

Declawed

Bulldogs end Davenport's undefeated season with 28-10 victory



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Sophomore quarterback Trinidad Chambliss stiff-arms a defender.

Jack Alcorn
Sports Reporter

In their final road game of the regular season, Ferris State football defeated Davenport University on Saturday, Nov. 4.

In a game with massive playoff implications, the Bulldogs (7-2, 4-1 in GLIAC) kept their hopes alive with a 28-10 win against the Panthers (8-1, 4-1 in GLIAC). The win continues the Bulldogs' eight game winning streak against the Panthers since they joined the GLIAC in 2017, while also ending the Panthers' undefeated season.

Head Coach Tony Annese believed the victory to be much more than a regular season win.

"This was a playoff game, the winner has a good chance to make the playoffs and the loser doesn't have that great of a chance," Annese said. "We've only played nine games, so beating the teams with a winning record is crucial."

Annese also praised Davenport's head coach Sparky McEwen, saying that he is a "superb defensive coach."

In the battle of two top-ten teams, Davenport started off

strong, scoring in the second quarter off a Ferris fumble. The Bulldogs roared back with a lengthy, 90-yard drive finished off by a three-yard touchdown run from sophomore quarterback Trinidad Chambliss. The half ended on a Davenport field goal giving the Cougars a 10-7 advantage at half-time.

Coming out of the break, senior defensive-back Shon Stephens returned the kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown, electrifying the Ferris sideline and giving them a 14-10 lead. With the next Ferris possession, sophomore quarterback Carson Gulker topped off an 84-yard drive with a 10-yard throw to senior wide-receiver Xavier Wade. To finish the game, Stephens intercepted a pass and returned it 15 yards for a touchdown.

Gulker believed that the Bulldogs learned from their mistakes.

"I think that in the first half, we kind of shot ourselves in the foot a little bit with penalties and just not being smart," Gulker said. "We came out in the second half much more under control and we took over the game."

Gulker also thought the

"fast-tempo" was a huge reason for the second half dominance.

The win over Davenport marked Ferris State football's 500th win all-time and Annese's 122nd win. Since Annese was hired back in 2012, the Bulldogs have won 85% of their games.

Stephens' kickoff return touchdown gave the Bulldogs a second half jolt while his interception-return TD sealed the game for the team. The importance of the plays was not lost on Stephens.

"Special teams and defense wins games so just being able to play multiple positions and score is a blessing," Stephens said. "Coach puts us in great positions continuously, I play as hard as I can in those spots and the ball ended up in my hands."

Stephens' interception puts him at seven on the season, which ties him for second place in all of NCAA DII football.

The Bulldogs return home to host the Wayne State Warriors on Saturday, Nov. 11 at Top Taggart Field for their regular season finale.

"Belonging" added to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion plan

Learn the goals of the new DEIB plan

Jessica Oakes
Editor in Chief

Ferris' Diversity Office released the 2023-2027 Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Belonging plan last week titled "Helping Others Rise."

It is the first plan developed by the university with belonging as a "driving force."

Derived from a quote by university founder Woodbridge N. Ferris, the Helping Others Rise plan now includes specific goals aimed at helping the community feel that they belong on campus. They are as follows:

Goal 1: Create a welcoming and inclusive environment where students and employees feel a sense of belonging.

Goal 2: Enroll, retain and graduate a diverse student body.

Goal 3: Hire, retain and promote

a diverse faculty and staff.

Goal 4: Provide the infrastructure to support diversity, inclusion, equity, and belonging.

According to the plan, which can be located under the Diversity and Inclusion tab on Ferris' website, it is a product nearly four years in the making. Members of Ferris' Diversity Office worked with students, faculty, staff and EAB, an educational consulting firm to create the "living document."

Dr. David Pilgrim is Ferris' Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Strategic Initiatives. He presented the DEIB plan at the Ferris Forum. Around 40 people attended the event both in person and via Zoom. The attendees ranged from leaders of Ferris' identity centers, such as the Hispanic/Latino Cultural Center and the LGBTQ+ Resource Center to administrators like university president Dr. Bill Pink.

The DEIB planning timeline stretches back to May 25, 2020, when Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin killed George Floyd. This, and the following demonstrations carried out in the Black Lives Matter movement, spurred conversations about diversity and inclusion across the nation.

"The North Star is to get to a point where we don't need to have this conversation anymore," Pink said.

Pilgrim used the night as an opportunity to ask how different departments at Ferris can enact changes to reach the plan's goals. "I'm challenging you the way I'm challenging myself," Pilgrim said to the room.

When discussing the third goal, to hire, retain and promote a diverse faculty and staff, Pilgrim stated that Ferris "historically has struggled in this area."

Pilgrim cited data from the Na-

tional Center for Education Statistics which shows that Ferris consistently ranks in the bottom two for diversity in faculty and staff out of Michigan's 15 public universities. The Ferris Fact Books reports that 90% of Ferris' faculty and staff in the year 2020 were white.

Associate Vice President of Human Resources Fredericka Hayes expressed over Zoom that all search committees need diverse representation as Ferris recruits new employees.

Sonia Trevino directs Ferris' Hispanic/Latino Cultural Center. She shared that her commute to work involves passing three Confederate flags every day and that it can be difficult to attract members of a diverse workforce to such an area.

The HLCC is one of Ferris' identity centers. The others include the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, the Office of Multicultural Student Services and the Veteran's Resource

Center. Trevino stated to the Torch that Pink and the university as a whole "remain committed" to these centers.

"As soon as you walk into our center, you can feel the sense of community immediately," Trevino said. "This creates belonging. In addition, our [identity] centers are also a huge resource for students who want to learn more about communities that are different from their own. Not only do we act as a home away from home for our students, we can act as an educational resource for students who want to learn more about our culture."

CONT. ON Page 3

News

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

Reproductive rights on campus

Campus organizations speak on the impact of Proposal 3, a year later



Photo credit: Jessica Oakes | Editor in Chief

Both sides of the abortion debate are demonstrated by students on the Robinson quad.

