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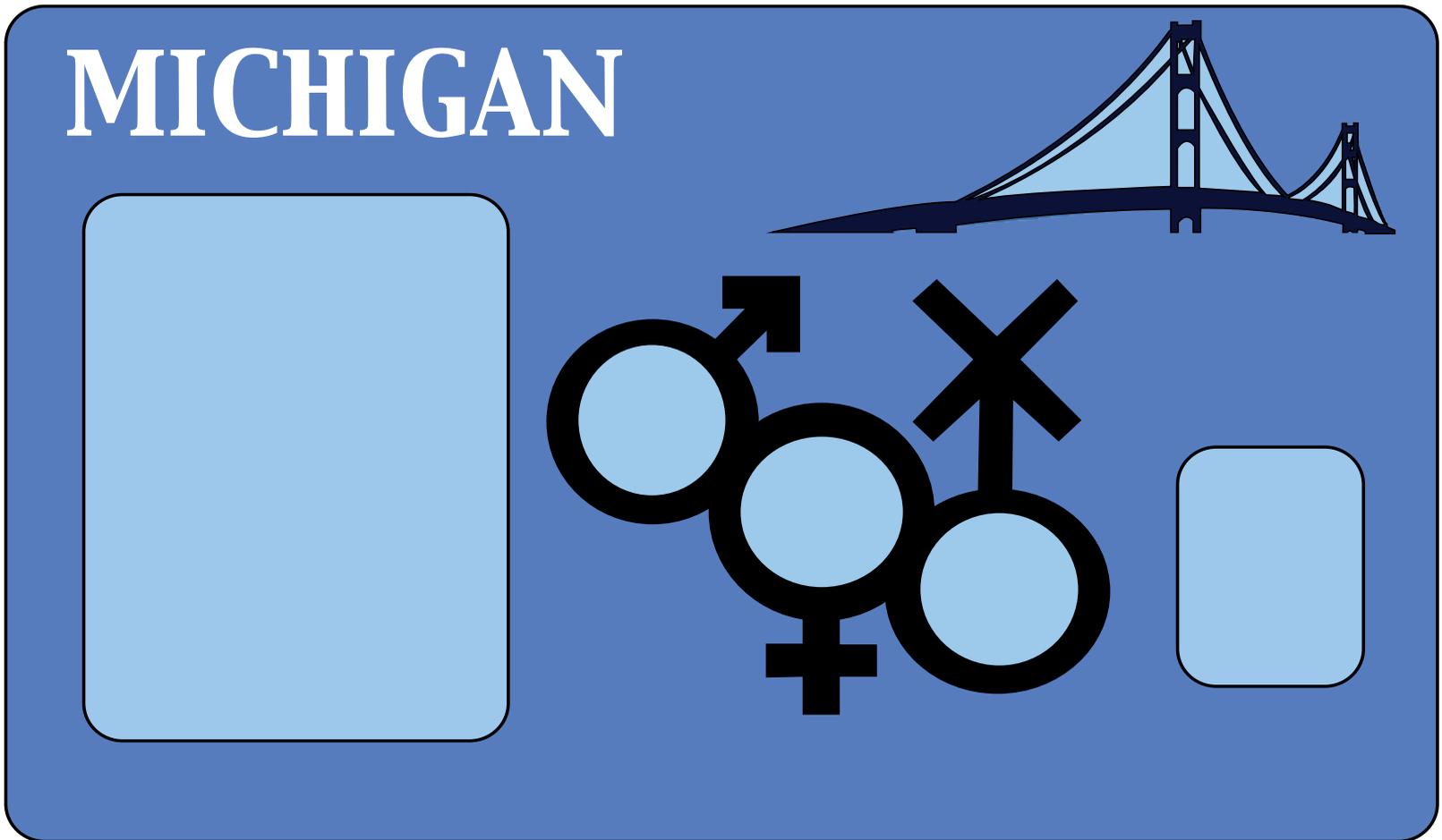
HERE'S WHAT'S INSIDE

LEADERS ON CAMPUS
Read up on the B.L.A.C.K RSO and all that they are doing to try and unify the Ferris campus.

GHOST TOWN
Head over to the opinions section to see two of our own go head-to-head on whether or not they think Big Rapids is a ghost town.

LIFESTYLES| PAGE 6 **OPINIONS| PAGE 15**

LGBTQ+ ID



MICHIGAN

Michigan may add a third option to driver's licences

Grant Siddall
Torch Reporter

Michigan is considering adding a nonbinary option to driver's licenses and state identification in 2021.

Residents in Michigan can currently change their sex on driver's licenses but must select from either male or female. The change would allow residents who do not identify as either male or female to register as nonbinary to better reflect their gender expression.

If the change takes place, Michigan will become the 15th state to offer the option, joining New York, Maryland, Hawaii and others. Washington D.C. also offers a nonbinary option.

According to a spokesman for Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, the state is looking at adding the option after they upgrade their technology in 2021.

For residents who identify as nonbinary the change is a welcomed one.

Ferris senior, who uses they/them pronouns, Zephyrus Reugsegger, said, "I think it would be extremely helpful. Today I did two things: I went to the doctor and then the phone store and I had to give my license both times and then they automatically assumed my pronouns incorrectly based off of my license and that's



Zephyrus Reugsegger

very frustrating. It would probably cut down on the number of times I have to correct people and the awkwardness."

According to the university's Fact Books, Ferris currently identifies all students as either male or female. This information inaccurately represents the entirety of Ferris' student body, as many students do not identify with a binary gender. However, Ferris has been making strides towards more gender inclusivity.



Sarah Doherty

Ferris LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coordinator, Sarah Doherty said that while Ferris is still using binary sexes in data fields such as Banner, the IT department, along with administration and others at Ferris have been working on making it possible for students to self-generate gender labels and to designate appropriate pronouns.

However, making the change to allowing nonbinary identification for class rosters, Blackboard, and Canvas requires those sites to make changes before Ferris can make the option available.

The changes in these systems could make an important impact in the classroom for nonbinary students like Reugsegger, who said they were called by their deadname (legal name) in front of a classroom because a professor was taking attendance from Banner, which uses the student's

legal name, even if they have done a name change through the university.

As for what Ferris could do to better accommodate nonbinary students without a technology change, both Reugsegger and Doherty had suggestions.

Reugsegger said they appreciate when professors include their own pronouns outside of their office and when they give students an opportunity to disclose their own pronouns during class introductions. Reugsegger also said that some of their professors, even after being corrected, never use the correct pronouns when addressing them, and that it makes them feel invalidated.

