



Ferris State University
TORCH
Truth, fairness and accuracy since 1931

FERRIS COVID-19 CASE COUNT		LAST UPDATED: OCT. 12
NEW CASES THIS WEEK	CUMULATIVE CASES	ACTIVE CASES
36	194	35

Ferris introduces Artificial Intelligence

The information security and intelligence program received funds to start an A.I. program

Alyssa Hubbard
Torch Reporter

Ferris' Information Security and Intelligence program will offer a new curriculum to learn how Artificial Intelligence operates in the Spring 2021 semester.

The Department of Defense supplied the ISI Program a grant of \$385,000 to create more opportunities for students. \$200,000 of that grant will go towards developing a new Artificial Intelligence curriculum.

Greg Gogolin, the Director of Ferris' cyber security and data science program, shared the importance of bringing such an advanced program to the university.

Gogolin said that Artificial Intelligence and data sciences are two subjects that are most likely to thrive and become prominent useful studies over the next few years. As cybersecurity transforms into a more complex field, Artificial Intelligence is one strategy to help people keep up with the growing complexity.

"In this time of limited resources, it is important that we offer curriculum that is both valuable and unique," Dean of the College of Business David Nicol said. "As a state institution, this enables us to most effectively utilize taxpayer funding, while ensuring that

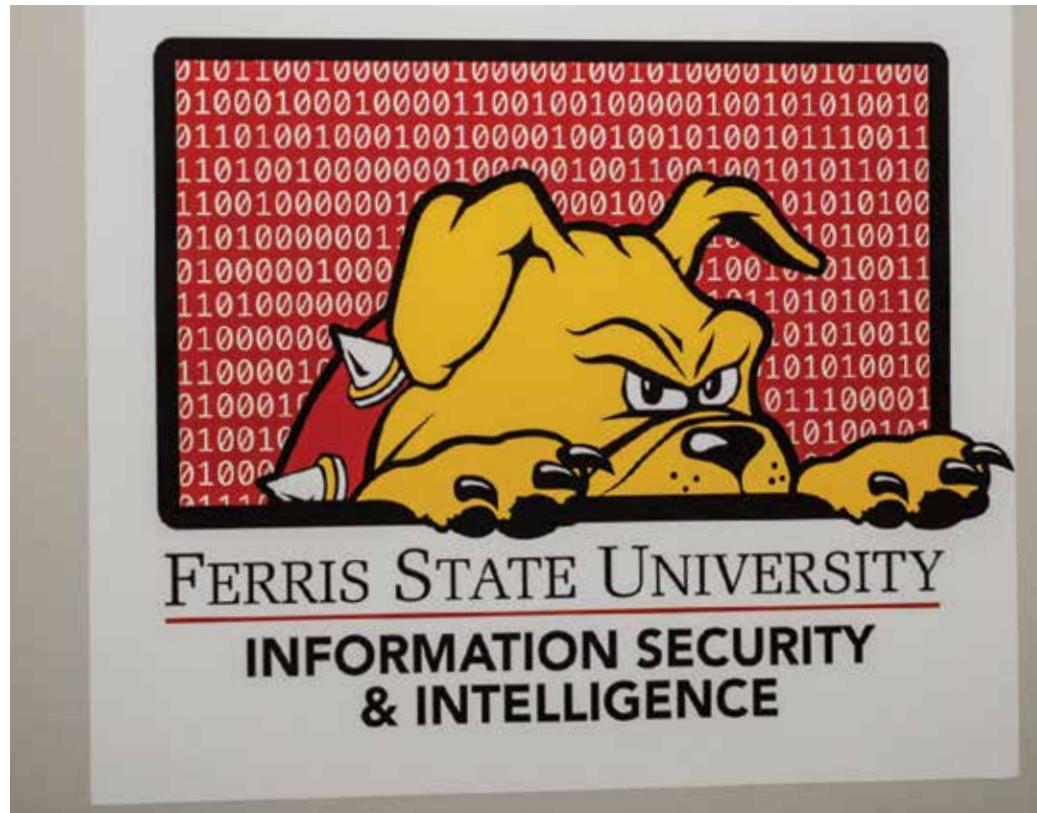


Photo by: Benjamin Totten | Torch Photographer

our students are gaining the most from their investment."

Ferris has been utilizing the \$200,000 grant funds to create the most beneficial courses and resources for Artificial Intelligence. The ISI Program has already begun working on new courses.

Some courses in this new curriculum will incorporate "computer vision, deep learning and problem-solving that include interpreting massive and unstructured data sources," Gogolin said.

It is important to Gogolin that these new Artificial Intelligence

courses deliver hands-on experiences to students, because that is one of Ferris' strongest learning conditions.

Nicol added that these new courses will present a different angle of focus and extension to the ISI Program.

"AI is a logical addition to our programming," Nicol said. "By offering it, as our students become more aware of their interests and skillsets, they will have an enhanced opportunity to pursue the career path that best aligns with those."

According to Gogolin, Carnegie-Mellon University in Pennsylvania and Ferris State University will be the only two colleges to currently offer a Bachelor of Science instruction in Artificial Intelligence.

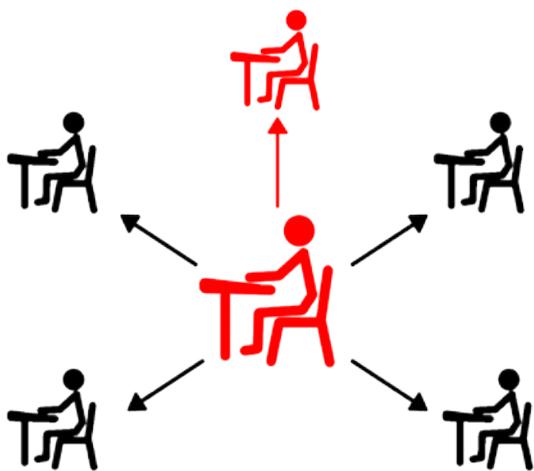
Both Nicol and Gogolin suspected that offering Artificial Intelligence courses will increase student enrollment at Ferris, especially in the ISI Program. This will also provide students with better qualifications when they enter the workforce.

"The growth potential for someone choosing a career in AI is among the most attractive of any career field," Gogolin said. "There is also an unusual opportunity to work in a field that can provide a dramatic benefit to a significant number of individuals in many different fields ranging from health care to implementations that have yet to be conceived."

When students received the news that Artificial Intelligence will be offered next semester, they were pleasantly surprised. Stu-

A.I. | see page 3

COVID-19 contact tracing in classrooms gets complicated



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant

Cora Hall
Editor in Chief

Ferris' contact tracing policies are starting to be questioned by students after a student tested positive the day after they were present at an in person class and most other students were not notified.

The Torch confirmed that the student tested positive for

COVID-19 on Friday, Oct. 2. They were in class on Thursday, Oct. 1. Multiple students confirmed that there was not a class-wide email informing of their possible exposure by either the university or professor of communication Cami Sanderson.

The student attended Sanderson's 3 p.m. section of Persuasive Speaking on Thursday and said they immediately informed Sanderson of their test result, on Friday. In a Canvas message to students obtained by the Torch, Sanderson said she did not get tested until Monday morning.

Sanderson canceled her in-person classes Monday, Oct. 5 after getting tested. In her message, she told her other class that she "might have been exposed to Covid 19," but did not tell them where her possible exposure happened and did not inform her Persuasive Speaking class. Several students from her Persuasive Speaking class confirmed that they did not receive any form of communication from Sanderson or the university about the positive test result in their class.

The student who tested positive confirmed their test result with the Torch and, according to other students in the class, was in close contact with Sanderson, even handing her materials to help with speeches in class.

Dean of Life Joy Pulsifer said that professors are not re-

quired under university policy to inform students if a classmate tests positive.

"Faculty and staff are not expected to share with their classes when they are informed by a student that they tested positive and instead are asked to respect the privacy of the student involved," Pulsifer said.

If a student tests positive, the District Health Department or Birkam Health Center on campus would notify the students who were identified as close contacts, according to Pulsifer.

"Generally students in class would not be considered a close contact so long as they are keeping at least 6 feet of distance between them and the positive students," Pulsifer said.

According to Birkam Director of Health Services Lindsay Barber, Ferris is following the guidelines set by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. This outlines "close contact" as someone who's been within six feet of a COVID-positive person for 15 minutes or more. On this technicality, most students in a classroom are not considered close contact. When a student tests positive for COVID-19, Barber said they conduct a "health investigation" and ask the student who their close contacts are based on the CDC definition.

Contact Tracing | see page 5

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NEWS

Ry Rodriguez | News Editor | rodrir16@ferris.edu

Meeting John Mulaney

Emmy award winning writer and comedian John Mulaney visits Ferris virtually for Homecoming Week



Screenshot taken during livestream

Entertainment Unlimited member Lane Steffke interviews John Mulaney for Ferris' homecoming celebration.

Madison Kettlewell
Torch Photographer

Stand up comedian John Mulaney visited Ferris for our Homecoming celebration this past week.

Mulaney was interviewed by a student over a live Zoom call on Thursday, Oct. 9. He answered questions that had been previously submitted by Ferris students. Born and raised in Chicago, Mulaney left for Washington to attend Georgetown University in 2000. He described his college experience in a way that most students can relate to.

"College for me was a four-year game show called, 'Do my friends hate me or do I just need to go to sleep?'" Mulaney said. "I was very emotional."

As students watched the interview unfold virtually, Mulaney discussed topics such as his time working on Saturday Night Live (SNL), his views and experience with college, his relationship with Jerry Seinfeld, his dog, Petunia, and much

more.

