

Remembering Stormy Asanpi

Freshman who died last week identified



Photo courtesy of Martinson Funeral Home

Nursing freshman and resident of Merrill-Travis Hall died on Sept. 5, 2023, with a service later held on Sept. 11.

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Nursing freshman, Stormy Asanpi, died in Merrill-Travis Hall on Sept. 5.

Asanpi was from Traverse City and was studying nursing at Ferris and wanted to work in pediatrics. She was part of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Ferris sent out a university wide notice on Sept. 5 notifying students that there had been an on-campus death, with limited information available. As the week progressed President Bill Pink issued a statement about the death on campus on Sept. 6.

“One of our own family mem-

bers passed away and friends the thing about that is that it makes it so important, and it reminds me of not only the importance that each and every one of you have to this institution and each one of you have to me,” Pink said. “But it also reminds me of the importance of you and I and all of us doing all we can to take care of each other.”

On Friday, Ferris released information including Asanpi’s name and college, as well as information about her obituary and service. Her service was held on Monday, in Charlevoix. The visitation began at 1 p.m. followed by her service at 3 p.m. Ferris lowered the flags half-mast on Tuesday in honor of her passing.

Her cause of death has not yet been released. The obituary for Asanpi is available to look at online on the Martinson Funeral Home website. Those who knew her are also able to share a memory of her as well. Some of her friends and family have already begun to share memories.

Michael Miller wrote in a tribute:

“Stormy was a great friend she was so smart and always was a leader in her own way she always accepted people for who they were stormy was like my daughter and I hope she will be watching over all of us god bless stormy and family as stormy s family will

always be in my heart and be my friends.”

Juliana Luna wrote in a tribute:

“My best friend and my mirror. Your story wasn’t suppose to be cut short. I’m sorry my heart & I wish we would’ve spent and made more memories together but I’ve come to the understanding we were just on our own journey. I could say a millions times I love you and still feel like it isn’t enough but I will see you soon. I think of you everyday and when I see a rain cloud or the weather get grey I put my head down and smile because I think of you stormy. I love you.”

Christina Batsikouras, Asanpi’s co-worker, wrote in a tribute:

“Stormy was always the kindest girl to me at work. When everyone was mean to me, she was always kind and friendly. Her heart was always pure. I’m so grateful to have met her and known her. I’m forever thankful for her compassionate soul. Rest in paradise Stormy. You are forever loved.”

The Torch will continue coverage in memory of Asanpi’s life in the coming weeks.

Inside: A look at the new student organization “DAISE”

story on page 5

FERRIS FAMOUS

2023 HOMECOMING EVENT

VOTE FOR YOUR 2023 HOMECOMING AMBASSADOR!



PAIGE BYRNES

Home Town: Holton, MI
College of Business: Business Administration
Campus Involvement:

- Alpha Sigma Tau — Vice President of Organization Development
- Panhellenic Council — Treasurer

Volunteer/Philanthropy Involvement:

- Circle of Sisterhood
- Habitat for Humanity
- WISE

KEONIE RUSSELL



Home Town: Detroit, MI
College of Arts & Science: Social Work
Campus Involvement:

- You Beautiful Black Woman
- Sistah Circle
- NABSW

Volunteer/Philanthropy Involvement:

- Angels of Action

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OPEN FROM SEPT. 21 TO 28



IMARI CARL

Home Town: Detroit, MI
College of Arts & Science: Psychology
Campus Involvement:

- Black Greek Council — President
- Delta Sigma Theta — Treasurer
- You Beautiful Black Woman — Liaison
- Entertainment Unlimited — Gen. Member

Volunteer Involvement:

- The Market
- The Big Event
- Muskegon Heights High School
- Ferris' Welcome Back Committee



TELSA MCBRIDE

Home Town: Manton, MI
College of Arts & Science: Social Work
Campus Involvement:

- Ferris State Women's Rugby



News

Ember St. Amour | News Editor | stamoue@ferris.edu

Ferris pilots pet-friendly residence hall

Why students are raving about the pet friendly floor in Cramer



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Sophomore Alanna Knopf with her two-year-old red healer, Scotch.

Tate Zellman
News Reporter

Ferris creates a pet-friendly residence hall that allows students to bring their pets to live with them in their dormitory throughout the entire school year.

Within Cramer Hall, both returning and new students who are attending Ferris are allowed to bring dogs, cats, and other pets to live with them on campus. Students can have their pets live with them on the second floor of that specific dormitory. The

staff of housing and residence life piloted this pet-friendly floor so students can benefit on both physical levels and mental wellness when they're able to have their pets in the same room as them.

Students who live in Cramer Hall who don't have pets have great things to say about those living in their community who choose to have a pet on campus. One of Cramer Hall's residents, business major sophomore Emilie Solesby who doesn't have a pet on campus, mentions why he

believes it is a great idea to have a pet-friendly floor to the university, and how it can help students who plan to attend Ferris in the future.

"Pet-friendly residence halls are good for the university because they draw in more students looking for a university that allows pets," Solesby said. "This will help future students attending the university learn responsibility and help with mental health."

Dealing with anxiety and homesickness are things that

almost every college student will experience at some point during their college careers. Having a pet while they're away from home can help students overcome those struggles easier.

There are many students who would seek the opportunity to have their pets with them on campus. On the other hand, there are some students who wouldn't prefer to have pets. Either they don't like pets, or they don't own any. Public relations junior Braden Gebbink talked about how the pet-friendly residence hall is a good idea for students who don't have pets.

"A pet-friendly residence hall is a good idea for those who don't have pets," Gebbink said. "Pets aren't always clean, and they almost always smell."

As much as some students would love to take their pets out to explore campus, there can still be precautions that can be considered when bringing pets outside of the dormitory. There are some people living on campus who are allergic to pets. Some can be severely allergic that they must keep their distance from a certain animal.

