



Galaxy Gas in Big Rapids

Nitrous oxide in our community



Photo by: Ciara Brooks | Photographer

Various types of flavored nitrous oxide canisters are found underneath the cash register at the Bulldog Party Store.

Emma Walters
Freelance Reporter

It's official. Galaxy Gas has made its way to Big Rapids.

Galaxy Gas, containing nitrous oxide, is a popular flavored whipped cream additive. However, the newest internet craze has seen intensive misuse of the product, which can result in severe health consequences.

Misuse of nitrous oxide to achieve a short-term euphoric high is linked to several health complications, including hypoxia, lightheadedness, impaired motor coordination, frostbite and heart irregularities. Long-term or repeated misuse has led to brain and nerve damage. There have been previous trends with the products, including the misuse of whip cream cans,

called whip-its, where the aerosol canister gasses are inhaled to get a high.

According to Rise Smoke Shop employee Adrianna Baker, there are many sales of Galaxy Gas.

"I've been asked about Galaxy Gas specifically, multiple times, especially since the college kids did come back to town," Baker said. "I've been asked about it

at least 30 times. For legal reasons, it's for food purposes only. It says that on the receipt and on the shelves, but who's coming here to buy Reddi-whip for your ice cream?"

In addition, Baker explained that selling nitrous oxide can be tricky, especially with its recent portrayal on social media. These recent media trends have changed

the reputation of Galaxy Gas from a culinary tool to a popularized misused substance.

"We don't sell the Galaxy Gas brand here, but we do sell nitrous oxide, which is exactly what that is," Baker said. "If they ask for Galaxy Gas, we have to suggest a look at other things we sell. Because of sales, I still have to do that, but it's not a great thing to buy or sell. It's really

garbage. It'll kill you. But, you know, it's the new popular drug. It's the new coke."

Typically sold in party stores and smoke shops, part of the regulation for purchasing nitrous oxide is a valid ID, presenting the individual as 18 or older.

CONT. ON PG. 3

ON THE RECORD

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

High speed non-pursuit

Oct. 10, 11:30 p.m. - While driving, officers witnessed a vehicle going 60 mph in a 35 mph zone, approaching them in the wrong lane. Upon stopping the vehicle, officers gave the driver two sobriety tests. The driver blew a BAC of 0.14 and 0.13, almost double the legal limit, and was arrested.

What is on the record?

On the Record comes from cases that are listed on the Clergy Log and from the Department of Public Safety each week. The Clergy Log is a public document used to record crimes that the Ferris Department of Public Safety responds to.

Graphic by: Harmony Goodman



News

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



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Whipped cream chargers contain nitrous oxide to create whipped cream, although the gas is often abused for recreational purposes.

GALAXY GAS CONT.

According to Bulldog Party Store owner Giani Singh Ji, regulations for selling Galaxy Gas are specific and strict.

“You can only use this product for food purposes,” Ji said. “When somebody comes up to the counter to buy the product, we have to see the ID.”

In addition, Ji mentioned that the Bulldog Party Store does not sell a large quantity of Galaxy Gas. Moreover, sales of the product have so far been infrequent. He also noted that Galaxy Gas is responsible for all advertising

for the product, with the party store having no hand in the matter.

Despite restrictions on selling Galaxy Gas, students in the community still seem uneasy about the presence of nitrous. Radiography junior Olivia Landry expressed concern with the regulation around nitrous oxide.

“I don’t feel that’s really a safe thing readily available to everybody in the public,” Landry said. “Maybe if that was regulated more, it’d be misused less.”

Industrial chemistry junior Mya Hazley expressed similar doubts about Galaxy Gas be-

ing sold in town.

“I think it’s kind of predatory,” Hazley said. “I think it’s preying on college kids who don’t know enough about the dangers of doing stuff like that. It leaves a bad taste in my mouth. I don’t like it. They’re not going to sell that anywhere that isn’t a college party store, because they know their target audience, and that’s why they’re selling it there.”

At the time of this article, both the Bulldog Party Store and Rise Smoke Shop report that there has been no issue with underage individuals trying to purchase Galaxy Gas.



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Rise Smoke Shop is among many in town that sell nitrous oxide cans.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Connor Grypma
Sports Editor

This weekend, the Detroit Tigers season ended in their American League Division Series against the Cleveland Guardians.

Heading into a win-or-go-home game five in the best-of-three series, the Tigers eventually lost by a score of 7-3 despite Cy-Young frontrunner Tarik Skubal taking the mound for Detroit.

The Tigers took the early 1-0 lead thanks to outfielder Kerry Carpenter roping a single to drive in shortstop Trey Sweeney, but a disastrous five-run fifth inning put the Guardians up big. A Lane Thomas grand slam accounted for four of these runs.

Detroit put a few more runs on the board in the following innings but failed to complete the comeback, ultimately losing the series three games to two.

Team manager A.J. Hinch remained optimistic about the team’s output this season.

“We left everything we could on the field against a really good team,” Hinch said. “We didn’t want the season to end that early but I’m really proud to be the manager and represent them in front of everyone because of who they are and what they’re about.”

Despite the series loss, the Tigers ended with a regular season record of 86-76 including a wild-card series win against the Houston Astros. This is Detroit’s first playoff appearance in a decade. In early August, the Tigers were given a 0.2% chance to make the playoffs before their final playoff push where they went 31-11 since August 10.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Cape Canaveral, Fla.- NASA launched a spacecraft headed for Europa, one of Jupiter’s moons.

The spacecraft named Europa Clipper launched on Monday after it was delayed due to Hurricane Milton according to BBC News.

