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TORCH
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HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

COUNTING THE COST

Where are the most affordable places for students to shop? Take a look at our comparative prices to see where you can save some extra cash.

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SHOOTING THE SHOOTING

The media faces national backlash when reporting sensitive news stories. Read about the role journalists take on when covering tragic events.

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Picture this



Photo by: Harley Harrison | News Editor

The new Bulldog Cinema is set to open in mid-March and theater-goers can vote for which movies they would like to see on the Bulldog Cinema Facebook page.

New movie theater option coming to Big Rapids

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Hiding in an old industrial building on Maple Street is a quaint little theater in the making.

While the Bulldog Cinema is currently under construction, the theater is expected to come to life by mid-March.

"We are completely independent, locally owned, we don't have any affiliation with any chain," Bulldog Cinema owner Kylie Szpiech said. "I hate that you can't go out and have an affordable night and there's not a whole lot to do in Big Rapids, so that's what we want. We want to be able to come in and have a comfortable, fun experience and get good food and great films and not worry about, you know, 'I can't spend that money.'"

While the Bulldog Cinema will have to compete with the AMC theater in town, Szpiech believes that their prices and food will be an easy choice for students.

"We're not doing too many discounts because we're trying to keep all our prices affordable. Our ticket price right now is between seven and eight dollars. I think our big advantage of your traditional movie theater is our food," Szpiech said. "We're going to have more meals

like gourmet hot dogs, pizza and all that's going to be very affordable. So it would be just like if you went out to eat and you wouldn't expect to pay more having a meal while watching a movie."

Theater goers can also expect traditional movie theater snacks such as popcorn, candy and cotton candy. In addition to affordable food, students can also have a say in which films the theater shows.

Ferris business administration junior Boyoung Park and Ferris business administration senior Kyeongran Karen Ryu expressed that, while the Bulldog Cinema is farther away, it would be a better fit than the AMC theater.

"[AMC] is very expensive," Ryu said. "I think for food [the Bulldog Cinema] is very good."

"We also want Ferris students to know that we're here and we do have some movies that will appeal more to them, being the independent or foreign films," Szpiech said. "I am doing a poll on Facebook every month, so if people have little films or independents that they want to see, then all they have to do is comment on there."

While nothing is set in stone, some of the films that the theater is considering for this spring include: "A Wrinkle in Time," "Lara Croft:

Tomb Raider," "Pacific Rim" and "Ready Player One." Szpiech hopes to show one major movie each week, as well as one independent, foreign or classic film.

"We have two theaters at the time of opening—each one sits about 80 people. We do have room for an expansion in the future but right now we're kind of going back and forth on if we want to do a VIP theater or if we want to do a game room where people can do competitions on X-Box and Playstations," Szpiech said.

Park, who is an international student from South Korea, visited the AMC theater for the first time this previous week.

"It was too small. Black Panther opened on Saturday, so there's a lot of people but the theater is very small," Park said. "I like a lot of food because I went to the movie theater already yesterday but there's only popcorn and hot dogs."

While working at the Bulldog Cinema may sound too good to be true for students, they won't be hiring for another six months to a year.

The theater is set to be open Wednesday through Sunday and students can learn more by finding them on Facebook under "Bulldog Cinema" or by going to their website at bulldogcinema.com.

Antisocial media

Students are spending more time online than ever

Cora Hall
Torch Reporter

Nearly everyone has it and, at this point, it's almost impossible to live without.

According to statista.com, 81 percent of the U.S. population has a social media profile, which is up 57 percentage points from a decade ago.

"It helps us keep in touch better but I think in general, people are less social because of it," Ferris mechanical engineering senior Matt Hawkes said.

Many students have admitted that social media has become time-consuming, taking up hours of their day. In the UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute's annual survey of freshmen in 2016, 40.9 percent of students

reported using social media for at least six hours per week, which is up almost 14 percentage points from 2014.

"I feel like when you're bored, you just do it," Ferris pre-pharmacy sophomore Erica Foote said. "I lost my phone for a couple weeks and I just felt like I had no idea what was going on."

Out of 48 Ferris students asked, 23 said that the first thing they do when they wake up in the morning is check their phone and social media.

"I think it's made us more aware of other people's opinions and how someone always has an opinion of you," Ferris dental hygiene freshman Kirsten Hey said. "So it's sort of made our generation more self-conscious."

Research has shown that there is an association between social media use and depression, anxiety, sleep problems, eating issues and increased suicide risk, according to the University of Melbourne's National Centre of Excellence in Youth Mental Health.

In a study done by the American Journal of Preventive Medicine in 2017, it was found that young adults with high social

Social media | see page 3

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NEWS

“It’s completely destroyed. The island, the infrastructure, the electricity, all the cables and everything was completely destroyed.” - Ana Davila-Howard - See below for story

Harley Harrison | News Editor | harrih12@ferris.edu

Counting the cost

Where you choose to shop can make a big difference your wallet

Grant Siddall
Torch Reporter

For college students on a tight budget, every cent you save can make a big difference.

The difference in price between shopping at a grocery store like Meijer or just grabbing a few things at the Market or at a gas station can be pretty significant for someone looking to save money. For example, buying a bottle of NyQuil Original from the market costs \$10.99 but you can buy that same product at Meijer for \$8.39. This is a difference of \$2.60 or about 24 percent.

“I usually shop at Meijer and Walmart depending on the situation because they’re cheap—well they’re the cheapest in the area,” Ferris pre-pharmacy sophomore John Nguyen said. “Gas station prices are definitely a little overpriced compared to other places like Meijer.”

Some other Ferris student’s echoed Nguyen’s thought that Meijer was the best place to shop in Big Rapids and that gas stations tend

to be a more expensive place to shop.

“Gas stations and local places are usually the more expensive options,” Ferris biology freshman Brady Kirsch said. “I’d say gas stations are a little more expensive but not terribly expensive.”



Camryn Booms

Smaller convenience stores like the Market typically have more expensive items because they do not buy goods in large quantities like super markets such as Meijer. For some, the increased pricing is still reasonable and worth it for the convenience.

“I just feel like Meijer has the best prices and the best quality,” Ferris biology freshman Camryn Booms said. “I’ve bought a couple snacks from [the Market] and the prices aren’t bad they’re pretty typical for snacks. I use my Bulldog Bucks for those and it’s a nice option to have for when I’m last minute hungry.”

Items	Market	Meijer	Marathon	Walgreens
NyQuil original	\$10.99	\$8.39	Unavailable	\$8.99
Aleve 24 caplet	\$5.89	\$3.99	\$6.89	\$5.99
Original Chapstick	\$1.99	\$1.00	Unavailable	\$1.59
Poptarts 8 pack	\$3.99	\$3.99	\$4.79	\$2.99
Pringles	\$2.19	\$1.50	\$2.19	\$1.99
Clif bar	\$1.79	\$1.09	\$2.09	\$1.69
Monster	\$2.29	\$2.09	\$2.69	\$2.59
Half gallon of milk	\$1.99	\$1.39	Quart of milk \$1.99	\$1.49
4 pack angel soft toilet paper	\$2.29	\$1.69	Unavailable	Unavailable
Pizza rolls 40 count	\$5.59	\$3.79	\$6.19	Unavailable
Phone charging cable	\$15.99	\$5.00	\$9.99	\$9.99
Trident gum	\$1.49	\$1.07	\$1.49	\$1.29
Skittles	\$1.19	\$0.89	\$1.89	\$1.19
Coke 20 oz	\$1.75	\$1.89	\$1.99	\$1.89
Feminine pads	Always Maxi w/o wings 24 pack	Always Maxi w/o wings 48 pack	Walgreens brand Maxi w/o wings 28 pack	Always Ultra thin regular w/ wings 10 pack
	\$4.79	\$5.69	\$5.79	\$4.09

Price data collected week of Feb. 12, 2018



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

People in Puerto Rico are still recovering from Hurricane Maria.

We have work to do

Puerto Rico still short of full recovery

Megan Lewton
Torch Reporter

Puerto Rico is recouping from hurricane devastation and a lot of progress has yet to be made.

According to USA Today, Puerto Rico was hit by Hurricane Maria, a category four storm, on Sept. 20, 2017. It was reported that the hurricane killed at least 64 people and left the entire island without power.

Today, nearly five months after Hurricane Maria hit, many Puerto Ricans continue to struggle. According to USA Today, 99 percent of citizens have running water and 84 percent have electricity but this leaves more than 400,000 people without power.

“It’s completely destroyed. The island, the infrastructure, the electricity, all the cables and everything was completely destroyed,” Ferris Spanish professor Ana Davila-Howard said, who grew up in Puerto Rico and has family on the island.

Last semester, Ferris students and faculty held fundraisers to help Puerto Rico. Ferris geography professor Dr. Jennifer Johnson’s students worked with the Social Work Association to raise money for Puerto Rican families.

