

A campus COVID conversation



Photo by: Rebecca Vanderkooi | Opinions Editor

This deliberative dialogue event allowed students to gain perspective on the pandemic that they may have not gotten otherwise.

The Ferris community seeks areas of agreement amid the pandemic

Jessica Oakes
Special Editions Editor

As national COVID case numbers and tensions rise, community members found common ground during last Monday's Deliberative Dialogue event.

Deliberative dialogue is a collaborative method of thinking and talking. The event entitled "COVID-19: On What do We Agree?" invited people from different backgrounds together in the name of shared understanding and vaccine awareness.

With 14 people in attendance, participants were able to give and take from a variety of perspectives. Some attendees highly anticipated this exposure to new viewpoints.

"I like to see other people's backgrounds, like where they come from, get a feel of how diverse everybody is that comes to this college," Laboratory science student Ronald Mack III said.

Social work student Caleigh Gordon showed how much the pandemic altered students' lives through her story.

"I was living in the dorms last year, [and] they shut down right away," Gordon said. "I'm in the foster care system, so I didn't have anybody [to go home to]. I was...one of the few people that stayed on campus. Then, I ended up losing my job. I was out of work for like four or five months because they weren't...doing the whole hiring process last summer."

Throughout the night, participants came together despite their vastly different experiences over the past year and a half. One group realized that protecting the more vulnerable members of society was a unanimous priority. The ideal measures to ensure this protection did not look the

same for everyone.

Participants also bonded over the nuance surrounding individual choice. Many attendees believed that the risk of infecting their loved ones, or even strangers, made the vaccination decision a moral obligation rather than a personal decision.

Professors Kristen Conley and Dr. Emmanuel Jadhav worked together to organize the evening. They wanted to provide a safe space for participants to share their perspectives freely.

"The goal is to speak from your own experience. We're only experts in our own experience," Conley said.

Jadhav emphasized that he did not want to sway people or dwell on disagreements. Instead, organizers and moderators were responsible for guiding attendees to a place of productive discourse.

"And I think that's the intent: trying to frame this conversation around individual choice, the common good and the protection of the vulnerable," Jadhav said.

As a Doctor of Public Health, Jadhav wanted to see how people made safe choices when considering medical facts against anecdotal evidence.

"I'm pretty confident we've all heard people say, 'I don't know anybody that died from COVID,'" Jadhav said. "You don't have to...know someone...But, seeing the numbers, it is clear people are dying. Technically, some people are speaking the truth. Nobody in their household died, but do we have to wait for that to occur?"

Conley believes that finding consensus through deliberative dialogue can enact change in today's "polarized society."

"I [strongly believe] that as individuals in our society, as voting members, as civic-minded individuals, that we all have a part to play in our democracy," Conley said.

Although only a few people were in attendance, deliberative dialogue regarding COVID regulations and mandates is not limited to a one-night-only event. Across campus, students are finding commonalities.

Communications freshman Adam Strach feels conflicted about Ferris' current handling of the pandemic.

"I understand the mask mandate because they don't want to get [the campus] shut down again. But at the same time, it irks me because I'm vaccinated," Strach said.

Social work sophomore Marisa Conklin says that the university's mask policies have little to no effect on students' personal lives.

"Even if you're vaccinated or unvaccinated, people at parties aren't wearing masks," Conklin said.

Architecture junior Samuel Serba sees the mask policy as a way for Ferris to avoid enforcing a vaccine mandate. Serba also believes that vaccination decisions have become too controversial.

Social work freshman Amaya Nelson echoed this statement and added that those who refuse to get vaccinated "think they're getting their rights taken away."

This group of students decided that getting vaccinated should not be seen as a contentious, political issue.

For information about future events, visit the Deliberative Dialogue tab under the Retention and Student Success section of Ferris' website.

Rebecca Vanderkooi contributed to the reporting of this story.

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NEWS

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Campus construction

Renovations to the Alumni Building will create more office spaces

Becca Witkowski
News Reporter

The Ferris State Alumni Building, located at the north end of campus, will be closed for construction at the beginning of next year.

The construction project appears to last until September 2022; the building will return to full occupancy in November of the same year. The construction will build more office spaces for various campus groups, including IT, University Archives and more.

“Information Technology Services (ITS) is...in [the] West Building, which was built in 1952 and needs extensive renovation...to continue to support ...ITS,” said Karen Simmon, a project manager who works with facilities management. “After carefully studying multiple options, the University determined that the best option is to raze the West Building and renovate the Alumni Building.”

The construction will also allow the Alumni Building to undergo needed maintenance. It will also reno-

vate the restrooms in the building and improve them to accommodate individuals with disabilities. The construction will also add elevators to the Alumni Building.

In the current plan, the first floor of the Alumni Building will house offices for project management, network services, architecture, applications, central IT admin, university archives and Gold club. It will also include shared spaces, consisting of break rooms and conference rooms. The second floor will house cyber security.

The plan also includes relocating the data center and destroying the West Building in the summer of 2023. The West Building would have had to undergo significant renovations for the IT department to use it. The total budget for the project is \$12.5 million. The plans are on the facility management page on the Ferris website.

Construction on the building should have little to no impact on student life. Its location on campus should not impact student travel time for classes.



Photo by: Davis Fosgitt | Torch Photographer

The Alumni building is the oldest on campus being constructed in 1929.

