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Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of Jan. 20 - 26, 2021

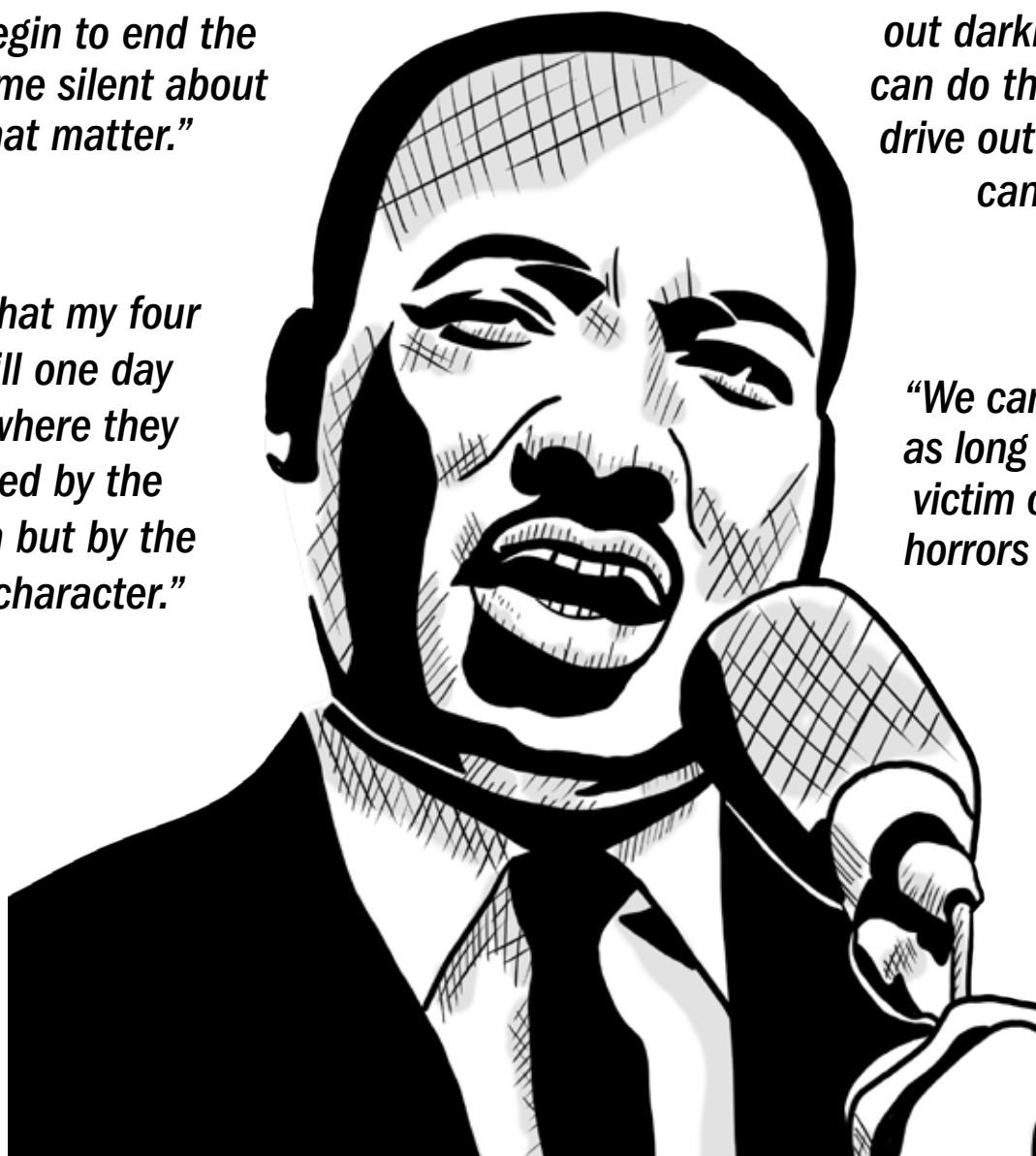
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What would Martin Luther King Jr. say now?

Taking a closer look at the civil rights activist's words and danger of misusing them

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

"We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality."

Cora Hall
Editor in Chief

Every year on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, social media is filled with famous quotes in remembrance of the civil rights activist. Last year, however, King's quotes began popping up on social media throughout the summer after the Black Lives Matter protests spread across the country, largely in response to the police killing of George Floyd.

Many of the people posting quotes were white and used some of King's more famous quotes to condemn the violence that broke out among some of the protests. According to a report by the US Crisis Project, 93% of the protests associated with the Black Lives Matter movement were peaceful. But the few protests that turned violent were highlighted and used as examples to condemn the movement itself.

Kenneth Hawkins, a graduate student in the community college leadership program, advocates for nonviolence in King's footsteps—as an undergraduate, he attended Morehouse College, King's alma mater because he wants "to live [his] life like Dr. King." However, in regard to the few protests that turned violent, Hawkins said he could understand the reason why.

"You can always take one or two, or even three or four incidents and blow it up, conflated in a way that it gives a picture of the movement," Hawkins said. "That's not really the picture of the movement. And I think that to conflate it is racist in the first place...that those things unfortunately, while I do not agree with it, will occur when you have day in and day out of protests that involve the systemic prohibition of African Americans in our society. That's going to happen, people are going to get upset. You can't be okay and you can't just raise your voice and you can't just object when you see a guy like [Jacob] Blake get shot in the back seven times, that gets to you.

"Again, I'm not saying ever that we should be violent, and I don't think that that's the way that we should go. But I certainly understand how something like that

might occur occasionally, especially when people are in a society where they feel as if they've been shut out."

King's quotes became an avenue for many to dismiss the purpose of the protests, although most quotes were cherry picked from King's most popular speeches or writing. Quotes like "Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that" and "We must learn to live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools" were used to call for unity rather than protests and discredit the Black Lives Matter movement. But this quote from King's "I Have a Dream Speech" was conveniently left out: "We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality."

Business professor Kasey Thompson criticized the pick-

ing and choosing of King's quotes to serve a personal agenda and oppose a movement led by Black people.

"I do find it incredibly irresponsible, you know, look at the outcry of a situation, look at the outcry of the people who are looking for justice, who are demanding justice, and then to manipulate a saying or manipulate a call by saying 'but you can't demand justice in this way' and I do find that incredibly dangerous," Thompson said.

When looking deeper into King's writings, it doesn't take long before finding his disgust for people exactly like this.

In King's Letter from Birmingham Jail, he expressed his disappointment with the "white moderate."

"I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the

stride toward freedom is not the White Citizens Council or the Ku Klux Klanner but the white moderate who is more devoted to order than to justice," King wrote, "who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says, 'I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action'; who paternalistically feels that he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by the myth of time; and who constantly advises the Negro to wait until a 'more convenient season.'"

"Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection."

Hawkins called the white middle class "the gatekeepers to wealth" and summarized King's description of the white moderate as white people today who know better yet do nothing.

"They enjoy their lifestyle and don't want the intrusion of difference to impact their way of life," Hawkins said. "When you talk about integration, which is what

MLK Day | see page 4

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NEWS

Ry Rodriguez | News Editor | rodrir16@ferris.edu

New COVID-19 strain confirmed in Michigan

Ferris public health professors talk about new variant impact, vaccine effectiveness

Rebecca Vanderkooi
News Reporter

Last month a new COVID-19 strain was identified in England, causing concern across the globe.

Considering the new viral developments, Ferris health and science faculty provide insight into the process of viral mutation as well as advice for students and the general public for staying safe.

Michael Reger is an associate professor of public health as well as the coordinator for the Master of Public Health program at Ferris.

"There are actually a few new virus strains; however, they all seem to share one thing in common and that is that they appear to be more contagious than previous strains. Although they do appear to spread more easily in the population they do not seem to be more severe than previous strains in terms of hospitalizations and deaths," Reger said.

Dr. Jadhav, another associate professor of public health, explained that in addition to the discovery of the U.K. COVID-19 strain last month there have also been discoveries of viral mutations in South Africa, Nigeria and the United States.

Michigan's first case of the COVID-19 variant was confirmed in Washtenaw County on Jan. 16. According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the woman had recently traveled to the United Kingdom. The MDHHS labeled the new variant B.1.1.7. and stated in a press release that it "is believed to be more contagious, but there has been no indication that it affects the clinical outcomes or disease severity compared to the SARS-CoV-2 virus that has been circulating across the United States for months."

Mary Beaudry is an assistant professor at the Ferris School of Nursing. She also works part-time at Spectrum hospital.