“The credit goes to my students, not to me. I really saw it as an opportunity for them to take something they’ve learned and translate it into action, which is something that we really hope all students will do. Find something and instead of just saying, ‘Oh, too bad,’ find a way to make the world a little better,” Johnson said.

Johnson’s students and the Social Work Association raised \$2,000, which was split amongst two Puerto Rican families of Ferris faculty members affected by the hurricane. One family was that of Ferris Social and Behavioral Sciences Secretary Janitza Sawyer-Ocasio.

“It’s helping them rebuild their roof because it suffered substantial damage after the hurricane, and buy groceries and just update some things that needed to

be done in the house. It was an amazing gift. It was something that I couldn’t have done myself without the help of Dr. Johnson or all the students here, so I was super grateful,” Sawyer-Ocasio said.



Janitza Sawyer-Ocasio

However, fundraising and donations to Puerto Rico has slowed down in comparison to when the storm first hit. Ferris psychology senior Cassie Dexter said that people should continue to spread the word about Puerto Rico’s situation to raise awareness and donations.

“We everyday citizens can help by continuing to remind people that Puerto Rico is still in need of help, especially college students that are just a bit addicted to social media. We can use that as a platform to remind people that we still need to do more. If you’re financially able, you can also donate,” Dexter said.



Cassie Dexter

Dexter also believes the U.S. government should provide more financial support to the island.

“I absolutely think the U.S. government needs to do more. These are U.S. citizens that we are talking about. No, Puerto Rico is not a state but we still have a duty to help them through the aftermath of natural disasters,” Dexter said.

Places to Donate

- Fondos Unidos de Puerto Rico (The United Funds of Puerto Rico)
- ConPRmetidos
- Friends of Puerto Rico
- Banco de Alimentos (The Food Bank of Puerto Rico)
- Habitat for Humanity of Puerto Rico

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Parkland, Fla.

17 are dead after Nikolas Cruz opened fire in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Cruz was a former student who had been expelled from the school and has now been charged with 17 accounts of premeditated murder.

Original story by Audra D. S. Burch and Patricia Mazzei, Feb. 14, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Johannesburg, South Africa

President Jacob Zuma has agreed to resign despite his disagreement with his party's decision to order him to do so. Zuma was president for nine years but had been asked to step down after being abandoned by voters and threatened by a no-confidence vote in the Parliament.

Original story by Norimitsu Onishi, Feb. 14, 2018. *The New York Times*.

New Delhi, India

Five elephants have been killed after a 14-car passenger train crashed into a herd in the middle of the night. The train was reported to have been speeding in the dark and by the time the emergency brake was hit, it was too late. While no passengers were injured, two calves and two adult elephants were killed instantly and another elephant died later.

Original story by Jeffrey Gettleman, Suhasini Raj, and Kai Schultz, Feb. 12, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Moscow, Russia

71 people are dead after a plane crashed shortly after takeoff, killing everyone on board. The cause of the crash is not completely clear but it happened within minutes after takeoff. According to officials, the plane mysteriously vanished from the radars before crashing.

Original story by Neil MacFarquhar and Ivan Nechepurkenko, Feb. 11, 2018. *The New York Times*.

- ON THE RECORD -

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

Good things come in threes?

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Living young, wild and free

Feb. 9, 5:31 p.m., officers assisted staff in Brophy Hall with violations of liquor, controlled substances and narcotics equipment. One citation was given and one warrant request was submitted to the prosecutor's office.

Terrible crimes

Feb. 10, 3:30 a.m., officers investigated a report of criminal sexual conduct in Bond Hall. The investigation is still ongoing.

A long time coming

Feb. 10, 10:56 p.m., after almost six months, officers were able to close an investigation that occurred Aug. 28, at 9 a.m. The crime was an obstruction of justice that occurred on the 400 block of Elm Street. One subject was arrested.

Finchin' around

Feb. 10, 11:58 p.m., officers investigated a report of disorderly conduct in Finch Court. The investigation was closed due to a lack of leads.

Bar-crazed

Feb. 11, 2:50 a.m., officers received a report of an obstruction of justice at the Gypsy Nickel. One subject was arrested.

Good things come in threes?

Feb. 11, 10:15 p.m., officers responded to a drug possession and narcotics equipment violation in Lot 3. One citation was issued and three subjects were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

None of your business

Feb. 13, 7:55 p.m., officers investigated a disorderly subject in the Business Building. One suspect was removed from the area.

Social media

Continued from page 1

media use seemed to feel more socially isolated than those with lower social media use.

Hey admitted that she doesn't think she has the best mental

health and that social media has contributed to that fact.

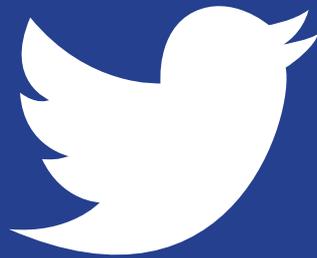
"If I see my friends posting pictures and hanging out without me, it makes me sad but if I see my family posting a picture it makes me happy," Hey said.

When people use social media,

they give up real life connections for interactions through a screen, explained Hawkes.

"It's just you and your screen and you kind of block out everything else," Hawkes said. "We're all just sitting here on our phones, not interacting."

90 PERCENT OF 18 TO 29-YEAR-OLDS HAVE AT LEAST ONE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT



81 PERCENT OF THE U.S. POPULATION HAS A SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT

51 PERCENT OF INSTAGRAM USERS ACCESS THE PLATFORM DAILY, AND 35 PERCENT SAY THEY LOOK AT THE PLATFORM SEVERAL TIMES PER DAY

MORE THAN 400 MILLION SNAPS ARE SHARED ON SNAPCHAT PER DAY AND ALMOST 9,000 PHOTOS ARE SHARED EVERY SECOND

THE MOST POPULAR SOCIAL MEDIA SITE BY ACTIVE USERS IS FACEBOOK WITH 2.167 BILLION USERS AND YOUTUBE IS SECOND WITH 1.5 BILLION USERS



40.9 PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPORTED USING SOCIAL MEDIA FOR AT LEAST SIX HOURS PER WEEK

ON ANY GIVEN DAY, SNAPCHAT REACHES 41 PERCENT OF 18 TO 34-YEAR-OLDS IN THE U.S.

The above information is courtesy of statista.com, UCLA Heri 2016 and worldstream.com

NEWS BRIEFS

Harley Harrison
News Editor

Creative souls

Come to University Center Room 016 on Thursday, Feb. 22, from 7 to 10 p.m. for the opportunity to connect with each other and open up about things that are unique to you. Questions can be directed to Courtney Smelley at smellec@ferris.edu.

FSU Instrumental Ensembles winter concert

Attend the winter concert as part of the annual Big Rapids Festival of the Arts in Williams Auditorium on Sunday, Feb. 25, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. with free admission. For more information, contact Richard Scott Cohen at RichardScottCohen@ferris.edu.

Pom-pom pocket pets

Join the Center for Leadership Activities and Career Services (CLACS) Tuesday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the CLACS lobby to make free yarn pom-pom animals. For more information, contact the CLACS office at CLACS@ferris.edu or (231) 591-2685.

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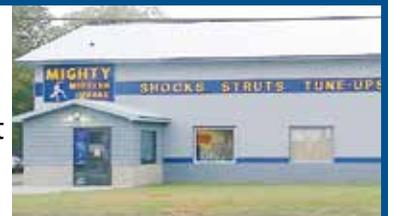
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Declassified commuter survival guide

Risks and tips associated with the winter trek

Landry Shorkey
Interim Reporter

Driving to campus during the snowy season can be a dangerous and challenging task due to road conditions, time setbacks and costs that travelers must face.

"Gas is expensive. Driving 30 miles a day is cost-prohibitive sometimes. With the weather, I have to usually get up early if I know that it's going to be snowing. Pretty much this whole season, I have to get up about a half hour earlier than I usually do," Ferris welding engineering technology junior Robert Watson said. "I start work at 5:30 in the morning, so I usually leave an hour early just in case I find a problem, so I leave at 4:30. It's pretty brutal, especially because at that hour of the day, the plows haven't gone through yet."

When driving during bad weather, it is important to be extra mindful of surroundings and slow down if necessary.

"I have had a couple of days where I go like 40 mph in a 55. The first snow storm is always the worst because people don't know how to drive," Ferris technical and professional communications senior Sarah Kohler said.

Despite the harsh conditions, there are many options and tips available for commuters to help make their journeys more manageable. Students coming to campus from Grand Rapids can take advantage of the city busing system.

"I think they have it set up because there's such a large presence in Grand Rapids, like Ferris has a campus downtown, so it's through the Grand Rapids busing system. They send a bus up here I think four times a day. You can buy a bus pass for the semester or it's \$5 per ride one way," Ferris pre-pharmacy junior Alyssa Baskerville said. "I've done this for two years, so the only problem I've had is that I've been a couple minutes late for my 8 a.m. but it's honestly a lot safer than me driving myself up here every day. I don't have to worry about crashing my car or getting in an accident."