"Petunia eats first," Mulaney said. "I've catered more to her meals in ways that I won't even discuss... There's no question about whose meal is most important."

Mulaney met two of his closest friends, Nick Kroll and Mike Birbiglia, at Georgetown University. Together these future Hollywood stars joined an improv group on campus. Although Mulaney graduated with his degree in English and met some of his life-long friends there, he still described his hesitance towards encouraging the traditional four-year path.

"I personally feel college can be a waste of time," Mulaney began. "But this is not geared towards any of you. Then again, I became a nightclub comedian - so don't take my word for it. Of course I'm not using my college degree. I'm standing on stage telling jokes for the mafia."

"Anyway, everyone should drop out," Mulaney joked.

A few years later, Birbiglia would invite Mulaney along on his stand-up tour, play-

ing a detrimental role in helping develop Mulaney's stage presence. Further, Birbiglia, Kroll, and Mulaney worked together as recently as 2019 to raise a million dollars for first generation college students. Throughout their careers, the three have continued to stay in touch and collaborate on projects.

"I did a show with Nick Kroll called 'Oh, hello' on Broadway," Mulaney said. "One time, a very old guy walked up to me at the supermarket and said, 'I bet everyone says 'Oh, hello' to you. But I'm not everybody, so I'm going to say 'Hi!'"

Lastly, Mulaney discussed working with Jerry Seinfeld while they were both on SNL. Remembering the show's 40-year anniversary party, Mulaney reflected on when he held the responsibility of writing the questions that Seinfeld would read to the audience.

"I was really nervous," Mulaney said, "I called Seinfeld a few days before and I said, 'This is a very big deal to me, so please be gentle when I pitch these jokes.'"

\$6.59 million gets you a new name

North Quad's name changes after donation

Rebecca Vanderkooi
News Reporter

The Ferris Board of Trustees recently approved the renaming of the North Quad area. It will now be called "The Dewaine V. and Jana B. Robinson Quad."

This decision has come after the Ferris pharmacy program received a \$6.59 million bequest from the estate of the late Dewaine V. and Jana B. Robinson. This is the largest donation in Ferris history.

The university has been astounded by the generosity of the Robinson's and are so grateful to them for their support and kindness.

Ferris Board of Trustees Chair Amna Seibold said, "The Board of Trustees enthusiastically endorsed President David Eisler's recommendation to recognize and celebrate the Robinson's extraordinary generosity by renaming the North Quad area, between FLITE library and the University Center on the main campus, the Dewaine V. and Jana B. Robinson Quad."

The Ferris web page further explains that, "(The donation) established the Dewaine V. and Jana B. Robinson Scholarship Endowment. Income from the endowment provides financial aid in perpetuity for students enrolled in Ferris' Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) four-year degree program."

Both Robinsons' have left a strong legacy behind. Dewaine was a 1955 Ferris Institute Pharmacy honors graduate. For years, he operated Fenton-Hills Drugs and Bristol Road Drugs, both of which are drug stores near Flint Michigan. In addition, he founded a computerized billing company.

The Ferris website also explains that, "Jana studied accounting at Flint Junior College and worked in the college's registrar's office and Crestwood Memorial Gardens, in Grand Blanc."

"Our hope is that faculty, staff, students, alumni and visitors who frequent the Robinson Quad will reflect on the life and remarkable generosity of the Robinsons and will be inspired to make their own legacy gift to the University during their lifetime," said Seibold, of East Grand Rapids.



Want to write for the Torch but don't have the time every week?

The Torch is now accepting freelance articles!

Pitch your story idea to our Editor in Chief, Cora Hall. If we like your story, we'll send you out to report and write and if we publish it, you'll get paid.

Email hallc36@ferris.edu for more information or to pitch a story!



- ON THE RECORD -

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

Pass, hit, run, wait

Ry Rodriguez
News Editor

Test and Keys

Oct. 6 10:00 a.m. A professor called DPS when it was found out that someone had keyed his car in Lot 71. There are no suspects at this time.

Don't Tell Him

Oct. 7 1:54 a.m. A male driver was pulled over in Lot 16 due to not using a turn signal. After further investigation it was found that the driver had a suspended license. Due to COVID-19, he was on probation and he violated the Probation Officers Orders. The driver was issued a misdemeanor appearance ticket and the PO was notified.

Pass, Hit, Run, Wait

Oct. 11 1:27 a.m. During an improper pass, the suspect hit the vehicle it was passing. With no attempt to slow down, the victim followed the suspect back to an apartment complex. After the suspect fled the scene, the victim

wrote down the suspects license plate, which was enough to get the vehicle towed. After trying to obtain their vehicle the suspect came into DPS and confessed of the crime and got a misdemeanor appearance ticket.

Too Dang Bright

Oct. 11 9:50 p.m. A traffic stop was initiated on Fourth Ave near, Madison Street, for using Bright Lights and not dimming for oncoming traffic. After obtaining more information, the driver had a suspended license. The driver was also on probation in the county of Montcalm. It is up to the probation officer for further punishment other than the traffic violation ticket and misdemeanor ticket to appear in court.

Food Fight

Oct. 11 11:06 p.m. A neighbor called in a civil dispute at Robin Court. One guy threw food at another's door, leading for the call to DPS. After the officers arrived it was found out it was truly just food being thrown at each other, nothing more, nothing less.

Torch Corrections

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A.I.

Continued from page 1
dents were excited to learn that Ferris will provide such advanced technological learning opportunities for them.

Gogolin mentioned that organizations that master Artificial Intelligence early will gain immense economic advantages.

"AI leverages human capacity, enabling greater innovation and capacity," Nicol said. "It's utilization requires foundational knowledge which will be available in this offering."

Because Artificial Intelligence is still a relatively new range of study, Ferris wanted to add this curriculum straight away. The university strives to produce future innovators in the fields that need it most.

"There is a very significant talent gap in the AI field," Gogolin said. "Ferris has a proven track record as a university that has provided a leadership role in emerging fields going all the way back to the late 1800s when Ferris began producing pharmacists."

The other \$185,000 from the Department of Defense's grant will benefit the ISI Program in categories such as supplying student scholarships and cyber competitions. These improvements, along with the development of an A.I. curriculum, will help students in this field expand their abilities to succeed.

Courses for the new A.I. program will be available in the spring 2021 semester for students to enroll in.

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THIS WEEK IN MICHIGAN NEWS

Catch up on news around the state



Ry Rodriguez
News Editor

Capital Update – On Oct. 15, the Governor Whitmer held a press conference stating that 13 men have been arrested in the attempt to kidnap her. In the further investigation, 2 of them were former marines. It was talked about in their plan to kidnap the governor they would blow open the bridge as a distraction, blow open a hole in the Capitol, take the Governor, drive to Wisconsin, 'try' her for treason, then kill her. The plan is in an affidavit made by the FBI on Freep.com. The Michigan State Police (MSP), have ramped up surveillance around the Capitol even though they have had multiple threats against them within the last week.

COVID-19 CASE COUNT

Positive Cases – 149,454

Deaths from COVID-19 – 7,221

Recovered Cases – 104,271

***NYT**

****Michigan.gov**

Sports – Lions had a bye week, staying last tied with the Minnesota Vikings at 1 and 3. The Mid-American Conference was the last to announce they would be returning to play football. On Oct. 7 they released the schedule for the 12 teams with their first games on Nov. 4. The BIG-10s first games will take place on Oct. 24.

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A disappointing celebration

Seniors react to fall commencement being canceled

Veronica Mascorro
News Reporter

On Sept. 25, Ferris announced via email that the Fall commencement ceremony would be canceled for safety reasons.

COVID-19 has caused many restrictions to go into place, including limitations on large gatherings. Outdoor gatherings are a bit more flexible as there is more room to socially distance. However, because fall commencement takes place in December it would create more issues to have an outdoor commencement ceremony, which is why all commencement ceremonies at Ferris are traditionally indoors.

In place of the traditional ceremony, each graduate will have a personalized slide with a Ferris logo and colors displaying their name, degree, photo and a short quote or thank you message.

Ferris had previously promised to make up a ceremony for Spring 2020 graduates who were also unable to have a graduation ceremony. However due to the cancellation of fall commencement Ferris has decided to cancel the make-up ceremony as well.

Dean of Enrollment Services Kristen Salomonson has taken leadership of commencement and explained the process behind the decision to cancel commencement. Salomonson explained that the biggest factor that was taken into consideration were guidelines set in place by the Center for Disease Control and the State of Michigan.

"Planning for commencement starts months in advance," Salomonson said. "When our university transitioned to virtual learning in spring, we began discussions on scenarios for our December commencement. We made the difficult decision to postpone the in-person ceremonies, ultimately it is a choice that protects the health and safety of our graduates, their guests and university staff."

Making this decision was not something that was easy for Salomonson and the team in

charge of commencement. Salomonson said that having a graduation ceremony is one of the most important events for students and expressed her hopes that commencement can return for the spring 2021 graduates.

"They have worked hard for this one moment of celebration for themselves and for the family and friends who have supported them through their educational journey. If we can do it safely, we will return to our in-person ceremonies in the spring. At this point, we don't know what will happen. We are hopeful we'll be able to make it work. So much depends on what happens between now and 2021 in terms of the trajectory of the virus," Salomonson said.

Ferris facility management senior Kyle White is graduating in the spring and is hopeful that things will return back to normal in the spring semester.