"Viruses, to stay alive, have to mutate and they are super tricky. They tend to jump around and mutate. They don't want to become so lethal that they kill everybody; that means they die," Beaudry said.

Due to the mutating nature of viruses there have been concerns regarding the effectiveness of the recent vaccines, which are in now in the process of being distributed, on new viral strains.

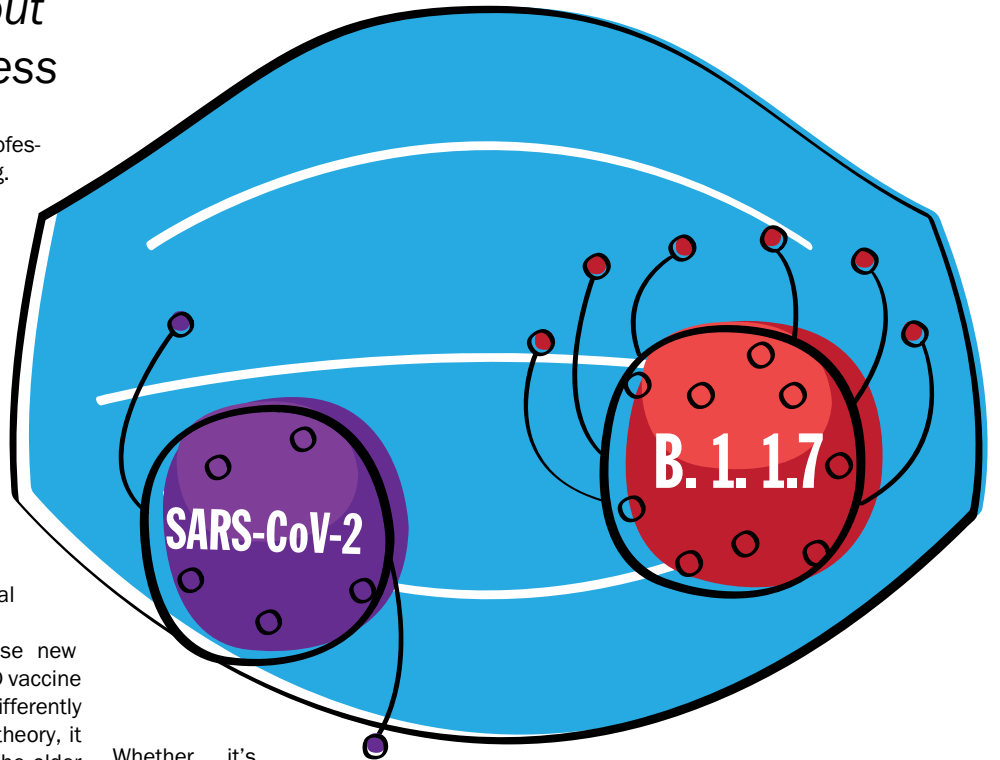
"It remains to be seen if these new strains will be resistant to the COVID vaccine itself. The vaccine is developed differently than that of the flu vaccine, so in theory, it may cover new strains as well as the older strains to produce immunity," Reger said.

Michael Klepser is a pharmacy professor at Ferris who specializes in infectious diseases and point of care diagnostics. He has been at the forefront of COVID-19 testing and precautions on campus since the pandemic began.

"As of right now they've looked at these strains and some of the antibodies that have been generated from the vaccines and it appears that the vaccines still work," Klepser said.

Klepser further explained that scientists were not shocked by the viral mutations. In fact, they expected them.

"It's relatively naive to think that this virus will not change. We need to know where those variants are and what they mean.



Graphic by: Brooke Martin | Production Assistant

Whether it's an increased transmit ability or eventually it means that we need a new vaccine," Klepser said.

There is talk that, with the constant viral mutations, a yearly COVID-19 vaccine will be needed.

"The most recent data that I have found says that if you got the COVID infection you probably have immunity for about five months," Klepser said. "If you get the vaccines, they look like the immunity will last for at least a year. There is probably going to be a need for an annual vaccine."

Each professor explained that the new variations should not be cause for people to worry. However, the public needs to stay educated and take the pandemic, mask-wearing and social distancing guidelines seriously.

"Students should continue to be educated about the virus and what needs to be done to be safe for themselves and people around them," Jadhav said.

Beaudry has cared for many COVID-19 patients at the hospitals and she contracted the virus this fall. She's seen first-hand the devastating effects of this virus and encourages everyone to keep taking this seriously.

"We cannot let our guard down. I think people get lulled into a false sense of security, saying either, 'I had it, I'm all good,' or, 'I got the vaccine and I'm all good.' You're not until we can get enough people vaccinated," Beaudry said.



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

A testing clinic worker at Ferris swabs a test from last week's round of move-in testing.

Vaccine rollout reaches over 300K

Michigan ramps up next week, moves to next phase

Noah Kurkjian
News Reporter

Although the COVID-19 vaccines just came out the US is already falling behind on delivery.

In a speech given last Thursday, President-Elect Joe Biden laid out the beginnings of a new policy he plans to implement called the "American Rescue Plan."

With this plan Biden hopes to have 100 million doses of the vaccine out to Americans within his first 100 days in office.

He went on to say that the plan includes money for the infrastructure and medical staff needed to give the vaccine. The amount of which is still unclear at this time as the bill text has yet to be released.

As for current vaccine delivery, numbers are finally picking up for Michigan. In early January Michigan ranked seventh-worst in the country, but now it's hovering around 25th. As of Jan. 15, at 6 a.m. the CDC reports 364,000 doses of the vaccine have been administered in the state.

"The hospital I work at is doing a great job at making sure whoever is interested in getting the COVID vaccine is able receive a dose. Once your scheduled first dose is administered you are directed to schedule your second dose on a specific date depending on the manufacture of the vaccine you received," said second-year pharmacy student Justin Mikitaroff.

On Jan. 11, those over the age of 65 and some select frontline workers became eligible to receive the vaccines.

There have been very few serious issues post-injection. Over nine million Americans have received the vaccine and out of those there were 29 reported cases of anaphylaxis, but all recovered. There has been one reported case of death, but Pfizer is currently investigating it due to the unprecedented circumstances.

"The vaccines appear to be safe and effective, said pharmacy professor Michael Klepser. "I would not be hesitant to recommend individuals getting those vaccines. Some of the reports that we have heard about some of the reactions, in which all are indicators the vaccine actually works. When a vaccine gets in your body it stimulates your natural immunity and because of that maybe you feel a little cruddy as your body is generating that immune response. Maybe your arm is sore because of that localized immune response. That means the vaccine is working well and these vaccines are working well."

These vaccines aren't like others before them. Instead of containing a weakened or dead strain of the disease it's fighting the COVID-19 vaccines using mRNA, which is a molecule used by living cells to change a gene sequence in the recipient's DNA into proteins that build up to block the virus from attaching.

The Pfizer vaccine has a 95% effectiveness rate and the Moderna vaccine has a 94.1% effectiveness rate. At this time, the general population should be able to receive the vaccine in the late summer to early fall.



THIS WEEK IN MICHIGAN NEWS

Catch up on news around the state

Ry Rodriguez
News Editor
Capitol Update

COVID-19 Update

Cases – 580,394*

Deaths – 14,654*

Recoveries – 442,408**

*** NYT updated every four hours**

****Michigan.gov updated every Sat.**

Sports

DETROIT – The Lions are getting ready to hire a new head coach, the former assistant coach for the Saints, Dan Campbell. He is set to replace Matt Patricia who was fired in November with having a record of 13-29-1. Campbell has only had 12 games as head coach for one other franchise and that was when he was the interim coach for the Miami Dolphins. Campbell also played for the Lions for the last three seasons of his NFL career, making him a familiar face with the franchise.

LANSING, Mich. – on Sunday there were planned protests outside of Michigan’s capital building. Protesters armed with long guns to nerf guns, showed up to the building for multiple different reasons. The downtown Lansing area was filled with Homeland Security Units, Michigan’s National Guard and State Troopers. At 12:25 p.m. a member of the Boogaloo boys made a statement in front of the capital steps talking about how “Antifa, BLM, and right-wing militias are the antibodies and not the diseases destroy out country”. Around 4 p.m. The protest dwindled, and the MSP released a statement saying there was no one injured, and no arrests were made.

On Jan. 14 Michigan’s Attorney General announced 41 charges resulting in the Flint water crisis, including charges against former governor Rick Snyder. Along with Snyder, his top aid Rich Baird and two other health offi-

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – Michigan stands at No. 1 in the Big Ten for basketball and number seven overall in the NCAA rankings with an overall of 11-1. In an important matchup, the Wolverines beat the Wisconsin Badgers 77-54.