Grand Rapids bus passes can be purchased at the Timme Center at the cost of \$480 and are good for unlimited trips during the semester.

Students may think that faculty and staff cannot relate to this issue when classes are not canceled during a rough winter day. However, many professors also struggle to make



Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Long distance commuters struggle to get to campus in the harsh winter storms.

it to campus safely.

"I live in Williamsburg, which is right outside of Traverse City. It's 90 miles and in good weather, it takes me an hour and a half. In the winter, it takes closer to two," Ferris professor and coordinator of technical and professional communications Sandy Balkema said. "In the winter, I make a point of not scheduling my classes before 9:30. If I know it's going to be a

bad winter, I keep a spare set of clothes in the car. That way if I get stuck here in town, I can stay at a friend's house or in a hotel. I always have a hat, gloves and the kind of things you bring for a long trip."

Also accessible is the Commuter Lounge, a private area on the ground floor of the University Center where students who do not live on campus can relax between classes. Lockers in the lounge can be rented for no cost, with sign-up available in UC 129.



Sarah Kohler

Keeping doors open

International students still look to Ferris staff after graduation

Grant Siddall
Torch Reporter

Most students may not see direct impact from Lisa Von Reichbauer's work at Ferris but for international students, what she does can be life changing.

Anudeep Nayakoti wouldn't be in America today if it weren't for the work of Von Reichbauer. Von Reichbauer is the assistant director of the Office of International Education at Ferris and a 2017 recipient of the Distinguished Staff Award for her work in that role.

Nayakoti is a 2015 graduate of Ferris' masters program who majored in information security and intelligence. After graduation, Nayakoti got hired to do internet technology work but when his student visa expired, Nayakoti says his employer didn't want to hire a lawyer to fill out the paperwork to extend his time in America. That is

when he contacted Von Reichbauer.

According to Von Reichbauer, after graduation, all international students can apply for one year of work authorization in America on their student visa. For students in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program, they are allowed to file for an additional two years on their student visa as long as they are employed in the field their degree is in or have a job offer in the field. Nayakoti was employed but his employer did not want to fill out the necessary forms.

"Fortunately, I received an offer from an employer who filed my extension. I had just a week to do the process for my extension. Hopelessly, I contacted the International Student Advisor and did explain my situation," Nayakoti said. "She has prioritized my work and did my paperwork very soon and I sent the mail finally. I would be so grateful eternally to the International Student Advisor and her assistants for being so sup-

portive. It's because of the exposure and the experience I gained in the past year has helped me grow enormously."

For Von Reichbauer, she enjoys being able to have a positive impact in the life of students.

"I absolutely love my job," Von Reichbauer said. "Some students are planning to go home after they get this practical experience and others are hoping to be sponsored on a work visa in the U.S. and to be part of giving them those opportunities and helping them come through the process, because the immigration system in the U.S. is a complicated beast and it's not easy for students to navigate, so to be able to be supportive of that and to open up their opportunities and help keep doors open when they may be in a situation to have them closed, you know, that's very gratifying."

One of Von Reichbauer's co-workers, who wished to remain anonymous, praised her

work in an email to the Torch.

"Lisa is one of the most dedicated staff members that I have worked with who is committed to the University's mission of serving 'our rapidly changing global economy and society.' She goes above and beyond to help our students in their pursuit to be successful through their academic experience here at Ferris," the co-worker said.

In addition to succeeding at her job, Von Reichbauer feels that she learns a lot, too.

"I meet so many people from so many corners of the world, so I learn every single day. You do learn about the differences but the biggest thing I've learned is about our similarities. We're all people, we all want the same things and so our differences enhance it. I've heard a quote that diversity is inherent in balance, so when things are balanced, diversity has to be a part of that," Von Reichbauer said.

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Fighting the flu

Worst American influenza outbreak in recent years

Grant Siddall
Torch Reporter

The close quarters of life on college campuses can create unavoidable contact with people who are sick and can quickly spread illness.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) this year's flu season is on pace to be the worst in at least eight years. The data, which only goes back to 2010, shows that as of January, 2018 has the highest amount of laboratory confirmed influenza hospitalizations out of the last eight years.

At Ferris, Birkam Health Center has diagnosed 38 patients with influenza during the fall and winter, according to director of health services Lindsay Barber. During the same amount of time last year, Birkam only had one influenza diagnosis.

Some Ferris students are seeing the impact of the flu outbreak in their classes. Pre-veterinarian and biology sophomore Ciara Kibby said that she knows at least ten people who have

gotten the flu, including two of her professors.

"I've had two professors cancel class because they personally were sick and talk about how low the attendance was. It was really scattered, a lot of tables were half empty or almost completely empty," Kibby said. "I think it's better to stay home if your sick but I would go to class because I feel like I have to."



Jordan Van Wert

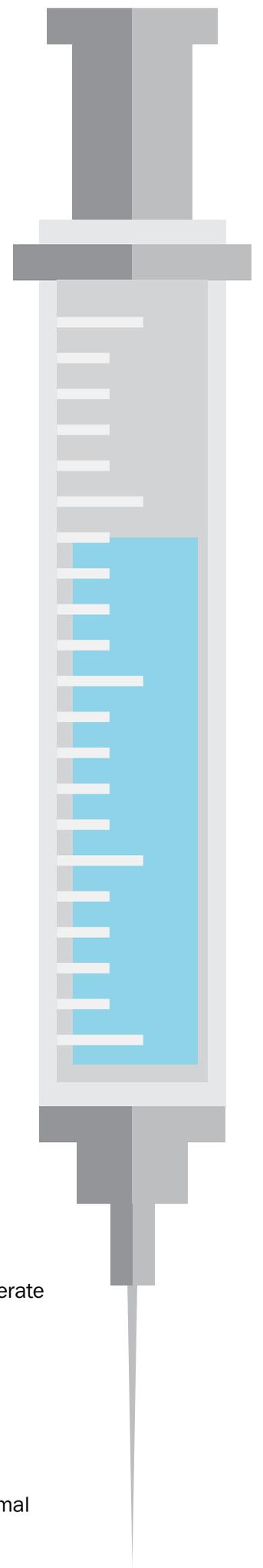
One possible cause behind the outbreak has been the ineffectiveness of this year's flu vaccine. According to a Feb. 7 article by TIME, this year's flu vaccine has been shown to be only 17 percent effective against the strain of virus that has been responsible for the most flu outbreaks. According to the CDC, the average overall effectiveness of the flu vaccine between 2008 and 2016 was 46.5 percent.

"The first thing I do is always get a flu shot

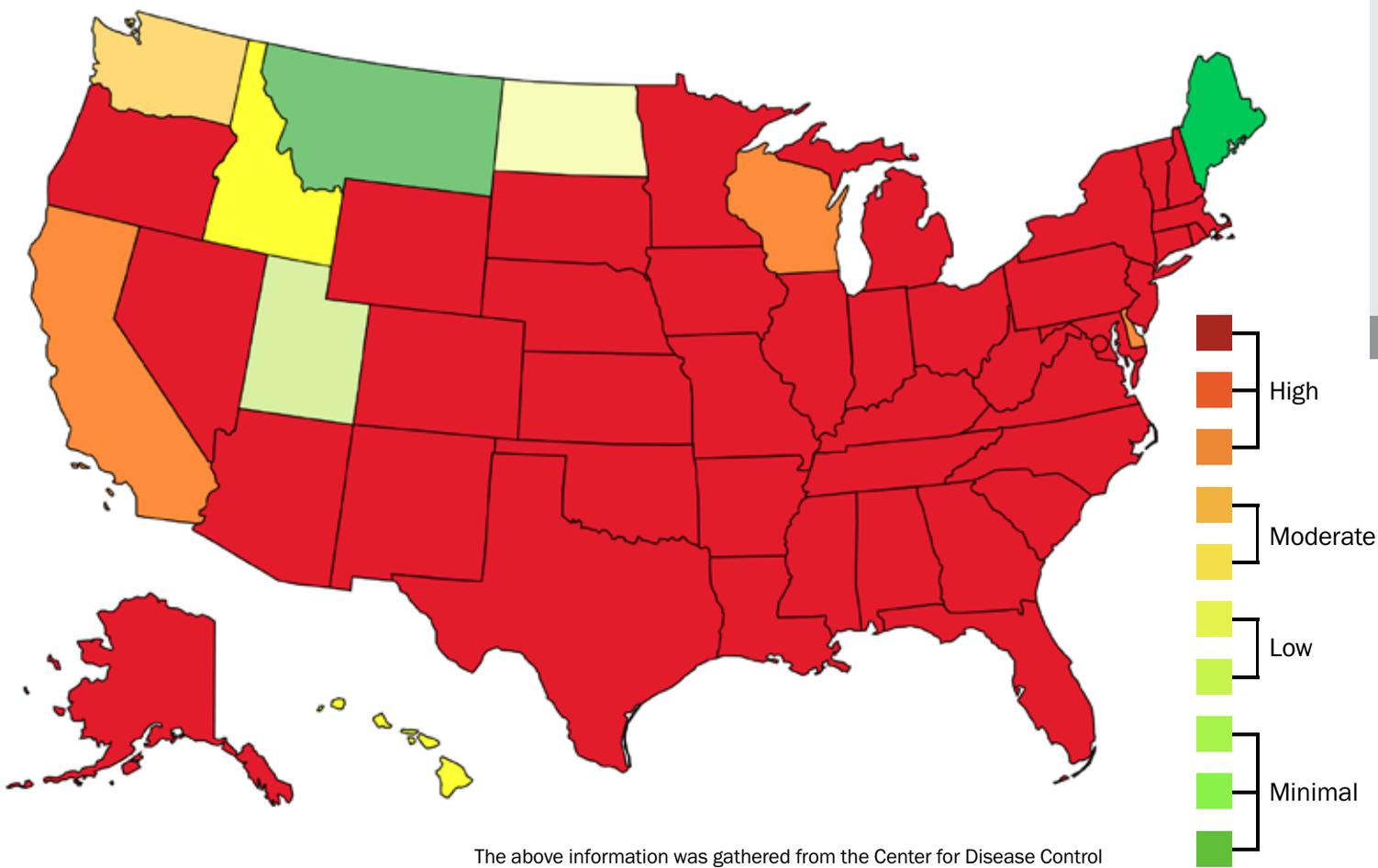
because it's proven to be the best way to avoid it. If I am unfortunate and get it, then I rest and if I'm really feeling bad, I'll go in to see about being placed on antibiotics," Ferris pre-medicine sophomore Jordan Van Wert said.

