



**Ferris State University**  
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**THAT TIME OF THE YEAR**  
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# Prideful confessions

## LGBTQ+ students speak about life on campus

**Harley Harrison**  
*News Editor*

A month after the open house for the Ferris LGBTQ+ Resource Center, students of the LGBTQ+ community reflect on their experiences at Ferris.

As a bisexual transgender man, Ferris social work senior Connor McGahan has struggled in his time as a Bulldog.

"I've been hurt by the university because I've been having to advocate for myself and others in the community since I have been here. It's exhausting constantly having to educate others because Ferris doesn't value the community," McGahan said. "I have no problem educating students, however, I don't think that the university should be relying on me to be the one to educate their faculty and staff."

While McGahan did acknowledge the significance of the new LGBTQ+ Resource Center, he added that the center came too late for many of the students that needed it.

"I hope that Ferris State University understands how important the LGBTQ+ Resource Center and the Coordinator is to the university. I would hate for anyone else to feel like I've felt these past six years," McGahan said.

Lucas Gillis, a Ferris advertising and integrated marketing communications senior who identifies as a queer transgender man, also describes his time at Ferris to be tiresome.

"I have had multiple professors openly talk negatively about the LGBTQIA+ community, faculty that have continued to misgender me—even after I had legally changed my name and my gender marker on my state license—and I have had multiple issues with other students and their use of transphobic language. Although these circumstances have allowed me the opportunity to educate and advocate for my community, it is very exhausting," Gillis said.

While Gillis believes that the LGBTQ+ Resource Center was a great advancement for the university, he feels that the institution should spend more time educating the faculty and staff.

"I think a lot of folks here at Ferris are under the impression that people in the transgender community 'choose' to not identify as the gender they were assigned at birth. My gender identity as a transgender man is not a 'choice.' The only 'choice' I have ever made when it came to my gender identity was the day I officially decided that I would no longer live a lie to the outside world. I chose to be out and proud about who I am and there has never been a day



*Photo courtesy of Bill Bitzinger*

The Ferris LGBTQ+ Resource Center held an open house Feb. 28 in which President Eisler was in attendance.

that I have regretted that decision," Gillis said.

Gillis has found a great sense of community in his registered student organizations (RSOs) and other campus organizations, which have helped him to feel safe.

"At the end of the day, it is important to be kind to people no matter their age, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or presentation. College is a time to surround yourself with diversity and recognize its importance in order to become a better person," Gillis said.

As a member of the Ferris volleyball team, Ferris psychology junior Katie Placek identifies as a bisexual female. Although she has never felt discriminated against on campus, she feels that the LGBTQ+ community experiences some levels of exclusion.

Placek notes that her short hair and multiple tattoos often prompt comments and questions from others. She explained that she thought Ferris could do a better job for

advocating for the LGBTQ+ community.

"Fortunately, the professors and staff of the Ferris State campus that I've worked with have done a good job of being considerate of the LGBTQ+ community," Placek said. "Even with that said, it isn't rare for a professor to say 'I'm not sure if this student is a boy or a girl.' I'm really glad Ferris created the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, because a large majority of the student body and staff at Ferris State need the education that could help them better themselves as compassionate human beings."

Ferris pre-medical sophomore Gerald Murphy identifies as a gay male who has also experienced stereotypes at Ferris.

"He's so gay so he's going to try and flirt with me or turn me gay'. That is a stereotype I feel victimized by because I don't try to make people feel uncomfortable and I would

**Pride | See page 3**



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# NEWS

"I'm here because I don't want to be afraid on campus. I don't want to have the fear that I'll get shot." - Elizabeth Tatum - See page 4 for story

Harley Harrison | News Editor | harrih12@ferris.edu

# Walk-ins welcome



Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

A new walk-in clinic opened April 2 in the Medical Arts Building at 650 Linden Street.

## New clinic open at Spectrum Health

**Cora Hall**  
Torch Reporter

Students and Big Rapids residents now have a cheaper and more available health care option.

Spectrum Health announced in a press release that a walk-in clinic that will be located in the Medical Arts Building, 650 Linden St., which is adjacent to Big Rapids Hospital, opened April 2. The clinic will treat less serious health needs and if patients require lab work done or an x-ray, they can access those services across the street at the emergency room.

Ferris pre-pharmacy sophomore Josie Curtis said that the clinic will be nice because it provides care for those with less urgent needs that are often an inconvenience for an emergency room.



Josie Curtis

"You're taking up the physician's time when something so simple as an urgent care or a care clinic could take care of your problems so easily," Curtis said. "You're waiting with all those people who have more urgent problems than yours—not disregarding your health—but it's an inconvenience for the physician and it's an inconvenience for the patient."

The Spectrum Health staff are optimistic about the success of the clinic that will be less expensive than a visit to the emergency room.

"The walk-in clinic provides our community an affordable way to receive immediate care when patients aren't able to see their primary care doctor," hospital President Mary K. VanDriel said. "This reduces wait times and helps patients avoid higher co-pays that come with an emergency room visit. This new access option for less serious ailments has the additional benefit of giving our emergency staff more time to focus on patients needing emergency care."

The clinic's hours will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and there is a plan to add weekend hours at a later date, according to the press release. Many students said they think Big Rapids needs a clinic that is open on the weekends, including

Ferris psychology freshman Bri Billman, who said that students need a more affordable option on the weekends.

Ferris social work freshman Megan Boyd agreed with Billman, as she had Bronchitis earlier this year and needed care on a weekend and had to go to the emergency room. Curtis echoed the desire for weekend hours, even if they are limited.



Megan Boyd

"It would be nice, because even though it's not that serious, I still need urgent care," Boyd said.

Students have said they are happy that the clinic has later hours, especially because of Birkam's limited hours during the week. Boyd also said what students have to do to get an appointment at Birkam is "a little outrageous" as well.

"My Mondays, I have classes from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., so I'm hopping from one place to another," Curtis said. "It's just hard that you can't just go in. You finally get a free second that you might have not had because your class got out early or something but you still can't go in because you need to have an appointment or they'll make you wait."

Ferris Director of Health Services Lindsay Barber expressed excitement for the new urgent care.

"At Birkam Health Center, we are looking forward to the new Urgent Care Clinic by Spectrum. We feel this facility will offer our students greater access to be seen for urgent health concerns after hours when we are not available," Barber said. "It is important to remember that Birkam Health Center is not an urgent care. Urgent care centers practice medicine differently. [Birkam Health Center] is equivocal to a primary care or family medicine health center. We concentrate on each patient as a whole and make medical decisions effecting their overall healthcare for the entire life. Birkam Health Center offers services such as preventative care, wellness visits, women's health and contraception and medication management, which you are less likely to find at an urgent care center."

## Whatever floats your vote

Multiple Michigan government seats open

**Megan Lewton**  
Torch Reporter

The results of the primary election this summer and the general election this fall may vastly change the current state of Michigan politics.

In 2018, Michigan residents will be voting to fill more than 180 state government positions. According to a document published by the Michigan Secretary of State, the openings range from national positions, like one U.S. Senator seat and 14 U.S. Representative seats, to state positions, such as State Senator and State Representative seats open for all districts.

The state primary election will take place Aug. 7, 2018, and the winning candidates will move onto the state general election Nov. 6, 2018.

Students vary in their participation with local and state politics. Ferris dental hygiene freshman Emily Crowley said she is not typically politically involved.

"I think it's important. I just never really know when it's happening," Crowley said.

Other students, like Ferris pre-optometry junior Amy Bell, try to stay on top of national politics but pay less attention

to politics at a local level.



Amy Bell

"My studies do not allow much time for my involvement in politics. However, I do try my best to stay on top of what is occurring at a national level," Bell said.

Bell also said she thinks more students should vote.

"I believe that Millennial involvement in elections is very important. I believe that it is a privilege and an American citizen's duty to vote," Bell said.

But perhaps the most interesting vote this upcoming year will be the gubernatorial election, in which voters will be able to choose the next governor to replace current Governor Rick Snyder.

Snyder is not eligible for reelection as he has already served two terms, but his legacy may reflect the Flint Water Crisis, according to the Detroit Free Press.

Currently, according to the 2018 Michigan Candidate Listing on the Department of State's website, there are five candidates running for Snyder's position.

## GOVERNOR CANDIDATE BIOS:

**Bill Gelineau, Libertarian:** Gelineau was elected as Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Michigan in 2003. One of Gelineau's strongest political passions is protection of the Fourth Amendment. He also supports the legalization of marijuana and death with dignity, in which competent adults can have a say in when and how to die. Website: [liberty4gov.org](http://liberty4gov.org)

**Bill Schuette, Republican:** Schuette is Michigan's 53rd Attorney General. He formed the Michigan Commission on Human Trafficking, through which he planned to fund the testing of many DNA evidence kits to bring justice to sexual assault survivors and hopes to continue working to end sex trafficking. Schuette also plans to end the Michigan opioid epidemic and is an advocate for the Second Amendment and rights of the unborn. Website: [billschuette.com](http://billschuette.com)

**Patrick Colbeck, Republican:** Colbeck served two terms in the Michigan Senate and has more than 20 years of private sector experience. Colbeck is nationally known for his free market health care solutions. Among Colbeck's plans are improvement of road quality and making quality health-care and auto insurance affordable. Website: [colbeckforgovernor.com](http://colbeckforgovernor.com)

**Jim Hines, Republican:** Dr. Jim Hines has practiced medicine for the past 30 years. Hines worked as a missionary doctor in the Central African Republic for four years. He was also the national president of the Christian Medical and Dental Association and is the former chief of medical staff of Covenant HealthCare. Hines has pro-life views and wants to promote cancer research in Michigan. Website: [hines4michigan.com](http://hines4michigan.com)

**Abdul El-Sayed, Democrat:** El-Sayed, a Michigan native, earned degrees from the University of Michigan, Oxford University and Columbia University. He became the Health Director of the Detroit Health Department, where he built programs to ensure that children and expecting mothers had lead-free water due to the Flint water crisis. In addition to fighting for clean water, El-Sayed wants to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, legalize marijuana and rebuild old roads and bridges. Website: [abdulformichigan.com](http://abdulformichigan.com)

# - ON THE RECORD -

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

## Pull up, drank

**Harley Harrison**  
News Editor

**Pull up, drank**

March 16, 6:25 p.m., officers found a liquor violation in North Hall. One subject was cited and referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

**Broken record**

March 17, 11:39 a.m., officers investigated damage to property in the West Building.

The investigation was closed due to a lack of leads.

**Should've taken a cab**

March 18, 1:14 a.m., officers arrested one subject on the 1000 Block of South State Street for drunk driving. One citation was issued and the subject was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

**No fooling around**

March 19, 8 a.m., officers responded to a

report of assault and battery in North Hall. The investigation is still open.

**Thieves on the run**

March 21, 5: 59 p.m., officers investigated a report of larceny in Robin Court. The case has been closed without action taking place.

