall staff with a controlled substance violation in McNerney Hall. One student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Yambio, South Sudan

More than 300 child soldiers have been released by armed groups in South Sudan, which is the second-largest release since 2013. It is reported that all sides of the conflict have recruited more than 19,000 children soldiers. The United Nations has worked for the release of about 2,000 children in the past few years.

Original story by The Associated Press, Feb. 7, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

756 prisoners are set to be released by the Ethiopian government in an effort to decrease tensions within the country. Almost 6,000 prisoners have been released since January, the majority of which were active in mass protests.

Original story by Reuters, Feb. 8, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Bermuda

Just nine months after legalizing same-sex marriage, the British territory of Bermuda has now forbidden it. The original ruling was decided by the island's Supreme Court last May but the practice was unpopular with voters.

Original story by Megan Specia, Feb. 8, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Beijing, China

Three children and their mother are dead after a nanny set fire to their apartment in June. The nanny has since been sentenced to death in a court case that has consumed China. The nanny was reportedly in gambling debt and she planned to start the fire with the intent of extinguishing it because she believed the family would reward her financially for rescuing them.

Original story by Javier C. Hernández and Iris Zhao, Feb. 9, 2018. *The New York Times*.

NEWS BRIEFS

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Career and internship fair

Students are welcome to bring their polished resumes and dress to impress at the Career and Internship Fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15, in UC Room 202. Students can email Michele Albright at CLACS@ferris.edu for more information.

National Weather Service Skywarn training

Join the National Weather Service, Mecosta County Emergency Management and FSU Safety, Health, Environmental and Risk Management for Skywarn Training from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17, in UC Room 116. No registration is needed and questions can be directed to Mike McKay at (231) 591-2147.

Sports Speakers Series Nathan Wells

Join the Sports Leadership Institute and Sports Careers Registered Student Organization from 6 to 7:15 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19, in the IRC Room 115. Ferris alum Nathan Wells will be presenting on his journey of becoming an Events Operations Manager. For more information, please contact Sandy Alspach at (231) 591-2779.

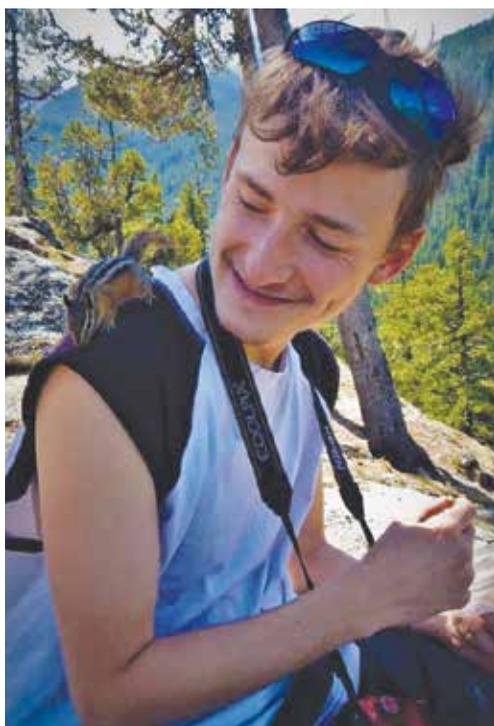
Torch Corrections

1. Madison Tollstam's name was misspelled in the article "Need for knowledge" in the Jan. 24 edition of the *Torch*.
2. Hannah Brencher's name was misspelled in the article "Paying it forward" in the Jan. 31 edition of the *Torch*.
3. In the article "If not you, then who?" the Sexual Assault Awareness event was hosted by Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity Incorporated in the Feb. 6 edition of the *Torch*.

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

One of us

Student death breaks campus



Submitted Photo

Ferris engineering technology student Timothy Quinlan III makes friends with a chipmunk.

Harley Harrison
News Editor

The Ferris flag was at half-staff Friday, Feb. 9, in memory of Ferris engineering technology student Timothy (TJ) Quinlan III, who passed away Saturday, Feb. 3.

At just 19 years old, Quinlan was killed in a single car accident in Rogers Heights, according to his obituary.

Quinlan was a Morley resident and a graduate of Morley Stanwood High School, where he earned the highest honors. According to the obituary, Quinlan also worked at both Qdoba and the Ferris filming department.

"With his zany sense of 'style' and his irrepressible wit, TJ made a lasting impression everywhere he went," the obituary said. "From his numerous roles in theatre productions, to his near-obsession with all things D&D, video game and strategy-game-related, he combined both his overwhelming creativity and his logical intelligence in a uniquely 'TJ' way."

The family held visitations Friday, Feb. 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Daggett-Gilbert Funeral Home in Big Rapids. There was also another visitation Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Trinity Fellowship Church in Big Rapids. This was followed by a funeral service that was open to all friends and loved ones.

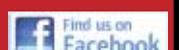
Quinlan's obituary can be found at daggettgilbertfuneralhome.com

The police never think it's as funny as you do.

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Spring into action

While many students head to the beach, others will volunteer their time

Grant Siddall
Torch Reporter

For students who are looking to spend their spring break giving back, Big Rapids offers multiple opportunities.

One of the groups from Ferris that volunteers during spring break is a partnership between the American Welding Society (AWS) and the Fellowship of Christian Students.

"Last year we went to Manning, South Carolina, to help repair some storm damaged houses. The house we were working on, the flood waters had actually come about halfway up their living room wall, we went in and did as many repairs as they needed done," Ferris welding engineering junior Robert Watson said. "People who didn't know how to hang drywall or put up siding, they painted or did anything else that needed to be done."

Watson also added that the trip isn't all work. The group also hangs out and does some sightseeing in the areas that they visit.

In addition to the AWS and Fellowship of Christian Students spring break volunteer trip, there are many other ways students can get involved in Big Rapids or throughout the country during spring break.

In Big Rapids, there are always volunteer opportunities available to the public. Some of those opportunities are with the Mecosta County Commission on Aging and Senior Center. For students who are planning on staying in Big Rapids over break, they

have opportunities to volunteer to be a crafter, bingo caller or just a companion with the elderly on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m.

"I've considered doing volunteer work over spring break, except I'll be very honest, I'm not sure if there is anything I'm currently interested in," Ferris per-optometry sophomore Sandra Tome said.

Tome added that she thinks Ferris could do a better job of making available volunteer opportunities easy to locate.

"The more activities that there are in Big Rapids or here at Ferris the better, I don't think anyone would be against being able to get more involved as a student," Tome said.

As another local option, the Animal Rescue Coalition of Mecosta County also offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for animal lovers that will be in the Big Rapids area for break, they even let you choose if you are more comfortable working with cats or dogs.

For students who are trying to leave the cold weather, websites such as volunteermatch.org allow users to type in any city in the world and find a vast range of different volunteer opportunities accompanied by the dates those opportunities are available.



Sandra Tome



Robert Watson

Not your average bear



Promotional Image

Blackbear is set to perform at the 2018 Music Takes Action Concert at Ferris.

