



The start of flu season

How to stay healthy around those under the weather



Photo by: Shaunti'ara Reynolds | Freelance Photographer

Ferris Outfitters provides cold and flu medicines for students to purchase on campus.

Kate Babel
News Reporter

It's the season of coughs, sneezes, sore throats and stuffy noses, as the weather changes throughout October and continues into November, the flu season is in play.

While students attend classes, hang out with friends and attend campus events, they have a possibility of contracting the flu or the common cold.

Since the temperature drops, people would stay inside where it is warmer and would be in close contact with other people, depending on where they live. This is especially amplified when living in the dorms on campus.

Nurse practitioner of the Birkham Health Center, Christy Bourdlaise, explained how the chances of getting the flu,

or common cold, increase in close living situations.

"I would say with the typical college-age student, it's probably high just because of the type of living situations that most college students live in," Bourdlaise said. "You live with multiple people who you know you're living in close quarters with, things like that. So it's very easy to transmit upper respiratory infections like influenza."

According to the Center for Disease Control, influenza A and influenza B are the most common flu to contract during the colder months.

Like every problem with illnesses, there is a solution to fix it. Bourdlaise offered simple solutions on how to combat the flu.

"If you don't have it or you're trying not to get it, it's kind of a lot of those same

precautions that we took when we had COVID-19, it's the simple things," Bourdlaise said. "It's washing your hands, avoiding putting your hands up near your face or mouth, which is a bad habit of all of us."

Bourdlaise explained viruses need a host to spread. Any living organism would make an ideal host, when the host makes contact with a surface the virus spreads to that surface, however, it doesn't last long.

Even in those short timeframes, the virus is on a surface and people will still make contact with them as they come and go. When someone doesn't wash their hands, the surfaces they touch can also become contaminated with the flu virus.

Mathematics education sophomore Mason Brooke

provided some insight. Despite numerous signs in the bathrooms, people still don't wash their hands.

"You touch the same stuff as everyone, so it doesn't matter if you try to keep away from someone who's sick if they're touching the same door knobs as you," Brooke said. "But I mean also, I think it's just you are near so many people, the likelihood of someone being sick without them even knowing is pretty high."

It is important that when a person is sick they prevent other people from getting sick. Wearing a mask while ill can also help with slowing the spread.

A lot of common themes as to how the flu and common cold spread have to do with people not washing their hands when they're

supposed to.

Social work freshman Alliyah Martin talked about her experience with the common cold while attending Ferris.

"I've heard a lot of people have been sick, I've been sick like twice already since I've come here but that's about it, just like the common cold," Martin said. "A lot of people are gross, and usually don't wash their hands. They would just touch everything rather than if you're sick, keep to yourself."

Even though Martin contracted the common cold, both the flu and common cold are caused by viruses.

However, unlike the flu, the common cold takes days before fully taking effect. The symptoms such as sore throat, coughing, congestion, body aches and headaches, while the flu usually involves

a fever followed by other symptoms.

Bourdlaise has seen the difference of how each type of illness hits a person.

"Typically when you catch a cold, you know, you start to feel like 'oh, I kind of feel that in the back of my throat.' Maybe the next day you wake up and you're congested like it's very gradual," Bourdlaise said. "The flu typically hits you very quickly. You go to bed one night, wake up the next morning and your fever, chills, body aches, headache, you know, sore throat, coughing, like it all hits you at once."

Whether it be the flu or the common cold, both can easily be treated and prevented using simple things like using hand sanitizer, washing your hands and wiping down surfaces.



News

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

Coaching minor coming to Ferris

Humanities department working on new curriculum



Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

The Ferris State volleyball coaches deliberate with players and set up plays during a timeout.

Emma Walters
Freelance Reporter

Ferris State University's communication program is in the process of developing a minor centered around coaching. The minor is expected to be added to the program within two years.

Communication Area Coordinator Dr. Kristi Scholten and communication professor Dr. Jen Coburn are heading this project.

While the curriculum for this project is still in the early stages, the coaching minor has been on the minds of the communication faculty for the past year.

The idea of the coaching minor began with the concept of a singular coaching class but quickly developed into something larger and more promising.

Scholten and Coburn noted that the development of this minor came after much interest from students. Between alums going into coaching fields and students clamoring for some form of a coaching class to be made available, it seems the time

is right for coaching education to be added to what the program offers.

In fact, according to Coburn, the biggest inspiration for adding this minor is purely feedback from communication students themselves.

"I did some exit interviews into my classes last spring, where I said 'Hey, if you had a chance to take one of these four classes, which one would you choose?'" Coburn said. "The top two were always coaching, and something on conflict and negotiations."

Coburn also noted that many of the courses being considered will build upon other communication skill sets, providing students with a well-rounded communication toolbox, regardless of the coaching situation a student pursues.

The coaching minor would be made available to communication studies and sports communication students. Additionally, the coaching minor would focus on not only coaching sports but also other possible areas such as life coaching, success coaching

and health coaching.

The minor will offer foundational coaching communication courses, along with classes on conflict negotiation, interviewing, motivational speaking, contract negotiation, sports psychology and several others that are still under consideration.

Coaching is a multi-faceted career that requires knowledge of several different disciplines. The goal of the coaching minor is to prepare students for supporting a team, supporting families, advocating for teams and creating a positive culture.

For Scholten, the emphasis on team culture and a positive learning environment is vital to the success of this new program.

"You create the culture that people want to be a part of, and then you will get the athletes that you want, right?" Scholten said. "People will want to be there, and then success will happen as well."

The program is also putting a heavy emphasis on developing this minor to be as versatile as possible. The end goal is to have a curricu-

lum that can be changed and adapted to the needs or desires of students.

Sports communication junior Morgan Lockhart was one of the students surveyed by Coburn who stated their desire for a coaching minor or coaching class at Ferris.