It was supposed to launch last week but due to the hurricane, it was delayed.

The Jupiter moon Europa appears to have an icy crust and there is a possibility of saltwater below the surface as well.

There were spacecrafts sent in the 1970’s and 1995 and found that there is a possibility of the moon having life. The hope from NASA is that the Europa Clipper will be able to answer whether or not the moon has any life.

Europa Clipper is expected to land in 2030. It will use the gravitational pull of the Earth and Mars along with its fuel, and using JUICE, another spacecraft, in order to get itself to Jupiter.



Spring 2025

CLASS REGISTRATION

Oct 28, 2024

Registration begins

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Jan 9-10, 2025

Late registration

Jan 13, 2025

First day of classes

Jan 13-16, 2025

Drop/ add classes

Closes at 5 p.m. on Jan 16

Learn more
about registration



ferris.edu/registration

Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Student Government updates

Student Government Association Director of Operations Jake McGaha announced the following internal committees that SGA will have:

Campus Connect Live

- Creates podcasts and live streams about campus and students

Campus Improvement

- Wants to create visible changes to campus

Entertainment

- Event planning for students and the Ferris community

Mental and Physical Health

- Creating workshops and events to help students with their health

Survey

- Polling students' thoughts and opinions on campus and things that can be changed

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FAFSA revisions

What's changing with the FAFSA this year



Photo by: Shaunti'ara Reynolds | Freelance Photographer

The Timme Center provides FAFSA and financial support for students.

Kate Babel
News Reporter

The Department of Education is undergoing trial runs to fix previous FAFSA problems and to test out some new changes for the upcoming 2025-2026 FAFSA.

The Beta Testing Program is a tool the Department of Education uses as a safeguard to ensure that the technology is working correctly for 2025-26. As students' problems continue while filling out the FAFSA, the department conducts a series of test phases to address and fix the issues.

Assistant Director of Financial Aid Melanie Mulder described the problems the previous 2024-2025 FAFSA had.

"FAFSA issues prior to the 2024-25 FAFSA were minimal and usually involved students or parents that answered questions incorrectly," Mulder said. "There were numerous technical issues surrounding the new FAFSA format. For example, some students were not able to invite their parents to submit their information for the FAFSA, even though it was required for them to do so. Additionally, some parents were not able to complete their portion of the FAFSA due to technical issues."

Despite having the number of questions reduced

from 100 to 36, the main issues were not so much with the students filling out their half but sharing it with their parents so they could fill out their side. Many students have faced technical difficulties when filling out the FAFSA.

Information security intelligence freshman Cayla Barber talked about the problems she had with the 2024-2025 FAFSA.

"I thought it was frustrating because it kept logging me out," Barber said. "And it didn't really load my progress and when you finally get through the process it did absolutely nothing frustrating."

The Department of Education has solutions, including resources in the 2025-2026 FAFSA, such as a Revised Student Aid estimator, a stand-alone "parent wizard" contributor tool to help students and families and an updated 2025-2026 FAFSA prototype. Mulder further explained the importance of these resources and their purpose.

"Because of the delays and technical issues associated with the 2024-25 FAFSA release, the Department of Education did not have time to implement any additional resources for families. These tools serve as training materials to help prepare students and their parents to file the FAFSA by helping them know

what to expect once the FAFSA is released on December 1," Mulder said. "The Student Aid Estimator will help first-time filers by providing an estimate of the type of amount of financial assistance each student can expect to receive from Federal Student Aid – whether it be in the form of Pell Grant and/or federal student loans."

Each testing phase of the FAFSA is labeled betas one, two, three and four. These tests will help the Department of Education fix any problems with the FAFSA and improve the material to make navigating the FAFSA easier. Beta testing is conducted all over the U.S. and likely recruits students from different areas to test-run FAFSAs so the Department of Education can get the feedback it needs.

Mulder described how the testing works. She explained how approximately 1000 students will be involved in each of the four scheduled testing periods.

"Agencies that have volunteered for the beta testing project will assist students in filing their FAFSA for 2025-26," Mulder said. "After each test group of students files the FAFSA, Federal Student Aid will review the results and attempt to resolve any technical issues that may prevent students from filing their FAFSA, or may prevent

the test schools from receiving the electronic downloads of student FAFSAs."

The beta testing began on Oct. 1. As of now, Beta one is coming to a close, and the other three beta tests will roll out in mid-October, early November, and mid-November. The Federal Student Aid program has not released further details regarding the testing stages.

Plastics engineering freshman Noah Bros commented on his time filling out the

2024-2025 FAFSA.

"I thought it was pretty easy, you just got to read the directions it gives you," Bros said. "There's just a lot of information, I had to track down about myself and about my family, so that was good."

Students can take as much time as they need while filling out the FAFSA. While in some cases, like Bros, who had an easier experience as far as the step-by-step directions,

other students have faced technical difficulties. One thing to take note of is that each student has their own experience when filling out the FAFSA."

"The FAFSA is the tool for students that need financial assistance to cover their educational expenses," Mulder said. "We encourage every eligible student that needs financial assistance to complete the FAFSA in order to receive all of the financial aid that they are eligible for."

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Torch Online



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Culture

Blase Gapinski | Culture Editor | gapinsb@ferris.edu

Rise of e-mobility

A double-edged sword for students



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Scooters and mopeds are now frequently seen around campus, occupying bike racks and parking spaces.

Aiden MacLean
Freelance Reporter

Electric scooters, bikes, skateboards and mopeds are quickly becoming a common sight on college campuses across the country, particularly in Big Rapids.