**Guess who?**

March 22, 6:07 p.m., officers investigated damage to property in Lot 66. The case was

closed after a lack of leads.

**Don't stop the party**

March 25, 1:56 a.m., four students were referred to the Office of Student Conduct and one subject was arrested after officers found a liquor violation and subjects with high blood alcohol content at Gilbert Drive and Northland Drive. Four citations were issued and one subject was charged for being a minor in possession.

# WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

**Harley Harrison**  
News Editor

**Kemerovo, Russia**

At least 64 people—many of them children—died in a shopping mall fire in Kemerovo after emergency exits were blocked and a security guard had switched off the fire alarm system. The fire started at about 5 p.m. on March 25 and a criminal investigation has been opened.

Original story by Ivan Nechepurenko, March 26, 2018. *The New York Times*.

**Paris, France**

A French officer has died after switching places with a woman who was being held hostage. The gunman, who claimed to be tied to the Islamic State, shot and killed two people inside a Super U market and severely injured Colonel Arnaud Beltrame, who later died from the injuries.

Original story by Alissa J. Rubin, March 28, 2018.

*The New York Times*.

**Beijing, China**

More than 14 years after a string of 11 rape-murders, Gao Chengyong has been sentenced to death after an investigation finally found him guilty. The story had caught national attention when investigators had to sift through 230,000 fingerprints and could not arrest Chengyong until 2016.

Original story by Chris Buckley, March 30, 2018. *The New York Times*.

**Valencia, Venezuela**

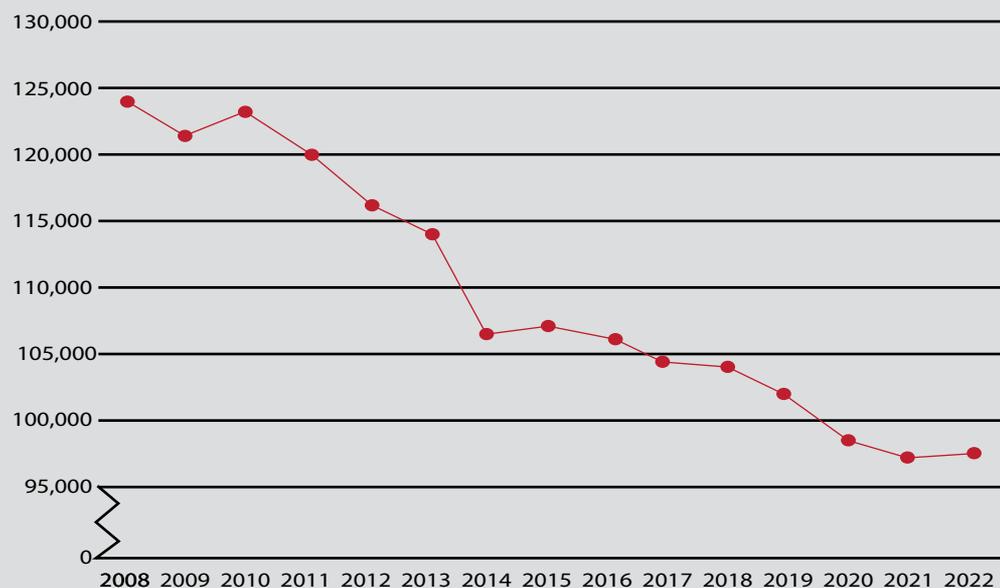
Approximately 68 people are dead after a fire sparked during a riot at a jail. Worried family members and loved ones gathered at the prison to demand answers only to be sprayed with tear gas by police officers in riot gear.

Original story by Ana Vanessa Herrero, March 28, 2018. *The New York Times*.

## Torch Corrections

After working with Ferris administration, the Torch was sent the following revised graph (below) to accompany the enrollment story published on page 2 of the Feb. 28 edition of the paper.

Projected Number of Michigan High School Graduates



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# NEWS BRIEFS

**Harley Harrison**  
News Editor

**Asian Pacific American heritage celebration**

Join the Office of Multicultural Student Services Thursday, April 5, for a presentation by the Asian Student Organization and a stand-up comedy performance by Atsuko Atsuka. The celebration is free and open to the public from 6 to 8 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Resource Center room 120. For more information, contact Michael Wade at omss@ferris.edu.

**Bulldog Cinema**

The new independent cinema in Big Rapids, Bulldog Cinema, is set to open Friday, April 6. The cinema is located at 1100 Maple Street STE B, and students and community members can vote for films they would like to see on the Bulldog Cinema Facebook page.

**International Festival of Cultures**

Join the Office of International Education for a celebration of multiple cultures on campus Sunday, April 8 from 1 to 5 p.m. in the University Center, room 202. For more information, contact Lisa vonReichbauer at (231) 591-2450.

**Pride**

Continued from page 1

never flirt with anyone who isn't gay. There is a line that shouldn't be crossed and we know those boundaries," Murphy said.

Murphy suggested that Ferris could provide better housing for LGBTQ+ students so that all students can feel more comfortable in their living arrangements.

"I've had many encounters where someone or a group of people looked at me differently because of the way I dress, how I look or the way I walk. I try not to let their judgments affect me personally, because I will not change my personality to fit someone else's normalities," Murphy said. "I want other students to know that LGBTQ people accept you for who you are and we would like for you to accept us for who we are."

Ferris television and digital media production freshman Emily Perry identifies as aromantic and asexual.

"I've been very lucky, no one's ever had an issue with it and I definitely haven't felt unsafe. I've never felt like I was endangered or anything," Perry said.

Perry says that the two LGBT advocacy RSOs on campus, D-SAGA and AEGIS, have helped form a safe and accepting environment for her on campus.

"We've worked panels with other professors and they were very supportive of us, so I've had great experiences," Perry said.

While the majority of Perry's experiences at Ferris have been very positive, Perry still mentions that small instances, such as jokes, can still be harmful.

"Just little general behaviors that aren't meant to be rude, they're just something engraved in our culture, I would say just kind of watch yourself and be really thoughtful about your words and actions," Perry said. "Guys, don't make fun of your guy friends for doing something girly or something—don't make fun of them for acting feminine like it's an issue."

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# Joke's on you

Annual trickery has historic origins

**Landry Shorkey**  
Interim Reporter

Some may say you're a fool if you haven't heard of April Fools Day but most people don't know how the holiday actually started.

According to ABC News, there are several events that may have inspired the pranking. One of the theories was the publishing of Geoffrey Chaucer's "The Canterbury Tales" in 1392, which included "The Nun's Priest's Tale." The story is set on March 32 and some scholars suggest that Chaucer used the imaginary date to refer to April 1, confusing all of the "fools."

The holiday has evolved into playing more trivial jokes on friends and family, and some Ferris students are proud part-takers in the trickery.

"I'm an identical twin, so in school my brother and I would switch classes," Ferris nursing

junior Mike Pall said. "It would usually last about half the day."

Another possible explanation for the beginning of the day of foolery is France's switch from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar during the 1500s, according to ABC News. The switch resulted in the start of the new year being moved to Jan. 1, rather than the last week of March ending with April 1; only the "fools" were unaware of the switch.

Finally, others simply think that the holiday was influenced by the weather. Since April 1 occurs close to the vernal equinox, it is historically plagued with unstable weather conditions, according to ABC News. Those unprepared could appear very foolish.

Regardless of the cause, many people enjoy taking part in the trickery of the day, and some

**April Fools** | see page 5



Jenna Thom



Mike Pall

# March for Our Lives

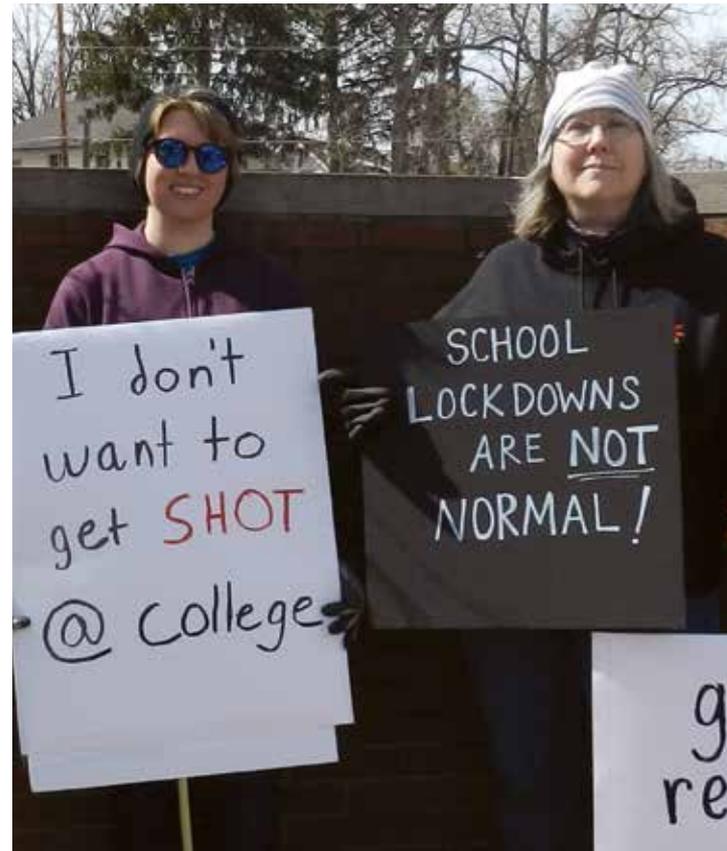


Photo by: Harley Harrison | Torch Photographer

Two marchers display their signs at the March for Lives in Big Rapids on March 24.

## Big Rapids joins national movement to fight for gun control

**Grant Siddall**  
Torch Reporter

As March for Our Lives took place all over the nation, Mecosta county residents also came out to participate.

According to the official Facebook page of March for Our Lives, it is "a movement dedicated to student-led activism around ending gun violence and the epidemic of mass shootings in our schools today."

The event took place Saturday, March 24, and while around the nation the activism was mostly student-led, very few students were present at the satellite march in Big Rapids. Instead, the Big Rapids march was full of parents and grandparents of students; some even brought their small children along.

"I have kids that are in school and I also have a daughter in Florida that is about to go into the first grade," Big Rapids resident and event organizer Christopher Gillespie said. "Something needs to be done about the policies we have in place right now so that our children can be safe in school. It was a close topic to me that touched my heart."

The march started at Big Rapids Community Library and worked its way to Ferris' campus entrance in front of FLITE, where attendees held signs for traffic to see, spoke about why they were there and participated in some chants.

Future Ferris student and march attendee Elizabeth Tatum held a double-sided sign that read "I don't want to get shot at college" and on the other side it read "I vote too," which is intended to

urge young adults to register to vote who are not yet registered.

"I'm here because I don't want to be afraid on campus. I don't want to have the fear that I'll get shot," Tatum said. "I hope that in this community we are able to not be afraid anymore. I think it's very important that students of all ages stand up and use their voice and raise awareness."

For many of the people in attendance, the recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida, that killed 17 people was a major reason for them to come to the march.