Music Takes Action artist revealed

Megan Lewton
Torch Reporter

Entertainment Unlimited announced Friday, Feb. 9, that Blackbear will be performing at Ferris as part of Music Takes Action 2018. Music Takes Action, a free annual concert, will be held 7 p.m. Saturday, April 7 at Wink Arena, according to the Music Takes Action promotional video.

Some students, like Ferris health care systems administration freshman Elizabeth Rugh, are delighted by the artist choice.

"I'm really excited. I'm a fan of Blackbear, so I definitely want to get a ticket and be there to

see it and everything. I think it's cool that he's able to come out. I wasn't really that informed about it but definitely once I heard it was Blackbear, I really want to go," Rugh said.

Others are unfamiliar with the artist and are uninterested in Music Takes Action. Ferris liberal arts and political science sophomore Patience Gwion said that she while she thinks the concert is a good idea, she will not be attending.

"I think it's cool. I didn't know it was free. I thought you had to pay for it," Gwion said.

Some students who don't listen to Blackbear still plan on watching him perform at Ferris. "I don't really have an opin-

ion on the artist since I have never heard of them but I'm sure I'll attend. I like Music Takes Action, or Ferris Fest as I remember it named. I like the atmosphere of music bringing the community together," Ferris sociology senior Courtney Sweet said.

According to the Music Takes Action Facebook page, free tickets will be available to students with a valid student ID starting Monday, March 12, and will become available to the public Monday, March 26. Tickets can be picked up from the Entertainment Unlimited office in the University Center Room 121B.

WANTED

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ferris State Torch

2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR:

We are seeking an organized student (enrolled in at least six credit hours) for the Editor-in-Chief position during the 2018-19 school year. Candidates must write well, possess excellent leadership skills and be prepared to work the entire school year. Candidates should be familiar with printed and digital publishing techniques. Qualified students can receive competitive wages for up to 20 hours per week. Ability to work and train in April and August of 2018 is necessary. Prior journalism experience or training desired.

APPLICANTS NEED TO SUBMIT:

- Resume
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 - >> What should be the goals of a student-run newspaper?
 - >> How will I, as Editor-in-Chief, ensure that the newspaper reaches its goals?
- Copies of articles or other written work
- At least two references (recommendation letters not required)

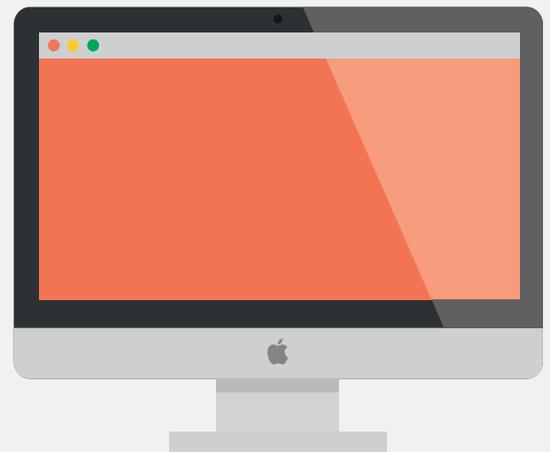
SEND RESUME, ESSAY AND CLIPPINGS TO:

Steve Fox at stevenfox@ferris.edu

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, Feb. 28, 2018

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If interested contact Editor-in-Chief, Angela Graf, at grafa1@ferris.edu



LGBTQ+ Resource Center
The new resource center for the Ferris LGBTQ+ community has recently opened in University Center Room 121.
Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Calling all coochies

Feminist issues addressed during The Vagina Monologues

Landry Shorkey
Interim Reporter

Amidst a time where issues of sexual assault and harassment are at the focus of society, women stand united.

The V-Day Vagina Monologues took place Thursday, Feb. 8, in Williams Auditorium and gave women on campus a chance to have a voice and address the hardships they struggle against.

The show was sponsored by The Social Work Association and it featured a series of monologues from women, provided by Spotlight Campaign: The Resistance, who received 10 percent of profits from the event. The additional 90 percent of profits were donated to Women's Information Service, Inc. (WISE).

Throughout the performances of the 17 monologues, a variety of topics were covered. These included sexual consent, women's familiarization with their own anatomy and challenges faced by the transgender community.

"I think it's important for people to be aware of consent and how no means no. I know that's been a really big issue lately, especially in the news and all the different sexual assaults coming out, so it's just kind of bringing awareness of women's perspective going through those experiences," Ferris social work junior and monologue performer Alyssa Herl said. "I think that it's really important to see how being sexualized affects women and how it makes us feel powerless and we just want to have a voice and say, 'Hey you know what? This is not okay.'"

One of the main goals for the participants was helping people become comfortable discussing subjects that can sometimes be difficult to talk about.

"Vaginas aren't taboo. We should be able to talk about women's issues without worrying about the backlash we'll get and the discrimination. This is about trying to fight for equality for women's rights, so that's what I hope people get from this," Ferris social work senior and monologue performer Johanna Vander Ploeg said.

Auditions to be part of The Vagina Monologues were open to all interested women and will continue to be in years to come. Although men cannot read the monologues in the show, it is strongly encouraged that they attend the performance and broaden their perspectives.

"I think guys should be there because they're part of the main crowd that's been doing the oppressing of women. We have men in leadership roles—mostly men—in leadership roles in this country, so I think it's important that we have



Photo by: Sam Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Ferris social work senior Megan Liede performs in the 2018 production of Vagina Monologues.



Ohanna Vander

them seeing the other side," Ferris social work senior and vice president of The Social Work Association Nicholas Hadley said. "It's important for people to know that there is issues going on and that they need to be talked about. If you don't talk about them somewhere, they're not going to get talked about, and people are going to be uncomfortable but when you're uncomfortable is when you grow."

The evening was filled with a strong sense of unity as the performers brought up situations that



Alyssa Herl

many women have experienced in their lifetimes. The underlying message reflected a sentiment that women around the globe can relate to: women deserve equal rights and equal respect.

"The vagina is okay. It's normal. We are not some sub-species just because we do not have a penis," Ferris criminal justice junior and Student Director Xena Cook said.