As universities expand and students face increasingly demanding schedules, these new forms of transportation have emerged as a solution to the challenge of getting from class to class efficiently. As a faster, eco-friendly alternative to walking, e-mobility promises to revolutionize campus commutes.

While these innovations help students save time and improve their daily routines, they also come with social and cultural consequences that some students are beginning to notice. E-mobility is transforming student life by balancing the benefits of efficiency with the potential downsides of reduced social interaction.

Business administration junior Morgan Sanocki is one of many students who has found e-transportation to be a game-changer.

"These new forms of transportation can create better time management principles for students," Sanocki said.

Indeed, as campus schedules become increasingly demanding, many students see e-bikes and scooters as a solution to the ever-present problem of rushing between buildings without the stress of being late. Efficiency seems to be a major selling point.

Finance sophomore Kaden Karroma echoed this sentiment, praising the convenience of the vehicles.

"It allows for a good efficiency of students," Karroma said. "When walking, it takes almost thirty minutes to get from one end of campus to the other, but these allow people to get from one end to another in five to 10 minutes."

For busy students juggling classes, part-time jobs and extracurriculars, this added efficiency has become essential. Not all students are fully on board with the trend, however. While these sleek new machines may make life easier, they come at a social cost.

Mechanical engineering technology freshman Cameron Handwerker expressed concerns about how these electric options might impact the traditional social dynamism on campus.

"These new forms of transportation seclude people from conversating while walking," Handwerker said.

As someone who initially embraced the electric long-board trend, Handwerker quickly realized its unintended consequence.

"I only used it for a short while before realizing this effect on social impacts," Handwerker said.

Walking to class, once a time for casual conver-

sations and spontaneous meetups, is gradually being replaced by quick, isolated rides across campus. The stroll between buildings, which often allowed students to bump into friends, chat about their day or even make new connections, is becoming less common as e-scooters, bikes and skateboards zip past.

These brief interactions, though small, have traditionally contributed to the sense of community on campus, offering opportunities to catch up, discuss class material or even make impromptu study plans. Without them, the campus environment can feel more fragmented, as students now travel in their bubbles, earbuds in, focused on getting to their destination as quickly as possible.

While the efficiency of e-transportation is undeniable, it's the spontaneous social moments that may slip away in the process. These small pockets of time used to be

crucial for creating a vibrant campus atmosphere where students felt connected. The quick transitions between locations mean fewer chances to have those organic conversations, which can lead to a growing sense of isolation.

Some students have expressed concern that this shift, while beneficial for managing time, may come at the expense of the social fabric that has long been a hallmark of college life. In the long run, the speed and convenience of e-mobility could reshape the dynamics of how students engage with each other on campus, leading to a quieter, more individualistic experience.

In response to these growing trends, universities are beginning to evaluate the broader impact of e-mobility on campus culture. Some are considering designated e-transportation lanes, while others are launching initiatives to maintain pedestrian zones that encourage

walking and conversation. As campuses become more connected through technology, students and faculty are grappling with the balance between efficiency and social interaction.

The rise of e-transportation on campus reflects the dual nature of technological advancement: for every leap forward in convenience, there is often a cost to the more intangible elements of daily life. While these sleek, battery-powered vehicles are helping students like Sanocki and Karroma navigate their busy schedules more effectively, the question remains: at what social cost?

As the popularity of e-mobility continues to grow, it seems students will have to decide whether the trade-off is worth it or if there is a way to merge the best of both worlds—faster commutes and those all-important social connections.

Global opportunities await

Office of International Education's global showcase



Photo by: Shaunti'ara Reynolds | Freelance Photographer

Students discuss options with study abroad representatives during the study abroad fair.

Blase Gapinski
Culture Editor

The Office of International Education hosted a study abroad fair where students could learn about vibrant educational opportunities that ignite curiosity and global connections.

The Study Abroad Fair offered a chance for students to learn about the different ways they can travel for education. Members of the OIE, university faculty and study abroad ambassadors were all there to share their unique experiences with students to pique their interest in studying abroad.

This event showcased many different resources for students to learn about study abroad programs offered, internship opportunities and even passport photography to help students facilitate their passport.

Study Abroad Coordinator Megan Hauser-Tran attended the event to help guide stu-

dents by giving them general information and finding ways to connect them to the program.

"The study abroad fair gives students a chance to browse and speak to representatives from different programs to help them get started with the application process," Hauser-Tran said. "We have students here who are actually study abroad alumni so they've been on board for a while and can share their experiences. It's a great opportunity to connect with others and get that peer perspective."

Each of the programs presented information about traveling abroad and explained the difference between the variety of choices. There are short-term faculty programs that usually go on in the summer to partner programs that the university teams up with to offer semester-wide exchanges. All students can view the different programs offered and de-

cide based on their interests or how long they are looking to travel.

Hauser-Tran studied abroad during her academic career and shared the impact it had on her life, especially when it came time for graduation and applying for graduate schools. She shared how it is an opportunity all students can benefit from, regardless of whether they plan on working globally.

"I think that experience of studying abroad has helped me every step of the way," Hauser-Tran said. "I think even students who are planning to work locally can still benefit from that global perspective. When you put yourself out there in the world, you start to realize more about yourself that you might not have had the chance to when you were kind of in that comfort zone of your regular environment. So I think it definitely opens you up to that perspective."

Executive Director of the

OIE Tara Braun emphasized the importance of cultural knowledge for future professions as different fields bring in people with different language backgrounds and cultural differences. She also expressed the importance of students exploring options they are interested in, regardless if it doesn't seem feasible.

