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HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

THE BARE MINIMUM

Michigan state senators have passed legislation that will push back the \$12 minimum wage to 2030 instead of 2022. See what students think about the new wage law.

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SHOWCASING OUR DIFFERENCES

As you pack up to head home for the holidays, read how students will be spending their winter break.

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Counterfeit conundrum

Counterfeit bills appear in Big Rapids and Ferris campus

Dan Deitsch
Torch Reporter

Fake \$20 bills have been popping up all around Big Rapids, and the source of the counterfeit currency has yet to be identified.

Thursday, Nov. 29, Ferris Student Financial Services announced reports of counterfeit bills being used throughout Big Rapids, along with one instance on Ferris' campus, but there is no further information at this time.

"I think I would be able to see the difference if someone said, 'There's a fake dollar bill, and there's a real dollar bill,'" Ferris business administration senior Kelly Babcock said.



Kelly Babcock

"But in a market situation, if I get handed a dollar bill, I would put it in my purse and not think anything of it."

According to Ferris Student Financial Services, identifying counterfeit notes has become more difficult. Special pens are used when identifying faux banknotes, which apply an iodine-based ink to the bill. If the bill is genuine, the pen should either leave a yellow or colorless mark. However, these new counterfeit bills in Big Rapids are having the same reactions as actual bills, making it harder to identify them.



Jordan Lee

"The fact that it's coming to campus is frustrating," Ferris biotechnology senior Jordan Lee said.

Once a counterfeit bill is exchanged anywhere on campus, Ferris employees are required to gather information from the customer that exchanged the counterfeit bill. Employees are not allowed to keep that customer on campus and are expected to accept the bill regardless if it's real or fake.



Madison Slater

"I work with money, but I've never once thought about looking at any bill to see if it's fake or not," Ferris marketing junior Madison Slater said. "So it gets me thinking, should I be looking?"

According to the United States Secret Service, as of 2015, an estimated \$147 million of counterfeit currency is in circulation globally, with about 60 percent circulation through the United States. The \$20 bill is the most common banknote to be counterfeited in the U.S, with the \$100 bill being the most counterfeited overseas.

"I've worked with money a good deal," Ferris industrial engineering junior Travis Whaley said. "The only difference I feel like you could probably

tell that they're on the newer looking side. A lot of money that people handle is weathered and worn a little bit."

In recent years, Americans have started carrying less cash. According to the New York Post, a study conducted by Capital One showed that 1 in 4 Americans do not carry cash with them regularly. For millennials, the ratio is even lower, with 1 in 3 millennials saying they do not carry cash regularly.



Travis Whaley



Photo by: Taylor Davis | Torch Photographer

A Ferris employee uses a pen with iodine-based ink to check for signs of a counterfeit bill. The new counterfeit bills in Bid Rapids are having the same reaction as real dollar bills, making them nearly impossible to identify

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NEWS

“Being here means I’m not alone.” - Andrew Mende - See page 4 for story

Cora Hall | News Editor | hallc36@ferris.edu

Cities shun Proposal 1



Photo by: Taylor Davis | Torch Photographer

Cities in Michigan are allowed to opt out of the newly passed legislation that allows individuals 21 years and older to possess and use marijuana. Grand Haven, Spring Lake and Hudsonville are some of the cities that have already chosen to opt out.

Several jurisdictions opting out after recreational marijuana legislation

Landry Shorkey
Torch Reporter

Recreational marijuana has been legalized in Michigan, but the debate surrounding its use is still far from over.

Despite the recent passage of Proposal 1, which allows individuals aged 21 and older to possess and use marijuana, several cities are choosing to opt out.

According to WZZM 13 News, municipalities can ban the use of marijuana in public spaces and ban facilities where it can be recreationally purchased. However, this process of opting out does not prohibit its use on private property.



Ethan Hart

“I think it should be statewide, so I think they shouldn’t be able to kind of delegate their own rules by county,” Ferris welding engineering sophomore Ethan Hart said. “I feel like it just causes more difficulties or more confusion with the laws.”

It is currently unclear whether or not the city of Big Rapids will vote to opt out, but Hart said that he would disagree with the decision to do so.



Keyera Allen

“Personally, I don’t really agree with it. It’s a college town, so you’re going to have it either way, so you might as well make it legal and make as much money as you can off it for the state,” Hart said.

Grand Haven, Spring Lake and Hudsonville are among the cities who have already decided to opt out.

“They should be able to. It’s all about choice. You can’t make somebody accept something,” Ferris business administration sophomore Keyera Allen said. “People don’t like change.”

According to MLive, the new Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Recreational Marijuana Act prevents the opening of any recreational marijuana business within 1,000 feet of a school.

This poses a problem for individuals hoping to purchase

recreational marijuana in some communities, such as the town of Essexville in eastern Michigan. In Essexville, you are never more than 1,000 feet from a school. Therefore, the community is legally unable to have recreational marijuana businesses, and the city council voted to opt out regardless.

Other cities, such as Mount Pleasant, have taken a completely hands-off approach for now. According to the Morning Sun, the city is waiting for the state to create its own regulations and will then decide whether or not to opt out.

Ferris pre-med freshman Antavia Hagger said cities shouldn’t be able to opt out unless recreational use leads to adverse effects, such as an increase in car accidents.



Antavia Hagger

“It depends over a period of time, like the effects that it has. If everything is fine, then I don’t think Big Rapids should be able to opt out just because,” Hagger said. “I don’t think just for no reason they should opt out because they think it’s bad.”

Michigan cannabis activists Rick Thompson and Jamie Lowell visited Ferris Wednesday, Nov. 28, for a “Marijuana is Legal – What Now?” discussion to explain more about the legalization of marijuana.

While it may be legal statewide, Ferris students should be mindful of university policy, which prevents the use and possession of marijuana on campus even if Big Rapids does not opt out.

“Remember that all laws don’t necessarily apply to all citizens equally, and unfortunately as college students you have a whole different set of rules that you have to be governed by that don’t necessarily work in conjunction with Prop 1, which means that on campus your behavior is regulated by campus rules, not necessarily the legalization policy,” Thompson said.

What is “opting out?”

When a city or county opts out of Proposal 1, they:

- Ban or limit the use of recreational marijuana in public spaces
- Ban or limit businesses where recreational marijuana can be purchased

The above information was found at WZZM 13.

Contract complications

Ferris allegedly violated the terms of the faculty contract

Grant Siddall and Cora Hall
Torch Reporter and News Editor

The Ferris Faculty Association (FFA) will be filing grievances against the university over what they allege are unpaid wages and a breach of contract.

Less than one month has passed since the FFA and Ferris agreed on the terms of a contract and yet the FFA is arguing that Ferris has already violated that contract. As stated in the contract, Ferris owes FFA members a \$1,841 salary raise spread out over their remaining pay checks for the 2018-19 school year.

However, Ferris is refusing to pay the increase for the weeks that faculty were not under the current contract, June to November, and are spreading the dollar amount over the whole year, resulting in about \$700 in losses for



Kevin Maloy

faculty members. Ferris said that by paying the full \$1,841 they would be violating Michigan law, which prevents retroactive pay of contractual increases.

