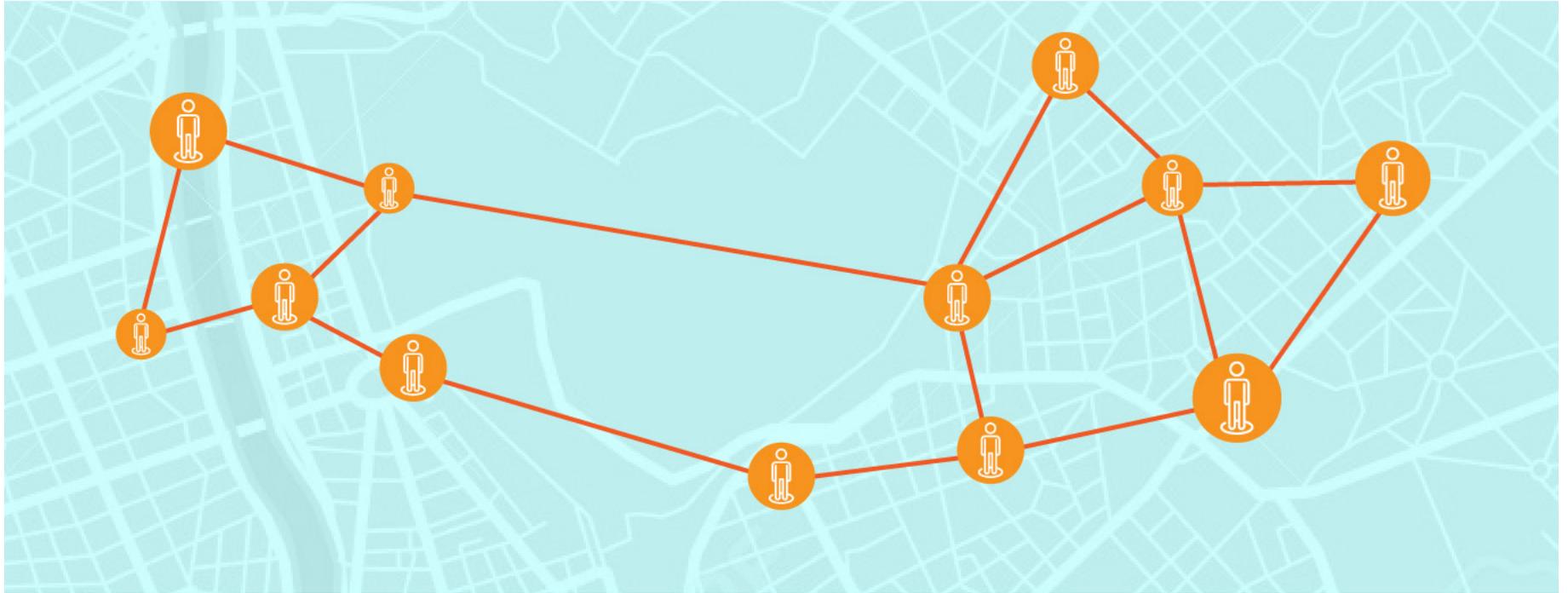


Not in touch with contact tracing



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

University struggling to provide adequate contact tracing

Rebecca VanderKooi
Opinions Editor

Since the beginning of the fall semester the Ferris COVID-19 Dashboard has shown 10-30 active cases each day. While COVID-19 cases in Mecosta County have seen a spike since classes began at the end of August.

According to Director of Health Services at Birkam, Lindsay Barber, Ferris Daily Symptom Checker has seen a 35% decrease in faculty and staff usage and a 65% decrease in student usage.

Of the individuals using the daily checker there have been reports of positive cases as well as individuals who are symptomatic being flagged in the system but not being contacted regarding the contact tracing guidelines laid out by the university.

Dean of Student Life, Joy Pulsifer explained the contact tracing protocol in

place at Ferris that is based off the CDC guidelines.

“Birkam’s COVID-19 case manager performs an intensive interview with the student (HR completes contact tracing with employees) and identifies any close contacts. When those contacts are identified, and if they are associated with campus (e.g. a student, faculty, or a staff member), the case manager will connect with the close contacts via email and share quarantine protocol if they are not vaccinated (quarantining is not required for those who are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic),” Pulsifer wrote in an email.

A Ferris professor was showing potential COVID-19 symptoms, and she used the symptom checker which flagged her as a possible positive but contact tracing was never completed.

“I used the Ferris symptom checker. It alerted as a contact exposure, but no one

followed up with me,” the professor wrote via email.

After COVID-19 testing the professor was found to be negative but still had symptoms. Barber explained that anyone who is symptomatic and tests negative is told to isolate until their symptoms resolve.

“(It was) disappointing, I expected SOME contact tracing from the University to occur,” the professor wrote via email.

A third-year student in the social work program had a comparable situation when he tested positive for COVID-19 via a test on campus. He explained that upon receiving the positive test he was contacted and told isolation protocols and they asked if he knew who he exposed, to which he answered yes.

“They didn’t ask for anybody’s information or contact information (after saying who was exposed),” the student said.

The student further added that the per-

son who called him asked that he inform his suite mate of the situation, rather than getting the suite mates information and making contact themselves.

“To help slow the spread on campus, Birkam Health Center continues to monitor all reported cases, and engages in case management and contact tracing activities. Contact tracing is performed following guidance from the CDC and local health authorities,” Barber said.

Some individuals have experienced contact tracing for positive tests or when symptomatic, while others have been left alone to go through COVID-19 or potential symptoms.

If you have experienced similar issues regarding the Daily Symptom Checker and contact tracing do not hesitate to reach out to the Torch to share your experiences.

Annual Security and Fire Report shows increase of rape

Increased reports of rape reflect an improved campus culture surrounding sexual misconduct

Jess Oakes
Special Editions Editor

This year’s Security and Fire Report showed that reports of rape on campus nearly doubled, rising from seven in 2019 to 13 in 2020.