"My gut feeling is that COVID-19 will no longer be around or a thing come January or February, this may just be me being hopeful that it all ends soon, but time will tell," White said. "Senior year has been a bit odd given the world's state currently. Going back and looking at my time leading up to this it makes me miss being a freshman on campus. I'm hoping I can finish off my spring semester with the world somewhat back to normal with all of my friends."

Although White won't be too upset if there isn't a ceremony, he planned to attend the ceremony so that his mom could see him walk across the stage and get his diploma. If there is no ceremony White said that he would likely have a special dinner with his family to celebrate with the people he loves.

Ferris social work senior Marisol Martinez was a first-generation high school graduate so attending and graduating from college is a major accomplishment for her family. Hearing the news that there would be no graduation ceremony broke her heart.

"My mother will never hear my name being



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant

called to watch me walk across a stage that no previous generation has walked before," Martinez said. "I cannot speak for everyone, but I feel like the missed feeling of attending a ceremony where we receive the last words of motivation and hope before entering the professional world is a once in a lifetime moment. We miss the moment of celebrating with our classmates, mentors, advisors, professors, friends, and family."

Martinez believed that there was going to be a graduation ceremony as different guidelines and restrictions have changed and she felt like things were returning to normal.

"I thought that Ferris would split graduation over a couple more days in order to celebrate everyone who graduated in May, August, and December," Martinez said. "I hope Ferris can do something in the future, but nothing could make up for missing a ceremony and walking across a stage. I just feel for the class of Spring 2020, they got their ceremony cancelled twice."

Despite not having a ceremony Martinez still plans to celebrate in some way.

"At the moment there is no other celebration planned, but the fiesta will still happen. I'm buying a cap and gown still of course so I can take pictures with my parents," Martinez said.

Ferris is holding its virtual celebration on December 19 at 10 a.m. Each graduate will be having their own presentation slide along with a verbal announcement of their name, degree and any academic honors. Many of the elements of the traditional ceremonies will be in place - including music and speeches from Ferris dignitaries. There will also be several commencement stations in the University Center. This will present graduates with the opportunity to take photos with themed backdrops, receive diploma covers and to pick up alumni pins before Thanksgiving.

A center for hope

LGBTQ+ Resource Center keeps up events, switches focus to online

Rebecca Vanderkooi
News Reporter

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center has been a place of connection and hope for many on the Ferris campus; despite the changes and challenges since it's temporary physical shutdown, the community it has created is alive and well.

Since its grand opening in 2018, the LGBTQ+ Center has had an almost constant stream of activities and groups. Things changed when the COVID-19 pandemic hit this spring. Currently, the center is not physically open but it's working hard to grow the community online.

Thanks in part to the help of students, and LGBTQ+ Center participants like Derek Poortenga, a second-year student at Ferris, the Center has built an online Discord server with numerous chat rooms for different groups to meet virtually.

"For me not having easy communication with people makes it harder to process what's going on currently," Poortenga said.

Sarah Doherty, the LGBTQ+ Resource Center coordinator noted that although developing connections online instead of in-person is more difficult, it's still possible.

Doherty said, "The LGBTQ+ Resource Center staff miss the casual daily interactions in the Resource Center." She added,

"We're trying to make space for students and staff and faculty to find each other and connect to the resources we're collecting or developing, but it's difficult."

Alyssa Caron, a Ferris senior has attended different LGBTQ+ groups on campus since



Photo by: Benjamin Totten | Torch Photographer

Although it is now closed, the LGBTQ+ Resource Center is in the University Center.

her freshman year. This year she is also an intern at the LGBTQ+ Resource Center. She has always loved the sense of community and being able to spend time with people of similar identities who understand both the joys and struggles of life.

Caron acknowledges that although online

events are good, they are no substitute for face to face interaction. She would be at the center daily for her internship as well as additional events if it weren't for the pandemic. It's safe to say this change has had a big impact on her life.

Caron said, "Being on campus creates much more opportunity for higher attendance in events and programs. I, myself, was a student who popped in on things happening around where I was. Moving online has taken the spontaneity out of my life as nearly everything has to be planned to fit

into my schedule."

It has been a strange balance of feeling isolated but also connected for students involved at the center, including Poortenga.

Poortenga explained, "We found a way through our limited way of interacting to have things at least somewhat like what they were before." They added, "It has made me feel more isolated than before."

Despite the challenges, the LGBTQ+ Center community is moving forward. Two of the key changes were moving their weekly Coffeehouse meetings to discord as well as hosting a drop-in FriGay Gaymes weekly event on their discord server. In addition to that, there are occasional virtual film screenings, book clubs, and more.

Doherty explained that with the success comes continued struggles, "attendance is lower than everyday traffic in the Resource Center would be because it's just a bit more effort to turn on your computer and log into Discord than swinging by a room and getting a cookie or a cup of tea or finding someone to play a game or study with."

To learn more or to join any of the upcoming virtual events you can find the LGBTQ+ Resource Center on the Ferris State University website. There you can find a calendar with all the different event times, dates, and information.

VP debate winner: the fly on Pence's head



Screenshot taken during debate livestream

A fly landed on Vice President Pence's hair for over two minutes and was one of the most talked about parts of the debate on Twitter.

Vice Presidential candidates dodge questions, fail to sway many viewers

Ry Rodriguez
News Editor

On Wednesday Oct. 7, the Vice Presidential took place in Utah, with the candidates Kamala Harris and Mike Pence.

Like usual, the debate started with the topic of COVID-19 and the candidates either talked about their new plans, or how their plans have worked.

At one point in the debate, a fly landed on top of Pence's hair and stayed there for over two minutes, causing a Twitter users to have a field day. Biden's campaign began selling fly swatters after the debate ended.

The debate followed many of the topics of the Presidential debate, including the topic of race. Notably, Pence denied the existence of systematic racism in America.

"The family of Breonna Taylor has our sympathies. But I trust our justice system," Pence said. "This presumption that you hear from Joe Biden and Kamala Harris that America is systemically racist, and as Joe Biden said, he believes that law enforcement has an implicit bias against minorities, it's a great insult to the men and women who serve in law enforcement."

In Harris' response to moderator Susan Page's question about Breonna Taylor, she mentioned her participation in peaceful protests after Taylor's death.

"People around our country of every race, of every age, of every gender, perfect strangers to each other, marched. Shoulder to shoulder, arm in arm, fighting for us to finally achieve that ideal of equal justice under law," Harris said. "We are never going to condone violence. But we always must fight for the values that we hold dear, including the fight for our ideals."

Another main topic about the debate was fracking. Fracking is the process of injecting liquid at high pressure into subterranean rocks to for an opening to obtain oil or gas, and this has produced more than a million jobs over the past ten years.

Pence has pointed out that Kamala Harris has talked about stopping fracking overall, but Harris stated that former Vice President Biden's plan does not stop fracking soon. Both candidates dodged questions throughout the night, not exactly answering Page's questions.

After watching the debate, it was hard to understand what the Vice-Presidential Debate was really for.

Computer information technology and information security senior Jason Beany added to the topic.

"My general understanding of the debates is that the two parties just fling arguments at each other and ignore each others points," Beany said.

"I personally have a lot of important, to me, things to do, and it's hard for me to spend time watching two people debate with points that won't do anything to sway my viewpoint. I have no real evidence to confirm this, but I believe many people, if not most, will just watch to see their respective political figure 'win' the debate through the eyes of one's biased viewpoint to confirm their political beliefs".

Professor of communication Sean Kolhoff talked about how this debate really do not matter to swing peoples votes.

"Historically, VP debates do not matter much, and I do not expect this to be an exception. I am sure the base on both sides was really happy with their candidate's performance. Harris did a pretty good job at addressing 'the American people,' so there is a chance they get a bit more of a bump, but the neither side made their ticket look bad, which is a win in itself at this stage," Kolhoff said.

Kolhoff went to talk about how just because this debate was not impactful on the election, it does not mean it is not important at all.

"Every debate is an opportunity to see political candidates interact with each other. These discussions, and the ones we have after watching, are quite important for the democratic process," Kolhoff said.

The next Presidential debate will be held on Oct. 22. The deadline to register to vote online is Oct. 19, for the state of Michigan.

CONTACT TRACING

Continued from page 1

"We track back to two days prior to the onset of symptoms or two days prior to the positive test, if the person is asymptomatic, to list who they've been around in that context," Barber said. "When we know who those contacts are, we then reach out to them by email to provide them with information and resources on how to quarantine for 14 days since their last exposure. We ask COVID positive students specifically about classroom work, activities and space. We definitely do not work off of assumptions for these situations. What we have found, though, is that most positive cases have either not been in the classroom prior to testing or were following the mitigation strategies set in place and therefore kept their fellow students safe."

As it stands, sending a class-wide email informing all students that someone in their class tested positive is not part of Birkam's contact tracing policy.

Some students are concerned about the relaxed contact tracing, like English sophomore Angie Rosenthal.

"I always assumed that they would respect the privacy of students that get COVID-19, but I'm quite surprised they're not informing classes that could've potentially been exposed," Rosenthal said. "Now I'm worried that I wouldn't know if someone in my hall got the virus."

Sophomore Brendan Deneen would prefer a stricter contact tracing policy, especially within face-to-face classrooms.

"I think that's such b-----, if we go and get tested and get the results we should try and stop it at the source, instead of letting it keep leaking to more people in the classroom without even knowing it," Deneen said.

However, he acknowledged that these are completely unprecedented times for everyone involved.

"I think with it being a pandemic that happens once every 100 years, I think everyone's learning, and I think this is a learning experience that we should minimize as many cases as we can," Deneen said.

