

Black History Month Special Edition

Pages 7-10

What does it mean to be Black?

Taylor-Olivia Spidell | Guest Poet

What does it mean to be Black you say,

I will break it down in this poem today.

Our community will always be aware of the things that aren't fair, but

What does being Black mean?

It means community, love and care

We may be a minority, but we're the best out there

I can always count on my people to help

Instead of saying "welp"

I can always count on my people to uplift instead of dip

What does it mean to be Black?

It means fear

We have the same fears that's not fair

When I walk outside my door, sometimes I'm scared

Sometimes I'm scared I won't make it home every night

Because the color of my skin brings people fright

What does it mean to be Black?

It means history and hardship

When I received the MLK Award the previous day

I thought of all the other activists who are in their graves

I continue the work they couldn't because they paid

They paid the price of what it took to speak up

While some people stayed home and sipped their cups

I wouldn't trade being Black for the world

I tell myself pick your head up, you go, girl

As long as I live I'll continue the peaceful fight

And stay hopeful one day it'll be alright

A statement from the president

As I reflect upon Black History Month here at Ferris, I cannot help but think about our founder Woodbridge N. Ferris, his wife Helen and the amazing work they did in establishing this great institution. They believed that this institution would be an avenue for anyone in the state of Michigan to acquire a postsecondary education. They did not care about the skin color, geographic origin or gender of a potential student. Their focus was education and preparation for the world of work and through that focus, Woodbridge and Helen realized the fundamental belief that education should be made available to every individual in our state. This realization also comes with the understanding that an educated Michigan is a highly effective Michigan. This is the story of Ferris State University, yet it is also the goal of many individuals across our nation who look like me.

Similar to our founders, I assert that higher education should be accessible to everyone if they choose to venture into this journey. That accessibility to higher education is a key component to building up a state and a people. I have a deep appreciation for Black History Month, but I also believe that the history of African Americans should be recognized and celebrated year-round rather than one singular month of reflection. The history is strong, and full of high points as well as challenging times, and certainly worthy of attention and study.

Regardless, please join me in the continuation of reflecting and celebrating!



Photo from Torch Archives

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News

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

The bulldog in Detroit

Traveling Jim Crow Museum spends Black History Month in Wayne County



Photo courtesy of Franklin Hughes

Museumgoers at “Overcoming Hateful Things” are encouraged to write their remarks on an interactive display.

Jessica Oakes
Editor-in-Chief

A crowd of over 50 Ferris alumni, local students and potential donors gathered at Wayne County Community College District last week to “overcome hateful things.”

As of last Thursday’s reception, Ferris’ own Jim Crow Museum was \$8 million away from their \$22 million goal for a new facility. Moving the traveling exhibit called “Overcoming Hateful Things” to WCCCD was an opportunity to educate, raise money and deepen Ferris’ connection with the east side of the state.

The exhibit moved to WCCCD on Feb. 5, commencing the first full week of Black History Month. It takes up two rooms of the WCCCD’s Curtis L. Ivery Downtown Campus. These rooms feature over 100 objects and eight interactive displays.

The artifacts depict racial stereotypes used against Black Americans during the Jim Crow period of the late 19th and early 20th century. Some are familiar to a modern audience, such as the female “mammy” stereotype recently removed from Pearl Milling’s Aunt Jemima pancake syrup.

Dr. David Pilgrim, Ferris’ Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Strategic Initiatives, is the founder and director of the Jim

Crow Museum.

“I grew up with images seared in my brains of Black folks just living their lives like folks. Not the stereotypical caricature foolishness that’s been foisted on American psyche,” Pilgrim said.

He noted that the exhibit’s name was changed from “Hateful Things” to “Overcoming Hateful Things” to tell a wider story.

“[We] decided to add the word ‘overcoming’ to put the emphasis not on the objects, but on the resistance to the objects and what those objects represent,” Pilgrim said.

This resistance can be found in the words written all over the exhibit. These include the tagline “We are not Jim Crow,” lyrics from Nina Simone’s “Young, Gifted and Black” and notes written on an interactive display by museumgoers:

“Use your power. Vote.”
“I love me. Black + proud.”
“Do you know how strong we would be if we worked together?”
“We came so far, but yet we haven’t.”

Pilgrim plans to include this philosophy of resistance in the museum’s future location.

“One of the things I said to my team early on was when we build a new museum, which we will build,

I want us to not just show push-back, African American achievement and African American activism,” Pilgrim said. “I want it to be showing black folks living their lives with dignity.”

Ferris’ president Dr. Bill Pink was one of the exhibits many viewers last Thursday.

“I grew up with images seared in my brains of Black folks just living their lives like folks. Not the stereotypical caricature foolishness that’s been foisted on American psyche.”

“In the Jim Crow era, not only could I not be a doctor, I couldn’t be president. I couldn’t be anything close to what I am right now,” Pink said. “We have come a good distance. Young men and women who live desperate lives, I need them to see that as well. Because if they can see that someone whose skin is this dark can not only have that title of accomplishment of doctor, but can also lead a great university, they can see that they can do it as well.”

Pink began the reception with remarks on Ferris’ relationship with the city.

“In my mind, it didn’t make sense that the bulldog would not

be seen very prominently in the city of Detroit,” Pink said to the audience. “We don’t put that bulldog just anywhere. Brutus doesn’t just follow because he wants to be somewhere. Brutus is here because the education is here.”

The president believes that Ferris’ presence in Detroit is lacking

compared to other public universities across Michigan.

“Detroit and Southeast Michigan is the largest metropolitan area in the state of Michigan,” Pink said. “We ought to have our space in this community. We ought to have that space at a level that we’ve never had before. We have a lot of students that come from Detroit. That is awesome. But we’ve got to be able to not only keep that pipeline going, but be able to deliver to the city of Detroit that Ferris State education.”

According to Pink, students who graduate from WCCCD have a “smooth pathway” to completing a four-year degree in Big Rapids.

Tim Kay works as the managing director for project and development services at the JLL real estate company. He has worked with businesses in the Detroit area to increase funding for the Jim Crow Museum.

“Frankly, some of the organizations I’ve talked to and foundations and business leaders, they don’t fully understand it,” Kay said. “So the importance of having this here in Detroit, and me bringing them here, is going to really be helpful to understand and be inspired so then they can support it financially.”

Kay attributes this lack of understanding to the difficult history on display at the museum.

“It’s a story some people don’t want to get into but it’s important that we tell it. And it’s important that people understand it. Shockingly, a lot of people do not, including a lot of young people. So, I hope we have 1000s of visitors here and that this will inspire folks to get involved,” Kay said.

“Overcoming Hateful Things” will be on display in Detroit for weeks to come. For more information on the exhibit, visit the Jim Crow Museum’s website.

Bishop Hall set for demolition

Demolition plans for Bishop Hall will effect the ELC

Kourtney Fairchild
News Reporter

The Early Learning Center is scheduled to close for the summer due to the demolition of Bishop Hall.

Facilities Management Associate Vice President Joe Haupt explained that they do facilities condition assessments to assess everything that needs to be done in a building to make it safe and usable. According to Bishop's assessment, it would cost more money to repair the building than demolish it, so it is beyond its useful for the university.

The hall used to be home to the Early Learning Center but hasn't been used since August when they moved into their new facility next door. Since the ELC is in such close proximity to Bishop, they will be closed during the demolition, starting on May 3.

"We didn't want the potential for anyone to get hurt while the demolition activities are going on," Haupt said. "The likelihood of that happening is very small but we want to eliminate all possibilities."

The first step of the demolition process was removing and redistributing all furniture from the

building to other departments on campus, so this was done over the last two weeks.

Since there is asbestos in the building, it must be removed before demolition can begin. The process of removing the asbestos will begin in the middle of March and is planned to be completed by May 10.

After the asbestos removal, local law enforcement will use the facility for training.

"Most of the time those departments don't have a facility like Bishop for them to properly train their staff for active shooter situations or breaking into a locked space," Haupt said. "It's a unique opportunity for Ferris to give back to those law enforcement that are on campus or in the community and give them the treatment they need."

These trainings will take place May 13 through May 17, with demolition planned to begin May 20 and finish at the end of July. The area will then be converted into a green space for students to enjoy when they return in the fall. The ELC currently plans to reopen at the beginning of the fall semester.



Bishop Hall is seen in preparation for demolition.

Photo credit: Jack Starkey | Freelance Photographer

Esports level up their games

Individual competition draws in the Festival of the Arts



Students enjoy amenities in the Esports Arena.

Photo credit: Jack Starkey | Freelance Photographer

Kate Babel
Freelance Reporter

The Center for Virtual Learning joined in the celebration of the Festival of the Arts allowing the public to tour the building and watch an esports tournament last week.