"I think it would be amazing if pronouns were on the roster because I get misgendered almost every day I go to class because no one ever thinks to use they/them pronouns or gender neutral pronouns of any sort, so that would be extremely helpful," Reugsegger said.

One suggestion made by Doherty can be implemented at Ferris, but also outside it.

"It would be helpful if more folks who are and are not in the LGBTQ+ community to just remember that there are more kinds of people than you're maybe raised to believe and remember that there is gender diversity in your classroom," Doherty said.

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NEWS

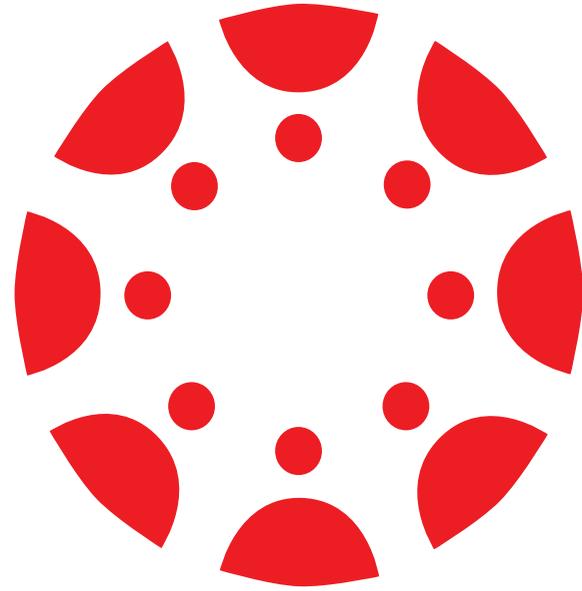
"When I started at Ferris, we were still using mimeograph machines and typewriters, and cell phones were something that you saw on the cartoon program, The Jetsons."

- Professor Daniel Noren - See page 4 for story

Trenton Carlson | News Editor | carlst24@ferris.edu

The end of Blackboard

How students and teachers feel about the switch from Blackboard to Canvas



Hannah McKeen
Interim Reporter

The deadline for professors to move permanently to Canvas is fast approaching and many people on campus seem to think it is the right step.

While Blackboard may be more familiar to some students, it is undeniable that a shift is necessary. In addition to loading issues and trouble finding pages or assignments, many students were reporting submissions were not going through to professors.



Casey Evans

"I prefer Canvas because it's easier to use and I don't have to worry about if my professors received my assignment," said Ferris criminal justice senior Casey Evans.

In addition to the technical errors, Blackboard's usability left some things to be desired. While the discussion boards were a useful feature for comparing thoughts, creating threads required unnecessary steps and it was difficult to always read through everything. Canvas, however, makes it possible to skim through a discussion briefly.



Tina Arduini

Professor Tina Arduini agrees, "This makes it seem more like a social media platform than a learning management system, which I'm hoping will entice students to feel more comfortable sharing ideas."

There are many other aspects of Canvas professors appreciate, such as the easy-to-navigate dashboard, the modern interface, clickable hyperlinks and more.

Though Canvas is expected to be used by every professor this fall, some are sticking with Blackboard until the last moment, hoping to use the summer to familiarize themselves with Canvas and prepare in order to make for a smoother transition between platforms.

"I heard it's a better system," said Professor Deirdre Fagan, "but it's another learning curve for students and faculty and ... I need a summer to adjust."



Riana Carnes

Many professors who did not use Canvas last fall have switched to it this spring, continuing the decline of Blackboard before it is fully cut off. Unfortunately, this has caused some confusion in which system different professors are using even if they're impartial to the change itself.

"I don't like that some professors are still using Blackboard because I forget to check both," said welding technology sophomore Riana Carnes.

Next fall will certainly bring about some new and exciting developments, the least of which being the full integration of Canvas into the Ferris community. Hopefully, without the struggles of Blackboard, students will continue to benefit from the Canvas Learning Management System.

canvas



WEEKLY WORLD NEWS

Catch up on news around the globe

Trenton Carlson
News Editor

Virginia, US

Although weapons have been banned on the grounds of Virginia State Capitol many protesters are armed. No incidents have been reported at the rally, but tensions are high, and security is tight. People against the gun ban have traveled as far as Indiana and Taxes to voice their opinions on the new legislation.

Original article by Timothy Williams, Sabrina Tavernise, Jan. 20, 2020, The New York Times

United Kingdom

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are no longer members of the royal family. A part of their agreement to live their own lives in search of something away from the kingdom is that they can no longer use their titles. The royal family is doing their best to prevent a half in half out arrangement with the former royal couple.

Original article by Mark Landler, Jan. 20, 2020, The New York Times

China

China is planning to ban some plastics due to it being one of the leading aspects of pollution in their country. Plastics that are hazardous and are less biodegradable than others are polluting China's land and water due to its toxicity. This plastic epidemic is primarily caused due to poor practice of disposing of waste. China is planning to completely ban specific types of plastic that pollute landfills to solve this problem.

Original article by Chris Buckley, Jan 20, 2020, The New York Times

India

Last week the senior official of the Bharatiya Janata Party criticized The Washington Post for its coverage of India during a visit from the owner of The Post, Jeff Bezos, when he announced new investment in India, one of Amazons fastest growing markets. This complicates business between The Post and Amazon due to Bezos being the owner of the two companies.

Original article by Vindu Goel, Jan. 20, 2020, The New York Times

- ON THE RECORD -

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

After party, foul

Trenton Carlson
News Editor

After party, foul

At 11:22 pm on Friday, a woman followed a man to his dorm after a party. The following Sunday it was reported the male sexually assaulted the female student. This case is still under investigation.

Don't be a backseat driver

During a traffic stop at Wesco Gas Station on Jan 18, police conduct-

ed a sobriety test on the driver. The passenger, a female, was belligerent towards police which resulted in her receiving a minor in possession charge.

Text message riddler

A woman was in downtown last Friday when she received text messages from a messaging app implying that someone was watching her. The suspect then continued messaging her on social media apps. This place has been closed.

NEWS BRIEFS

Trenton Carlson
News Editor

Early registration for summer classes will be available the week of Jan. 20, until Friday, Jan. 24. For more information on early registration for summer semester, contact the registrar's office at Registrar@ferris.edu

LGBTQ+ Resource Center is hosting a drop-in Coffeehouse event on Wednesday, Jan. 22. There will be complimentary coffee, tea as well light refreshments and snacks. The LGBTQ+ resource Center Encourages everyone to, "Drop in, relax, eat some snacks, make a friend, find out what's new at the Resource Center."