For Lockhart, the desire for a coaching minor comes from her own sports experi-

ence, as well as a desire to see others succeed.

"My mom is a coach, and I just want to follow in her footsteps and be a great coach," Lockhart said. "Coaching is hard, it is very time-consuming, you put all your effort into it, and the thing I would get out of it is definitely seeing other girls succeed."

The next step in develop-

ment is for the communication faculty to gather and deliberate on courses that will be offered for the minor, which is expected to take place this upcoming spring.

Following that, faculty will prepare and submit paperwork to the university for approval before a curriculum change can take place.

Ferris State Torch Corrections

In the Oct. 30 edition of the Torch, the photo caption in the article "Conference clash" incorrectly spells Ryan Ososki's last name.

Corrections can be submitted through email at fsutorcheditor@ferris.edu

Urine for a laugh

Fall musical debuts performed over Halloween weekend



Photos by: Ciara Brooks | Torch Photographer

The student cast of Urinetown: The Musical gives an emotional yet comedic performance.

Isabelle Marks
News Reporter

This year's fall musical brought together comedy, politics and rebellion in an intentionally exaggerated way.

"Urinetown: The Musical" offered an entertaining perspective with real-life and political undertones all set in a society where you have to pay to use the bathroom.

The production, directed by assistant humanities professor Dennis Henry, provided a

comedic relief for the audience of more serious topics.

"Urinetown the Musical is set in the near future, and there has been a 20-year drought, and all private bathrooms have been banned," Henry said. "You have to use public toilets, and they're controlled by one company, and you have to pay."

There were 35 actors on the stage, and around a dozen people behind the scenes. Henry noted that there is no theater major at Ferris so the

crew was very diverse. There were people from over two dozen majors in the musical.

"We had several people where this was their first play ever, which is something that I really like about Ferris. It's a great opportunity, since there are no theater majors for people who have been curious about theater but never done it before," said Henry. "It gives them a chance to try it out without a large amount of pressure."

Henry hoped the audience

takes away not only the comedic value but also the message behind the musical.

"The comedy in it is outstanding. It is a very good satire of politics, corporate greed and government overreach," said Henry. "I think when you're there, it's a lot of fun. Then, when you go away and think about it, it also makes some really good points about how we structure our society."

Pre-optometry senior, Emma Ollinger, played Pe-

nelope Pennywise in the musical. She collected people's money before they were allowed to use the bathroom.

This was Ollinger's third theater production at Ferris, but she has been in theater productions since she was little. Ollinger found the musical to help her branch out.

"It's definitely made me more creative. I have been trying to add little things here and there to add more to the character and the story as a whole," said Ollinger. "I've

met a lot of great people, and I love seeing everyone develop into their characters and make it their own."

Ollinger hoped the audience understood the real-life undertones of the show, while also thinking, "Wow, that was a really fun, silly show to watch."

CONT. ON PG. 4

Student unemployment issues

Unemployment crisis on campus



Photo by: Shaunti'ara Reynolds | Freelance Photographer

Ferris Outfitters student manager, industrial chemistry senior Pablo Morales, rings up a student at Ferris Outfitters.

Caleb Nadeau
Freelance Reporter

For certain students on campus, the idea of obtaining work seems out of reach with the lack of immediate job hiring and long wait times in hearing back from interviewers can lead aspiring candidates to feel demotivated and even give up on the process entirely.

It is no secret that students at Ferris are experiencing difficulty and discouragement in finding work, according to television and digital media sophomore Broderick Sara.

"Literally nobody can get a job. I just think that is outrageous," Sara said. "All incoming students basically are having trouble. The only way I have seen people get a job is if they have a direct connection to the person or if you are living in the dorms. That is obviously the easiest job you can get."

Sara mentioned the fact that his friends have not found work opportunities despite applying to numerous jobs beyond campus. Employers frequently expressed the fact that they had reached hiring capacity and did not

need any new candidates.

"Students need money. I'm running low on money for sure already and I've been here for 10-11 weeks," Sara said. "I'm looking ahead and I'm thinking I don't have enough money for the school year and I would like a job but I can't find one."

Director of the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services Angela Roman shared her professional insight on what students can do in the meantime.

"Most employers are using online applicant tracking systems which makes it difficult

for an applicant to stand out," Roman said. "Career and Professional Success will talk with students who wish to apply to student jobs to help them write a great targeted resume and discuss important information to consider when applying online. After the online application, we recommend students stop into the organization they applied with to introduce themselves and ask to hand in a paper resume. This adds a personal touch."

Roman mentioned that the amount of student applicants can create higher levels of

competition. She highlighted the need for students to not skip out on the required and optional information in their application package which includes attaching a resume, class schedule and work availability for the employer.

Making sure that the resume is not out of date, especially with Ferris degree and graduation information, is critical and students should make sure that everything is spelled correctly before submission also helps according to Roman.

Students can also utilize campus services, network

with faculty and staff and most importantly, maintain a positive attitude and telling others of their work situation so that they are aware of opportunities and can refer you to a hiring manager.

CLACS is a resource all students can use and is located in Room 120 at the David L. Eisler Center.

The Human Resources Department for Student Employment was not available for comment at the time of this article.

Urine for a laugh CONT.

Television and digital media senior Ben Muma played Tiny Tom in the musical and was also behind the scenes doing production work. Muma has been doing theater at Ferris for five years but has been involved in theater for 13 years.

Muma was excited he got to show a goofier side of himself in the musical, playing a funnier character.

"For a long time, I was always cast as the serious, mean or grouchy character,"

Muma said. "But this time, I actually got to express my goofy side and fun personality, and it's been refreshing as an actor to show both a grumpy side and a goofy side."

Muma explained that the show has a great message.

"I hope the audience takes away the idea that you can fight for what you believe in, but that doesn't always mean you'll get a perfect outcome," Muma said. "Also, the idea that even if a show's theme sounds dark, it can have a really fun and energizing plot."