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, esports held individual competitions, facing DeSales University in the game VALORANT and Lawrence Tech in Call of Duty. The Festival of Arts tour watched the teams in amazement as they walked through CVL.

Esports focuses on multiplayer video games, each game has a team assigned to it. Some esports games include VALORANT, League of Legends, Rocket League, Super Smash Bros., Call of Duty and more. The final score for Call of Duty was 250 to 202 and for VALORANT, the final score was 13 to 6.

Co-interim Director of Esports Kyle Wilkowski explained the process of esports and how it is run.

"As far as our weekly competitions, it's anything, we have 14 different games that we stream on a regular basis," Wilkowski said. "Tournaments will be run sort of like a track meet where you get points for winning each game and then there will be an overall winner as well as individual competitions."

Some of the tournaments have division titles and focus on the esports team itself as it competes in different games. Individual competitions are focused on the individual players as they compete against other schools in their usual teams, focusing on player stats and improvement. Esports has been a steadily increasing club, with other colleges developing their teams.

"Every college in the nation either wants an esports program or has an esports program right now every Michigan school has an esports program," Wilkowski said. "I think that it will be just as popular as traditional sports. If it isn't popular now, there are still schools that are building stadiums for just their esports teams. There are schools with just esports teams and non-athletic teams, so it really depends on what the goals of the university are."

Like regular registered student organizations, it can be an interactive way to meet new people on campus all while learning something new or gaining a new skill. Providing a social environment and a variety of games, esports involves a team aspect and a competitive outlet for those who are not in traditional outdoor sports. Any student can feel free to play for fun or compete at any time.

Digital animation and game development junior Henry Kauff-

man provided some feedback on how esports has gained student interest.

"It's been very easy to market esports to a lot of students because it's very popular, especially the college-age range," Kauffman said. "And getting more people to join the club for that reason wasn't the biggest challenge. I think there's a lot of value in doing clubs and activities and for a lot of people."

The Esports Arena provides a welcoming, laid-back approach to accessibility to games and equipment. With multiple PCs and game titles that allow for cross-platforming, gamers and students alike can play and connect with teammates or friends to play or compete.

Criminal justice junior Michael Corrie commented on the gaming environment.

"I think it's really accessible," Corrie said. "It doesn't require you to go outside and practice for hours during the day. You can just come in, chill, hang with your friends, play with your friends and, if you really enjoy it, you could make a team and compete."

Meetings are held in the Esports Arena every Thursday at 11:00 a.m. For more information on esports visit Bulldog Connect.

ISI program ranked #1 in Michigan



Photo courtesy of Seth Brott

Information security and intelligence Professor Dr. Jim Furstenberg instructs students in the newly updated cybersecurity program.

Isabelle Marks
News Reporter

Ferris' Information Security and Intelligence program has recently been ranked #1 in Michigan by the U.S. News and World Report for Best Online Master's in Information Technology Programs. Additionally, the program secured #14 out of 92 nationally.

Online learning was integrated into Ferris' ISI program even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, its full potential was realized and enhanced during and after the pandemic.

The initial infrastructure in the basement of the business building had cameras and microphones, but the new facility has significantly elevated the online learning experience with advanced technology.

Online learning plays a crucial role in making education accessi-

ble to a broader audience. It provides opportunities for individuals who might not have been able to attend Ferris otherwise, such as those with jobs who can watch recordings after work, those who attend in person but have an appointment, are sick or those residing out of the area who can participate through virtual lectures.

Dr. Jerry Emerick, a professor of the ISI program explained the ways that they help students who are doing virtual learning,

"We do our best, but we know there's always room to improve," Emerick said. "I've been a remote student and I know it's easy to kind of feel like you're not fully part of the class or an observer. So, we all try to kind of pull them in and at least say hello and goodbye and maybe bounce some direct questions to those that are connected remotely."

Steven Harmon, a member of

the five-year master's program where students take accelerated courses to get their master's degree one year early, is a fully virtual student who finds the way the program is set up to be helpful.

"In the ISI program, both the undergraduate and graduate programs do HyFlex, so whether you're remote or you're in person you really have the feel of being part of the classroom," Harmon said. "One of the reasons I really love the program is because even though I am a remote learner there's not two different programs."

ISI sophomore and the president of the Information Security and Intelligence Alliance registered student organization Seth Brott shared his positive experience in the program, emphasizing the caring and dedicated nature of the professors.

"All of the professors here are

extremely encouraging, very excited, and just want to do cool things and show us the things we are capable of," Brott said. "The professors offer a lot of real-world experience, and a lot of help outside of lectures."

Brott noted there is a broad class selection in the ISI, with many specific classes. He also expanded on what ISIA is.

"We offer a community, and we offer a lot of support to everyone else in the program," Brott said. "A lot of our meetings kind of divulge into us talking about the program and more experienced students helping the younger students."

Emerick explained how far the program has come.

"We've evolved into seven full-time faculty and a number of part-time faculty," Emerick said. "Our program is like from the ground up cyber security, we're able to as a result of that deliver all of the

domains of cyber security and be accredited by the most recognized and prestigious bodies in the cyber security space the National Security Agency and ABET. There are very few programs that have both of those accreditations and also offer the program online."

Emerick praised the faculty members and students in the program.

"I'm really proud of the students we have in this program," Emerick said. "They're very high achievers and almost all of them could have gone to any school, but they chose us. So, we're honored to have them here and I'm really honored to work with this faculty group. They're a hard-working faculty group that puts students first and it may not always be obvious, but we really do."

Spring Break

March 2 - March 10

- Mid-term grades are due March 4.
- Resident halls close by 5 p.m. on March 1 and will reopen March 10 by 10 a.m.
- If you need housing over spring break, email housing@ferris.edu your name and student ID for a request to register. Spring break housing is only available in Bond Hall. Students wanting housing over break would permanently move to Bond Hall for the rest of the Spring 2024 semester. Spaces are limited.
- For any housing questions, contact housing@ferris.edu or (231) 591-3745.

Opinions

Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor | mogliaj@ferris.edu

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EDITORS COLUMN:

Spring breaking with my mom

No parties, no problem



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Jessica Oakes Editor-In-Chief

My senior spring break is only days away and I can not wait to spend it at brunch with my mom.

Pop culture and social media have a specific image of a fun spring break, especially for students' last free-for-all. It's not ideal for a non-drinker.

While I've never felt drawn to "darty" in Daytona during any of my vacations, I'm certainly committed to the alternative this year. I'm about to spend my first full summer away from my mom. Then, in theory, I'll be a full-time member of the workforce. This spring break feels like an important opportuni-

ty for wholesome mother-daughter time.

Making time for family can be difficult in college. With my mom living 1,000 miles away, it takes a concentrated effort to see her. I also have an advantage, what with her living less than 10 miles away from state parks and beaches. I'll be warm, but I bet I'll still be finishing my days on the couch by 9 p.m.

I have spent so much time in Dunedin, Florida the past few years, it certainly feels like I'm going home next week. Floridians my age drive to Ybor City in Tampa for the "best" bar experience. Some of my friends in the area enjoy places like Kava Culture for the "booze-free buzz" you can get

from kava and kratom drinks. At only 21-years-old, I almost feel like I've had more than my fair share of fun late nights in the gulf.

If you gave me the option to pick between an all-expenses paid party night with other traveling 20-somethings or a morning to thrift and try new coffee with my mom, I'd choose the latter in a heartbeat.

I've taken every opportunity to go to Florida I possibly could since 2021. While I have grown to love the area, I know I would follow my mom anywhere. We have a bond that not everyone is lucky enough to understand. I never thought we'd end up so far away from each other.

I see pieces of my mom in everything I do, especially when my hair gets big and bright in the Florida air. Her voice is in nearly all of my editor's columns and the cadence I use when I speak. Next week we'll be able to share stories and clothes again, always picking up right where we left off.

For all my fellow seniors, this is one of our last chances to enjoy some of the free time that comes with being a student. Whether you will be spending your spring break in Michigan or Florida, with family or friends, I hope you're able to slow down and enjoy it. There is no need for your break to look as cool or expensive as other people's.

Another walk in the park

College students being desensitized to gun violence



Photo from Torch Archives

Memorial in front of the Rock Cafe for Michigan State students who died in last year's shooting.

Connor Grypma
Sports Reporter

Gun violence has spiked tremendously over the past few years and continues to rise daily without action being taken, especially around college campuses. A little over a year ago three people were killed in a mass shooting at Michigan State University. There have been hundreds of other shootings happening all across the country, but was any action taken to further protect other college campuses afterwards?

While the reaction for MSU was immense and brought lots of people together, nothing changed because of it. I commend Michigan lawmakers for cracking down on ownership and background check laws recently to try and make a difference, only time will tell if these changes make a difference. However, will this really change how protected or safe students feel on school grounds?