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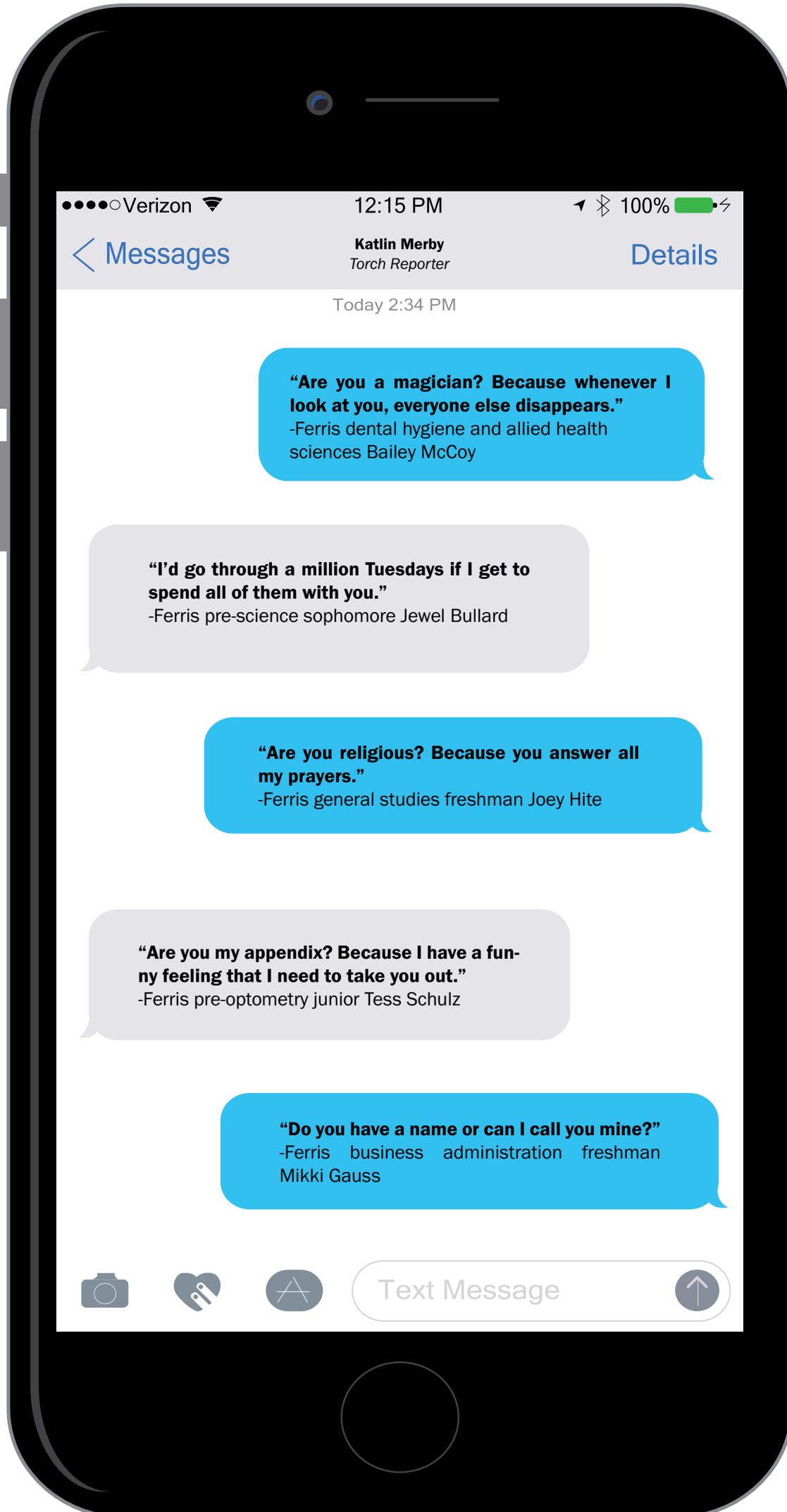
LIFESTYLES

"I jokingly told her to start a ski club so she'd have people to ski with."
- Spencer Tenney - See page 8 for story

Alicia Jaimes | Lifestyles Editor | jaimesa@ferris.edu

Call me maybe

Favorite Ferris pick-up lines



Providing a voice | The evolution of Black Greek Council



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

Black Greek Council, formed in 1990, works in collaboration with the Office of Multicultural Student Services to host events during Black History Month.

Briana Hammontree
Torch Reporter

Black Greek Council (BGC) began as a place for African Americans and minorities to have a voice when they couldn't.

While the first African American charter at Ferris began in 1966 as Alpha Phi Alpha, Black Greek Council didn't form until 1990. Since then, it has evolved and grown, collaborating with other RSOs and Greek organizations.

Ferris pre-law and political science senior Jeffrey Carodine Jr. is the president of the Black Greek Council and has found that some of his best experiences from Black Greek Council have come from building his leadership skills.

"Generally, BGC is a community service and philanthropy-based council. We do our annual icebreaker for the university, which is like a big get-together for everybody of the university. We have our annual ice-skater party and we do community service in Grand Rapids area. So we do things like food drives, clothes drives, donating money to the March of Dimes and Project Starburst. It's a lot of things that we do but it is for the community and university solely," Carodine said.

Besides helping the community and holding their ice-breaker event, BGC holds various events on campus and helps put on many of the events during Black History Month with the aid of the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) office. In addition, they have helped with the Big Event held at the beginning of the year.

Ferris business administration and legal studies junior Zachary Bowman has found events like the Big Event to be a rewarding experience for new students interested in Greek life.

"Personally, I feel I've begun to shift more into a leader type of role. Also, with being in my own fraternity and beginning to branch out more with people I wouldn't usually talk to. Being a part of BGC, you get to expand more. Sometimes we get to mentor students coming in as a freshman and it's something that we're like shifting into the role of an adult and taking charge and paying it back forward," Bowman said.

To be a member of Black Greek Council, the student must currently be enrolled in a fraternity or sorority associated with the platform and then discuss their interest in membership with members of the organization they choose to join.

"I was able to develop skills such as far as being able to have a financial background. I was able to put that [on my] resume, I was able to meet a ton of different people, I was able to step out of my boundaries and meet new people. I was able to gain knowledge about different times of RSOs involved on this campus. And so far, as just make a name for myself," Ferris electrical engineering senior Raphael Heaston said.

Ferris television and digital media production junior Adrian Green has found his experiences with Black Greek Council to be both beneficial socially and professionally.

"I have fun with the events and everything and when we're at events I like to see how people will react to them and either way, people have a good time. I also joined more for my future. I'm not saying I couldn't be successful without a fraternity or anything but with it, I feel I have a better chance. I feel it will build more connections," Green said.

SPREAD SOME LOVE

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<p>A little Birdie thinks you're great!</p>  <p>to: _____ from: _____</p>	<p>HAVE A SWEET VALENTINES DAY!</p>  <p>to: _____ from: _____</p>	<p>YOU'RE A HOOT</p>  <p>to: _____ from: _____</p>

Winter weather lovers



Photo by: Sam Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Ferris pre-pharmacy junior Victoria Still takes advantage of Michigan's chilly weather by skiing in her free time.

When in Michigan, hit the slopes

Kat Merby
Torch Reporter

Snow begins to fall and for many, so do their spirits. Skateboarding, sun tanning and other activities can no longer be done and winter boredom begins to set in. Luckily, the Ferris Snow Shredders may aid in helping find new activities to do on these cold winter days.

"Our president, Victoria, has been one of my best friends since freshman year. She kept begging our friend Ashley and I to ski with her, and we really don't ski, so one day, I jokingly told her to start a ski club so she'd have people to ski with. Then she did it," Ferris secondary education in biology junior Spencer Tenney said.