The report is released annually in compliance with the 1990 Clery Act. The Clery Act states that institutions must document crimes in the year that they are reported to the university.

“While it looks like the number of sexual assaults on campus has increased, it

is important to recognize that the number represents reports, not the rate of occurrence,” Title IX Coordinator Kaitlin Zies said.

Zies went on to explain that, according to the 2020 Campus Climate Survey, unwanted sexual experiences declined from 2018 to 2020 by 2.2%. To account for the rising reports, Zies believes that the data reflects an improvement in campus culture surrounding sexual assault.

“We attribute this increase to our ongoing efforts to educate the university community on reporting obligations, as well as increased awareness of the availability of

supportive measures and other resources for those impacted by sexual assault,” Zies said.

In response to a reported gap in employee training in 2018, the Sexual Misconduct Taskforce stated that, “More frequent and comprehensive training needs to be offered on campus for all employees.” To educate university employees on their role in reporting sexual misconduct, Zies works with Kylie Piette, the Director of Equal Opportunity, in facilitating Sexual Misconduct Reporting Obligations Training.

“This training goes over Title IX, how to

recognize and respond when someone may be about to disclose a sexual misconduct incident and [it] reminds university employees of their reporting expectations,” Zies said. “We also talk about how the university can support individuals impacted by sexual misconduct.”

According to Sarah Meiser, the Director of Student Conduct, Title IX, Student Conduct and the Department of Public Safety play different roles in the reporting process. Instances of sexual misconduct are initially reported to Title IX to ensure that those who

Security | see page 3

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NEWS

Noah Kurkjian | News Editor | kurkjin@ferris.edu

Wastewater testing



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Dr. Schuyler (Sky) Pike runs the Shimadzu Core Laboratory, responsible for all the wastewater testing on campus.

Researchers are tracking COVID-19 levels through toilet, shower, and sink water.

Becca Witkowski
News Reporter

Wastewater samples are being taken all over the state of Michigan to be tested for traces of COVID-19.

The testing is being conducted by the Shimadzu Core Laboratory at Ferris. There are 20 labs in the state of Michigan, with testing being done in 56 of the state's 83 counties. The project is overseen by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

"We work with a network of labs across Michigan led by the Rose Lab of Michigan State University," Dr. Sky Pike, director of the Shimadzu Core Laboratory, said. "Insights gleaned so far indicate that the correlation between the wastewater signal and the number of people positive for SARS-CoV-2 depends on several factors, including whether infected persons are high or low shedders of the virus in their feces, the stage of infection, the types of SARS-CoV-2 variants with which people are infected, the type of sampling technique and the dilution from other non-feces components of the wastewater."

When the wastewater is tested, researchers can identify traces of COVID-19 in the water. The amount of COVID-19 within the

water can be used to determine how high or low of an infection rate a specific area has. Multiple factors can contribute to how much of the virus a person with COVID-19 can shed, so there is not an exact amount of COVID-19 that a single person sheds.

The results are then communicated with Michigan's DHHS and EGLE, as well as local departments around Big Rapids. Michigan's DHHS and EGLE compare the results with those from other areas of the state. Local departments use the results to encourage areas with high traces of COVID-19 in the wastewater to get tested.

While the results are sent to various state departments, they are not always communicated to the public in an efficient way. The COVID-19 dashboard for the state of Michigan contained the data from all the testing locations across the state. The data from Ferris' testing locations consisted of data from Nov 2020 to March 2021.

This month, the Torch filed a Freedom of Information Act request for the wastewater testing results completed at Ferris from April 2021 to the present. After filing the request, the testing results requested were published on the dashboard. It is unclear why the data had not been published to the public sooner.

"Residents of testing locations are notified when samples indicate a long-sustained increase or a long period of high sig-

nal of SARS-CoV-2 in the wastewater," Dr. Pike said. "When this occurs, residents are notified and strongly encouraged to get tested... If we see a long-sustained increase or a long period of high signal of SARS-CoV-2 in the wastewater, then there is concern the virus is present and could spread."

Throughout the semester, three residence halls have received notices of high traces of COVID-19. According to Gheretta Harris, the Associate Vice President of Ferris' Campus Auxiliary Services, Hallisy Hall and Puterbaugh Hall received notices in mid-September. Bond Hall received a notice in early October.

Various locations on and off campus are tested. All the campus dorms and apartments undergo wastewater testing. The Oakwood, Venlo and Tioga Parks apartment complexes also undergo testing. While focused in Big Rapids, testing is also conducted for locations in Reed City, Cadillac, Lake City, Grayling and Ludington.

The testing in Big Rapids is led by Dr. Beth Zimmer, Dr. Clifton Franklund and Dr. Pike. There is also a full-time technician and 10 student employees who help process samples and collect data.

Other universities around the state are participating in the testing of wastewater. Central Michigan University, Hope College, Lake Superior State University, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological

University, Northern Michigan University, Oakland University, Saginaw Valley State University, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University are also doing wastewater testing on their campuses and surrounding areas.

Wastewater testing to detect traces of viruses is a relatively new practice. It has been used in the last decade to detect polio, norovirus and hepatitis A. Since the practice is so new, scientists are still studying the results and how they can be precisely used in public health.

Results for the wastewater testing completed by Ferris and other universities are being compiled into one dashboard by the State of Michigan. The dashboard can be accessed by scanning the QR code.



SECURITY

Continued from page 1

report are offered necessary guidance and resources.

“If I learn anything, or public safety learns anything about a situation involving sexual harassment, violence or misconduct, we’re required to report those to Title IX, so that Kaitlin can do her work to make sure people who are experiencing those reported situations receive the support that they need,” Meiser said.

Student Conduct, Meiser explained, is often the “end step” of the reporting process.

“We, in the police side of things, don’t see as much as Title IX,” Captain Gary Green, Assistant Director of DPS, said. “We might see some of them, because not all people want to go the criminal route.”

Green said that DPS has been working with Title IX to find alternative campus safety initiatives to criminal prosecution.