Gebbink talked about how the pet-friendly residence hall is also a good idea for students who have pet allergies.

"Because of the people who are allergic, they can move safely

into their dorms knowing good and well that they can sleep without waking suddenly to the sensation of a feather on their nose," Gebbink said.

Creating a pet-friendly residence hall has changed the university by making students feel closer to home by having their pets with them. Business administration major sophomore Korbyn Kahl touched on a couple positive impacts the pet-friendly residence hall not just impacting the students but impacting the entire university.

"The positive impacts the pet-friendly residence hall has for the university are that it offers students who might not be able to get an emotional support animal to have beloved pet on campus to give them a better college experience," Kahl said. "And it attracts more people to potentially come to the university."

Any student who feels the need to bring a pet with them to campus can do so by contacting housing & residence life. Choosing to bring a pet to campus is something students can do to ensure that they'll always have a friend by their side throughout their college career.

Additional information about campus housing is available at www.ferris.edu/student-life/reslife/.

Meet the deans

The Deans talk about their role at Ferris

Ethan Edsall
News Reporter

On Wednesday, Sept. 6, Ferris State University hosted a meet the dean's event where students had a chance to learn about the dean's job.

As ice cream was served for student engagement, students were provided with the chance to meet the dean and talk about issues that students face on campus. A few students had this to say.

"I feel that the staff and faculty here at Ferris University is very helpful towards me," Grant Gross said. "I've had multiple different meetings with them through my high school career to help me

determine what degree would be best for me here at Ferris."

This sentiment was expressed by a couple other Ferris students at the meet the dean's event. Dominick Roundtree, a senior here at Ferris originally did not plan to stay at Ferris past his senior year, but now Roundtree is thinking about getting his master's degree here at Ferris.

"Honestly, they helped me a lot at getting a better perspective on the world, and what to expect coming out of graduation," Roundtree said. "The deans have helped me a lot with getting internship opportunities, but also helping me figure out what kind of job is right for me".

When asked what the deans

could do to improve faculty student relationships, Roundtree thinks that the deans should encourage students to go out more and experience new things.

"I feel like during my first couple years at Ferris, my professors treated me more like a kid than an adult," Roundtree said. "I didn't really like that. I feel that if I was treated as an adult then I would have taken more advantage of the opportunities offered at Ferris my freshman year instead of just now at my senior year."

The dean of student life, Lina Blair's, main job here at Ferris is to help students who are struggling with the various issues that a college student face be

it connecting students to the resources the university offers or helping students with mental health issues.

"I chair a team of people here on campus whose primary goal is to help students who are experiencing a mental health crisis or are at risk of harming themselves," Blair said. "The other pieces of my role are to oversee such departments as the center for student enrollment, caps, and counseling, our main goal is to make sure that students feel like they belong here on campus."

When asked what advice

Blair had for students who are committed to finishing a college degree, the number one piece of advice would be asking for help.

"When I was a freshman in college it took me a while to feel comfortable to ask for help," Blair said. "The second I did I began to thrive."

The one thing that the deans wanted to make clear was that the deans are committed to making sure that all Ferris students not only graduate with a college degree, but also have a fun time doing it.

Ferris State Torch

Corrections

Photo captions from 9/6 page 11 should read:

"The eight inductees stand together at their induction ceremony on Aug. 30."
"Carma Burcham worked in athletics for over 30 years, overseeing thousands of student athletes over the years."

Corrections can be submitted through email at fsutorcheditor@gmail.com



Photo courtesy of Lina Blair

Lina Blair enjoys spending their time outdoors.

Fulbright Scholars Program at Ferris

Professors speak on the impact of the program



Photo by: Ember St. Amour | News Editor

Dr. Jerry Emerick reminisces on his time as a Fulbright Scholar in Vienna, Austria at Thursday's presentation.

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

The Ferris Fulbrighters Group gathered in the interdisciplinary resource center to discuss the travels of a professor and welcome a professor from Spain on Thursday.

The group was created to establish a way for faculty to take the opportunity to study abroad and create connections that will help them. The group is part of the Fulbright Scholars Program. At the event, speakers from different departments on campus spoke of how the group has helped them, and how they have the opportunity to learn more about other countries through the program.

Dr. Christine Vonder Haar, an English professor, is a part of the

Ferris Fulbrighters group, and spoke on how the program has impacted the U.S.

"The Fulbright Program just in general, it's got kind of indicated and others have said it's a long standing program going back to 1946. J. William Fulbright and a US senator from Arkansas proposed a program following World War II to help heal the wounds of World War II by way of not politics, but by education and cultural exchange," Vonder Haar said. "And so, today this year, I think there were 900 U.S. scholars currently going from us to countries all around the world. And there's double that number of undergraduate students."

Joining the speakers at the event was Fernando Hernández García, a music professor from Spain. Through Erasmus+ he

was able to come to the U.S. and experience cultural differences.

"Erasmus+ is a European mobility program for teachers and students in which the different governments of the sending countries cover for your battery, the travel and accommodation expenses," García said. "And this program includes a sending center, a hosting center and people, both students and teachers, who are going to move in general, the program aims to get to know the same different education systems to get the agreements and with rolling to rather than the participants perspective."

García was given the chance to stay at Ferris for a week and was given the chance to check out Ferris' music courses to see how they may differ from his in Spain, and to share his music ideas with

students on campus.

Dr. Jerry Emerick is a professor at Ferris with the information security and intelligence program, as well as with the artificial intelligence program. Emerick traveled to Vienna, Austria where he was given the chance to work as a professor abroad, through the Ferris Fulbrighters Group. He was able to share one of his experiences about what it was like to teach abroad.

"They did what's called a blended intensive program," Emerick said. "And what it what it is, is that they had a number of programs, but it was universities from many different parts of Europe, as far away as the Netherlands and Latvia, Hungary and Germany, some countries more nearby that came to St. Portland for the week. And they brought

their master's students that were working on in like computer sciences. And they helped each other kind of sort out their thesis ideas."