EAST LANSING, Mich. – The Spartans are struggling to keep up this year in the Big Ten, ranking 11th in the league and unranked in the NCAA. One of their starters, Joshua Langford, has tested positive for COVID-19 and will be gone for two weeks. Michigan has opted to take a two week break from playing

cial close to Snyder were charged as well. The former governor was charged with a misdemeanor of willful neglect of duty in which could lead to two years in detention. Other charges given by the AG’s office were nine different counts of manslaughter, 15 years for each count, and misconduct towards Michigan’s Former director of the health department.

On Wednesday Jan. 13 the director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Robert Gordon, extended restrictions to the end of January. The only changes allowed the continuation of outdoor sports and indoor non-contact sports. It did not allow indoor dining to resume since the “pause” on Nov. 17. The Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association released a statement stating Michigan is not following the other states restrictions and the dining industry has been targeted. The MRLA also provided key targets Michigan has met so restaurants could open back up, but the MDHHS has denied the reopening of indoor dining.

basketball on Jan. 9 coming back to play basketball on Sat, Jan. 23 against ranked 11 Illinois.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) was finally able to resume sports again last week. Last week, the MHSAA saw the completion of swimming and diving, volleyball, 8-man football and the semi-finals for football. This week the completion of football will take place at Ford Field for 11-man football. With the new MDHHS order, it was put all contact winter sports on hold till Feb. 1. The only sports to continue are the swimming and diving along with gymnastics.

- ON THE RECORD -

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

Vanderbaked pt. II

Ry Rodriguez
News Editor

Legal loophole

Dec. 3, 10:34 p.m., A mother of a non-student called DPS to report for her vehicle being stolen. In all reality the daughter had been using the vehicle because she paid for it with her own money but the vehicle was registered under the mother’s name. After having a sit-down meeting with Capt. Green of Ferris DPS, it was settled the daughter would surrender the keys to the mother to not have the daughter be charged with theft.

Just a bad diver

Dec. 5, 7:17 p.m. Someone called 911 to warn of a drunk driver. Once DPS was able to catch up to the driver they pulled them over for swerving and improper lane use. When the officer engaged with the subject it has appeared the driver was not intoxicated, and no citations was issued.

Doing frat boy s---

Dec. 6, 2:02 a.m. An officer spotted a couple of male students – that happened to be inebriated – throwing a box of empty beer cans on the sidewalk. After the officer confronted the group of males, they were forced to pick up their mess and a formal citation warning was given.

Just above

Dec. 6, 2:06 a.m. A Ferris student was pulled over once in the Oakwood Townhouses parking lot for driving in the dark without headlights. When the officer continued their investigation, they could smell in-toxins coming from the driver. After doing a breathalyzer, the driver tested at .10 blood alcohol level.

Vanderbaked pt. II

Dec. 13, 12:45 a.m. Officers were dispatched to the second floor of Vandercook for smelling marijuana. After the officers reached the epicenter of the scent, the male student confessed to smoking cannabis. The student was issued a citation for being underage, and possession of marijuana.

Death note

Dec. 16, 8:35 a.m. RAs at Ward hall found a note on a table with the writings “If you are reading this, I am dead”. After the RAs found out who wrote the note DPS was alerted and the RAs took the student to Birkam Health Center for counseling.

Eggamotive

Dec. 20, 12:15 p.m. An ex-boyfriend and one his friends egged his ex-girlfriend’s car and threw trash on top of her car at Robin Court. The Ferris student, called the cops and gave enough information for DPS to act and question the ex-boyfriend. DPS has submitted the case to County Attorney’s office seeking for a warrant to arrest.

Why bring her - the chronicles

Jan. 4, 6:49 p.m. A non-Ferris student went to pick up his belongings from his ex-girlfriend’s apartment, who happened to be a Ferris student. The Ferris student got into a disagreement with their ex-partner, so DPS was dispatched to the scene. The non-Ferris student also brought their new partner to help collect his belongings. While in an argument the new girlfriend decided to verbally and physically assault the old girlfriend in which led to an arrest of the new girlfriend.

Jan. 8, 8:27 a.m. DPS was alerted for a disturbance of the peace. The old ex-girlfriend was found to be sending threatening messages to the new girlfriend. DPS had asked all parties to stop contacting each other or there will be charges the next time DPS needed to get involved.

Jan. 8, 7:42 p.m. DPS was called once more involving the issue. The ex-girlfriend continued to send messages to the new girlfriend threatening to beat her up and cause issues within the near future. The citation and warning was issued for the ex-girlfriend for Intimidation/Stalking text used for harassment and threats, in which was a misdemeanor.

Cross-faded into a nap

Jan. 12, 7:22 p.m. 911 was called for a person disrupting traffic on the exit-ramp of US 131. Once officers made it to the scene it was obvious the suspect was passed out in his car. The officers could not perform a field sobriety test because of how intoxicated the suspect was. It appeared the suspect was not only heavily inebriated but also under the influence of drugs. The blood test is still pending, but the suspect was arrested for operation under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

Off the grid

Jan. 16, 9:32 p.m. An officer pulled over a suspect for driving without the use of headlights. After investigation it was found the car had no plates tied to the vehicle, nor did they have insurance for the vehicle. To top it off they were also not wearing their seatbelt while driving. Multiple citations were issued to the individual, and the car was towed due to its lack of registration.

Cardinal Court fire

One injured and in stable condition

Ry Rodriguez
News Editor

On Sunday, Jan. 17 5:10 p.m. a fire went ablaze in the Cardinal Court apartments on Campus.

The tenant who was living in the apartment was found in the fire when Big Rapids City Fire Department went in for a safety check.

A Ferris State Department of Public Safety went to check earlier but the apartment was already packed with heavy smoke.

The Ferris student was taken to Big Rapids Spectrum health for her injuries but was later transported to the Butterworth Hospital

and put into intensive care for her burns and smoke inhalation, she is currently in stable condition.

The fire was under control at 5:32 p.m. the same day, but the adjacent apartment was damaged due to the efforts of controlling the fire.

The investigation lead for the start of the fire due to leaving a pot on the stove and catching ablaze that was not controllable.

The investigation is still on going.

Ferris State News Services Sandy Gholston released a statement for anyone who needs to be relocated because of the fire, staff is on-hand to assist students.

Torch Corrections

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MLK DAY

Continued from front page

he's discussing here, much of the issue was dealing with the white middle class, which said when you come in our neighborhoods, you're going to reduce the value of my house. When you come to my schools, we're not going to have good teachers anymore. So we're concerned at the end of the day, while it's the quietness of the of racism here.

"We like you, we can even say that we love you, but we don't want you in our spaces, because when that happens, we lose something, we lose economic value."

Thompson echoed the sentiment that the systemic racism in the United States was seemingly quiet before the events of 2020. But it was quiet to some because it was relative, Thompson said; there's an effort to make it seem like we have made more progress than we really have.

When reflecting on the past year of protests involving hundreds of thousands of people, Thompson called it a year of reckoning. Comparing the photos and writing from 60 years ago to today she said, in reality, we haven't come as far as we have believed.

"It's just different interpretation of what Dr. Martin Luther King said in the Birmingham letters, is that just because things are not in your face, does not mean that they are not a reality for multitudes of other people," Thompson said. "For so long, because we didn't have to see it, there were

these isolated incidences, right? And when you have isolated incidences, you can kind of mitigate the seriousness of the incident because you can rationalize away why that isolated incidents occurred.

"That's another reason why this year is so important and today is so important, is because it disrupted like this facade that we built around ourselves. We built this facade of things may not be exactly where we want them to be, but they're okay. They're better. And that's the facade, because we still haven't reached this level of equality."

The year 2020 "wasn't the impetus of systemic racism" and "didn't birth any of these inequities" in Thompson's eyes, it merely put them on display. For both Thompson and Hawkins, MLK Day holds more significance this year, especially in light of the recent attack on the national's capitol or political leaders who deny the existence of systematic racism.

"For someone who's not directly impacted by systemic racism to say that it doesn't exist, I find that horrifically irresponsible," Thompson said. "I find that in and of itself as just a privileged arrogance, that, you know, to even imply that it doesn't exist when you're not affected by its existence. Many of the leaders in this country, and the fact that they would so pompously state that systemic racism doesn't exist? Or 'Oh, my gosh, I can't believe this is happening' What do you mean, you can't believe This has been in existence for your entire existence."