“First of all, we can educate people on how to avoid some of this stuff, and then educate people on what resources are available if something does happen to [them],” Green said. “I think it helps make a healthier community, and [it might] help some people that have these things in their past.”

Green is hopeful that their efforts will eventually result in a decrease in instances of sexual misconduct on campus.

“What we don’t want is having that stuff just swept under the rug and having people deal with this trauma for their entire life,” Green said.

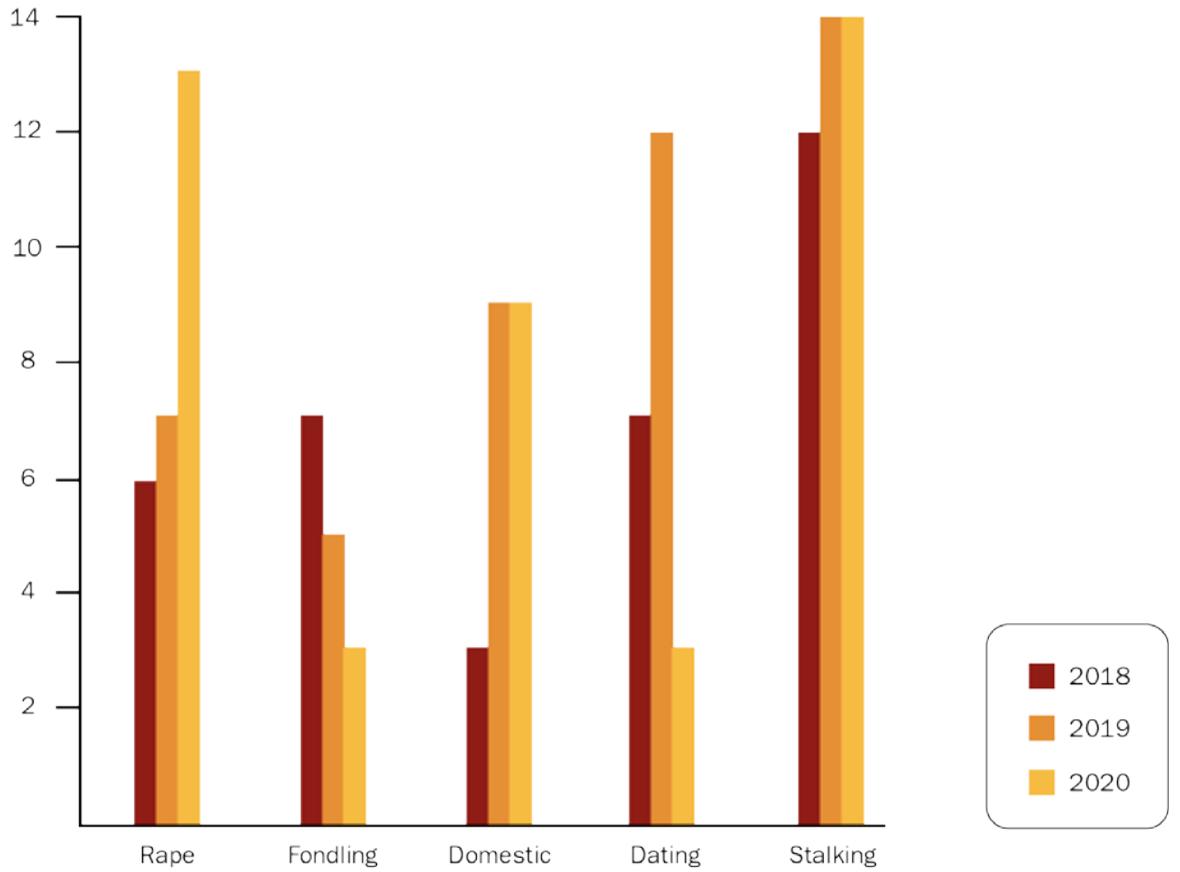
The increased presence of the Anti-Violence Alliance was cited by both Zies and Green as a step in the right direction for campus culture.

Raven Hills, Project Director of Office of Violence against Women, said that the AVA aims to work proactively.

“A strong reporting culture and increased awareness of issues are protective factors; the more protective factors a community has, the lower the rates of interpersonal violence,” Hills said.

Hills personally sees the increase in reports of rape as a type of progress. She explained that as more students understand the dynamics of sexual assault, they will feel more comfortable reporting.

“I think an increase in reporting can also reflect an in-



Crimes (x-axis) Occurrences (y-axis).

Photo by: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager

crease in understanding of what sexual assault is,” Hills said. “I can’t tell you the number of times I have been speaking with someone who is unsure how to talk about or describe what happened to them.”

The responsibility to foster a comfortable environment for survivors falls on everyone in the Ferris community, according to Hills.

“My hope is that people understand that there are many survivors out there who still don’t feel comfortable coming

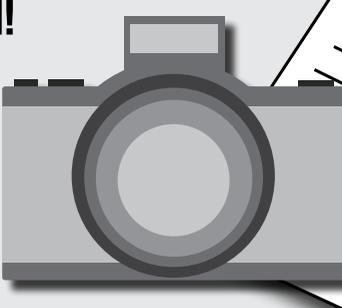
forward to disclose what happened to them, and we can all play a part in creating an environment where survivors feel believed and supported,” Hills said.

A list of resources for survivors is available to all students at any AVA event. To view the full 2020 Annual Security and Fire Report, visit the public safety section of Ferris’ website.

Torch reporter Dylan Rider contributed to this article.

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- ON THE RECORD -

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

Noah Kurkjian
News Editor

Construction site kerfuffle

Nov. 10, 7:39 a.m. - Crew members from the Center for Virtual Learning got into an argument when the crew lead was firing one of the employees. The crew lead accidentally bumped into the employee he was firing. The employee lodged a complaint resulting in an investigation. The Prosecutors office chose not to file charges.

That stealing feeling

Nov. 10, 2:33 p.m. - A student was caught stealing food from the Market by camera. The suspect admitted to stealing the items and criminal charges were dropped against the suspect although they were still referred to student conduct.