Emerick explained that through this idea, students were able to share what they were doing and get input from others on what may work, in order to create a stronger thesis paper.

Emerick hopes that through his experiences he can encourage students and faculty to go abroad and experience the different experiences and opportunities being in another country can bring. He also hopes that he can show students that through this program it can be more affordable than they may think.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Michigan State University head football coach, Mel Tucker, was suspended without pay on Sunday pending an investigation reported Sports Illustrated.

The decision was announced by MSU athletic director, Alan Haller, at a press conference.

"As there have been new developments before the hearing, and with the best interest of everyone, including student-athletes and the university community in mind, I have suspended Mel Tucker," Haller said. "While the investigation continues, I made this decision with the support of university leadership."

According to USA Today, Tucker was allegedly involved in a sexual

harassment with activist and rape survivor, Brenda Tracy.

Tracy has been working with athletes to train them on sexual violence. For eight months Tracy worked alongside Tucker and visited campus three times.

Allegedly Tucker called Tracy on the night of April 28, 2022, and masturbated while making sexual comments to her. Tracy stated that she reported the incident to Title IX.

MSU hired an outside attorney to look into the allegations. In July the attorney finished her investigation.

Tucker's hearing is set for Oct. 5 and 6. Currently filling in as head coach is Harlon Barnett, who was Tucker's secondary coach.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

There is currently a strike in Australia over the work pay and conditions for workers at Chevron. The strike began at 1p.m. on Friday.

Representing the union is the Offshore Alliance, which is comprised of two different union groups according to BBC. Offshore Alliance unanimously decided to go through with the strike on Friday.

Australia is one of the biggest liquified natural gas exporters, and two of Chevron's locations, Wheatstone and Gorgon, have workers who are currently on strike. The strike could impact the price of gas as these two sites make up around 7% of the global LNG supply reported CNN.

"Unfortunately, following numerous

meetings and conciliation sessions before the Fair Work Commission, we remain apart on key terms," a spokesperson for Chevron said. "The unions continue to seek terms that are above and beyond equivalent terms with others in the industry, including in agreements recently reached." The strike was originally supposed to last one week, however reports from Bangkok Post, suggest that the strikes will be in full effect starting on Sept. 14, when all workers will stop working for two weeks.



Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

RSO Spotlight



Photo by: Levi Waling | Torch Photographer

DAISE president and co-founder AI Alley at their first annual event “Queer and Glad You’re Here” in the University Center Ballroom on Sept. 7, 2023. State University.

Welcoming DAISE

Giuliana Denicolo
Culture Editor

Diversity Advocacy for Identity and Sexuality Empowerment broadcasted their fairly new Registered Student Organization during their first big event Queer and Glad You’re Here.

During the 2023 spring semester, DAISE had two small events that soft-launched their RSO. After a full summer of planning amidst losing E-board staff, the event held 83 students and 43 faculty and staff. This was widely successful for the members of DAISE.

The event started off with a presentation about DAISE and the LGBTQ+ Resource Center. Social work junior AI Alley is the president and founder of the RSO. Alley spoke about DAISE’s plans for the semester, while Vice President Nora Fiero talked about the Center’s resources and events offered to students.

After the presentation, attendees participated in an icebreaker bingo where they got to learn more about different resources on campus and meet allies and members of the community.

When Alley first started at Ferris, they felt disconnected from everything and everyone. Alley started to feel motivated to start fresh and get involved during their four years at Ferris after talking with their advisor. They started going to cultural RSO events and academic life coaching.

“I really put myself out there because that was one of my big goals,” Alley said. “Just seeing those communities there and being welcomed by all of them, I wanted the LGBTQ community to also have a space where people could feel the same. And that’s how I came up with DAISE.”

Alley looks at their past struggles as motivation to be more active on campus and “be what they didn’t have” as a freshman. They feel that their experience makes it easier for them “to understand and empathize with people going through similar things.”

After the LGBTQ+ Resource Center was in between directors, Alley felt as if the community “crumbled.”

“Under those conditions, the majority of programming that was centered around community building and support for LGBTQ+ students kind of petered off,” Alley said.

In Dec. 2022, Alley started volunteering for the Center and noticed a need for representation, support and a “sense of belonging.” Alley and their co-founder digital animation and game design sophomore Sherlyn Trejo-Villegas realized this was something they both wanted to achieve.

“DAISE started in mind with wanting to make sure that it’s welcoming to everybody. We just wanted to secure a space that made sure that [hate] wasn’t tolerated,” Alley said.

Alley didn’t know about the majority of resources until they started asking around and “doing that work” themselves. They believe that there’s “a lot of energy taken out of marginalized communities.” By hosting this event, Alley hoped those communities would feel as if DAISE was reaching out to them.

Alley and Trejo-Villegas’ hopes for this event and DAISE in general are aligned. Like Alley, Trejo-Villegas would have been satisfied with a small attendance as long as it helped those students know about Ferris’ resources and where they could feel and be accepted.

“I know it can be difficult because sometimes you find yourself being ostracized or not being accepted,” Trejo-Villegas said. “The whole goal of this event was to show the staff and faculty that [those students] can count on and rely on.”

According to Alley, DAISE got a lot of encouragement from the Center for Latino Studies, the Hispanic Student Organization and the Asian Student Organization.

“They’ve really been such a huge help when it comes to making sure that DAISE and LGBTQ students are welcomed at their events and that it’s a safe space. They’ve offered a lot of advice and support for us,” Alley said.

Health information and health care systems administration senior Nicole Ly is a board member of ASO and considers herself an ally of the LGBTQ+ community. Ly

feels that there is a “tight bond” between the marginalized groups. She became fast friends with Alley as they are both a part of cultural groups at Ferris.