“The university believes the contract language concerning the first-year salary increase is clear and applied properly. The Ferris Faculty Association’s position is not supported by the clear language of the written agreement, and their interpretation would violate Michigan law which prohibits the retroactive application of contractual increases reached in negotiations,” Ferris communications officer Michelle Rasmussen said.

The FFA is arguing that the payment was never discussed as being retroactive in negotiations, and therefore does not violate the law. FFA President and physical sciences professor Charles Bacon also said this issue was discussed beforehand during the negotiations.



Charles Bacon

“We discussed this within our team because we knew they would try something like this. As such, I asked [President David Eisler’s lawyer, Jim Greene] point blank, ‘The dollar amount of \$1,841 per faculty will be paid over the remaining pay periods.’ His answer was, ‘Yes, that’s right,’” Bacon said.

Many students are wondering why the faculty members are not being paid the additional money and what will come of the situation.

“I think that it’s terrible, and that it kind of justifies the FFA’s distrust of the university. It kind of feels like the university doesn’t have enough respect for the FFA,” Ferris secondary education sophomore Collin Tenpleman said.

The allegations of a breach of contract likely won’t help the increasingly rocky relationship between the FFA and Eisler. In early October, a vote of no-confidence aimed at



Collin Tenpleman

Eisler received 88.5 percent support of faculty. Many of the FFA’s informational handouts also took aim at Eisler and some faculty and students expect the FFA to resume demonstrations against Eisler and Ferris if the payment issue isn’t resolved.

“Not honoring [the contract] and asking the teachers to choose between supporting their students and making the ethical decision of doing something they enjoy and think is important in educating people and making professionals, and something that is rightly deserved of them is a huge problem.” Ferris secondary education junior Kevin Malloy said.

As to why the university might be trying to withhold the money, Bacon, who described Ferris as unethical for the alleged violation, doesn’t believe it has to do with the law, but is rather a personal attack on faculty.

“It’s called retaliation,” Bacon said. “There was no confusion. We clarified this with them but they have chosen to not be honorable.”

- ON THE RECORD -

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

Puff, puff, Puterbaugh

Cora Hall
News Editor

Yellow means slow down not speed up

Nov. 22, 8:32 p.m., officers investigated misdemeanor traffic violations at Ferris Drive and Perry Avenue. One subject was arrested.

The stop sign wasn't a suggestion

Nov. 24, 10:15 a.m., officers responded to a report of misdemeanor traffic violations at Bond Circle and Ferris Drive. One appearance ticket was issued.

Puff puff Puterbaugh

Nov. 25, 11:59 p.m., officers received a report of a controlled substance violation in Puterbaugh Hall. Two subjects were referred

to the Office of Student Conduct.

Again, how does this relate to campus?

Nov. 26, 2:08 p.m., officers investigated a report of an obstruction of justice that occurred Nov. 24 at Niles and Napier Street in St. Joseph. The incident was referred to the 77th District Court.

More hugs, less drugs

Nov. 27, 7:03 p.m., officers responded to a report of a controlled substance violation in Puterbaugh Hall. Two subjects were referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Gotta blast

Nov. 27, 7:26 p.m., officers received a report of a hit and run in Lot 55. The investigation is still open.

NEWS BRIEFS

Cora Hall
News Editor

Hypnotist Tom DeLuca

Let your mind be controlled at Hypnotist Tom DeLuca's show, presented by Entertainment Unlimited (EU) 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 5. A long-standing Ferris tradition, DeLuca's show includes audience members and humor, and will be held in Williams Auditorium. For more information, contact EU at eu@ferris.edu.

Silent auction

Support the Ferris United Way Campaign by bidding in the silent auction noon to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, in UCB 203. All funds raised will go to the Mecosta-Osceola United Way. For more information, contact Jeanine Ward-Roof at 231-591-3578.

President's Holiday Celebration

Join President David Eisler and Patsy Eisler at their Holiday Celebration 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, in the University Center. For more information, contact Paul Leek at PaulLeek@ferris.edu.

Circle of Tribal Nations meeting

Attend the Circle of Tribal Nations meeting 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, in SCI 231. Tribal and non-tribal people are encouraged to join in sharing cultures through stories, music, dance and more. The organization is dedicated to expanding public awareness and preservation of tribal cultures. For more information, contact Scott Herron at herrons@ferris.edu.

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

Cora Hall
News Editor

Manila, Philippines

Three police officers were sentenced to up to 40 years in prison Thursday, Nov. 29, for murdering a 17-year-old boy in the wave of killings prompted by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs. Nearly 5,000 people are suspected to have been killed by police since Duterte's 2016 campaign and he said he would pardon any officers found guilty of murder carrying out his mission. Duterte has not yet pardoned the officers, but officials have speculated he may keep that promise.

Original story by Jason Gutierrez. Nov. 29, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Beijing, China

A scientist has been suspended as a result of his claims that he created the world's first genetically edited babies, twin girls who were born this month. China's vice minister of science and technology said that Dr. He Jiankui's work will be investigated as he has appeared to have "blatantly violated China's relevant laws and regulations"

and violated the ethics the academic community adheres to. Dr. Jiankui expressed his pride in his work at a conference last week and officials are still unclear as to whether there is another genetically edited baby in utero.

Original story by Sui-Lee Wee. Nov. 29, 2018. *The New York Times*.

United States

Friday, Nov. 30, George H.W. Bush, the 41st president of the United States, died at his home in Houston at the age of 94. The father of the 43rd president George W. Bush, he had a form of Parkinson's disease that made him wheelchair-bound in recent years. Bush served in the White House from 1989 to 1993 and served more than 40 years in the public service. He was also a decorated Navy pilot and helped end four decades of Cold War, was a two-term congressman from Texas, ambassador to the United Nations, U.S. envoy to China, director of the Central Intelligence Committee and vice president under Ronald Reagan.

Original story by Adam Nagourney. Nov. 30, 2018. *The New York Times*.

Areas of Big Rapids under boil water advisory

Residents advised to boil water before consumption

Megan Lewton
Editor in Chief

As a result of a loss of pressure in areas of the Big Rapids water supply, parts of the city are under a boil water advisory issued Tuesday, Dec. 4.

According to a press release by Mecosta County Emergency Management, the loss of pressure creates a higher probability of bacterial contamination in the water.

The press release said the boil water advisory affects parts of the city north of Woodward Ave., north of Chestnut St. and north and east of Cypress St. A university-wide notice stated that the advisory also affects areas on campus, such as the Prakken Building, Alumni Building and West Building.

According to the release, residents of these areas are advised to not consume the water without first boiling it to kill any bacteria or other organisms present. Water should be boiled prior to drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes and food preparation. Use of bottled water is also recommended. Drinking fountains in the Prakken, Alumni and West Buildings should not be used.

It is unknown when the advisory will be lifted, but it is anticipated that the issue will be resolved within 48 hours. However, residents should continue to boil their water until they have been notified otherwise.

Torch Corrections

Did we make a mistake?
Let us know!