What’s exactly is a ‘shoving match’?

Nov. 11, 7:25 p.m. - A group of students and their guests started having a “shoving match” in the Lot 61. Once DPS arrived the group dispersed and some of the suspects are still at large. This is an ongoing investigation.

Hit’n’split

Nov. 12, 10:25 a.m. - A staff member had her vehicle struck in Lot 1 outside of the University Center. No contact with the vehicle owner was attempted

and there are currently no suspects.

No cap?

Nov. 15, 10:49 a.m. - A university staff member had their gas cap stolen off of their car. As they are unsure of exactly when the theft took place, there are no leads or suspects.

Grand Theft Mommobile

Nov. 15, 8:19 p.m. - Mother of a student had allowed her child to use their vehicle while theirs was being repaired. The student went no-contact with the parent, requiring officers assistance to retrieve the vehicle. No charges were filed against the student.

Mask up or sit out

Nov. 16, 10:25 p.m. - A student employee of the rec center was pushed after repeatedly requesting a player wear their mask properly on the basketball court. The two worked things out and no formal charges were filed.

Bond blowout

Nov. 28, 12:10 a.m. - A couple was loudly arguing in Bond Hall. DPS was dispatched to the room and after learning there was no physical violence, they separated the pair for the night. No charges were filed.

Ferris State Torch
Corrections

John Scott Gray is the advisor of the philosophy minor, not political science.

The Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences and Education is Kristi Haik, not Christie Hague.

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



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Timber!



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Timber Cannabis Co. opened its doors just across the street from competitor, Skymint.

A new dispensary falls into Big Rapids

Jerry Gaytan
News Reporter

Timber Cannabis Co. is constructing its soon-to-be third location where the former TTOWA Sushi restaurant once stood.

Timber was founded in 2020 and will soon have four locations throughout Michigan once the construction of their Big Rapids and Sturgis stores are completed. Their current operating locations are in Allegan and Muskegon.

"It's easy to shop at Timber," marketing manager at Timber Cannabis Co. Chivonne Rush said. "We want people to have an inviting atmosphere where the seasoned cannabis user and canna curious can feel

comfortable."

According to Timber's website, their products are categorized by the effects customers are looking for. They offer products with effects that restore, chill, dream, focus, and activate.

Customers can look at the cannabis product along with being able to smell the product with sniff jars Timber uses to display product.

As reported by the Pioneer, Timber owner Julie Moorehead stated that the renovation of the Big Rapids location has been their easiest so far.

"This location will have our largest sales floor compared to our other buildings," Moorehead said.

According to Rush, Timber Cannabis Co. has a program called Timber Gives, which consists of each location picking a charity of their choice and raising money for each quarter. The money is raised through giving a percentage of sales along with their monthly themed bundles to the charity they have chosen.

While the growth of dispensaries can be alarming to some owners, it is also welcomed.

"I think that there are a lot of great places around, and that we could all be successful in our own way," Lake Life Farms General Manager Amani Perkins said. "We have different styles and target areas that we focus on, which makes us individually

unique with a lot to offer to the community and its residents."

With the number of dispensaries in the Big Rapids area reaching double digits, some owners bring the local government into the conversation.

"The prevalence of dispensaries is a function of the local ordinance not limiting the number," Dunegrass Co. CEO Nick Piedmonte said. "It honestly makes it harder for operators when the local government chooses not to exercise its right to choose 'the best suited' operators."

Big Rapids now has over 10 recreational dispensaries with no plans of slowing down in the future.

1. Remove all of your trash
2. Remove any and all items from your mini fridge
3. Unplug everything from outlets
4. Turn off all lights
5. (Ground floors only) Close your blinds
6. (Upper floors only) open your blinds
7. Set your heat to 3
8. Chain lock your bathroom door (if applicable)
9. Be out of your hall by Dec. 18 at noon

10.
Remember all of your belongings! Dorm halls will not reopen until January 7.

Photo by: Dylan Bowden | Production Manager

LIFESTYLES

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

Senior Spotlight:

Sarah Woodall looks back on her time spent at Ferris

Giuliana Denicolo
Freelance Reporter

As college experiences come to an end, students begin to reflect and reminisce on the years they have spent at Ferris.

Sarah Woodall is a healthcare services administration senior that plans to graduate in the summer. She took college classes at St. Claire County Community College during high school and graduated with two associate degrees and a SENA certification. She then transferred to Ferris to get her bachelor's degree.

After graduating from Ferris, she plans on taking an internship over the summer to narrow down exactly what path she wants to take. Later, she plans on getting her master's degree to find a job in her competitive field.

"Right now it is hard to get some positions in [my field] because they usually wait until people retire," Woodall said. "So getting my master's would kind of give me a little bit more competitive edge."

Woodall said school has always been easy for her, so the academic transition to college was not all that different from what she was used to. However, she did find it difficult to take care of herself while doing everything a college student has to do.

"Learning how to have a routine and take care of [myself] has been my biggest struggling point in college," Woodall said.

Woodall grew up in Brown City. She said that her hometown was very small and uneducated, so she wanted to get out of there as soon as possible.

After graduating high school, even though she was unsure of what she wanted to major in, she decided to transfer to Ferris. Ferris was on her list for many reasons. Tuition was cheaper compared to other schools, she received a great scholarship and it was just the right distance away from where she grew up.

Graduating high school with two degrees was a great achievement for her. She said it was a big relief to have got-



Photo by: Bradley Moore | Torch Photographer

As the semester is nearing the end, Sarah Woodall prepares for graduation.

ten her general education classes out of the way. She chose to dual enroll in high school to save money and because a lot of her peers were dual enrolling. She graduated salutatorian with a 4.25 GPA.

"It does stink that it kind of cuts the college experience in half, but I feel like I've gotten a lot out of my time being here," Woodall said.

Although she only spent two years at Ferris, she made friendships that will last forever. The people she has met are what really made her college experience whole.