Celebrating its second full year, Snow Shredders is a registered student organization (RSO) with 45 members who welcome students who enjoy skiing or snowboarding during the winter.

At their meetings in FLITE, club members can discuss future trips, like the trips they've taken to Boyne, Caberfae and Cannonsburg, while occasionally eating pizza and playing games.

"We were playing 'Minute to Win It' games and I had to put Vaseline on my nose and I had one minute to transfer as many cotton balls as I could from one plate to another," Ferris health care administration junior Nikki Tracy said.

When they aren't hitting the slopes, Snow Shredders has been involved in numerous philanthropy events including Rake and Run,

Relay for life and the Big Event.

As well as having a passion for philanthropy, being a newer RSO, fundraising plays a key role with this group. Because of this, the Snow Shredders will be hosting a hot cocoa in the Quad event Wednesday, Feb. 14, in the Quad.



Nikki Tracy

"I enjoy snowboarding and have met a lot of friends through it," Ferris plastics engineering junior,

Zach Marks said.

In the RSO's third year, they hope to increase funding, number of trips and number of members.

HOW TO JOIN

MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY TWO WEEKS.

NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY, FEB. 20, AT 11 A.M. IN FLITE.

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Galentine's Day

Women share their Valentine's plans



Holly Baker
Torch Reporter

Valentine's Day: a day made to celebrate all the love and happiness you have in your life while bingeing on the greatest Netflix shows and chocolate. Though many believe Feb. 14 is a day for lovebirds, some college women prefer to spend their evening in with friends.

After her workout, Ferris psychology sophomore Montana Dalman will head over to Qdoba and get a delicious meal with her friends.

"I'll probably video call my boyfriend later that day because we're both busy on Wednesdays but if I could have my perfect Valentine's day with my friends, we would probably have brunch and then go shopping," Dalman said.

While Dalman prefers going

out with her friends, Ferris advertising/integrated marketing and communications sophomore Olivia Pelton will enjoy a nice night in bingeing her favorite romantic comedies.

"I really like that movie 'Bridget Jones' Diary.' My perfect Valentine's day with my friends would be movie marathon, all the way. Probably some rom-coms, make fun of them a little bit. It would be a good time," Pelton said.

For those who aren't into romantic comedies, Ferris sophomore Kaylee Eves recommends straight-up comedies to be just as good when Netflix bingeing on Valentine's Day.

"Friends' is always a really good one, and 'Parks and Rec.' 'Parks and Rec' even has an episode on Galentine's day which is really funny," Eves said.

Me-N-U

Be our guest

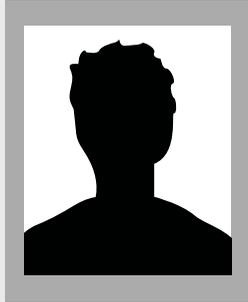
Briana Hammontree
Torch Reporter

Valentine's Day is never easy when living on a college budget but some restaurants in the area offer deals or have a rather affordable menu. Below is a list of five places to check out during Valentine's Day this year.

- The Blue Cow**
- Pizzeria Vivo's**
- Applebee's Grill + Bar**
- Schuberg's Bar**
- Nawal's Mediterranean Grille**

Chasing love

Single and ready to mingle



Contact About Photos More

PROFILE

Jordan Johnigan
Torch Reporter

Online



Whether it's a first date or a 10-year anniversary, Valentine's Day is filled with surprises and hopes of kindling the fires of the heart. In contrast, to the picture-perfect hallmark regime, being a single guy on Valentine's Day is not as glamorous for some male Ferris students.

"If single people are out on Valentine's Day, they're looking for something. I'm looking for someone with a kind soul and a sense of humor that can knock a few cold ones back. I could go out to the bar and have a boy's night out but I think I'm going to try my hand at finding love," Ferris accounting senior John Boeskool said.

Meaningful connections can be hard to come by in our frenzied society, and while some believe in the notion of love at first sight, others dismiss the view that love can happen in an instant and urge others to take their time in relationships.

"Don't fall in love on Val-

entine's Day; just take somebody out on a date and go from there. Don't rush into things—if you rush into things, it's not going to be good. If you want to fall in love on Valentine's Day, you gotta start in like, July. I'll be staying in this year to avoid any fake love, I need something tangible," Ferris facilities management junior Brian Bradley said.

Timing is everything when it comes to the laws of attraction. Valentine's Day gives

those intertwined in infatuation an avenue to celebrate their endeavors. For others, it serves as an opportunity

to express intentions. Those not partaking in the festivities may find peace of mind in solace.

Whether you are courting a significant other, taking a shot on a crush, or reflecting in peace and relaxation just remember, love is in the air.



Brian Bradley

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SPORTS

"We work hard and consistently prove to people that despite the fact that we're from this small town in west-central Michigan, that we produce a lot of greatness."
- Harrison Watt - See page 12 for story

Brendan Samuels | Sports Editor | samuelb1@ferris.edu

Fight for first



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Junior point guard DeShaun Thrower holds the ball outside of the three-point line waiting to make a play. The men's basketball team is riding a 25-1 overall record as tournament time approaches.

Ferris men's basketball team inches toward tourney time

Jessica Brown
Interim Reporter

The Ferris men's basketball team dominated in a pair of Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) matchups to kick off February.

The Bulldogs swept the Tiffin Dragons in an 80-55 victory on Thursday, Feb. 8, before hitting the road again to defeat the Ashland Eagles with a 97-91 win in overtime on Saturday, Feb. 10.

In the competition against the Eagles, Ferris led by six points at halftime but Ashland quickly turned the game in their favor in the second half.

The Eagles pushed their lead to 73-70 with 1:19 to go before Ferris tied it up with a layup from senior guard Drew Cushingberry and a free-throw by senior wing Peter Firlik.

Ashland took hold of the game again as sophomore center Drew Noble connected on a three-point shot with two seconds left. It looked like the end for the Bulldogs until Firlik banked in a half-court three at the buzzer to force overtime.

In the extra session, the nationally third-ranked Bulldogs proved to be too much for the Eagles as they outscored them 21-15.

With the victory, Ferris improved to 25-1 overall and 15-1 in the GLIAC.

"We were prepared to shake their hands and say 'job well done,'" Head Coach Andy Bronkema said. "We were ready to do that if we needed to but tonight we didn't need to."

The win was the 13th straight for the Bulldogs and allows them to hold onto a three-game lead atop the conference.

With just four regular season contests remaining and a secured GLIAC Tournament berth, the Bulldogs hope to cap-

ture a second straight GLIAC regular season championship.



Andy Bronkema

"Feeling confident with our preparation and proud of the results so far, we understand that we can't feel comfortable," junior center Zach Hankins said, who posted a team-high 23 points in the matchup against the Eagles. "There's always improvements to be made and ways to get better."