The past few years have seen so many tragedies occur that students have almost become completely desensitized to these types

of occurrences happening today.

Why is this the case? It's because it feels like every other week, we're seeing reports of a shooting happening somewhere nearby.

Just a few weeks ago, we stood by and witnessed a supposed celebration turn into chaos at the Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl parade.

Shooting numbers in general have spiked to an all time high in recent years and we happen to be the generation at the forefront.

It's hard to act surprised, shocked, or scared when announcements of this violence are on our social media feeds daily.

Just last week, Ferris Department of Public Safety responded to a gun threat just down the road from campus. Yet, all we get is a mass email to let us know someone is on the loose.

For the growing number of shootings deaths, we deserve more than just a warning email in a situation like this. A small reaction such as this will only continue to desensitize us all.

By no means am I encouraging the school to go into a complete

lockdown when DPS deems the situation dangerous, but we shouldn't be taking any chances when lives are at risk.

We're in an endless cycle of advocating for change and nothing happening because of it. The failure to make a change is normalizing this type of violence for students as more time passes. We continue to sit here helplessly with no action to take.

Not to mention that it affects our mental health. It's hard to stay positive and motivated when seeing a fellow university being attacked knowing that a shooting could happen anywhere, at any time.

Our minds are becoming completely numb and it's because we're adapting to this new normal of violence without even realizing it.

It's incredibly sad to see that this is becoming the new normal in our country, and I, as well as many others, hope that can change as soon as possible. We are on the right path with new laws, but more action still needs to be taken.

Reporters need to do better

Reporting on LGBTQ issues should not fuel discrimination

Kourtney Fairchild
News Reporter

Nex Benedict was a 16-year-old non-binary student who tragically died after they were physically assaulted in their school bathroom on Feb. 7, and the media still doesn't care enough to get their pronouns correct as they went by the pronouns they/them.

Nex's grandmother, Sue Benedict, picked Nex up from school and took them to the hospital for their head injuries sustained due to a fight in school.

After talking to the police, Nex was discharged but collapsed the next day and was taken to the emergency room where they were pronounced dead. The cause of death has not been determined.

Nex attended Owasso High School in Oklahoma, which is one of ten states that requires students to use the restroom for the gender they were assigned at birth.

The Oklahoma superintendent of public instruction, Ryan Walters, has continued to stand strong in his belief that transgender and nonbinary individuals do not exist and that students cannot go by names or pronouns that are not in accordance with the student's birth certificate.

Nex's family says they were bullied because of their gender identity.

The Owasso police said they "don't know that being non-binary is what triggered the attack".

Many LGBTQ organizations have gone to their social media to dispute this and call it what it was, a hate crime. Because it was.

This statement by the police has only been fuel for the anti-LGBTQ fire. Many news publications have presented this information as fact, rather than a statement given by the police. Similarly, rather than saying the cause of death hasn't been determined, the police said they believed Nex's death was unrelated to the injuries.

Many news publications have reported that the incident took place in the women's restroom and used she and her pronouns for Nex.

This definitely isn't the first time a queer person has been killed and this definitely isn't the first time news publications have used a queer person's death to further discriminate against them.

The Onion, a satirical news publication, released an article about this last year after news articles continuously misgendered and completely disrespected Brianna Ghey, a transgender teenager who was murdered in a premeditated attack last year.

The end of the article focuses on how transgender people are four times more likely than cisgender people to be the victim of a violent crime. The last sentence of the article is "We salute our colleagues across the media who are working tirelessly to make that number even higher" which perfectly describes what journalists' role has been in reporting on queer issues

recently.

Since 2020, there have consistently been more and more anti-transgender bills introduced every year.

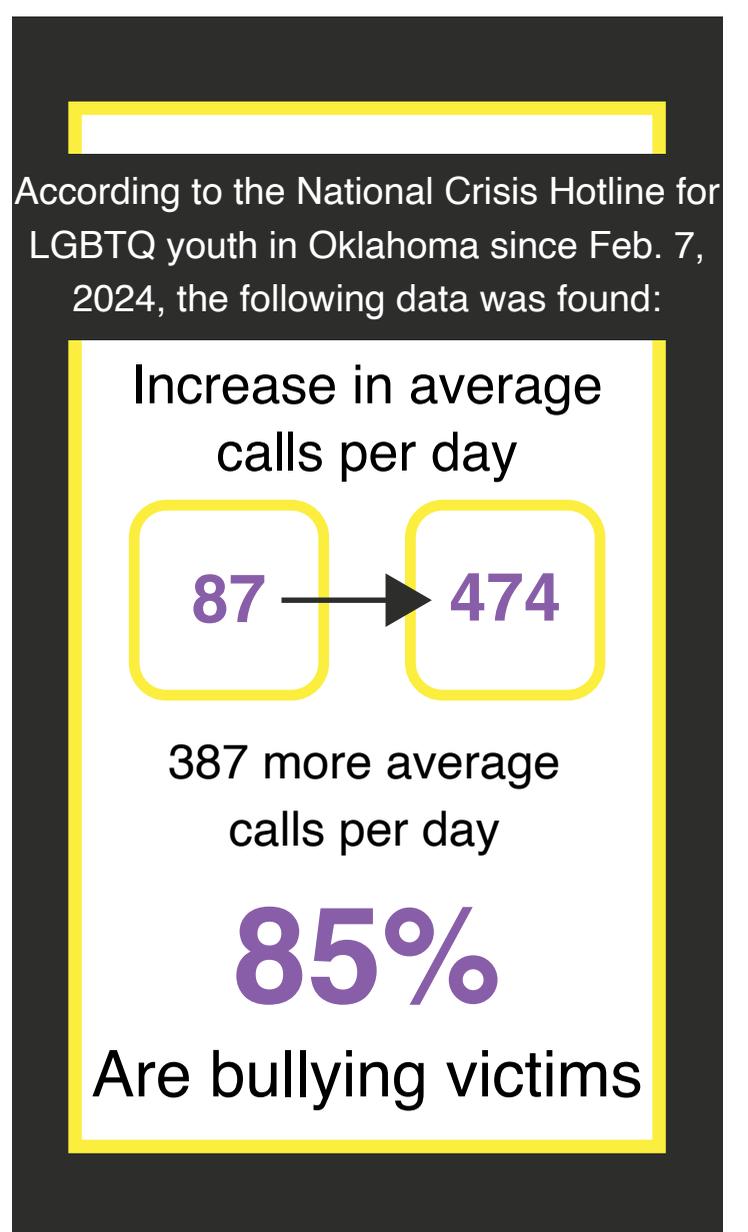
A national survey by GLSEN, a human rights organization, found that 75% of transgender and non-binary students felt unsafe at school and 59% had been denied access to restrooms that match their gender identity.

Since Nex's death, calls to the national crisis hotline for LGBTQ youth from Oklahoma have increased from an average of 87 calls per day to 474 and 85% of those callers reported being victims of bullying too.

These queer children aren't getting the respect and validation they deserve in life and, because of bad reporting, they aren't getting it in death either.