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

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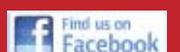
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A cup of coffee and community

Ferris's LGBTQ+ Resource Center is a place where students can just be themselves

Madison Kettlewell
Torch Reporter

LGBTQ+ students have found a community at Ferris through events put on by the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, such as their weekly coffeehouses.

Ferris digital animation and game design sophomore Andrew Mende said he was a part of an LGBTQ+ group at his previous school, which ultimately drove him to apply for a job at the center once he was on campus.



Andrew Mende

"I feel more comfortable about myself now that I work here. It's really boosted my confidence, and I think it's done that for a lot of people. I see a lot of community here, and I see a lot of people meeting each other, becoming friends and interacting," Mende said. "Being here means I'm not alone. It means that if I ever need anything, the people here can be there for me and I can be there for them. It's a good security to have."

Established this past spring, the LGBTQ+ Resource Center's objective is "to promote understanding, acceptance, and visibility of the LGBTQ+ community by creating, educating, and advocating, and nurturing a healthier and compassionate environment for all," according to their website.

Ferris television and digital media production sophomore Emily Perry said the center is a place that has knowledge and resources for people looking for all kinds of information.

"I absolutely love it. I try and go to all of their events, and it's a lot of fun. I get to meet a lot of people, and I hopefully get to help them," Perry said.

Perry is also Vice President of Advocacy and Education of Gender Identity and Sexuality (AEGIS). AEGIS is a registered student organization (RSO) at Ferris that advocates for LGBTQ+ students.

"I like to be involved with the center, and the community and outreach on campus, in hopes of educating more people, creating a safer community for LGBTQ+ students and just helping people out," Perry said.

New LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coordinator Sarah Doherty started her career working at the LGBTQ+ Resource Center at Cornell University in 2003.

"I was excited that Ferris had opened a LGBTQ+ Center



Photo by: Hunter Pariseau | Interim Photographer

Ferris television and digital media production sophomore Emily Perry attended the coffeehouse on Wednesday, Nov. 28, at the LGBTQ+ Resource Center. She said she wants to create a safe community for LGBTQ+ students and so she tries to attend all the center's events.



Sarah Doherty

because I knew that there was a need," Doherty said. "It's important for students to find resources and try to start and build, and shift the culture of the university in places that it needs to be shifted and make it as fabulous as it can be because I feel like it could be really fabulous."

Although Doherty has only been working at Ferris for six weeks, the new coordinator has many plans for the future.

"My hope is that I will be able to partner

with people across the community and have some spaces for some deep conversations about the vast diversity of experiences and identities, and communities and histories of LGBTQ+ folks," Doherty said. "What does justice and freedom for every LGBTQ+ person look like? Not only justice for the sort of people in the media or the people who have the money to push their own political agendas. What does it look like if we're actually paying attention to all of us?"

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center hosts coffee houses every Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m. in the University Center.

Happy Holidays

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The bare minimum

Michigan legislation moves minimum wage raise to 2030

Madison Kettlewell
Torch Reporter

Employees in Michigan will have to wait a little longer for a higher minimum wage and will get fewer sick days as a result of legislation

recently passed. Michigan state senators decided to adopt the measures in September, which would then allow

Minimum wage | see page 4

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The best way to spread Christmas cheer

The FSU Concert Choir sang their hearts out at their Holiday show 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, at Big Rapids High School. The concert choir is the largest vocal ensemble at Ferris.

Photo by: Kaitlyn Kirchner | Torch Photographer

Minimum wage

Continued from page 3

legislation to make future changes to the bill with just a majority of the vote instead of two-thirds. The minimum wage law would have raised the minimum wage to \$12 an hour by 2022, but the now-approved changes have slowed the increase to \$12 per hour by 2030, an additional eight years.



Trinity Palasek

Ferris nursing freshman Trinity Palasek said. "The place that I work at is really struggling right now with keeping up with their finances and everything, so they're cutting people's hours. If we increase the minimum wage, that's just more money that they're losing and more hours that they have to cut."

In addition, changes to the bill reduced the proposed amount of paid sick time an employee can acquire. Employees now acquire one hour of paid sick time for every 40 hours worked, instead of the previous one hour earned for every 30 worked.

"I think it's kind of ridiculous, but I also think that minimum wage is just a way of starting a job and starting a position," Ferris hospitality management junior Rebekah Pioch said. "It's a good way to start out a beginning job. But if you want to earn a higher wage,

then you need to earn a degree and shoot for that higher wage."

Ferris economics professor Alexander Cartwright said that minimum wage causes unemployment, and a higher minimum wage will increase unemployment.

"Economists often say 'There is no free lunch.' Whenever you choose to do one thing, you give up the opportunity to do another. If we choose to raise the minimum wage, this comes with a cost: higher unemployment, fewer jobs and a less competitive economy," Cartwright said. "Are those costs worth the benefits? Michigan citizens will need to decide that, but I think we would be better off if we focused our energy on other policies that would both help our workers and economy."



Rebekah Pioch

Both bills adopted by the Senate on Wednesday and signed by Governor Rick Snyder to become law.



Alexander Cartwright

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LIFESTYLES

"I operate with my tried and true method, and I like to call it the 'one-two-three screw it.'" - Marley Tucker - See page 7 for story

Alicia Jaimes | Lifestyles Editor | jaimesa@ferris.edu

Hindsight is 20/20

Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me

Briana Hammontree
Torch Reporter

Ferris forensic biology junior Eileen Nelson has come to understand the importance of finals preparation.



Eileen Nelson

According to Nelson, she used to stay up the night before and cram for her tests, but after realizing it wasn't helping her grades, she decided to change her approach on how to take her finals.

"Finals week is cumulative, and you can always go back and start preparing for what's to come. For things that maybe you haven't seen in months, I would start doing that

right now. I wouldn't wait the week before or day of, or whatever the case may be," Nelson said.

Her own mistake has taught her the valuable lesson that sleep is a student's friend when it comes to finals week.

"Staying up all night and studying for tests doesn't help you do any better - I promise you that. If you get a longer night sleep and are more awake and prepared in the morning, you'll do better than if you spent all night cramming for the test the next day," Nelson said.

The British Journal of Medicine and Medical Research found that students who slept at least six to 10 hours within 24 hours before an exam received higher exam scores compared to those who slept fewer hours, according to sciencedomain.org.

Since changing her study habits, Nelson has found studying to be more manageable, primarily by

focusing on planning her weeks out in advance.

"I think setting goals is really important, and I think writing it down and saying, 'I'm going to get this done today,' and checking it off is helpful to see it in front of you," Nelson said.

Other students find that their issues with studying don't lie within sleep - although getting enough sleep is essential - but in the assignments themselves.

For Ferris graphic design freshman Lauren Honama, her moment of hindsight came during finals preparation for a previous art history course she took.

"We had to write an essay, and she was like, 'It's going to be on one of these five topics, but I'm only going to let you do one.' So, I ended up thinking it was for sure going to be this one piece and I memorized it, but it ended up being one that I looked at for not even 30 minutes. So, I was like, 'Oh,'" Honama said.



