



The future of student housing

President Pink announces new housing and other facilities during his Founder's Day Address



Concept drawing courtesy of Ferris State Facilities

Concept drawings for the newly announced residential hall features exclusive athletics access and updated facilities for freshman.

Ni'Jah Rankin
Culture Reporter

Dr. Bill Pink announced many upcoming plans and priorities to improve the campus including a look at the first residence hall in Michigan to be attached to a football stadium.

One hundred students and faculty members filled the David L. Eisler Center ballroom to hear the annual Founder's Day address presented by Pink to hear about the current plans and goals the university has in store.

During this year's Founder's Day address, Pink presented a shift in how finances are being used at Ferris. He described how a new financial model was created this year to ensure the bud-

get process was inclusive of all areas on campus.

Pink announced the plans to build a new residence hall that is attached to the football stadium.

"We are the first university in the state to put a residence hall right in the midst of the footprint of one of our athletic complexes, which in this case is the football field," Pink said. "That has a different level of attraction for those students who will be coming in, and has a different level of service all together."

Pink went on to emphasize that the new hall will house 260 to 280 students as well as have a more modern feel.

Another key point was the total number of student credit hours being taken is higher than in previous years. He

explained how enrollment is getting the students there and overall student retention is something that needs to be focused on. To focus on the retention of current and future students, Pink announced the plans to build a new residence hall that is attached to the football stadium and even a first look at a new indoor stadium.

This new athletic complex will prove useful to student-athletes across campus as well as spectators. Not only will athletes be able to practice year-round, but it gives them the ability to have locker rooms that are near their facilities.

The Founder's Day address was also an opportunity for students to come together and listen to the upcoming

plans for Ferris during the continuation of their education. Students also have the opportunity to meet and talk with the president of their university and share their thoughts and opinions on upcoming plans.

Pink believed it is important for students to attend the Founder's Day address so that they can better understand where the university is leading them.

"It gives them a good idea of, just from a leadership standpoint, what we're thinking and where we're pushing as far as the university is concerned," Pink said. "And I think for students to understand how the university is focused and what we're focused on, I think that's really helpful."

One of the students in the crowd was construction management freshman Miah Lamancusa.

She believes that it is important for students to come to the Founder's Day address and understand what is happening at their school.

"I think it's really important for them to stay in the loop," Lamancusa said. "These new facilities are creating retention for people."

Construction management freshman Ellie Kluge's favorite part of the speech was about the announcement of the new residential living and the indoor facility for sports that is going to be built.

"I have friends that are playing softball and it kind of stinks that at other schools they would have to play out-

side," Kluge said. "I think it's very special to get to go play inside."

Kluge also mentioned how she hopes for other updates on the current residence halls at Ferris.

"For other students coming in, I think something that could change is the dorm rooms," Kluge said. "I am a transfer student, and I didn't want to come here last year because I did not want to live in the dorm rooms."

Pink's hope with the announcement for these new buildings on campus was to continue to have Ferris grow and retain more students by trying to appeal to incoming students with these unique buildings.



News

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

J.D. Vance rallies in Big Rapids

Republican vice presidential candidate met with support, opposition with visit

Dylan Rider
Editor in Chief

During vice presidential candidate Sen. J.D. Vance's pit stop in Mecosta County, the Ohio politician focused on the proposed Gotion battery plant in his remarks.

The rally, which was held on Tuesday, Aug. 27, at Majestic Friesians Horse Farm, also included appearances from former GOP gubernatorial candidate Tudor Dixon, current Michigan House of Representatives candidate Mike Rogers and current chairman of the Michigan GOP Pete Hoekstra. Dixon, Rogers and Hoekstra's speeches all focused on criticizing Gotion.

Vance's comments on Gotion were based on current vice president and presidential candidate Kamala Harris' vote on the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

"Now we stand very close, of course, to the new Gotion factory, right," Vance said. "Remember the tie-breaking vote that [Harris] cast to send inflation through the roof? Remember that vote? That vote also made Chinese companies like Gotion eligible for millions of your taxpayer dollars."

Vance furthered his point by asserting that Harris also "wants to allow the Chinese Communist Party to build factories on American soil."

The taxpayer money Vance speaks of seemingly refers to the tax credits offered by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to American companies that produce electric vehicles or electric vehicle components, like the batteries that would be produced at the proposed Gotion battery plant. Gotion Inc., the U.S. subsidiary of China's Gotion High-Tech, has been operating in the U.S. since 2014 and is an American company.

The issues arise in Mecosta County with questions of where Gotion Inc. receives its directive.

Majestic Friesians horse farm, located in Green Charter Township lies right outside of Big Rapids. The farm is owned by Lori Brock, a staunch anti-Gotion voice and a frontrunner in Mecosta County's anti-Gotion movement. Brock lamented the company's presence by saying that the "Chinese Communist Party showed up in our town." In her address to the rally, Brock aimed at Gotion Inc. North American

Manufacturing Vice President Chuck Thelen, dubbing him "China Chuck." Concerns over Gotion's connection to the Chinese Communist Party have been raised by the anti-Gotion crowd since the public found out the full extent of the project.