ROTC cadetes depart for training

The Reserves Officers' Training Corps fly in helicopters from campus



Photo by: Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

Pfc. Nicholas Dennison sits in the helicopter awaiting takeoff.

Jerry Gaytan
News Reporter

On Friday, Sep. 17, the Ferris State University ROTC loaded up the cadets on two chinook helicopters to their training at Fort Custer.

The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at Ferris is taking all 42 cadets to Fort Custer, in Battle Creek, for training. It is about a 45-minute flight where the cadets will perform land training, field training problems, leadership exercises and missions. The two Chinook helicopters landed on the IM fields on campus after delays due to early morning fog.

“It’s great training, and this is awesome for these cadets to be able to experience flight with a chinook

helicopter,” said Sgt. Maxwell Neubauer.

Sgt. Neubauer led the cadets to the training down at Fort Custer alongside cadet battalion commander Bryan Teneyck and fellow recruiter Sgt. Badley Plaska. The training prepares cadets to be officers in the army. This training includes leadership exercises and tactical lessons such as rifle training, obstacle courses and warrior skill track training.

The cadets spent days prior on cold load training, which shows the cadets the benefits of the aviation branch. Cold load training teaches cadets how to enter and exit an aircraft and the steps from securing oneself to knowing the safety risks.

Commander Teneyck claims that “once we land, we’re going to reconsolidate everybody, get accountability and then start our training schedule.”



Photo by: Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

Those interested can follow the Ferris ROTC on their new account @FerrisArmyROTC on Twitter.

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An iPad to fit every student budget



Photos courtesy of Apple Inc.

The all-new iPad Mini and next generation 10.2 inch iPad go on sale Friday, Sept. 24 for \$329 and \$499 respectively. Students can pick these up for \$309 and \$449 from the Apple Education Store.

Apple's annual September event: What you need to know

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

Apple hosted their annual September event last week, announcing a slew of new products, including iPads, iPhones and Apple Watches, updates to their native services and announced release dates for the various fall software updates.

College students will be happy to hear that the iPad lineup got a major update during this event. For starters, the \$329 student-oriented iPad, (\$309 on student discount) got some needed updates like a bump to the A13 Bionic chip, which is all around 20% faster than the outgoing model which used the A12 Bionic chipset. Apple claims this processor bump makes this iPad 3 times faster than the leading competing Chromebook and up to six times faster than the best-selling Android tablet.

The budget iPad also got a seriously needed front-facing camera bump as well. This new model features a 12 mega-pixel, ultrawide camera with Apple's Center Stage experience. Center Stage detects the subject within the frame and dynamically adjusting the frame as the subject moves around, or as more people join the frame. This will be available for video calling and video recording.

This iPad retains the design from the previous generation so all accessories from the previous generation will be compatible. This iPad will also have double the base storage of the previous year starting at 64GBs, shipping Friday, Sept. 24.

Apple then moved on to the all-new iPad Mini. The new Mini features a new iPad Air-style design, deleting the home button and moving Touch ID to the power button. The allows for a larger screen to cover more of the front surface area so the display is now 8.3 inches instead of 7.9 inches all in a body that is slightly smaller than the outgoing model.

The new iPad Mini also ditched the Lightning port in lieu of the more standard USB-C and got the latest A15 Bionic chip making it 40% faster in the CPU department and 80% faster GPU department from the previous generation according to Apple. Also because of the A15 Bionic, the new Mini supports 5G.

The new Mini will ship Friday, Sept. 24 starting at \$499 for the 64GB model and will have a 256GB option for \$649 and will be available in four colors, Purple, Starlight, Space Gray and Pink. It will also support Apple Pencil 2nd Generation.

Apple added some new features to Apple Fitness+. They

added two new workout types, Pilates and guided meditation and they also added group workouts which will allow friends and family to do the same workouts while seeing each other's Burn Bars, using SharePlay, an update to FaceTime coming in iOS 15.

Apple rounded out their event by talking iPhone 13. It will come in four variants just like last year, iPhone 13, 13 Mini, 13 Pro and 13 Pro Max. All variants will retain their screen sizes from the previous year however the Pro models will have Pro Motion displays which allows them to dynamically switch between refresh rates up to 120 Hz, twice what non-Pro Motion can achieve.

Not much changed this year, the iPhone 13 series also adopted the A15 Bionic chips, got smaller notches but retained the boxy design introduced last year. The non-Pro models got slight camera upgrades with wider fields of view and better night mode while the Pro models got night mode on all lenses and a new rack focus feature called Cinematic Mode as well as a macro photography option.

All iPhones in the 13 lineups retain their pricing from last year while the iPhone 13 and 13 Mini now start at 128GBs instead of the 64GBs that their iPhone 12 counterparts started with. They start shipping Friday, Sept. 24 in a wide variety of colors.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

The Detroit Regional Chamber did a survey on Michigan-ers and how they felt about a theoretical vaccination mandate in Michigan schools.

The survey revealed that a majority of Michigander supported the idea.

Furthermore, the survey revealed that a majority agreed that the decision as to whether or not students need to mask up should fall on school districts, local, state or federal governments to decide instead of student parents.

"Those who are opposed are really opposed," said Sandy Baruah, president and chief executive officer of the chamber to the Detroit Free Press.