Lauren Honama

However, sometimes mistakes made in studying and finals week are nothing more than the cause of many performance malfunctions: test anxiety.

"I get like test anxiety so when I don't learn the information right away, or I don't take notes right away, I'll like, second-guess myself on a test and think I won't do that well. I worry until I get my test grade back. It's just not comfortable," Ferris pre-radiography sophomore Kelsey Harrigan said.

For all of these issues, mayoclinic.org recommends a few common solutions: eat plenty of food, avoid sugary drinks, focus on exercise and get plenty of sleep.

"I'm very much a writing person to learn. So writing and taking notes really helps me to learn stuff and remember stuff!"
- Sydney Ritsema
Criminal Justice freshman

school is now in session

"I would definitely tell them to take advantage of the learning center in FLITE. If they need help on something, just head over there and get help from somebody. It's a really good tool, especially with math or science classes."
- Kelsey Harrigan
Pre-radiography sophomore

"I would say start studying earlier and make sure you're giving yourself time to absorb the information earlier. Also, go to bed early too. Good night sleep is always good to take a test. Eat breakfast the morning of. Don't try to cram the information - with cramming you just get overwhelmed."
- Amber Anderson
Pre-pharmacy Junior

"I minimize distractions. I try to study alone. I've never been fond of studying in groups because certain people can get distracting. I basically have distractions, I keep my phone off and have no music. I just sit down and do it."
- Lauren Honama
Graphic design freshman

"For me, it depends on the class. Like, obviously you can't make flashcards for like chemistry or anything, but that's the easiest way for me to study things - biology, psych, anything that requires mind memorization, flashcards, 100 percent. Online, in-person, doesn't matter. I've done both - personally I like writing it out myself and not typing it. I find that you remember stuff easier when you're writing it more than once."
- Eileen Nelson
Forensic biology Junior

Student study tips!

Tutor time

Finding help before finals

Extended Tutoring Center hours:
Monday thru Thursday
Dec. 3 - Dec. 6
5 - 8 p.m.

Contact Information:
Academic Literacies Center
FLITE 120
Phone: (231) 591-3543
Email: karenroysterjames@ferris.edu
asc@ferris.edu

What the Center offers:

- Free tutoring
- Based on a first come, first serve
- Students can make two appointments per week per subject
- One-on-one or small group sessions
- Walk-in math sessions

TORCH CONFESSIONS

Confidently nervous

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



Marley Tucker
Opinions Editor

Confession time: I'm an introvert at heart.

I'm still shocked when people don't believe me when I say it.

Yeah, I'm involved in a lot of activities that require me to operate in front of others, and yes, I am incredibly scared to do them. I operate with my tried and true method, and I like to call it the "one-two-three screw it." Everyone expects an introvert to be shy and reclusive, and we can be, but that's just the tip of the iceberg.

I've competed in speaking events as a member of the Ferris debate team for almost four years now, and every time I get up in front of people I freak out: skin sweating, mouth dry, heart pounding. Sometimes my fingers tingle and I can't feel my face. Who subjects themselves to this type of mental torture on an almost-daily basis? Me, apparently. If I ever need an adrenaline high, all I need to do is engage in some small talk with complete strangers to get my fix.

My mantra is something that gets me through potentially embarrassing or risky moments. On the job as a journalist, I've had to curate the power of just saying "screw it" to get the job done. Even when I am scared and uncertain, at least I get results when I force myself to do the thing that

terrifies me. Interactions with other people require you to be "on" all of the time, and I find the stimuli of large crowds to be exhausting after enough time has passed. I need to recharge in between feats of confidence, or else I burn out.

Introverts do just as many things that extroverts can do — sometimes it just means you have to do them in a round-about way. If I'm nervous about asking for something, like ordering food or talking on the phone, I can psych myself out, but if my friend needs something I'm all but vaulting over the counter in maximum overdrive to get them what they need. The brain is a funny thing, huh? Sometimes my mantra doesn't work, and I'm left to dole out an escape. So yeah, if I'm cracking jokes, sometimes I'm doing it to establish myself as the funniest person in the room, but other times I'm trying to deal with the fact that my body is sending out stress signals, and I need to try and abort the mission by coping with sarcasm.

The moral of the story is, yes I am terrified or uncomfortable with a lot of things like public speaking, and I'm a bit of a masochist that lives by a mantra to function, but I have the champion medals to prove that faking it until you're making it can work to your advantage when being an introvert is stamped on your forehead.

Showcasing their differences

Celebrating diversity during the holidays



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Multimedia Editor

Ferris early childhood education sophomore Jaelyn Love and Ferris hospitality freshman Katie Bittner enjoyed some sweet treats at the Ferris Holiday Night Celebration Thursday, Nov. 29.

Marissa Russell
Interim Reporter

Ferris business administration senior Andrew Kapanowski wanted to make Ferris more diverse and let people celebrate holidays other than Christmas.

"I think a big issue today is a lot of times it seems like everybody's too scared to acknowledge that we all have different holidays people celebrate," Kapanowski said. "It seems like everybody's worried about bringing up anything to do with religion on holidays and everyone gets offended. But is the solution to diversity — what we call diversity — excluding everybody and not recognizing anybody's differences? Or is it giving everyone the

Diversity | see page 8

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Quality leftovers

Second time's a charm

Marissa Russell
Interim Reporter

With finals around the corner, it's time for all-day study sessions. Don't forget to fuel up, though. Here are some Bulldog-approved restaurants where you can turn late-night dinners to snacks and breakfast the next morning.

1. Buffalo Wild Wings -

"Buffalo Wild Wings or Applebee's. They have really good wings and food like fries. Those are my favorite." — Ferris accounting sophomore Kristiana Drye

2. The Quad -

"I live in Grand Rapids so I don't really go out around here, but I guess the Quad. They have some really good food." — Ferris marketing freshman Marcus Trader

3. Schuberg's -

"I'd probably say Schuberg's, because I feel like they're very good quality and it's not just some crusty fast food that's gonna go bad after a day." — Ferris pre-pharmacy freshman Sidney Starmer

4. Taco Bell -

"Taco Bell, it's good food for Sunday mornings when you're waking up super late." — Ferris plastics engineering sophomore Bryce Shaffer

5. Applebee's -

"Applebee's, because it heats up really well and tastes almost the same." — Ferris psychology senior Helena Broden