The horse farm is no stranger to political rallies, as former Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy held a rally against Gotion there in Oct. of 2023.

Among the 2,000 people estimated to have attended the rally were Ferris students. Automotive engineering sophomore Noah Gordon and business sophomore Zach Connor attended the rally to support Vance and his points.

"I'm looking at just how expensive everything is," Connor said. "You can say whatever you want about Donald Trump. But under his presidency, everything was way cheaper under him. Everything was more affordable. Housing, gas prices, you name it. It was just a lot better under Trump than under Biden and Harris."

Gordon echoed Connor's support with the hope that Trump and Vance "can get in and fix this mess that [Biden and Harris] caused."

Opposition to Vance and his rally was present, as a protest was held just over three miles away from the Majestic Friesians horse farm at Stone Hatchery Park. Around 30 people showed support for Gotion's proposed battery plant while others criticized Vance.

President of both Ferris Democrats resident student organization and Bulldogs for Harris RSO, sports communication junior Jonathen Hart, joined the protest and questioned the Republican candidates' reasoning for a rally in Mecosta County.

"Listening to what we were hearing about at the rally, [Vance] spoke a lot less about Gotion than people thought he would," Hart said. "In our opinion, that shows that J.D. Vance and the Trump administration are trying to use Gotion as a way to enter the minds and the feelings of the Mecosta people to make them believe that they are correct in using them as puppets."

Hart believed the protest to be a "great event" with "a lot of success." To catch up with the conservative rallies held in Mecosta County, Hart

shared plans to bring Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel along with other unconfirmed high-profile Democrats to the area to speak.

With Michigan being a battleground state, it should be expected for both presidential candidates and vice presidential candidates to return to the state in the next 62 days. However, it's unclear how much more political action Mecosta County will receive during this election cycle.

Ferris' College Republicans RSO could not be reached for comment.

Jonathen Hart was previously employed by the Ferris State Torch.



Photo by: Dylan Rider | Editor in Chief
Sen. J.D. Vance spoke on the economy, foreign policy and immigration.



Photo by: Dylan Rider | Editor in Chief
Sen. J.D. Vance reacts to a rowdy, supportive crowd during his remarks.

Creating awareness for women's issues

The African Student Union host their first event for Women's Equality Day



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Sophomore pharmacy student and member of the Asian Student union Selena Pham discusses the importance of female representation.

Ni'Jah Rankin
Culture Reporter

The African Student Union hosted Ferris' first event for Women's Equality Day, introducing a series of speakers who shared the struggles women have and continue to face.

Women's Equality Month was on Monday, Aug. 26, and ASU decided to hold an event for the national holiday to bring more awareness to women's issues in the UC ballrooms.

The president of ASU and computer information junior Okedi Matseka felt that it was going unrecognized and underrepresented.

"I decided to throw the event because no one would," Matseka said. "It was a personal vendetta to ensure that women feel represented, heard and advocated for."

The Women's Equality Day event consisted of four speeches and slideshow presentations concerning various topics relating to women's issues, including women in the technical field and intersectionality.

Information security and technology junior Seth Brott was invited to speak at the event by ASU to speak about women in tech, and the differ-

ence in experiences in men and women working in that field.

He worked with a team of people to ensure that he made a well-thought-out presentation, showing the barrier women in tech face and how to empower women despite that.

"Twenty-seven percent of the workforce in technology is women, and massive amounts of those women are harassed, abused and they find a lot of discrimination against them," Brott said. "Being able to bring awareness to that will help to solve those issues, as well as helping to find solutions as we try to move forward."

Brott wished that the event had more traction and that a wider range of students knew more about Women's Equality Day and the event held on it. He wants Ferris students to not only know about Women's Equality Day but to understand the importance of it. Brott admits his lack of awareness of the day and event.

"Women's Equality Day was not something I knew before this," Brott said. "I didn't understand that it was a nationally recognized holiday, much less that it was something that we here at Ferris would hold an event for."

Medical lab science senior Alaa Mohamed is another member of ASU. She believes that ASU is a small, registered student organization and that the group wanted to do something for Women's Equality Day as their first event.

Mohamed also feels like it was slightly inconvenient that women's equality fell on the first day of classes, and that there were mistakes made before and during the event.

"We didn't get a chance to get properly plan together, and we had some hiccups in the event," Mohamed said. "We really wanted to do something for Women's Equality Day and just show one of the things we stand for in our organization."

Mohamed is still glad that ASU could throw the event because of how many people did not know about the national holiday until this event.

She believes that women's equality is often talked about but is often not taken seriously.

"This is my senior year, I don't think I have ever attended an event or heard of an event of Women's Equality Day," Mohamed said. "So, I'm glad we did something about that even if it was small."



Photo by: Ni'Jah Rankin | Culture Reporter

Julie Alexander, the director of accessibility and disability resources, speaks about minority women who have missed media representation.

Ferris food pantry grand opening

The food pantry is officially open in its new location

Kate Babel
News Reporter

As the giant gold scissors snipped the red ribbon on Aug. 28, the new Bulldog Pantry opened its doors to students across campus who need groceries.