"What is happening in our country is wrong and it's time to stand with the kids of Parkland and say 'hey, we're not going to take it anymore,'" Stan-

wood resident Kathy Bell said. "We have 11 grandchildren and one on the way. Every day they go into a school and they go there to learn, and to socialize, and to grow and be nurtured. I don't want them to go into a school and be plowed down and murdered. I don't know how many people are out here, maybe 100, but when I see this kind of turnout for what has really been a controversial issue, it gives me a lot of hope."

Kathy Bell

Elizabeth Tatum

## Friends Don't Let Friends Plead Guilty



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Alumni Association

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MAY 14, 2018**

\*All submissions must be made on line using MyScholarships. Visit <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/admission/financialaid/scholarship/Incoming/myscholarships.htm> for more information.

# More in store

## New retailers come to Big Rapids

**Megan Lewton**  
Torch Reporter

Members of the Big Rapids community will soon have two new stores to enjoy in town.

Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Store and CareLinc Medical, a medical supply store, are moving into the Ferris Commons retail strip located at 1250 Perry Ave., according to a press release by Colliers International, the real estate service coordinating the lease.

"We think bringing in brand-name retailers adds credibility to both the shopping center, as well as the community. Providing reliable quality shopping options and care options, in the case of CareLinc, enhances the overall area," Colliers International Senior Research Analyst Jeff Hainer said.

According to the press release, the stores are sharing an 80,000 square-foot space that used to belong to Kmart. Jo-Ann will occupy 15,000 square feet, with CareLinc Medical occupying 10,000 square feet. This space is also taken by Planet Fitness and Family Farm and Home.

"It's not always easy to fill a former big box like Kmart, so we are just thrilled that we were able to play a role in filling that, given the current retail climate," Hainer said.

Many students believe the availability

of these stores will provide great opportunities for Big Rapids residents. Ferris healthcare systems administration senior Jacqlyn Reynolds thinks the community will benefit from having CareLinc Medical in a convenient location.



Jacqlyn Reynolds

"Big Rapids is a great community for CareLinc since there are individuals in every community that need home medical equipment and supplies," Reynolds said.

These new retailers will also benefit RSOs. Ferris pre-pharmacy and biology senior Mykala Jeske said the opening of Jo-Ann will be of value to her RSO, Crafters Anonymous.

"I feel a craft store is something Big Rapids is missing," Jeske said. "For Crafters Anonymous, we always struggle to get supplies for crafts that we want to do. We have trouble finding materials for more specific crafts and the amount of materials we would need for the whole organization to do the craft. With Jo-Ann Fabric coming to Big Rapids, I think it will allow the group to expand the range of crafts that we do together."



Mykala Jeske

Hainer said that Jo-Ann began moving into the space in February, while CareLinc Medical is estimated to move in around July.



Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Store and CareLinc Medical are moving into the old Kmart space in Big Rapids on Perry Avenue.

Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

# Dear Mr. President

## Student Government Association embraces new candidates

**Harley Harrison**  
News Editor

Election season has approached at Ferris and students can soon voice their opinions on Orgsync.

In a Facebook post, the Student Government Association (SGA) announced that their annual elections would begin Wednesday, March 28. However, due to technological issues with Orgsync, students didn't have the opportunity to vote until 8 a.m., Friday, March 30.

"We have extended voting until April 15 at 11:59 p.m. Our release date for results is April 17 at the general assembly meeting and the inauguration is still set for April 24. The voting form is front and center on the Orgsync page," Ferris senior and public relations representative for SGA Katie

Nimtz said.

According to Nimtz, there will be five candidates this election season but only one candidate is running for SGA President. This is the second year in a row where only one candidate has run for president. Last year's candidate and current president was accounting and business administration senior Patrick Maloney.

Ferris accounting and finance freshman Bobby Gill is the aspiring president for next year, after serving as a senator for the College of Business. If Gill wins the election, he will be the first freshman to have been elected president of SGA.

"As president of student government, I plan to continue the legacy of recent predecessors and run the office with complete transparency to not only the students but also the administration and our community," Gill said. "In addition

to that, I will also expand my predecessors' ideas and give student government a stronger presence on campus, so we can adequately represent the interest of our campus and community to the best of our abilities."

The other candidates in this upcoming election include Ferris student Mariah Gaither and Ferris criminal justice student Siarah Oliver, who are running for the position of Senator for the College of Education and Human Services. Ferris hospitality management student Maria Rogers is running for Senator for the College of Business and Ferris automotive engineering technology student Justin Spires is running to be a Senator for the College of Engineering and Technology.

For more information about the SGA elections, students can visit the Ferris Student Government Facebook page, or go to their website at fsusga.com.

## April Fools

Continued from page 4

Bulldogs had planned pranks for their roommates and friends.

"I probably will play a prank. Maybe try and set their alarms super early so they wake up," Ferris dental hygiene sophomore Jenna Thom said.

With April Fools' Day falling on Easter Sunday this year, it was a good opportunity for stu-

dents to head home and trick their unsuspecting siblings.

"I always have great goals towards acknowledging it, and so I make a lot of plans. They don't always get filled out though. I might stick something in my brother's backpack," Ferris elementary education sophomore Elizabeth Whiteside said.

While the origins of April Fool's Day are still debated, many students at Ferris enjoy the fun opportunity to prank their friends and family, even when the day falls on Easter.



Elizabeth Whiteside

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# OPINIONS

“Good writing is worth the wait and the frustration.”  
- Alicia Jaimes - See below for story

Marley Tucker | Opinions Editor | marleyitucker@gmail.com

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Ferris State University  
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fsutorch.com/letter-to-the-editor/

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## - TORCH STAFF -

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Editor in Chief</b><br>Angela Graf<br>(231) 591-5978 | <b>Visual Content</b><br>Samantha Cavotta<br>Kaitlyn Kirchner<br>Megell Strayhorn   |
| <b>Production Manager</b><br>Sarah Massey               | <b>Videographer</b><br>Sid Sabo   |
| <b>Interim Production Assistant</b><br>Hannah Way       | <b>Reporters</b><br>Jacob Carlson<br>Danny Collins<br>Briana Hammontree<br>Megan Lewton<br>Kat Merby<br>Grant Siddall<br>Cora Hall<br>Holly Baker |
| <b>News Editor</b><br>Harley Harrison                   | <b>Interim Reporters</b><br>Jessica Brown<br>Jordan Johnigan<br>Landry Shorkey  |
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| <b>Multimedia Editor</b><br>Abbey Good                  | <b>Adviser</b><br>Steve Fox<br>(231) 591-2529   |
| <b>Web Supervisor</b><br>Keith Salowich                 |   |
| <b>Office Manager</b><br>Kaitlyn Kirchner               |   |
| <b>Podcast Manager</b><br>--                            |   |
| <b>Cartoonist</b><br>Samuel McNeill                     |   |

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

Following what has been called a “controversial decision,” for the first time since 1950, the U.S. Census Bureau is going to be asking whether or not respondents are citizens of the United States in the 2020 decennial census.

While the goal is to gather more information about eligible voters, critics of the change fear that it will lead to inaccurate responses from illegal immigrants that would avoid answering.

There has actually been a lawsuit filed on the grounds that it could skew the results, despite

the fact that it is illegal for the census bureau to release responses to law enforcement or immigration agencies.

The question does not ask whether or not non-citizens are in the country legally.

This is in the opinions section, so what's my take on all of this?

I consider myself moderate in my stance on immigration; I think if you want to be a part of this country and take advantage of its programs and benefits, you should have to go through the naturalization process or hold a

green card.

That said, I know as well as anyone that America is a melting pot; both sets of my grandparents immigrated here from Europe in the early 1900s and they worked hard to learn the language and integrate.

Physically building a wall is a ridiculous, expensive and needlessly spiteful proposition but I believe there is a balance to be found between inviting diversity and preserving nationalism.

All of that aside, I can't help but feel that this question is a bad

idea. There is a time and a place for the enforcement of immigration laws and the census is not an appropriate occasion.

Despite the fact that it doesn't ask about whether or not the individual is here legally, there is not a doubt in my mind that this will deter people from answering honestly, which could impact congressional representation and federal funding on a macro level in states with a significant undocumented population.

## Stay with me



Promotional image

“Grey's Anatomy” has aired for 14 seasons.

## Nobody knows where they might end up

I love television. Not movies. Television. I love television the way people love books. I love the characters and being able to paint a life for them. I love the writing that makes me laugh until my side hurts or cry until I can barely see. I love the way the characters begin and grow into these human beings—good or bad—and at the end of the series, feeling like I can't say goodbye to these people I've come to love. When a character leaves the show, they take a little of my heart with them. When a person dies, I feel the pain for weeks.

I get invested. And nothing drives me crazier than seeing people who don't appreciate a show for what it is and don't understand that characters change and writers evolve.

I'm a diehard fan of “Grey's Anatomy.” On March 27, 2005, writer Shonda Rhimes changed my life forever. George, Izzie, Alex, Cristina and Meredith were interns at Seattle Grace Hospital and had absolutely no idea what they were doing with their lives. The show was about love, sex and surgery. It was great but we all knew that wasn't going to last forever.

Since then, the show has changed drastically, introducing new characters and topics the audience can relate to. I'm sad to know that “Grey's” is never going to be the same but that's okay. Things change and I'm with this show until the end.

Too often do I hear people complain that

the show has gone downhill or that they're glad they killed characters off (to those who claim the day George died was the best day of their life: I will fight you), and I'm left with this feeling of disappointment.

I follow forums on Twitter and Facebook and find myself getting sucked into negative comments. Here, I thought it was great to have a place where all of the people included are dedicated to “Grey's” as much as I am but I guess I was wrong.

It's not dedicated to say you stopped watching after season six because that's when everyone good leaves. It's not dedicated to hope half the current characters are killed in another plane crash. It's not dedicated and it's just not cool. Turn off your phones and sit down.

I'm not saying that there haven't been lulls but don't you owe it to the writers and yourself to see where it all ends up? I know Rhimes has tested our trust with plane crashes, buses and shootings but I believe there's a method to her madness because still, 13 years later, last Thursday's episode shattered my heart.

That's good writing and good writing is worth the wait and the frustration.

For 14 seasons, my heart has experienced love, loss, heartache, happiness and misery. I wouldn't change that for anything. #Greysfordays.

## It runs in the family

March Madness is a religion



Cora Hall  
Torch Reporter

More anticipated than Christmas in my household, the few weekends of March completely and wholly dedicated to basketball have always been the highlight of the year for my family.

The Hall family lives, sleeps and breathes sports and I wouldn't have it any other way. I'm not sure if the love for all sports—especially basketball—is genetic or taught; if it's not, there's got to be something in our water.

Selection Sunday has always been a family affair and with a house divided between Michigan State and Michigan fans, there was always trash-talking about who got the better region or who was a higher seed. Being an MSU fan, I never had to worry about whether or not my team would get in. But let's not talk about our record over the past couple years or I might cry.