2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION UPDATE

Ry Rodriguez, News Editor

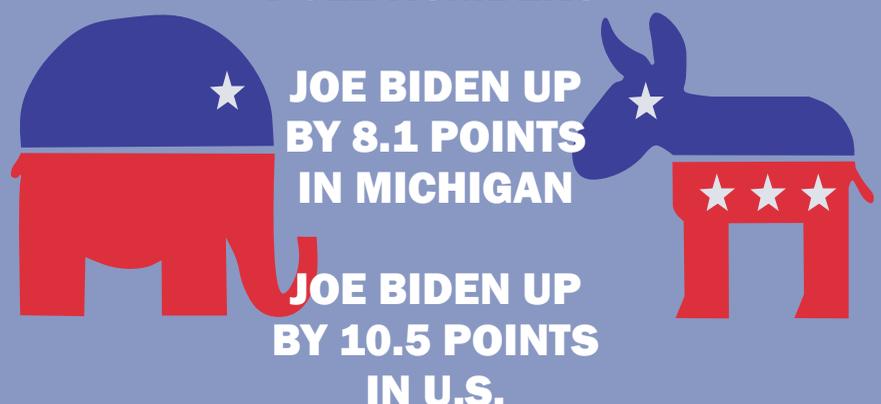
Oct. 7, The VP debate took place, the star of the debate was a fly that landed on the head of Mike Pence, and shortly after the Biden campaign started to sell fly swatters on their website.

Oct. 10, The Next presidential debate supposed to be held Oct 15 is cancelled, making the Oct. 22 debate the last of debates before the Nov. 3 election.

Oct. 11, ABC reports Biden holds a 12-point lead over President Trump, stating this lead is powered by trust on fixing the pandemic. A lead like this is something that is never seen this close to an election,

Oct 12, President Trump tweets out there are no good places to go in Illinois. The governor of Illinois, JB Pritzker, clapped back with five good places to go visit in Illinois including The Weiner Circle.

POLL NUMBERS



LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | *Lifestyles Editor* | russem22@ferris.edu

Ferris community demands support for Indigenous Peoples' Day

Marissa Russell
Lifestyles Editor

Oct. 12 is recognized in many places in the United States as Indigenous People's Day (IPD) to celebrate and honor Native American people and their culture.

IPD was created in response to Columbus Day holiday to recognize the native populations that were displaced and decimated after Christopher Columbus and other European explorers reached the continent.

Michigan started to observe IPD on Oct. 14, 2019 after Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared the day to "uplift our country's indigenous roots, history and contributions."

Ferris biology professor Scott Herron has been working on getting IPD recognized on campus, but to no avail.

"As a faculty researcher working with Indigenous-Native American communities in Michigan for several decades, it makes me feel that Diversity and Inclusion does not extend to all community members here at Ferris State University," Herron said.

Herron said that he has a IPD banner in his lab and that

he considered hanging it out outside on campus but the lack of support makes it not worth the effort in his opinion, since there is no longer an active Circle of Tribal Nations RSO on campus.

"I feel its past time for Ferris State administration to support all its students, faculty, and staff and one simple but powerful action would be for the Board of Trustees to adopt IPD as the holiday of record, and for that effort to be lead by our office of Diversity and Inclusion," Herron said.

Herron has requested this directly in past years, but has not had any success. With the help of the Office of Multicultural Student Services he has been able to educate the students and staff on campus about IPD for several years now, "yet the campus appears to celebrate the oppressor, not the survivors."

Accounting senior Tianna Halfaday is a student who would like to see IPD recognized by the university, as a member of the Hannahville Potawatomi tribe in Michigan.

"I'd rather celebrate a day recognizing my culture which is beautiful and deep, versus a day celebrating genocide and rape," Tianna Halfaday said.

Halfaday said she would like Ferris to bring more awareness for IPD because there are so many people on campus that don't even know this day exists. She said that when she was a freshman living in the dorms she met people that were shocked that she, a Native American, went to college. They told her that they have never "met" a Native American before.

Columbus Day, which is also on Oct. 12, is recognized on Ferris calendar, unlike IPD.

When asked why Ferris recognizes Columbus Day instead of IPD, Ferris communications officer Michelle Rasmussen said, "Columbus Day is on the campus calendar because it is a federally recognized holiday. All of the federal holidays are posted on the campus calendar."

Even though Columbus Day is a federal holiday, states and governments can choose to not observe a federal holiday and choose to observe IPD instead.

Rasmussen did not respond to questions about Herron's efforts to bring IPD observance to Ferris, why Ferris has not adopted IPD and why Ferris sees Columbus Day more important than IPD. Eisler was not made available for comment.



Photo courtesy of Tianna Halfaday

Members of the Hannahville Potawatomi tribe dancing at an annual powwow.

"It makes me feel that Diversity and Inclusion does not extend to all community members here at Ferris State University."

-Scott Herron

"I'd rather celebrate a day recognizing my culture which is beautiful and deep versus a day celebrating genocide and rape."

-Tianna Halfaday

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES OF MICHIGAN



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant



Photo courtesy of Tianna Halfaday

Traditional dances, like the one pictured above, have always been an integral part of Native American culture.



Photo courtesy of Tianna Halfaday

Accounting senior Tianna Halfaday and her jingle dress.

Back to her roots

Ferris student reconnects with her Native American culture

Marissa Russell
Lifestyles Editor

Accounting senior Tianna Halfaday came to Ferris after living her entire life on the federally recognized Hannahville Potawatomi tribe reservation in the Upper Peninsula.

“Living on the reservation isn’t any different than living somewhere else except we have more of a traditional household,” Halfaday said. “I attended a school off the reservation. It was a little strange though because despite being only a couple miles from home I still faced racism. Then going home some community members assumed we thought we were better than them because we had a life off the reservation too.”

Halfaday said that when she came to Ferris she felt alone and exposed. After being around her native friends and family her whole life she didn’t have anyone to relate to at Ferris. She felt strange about talking about her culture to other people but she eventually met friends who wanted to learn about her culture.

“When my uncle passed away I wanted to get more in touch with my culture,” Halfaday said. Her uncle passed away in 2017 as she was preparing to move to Big Rapids.

One way she found to reconnect with her culture is by dancing.

“This is a jingle dress,” Halfaday said about the picture on the right. “They’re very, very sacred. In powwows they are used as a healing dress. So when we dance in these dresses we say healing prayers and dedicate the

song to someone who needs healing. There’s two things that need to be done in order to wear a jingle dress. One way is, you have to fast for the dress. No drinking or eat for 4 days and 4 nights. This is done to cleanse your mind and body. The second is you can have a dream about it. Typically the dreams are dancing in the dress for healing purposes.”

Halfaday said that there is an exception which she fell under. You can win one during a powwow. Halfaday won hers during the 2019 Hannahville powwow right after telling her father that she wanted to go through the steps to start jingle dress dancing.

Powwows are a gathering to celebrate Native American culture. There are two types of powwows; traditional and competition. The only difference between the two is in competition the dancers are competing against each other. At powwows one of the main events is the dancing. Different dances include exhibition and intertribal. Intertribal means that everyone is allowed to join in and dance. Exhibition dances are based on regalia (the clothing they wear) and different drumbeats.

Some exhibition dances include jingle dress, fancy shawl, men’s traditional, women’s traditional, grass dance and men’s fancy. Halfaday participates in fancy shawl.

“I remember owning a regalia when I was 6 or 7,” Halfaday said. “I have been dancing since I could walk, at least 15 years.”

Halfaday hasn’t started dancing jingle dress yet but plans to start soon.

Students weigh in on working out in masks

Kendall Rooks
Lifestyles Reporter

Wearing masks and making appointments to workout at the gym has become the new normal since the student Rec Center’s re-opening.

Many students have had mixed feelings about the Rec Center operations, and some have opted to attend other gyms as an alternative. The major annoyance among some students attending the gym is the mask requirement.

“I believe it’s stupid to be honest” Michael Alderman a mechanical engineer technology senior said, “Walking around the gym is one thing but for them to make you wear it while actively working out or running is ridiculous.”

The Rec Center requires students to wear masks at all times while inside the building. It also requires that students make appointments before attending for a workout. The appointments allow the Rec Center to regulate the number of students inside as well as sanitize equipment between each appointment time slot.

Austin Carrithers a business management senior said that it took him some time to get used to making the appointments after being so used to walking in whenever. He stated however, “This allowed me to schedule my week better by picking what time slots I would want and what body part I would be working out that day.”

Due to the Rec Center policies many students have opted to attend other facilities totally or for some of their workouts, leaving the traffic throughout the Rec Center decreasing.

Justin Harden, the Director of University Recreation and Wellness Programs stated, “I do think [there has been a] decrease in our traffic. However, I think the decrease in

traffic comes from people still being cautious about going out in public spaces especially inside smaller areas like the SRC. I think that has more to do with it than the Governor’s mandate.”

Jacob McGowan a professional tennis management senior has started to attend JD Fit in Big Rapids, as opposed to the Rec Center. JD Fit is following similar guidelines as the Rec Center, they are also requiring masks and appointment times. McGowan stated “I have mixed feelings about masks in the gym. I don’t mind wearing one inside, and I understand why the mandate has been put in place. However, I believe that the masks should come off briefly during either heavy exertion while lifting/running, or while you are at least 6 feet away from anyone.”

Aldermann attends PT Plus in Big Rapids, along with the Rec Center. He prefers attending the Rec Center but mentioned that PT Plus does not require members wear masks which was his main annoyance.