The opening ceremony was held outside the Bulldog Pantry which is located in room 115 of the David L. Eisler Center. The ceremony addressed the issue of food insecurities with college students and how important it is to serve students their basic needs for them to succeed and thrive on campus. The new pantry was made accessible to all students so that they could stop in to pick up small groceries, and other necessities, without having to show a financial need.

The pantry started in the United Methodist Church Wesley House in Big Rapids. Before the pantry had a much bigger room to store more food, it simply had smaller stations in the West Campus Community Center, Wesley House and the DEC. However, those stations were rarely used. With the new Bulldog Pantry in a busy section of

the DEC, students can easily access it during the weeks.

Vice President of Diversity Dr. David Pilgrim talked in his speech about how food insecurity impacts students.

“Food insecurity rates are strikingly high on college campuses, with as many as one in four students experiencing not having access to sufficient food or food of adequate quality to meet their basic needs,” Pilgrim said. “Food insecurity heightens stress and depression and makes it difficult to concentrate. It’s hard to study when you’re hungry or worried about not having enough food. This pantry sends a message to our students, you belong here, and we care about you more than just providing meals, it offers a lifeline that supports students in staying on track to complete their degrees and achieve their goals.”

Pre-med senior Donna Williams attended the ceremony with a friend.

“It’s great that Ferris is focusing on their students’ health and well-being just as much as academics,” Williams said. “I think it’s convenient being a college student

is really financially stressful, so being able to go there to get food that you need when you need it, is going to be very very nice.”

It does not have to stop at simply opening a new space, others can do their part by donating to the pantry as well.

President Bill Pink provided information on how many people can do their part.

“If they let us know if they contact the university, contact people like Maggie Walcott, or even Lina Blair, and saying ‘Hey look, I’m interested,’ then they can email us and we can work directly with them to say ‘okay, at what level do you want to be a partner with us?’” Pink said. “It may just be a one-time donation or an ongoing donation. This gives us a catalyst for those kinds of donations to come in, to be helpful to our students.”

The Bulldog Pantry’s opening hours are Sunday through Thursday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and is open to all Ferris State students.



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Students eagerly tour the Bulldog Pantry after the grand opening.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Detroit- The city officials of Detroit announced plans for a project to replace private sewers that were flooded back in 2021.

The aid is going to be \$43 million from the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Living and split among 1,500 houses in 22 areas according to the Detroit Free Press.

Cecily Warren is a resident who will benefit from the program.

“We would not have been able to afford this,” Warren said. “Every time it rains, of course, we’re fearful that the water might get backed up into the basement again. We haven’t recovered from the 2021 (flood). We’re still doing replacements. I’ve got paneling that’s warped. I’ve got doors that’s warped in my basement ... this would have cost me thousands of dollars, so I do appreciate this program.”

Mayor Mark Duggan and his team helped create the plans for the new system.

“We have a lot of residents who have sewage back up in the basement, even when it’s a small rainstorm, and the reason is that the sewer line going from their house to their backyard is

cracked,” Duggan said. “If the sewage doesn’t get through your backyard, you’re in trouble. And in the low-lying areas of the city where the water runs, we know we’ve got 22 areas of the city that are prone to these backups, and we have folks who are not high-income people who don’t have the resources to spend several thousands of dollars to fix that lateral sewer line.”

There are certain qualifications for those who can apply for the program, including those whose incomes are less than 80% of the areas median income. They also have to live in a single-family home and have proof that their home was impacted by the flood in June 2021. Districts four, six and seven are the areas where the project applies.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Seville, Spain- There have been organized protests by Seville residents after five deaths due to the West Nile Virus this summer.

In addition to the deaths, there were 61 cases which all occurred in the Lower Guadalquivir valley area according to BBC News.

The protest was scheduled for Monday evening in Isla Mayor, which is located in the Seville Province. The goal of the protests are to get the government to take action against the virus.

Mayor of Coría del Río Modesto González called for local authorities and the central government to coordinate to help take more drastic measures against the virus.

“This goes way beyond the local area and no more time can be wasted because the lives of people are at risk,” he said.

According to Spanish National Research Council member Jordi Figuerola the mild winter combined with the wet spring brought on the virus being heavier than normal.

In most cases, those effected with the West Nile Virus experience minor symptoms, if any at all. 20% of the cases include heath-

es, high fever and skin eruptions. Less than 5% of cases have symptoms that can cause death.

Experts have several recommendations for how those affected can protect themselves. These include eliminating standing water sources, as this is where mosquitoes breed. They also recommend using window screens, sleeping in air conditioning, and using insect repellent.



Culture

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Time of Change Exhibition



Photo courtesy of Bruce Davidson, presented by the FSU Fine Arts Gallery

Ferris State University's Fine Arts Gallery presents original photographs by acclaimed civil rights photographer Bruce Davidson. The above image features an unnamed women being arrested during civil rights protests in the United States.

Blase Gapinski
Culture Editor

The Jim Crow Museum and Fine Art Gallery collaborated to unveil a new exhibit that showcases photographs which represent the past and modern era of the ongoing Civil Rights Movement.

In 2018, the Jim Crow Museum received an anonymous gift of 372 original historical images that were taken between 1961 and 1965 of various forms of protests including freedom rides and political demonstrations. This new exhibit is part of the Fine Art Gallery's traveling exhibition series which showcases a variety of different art collections.