If you can't avoid the flu and find yourself sick, there are several steps you can take to aid your recovery.

"The flu is a virus. The best treatment for the majority of our students—young, healthy, no other medical conditions—is rest and fluids. It is advised that if you think you have the flu or an illness similar to the flu, you should stay home, rest, keep warm and drink fluids," Barber said. "There is no cure for the flu. You are able to treat your symptoms with the appropriate over-the-counter medication advised by your doctor. It is advised that you wait until you are fever free without a fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol for 24 hours before you return to work or school."



2017 - 18 influenza season week 5 ending Feb. 3, 2018



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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 Duca	(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

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

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.

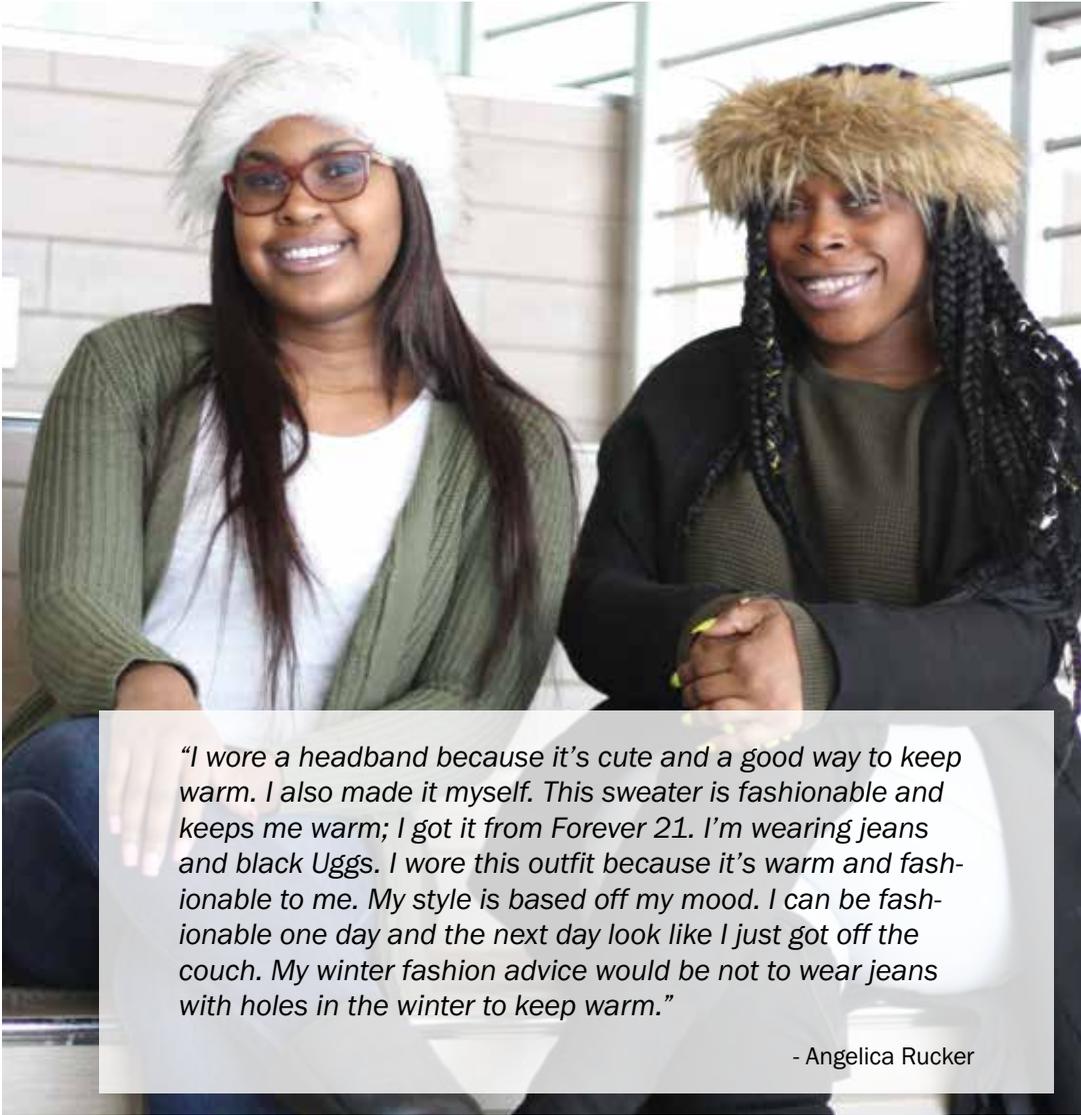
For special accommodations or for more information regarding the Commencement ceremony, please visit the Commencement website www.ferris.edu/commencement or call (231) 591-3803.

LIFESTYLES

“You feel like you’re part of the victory. It’s like we’re the driving force fueling the fans.” - Benjamin Withey - See page 9 for story

Alicia Jaimes | Lifestyles Editor | jaimesa@ferris.edu

Ferris fashion police



“I wore a headband because it’s cute and a good way to keep warm. I also made it myself. This sweater is fashionable and keeps me warm; I got it from Forever 21. I’m wearing jeans and black Uggs. I wore this outfit because it’s warm and fashionable to me. My style is based off my mood. I can be fashionable one day and the next day look like I just got off the couch. My winter fashion advice would be not to wear jeans with holes in the winter to keep warm.”

- Angelica Rucker

Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Torch Photographer

A passion for fashion

Holly Baker
Torch Reporter

When communication and management planning senior Jakayla Thomas came to Ferris, she couldn’t find an organization that suited her, so she decided to start her own—the Student Fashion Alliance.

“I wanted to find a group of people with the same interest as me. In 2016, we got a group of people together and started the organization,” Thomas said

For the 2017 fall semester, the Student Fashion Alliance hosted a Halloween fashion show that featured student designs.

“After I came, we immediately started planning the fashion show and I got to design a few pieces of clothing that got in the show. It was so fun. There were some nights that I didn’t sleep because I would be sewing all night,” Ferris public relations junior Angelica Rucker said.

In addition to providing fashion inspiration to campus, the organization also helps students get involved in the fashion industry professionally with potential internships and jobs. The organization also goes to model calls every Sunday in Lansing to give students the chance to gain modeling experience.

“Our former vice president is a model in California right now and she’s a brand ambassador,” Thomas said.

The Student Fashion Alliance’s main goal is to share their love for fashion to the Ferris community. Along with modeling opportunities, the organization is determined to welcome people with a range of creative abilities, like video design and photography.

“I think the organization is important because it brings out talents and different creativities. It brings a lot of different people together, which I think is important. I think it can help in long term ways too. It’s a chance for people to come together to use their talents for something good,” Rucker said.