Ferris will go on the road again to Michigan Tech University on Thursday, Feb. 15, for a 7:30 p.m. game in Houghton before facing Northern Michigan University at 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17, in Marquette.

Goin' clubbin'

Campus athletic groups strive to keep students active

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

As school becomes more and more stressful throughout the semester, student organizations and club sports provide a great outlet for students.

Registered student organizations (RSOs) such as the Ferris Snow Shredders are thriving, while club sports like the men's club hockey team are gaining tons of momentum as they prepare for a playoff push. Both of these groups are great opportunities for students on campus to get involved, meet friends and stay active while taking a break from the books.

"We are an RSO that centers on socializing with people with shared interests. We promote being healthy, active and view this RSO as an opportunity for our members to de-stress from a busy school week. We love to have a fun relaxed day on the hill," Snow Shredders President Victoria Sill said.

Sill was given the idea to start a club at the end of her freshman year when she found it difficult to find people to go ski with. With the help of a couple friends and a willing professor, Sill has now provided one of best opportunities for students to stay active during the long and dark Michigan winter months.

Though they don't compete, the 40 members of the Snow Shredders can be seen on a number of hills around the area including Caberfae Peaks Ski & Golf Resort and Cannonsburg, while occasionally making the trip to Boyne

Mountain. There, the Shredders invite friendship and fun to make for a great time away from the pressures of school.

"The atmosphere of the RSO is relaxed and our members always have fun," Sill said. "Everyone is very nice and I have seen people who have never known each other before become very good friends through this club."

The Snow Shredders meet every other week at FLITE with times depending on the week and the club is open to any Ferris student. Just \$10 and a signed liability form and students are on their way to a boatload of fun.

Meanwhile, another club on campus had fun on the ice as the men's club hockey team has seen a wealth of success this season. The Bulldogs are a Division III hockey team competing in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA). The Bulldogs compete with some of the best Division II and III schools around, including rival Grand Valley State University and bigger schools like Central Michigan University, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.

The team made a couple of additions to begin the second semester, building their total to 31 players as they compete in the home stretch of the season. A lot more than shooting the puck goes into this club, though as a lot of hard work happens behind-the-scenes to make the team possible.

"Budgeting is a pretty huge part in what we do as a club because

there is so much money going in and out on our ice bill and hotels are so expensive. Then finding time with guys to work out and practice times really plays a big part in it," team President Curtis Sharman said.

The Bulldogs fill most of their weekends with action and currently sit in the last playoff spot. The team has gained much more momentum as the season has progressed, as the Bulldogs have been able to compete tight with top level teams including recent battles with No. 2 CMU and No. 5 Oakland University.

"This is actually one of the best records we've had in at least five years. We've got a lot of new guys that came this year, we had 14 new guys. So that's a brand new team but luckily we all mesh together," Sharman said. "We all put in the work, everyone has a job on the team and they know what their job is. If they get the job done we win."

The team practices twice a week as well on top of their games and work-out sessions and play their home games right on campus at Ewigleben Ice Arena. Getting involved is easy as the team offers summer skates and try-outs at the beginning of each semester so players looking to play competitive hockey after high school certainly have the opportunity.

If students would like more information on either of these groups you can check them out through OrgSync or on various forms of social media.

Sports Shorts

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

Dawgs welcome the future

Ferris football head coach Tony Annese welcomed 28 new student athletes to the team on Wednesday, Feb. 7. Annese held a press conference to talk about each individual player and what they bring to the Bulldog system. A total of 10 defensive and 18 offensive prospects highlighted the class.

The Bulldogs added quite a bit of power to the offensive line while providing many options in the slot and under center with three potential quarterbacks. 17 of the new recruits came from Michigan while six came in from Florida. California, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio are also represented in the class.

Under Annese, the Bulldogs have compiled a 60-14 record while winning two GLIAC titles in 2014 and 2015. The new Bulldogs will join the team at the beginning of the summer.

New home for new recruits

As the Ferris soccer team prepares to fully move into their new field next season, they will bring along nine new members after a busy signing day. The balanced mix includes six athletes from Michigan while also representing Ohio, New Jersey and Illinois.

The new recruits will join 28 returning members from a Bulldog squad that finished third in the GLIAC last season while narrowly missing out on what would have been their first ever National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament appearance.

Head coach Andy McCaslin spoke on the new recruits on Wednesday, Feb. 7, as a part of national signing day.

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Top Dawg

Peter Firlik

Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Brendan Samuels
Sports Editor

Top Dawg honors are being judged a bit differently this week.

In the past, the so called "stat-sheet stuffers" have been given the award but this week, one player for the Ferris men's basketball team made a play that garnered him Top Dawg honors.

Coming off just a seven-point performance in Thursday, Feb. 8th's matchup with the Tiffin Dragons, senior guard Peter Firlik appeared to be out for blood.

Firlik displayed his late game heroics in Saturday, Feb. 10th's matchup with the Ashland Eagles. With

the game tied at 73 late in the fourth, Ashland hit on a three-point bomb with two seconds remaining.

With little to no hope remaining for the Bulldogs, Firlik snatched an errant in-bound pass out of the air, threw it up from half court and nailed it home to send the game into overtime where Ferris was able to knock off the Eagles 97-91.

Firlik may not have had flashy numbers as he finished with 10 points, seven rebounds and an assist, but he made an unforgettable play that pushed his team to a 25-1 overall record.

Fans can catch Firlik and the Ferris men's basketball team when they head north to take on GLIAC opponent Michigan Tech at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 15.

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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Ice, ice baby!

Alumni Adam Stirn drives Zamboni for the Olympics

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

Another former Bulldog is hitting the ice during the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea as Adam Stirn has arrived to work the Zamboni.

Stirn began his career here at Ferris as a part time gig to earn some extra money while working towards a bachelor's and master's in criminal justice. Since working at Ewigleben Ice Arena, his career has taken off and Stirn now joins former Bulldog defenseman Chad Billins to represent Ferris at the Olympics.

"I was not sure if it was real or not. I've always thought about how cool it would have been to drive in the Olympics but I never thought it would actually be a possibility someday. Now that everything is set in stone, I am



Harrison Watt

beyond evicted to partake in the Olympic Games," Stirn said.

After his time at Ferris, Stirn moved to Green Bay, Wisconsin, where he worked at a multi-event venue across from the famous Lambeau Field. In 2013, Stirn settled in Minnesota where he worked the ice for both the men's and women's ice hockey programs at the University of Minnesota and filled in part time for the Minnesota Wild of the National Hockey League (NHL).

"I think it shows everybody we do a lot of things well. It's a great reflection on what it means to be a Bulldog. We work hard and consistently prove to people that despite the fact that we're from this small town in west-central Michigan, that we produce a lot of greatness. It might be on the ice or the guy laying water on the ice but we do it all over the place," Athletics Communications Associate Harrison Watt said.