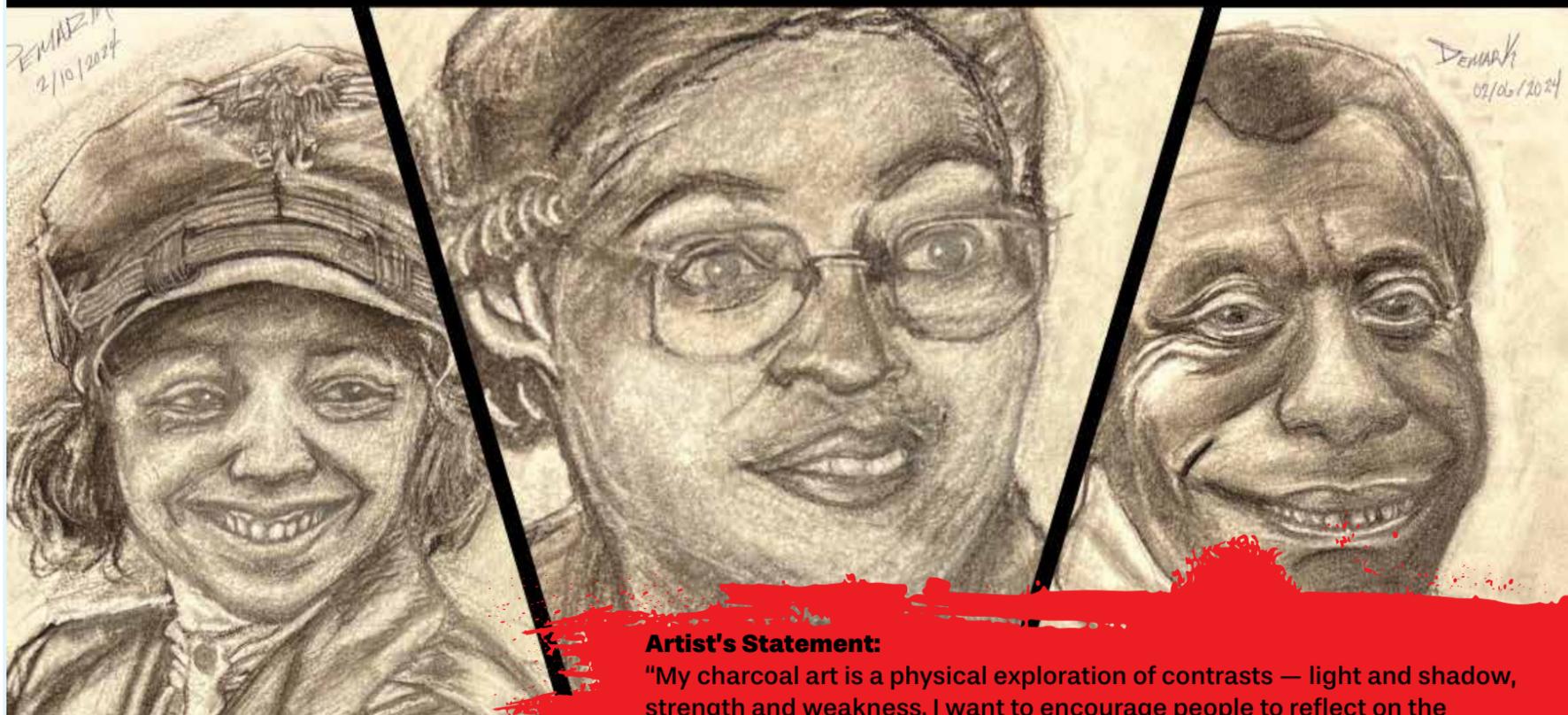
There are countless guides by LGBTQ organizations and trusted news publications for how to talk about queer people and these issues in the news. The resources are out there and they need to be used.

Nex's grandmother said they were teaching her about their identity and they were always understanding if she used the wrong pronouns or name. She didn't always get it right, but she was trying to do better which we all need to do. We as people need to do better and we as journalists need to do better.



Black History Month

Kendall Phillips | Special Editor | phillk37@ferris.edu



Artist's Statement:

"My charcoal art is a physical exploration of contrasts — light and shadow, strength and weakness. I want to encourage people to reflect on the resiliency that is innate in the human spirit by evoking the tremendous beauty that results from the interaction of these aspects through powerful strokes and delicate mixing."

Demarco McKinney
Guest Artist



Artist's Statement:

"What it means to be a Black artist is being able to see from all perspectives creatively. My camera creates memories that anyone can be apart of. Being a Black artist is inspiring."

Marky Ransom
Guest Photographer



Doing the right thing

Analyzing the relationship between law enforcement and Ferris' Black community

Whites, blacks clash; police nab 12 students

By JOHN PADDAN

Disturbances returned to the Ferris State College campus last night, as white and black students met in a confrontation in the Piekall - Brophy Postcard Hall area.

Approximately 100 black and a small number of white students were involved in the latest outbreak of violence on the campus, which began at 12:30 a.m. The black students gathered in the parking lot between the two residence dorms, according to college officials, carrying clubs and bricks. White students gathered in the lounge of Piekall, also armed with clubs.

The real trouble began, officials said, when the black students charged into the dorm, with fighting breaking out in the lounge area. The blacks finally left the building, gathering again in the parking lot, where they began throwing bricks and stones at the windows of 300 Orestor-ten. All but three cars in the parking lot were damaged, as bricks were thrown through windows and three were burned over.

The campus Security Police force finally got to a call for assistance, receiving help from the Mecosta County Sheriff's Department, City Police and the Michigan State Police.

enforcement officials, when an inflammatory article appeared in the Travis Hall newsletter, attacking the conduct of black students in the foodcenter. The article was disseminated before the newsletter was passed out, and attempts were made to hold back all of the issues, still, some got out, with black students meeting later to protest the story. After this meeting, some fighting between white and black students allegedly broke out.

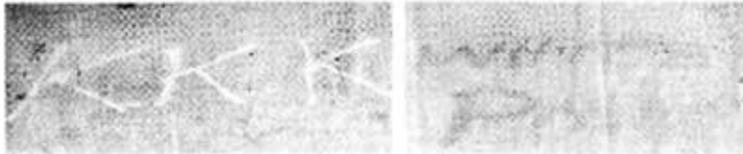
Still, college officials stated that the campus did not appear to be tense on Friday, though there appeared to be some uneasiness during the day yesterday.

This latest incident promises to put a statement on campus

(Turn to page 12, Col. 1)



BEAUTIFULY DAMAGED--Two of the many cars damaged in last night's racial riot at Ferris State College belonged to Negro student leaders Louis Stone and Ronald Snead, Snead succeeded Stone recently as chairman of the student chapter of NAACP. --Pioneer Photo by N. Bakkarif



Signs of our times

Photo courtesy of Ronald Snead Scrapbook

Pioneer article describing the on-campus riots, May 1969.

Jessica Oakes
Editor-in-Chief

In 1969, Black students, including a future trustee, were arrested on campus for protesting their treatment as people of color. In the 2020s, students continue to march on Ferris' sidewalks to remember the names of people who lost their lives at the hands of law

enforcement.

Now, police cars block traffic in front of the FLITE library to allow protesters to march safely.

Ferris' Department of Public Safety is currently led by the organization's first Black chief. The university is also home to one of Niche's highest-rated criminal justice programs in the state of Michigan.

The relationship between law enforcement and the Black community has gone through undeniable changes since the 1960s. Still, students say there is much work to be done.

Living history

Ron Snead was the second Black person and first Black alumnus to serve on Ferris' Board of

Trustees. He attended Ferris State College from 1968-1971 when he worked as the school's NAACP president. His wife Deloris is a descendant of the Old Settlers. This is a group of families that settled in Remus and Mecosta County from a variety of locations, such as Canada through the Underground Railroad.

Due to interracial marriage, the Old Settlers were often light-skinned. Snead can recall times he was denied service at Grand Rapids restaurants because his complexion was so much darker than his wife's.

Snead maintains that the race relations and law enforcement in the area were rarely violent in his experience. In May 1969, however, 14 students were injured and 12 were arrested for "unlawful assembly" on the west side of campus.

"There were no Black faculty or staff at all when I was a student, which kind of precipitated the riots," Snead said. "There was a riot in the Rock parking lot, to be exact. I got my car turned over and put in jail after I was called to help break it up by the VP of Student Affairs."

The over 200 students who were involved in the riots were confronted with police presence from campus security, the Mecosta County Sheriff's Department, Big Rapids City Police and Michigan State Police.

This history is immortalized in a newspaper article titled "Whites, blacks clash; police nab 12 students." The article and many others of its kind can be found with photos in the Ron Snead Scrapbook, an online database of Snead's Ferris history first organized by his wife.

Leadership and law enforcement

Fifty-five years after the riots, the landscape has changed. Ferris State College became Ferris State University. The 2023 Ferris Fact Book reports that Black student enrollment has grown to 9% of the campus community, and 35 Black faculty members work at the school.

Snead is serving in his second term on Ferris' Board of Trustees. Leadership is no rarity in his family, as his nephew Gary Green recently returned to Ferris as DPS's first Black director and chief.

In 2017, Green took his first position at Ferris as an officer. He served as the interim director following Bruce Borkovich's retirement in 2020. This began a tumultuous time for the organization, as DPS has seen three full-time directors retire or leave the position in the 2020s alone.

CONT ON PG. 10

March for police brutality victims

Students celebrate Black History Month

Giuliana Denicolo
Culture Editor

On Feb. 21, the sun shined as 50 people joined together to honor those who lost their lives to police brutality during the "We Are" silent march and presentation.

During the presentation, some of the speakers had a hard time getting through their speeches without getting emotional. Like the weather, the crowd was warm. They were understanding and advised the speakers to take their time.

Integrative studies senior Taylor Spidell was inspired to plan a march for Black History Month after the mother of Trayvon Martin, Sybrina Fulton, came to speak at Ferris.

"She was talking about how her son was killed, instead of by police brutality, it was by racial profiling, and it really touched my heart," Spidell said. "I noticed that we didn't have a march planned so, I was like 'Oh yeah baby, we're going to march.'"

Spidell intended to educate attendees and honor those who have died from police brutality, which she felt was done best by organizing a march that remained peaceful and silent.

"It's a real thing to be afraid to walk outside my door just because

of the color of my skin," Spidell said. "This is something Black people have to live through on a day-to-day basis. If you're not Black, you will never understand what it means or how it feels to be Black, but you can always try to take the time to understand and listen."