"The passion on that side of the issue is, I would say, whiter and hotter than the other side. The passions burn deep on that."

More than 55% of people

who replied to the survey were in support of mandating the vaccine for school children as soon as the FDA provides full approval for all age groups.

These findings come on the same day that Pfizer announced that their vaccine was testing safe and effective for children as young as five years old.

However, it's not that clear cut, over 56% of parents with school aged children were opposed to a mandate. Mandate support was swayed by the 65 and older population with 81% of them saying they supported such a mandate.

The poll surveyed 600 Michigan voters between Aug. 20 and Sept. 4 and has an overall margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points. Of those surveyed, 223 had school-aged children. With a smaller sample size, the poll findings for this group of respondents has a margin of error of plus or minus 6.5 percentage points.

Ferris State Torch

Corrections

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- ON THE RECORD -

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

Monday blues

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

Monday blues

Sept. 13, 10:35 p.m., Officers were dispatched to Travis Hall when an RA smelled marijuana. The contraband was confiscated and the student was referred to student conduct.

They couldn't even close the door?

Sept. 15, 10:50 a.m. Vehicle found with door open in Lot 13, officers were called to the scene

and the student owner of the vehicle was located. Personal items missing, case closed due to a lack of leads

Parking Wars: Big Rapids

Sept. 16, 1:19 p.m., A man upset by parking tickets he's been receiving from the University as a non-student. He became belligerent and officers were dispatched to the location however by the time officers arrived, the suspect was already gone. The suspect has been trespassed from campus.

LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

What's behind the Purple Door



Photo from The Purple Door's Facebook page

A look at the inside of The Purple Door.

The newest entertainment in Big Rapids.

Jeremy Wolfe

Lifestyles Reporter

The Purple Door is a new business in Big Rapids, but already one that is establishing a home-grown reputation for itself quickly.

Axe-throwing is both a hobby and a sport, and one that is relatively new compared to other sports. With only roughly eighteen locations for the sport in the state of Michigan, The Purple Door, established recently in early August, hopes to cement itself as the place to be for axe-throwing in Northern Michigan. With it being such a niche interest, manager Chuck Wohlford believes a big part of the interest comes from one specific thought.

"Curiosity," Wohlford said. "Curiosity is what makes people want to come in here. They look at the Purple Door sign and wonder what goes on inside."

Wohlford's experience with axe-throwing came right when he decided to create the business, and using a few Youtube videos and other third-party sources, he eventually was able to throw an axe himself and get into the business. This ability to get into it on his own time prompted him to move forward with his axe-throwing venture idea and create the location in Big Rapids.

While advertising is slim, word-of-mouth and reputation is everything. In such a small town with most major

big-ticket businesses in walking distance from each other, The Purple Door is reliant on people's good reviews locally and spreading the word to friends to gain traction. With very little time to establish itself, a reputation like this is invaluable.

"Word-of-mouth is perfect," Wohlford said. "Big Rapids is a small town, so it works well. So far we've had amazing customers, and they've given us great reviews."

The Purple Door boasts eight axe-throwing stations, each complete with either a black light target or projector screen that simulates a bullseye. The idea behind these is to provide both a large space for throwing to be a challenge while also being safe. Many are afraid at first of throwing, but in Wohlford's experience, once that first axe makes it to the board, people can't stop putting it down.

"A lot of people are scared they'll hit themselves with the axe," Wohlford said. "Once they stick it, though, they're addicted. They hoot and holler and cheer, and it's so much fun."

While a small business isn't uncommon, short staffing is almost inevitable in the era of COVID-19. Finding people to work shifts at a new establishment is difficult, and thus makes working The Purple Door rather difficult with such a limited roster of employees.

However, expansion is already coming fast for the lo-

cation. With a new pizza place set up that has orders taken inside the Purple Door, as well as items like jukeboxes being recently installed, the business is taking on bigger projects and seeks to grow outward.

"We are adding a ski ball table in the next room," Wohlford said. "As far as the future, we have an outside area that's grass. We want to privacy fence that and make open lanes for throwing in the summer."

This growth is directly driven by customers, who come in droves every weekend. However, weekdays can be slow, and Wohlford is attempting to mold the business to fit the customers availability and the reality of Big Rapids being a major college town that needs to adhere to student's schedules to go forward.

"We wanted to cater to everybody, and that's why we wanted to give the community something to do," Wohlford said.

While there are many aspects to axe throwing, Wohlford feels there should be one major take-away from the experience at The Purple Door. He feels this idea is what allows people to make word-of-mouth advertising viable and gives people reason to spread the word about the location. to their friends and family.

"They had fun," said Wohlford. "It's all about having fun at the end of the day."

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Board games galore

Meet the RSO on campus that loves to game



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Members of the RSO compete for victory in Blokus.

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter

There are many unique aspects to the Bulldog community here on Ferris' campus, one of them being the board game RSO.

Established in the fall of 2018, the board game RSO is what many would expect just from their group name. They are a group of people who play board games for a few hours once a week.

However, these are not ordinary games like 'Clue' and 'Monopoly'.

President Hannah McKeen says the games they bring to the table are in-depth with storylines that take players on true adventures.