The efforts to disenfranchise Black voters in Detroit and Georgia during the pres-

idential election was one of the clearest examples of racism in the political sphere. In Florida, where Hawkins is from, a petition to allow former felons to vote made it on the ballot and was passed. However, Governor Ron DeSantis added a provision that any outstanding fines must be paid by the former felons before they vote, essentially creating a poll tax.

"That's a poll tax that comes from after slavery...they would tax former slaves and say, if you want to vote, you got to pay this, and then you can vote or have an intelligence test," Hawkins said. "These people that are getting out of jail, they serve their time, and many of them went to jail because of conditions of poverty. How are they going to pay these fines now, when they got out of prison? It's impossible, but the reality is, that most of these people getting out of prison are African Americans. You know how they're going to vote, they want to vote democratically, which would make the difference between the next governor and the legislature. That means that Florida will turn blue, and that's a big deal."

The events of 2020 have made it impossible to ignore the injustices interwoven within society, the system that is inherently discriminatory towards Black people and other minorities. Many, including President-Elect Joe Biden, have called for unity. Hawkins believes there can be unity, but not before reconciliation, which requires an acknowledgement and accountability.

"The issue is that if I were arrested for something, and I apologize for my actions,

and I said, 'Your Honor, now that I've apologized, and now that I truly feel badly about what happened, and I've given some contribution on the fact that I feel badly about what happened, you should let me go,'" Hawkins said. "Because in the spirit of peace and happiness and togetherness, because I love you, Your Honor, and I love the people and whatever I did, I was wrong for. But now, I see my wrong and let's move on.' No, they put my ass in jail, right?"

"In order for us to move on beyond this assault on our personhood, we need an answer for what you did. And then when that happens, I think that we can move on or try to move on. But no, before reconciliation happens, I think people need to answer to the things that they did."

Thompson said there is a danger in calling for unity when all parties may not agree on the definition of unity.

"While I applaud anyone who is looking for ways of righting wrongs, I am not an advocate of trivializing the word unity, when it is only self serving, or when it only benefits to sort of pacify a body of people who are trying to not necessarily be held accountable for their actions," Thompson said. "Unity without some level of accountability, in my opinion, it's just another pacifying word that, in the end will not bring the peace, and will not bring the level of equality that will definitely move this country or move a society forward."

MLK Day of Service Project

Operation Safe Sidewalks was organized by the Student Volunteer Center and took place on Monday, Jan. 18 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Students, like hospitality sophomore Laurie Prentler, shoveled and salted sidewalks around Big Rapids.

Photo by: Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor



LIFESTYLES

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Building up Black Leaders

From Achievement Week to Marchdowns, Black Greek Life offers unique experience

Alyssa Myers
Copy Editor

In universities across the nation, Black students take part in Black Greek Letter Organizations. These organizations provide opportunities for networking, character development and community growth.

Omega Psi Phi is an active Black fraternity at Ferris. Omega, founded on Nov. 17, 1911, is an organization that strives to foster its members through its cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift. According to their official website, "Omega continues to flourish, largely because founders — Cooper, Coleman, Love and Just — were men of the highest ideals and intellect. The founders selected and attracted men of similar ideals and characteristics. It is not an accident that many of America's great Black men are or were Omega Men."

"I know I want to be a strong Black leader in the world, and this is something that a lot of the Black leaders have done before me," biology senior and president of the Black Greek Council Greg Leatherwood said.

A motto of Omega Psi Phi is "lifting as we climb." This phrase is deeply rooted in the African American community, the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC) being another group that has spotlighted this phrase.

"One of our other mottos is lifting as we climb, right? We're a brotherhood that prides ourselves on pulling each other up as we're all coming up together, not getting to the top and then turning around and grabbing a brother to pull

them up with you," Leatherwood said. "No, we lift as we climb, and it's really no brother left behind."

Omega Psi Phi implements numerous internationally mandated programs. These range from social action and health initiatives to scholarships and talent hunt programs. Achievement week is an important part of the Omega Psi Phi experience at Ferris.

"Here at Ferris, we do something called achievement week, which COVID-19 kind of ruined this semester. But usually we take a week, and we put on a week full of events for the campus to come together and network together. Specifically for the Black community, but everybody's always welcome," said Leatherwood. "We do one per semester, so hopefully COVID willing, we'll get back to that next semester."

While there are many who see BGLOs as influential organizations that enhance the college experience, there are others who argue that these groups are detrimental to the Black community. Ali D. Chambers, an assistant professor of African American Studies at Claflin University, identifies with the latter.

Chambers is an adamant critic of BGLOs and has written multiple opinion pieces on this subject. In an article published in Newsweek, Chambers wrote, "Consequently, it is the conformity to Western values and social norms that has created the controversy surrounding the initial purpose of the BGLO. Between 1906 and 1920, eight of the most prominent BGLOs were established. Many scholars have questioned whether these organizations were created in the hopes of unifying the Black community against the harmful effects of



Photo courtesy of Angela McCane

Several Omega Psi Phi brothers are on the football team, as seen above posing before a game.

racial prejudice or whether they were formed by young African American students in order to gain acceptance into American society by emulating the white organizations of the period."

In his arguments, he often references the "be like us" theory of equality. This theory suggests that Black people would become equal to white people when they successfully emulated them.

The members of Omega Psi Phi had a different take on the matter. Marketing graduate Marvin Campbell touched on how Omega Psi Phi and other BGLOs make themselves unique.

"Particularly, you know, we would do things in the community like helping others out, maybe

going throughout the community raking leaves from different people's houses, or we host different things like a voter's registration," Campbell said.

Leatherwood chimed in saying the BLGO enhanced the college experience.

"I wouldn't say that it unifies us or puts us in a white world or white culture because essentially everything we do is for black people. For those people who believe that we might feel like we're mentally superior or whatnot, I mean that's simply not true we just have a lot of pride in our Greek-letter organizations. All I can say is that I feel bad for people who think like that, because no man or woman of a Black Greek Letter Organization, especially Omega Psi Phi, feels as though we're trying to do something else besides help the Black community."

Another thing that sets Omega Psi Phi and other BGLOs apart from other Greek organizations is the events they put on. Every year, the Ferris Black Greek Council puts on a Marchdown in the fall and a step show in the spring. These events set a good impression in front of the student body and pay homage to African American history.

"These events are extremely important because of history and tradition. When Divine Nine and other Black Greek Letter Organizations move in unison, it is the product of the evolution of synchronized line dancing. History is very important to the Af-

rican American community, and line dancing was a way for slaves to communicate and express themselves many years ago. It is something that has been apart of our culture since the start of our Greek letter organizations in 1906," Leatherwood said.

A chapter is a smaller, local group that is a part of a larger organization. Each individual chapter and its members will have a different experience based on the university they're located at. With Ferris being in a smaller town, this chapter's experience is unique.

"I think it could be a lot better. We haven't really experienced anything like any major discrimination. People at Ferris, the faculty and staff are pretty fair to us. I don't feel like we've been attacked or pointed out in any negative way. Sometimes it's a little unfortunate we can't do different events or host different people because of funds and financial purposes," Leatherwood said.

2020 was a difficult year for the Black community. With the constant reportage and firsthand experiences of racial injustice and public outrage, Leatherwood felt that Ferris hasn't done or said enough to put their students at ease.

"Essentially I never expect a lot of white people in power to have pity for anything that's going on with the Black community, because a lot of white people in

Black leaders | see page 6



Photo courtesy of Will Holden

Omega Psi Phi members at the Black Greek Council Marchdown in the fall of 2019.

Events calendar

WEDNESDAY

Jan. 20

Book Club Kickoff Event: Wisdom of the Animals

Contact: Christine Labby
labbyc@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 11 a.m.

Finance Division Training

Contact: Teresa Fogel
TeresaFogel@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

MLK Jr. Celebration Student Tribute

Contact: Darnell Lewis
darnelllewis@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 7 - 8 p.m.

Ira Childress Sports Speakers Series Keynote 2021

Contact: Sandra L. Alspach
SandraAlspach@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 7 p.m.



THURSDAY

Jan. 21

Fire and Ice

Contact: Teresa Fogel
TeresaFogel@ferris.edu
Location: North Quad
Time: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cyberstalking Awareness Workshop

Contact: Erin Davis
davise33@ferris.edu
Location: Virtual
Time: 6 - 7 p.m.

Virtual Murder Mystery: Strike Three

Contact: Teresa Fogel
TeresaFogel@ferris.edu
Location: Online
Time: 7 - 8 p.m.