Though the Olympics is certainly the biggest stage out there, Stirn has already had a few great experiences on the Zamboni.

"So far I would say my greatest memory has been when I worked the NHL Outdoor hockey game with the Minnesota Wild and Chicago Blackhawks," Stirn said. "There is something about 70,000 people watching a hockey game outdoors."

Stirn headed for South Korea on Super Bowl Sunday, missing out on the festivities at home. Stirn isn't alone as two other drivers from the Minnesota Wild have also made the trip.

"It will be nice having a few familiar faces around. Maybe it won't feel like I am halfway around the world from home," Stirn said. "My time working at Ferris was both fun and very informative. I had a close childhood friend that I grew up playing with, that played for the Bulldogs while I was there. It made it that much more special being able to watch a close friend continue his hockey career in our hometown."

The Pyeongchang 2018 Winter Olympics began Friday, Feb. 9, and runs through Sunday, Feb. 25.

Dusting off the racquets

Ferris men's tennis looks to rebound after opening season loss

Danny Collins
Torch Reporter

The Ferris men's tennis team began their spring season with a 9-0 loss against the No. 12 nationally-ranked University of Indianapolis Greyhounds Saturday, Feb. 3.

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

"I think the loss against Indy really motivated us to get back to the practice court and start preparing us for the next match," Ferris sophomore Austin Debruyne said. "We're just trying to bring everything we have to practice and we need to make sure we are always practicing with a purpose and always giving 100 percent on the court."

This season, first-year head coach Daniel Hangstefer leads the tennis team.

Ferris came into the matchup ranked 25th in the national rankings and third in the Oracle/ITA Division II Midwest Regional Rankings. The Bulldogs were tabbed as the only team from the GLIAC to be named in the top 25 rankings in the country.

"Indy was a tough team and we went out and fought hard. It got us excited for the rest of the season and we've just been working hard at practice this week and getting ready for our next match," Ferris junior Steward Sell said.

The squad has won the last three GLIAC regular season championships in men's tennis and the team is currently the defending league tournament champions two years running.

The Bulldogs have had tremendous success in the postseason in recent years as they have made the NCAA Division II Elite Eight each of the past two campaigns. The team also made school history in 2016 by making it to the Final Four.

The team's schedule sets up nicely in the month of February as the Bulldogs host three-straight matchups in the upcoming week-



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Junior Nur Adim Ramdani Iswan stands at the net, preparing for his opponent to serve. The men's tennis team has begun its spring season and hopes to improve after an opening loss.



Steward Sell

ends.

"We are looking forward to being on our home courts having some fans behind us and really showing everyone that Bulldog tennis hasn't gone away," Debruyne said.

The Bulldogs dominated the Northwestern Ohio

Racers Sunday, Feb. 11, as they swept the doubles matches 3-0 and all three single matches to complete a 6-0 victory.

"Playing at home matches is always a lot of fun. We have a crowd cheering for us and it creates an intense atmosphere for us which we love," Sell said.

The Bulldogs will next be in action as they host the Aquinas Saints on Saturday, Feb. 17, at 11 a.m.

Defending the crease

Ferris hockey goaltenders proudly shut down opponents

Danny Collins
Torch Reporter

The Bulldogs are fortunate enough to have two experienced goalkeepers on their roster that have had flashes of spectacular play this season.

Ferris junior goaltender Darren Smith leads the team this season with 19 games in the crease for the Bulldogs and currently is 4-5-1 on the year with a .909 save percentage, which ranks fifth out of 14 goalies in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) standings.

"I feel that my season has gone well for the most part—not as many wins as I would like," Smith said. "There's been some ups and downs but overall I think it has been decent so far."

Sophomore goaltender Justin Kapelmaster has seen heavy action this season as well, starting in 15 games this season and posting a 5-7 record on the year with a .910 save percentage, which ranks fourth in the WCHA.

"On a personal note, I think my game has been strong at times and inconsistent at other times," Kapelmaster said.

The Bulldogs' defense this year has had some injuries and has forced some players to play positions that they aren't accustomed to. This has resulted in nearly 29 shots on goal per game, which can be tough for any goaltender. Kapelmaster has faced nearly 492 shots this season and Smith has faced 569 shots.

"I think we got a good thing going here. Kapelmaster is a good goalie, so we pushed each other to be the best we can be. Always having that competition keeps you on your toes and we're always trying to outdo each other and that's what you want in order to improve," Smith said.

These goaltending Bulldogs are neck and neck with their style of play and statistics on the season. However, this doesn't affect their relationship with one another and their will to compete against each other.



Justin Kapelmaster

"Darren and I have always been close on and off the ice and we both are ultra competitive, so there's good balance between us," Kapelmaster said. "We both want to win as bad as possible so whichever one of us is between the pipes we are extremely supportive."

Smith earned the College Hockey News' best rookie goaltender in the nation award for 2015-16 in his freshman campaign and also earned the 2016 WCHA Final Five All-Tourna-

ment Most Valuable Player award.

In 2016-17, Kapelmaster was also named the College Hockey News' Best Rookie Goaltender in the Nation award.



Darren Smith

The two goaltenders have accomplished so much in their careers at Ferris. It says a lot that Head Coach Bob Daniels can feel confident on any given night with one of them in net.

The Bulldogs are currently 12-19-1 on the season and 9-14-1 in conference play, which puts them in eighth place in the WCHA.

The top eight teams in the final WCHA standings make it into the conference tournament, with the winner of the tournament receiving an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament.

The team is coming off being swept at the hands of the Alaska Fairbanks Nanooks, where the Bulldogs fell 4-2 on Friday, Feb. 2, and 4-1 on Saturday, Feb. 3.

"As a team, I feel our season has been solid as a whole. I think we as a team would love to have a better place in the standings right now but we are excited to be in a position to make and win playoffs," Kapelmaster said. "At this stage in the season, it's all about winning games."

The Bulldogs next take on Minnesota State at 8:07 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16.

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OPINIONS

“Sometimes we just want to cuddle with a cutie.”
- Lyndzi Sakowski - See page 15 for story

Marley Tucker | Opinions Editor | marleyitucker@gmail.com

The Ferris State Torch is published on 27 Wednesdays throughout the academic year. This student-run newspaper is printed by The Pioneer Group.

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Alumni Building 013
410 Oak Street
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- TORCH STAFF -

- Editor in Chief**
Angela Graf
(231) 591-5978
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Chat with the chief Editor-in-Chief, Angela Graf

I hate it when it's in the sky and when it's on the ground. I hate it when it's in the clouds and while it's falling down.

I sit inside and clutch my tea and try hard not to cry but as each snowflake hits my car, inside I want to die.

The plows go by, the salt does fly, and my alarm screams in my ear; I close my eyes, I clutch my pillow

and wish I wasn't here.

I don my hat and zip my coat and grip my keys real tight; I take a breath, unlock the door and step into the white.