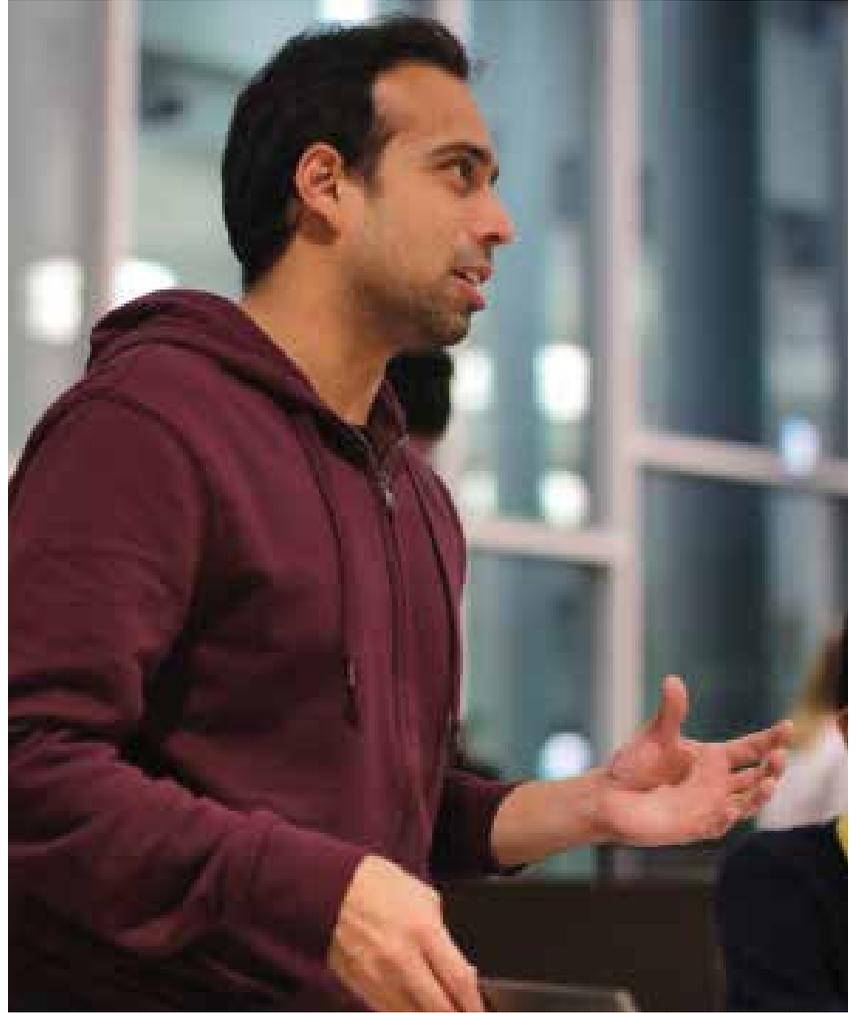


Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Multimedia Editor

Ferris HVACR engineering technology senior Anirvoh Baliga celebrates Diwali, an event that was showcased at the Holiday Night Celebration.

opportunity to show off their differences?"

Because of this idea, the Ferris Student Government Association hosted Ferris Holiday Night Celebration Thursday, Nov. 29, where students were able to walk around the Rankin Lounge in the University Center and learn about different holidays that are celebrated by other students.



Andrew Kapanowski

Diwali was one of the holidays showcased at the event. Celebrated Nov. 7, Diwali is typically celebrated in India, but any country that has a good Hindu population sees the celebration of Diwali. They celebrate winning of "the light over dark," according to Ferris HVACR engineering technology senior Anirvoh Baliga.

"It's a traditional time like Christmas or Thanksgiving," Baliga said. "We have family time, people decorate their houses, light up offices and workspaces. It's a really good time. People eat a lot of good food. People celebrate by going to each other's houses to exchange desserts and gifts. It's a three-to four-day holiday."

During the Ferris Holiday Night Celebra-

tion, students were able to learn about holidays such as Kwanzaa and were given papers that talked about Kwanzaa's seven principles. Celebrated in America, students were able to learn that Kwanzaa is also highly celebrated in Africa, beginning Dec. 26 and ending Jan. 1.

Ferris automotive engineering senior Alexander Cross celebrates Jewish holidays, including Hanukkah. According to myjewishlearning.com, Hanukkah starts in the evening Dec. 2 and ends in the evening Dec. 10.

"Hanukkah is the celebration of lights and the oil lasting eight days for the Maccabees when they were under siege in the great temple when there was only enough oil to last for one," Cross said.

Along with Hanukkah, Cross celebrates Christmas. Since Hanukkah is during early December, Cross doesn't get to celebrate the entire holiday.

"Everybody celebrates the holidays the same," Cross said. "They just give them different names, in my experience."



Alexander Cross

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2. Kujichagulia (self-determination)
3. Ujima (collective work and responsibility)
4. Ujamaa (cooperative economics)
5. Nia (purpose)
6. Kuumba (creativity)
7. Imani (faith)

The above information was found on www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org

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SPORTS

"Who wouldn't want to be playing football right now?"
- Devon Johnson - See page 10 for story

Brendan Samuels | Sports Editor | samuelb1@ferris.edu

The Bulldogs rumble into Minnesota



Photo courtesy of Kevin McDermott

Ferris sophomore running back Marvin Campbell shoots through a gap in the defense. The Bulldogs will face the toughest test of the season in No. 2 seed Minnesota State-Mankato.

The Bulldogs continues their trek towards a national title

Noah Poser
Torch Reporter

For the second time in the past three seasons, the Ferris football team has advanced to the NCAA Division II semifinals, although this time they are looking to change history and advance to the National Championship Game.

Ferris' opponent, Minnesota State University-Mankato comes into Saturday, Dec. 8's game undefeated, just like the Bulldogs. They are looking for their second National Championship appearance in the last five seasons and have been ranked No. 1 in the nation throughout the season.

On offense, the Mavericks are led by their rushing attack. They rank 17th in Division II in rushing yards per game with 243 yards per contest. This dynamic ground game has led them to rank among the nation leaders in scoring. The Mavericks rank 11th in the nation, scoring a whopping 41 points per game, which should present a major challenge to what has primarily been a subpar Ferris defense.

Speaking of the Ferris defense, it is interesting to note that this matchup actually works in their favor. Ferris has only allowed teams to gain 103 yards per game on the ground, good for 15th in the nation. Their weakness comes in defending the pass. Luckily for them, passing the ball isn't typically something that the Mavericks likes to do.

Overall, on offense the Mavericks have a

few key players that Ferris will have to slow down if they want to compete in this ball game.

At running back, the Mavericks have one of the nation's best in sophomore Nate Gunn. Gunn has run the ball this season for 1556 yards and 21 touchdowns, both of which rank among the tops in all of Division II.

At quarterback, Minnesota State plays two players who each carry different skill sets. The first of the two is junior Ryan Schlichte, who is the better passer of the two quarterbacks. Schlichte has thrown for 1800 yards this season with 18 touchdowns to go along with seven interceptions. They also rotate in sophomore JD Ekowa, who is the more athletic player. Ekowa comes into this game with 985 passing yards with 10 touchdowns and six interceptions. He also has compiled 356 rushing yards and four touchdowns on the ground.

And finally, in the passing game, the Mavericks rely on just two main targets. Those targets are junior receivers Shane Zylstra and Justin Arnold. At 6'5", Zylstra is a big receiver capable of making tight, contested catches. On the season he has 57 catches for 1083 yards and 14 touchdowns.

His so-called sidekick, Arnold, has been a great compliment to Zylstra. Arnold has caught 44 balls this season to the tune of 717 yards with four touchdown grabs.

If Ferris can contain those key players, then they should have a great chance of winning this game with a defense that has im-

proved dramatically in these playoffs.