I was homeschooled until high school and every year, my mom would put off all our assignments and give us a mini break so we could sit on the couch all day and watch the big upsets that always steal the show the first few rounds. Shout-out to my mom for letting us enjoy that while we could, because working and having classes during the games now—for lack of a better word—sucks.

I can honestly say that I don't understand people who don't get the hype of March Madness. Watching history being made when the first ever 16th seed to win a game this year was an indescribable feeling. I don't understand how people have never felt the heartbreak when your team missed a trip to the Final Four or the euphoria when they pull off a massive upset no one believed they could.

The tournament gets crazier every year and I can't wait to tell my kids about it one day when we're all watching the games together. If there's one thing I pass onto my future kids, it will be that March is the best month of the year and they shall refer to the dates as Izzo 1st, Izzo 2nd, etc.

My team may not be in the running for a national championship anymore but you can bet that I'll be watching the rest of the tournament, rooting for every upset and especially for Michigan to lose.

Happy March Madness, people. Enjoy the insanity while it lasts.

# We don't need no education

## Get rid of standardized tests



Briana Hammontree  
Torch Reporter

As a kid, I'd always hated taking tests. I was a good student but often my test scores didn't reflect this fact.

I remember hating filling out the Scantron forms for the ACT and the bubbles on the MEAP tests; if you didn't have a number 2 pencil, you were screwed.

Luckily, as I got into college, my degree sent me away from filling in bubbles and taking those tests. However, many students still have to rely on this method and I wonder why.

So, let's look at the facts, shall we?

In "Standardized Tests Effectively Measure Student Achievement" on the Opposing Viewpoints database, the site gives a few points discussing the benefits of standardized testing. The document lists facts such as it being beneficial to documenting student performance, targeting areas of development and encouraging global competitiveness.

While the study does promote benefits in favor of standardized testing, having test anxiety is a perfect example of how this data can be skewed. It isn't bad to learn where development is needed and what someone's performance is but we have to stop crushing students while we're at it.

A test score shouldn't define a student, especially when life itself has shown that these tests only pressure public systems to have "achieving" students so they can receive federal funding. This issue came to a head in 2009 when an Atlanta school system was caught changing test scores.

This form of competition isn't beneficial to the students, as it takes away from the true focus—learning and student success.

Oxfordlearning.org also stated that standardized testing narrows the option of learning and success, focusing on specific skills and areas such as math, English and science instead of promoting creativity and critical thinking.

Instead of having a science test, promote students to do projects and get involved. Highlight a student's skills instead of stripping them of confidence.

Thinking back, I find myself feeling cheated from my own education back in high school and middle school. I admittedly came into college feeling like I didn't know some of the education required of me—I felt unprepared and unqualified.

How could I possibly measure up to students who had more opportunities based on test scores and school district statistics?

As I write this, I realize maybe standardized testing has something going for it—it's just nobody has figured out quite how to use it. But if that's the case, why not try something new, something better?

# Captain Planet can't save us

*We need to take responsibility for our messes*

When I talk about water conservation and vulnerable demographics targeted by corporations with some people, they laugh and condescendingly call me a hippie. I'll smile and laugh it off uncomfortably but my passion for environmental science and the people it affects isn't a laughing matter. Like, dang Janet, I didn't know caring about the health of our planet was a bad thing.

Just call me Leonardo DiCaprio because I want to focus on the environment for a moment. Pause that slam dunk before you put that piece of litter in the trash instead of recycling it.

Caring about the Earth isn't a partisan issue, it's an obligation. We all live on this green planet orbiting in the void vacuum of space. I'd like to know that greener initiatives will be given their due diligence in my lifetime. Don't just care about the Earth because of your hypothetical future children—care about the Earth because you live on it too. We don't want to sink our ship before we're ready to get off, right?

As Millennials and Gen-Z kids, we grew up with shows like "The Magic School Bus" and "Sesame Street" teaching us how to recycle and reuse plastic. With nostalgia sitting deep in my chest and Clinton era slogans turning in my brain as I type this, I come to you to say that Captain Planet won't save the Earth for us, so we need to get a move on.

There's a lot you can do to make green living more accessible, even when you live in a concrete jungle. Earth Day is April 22, so let's set a goal to do more on every level this month. I knew I had to do more for the environment the moment President Trump erased climate change from the White House home page and mocked scientific experts on Twitter. Just because it's cold outside doesn't mean that climate change doesn't exist—insert cringe face here.

In 1980, John Trudell, a Santee Dakota Native American activist, said in his famous Thanksgiving Day address, "The Earth is our mother, we must take care of the Earth."

College students can aid in the fight



Marley Tucker  
Opinions Editor

against pollution and trash piles swimming in the ocean. As citizens of Earth, we hold a lot of power. There's a litany of things you

can do: buy a reusable water bottle, reuse plastic bags, walk instead of drive, donate compost and so on. You can also become a conscious consumer and look at the environmental impact of businesses you buy from, sign a petition, write to your congressman and vote for officials who have the Earth in mind when they make decisions.

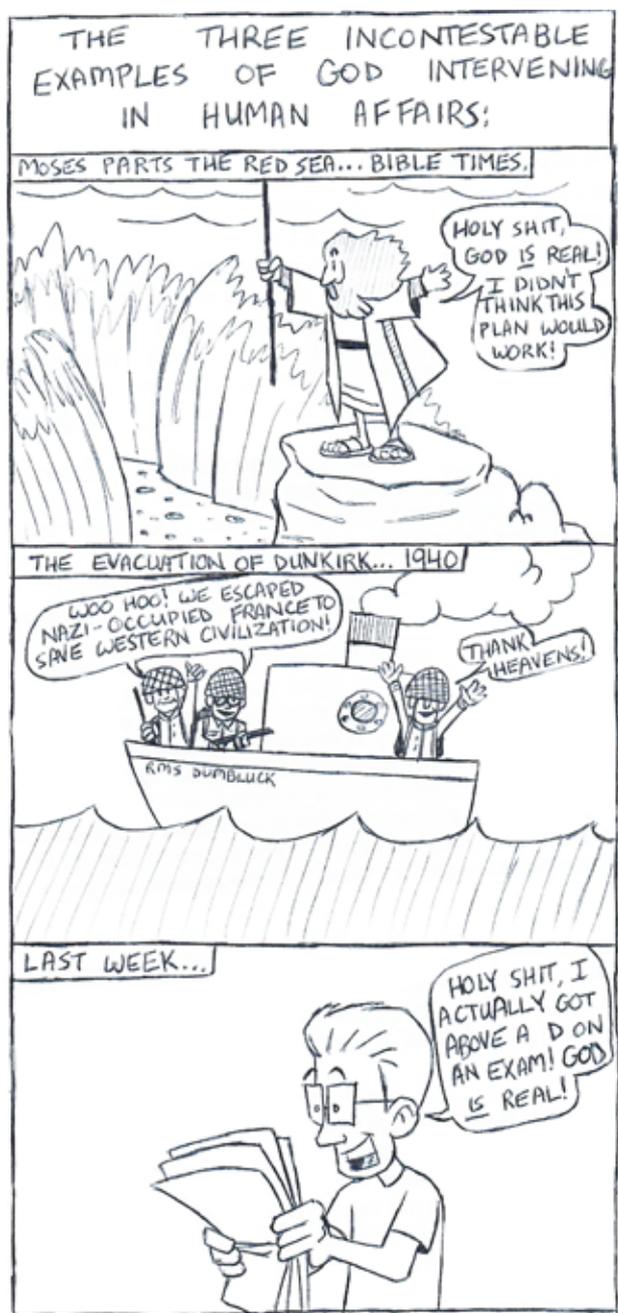
Just because the Earth can't speak

doesn't mean we aren't listening.

Don't let Earth Day pass you by without examining environmental policy and how you contribute. Make a difference in any way you can and protect Mother Earth.

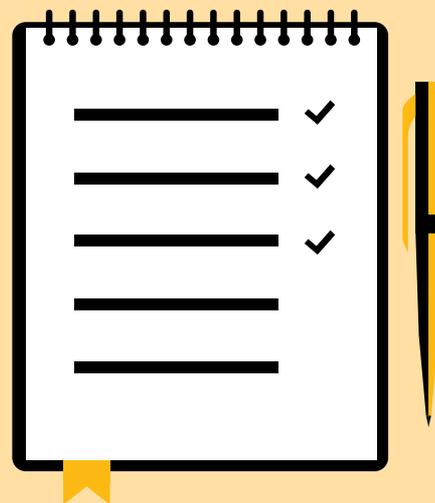


Graphic by: Hannah Way | Interim Production Assistant

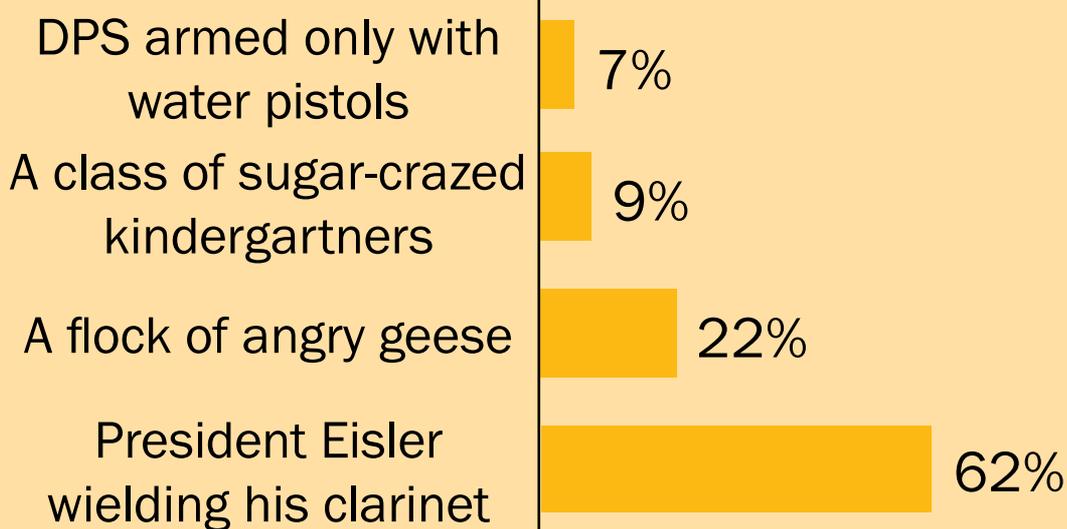


Cartoon by: Samuel McNeill | Cartoonist

# TORCH POLL RESULTS



Who would win in a fight?



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



**April 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00am-5:00pm**  
**University Center 202 A,B,C**  
[ferris.edu/DigitalMedia/mediafestival](http://ferris.edu/DigitalMedia/mediafestival)



**9:15am Jay Hoelscher**

Jay is the owner and operator of Think Chromatic, a small business that focuses on developing CGI content for products and space. Think Chromatic is a well-known agency to local and national companies that use CGI for photography replacement, augmented reality, virtual reality, and animation.