People of different colors and races participated in the march. Spidell appreciated the number of attendees, but she also appreciated their differences and the allyship that radiated from the event.

"You know, there aren't many people that look like me out here," Spidell said. "So, to have representation and to have our allies means a lot to me, especially when it comes to things like this."

Spidell advocates for her community by building a space for Black people at a predominately white institution like Ferris. By involving herself with campus events and organizations, she feels that she didn't find her place, she made it.

"I have friends of all races, of all colors," Spidell said. "But if I walk into the room and I'm always the only Black person, it's going to make me feel like I don't really belong here. I really had to create these spaces because they were [non-existent]."

Spidell chooses to be a voice for the Black community because she

views it as a privilege.

"If I lived in another time, I would have been dead, in jail, or running for my life," Spidell said. "People of my grandparents' time sacrificed their lives just so I can do what I do peacefully. I feel like it would be disrespectful to be in the place that I'm at right now and not honor that."

When Spidell brought the idea of this event to the Office of Multicultural Student Services, OMSS Director Michael Hopson told her to "run with it." He feels that events like this show that it only takes one person to make an idea move from thought to fruition.

Hopson believes that Ferris allows students to voice their opinions and gives them a chance to educate others on topics they're passionate about.

"I feel like our job as people here on campus is to try to make sure that diversity is intertwined and part of the fabric," Hopson said.

A portion of the event was dedicated to presenting the names and stories of Black victims of police brutality. The speakers were careful with the names they chose to honor because of the time restraints of the event.

CONT. ON PG. 9

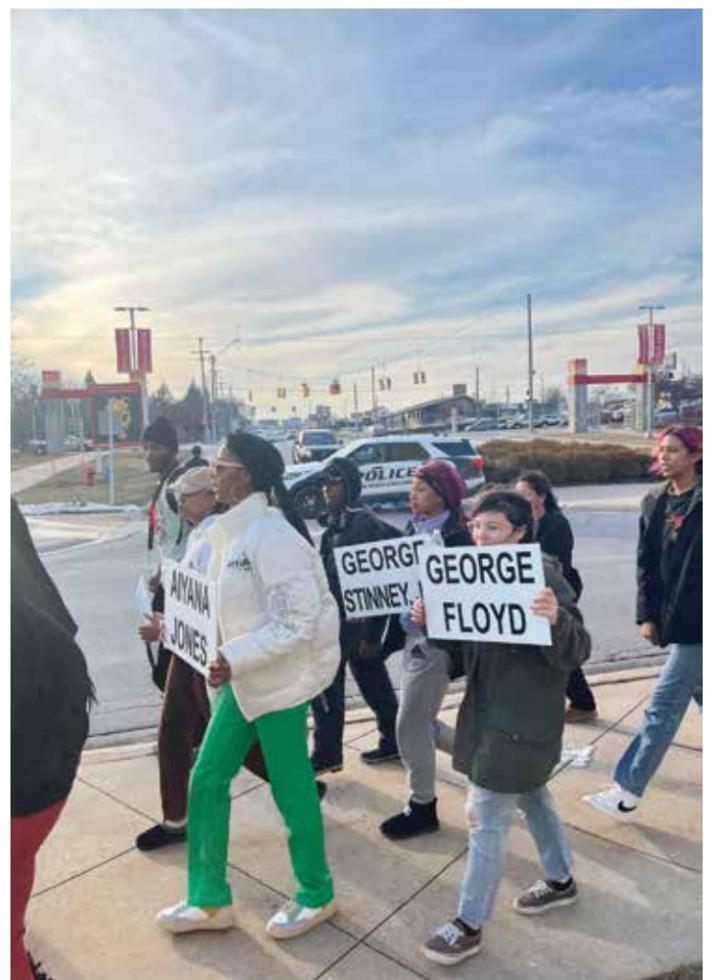


Photo by: Jessica Oakes | Editor-in-Chief

Over 50 people march across campus as DPS officers pause oncoming traffic from State Street.

MARCH FOR POLICE BRUTALITY CONT.

Psychology sophomore Lyonna Hester took to the podium before the march. She chose to talk about the story of Aiyana Jones, a seven-year-old girl who was fatally shot in the neck by the police in 2010.

"It just hit so close to home," Hester said. "I was about five or six when I saw it on the news and I just remember being like 'Oh, she has the same name as me, that

could have been me.'"

She believes that Jones' story sparked something in her that made her want to advocate for her community. Hester considers herself an activist because she feels like it was something she was meant to be.

"I'm a Black woman so it was automatically put onto me to speak up for those who can't speak up for themselves and speak up for myself on top of that," Hester said.

Hester feels that marches can be an effective form of activism because they encourage recognition of the cause, and because they are a starting point to change.

English and creative writing senior Massiel Calderon is a member of Gamma Phi Omega and an employee at the Hispanic/Latino Cultural Center. She believes that marches are a good form of peaceful protest.

After George Floyd was killed by a police officer, Calderon and her

family were active in the New York City protests. She and her family participated in this march because creating awareness against police brutality is important to them.

"To be able to see small activism happening here in Michigan, which I believe is a little bit less socially developed, was very refreshing," Calderon said.

Calderon is an activist because she believes it's important to give a voice to those who aren't here to defend themselves and for future

generations.

"Being an ally to different groups is important," Calderon said. "[Activism] has to be peaceful and inclusive. I know that there is a lot of racial division, but when we do activism, it's important to do it together."

For more events celebrating BHM, visit Ferris' event calendar.

Becoming a Black leader

New RSO available for Black women



Photo by: Jessica Oakes | Editor-in-Chief

Students hold signs to support victims of police brutality.

Brook Blausey
Culture Reporter

Ferris State Bulldogs, gear up for some fresh vibes as a new student organization comes to campus providing new opportunities for women of color and leadership.

Integrative studies senior Taylor Spidell and the Dean of Student Life Lina Blair threw an event to support student leadership for Black women. When more than 30 students attended, Spidell knew it could be more than just a one-time thing. Because of the event turnout, Black Women Student Leadership became Ferris' newest registered student organization.

As Spidell is a very active member on campus, she created this RSO in hopes that it would give Black women a space on campus to feel comfortable and to express their interest in leadership.

"It was a matter of creating a space for Black women as a whole because [we] are a minority," Spidell said. "We are able to get together to work and to collaborate."

Even though the organization is

still new, there are already over 20 members attending the mandated weekly meetings.

"It's exciting with how many members we have. I look forward to working with everyone and learning from everyone in the future," Spidell said. "I don't have an exact plan on how to grow the group, but I do hope that it continues to expand."

One of the members, Psychology sophomore Lyonna Hester joined the RSO because she wants to involve herself with her community, meet new people and hopefully get out of her shell.

"I stand with the mission statement, an organization of Black women leaders," Hester said. "To me, that's power. If this is executed properly, it will have a huge impact on campus."

Psychology senior Rayona Charles is the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance's internal community chair. She is now also the community chair of the Black Women Student Leadership organization.

"You don't have to feel pres-

ured in this group," Charles said. "I think being with others who are like you brings a sense of comfort and that's the best thing that's going to come from this group."

Despite Ferris already offering over 200 organizations, Charles believes that this RSO offers something unique to campus.

"It's on a smaller scale compared to other RSOs, but we have the same big ideas," Charles said. "We want to be a place where everybody is welcomed. [Somewhere] that is drama-free and where women can come and be supported."

Everyone throughout the organization has high expectations for the group and is excited to see what can come of the new Black Women Student Leadership organization.

The group meets every Thursday in the David L. Eisler Center at 6 p.m. Look out for future posts about the new organization on their Instagram page, @blackwsl.



Photo by: Marky Ransom | Guest Photographer

DOING THE RIGHT THING CONT.

"The people that reached out to me talked about the need to repair some of what was referred to as the damage that had happened over the past year between our police department and the public," Green said. "What was explained to me is that the relationship had really suffered after I left, and there was an opportunity for me to come back."

Now back on campus, Green has a simple philosophy to repair relationships and deepen community engagement. Like the 1989 Spike Lee movie, it resonates with people to see someone "'Do the Right Thing' for the right reasons." He believes he was able to instill some of this philosophy in DPS officers when he worked as the

assistant chief.

"I was the day-to-day operations, however, I wasn't the driving force for the university," Green said. "I was under somebody who may have had a different philosophy going forward. But our guys that are hitting the streets, they have that mindset because I instilled it in them."

To Green, doing the right thing takes more than mandatory diversity training. He believes that an officer can walk away from this with the same biases they had before. He wants officers to interact with community members and get to know them on a personal level. By leaving behind the barrier of a police car to start a conversation or even pick up a game of foosball, both officers and students may find their similarities rather than

their differences.

"That's what Martin Luther King said, right? We don't like each other because we don't know each other. We don't know each other because we never talk to one another. If you're ever going to get past some of those biases that we have in life, it all comes down to talking to people and getting to know people," Green said.