“I actually became connected with AI through events hosted by the Office of Multicultural Student Services, and I’ve only known them for about five months,” Ly said. “Now we support each other during our events, and we like to help each other out.”

Ly has been able to watch Alley grow professionally by “leaps and bounds,” and she feels that Alley has seen her develop leadership skills. She describes this experience as the “coming-of-age moments” that aren’t noticed until they’re over.

Ly “got to work” as soon as she got to the resource center before the event.

“I was like, ‘What do you need help with? Is there anything that I can do to support you?’” Ly said. “Because in a student leadership position, especially at a predominantly white institution, there’s a lot of pressure on us to not only do good but to excel. And that pressure is very crushing. Anything that we can do to support student leaders and students helps.”

Sophomore Comeela Shepard was an attendee at Queer and Glad You’re Here. As they are a part of the community, Shepard has struggled with finding a place where they feel welcomed. They went to this event in search of a

place where they were accepted and liked for themselves.

“This was a really good event to connect people and help find a community within other communities,” Shepard said. “I liked that they brought different representatives from different groups into one event and let them share their story and what they’re about so you can find a place you fit into.”

Alley felt proud of the event’s success and the “sense of community” during it. Members of the RSO are hoping this welcoming event to be annual. With a lot of trial and error, the group now knows what to do in the future to make the planning process and hosting “even better.”

“I wouldn’t be here without the support that I’ve gotten the last couple of years and I just want my time here to make sure that by working on a few of the big problems, it makes Ferris a kinder place for LGBTQ+ students so it’s a little bit easier to make big monumental change,” Alley said.

Some other events DAISE’s will host this semester are support groups, study tables and movie nights. Meetings are every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. in the LGBTQ+ Resource Center. For more information on DAISE, visit their Instagram [daisefsu](#).

Copyeditor Marlow Losey helped with the reporting of this article.

Media Minute

A review of Olivia Rodrigo's new album "GUTS"

Evan Hibbard
Freelance Photographer

Olivia Rodrigo's sophomore album, *GUTS*, dropped on Friday, Sept. 8, and successfully proves that the 20-year-old is no one-hit-wonder.

The album begins with an acoustic guitar on "all-american b*tch," leading the listener to think they're going to hear another slow ballad before it switches between pop-punk and a breezy self-assured pop song. This style is reminiscent of Taylor Swift's early albums, arguably cementing it as one of her best tracks already.

Immediately following the colossal opener is one of the singles, "bad idea right?" which functions as a fun pop song that follows the age-old story of someone falling back into their ex's arms.

This song is the first track where I noticed the increased production value and guts (pun intended) of the new record. This is most visible in the first three songs on the album, with more robust vocals and instrumental work peering through the radio pop veneer and showcasing the young songwriter's obvious talents.

The standout single released in June, "vampire," is another song that starts with the fake assurance of a piano ballad before breaking into a tempo switch that carries the rest of the song.

One of the strengths of this album that is possibly best showcased on "vampire" is the confidence Rodrigo has come into on her second record.

Her debut, "SOUR," was a strong start with the standouts "Good 4 U," "deja vu," and "brutal," but the new record feels more fully realized and more mature, as it follows a record that she made when she was 17.

The aggressiveness coupled with a "let's all have fun and commiserate together" attitude can be incredibly hard to pull off, however Rodrigo and her writing partner and producer Dan Nigro nail this feeling. They make the new record feel more like an exciting retrospective of negative events, whereas the debut was arguably heavy-handed in its morose undertones.

With all the positive things about the album come many negatives as well. The album fails to be the perfect magnum opus that

her fans had all hoped it would be.

I found myself getting frustrated with "GUTS" at times since it starts so strong with thoughtful and insightful lyrics accompanied by brilliantly simple melodies on the first five songs, before launching into dumbed-down pop songs. They treat the listener as a child, somewhat discrediting the great songwriting on the rest of the record.

Possibly the biggest offender of this is "get him back!" which starts off strong with a drum beat that is somehow reminiscent of the old Butthole Surfers hit, "Pepper" before devolving into another industry pop song with unmemorable lyrics and a dumbed-down chorus for the masses listening through their radios.

Songs like this make it all the more frustrating for listeners like myself who like to be able to take something from the lyrics because she has great songwriting potential. Those skills were showcased specifically on "vampire" and the incredibly insightful album closer "teenage dream" in which she laments being considered "great for her age" and just wanting to be considered "good."



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Assistant Production Manager

Overall, Rodrigo shows a lot of potential as a clever and thoughtful songwriter to be associated with the likes of Billie Eilish and Clairo, however hurdles within the

industry seem to stall what could have been a defining stepping stone in the young singer's career. 7/10.

New and improved

Students share their opinions on The Rock Cafés new look

Marlow Losey
Copy Editor

As The Rock Café reopens during the fall semester, students share both excitement and skepticism about the cafeteria's new changes.

The Rock Café closed down to start renovations on May 7. Over the summer semester, The Quad Café served as Ferris' main cafeteria. The Rock officially reopened on Aug. 8 and has sparked excitement and skepticism in Ferris' student body.

According to digital animation and game design sophomore Jason Zawacki, the front desk is now a standalone in the center as opposed to a counter against the wall. A few of the food locations moved around, but there were no changes to the core structure of The Rock Café itself. A more modern and aesthetically pleasing de-

sign has been added to the café, and nothing has been taken out.

"[The Rock] feels a lot more modern with all of the metal," Zawacki said. "I think The Rock generally has a cleaner aesthetic than before, but more of it feels like minor improvements. Which begs the question, what was the reason for the renovations?"

Zawacki's believes that there may have been more changes behind the scenes, making things easier for student workers and staff since the renovations don't make much of a difference to the students.

"There were no changes on the core structure of The Rock itself," Zawacki said. "Maybe it was more backline changes or invisible changes."