"The biggest thing is that we play a lot of strategy-type games," McKeen said. "We play a game called 'Munchkin', we've had 'Ticket To Ride' brought in and a game called 'Oceans'. More in-depth games but we also have cooperative games."

Cooperative games are where all the players work together to accomplish the game, rather than competing against each other until there is a lone survivor. McKeen says that anyone who enjoys board games, or simply the idea of them, will be able to find something they enjoy.

The group currently has 15 games that are up for anyone to play and members are encouraged to bring games themselves for the group to try out to see if they like some of the newer games currently out. McKeen herself owns five board games that she keeps in a cloth bag.

Because of the variety of board games out in the world and the connections individuals can have when playing them, McKeen set out to create this group with the purpose of the ladder coming to the Ferris community.

"The main reason that I actually created the group was because as a freshman coming in it's kind of hard to make friends, especially if you're kind of shy," McKeen said. "People like board games and competitive people tend to get louder when they play board games which means there have been a lot more people who have been able to make friends."

William Houghten, the treasurer of the RSO, has been able to connect with others in the group all thanks to an invitation from a friend when the group started to form.

"A friend of mine, from a job I was working at the time, told me about it," Houghten said. "This was actually before the club had formed, they needed someone who wanted to be the treasurer and so they brought me on."

Houghten says there can be a lot of stress that can come from being in college, especially the longer you are in school and the harder the classes get. Luckily, for him, the board game club has become a place where he doesn't have to worry about anything but being himself.

"It's a place for people to relax, hang out and just spend some time away from the stress that is college life," Houghten said. "It's someplace you can go where no one's going to ask anything of you, your only responsibility is to just be kind to other people there and that shouldn't be too big of an ask."

McKeen and Houghten both have said it's a place where connections can be made, people can enjoy themselves and try out new games they probably wouldn't have ever come across before.

The Board Game RSO meets on Tuesday nights at 6 p.m. in the downstairs lobby of Pickell Hall, the honors hall. The hall has large round tables that make for great, safe gameplay, especially in the midst of COVID-19 cases slowly on the rise.

New members are always welcome to stop by the hall, call the front desk, and be let in to try the group out. McKeen, the President, is also keen on welcoming new editions to the group from Presence on Bulldog Connect.

The Board Game RSO always has a winning time when they are together and never turn away from new challenges or adventures. If you are interested in starting a quest with them, make sure to check them out on Bulldog Connect.

Taking on res-paw-nsibilities



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Cami Lowe with her cat, Finn.

The responsibilities having an emotional support on campus

Charles Buckel
Lifestyles Reporter

For students who keep emotional support animals on campus, there is an extra companion for them to turn to when their emotions can be too much, but there is also the responsibility of keeping a living creature in a dorm room.

Taking care of an animal on its own is a huge responsibility and college students keeping animals take on that responsibility while also having to be aware of their duties as a student and sometimes an employee as well.

The level of care an animal needs depends on what kind of animal it is. Students who keep birds or reptiles as emotional support animals may have an easier time since the most basic needs of their animal could be taken care of in their enclosures. Cats and dogs may be more difficult due to the fact that they need more room than just a cage.

Cats need to have a litterbox that needs to be maintained, meanwhile, students with dogs need to be able to take them outside to use the bathroom, something that can't be done when they're sitting in class or at work. Students need to be conscious of the fact that there is an animal in their room at all times.

Cami Lowe lives in the dorms with her cat Finn. For her, keeping an animal isn't too hard to do in the dorms.

"I think that having a cat is super simple. Finn is a very happy guy; he naps while I'm in class and is ready to play by the time I get home in the afternoon. There are times when I work odd shifts that I can tell he gets annoyed, but overall, he is content to be alone or spend time with my suitemate when I'm unavailable," Lowe said.

Even though having a cat is simple for Lowe, she still keeps aware of the fact that Finn is in her room constantly.

"I don't spend the night anywhere else because Finn gets anxious when I'm gone, and I don't go home often because he hates being in the car. However, I wouldn't trade having Finn

here for anything, having the little guy that excited to see me every time I come home makes my day," she said.

Students also have the responsibility of making sure their emotional support animal is registered with the school, which requires filling out paperwork with Disabilities Services, and making sure they're up to date on vaccinations for animals.

"The paperwork was super simple, from starting to fill out the paperwork to moving him in it only took about a week. The people at the Educational Counseling and Disabilities Services were so helpful," Lowe said.

Even though Cami and Finn's experience has been relatively good, Cami would still be hesitant to recommend other students get an emotional support animal.

"I have mixed feelings about recommending ESAs to other students. For one, I think that having a cat is totally different from having a dog," Lowe said. "Finn doesn't need to go on walks or taken outside as a dog would. I would never be able to handle a dog, or another high maintenance animal, with my classes and work schedule and I think that's an important thing to consider."

For students that are planning on bringing an emotional support animal to campus, Lowe said she would "advise others to really evaluate their lifestyle before committing to bringing an animal onto campus."

"As much as one might enjoy having a pet it's important to remember that while you have a life outside your room, your pet doesn't, so you must be willing and able to give them the love and attention they deserve," Lowe said.

If students are willing to take on the responsibility of bringing an emotional support animal to campus, they can begin the process by contacting Education and Career Counseling and Disabilities Services. They can be reached by email at ECDS@ferris.edu and by phone at (231) 591-3057.