**10:30am Jeff Sukes**

Jeff Sukes is a Grand Rapids based Cinematographer and Camera operator. He has shot a variety of commercial and narrative projects both domestically and abroad. An avid traveler, Jeff has traveled to, and shot in, countries such as China, South Korea, Denmark, Italy, France, and Germany.



**11:45am Daniel He Wang**

Daniel is currently working on Spider-Man (PS4) as project manager at Insomniac Games, LA. He has also worked on AAA games such as For Honor, Far Cry Primal and Watch Dogs 2 for Ubisoft Shanghai Studio and his CGI credits for TV/Film include Trollhunters and Ratchet & Clank.



**1:30pm David VanTuyle**

David was born in Michigan and began drawing at an early age. This passion for art lead him to Grand Rapids where he studied animation and worked at Yeti CGI. David moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in storyboarding, working for studios such as Nickelodeon, DreamWorks, and Disney.



**2:45pm Don Perry**

Don is the CEO of Digital Diaspora Family Reunion LLC, which uses the intersection of history and visual literacy to bring people together. He is also Executive Producer for Family Pictures USA, a new television series in development, the pilot for which was shot in Detroit during the summer.



**4:00pm Mike Uguccioni**

Mike is a Visual Effects Artist based in Southern California. His career is vast with over 20 years of experience in feature film production. Recent work includes several academy award nominated films: The Revenant (2015), American Sniper (2014), American Hustle (2013), and Zero Dark Thirty (2012).

Co-sponsored by





# Ferris State University Tire Fire



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

Ferris students' seasonal depression transitions into regular old depression following Spring Equinox

Pg. 2

FSU President David Eisler vows to make up for enrollment decline and decreased budget by playing clarinet on street corners for tips

Pg. 3

Residence hall fire drill locks hundreds of freshmen outside in their pajamas, students set fire to building to retaliate

Pg. 4

Aging Tire Fire editor tries in vain to appeal to the youth

Pg. 512

## The Easter disaster



Ferris early childhood education senior Judy Mitz, along with dozens of other Ferris students, was unpleasantly surprised to find that they received none of the things pictured in the above photo.

### Religious holiday, or rude awakening that you're an adult?

Candi Fordaze  
Civil War Reenactor

This past Sunday, April 1, many college students found themselves with less than they deserved.

"I traveled back home for the holiday expecting a chocolate rabbit to be sitting on my desk at home but I found nothing," Ferris early childhood education senior Judy Mitz said. "At first, I thought it was an April Fool's joke but when I asked my mom about it, she said I'm too old for Easter baskets."

Mitz was shocked at this realization and believes that her mother has made a grave error in judgment when she declared no Easter baskets for the adults this

year, and no Easter egg hunting.

"Just because I knocked over my baby cousins trying to get Easter eggs last year doesn't mean I'm too old, it just means they need to toughen up," Mitz said. "Then my mom said I should just watch my cousins hunt this year. Why in the hell would I want to watch a bunch of 3-year-olds looking for eggs?"

As well as Mitz, Ferris psychology junior Fred Phillips discovered his home is no longer a host for Easter Sunday.

"I mean, what kind of sick joke is this?" Phillips said. "As soon as I got the call, I decided to stay on campus. A campus full of students—there's bound to be an Easter egg hunt going on."

Phillips was seen outside Sunday, walking around campus with an Easter basket looking lost and confused.

A day of excitement turned into a day of disappointment when Ferris biology senior Ashley Birdcough went home for Easter and found the Easter egg hunt was hosted Saturday—the day before she came home.

"They said I'd always be their baby and then they go and do this?" the 25-year-old said.

A petition is in the works demanding an Easter egg hunt to be hosted on campus next year for all the students whose parents no longer care about their children's well-beings.

#### Legal Disclaimer:

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

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

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

# Dealing with the bullworm

## Ferris administrators vote to take South Campus and push it somewhere else

Phil A. Buster  
Discount Defense Attorney

The reasoning behind building a new residence hall on the north side of campus while several sit uninhabited on the south side of campus has finally come to light.

“After much consideration by many very important, decision-making people, it has been decided that we’re going to take all of South Campus and PUSH it somewhere else,” a press release from the office of Ferris Vice President Jerry Scoby read.

The arrival of an Alaskan bullworm, an invasive species in Michigan, was cited as the reason such a decision was reached.

“After we shut down Merrill-Travis, Taggart and Miller Hall, it became a pretty obvious next step. We’ll just surrender that entire side of campus to the Alaskan bullworm,” Pantsnstuff said. “We actually wanted to tear those buildings down but we thought the heavy equipment might anger the worm.”

The press release goes on to describe the physically impossible manner in which administrators plan to push an entire side of campus elsewhere.

“We’ll need every Bulldog to come together to push. If we can just get everyone with hands on the south face of each building, we should be able to move it pretty easily,” the press release said.



FSU President David Eisler signed a peace treaty granting the Alaskan bullworm all of south campus in exchange for protecting north campus as a worm-free zone.

Ferris students were less optimistic about the plan.

“Is this an April Fool’s joke, or is Ferris really trying to bring a stupid, old Spongebob meme into practice? And are you seriously writing about it as if it’s still funny? This is ridiculous,” Ferris social work sophomore Brenda Morrissey said.

Others were more open to the idea.

“I hope they decide to push us closer to the bars. I hate having to stagger all the way back to Ward Hall after a night out,” Ferris undecided freshman Jake Haustich said.

At press time, Scoby was seen shouting, “PUUUUSH,” into a bullhorn while a few hundred students strained against buildings that weigh several tons and are anchored to the earth.

## The first word you see describes you!

B	I	L	L	O	R	E	I	L	L	Y	H
C	X	S	A	G	G	Y	T	I	T	S	T
Y	D	I	C	K	N	U	G	G	E	T	R
C	P	D	O	O	D	Y	H	E	A	D	C
M	R	P	F	I	N	B	R	E	D	W	Q
C	D	C	N	U	M	B	N	U	T	S	T
T	C	O	C	K	M	U	P	P	E	T	T
T	V	Z	A	C	C	I	D	E	N	T	U

# Here comes the F.A.R.T

## Big Rapids announces new Ferris Area Rapid Transit system



Out with the old SafeRide buses, in with the F.A.R.T. said Big Rapids officials.

Greta Garcia  
Banned From Walmart

Big Rapids Public Works director Ardith Crank announced the implementation of the new Ferris Area Rapid Transport system (F.A.R.T) yesterday at a press conference.

The F.A.R.T consists of connecting railways beneath the streets of Big Rapids and will be running 24/7 in an effort to provide constant transportation around town.

F.A.R.T stations will be near the following locations: Qdoba, Taco Bell, Star Shooters, the Gypsy Nickel, Walmart, Ewigleben Sports Complex, the University Center and the Rock. Hourly, daily and yearly passes will be available for purchase at F.A.R.T kiosks at every station. There will be discounts for students, children, seniors and frequent users.

We spoke with Crank about her plans for the F.A.R.T system.

"I'm really excited to release the F.A.R.T to the public, I think it will blow everyone away. I think the students especially will get a kick out of it. It's going to bring our community together," Crank said.

Torch reporters were unable to

keep it together during the press conference and were asked to leave. However, the Tire Fire reporters were able to suppress their laughter.

Community members attended the press conference and expressed their concern.

"Is the F.A.R.T going to smell bad? I know the D.A.R.T smells really awful, and all subways are known for their lack of cleanliness," Big Rapids citizen Randy Dallas inquired.

Crank assured Dallas that the only odor would be from the natural sulfur deposits in Big Rapids soil.

"This has got to be a joke right? We don't need a transportation system. Everyone has cars already. If we need anything, we need better parking! Why does no one understand that? They keep giving us things we don't ask for. No one wants the F.A.R.T.," Ferris junior graphic media management junior Sally Greyjoy said.

Tire Fire reporters were unable to confirm the exact date of the launch of the F.A.R.T, but were able to confirm that the F.A.R.T will be released around Thanksgiving.



### AskWoodbridge

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

"I'm looking for a book recommendation. Do you have any for me?"

- Bookworm Bill

Yeah, how about you read your textbook before lecture for once? Who am I kidding, you won't do that. Even if it is listed as a requirement in the syllabus.

Anyway, if that doesn't work for you, try out the book of my quotes for you to live by. They've got copies of it in the library but you're really better off getting your own copy on Amazon. I get a cut of all sales and you'll be able to refer to my genius anytime you want. Total win-win.

I'll give you a little sneak peek in case you're still on the fence. Tighten your shoelaces, because I'm hitting you with the quote that leads off chapter nine. "Please never defame nor sully my name by satirizing me on a monthly basis in some abhorrent psuedo-advice column." That's a real doozy, eh? Anyway, buy now and leave a nice review or you're kicked out of my school!

- Woodbridge

"What is it like to be Woodbridge Ferris? Walk me through a day in your life."

- Curious Cathy

I wake up, smoke a bowl, then usually watch cartoons for a while. Sometimes I put on a bow tie, sometimes I never get out of my sweats. Y'know, the usual stuff.

- Woodbridge

"I've been having this argument with a group of my friends for hours. I can see both sides but I really just want someone impartial to weigh in on it so that we can settle this once and for all. It's of the utmost importance.

Should a hotdog be considered a sandwich, or is it something else entirely?"

- Frankie the Foodie

I'm going to pitch you not an answer but an entire philosophy. Yes, a hotdog is a sandwich. Just as coffee is a soup, lasagna is a cake and sushi is a burrito. Nothing is as it seems and reality is just a projection of your own mind. Don't believe anything. Throw away your TV. Live vicariously through garden snails. You are the pope.

This guy must be stoned on another level to devote hours to something that dumb, so I gave him the only answer that will make sense in his current state.

- Woodbridge

"Can I get a birthday shoutout!?"

- [Name redacted]

You may not.

- Woodbridge

### Eisler Says:

"What does Brutus look like under the hockey jersey? Not in a pervy way but like, is it more like a dog body or a human body?"



# From the bathroom stall

Verses penned by Ferris poets and later discovered scrawled on bathroom stalls around campus

## "A Ferris State Haiku"

Henry David Thoreau  
Never One to Half-ass Things

There's never parking  
Snow and ice won't cancel class  
Don't call it a dorm

## "Welcome Home"

Edgar Allan Hoe  
Hot Topic Edgelord

My roommate doesn't knock  
He's always intruding  
My suitemate is next door  
I can hear him screwing

This concrete block home  
Cold and unforgiving  
Lacks any creature comfort  
Even air conditioning

How much am I paying  
for this 10 by 10 cell?  
My loan debt is mounting  
While I suffer through hell?

At least I'm not alone  
The RAs are quick to point out  
There's a program in the lobby tonight  
I'm skipping that, no doubt

Are we children or adults?  
Stop forcing friendship on me  
I'll throw a sock on the door  
If it means you'll leave me be

At least it's a place to lay my head  
I guess I can deal  
Wait never mind, what the fuck?  
ANOTHER fire drill?!