FRIDAY

Jan. 22

Snow-Buddy Building Contest

Contact: Lane Steffke
steffkl@ferris.edu
Location: North Quad
Time: 12 - 2 p.m.



Sunday

Jan. 24

Wild Lights Bulldog Zoo

Contact: Teresa Fogel
TeresaFogel@ferris.edu
Location: North Quad
Time: 6 - 8 p.m.



For more events, check out calendar.ferris.edu

New year, new us

Is it worth setting up New Years resolutions after 2020

Kendall Rooks
Lifestyles Reporter

The thought of making a New Year's resolution after a year like 2020 seems ridiculous.

The most "typical" resolutions, such as exercising more, saving money and quitting vaping, are almost inappropriate. After all, our biggest goal right now seems to be survival, simply put.

How can we even expect to plan ahead for our goals? The year 2020 disrupted our trips, graduations, sports, jobs and life in general. We came face-to-face with financial insecurity, racial violence and illness. How can we be expected to make and then follow through with a New Year's resolution?

"Unfortunately, there are no blanket 'yes' or 'no' answers to many things in life," said psychology professor Connie Meinholdt.

Meinholdt suggests that if you are going to make a New Year's resolution, it should be realistic, specific and planned.

"Changing one's behavior, breaking bad habits or adding good habits in our lives is difficult any time of the year. Willpower is way overrated. Making a plan is usually more successful."

Third-year secondary chemistry education student Brooke Ankley is a member of the Active Minds student organization on campus. Active Minds is a mental health advocacy group that works to end the stigma behind mental health and provides students help accessing mental health resources. Ankley believes it is healthy for your mind to set resolutions but goals in 2021 may be more difficult than usual to achieve.

"My perspective based off of mental health is that you should set goals, but you should stick to them, and this year has made it hard," Ankley said. "Self-care goals are easiest to do, like waking up at a certain time each day. Even making time for yourself or with a friend each day, even if you have to schedule it in is good."

If you are still looking to set a resolution, aim for something achievable.

"The uncertainty of the COVID pandemic and how it affects so much of daily living is making lots of us feel depressed, angry and anxious. This is one reason why a resolution to maintain or make positive, new social connections is so important." Meinholdt said. "I recommend making a positive social resolution, like calling your grandparents twice a month, or find a studying partner for a class. Helping others often makes us feel like a good person. Even doing something like 'pay it forward' and buying a soda for a stranger often makes two people happy: the giver and the receiver."

2020 has taught some of us that we need to prepare ourselves for unexpected events: another reason to set a resolution which betters us for the future.

"People live through all sorts of crisis and emergencies like hurricanes, earthquakes, the polar vortex, the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, civil rights riots in the 1960s and more. Many make preparations for when it 'might' happen again; some plan to make preparations but never get around to it, some don't plan or do anything." Meinholdt said.

The current atmosphere may not be too far off from our past, however.

"There was a global flu pandemic lasting for over a year in 1918. But the 1920s are known as the 'roaring 20s,' when lots of people spent their time going to 'speakeasies,' drinking bootleg liquor, dancing, gambling and partying. How many of us are yearning to get back to normal? A new normal? Are humans really different now in 2020 than they were in the 1920?" Meinholdt said.

Things are different after 2020, but maybe not as much has changed as we feel has. Set an achievable resolution for yourself this year, and plan out how you are going to go about completing it. Resolutions just might bring us some of the sense of normalcy we are craving.

Black leaders

Continued from page 5

power simply don't understand and simply don't want to understand. So it's not a shocker to me that they didn't come and say anything. Would I have liked them to? It would have been nice, but I'm not begging for anybody's pity. I'm not begging for anybody's sympathy," Leatherwood said.

BGLOs seek to accomplish many things, but helping others and maintaining a positive impact in their community is one of the most important goals that members do not take lightly.

"Helping others is a big part of what we do. The brotherhood is tremendous, but when you talk about the history, I think one of the greatest things in our fraternity is that the teachings don't change. As the world evolves, technology evolves, things get better, the times get better from all the way back to 1911, but the teachings don't change," Leatherwood said. "Every man of Omega will always have humility with dignity and humbleness with pride."

BGLOs have existed on college campuses across the nation for over 100 years. They strive to nurture and uplift not only their members but their communities as well.



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How to maintain goals in 2021

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter



Make your goal realistic

One of the best goals you can make is one that is realistic and can actually be accomplished. Treat it as if you're preparing for a test in school: take a look at your grade and how many points your test is, calculate how many points you need for a certain grade, and begin studying to potentially earn that grade on the test.

Similar to the process of getting ready for a test, when you have a goal in mind, you should take a look at what it will take to accomplish something to your standards. This way, you can better determine if the goal is achievable for you.

Solely looking at what it will take to accomplish the goal is not enough; you also have to think if this goal you've chosen is realistic. For example, buying the newest Porsche car while being thousands of dollars in debt from school is probably not the most realistic goal to go after.

Instead try and set a goal that can help you in the long run, such as saving money in order to take off a chunk of your school debt at the end of the year. For instance, if you save \$15 a week for a year, you will have \$780 to put towards your student loans. Keeping goals as realistic as possible for yourself is the best way to stay focused and motivated to complete a goal by the end of the year.



Make your goal a part of your life

When choosing a goal, many people will keep it out of their daily or weekly routine and make their goal something they have to set aside time for. Often when people feel like they have to take time out of their daily lives to complete something out of the ordinary, for something special, they lose motivation to continue with their goal.

An example of this is when people set their goal to work out more. People will set specific times per week, outside of their normal schedule, to go to the gym to work out. After a few times of having to find time specifically for this action, it becomes a nuisance. Instead, try working out from home before or after work, starting with a couple times a week and growing that number as you get more comfortable with the new routine.

When you set a goal for yourself to accomplish by the end of the year, it should be incorporated into your daily or weekly life. This way achieving the goal won't become a hassle or an inconvenience.

The reason why we set goals is to be better in some area of our lives, and the best way to do better is by simply adjusting our daily lives. So when you choose a new goal for this year, make sure to incorporate it into your daily life in a natural way to avoid losing motivation, and you will be able to accomplish it.



Start when you're ready

One of the strongest self-motivating actions you can do for yourself when implementing a new goal is to start going after it when you are ready. Everyone's life is different, and each person is on a different path; so when you select a new goal for yourself, enact it when you think the timing is just right.

Many believe that new year's goals have to begin on Jan. 1, but goals can be started at any time. The whole point of having a goal is to fit into your lifestyle while making your lifestyle better in the way you intend to.

As said before, all lives are on different paths, and we are all going at different paces. No two lives are exactly the same, neither are our objectives, and the same can be said for timing. Timing is different for everyone, so don't feel discouraged if you begin your new objective later than everyone else. The right time is perfect for each individual at one's own chosen point.



Make a plan

Depending on what your goal is, it might be best to set up a plan on how you are going to get it done. Sometimes it takes steps to fulfill your wishes, and having those steps mapped out can help you see what is to come and how you can stay prepared.

Knowing what is expected of you in any situation can make a person feel better about starting a project or beginning a job, and the same can be said for our new years goals. Mapping out what you think accomplishing your chosen goal might look like can help boost your confidence and help validate your decision.

In general, working towards accomplishing goals is a journey, whether it takes a while to complete them, or they are completed in no time at all. Either way, goals are set to better one's self. While you may stumble and trip, or unexpected things happen, it's a good thing to at least plan your steps ahead of time to get to your finish line.



Have confidence

No matter what you choose, no matter how you follow through with your goal, you should go into it with confidence. After all, confidence is key.

Having confidence is a big factor in determining how much people are able to accomplish in their lives. People with a lot of confidence are able to go after what they want, because they feel as though they can achieve anything they set their mind to. Your ability to accomplish your life's challenges all stems from your mindset and what you believe you can do. Confidence in your ability to complete work should also be applied to your goals. The same energy you apply to your daily activities should be applied to what you wish for, so you can better stay motivated.

It's known that the more confident you are in your work, decisions and relations, the better the outcomes will be. The same thing can be said when you apply confidence to all aspects of your life, including your goals. So in the new year, even if you don't have a goal, have more confidence in whatever you do.

OPINIONS

Cora Hall | Editor in Chief | hallc36@ferris.edu

The Ferris State Torch is published on 27 Wednesdays throughout the academic year. This student-run newspaper is printed by The Pioneer Group.