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OPINIONS

Rebecca VanderKooi | Opinions Editor | vandr122@ferris.edu

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Work and play

By: Brendan Sanders

This past Saturday, I tried to attend a Ferris football game as a fan for the first time in years. I only lasted three quarters.

Throughout the game I was always moving around. You could see me walking from one end of the stadium to the other, talking to friends I hadn't seen in years, or finding someone who I had graduated high school with. When we got to the fourth quarter, I realized it was actually a close game, which was unexpected.

The itch to do something began to overwhelm me. I was able to resist the urge for three quarters, but by the middle of the fourth, I couldn't stop myself. For some reason, I had to work.

First, I took one of my photographers press passes after his camera died, then I borrowed a mask from a friend who was a

videographer. Next, I called the reporter who was assigned to the story asking who he wanted to be interviewed on the field. Then, I was trying to help my other photographer get photo's of the game winning plays.

I've been working around sports, specifically football teams, since I was a freshman in high school. I've attended the majority of Ferris football game as a cameraman or a reporter for the Torch. When I realized that the game was actually going to be a good story, the itch to try and help my people working the game became overbearing. This time, I fell victim to the need to work.

I've been asking myself the question. What can I do to keep myself from going into work mode at events like these?

Watching sports from home helps, just because there is no way for me to try and

join in on the fun. On location though, it is much tougher. I almost need a group of people to surround me so I don't wander off into a press box or onto the sideline.

Or, I just need to learn how to just relax. It's not often a fan gets to watch a game like last Saturday, where the scoring goes down to the final seconds and even overtime. As a fan, I need to learn to just enjoy these moments. Not try to get the perfect shot, or think about all the questions I should be asking once the game concludes.

Being close to the game is one of the coolest experiences a sports fan can have, yet when I'm nearly stepping on the toes of both my reporters and photographers, it may be time to pull back.

Outdated cheating prevention The problems with Respondus Lockdown browsers



Cassidy Jessup
Multimedia Editor

Cheating is considered an act of academic misconduct.

When accused, the student is then required to attend a meeting with the University Committee on Discipline to determine their punishment. Administrative outcomes, according to the FSU Code of Student Community Standards (2020-2021), range from a written warning to suspension and dismissal.

In the 2020-2021 world of online learning, many professors have taken the prevention of cheating very seriously with the use of the Respondus LockDown Browser.

For those who may not be aware, the LockDown Browser is used for taking tests

online. It keeps the user from opening any other tabs or applications, and it uses the webcam to record and monitor for suspicious activity.

The Respondus website boasts that it is "used at over 2000 higher educational institutions, LockDown Browser is the 'gold standard' for securing online exams in classrooms or proctored environments."

However, with students working from their homes, coffee shops and other areas around campus, the Respondus Lockdown Browser is not an ideal method to prevent cheating.

Many classes here at Ferris use the Respondus LockDown Browser for exams. For those that don't require the webcam to be on, it is basically pointless. Every student has more than one technological device with internet access, what is to prevent them from using their phone to Google answers?

All the browser does is lock the computer or laptop that the test is launched on. And with no video monitoring the student, there is nothing stopping them from using their phone to search for answers, use a calculator etc.

Some professors have recognized this dilemma and attempted to solve it drastically. A student who asked to remain anonymous said that their professor not only required their camera to be on during the test, but they also had to join a Zoom call on their phone and have the camera facing their keyboard.

This may seem like an extreme and effective solution, but stu-

dents will still find a way around it. The same student claimed that, even with both cameras on, they could place sticky notes around the screen of his laptop where the cameras couldn't see.

It comes down to a simple fact: the Respondus LockDown Browser cannot prevent cheating. It is a tool that is simply too outdated for the current learning environment.

If a student wants to cheat, they'll find a way around it. The only thing the LockDown Browser is doing is preventing honest students from having the same advantage as the ones who ignore the rules.

Online teaching is a new frontier, and professors simply cannot keep up with monitoring 20+ students taking an exam. Not only are there integrity issues with the Respondus LockDown Browser, but there have been multiple complaints that the program is not compatible with Google Chromebooks.

This is not entirely true, since Respondus offers a "beta" extension of the LockDown Browser for Chromebooks. However, according to the Respondus website, there are currently nine known issues with the extension, including the "Help Center," early exit, calculator and spreadsheet features not working.

Unfortunately, this gives students with a different operating system a clear advantage over students with Chromebooks. Another reason why the Respondus LockDown Browser is not a fair or viable testing tool.

The best way to test a student's knowledge is through application-based projects, not through a set of questions on the screen in a "secured online exam." If an exam is the only way to test the student's knowledge, then make the test open-book.

With the test as open-book, there is no incentive to cheat and everyone is on the same playing field. Because let's be real, if a student wants to cheat, there is nothing that the Respondus LockDown Browser is going to do about that.



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Tuca and Bertie: a show about character

An honest review of the second season



Angie Rosenthal
Torch Photographer

The hit show, Tuca and Bertie is an animated adult series was originally picked up by Netflix, who canceled the show after one season. Luckily, Tuca and Bertie got picked up by Adult Swim, which is where the second season aired over the summer. Before the second season even ended, the show was greenlit for a third season. Which makes sense, the second season did get a perfect score on Rotten Tomatoes.