This week starts the rush process for all of Greek Life. Across campus, rush boards and rush events can be found. For more information on rushing a Greek organization you are interested in contact the IFC at greeklife@ferris.edu



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The celebration continues

Students enjoy the festivities at the UC's 5th birthday party

Veronica Mascorro
Torch Reporter

Ferris State celebrated the fifth anniversary of the University Center (UC) with games, food and prizes for students.

The UC serves as the heart of campus and is a location where many students spend their time with friends or doing assignments in between classes. Before the UC was built, the Rankin Center stood in its place as a location for students to be back in 1957.

The event ran from 9 p.m. to midnight Friday, Jan. 17. A multitude of students turned up excited to partake in the festivities.

Ferris radiography sophomore Sadie Metcalf, who works as an information assistant for the UC information desk and student life office, said that the event was put together with the help of the CLACS office and Entertainment Unlimited.

Throughout the building there were a variety of activities students could choose from. On the main floor, students had their choice of making their own customized Ferris street signs, participating in karaoke, as well as a build your own popcorn bar. Classic arcade games such as Mortal Kombat and Pac-man were distributed throughout the main floor. Caricature artists were also available both upstairs and downstairs which was by far the most popular activity, and had students waiting in line.

Upstairs students could participate in an intense

game of laser tag and grab some fried foods like corndogs, mozzarella sticks, tater tots, fried mac and cheese bites and fried mushrooms which were also a big hit with students. Guests were also waiting in line to get wax hands of a variety of different colors made.

Ferris digital animation and game design sophomore Alando Steele Jr. enjoyed the event and had a lot of fun participating in the activities with his friends.



Alando Steele Jr.

"I think the event is really good, and it's a good way to bring people together," Steele Jr. said. "I went to the anniversary party last year and I think this year it's a lot better. Last year's felt more relaxed and this year's has a lot of cool things like caricature artists as well as laser tag and the food, which are my favorite parts of the event."



Matthew Malkasian

Ferris mechanical engineering junior Matthew Malkasian as well enjoyed being able to attend the event with his friends and finally be able to get a caricature.

"I loved the fried food bar, but the karaoke is probably my favorite as always, it's a staple," Malkasian said. "The event was honestly a lot of fun!"



Photo by: University Center - Ferris State Facebook

The University Center in 2015. Five years later, it still lights up north campus and provides space for students to eat, relax, and catch up on homework

Ferris State's ghost of classes past

Students and professors ring in 2020 with their memories of the past and hopes for the future

Elizabeth Norvey
Torch Reporter

With the new year came a new decade for Ferris students and faculty, and with that many are reminiscing of past decades as well as sharing their hopes for the future.

Many students haven't been here long enough to remember much from the past decade, but some, such as Ferris English senior London Richardson, have been here for five years. According to Richardson, the increased security on campus is a great thing, but the renovations across campus come at the cost of parking space. Richardson also reminisced about the largest event she's seen on campus, a concert by Lupe Fiasco in the North Quad. Richardson has high hopes for Ferris' future, parking issues aside.

"What I hope to see in the next in the decade is that Ferris invest in more light so that people will feel more safe walking at night, more parking and for there to be more teachers who actually love their jobs," Richardson said.

Ferris English and Creative Writing Professor Deirdre Fagan has also been at Ferris for the past five years, and shared her memories and hopes for the future, mainly in regard to her programs here at Ferris. Her creative writing program has gone through a lot of growth over the time she's been here at Ferris, and she hopes to see more growth in the coming years. Changes have already been happening within several humanities programs, including the English program, and the English Education program is up next, according to Fagan, and for good reason.



Deirdre Fagan

"Nationally we are seeing a return to the Humanities as the demand for critical thinking and writing skills and versatility in the market continues to grow," Fagan said. "The world is becoming more and more international-speaking multiple languages also better prepares students for the job market ... Additionally, study abroad offers our students a wider world view and my department offers a number of opportunities in this area."

Ferris French Professor Daniel Noren has been here for the entire last decade and before that. During this time, he has seen the rise of computers and the internet and remarked on how quiet the hallways are now that students email their professors rather than having to ask their questions after class. Noren also shared his concerns about cell phones hindering his French students' practice of the language.

"For many years, I would invite students to our home for French film nights and crêpe parties," Noren said. "A few years ago, one evening, I went to the living room to announce that it was time to view the film, and to my dismay found all ten of the group sitting around and texting their friends. I was hoping that they would be engaging in French conversation with some new-found friends, but that would have been more consistent with the social interactions/interlocutions of the pre-cell phone era."

Torch Corrections

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Updating protocols

Housing begins locking side doors for safety

Veronica Mascorro
Torch Reporter

Despite this winter's harsh conditions, Ferris State has decided to lock side doors to dorms campus wide in an attempt for better security.

In an effort to better security protocols, housing has decided to shut off the card readers on all side doors of residence halls from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. every night. This means the only way students can enter the residence halls during these hours is through the main lobby doors.

Some students think the reason for the security protocol links back to the large fight which occurred in Miller Hall back in the fall semester.

Ferris mechanical engineering freshman Sydney Chambers feels safer with the new measures.

"I think it's a nice safety measure," Chambers said. "I don't personally think about who is coming in and out of the dorms and I'm assuming they did this because something had happened, and

they felt like they needed to do it, so I'm glad that they did."

Ferris criminal justice freshman Irvin Foster didn't really have an opinion on the matter yet seeing as the side doors to his dorms haven't been locked yet.

"Every time I've tried to go in through the side doors at late night they're still unlocked," Foster said. "So, I don't have any problems with it yet."

With harsher weather occurring in the spring semester some could see the doors being locked as a danger.

"To a certain extent I think it could be dangerous considering the weather, but I feel like I personally wouldn't be in any danger its more of an inconvenience having to walk around to get into your own building," Foster said.

Ferris pre-pharmacy freshman Macie Ilmberger tends to spend most of her time in the dorm during those hours, so she wasn't too bothered by the change.

Housing didn't respond to a request for an interview.



Irvin Foster



Sydney Chambers

Photo by: Torch Archives

Side doors, like this one at Ward Hall, will not be open from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. due to new campus security protocols.