Jayru Campbell

On defense the Mavericks have all the tools to shut down this dynamic Bulldog offense that is led by Harlon Hill candidate Jayru Campbell. Like the Bulldog's defense, the Maverick defense is also known for the ability to stop the run, which is key as Ferris ranks sixth in the nation with 277 rushing yards per game.

The Minnesota State-Mankato rush defense allows a measly 91 yards per game, which is good for eighth in the nation. Therefore, expect to see Ferris try to throw the ball around more in order to exploit this Minnesota State-Mankato secondary, an effort that should be aided, considering that no snow is expected on game day.

All in all, this matchup is between the two teams that spent most of the season ranked 1-2 in the national polls. They are greatly considered the two best teams in the nation and are only meeting in the semifinals due to Ferris losing their number one seed due to an infraction that was caught by the NCAA just before the playoffs started.

It will be a cold one, but with so much on the line, it should also be a good one, as these two powerhouses battle it out for a chance to keep their National Championship hopes alive.

In the Dawg house for the holidays

Ferris teams stay close for winter break

Mollie Hamelund
Torch Reporter

Ferris athletes get their fair share of traveling year-in and year-out, so it's nice to be able to play on their home court or field. But what do they do when those games happen over Thanksgiving and winter breaks?

Several teams still play over break, with the men's and women's basketball teams as well as the football team seeing action over Thanksgiving break this year. With practices occurring throughout the week and a game Saturday, Nov. 24, the Ferris football team chose to stay local.

"We get a chance to spend more time with each other," Ferris senior offensive lineman Devon Johnson said. "We had Thanksgiving with each other."



Devon Johnson

Instead of heading home for one day to have dinner with their families, it makes sense for the Bulldogs to hang around Big Rapids. Having that special time with the team has helped come players become closer to the point where some prefer to be with their team on the holiday.

"My freshman year was kind of tough," Johnson said. "But after a while I got used to just being around everyone. I would rather have Thanksgiving with my team."

Going home for the holiday weekend is normally a thing students are looking forward to. Since some of the athletes are unable to due to practice and games, they have spent that time with their team, being able to get in some good team bonding. Some of the athletes' parents may come up for the holidays and celebrate with the team as well.

For Johnson and the rest of the Bulldogs, it's something to look forward to, as having been able to go this far in the season normally means playoffs. This year, Bulldog football was hosting Northwest Missouri State in the second round of the NCAA Division II playoffs.

"It's honestly a great honor and an accomplishment that we look forward to accomplishing every November," Johnson said. "To be in playoffs and be able to play and practice around Thanksgiving."

Practices stay pretty much the same according to Johnson, as the team doesn't want to overdo it and risk any unwanted injuries before any big games. Johnson sums up this time of the year for his teammates: "Who wouldn't want to be playing football right now?"

The Bulldogs are heading to Mankato, Minnesota, to face Minnesota State University-Mankato Mavericks 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, for the NCAA Division II Final Four.

Filling some big shoes



Photo by: Samantha Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Ferris senior post Taylor Adway fights through traffic in a scrimmage. Adway is a transfer student brought on to help the Bulldogs with the departure of Zach Hankins.

Will Taylor Adway measure up to Zach Hankins in Ferris men's basketball?

Michael Reedy
Torch Reporter

With the departure of Division II Player of the Year Zach Hankins, Ferris men's basketball turned to a Division I transfer to fill the missing piece of the puzzle.

Enter Ferris senior forward Taylor Adway, who formerly played for the University of Toledo (Toledo, Ohio), a school that is a part of the Mid-American Conference (MAC) at the Division I level. A little shorter than Hankins but practically just as big, Adway stands tall at 6-foot-8 and is a threat in the paint. Naturally, everyone compares Adway to Hankins but Adway sees their styles of play a whole lot different.

"I feel like our games are different. I'm more of a face-up type player," Adway said. "I'm more comfortable when I'm faced up, whether it's facing up shooting or attacking the rim. I'm more comfortable in that aspect of the game and Hankins was more of a 'back to the basket' type player."

With questions surrounding Adway and whether he could fill in the great role that Hankins had during his time at Ferris, Adway chose to shut it out. He does not even think about it, he said. Even though Adway doesn't compare his style of play towards Hankins, he

is still aware of the great impact Hankins had on the program at Ferris and wants to follow in his footsteps in that aspect, even if that means getting off to a slow start.

"I definitely feel like I want to have an impact the way he had," Adway said. "Starting off the season, I'm not playing up to my liking and I feel like that's the biggest pressure for me."

The reverse situation happened to Hankins than it did to Adway. Hankins transferred from Division II to Division I while Adway did the opposite. Going from the top level to one below might seem easy, but there are many adjustments that are made and usually takes some time to get used to.

"Basketball-wise it's actually been a bit of an adjustment because it's a different style of play and a different style of coaching," Adway said. "I'm in a different role. At Toledo I wasn't asked to do or expected to do as much as I am here, so now I'm in more of a role where more is demanded of me."

The 2018-19 Ferris men's basketball season began with high hopes for the Bulldogs but they have been in a National Championship hangover, sitting at 5-5 and coming off a fourth straight loss against the Ashland Eagles Saturday, Dec. 1. As some may remember in last year's season, the Bulldogs only dropped one game the entire year. But last year's performance was also a historic year and one to remember. Although the Bulldogs are off to a rocky start, they still maintain the same goals in mind and know their capabilities.

"I think we're capable of winning, of course: the GLIAC regular season, the GLIAC tournament," Adway said. "Our goal right now is to get better every day."

The Bulldogs are back home 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 6, as they take on the Northwood Timberwolves.



Taylor Adway



Photo by: Samantha Cavotta | Torch Photographer

Noah Poser
Torch Reporter

Ferris football advanced to the NCAA Division II Semifinals for the second time in the last three seasons. Therefore, it is only fitting that this week's Top Dawg comes from the team.

There were a lot of options for this award after this week's game, but ultimately it was one group of players, as opposed to one player, that really stood out.

This week, Top Dawg goes to the entire Bulldog defensive line.

The defensive line dominated over the entirety of the game, in both stopping the rushing attack and limiting the passing attack in their quarterfinal game Saturday, Dec. 1, against the Ouachita Baptist University Tigers (Arkadelphia, Arkansas).

Ouachita Baptist came into this game undefeated. The Tigers came in averaging 35 points per game. They also entered the round ranked No. 6 in Division II football in rushing yards per game, averaging 278 rushing yards per game.

But in this game, they scored 14 points, all of which happened after Ferris had already jumped out to a

30-0 lead. Ouachita Baptist also only garnered 86 yards on a measly 3.2 yards per rush.

This was all because the defensive line came off the ball quickly and pushed the Tigers offensive line back on every single snap. They forced Ouachita to do something they haven't been able to do all season: pass the football.

Then, when Ouachita went to pass the football, the defensive line continued to target the Tigers offensive line.

All in all, the Bulldogs managed five tackles for loss, constantly forcing Ouachita behind the chains. In the pass game, they may have only had one sack, but they consistently got after Ouachita quarterback Brayden Brazeal, forcing him off his spot, resulting in numerous off-target throws.