The Time of Change ex-

hibit contains 30 of these original images which were all taken by internationally renowned photographer and famous civil rights activist, Bruce Davidson.

It also contains 15 images that were taken during the recent Black Lives Matter rallies including some of the protests that happened on campus. Davidson is known for his ability to immerse himself in the environment he is capturing which highlights the emotional essence of the time period.

Director of the Fine Art Gallery Carrie Weis, is in charge of curating the exhibits that are being showcased. For this particular exhibition, there are a lot of pieces on display so ensuring they are

all evenly placed is a crucial part of her setup process. As the host, Weis helps create the showcards that are handed to attendants upon entry. The image they chose to go with is an African American woman being dragged down the street by two white police officers. It is one that is showcased in the exhibit and she believes it is one of their more empowering images.

"It is a very powerful image. There is this look on this woman's face that speaks volume to how she is being treated," Weis said. "It's very relevant to what is happening in our society today and of course, the mission of the gallery is to support the mission and the core values of the university, and diversity

and inclusion remain relevant on that list."

As the founder and director of the Jim Crow Museum, Dr. David Pilgrim described how the museum is not primarily a civil rights facility. With the opportunity to showcase these historical images to the public, Pilgrim saw the chance to showcase the varying levels of protesting.

"In recent years, we've received some outstanding pieces that would go in the Civil Rights category so we took thirty of those photographs along with the BLM protest photos to create the exhibition," Pilgrim said. "Together, they make quite a statement about protests, the need to protest, and also the reality of what some pro-

tests look like."

Some of the images that are showcased at the exhibit are graphic yet it is important to remember that these images are documentation of real events. During Dr. Pink's opening remarks, he commented on the exhibit's ability to leave viewers with no words. Moments like this are a learning opportunity for the entire community and shine light on how poorly people were treated simply for standing up for their rights

"Anytime that I see a display like this, there are some things in life that, as I say, render you silent," Pink said. "Ferris is a university that is focused and attentive to how we learn from our past and

how we can become better because of that. It is what many of our programs on this campus are all about, but it is truly what the Jim Crow Museum is all about."

After the death of George Floyd in 2020, there was a student-led BLM demonstration with around 500 people in attendance. Two of the photographs that are showcased were taken on campus during those protests and Pilgrim expressed the importance of including them.

CONT. ON PG. 6



Photo by: Blase Gapinski | Culture Editor

Dr. David Pilgrim discusses the images showcasing the peaceful demonstrations that took place on campus after the death of George Floyd in 2020.

TIME OF CHANGE CONT.

“It reminds me and any visitor, of the protests that occurred at Ferris but also the way it was done,” Pilgrim said. “There was a lot of passion, a lot of purpose, but it was done orderly, much in the same way as some of the demonstrations would have been done by Martin Luther King.”

One of the photographs on display was of Viola Liuzzo’s empty car. Liuzzo was a white Civil Rights activist who was responding to Martin Luther King’s nationwide call to support the voting rights marchers. She was eventually killed by three Ku Klux Klan members while participating in the Selma to Montgomery marches. Her vehicle’s broken windows combined with the bloodstained seats truly show the suffering many endured all because of peaceful protesting.

Pilgrim shared a story about how some of Liuz-

zo’s relatives reached out to the Jim Crow Museum and thanked them for not forgetting her story. That is one of the reasons why there are still student-led marches. It is a way to continue to honor the legacy of those who laid their lives down in the name of Civil Rights.

“We believe in trying to objectively understand what occurred to try and critically understand how that impacts us today and future generations,” Pilgrim said. “This is a lifelong journey and there aren’t very many easy answers so our purpose is to document the past, and that’s what we do in this exhibit.”

The Time of Change exhibition will be on display in the Fine Art Gallery located in the David L. Eisler Center until Sept. 28 and for more info regarding the topics of race, race relations, and racism, check the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Imagery’s website.



Photo courtesy of Bruce Davidson, presented by the FSU Fine Arts Gallery

Civil rights activist, Viola Liuzzo, was murdered in her car by Ku Klux Klan members.

140th year anniversary documentary

TDMP program displays Ferris State University: Legacy of Opportunity

Tate Zellman
Freelance Reporter

On Aug. 28, the Television & Digital Media Production program showcased its documentary honoring Ferris' 140th anniversary, Legacy of Opportunity.

The documentary screening had over 90 people in attendance, which included students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members. The documentary was played at the David L. Eisler Center Ballrooms B and C.

The documentary explored Ferris' past, its rich history and the people and events that have shaped the university. It even showcased the goal that Woodbridge and Helen Ferris declared, which was to provide an opportunity to anyone willing to learn, and how that legacy has carried on over the past 140 years. It also presented how the Ferris family founded the Big Rapids Industrial School in 1884, the university's former name.

Professor in the School of Digital Media Nick Kuiper the film's lead producer and instructor for the students who participated, described the process of putting the film together, and how the idea first came about.