"The friends I've made here are friends I know I'm going to have for the rest of my life," Woodall said. "They genuinely care, and that's not something you get in high school, really. So that's been the biggest thing I've appreciated coming here."

Her friends helped make the transition to college easier, less scary and a time in her life that she will never forget.

"I am grateful for the people I have met here and the people that have helped me so much throughout my experience here," Woodall said. "Being three hours away from home makes you lonely and a

little bit scared."

Ferris' school spirit and athletics have also been a huge part of making her time here as memorable as it was. She has learned many different skills and lessons throughout her time here.

"The most important thing I learned was to spend your time wisely and not to waste it," Woodall said.

As she moves on to the next era of her life, she will always be able to look back at her time here at Ferris to reflect, remember and reminisce.



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HOSTED BY:

MARISSA RUSSELL, BRODY KEISER & NOAH KURKJIAN

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Stuck far from home

Travel restrictions are making life hard for international students

Meghan Hartley
Lifestyles Reporter

Travel restrictions are just now starting to be lifted in the U.S., allowing citizens to travel internationally again, but not all are that lucky.

The U.S. Department of State is discouraging citizens from traveling abroad, even if they are vaccinated, in hopes of lessening the spread of COVID-19. They have even encouraged institutions of higher education to postpone or cancel study abroad programs.

Ferris has followed this recommendation, and has canceled study abroad programs for another year, leaving students disappointed. Ferris is still accepting foreign exchange students to come to study and earn a degree.

Lisa VonReichbauer, the acting Executive Director of the Office of International Education, says between FSU and KCAD, there are 145 international students. However, travel has not been as seamless for them as it once was.

"The pandemic has been challenging for everyone, but for international students, it creates unique layers of challenges," VonReichbauer said. "The travel and visa restrictions have resulted in a lot of unpredictability on when they will be able to see their families, and whether they will be able to arrive for classes."

On top of being cautious of U.S. travel and visa restrictions, foreign exchange students also have to be cautious of their home country's restrictions for travel.

Louis Nguyen, a senior studying information security and intelligence, is an international student from Vietnam. When the U.S. became a hot spot for COVID-19 in 2020, Vietnam responded by blocking all travel from the U.S., leaving Nguyen stuck far from home.



Photo by: Cassie Jessup | Multimedia Editor

The Inclusion Wall outside of the Office for International Education reminds students of the global impact that Ferris has, thanks to our many foreign exchange students.

"It's not been so good for me," Nguyen said. "I got stuck here ever since the pandemic started, so it's been over three years now. I haven't got a chance to go back home. If I want to go back, I would have to get the government's authorization to go back, and it would take a lot of time to hear back."

Nguyen says the Vietnamese government must approve every individual entering the country, and their entry can only be done through government authorized flights known as "rescue flights."

With international students on campus, travel restrictions are just the first thing they have had to deal with. VonReichbauer says some foreign exchange

students have had to deal with the financial strain that has occurred around the world, especially with their family members losing employment. Another big challenge they have faced has been losing family members to COVID-19 while they are away.

With everything foreign exchange students are going through, the Office of International Education has been providing support throughout the pandemic to make things as easy as possible for them.

"Throughout the pandemic, we have been in close contact with all of our students and have assisted them with overcoming immigration and travel challenges," VonReichbauer said. "We also help

connect them to resources. In addition, we provide social engagement opportunities, both virtually and in-person."

The Office of International Education also hosts multiple opportunities for prospective study abroad students to get involved in events. Currently, they host a virtual deliberative dialogue with students from Ferris and around the world to discuss the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

While study abroad programs are unavailable for another year, students are still encouraged to contact the Office of International Education to learn how they can prepare themselves for a year abroad.

A whole latte to drink

Starbucks brings holiday drinks back to campus

Charlie Buckel
Lifestyles Reporter

There are certain constants that can be expected in America every year during the winter holidays. Bright lights all around towns, music that is played almost non-stop, making it so people can only stand it one month a year, and Starbucks bringing back their holiday drinks.

Following the yearly takeover of the Pumpkin Spice Latte signifying fall, winter at Starbucks brings drinks like the Toasted White Chocolate Mocha Frappuccino, Chestnut Praline Latte and, most notably, the Peppermint Mocha. These drinks take over Starbucks all around, and the University Center location is no different.

Some students, of course, are excited about the return of the holiday drinks. Drew Smythe goes to the campus Starbucks at least three times a week.

"I love the holiday drinks," Smythe said.

Other students, like pre-optometry major Brooke Bradley, stick to what they know they like.

"I've tried the peppermint mocha frappe, or something that was really good, but usually I just get the same thing every time. I don't branch out," Bradley said.

While they have different feelings about the many holiday drinks that Starbucks has, both knew that the drinks were back for the year, finding out in different ways.

"I saw them on the official Starbucks social media," Smythe said.

Meanwhile, Bradley said she found out by seeing the sign in front of the campus Starbucks.



Photo by: Cassie Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Starbucks is located in the University Building on the first floor.

"It was like maybe a week ago, I saw the sign up front that had the holiday drinks on it," Bradley said.

Both students said there were no ads up around campus advertising the return of the drinks. In fact, neither student has really ever seen the campus Starbucks ad-

vertise anything around campus. Smythe said the only time she has noticed the campus Starbucks say anything is when they want students to work for them.

"I think I've heard of them doing like fundraisers for clubs and stuff, but that's more the club advertising that they are having a fundraiser, rather than Starbucks," Bradley said.

Both students also believe that there are opportunities for the campus Starbucks to reach out to the Ferris community in order to draw more people in.

"I think they could advertise to the school and the townspeople," Smythe said, "I think they could use paper, fliers, their own social media or radio."

While Bradley thinks that the campus Starbucks could definitely promote things around campus, they are probably not losing any popularity by not advertising.

"Maybe in the case of, like, the holiday drinks, it would be nice like if people heard about the holiday drinks; they might go more often or go to try them. But I feel like so many people already go to Starbucks already," Bradley said, "Like, if you're going to go to Starbucks, you're going to go every week or however many days you go, and then they're getting their business that way."