In the eyes of social work senior Jason Fitzpatrick, the changes The Rock Café has made make navigation much easier. With the en-

trance and exit signs at the dish return removed, bumping into other students becomes less of a problem. However, this has been the only way the user experience of The Rock has changed.

"I've noticed some aesthetic differences too, such as the newly stylized lighting and the map of Michigan drawn on the wall in the room to the right of the entrance," Fitzpatrick said. "There is now a station for providing food to people with food allergies as well."

While many students report an improvement on The Rock's aesthetics, Fitzpatrick, express that the changes felt unnecessary. Aesthetics are not as important as problems that have been ignored, such as the food quality.

"The changes they spent the most money on matter the least," Fitzpatrick said. "I don't think the aesthetic changes add much to the experience of the dining hall."

Other students, such as graphic media management sophomore Bec Johnson held similar opinions.

"I don't think they've made all the necessary changes they needed to for the means of appearance," Johnson said. "They hung up modern lamps in the front, but what about the rips and tears in some of the couch cushions? It's the same as the years before when I was here in 2021."

Johnson feels that the changes in aesthetic are not the problems The Rock Café should have been focusing on during its renovations. They believe that the quality of the food is more important than what the Rock looks like, and should've been taken care of first.

"The food is basically the same as the years before," Johnson said. "It's mid at best. Nothing higher by all means with quality as well as edibility."

While students' opinions are

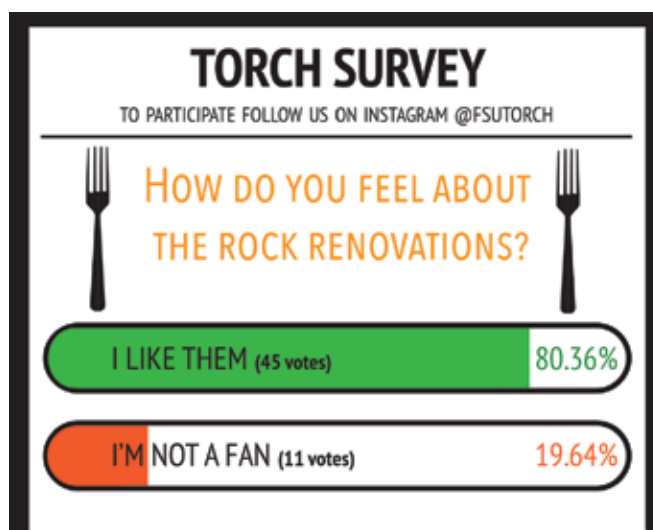
diverse, Johnson shares distaste with some of The Rock's foods. Most students report high satisfaction with multicultural foods such as the Mongolian station and Chef's Special, served only for a few hours every Saturday.

"The Mongo is my go-to," Johnson said. "It's the only thing that surpasses the 'mid range' of quality [in my opinion]."

Overall, The Rock's summer renovations have improved the cafeteria's aesthetic with a cleaner and more modern look. While the changes are visually pleasing to the student, the quality of food has not changed with the exception of an added allergen-friendly station. If The Rock continues its changes, students would benefit from higher quality food outside of the multicultural foods rather than visual changes.



The Rock Cafe's new allergen friendly section, Minus 9.



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager



Photos by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Opinions

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EDITORS COLUMN:

Exactly like other girls

Womanhood is not embarrassing

Jessica Oakes
Editor in Chief

I was nearly a woman when I realized that there is nothing wrong with being a girl.

Most women my age and older remember a time when it was complimentary to be told that we were “not like other girls,” especially by men. Today, we reject the assumption that there is something inherently bad about other girls.

The coolest girl I could imagine growing up was someone like my older sister: athletic, casual, tom-boyish and characteristically not girly. It felt like femininity was a weakness. From crying to wearing pink, I was way too much of a girl.

For years, I insisted that I was something separate from the vain and superficial caricature of a woman that I was presented in media or projected onto real people around me. What we were really trying to say to the world was

that we were full people. We never wanted to be summarized by the fragile and nagging straw-woman. So, we make ourselves an impossible mixture of strong, interesting and low maintenance.

A young girl in high school is told by her boyfriend that she's not like other girls, revealing that his respect for female peers must be earned in a romantic setting. He assumes something negative from the presence of a woman and is pleasantly surprised when someone caters herself for him, as we all do to an extent at that age.

The world's conversation around gender has shifted tremendously in the past few decades alone. We understand that almost nothing is as binary, as male-female, as we once believed. This is freeing in its own way. We can all be people when we need to instead of being strictly men and strictly women. For myself personally, I've also found liberation in the joy of womanhood itself.

While gender may not be as specific or important as I used to think, I know that I still enjoy it. I feel like a woman when I come home to my all-female four bedroom apartment and the air is full of perfume, lemon bars and laughter. I feel my femininity in my style and my emotional intelligence. When sensitivity used to be such a weakness, I now use it to understand the personhood of myself and others around me.

I am proud to be a woman because of my impressive peers. My world was built by great minds like my mother, Amy Winehouse, Hayley Williams, Suzanne Collins, Margaret Atwood, Gloria Steinem and so many more.

As a competitive gymnast on an all-girls team, I got to prove that physical strength can exist in a feminine environment. My first step was achieving strength despite my womanhood. Later, I'm able to find immeasurable strength within it.

Today, I am beyond happy to be a woman, and watch young girls, live in this world with someone like Olivia Rodrigo rising to new heights. I believe her career so narrowly missed the multi-generational need to be different than other girls. In her music, I feel the joy in being a woman for the fun of it. She never tears anyone else down. She never apologizes for acting like a girl.

Feminism is so often hard work. I am eternally grateful for the women before me who fought for what I have today. I aim to continue their work with my position in Ferris' Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance. Because of centuries of history, I am now privileged enough to say that I am not smart for a girl, or strong for a girl. I do not have to denounce simple pleasures of girlhood to be a whole individual. I can live a full, fun and fulfilling life in the most feminine way possible.