The next generation of leadership in law enforcement is alive in Ferris' criminal justice program. Quartez Shah is a senior in the program and works as the secretary of Black Leaders Aspiring for Critical Knowledge.

"As a little kid, I just wanted to be able to help people," Shah said. "I had a hard time really being a leader for myself. I had to deal with that leadership over time in order

for me to even feel like I can help others."

Shah's desire to help others and wisdom from within his family guided his journey to criminal justice.

"There's always been a lot going on in the past with police officers. One thing that [my grandfather] told me is, 'If you feel like you have a problem with the police, join them. Get that experience and see what you would do in that situation.'"

After finishing a stint at Oakland Community College, Shah transferred to Ferris in search of on-the-ground work and networking opportunities.

Looking ahead

Shah echoed Green's philos-

ophy of doing the right thing by involving police officers within the community. Even with the effort he has made, he sees a long future ahead of the field with much progress to be made

"We're not there yet, that I know for a fact," Shah said.

On behalf of the police force, Shah is committed to building trust in his community. This comes in the form of real-life conversations and attendance at public events not to intimidate, but to integrate. For those who feel that they need to be protected from the police rather than feeling protected by the police, Shah encourages them to speak to people trying to join the field today.

Crabs in a bucket

Nicholas Green
Guest Writer

I didn't know what to write about when the Torch asked me. Too many ideas came to mind as I had recently returned to campus.

With all the time I was away, I had ideas of what I wanted to do when I came back. My struggles in the previous two years at Ferris were me putting others before my own needs.

My grade point average suffered, and my mind was constantly uneasy and I wasn't utilizing it the best. My time was all over the place with classes and organizations.

The idea when I came back to Ferris was that I was not going to talk, act or dress like anything where I came from. My second idea was that no one had my best interest at heart.

Being back on campus I experience the most trouble from people who look

like me. I didn't come back from the hood to get hate from my own people.

My aunt tells me this is called "crabs in a bucket." When one crab climbs up, the others pull it down.

All eyes were on me, my movements and actions were being watched. I started noticing how others reacted. I planned my choices accordingly whether in organizations, with friends or in classes.

I paid attention to everyone soaking up the personalities of others, not allowing anyone or anything to bring me down. I've seen Black men afraid to stand up for what is right and fall into the hype. I've witnessed Black women becoming more independent, headstrong and successful than Black men.

This is what I've witnessed at Ferris. We can blame white people for so much but when are we going to take accountability?

We have the belief that

Black culture is the best and how we're used and popularized. We like to bring up white girls with braids, what about Black girls with weave and blonde hair? We like to talk about Black Lives Matter, but what about when you see a Black man get shot by another Black man? We don't even march for that.

We can point out racism, but we hate each other more. There has been colorism for so long between light-skinned and dark-skinned people. From divine nine fraternities that didn't accept people with darker skin colors to house and field slaves.

I'm not defending the injustices or negating achievements, only the miseducation we continue to believe.

Outsiders are not only oppressing us as well as ourselves. I don't have a dream my reality is too harsh, I must "stay woke."



Photo courtesy of Nicholas Green

Nicholas Green is a junior in accounting and economics.

Since Black History Month is focused around art, the Production team has decided to publish the works of Black guest artists and use graffiti elements.

We have also decided to use "Stevie Sans," a font designed by Black graphic designer Marconi Lima.

Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

The real Taylor Swift experience

The cultural effects of pop star Taylor Swift

Kendall Phillips & Brook Blausey
Culture Reporters

On Feb. 24, singer Kanin Wren brought the Taylor Swift experience to Ferris. With 100 fans swaying to Wren's covers, the conversation around Swift's impact continues in Big Rapids.

Though Swift has been trending in the news for some time, negative opinions on her have resurfaced as she's threatened to sue Jack Sweeney, a Florida college student who tracks private jet usage of celebrities.

According to CBS News, Sweeney found that between January and July 2022, Swift flew in her jet 170 times, which brought her to the top of the list. Digital marketing team Yard published a report that showed Swift was not touring during that time and her average

flight was only 80 minutes long.

Despite the statistics, Swift still has one of the largest fan bases.

History professor Dr. Tracy Busch used to dislike Swift. After spending time analyzing the top-chart artist's lyrics, Busch has become a hard-core Swiftie. She describes listening to Swift's music as cathartic and relatable.

"Taylor Swift and her lyrics bring us together because she's singing about the human experience," Busch said. "She makes feminine anger possible. We can be angry [and] we can listen to mad women."

CONT. ON PG. 13



Photo by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Wren invites audience members to stand and gather around the stage for her performance.

Ferris' first scholarship pageant

The Black Greek Council presents a new scholarship competition



Photo Credit: Ni'Jah Rankin | Freelance Reporter

Contestant and scholarship winner Lyonna Hester introduces herself to the audience.

Ni'jah Rankin
Freelance Reporter

Lyonna Hester is Ferris' first scholarship pageant winner. On Feb. 23, Hester went home with \$1,000 prize.

The Black Greek Council brought the first-ever scholarship pageant to campus. Fifty people gathered in the David L. Eisler Center ballrooms to learn about the two contestants and vote for the winner.

The contestants went through five rounds categorized as personality, talent, Black history, sportswear and ballroom rounds. Throughout these rounds, contestants told a little about themselves, showed off their talents, represented their Black role models and displayed their sports and ballroom outfits.

According to College Board, 65% of Ferris students receive financial aid, reflecting the school's economic need.

Hester, a psychology sophomore, was happy that Ferris offered another scholarship opportunity because she sees many people who need them, including herself.

"[Winning] feels good. I went through a lot to be able to be in the pageant," Hester said. "I just feel good that it paid off."

To Hester, the scholarship pageant was fun and a good way for students to express themselves and who they are. She highlights that her two favorite rounds were the talent and ballroom rounds.

"The talent round because I got a lot of crowd participation since people knew the song," Hester said. "Or the ballroom round because that was my favorite outfit."

BGC member and criminal justice senior Quarteiz Shah explained that the council wanted to give students a way to celebrate their accomplishments.

"We wanted to be able to show other students that it's possible to be able to stand out and do what you say you do and accomplish," Shah said.

This scholarship event represents student organizations giving back to their fellow students at Ferris. President Bill Pink expressed that he wants the BGC and other student organizations to give back to other Ferris students.

"When we realize what people have done for us and how blessed we are, it is so important that we then look and say, 'Who else can I help?'" Pink said.

Dental hygiene freshman Mia Deberry attended the event because she was interested when she saw the event on social media and posters. She was happy to attend because she learned that the award for winning the pageant was a scholarship.

"Now that I know the Black Greek Council does this," Deberry said. "Next time, I have the opportunity to get one too."

BGC is currently unsure if the event will be annual. For more information, visit the BGC's Instagram @fsu_bgc.

International speaker brings new cultural

Guest speak Christopher O'Shaughnessy talks about the importance of cultural adaptations

Kendall Phillips
Culture Reporter

After traveling to more than 100 countries in his lifetime, guest speaker Christopher O'Shaughnessy brought his first-hand experiences to Ferris in presentations about cultural differences.

On Thursday, Feb. 22, O'Shaughnessy held three presentations for the Big Rapids community. His final presentation took place on campus, where he spoke about adaptation to different cultures and "moving beyond tolerance."

O'Shaughnessy was referred to as a 'third-culture kid,' meaning that he had to adapt and live in many different kinds of cultures. According to O'Shaughnessy, the reason he decided to start sharing his story was to spread information and terminology about what a third-culture kid was.

"I grew up as a military kid, and I did not have a lot of the language about third-culture kids," O'Shaughnessy said. "It wasn't until quite a bit later that I heard terminology about third-culture kids and what it is, and it made a huge difference, just having some language and framework. I realized that everyone I grew up with was in the same boat as me."

In his presentation, O'Shaughnessy explained how there is much to be learned from third-culture kids. He stated that third-culture kids are "a preview of coming attractions."

"The more I researched [third-culture kids], the more I realized what we know about them is actually relevant on a much wider scale," O'Shaughnessy said. "So, if we can do things to help them, that suddenly will benefit everyone."

One of the sponsors of O'Shaughnessy's presentation was the Office of International Education. The director of the Office of International Education, Tara Braun, met O'Shaughnessy internationally and bonded over their shared love of culture, which led to his presentations at Ferris.

"I knew that he did this talk circuit and I just know that there is so much value in his messages," Braun said. "I think that it is really important to be thinking about the things he says, and really educating our students well to prepare them for the world that they are getting ready to go into."

O'Shaughnessy shares many messages in his presentations, but what Braun believes is so important about him is the content of the messages. Braun stated that the scenarios, concepts, and ideas O'Shaughnessy talks about are important to learn about to understand how we view each other.