The premise of the musical, while focusing on the townspeople having to pay to pee, also focused on aspects including inflation. The townspeople begin to rebel when the fee to pee was increased.

Public relations junior Mason Yarnell played McQueen in the musical, the assistant of the main antagonist Mr. Caldwell. This was Yarnell's sixth theater production at Ferris, and he did theater in high school. Yarnell notes the positive experiences theater has given him.

"I joined the organization

Alpha Psi Omega, which is the theater honor society, so it's a great way to meet new people and make more friends," said Yarnell. "I think it's had a really positive impact on me overall in college, even outside of just this one show."

Yarnell hoped the audience could see the message that the show illustrates.

"I hope the audience takes away that it's okay to fight for what you believe in, even if it's going against something bigger or more powerful," said Yarnell. "It's always im-

portant to do what you think is right and what helps those around you."

Forensic biology freshman Maya Kemp loved the show after watching it.

"The show in a nutshell is either exaggerated screaming, somebody dying or some kind of joke. But it's not subtle, and I loved it," said Kemp. "Usually, when people try to make good media, it's like, it's gotta be so flat out, developed."

Kemp expressed that this was the first theater production she had seen at Ferris.

"It is ultimately a show that I had to suspend a little disbelief for, but I liked it a lot," said Kemp.

The musical ended with the rebellions taking over, and ultimately shows the consequences of running out of water because there was no longer a fee which resulted in disease and death.

The next production will be the spring play, "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Culture

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Riffs and reflections

Experiencing Flight Attendant live



Flight Attendant performs on the Robinson Quad.

Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

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Aiden MacLean
Culture Reporter

The Ferris State campus buzzed with energy last week thanks to an electrifying performance by an up-and-coming band that drew students, faculty and community members alike to the outdoor venue.

With a lineup filled with high-energy performances, engaging musicianship and charismatic stage presence, the band left an impression

on the Big Rapids community, which typically sees few live events. The show wasn't just about the music; it was a testament to the impact of live, interactive entertainment on a campus starved for something unique and memorable.

Concert organizer and public relations senior Vinny Short shared that the event was part of an ongoing effort to diversify campus events and bring something fresh to the student body.

"I think it's incredibly important to offer events that appeal to different interests," Short said. "While sports and other traditional events draw big crowds, there's a significant group of students who want to experience live music, especially rock or indie bands. For the people who did come, it was a chance to enjoy music in a way you just can't replicate on a screen."

CONT. ON PG. 7

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Celebrating life and death

Commemorations for the Day of the Dead and All Saints Day



Photo from Torch Archives

A traditional altar features art work, photos of loved ones and offerings for those who are being remembered.

Ni'Jah Rankin
Freelance Reporter

The Hispanic/Latino Cultural Center partnered with Spanish for the Professions to celebrate Dia De Los Muertos, the Day of the Dead, and Dia de los Santos, All Saints Day, to celebrate and learn about the cultural importance of the holidays.

Thirty students passed through to celebrate the Day of the Dead, and All Saints Day, in the Interdisciplinary Resource Center building on Thursday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Day of the Dead celebration gave students the opportunity to have hot cocoa, pan dulce and tamales. Along with food and beverages, students painted sugar skulls and listened to music.

All Saints Day is celebrated on Nov. 1 and is specifically a celebration of life for young children who have passed. According to the University of New Mexico, the Day of the Dead is a primarily Mexican tradition that is celebrated on Nov. 2 to remember their loved ones who have passed away.

HLCC Director Sonia Treviño felt while the Day of the Dead can be sad because a relative has passed, it's also a good way to celebrate the memories shared with that family member.

"Dia de los Muertos is a very traditional celebration of a relative or loved one,"

Treviño said. "The passing of a loved one is sad when it happens, Dios de los Muertos was brought up in our culture to celebrate the life that they lived."

Hispanic and Latino students who celebrate the Day of the Dead or All Saints Day also had the chance to put their loved one's pictures on a community altar to celebrate and remember them.

This event is a way for students taking a language course, like Spanish, to learn about the culture surrounding the language outside of class walls.

Spanish associate professor Lucero Flores-Paez felt it is important that students taking a Spanish class should take the initiative to go to the cultural events surrounding Spanish-speaking people and cultures.

"Most of the students taking language classes are not necessarily taking it for a language requirement," Flores-Paez said. "We incorporate a lot of culture in our classes, and this is culture outside the classroom since we are always teaching and learning outside the classroom."

She also describes how the celebration of the dead is celebrated differently throughout Spanish-speaking countries and how the event does not only celebrate the Day of the Dead and All Saints Day. It also celebrates

the other traditions in Hispanic-Latino culture and how different countries celebrate them.

"In Mexico, they go to the cemetery, they have music, food, carnivals and you can see all the marigold flowers," Flores-Paez said. "Then you're going to see some parts of Guatemala also having a similar celebration where they associate kites with the soul of the deceased coming to visit."

French professor Daniel Noren had a table to educate students about how the Day of the Dead is celebrated in France and French-influenced places like New Orleans.

"In France, they get a huge three- or four-day holiday celebration out of it," Noren said. "They put out chrysanthemums, and a lot of eating and drinking goes along with all the celebration festivities."

The Day of the Dead and All Saints Day are not only celebrations of those specific holidays but also celebrations of the lives of loved ones across Hispanic-Latino Culture who are no longer with us. They educate those outside the culture and allow Hispanic-Latino students to celebrate their cultural holidays.

Another celebration for the Day of the Dead will be the Seventh Annual Day of the Dead Ball on Friday, Nov. 22 in the David L Eisler Center ballrooms from 6 - 9:30 p.m.