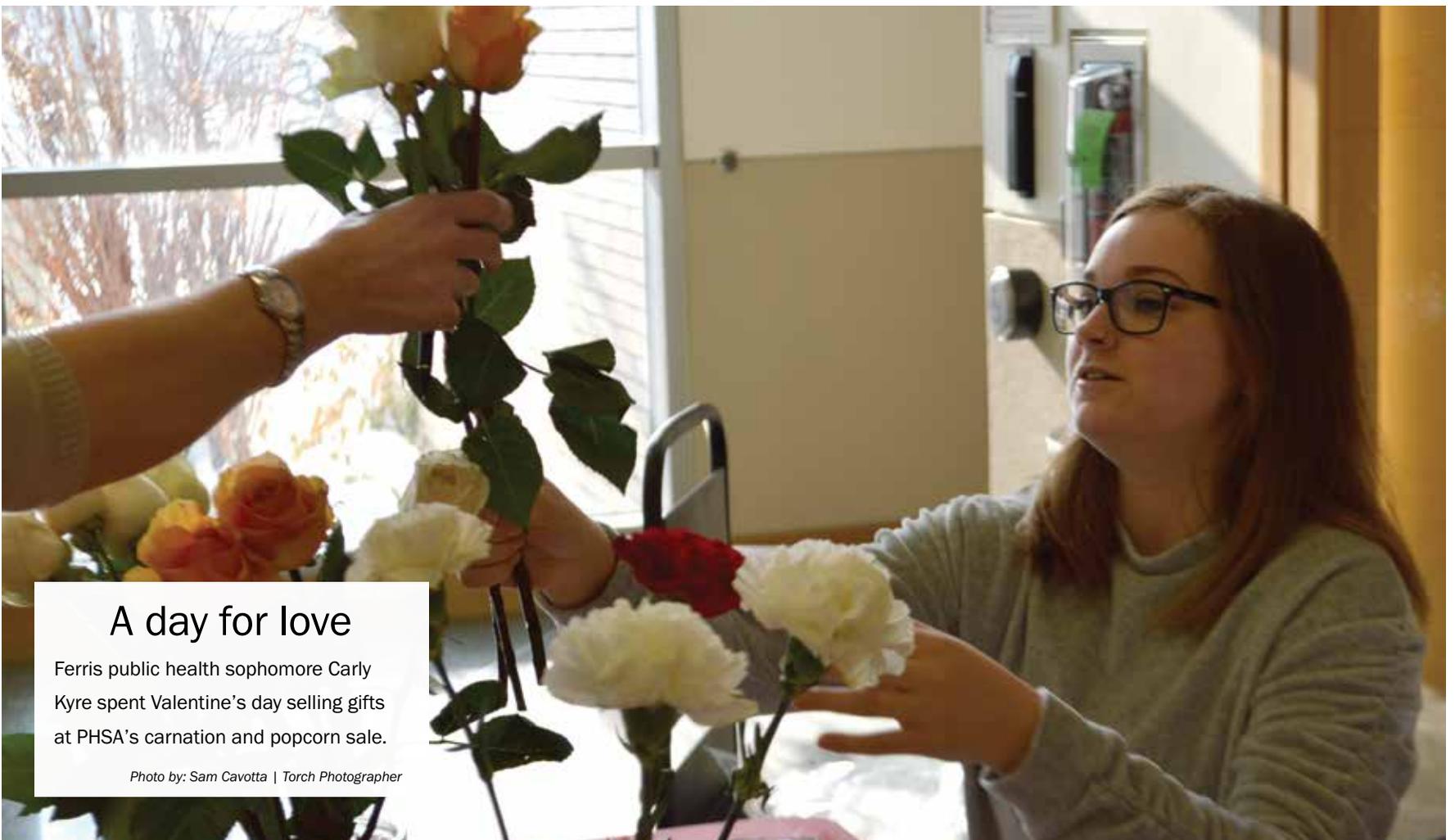
Angelica Rucker



Jakayla Thomas

The Student Fashion Alliance meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in FLITE. For more information, contact president Jakayla Thomas at Thomaj60@ferris.edu or vice president Angelica Rucker at ruckera@ferris.edu.

Ferris public relations junior Angelica Rucker and Ferris communication and management planning senior Jakayla Thomas love spending their free time trying new fashion statements.



A day for love

Ferris public health sophomore Carly Kyre spent Valentine’s day selling gifts at PHSA’s carnation and popcorn sale.

Photo by: Sam Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Little town, big dreams

We're not in Korea anymore



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Torch Photographer

Ferris business administration senior Jihyeon Baik spends her time soaking up all of the information Ferris has to offer.

Briana Hammontree
Torch Reporter

What began as a dream of learning English turned into so much more for Ferris business administration senior Jihyeon Baik.

Originally from South Korea, Baik came to Lansing six years ago as a foreign exchange student where she attended a private school to complete her high school education.

Baik, not knowing much about how to enter college in America, listened to her host parents speak often about Ferris and found herself feeling close to the university.

"Every year, Ferris has hockey games or football games and my host family got invited, so every weekend or Friday we came here and stayed at the Holiday Inn, played some golf and watched the game. Actually, I met President Eisler from my host parents because they know each other. My host family would be like, 'oh, this girl will be a Ferris student next year' and I'd be like 'oh, I never said that' but now I'm a student at Ferris," Baik said.

President of the International Student Organization, Baik has found herself missing home since staying in the U.S. for her education.

"I really miss my family, especially my dog, because I pretty much do the Facetime with my family every weekend so like I told my mom, 'call Maru'—my dog—and his ears are moving but he doesn't really know, 'where's mommy?' So

I really miss my dog, every time," Baik said.

Baik notes that she also misses some of the hobbies she does at home, such as going with friends to bars. Unlike the bars she has seen in Big Rapids, South Korean bars are open 24 hours.

She also continues to celebrate customs and traditions from her home, such as Lunar New Year.

"We have New Year but different than you guys. You celebrate January 1 but we celebrate Lunar New Year. For Koreans, we celebrate and we pray for our ancestry. Then we prepare lots of food and then we gather old family members and we each gear and play games. And we get money from like my grandparents or my uncles or aunt for Happy New Year. They give money to younger people. It's kind of like Thanksgiving Day," Baik said.

Aside from her home traditions and newfound Big Rapids experiences, Baik likes to spend her spring and winter breaks traveling to other states or countries with the hopes of eventually being able to travel throughout Europe.

"I went to Mexico last spring break and last winter break I went to Cancun, and I've been to pretty much every state while traveling. My parents have said, 'You have to go or otherwise when you have a job, there is no time,'" Baik said.

After graduating, Baik hopes to work for a big company in South Korea for three to five years before owning her own trade company.

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
- One-page (typed) essay answering the following:
 - >> Why do I want to be Editor-in-Chief?
 - >> 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)

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Submitted Photo

Members of the FIRST Robotics club spend their time encouraging a love for science at local schools.

FIRST time?

Passing around the love of science

Katlin Merby
Torch Reporter

Members of the Ferris FIRST Robotics registered student organization (RSO) assist robotics teams at the middle and elementary schools in Big Rapids and help those teams to host competitions. The robots made by the middle and elementary school teams are constructed out of Legos.

According to the RSO's president, Ferris welding technology sophomore Victoria Funke, the RSO's goal is to spread the message of FIRST: For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology.

Though Funke got into the world

of robotics when she joined the Lego league at her elementary school, she's been in the RSO for two years and this has been her first year as president.

As president, Funke loves having the chance to lead the RSO in a better direction and to help the RSO expand on campus and make the campus more aware of what FIRST does.

FIRST plans to attend a collegiate competition next year that will be hosted at Ferris.

At general meetings, the members discuss how the elementary and middle school teams are doing throughout the building season, talk about different events on campus that effect the members and sometimes companies come to visit the students.

"My favorite aspect of the RSO is that we reach out to younger robotics teams and we get a lot of

college students involved," Ferris mechanical engineering sophomore Kyler Drumhiler said.

Drumhiler has been a member for two years and is the community chair for the RSO. As part of the position, Drumhiler promotes what the FIRST does on campus.