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Nov. 8 marks a year since Proposal 3 was passed in Michigan, and Ferris groups on both sides of the bill have reflected on its impact.

Prop 3 is a bill that allows someone the right to their own reproductive freedoms. These include the right to contraception, pregnancy, abortion, prenatal care, postpartum care, sterilization, infertility treatment and miscarriage management. The bill's passing allowed for there to still be some government restrictions on abortion surrounding fetal viability.

Business administration senior Joshua Price is the president of Protect Life. He is also a campus activist apprentice through the Protect Life Michigan Chapter. Price brought up one of the organization's biggest concerns with Prop 3 being passed, which was the abortion pill. He explained that there are two main issues that the group has concerns about.

"They're beginning to take the abortion pill too late in the process," Price said. "The other issue is that there's a lack of information on how the pills are supposed to be taken. So, one of the issues that the pregnancy centers found is that people will skip on the first note, and so just begin early contractions. Because of that, they often wind up giving live births long before the child is viable."

He explained that both of these cause pain for those who are preg-

nant and can lead to abnormal cramping and unintended bleeding. He also explained that the pill is recommended to be taken by the 10-week mark of the pregnancy.

In addition to this, according to the University of Michigan Health, anyone can get an abortion in Michigan until week 24 of the pregnancy. It is also stated that anyone under the age of 18 must have parental consent before having an abortion.

Social work junior Jennifer O'Connor is the secretary for the RSO Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance. She explained that Prop 3 was the organization's first political introduction on campus, and she felt that it helped out not only FMLA but also other Ferris students.

"For a long time, there wasn't a pro-choice/feminist perspective on campus, it was only the pro-life perspective," O'Connor said. "I think our group has positively impacted the student body, I have had so many people tell me how grateful they are to see us being active on campus and to see another side of reproductive rights. I feel like more people are comfortable with saying that they are pro-choice because our group."

O'Connor also stated that one of the group's top priorities is advocating reproductive rights, and Prop 3 has helped them further along their cause.

Construction management senior Jakob Loutzenhiser is the president of the RSO College Re-

publicans. He explained how his group was disappointed in the results of Prop 3, and how he has heard about other groups on campus being harassed for their beliefs.

"I hear about the events that [Protect Life] run[s] and I guess the only thing on campus that concerns me is that there's, as far as I've been told, there's been a lot of trying to like shut down conversations from the other side of the aisle, if you will," Loutzenhiser said. "And by that I mean, think of it last year and one thing that comes to mind is that there was a person that tried to steal one of their signs that they're holding up for their event, which they're allowed to do on the quad."

Loutzenhiser explained that the person who stole the sign ripped it to shreds and was later arrested. Other than that incident, Loutzenhiser didn't explain any other issues he had seen with the opposing sides.

The different RSO groups for each side plan to continue to fight for their cause. Protect Life plans to do more tablings throughout the semester to show students information about fetus development and abortion. FMLA plans to continue their Monday night meetings at 6 p.m. in FLITE 214, where anyone is welcome.

Editor in Chief Jessica Oakes is a member of Ferris' Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance and did not contribute to the reporting of this article.



Photo credit: Jessica Oakes | Editor in Chief

Demonstrators hold discussions with students individually about the topic.

Local women's shelter to move locations

How students can get involved

Jessica Oakes
Editor in Chief

After a "dedicated" eight-year search, Women's Information Services found a new location on nine acres of green property.

Known as WISE, the women's shelter will be purchasing a home in Big Rapids Township with \$500,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act.

The Big Rapids Pioneer reports that the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners unanimously supported this fund allocation at the Oct. 19 meeting.

"Our goal is not to let them start a project they don't have the funds secured and committed to, so they don't get halfway through the project and can't finish it," Commissioner Bill Routley said in the Pioneer.

The exact location of the shelter is typically not discussed to maintain the safety of the 19 women and children staying at WISE.

WISE director Jane Currie shared with the Torch that her team's dedication to this project paid off.

"We could not have found a better place, and I mean that," Currie said.

Because the new location sits

on a large property, Currie believes that it will be a beneficial source of "green therapy" for WISE's residents. Green therapy is defined as a nature-based approach to healing.

WISE currently functions as a 115-year-old Victorian home with four bedrooms. Currie stated that WISE has "plenty of opportunity for future growth" in the new location.

"It's not a new home, but it's a home that's been extremely well cared for," Currie said.

They are now planning how to use a six-bedroom space. These plans include a meeting room, multiple community rooms and even outdoor space.

Currie appreciates the work that different groups from Ferris have offered WISE over the years. The shelter is looking to plan more tutoring opportunities with their young residents, bringing volunteer opportunities to the Big Rapids community.

"Kids need to be read to," Currie said. "A lot of times when moms come in, they're just not in the place for that. It would be nice if a volunteer group wanted to come in to read to our kiddos."

WISE offers internships to students and has received funds from organizations such as Alpha Sig-

ma Tau. The sorority recently held WISE Week with bake sales and a "walk in her heels" event.

"We love fundraising for WISE because we believe that women in all different times of life should be supported," AST commented to the Torch. "WISE week always has a great turn out and this was one of our best ones. We will continue to support WISE as long as we can."

Ferris' Anti-Violence Alliance is a longtime partner of WISE's. Violence Prevention Coordinator and Ferris alum Sydney Mingori sees great value in WISE's presence in the township.

"It is absolutely important to have a shelter for [domestic violence] like WISE in any town, and from what I understand, WISE will be getting a new and bigger location to better house survivors of domestic violence," Mingori said. "With this new location, they will be able to house and provide resources for the community."

Mingori believes that the partnership is mutually exclusive. The AVA can pay WISE through a grant from the Office on Violence Against Women and the shelter contributes to on-campus prevention efforts in return.

"Through our partnership with

WISE, we can offer confidential and free victim service to students, staff, faculty, as well as the community of Big Rapids," Mingori said. "This allows us to provide the community with an equitable resource to increase healthy and safe livelihoods."