OUR LOCATION

Alumni Building 013
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Ferris State University
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fsutorch.com/letter-to-the-editor/

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: By Cora Hall

A year that will live in infamy

Reflecting on a year ago today, I almost have to laugh. My silly little self had absolutely no clue that 2020 would hold so many unprecedented events, one after the other.

And that "unprecedented," "amid" and "pandemic" would become regular additions to my vocabulary; that healthcare workers, grocery store workers and journalists would become the heroes of last year.

Events with more than 100 people seem so foreign in my memory, I can hardly believe they were real just a year ago.

Photos of empty stadiums with cardboard cutouts of fans will seem wildly strange one day, like they were stills from a dystopian film. All the masks we made or bought will one day be put away, and it will no longer feel normal to mask up when leaving the house. Instead of mentally estimating what six feet is when I come across a stranger, maybe I'll shake their hand.

The political events of the past few months felt like they were scenes cut from a political drama TV show; some screenwriters even said that in the past they've tried to write an attack on the capitol in a realistic way, only to have the real-life white, domestic terrorists waltz right into the capitol like they owned it.

While there were many parts of 2020 we would all like to forget, something we cannot forget is the over 2 million people who lost their lives to COVID-19. We cannot forget the

front line workers who tirelessly fought to keep patients alive on far too few ventilators and PPE that seemed to run out every shift.

We cannot forget the Black lives lost to police brutality: George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Rayshard Brooks and, devastatingly, more. We cannot forget the thousands of protests and the progress made in educating more people on the systemic racism that is written in the blueprint of our country. We can never forget that the sports world once scorned athletes like Colin Kaepernick and Megan Rapinoe for peacefully protesting racism by kneeling. We cannot forget the role of Black women in the WNBA for being on the forefront of social justice demonstrations at their games for years.

We cannot forget the efforts of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020 and fall back into old habits; for those of us who are not Black, we cannot fall back on our privilege and stop our efforts to educate ourselves and others.

I hope we never take for granted getting to see our grandparents regularly and giving them hugs. I hope we never take for granted going to class or eating out at a restaurant. After things go back to a more normal state, I know I will swear I'll never take them for granted again, but eventually, I'm sure I'll fall back into old habits and try to forget that my life was once uprooted and turned upside down.

But looking back on 2020 will always seem like somewhat of a fever dream. Did that all actually happen? In one year? I'm not sure if I simply became more aware of the news or got in the habit of ingesting unhealthy amounts of news, but the news cycles this year have been relentless; the constant stream of one historical event after the other was almost unbelievable. It was a hell of a year to be a journalist—so to my fellow journalists, hats off to you.

2020 will always be the year in my memory that changed my life. I experienced both the happiest and most gut-wrenching moments of my life. But through it all, there was growth; there was forced change and accountability to be a better-informed person, to educate myself and others on racism, politics, COVID-19 and more.

There was also a stark realization that life can be upturned at any moment and my life is less guaranteed than I would like to think in the back of my mind. Watching the world turn upside down makes you realize that yes, every day does count, and I should never turn down an opportunity to be kind, to have an experience or to say what needs to be said.

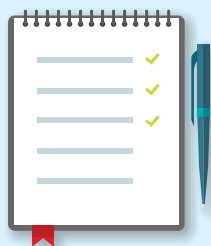
2020 may have held the worst moments of our lives so far, but I know that the lessons and growth from this past year will be at the forefront of my mind for years to come.

GOT AN OPINION?

HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

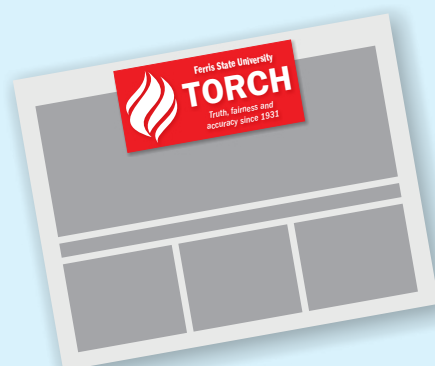
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Cora Hall | Editor-in-Chief | Email: hallc36@ferris.edu

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!



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Unpopular opinion: I love my mask



Meghan Hartley
Torch Reporter

With the pandemic still going on and health officials saying to stay home as much as possible, only go out if necessary, and when going out to wear a mask, a lot of people within our country are not happy about wearing one. Some are going as far as saying the mandate is taking their rights away.

Personally, I find myself excited to wear a mask out in public. I think masks will help reduce people becoming infected with COVID-19 and any small colds others might have. I also find masks to be comfortable to wear, and I've worn one for multiple hours in comfort.

I have found that the reason why I get excited to wear a mask, and feel comfortable with this new norm stems from my love of K-POP, or Korean Pop Music. In South Korea, and many Asian countries, it is normal to see people wearing masks every day. Due to dust, smog, chemicals in the air, an individual having a small cold and does not want to get others sick, or even just wanting to cover their face as an accessory.

There are multiple, different reasons as to why people would wear a mask but one thing must be noted, in Asian countries people have been wearing masks for a long

time, for many people their entire lives. Of course before the pandemic they didn't wear a mask everyday, but it was still natural if they were to choose to wear one or not.

As a K-POP fan, you see your favorite idols in masks all the time. They're wearing them when they get off a plane, after long travel or even just when they are out in public sometimes. At first it seemed odd to me, seeing idols and people in their home country wearing masks everyday, but after researching why they wear masks and seeing them more and more it started to become normal to me.

As someone who grew up in a country in which masks were seen on a surgeon in a hospital, on nurses, on characters in dramatic television shows, and not on the streets everyday it was odd to see people wear one like it was nothing in other countries. But when it started to become a necessity here in the U.S. the idea of wearing a mask became normal to me pretty quickly.

Of course when a lot of people think of a mask they think of a medical mask seen in hospitals, and at first I did too. However, when watching idols in South Korea wear masks they weren't just plain blue, black, or white. Some were festive colors and patterns, even some that look like bears, ducks and other animals.

So when it came time for me to start wearing a mask to protect myself and oth-

ers I knew I wanted to do it in a fun way. I have always been a person to try and find a creative side to things and make them more enjoyable, and that is exactly what I did and have been doing with my masks.

I wear masks with patterns, characters, and with pops of colors, because even though these are scary times I still want to stay hopeful and cheerful. I was just able to express that through the way I present myself in public with what I wear.

All of my masks are cloth that can be re-washed and I feel completely comfortable wearing them, and I now could wear a mask out in public like artists I've seen without being given a weird look because now everyone has to wear one.

I still do think it is a bit weird to see medical masks being worn everyday on some people, I still find myself thinking those are meant for a hospital, but the general concept of wearing a mask doesn't feel out of place.

I can very much see why some people who haven't been exposed to this side of a culture may not like wearing a mask; it's a new concept to them and have never been exposed to the idea of it, but I think people should embrace the mask a little bit.

At the moment I have a few different masks that I can match to my outfits, and have some fun mixing colors together. I firmly believe that if people found different

patterns, colors, and nice sayings to go on their masks they might feel a bit more comfortable themselves to wear them instead of a regular, one time use, medical mask.

One thing I have noticed about our culture in America has been that we like to put our own individualistic stamp on things. I think if people were to add a bit of their own personality and creativity to the situation it can turn a bit brighter and would give people a reason to wear one more often. These days it's important to wear a mask because you want to protect yourself, your family, and others from becoming sick.

It's similar to a cold. You don't want to catch a cold, or a vomiting bug, so you cover your face when you sneeze, you cover your face when you cough. With a mask your face is already covered, so if you sneeze, or cough, or accidentally spit it won't get on anyone else.

I know others wearing a mask can be a discomfort, but adding a little bit of creativity and personality to the situation I firmly believe more people will be fine with the idea of wearing one. I know that when the pandemic is over and a cure has been found, many will choose to leave the mask behind, but for me I will still wear my mask when I am in a new setting, feel uncomfortable, am in a large crowd, or am feeling sick and don't want to affect others around me.

All in all, I feel comfortable with masks.

MagSafe: a bust out of the gate



Noah Kurkjian
Torch Reporter

I have spent about three months with the new iPhone 12 and while I love it, one of its most touted new features is a bust for now.

The MagSafe moniker was first introduced as a type of charger with the 2006 MacBook Pro, it was a magnetic charger that was trip proof and quickly gained critical acclaim. It was first removed in the 2015 MacBook to major disappointment and now has completely vanished from modern MacBooks entirely.

However, it was sort of reintroduced on the iPhone 12 series as a mechanism to attach accessories. I have tested a wealth of these accessories and to sum it up, they're just not that good.