An 11th-grade student from the Big Rapids High School, Finn Kutschke, attended two of O'Shaughnessy's presentations and explained how they were very inspiring for him.

Kutschke is a study abroad



Photo Credit: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Christopher O'Shaughnessy speaks on cultural differences.

student from Germany, so he felt very connected to the stories O'Shaughnessy spoke about.

"It was very fascinating how he described third-culture kids' lives as rooms in a hallway because that is basically how you feel," Kutschke said. "When you are from Germany and you feel some-

thing so different and see people acting in such different ways in America, you have to try to adapt to it."

O'Shaughnessy's final presentation was viewed by many community members, faculty, and students. He ended his presentation with a quote that he felt was im-

portant for everyone to hear.

"Our gift to the world around us is hope. It is not a blind hope that pretends everything is fine when clearly, it's not, but it is the kind of hope that comes from staring pain and suffering right in the eyes and refuses to believe that's all there is."

MEDIA MINUTE: "Renaissance Act II"

Beyoncé's highly anticipated return takes a sharp turn into country

Blase Gapinski
Freelance Reporter

Beyoncé released two new country-themed tracks on Sunday, Feb. 11, as a way to tease act two of her three-part project, "Renaissance."

Beyoncé originally released "Renaissance" in 2022, which was a pop and R&B record. This fun album contained a lot of dance and electronic music. It's a vibrant tribute to the LGBTQ community. She openly dedicates this album to the Black and queer pioneers that created this culture and music. A personal inspiration of hers is her late Uncle Johnny, who's often been referred to as her "godmother," who exposed her to the communities' culture and love for electric dance music. This was a switch up from Beyoncé as her previous album, "Lemonade," was more personal and focused on conceptual storytelling.

She eventually revealed on her website that this album was only one part of three featuring a collection of songs she has written over the last four years. Each part seemingly takes on its own genre. She stated she felt a renaissance coming towards the end of the

pandemic and this is her way of contributing to it.

Beyoncé decided to take a country approach for her second act of "Renaissance" pre-releasing "TEXAS HOLD 'EM" and "16 CARRIAGES" to promote the album.

"16 CARRIAGES" is a country rock song about Beyoncé's personal life and dives into her background. It is filled with vast layered crescendos which contain her vocals and guitar chords harmonizing throughout the bridge which gives it a gospel vibe.

It is more country-themed than the other tracks she released with this one taking inspiration from artists like Carrie Underwood. The theme of this track is her upbringing and gives the listener transparency about the work she had to put in to get to where she is today.

A line that stuck out to me was, "At 15, the innocence was gone astray. Had to take care of home at an early age. I saw Mama cryin', I saw Daddy lyin'. Had to sacrifice and leave my fears behind. The legacy, if it's the last thing I do."

This line and others throughout the song, we see glimpses into Beyoncé's childhood and how from an early age, she had to grow up quickly to take care of herself and

her family. I appreciate the depth that this song has behind it and am glad to see more storytelling like we see throughout "Lemonade" is making a return.

My personal favorite of the two, "TEXAS HOLD 'EM," is a country-pop mix. It is a lot catchier but still keeps the country vibe alive with a backwater plucky banjo beat paying homage to her Houston roots.

It definitely competes with other country songs that go for this similar pop-centric style and reminded me of Taylor Swift's beginnings. It isn't as over the top with production and filled with pop tropes as we see within the country genre. It is a fun track and long-time Beyoncé fans will definitely appreciate the new approach along with consistently releasing new tracks.

"Renaissance Act II," is set to release on March 29 and I am excited to see what else she has in store for the genre. I am expecting features on this album as well

and I am curious to see who is working on this project alongside her. These singles are out on all streaming platforms, and I can see why they were chosen to promote her take on the genre.



Rating:

6/10

Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

EFFECTS OF TAYLOR SWIFT CONT.

Busch feels that Swift has made a positive impact on feminism in today's society.

"Taylor has proven that it's possible to be both feminine and a feminist," Bush said. "We all want to believe that we're moving forward as a society, and I'm always reluctant to believe in progress because I'm a historian and bad things continue to happen. I think that this is a breakthrough moment where male privilege might be starting to fade into the background and we might be moving towards a more equal society."

Radiography freshman Ava Tieri grew up listening to Taylor Swift. She feels that even if someone didn't like Taylor Swift when they were growing up, everyone still knew a song from her because of her popularity.

Aside from her music and performances, Tieri believes the star has become a role model for young girls to look up to.

"She does a good job with her music and going through all different genres show how one person, especially a young girl, can change her mind and try different things

out," Tieri said. "All of a sudden it's becoming more of a trend to not like Taylor Swift than it is to like her, but I look up to her because I still think she is a good representation of how you can be so successful if you put your heart and soul into it."

For some, critiquing Swift is more than just a trend. Social work junior Samara Tyus is president of Ferris' Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance. She dislikes Swift because she feels that she doesn't use her platform properly. While Swift has a large fan base and following on her social media, Tyus feels that she chooses not to talk about real-world issues.

Even though Tyus believes that Swift's accomplishments are a big win for feminism, she feels that Swift is overall disingenuous when it comes to activism.

"A lot of the things she does speak on seem performative," Tyus said. "It seems like she only speaks out when she knows it will benefit her career. I don't like that she is seen as a face of feminism."

Whether someone loves, critiques or is annoyed by Swift, her influence on campus and beyond in 2024 is undeniable.



Photo by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Wren performing her unreleased original song "Dine and Dash."

Festival of the Arts Calendar:

Month-long exhibits:

Artworks:

"Telling Our Stories -The Old Settlers"

FSU Fine Art Gallery:

"Much Ado About Barbie"

Scan to view the full calendar



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

WANTED

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ferris State Torch

DUE: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

2024 - 2025 SCHOOL YEAR:

We are seeking an organized student (enrolled in at least six credit hours) for the Editor-in-Chief position during the 2024 - 25 school year. Candidates must write well, possess excellent leadership skills and be prepared to work the entire school year. Candidates should be familiar with basic journalistic principles, as well as printed and digital publishing techniques. Qualified students can receive competitive wages for up to 20 hours per week. Ability to work and train in April and August of 2024 is necessary. Prior journalism experience or training required.

The *Torch* offers a chance to work in a professional "real world" environment and adds excellent credentials to your resume

APPLICANTS NEED TO SUBMIT:

- Resume
- One-page (typed) essay answering the following:
 - >> Why do I want to be Editor-in-Chief?
 - >> What should be the goals of a student-run newspaper?
 - >> How will I, as Editor-in-Chief, ensure that the newspaper reaches its goals?
- Copies of articles or other written work
- At least two references (recommendation letters not required)

Sports

Dylan Rider | Sports Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

Bulldogs split with Wildcats

Ferris follows up regulation loss with shootout win over Northern Michigan



Junior Zach Faramouth shoots and scores the bulldogs lone regulation time goal.

Photo credits: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Connor Grypma
Sports Reporter

The Bulldogs split their final two home matchups against the Northern Michigan Wildcats on Friday, Feb. 23 and Saturday, Feb. 24.

Ferris State (10-21-2, 6-16-1 in CCHA) came away with a win and a loss in its series against the Wildcats (10-14-6, 8-10-4 in CCHA) earlier this season and then split another pair with a 3-2 loss on Friday and a shootout victory, which goes down as a 1-1 tie, on Saturday's senior night.

Head coach Bob Daniels gave credit to the defense despite a down night from the penalty kill unit on Friday.

"There was no give up tonight," Daniels said. "The fact that we held them to 19 shots on goal is a good thing just the inability to score on the power play hurt us.

The penalty kill too has been so good in the second half we just struggled tonight."

The Bulldogs struck first with a tally from senior forward Jacob Dirks in the first two minutes. The Wildcats proceeded to score three straight goals throughout the first two periods with two of them coming from shorthanded chances given up by Ferris. Freshman forward Luigi Benincasa brought the Bulldogs within striking distance late in the final period making the score 3-2.

Ferris had a chance to cash in late with the Wildcats swapping goalies because of a five-minute major penalty with under 30 seconds remaining but couldn't take advantage and lost 3-2.

With 14 seconds remaining in the game, the Wildcats goaltender received a five-minute major penalty, which meant that Northern

Michigan had to swap netminders with the Bulldogs on a power play until the end of the game. Ferris failed to capitalize on the man advantage, as they lost the faceoff and the Wildcats cleared the puck down the ice.

Senior forward Antonio Venuto commented on trying to maximize the special teams unit before Friday's game.

"We just need to create more opportunities," Venuto said. "Just because we don't score necessarily doesn't mean it was a bad power play, but we need to give ourselves more chances."

The Bulldogs rebounded in Saturday's senior night matchup with their lone regulation goal coming on a power play. This was also the second shootout win of the season for Ferris.