To become more involved in vio-

lence prevention, Mingori encourages students to "strengthen their tool belt" through education and weeding out misinformation.

For more information on the needs of those staying at WISE, visit their website, wiseagainstv violence.org, or Facebook page.



Graphic courtesy of WISE

"Belonging" CONT.

There were no students in attendance at last week's Ferris Forum. Still, students have their own ideas for what fosters a sense of belonging on campus.

Digital animation and game design senior Jaylen Woods works in the Office of Multicultural Student Services. Throughout his work in OMSS and position on the Student Advisory Council, he understands what it takes for students to feel included.

"I think for students it's just having a good sense of communication amongst the school," Woods said. "I know a lot of students that just want a reasoning behind some of the decisions that the Ferris has made and done recently. Most people don't want to be left in the dark. I feel like to get a true sense of belonging they would have to be willing to open up more to the student population on topics that affect us as a whole."

Pilgrim explained that the Di-

versity Office included students in the planning of this document through surveys, forums and town hall meetings.

"We want to continue to hear from students. We will meet with all students who want to discuss the plan. As a university, we are better when we listen to our students and when students are engaged," Pilgrim said.

Near the end of last week's forum, Pilgrim stated that the comments submitted by campus leaders about how their departments may work towards these DEIB goals will be shared publicly on the Diversity Office's Ferris360 page.

"Get all the knowledge you can, but use your knowledge in the right way, and it will be of untold benefit to you. Don't use it in oppressing others... And when you see a man or woman trying to rise and doing the right thing, don't be selfish but try to help that person rise."

- Woodbridge Nathan Ferris, 1910

Ferris State Torch Corrections

For the story released on Oct. 25, "Winless Woes Continue"

The Torch misidentified soccer player Katherine Welch in the second photo

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

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Welcome Minus 9

Rock Cafe's allergen friendly station sees minimal interest



Photo credit: Kate Babel | Reporter

The new allergen friendly station, Minus Nine, provides students with dietary restrictions safe food options.

Kate Babel
Freelance Reporter

After months of renovation at the Rock Café, Ferris' allergen-friendly food spot has reopened as the Minus 9 station.

This station is made specifically for students and people with any food allergies, offering up a variety of foods from sandwiches, to burgers, to stir fry and much more.

Minus 9 offers similar ingredients to the Mongolian Grill inside the Rock, excluding nine ingredients such as shellfish, peanuts, dairy-free cheese, gluten, fruits and vegetables, etc.

Rock employee Ian Corp works at the station, using the grills and taking the orders.

"We also have a little bit of every other station so like we have a little bit of deli meat from the deli. So we can do sandwiches over here," explained Corp. "Then we can do burgers for people that have allergies who want a burger. We do pasta, about a little bit of everything. I would say our ingredients are mostly defined by our stir fried stuff."

But despite having a small piece of every station in the Rock, few people have bothered to stop and take a look.

"I think part of the issue is that we've kind of trained people to not look at the station, realize it's open because this place was closed for remodel," said Corp. "And then it got opened up again and then the place wasn't open for a month after that. But I think that's the sort of thing that'll solve itself as time goes on."

For those who don't know how the station works, Minus 9 follows the same tactics as the breakfast omelet station both at the Rock and the Quad. Students can fill out a sheet with their name on the top. Then, you circle what you want from the list of entrees. Finally, circle the ingredients you would like to have in your meal.

"I think it's a good addition to the Rock," Criminal justice junior Paul Saran said. "It helps people who have allergies to be more separated from the food and less worried and more at peace. I've seen lots of people go. A couple of my friends have gone as well."

Many food stations around the Rock would include small warning symbols below the name of the food served, warning people about their contents. Minus 9 includes none of that. All while putting people with allergies at ease.

People without allergies could also take part in what Minus 9 has to offer. It includes a wide variety of ingredients, from different kinds of meat to a range of sauce options.

Attendance has been low and not many people have noticed it. Rock employee Jen Willison has witnessed very few people use it.

"I've seen like two or three people but not as many as there should be," Willison said. "I wish it was more than what we have."

Although it is a next-door neighbor to the Italian Oven and the Island salad bar, the Minus 9 station lacks much student traffic. It seems that in the days when it was unoccupied before it opened, people started to ignore the station entirely. So when it did open, people hardly noticed a thing.

In the days that he's worked at Minus 9, Corp has seen a fair

amount of people place their orders. On weekends the attendance numbers increase some.

"It varies some days barely get anything and other days, I get pretty busy on the weekends. But most

orders I've ever gotten in one day is twenty," Corp said.

Minus 9 is open from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Rock Café.



Photo credit: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Minus Nine, located at the Rock cafe.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Dearborn: Immigrants and refugees who need help getting a drivers license, getting a car, or insurance can do so on Nov. 8.

According to the Detroit Free Press, the event is to help new arrivals have access to transportation and is put on by the Southeast Michigan Refugee Collaboration as well as Global Detroit. Anyone who is considered "legally present" in the U.S. can get a Michigan license according to Michigan Legal Help.

There will be three workshops happening to help walk through how

to get their licenses, a car, and insurance. They will also be provided information about private and public transportation. Information will be available in several languages including Arabic, Dari, English and Pashto.

There is an estimated 10,000 refugees and immigrants that the state expects to arrive in Michigan in the next year, and resources such as getting a driver's license is crucial in helping them get a job. So far, the number of refugees in Michigan this year, which is currently 2,348, has increased from last year's which was 1,206.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Ukraine: 19 Ukrainian soldiers are dead after being attacked by Russia during an awards ceremony.

The attack occurred near the southern side of Zaporizhzhia, a city in Ukraine, on Friday. Drone footage of the deaths was released on a Russian Telegram channel according to BBC.

Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky stated that it shouldn't have happened.

"Every soldier in the combat zone - in the enemy's line of fire and aerial reconnaissance - knows how to behave in the open, how to ensure

safety,"

Zel-

ensky

said

in a

post

o n

social

media

on Sun-

day.