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LIFESTYLES

“I have seen some things go on in this town you wouldn’t believe,”
- Dominic Gallagher - See page 7 for story

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

Leaders on campus

Black leaders unifying in the modern era

Mackenzie Kidder
Interim Reporter

Serving as a professional Registered Student Organization, the Black Leaders Aspiring for Critical Knowledge (B.L.A.C.K.) seek to unify young black people with other cultures, on the Ferris State University campus, through the promotion of academic excellence.



Rodney Williamson

Rodney Williamson, the RSO president, elaborated on this group and shared that they try to “reach outside of Ferris State University and try to collaborate with different RSO’s at other universities [to gain] other outlooks on life and branch out” of their culture.

The RSO currently has 15 members: 10 men and a council of five women. The council of women is separate from the 10 men. They run their events on campus, but still offer advice, assistance, and a woman’s outlook to the men in the RSO.

Williamson said that men do critical knowledge events, and try to bring awareness to some of the things going on in the world, such as different health awareness events and social events.

The B.L.A.C.K. RSO, has a goal to double their group size to 30 members, allowing everyone to learn and grow alongside each other.



Ashley Jordan

Ashley Jordan, one of the five women members of this RSO, shared that last semester, the council of women “hosted a Title IX event discussing rape, sexual harassment, and things of that nature.” Although the topics from this event were heavy, she shared they got the opportunity to lighten the situation and had a great turnout. They are planning events which will benefit the community for this semester as well.

The council of women does not have the same leadership hierarchy as the men do; they operate more like a democra-

cy to connect cultures and to unify the campus.

“There can only be five women in the B.L.A.C.K. RSO because the organization is supposed to be run by a black man,” Jordan stated. A black man initially started the group and the RSO wants to keep this tradition going.

Williamson said that his favorite part of this RSO is the brotherhood which came along with it and that everyone is open to learning from the mistakes they make.

If given a chance, Williamson would join this RSO all over again, and it means everything to him.

Jordan’s favorite thing about being involved in this RSO, more specifically the women’s council, is that she gets to “network with different people and different organizations” that she wouldn’t have been able to, had she not joined.

Students who are interested in joining the B.L.A.C.K. RSO can reach out to any member of the group, and they will provide more information. Flyers are posted in residence halls and around campus, helping to spread information to individuals who might be unfamiliar with this group.

B.L.A.C.K. meets weekly on Thursday 11 a.m. FLITE 438.

Lunar New Year

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- DRAGON
- ROOSTER
- SNAKE
- MONKEY
- CELEBRATION
- MOUSE
- TIGER
- CHINESE
- FIREWORKS
- PIG
- DOG

Barstool Ferris

Behind the scenes at Ferris

Wil Roy
Torch Reporter

Dominic Gallagher is the “Big Cat” of Ferris State University.

He runs the Barstool Ferris accounts. He said he knew about Barstool Sports back from Olivet University, the school he transferred from. When he transferred to Ferris, he knew he needed to find something to do in his free time. He decided he would message Barstool to see if he could run the Ferris accounts.



Dominic Gallagher

“Barstool set me up with my region manager, and we set up my account right away,” Gallagher said. For those who do not know what Barstool is, they are a blog full of sports and pop culture. The concept is full of laughs and real-life events. Ferris students can use the Barstool account posts to see what is going on in Big Rapids. The videos range from a person jumping into a puddle and slipping to someone jumping off of their roof into a crowd of people and getting evicted. These are 2019’s top two videos in

Gallagher’s eyes.

Gallagher is the ultimate decision-maker of which videos get posted on the page, but he said he does have a few close friends he confides in when he cannot decide.

“I have been running this account since January 2018, and I have seen some things go on in this town you wouldn’t believe,” Gallagher said.

Madalynn Mieske and Jon Cooney are the two people who can now call themselves the best of Barstool Ferris 2019. Cooney submitted his video the day after it happened, so he especially did not think it would be posted.



Madalynn Mieske

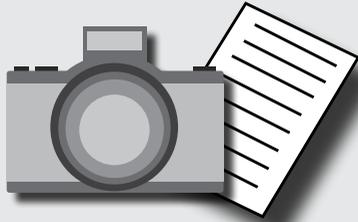
“The perks we got after was just a little more followers, but other than that nothing really,” Cooney said.

Neither Mieske or Cooney knew who was running the account, but they had heard of him. They figured since there were already videos on the page, they knew the account was a real and successful one.

To see more of life at Ferris, go to @barstoolferris on Instagram or Twitter.



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2000's Pop Punk



TOP SONGS

- Sugar, We're Goin Down- Fall Out Boy
- Scotty Doesn't Know- Lustra
- The Middle- Jimmy Eat World
- Still Waiting- Sum 41
- Dear Maria, Count Me In- All Time Low
- I Write Sins Not Tragedies- Panic! At The Disco
- Teenagers- My Chemical Romance
- Memory- Sugarcult
- The Anthem- Good Charlotte
- Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous- Good Charlotte

TOP GENRE

Pop Punk

Graphic by: Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor

WANTED

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ferris State Torch

2020 - 21 SCHOOL YEAR:

We are seeking an organized student (enrolled in at least six credit hours) for the Editor-in-Chief position during the 2020-21 school year. Candidates must write well, possess excellent leadership skills and be prepared to work the entire school year. Candidates should be familiar with basic journalistic principles, as well as printed and digital publishing techniques. Qualified students can receive competitive wages for up to 20 hours per week. Ability to work and train in April and August of 2019 is necessary. Prior journalism experience or training required.

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Garret Stack at stackg1@ferris.edu

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

DEADLINE: Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2020

Events calendar

WEDNESDAY

Jan. 22



Ferris Women's Network- Networking Lunch

Location: The Rock Cafe
Time: 12 - 1 p.m.

Do You Know Your Disc- Leadership Profiling

Location: University Center 211
Time: 5 - 6 p.m.

Sports Speaking Series: Ira Childress

Location: Buisness 111
Time: 6 - 7 p.m.

THURSDAY

Jan. 23

Kid's Carnival Fun Fair

Location: University Center
Time: 5 - 8 p.m.



FRIDAY

Jan. 24



Community Service Town Hall Meeting

Location: UCB 106
Time: 9 - 11 a.m.

Study Abroad Information Workshop

Location: IRC 104
Time: 1 - 2 p.m.

Lunar New Year Festival

Location: IRC Connector
Time: 4 - 7 p.m.