What makes this show so special? Why is this the show that has impressed critics and viewers alike? I believe there are two reasons: the characters and the story.

The show focuses on two adult birds, the titular Tuca and Bertie. Tuca is a rambunctious young woman that knows what she likes. She always speaks her mind and does not shy away from a fight. Bertie is a shy young woman who struggles to understand herself. She tries her best to please people while struggling to please herself. At face value, these main characters do not seem that special, but, with each episode, we learn more and more about them, which makes the series more and more captivating.

Each episode reveals a new layer to our main ladies. One episode reveals that Tuca struggles with family relationships because she was always seen as the destructive little kid of the family. Another episode reveals that Bertie relies on her boyfriend and Tuca

for companionship. Every episode of "Tuca and Bertie" is important in the story because each one teaches us more and more about the characters we are rooting for. Each episode succeeds at making us want to spend more time with these two.

This form of character development ties with how wonderful the story is. The character building goes hand-in-hand with the storytelling. For example, one of my favorite episodes of the second season is "The Dance." Bertie invites Tuca to a carnival to reconnect, only for Tuca to show up as a completely changed person. While they are spending time together, Tuca's new girlfriend shows up and acts very controlling towards Tuca. During this episode, we learn that Tuca is very impressionable in new relationships

and is willing to change to maintain a relationship. The show naturally gives us a new layer to a character while telling the story. It is a perfect balance that keeps the show engaging and interesting.

Overall, I believe "Tuca and Bertie" deserves all the praise it has been receiving. The combination of engaging character development and an intertwining story has made it quite a success. This series is proof that Adult Swim can have character-driven shows and be successful. I look forward to getting more episodes about my favorite birds in the future.

The first season of Tuca and Bertie is only available on Netflix, and the second season is available on the Adult Swim website and Hulu.



Image via Adult Swim

Glorified stardom

The dangers of putting celebrities on a pedestal



D'Andre Head
Sport Reporter

Being a fan of a particular musical artist, actor or athlete means keeping up with everything they do. Through my life, I would look up to these people, support everything they did and aspire to be exactly like them when I grew up. Who wouldn't want to be the next Emma Watson, Dwayne Johnson or Micheal Jordan?

When I was little, I had an enormous crush on Ariana Grande. I thought she was the best teen pop sensation, but then she changed over the years. When she transitioned to music, I heard that she was rude to some of her closest friends and

spewed "hating America" comments. After I became older, I realized that she was not doing anything different than many other people her age, but I remember judging her harshly. I've seen this type of situation happen a lot with celebrities.

I constantly see celebrities rise to fame, and soon after the public know the smallest details of their personal life. The media criticizes them for the mistakes they make, they make them seem like horrendous people and just like that, they fall from stardom.

When we find ourselves doing this, we should ask a very important question: would we judge our closest friends and family this severely? For me, the answer is

no. If my friends or family members fought, got upset or said something over dinner, I would not terminate my relationship with them. I would undoubtedly question why they did something so inappropriate, but I would acknowledge that they aren't the only ones who are imperfect. I would hope they would act better moving forward, but I wouldn't stop supporting and loving them.

This example is how people should react when a celebrity has a wrong moment in the public eye. Instead, people are quick to judge and say they are a terrible influence on our children.

While undoubtedly, some celebrities do change when they become famous, most of them are ordinary people. They

make mistakes like everyone else and we shouldn't judge them for that. The only way average people differ from celebrities is that every move they make is scrutinized. This puts them in a tricky situation, and it can be hard for them to live their lives without every moment being nitpicked.

Celebrities shouldn't be held to a higher standard, but they usually are. They have plenty of people looking up to them, so they always have to be careful. Of course they can make mistakes, so society needs to make sure they don't look at them as anything more than ordinary people. People need to accept that celebrities make mistakes because everyone does.

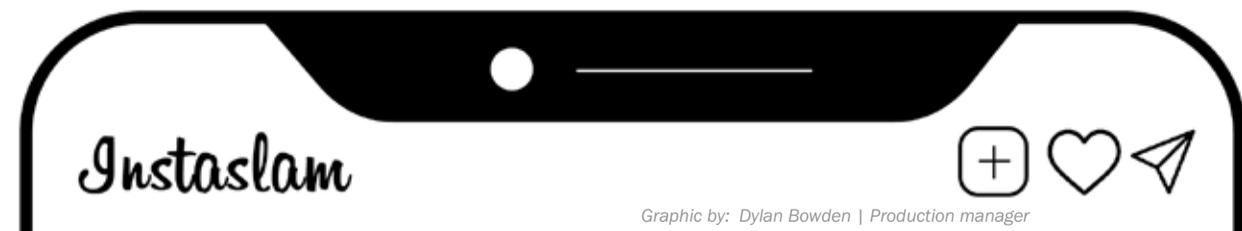
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SPORTS

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Bulldogs sneak past Saginaw Valley



Photo by Marissa Russell

Ferris celebrates a go-ahead touchdown in overtime against Saginaw Valley.

Seven turnovers nearly derail Ferris State football in GLIAC opener

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

While it wasn't the prettiest game of football, the Bulldogs still got the job done on Saturday with a 47-45 overtime win over the Saginaw Valley State University Cardinals.