He explained that

soldiers should have known that

they were being watched by Rus-

sia. There have not been any public

comments made by Russia's Mili-

tary.



Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

“Working!”: A directorial debut



The *Working!* cast performances on stage at director Dennis Henry's first production at the Williams Auditorium.

Photos by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Giuliana Denicolo
Culture Editor

Culture editor Giuliana Denicolo spoke with new theater director and humanities professor Dennis Henry about his first Ferris production.

How would you describe the overall success of the show? How do you feel your debut went?

I am very pleased with how the show turned out. The students worked super hard and displayed their talents. I couldn't have asked for a better first experience at Ferris.

How do you feel you did as the director? What would you do differently?

I thought I did okay. I know I've done my job when I can just watch

the show and not have the urge to give notes to the actors. And that is what happened on opening night. I was able to just watch the show as an audience member without having to think about fixing anything. As of today, I wouldn't do anything differently. Usually, it takes a couple of months for the process to soak in and figure out what can be improved upon.

What were your favorite parts?

I love so many of the scenes, but the songs “A Very Good Day” and “Fathers and Sons” always make me cry.

Did you choose to do “Working!” the musical? If so, why did you choose that show?

Working was suggested by the outgoing theatre director, Katherine La Pietra. When I read

and listened to it, I immediately agreed. Because the show has a big cast, we were able to include 31 students on stage. This musical doesn't have just one or two leads. The songs are spread out among a lot of people, so that gave me the opportunity to get to know the Ferris actors. And finally, and most importantly, it is a beautiful play about everyday people that we don't often think about, but who are crucial to our society. And it has great songs!

How was it working with the cast?

This was a fabulous cast to work with. They worked hard, took notes well, frequently worked on their own outside of rehearsal and had great attitudes. The crew was great, too. Working on a Ferris show is a lot of fun.

How was the audience turnout?

So far, both of the first two shows had between 100 and 200 people. That's really good, but we always welcome more!

What would you say made this show different than others?

Working doesn't have just one story. It has 20-plus stories that only sort of connect to each other. So, it's hard to get a feel for the whole play until dress rehearsals, but it's very satisfying when it all comes together.

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First-gen exhibition celebration

First Generation Student Organization celebrates success of first-generation students



Photos by: Jessica Oakes | Editor in Chief

Photo collages of first-generation students, including Kenneth Arthur McDonald, are displayed in the Fine Arts Gallery.

Tate Zellman
News Reporter

This past weekend, the First-Generation Student Organization

displayed a Faces of First-Gen Exhibition to celebrate the academic achievements and journeys of the first-generation students.

Located by the Fine Art Gallery in the David L. Eisler Center, the

Faces of First-Gen Exhibition was organized to recognize the success of the first-generation students and celebrate their accomplishments toward graduation. The event also shared a glance of the

first-generation students' journeys, representing their timelines of accomplishments. The celebration also recognized the obstacles the first-generation students overcame for them to embody their mission to graduate.

Vice President of the First-Generation Student Organization, finance senior Lianna Moodie, knows that a lot of students identify themselves as a first-generation student, and that there's an importance behind that identity.

"At Ferris State University, a first-generation student is defined as an individual whose parents have not obtained a Bachelor's degree," Moodie said. "This definition holds significant importance because being a first-generation student means you are forging a unique path for your family and future generations. By pursuing higher education, you become an inspiration, not only to your family and the generations that follow but also to your peers and fellow first-generation students."

The number of students who identify themselves as first-generation students has exceeded over 2,000 as of this year.

Criminal justice junior Janiayah Moore is the president of the RSO and finds it important for the university to celebrate the success of the first-generation students because of their ability to achieve their academic goals.

"The inspiration and motivation,

seeing your peers achieve success can help them believe in their own potential and strive for similar goals themselves," Moore said. "It can also help them see their goals are attainable and that they can overcome many obstacles they will face in the future."

In addition to talking about the importance of the first-generation identity, Moodie finds celebrating the first-generation students important due to their stories and journeys having an impact who hope to graduate with a degree.

"Most first-generation students often find themselves without guidance when they begin their university journey, frequently having to navigate the complexities of campus life on their own," Moodie said. "I believe it's essential to celebrate these students because they've made a significant commitment not only to bettering themselves but also to setting an inspiring example for both current and future generations."

More first-generation celebration events are set to occur. These include Bowling & Pizza at the Big Rapids Bowling Center (Nov. 9, 9 pm), eSports Extravaganza at the CVL eSports Arena (Nov. 10, 5-8 pm), and First-Gen Recognition at halftime at the football game against Wayne State on Nov. 11. Contact firstgen@ferris.edu to learn more.

Are you a first-gen student?

Learn more about what being first generation means

Marlow Losey
Copy Editor

The second week of Nov. marks National First-Generation Celebration week. For Ferris students, the week is filled with events to appreciate, honor and support our first-generation students. But first, do you know if you qualify as one?

According to the National Association of Student Personnel Administration, roughly fifty percent of students are first-generation, however, many are unaware of their status until they start college.

Television and digital media production senior Kelsey Meyers found out she was a first-generation student when she was in high school. She believes that being a first-generation student has helped her in other ways.

"I was starting from scratch with no help," Meyers said. "It has strengthened me and made me rely on myself more."

Finance senior Lianna Moodie is the vice president of the First-Generation RSO. Moodie takes pride in using the resources that Ferris provides for first-generation students.

"This RSO has truly enriched my college experience," Moodie said. "It essentially functions as a support network for first-generation students at Ferris."

Moodie has always known she was a first-generation student, so she prepared herself to be the first in her family to pursue higher education.

She emphasizes that it's important to note that the definition of a first-generation student differs depending on the college.

Though the definition can change from college to college, NASPA's definition of a first-generation student is that "your parents did not complete a four-year college or university degree, regardless of other family member's level of education." Ferris uses the same definition to describe what qualifies as a first-generation student.

Mechanical engineering junior Leo Forrestal defines himself as a first-generation student because though his mother graduated with an associate degree, she never used it within her career. Along with this, he claims that neither of

his parents has helped him in preparing for or attending a university.