"One thing students wonder is how am I going to pay for this and fit it in with my major but I want students to remember that regardless of your academic major you can fit in study abroad," Braun said. "Don't think that you can't do it. Come and find something that attracts your attention and we can sit down to create a budget. We have had this happen with many students in the past and we usually try and help them make it happen."

Braun mentioned the implementation of an ambassador program for students who have already studied abroad

and are current students. She also mentioned how recently alumni who have studied abroad have reached out to share how their experiences have impacted their lives.

"We try to prepare the students well for their experiences and one way to do that is by communicating with our ambassadors and even alumni who have faced the reality of studying abroad," Braun said. "We do keep in touch with alumni that have studied abroad, and we were finding out now how that experience impacted their whole thinking process."

Psychology senior Madailein Miller is one of the ambassadors for the study abroad program. Last summer, she traveled to Costa Rica as part of the short-term faculty program and expressed the importance of connecting learning around the world. To prepare for her travels, Miller had to attend many meetings that went over cultural adjustments to prepare her for liv-

ing in a different culture and even health and safety concerns.

"Studying abroad is an opportunity that any student at Ferris can get involved with," Miller said. "Learning is global. Everyone, everywhere learns so why not take the opportunity to increase what you know about a different country and your connections around the world?"

The Office of International Education has an international coffee hour and global discussion events, which are planned to take place in November. The International Festival of Nations is planned to happen at the end of February. For additional updates, refer to the Office of International Education's website and be sure to check the campus events calendar.

Media Minute

Heartstopper

Harmony Goodman
Production Manager

The third season of “Heartstopper” was released on Thursday, Oct. 3.

“Heartstopper” is an LGBTQ-based series, aired on Netflix in 2022. Alice Oseman, the creator of the show and book series under the same name, follows the brother of Victoria Spring, the main character of Oseman’s first book “Solitaire.”

The television series shows LGBTQ characters, including transgender, gay, lesbian, bisexual, nonbinary, asexual and aromantic characters. While the series focuses on Charlie Spring and Nickolas Nelson, other characters are highlighted.

“Heartstopper” shows the journey of being in the community, both good and bad. Touching on heavier topics such as bullying, mental health and grief, the expectations for accurate representation have been high.

The importance of having queer representation in the media has only been more outspoken within the past decade, especially with younger audiences. Having representation and exposure is important. In younger years, such as middle school and high school, having an accurate representation of the queer community and the process of understanding oneself is important.

While there have been disagreements over the years about young audiences’ exposure to the LGBTQ community, it is important to not disregard the good having that exposure can bring.

Figuring yourself out is one of the huge things that overwhelms young teens at this point in their lives. According to Arizona State University, it is easy to feel disconnected from who you are as a young

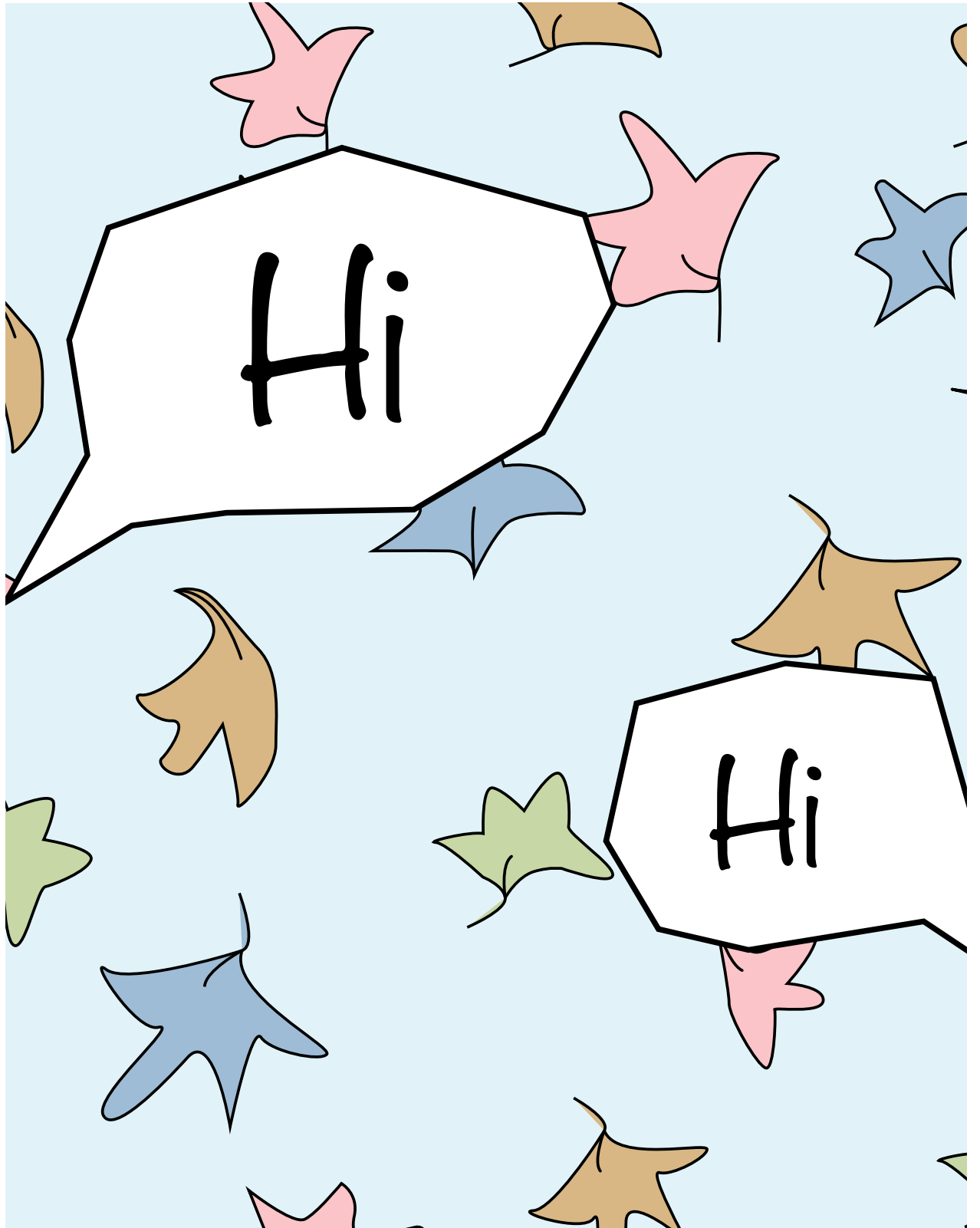
person in the queer community without proper representation. As a society, we thrive upon relating to others. Without that common connection, it’s easy to feel confused and alone.