Junior forward Zach Faramouth scored early to put Ferris up 1-0

in the first period. The Wildcats added a goal of their own to tie the score midway through the second marking the final goal of regulation.

Both teams failed to score in the overtime period, sending the game into a shootout. Senior forward Stepan Pokorny cashed in on the Bulldogs' first shot and senior goaltender Noah Giesbrecht turned away all three of the Wildcats' shots to give Ferris the win.

Daniels credited the crowd for backing the team after the shootout victory.

"I'm really glad we could reward the fans with a win tonight," Daniels said. "What a great crowd, they've been with us all year long."

Ferris' roster includes eight seniors, three of whom will not have any eligibility remaining after this year. Saturday's victory was the last time that senior forward Jason

Brancheau, senior defenseman Brenden MacLaren and Nick Hale will play at Ewigleben Ice Arena.

Pokorny spoke on his connection with his fellow seniors.

"They're my brothers," Pokorny said. "We've all gotten really close in these four years and obviously I live far away so it's pretty much like a family here for me. It's going to be sad to leave."

The Bulldogs have one regular season game remaining before entering the CCHA playoff tournament beginning March 8. Ferris' opponent is yet to be determined but they will be on the road for the best-of-three series.

Ferris Hockey will take the ice for their final regular season game on the road against the Lake Superior Lakers on Friday, March 1. The puck drop is set for 7:07 p.m.

<h3>March Calendar: Ferris Athletics</h3> <h3>Ferris Home Games</h3>		M/W Basketball vs. Purdue Northwest	M/W Tennis vs. Tiffin M/W Tennis vs. Walsh	Softball Doubleheader vs. Grand Valley
Softball Doubleheader vs. Lewis	Softball Doubleheader vs. Saginaw Valley State	Softball Doubleheader vs. Wayne State	M/W Tennis vs. Southwest Baptist	M/W Tennis vs. Grand Valley

Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Women's basketball splits penultimate

Bulldogs drowned out by Lakers, hunt the Panthers



Forward Mya Hiram takes a shot over a Davenport Panthers defender at the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Photo credits: Caden Hofmann | Sports Reporter

Caden Hofmann
Sports Reporter

The Ferris State women's basketball team split their GLIAC road trip with a loss to the Grand Valley State Lakers on Thursday, Feb. 22, and then followed the loss up with a win on Saturday, Feb. 25 against the Davenport Panthers.

The No. 2 nationally ranked Lakers (24-2, 15-1 in the GLIAC) got the best of the No. 10 nationally ranked Bulldogs (19-4, 13-3 in the GLIAC) with a score of 63-38. Ferris would bounce back however with an 84-63 win versus the Panthers (3-23, 1-15 in the GLIAC).

In front of a 1,037-person crowd, the Bulldogs and Lakers entered into a rivalry battle for the first-place spot in the GLIAC, with Ferris State looking for an upset victory.

Senior forward Kady Blanchard and the team knew what kind of battle they were entering.

"Our coach told us pre-game that he doesn't have to ramp us up for a game like this," Blanchard said. "We all just know the type of energy a rivalry game like this brings."

The Bulldogs were able to keep it close the entire first half, going into the break only down eight. Ferris was ultimately outscored 28-11 in the second half, which led to them dropping the game to its archrival.

The turnover battle was the main catalyst for the loss as the Bulldogs gave up the ball 22 times

compared to just nine Lakers turnovers. The Lakers turned the turnovers into points on the other side of the floor and led the points generated off turnovers battle 25-8.

In addition to the turnovers, Ferris shot just 34% from the field and went 2-for-15 on shots from beyond the arc.

Head coach Kurt Westendorp had to remind his team that the season isn't over yet.

"I told our kids in the huddle, that was not the fatal game," Westendorp said. "This didn't end your season, but the next one might. We have to make sure we keep getting better as a team."

The Bulldogs got back on track with an 84-63 blowout win over the Davenport Panthers on Saturday, Feb. 24.

The Panthers made it a game in the first half and Ferris went into halftime up 44-41. Senior forward Chloe Idoni put up an aggressive team-high 21 points in the first half and helped the Bulldogs stick it out during a 60% shooting half from Davenport.

Westendorp knew they had to make adjustments to pull away in the second half.

"We knew we had to buckle down on the defensive end of the court," Westendorp said. "It was their senior day. They played with a lot of energy, it was not a lack of effort from us, as much of a lack of focus."

Ferris was aggressive in the third quarter, outscoring Davenport 21-5. The Bulldogs won the

turnover battle 16-8 and played solid defense in the second half.

"We did a better job of keeping them out of the paint and put more pressure on them on the perimeter," Westendorp said. "We were able to get the stops we needed and turned our defense into offense in the third quarter."

Four out of five starters finished

in double figures in points for the Bulldogs. Idoni led both teams with 25 points.

"After they had a response to every shot we made I knew it was important for me to make myself present in the post and dominate," Idoni said. "I give my teammates credit for giving me the ball in great spots."

The Bulldogs will close out the regular season with two more home games on Thursday, Feb. 29 against the Wisconsin Parkside Rangers at 5:30 p.m. and the final regular season game will be Saturday, March 2 at 1:00 p.m. versus the Purdue Northwest Pride.

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A win-lose weekend

Mens basketball suffers tough loss to Grand Valley and bounces back with win over Davenport



Photo courtesy of Kevin McDermott/Ferris State Athletics

Senior Amari Lee attempts a slam dunk while he faces a heavy defense.

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

The Ferris State men's basketball team split its weekend series on the road first losing to rival Grand Valley State on Feb. 22 and then defeating Davenport on Feb. 24.

Currently sitting as the number three seed in the GLIAC standings, the Bulldogs (20-7, 10-6 in GLIAC) are one game behind the second seed with just two games remaining on the schedule in the regular season.

This weekend, the Bulldogs hit the road with their first matchup

against rival Grand Valley State (12-14, 9-7 in GLIAC), which ended in an 87-77 loss. The team could not complete the comeback to walk away with their regular season sweep over the Lakers. In the first half, the Bulldogs found themselves in a deficit as they trailed by 12 points at the half. In

the second half of the game, the Bulldogs were able to outscore their opponent 41-39, which was not enough to get the win.

In the loss, head coach Andy Bronkema was not pleased with the slow start from the Bulldogs.

"We get off to bad starts against these guys," Bronkema said. "You know if we could pinpoint it we would but we haven't been able to so digging ourselves a hole and then you know probably what I would like to see a little bit more is just somebody putting their foot down and doing the next right thing and just stopping the run a little bit short."

The Bulldogs got a chance to fix their bad start, as they transitioned to their next game, as they took on the Davenport Panthers (9-17, 4-12 in GLIAC) in a 75-64 win.

It was a much better performance defensively in the first half for the Bulldogs in this matchup, as they held the Panthers to 27 first-half points, on 10-for-25 shooting from the field and 4-for-14 from three-point range.

The Bulldogs were able to out-rebound their opponents 41-34 and won the turnover battle 11-15 with 11 points off turnovers. Offensively, the team struggled from three-point range going 4-for-16 from three but was able to get to the free-throw line and capitalize as they went 25-for-27.

In the win, Bronkema liked the team's defensive effort even though they struggled on offense.

"Our shots weren't falling. We still played hard on defense," Bronkema said. "I think that's a hard thing to do in basketball, guys are usually energized by the basketball, we always say it has healing powers, but we didn't see shots go in and we still played great defense that was kind of our message at halftime keep that up and we were able to keep it up in the second half."

Late in the game, the Panthers

took the lead with 2:45 remaining in the game, but the Bulldogs were able to make tough shots and crucial free throws down the final stretch of the game to pull off the win.

Bronkema noticed the Davenport run late in the game and gave a message to his team.

"We kind of let an eight to 10 points lead, and they took the lead," Bronkema said. "You know went to an immediate timeout, looked them in the eye, and said 'Hey, enough is enough.' It was one of the first times where I just saw a full team and looked them in the eye and just knew we were going to be alright and it was a comfortable feeling for a coach."

The Bulldogs now will be returning home for their last two games of the regular season and with a chance to end the regular season with two home wins and a possible chance to move into the number two seed in the GLIAC standings as the tournament approaches.

Senior forward DeSean Munson describes the opportunity the team has and a message to Bulldog nation.

"Having the chance to play beyond these last two home games is our biggest priority," Munson said. "Not looking ahead or past opponents, so we need all Bulldog support at home next week to help us win and establish that momentum going into March."

The Bulldogs return to Jim Wink Arena and will face off against Wisconsin-Parkside on Thursday, Feb. 29 with game time set for 7:30 p.m. and then a matchup with Purdue Northwest on Saturday, March 2 with game time set for 3:00 p.m.

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