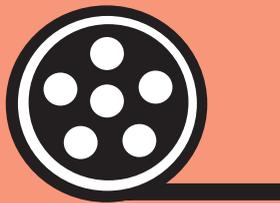


MONDAY

Jan. 27

Moonlight Film Showing

Location: UCB 209
Time: 6 - 8:30 p.m.



TUESDAY

Jan. 28

RSO Adviser Round Table Discussion

Location: UCB 121
Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For more events, check out calendar.ferris.edu

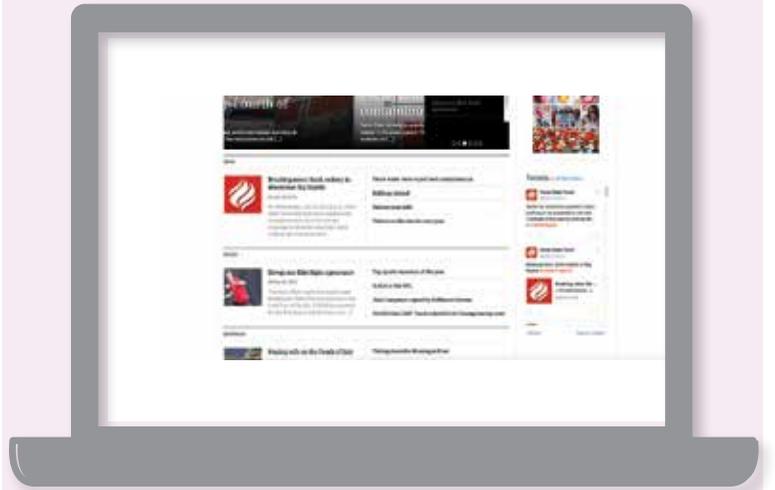
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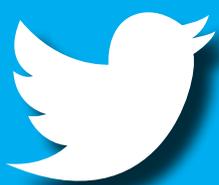


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Winter Bucket List

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Wear a cozy hoodie  | 2 Build a snowman  | |
| 3 Warm up by a fireplace  | 4 Attend a Ferris hockey game  | |
| 5 Drink some tasty hot chocolate  | 6 Bake cookies  | 7 Go sledding  |
| 8 Go ice skating  | 9 Watch TV  | |

Graphic by: William Byrd | Production Assistant

TORCH CONFESSIONS

Beer pong

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



Marissa Russell
Lifestyle editor

Once upon a time I was at a house party at my friends house and was playing beer pong while also doing an assignment.

This was a very bad idea in case anyone was thinking about doing this. While I was a multitasking wizard, there was a freshman who kept coming over and talking to me.

Even though this was during my sophomore year this was the first college house party I had gone to. So naive me thought this guy was just trying to be friends. Fast forward one assignment done and three rounds of beer pong won, this

freshman comes up to me and says, "If my partner and I beat you in beer pong will you go on a date with me?"

Now I had won six games in a row while doing homework, so surely I could win this one game while I had my entire focus on the playing, right? Wrong!

With two cups left we lost. Now I had told this guy I would go on a date with him. My friend came to my rescue though and told the freshman that we were in a "throuple" with my pong partner.

One of the most awkward situations I have ever been in.



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TORCH

Overheard at Ferris

*Talking about Wattpad

"I don't just read porn, but I mainly read porn."

-Alumni building

SPORTS

"We still have something to prove."
-Adrienne Anderson- See page 12 for story

Brendan Samuels | Sports Editor | samuelb1@ferris.edu

Time to step up



Photo by: Megell Strayhorn | Torch Photographer

Ferris men's basketball head coach Andy Bronkema huddles his team during a timeout. The Bulldogs are up to an 18-3 record after splitting games with GLIAC opponents over the weekend.

Men's basketball splits northern road trip

Austin Arquette
Torch Reporter

A snow-filled weekend saw the Ferris men's basketball team traveling to the Upper Peninsula to take on two challenging opponents in hostile territory.

The Bulldogs took on Northern Michigan University (NMU) Thursday, Jan. 16, as they claimed their third straight road win with a 61-48 victory. Ferris was led by sophomore forward Mason Pline who contributed a double-double effort with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Ferris junior guard Walt Kelsner collected nine points, while fellow junior Dorian Aluyi posted eight points in the victory.

"I haven't really come from winning programs so it really feels good right now that all our work is paying off being at the top of the conference now," Aluyi said. "We got to do our work here, on the road, at practice and then in the games."

Ferris took the court again on Saturday, Jan. 18, against Michigan Technological University (MTU) looking to finish their five-game road stretch in the GLIAC with a victory. Unfortunately, Ferris was unable to get by the Huskies, dropping the contest 102-90 as they tried to fight back from a 54-32 halftime deficit. With this loss the Bulldogs now stand at 18-3 overall and are 7-2 in the GLIAC.

"Tech is in the conversation for the most talented team in the league," Ferris men's basketball head coach Andy Bronkema said. "At Tech, it's like playing in Europe, you might as well be halfway around the world as far as home court advantage."



Andy Bronkema



Cole Walker

NMU and MTU are both solid programs and Bronkema said a split is the rule of thumb at the very least, and the team is just trying to take the season one day at a time.

"I like making this trip because it's fun to be with our team, people that we enjoy hanging out with and being around for a long period of time," Bronkema said. "So it's a fun road trip, and it's hard competition, so it's enjoyable. You try to win every game and it's hard to do so we are going to try to do just that."

With the Bulldogs standing at the top of the GLIAC, the team has shown it is more than capable of changing leadership roles depending on the situation. Bronkema said everyone has had their moments to lead and that the leadership approach the team takes is top-down, starting with the coaches.

"Different people lead at different times and it's not just the seniors; sometimes it's the freshman or the sophomores whatever just happens right there," Ferris senior center Cole Walker said. "We're working hard and trying to stay up there, but it's not done yet. The GLIAC is tough and any team can take any other team out whenever, so we just got to keep going."

The Ferris men's basketball team will be back in action on their home court inside Jim Wink Arena as they host Wisconsin Parkside 5:30 pm Thursday, Jan 23.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Hockey

Jan. 17 - Ferris 0, Alaska 2
Jan. 18 - Ferris 3, Alaska 6

Women's Basketball

Jan. 16 - Ferris 66, Northern Michigan 60
Jan. 18 - Ferris 80, Michigan Tech. 73

Men's Basketball

Jan. 16 - Ferris 61, Northern Michigan 48
Jan. 18 - Ferris 90, Michigan Tech. 102

Young guns take the torch

Ferris hockey's deep class of freshmen look to build on prior experiences

Brendan Sanders
Torch Reporter

From freshman forward Jake Transit leading the team in points, to freshman goalie Carter McPhail seeing significant playing time, underclassmen have already made an impact for Ferris' hockey team.