“I have three current gym memberships, all of which stayed open during the entirety of the pandemic. They’ve all required you to sanitize your equipment and one of them required a temperature check, before masks were mandated by the state. My main gym “Crunch fitness” made you sign a waiver upon entering saying you’ll wear a mask when moving between equipment or when social distancing was not possible.”

Depending on your preference for precautions taken in the gym setting there is likely one which will fit your needs. If you would like to schedule an appointment to attend the Rec Center visit the University Recreation page, click the SRC Updates link, and follow the steps provided to create an account and schedule an appointment.



Photo by: Benjamin Totten | Torch Photography

Ferris student lifting weights at student Rec Center.

How not to date



Photo by: Madison Kettlewell | Torch Photographer

Couple walking around Big Rapids, enjoying the fall colors.

Ferris students talk about the worst date experiences that they have had

Matthew Miller
Lifestyles Reporter

Everyone has had their fair share of dates that have gone wrong from their date being rude, to just downright disgusting.

Industrial chemical and technology senior Breanna Kociba said that her worst date happened over the summer in Grand Rapids. She met the guy on Tinder, and they hit it off really well, but when it came down to date time, he did not perform.

"He was super rude to the waitress and the entire time he was just hinting to go back to his place to do the dirty deed," Kociba said. "After the date, I made sure to get away from him and block his number."

Kociba said that she no longer uses Tinder because most of the people she meets on it are immature. She said that first dates will always be a make or break for her. Common courtesy, manners and an overall respect are just some of the qualities that she will look for in a date.

A common way young adults nowadays are looking for that special someone is through dating apps such as Tinder, Bumble and Grindr. Most of the time this isn't the best place to look as most of these dates are already set for failure. You can also meet people through mutual friends or even your ex.

Human resources management sophomore Emma Gauthier said that one of her worst dates happened when she went to Applebee's. Gauthier met the guy through mutual friends, and this was one of the first dates that she had ever been on.

"The guy just couldn't hold a conversation and just talked about football the entire time," Gauthier said. "Very stereotypical jock type."

Gauthier said that she went on the date to officially give him a reason to not go on another. At the end of the date she said that he texted her asking for another date. When she turned him down, he blew up on her with a long text message.

Business administration senior Tommy Tran said that he was in a relationship for three years and took his girlfriend on many dates. They are no longer together, but he said that there are a few dates that they went on that go down as the worst.

"One of the first dates that we went on together was to a Steak and Shake after a high school football game," Tran said. "Honestly the date was perfect, but the restaurant was dirty and there were some drunk people in the restaurant that were being super loud, obnoxious and rude to employees. I made sure to tip well."

Tran said that he hasn't been looking to date anyone for some time and that he is just looking to graduate right now. He does have a Tinder and will go on there from time to time so see if anyone may pop up.

It is never too late to go out and find the right person or have the worst date of your life.

Events calendar

WEDNESDAY

Oct. 7

EASY 2 mile walk/ jog/ run

Contact: Anna Douglas
annadouglas@ferris.edu
Location: Rec Center
Time: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.



LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coffee House

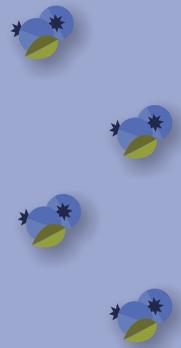
Contact: Sarah Doherty
lgbtqcenter@ferris.edu
Location: Online
Time: 6:30 - 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Oct. 8

Lunch Time Crunch Time

Contact: Anna Douglas
annadouglas@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 12- 12:30 p.m.



Cover the Quad – Awareness and Fundraising Campaign for United Way

Contact: Michele Albright
albrigm@ferris.edu
Location: Online
Time: 9 - 10 p.m.

Five Star: Rick Barker

Contact: Lane Steffke
steffkl@ferris.edu
Location: Online
Time: 7 - 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

Oct. 9

VIRTUAL STUDY ABROAD WORKSHOP

Contact: Megan Hauser-Tran
MeganHauserTran@ferris.edu
Location: Zoom
Time: 1 - 2 p.m.

FriGay Gaymes

Contact: Sarah Doherty
lgbtqcenter@ferris.edu
Location: Online
Time: 3 - 5 p.m.



MONDAY

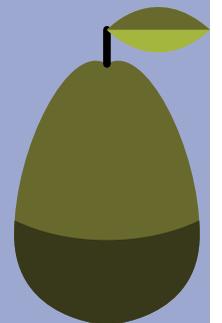
Oct. 12

Fall 2020 Career & Internship Fair (Virtual)

Contact: Kathryn Thomas
KathrynEThomas@ferris.edu
Location: Online
Time: 8 a.m.- 7 p.m.

Virtual Cooking Show

Contact: Anna Douglas
annadouglas@ferris.edu
Location: Online
Time: 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.



For more events, check out calendar.ferris.edu

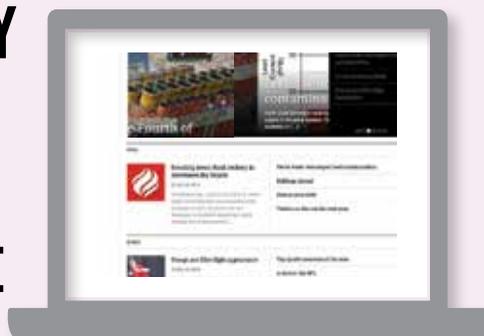
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The sound of no music

Students and staff talk about the loss of ensembles, eerie silence in music building

Meghan Hartly
Lifestyles Reporter

Due to university set regulations to keep students and staff safe, many of the music ensembles are canceled.

Ferris announced that band and choral ensembles are not allowed to practice or have any performances. Five out of six ensembles fall under this category, the one exception being the West Central Chamber Orchestra (WCCO), consisting of strings.

Compared to wind ensembles, the string ensemble is allowed to meet and practice socially distanced because there is no saliva involved. Players just use their hands to create sound.

While there is still music in the halls of Ferris, it is a drastic change compared to last year.

There has also been a drastic change of community for both staff and students. Band had become an outlet for everyone to fill their social endeavors and also combat the stress in their lives. Nowadays, hardly anyone comes by the music center.

Dale Skornia, associate professor of music and director of the WCCO, says that the music center has been taken aback because of the absence of students playing since this past spring.

"I'm going to paraphrase Ruth, our music center secretary, nobody's here." Skornia said "It's just us."

Skornia also mentioned that staff have been making the decision to work remotely or have in-person classes, not involving wind instruments.

"I know one director doesn't want to have ensembles until there is a vaccine, and the other one doesn't think it's safe" Skornia said.

Staff have been feeling down with the lack of music being played and communication with their student musicians, and they're not alone. Students have been feeling the absence as well.

Victoria Sill, a medical lab science senior, is one student who will not be able to finish her university years as a member of the FSU Pep-band.

Sill says that she thought ensembles would be able to perform again this fall after the shutdown this past spring. However, after seeing that wouldn't happen she says it has been a weird start to the semester.



Photo by: Ben Totten | Torch Photographer

Band room in the music building empty and chairs 6 feet apart.

"Not going to practice, any games on the weekend, or nothing. It's so weird. Pretty quiet." Sill said

The pep-band is most known for cheering on sports teams through musical chants, but they would also make small performances off campus throughout the community, including performances at local elementary schools.

"In pep-band you get really involved, and it takes up a lot of your time," Sill said "It's a good free time activity."

Sill says that she and many other students have been needing to find other outlets to replace pep-band as their gateway to relieving their stress, and it hasn't been easy.

Music has been a big stress reliever, and for musicians to not play has caused them to have more stress, feel as though they are missing out, and overall feel as though a part of them is missing. And many don't touch their instruments as much anymore.

Skornia had mentioned a flutist he had seen recently and how not having any ensembles has affected him.

"I had lunch with an adult band member," Skornia said

"He brought up flute-playing, because he had just bought a flute and he's a good player. He was going to be a music major, and he said "I was so depressed. Part of it was the band because I just bought a flute. I wasn't motivated for anything. I wish there would've been a way to take an online lesson."

Compared to band ensembles, chamber orchestra members are feeling better that they can meet in person and practice their instruments as a group.

Many had doubts and worries for their ensemble meeting this past spring and summer, but spirits lifted for both students, community members, and directors when they were given the all clear to practice and have performances.

While there still is one ensemble that is meeting, some are afraid that the other ensembles won't be able to come back. Skornia believes the music center may lose them for good due to university strains. If this does occur, ricochets could be felt by those in the community.



Alyssa Myers
Copy Editor

Halloween, a time for trick or treating, pumpkin carving, haunted houses and the ongoing discussion of whether it's a satanic holiday.

The meaning of Halloween differs for everyone and speaking with fellow Ferris students made that abundantly clear.

In the words of computer information systems sophomore Hannah Vinton, "Halloween is a way to become something other than yourself for a night and just enter this whole entire new character and explore things that you might have otherwise never thought to do."

For plastics engineering technology senior Elisabeth Stuhldreer, Halloween is a bit simpler.

"It means I get to spooky and dress even weirder than I normally dress. And candy." plastic engineering technology senior Elisabeth Stuhldreer said. Things change, but the impact Halloween has on us and our need for a break from the

This is Halloween

Spooky season is still on according to students

monotony of daily life is something that's endured.

Halloween has flowed over the boundaries of the 31st and moved on to dominate October. By the beginning of the month decorations are up, seasonal Halloween shops open and the movie marathons begin.

"It's a whole month thing," said Stuhldreer. "When its October I dress up in a Halloween costume like every weekend. At least in the past I did. Cause there was always a Halloween party. You just like walk down the street and see a bunch of costumed kids and are like alright follow them we're going."