## "A Very Honest Love Poem"

Emily Dickinson  
Hey, get that out of your son!

The night we met, your eyes were  
shining

You said "I'm so drunk that I find  
you attractive" while throwing up  
and whining

Frankly, you aren't even my type

But I'm lonely and you actual-  
ly live close to me back home, I  
won't gripe

We don't have similar goals

You seem insecure, I guess that's  
cute since on my face I have seven  
moles

For you, I lower my expectations

But you're a decent kisser, so to  
myself I say, congratulations

I guess I could use the company

I mean, very few girls find me  
attractive, really not many

I'll break up with you in a few  
weeks

I won't even cry over you, no tears  
will escape my eye, not even a few  
leaks

Will I actually trust you?

Ha! No way, not even in a year,  
definitely not even two

Why should I be in a relationship  
then?

Because I just want a distraction  
from my own problems, when?

Right now!

I'm not waiting for my dream girl,  
no how

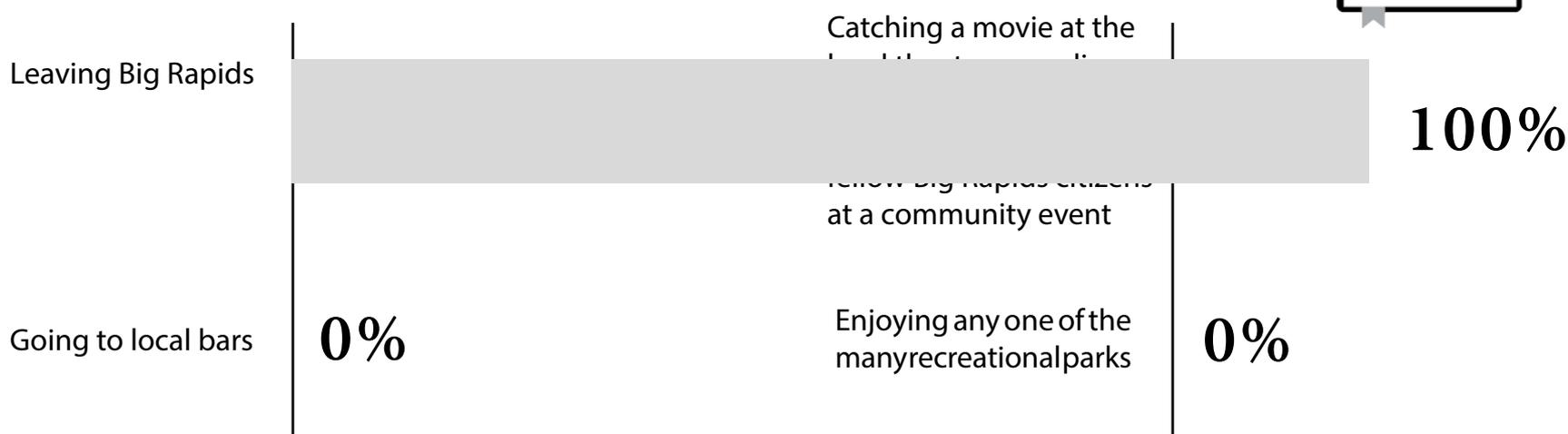
Anyways, we've been together for  
3 weeks, you should totally come  
over tonight

Don't worry, I don't even care  
about you enough to want to fight

# Tire Fire Poll Results



What's the best way to pass the time around Big Rapids?



Look, we weren't even supposed to print a paper last week but that whole basketball championship thing really screwed us over. We had to put together that whole special edition issue and I was going to use that time to work on the Tire Fire. Honestly, we kind of phoned this one in so just be cool about it and don't tell my boss.

Read the Tire Fire published during the last week of every month!

# SPORTS

“Anyone can bring 30 girls to a softball field and ask them to play but it takes special people to form bonds and chemistry with one another.”

- Lexee Summers - See page 11 for story

Brendan Samuels | Sports Editor | samuelb1@ferris.edu

## A long time in the making



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Torch Photographer

Redshirt freshman wing Jaylin McFadden smiles wide as he returns to Big Rapids with the national championship trophy. It was a historic season for the men's basketball team, as they broke several school records.

## Taking a look back at the Ferris men's basketball team's historic season

Now that the dust has settled on an unbelievable season, it's time to realize just how special this run was for the Ferris men's basketball team.

National Champions.

Forgive yourself for the goosebumps. After all, it is the first time in the history of Ferris that you can let those words fall from your lips.

What those men did on the court wasn't just for themselves or for basketball or an athletics department. It was for a community—a community created by the overwhelming passion displayed by all of those involved with Ferris.

Everybody knew that this team had the chance like many before it but the Bulldogs surpassed expectations with their



Jacob Carlson  
Torch Reporter

38-1 record on the year. The Bulldogs never lost on home court, including three matchups in the Division II regional tournament. Not once did anyone think “they can't do it.” This team was the epitome of greatness.

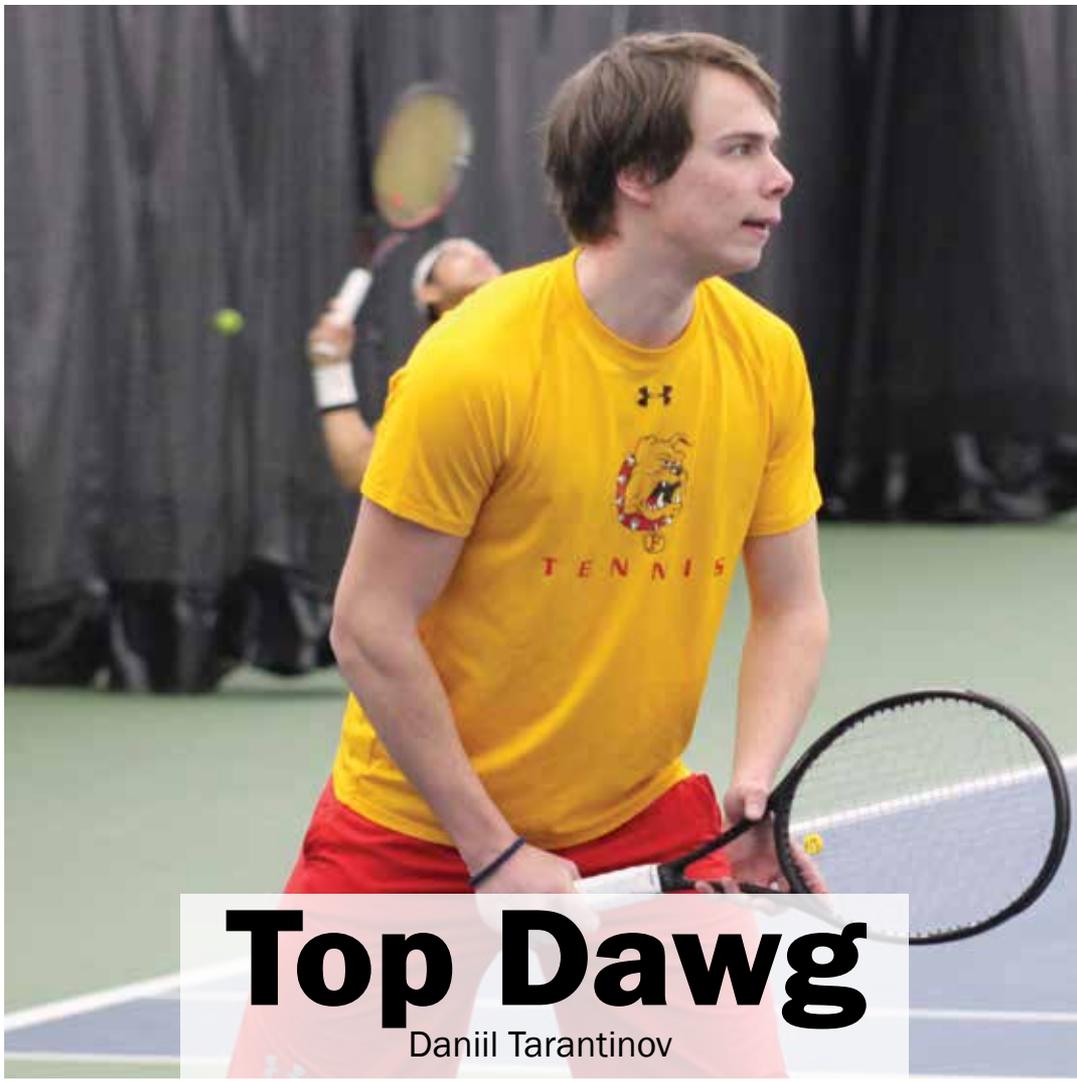
Many teams have tried. Only this team was able to accomplish it.

Only this team was able to accomplish this moment. The confetti. The mind-numbing noise that left ears ringing well into the next morning. The energetic crowd painted onto the hardwood after the clock hit zero. The records. The national championship.

A moment more than a hundred years in the making.

If you ask many people involved with Ferris Athletics, they'll be sure to remind you that they don't plan on this being the last national championship in school history but it will forever remain the first.

The 2017-18 Ferris men's basketball team: forever national champions.



# Top Dawg

Daniil Tarantinov

Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

**Danny Collins**  
Torch Reporter

This week's Top Dawg had an outstanding weekend on the tennis court as the No. 23 nationally-ranked Ferris men's tennis team held onto first place in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) standings.

Senior Daniil Tarantinov had a dominating weekend of play as the Bulldogs defeated the Northwood Timberwolves 7-2 on Thursday, March 29, and the Grand Valley Lakers 7-2 on Saturday, March 31.

Against the Timberwolves, Tarantinov won both singles matches 7-6 and 6-4. Tarantinov also paired up with sophomore Austin Debruyne to win the final doubles match 8-4. On Saturday, Daniil would continue his success as he went 2-1 in singles play and won his double match with Debruyne once again 8-4 over the Lakers.

Overall, Tarantinov went 6-1 on the weekend to help aid the Bulldogs to their 11th straight victory.

The team will be back in action against Edinboro, Pennsylvania, in a non-conference matchup on Friday, April 6, in Ohio.

# Swinging toward success

*Ferris men's tennis heating up at the right time*

**Jacob Carlson**  
Torch Reporter

The Ferris men's tennis team is riding an 11-game winning streak after defeating rival Grand Valley State University by a score of 7-2 Saturday, March 31.

The Bulldogs now sit with a 14-2 record overall while leading the charge in the GLIAC with an unbeaten 4-0 mark. After dropping two of their first five games on the year, it has been all business for the Bulldogs since.

"Overall, we've felt decent so far. We have managed to get on a nice win streak and build some momentum leading into conference but I think that we're all well aware that there's still some extra gears for us to push into," senior Simon Levy said.



Simon Levy

The Bulldogs have hit their stride at the perfect time as the team has five games remaining on their conference schedule before beginning the GLIAC tournament in the latter half of April. The Bulldogs currently sit atop the GLIAC standings, just ahead of Davenport University, who also sits with an undefeated 3-0 conference record.