This season has not gone to plan with the Bulldogs record sitting at 6-17-2. A pair of losses to Alaska at home this past weekend (2-0 and 6-3) brought their losing streak to eight games. A bright spot on the team, though, has been the development of a young core of players looking to make better contributions moving forward.

Ferris hockey is in a youth movement which includes 10 freshmen players, more than one third of the team. Because of this, there have been a few bumps in the road for the Bulldogs.

Chemistry hasn't been one of these issues for the group of freshmen, though, as many played in the same league



Bob Daniels

or even the same team in the junior leagues. Most notably though, the trio of freshmen — defensemen Brenden Rons and Max Finner, and forward Dallas Tulik, all played together for the Topeka Roadrunners in the North American Hockey League before joining Ferris this season.

Ferris hockey Head Coach Bob Daniels commented on how the help of a former player brought these men together.

"It's helped the three of them feel comfortable coming here," Daniels said.

"One of the coaches on the Topeka team the associate head coach is Justin DeMartino played here and he's helped us identify those guys as good players and then help us secure them. Also, those guys can then call him when things aren't going well and he can tell them that to hang in there and to stick it out, so it's a real positive all the way around."

Rons also felt his prior experience with his teammates helped build the team chemistry faster as they all joined the team.



Brenden Rons

"It was great, it's made things really comfortable coming in from the start living in the dorms together it's been a lot of fun so far," Rons said. "It's almost like I don't even have to meet a new team, I already know all the guys."

As the season has gone on, Daniels has raised his expectations for the young group of men. Halfway through their freshman season they now know how the college game works. Development still takes time, though.

One good example of someone making the leap from freshman to sophomore year is sophomore forward Ethan Stewart, a player who has recently been drawing praise from the coaching staff.

"Ethan Stewart is a sophomore, but he missed a lot of time at the beginning of the year due to a family illness," Daniels said. "He ended up having to go home and help with some family things, but he has been dynamite ever since he's been back. I think his game has really, really accelerated from a year ago. I find it odd that it's not showing up on



Ethan Stewart

the scoreboard but the other intangibles that he does, the energy he brings. He's a big body, he's positionally almost always in the right spot."

Stewart agreed that the extra year of work helped him adjust to the added speed of the game and he was more confident in his decision making on the ice.

"Right now, I feel really good," Stewart said. "I feel confident in my game and I think when anyone has confidence it can

take their game to another level. Coming to college, the game is definitely a lot quicker than the junior leagues so as I've entered my sophomore year, I feel that my decision making is faster and thus I'm making faster plays."

There is still a long way to go for the Bulldogs. The season has not been too kind, yet the players have great expectations for the future. According to Stewart, this includes winning the WCHA, making the playoffs and ultimately winning a national title.

"They're coming along," Daniels said. "One thing I really enjoy about the entire class is their hearts are all in the right place. They're a great group of kids. Some certain contributions are more from some of the kids than others right now, but the overall contribution from that class, and I think it bodes well for the future too."

Ferris hockey will continue their season at Michigan Tech this weekend, facing the nationally ranked Huskies on Friday, Jan. 24, at 7 pm and Saturday, Jan. 25, at 6 pm.



Photo by: William Byrd | Multimedia Editor

Ferris hockey junior forward Liam MacDougall prepares for a faceoff. MacDougall and the Bulldogs have struggled this season as they are currently in the midst of an eight-game losing streak.

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Roaring into the 20s

New decade, same dominance for Ferris women's basketball

Brody Keiser
Torch Reporter

A fearsome stretch of games against talented conference teams might be intimidating for some teams, but Ferris women's basketball is not about to let anything slow them down.

Since losing to Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Wednesday, Jan. 1, the Bulldogs have won five games in a row. All five wins came on the road and propelled the Bulldogs to an impressive 12-5 overall record, including a solid 6-3 standing in the GLIAC.



Adrienne Anderson

Ferris junior guard Adrienne Anderson has been a big part of the recent success for the Bulldogs. She averaged 18.6 points per game during Ferris' win streak and is "ecstatic" to keep showing people just how good her team really is.

"We still have something to prove," Anderson said. "I think we come out really strong and did what we had to do, but we're not done. We still have more to prove and more to give. We want more."

The Bulldogs certainly proved they can win big games that come down to the wire. On Thursday, Jan. 16, they traveled to Northern Michigan University and tallied a 66-60 victory thanks to a 44-point second half after trailing 30-22 at halftime.

On Saturday, Jan. 18, the Bulldogs rode north to face Michigan Technological University and pulled out an overtime win 80-73. Ferris senior guard Riley Blair had a monster game, recording 30 points and 11 rebounds. Ferris freshman guard Mallory McCartney pitched in a double-double as well, with 18 points and

11 rebounds.

The new decade has been nothing short of spectacular for the Bulldogs, and especially for Blair. Since the calendar change, the senior has averaged an impressive 20 points per game and will look to stay hot as the Bulldogs push deeper into conference play.

Ferris women's basketball head coach Kendra Faustin was proud of the way her team played early in the month. She was impressed by their performance, and their ability to win and persevere.



Kendra Faustin

"Every win is a big one," Faustin said. "It's hard to get wins in general and it's tough to get road wins. I'm just really proud of this group and our ability to navigate change, adjust, adapt and handle adversity. We have changed so much from the beginning of the year and we just

keep getting better. That's our goal and really, I'm just in awe of these young women and what they're doing."

After a brutal stretch of five games on the road, the Bulldogs will return home for their next two games. Ferris freshman forward Chloe Idoni was glad to be coming home.

"I'm very excited," Idoni said. "I love playing at home with all the fans and the energy here. It's just awesome."



Chloe Idoni

Ferris will host Wisconsin-Parkside Thursday, Jan. 23, in a battle between the top two teams in the GLIAC before welcoming Purdue Northwest to Wink Arena Saturday, Jan. 25.