This is why the wide and accurate variety of “Heartstopper” is so important to LGBTQ youth. The cast is comprised of those who are comfortable with their identities and have gone through similar experiences. Kizzy Edgell, the actor of Darcy, came out as nonbinary. Instead of keeping their character a female presenting individual, the team worked it into the script and created a great plotline to make them feel more comfortable in the role they were playing.

However, this is unexpected in the film industry. It seems right on target with the whole point of “Heartstopper” to begin with. It is a story about members of the queer community figuring out who they are. Oseman and the rest of the crew for “Heartstopper” gave Edgell the chance to have their character discover themselves through their own experiences.

Each season focuses on a difficult topic that creators and characters must research outside of film hours to properly execute fragile issues such as eating disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder and transphobia—all three topics covered in season three.

“Heartstopper” continues to focus on queer representation and its importance in the media. Having someone or something to relate to is an important part of self-discovery. In the coming seasons and graphic novels, I can only hope that even more topics in the community will be covered. For now, I give “Heartstopper” a 9/10.



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

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Contact The Torch Editor-in-chief Dylan Rider for questions and more.

9/10



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

Our Location:
Arts and Science Commons
1016
820 Campus Drive
Ferris State University
Big Rapids, MI 49307

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

An ode to hockey

A love letter to a sport that's given me everything



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

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Dylan Rider
Editor in Chief

As someone who has never played hockey, I have an intense affinity for the sport.

Last week, I attended the Detroit Red Wings' home opener. The drive from Big Rapids to Detroit was close to three hours, one way.

It was during the long, quiet drive back from Detroit that I thought about what I had witnessed (outside of the 6-3 Red Wings loss to my Pittsburgh Penguins). It's within those thoughts that I realized what the sport means to me and what it's given me.

When I was in high school, I randomly picked up sports. I can't remember why, but I did. Before then, I was rather apathetic to anything outside of Michigan football. Even

with that, I wasn't incredibly into it.

One of the first real memories I have of watching hockey is the 2019 NHL playoffs. Although I'm not a fan of the St. Louis Blues, watching a team win their first championship was awesome. From there, my love for the sport grew. Attending games in Detroit, Pittsburgh, Columbus, Arizona and Las Vegas have been stamped in my book of personal hockey achievements.

When I started at the Torch, all I wanted to do was cover hockey. Lucky for me, I was able to consistently cover Bulldog hockey for two years. Even when I stepped away, I had the opportunity to intern with the Grand Rapids Griffins of the AHL.

Hockey has been the most consistent thing in my life for the past four years. Things

change and people come and go. But hockey was always there. It was my thing. Even at what I consider my emotional worst, watching the Vegas Golden Knights, the team I consider to be my secondary team to the Penguins, win the Stanley Cup gave me something to feel good about amidst a time of uncertainty.

With Bulldog hockey back, I was able to return to the press box for the first time in a few months. Filled with anxiety from a back-and-forth game, I remarked to our sports editor how much I hated this feeling, but also missed it.

This mass reflection reminded me of how crucial the sport of hockey has been for me. I'm proud of the work I've done and have always been chomping at the bit to

do more. I'm incredibly grateful for what I have and what I will have.

This domino effect of simply getting into sports to falling in love with the sport of hockey is astonishing. That one decision or fate of liking sports has led me to an incredible outcome. Without that decision I don't think I would've made the friends I've made, met the people I've met or perhaps I wouldn't even be writing this now.

I believe everyone needs to find their version of my hockey. I'd suggest trying to get into the sport, but not everyone's bread and butter is people with sticks chasing galvanized rubber around on ice skates. But, everyone needs that thing they can hold on to through good times and bad times.

I'll recommend finding

something less bipolar than sports. The devastation of a loss only is healed by the triumph of victory. Find the thing that will make you tick.

I'm stupidly fortunate to have lucked into the passion of hockey alongside the potential future career in the sports world. I'm aware not everything is realistically translatable to a career. However, if you're as lucky as I am to have your passion as your career, I seriously believe in the old adage "Do something you love and you'll never work a day in your life."

I seriously hope that everyone finds their hockey. I think life is much easier when you have something like it to hold on to.

Fail to succeed

How failure can lead to learning experiences

Hailey Nye
Production Assistant

For university students, failure is an obstacle we all strive to avoid. Unfortunately, we are all human, so it is one thing we cannot escape.