After the week two win on the road against Ashland, Saturday's conference opener brought a lot of anticipation and excitement. Earlier in the week, head coach Tony Annese challenged the student body to "Rock the Top" and break the attendance record. This initiative brought over 6,000 electric fans to Top Taggart Field for the contest.

"The crowd was great," junior defensive lineman Jordan Jones said. "The energy was there and we knew we had constant support the entire game."

While several fans were anticipating two-time GLIAC Offensive Player of the Week Jared Bernhardt being under center, it was junior Evan Cummins getting the start at quarterback. Bernhardt was seen on the sidelines wearing a knee brace. Like many in attendance, this news came sudden to even Cummins himself.

"I found out at about 5:30pm," Cummins said regarding the news of him starting against SVSU. Kickoff was 7:00 pm.

Despite the late notice, it didn't take long for Cummins to get involved early. On their second and fourth drives of the ball game, the former Livonia Churchill standout punched in Ferris' opening scores with

a pair of 1-yard touchdowns.

In the second quarter, both teams began to lose their sharpness. Following a muffed punt from junior slot receiver Marcus Taylor, the Bulldog defense responded with an interception of Saginaw's quarterback Jamil Thomas. However, the Cardinals intercepted sophomore quarterback Mylik Mitchell on the following drive and returned the interception for a touchdown, giving SVSU a 15-13 lead early in the second quarter.

"We made a couple of mistakes," senior running back Marvin Campbell said. "It made it harder for ourselves."

The Bulldogs fought back and answered when Cummins found junior receiver Xavier Wade in the middle of the end zone with five seconds to go in the half, giving the Bulldogs the 20-15 advantage at halftime.

After an early second half field goal by the Cardinals, Cummins countered by finding freshman receiver Tyrese-Hunt Thompson on a 71-yard touchdown pass for his second of three passing TD's on the day. Ferris then packed on the momentum with a big interception by senior defensive back Alex Thomas, despite backed against their own 28-yard line.

"It was important stopping key drives and bringing more energy," junior defensive back Jamil Thomas said regarding Ferris' six takeaways. "It kept us in the game."

On the ensuing drive, Cummins found Xavier Wade who broke through the secondary for a 17-yard score, giving the Bulldogs a 32-18 lead early in the third quarter.

Despite trailing by two scores, the Car-

dinals did not back down. Their defense responded by forcing three forced fumbles and collected a fourth-down stop on four of the next five Ferris offensive possessions. The Cardinals' head coach and former Ferris assistant coach Ryan Brady then looked to Tommy Scott, who delivered two rushing touchdowns to tie the game at 32-32 with 13 minutes to go in regulation.

"Give Saginaw credit," Annese said. "Their kids hung in there and fought hard."

Both teams continued to battle down the stretch, exchanging blows for the next eight minutes. On the final drive in regulation or the Bulldogs, and Cummins pounded the ground game all the way down to the Saginaw 1-yard line. With 45 seconds to go, Cummins plunged across the goal line, giving Ferris a late seven point lead.

"I knew the team was dependent on the offense to make a play," Campbell said of Ferris' last drive.

While many thought the game was finally locked up, the Cardinals shocked the home fans by completing 5 huge passes and scoring the game-tying touchdown as the clock expired.

On the initial overtime possession, Campbell and Cummins marched the Bulldogs into the end zone. Due to several blocked and missed kicks earlier in the game, the Bulldogs elected to go for two and succeeded with a pass to junior tight end Keidren Davis. While the Cardinals followed up with a touchdown, the Bulldogs held strong and denied the potential game-tying two-point conversion attempt thanks to a pass break-

up from junior defensive end Ian Hall.

"It looked like (the quarterback) was looking to throw the out route and (Ian) broke it up," Thomas said on the game-winning stop. "It was a great play."

While the Bulldogs racked up nearly 430 yards of total offense in their victory, Ferris had to rely more heavily on its passing game (238 yards). Campbell led the team in carries (27) and rushing yards (109) while Cummins found the end zone three times on the ground. He also tacked on three passing scores. Taylor headed the Bulldogs receiving core with nine catches and 121 yards.

Despite picking up their first conference win of 2021, head coach Tony Annese was not pleased with his team's overall performance.

"I'm completely miserable right now," Annese said in his postgame press conference. "It was a frustrating game. We dropped the ball so many times and made a lot of mistakes."

Despite all the miscues, Annese is still glad the team came out on top.

"A lot of times you learn when you lose, but sometimes you're fortunate enough to win and learn from that," Annese said. "All in all, we are 3-0 and hopefully we learn from this situation."

The Bulldogs will look to get back on track Saturday Sept. 25 when they face Davenport University for homecoming at Top Taggart Field. Kickoff is 3pm.

For more on Ferris State Football, visit ferrisstatebulldogs.com.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Football
Sept. 18-Ferris 47, Saginaw Valley 45

Men's Cross Country
14th place at Spartan Invitational

Women's Cross Country
15th place at Spartan Invitational

Serves Up



Photo courtesy of Nina Gorgijevska.

Nina Gorgijevska (red jersey) celebrates with her teammates at MBS Arena in Potsdam, Germany (2017).

Nina Gorgijevska shares her story of crossing seas to become a Bulldog

Austin Arquette
Sports Reporter

Imagine moving overseas to start college in a place you know nothing about and the position you play is different than the one you've learned.