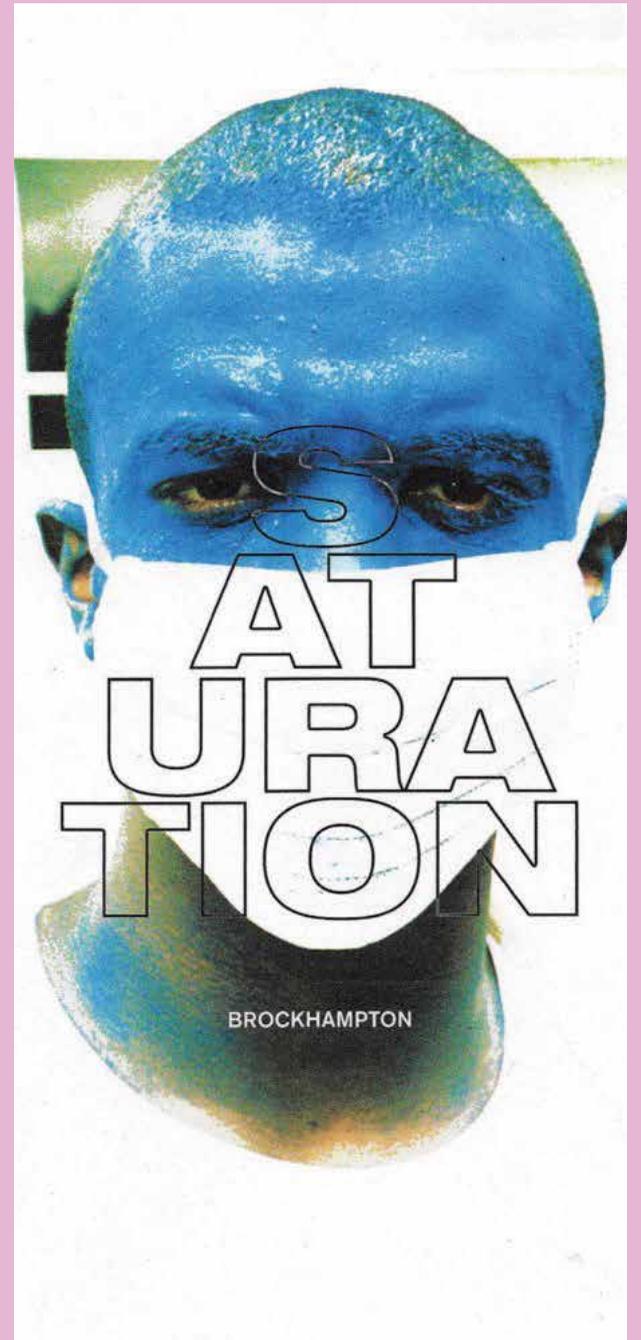
With 20 members, Ferris welding and manufacturing engineering junior Mike Michley is in his first year with FIRST, finding that his favorite part of the RSO is getting to teach peers and high school students.

"I love seeing the light switch on in someone's eyes when they finally understand something they were struggling with that I was able to help them with," Michley said.

Go to Orgsync and search Ferris Robotics FIRST for more information.

Media Minute

BROCKHAMPTON



Promotional image

The room was cramped, people pushing their way to the front in hopes of seeing one of the best boy bands to grace the music industry.

As minutes passed, I began to become more impatient until, finally, out they came.

BROCKHAMPTON.

As the room filled with cheers, myself included, BROCKHAMPTON greeted the crowd before jumping into their single "Boogie." I joined the crowd as we all jumped in beat to the song, singing along enthusiastically. To say the concert was amazing would be an understatement in my eyes.

The energy changed as BROCKHAMPTON continued to play through the night. While one minute it was intense with the audience even forming mosh pits, the next it became relaxed.

I remember hearing one concert-goer note how, while in the mosh pit, he noticed two other concert-goers almost begin to fight but at the change of a beat in the song, they were suddenly friends.



Briana Hammontree
Torch Reporter

I will be the first to admit I was hesitant about attending the concert but after a friend of mine introduced me to their music, I found myself listening to their albums more and more, and I eventually coughed up the \$45 to see them live.

I was not disappointed.

Out of the concerts I've seen, BROCKHAMPTON has been one of the best. The set list included songs from the three albums they released in the span of 2017: "SATURATION," "SATURATION II" and "SATURATION III."

For those who haven't heard of them and like music by Kid Cudi, Childish Gambino or Kendrick Lamar, I would recommend checking them out. Some songs I would recommend you begin with are "Boogie," "Star" and my personal favorite, "Zipper."

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A little pep in your step



Photo by: Sam Cavotta | Torch Photographer

The Ferris Pep Band enjoys using their talent and passion to pump up the crowd during a game.

Let's get pumped

Jordan Johnigan
Interim Reporter

Muffled instruments bellow from behind closed doors in the south east corridor of the Music Center. As the clock strikes 7 p.m., the dull roar comes to a lull and suddenly,



Tristan Scribner

Scornia. The aura of the vibrant rehearsal facility is lighthearted and welcoming with a touch of grit.

with the swing of the entryway, a slew of bright eyed students scamper to their places, eager to rehearse their art.

Determination is prevalent in the expressions of the band kids as they are dialed in, hanging on every word of Ferris faculty conductor Dr. Dale

“At the games, any time we play ‘Sweet Caroline,’ I’ll grab Dale and dance with him, just goofing around. We’ve done that every game for the past two years,” Ferris applied speech communication junior and trumpet player Tristan Scribner said.



Benjamin Withey

While the students enjoy their time in rehearsal and games they have a strict dedication to their craft and to Ferris athletics. If it weren't for the

sports teams, the pep band would be non-existent, so they are very committed to firing up the crowd and bringing the bulldog spirit to every game.

“Supporting the teams is the best part. The GVSU game, which we won by one, was insane. You feel like you’re part of the victory. It’s like we’re the driving force fueling the fans,” Ferris integrated communication studies junior and percussion section leader Benjamin Withey said.

Check out the band in action next week with a plethora of performances.



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SPORTS

"The sky is the limit and I expect him to get better and better each and every day."
- Andy Bronkema - See page 13 for story

Brendan Samuels | Sports Editor | samuelb1@ferris.edu

Outright champs

Ferris men's basketball claims second straight GLIAC regular season title



Danny Collins
Torch Reporter

The Ferris men's basketball team celebrated a pair of wins last weekend as the Bulldogs defeated the Michigan Tech Huskies in overtime 89-84 Thursday, Feb. 15, and the Northern Michigan Wildcats 98-84 Saturday, Feb. 17.

The two victories lead the Bulldogs to their second-straight regular season Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Championship in the last two years.

The No. 3 nationally-ranked squad has proven to be clutch in the final stretch of games all season long and has shown they have what it takes to make a deep run into the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Playoffs.

Although Ferris has found success this season, it hasn't always come easy.

On Feb. 10, the Bulldogs went on the road to play the Ashland Eagles and found themselves down three points with less than two seconds remaining in the contest. Things looked grim until Ferris junior forward Andrew Meacham

launched a full court pass across the gym to Ferris senior guard Peter Firlik who tossed up a last second shot and banked in a three-pointer at the buzzer to force overtime.



Peter
Firlik

The Bulldogs would go on to win the contest 97-91 in overtime.

"At first I was a little shocked but after a second and seeing Cush come running towards me, I got really hyped," Firlik said. "We all settled in and won in overtime but at first it was really crazy in that gym after my shot went in."

The team's ice in their veins continued into the Dawgs' matchup with the Michigan Tech Huskies Thursday, Feb. 15.

The Bulldogs received a massive three-pointer from Ferris senior wing Noah King with four-tenths of a second left in the contest to send the game into overtime against Michigan Tech. The Bulldogs went on to win the contest 89-84 in the overtime period.

Ferris' matchup with the Wildcats on Saturday, Feb 17, didn't see any dramatics, as Ferris junior center Zach Hankins asserted his dominance with 31 points along with 18 rebounds. Ferris senior guard Drew Cushingberry also put up 17 points to help tilt the game in Ferris' favor.

With the pair of weekend victories, the Dawgs improved to 27-1 overall on the season and 17-1 in GLIAC play.

"It feels good to contribute this season. Last year, I wasn't able to play and I was still fortunate to win a ring and this year I am actually playing and was able to add to the program's success," Ferris junior transfer guard Deshaun Thrower said. "It's special to be able to play with a group of guys that knows how to win and this team welcomed me with open arms."

The team now owns a four-game lead atop of the GLIAC and owns the No. 1 seed for the GLIAC Tournament which will be hosted in Big Rapids for the second-straight campaign.

"It feels good winning back to back championships. All of our hard work is paying off," Ferris sophomore center Cole Walker said. "I think that because we are such a close group on and off the court and it contributes to the success we have had."

Ferris will be back in action 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22 when they take on Purdue Northwest at Wink Arena.

Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Junior wing Markese Mayfield takes the ball to the rim. The Ferris men's basketball team is 27-1 and now own the top seed in the GLIAC Tournament.

Sports Shorts

Danny Collins
Torch Reporter

GLIAC's tune up

The Ferris men's and women's indoor track and field teams competed in the Grand Valley State Tune-Up meet last weekend, Friday, Feb. 16, in Allendale in preparation for the 2018 GLIAC Championships.

On the women's side, Ferris junior Sarah Utchel finished third in the 200 meters (26.28) and fourth in the 60 meters (7.96). In the 400 meters competition, Ferris sophomore Salix Sampson placed fourth (1:01.87) and Ferris sophomore Nicole Snyder finished in sixth place (1:03.00).

In the women's mile, Ferris sophomore Katie Etelamaki finished in fourth (5:02.23) and Ferris freshman Carissa Schurr placed in seventh (5:05.94).