This sentiment was mirrored by other students.

"It's got to be a whole month thing. Cause the parties are usually for a whole weekend then it's like a movie festival all month." said data analytics senior Mitchell Blank.

It's definitely a whole month thing. Spooky season is a whole month holiday for me." said Vinton.

Whether you start celebrating in October or in the months leading up to it the general consensus is that one day is not enough.

COVID-19 has brought many things to a standstill but it's not stopping for Halloween. Amidst restrictions, uncertainty and the risk of falling ill the Bulldogs have chosen to adapt.

Though most didn't have plans set in stone the main idea was to keep get togethers among close friends, small and contained.

"I don't really have a Halloween plan," said Vinton. "I intend to just spend it with my friends and watch some scary movies and just have a relaxed night."

When asked how they're spending their night, Stuhldreer

kept the mandates in mind. "With my friends like you know just like roommates and close people I have contact with every day. Probably having a small get together."

Not everyone will share "the keep it small" sentiment, but some students will and that's better than nothing.

No one can dictate how students choose to spend Halloween this year, but paying attention and practicing the safety measures that have been implemented is one way to ensure that you'll be here for the next one. And if Halloween isn't your thing there's always the discounted candy to look forward to once the day has passed.



SPORTS

Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor | sandeb16@ferris.edu

A home like no other

Deng Reng talks about his South Sudanese heritage and journey to Ferris

Brendan Sanders
Sports Editor

Family and heritage. Those are two words that come to mind when meeting with Deng Reng.

On the surface, Reng is a sophomore wing on the men's basketball team and has already become a major contributor for the Bulldogs, making 26 starts in his freshman season and scoring 5.5 points per game. But his story doesn't just stay on the court, or even in Big Rapids. In fact, his story begins nearly 7,000 miles away.

South Sudan is one of forty-one countries that are designated a level four travel advisory by the United States Department for Travel, with reasons being COVID-19, crime, kidnapping, and armed conflict. From 2013 through early 2020, a civil war raged throughout the country killing more than 400,000. Reng's family is still going through terrible situations.

"I have one grandparent left alive right now. She is still alive by the grace of God. I'm just praying that she continues to fight everything that she's fighting, and I get to see her one day." Reng said. "Right now, it's not safe to be there, I've lost lots of relatives within the last few months already. Just people coming and ambushing for no reason at all, trying to take over. That's not the way to live life."

Reng's family left war-torn South Sudan in 1996-97 before having Reng in Cairo, Egypt in 2000. In 2001, the family came to the United States, where they stayed briefly in New York before moving to Chicago. The family moved to a few suburbs in Chicago before calling Wheaton home.

Now, the family has grown to ten siblings, including six brothers and three sisters related to Reng. Many of which now live across the country, including in Nashville, Tennessee, Austin, Texas, Kansas, and Indiana. Still, he has many relatives struggling in their hometown of Juba.

"My parents are always calling back home every single day, trying to stay connected with the people over there. Just because it's unsafe. Our hometown back in South Sudan, they wrecked it. People came in an ambush and destroyed their homes. Over there, when you get married, cows are the most valuable thing, it's like money. Especially with the flooding, it's ruined a lot of crops and animals."

Growing up in the suburbs of Chicago, Reng had one major love. Basketball. He used his love for the



Photo courtesy of Deng Reng

Reng, in the blue shirt, is pictured along with six of his siblings and parents.

game to open up several opportunities for himself which gave Reng the ability to see the outside world.

"It's given me a bigger platform to do something in the future like go back to South Sudan and give them hope that anything is possible no matter where you come from. I also really want to help my parents out and give them the world, God knows they deserve it." Reng said.

To reach that bigger platform, Reng has one dream and it's to make the professional level, something his cousin, Peter Jok, has already accomplished by playing for Spain. He described how NBA players helped influence his life.

"That's been my dream ever since I came here. Two people that's influenced me a lot are two South Sudanese NBA players, Manute Bol and Loul Deng. I have some relation

with them, they've been to my house several times when I was younger. I just enjoyed watching them play, everyone loved them in South Sudan because of what they've done. They went back home and made a difference, making basketball courts and all other useful things that are necessary over there." Reng said.

With the dream to go pro, Reng has worked to prove himself at a national level. He put together a solid high school career in which he won all-conference honors three years in a row and two MVP awards in back to back seasons. He was recruited by Wisconsin assistant Dean Oliver before an injury set him back. Ferris then became an option for the 6 foot 6 inch wing.

After his first visit Reng felt it was the right place for him. Ferris had recently won a national championship in 2018, so Reng wanted to experience that winning culture and feeling with the Bulldog program.

"The transition from Wheaton North to Ferris was a big difference, but I think I adjusted pretty well and found a role I was comfortable with," Reng said. "I'm glad I decided to come to Ferris, and my first year we were conference champions, and I never won a ring before, so it fuels me for what's yet to come."

The Bulldogs all know the end goal is a championship, but they want to get back on the court and on track. The team wants to cherish every moment together and experience winning as a unit.

"Being thrown in the fire right away was a bit nerve-racking. It took some time to get adjusted. Now moving forward, I feel a lot more confident with where my game is at and hopefully, I can have a bigger impact on the team and get us closer to our desired end goal," Reng said.

With Reng's hope to make it to the professional level driving him, he gets up daily at 5 a.m. to attend his 6 a.m. shoot-around, something that he chose to do when the option was presented to him. He does all this so he can support the people that he loves, both here in the United States and especially South Sudan.

"Hopefully one day I can go back and make a difference, that's really why I play basketball. That's what drives me every single day. I hate to see people I love suffer like that." Reng said.

Austin Arquette contributed to the reporting of this story.



Photo courtesy of Deng Reng

Reng's family pictured with Manute Bol, South Sudan's first NBA player.

Learning to cope

Soccer players describe mental health challenges without season

Brody Keiser
Sports Reporter

Being a student athlete can take a toll mentally during a regular season, but add in the stressfulness of COVID-19 and the uncertainty of any sports, and it's a whole different challenge.

Women's soccer junior forward Edina Taerbaum said one of the hardest parts of this year is the fact that a lot of it is out of her control. With no season in sight right now, staying at a competitive level fitness and skills-wise is a challenge Taerbaum struggles with mentally.



Edina Taerbaum

"It does give me anxiety and stresses me out in terms of staying at the level I want," Taerbaum said. "I like to keep myself fit and in shape for season, so sometimes the days when I'm not feeling up to working out, those days are hard for me because if I don't work out, I get really hard on myself. But sometimes I do try take a step back and realize hey,

everyone needs days off and some rest. In regard to soccer, it's kind of anxiety-provoking because we just don't know when we're going to be able to return back. It's just so unknown and uncertain."

Online classes presented an entirely new challenge for students this year, and they affected athletes as well. Senior defender Maddie Dickens, who took online classes over the summer, adapted easier than some but still found the transition to be difficult.

Without soccer games so far this year due to COVID-19, Dickens took on a bigger school load. Despite soccer demanding less time in her week, she feels that she is busier now than ever before due to her greater commitment to school.

Given the difficulties of being a student athlete, it might seem that a break from the usual weekly grind that comes with athletics would be nice, but Dickens felt nothing of the sort.



Maddie Dickens

"I would love to have a normal season right now," she said. "I don't think that any break could compare to how much I miss the competition or the feeling of winning a game. It's really tough to not have that feeling right now."

Dickens noted that having the right mindset is essential for her to be successful as both a student and an athlete, something that can be difficult to achieve at times. The stresses of everyday life and school can be difficult to overcome, and athletes must also deal with the pressure of performing in practice and during games.

"I do think that the mental and physical toll is the hardest part about being a student-athlete," Dickens said. "We're in and out of weights, we're in and out of practice. With school, it's like you're sprinting from one class to another."

To balance everything in her life, Dickens said she needs to be "in the zone." For her, that includes focus-

ing as much as possible in class, working as hard as she can in practice, and knowing when she needs to take a step back.

"Part of making sure I'm in that zone is knowing when I need a break," Dickens said. "I can't really say I need a break from work or soccer but if I'm feeling mentally wiped or drained and I don't have time for an assignment that's not due that night, I just make sure I get to bed early or I go to church or I take time to watch Netflix."

Dickens believed that those periods of time to herself for relaxation were essential to maintaining a healthy mindset. For her, a healthy mind is the most important thing to being the best athlete and student she can be.

Self-reflection is something that Dickens believes is necessary for student athletes. Through self-reflection, she learned what she is capable of. This in turn helps her from becoming overwhelmed.

"Everyone has to know their own limits," Dickens said. "For me, if I know that I have to run a fitness test and I have a test and I have work on that same day, I have to make sure that I'm prepared for that in advance. I have to pack a lunch in advance or get a good night sleep the night before."

For Taerbaum, keeping soccer on the field and not letting herself dwell on her mistakes have helped her cope mentally. The sport she loves is a double-edged sword, both providing her a release from her regular, daily stressors, but providing its own stress as a result of how hard she is on herself.

With a roster of 33 to 35 players the past three seasons the competition and pressure to earn a starting spot is sometimes overwhelming.

"My freshman year, it got pretty bad, I'd just be beating myself up after games," Taerbaum said. "Always my mind on soccer, what I needed to do better. As I've gone along, I've realized that soccer is important but there's more to life than soccer. I'm going to do what I can when I'm on the field, I'm going to put in my work, put in my effort, and then when I get home I'm going to use that time to focus on other things in my life. That's helped me a lot to not be continuously be stressed about soccer and dwell on my mistakes. Because it definitely did get to the point where it was very mentally draining and had an effect on my mental health."