Whether the campus Starbucks does eventually take the opportunity to promote their seasonal drinks around campus has yet to be seen, but right now they seem to be doing just fine with students telling each other what they think is good from the coffee chain.

If you want to grab a drink from the campus Starbucks, they are open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. You can also order in the app and pick it up in the store.

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OPINIONS

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

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Big Rapids, MI 49307
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EDITOR'S COLUMN: Ready for Life

By: Brendan Sanders

Going into this last edition of the semester, I've had the opportunity to take a few days to reflect on the job that I've done so far this semester. This has been the largest challenge I've taken in my entire life, and seeing that my job is about halfway done, it's crazy to think about how far we've come and how far we still have to go.

I never really set goals for myself because I had no clue what I was getting into. The goals developed as I moved along this semester. These goals led to some great accomplishments.

The thing that I am most proud of is that we were able to start interacting more with a few organizations around campus. The organization that I'm most excited to be working with has been Ready for Life. Now, if they sound familiar, that's because we've written a few articles about them throughout 2021. They are an organization on campus that provides students with cognitive disabilities with a post-secondary school experience.

We wrote two articles about them. After the second piece, the director reached out to me, wanting to collaborate. The six students needed to get some work experience, and they thought that we would be a good place to reach out to.

Luckily, I was trying to solve our distribution position at the time. It had been Cassie Jessup and me delivering all over campus. It took about three hours to complete with the two of us.

With Ready for Life, we developed a system to get all six students' work experience with the distribution job. Splitting into four groups, we were able to turn what was once a three-hour job into a job that took 45 minutes.

Along with the increased efficiency, we were able to get these guys and girls work experience for their resumes and get them a little extra spending cash.

Both Cassie and I decided to continue helping deliver the paper, being two of the four cars to help drive the students around. I can't speak for Cassie, but I have continued to help because I genuinely have fun doing this part of the job with these students. It has been fulfilling to me and keeps me active.

Being able to offer people a chance to better themselves has been one of my goals. Collaboration is a major part of my work style. I want to try to help as many people as I can while I'm in this spot. There's no guarantee that I'm going to be able to help

people as I can right now once I get out of college. I don't have the time, money, or resources to give people this chance outside of this university.

There's still so much that I want to do, and I've only got five more months to do it. I've got until May with this job to keep trying to contribute my fair share to this world. So I'm going to be pushing hard to continue to make a difference. I've got the team, I've got the support, now I just need to put it together.

Before I end this, I want to publicly thank the Ready for Life students and helpers individually. Cole, Saige, Evan, Xavier, Trai, Kirk, Dorian, and Mrs. Baker, thank you for helping us this semester. You guys have done a fantastic job this semester, and I hope we can continue doing this next semester and in the future!

Fifteen minutes of film

A review of Taylor Swift's short film

Rebecca Vanderkooi
Opinions Editor

Taylor Swift's first film, "All Too Well: The Short Film," premiered on Nov. 12. The film stars Sadie Sink (Stranger Things) and Dylan O'Brien (Maze Runner) playing a couple where the man who is significantly older.

The seemingly perfect relationship is fraught with fights, gaslighting and manipulation.

The film goes back and forth between heartbreaking scenes of fights and tears and scenes of happiness and laughter. It gives whiplash in the best way by showing what a toxic relationship can feel and look like.

Throughout the entire film, the 10-minute version of "All Too Well" plays, except for a four-minute scene midway through that depicts the couple arguing.

The scene ends with Sink's character feeling embarrassed and like what happened

was her fault and she was being "dramatic." This scene was so incredibly raw and well-acted. Watching I could see aspects of the scene relate to my own life in different ways.

The film ends with Swift in a red wig. As this was her directorial debut and a song that she has written and performed I think it was incredibly powerful for it to end with her.

I truly didn't think this song could get sadder but then I heard the 10-minute version



Image provided by: Youtube

Red (Taylor's Version) is the moment

Taylor Swift really did it all too well

Charlie Buckel
Lifestyles Reporter

On Nov. 12, Taylor Swift released "Red (Taylor's Version)," her highly anticipated, second re-recorded album. The album was met with both critical and commercial success. A success that is, in my opinion, wholeheartedly deserved.

When I had first heard that Swift was going to be releasing the re-recorded version of her 2012 album "RED," I didn't find myself as excited as I thought I would be. I was hoping that the next album in her series of re-recordings would be "1989," or maybe "Speak Now." But any feelings of disappointment seemed to fall away the closer the release got.

When the album finally dropped, I stayed up and listened to the entire two hour album. I even replayed some of the songs multiple times. I could not get enough of this album, even though most of the songs were ones that had already been heard before.

You can plainly hear how much Swift's voice has matured since the release of the original "RED," and it adds a new layer of depth to each song that fans already love. Songs like "We Are Never Getting Back Together," "Begin Again," "Red," "22" and "I Knew You Were Trouble" are given a new and better life this time around.

Then, of course, there are the vault tracks. These are the songs that did not get the chance to be on the original recording of the album and they're marvelous. You have "Nothing New" featuring Phoebe Bridgers, where Swift finally lets another woman sing with her on one of her songs in a capacity other than backup, and it definitely pays off. Both women's voices seem to be made for the song about fearing that they will no longer be loved if they're nothing new.

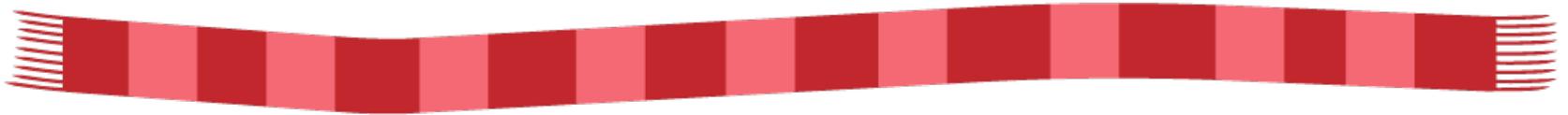
Then you have "Babe (Taylor's Version)" and "Better Man (Taylor's Version)," both written by Swift for "RED" and given to other artists to record for themselves, namely Sugarland and Little Big Town, respectively. "Babe," about a wife finding out about her husband's infidelity, tears at the heartstrings. "Better Man," a smash country hit when it was recorded by Little Big Town, and also a Grammy winner for Swift's songwriting, was already great. Hearing Swift sing the songs herself, missing an ex and wishing that he were a better man, is a masterpiece in its own right.