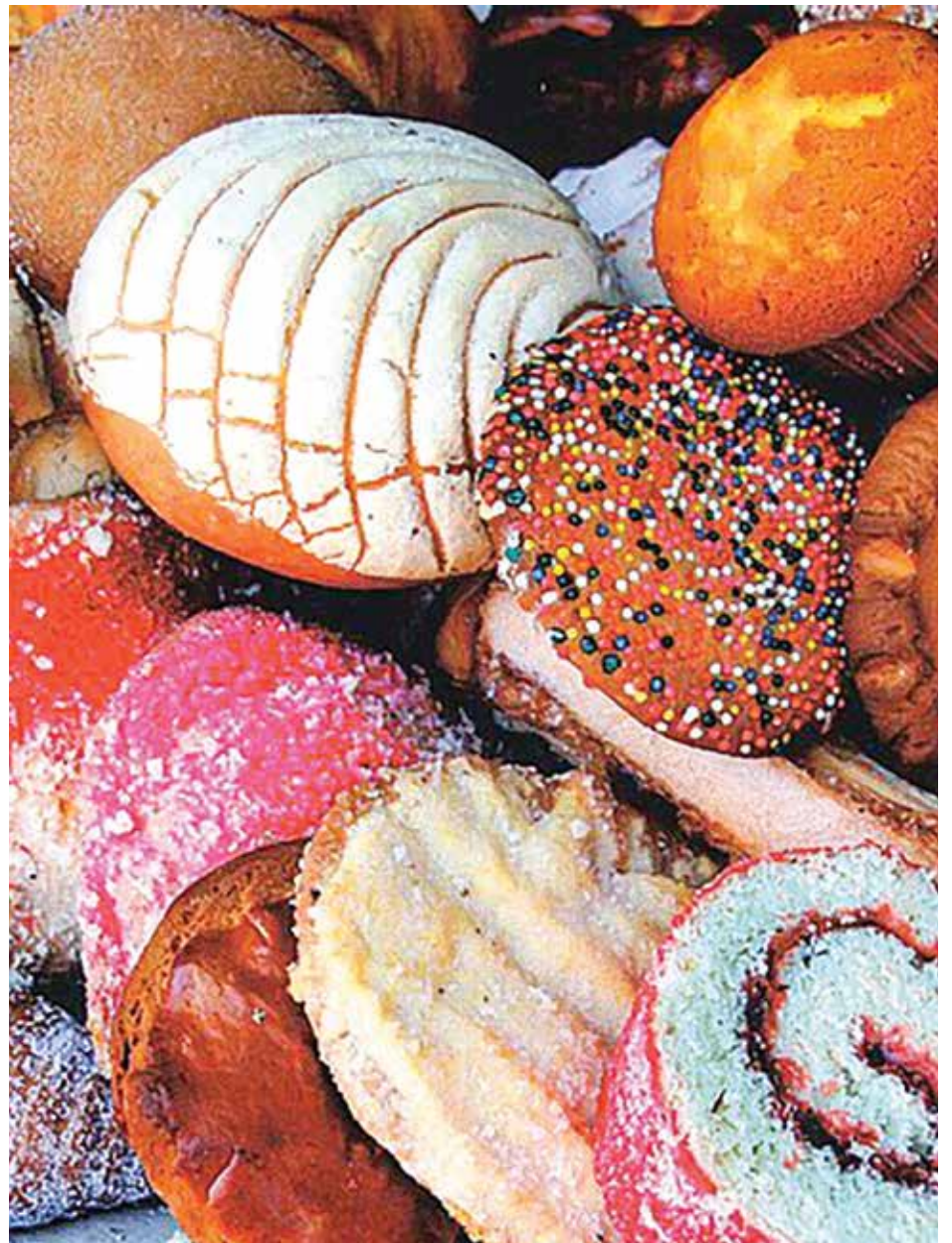


Photo courtesy of Wiki Commons

Traditional sweets, such as pan dulce, or sweet bread, are common during celebrations.



Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Flight Attendant puts on a show for Ferris students.



Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Lead vocalist Karalyne Winegarner sings during the band's concert.

RIFFS AND REFLECTIONS CONT.

He mentioned that these types of events have declined in popularity on campuses over the last decade, as students often opt for smartphone-based entertainment.

Short's introduction to the band came from an unusual chain of connections involving a bluegrass band he merchandised for, which led him to the Nashville-based manager of this group. It's a testament to the power of networking and how it can result in meaningful opportunities.

"They were looking for some help with marketing and event coordination," Short said. "I knew we needed something new on campus, so it was a perfect fit."

Publicity Coordinator for Entertainment Unlimited Kyren Passienier echoed Short's enthusiasm.

"Working on social media and publicity for events like this gives me a chance to really make a difference in what's happening here at Ferris," Passienier said. "Even if turnouts are small, it's crucial to provide these experiences for students. We need more of it."

As they scanned the crowd, they observed many attendees visibly engaged and excited, offering a level of energy that they believed was essential for building a lively campus environment. After the

show, the band members were approached by many students eager to discuss their performance, buy merchandise and learn more about their music. The lead singer and other members emphasized their joy in playing to a college crowd, viewing universities as the ideal launching pad for growing their fan base. One band member noted that when they play at universities, it's more than just a gig. It's a way to connect with people who will remember them, add their songs to their playlists and take their music with them even after graduation.

The band has its roots in various cities, including Nashville, Los Angeles and Boston, where each member found a path to music in different ways.

Band member Karalyne Winegarner, originally from Boston, mentioned that she met fellow band member Derek Sprague in another band before they shifted their focus to forming this group. Like many indie bands, their formation story reflects a combination of chance encounters and a shared love for music.

"It's crazy to think how it all came together," Winegarner said.

Despite the modest crowd size, the band was pleased with the audi-

ence's reaction and openness, commenting on the community feel of Big Rapids and their eagerness to return.

New band member Nikki Christie is from Los Angeles and got the chance to explore smaller-scale venues.