I kick my wheels and scrape the ice and mutter under my breath; my lips are chapped, my nose is red, I would honestly welcome death.

Ode to snow

I make it halfway to the door, my tears begin to freeze, and as I walk up my front steps, I stop... the dog still has to pee.

I refresh my email one more time and pray for canceled class; no new messages, my stomach sinks, my heart shatters like glass.

My gloved hands grip the steering wheel, my tires spin in place; the dashboard vents blow frigid air, I

cannot feel my face.

The worst part of all of this? I'm so glad you asked.

Tomorrow I'll wake-up and put on my make-up and do it all again; and I'll scream it aloud as I don my snow shroud, why the hell do I live in Michigan?!

Cynically speaking

Valentine's Day is a horrible idea



Kat Merby
Torch Reporter

Flashback to junior year winter dance. It was held on Valentine's Day, and I was extremely excited to show off my boyfriend to my friends. Honestly, it was a wonderful evening for my boyfriend and me. I even gave him chocolates and to my surprise, he was a great dancer. We even kissed (looking back, it was a horrible kiss). The scene felt like a very cheesy teen romance you'd see running on TV.

Cheesy romance movie moments are honestly too good to be true. The ex-girlfriend in the picture felt like being vengeful (surprise, surprise). To this day, I am shook at the lengths she went to break us up. It was doomed from the start. The entire situation became awful.

These events have led me to believe that cliché acts to show people that you care about them will only lead to pain, especially if you reserve all those acts for one day.

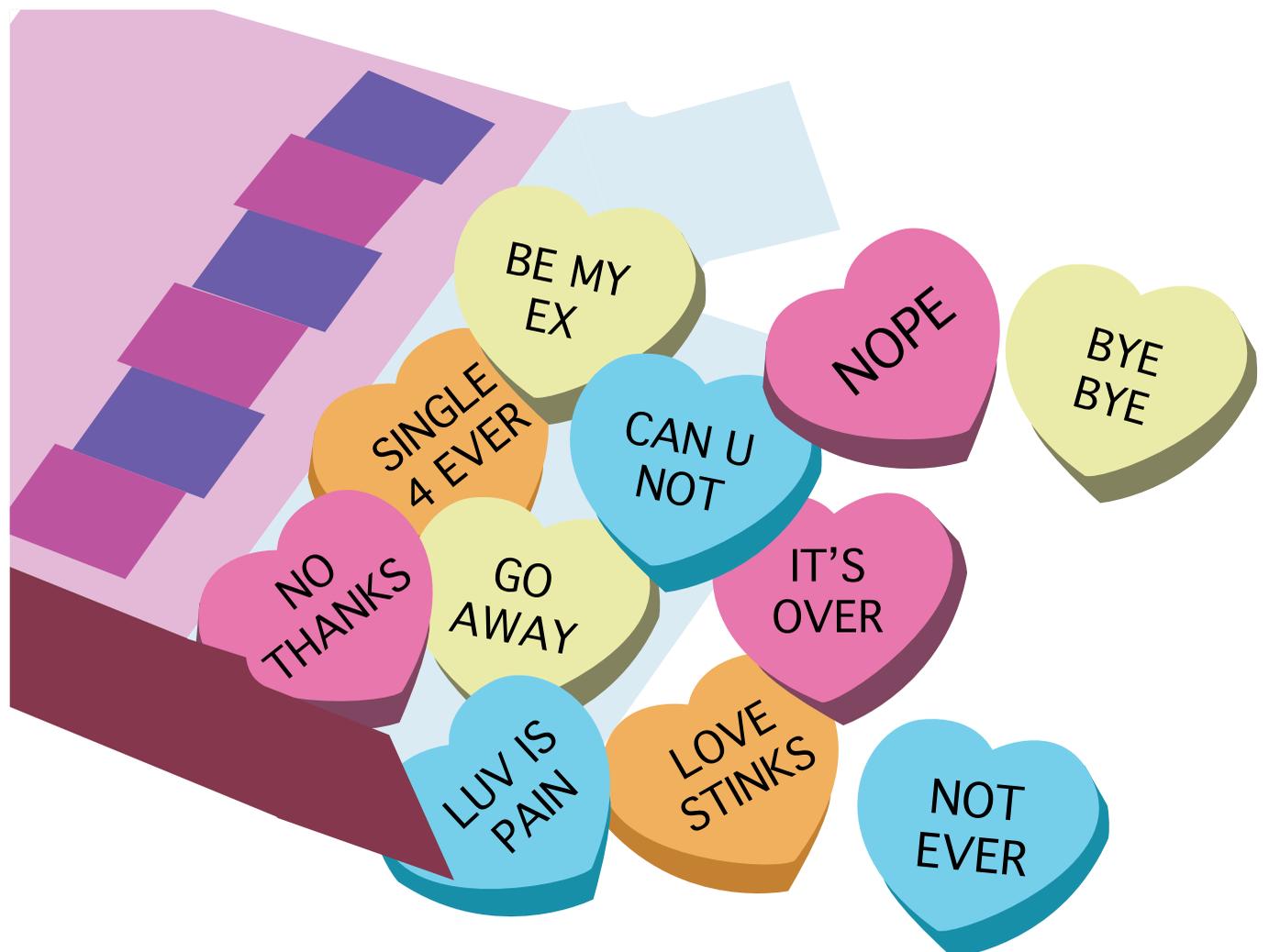
Because of that day about five years ago leading to emotional struggles in high school, I think reserving acts of affection for one day is ridiculous.

Let me compare love to one of my favorite meals—the traditional Danish Christmas Eve dinner. You wait in anticipation to eat food that makes you happy. After the meal is over, you're stuffed and regret having an extra serving. I

think that applies to love too. We shouldn't deprive ourselves of the things we love, only having them once or twice a year. Celebrations that only allow you to express your emotions in a certain way shouldn't exist because you should acknowledge them every day. Who says love should be reserved for a certain day?

Bottling up love and gratitude to release it on one day is a horrible idea. If you are one of the lucky people in this horrible world to find your other half, you should always show them love.

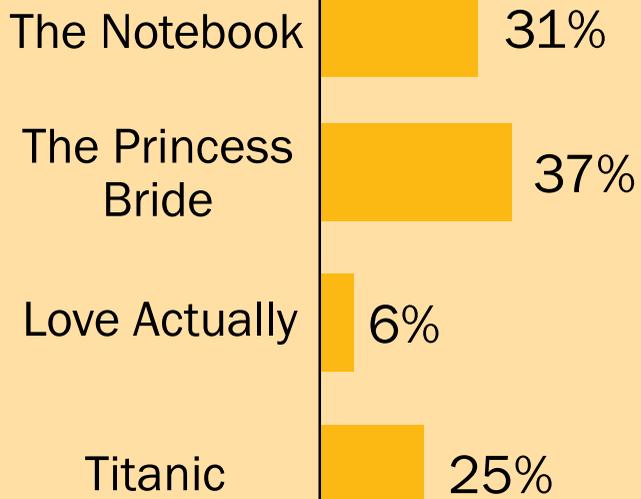
I'm not implying that you should spend your whole paycheck on them—purchasing things monetarily is not needed. Instead, earn their heart with comforting words and actions. I encourage showing affection and giving your all in a relationship, no matter what day it is.