The Defensive Line ultimately was the driving force in a win that brought the Bulldogs to 14-0 on the season and allow them to continue onto the NCAA Division II Semifinals, forging the path to win their first ever National Championship in football.

You can see this defensive line back in action 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, against the Minnesota State University-Mankato Mavericks.



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FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Sports Shorts

Mollie Hamelund
Torch Reporter

Basketball signs three athletes

The Ferris men's basketball team lost a significant amount of talent this year after losing four of their five starters.

The team, which is currently on a four-game losing streak, is trying to rebuild the team to the success they had last year. Looking ahead, Ferris head coach Andy Bronkema recently signed on three new players for the 2019 season.

Bronkema added a point guard from Chicago in Jeremiah Washington, as well as two posts in Aidan Shore and Ryan Segall.

"We're thrilled to land these three talented players and believe they have bright futures in our program," Bronkema said. "We expect all three to come in and compete in the near future, and develop into top performers in the years ahead."

NCAA Cross Country Championship

Ferris cross country sent two runners from each team to the division two NCAA Division II National Championship.

The Championship was held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Saturday, Dec. 1, with each Bulldog coming home an All-American. Ferris junior Katie Etelamaki was representing the Bulldog women's team and placed 16th overall in the 6k women's race after placing a time of just over 23 minutes.

Ferris senior Damien Halverson represented the Bulldog men's team and placed 185th overall in the men's 10k race.

This is the first time in Ferris school history that a Bulldog has ran in the NCAA National Championship.

Awards

On top of this record-breaking season for the Bulldogs football team, four football players were named in the Division II first team and two were named on second team.

Ferris junior defensive end Austin Edwards and Ferris junior defensive back Adrian Green were both named to the second team.

Ferris junior quarterback Jayru Campbell, who was also chosen as the Super Region Three Offensive Player of the Year, was named first team. The others who were named first team were Ferris senior offensive linemen Devon Johnson and Nic Sawyer, as well as Ferris junior defensive back Delon Stephenson was also named first team.

Campbell is also one of the finalists for the Harlon Hill Trophy to be announced Friday, Dec. 14.



THIS WEEKEND'S SPORTS FOR FERRIS

Thursday, Dec. 6:

- Women's Basketball vs. Northwood 5:30 p.m.
- Men's Basketball vs. Northwood 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 7:

- Hockey vs. Bowling Green State University 7:07 p.m.

Saturday Dec. 8:

- Women's Basketball vs. SVSU 1 p.m.
- Men's Basketball vs. SVSU 3 p.m.
- Football at Minnesota State-Mankato 3 p.m.
- Hockey vs. Bowling Green State University 7:07 p.m.

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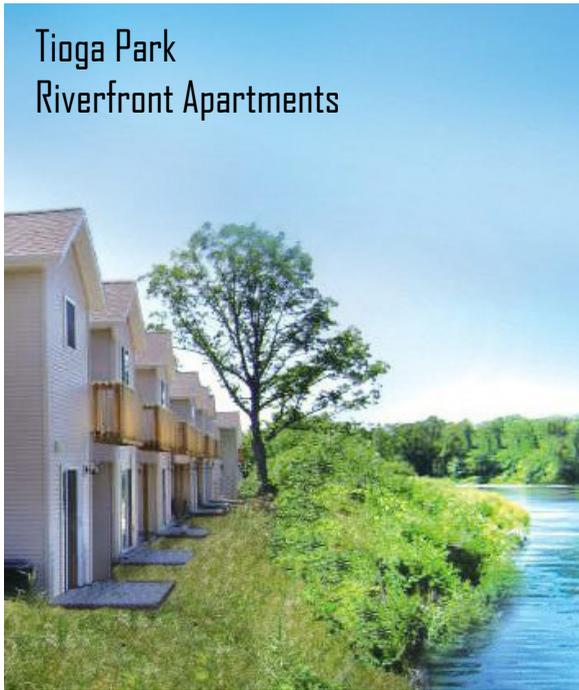
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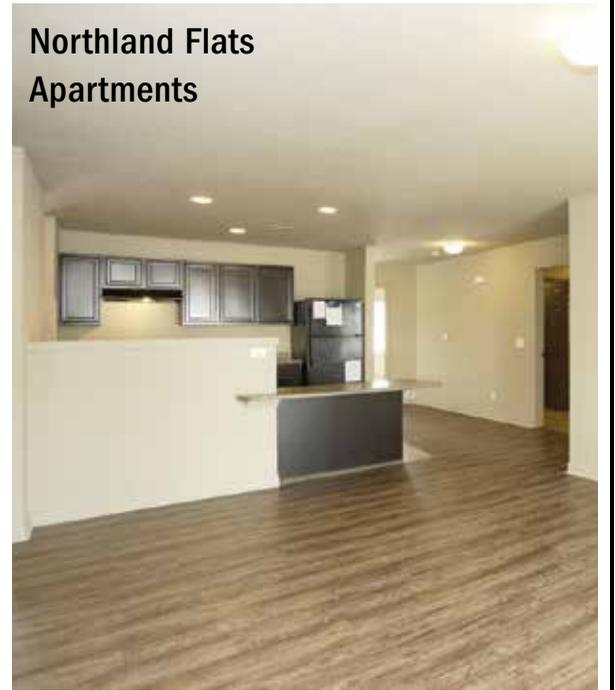
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OPINIONS

"Police officers do not expect our gratitude, but that does not mean they do not deserve it." -Landry Shorkey - See below for story

Marley Tucker | Opinions Editor | marleyitucker@gmail.com

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Chat with the chief

Editor in Chief, Megan Lewton

I've always been mildly obsessed with tattoos. I think they're so interesting and they can really reveal a lot about one's personality. I enjoy talking to new people about their tattoos and why they chose what they did.

Due to my love for ink, I've desired a full sleeve of tats ever since I was in middle school. However, I've fought the urge to get one all this time. My skin is a clean, ink-free canvas.

Why? Because I'm afraid that I won't be able to get a job if I get a bunch of tattoos.

For reasons I don't fully understand, the presence of tattoos can negatively impact a person's employability. Many employers won't allow their workers to let

their body art show. For this reason, some people are really selective about where they get inked. They only get them on places that will always be hidden in the workplace, such as on their feet or ribcage.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with getting tattoos in more discreet places. However, it's unfair to those who really want arm or leg pieces but don't, simply for job purposes.

I'm not sure where this all stems from. Some people believe tattoos are only possessed by delinquents; others argue that getting a tattoo is a sin. Regardless of the reason why, tattoos receive such a bad reputation, making it more difficult for those with them

to get a job without having them covered up.

I think the idea that tattoos are "trashy" and don't belong in the workplace is so old-fashioned. Tattoos are very common; I'd argue that the majority of 20-somethings that I know have at least one. More people in your life have them than you may realize. If every person with a tattoo was considered incapable of holding a professional position, there would be significantly fewer workers.

Unless a worker has an obscene tattoo, I don't think their ink is going to make their customers or clients upset. I've seen various workers including waiters, nurses, cosmetologists and teachers with visible tattoos, and it didn't

impact how much I trusted them at all. Their ability to do their job well has nothing to do with what is on their skin.