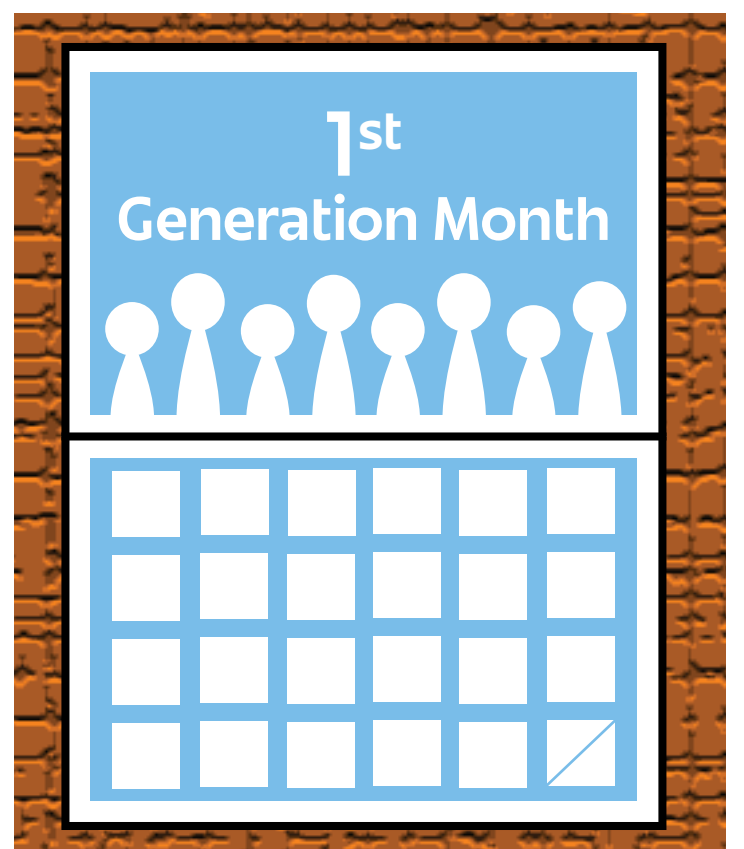
Though this does not align with Ferris' definition of a first-generation student, Forrestal believes he still had to learn to navigate getting a higher education on his own.

"I don't know if I could be considered a first-generation student," Forrestal said. "A lot of people say I'm not but it feels like I am. Some have different and harder struggles that I do, but I get no support from my parents, I'm doing this on my own."

Moodie feels that there was a "noticeable lack of support" from Ferris for first-generation students. With the growth of the First-Generation RSO, she feels that there's now a comfortable place for Ferris' first-generation students to get the help and resources they need.

"I can confidently say that things are changing," Moodie said. "There are dedicated faculty members and students who are working to enhance the first-generation student experience on campus."

For more resources and information on being a first-generation student, visit Ferris' First-Gen



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

HLCC begins Day of the Dead celebrations

“It’s beautiful to celebrate the dead,” Massiel Calderon said.

Brook Blausey
Culture Reporter

Instead of mourning in black clothing and silent ceremonies, those who observe Día de los Muertos choose to celebrate the lives of their loved ones who passed.

During this celebration, an altar for those who passed away is set up, food is made and crafts are created. It is believed in Mexican culture that the Day of the Dead is a time when the spirits of those who have died can travel back to celebrate the holiday with loved ones.

On Thursday, Nov. 2, the Hispanic/Latino Cultural Center held a Día De Los Muertos celebration. According to the Director of HLCC Sonia Trevino, the Day of the Dead was an early Aztec tradition that was celebrated primarily in Mexico, but many other Latin American countries had their own celebrations.

As the director, Trevino helped plan the event for students to learn more about the holiday and its cultural significance.

“I want people to learn what the day of the dead means culturally in Hispanic/Latino culture,” Trevino said. “I want them to learn about

the way we choose to honor the dead and to celebrate their life.”

Although the holiday originated in Mexico, people from many different cultures have started participating in the tradition to help honor a loved one who has passed.

“For most people when someone passes away, it’s a sad, traumatic event that comes with strong grief,” Trevino said. “I think the tradition of the Day of the Dead is an important way for us to celebrate life and realize that when we think of someone who has passed, it doesn’t always have to be sad.”

For HLCC special projects assistant Massiel Calderon, this event was her first time celebrating the Day of the Dead as she is from the Dominican Republic and this holiday is mostly a Mexican tradition. She often talks to her children about death to help them understand and celebrate it.

“It’s beautiful to celebrate the dead,” Calderon said. “To see Mexico embrace death as a part of their culture, it teaches a good way to cope with the loss of a loved one.”

As a part of the celebration, it’s tradition to set up an altar for the dead. According to Calderon, these altars hold the dead’s favorite food, pictures, water, salt and

sugar skulls, known as Calaveras. Each thing on the altar has a deeper reason for its being there.

“The water is because they’re thirsty after their long journey and the salt is to keep them protected,” Calderon said. “We put the pictures up in remembrance of those who have passed. The reason for the skulls is to remind the spirits that they must go back after the journey here.”

During the event, attendees had the opportunity to see an altar, try some of Mexico’s important food staples and decorate skulls of their own.

Associate professor Lucero Flores-Paez decorated sugar skulls with students. She explained that the Day of the Dead and Halloween are not connected, even though they may seem like it.

“The best part is that there are different celebrations in different countries. In Guatemala, one of their traditions is the Barriletes,” Flores-Paez said. “This is the tradition of the flying kite because in Guatemala they believe that their ancestors need to be guided by a flying object.”

The Day of the Dead tradition is continuing to grow and become more popular. The celebration is one big party to help honor those



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

A traditional ofrenda welcoming those who have passed. in life who have passed.

“The Day of the Dead is to remember to celebrate the lives our loved ones lived,” Trevino said. “It’s important to not always think of the sadness and that they’re no longer with us. And that’s what I hope people took away from com-

ing to this event,” Trevino said. To further celebrate and teach, Ferris will be having their annual Day of the Dead ball on Friday, Nov. 10 starting at 5:30 p.m. The dance is open to everyone and will offer the attendees refreshments and snacks.