Graphic by: Sarah Massey | Production Manager

TORCH POLL RESULTS

What's your favorite romantic movie?



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Crazy little thing called love

Embrace love even when it's confusing

I've always liked the idea of love. Even when I was a little girl, seeing people in love is something I've always cherished. Because of that, Valentine's Day is like a sporting event I watch every year. I'll sit on the sidelines with discounted chocolate while all of my friends fall in love and wonder about my own relationships.

I'll be honest and say that always being the single friend is weird. As a spectator, I constantly feel like a third wheel where everyone else is riding a tandem bicycle. You'd think I'd be bitter about the situation but I'm not—quite the opposite actually.

I think that love is a wonderfully fluid thing. We fall a little bit in love with strangers every day. Isn't the idea of serendipity a beautiful thing? Like an adrenaline shot to the heart, we meet people that add unforgettable excitement to our lives. I think intimacy is something we all crave as we figure out how we fit into the mold.

Getting a crush on someone is like playing emotional whack-a-mole. Love is alive with possibility and in that limbo we wait to experience the spark that romance is known for. It's not easy being the single friend all the time. Seeing others around you going on fun dates, celebrating anniversaries, getting a pet together or even



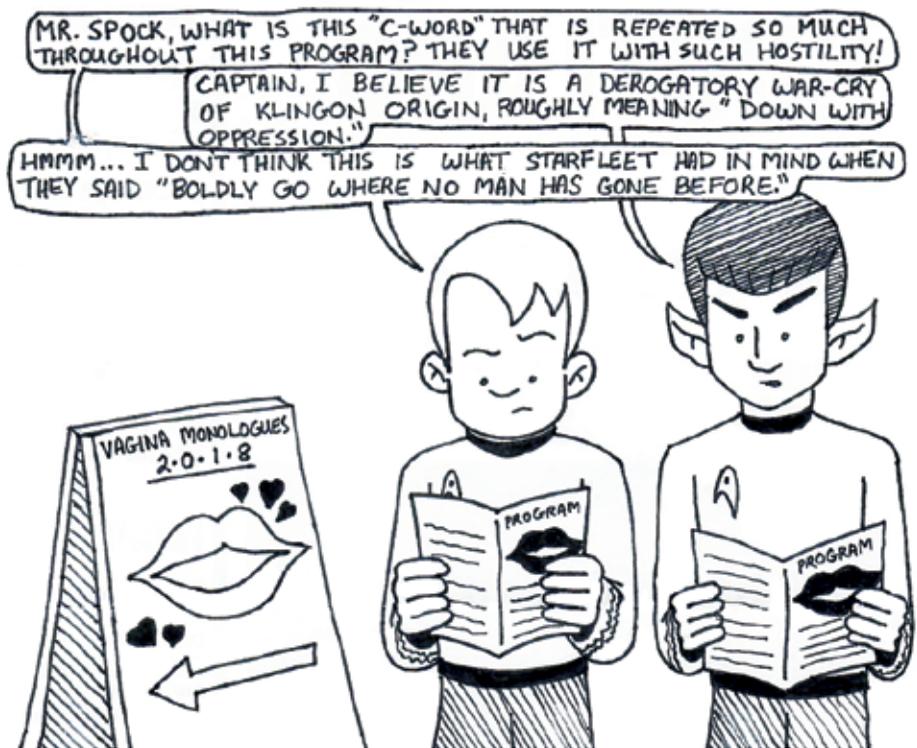
Marley Tucker
Opinions Editor

getting engaged can wear on you.

The dating world is rough and it isn't as easy to navigate as Hallmark films portray. That doesn't mean that love is dead—it just means that we have to be patient and kind to ourselves throughout the process. Being single and in love with love is an interesting predicament to be in. Who knows, maybe that match on Tinder or person you sit next to in lecture will change your life.

Valentine's Day is a wonderful time to celebrate love in all of its forms. Yes, the day is an excuse to indulge in sugary affection but that isn't always a bad thing. American culture likes to run us into the ground with work and responsibilities, so take the night off and go on a date to celebrate life. Love is a foreign concept at times but we're all trying to learn the language.

If you don't have a romantic rendezvous scheduled, make a date with a bottle of wine and relax. Fall in love with the possibility of relationships and change.



Cartoon by: Samuel McNeill | Cartoonist

What's shame got to do with it?

Sexual activity is normal and healthy

Opening scene: the atmosphere on a lonely night at Star Shooters bar. The smell of stale beer and forgotten alcohol clothe the room. People linger around the activity of "getting lucky tonight." There are moves being busted out on the dance floor—an age-old mating ritual of our species. In this crowded bar, we are even lonelier without a companion by our side. Does this sound familiar? Of course it does!

This scene may not be the most glamorous but it's certainly universal. People have and always will seek a mate. Whether it's for good or for one night, we have all experienced a night of basking in the attention of another person. Sometimes we just want to cuddle with a cutie.

Here's the thing: sexual activity is a normal occurrence but social attitudes of shame trivialize it. This Valentine's Day, I am here to remind you all that there is nothing wrong with seeking physical attention from another. It's hardwired into our primal brain to desire it. And it's fun to flirt and do-the-do with someone.



Lyndzi Sakowski
Guest Writer

So why do societal norms try to instill shame and even hatred towards sex? I honestly couldn't tell you. For example, there is a negative stigma attached to sex before marriage or sex with more than one suitor. This seems like wasted energy to me.

We could all do ourselves some good by recognizing that sex is a normal occurrence. Resisting the normality of this urge and desire can have negative impacts on our sense of self and how we operate in intimate relationships. It's just plain icky to degrade others for participating—after all, this is a human experience and one I am hoping to advocate to be a peaceful, acceptable one!

In the same breath, I advocate for safe, honest and attentive sex. This means a few things. First, set clear boundaries. A one night stand is dirty when there's a hidden agenda. If and when "feels"

do begin to brew, be upfront about it. So in other words: communicate!

If you have an STI, let your sexual partner know so they can make an informed decision to sleep with you or not. Get tested and treated and communicate to your sexual partners to do the same. This will halt STI breakouts right in their tracks.

Secondly, make sure your suitor can knowingly participate. Don't be a predator, make sure your person can formally consent. Sidebar: no one owes you sex. Take your "losses" as opportunities for the next candidate like a true gentleman (or woman).

Have fun! Spice up your sex life and bring presence into the experience. Pay homage to the divine human body in front of you and surrender to the pleasure. Romance isn't dead and it's so fulfilling for both parties involved.

So the next time you're prowling the scene, brush off that charming smile and bring back the class, communicate and spread the love.

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