From being a German national champion to a GLIAC national champion, Ferris senior Nina Gorgijevska enters her final season for the Ferris volleyball team and wants to embrace her time at Ferris as a team player.

Gorgijevska said that she did not come from a volleyball family, but that her family has always been into sports and her father was an avid sports fan. With her dad's passion for sports, Gorgijevska felt inspired to play sports. Due to the popularity of volleyball at the time in Germany, she started playing at a young age and fell instantly in love with the sport.

"We were not expected to win, and we were the underdog, the pressure was huge, and we were very young to know how to handle it," Gorgijevska said. "I remember our coach talking to us before the game and he asked us to draw a heart on a teammate's shoulder. The idea behind this was when you struggle in the game you just look at their shoulder and remind yourself that you are loved, and you do this out of love and then we won."

Gorgijevska said one of her favorite memories of playing overseas was when the team went to Italy for a tournament. Gorgijevska said that her team had an abundance of fun and that the team got better collectively. During the tournament in Italy Gorgijevska said they made many new friends on Italy's team and in the end, they were able to visit venues all around Italy for sightseeing.

As her playing journey continued in Germany, Gorgijevska's competitiveness grew along with her drive to win, and this led to her wanting to play college volleyball overseas. Her passion to play in the United States grew because Gorgijevska wanted to play in an atmosphere where she could have a whole team support her in being herself. Gorgijevska wanted to compete at a higher level because she enjoys being challenged.

When she moved to the United States the first thing Gorgijevska learned was that liberos serve in the US whereas in Europe they do not. Gorgijevska had to adjust to the length of seasons because in Europe the seasons start in September and end in April.

"I am still struggling with the fact that you can only play 4-5 years of college volleyball, this is not enough," Gorgijevska said. "I mean, you are playing with your best friends, what is better than that? And after 4 years it's over. What is life after volleyball?"

"When I was looking into playing in the States I didn't really know where to start," Gorgijevska said. "I had an agent from Germany that helped me get in touch with some coaches, and that's how I found Colby Community College. I had other offers too but what caught my attention at Colby was the fun the whole team had playing volleyball and the atmosphere created by the team."

Since Colby Community College already had six international players on the team, Gorgijevska's decision to join the Trojans was easier. She said having more international players helped her to feel less homesick. Gorgijevska said that her time at Colby College was unforgettable, and all the friends she made there are family

now. In 2019, she decided to transfer to Ferris and play for head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm. Gorgijevska said she was blessed to have Brandel-Wilhelm as a coach and mentor.

"Tia is one of the strongest women I know, and I wish more people were like her," Gorgijevska said. "She is not just preparing us for volleyball, but she is teaching us a lot about life after college. I have a very strong relationship with her that I will keep nourishing even after my time at Ferris."

Not only does Brandel-Wilhelm have a positive effect on Gorgijevska, but the senior libero shows just who she is to her teammates. Fellow senior outside hitter Katie O'Connell said Gorgijevska is one of the most competitive, determined and selfless volleyball players she knows. O'Connell said that she can see what Gorgijevska wants in life by her determination and drive to succeed in every aspect of life.

"Off the court, we're really great friends," O'Connell said. "She's always checking in and how I'm doing and is always down just to hang out at the apartments with people. She has a way of forming a unique relationship with everyone on the team and takes the time to hang out with everyone individually."

In her teammate's eyes, Gorgijevska is someone who knows what to say when things aren't going well. Gorgijevska helped O'Connell bring up excitement and energy levels to their team to get them excited to play. O'Connell said that Gorgijevska really helps to motivate her to play better and work harder when it's needed. Gorgijevska is always focused on others and what she can do to help the team win. As a person, Gorgijevska is determined and honest, according to O'Connell.

"It's been great playing with Nina the past few years and develop that chemistry on the court because we kind of just know where the other one is without saying anything and can help each other help the team in the best way," O'Connell said. "I'll miss her honest, good nature, and just friendship in general once we graduate and leave Ferris. She's someone I can always rely on to tell me the hard truth and see the positive in any situation."

Gorgijevska is not sure what her full plans are after she graduates but said there will be room for playing professional volleyball in Europe. With this, Gorgijevska said that she will have to start her "big girl job" in her field of Biotechnology and that her passion for both areas are very equal. However, she will focus on finding more clear answers once her time at Ferris is over. Away from volleyball and school Gorgijevska can be found cooking in the kitchen or dining out with friends and family. Due to her taste in trying new foods from different cuisines and her love of travel, Gorgijevska said she loves being a tourist and taking pictures.

Perhaps Gorgijevska's favorite memory was when she won the German National Championship, but she has many great memories to go along with it. Gorgijevska said that she will always remember Ferris and the volleyball team as the reason of who she is today and that one of her biggest goals once she ends her time at Ferris is to be remembered by generations to come as an example of someone who is competitive, serves and cares for the team. Her biggest wish is to be a team player, and she wants to leave Ferris possessing that legacy.

Women's Tennis

Midwest Regional Championship-Duo Morgan Waller and Sam Stephenson head to finals

Soccer

Sept. 17-Ferris 6, Wisconsin-Parkside 0
Sept. 19-Ferris 6, Purdue Northwest 1

Volleyball

Sept. 17-Northern Michigan, 3, Ferris 1
Setp. 19-Michigan Tech. 3, Ferris 0

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