"This idea originated with the College of Business dean Dr. Logan Jones after he saw some of the other TDMP work," Kuiper said. "He said,

'Hey, it's 140-year anniversary next year, why don't you take this on as a project?' Our seniors in the fall 2023 section of TDMP instructional design were approached and I brought up the opportunity. After some thought at the end of August last year, they decided to take on this project. During September of 2023, we made an outline of how we wanted the documentary to flow. A year later, we followed that outline pretty closely."

Kuiper additionally stated that because it was a larger-scale project, the students would work on the project until they finished the semester and went off on their internships, and then Kuiper would continue the work.

In total, the film had over 40 interviews, hundreds of hours of editing and exceeded over an hour in runtime, all to showcase 140 years of history. One student who was a big contributor to the film was TDMP alumni Nolan Harris, who graduated in the spring of 2023. He is credited as the film's lead writer, editor, videographer and audio engineer. Harris described the film's message and how it felt to carry that message to the university's legacy.

"The message of the film is that if you want to learn, this is an amazing place to do it," Harris said. "No matter who

you are and no matter where you come from, you have an opportunity at Ferris. The message is to showcase that Ferris has been honoring, and even pioneering that legacy, and the legacy still exists today. The fact that us students made it reinforces that message."

Television and digital media production junior Noah Stombaugh, who attended the film as an extra credit opportunity, enjoyed seeing how the film was put together from an emotional point of view and discovering where certain aspects of the university came from.

"I really like how they presented the emotional value of everything and how it was all brought together," Stombaugh said. "The design of the logo, where the mascot and all the sports came from. I really liked those stories."

The design of the logo was inspired by images of a lion roaring, the idea of having a bulldog as a mascot was first brought up in the 1930s and the athletic department now has a total of 17 varsity teams that compete at the university.

The documentary is now available on the Ferris State TDMP YouTube channel.

Nolan Harris was previously employed by the Ferris State Torch.



Photo by: Tate Zellman | Freelance Reporter

Students and faculty learn the history of Ferris State University.

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3. CROTON DAM
4. MORLEY DAM
5. ROGERS DAM

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Opinions

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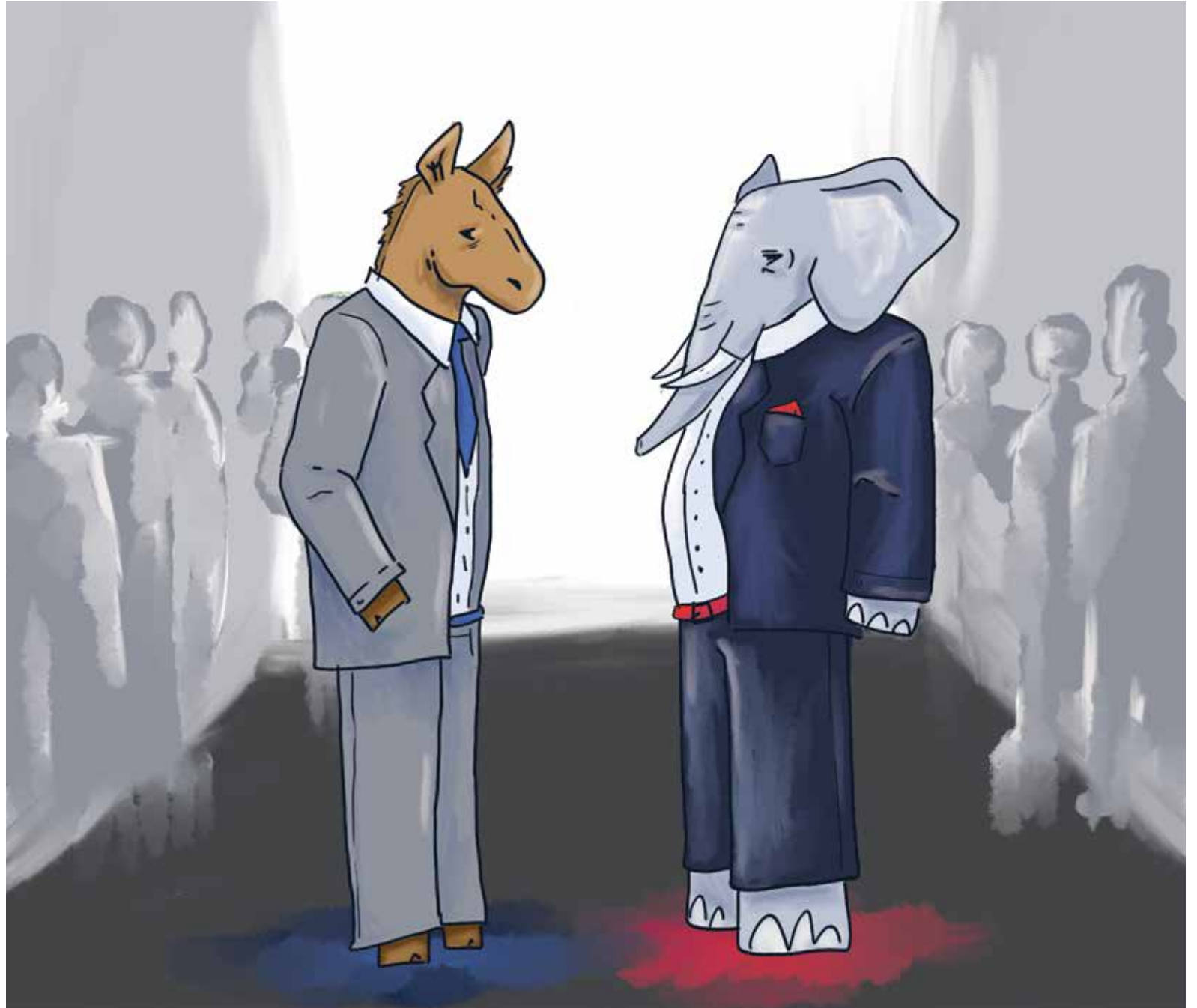
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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