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Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor | mogliaj@ferris.edu

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oakesj3@ferris.edu

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Harmony Goodman

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Hailey Nye

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Garrett Stack
GarrettStack@ferris.edu

EDITOR'S COLUMN:

Female billionaires are not the answer

A diverse ruling class still rules



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Jessica Oakes Editor In Chief

When working towards a more equal society, we do not need billionaires of all shapes, sizes, colors and gender. We need less billionaires.

Bloomberg broke the news late in October that Taylor Swift officially reached billionaire status.

It is unsurprising that a celebrity with such a loyal fanbase was celebrated for the milestone. However, this highlights the hypocrisy of today's slightly progressive and overwhelmingly white liberal politics.

The notion that billionaires should not exist is mainstream enough for the headline of a Teen Vogue op-ed. Such a stance maintains that nobody can make a billion dollars on their own. Rather, they take it from others through inheritance or exploitative labor practices.

When the billionaire space race picked up in 2021, Elon Musk,

Jeff Bezos and Richard Branson garnered mass criticism for their grotesque displays of wealth. This cemented their image of cartoon villains. They confirmed that some of the richest men in history will sooner launch themselves away from the planet than sacrifice their wealth to save it.

Whether it's Bezos launching into orbit during a pandemic or Sen. Ted Cruz flying to Cancún during a Texas snowstorm, we've seen powerful men use their money to run away from our problems.

In 2022, 88% of the world's billionaires were men, 65% were white and 60% were over 60 years old, according to a study from Statista. It is not liberating when a white woman descending from three generations of bankers and stockbrokers joins this club.

It's hard to find a space with college-aged women and no Swift merch in sight. When the eras tour stopped in Detroit, it felt like I knew every single person in at-

tendance.

Reuters reports that the University of California at Berkley offers a business course centering on the singer's entrepreneurship. New York University, University of Texas and now University of Florida offer classes covering the pop culture, politics and lyricism of Swift and her discography.

Because she is so popular among and genuinely empowering to many girls and women, I feel the need to acknowledge that Swift did not invent the system she benefits from. She worked hard and played the game. That doesn't change the fact that the game is rigged.

The rising tide of billionaire wealth does not lift all boats. I do respect Swift and remember taking guitar lessons as an eight-year-old so I could live a life like hers. It is delusional for most of us to think that a guitar will get us to that point and not generational wealth and privilege.

As broken down by NPR, Oxfam

revealed that 125 billionaires emit the same annual carbon footprint as the entire country of France. In 2022, a marketing and analytics agency posted a list of celebrities with the highest carbon emissions from private jet usage alone. Swift's jet took first place.

At the time of the study, Swift's jet emitted over 8,250 tonnes of carbon dioxide in 11 months. That is nearly 1,200 times the amount of the average person's total yearly emissions. The Swift public relations team, a true master of their craft, attempted to clean up the situation by claiming all emissions could not be attributed to Swift herself, who regularly loans out her private jet to close friends.

If anyone from Big Rapids or a Ferris alum becomes a billionaire, I would love to write the news story about it. It is simply just not a realistic vision for us.

GUEST COLUMN:

Supporting Palestine on campus

Condemning the Israeli state does not condemn the Jewish faith

Forrest Hamilton
Guest Writer

Genocide is defined by the United States' Holocaust Memorial Museum's website as "an internationally recognized crime where acts are committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group."

At the North Quad on Oct. 25, members of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance attended a demonstration and distributed information to students on the genocidal acts being committed in front of us. On Oct. 28, I and another two students drove to Grand Rapids to participate in a protest of over 100 people marching in the streets.

According to Mondoweiss, a news source dedicated to covering Israel, Palestine and the US, "On Oct. 25, tens of thousands of students across more than 100 North American campuses united in a walkout to demand an immediate ceasefire, an end to unconditional support for Israel, and university divestment from the corporations funding the oc-

cupation of Palestine."

Israel's government is currently bombing the Palestinians, who are the native inhabitants of the land Israel has been established on. The intention of this campaign, and of the state of Israel, is to displace or exterminate the people who get in the way of expanding the colony. Do not confuse condemnation of the Israeli state with condemnation of the Jewish faith.

The history of Israel's settlers occupying land at the expense of displaced and murdered people is alike to the genocide of Native Americans in the United States. Our country provides about \$3 billion in military aid to Israel annually.

International news source Al Jazeera published on Oct. 27, "According to the Gaza government's media office, Israel has bombed the Gaza Strip with more than 12,000 tonnes of explosives, which is equivalent to the bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima."

This amount of munitions, funded by the United States, was dropped on a population of 2 million people in an area measuring

around 25 by five miles. Further, there is a full blockade of the region: no food, no water and no electricity.

Israel claims the purpose of the bombing is to eliminate the militant group Hamas, which has begun offensive maneuvers against the Israeli Defense Forces with a range of attacks. However, the constant bombings executed on residential buildings, neighborhoods, infrastructure and homes proves the Israeli government sees all Palestinians in this area worthy of death.

Hospitals in Gaza provided detailed information on October 26 that over 7,000 were killed so far. More than 1 million of the people living in the area have been displaced, but they are trapped by walls erected by Israel. Bombs continue to rain in the south of Gaza that the IDF claims is safe.

Protests grow every weekend, and they will not stop until this genocidal war stops. There was a march on Washington on Nov 4, with people from all over the country joining in to protest the genocide of the Palestinians.



Photo courtesy of Forrest Hamilton

Protestors assemble to demonstrate support for Palestine.

Remembering Adam Johnson

Mourning the player and analyzing the emerging neck guard conversation

Dylan Rider
Sports Editor

On Oct. 28, former NHL player Adam Johnson died following a freak accident where an opposing player's skate cut Johnson's neck during an Elite Ice Hockey League game in Nottingham, U.K.