A personal favorite of the vault tracks for me is "I Bet You Think About Me (Taylor's Version) (From the Vault)," a fun country song featuring the soulful voice of Chris Stapleton. It's a song about how different Swift is from an ex, and how she bets he thinks about her. It is the quintessential Swift country song.

The defining moment, the highlight, the capstone of the entire album, comes at the end of "Red (Taylor's Version)." "All Too Well (10 Minute Version) (Taylor's Version) (From The Vault)" is the song that really shows that Swift is one of the best songwriters in a generation. The original "All Too Well" was a fan favorite among Swift's very extensive fanbase. Despite not being a single, the song was many fan's go-to song to show that their favorite was in fact an amazing songwriter.

This version of "All Too Well" builds upon the original in ways that are superb and exquisite. In the span of 10 minutes and 13 seconds, Swift lyrically rips apart an ex who absolutely and irredeemably hurt her. With lyrics like "you kept me like a secret, but I kept you like an oath," "they say all's well that ends well but I'm in a new Hell" and "I was never good at telling jokes, but the punch line goes, I'll get older, but your lovers stay my age;" the pain and resentment are palpable.

There seems to be a consensus that this is the best song from the album. Not only did it go number one, it became the longest song ever to do so. And all but one of the songs on the album charted in the Billboard Hot 100, a whopping 25% of the Hot 100 songs were from the same album. Here, now, Taylor Swift delivered a masterpiece.



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SPORTS

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Volleyball wins GLIAC championship



Photo courtesy of Michigan Tech Athletics.

The Bulldogs celebrate their 2021 GLIAC tournament championship.

Bulldogs take GLIAC tournament title and the top seed in the Midwest region

D'Andre Head
Freelance Reporter

The Bulldogs' 20th straight win was their biggest of the entire season.

Ferris's 25th victory of the season earned them the GLIAC tournament championship, 10th consecutive NCAA DII tournament appearance and the Midwest region's number one seed.

Ferris (25-4, 12-2 GLIAC) beat Michigan Tech 3-2 in the GLIAC tournament championship. The victory helped the Bulldogs clinch a number one seed in the NCAA tournament and set them up to host Rockhurst (MO) in the first round Thursday, Dec. 2.

The Bulldogs began GLIAC tournament play against Northern Michigan Nov. 17 with a victory at home 3-0. Then they hosted Wayne State Nov. 20 and won 3-1 before traveling to Michigan Tech Nov. 21.

In the first game on Nov. 17, the women's volleyball team took the floor with over 82 percent of their outings. They defeated the Northern Michigan Wildcats 3-0 sweep in the GLIAC tournament Quarterfinal and moved forward to the GLIAC Semifinals.

"We won in a way that was different from what we expected, and I was proud how we adapted the game plan," head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm said. "Post season is a time everyone is playing well. We are ready to get every point and stay aggressive in our style. We are playing bet-

ter than last week and getting better as a team by implementing what we do in practice in our games."

For the Bulldogs, senior outside hitter Katie O'Connell had 12 kills to lead the way. Freshman middle hitter Olivia Henneman-Dallape added 11 kills and hit a team-best .375.

On the defensive end, freshman setter Kaylee Maat and senior libero Nina Gorgijevska each had 13 digs, while O'Connell had 11. The Bulldogs held the Wildcats to a .105 attack percentage, while Ferris hit .229.

"It was fun," senior middle hitter Samantha Hermann said. "We worked hard together as a team, and we are getting better every day to compete at our level. Our team has a tight culture, and it shows in our games and energy. We know every team is good, and we also have a good team."

In the GLIAC semifinals, the Bulldogs secured a 3-1 win over the Wayne State Warriors on Saturday, Nov. 20.

O'Connell completed 18 kills and 21 digs for the Bulldogs to lead in both categories.

Ferris won the first two sets (25-21 and 25-16), but lost the third set (23-25). The Bulldogs rallied back in the final set (25-21) to advance to the finals.

Gorgijevska, GLIAC Defensive Player of the Year, had 20 digs and six assists to go with an ace. Freshman outside hitter Keona Salesman also had 17 kills to contribute to-

wards the Bulldog win.

Ferris had five blocks and six block assists. Salesman finished with three solo blocks, while junior middle hitter Kira Merkle had three total blocks. Merkle also added eight kills, while Henneman-Dallape added nine. Maat also had a strong outing with 45 assists, 12 digs and three kills to help run the Bulldog offensive attack that hit better than .316 in each of the first two sets.

The Bulldogs also had eight service aces, led by Merkle's three. O'Connell added in a pair, as well. The Bulldogs hit a strong .255 attack clip in the match. Both teams finished with 81 digs in four sets.

In their last game of the GLIAC tournament on Sunday, Nov. 21, the Bulldogs took on Michigan Tech for a 3-2 win.

The Bulldogs elevated their winning streak to 20 consecutive matches and earned their berth into the NCAA Tournament by bouncing back from a one-set deficit twice towards their win.

Ferris dropped the opening set 21-25 before battling back for a 25-21 win in the second set. The Huskies quickly answered by taking a 25-15 win in the third set, but the Bulldogs did not back down and they captured a 25-19 victory in the fourth set. In the final and deciding set, the Bulldogs jumped out to an early lead before Michigan Tech tied it back at 14-14, forcing extra points. The Bulldogs picked up the two cru-

cial points to capture the win by a 16-14 margin.

O'Connell was a significant factor for the Bulldogs, contributing a match-high of 25 kills while hitting .404 for the afternoon. She added a team-high tying 24 digs in a championship performance.