"The students were really into it, and that's what matters most to us," Christie said. "We love connecting with people who appreciate what we do, and Ferris gave us that chance. We're always up for coming back, anytime."

Events like this highlight an opportunity for Ferris to continue cultivating an environment rich in diversity and engagement, especially in the realm of entertainment. As Short and Passienier both agreed, live music brings students together in a unique way, breaking up the usual campus routine. For a town like Big Rapids, the success of this event could be a launching pad for more such concerts and cultural experiences in the future.

The band's performance on campus was more than a simple gig; it served as a reminder of the power of live, shared experiences in a digital age – a vital element that students, faculty and local residents alike can look forward to seeing more of at Ferris.

Opinions

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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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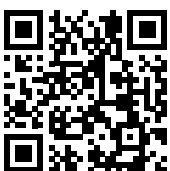
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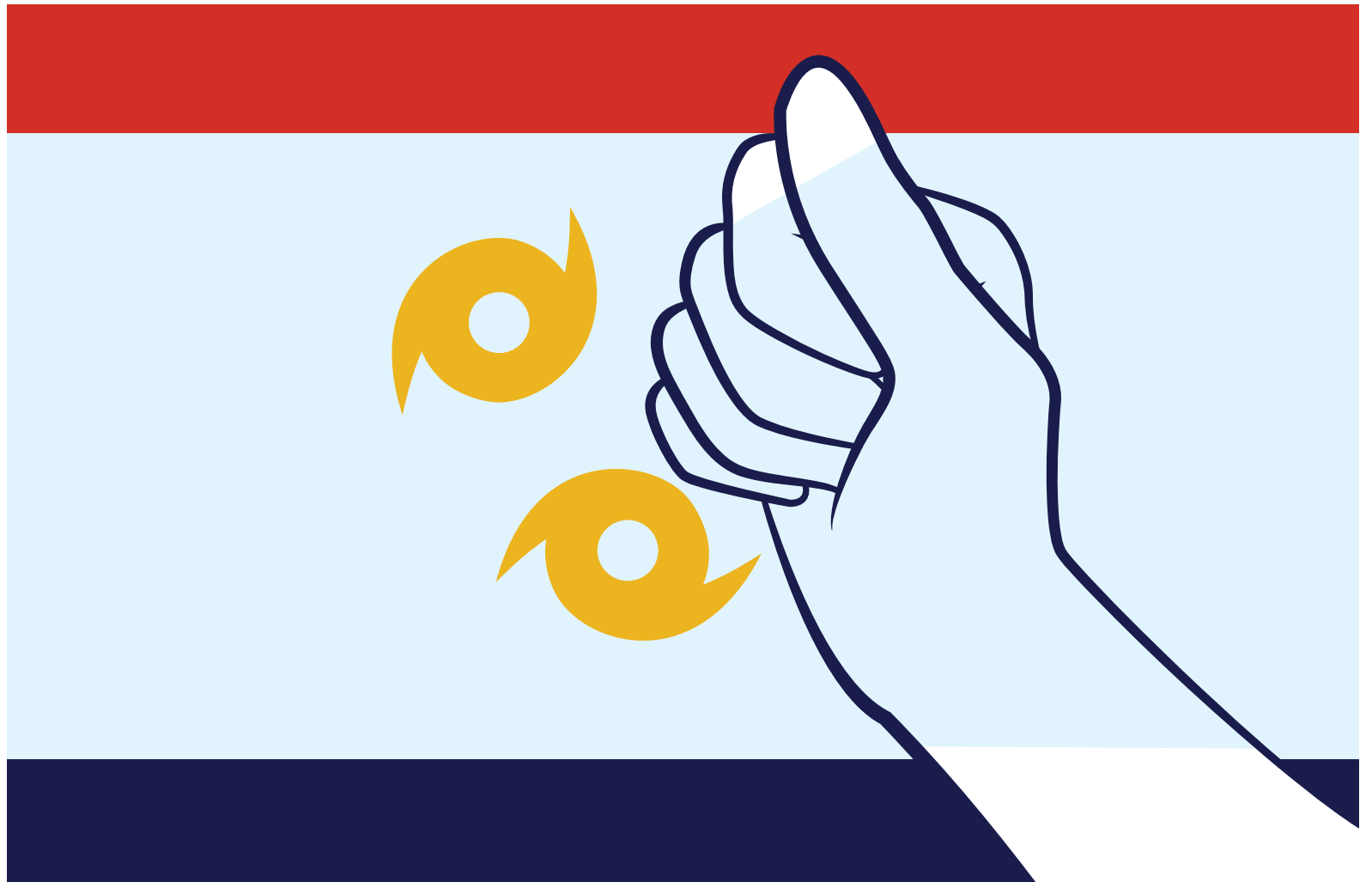
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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

Lessons in human resilience

What a weekend trip instilled in me about humans



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Dylan Rider
Editor in Chief

I didn't think I'd be taught a lesson on the human spirit during a trip to New Orleans.

Between a journalism conference and booze-filled excursions down Bourbon Street, I started thinking about the city I was excitedly discovering.

Our drive from New Orleans International Airport into the city featured a quick drive-by of the Caesars Superdome, a stadium most famously inhabited by the New Orleans Saints of the NFL. Instead of a thought resembling "Oh hey, that's where the Saints play," my mind conjured up the idea that during Hurricane Katrina, the Superdome was a refuge from the devastating act of nature.

From there, I'd have thoughts and comments that it was weird to think that this city, its surrounding parishes and the state, itself, were covered from 10-to-28 feet of water just under 20 years ago.

I was three years old when

Katrina made headlines. I have no recollection of the event. Since then, the country has watched Hurricanes Sandy, Michael, Harvey and most recently Helene and Milton wreck areas of the United States.

Widespread natural disasters are fairly uncommon in Michigan. Yes, we get tornadoes and blizzards, but we certainly don't experience the direct and ultra-devastating effects of hurricanes.