Failure is perceived in various forms: being late to class, failing a test, procrastination, getting a bad grade, forgetting to take out the trash, etc. Societal and cultural pressures shape how we view success and failure. Failure is more than something undesirable, it is a time for reflection on what we did and what we can do in the future.

For all my life, I have been hesitant to fail or to say I am wrong. I will admit when something I have done is incorrect. I avoid it at all costs by omitting or including information to avoid the embarrassment of failure, or by opting out of certain experiences in fear of failure.

I am trying to change my perspective and not lead my life with the anxiety of failure because failure is not something to be feared, it is something to embrace.

Of course, no one wants to fail or is trying to fail, but it

does not have to be as terrible of an experience as we make it to be. We can change our perspective and outlook on our experiences by looking through a new introspective lens.

What most don't realize is that failure is a learning opportunity. As cheesy as it sounds, there is no greater success than learning from your mistakes. I am sure that most of us have heard this before, but few have taken the opportunity to stop and rewire how they perceive failure.

By having an optimistic and thoughtful approach to failing, you will grow as a person in how you view your failures and others.

I keep rambling that learning from your mistakes is good, but how exactly do you do that?

Remind yourself that it is okay to feel disappointed, sad or angry that you did not achieve your goal. Having a positive mindset about failure doesn't mean you have to become a person who never feels negatively, and is not swayed by any challenges.

Emotions can be a powerful motivation tool to do

better.

Stepping back from a situation and viewing it critically is key to uncovering truths about yourself and how you got into your position.

Ask yourself questions about what you could have done differently. Critique your actions and analyze the circumstances that got you where you are. Get to the hidden truth of this failure by constantly asking why.

Dig deep with your reflection and try to continuously ask "why" in response. This takes about four to five "whys".

Why 1: Why did I get a bad grade on my test? Because I didn't know the material.

Why 2: Why didn't I know the material? Because I didn't study enough.

Why 3: Why didn't I study enough? Because I wanted to do other fun things instead.

Why 4: Why did I want to do other things instead of studying? Because studying and school are stressful.

Why 5: Why is studying and school stressful? Because there is too much pressure to do good.

This simple exercise can be a tool to understand your-



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

self, your actions and situations better if that's something you struggle with.

It is also important to remember to be kind to yourself. We can't change what

has happened in the past, but we can change how we view and act in the future in similar situations. Strive to be better, and make smarter choices.

In a culture that avoids failure, celebrate it as an opportunity for growth and not a roadblock.

Vinyl vibes

Why vinyl is better than digital



Photo by: Aiden MacLean | Freelance Reporter

Vinyl records are making a resurgence with younger generations.

Aiden MacLean
Freelance Reporter

When walking through the residence halls, it's easy to notice one thing: everyone has music on. As I pass by room after room, I can't help but hear the difference between digital music and the classic sound of vinyl records.

Whether it's the latest pop hit streaming through tinny laptop speakers or a Bluetooth connection that seems to cut in and out, the quality

is often lacking—unbalanced, a little too harsh, and at times, full of static. It's nothing compared to the smooth, controlled sound of vinyl.

Vinyl records are hailed as the pinnacle of sound quality. They offer a warmth and richness that digital formats can't seem to replicate. Sure, digital music is convenient. With the tap of a screen, you can summon any song. From any decade. In an instant. With that convenience comes compromise, especially in

sound. For those who truly appreciate music, vinyl brings more to the experience.

Vinyl records have a unique ability to deliver music in a way that feels authentic. When you listen to a song on vinyl, the sound is analog is an actual representation of the recorded sound waves.

Digital music, on the other hand, compresses those sound waves into data, which leads to a loss in audio detail. Even with high-quality digital formats like FLAC or WAV, it's

still not the same as hearing a continuous, uninterrupted flow of sound vinyl offers.

This analog warmth in vinyl is something digital music, despite all its technological advancements, struggles to recreate. When you play a record, the music feels fuller, with a depth that draws you into every note, instrument and vocal nuance. It's almost as if you're in the room with the artist, hearing the music as was intended.

One of the most noticeable things about vinyl is the balance and control of the sound. Unlike digital tracks, where certain frequencies can feel overly boosted or flat, vinyl offers a naturally balanced sound.

When I hear digital music through a dorm room wall, it often feels off. Either the bass is too heavy, or the treble pierces through in an almost painful way. But with vinyl, there's a sense of harmony between the highs, mids and lows that makes the music more enjoyable to listen to.

That clarity and balance are what vinyl lovers crave. There's no distortion or sudden shifts in volume. Instead, you get smooth transitions and a dynamic range that

can be lost in digital recordings. Vinyl records capture subtle details that give the music life, details that often get compressed or dulled in digital formats.

Beyond the sound, there's the experience of vinyl itself. It's not just about putting on music; it's about the ritual. Pulling a record from its sleeve, gently placing it on the turntable and dropping the needle onto the groove. It's all part of the magic. You don't just hit play and let the music fade into the background. Listening to vinyl requires your attention and, in return, offers a more intentional and immersive experience.

With digital music, it's easy to become passive. You throw on a playlist, and the songs blur together. But with vinyl, each album is a journey. You commit to an artist, to an album side and engage with the music in a way that digital doesn't demand. There's no skipping around or letting an algorithm decide what comes next. It's you, the record and the music.

In a world where streaming services dominate and music is more accessible than ever, vinyl has made a surprising comeback. There's a reason

for this resurgence. More and more people are rediscovering the beauty of tangible music, that you can hold in your hands, that has weight and presence. Vinyl is a physical connection to the music that adds a layer of depth to the listening experience that a digital file can't offer.