THIS WEEKEND'S SPORTS FOR FERRIS

Thursday, Jan. 23:

- Men's Basketball vs. Wisconsin Parkside at 5:30 p.m.
- Women's Basketball vs. Wisconsin Parkside at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 24:

- Hockey at Michigan Tech. at 7:07 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 25:

- Men's Basketball vs. Purdue Northwest at 1 p.m.
- Women's Basketball vs. Purdue Northwest at 3 p.m.
- Hockey at Michigan Tech. at 6:07 p.m.



IN THE NUMBERS

How women's basketball compares to other teams in the North Division

| | Conference | Overall |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
|  Wisconsin Parkside | 7 - 2 | 10 - 7 |
|  Ferris State | 6 - 3 | 12 - 5 |
|  Northern Michigan | 5 - 4 | 8 - 9 |
|  Michigan Tech | 5 - 4 | 7 - 9 |
|  Purdue Northwest | 3 - 6 | 4 - 14 |
|  Lake Superior State | 2 - 7 | 6 - 10 |



Photo by: FSU Photo Services

Ferris women's basketball junior guard Adrienne Anderson drives to the hoop. The Bulldogs are on fire, currently owning a five-game win streak on the road.

Graphic by: Abigail Maskill & William Byrd | Production



Run it

Track and Field starts off on the right foot

Greg Williams
Torch Reporter

The Ferris women's Track and Field team opened the 2020 season at the Saginaw Valley State Classic Friday, Jan. 10.

The women were all over the board placing high in multiple events. For the first meet of the new year this might have been a surprise, but the Bulldogs are a committed team and know what's at stake.



Taylor Thrush

"I would definitely credit the team and the work we have put in thus far," said Ferris senior Taylor Thrush. "Training over winter break alone can be really difficult and to have a successful opener the week before classes means that everyone was out there putting work in this December."

The Bulldogs had five of the top six place finishers in the women's 800 meter. At the top was junior Sydney Dawes who won the 800-meter with a time of 2:31:08. The rest of the team followed with freshman Sydney Kubiak taking third (2:40:16), sophomore Callie Delaney taking fourth (2:41:61), sophomore Katrina Droski taking fifth (2:45:38) and junior Christine Rodgers coming in sixth (3:41:73).

The mile run was another strong area for the Bulldogs. Senior Katie Etelamaki came just shy of a victory, taking second with a time of 5:09:60. Junior Kylie Hutchinson took third place (5:15:72), junior Carissa Schurr took fourth place (5:18:92) and senior Taylor Thrush took fifth place (5:18:92).

"With it being the season opener, a lot of us transitioning from cross country ran the mile," Thrush said. "We are all really focused on putting forth our best effort and working in groups for this meet, so again I would give credit to the team as a whole."

The 3,000-meter race was not as successful, but the Bulldogs had some top 10 finishers. Etelamaki placed fourth (10:34:35), along with sophomore Paige Detering placing seventh (11:04:86) and Hutchinson placing eighth (11:21:85).

In the field portion of the event, the women had two very successful events which consisted of the high jump and shot put. Junior Amanda Eslinger tied for second place in the high jump with 1.54m. In shot-put, sophomore Brianna Copley took runner up with 12.59m and freshman Emma Stephayn took fifth in the weight throw (14.01m).



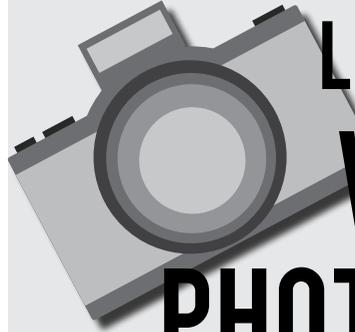
Katie Etelamaki

"For me I am hoping to run a PR in the 5k and hopefully run sub 5 in the mile," Etelamaki said. "We are also looking at putting together a solid DMR so qualifying that really would be amazing looking forward to working through my last indoor season while running good races but also getting ready for outdoor."

The Bulldogs will compete next at Grand Valley State University Friday, Jan. 17, and Saturday, Feb. 1.

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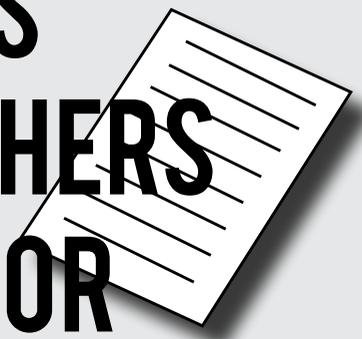


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Top Dawg

Riley Blair



Photo by: FSU Photo Services

Greg Williams
Torch Reporter

Top Dawg honors this week land in the court of Ferris women's basketball senior guard Riley Blair.

Blair helped her team sweep their trip to the Upper Peninsula, battling Northern Michigan University (NMU) Thursday, Jan. 16 and Michigan Technological University (MTU) Saturday, Jan. 18.

The Bulldogs beat NMU 66-60 with the help of Blair's 19 points and four rebounds. She also shot 41 percent from the field and went five of six from the charity stripe.

The road trip got tougher for the Dawgs in an overtime thriller with MTU which saw them claim an 80-73

victory. Blair had an inspired performance, going for 30 points and 11 rebounds. Blair also went 66 percent from the field and nine of twelve from the free throw line.

Overall on the weekend, Blair averaged 24.5 points shooting 53 percent from the field, she also went 14 of 18 from the free throw line (77 percent) and averaged seven rebounds a game.

Blair is averaging 20 points and five rebounds a game this year for her team, shooting 55 percent from the field. She has been a big part of the Bulldogs great 12-5 start and 6-3 GLIAC record.

They are currently on a five-game road game win streak and will get ready to host Wisconsin Parkside Thursday, Jan. 23, at home.

OPINIONS

“You have the right to mourn. Don’t let anyone tell you otherwise”
- Brendan Samuels - See below for story

Jonny Parshall | Opinions Editor | parshar@ferris.edu

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Chat with the chief

Editor in Chief, Noah Poser

Cuffing season gets a bad rap when really, it's just good business.

For those of you who haven't heard of the random romance season, it's simply the time between October and February when the weather gets cold and the chase to find a partner heats up.

Typically, cuffing season starts as soon as the leaves drop off the trees. It goes through the unbearable winter months and lasts right up until Valentine's Day, when the couples part ways and are able to avoid all the extra drama that comes with the so called "holiday of love."

A lot of people find this as a really dumb concept and one that reeks of desperation, but in all honesty, it's just a good way to play the system.

As someone who has taken advantage of cuffing season in the past, I can tell you there are massive perks.