So when I imagine a city or state under water or any sort of mass devastation, I am in the dark. How the hell do people recover? How do you even start grasping rebuilding after something like that?

Katrina claimed 1,392 lives and totaled an estimated 125 billion in damages. That's a simple line that'll clue uninformed people in how bad Katrina was on a basic level.

The stories of infrastructure failure, inadequate government response and misinformed lawlessness still don't even begin to tell the full story of a mass tragedy.

Even when researching my Superdome-based catalyst, reading into the horrific conditions only just now further clued me into that specific story.

So, I'll ask again with more urgency and confusion. How can anyone "bounce back" from a devastation so large? Even with Hurricanes Helene and Milton? How does one get back up and keep going?

There is a meme that pops into my head every once in a while. It shows a pixelated photo of a cat captioned as "the indomitable human spirit" dunking a basketball over a player, captioned as "the indifferent cruelty of the universe."

As silly and stupid as it sounds, this offers insight into who and what we are as humans. That phrase of "the indomitable human spirit" is the key to understanding.

We, as humans, have this unstoppable course of action. We have to do something. It's embedded within the human spirit to get back up.

That "getting back up" comes in different forms. It's

purely metaphorical, similar to the idea of "getting back on your feet." To get back up is to continue, it's to survive. It manifests itself as an individual's spirited desire to return to what's normal. The human spirit is an individual's built-in thermostat.

In this case, the ideas of "recovery" or "rebuild" are complex with natural disasters. I cannot pretend roughly a month after Helene and Milton, or even 19 years post-Katrina, most things were even remotely healed. Scars can last a lifetime, even ones in the metaphorical sense.

Regardless of a federal response in natural disasters, which is often lacking due to whatever bureaucratic reason that is served to a broken community, survivors stood up and began to pick up the pieces of what's left.

It'd be irresponsible for me to act like there's a total "happily ever after" post-disaster. For example, suicides and mental illness jumped in New Orleans post-Katrina. Some still haven't truly recov-

ered and perhaps they never will.

Take my weekend trip with a grain of salt. I don't live there. I'm not familiar with the day-to-day ongoings of New Orleans. However, what I witnessed was a bustling city with some of the best nightlife I've experienced in my young life.

This city, and any surrounding cities and parishes, had to keep going. The people here kept going. That shows me that any minor inconvenience that has anchored me down emotionally was not a big deal. I've never experienced a complete stripping of everything I've had and known. I hope I don't, either.

Some of the folks here did experience some of the worst that the indifferent cruelty of the universe had to offer. But they're still here in part to a valiant human spirit. With that in mind, my message is this: There's absolutely no reason to not get back up.

“Saw:” A retrospective

Why the first movie remains untouchable 20 years later

Lucas Gill
Web Editor

The Halloween season is just behind us. During October, I always take the time to explore different movies in the horror genre and rewatch some of my favorites.

One horror movie I always return to rewatch is James Wan’s 2004 hit, “Saw.” With the 20th anniversary of the film this past week, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on this unique horror film and its complicated franchise.

For those unaware, the “Saw” franchise follows various groups of characters who are captured by a serial killer dubbed Jigsaw. These victims, typically established as morally gray characters, are put into twisted life-and-death scenarios to be taught a lesson and learn to appreciate the gift of life.

After the success of Wan’s first and only directorial contribution to the series, the creative reins were handed off to various other directors within the entertainment company Lionsgate and production company Twisted Pictures. The franchise currently has 10 films in its series. An untitled 11th film had its release date delayed recently to release Sept. 2025.

While I respect Wan for wanting to delve into other aspects of the horror genre by branching out to other works, such as the “Conjuring” and “Insidious” series, I miss the small scale and sense of simplicity the original “Saw” film had.

The main issue with most of the franchise is the apparent, ever-growing sense that each “Saw” film has to one-up its predecessor, in some way.

The main mystery of “Saw” was the explanation behind the traps and the identity of Jigsaw. The film offers a clever plot twist to the ladder that still left me shocked on rewatch. Unfortunately, with an unexpected ending so brilliant, the various sequels tend to reuse the idea of a third-act twist that recontextualizes the entire plot within the last 10 minutes of their runtimes.

One of the first things people familiar with the franchise think of is the many iconic traps featured throughout the 10 movies. While some are well thought-out and iconic, I believe many newer films have become too reliant on said traps and forget how character-focused the original was.

The first film’s location could be considered to be more of an escape room rather than a trap. Two men were chained up in a dilapidated bathroom underground and were forced to work together to find items to piece together a way to get out. As the runtime continues and the story develops, we get a sense of who the characters are, get a feel for their situation and eventually root for their escape.

The over-the-top nature of the sequels is apparent immediately. For example, in “Saw II,” several victims of Jigsaw are forced to navigate

through an entire house of traps. With eight characters and a 93-minute-long runtime, the movie has several easily predictable character deaths.

While the series offers an extensive variety of performances, some great, others laughably bad, I don’t think any can hold a candle to the iconic performances from Cary Elwes as Lawrence and Leigh Whannell as Adam. Their acting presents a raw display that can hook almost any viewer. The pure range and the display of fear, visceral anger and devastation from the two is in a league of its own.

Other people share a sentiment that this franchise had a sharp decline in quality after the original, which I agree with. Ratings on popular review sites such as Letterboxd and IMDb display lower scores for each installment as the series progresses, with the majority of users noting the repetitive nature of each sequel.