For some, vinyl might seem outdated—a relic of a bygone era. But for those who appreciate music in its purest form, it's a reminder of how powerful sound can be when it's allowed to breathe.

While digital music is everywhere, it's often cluttered with noise—both in the literal sense and in how disconnected we've become from the art itself. Vinyl strips that away, giving you the music as it was meant to be heard, in all its rich, analog glory.

The next time you hear that crackle of static from a digital track through your dorm wall, take a moment to appreciate what vinyl brings to the table. It's not just about nostalgia, it's about quality. And when it comes to music, quality always wins.

Sports

Connor Grypma | Sports Editor | grypmac@ferris.edu

Weathered the Warriors

Ferris braves storm to continue their winning streak



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Junior quarterback Trinidad Chambliss sprints towards the end zone.

Caden Hofmann
Special Editor

After inclement weather forced the Bulldogs to postpone their game, they returned to the field the following day to take down the Wayne State Warriors.

The No. 4 nationally ranked Ferris State Bulldogs (5-1, 2-0 in the GLIAC) beat the Warriors (0-6, 0-2 in the GLIAC) by a score of 27-14 on the road on Saturday,

Oct. 12 in a game that took two days to complete due to storms.

The game came to a stop midway through the second quarter due to lightning in the area. At the time of the stoppage, Ferris held a 10-0 lead.

Play resumed at 11 a.m. the following morning and the Bulldogs went on to hold the lead and come out victorious.

The weather delay certainly

ly affected both teams but junior wideout Brady Rose doesn't want to use that as an excuse.

"The weather changed our plans," Rose said. "It was tough to go back to the hotel yesterday, and then come back to play today. We did a really good job of adjusting to what happened. We came out ready to go today. I don't think anyone blinked about what our job was and what we needed to do to get

a win."

Going into the game, Wayne State had not defeated Ferris since 2009.

The Bulldogs got off to an atypical start, only scoring three points in the first quarter, their lowest first-quarter total since week one.

Junior quarterback Trinidad Chambliss broke the touchdown drought for Ferris after a one-yard touchdown run just before the game was postponed.

Chambliss completed 57.9% of his passes (22-38) which was good for 235 yards and one touchdown. Chambliss was also the leading rusher for the Bulldogs as he went for 157 yards on 16 carries and a score.

Ferris wasted no time once play resumed on Sunday, scoring on their first drive after the delay to extend their lead to 17-0 at the half.

However, the Warriors did not make it easy on the Bulldogs in the second half, cutting the Ferris lead to three late in the third quarter.

Self-inflicted wounds allowed Wayne State to get back in the game. The Bulldogs accounted for a jaw dropping 16 penalties resulting in 139 yards given up.

Head coach Tony Annese was not happy with how his team handled themselves with the self-inflicted setbacks.

"It's the worst thing you can ever do to yourself, you have 100% control over how you react," Annese said. "You can't make that many mental mistakes and be a great team, maybe we are okay with being mediocre."

The Bulldogs pulled away after the late scare from Wayne State, scoring ten unanswered to hang on for a 27-14 win.

Ferris head coach Tony Annese had nothing but positive words for the Warriors post-game.

"The Warriors were the

Warriors; you have to give them credit," Annese said. "They played really hard. It's not easy being where they are. They are trying to build a program. Mad respect for how they performed against us."

The Bulldogs finished with 510 total yards of offense with their usual balanced approach, 275 yards rushing, and 235 yards passing.

Junior wide receiver Cam Underwood led Ferris in receiving, catching two balls for fifty-eight yards.

The Bulldog defense was dominant per usual, allowing just 234 yards of offense and intercepting the Warriors on three different occasions.

Sophomore defensive back Mike Edwards led the team in tackles with nine.

Senior defensive lineman Victor Nelson was candid about how the delay affected the defense.

"Playing a game over two days was different for sure," Nelson said. "The majority of us have never had to do something like that. We didn't get much sleep, but we adjusted well and stayed focused to win the game."

This Saturday, Oct. 19 the Bulldogs are back at home with a game against the Michigan Tech Huskies (4-2, 1-1 in the GLIAC). Last season, Ferris defeated Michigan Tech 35-21. Gametime is set for 1 p.m.

Winless woes

Western Michigan prove too much for the Bulldogs

Dylan Rider
Editor in Chief

Back-to-back four-plus goal performances from the No. 17 Western Michigan Broncos leave Bulldog hockey with a winless record and weekend.

A 4-1 loss on Friday, Oct. 11 at Lawson Ice Arena and a 5-1 defeat on Saturday, Oct. 12 at Ewingleben Ice Arena marked the first loss, road loss and the first time the Bulldogs (0-2-2) have been swept in the young season.

With the Bulldogs only having two goals to show in this out-of-conference series, head coach Bob Daniels believes the scoring output to be a tale of two nights.

"[The offensive production was] not great [on Friday]," Daniels said. "I think it's a different question if their goaltender hadn't played that well ... we ran to a hot goaltender and we couldn't get it by [him]."

Friday night's tilt in the Broncos' territory had Western Michigan (2-0-0) piggyback off a two-goal first frame and a two-tally third period to hand the Bulldogs a 4-1 loss. Junior forward Caiden Gault scored the lone Ferris goal following the Broncos' opening goals.

Senior goaltender Noah West faced 44 shots in the tilt, four of which found the back of the net. The Broncos' offense culminated their to-

tal 44 attempts on West by recording double-digit shots in all three periods. The Bulldogs failed to muster no more than eight shots in a period, as their second frame output ended up being the team's most important part of the contest.