Johnson's tragic death reminds us hockey fans the dangers that come along with the sport while highlighting the importance of protective gear at all levels. With Ferris State being one of the 64 universities with a NCAA DI men's hockey team, I believe that the NCAA should mandate neck protection.

While the reactions to Johnson's death have started a positive conversation for neck protection, there are also those who skew the conversation to a more sinister level.

Matthew Petgrave, the player whose skate hit Johnson's neck, is Black. Certain commentators, like self-proclaimed "nationalist" Lauren Witzke, referred to the accident as "anti-white terrorism."

The need from this type of commentators to create a false narrative of a racially motivated, purposeful attack on Johnson is not only racist, irresponsible and unequivocally false, but it takes away from the only circumstances that matter: Johnson and how we move forward to make sure this

never happens again.

Currently, the NCAA requires no neck protection for their athletes. However, with the current conversation around neck protection and with leagues and players adopting neck guards, this could and should change.

In response to Johnson's death, the WHL, a Canadian junior league, mandated that players must wear neck protection. The move joins fellow junior leagues, the QMJHL and the OHL, in requiring neck protection.

While these changes are being made at the junior level, there are also professional league examples. The Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins, the AHL affiliate of the Pittsburgh Penguins and where Johnson spent most of his professional career, have mandated neck protection. The Penguins' ECHL affiliate, the Wheeling Nailers, have also been required to do the same.

I've already heard discussion around neck guards for the Bulldogs.

For Ferris hockey coach Bob Daniels, the importance of neck protection has never been more clear as the Bulldogs saw a skate-blade incident the same weekend as Johnson's accident.

"That same weekend, for us, [sophomore forward] Tyler Schleppe got his neck cut and took seven stitches," Daniels said. "The

goalie from Lindenwood caught a blade to the neck against the University of Michigan. It's happening and I think we'd be negligent if we didn't do everything we could to try to supply that equipment to the guys."

Despite Daniels encouraging players to wear neck protection, he mentioned he would "stop short" of mandating neck protection, citing that he didn't know enough about any medical or equipment "ramifications" from wearing the neck guards.

Skate blade accidents have been happening for years. Luckily, these incidents haven't been as severe as Johnson's. Boston Bruins player Jakob Lauko took a blade to the face on Oct. 24, Evander Kane took a blade to the wrist in 2022. There have even been accidents close to Johnson's, like Clint Malarchuk in 1989 or in 2008 with Richard Zednick. Both players had their carotid arteries cut, but luckily survived.

The point is this: if it can happen in a small league like the EIHL and the largest league in the world, the NHL, it can happen at an NCAA level.

Reducing the risk of fatal injury within hockey and making sure we don't repeat the past is crucial to remembering Johnson. We can make the sport safer for those who love to play it, people like Johnson.

ADAM JOHNSON
1994–2023



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Sports

Dylan Rider | Sports Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

Split a prayer



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Forward Antonio Venuto scores the overtime-winning goal in Ferris' s 2-1 victory.

Dylan Rider
Sports Editor

Ferris State hockey returned home with a weekend split against the St. Lawrence Saints on Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 4.

The brief interruption of CCHA play had the Bulldogs (3-4-1, 1-1 in CCHA) losing to the Saints (2-5-1, 0-0-0 in ECAC) 5-2 on Friday before taking Saturday's contest with a 2-1 overtime win.

Head coach Bob Daniels was not pleased with the team's performance in the 5-2 loss.

"We were poor in our morning skate," Daniels said. "We didn't look good. I thought [they looked] lackadaisical and I let the guys know that. Sure enough, it carried over to the game. We weren't

ready when the game started. We fell behind 2-0, we were chasing the game from that point on. We muddled our way through the second [and] played a little bit better in the third. But the start [was] unacceptable."

Before the Bulldogs were even midway through the first, they allowed two early goals. The Saints added another tally in the second period, taking a 3-0 lead into the final frame. Senior forward Antonio Venuto put the Bulldogs on the board early into the third, but the Saints matched it with a goal of their own not even a minute later. Three minutes following their last goal, they scored their fifth and final of the game. Sophomore forward Caiden Gault scored with roughly nine minutes left in the pe-

riod, his first of the season. Scoring would go silent following this and the Bulldogs lost 5-2.

Senior defenseman Nick Hale felt that the team need to come out ready in their next game.

"[We have to] come out with some more grit," Hale said. "We have to understand that it doesn't matter who we play. If we don't play the right way and we don't play with the right intensity, it's going to be tough to win. In this day and age, everyone in college hockey is good and everyone can win."

With the 5-2 loss behind them, the Bulldogs were able to even the series with 2-1 overtime victory. Daniels believed the effort to be improved from the previous night.

"We certainly played better from the start tonight," Daniels

said. "A big difference from how we came out yesterday. We were flat in the first period... I thought tonight we came out, had a really good first, a great second and a solid third."

Daniels added that he thought that the Bulldogs "dipped" a little in the third, but expected St. Lawrence to fight back after the team "had their way" in the second frame.

Ferris fell behind as St. Lawrence buried another early goal, like they did in the previous night. However, freshman defenseman Trevor Taulien tied the game up halfway through the first period with his first collegiate goal. Scoring tapered off for the rest of regulation. While in overtime, a St. Lawrence mistake in the Bulldogs'

offensive zone resulted in Venuto rushing the puck the other way and sinking the Saints with the game-winning goal.

Venuto echoed Daniels' beliefs that the team's effort was much improved.

"It was definitely a hell of a lot better than yesterday," Venuto said. "We played a full 60 [minutes] today. It just feels good to get out there and get that win."

The Bulldogs will resume in-conference play next weekend when they face the reigning CCHA champion Minnesota State Mavericks at home on Friday, Nov. 10 and Saturday, Nov. 11. Puck-drop is set for 7:07 p.m. for both contests.