The humanity in politics

An important reminder going into the election



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

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Dylan Rider Editor in Chief

In our last few election cycles, the American people have witnessed the political landscape transform into that of a vitriolic, divisive mess.

I would be lying if I didn't acknowledge that I, myself, have been guilty of adding to it at times. I have my opinions and beliefs that I believe to be the truth, after all. These truths, that I'm willing to debate and argue over, have, well, got me into debates and arguments.

My friends know my politics well, as I can't help myself from starting myself on a rant about political figures, the powers that be or whatever that happens to have annoyed me from that day's

news cycle. The bottom line is that I'm not a fan of the political establishment, be it Democrat or Republican.

Last Tuesday, Donald Trump's Vice President pick, Senator J.D. Vance, held a political rally in Big Rapids. My attendance, for Torch coverage, made it the first political rally I've ever attended. The irony lies in my distaste for Trump's political campaign, which includes Vance.

For many reasons, I felt out of place. A political rally, for a candidate I'd never support, was attended by a crowd made up of mostly middle-aged to old people. I'm a 21-year-old college student. For obvious reasons, the rally was not my scene.

However, this rally reminded me of something rather

important. My issues with the political establishment, specifically the right side of the aisle in this case, shouldn't extend to the people.

The rally took place under a scorching hot sun. A few thousand attendees, including myself, sweated it out and waited for Vance's remarks. Despite the heat, which tends to make people more than irritable, I found the hospitality shown by those who hold polar opposite views to be incredibly pleasant.

The man next to me, a guy I heard agreeing with points from Vance that I could only shake my head at, offered me the extra water he had and even offered to give up his seat at one point. Yes, this man didn't know my politics and could have easily treat-

ed me differently. However, I knew his and it didn't stop me from being cordial while offering him his seat back.

All of those aforementioned actions are small gestures, sure. But it has to count for something. A man that I'd never ever see eye-to-eye with offered things that, at the time, were important. There's a lesson there.

The glimmer of humanity shown despite knowing and not knowing of a difference between me and him speaks volumes. I felt the same glimmer when offering any assistance or aid to a heat-stroked man who I just watched throw up. There were no politics there.

My issue isn't with the supporters, no matter how wrong I think they are. For the polit-

ically active and involved, we all show ways of stubbornness with our beliefs, I get it. Don't get me wrong, some ghoulish people support certain things for diabolical reasons. However, in this case, the human aspect reigned supreme for me.

It's probably the reminder I needed going into the election season too. Maybe you needed it too. As the political battlegrounds are still being fought over these next few months, I urge you to keep your humanity intact. It's a painful idea to some to help those who support policies that they feel harm them, it's a valid pain. But perhaps killing them with kindness is the key to winning that battleground.

Going vegan

The struggle of a new lifestyle

Isabelle Marks
News Reporter

My experience of going vegan involved a lot of learning and experimenting, as well as some difficulties.

I went vegan a few weeks after school got out in the spring, so I haven't been vegan for long. I initially went vegan for health reasons, like to lose weight. Although it has been very effective with other diet and lifestyle changes, it has also been difficult.

Deciding to go vegan, regardless of why, takes a lot of willpower, time and money to rebuild your fridge and pantry. Not all vegan options are great and not all recipes will work out. Instead of getting frustrated, you have to note what isn't working, and what you could change if you make the recipe again.

Something you also have to be aware of is not going into recipes with insanely high expectations. Vegan cheese won't taste like real cheese, vegan meat will not have the texture or taste of real meat. Some recipes will likely taste off. Although it will be hard to get over at first, you will find ways to enjoy these recipes

after a time, and after your taste buds get used to them.

It can also be hard when going out with friends, not all restaurants are accommodating, leading to some "let down" meals. I remember one time over the summer, I had gone out to breakfast with a friend. I had to scour the menu, only to settle on "farmers hash" with the main toppings taken off. It ended as a plate of 10 tater tots and some diced onions.

I'm not saying each restaurant should have an extensive list of vegan dishes. A few options would help encourage more customers to come, knowing the restaurant is somewhat accommodating.

It can also be very challenging to come to campus as a first-year student with dietary restrictions. In my first-year student year, I was gluten-free, and although I was promised a nutritionist and many gluten-free options, the dietitian quit shortly after I came to campus. I had little to no options each day, and when I did eat in the dining hall I often got sick. I used my meal plan less than 30 times the whole year and still had to pay the full price.