Get inked

Why getting a tattoo could be right for you

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

The urge to go get my first tattoo has been strong. In fact, I've known what I've wanted for about a year now. The ability to artistically express myself through a piece of art on my body has appealed to me and it's something I would like to make happen this year.

While some people find the urge to get a tattoo risky, and probably being something they regret, I prefer to think of it as a tribute to that time of your life. While it may not necessarily apply to your life 30 years down the road, it's still a part of your story.

The reason I've waited to get a tattoo is because I want to make sure it's something that I want, and not an impulse purchase. If I've waited this long, and still want to get the same tattoo, then it can't be something a regret, because it represents me right now.

According to the National Library of Medicine, only a fourth of Americans regret one of their tattoos. While that may seem like a good chunk of people, statistically more people don't regret their tattoos than those who do.

In the presence of some jobs, the atmosphere may seem uninviting for someone with a tattoo. Due to tattoos becoming more common, Harvard Business Law conducted a study to see if this

was affecting companies. They found that tattoos don't lower a person's chances of getting a job, and it doesn't create a wage gap either.

In fact, white collar companies hiring people with tattoos may have an advantage as customers were more drawn to those with tattoos according to The University of Houston. Through this study, they found that people who had ink were seen more competent than those without ink in some situations.

Of course, as with anything, the best thing to do before getting a tattoo is to do your research. You don't want to go to just any tattoo shop to get your tattoo. The best thing to do is to look at reviews and find a shop you're comfortable with. The last thing that you want is to get a tattoo that's misspelled or looks nothing like the design you wanted.

According to Indeed, companies may include whether or not tattoos are allowed at the company. Asking the company during or after the interview process is also a good idea, so you know how the company may want to be represented. Indeed also states that some companies may have a policy where as long as no graphic or profanity tattoos are shown, they may not care.

Expressing yourself through a tattoo shouldn't be something you

worry about for your career down the road. If you're worried about your ink affecting your chances at getting hired, do the research to see how many people get hired in your career field every day. Tattoos are becoming a more common occurrence, and companies are becoming less strict about certain

parts of their employee's appearance. If the statistics aren't adding up in your favor, there's always the choice of getting a tattoo that is concealed by your work clothes, that you can still appreciate and enjoy outside of working the career you want.



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Assistant Production Manager

I'll always be wasting away in Margaritaville



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Assistant Production Manager

Why Jimmy Buffett and his music mean so much more

Dylan Rider
Sports Editor

On Sept. 2, I woke up to the news, like most of the world, that Jimmy Buffett had passed away at 76.

As people do when an artist passes away, I delved into his discography. I listened to anything Buffett made or was featured on. "Margaritaville", "Come Monday", and "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere" played throughout the following days. Hell, I'm listening to his music as I write this.

Whilst spending the days listening to his music, I had a realization. Buffett's music meant so much more to me than I had initially knew.

My friends and I began ripping on Buffett and his music while we played Xbox together years ago. We thought his music was just the silly old music that our parents would listen to while they drank. Not to mention, our crude parodies of his music that we thought were the funniest things possible.

As time went on, we would play Buffett's music regularly during our chilled out gaming sessions. Dare I say, we liked his music. We found some of his songs funny still, but in a different way. Driving

down highways, my friends and I would belt out "Cheeseburger in Paradise", going word-for-word with the now-late singer.

Even my current college days are filled with Buffett. I distinctly recall driving home from the beach with my hometown best-friends, windows down and the music up, just singing "Margaritaville". We have Margaritaville flags and glasses in our apartment. It's a running joke that one of us will come home with a Margaritaville mixer any day now.

This leaves me with one question: Why, of all things there are, does Buffett, his brand and his music mean so much to not only just me, but thousands of others? Those thousands of people would proudly proclaim themselves as "Parrotheads", the name for Buffett's fanbase. Why?

Part of me believes this to be in the relatability of Buffett in his wide range of music.

In an USA Today Op-Ed by Bill Sternberg, he carries high praise for the artist while proving the relatability of his music.

"As a journalist, I admire good storytelling, and Buffett was, at heart, a writer and raconteur, an American original in the tradition of Mark Twain," Sternberg said. "When he sang 'my occupational

hazard bein' my occupation's just not around' in 'A Pirate Looks at Forty,' it struck a chord with a newspaper guy in a world turned digital."

I fully believe that no matter your walk of life, you can find something enjoyable about Buffett's music. There's a simplicity to some of his music that feed into basic wants of your Joe Schmo's and Plain Jane's. Songs like "Margaritaville" and "The Weather Is Here, Wish You Were Beautiful" and "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere" capitalize on Buffett's style of music which highlight island escapism. Everyone just wants to get away from work and drama by getting some sun on a tropical beach with a drink in your hand.

In an interview with Rolling Stone, Buffett was asked about how he'd like to be remembered.

"I'd say 'He had a good time and made a lot of people happy' would be good," Buffett said. "Yeah, that'd be good."

For me, I'm still having a great time and enjoying his music. While my friends and I continue to listen to Buffett's tropical rock and make great memories with each other, I leave you with a line from Buffett's song "Last Mango in Paris":

"Our lives change like the weather, but a legend never dies."



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Sports

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Ashes to Ashland

#1 ranked Bulldogs complete comeback, beat Eagles 38-28



Photo courtesy of Ferris State Athletics

Sophomore quarterback Carson Gulker rushes into the endzone for a touchdown. The quarterback ran in two touchdowns and had three passing touchdowns.

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

Ferris State Football remains perfect on the season following their first game on the road against the #21 ranked Ashland Eagles on Saturday, Sept. 9.

The #1 ranked Bulldogs (2-0, 0-0 in conference) roared back to life following a 21-10 deficit at halftime against the Eagles (0-2) for a 38-28 win.