By assuming a person's character solely on the presence of tattoos, you are doing exactly what we are taught not to do: judging a book by its cover and stereotyping. You can't just assume that all tattooed people are unprofessional or improper, when that is simply not true.

I dream of a day where I don't have to worry about how a full sleeve of tattoos will affect my ability to get a job. But for now, I'll only hear the buzzing of a tattoo needle in my dreams.



Cartoon by: Samuel McNeill | Cartoonist

Back the blue

Police deserve extra appreciation during the holidays

As the holiday season approaches, it is easy to take for granted the privileges of seeing family, eating delicious food and receiving gifts.

For countless police officers, Christmas Day will not be spent enjoying these privileges, but rather working to ensure that the rest of us can. Crime does not take a holiday break.

Police officers do not expect our gratitude, but that does not mean they do not deserve it. Each officer takes an oath to protect and serve the community in which they work, and that includes risking their own life on the job each day.

It is often said that Christmas is the season of giving, and the sacrifices that officers make for all of us are monumental. It is not to say that officers shouldn't be appreciated all year, but the holidays are a great time to express our reverence.

Many officers have spouses and children who will be spending the holidays without them

while they are at work. Even worse, many families will be spending the holidays without an officer who wasn't fortunate enough to make it home to them.

Project Blue Light is a simple and nationally recognized way to honor police officers who have been killed in the line of duty.

Usually beginning with the start of December, many supporters of law enforcement place a single blue light in their window. The purpose is to show police officers who drive past it that they are appreciated and supported, and that those who have fallen are remembered.

Whether or not you come from a law enforce-

ment family, you can and should participate in this tradition. Police officers notice the blue lights, they know what it means and sometimes it can make all the difference in lifting their spirits during the holiday season.

Furthermore, many communities host Project Blue Light ceremonies at churches throughout the month of December, which serve as memorial services for local officers who have lost their lives. These events are generally free, open to the public and a drastic change of perspective for those who attend.

Do not take your privileges for granted this holiday season. That can mean attending a ceremony, placing a blue light in a window or thanking a police officer for their service.

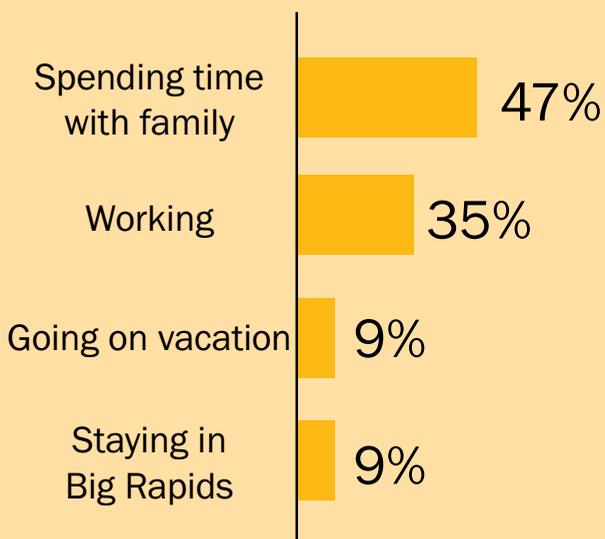
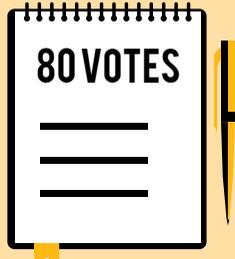
It can also mean simply keeping police officers in the back of your mind while you are surrounded by your family and friends this Christmas. For all they do for us, we owe that much to them.



Landry Shorkey
Torch Reporter

TORCH POLL RESULTS

How will you be spending your winter break?



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Older but valuable

What college is like for an untraditional student



Dan Deitsch
Torch Reporter

Being an older transfer student can be difficult. I have a hard time connecting with fellow students.

Sometimes I say to myself, "I feel like I've been lagging behind other people my age," or "I'd rather be on with my career." I'm also older than most students here, which can make it hard to connect with many people.

My interests are different than a lot of fellow students here at Ferris, especially when it comes to social media. I've used Snapchat once, I had an Instagram account that I forgot the password to years ago, I deleted my Twitter account years ago and I'm one of a hundred people that still uses Facebook.

Knowing that I will have to compete with people who are younger than me in the workforce is also scary. I'll have to sell myself harder than others, but I'm prepared to do that. Being older, I have some qualities that might come in handy for some employers.

But I'm glad I'm doing this now. I'm glad that I will graduate soon and will be moving on with my career and doing all the things normal adults do — which is to say I'll still be as boring as I am now, but I'll have more money.

I would much rather be here at Ferris working my way toward the career I want than working at a low-end job I hate. I've had enough of those kinds of jobs: the kind of job where you're taken for granted, you're paid horribly and every second you're there you think about not being there.

Being an old person, I guess it's my job to pass down advice (or something like that). If there's anything I've learned from my experience as an older student here at Ferris, it's that people take life at their own pace. I've learned that it's OK if things don't go exactly as planned right away. Things sometimes take time to fall into place, and I've learned to live with that. Life happens in the way it is meant.

The end of an era

What this job means to me at Ferris



Marley Tucker
Opinions Editor

My time at the Torch is nearing its end, and I'm extremely sad to close this chapter of my life. I came to the Torch as a news reporter and quickly jumped into the job, not knowing that I would find my confidence as a writer and lifelong friends along the way. I've met experts in the field, expanded my portfolio, spoken at a conference, completed an intensive internship and won awards for my writing.

In high school I didn't think that this would be the career I would pick for myself, but I am immensely happy with my experiences here at Ferris. I've always felt a little uncomfortable in my own skin, like I grew into myself a little too quickly, and the power of words have given me the passion I've been chasing. I don't want to leave the little family I've found, but the future is something that I greatly anticipate. I'll miss the feeling of a freshly printed newspaper in my hands, the literal culmination of all of our hard work staining my fingers in black ink.

One of the things that a lot of people don't comprehend is the influence of community journalism. Without reporting the news, there are avenues on campus that would not be questioned or explored, and I am so thankful that the Torch is available on campus to do this job. Working with my peers to report on articles dealing with tragedies and triumphs matured me to look at the world with a critical lens as a consumer and global citizen. Being conscious of

those in power and celebrating the ones behind the curtain is important to me. Taking a magnifying glass to the goings-on of our campus ecosystem is something that we do, often without thanks or recognition.

With the political atmosphere in America lauding journalists as crooked liars with agendas, I am thankful for those that stand with me to report the news. I am happy for our satire section every month and the wizardry of our production team using InDesign to create graphics that make words jump off the page. I'll miss my name on a byline every week that distributes all over town, and I'll miss the jokes from people loopy from exhaustion in the office every Monday.

We pass into time as students phase out and graduate, but I hope my opinions were thoughtful and my words enjoyed. Thank you, Ferris readers: this is my last opinion as an editor at the Torch and it has been a wild ride since I started here as a junior. The newspaper here is incredibly important to the fabric of our university, and while I'll miss being a part of it, I know I'm leaving my position in good hands.

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