The 4x400-meter relay for the women's proved to be one of their best events on the day. Ferris freshmen Sydney Dawes, Kylie Hutchinson and Carissa Schurr placed second (4:12.34).

Meanwhile, on the men's side of the action, Ferris senior Jon Cook placed first in the high jump with an NCAA Division II National Provisional qualifying score of 6-11.

Ferris junior thrower Cody Stillwell achieved a national qualifying mark of his own as he finished second with a throw of 66-6. Ferris senior thrower Ross Miller finished sixth in the event and earned a national qualifying standard with his throw of 57-7.75.

Ferris sophomore Stanley Williams placed first in the long jump event with a score of (23-0.50) and finished fourth in the 60 meters (7.09). Ferris senior Trevor Holowaty also finished in seventh place in the mile event (4:22.81).

The GLIAC Championships will be held this weekend, Feb. 24-25 inside the Kelly Family Sports Center on GVSU's main campus.

Swept off the court

The Ferris men's tennis squad celebrated a weekend sweep, Feb. 17-18 against the Aquinas Saints with a 9-0 victory and the Hillsdale Chargers in a 5-0 win.

The Bulldogs won all six singles matches against the Saints and swept the doubles matches 3-0.

The domination continued on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 18, as the Bulldogs swept the doubles and singles matches against the Hillsdale Chargers.

With the win against Hillsdale, the squad achieved their first regional win of the year.

The nationally 25th-ranked Bulldogs improved to 2-1 on the season.

The team will next be in action on Sunday, Feb. 25, at Western Michigan with matches getting underway at 11 a.m.



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Brendan Samuels
Sports Editor

The Ferris men's basketball team will be celebrating back-to-back GLIAC titles with back-to-back Top Dawg honors.

Senior wing Noah King is the second player in the last two weeks to rope in the award and boy, was it well deserved.

Coming off a 97-91 overtime victory over the Ashland Eagles Saturday, Feb. 10, the Dawgs looked confident in their ability to make plays late in the game.

The Bulldogs showed that ability yet again Thursday, Feb. 15, when King hit a three-pointer to send the game into overtime and pull off an 89-84. King recorded 20 points, three assists and two steals on the night as well.

King also played valuable minutes in the Dawgs' 98-84 victory over the Northern Michigan Wildcats, posting eight points and three assists.

The Bulldogs will now own the No. 1 seed in the GLIAC tournament, currently holding a 27-1 overall record.

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Fighting for playoffs

Ferris hockey's weekend matchup with Lake Superior State big for playoff hopes

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

Just two years removed from their first ever Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA) title, the Bulldog hockey team will be fighting for their playoff lives this weekend when they host the Lake Superior State Lakers.

It's been a tough campaign for the Bulldogs. After an impressive November, it appeared as if Ferris was going to put last season in the past with another championship run, but since mid-way through December, Ferris has won only three of their past 15 games. Including the sweep at home against Michigan Tech at the end of January, that gives them two wins in six weekend's worth of hockey.

Over the course of the past 15 games, the Bulldogs have been swept five times with two of those coming on home ice. They've scored an average of 1.87 goals per game over that timespan while allowing an average of 3.87 goals per game, giving them an average of minus-two per game.

The Bulldogs will face a Lake Superior State team that has found a way to stay alive in the playoff picture. Winners of four in a row, the Lakers have put together back to back sweeps on the road against Bemidji State and Alaska-Anchorage.

The Lakers who were a long shot for the playoffs just a few weeks ago have gotten help from their winning streak and the Bulldogs losing streak and now sit only one point back of the Bulldogs.

The Lakers are led by senior forward J.T. Henke who has nine goals and 18 assists for 27 points in 34 games this season. The Lakers also have two double digit goal scores in sophomore Max Humitz with 13 goals and junior Anthony Nellis with 12.

The Lakers sit behind Ferris in every major category except two, the powerplay and penalty kill. Those two categories may be the most important as the Bulldogs have seen games lost due to special teams play multiple times this season.

Winning streaks and past play aside, everything comes down to this weekend's matchup. Whichever team wins the next 120 minutes of hockey between the Bulldogs and Lakers earns their way into the playoffs.

With that, the Bulldogs still have an opportunity to climb all the way up to sixth in the standings as Alabama-Huntsville and Alaska sit just two points ahead in the standings. The Dawgs can finish as high as sixth or as low as ninth.

Playoffs or not, this weekend means everything.

The Bulldogs host the Lakers Friday, Feb. 23, and Saturday, Feb. 24, at Ewigleben Ice Arena. Both games are scheduled for a 7:07 p.m. puck drop.



Photo by: Sam Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Junior goalkeeper Darren Smith guards the net for the Bulldogs. The Ferris hockey team is heading into make-or-break weekend with their playoff lives on the line.

Kick start the heart | Ferris RSO raises awareness for heart health

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

The Sports Careers RSO will be hosting their fourth straight Red Out event in support of heart health at Ferris' home athletic events this Saturday, Feb. 24.

The event raises money and awareness for heart health while allowing the Sports Careers RSO to impact Big Rapids in a personal and touching way during the games.

"We're trying to personalize it and bring it down to the individual level. Sport is essentially a community owned product and it's a celebration of a community by coming to the game so in that moment you have the opportunity to remind the community of other values," Sports Careers RSO adviser Dr. Sandra Alspach said.

The members of the Sports Careers RSO have partnered with students in sports communication courses to build an event full of information and resources in the concourse at Wink Arena, as well as activities and auctions to help raise money for the cause. All proceeds of the event benefit the Big Rapids Spectrum Health Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab Facility.

"The purpose of the event is to raise awareness for heart health and in particular, women's heart health," Sports Careers RSO President Sean Williams said.

Fans attending the games are encouraged to wear red in support of the club's efforts along with supporting the Ferris teams on the court and ice.

The event has become something to not only bring attention to heart health but has



Sandra Alspach

also given an opportunity to bring students from the club and around the sports communication program closer to those in the Big Rapids community.

"I think that it's similar to all philanthropy work. It's a good way to eliminate that disconnect we have between the students and the Big Rapids community. It's a good way to give back and create a better sense of community," Williams said.

The event has grown bigger each year and has become a staple of the Sports Careers RSO, who also puts on the Special Olympics every year.

"This event along with our Special Olympics are our two main philanthropies. It's a lot of work for us. All of us are putting in a lot of time to get donations to try and get more money for the different causes," Sports Careers RSO vice president Scott Vandersloot said. "I think our RSO does a great job at making sure that it stays local, so people can see what we're providing to the community. My favorite part is that you're really able to see the impact up close and personal in the community. We've developed a lot of relationships in the community."

The Red Out activities will last throughout the home athletic events on Saturday, Feb. 24, beginning with the men's basketball game at 1 p.m. and going through the hockey game that starts at 7:07 p.m.

Two-headed monster

Ferris dual athlete finds success on the field and the hardwood



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Junior wing DeShaun Thrower watches his shot sail towards the hoop. Thrower is a dual-sport athlete, competing in both basketball and football for the Dawgs.

Jacob Carlson
Torch Reporter

Managing multiple classes is tough as it is but managing multiple sports has become normal for Ferris junior Deshaun Thrower.

A native of Muskegon, where he won a State Championship in Basketball and was a part of back-to-back State Championship runner up teams in football, Thrower has settled into Ferris where he has been used both on the gridiron and court.

"There's been a whole year of him meshing with us, so he settled in real good during that red-shirt guy. He's a we guy not a me guy so it's real easy," Head Coach Andy Bronkema said.

Thrower was named Mr. Basketball in Michigan after leading the Muskegon Big Reds to a State Championship in his senior season and came runner up in 2013 in the Mr. Football voting, while earning the Class A player of the Year award. Thrower's high school career was impressive enough to earn him an opportunity at Division I's Stony Brook University before transferring to Ferris.

Thrower redshirted last season on the court before settling in nicely this season as one of the Bulldogs' leaders off the bench. Thrower has led the team in

minutes off the bench this season and has led the team in scoring off the bench with 6.9 points per game while shooting at 70.3 percent. Thrower's presence has been a driving force in providing consistency for the Bulldogs throughout a game regardless of who's on the floor at any given time.



Andy Bronkema

"That's the key to our whole team is our depth. He's the first one off the bench," Bronkema said.

Thrower also managed to see action in nine games for the Ferris football team in the fall as defensive back, bringing in five tackles while getting a chance to display his athleticism with a punt return of 19 yards.

The 6-foot-1-inch, 200-pound junior has had no trouble balancing the obligations of playing multiple sports in college and has shown no signs of slowing down, providing a light to a very bright future for the Bulldogs.

"He's on a path that a lot of our guys are on to continue to get better. The sky is the limit and I expect him to get better and better each and every day. He's got potential in a lot of areas. He will become a better player and a better person," Bronkema said.