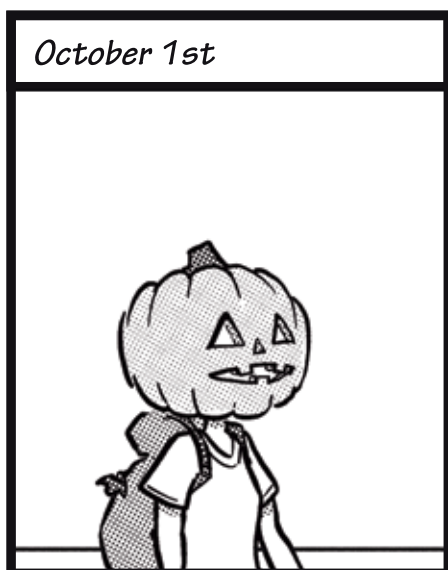
Overall, I still hold the original film in high regard. “Saw” has done so much for the horror genre and is a great showcase of excellent performances and cinematography. While I don’t consider all of the sequels bad movies, they stray further and further away from the original concept and can never hit the highs of the first film in my eyes.

Although the 11th installment has been pushed from Sep. 2024 to 2025, I hope it can at least bring a fresh take on the “Saw” formula.



Graphic by: Lucas Gill | Web Editor

The festive season begins



Comic by: Blake Flanery | Cartoonist

Sports

Connor Grypma | Sports Editor | grypma@ferris.edu

Cats in the bag

Ferris football cruises past Northern Michigan for eighth straight win



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Junior Quarterback Trinidad Chambliss sprints past a Northern Michigan defensive linemen.

Caden Hofmann
Special Editions Editor

Bulldog football's fifth 50-point output of the season propelled them to their eighth straight victory and a win against the Northern Michigan Wildcats.

The No. 1 ranked Ferris State Bulldogs (8-1, 5-0 in GLIAC) claimed a 55-9 victory over the Northern Michigan Wildcats (0-9, 0-5 in GLIAC) in the Superior Dome on Saturday, Nov. 2. The Bulldogs' win marks the 13th straight time that Ferris has beaten Northern Michigan.

The Bulldogs, the nation's No. 4 ranked offense, outgunned the Wildcats 507 yards to 246.

Ferris started slow on both sides of the ball. The Bulldog offense did not put up any points in the first quarter for the first time this season, and Northern Michigan churned out multiple long drives early on offense.

However, the Bulldogs' defense cashed in early and put them on the board first when junior linebacker Sefa Saipaia returned a Northern Michigan fumble 56 yards for a score in the middle of the first quarter.

This was Ferris' second

defensive touchdown of the year, with the first coming from junior defensive back Gyasi Mattison in the Bulldogs 55-13 win over the Roosevelt Lakers.

The second quarter saw the Bulldogs score on their first offensive possession with a rushing touchdown from junior quarterback Trinidad Chambliss.

A fumble from the Wildcats a few drives later set Ferris up in short-field position, which led to a touchdown on the ground from junior wide receiver Brady Rose.

The Bulldogs closed the half with another touchdown on the ground courtesy of Chambliss before the half, giving Ferris a 27-2 lead at the break.

In addition to the touchdown in the first quarter, Saipaia led Ferris with ten total tackles and two fumble recoveries.

Saipaia was proud of how the team came out of the second half after the slow start.

"We came out of half-time and we played like the team we know we can be," Saipaia said. "We need to finish stronger at the end, the standard is the standard."

In the second half, the Bulldogs outscored the Wildcats 28-7.

On the second play of the third quarter, junior running back Kannon Katzer extended the Bulldog lead to 32 with a 66-yard touchdown run.

Katzer led Ferris with 126 yards on just five carries and one touchdown.

Ferris ran for 325 yards on 42 attempts throughout the game, averaging 7.7 yards per carry.

"All of the running backs had a great all-around game," Katzer said. "Our offensive line also keeps improving every week, without them we really wouldn't be a team."

The passing game was not Ferris' main emphasis of attack as opposed to the previous week. The Bulldogs threw for 182 yards and one touchdown. Chambliss was the passing leader, completing 46% of his passes (7-15) for 141 yards.

Sophomore wide receiver Taarik Brett led the Bulldogs in receiving, as he went for 53 yards on one long reception from Chambliss.

Ferris allowed over 100 yards rushing for just the third time this season, but

forced two turnovers and held Northern Michigan to a 38% conversion rate (5-13) on third down.

Head coach Tony Annese was happy with how hard his team fought after the slow start.

"One of the main charac-

teristics of our team is that we fight hard," Annese said. "The execution wasn't great, but our kids are gritty, they know how to be competitors, and I am proud of them for that."

The Bulldogs will return home for their penultimate

regular season game in a matchup against the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals. Ferris took down the Cardinals 38-17 in their 2023 matchup. The game will be played on Saturday, Nov. 9, at 1 p.m. at Top Taggart Field.



Photo courtesy of Ferris State Athletics

Senior linebacker Jason Williams lays out a Wildcat offensive lineman.

Serving perfection

Bulldogs improve to 24-0 with weekend sweep



Senior Leah Bylut receives a serve against Grand Valley State University.

Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Nolan Matthews
Sports Reporter

Back-to-back weekend victories, which included a sweep against rival Grand Valley, fueled No. 1 Bulldog volleyball to remain undefeated.

The Bulldogs (24-0, 13-0 in GLIAC) took down the Wayne State Warriors (11-11, 8-4 in the GLIAC) on Friday, Nov. 1 by a score of 3-1, then on Saturday, Nov. 2, Ferris defeated the No. 12 ranked Grand Valley State Lakers (19-2, 10-2 in the GLIAC) by a score of 3-0. With their weekend sweep, the Bulldogs still hold the best record in all of NCAA DII volleyball at 24-0.

Senior outside hitter Olivia Henneman-Dallape credited hard work and dedication for this historic season.

"This season has been a picture of what we have been working for, our hard work and dedication is paying off," Henneman-Dallape said. "This season has shown us that we have to work harder every single day no matter what, I am so incredibly proud of every person associated with this team."

The Bulldogs, who haven't

lost to the Warriors in 748 days, took home another win against them in four sets. Ferris claimed the first set 25-16, then lost the second set by a score of 29-27. The Bulldogs won the third set by a score of 27-25 and finished off the Warriors in the fourth set 25-18.