The main problem with this tech is that the magnets are just not strong enough for what they need to be doing. While they hold on well with direct contact and little movement, as soon as you go to put your phone in your pocket with the MagSafe wallet on it, the illusion quickly dissipates.

To make these accessories work, you need the magnets, but you also need some type of friction. Furthering the problem, if you want to use a case, you need to have a case that has the magnet passthroughs built in, or accessories simply won't stick.

The MagSafe charger is a cool piece of kit until it clicks that you can't use a popsocket or a wallet case or any case that isn't made by Apple or Otterbox because they are the only cases with the passthrough

magnets needed directly built in.

I tried to use the MagSafe charger with my case of choice, a Spigen Ultra Hybrid clear case and even though the back of that case is incredibly thin, the charger I received in my press kit failed to stick at all. I had to go caseless or use a MagSafe case to use it, but then, what's the point?

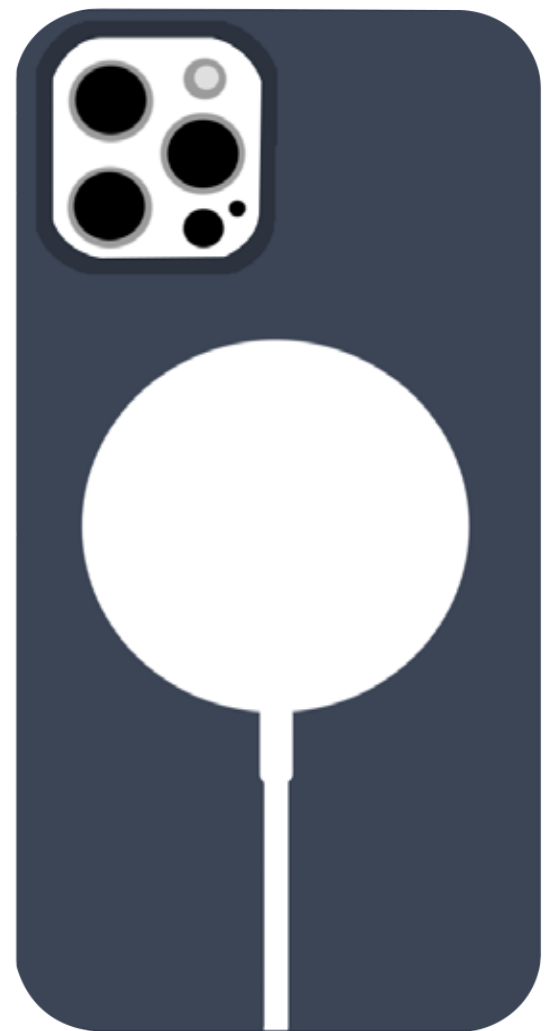
The same goes for the charging stands, while they have really cool concepts to charge an iPhone, an Apple Watch and a pair of AirPods, they are all north of \$100 and offer the same limitations as the standalone charger.

As for the wallet, the results were even worse. Attaching it caseless proved to be a waste because it slid right off as soon as I held my phone. Attaching it while I had a MagSafe compatible case was better but as soon as I attempted to put it in my pocket, it fell right off.

About those cases, they are just plain overpriced. The first party Apple silicone and leather cases are \$49 and \$59 respectively and each are \$10 more than previous editions. As for the Otterbox cases, which are the only officially licensed cases so far, they are just plain hideous in my opinion.

I will be keeping an open mind though. I am looking forward to seeing what 3rd party companies can make and I am holding out for a popsocket that can get the balance of magnets and friction just perfect to work with MagSafe.

For a more in-depth explanation of the friction vs. magnets problem, check out "The Problem with iPhone MagSafe..." a video by Quinn Nelson of SnazzyLabs.



Graphic by: Charlie Zitta | Production Assistant



TUNE INTO OUR WEEKLY
PODCAST WITH RY RODRIGUEZ

The Torchcast can be found on our website, Facebook page and YouTube channel

SPORTS

Brendan Sanders | Sports Editor | sandeb16@ferris.edu

The game that got them here

Brothers use football as an escape from the streets and path to college

Brendan Sanders
Sports Editor

For Marcus Matierre-Bey, football wasn't just a game to play with his friends. Football was a way out.

Growing up in Flint, there were conflicts going on all around him. He always had to stay on his toes so that he wouldn't get caught up in something dangerous.

"In any part of Flint, you don't know what you're going to get, so we always have to be alert and to be cautious wherever we're at," Matierre-Bey said. "There's no particular area where we can get away from the crime. It's hard to get out of anything unless you get out of Flint in general."

Growing up in such an unstable area made it so that both Marcus and his brother Nick focused on making sure they stayed out of trouble, utilizing any way possible.

"We used school and sports to keep us busy and out of the street or getting into everything around us. Our mom instilled those morals not to be easily influenced. Even though we knew what was going on, she trusted us not to contribute to those types of things. Which we didn't."

That's where football came into the picture for the brothers. Football gave them an outlet that kept them out of danger while being able to show off their athletic ability. From early on, they had both shown athletic talent, but it wasn't until later that his brother specifically pushed him to use the game as an avenue.

"It all started back in high school with football," Matierre-Bey said. "I didn't really take it as seriously as I should have, thinking back to it today. I've been playing varsity football since ninth grade, plus my older brother encouraged my cousin and me to play ball. We wouldn't even be playing if it was for him, it was more of a family thing for us."

Marcus Matierre-Bey is the younger brother of current Ferris senior defensive lineman Nick Matierre-Bey. Nick came here four years ago, but injuries kept him out until he tried to come back last year. Due to COVID-19, the season was canceled. 2021 may be the year they get to play together for the first time since Marcus's freshman year of high school.

His brother, though, had more of an influence than just being a teammate. The elder Matierre-Bey pushed Marcus to become the best player he could be. As time went on, it became clear that football may be more than just a game to bond over. The Matierre-Bey's had talent, and colleges were beginning to take notice. Marcus talked about how his brother paved the way for both Marcus and his cousin.

"When he started getting football offers and started seeing more of a way, more doors for us to go through that can help us get out of the city and not just be a typical Flint person, kind of be above average, make something better of ourselves if we take it seriously," Matierre-Bey said.

As Marcus played out his high school career, Ferris became the main focus for the talented player. Many colleges were offering him and his cousin, Deron Irving-Bey, who committed to the University of Michigan and now plays at Central Michigan.

"Then I started getting offers; my cousin started getting offers, we kind of started seeing that bigger picture," Matierre-Bey said. "I got multiple offers, but it came down to Ferris. Ferris was the first school I ever visited. It was the first school my brother took me to, and I saved Ferris for my last official visit. Ferris was the first and last school I ever visited."

Matierre-Bey described the program as a team that welcomed him with open arms.

"Their football program, in general, from the first time I visited to the last time I visited, is still the same. It was a warm welcome from them," Matierre-Bey said. "No one ever tried to steer where I would go. My brother always pushed me to make my own decisions for myself and



Photo courtesy of Marcus Matierre-Bey

Marcus (left) and Nick (right) Matierre-Bey used the game to better their own lives.

go in my own direction. When I got to Ferris, everything changed for the better."

It wasn't just his brother that pushed him to be the best that he could be. His mother played a major part in making sure that he would have a solid education to supplement his athletic ability.

"My mom really pushed us to take advantage of our education; she didn't play around with any bad games," Matierre-Bey said. "If we didn't have anything else, we had our brains. We had our head on our shoulders. If we didn't have sports, we'd still have school. That's why I still take school seriously today."

Marcus Matierre-Bey is currently studying business administration, after which he plans to go into real estate. He

wants to be able to flip houses and build houses, something that he did a little back in high school with his coach.

"Growing up, we moved around a lot, so I kind of want to just give somebody a home," Matierre-Bey said. "There's no place like home, I always say. So just me giving someone a place to call home is like a blessing for me. It's just something I feel good doing. I'm still going to do this even if I do still play ball after college."

With two seasons of eligibility left in his collegiate career, Marcus Matierre-Bey has a chance to not only have a successful career on the gridiron but one off the gridiron also. That's something not many people in Flint can say. Using sports as an opportunity to get out of a dangerous situation has been a story told many times before, but Marcus Matierre-Bey and his brother Nick have gotten to experience it.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Hockey

Jan. 16 - Ferris 7, Trine 0

Women's Basketball

Jan. 15 - Ferris 82, Wisconsin-Parkside 86

Jan. 16 - Ferris 91, Wisconsin-Parkside 89

Men's Basketball

Jan. 15 - Ferris 55, Wisconsin-Parkside 82

Jan. 16 - Ferris 87, Wisconsin-Parkside 69

Money moves The golden boy

College athletes able to be compensated, law will go in effect for 2023

Austin Arquette
Sports Reporter

On Wednesday, Dec. 30, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed bills that would allow college athletes to be compensated for their name, image or likenesses.