The top-25 matchup opened with the Eagles scoring three touchdowns in the first half while the Bulldogs only managed to knock through one field-goal and a rushing touchdown. Two of the Ashland scores came courtesy of former Ferris State wide-receiver Dezmin Lyburtus in what would prove as a revenge match for the former Bulldog.

Following the less-than-perfect start, the Bulldogs did not go away quietly. A touchdown put them back within striking distance with a 17-21 deficit. The Eagles answered one final time, putting them back on top

at 28-17. From there, the Bulldog offense unleashed back-to-back 50 yard passing touchdowns to claim back the lead. To add exclamation to their second half comeback, the team punched into the endzone in the final minute to make it a 38-28 victory.

Head coach Tony Annese understood the difficulties the Bulldogs would face coming into their first road game against Ashland.

"I think a lot of people were nervous," Annese said. "It's hard to win. Period. It's hard to win on the road twice. It's hard to beat a great program like Ashland."

Annese used the phrase "hearts of lions" when speaking about the "championship program's" adversity in the hard-fought win.

Without solid performances from sophomore quarterback Carson Gulker, senior wide-receiver Tyrese Hunt-Thompson and senior wide-receiver Xavier Wade, the Bulldogs would be sitting at 1-1 as they helped supply all four of the Bulldog touchdowns in the

second half.

Gulker had quite the game, both on the ground and through the air. Gulker went 6-12 through the air for 121 yards and three touchdowns. Utilizing his legs, he added 138 yards off 21 rushing attempts with two touchdowns.

"That was a dogfight," Gulker said. "Credit to Ashland, they fought their tails off. We [have] just been there before, we've had dogfights, we've been where our backs [are] up against the wall and we know how to get through it."

Gulker recognized the team around him, saying that the offensive line "fights so hard" and that the wide-receiver room "makes it look easy."

The receiver duo of Hunt-Thompson and Wade acted as a safety valve for the Bulldog offense, combining for 10 receptions, 222 yards and three touchdowns.

Hunt-Thompson hauled in two of three second half passing touchdowns, which, according to him, is just what he does.

"I was just doing what I was doing all game," Hunt-Thompson said. "Attacking my man every play and being patient until the ball was thrown my way and it happened to come my way two times for touchdowns in the second half."

When asked if we can expect this duo of Hunt-Thompson and Wade to do this more often Hunt-Thompson says, "You should expect us to dominate."

Following their win against the Eagles, the Bulldogs sit atop the GLIAC in a three-way tie with both the Davenport Panthers and the Saginaw Valley Cardinals, all of which are 2-0.

The Bulldogs will hit the road and set their sights on a new caliber of opponent, the University of Montana Grizzlies. The tilt against the #13 ranked DI FCS school is set to kickoff on Sept. 16 at 8 p.m.

Top performers vs. Ashland:
Offense:

- QB Carson Gulker: 6-12 passing, 121 yards, 3 passing TDs, 138 rushing yards, 2 rushing TDs
- WR Tyrese Hunt-Thompson: 91 yards on 4 receptions, 2 receiving TDs
- WR Xavier Wade: 131 yards on 6 receptions, 1 TD

Defense:

- DL Olarere Oladipo: 2 sacks for 14 yards, 2.5 TFLs for 15 yards
- DB Shon Stephens: 1 int, 0.5 TFL for 1 yard
- DL Sheldon Cage: 1 sack for 5 yards, 1 TFL for 5 yards

Special teams:

- K Eddie Jewett: 1-2 FG, 5/5 XP, 8 points
- P Mitchell Middleton: 2 punts for 112 yards, 2 punts within the 20 yard-line

Bulldogs dominate Ray Helsing Invitational



Photos courtesy of Paige Williams | Ferris State Athletics

Runners Danae Feldpausch(left) and Brendan Cairney(right) finished in first place in their respective races at the Ray Helsing Invitational.

19 Bulldogs finish in top 10 between men's and women's races

Dylan Rider
Sports Editor

Ferris State cross country opened their season with a strong performance from both their men's and women's teams.

The meet, which took place Saturday morning at Katke golf course in Big Rapids, saw junior Brendan Cairney win the men's 8,000 meters and junior Danae Feldpausch win the 5,000 meter for the women. Joining the Bulldogs in competition at this meet were runners from Montcalm Community College, Mid-Michigan Community College and Alpena Community College.

The women started the day first for Bulldog cross country with 13 consecutive runners for the Bulldogs reaching the end of the race. Six Bulldogs finished with a sub-20 minute run. Feldpausch took first with a time of

19:09.09.

Feldpausch was excited to start her and the Bulldogs' season at home.

"It's always nice to run your first race [in Big Rapids]," Feldpausch said. "We were talking yesterday with our coaches. It's always great to get to sleep in your own bed, get to eat your own food and have your own morning routine. It's just great to run your first race at home and shake out any jitters you have for the season."

Feldpausch had been battling injuries as of late. The Charlotte, Mich. native spent her summer mixing some running with "a lot of swimming" as a way of easing the load when training for this season.

On the other side of the Bulldogs' races, the men reciprocated the success in their 8,000 meter competition. Of the top 10

finishes, nine were running for the crimson and gold. Cairney's finish left him with a time of 26:09.03.

Cairney, beginning his season with the first place finish, was happy to be running again in such favorable weather.

"It's great day outside," Cairney said. "It's like 10 to 15 degrees colder than last year[']s invite]. It felt really good. Beautiful day for racing. We broke the rust off our legs and we're ready to get the season going."

Cairney, like Feldpausch, was pleased to begin the season in Bulldog country. With the Big Rapids community in attendance, Cairney found it to be "a good way to start the season."

With the season just beginning, the Bulldogs have a long way to go. With four meets scheduled before the GLIAC championship, there's a lot of wear and tear that

can occur. For head coach Jared Kelsh, the main focus is making sure the team are taking care of themselves.