Welcoming the future

Ferris athletics welcomes new class of recruits

Jessica Brown
Interim Reporter

One of the biggest days on Ferris Athletics' calendar is in the books, leaving many sports teams with a good idea of what next season's rosters will look like.

The Ferris football program celebrated National Signing Day with the announcement of this year's 28-member class.

Bulldog football has been a powerhouse in recent years, reaching the NCAA Division II National Quarterfinals in 2017 for the second consecutive year and making their fourth-straight trip to the D2 Playoffs.

Ferris head coach Tony Annese hopes to keep the rhythm alive with this year's players, many of which have championship experience and have received all-state accolades on an individual basis.

"We've found some really quality players all over the country," Annese said. "We've been fortunate enough to have a lot of guys who are really athletic and we lost quite a few of those athletes. So, we just really wanted to put a good group together with great balance."

Offensively, FSU added six linemen, three wide receivers, four slots, three potential quarterbacks, a tight end and a running back.

On the defensive side, the Bulldogs brought in five in the secondary, four on the defensive

line and a linebacker.

"Even though we lost a lot of guys on defense, people are going to find out that we reloaded pretty well and I feel good about that group of men we have on that side of the ball," Annese said.

Ferris women's soccer has also found themselves in the spotlight after welcoming nine recruits to their 2018 roster.

"The group that we have on campus is like a family right now," Ferris head soccer coach Andy McCaslin said. "The way that these nine young women are going to add in is going to be tremendous. They are a phenomenal group, they've got the right mentality, they're talented, they're hard working and they're the right type of kids for that family type environment."

Among the nine recruits, six are from Michigan with other players being from Illinois, Ohio and New Jersey. The class overall includes one goalkeeper, one midfielder, three defenders and four forwards.

This past fall, the Ferris women's soccer team had an 11-8 overall record while placing third in the GLIAC with a 6-3 league record.



Tony Annese

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OPINIONS

“So to those public spitters out there: please, just swallow.”
- Ebony Morrisette - See below for story

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

See this week's chat with the chief on our website at fsutorch.com under the Opinions/Editorials tab!



Cartoon by: Samuel McNeill | Cartoonist

Shooting the shooting

Reporters did not overstep while covering the Parkland, Florida school shooting



Keith Salowich
Web Editor

There's a fine line between being too intrusive during tragedy and adequately documenting history. Reporters were tasked yet again with navigating that gray area during last week's school shooting in Parkland, Fla.

After some photos and tweets surfaced from students taking refuge in the school, some reporters attempted to contact those posting from inside the school for interviews. The public did not like that at all.

Many saw it as just another example of the bloodsucking media trying to make an easy buck off the reactions of cowering children. It's all about ratings after all, right?

Wrong.

Those reporters wanted to expose what happened at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in as complete a manner as possible for a reason. They never want to cover a mass school shooting again. I can assure you that reporters don't get into the field because they want to take advantage of victims to make money for some giant media conglomerate. They want to report the facts and allow them to effect positive change in the world.

Through the use of those Twitter photos, we were able to experience the terror these

kids felt from a first-person perspective.

It was shocking to see so much anger directed at news reporters while there was literally a gunman massacring high schoolers. I guess it's easier to get mad at the media than to accept the reality of dead children.

We witnessed the reactions of parents and onlookers at their most vulnerable. They requested details from students still traumatized by the event. Thanks to the work of these reporters, we saw the blood, we felt the pain and we share the scars of the Parkland community.

If it makes viewers uncomfortable to experience that agony, well, it should. A truly devastating event took place. This is how we're supposed to feel.

It's true that there's no easy answer to the gun debate raging in America. There is, however, a desperate need for coverage on the matter and on tragedies like this one to get people talking about policy change.

We can honor the victims while still putting these horrific scenes to productive use to help ensure that kids don't have to be afraid of spree killers during their spelling lessons.

Cut the spit Keep it in your mouth



Ebony Morrisette
Copy Editor

While walking through campus, I already have to avoid cars blowing past stop signs, slipping on ice and eye contact with people whose names I've forgotten; I'd like to subtract stepping on giant loogies from my list.

Seeing people spit in public is one of the most disgusting things in the world to me and is made worse by having to see it on a regular basis.

Every day, I make the choice to either periodically look down at the ground while walking to avoid stepping on a fresh, frothy mess or to just keep it moving with my eyes up and take the risk of tracking spit indoors.

I will never understand why spitters insist on spitting when walking in public. Do their mouths produce an excess amount of saliva? Are they getting over a chewing tobacco addiction? Are they part llama?

I would really like to know, because according to livescience.com, our bodies produce around one to two liters of saliva a day and although admittedly, that does seem like a lot, I have never felt the need to casually expel any of it from my body on my way to class.

Some days, the amount of spit on the ground is so bad that it feels like I'm playing hopscotch trying to avoid it all.

It's not just the seeing the spit on the ground that makes my stomach turn but the actual experience of seeing someone hock a loogie is what really gets me.

I can't count the number of times I've been walking behind someone and all of a sudden, I hear that unmistakable, gurgled snorting sound as the spitter clears their throat, turns their head to the side and hurls a bubbly glob to the ground.

Of course, they know better than to aim it forward, or else they might have the misfortune of stepping in their own mess but as for the rest of us behind them, we are forced to look and avoid or ignore and step in it.

I won't even get started on people who spit indoors, leaving their spit on the floor or the stairs. There's just no hope at that point.

So to those public spitters out there: please, just swallow. If you can't help yourself, use one of the many trashcans located around campus to make the daily commute to class just a little better.

High school never ends

Teenage worries age with us all



Briana Hammtreee
Torch Reporter

I recently had a discussion with friends about whether I would go back to high school if I had the chance.

My answer? No.

Now I'll be the first to admit that my high school experience wasn't all bad. I had plenty of friends, I was active with a few clubs and I did well academically.

But there is no way I would want to return to the pointless drama and mediocre worries about prom dates and crappy cafeteria food.

To be honest, these past few years in college have probably been my best years.

But that doesn't mean I haven't noticed familiar qualities of high school life even after my secondary education.

That is where we begin: I'm going to break the hard truth if you haven't already realized it—you don't ever really escape the horrors of high school.

That pointless drama and mediocre worries I mentioned? They never really leave, they just evolve as we age, adapting

to our situations. What was once worrying about the price of a prom dress is now about the price of rent.

Those stereotypes you thought you left behind are still alive and well. For instance, where I worked back home I was quick to notice who were the "cool kids," the "stoners," the "nerds" and the "teacher's pet."

As cruel as it seems, the real-world loves boxing us into a defined role just as much as high school did.

As people, we fall into the trap of reliving those days—even if it is in a different light.

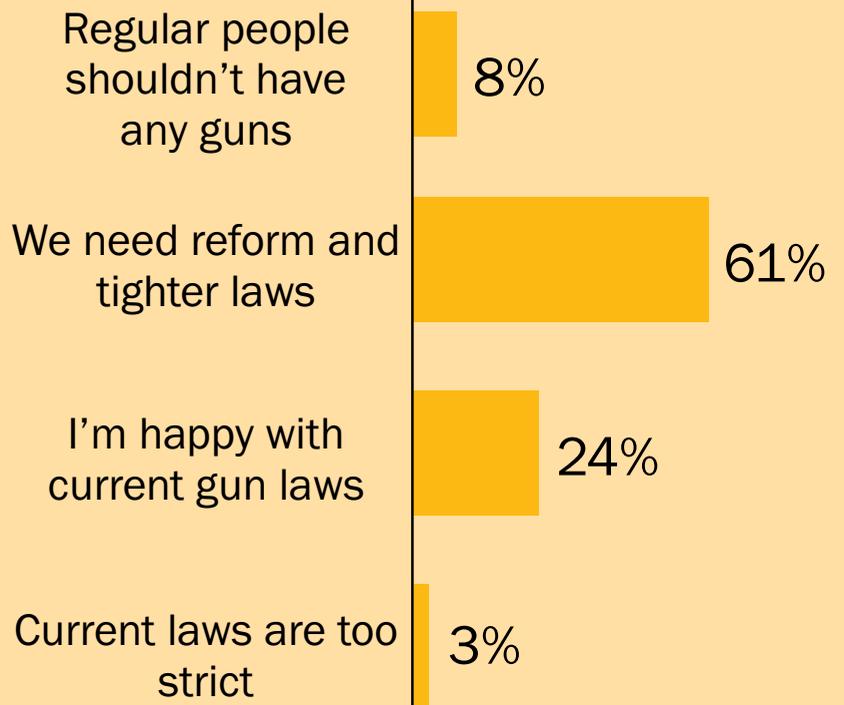
Social media keeps this idea very much alive. Because of social media, we follow people, we base our importance on "likes" and Snapchat streaks define relationships.

Can we break such a cycle? Probably not but we can always rework it to our benefits, giving us a new role to be defined by.

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