Gorgijevska came up with 24 digs as well, while Salesman garnered 15 digs to go with her 11 kills. Merkle chipped in 13 kills, and Hermann totaled nine kills for the Bulldogs.

Ferris also received 54 assists and 14 digs from Maat, while Brooke Norder added 12 digs in the winning effort and freshman Claire Nowicki had 10 digs.

Meanwhile, Hermann paced Ferris with four block assists at the net, with O'Connell totaling a solo block and three assists. Henneman-Dallape had two solo blocks and an assist to go with her seven kills.

Ferris hit .201 for the afternoon, totaling 67 kills and only 24 attack errors on 214 attempts. They finished with 110 digs and had three aces, including two from Merkle.

Ferris held the Huskies to a .192 attack figure, and Michigan Tech netted 64 kills with 22 attack errors on 219 attempts.

The Bulldogs will turn their attention to their Thursday, Dec. 2 matchup with Rockhurst at 5 p.m. in Jim Wink Arena.

WEEKEND SCORECARD

Football

Nov. 27 - Ferris 54, Grand Valley 20

Hockey

Nov. 26 - Michigan Tech 6, Ferris 3
Nov. 27 - Michigan Tech 6, Ferris 1

Volleyball

Nov. 21 - Ferris 3, Michigan Tech 2

Onto the next

Ferris football defeats Grand Valley to advance in NCAA playoffs

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

Ferris defeated Grand Valley for the second time this season in a highly anticipated rematch.

Ferris welcomed the rival Lakers to Top Taggart Field for the second round of the NCAA DII playoffs and came out with a 54-20 victory.

Heavy snow affected both teams throughout the contest.

"People outside of Michigan think we are used to this," head coach Tony Annese said regarding the weather. "This was the biggest snow game I've coached in."

In spite of the cold conditions, the #1 team in the nation showed no sign of slowing down. On the third play from scrimmage, Jared Bernhardt broke free on an outside run for 63 yards and the game's first score.

Bernhardt added another rushing touchdown later in the first and Ferris took a 14-7 lead into the second quarter.

The Bulldogs tacked on 19 second quarter points thanks to two passing touchdowns from Bernhardt and two field

goals from Sy Barnett.

Ferris forced four consecutive turnovers in the second quarter with interceptions by Cyntell Williams and Alex Bock, a forced fumble and recovery by Major Dedmond, and a fourth down tackle by Jordan Jones.

"Our coaching staff and scout team did a great job preparing us," Jones said regarding the defensive performance. "We kept playing hard like the score was 0-0 the whole game."

Ferris lost Bernhardt to an injury late in the second quarter.

"Since I'm so locked into the game, I haven't had a conversation with him since he came off the field," Annese said about Bernhardt's injury. "It's a little early to know but we'll find out."

The injury brought on sophomore Mylik Mitchell. Mitchell finished the game with two total touchdowns.

"When coach told me to get ready, that's all I needed to know," Mitchell said about entering the game. "I just went out there and do what I do."

The Bulldogs totaled 532 yards in the contest, includ-

ing 299 on the ground. Bernhardt had 117 yards and two scores. He also completed 7 of 11 passes for 166 yards and two more touchdowns. Marcus Taylor had 115 receiving yards on four catches and 2 TD's.

Defensively, Ferris held Grand Valley to only 276 yards of total offense. They also prevented a single third down conversion (0-10) and forced five GVSU turnovers.

"I'm proud of our guys," Annese said. "I thought we played a complete game and were very business-like. I'm happy we are 11-0."

With the quarterfinal victory, the Bulldogs will advance to the NCAA Division II Midwest Super Regional Final. They will face Northwest Missouri State, who the Bulldogs are 2-1 against in their last three postseason meetings since 2016.

"We've got quite a rivalry with them," Annese said. "We've beaten them twice in a row so they are going to bring an energy level that will be tough."

Ferris will play at home Saturday, Dec. 4. The time is yet to be announced.



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

Cyntell Williams (left) celebrates an interception with Ade Kilpatrick (right).

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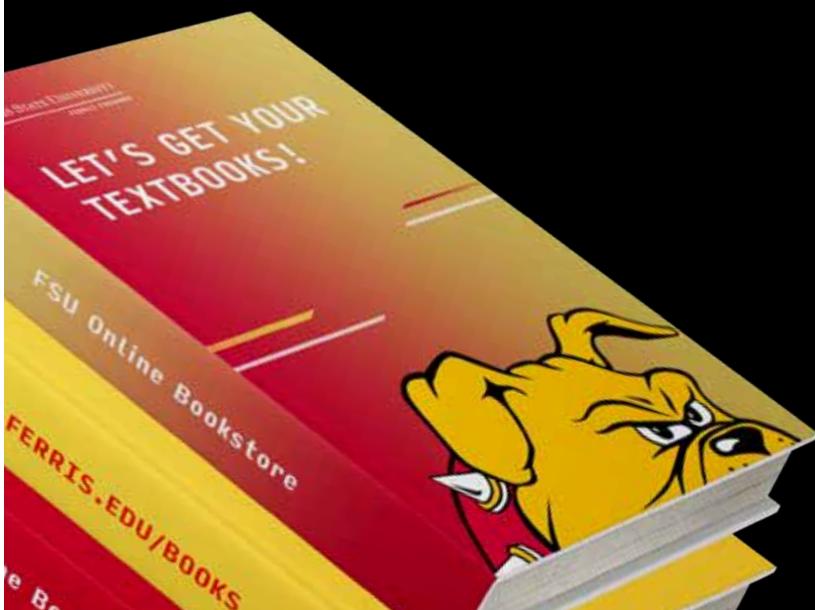
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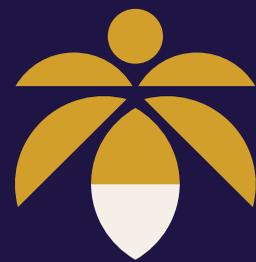
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