"Our biggest thing right now that we need to focus on is just staying healthy," Kelsh said. "Obviously, it's a long year, we go all the way through November. We are racing every weekend. When you're putting that many miles on your legs, nutrition and recovery is huge."

Kelsh was pleased with today's race winners, saying that he was "super happy" with Feldpausch's performance while stating that Cairney's performance was "a fantastic job."

The Bulldog's next meet will take them to East Lansing for the Spartan Invite. The meet is set for Friday, Sept. 15 with the women's race beginning at 10 a.m. and the men beginning at 10:40 a.m..

Top five Bulldogs in the women's 5,000 meter race:

Junior Danae Feldpausch (19:09.09)
Junior Becci Castillo (19:21.9)
Sophomore Whitney Farrell (19:26.3)
Junior Hanna Brock (19:36.9)
Junior Melanea Strauss (19:46.3)

Top five Bulldogs in the men's 8,000 meter race:

Junior Brendan Cairney (26:09.3)
Junior Noah Griffith (26:36.7)
Senior Brandon Wirth (26:39.5)
Sophomore Ryan Ososki (26:43.9)
Freshman Caleb Branch (26:45.8)



Saturday 9/23

**Homecoming
Dance**

David L Eisler
Center
Ballrooms
7 – 10pm

Wednesday 9/27

**Comedian
Trevor Wallace**

Williams
Auditorium
7:30pm

Thursday 9/28

**Cornhole
Tournament**

(RSVP Required)
Robinson Quad
5 – 7pm

Friday 9/29

**Pep Rally
& Bonfire**

Robinson Quad
7 – 10pm

Saturday 9/30

**Pre-Tailgate
Homecoming
Parade**

Michigan Ave
10:30 – 11am



*Homecoming
2023
Events*



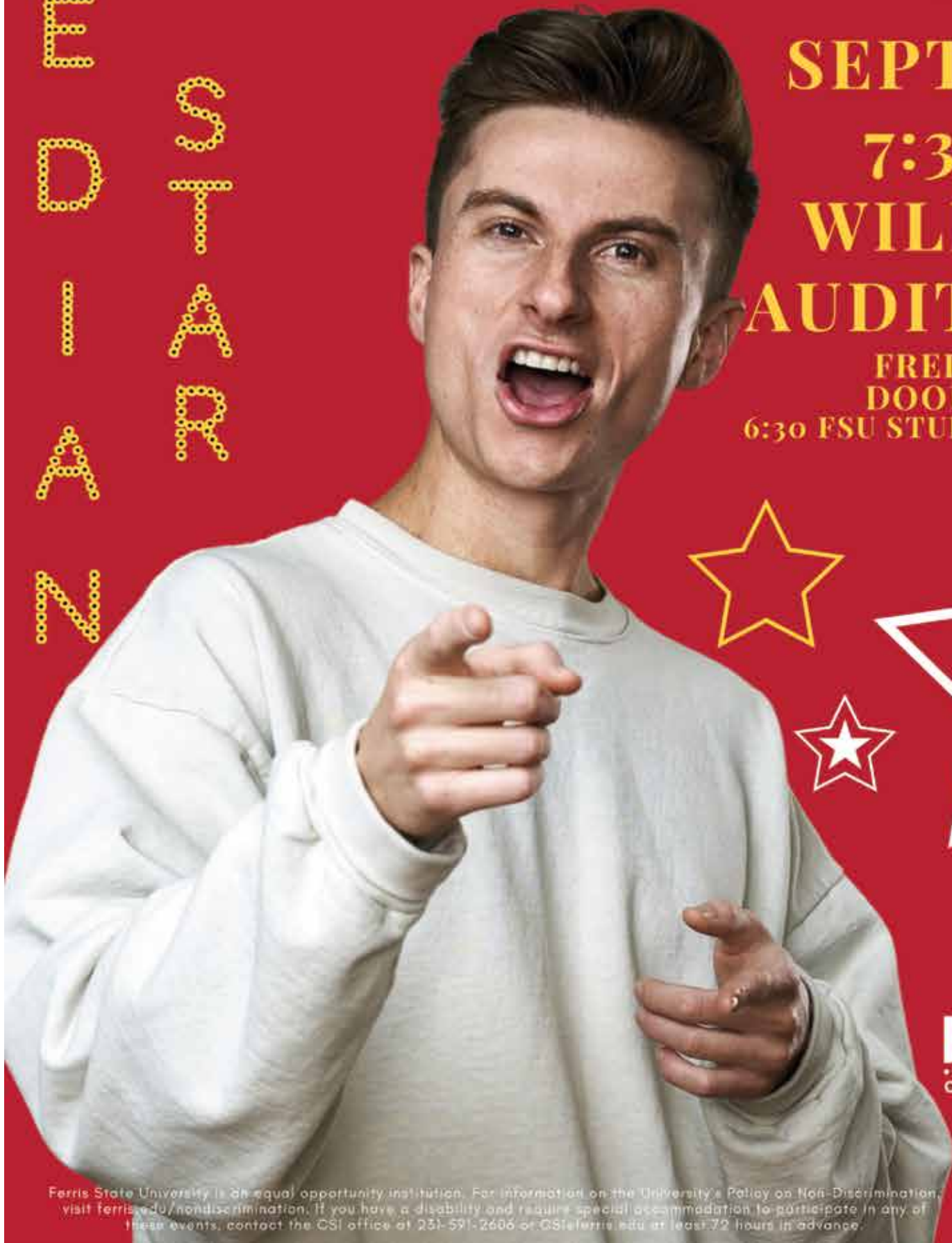


FERRIS FAMOUS

2023 HOMECOMING EVENT

TICKET
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TREVOR WALLACE



SEPT. 27TH
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AUDITORIUM

FREE EVENT
DOORS OPEN
6:30 FSU STUDENTS | 7 PUBLIC



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