"It does have an effect on my mental health because at the end of the day, we have a really big roster and only 11 can start, so it's just something I've had to come to terms with and continue to control what I can control."

Taerbaum's advice to other athletes struggling with their mental health right now is to remember that the uncertainty in life is part of its beauty and to be compassionate to yourself.

"Look at all the things in life you have to be grateful for," Taerbaum said. "Invest your time in your passions besides the sport you're playing, because there are so many other things you can do with your time to fill that space that your sport would fill."

Cora Hall contributed to this story.

FERRIS FOOTBALL ALUMNI NFL STATS



CLEVELAND BROWNS
Tavierre Thomas, Cornerback
22 snaps



MIAMI DOLPHINS
Zach Sieler, Defensive End
1 Sack
2 Tackles
1 TFL

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STUDENT ATHLETES WHO REPORTED FEELING ANXIOUS OR DEPRESSED IN LAST 12 MONTHS

	Male Athletes	Female Athletes
Felt Depressed	21%	28%
Felt Anxiety	31%	48%

Information gathered from NCAA

Playing it safe



Photo by: Madison Kettlewell | Torch Photographer

The dance team practices at the Rec Center in masks. All members are temperature screened upon arrival and are socially distanced by red spots on the floor.

Intramural and club sports staff discuss safety protocols for teams this fall

Austin Arquette
Sports Reporter

With club sports taking place once again, Ferris State Club sports are enforcing safety measures more than ever now.

Club sports at Ferris created an official, "Return to Play" document for their respective club sports to safely resume play. This document entails all the steps and procedures that would allow a club sport to resume practices for the time being until more competitive natures can take place in the spring semester.

Associate Director of Competitive Sports and Facilities as Ferris, Stoney Hart said that his staff has learned and adapted to the challenges of getting sports to start with practices.

"We are already so involved in what we are doing, now that teams are responding and getting things going, we've already got the ball rolling in this direction," Hart said. "Everybody when they came back expected everything to be the same way that it's always been and to hit that wall to start with was tough but it's been working and each of the clubs thing have gotten better and smoother."

Club sports that turn in their "Return to play" document are able to begin their practice sessions. According to the President of Club sports, Alyxandra Wesley all clubs that wish to practice, compete, or engage in their sport must turn in a "Return to play" document. Members of club sports must wear a mask during meeting times and practices and are required to do their daily symptom checker. Club sports also have their own contact tracer that they created to en-

sure safety in case of an outbreak.

"We definitely pushed allowing to practice because if we weren't allowed to practice and get together we were worried about clubs disappearing or clubs not having team members next year, so we did push for practices at least because we don't want to lose all our clubs," Wesley said. "We gave out the set guidelines of what we were expecting from all the clubs but then when each club comes to us its more of an individual basis because each club is different and each clubs social distancing and contact all around is different."

Golf has been allowed to do more individual tournaments with competition because it's more individualized than most sports. The club sports that are only practicing right now are disc golf, figure skating, the equestrian team, and the dance team. For the intramural side of things sand volleyball, kickball, cornhole, and esports such as a madden tournament and fantasy football have also been available.

Supervisor of intramural sports Veronica Mills said that she is glad to still have a job and happy to have sports outside because of the nice weather so far which has helped get people outside of the house and off the computer screens after long days on Zoom calls.

"I think the students are happy that they have some club sports and intramurals that they can participate in," Mills said. "Most players are understanding with the rules, when it comes to masks and it's not a big deal because they would rather be able to play with a mask on than not play at all."

Of course, like everything else the intramural sports and club sports have dealt with challenges, but Hart said that they have been able to work through them. The biggest challenge has been teams getting back to play and of course

dealing with the mask issue. Intramural official Gary Maudie said that wearing a mask personally has been no issue but after a while it makes him frustrated at times to wear one since they are outside. For the students, Maudie said they usually just have to explain why it's important to wear the mask and the students understand most of the time.

"It's disappointing during this time. I feel like we could do our regular IM sports this semester knowing that high schools are having contact sports and Ferris is having in-person classes, but it is what it is," Maudie said. "Our only new habit this semester is enforcing students to wear masks while they play."

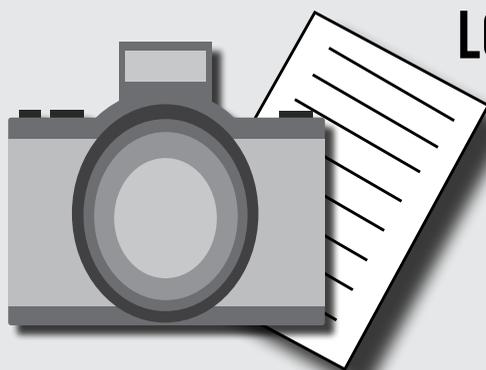
While the hope of the spring semester is to allow for more actions and competition everyone is more focused on staying safe and doing whatever it takes to make sure that practices are safe and that students and workers are too. Hart said they implemented this plan as a low-risk, high-risk to get the push for teams to practice.

"It's really just a matter of time for the rest of the clubs that haven't gotten their return to plays back to start that process of doing that so we can see where things lead heading into the spring semester side of things," Hart said.

With fears always being present that it may not be safe to play sports during the pandemic, Wesley reassured that the institution was doing everything they could to continue to safe playing environment.

"We are doing our best, we have supervisors there to make sure and we have the return to play documents stating they are following CDC guidelines and Ferris guidelines with wearing masks and everything else." Wesley said.

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WEEK 6: Which tight end will dominate?

Fantasy advice about two tight ends you should be starting this week



Brody Keiser
Sports Reporter

Hunter Henry has been good in every statistical category this season except one-prior to Week 5, the Chargers tight end has yet to find the end zone. After scoring 17 touchdowns through his first three full seasons, Henry has not scored in 2020. He has to fall into the end zone at some point, right?

I believe the answer is yes. Quarterback play can be attributed to Henry's red zone struggles. His former quarterback, Philip Rivers, knew how to get his tight ends the ball in the red zone. Tyrod Taylor could not do that, and Justin Herbert needed some time to get used to the NFL, but as he gets more comfortable, Henry will become more involved.

This week's matchup for the Chargers is enticing. If the Jets defense has a strength, it is up front. Henry, a vertical field stretcher, will find success against the Jets porous secondary. I believe this is the week he finds the end zone, on top of demanding his usual high target share. Henry is due, and I think he breaks through this week.

My argument for Henry against Hockenson has more to do with my belief in the former than any lack of belief in the latter. Hockenson is incredibly talented and becoming a bigger part of the Lions offense by the week. He also draws a favorable matchup against the Jaguars, but I ultimately think that Henry finishes with a better game. Obviously, you will start both players, especially in a 12-team league. However, I would feel more confident having Henry in my lineup than Hockenson this week.



Austin Arquette
Sports Reporter

While the Detroit Lions have had a rough start to the 2020 season, their offense had made vast improvements under Darrell Bevell coaching their young core. As Stafford continues to play like all fans know, he has become more focused on using his new weapon in **T.J. Hockenson**.

The entire 2020 season Stafford has utilized Hockenson every game by making it a demand to get him involved in the offense. Hockenson so far has averaged 3.75 catches per game with an average of 45 yards per game and two touchdowns on the season.

I am certain that he will have his breakout game soon and what would be a better time than playing against a diminishing Jacksonville defense, who isn't what it used to be, especially coming off a bye week with extra time to prepare. With the new increased role Hockenson is primed for a breakout game to establish his presence as a top five tight end in the league. With Stafford gaining his trust, I firmly believe Hockenson will breakout in a big way.

As I alluded to before, Jacksonville isn't what they used to be on defense, they have lost everyone on their impressive 2018 season. While they have a young corner in C.J. Henderson that will mainly cover Golladay with help from a safety that will allow Hockenson to break away from that defense and have an outing.

Hockenson will be more productive than Henry in my opinion because Justin Herbert is still filling big shoes and coming into his own production in Los Angeles. Tight end play becomes based off quarterback play and I just feel that Stafford will have a field day against Jacksonville. Henry and Hockenson are both starters but if it comes to choosing between the two, Hockenson has the better chances for week six.

Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant

TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BOOM:	TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BUST:	TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BOOM:	TWO PLAYERS WHO WILL BUST:
Terry McLaurin James Conner	Tyreek Hill Odell Beckham Jr.	Justin Jefferson Mark Ingram II	Calvin Ridley Kareem Hunt

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS LAST YEAR

Brendan Sanders
Sports Editor

For the first time since the 2014 - 2015 season, the Ferris men's hockey team opened their season with a win, outscoring Colgate 3-1 on October 10, 2019.

In front of over 1,100 Bulldog fans, Ferris held Colgate off with sophomore goaltender Roni Salmenkangas, who had 28 saves on the night and allowing only one goal by Matt Verboon in the first period. Ferris would have 23 shots on goal, hitting three of them.

The first goal was scored by junior forward Lucas Finner, assisted by senior defenseman Joe Rutkowski. With 14:33 left in the third period the Bulldogs took the lead on an unassisted goal by Rutkowski.

As the time ran out, the Raiders put in an extra attacker in attempt to even the score, but junior forward Coale Norris made an empty net goal within the final seconds of the game to secure the win.

This would be one of seven total wins by the Bulldogs on the season, a record low amount of wins for the storied team.



Torch File Photo

OPINIONS

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Diversity and inclusion aren't just buzzwords

By Cora Hall

I don't think I should have to explain why we should no longer recognize Columbus Day in the United States.