Ferris is set to play Davenport at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, at the Ferris Racquet and Fitness Center. This matchup against the Panthers is just one of the many

tough games ahead.

"The next couple of weeks of conference play will be critical. There's a lot of work left to get done but our focus is to continue building on this momentum by getting our job done and to time our peak for end of season when it starts to come down the tournament, regionals and nationals," Levy said.

Though the success has become something to expect out of the program, this year, the Bulldogs have been excelling while also taking the challenge of a new head coach at the helm in Daniel Hangstefer.

Hangstefer, who had a wealth of success in the last few years at Metropolitan State University in Denver, Colorado, has helped the team make the adjustment quickly, preaching hard work and discipline to his team.

"Coach Hangstefer has brought a whole new dynamic to the team by focusing a lot more on the idea of discipline. If I could sum up his philosophy in a single quote it would be: 'success starts with being disciplined in the little things,'" Levy said. "Obviously, it's never easy undergoing such a drastic change in coaching styles, especially after having so much success but I think the team is slowly but surely starting to adjust."

The Bulldogs return to action on Friday, April 6, in Ohio where they play in a neutral site game against Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. The game start time is yet to be announced.



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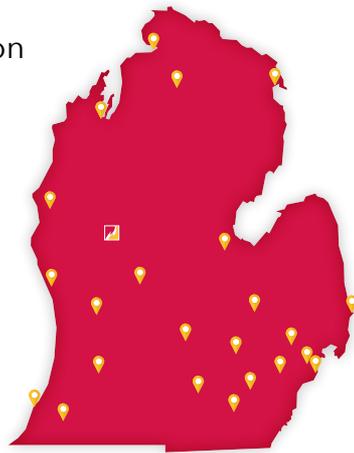
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## Sports Shorts

**Jacob Carlson**  
Torch Reporter

### Invitation to play Duke

The Ferris men's basketball team secured an invitation to play against the University of Duke in October for a preseason tilt between the two teams. After winning the Division II national championship, the Bulldogs were invited to play the Blue Devils at Cameron Indoor Stadium in Durham, North Carolina.

It's been an annual tradition for the Blue Devils to host the Division II defending champs since 2009. The Bulldogs have utilized preseason matchups against Division I opponents in the past, including a showdown in East Lansing with the Michigan State Spartans last fall.

The game is set to be played on a Friday in late October but details have yet to be announced.

### Spring ball underway

The Ferris football team has been hard at work the past few weeks getting ready for the 2018 season. The Bulldogs began spring football drills on March 13.

After making trips to at least the Division II quarterfinals in each of the past two seasons, the Bulldogs are getting prepared for their 110th season next year. The Bulldogs will be attempting to reach the playoffs for the fifth straight time in 2018.

In those past four years, the Bulldogs have gone 45-7 while winning two conference championships. The Bulldogs have also posted two unbeaten regular seasons in that span and reached the Division II national semifinals in 2016.

# The Dawg days are over



Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Freshman guard Adrienne Anderson takes a break to think over her team's game plan. The women's basketball team vastly improved this season, posting a 15-15 overall record.

## Ferris women's basketball season comes to an end

**Jessica Brown**  
Interim Reporter

The Ferris women's basketball season came to a close on March 3 with the Bulldogs suffering a 67-45 loss to rival Grand Valley in the GLIAC Tournament semifinals in Ashland, Ohio.

The Bulldogs came out firing, leading 24-21 at the half. However, GVSU outscored Ferris 26-11 in the final quarter to move into the league title game.

With the loss, Ferris closes the 2017-18 season with a record of 15-15 overall, making it the program's most wins since the 2011-12 season. This year also marked the Bulldogs' first GLIAC Tournament berth since 2013 and their first league semifinal finish since 2012.

The Bulldogs had to close their season and say goodbye to two veteran

players who made a lasting impact on the program.

Ferris senior guard Leah Humes from Bay City finished her Bulldog career as the team's highest scorer in the matchup against the Lakers, posting 11 points. Battling alongside Humes in the contest was fellow senior forward Rachel McInerney from Saginaw, who tallied six points and six rebounds for the Bulldogs.



Riley Blair

The two senior standouts have earned All-GLIAC accolades for the 2017-18 campaign and together have led the Bulldogs to the GLIAC Tournament Semifinals for the first time since 2012,

after an impressive upset win over second-seeded Michigan Tech in the quarterfinal-round on Feb. 28.

"Rachel and Leah both were major factors in the rebuilding of our program and they have left us all with an expectation for excellence," Ferris sophomore guard Riley Blair said, who pulled out six points in the contest against the Lakers.

Although they will be saying farewell to two strong leaders both on and off the court, a new chapter in Ferris women's basketball awaits. The Bulldogs will approach the future with a hopeful attitude as they look to improve on a successful season.

"We are all ready to put in work this offseason and over the summer," Blair said. "It's really exciting to see who is going to step up and take on some bigger roles next year."

# Looking for stability

## Ferris softball finds spark at midway point

**Danny Collins**  
Torch Reporter

The Ferris softball team is coming off a pair of tightly contested contests at Saginaw Valley State University Saturday, March 31, in which they lost both games in a GLIAC doubleheader.

The Bulldogs fell to the Cardinals 7-6 in the first matchup and then 8-4 in the second game. The second game was delayed due to heavy rain and harsh winds and was postponed until the morning.

The Bulldogs also dropped two games on opening day in Big Rapids in another GLIAC doubleheader against the Northwood Timberwolves Friday, March 30, in which they lost 5-2 and 2-1.

The team is currently under the helm of first year head coach Kristin Janes. Janes is a former Division II student-athlete in the GLIAC and has spent her last five years as the head coach at Fort Scott Community College in Kansas. She flipped a team that went 0-42 the year before she came in into a competitive NCAA Division II women's softball team in one of the best junior college conferences in the nation.

The Bulldogs are very excited to have Janes by their side this season.



Sam Bates

"One thing that Coach Janes has been stressing is making sure we all give 100 percent effort no matter what and to push ourselves to do better everyday," Ferris sophomore first basemen Katrina Merrick said.

The team is currently 9-17 overall on the season and now is 1-9 in conference play. The season has been a rollercoaster ride thus far, where the team has struggled to find consistent play.

"I think the key to consistent play would be scoring runners in scoring positions. We have struggled to get runners across home plate by not executing when hitting. We need to be more consistent at the plate," Ferris senior pitcher Sam Bates said.

The team has struggled to capitalize on scoring runs in year, as they currently sit in last place in the GLIAC with only 96 runs. The team has shown signs on the long ball this season, as there have been nine home runs thus far.



Lexee Summers

Many of the Bulldogs' contests this season could have been flipped around the other way. Seven of their losses have been decided by two runs or less, which goes to show the competitiveness of this team.

"Our team's best attribute is our chemistry. Anyone can bring 30 girls to a softball field and ask them to play but it takes special people to form bonds and chemistry with one another. And that chemistry is what makes a great team. Being able to bond on and off the field," Ferris senior second basemen Lexee Summers said. "Knowing each other in a softball aspect as well as a personal aspect. The better you get to know your teammates, the more familiar you can be with how they play, which makes playing next to one another easier."

Getting people on base and consistently keeping them in scoring position will be key for this team moving forward in conference play.

"I personally believe that Mrs. Coach Janes has stressed many things but she mainly stresses effort. Not giving up on plays, diving for balls to keep runners from advancing and giving it your all 100 percent of the time," Bates said. "Our team's best attribute is our togetherness. We are very close on and off the team. We focus on working as one team instead of one individual."

The Bulldogs will be back in action as they host the Ashland Eagles at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, for a doubleheader.

# The brothers Bronkema

## Andy and Luke Bronkema share success on the hardwood as head coaches

**Danny Collins**  
Torch Reporter

Landing a head coaching position can be difficult for some but for the family of Ferris men's basketball head coach Andy Bronkema, it seems to run in the blood.

"My dad was a coach. My parents went to every game. They supported our competitive nature. More importantly, they taught us who Jesus is and made sure we had balance," Andy said.

Andy and his brother Luke Bronkema are natives to McBain and both are living their dreams as head basketball coaches at the collegiate level. It hasn't come easy, however, as both have paid their dues to get to where they are today.

Andy is the fifth-year head coach for the national champions, Ferris men's basketball team, who has compiled a career record of 123-41 in his five years at the helm.

During his tenure, Andy has led the Bulldogs to four straight GLIAC Tournament championships, two-straight GLIAC regular season championships, a Midwest regional championship and a Division II national championship this past season.

Luke has just recently finished his second campaign as the Grand Rapids Community College Raiders basketball head coach. In two seasons, he has led the Raiders to a record of 43-22 and a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) District 9 championship in 2017-18.

As you can tell, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree in terms of success for these two brothers.

"Both Andy and I chose to pursue a degree in education with the idea of teaching and coaching after graduation. It's hard to speak for Andy but I always planned on being a high school teacher and coach," Luke said. "As the leader of our family, our father was and is a big influence on our lives in general. Throughout our childhood, his coaching and athletic director roles certainly influenced our world views and shaped the vision for our own future careers."

The two brothers faced off against one another for the



Luke Bronkema



Photo by: Keith Salowich | Web Supervisor

Men's basketball head coach Andy Bronkema reacts to play on the hardwood. Basketball runs in the blood of the Bronkema family it seems, as Andy's brother Luke is also a collegiate head coach.

first time this season in an early season exhibition matchup in Big Rapids on Oct. 28 in which the Bulldogs defeated the Raiders 103-58.

"Our family growing up was very competitive. Our dad was a coach. Our group friends loved to play all sports. So coaching was a logical option—something that evolved from the love of competition," Andy said.

The two brothers have the utmost respect for one another on and off the court as well and they have even learned new coaching strategies along the way.

Both brothers are graduates of McBain High School and Cornerstone University, where they both were student-ath-

letes on the basketball court. The brothers enjoyed success at McBain where they won a state championship and they also made the national tournament every season at Cornerstone.

Success is something that has been molded into these two men at a young age and they have continued their hard work, dedication and persistence to get to where they are today.

Andy Bronkema has established a championship culture at FSU and you can tell that Luke is not far behind from doing that with the GRCC Raiders.

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# LIFESTYLES

"It's a fun process altogether, even though it takes a lot of work sometimes."  
- Ashley Batton - See page 14 for story

Alicia Jaimes | Lifestyles Editor | jaimesa@ferris.edu

## That time of the year

blackbear set to perform at upcoming Music Takes Action

**Briana Hammontree**  
Torch Reporter

Music Takes Action. That time of the year when students can let loose for a day and forget about the worries of upcoming finals.

This year's performance will see alternative hip-hop artist blackbear at Ferris' Wink Arena.

blackbear, originally born as Matthew Tyler Musto, is known for his style being a cross of Justin Bieber and The Weeknd and has collaborated with other famous names such as G-Eazy, Pharrell Williams and Childish Gambino.

Some of his most popular songs on Spotify include: "idfc," "do re mi" and "i miss the old u."