If you find yourself in the same predicament, whether you are vegan, gluten-free, kosher, etc., I encourage you to advocate for yourself because nobody wants to have to buy groceries and attempt to cook in their dorm as I often found myself doing when they had purchased a very expensive dining hall pass for the year. It is as hard as it is unnecessary.

When you buy the meal plan, you should expect to have a few options and be able to eat there comfortably.

While going vegan was not fully based on the ethical side of it for me, it is something I am passionate about now. It helps me eat healthily by encouraging a plant-based lifestyle full of many colors and nutrients, as well as helping save animals and unethical practices. If you are vegan as well, I encourage you to try more recipes that may be outside your comfort zone because there are such a vast number of recipes out there, and so many things you can recreate.



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Black Ops is back

Why the new "Call of Duty" is a positive step for modern gaming



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Blase Gapinski
Culture Editor

The "Call of Duty: Black Ops 6" early access beta is now available, and things finally seem to be going in a positive direction for the franchise.

This is a title I am sure many people will be picking up and playing, regardless of the high price tag, due to

the nostalgia factor. As soon as I saw the announcement that "Black Ops 6" was going to be this year's game, I placed my pre-order. In the past, I would have warned myself and others to not get the game so early due to high expectations not being met. After taking the time to play the early access multiplayer beta, I can confidently say that this title is making the

right changes to improve the "Call of Duty" experience.

When first loading onto the beta, all players are met with an introductory tutorial that showcases how the multiplayer game mode and new movement system work. It is skippable, but with the new omni-movement system being introduced, I decided it would be in my best interest to try the course out.

The new movement is very straightforward and similar to older "Call of Duty" titles. Tactical sprint is making a return, along with some elements introduced, such as the ability to sprint in all directions, dive in all directions and even get into supine positions while on the ground.

After completing the tutorial, I was pleasantly surprised to be met with my pre-order bonus rewards. These rewards usually aren't available until the full game is out, so it gives players who pre-ordered the game early the ability to play with weapons and attachments that are already unlocked.

The gameplay truly feels different than any of the other "Black Ops" titles, and it is entertaining. Yes, thankfully, there is still skill-based matchmaking. Occasionally, I get in lobbies that feel like they are unplayable and make me question if I should even go through with the purchase, but it makes me want to get better. It could just be the feeling of something new, but I enjoy being able to play out different scenarios when coming across enemy players.

A personal favorite new feature of mine is the ability

to take enemy players and use them as a shield. Thanks to the ability of hot mics, you and the person you take as a shield are placed in the same game chat channel so you can have "pleasant" conversations with them while they take bullets for you.

There are three of the 15 brand-new multiplayer features in the early access beta. The three we get so far are mid-sized maps that contain the familiar three-lane style that "Call of Duty" players are fond of.

One of the only downsides to this beta is the lack of content that is included. Of course, I am just being stingy. This game has so much to offer for a pre-released version, and there is plenty of content within it to get the hang of the game. Maybe it is a good thing, but myself and others are looking forward to additional content to be added.

Luckily, with the open beta starting this weekend, there will be additional weapons and maps added to current rotations that are featured on "Black Ops 6."

Another pleasant surprise is how well this beta runs. These are early versions of the video game that myself

and other people are playing on. In the early stages, this game looks and plays amazingly. Typically, it is common for the game to constantly crash, and user connectivity is usually poor.

Many others who have played the early access beta can attest that this is one of the most put-together betas a "Call of Duty" title has seen. This gives me more hope that the fully released game will be something players will continue to want to play.

In my opinion, the approval and hype for this game will only grow as the anticipated release date approaches. The campaign gameplay we have seen looks beautiful, despite looking similar to previous games, round-based zombies seem to have made all of the changes necessary to fix their past mistakes, and it was recently announced "Warzone's" debut map, Verdansk, will be making its return for "Black Ops 6."

The only thing left to do now is to get out there and try the beta for yourself! The "Call of Duty Black Ops 6" open beta starts Friday, Sept. 6, and ends Monday, Sept. 9, and is free for all players.

Sports

Connor Grypma | Sports Editor | grypma@ferris.edu

Ferris drops season opener for first time since 2013

Turnovers and costly penalties plague Bulldogs in loss.



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Junior quarterback Trinidad Chambliss rushes behind offensive lineman Lawrence Hatter while playing Pittsburg State.

Caden Hofmann
Special Editions Editor

The Ferris State football team drops their first season opener since the 2013 season when they fell to FCS powerhouse North Dakota State on the road by a score of 56-16.

The No. 3 ranked Bulldogs (0-1) fell to the No. 6 ranked Pittsburg State Gorillas (1-0) on the road Saturday night by a score of 19-3.

The matchup between Ferris and Pittsburg State was just their second meeting of all time, the first coming in the 2022 DII playoffs where the Bulldogs were victorious.

Turnovers and costly penalties plagued Ferris in the DII top 10 showdown over the weekend.

The Bulldogs turned the ball over four times compared to the Gorillas' one giveaway. Junior quarterback Trinidad Chambliss threw two interceptions, and juniors Carson Gulker and Brady Rose each fumbled the ball once for Ferris. Junior defen-

sive back Jalen Jones forced the lone turnover for the Bulldogs.