But in case you still haven't realized how whitewashed our country's history is, let me give you some background.

The history of North America does not begin on Oct. 12, 1942. The land Christopher Columbus "discovered" was not some barren land, asking to be "civilized" by European men. There were established civilizations with millions of people in North and South America long before Europeans even had a thought of sailing across the Atlantic Ocean.

What happened after Columbus set foot in the Americas is tragic. Native Americans were forced into slavery, they were murdered, they were raped; they were seen as an obstacle to conquering new land, not as independent civilizations with unique traditions and cultures. Columbus had an agreement with the king and queen of Spain that would result in copious amounts of money for him if he completed his voyage and he exploited the Native Americans for his own personal gain.

All this, not to mention the countless Native Americans who died from diseases brought over by the Europeans.

Pocahontas wasn't a Disney Princess, feel-good story. According to the Smithsonian Magazine, she was 11 or 12, and her real name was Amonute. The truth of the story of how she allegedly saved John Smith from her father is debated. Some historians believe Smith misinterpreted a ritual ceremony or made the entire story up.

Historian Camilla Townsend hit the nail on the head when talking about why the Disney story of Pocahontas is still held on to.

"That whole idea makes people in white American culture feel good about our history," Townsend said. "That we were not doing anything wrong to the Indians but really were helping them and the 'good' ones appreciated it."

Our history is whitewashed, written by the victors, the conquerors and colonizers. The mistreatment of Native Americans has been perpetuated for centuries in America and if that isn't offensive enough, we nationally recognize a holiday that only serves as a reminder of

how this mistreatment began.

We should be celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day across the United States, but at the very least, we should be celebrating it at Ferris. I'm so tired of our university preaching their core values that include diversity and inclusion, but not doing a single thing to back it up.

It would be such a simple, yet meaningful thing to many of our students for Ferris to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day. But our administrators hide behind the fact that Columbus Day is a nationally recognized holiday, and therefore they have it on our calendar instead of Indigenous Peoples' Day and do not make efforts to hold events to honor that.

We have faculty on campus who have pushed for this change. We have students on campus who grew up on reservations in Michigan, who practice indigenous cultures. Ferris recognizing Columbus Day instead of Indigenous Peoples' Day is a slap in the face to them.

As students, we can become better citizens to everyone in our community by expanding our per-

spectives. I cannot express how valuable it is to learn about and expose yourself to other cultures. It's incredibly eye-opening and it helps you realize that you aren't the only person in this world. It helps you understand others' experiences and make you a more empathetic person.

Native Americans are one of the most disrespected groups in America. Their culture is constantly appropriated and imitated for the enjoyment of others. Sports teams across the country are named various versions of Native American and use simplistic, cartoonish figures of Native Americans as mascots. The Washington Football team finally this year changed their name from the "Redskins," a term which used in any other race's context would have been banned years ago.

Indigenous Peoples in the United States have incredible cultures, and we should all learn more about them. We should celebrate those in our communities who practice these cultures and uplift them. Ferris needs to step up and do what is right and replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Ferris State Torch

Corrections

In last week's paper, Mason Grunow was not listed on the article "Debate debacle" and should have been listed as a contributing writer.

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

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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!

Dream catchers are more than arts and crafts



Kaylin Johnson
Copy Editor

For Indigenous People's Day, I want to speak about the appropriation of a major part of many Native American traditions.

Dream catchers are more than just a cute decoration for your room. The first dream catchers were made by the Ojibwe and placed on cradles as a form of protection. Now, a dream catcher can be seen as a symbol of unity between individuals and tribes.

Many natives see them as a connection to their culture and a common sense of identity. When a person doesn't understand or respect the meaning of a cultural symbol, using it becomes offensive and belittles its cultural importance.

As a white person, I can only speak on this issue from the perspective of an outsider but growing up near a reservation with many Native American friends, I have been able to hear their own opinions. Although I have always rejected cultural appropriation, it wasn't until this summer that I realized how many non-Native American people are making and selling their own versions of dream catchers.

Of course, I should have noticed this years ago. Think of all the dream catchers you've seen on clothing and jewelry. I'm pretty sure I even had a dream catcher keychain at one point.

Over the summer I worked as an editorial intern for a group of crafting sites. One of our main responsibilities was to diversify the crafters we featured and to ensure there were no instances of cultural appropriation on our sites. While working on this, one of my coworkers found a collection of dream catcher tutorials. After thinking about it, the company decided to move away from all Native American content that wasn't created by a Native American.

I was disappointed in myself for never realizing this issue before. I probably would have been happy to see a dream catcher tutorial on the site and counted it as cultural representation. My eyes were opened through that experience and I hope I can open some of your eyes here.

Later in the summer, I went to a friend of mine who practices her Native American culture to ask her opinion on the matter. Through her eyes, I was able to understand how awful this practice really is. There are non-natives appropriating the culture by making money from selling their dream catchers.

But there are also so many non-natives throughout the coun-



try who are warping the idea of a dream catcher in order to make a cute decoration. These are not the traditional dream catchers made from a willow hoop, a web, beads and feathers.

Recently at a craft show, I saw a booth full of decorative "dream catchers." These were made with fabrics and ribbons and one was even in the shape of a moon rather than the traditional hoop. The hoop itself is important since it's said to represent the shape of the earth.

One of the other big issues with a non-native person buying a dream catcher is the romanticization of the culture. Romanticizing a culture can be super detrimental to the people who practice it. They often aren't looked at as "real" people, but as an interesting other. People shouldn't be placed on a podium to be inspected as if they are a part of a zoo.

Buying a dream catcher only increases the romantic view on the culture and encourages those non-Native sellers to make and sell more.

There was also a time when Native American's were not allowed to practice their religion freely. Until the American Indian Religious Freedom Act in 1978, many religious symbols and objects were illegal. Now that Native American's are finally able to practice their culture, how can we belittle the importance of one of their most important cultural symbols?

I think this is an easy issue to rectify. We can simply stop decorating our cars and houses with dream catchers. We can stop adorning our ears and our belly buttons with dangling dream catchers. We can stop getting them tattooed, stop buying clothes with them, and respect them as the cultural symbols they are.

Gun Regulation

Gun control needs a new name



Ry Rodriguez
News Editor

Over the years, it has been a hot debate on whether guns should be allowed in the hands of everyone. In my opinion, no I do not think so.

I do not guns to go away either. I am not standing with former presidential hopeful Beto O'Rourke in completely banning guns, but I am also not with Senator McConnell where he thinks you should be able to get a gun by just asking for one.

People have gone to tik tok saying how hard it is to obtain a gun and it can take up to three weeks to get one, and my reply to this is 'so what.'

Seriously why do people complain about this. I like a cooldown period, but still in some states they can do a background check within 30 minutes and you can be out of a gun store with a brand-new gun. If you knew it was going to take that long, why didn't you buy it earlier? I am sick of that excuse.

This really is not gun control. I am not controlling what you can and what you cannot do with that gun, I am not controlling the gun in how you can shoot it or play with it. I think it should be called regulation.

People have brought up the idea that cars are regulated, and they still kill. Well yeah that is true, same thing with knives in the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom has made

it astronomically hard to obtain a gun license, thus causing people not to use guns as much, but because of this, there has been a lot of stabbings in the area.

People might ask why we are not regulating knives then. Well it is a messed up way to think about this but it is harder to kill high numbers than it is using a gun. This is what the legislature uses for justification into not regulating a household item.

You still must be 18 to buy knives, but with guns it is all over the board.

This leads me to my first change: you must 21 to buy any gun, no loopholes. You can be 12 with a hunting permit to hunt with a gun, under supervision by a legal guardian until the age of 16.

There must be background checks and I do not care how long it takes. You must have one because no one with a felony or a charge that includes violence should have a gun.

The escalation standard of abuse goes from verbal to physical quicky and once they introduce a gun it can be deadly. Say if a husband abused his wife and had charges against him dropped. This should still be documented so he cannot buy a gun later to keep others safe.

If anyone was dishonorably discharged from the military they should not have the right to buy a gun.

If someone has been to a mental hospital in recent months, they should be cleared first by a phycolo-

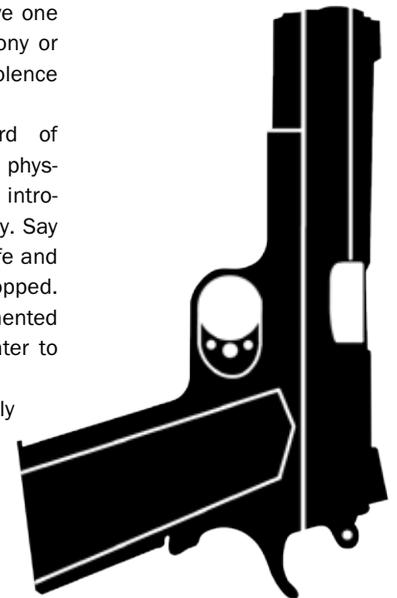
gist to have a gun, but more than likely they should not for their own safety and family members.

This is not just to feel like 'I'm in control.' I feel as if this can make the United States safer while still allowing people to own a gun.

In past mass shootings, a lot of the perpetrators have had mental illnesses, and that type of background check could have stopped them from getting guns.

There are also more things to it like kids that stole their parent's guns. I feel that if people do not lock up their guns properly and a crime is committed with one of their guns, they should also have a punishment against them.

I am not no gun-haten' liberal, I am just a concerned republican trying to look out for others and trying to do what's right.



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant



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Updated August 13, 2020

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