"idfc," which came out in 2015 on his album "Deadroses," has a rate of more than 140,205,766 listeners on Spotify, while his hit "do re mi," which came out 2017 on his album "digital druglord," has 176,212,612 listeners.

Ferris music industry management senior Reanna Kettle is a Music Takes Action coordinator who has been listening to his music more since learning he will be performing at Ferris.



Reanna Kettle

"His lyrics are powerful and can truly tell a story," Kettle said.

In addition to blackbear performing, the event will also have concessions and merchandise for sale.

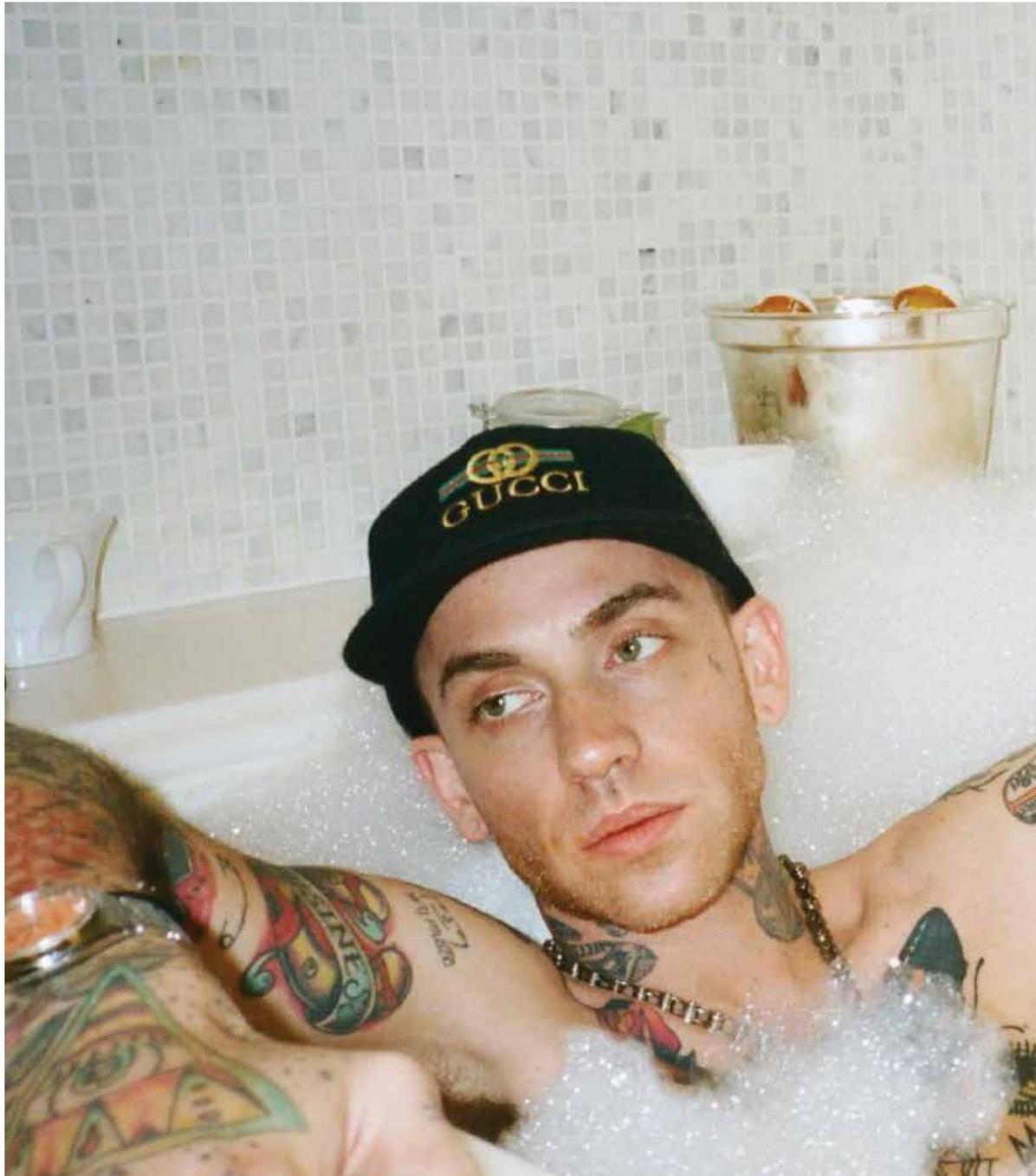
Having been preparing for the event since early September, Ferris music industry management junior Miranda Vesko has been listening to blackbear's music for three years now and is excited to see how the overall event turns out.

"My favorite part of the process so far was choosing an artist. It was fun to see who was in our price range and look up all kinds of different music. Selling out the show was also very exciting. I think the day of the show will take over as my favorite part once it starts," Vesko said.

Ferris music industry management sophomore Ally Bala acts as hospitality head for event, with her role being making sure the artist's requests are met.

"I saw him in Detroit last year and he put on a great performance, so I know he'll put on a great show for Ferris," Bala said.

blackbear will be performing at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 7, in the Wink Arena.



Promotional image

You can check out some of blackbear's latest hits on Spotify before his performance Saturday, April 7, in Wink Arena.



## "Nailed It!"



Promotional image

Oven mitts are on. It's time to see who nails it and who fails it.

"Some shows are dedicated to the best baker in the world. This is not one of them," "Nailed It!" host Nicole Byer said.

The Netflix original series "Nailed It!" is a fast-paced series that favors the underdog. With one hour on the clock, the bakers are given a dessert that they need to recreate to the best of their abilities. During this time, bakers can call for help once as well as use emergency buttons that are offered to certain contestants. The end products are judged on appearance, taste and the slice that's cut for the judges.

What's interesting about "Nailed It!" is that there is a winner in every episode. I favor this because there are too many competitive shows that make you wait 20 episodes just to discover they chose the



Alicia Jaimes  
Lifestyles Editor

contestant you hated most.

Contestants make various types of baked goods from cookies to cake pops to good old-fashioned cake, all for a chance to win a \$10,000 prize.

Along with Nicole Byer is judge Jacques Torres as well as a special guest judge for every episode. Released March 9, 2018, this six-episode series is light-hearted, fun and of course, hilarious.

Whether this show makes me want to improve my baking skills or veg on the couch eating cake, I'll never know.

# Game on

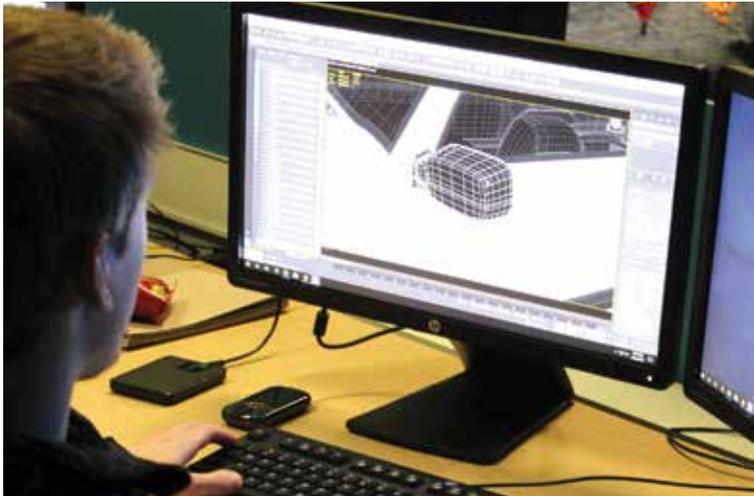


Photo by: Abbey Good | Multimedia Editor

MEGA encourages collaboration among members when creating game worlds in hopes of preparing them for future projects.

## All hands on deck

**Jordan Johnigan**  
Interim Reporter

Every step in life is made easier through the culmination of the knowledge of our peers. The makers of engaging games and animations (MEGA) RSO hosts heavy involvement from digital animation and game design (DAGD) students.

MEGA aims to improve their students' abilities by honing their design skills in a time-sensitive manner to prepare students for crunch-time-scenarios. Given 10 to 30 minutes to draw concept art for a hypothetical game, students are able to let their creative energy and self-expression to flow freely.

"Show up, everything you want to do is going to take a lot of time but surrounding yourself with people that are better than you will help you

out an exponential amount," Ferris DAGD junior and media communications association president Jono Eaton said.

College is one of the only times to network with young minds in your field through conferences and everyday interactions. MEGA is dedicated to the simultaneous development of skill sets and social skills to best prepare its members for careers in the field of digital animation and game design.



Jono Eaton

"Our main goal is to build a sense of community within the school," Ferris DAGD junior and MEGA President Dannielle Rogers said.

- MEGA IS OPEN TO ALL MAJORS
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- CONTACT GARYMAIXNER@FERRIS.EDU FOR FURTHER INFO

# Behind the curtains



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Torch Photographer

Entertainment Unlimited hosts many events around campus from Grocery Bingo to bringing major artists to campus.

## Ferris' unsung heroes

**Holly Baker**  
Torch Reporter

When Ferris pre-nursing junior Ashley Batton joined Entertainment Unlimited (EU), she didn't know she would meet some of her best friends.

"Entertainment Unlimited is the campus programming board. We bring things like comedians, magicians, speakers, music and five-star events. I'm the vice president of the program, and I probably spend the same amount of time doing homework as Entertainment Unlimited," Batton said.

EU has become a family for

the students who participate in it. These students, including Ferris music industry management sophomore Ally Bala, spend close to 10 hours working together each week.



Ashley Batton

Along with previous connections to agencies, EU attends a conference annually to carefully choose entertainment to bring to campus.

"It helps us decide what we want, because you usually get to see a 15-minute act that they would normally do. It's a fun process altogether, even though it takes a lot of work sometimes," Batton said.

As well as EU's opinion, they

try to ensure they are bringing someone students will like to campus by frequently surveying students for feedback on what they want to see in the future.



Sammi McCoy

"Our events offer students the opportunity to stop stressing about school and go attend something fun for an hour to take a break. It's free, and anyone can come. There's not a lot of opportunities like that out there," McCoy said.

To join EU or if you have any questions, there are weekly meetings on Mondays at 6 p.m. in UC 217, or visit their office in CLACS.

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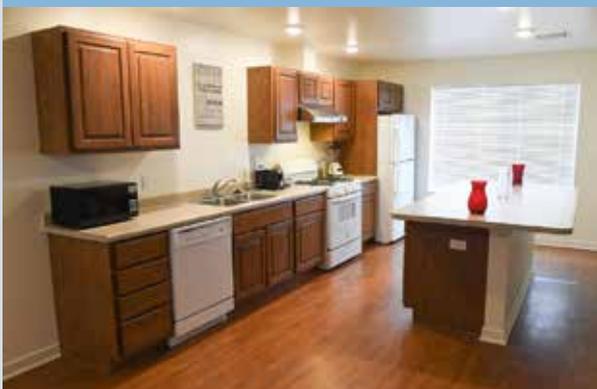


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