First of all, you avoid the dreaded question you get asked by relatives every Christmas. That's right, when they ask you if you have found a significant other, you will finally be able to say yes. On top of that, it will save you from the constant bullying of your younger siblings saying you'll always be alone.

Cuffing season

The most important part of this is to remember when it comes to cuffing season, a relationship can come from a multitude of reasons. This might be legitimate feelings people think they have because of the impending loneliness of winter, or simply making a pact to get together for the winter out of boredom.

So not only does it bring an end to your parent's disappointment in your lack of ability to find a significant other, it also gives you the companionship of a person who you like to be around for the winter.

Of course, there are also other

perks, even if a few of them seem to be more superficial. Having a significant other gets you more gifts, both from your significant other and also potentially their family as well, which is mutually beneficial to both parties.

What cuffing season does most of all is it allows people to enjoy their winter as opposed to spending it bored and alone. That is why, while it may seem like a hoax or deceitful, cuffing is ultimately a way for people to experience some form of joy through the harsh winter season.

GOT AN OPINION?

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Deadline for submissions every Friday by 5 p.m.
Noah Poser | Editor-in-Chief | Email: posern@ferris.edu

1. Think of a topic that you feel strongly about.
2. Write out your thoughts in a coherent and respectful manner.
3. Include a headshot and some information about yourself (location, age, etc.).
4. Email your opinion to the editor for a chance to have your work published in our next issue!

Death of an idol

Is it possible to mourn the death of a celebrity you don't know?



Brendan Samuels
Sports Editor

Over the past five years, there have been several celebrities who have passed away to the surprise of their fan bases.

Most recently, 21-year-old rapper Jarad Higgins, more commonly known as Juice WRLD, suffered a seizure in a Chicago airport. Paramedics tried to revive Higgins, but despite their best attempts, he passed away shortly after reaching the hospital.

News of Juice WRLD's death spread like wildfire, flooding social media with hashtags and posts of a young talent taken too soon. Fans who had no personal connection to the rapper gave insight as if they were his closest friends.

On the flip side, some used the tragedy to

point out the fans had no right to comment on Juice WRLD's death. Which begs the question: Can you mourn the death of someone you didn't know personally?

The answer to that question is yes.

Though fans may not have met Juice WRLD, the young rapper became an idol to many. With so many of his songs referencing his battles with drug addiction and depression, he delivered a relatable message that resonated with his fans.

264 million people around the world struggle with depression. Seeing someone who is recognized globally share a piece of themselves with complete strangers made Juice WRLD an idol to many. He gave a piece of himself to his fans.

When someone shares something so personal it has the power to create a bond, even if that bond happens to be with a complete stranger.

So, it's only natural that once that bond is created, fans be allowed to mourn the death

of Juice WRLD.

Juice WRLD isn't the first celebrity to bring this issue to the spotlight.

In 2018, rapper Mac Miller passed away after an accidental drug overdose. As with Juice WRLD, fans were devastated.

Fast-forward to modern day and Miller's partner released a posthumous album that features music Miller recorded before his early death.

The album entitled Circles has fans remembering Miller's life and resurfacing emotions that haven't been experienced in nearly a year.

So, mourn who you want. If someone made you feel something, it's ok to be sad when they leave this world too soon.

Cry. Listen to their albums on repeat for months. Tweet to your heart's content. Draw their face until it's burned into your mind. Hell, write some awful fan fiction if that's what helps you cope.

You have the right to mourn. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

DIVIDED OPINIONS

CITY

This is an argument I've had numerous times. No matter which way you look at it, Big Rapids cannot be considered a ghost town.

First of all, ghost town isn't even the proper phrase. Sure, I understand the sentiment but a ghost town is defined by Merriam Webster as "a once-flourishing town wholly or nearly deserted." If you ask me, this has to be about as flourishing as Big Rapids has ever been.

With more than 10,000 residents, not including part time college students, Big Rapids can honestly be considered a small city.

In fact, it is a city similar in size to anything the Upper Peninsula considers a city. The largest U.P. city has about 20,000 residents, while the third largest city, Escanaba, is comparable to Big Rapids. It is in Escanaba I grew up so you could say I am used to the vibe of a small city.

One major argument for the opposition is that of the mall. For some rea-

Big Rapids: Proper city or ghost town?



Kaylin Johnson
Copy Editor

son, it is believed that a city can't exist without having a mall. While this is not a requirement of a city, it is also simply untrue to say Big Rapids has no mall.

There have got to be at least four strip malls and mini malls in this town. If mall is in the name, it's good enough for me.

Speaking of requirements for being a city, it's hard to find a set of rules on what is and is not a city. Most guidelines change in different areas and just insist that a city must have some sort of government, which Big Rapids has.

Without a way to specifically tell me Big Rapids is not a city, there is no changing my mind. I will consider it a city until the laws force me to think otherwise.

GHOST TOWN

Big Rapids is the epitome of a ghost town.

Not only is there nothing to do 99% of the time, but there is also nowhere to go. If you disagree, tell me what is past the Pizza Hut. Also, is there anything past the freeway by Menards? That's also a no. Don't even get me started on what's north of the airport.

Don't get me wrong, there are a few restaurants around town. There are also a couple stores which allow you everything you need. There's even a hospital, so while it's not your typical "ghost town," it's still quite ghostly.

It is all the other things actual cities have where Big Rapids falls short. To be honest, I haven't lived in the biggest cities either. Most notably, I've lived in Macomb, Milford and Dearborn. None of those cities are crazy populated, but they are populated with malls, large-scale movie theatres and all that comes with being a notable town or city.

Now think about Big Rapids. Try to list all the reasons why it is notable. Once



Noah Poser
Editor in Chief

you're done with that list, remove the fact that it is home to Ferris. What are you left with? This is about the time when you start to hear the crickets chirping in the background because let's be honest. There is nothing else here.

There's nothing wrong with that either. Not all places are meant to be big-time. It's the balance between having places like Detroit and places like Big Rapids that make up our country. Each place is unique and that's what's so great about the world we live in.

However, things are what they are. So, next time a local tries to tell you that Big Rapids isn't a ghost town, just smile and nod and know that whether people want to admit it or not, that's exactly what Big Rapids is.



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Separated at Birth?

Raccoon:

- Lazy
- Nocturnal
- Eats trash
- Dark circles under eyes
- Has no money

University student:

- Lazy
- Nocturnal
- Eats trash
- Dark circles under eyes
- Has no money



Cartoon by: Jonny Pashall | Cartoonist

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