Ferris then returned to Ewingleben for the second leg of its home-and-home series. Despite keeping pace with Western Michigan with shots throughout the game, five unanswered goals spelled out another loss on the weekend.

CONT. ON PG. 11



Photo by: Sam Mulder | Photographer
Kaleb Ergang races to the puck ahead of the opposing Broncos.

Firing on all cylinders

Bulldogs stay undefeated with wins against Saginaw Valley and Lake Superior State



Photo by: Ciara Brooks | Torch Photographer

Outside hitter Claire Nowicki jumps to return a serve to the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Reporter

The No. 4 ranked Bulldogs volleyball team kept their undefeated streak alive when they returned to Ewingleben Sports Arena for another weekend series.

The Bulldogs (17-0, 9-0 in the GLIAC) soundly defeated the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals (7-18, 1-6 in the GLIAC) by a score of 3-0 on Friday, Oct. 11, and beat the Lake Superior State Lakers (9-18, 2-6 in the GLIAC) by a score of 3-0 on Saturday,

Oct. 12. During the historic run, Ferris has only lost six sets this entire season, which would be the least amount of sets lost since the 2015 season when the Bulldogs opened the season 12-0 and lost five sets during that

time. With their sweep of the Cardinals and the Lakers, the Bulldogs have not lost a set to an opponent in six matches, the last being when they lost the second set to the Northwood Wolves on Oct. 1.

Senior middle hitter Syann Fairfield credits the team's work ethic for their win streak.

"Each day in practice we have just been working hard towards the things that we think will help get us just even 1% better each day," Fairfield said. "We also just feel a great amount of trust within each other on the court which is always comforting, especially in moments where we are losing."

Ferris continued their dominance against the Cardinals, who haven't won a set against the Bulldogs since Nov. 4, 2022. Ferris was victorious in all three sets against the Cardinals, winning the first set by a score of 25-16, the second set by a score of 25-20 and finishing off the Cardinals in the third set with a score of 25-12.

Senior outside hitter Olivia Henneman-Dallape led the match with 10 kills and 14 points. Senior middle hitter Chelsie Freeman had six kills and 12 points and senior setter Kaylee Maat led with 26 total assists.

Saturday saw the Bulldogs reign victorious against the Lakers, who have not won a set against Ferris since Nov 4, 2016. The Bulldogs won all three sets, with the first set won by a score of 25-15, the second set by a score of 25-18 and the third set by a score of 25-20.

Henneman-Dallape had 10 kills and 10 points during the match, while Fairfield also had 10 kills but led the team in points with 11.5. Maat led the team yet again in assists with 30 and senior libero Leah Bylut led the

match with 12 digs.

Bylut believes the team's mastery on the court stems from their chemistry and culture.

"Chemistry and culture play a huge role in our success as a team, I think our team has a lot of trust in each other, and this allows us to play freely and with a lot of confidence," Bylut said. "We really emphasize how every role on our team is important, each individual works to do their job to the best of their ability, not to mention the amount of depth we have, which allows different people to step up and change the energy of the game when we need it."

The Bulldogs will be traveling to Hammond, Ind. to compete in the Midwest Regional Crossover on Friday, Oct. 18 and Saturday, Oct. 19. The tournament features 38 NCAA Division II teams from the G-MAC, the GLIAC, and the GLVC, with each team playing three matches each.

Freeman gave her thoughts heading into the Midwest Regional Crossover.

"I'm feeling very excited, our region is filled with great programs, and having the opportunity to play them mid-season is something I enjoy, I know it's going to be a tough weekend playing teams from the GMAC and GLVC," Freeman said. "I'm feeling very good going into the tournament to see what my team and I can do on the court together to be successful."

WINLESS WOES CONT.

Following the 5-1 defeat on home ice, Daniels was underwhelmed by the result.

"[I'm] disappointed. I thought we came out slow and I thought we'd have a lot of pushback after last night and we didn't," Daniels said. "I thought our second period was really good and Hampton Slukynsky in net for [Western Michigan] played really well. We had a lot of looks in the second, a lot of opportunities. We needed to come out of that with a goal or two."

The Bulldogs had their chances throughout the contest with 27 shots to the Broncos' 32. Ferris' quiet offense wasn't assisted by its power-play unit either, as the power-play unit stalled out five times during the series, four of which came in

Saturday's outing.

Western Michigan's freshman goaltender Slukynsky nearly collected a shutout in his first career start with the Broncos. However, junior forward Cole Burtch, who transferred from Western Michigan this offseason, snapped the bid in the waning minutes. For Burtch, the measure of revenge is rather hollow.

"It's obviously nice to score against your former team, but I would have loved to win more than anything," Burtch said. "I'm just glad to get one on the board for us tonight but I wish we came out with the win instead."

The Bulldogs were held to 18 shot attempts in Friday's loss while allowing 44 against. Ferris managed better on Saturday both offensively and defensively. Daniels believes the defensive

side of things was "okay" in the loss.

Junior defenseman Trevor Taulien thought that the Bulldogs' defense played the way they knew how.

"I thought we stuck to our game plan," Taulien said. "We broke down a couple of times and had some odd-man rushes that led into goals. Just got to clean that up for next weekend."

Through four games, the Bulldogs have been outshot 144-109 and had a shot advantage in only one of their games.

Ferris continues its search for its first win with another out-of-conference battle against the St. Lawrence Saints in Canton, N.Y. on Friday, Oct. 18, and Saturday, Oct. 19. The Bulldogs faced the Saints last year in a series that ended in a split at Ewingleben Arena.

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