SCORECARD: Ferris VS. St. Lawrence

	1 st period	2 nd period	3 rd period	
Nov. 3	1:12 St. Lawrence goal, 1-0	7:39 St. Lawrence goal, 3-0	3:09 Ferris goal, 3-1 Antonio Venuto (unassisted) 5 th	
	7:25 St. Lawrence goal, 2-0		3:42 St. Lawrence goal, 4-1 6:42 St. Lawrence goal, 5-1 11:30 Ferris goal, 5-2 Caiden Gault (Luigi Benincasa & Zach Faremouth) 1 st	
Nov. 4	3:28 St. Lawrence goal, 1-0	No Score	No Score	OT 3:45 Ferris goal, 2-1 Antonio Venuto (Stepan Pokorny) 6 th
	11:02 Ferris goal, 1-1 Trevor Taulien (Stepan Pokorny & Antonio Venuto) 1 st			

Bulldog women's hoops set to open season

A preview into the upcoming women's basketball season



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Jael Snowden
Sports Reporter

Following their loss in the GLIAC tournament semifinals last year, Ferris State women's basketball looks to return even stronger.

After finishing last season with a 17-12 record, a healthy and hungry bulldogs squad full of returning faces looks to improve on last year. return to the NCAA Tournament and add some hardware.

The Bulldogs start the season with high expectations, being picked as the second favorite to win the GLIAC Conference. The team received 72 total points and one first-place vote in the GLIAC preseason poll. Ferris only trailed their arch-rival, Grand Valley, whose program received 81 total points and other nine first place votes. The Bulldogs are also ranked 20th in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's top 25 preseason poll, which ranks all DII women's basketball programs.

A reason for these high expectations is that most of last year's

roster is set to return including the team's leading scorer and GLIAC preseason player of the year forward Chloe Idoni. Entering her senior year, Idoni is as hungry as ever.

"My goals for this year, as a team, is to work together to do things that Ferris State has never done and for this team to take this program to a new level." Idoni said. "We have a very talented squad and when we put the pieces together, we can do big things and win championships."

Idoni averaged 19 points a game last season while shooting 48.8% on field goal attempts.

These hungry Bulldogs' goals are more than upholding the winning culture, this season they're looking to step into the next tier of championship greatness.

A big piece for the Bulldogs quest to achieve that next tier of greatness is junior guard Kady Blanchard, who suffered an injury that kept her out of action for the majority of last season. Her absence from last year's campaign

was felt by everyone on the team, including head coach Kurt Westendorp.

"Our biggest new contributor is probably gonna be having Kady Blanchard back from injury" Westendorp said. "We really missed her scoring punch from last year so having her back it's like we're adding a new piece to that roster."

Blanchard was first team all-league as a freshman, and second team all-league as a sophomore. She is expected to have a big role within the offensive for the team to start the season.

With championships being the team's main goal, the first of them will have to be winning GLIAC and everyone on the squad is laser-focused on the GLIAC play in December.

GLIAC defensive player of the year and all-GLIAC defensive team member DeShonna Day is ready to see what this team can do this year.

"We're very excited because everybody is coming back this year, so we got experience on the team."

Day said. "I'm ready to see if the GLIAC can hold us."

Ferris begins their revenge tour and climb back to the top by facing their first opponent Missouri S&T on Nov. 10 at home.

The Bulldogs will begin their 2023-24 campaign when they face their opponent in the Missouri University of Science and Technology Miners in Lebanon, Ill. on Nov. 10. The team won't return

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Bulldogs topple Knights

Ferris State defeats Calvin in the final preseason exhibition of the season



Photo credits: Levi Waling | Torch Photographer

Senior Ben Davidson attempts a layup against Calvin's defense.

Jack Alcorn
Sports Reporter

Ferris men's basketball finished their preseason campaign against Calvin University on Friday, Nov. 3 at Jim Wink Arena.

The Bulldogs beat the Knights 78-69 despite trailing in the first half, which is thanks to a stellar second half team performance by Ferris State.

Head coach Andy Bronkema was pleased with how his team battled back despite first half shooting woes.

"We created some good shots that didn't go in," Bronkema said. "The maturation today was that the guys continued to play hard and get back on defense despite not seeing the ball go through."

Bronkema also felt a huge reason for the win came from how "aggressive offensively" Ferris became late in the game.

Ferris got off to a slow start, with Calvin jumping out to a seven point lead at half. Junior Ethan Erickson was a huge reason the Bulldogs kept it a close game, by scoring 11 of the 24 first half points for the Bulldogs. Erickson ended the game with 19 points total.

"First half, we came out a little slow so props to Calvin," Erickson said. "In the second half, we started to guard better and played very fast paced offensively and that's how we started our comeback."

The game was a tale of two halves, with Ferris State taking over and outscoring the Knights by 17 in the second half, during which, Senior transfer DeSean Munson was tasked with slowing down Calvin's All-American forward and held his ground by recording a double-double and forcing four turnovers against the star big man. Ferris amped up

their defensive pressure allowing only 24 points in the second half, which allowed them to get out in transition and score 41 points in the half.

Despite the win, senior guard Ben Davidson felt the team still needs to improve going into the regular season.

"I thought our defense played great especially in the second half and that is something we have to keep building off of," Davidson said. "We have to just keep getting better and not be complacent with where we are."

The preseason All-GLIAC first team player finished with 18 points to his name.

Calvin was ranked 10th in the DIII preseason rankings and is led by a familiar face. The Knights head coach, Bill Sall, formerly served as Ferris States' head coach from 2002 to 2013, where he then handed the reins off to his assistant and the now current head coach Bronkema.

Bronkema feels playing his mentor will always be a special matchup.

"We have the utmost respect for Sall and his team, so we knew it was going to be a battle," Bronkema said. "It doesn't matter if it's an exhibition or just playing checkers, that competitiveness is something he had and instilled in me, so we're cut from the same cloth. We battled today and we'll battle again, and our friendship will continue to be strong."

With the preseason now wrapped up, the Bulldogs will travel to Painesville, Ohio for their first game against Northwood University on Friday, Nov. 10. The Bulldogs' first home contest will be against Cleary University on Wednesday, Nov. 15.

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Senior DeSean Munson takes a shot while Calvin attempts a block.