While a vast majority of the bills do not take effect until 2023, they are a part of a national movement to get payment to college athletes with no repercussions. The bill will also help against criminal penalties that college athletes face when they hire agents or accept gifts.

The Michigan legislation helps outline specifics for how athletes could land specific endorsement or sponsorship deals. As long as athletes follow the rules set, their university or college, athletic conference and the National Collegiate Athletic Association cannot take away any scholarship or punish the student-athlete.

"For years we have all enjoyed the incredible talent of young athletes across the state. This legislation will change the lives of young men and women for years to come," Whitmer said. "I am hopeful that the NCAA will set a national standard so that all players across the country are afforded the same opportunities."

Ferris men's basketball sophomore wing Deng Reng said that anything that would help bring in money for a college student is a great idea. Michigan followed the steps of California, Florida, New Jersey, Colorado and Nebraska as

the sixth state to pass a law that protects the rights of student-athletes to be paid.

"This is a big deal and I feel like the law should've been passed a while ago to help those athletes who grew up in poverty and have nothing," Reng said. "I'm all in because this is a way for fans, scouts and most importantly yourself to get your name out and try and get on the radar if you consider playing professionally."

There are some restrictions athletes must face before they can move forward with any endorsement contract. Athletes must tell university officials about the proposed contract at least seven days prior to accepting the deal. They also are unable to sign any conflicting contracts such as apparel deals. For example, if a college already has a contract with Nike for shoes, an athlete that attends that school is unable to have a deal with Reebok or another company that required the athlete to wear non-Nike footwear during a game.

The bill is sponsored by Rep. Joe Tate, who is a former Michigan State offensive lineman that pushed for change for college athletes as he knows what those athletes go through year-round.

"At its core, this legislation is to ensure student-athletes in Michigan are treated fairly," Tate said.

We will all have to wait and see what changes happen between now and 2023 for college athletes as only six states have made this legislation happen. The NCAA will look different in a few years as the world continues to change.

Logan Stein wins gold at the World Junior Championships



Photo by: Aaron Westendorf | USA Hockey

Logan Stein (right) poses with the World Junior Championship Trophy alongside two of his teammates.

Brody Keiser
Sports Reporter

Logan Stein became the first Bulldog hockey player in program history to play in the International Ice Hockey Federation's World Junior Championships.

This was the freshman goaltender's second time representing the United States of America. Previously, he played in the World Junior A Championship in Dawson Creek, British Columbia. This year in the World Junior Championships, Stein and Team USA beat the heavily favored Canadian Team in the Championship game to win the gold medal.

"It's always an honor to represent your country," Stein said. "It's an opportunity of a lifetime. I'd never pass up a chance to wear the red, white and blue."

Stein added that "there's nothing better" than representing the USA. He was also humbled by the opportunity he had to represent Ferris hockey.

"I'm just trying to do my best to contribute to the great history of the Ferris State hockey program," Stein said. "Ferris has a great history of turning out great hockey players and I just hope to be another one of them."

Although Stein was limited to a backup goalie role to Spencer Knight on Team USA, he still felt that he learned a lot and achieved his goal of helping the team win gold.

Ferris hockey coach Bob Daniels praised Stein for being nice, outgoing, and "the kind of person that the school and myself are proud to have represent us." He added that "you couldn't pick a better person" to represent Bulldog hockey at the World Junior Championships.

However, Daniels recognized that Stein still has room to grow as a player.

"Right now, he's still a freshman, and he's finding his way through college hockey," Daniels said.

"There's still going to be some bumps in the road because it's a different animal. What he can do is apply his experience to his own game. That in turn will help his teammates. I know for a fact that his teammates were very excited for him and proud of him."

Stein returned from the World Junior Championships to appear in his first game as a Bulldog against Alabama-Huntsville Friday, Jan. 8. Ferris lost that contest 5 - 4 while Stein recorded 40 saves and let in five goals. Stein started again the next night against Alabama-Huntsville as well, recording 16 saves and allowing two goals in a 2 - 0 Bulldog loss.

Ferris was 0 - 6 when Stein returned to the lineup and fell to 0 - 8 in the freshman's first two games with the team. However, Stein hopes to be a centerpiece for the success of the Bulldogs going forward.

"I'm the youngest player on the team, but I feel like I provide a lot of experience for this team," Stein said. "When it comes to playing in big games and moments, I feel that I am very valuable to this team in that area. I hope to be seen as a rock and a backbone for this team for the next three or four years. I want to help this team win championships. We're extremely young right now, but I believe we're bound to win a championship in the next few years."

For Stein, he learned that composure is key to the success of a goalie. He hopes to stay calm under pressure and in big moments so his teammates can rely upon him in the goal.

Stein views himself as the number one goalie, and Daniels expects the freshman to challenge junior goaltender Roni Salmenkangas for that job.

Stein hopes to take what he learned from his time representing his country and apply it to his time at Ferris, win games and a championship, and someday make it to the NHL. The freshman has high aspirations, but he is confident in his ability to achieve them.



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Second time's the charm



Photo by: Ben Amato, Ferris Athletics

Melissa McCartney drives to the basket en route to scoring 25 points, 6 steals, and 3 assists.

Women's basketball earns first victory of the year, 91 - 89 over Wisconsin-Parkside

Hannah Louks
Sports Reporter

The week ended on a positive note for the women's basketball team as the team picked up its first win of the season.

The Bulldogs and the Wisconsin Parkside Rangers faced off Saturday for a second game this weekend. After coming short of winning at a very close game on Friday with a score of 86-82, these two teams rematched Saturday afternoon for another close one. The Bulldogs fought to the finish, winning 91-89.

"These kids, they absolutely fought their butts off today, especially in that second half," said Coach Kurt Westendorp.

The Bulldogs took what they had learned from their loss Friday and came back with a new plan. After the first game, the team

needed to make adjustments to earn that elusive first win of the season.

"We had to mix up our defenses a little bit. Playing back-to-back games, we knew we had to mix things up on the offensive end too," said Westendorp.

After the first period, the Bulldogs were up 16-14. The Bulldogs fell behind in the second and Maddy Harrison from Parkside shot a three-pointer right off the bat.

The Bulldogs were pushed around quite a bit during the second and Parkside quickly took the lead. They were ahead 47-33 at the half. "It wasn't a great first half for us, we had some ups and downs and we did not feel like we were fighting like we are capable of," said Westendorp.

During halftime, Westendorp explained how the team adjusted for the second half.

"We didn't really talk any x's or o's, we just said we have to come out and absolutely fight like hell for 20 minutes," said Westendorp. "It's going to show a lot about our character how we come out."

After the half, the Bulldogs regrouped stronger than ever and were more aggressive. "It was just a full team effort," said Westendorp. "We blew the doors off the place in that third quarter." With a new spring in their step, these players quickly caught up and got the lead. After the third period the score was 68-62

Sophomore Guard Mallory McCartney stood out in the second half, shooting multiple three-pointers, one of which was right before the buzzer at the end of the third period. She scored 25 points during the game, had one rebound and three assists. In the

second half "She was in rhythm," said Westendorp.

Finally, in the fourth, the Bulldogs were able to keep the lead and were awarded a few freshmen guard Kady Blanchard also stood out, scoring a total of 39 points, had 10 rebounds and 7 assists. McCartney and Blanchard worked well together and Westendorp predicts that in the future they will be even more of a tough duo.

"I'm just really proud of them and of the way they battled back and faced that adversity," said Westendorp. "This is a huge win, it will give us a little momentum, a little belief and this team will start to see what they can do together."

The Bulldogs will play again Saturday, Jan. 23 at Northern Michigan University.

FOOTBALL ALUMNI IN THE PLAYOFFS



BUFFALO BILLS

Justin Zimmer,
Defensive Tackle

1 Tackle
Defeated Ravens 17 - 3



GREEN BAY PACKERS

Malik Taylor,
Wide Receiver

2 Kick Returns, Aver. 21.5 yards
Defeated Rams 32 - 18



CLEVELAND BROWNS

Tavierre Thomas,
Cornerback

18 snaps
Lost to Chiefs 22 - 17



KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Austin Edwards,
Defensive End

Signed to Practice Squad
Beat Browns 22 - 17