Due to the turnovers and mistakes, Ferris was dominated by Pitt. State in the time of possession game, the Bulldogs held the ball for just 21 minutes compared to the Gorilla's 38 minutes of possession time.

Penalties were a major issue on both sides of the ball as Ferris committed 10 penalties for a total of 70 yards while Pitt. State committed just two penalties all game.

The game was a defensive battle early, the Gorillas went into halftime with a 6-3 lead. However, the turnovers and miscues would catch up to the Bulldogs in the second half and Ferris would be held scoreless the entire half as Pitt. State extended their lead and finished out the game.

Ferris was outgained by the Gorillas 316 yards to just 171 yards. Chambliss led the Bulldogs in passing completing 60% (13-20) of his passes for 133 yards.

Gulker led the team with 33 yards on the ground on eight carries and senior Tyrese Hunt-Thompson brought in three catches for 68 yards to lead the Bulldogs in receiving.

Even with the loss, a few of the Bulldog defenders stood out with a great game. Junior safety Justin Payout recorded thirteen tackles including one tackle for loss. Senior defensive lineman Arnold Saidov recorded 1.5 sacks for Ferris.

Although the Bulldogs fall to 0-1 their season is far from over. The goals of reaching the playoffs and winning the conference are still well within reach. Ferris still has ten games left on their schedule with three more out-of-conference games coming up before GLIAC play begins.

Ferris will host the Lake Erie College Storm (1-10 in 2023-24) on Saturday, Sept. 7 for the Bulldogs' home opener this year. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. as Ferris looks to get back into the win col-



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Team captains Lawrence Hatter, Lento Smith, Deron Irving-Bey and Brady Rose prepare for battle.

Bulldog soccer eyes regular season

Exhibition match victory kickstarts Bulldogs into regular season



Photo by: Ciara Brooks | Torch Photographer

The Ferris State women's soccer team celebrates after defeating the Northwoods Timberwolves 3-1.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Reporter

In their final exhibition game before regular season play, the Bulldogs women's soccer team defeated the Northwoods Timberwolves by a score of 3-1 at home on Saturday, Aug. 31.

After Ferris tied Calvin 0-0 in their first match last weekend, the Bulldogs rebounded to enter the regular season with a win.

Ferris scored two goals in the first half of the match before the Timberwolves got on the board early in the second to make it a one-score game. However, the Bulldogs retaliated once more in the second to make the final score 3-1.

Senior goalkeeper Lauren Kubacki felt encouraged about the team's direction after the exhibition win on Saturday.

"There are still some tweaks and kinks to sort

out but we're at a very good spot," Kubacki said. "We were able to put together a lot more dangerous attacks and we dominated the possession aspects of the game which was a big focus for us heading into the match."

The Bulldogs are coming off a 2023-24 regular season that saw them go 7-9-4 making it to the GLIAC Tournament Semifinals but ultimately losing to Northern Michigan by a score of 4-1.

Head coach Greg Henson spoke on his team heading into the regular season opener.

"We have a lot of veteran leadership but we're also a young team," Henson said. "We've got 19 freshman and sophomores and we're happy with the maturity we've seen out of them already. We'll definitely see some big impact players out of that freshman class this year like we have every year."

Nineteen is the biggest

group of underclassmen the women's soccer squad has seen since the 2018 season where they had 23 underclassmen on the roster.

Upcoming Matchups

Ferris State Bulldogs vs Cedarville Lady Jackets

The Cedarville Lady Jackets come to Big Rapids for the first game of the Bulldogs regular season on Thursday, Sept. 5. The Lady Jackets are coming off a 2023-24 regular season where they went 16-5-1 and made it to the NCAA DII but fell to the top-seeded Ashland University.

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**BULLDOG SOCCER EYES-
REGULAR SEASON CONT.**

The matchup to watch will be senior midfielder Megan McClish of the Lady Jackets and sophomore forward Katherine Welch. McClish had an excellent 2023-24 where she totaled 11 goals and five assists which was good for 27 points which was good for first in all categories in the G-MAC. Welch is hoping to grow off of her true freshman season where she had eight goals and one assist, good for 17 points.

Ferris State Bulldogs at the University of Indianapolis Greyhounds, Sept. 8

The Bulldogs head to Indianapolis to face off against the Greyhounds for game two of the regular season on Sunday, Sept. 8. The Greyhounds are hoping for a rebound season as in the 2023-24 season they went 4-8-5.

The matchup to watch in this game will be between the Greyhound's Wegener and the Bulldogs' junior forward Haley Buckman who will get a bigger workload with forward Payton Price graduating, Buckman totaled two goals and one assist which was good for five points in the 2023-24 season.



Freshman midfielder Natalia Leavans makes a pass to her teammate during Saturday's game.

Photo by: Ciara Brooks | Torch Photographer

UPCOMING HOME GAMES:

Thursday, Sept. 5

- Women's soccer vs. Cedarville 1 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 7

- Men's and women's cross country Ray Helsing Bulldog Invitational 8 a.m.
- Football vs. Lake Erie 6 p.m.