Henneman-Dallape led the way with 18 kills and 20.5 total points in the match. Freshman outside hitter Gabby Piazza had 11 kills and 11 total points on the match, and senior setter Kaylee Maat added 38 assists.

The GLIAC-leading Bulldogs then faced off against the Lakers in a rivalry match-up. Grand Valley's only loss this season came at the hands of the Bulldogs earlier this year, and Ferris served the Lakers their second loss of the season on Saturday.

The Bulldogs swept Grand Valley in straight sets, winning the first by a score of 25-19, 25-22 in the second and sent the Lakers home by winning the third set 25-15.

Henneman-Dallape and Piazza both led the match with 12 kills. Henneman-Dallape had 15 total points and Piazza tallied 12.5 total points. Senior outside hitter Claire Nowicki contributed five kills

of her own and led the match with 16 digs.

Senior middle hitter Chelsie Freeman was ecstatic after defeating a highly-ranked Grand Valley team to keep their undefeated season alive.

"We knew coming into this game that it would be a battle, Grand Valley is a nationally ranked team, and as a team we knew we needed to perform at our highest level to be successful against them on the court, and we did that perfectly," Freeman said. "Each player on the court did their job in such a perfect way that we all meshed together and that led us to this win."

With four matches left in the regular season, the Bulldogs aim to go a perfect 28-0 for the first time ever and keep their record-setting season rolling.

Ferris faces off against the Northern Michigan Wildcats and the Michigan Tech Huskies this week before finishing the season off on the road with matches against Purdue Northwest and Wisconsin-Parkside.

Maat knows the team will take the rest of the season one game at a time, and isn't focusing on the playoffs just

yet.

"Our plan for the rest of the season is to just take it one day at a time and get a little bit better every day in the gym," Maat said. "Focusing on our game and how we can continue to improve with

the final four matches of this season will help us in the long run."

The Bulldogs will have their final home matches of the season at Ewigleben Sports Arena on Friday, Nov. 5 at 5 p.m. against the North-

ern Michigan Wildcats, then the following day against the Michigan Tech Huskies at 5 p.m. Ferris defeated both teams earlier this year to complete a weekend sweep in late September.

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Lone Star split

Ferris splits the opening weekend series in Texas



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Freshman Cole Vickers takes a jump shot while playing against the Michigan State Spartans.

Caden Hofmann
Special Editions Editor

The No. 25 ranked men's Ferris State basketball team splits a weekend trip at the season-opening DII Conference Commissioners Association tipoff tournament in Canyon, Texas.

In the first tournament game, the Bulldogs took on the No. 3 ranked West Texas A&M Buffaloes on Friday, Nov. 1, and fell by a score of 79-65. The Bulldogs bounced back with an 81-59 win versus the UNC Pembroke Braves on Saturday, Nov. 2.

The Ferris State men's basketball team is fresh off a DII Elite Eight appearance and a 28-8 record in 2023-24. With many newcomers and players stepping into new roles, the Bulldogs look

to repeat and even exceed their success from last season. Ferris has 12 of 19 rostered players from last season return for the 2024-25 campaign.

Tournaments like the D2C-CA give the best teams in the country the opportunity to play each other, and junior center Nathan Claerbout believed these games help prepare them for the long season ahead.

"Playing against other great competition helps us get a feel of where we are as a team," Claerbout said. "Getting prepared against this level of competition will pay off come conference play."

In the season opener, Ferris took on the host team Buffaloes, who also made the DII Elite Eight last season.

The Bulldogs started slow, allowing West Texas to take a 13-3 lead after just six minutes of play.

Ferris played close for the rest of the half, bringing the deficit within one on multiple occasions, but were never able to take the lead and went into the half down 40-33.

The Bulldog failed to jump out in front in the second half, getting outscored 32-39 and ultimately dropping the season opener.

Ferris struggled from the field, shooting just 40.4% from the floor (23-57). The Bulldogs also lost the turnover battle 18-11, which hindered their ability to get back into the game after falling behind early.

Three Bulldogs reached double-digit scoring. Junior wing Donovan Brown-Boyd

led all scorers with 15, Nathan Claerbout had 10 and senior big man Kenny Turner contributed 10, as well.

However, Ferris was able to bounce back the following day with a big win over UNC Pembroke. The Bulldogs got ahead early and never wavered, taking a 52-27 lead going into halftime.

Brown-Boyd said the main focus after the West Texas loss was to play more sound defense.

"We needed to fortify our defense and take away the easy buckets," Brown-Boyd said. "We made it an emphasis to get back on defense and protect the rim."

The Bulldogs controlled the game on the defensive side of the ball and held the Braves to just 29% (18-62) from the field and 27.3% (6-22) from the three-point line.

UNC Pembroke won the second half 32-29, but it didn't matter as the Bulldogs had already built up a strong enough lead to close the game.

Ferris shot an improved 46.6% from the field (27-58) and was able to cut the turnovers down to 12.

Four Bulldogs eclipsed double-digit scoring in the win. Senior guard Ethan Erickson led with 20 points, junior forward Mykel Bingham had 13, junior guard Tyler Hamilton had 12 and Brown-Boyd finished with 11.

This was a milestone game for Erickson as he tied the all-time three-pointers made record at Ferris State with 240. He also surpassed the 1000 career point mark in this game.

Bingham filled up the stat sheet versus the Braves af-

ter he had just two points in the first contest. He led the Bulldogs in blocks with three and brought in six rebounds.

Bingham missed last season, and he is excited and grateful to return to the lineup.

"Sitting out a whole season makes people forget about you," Bingham said. "It has been a blessing to be out here with the guys competing each week to reach the main goal, I couldn't ask for anything more."

This week, the Bulldogs will host the GLIAC-GMAC crossover event, facing off against Northwood on Friday, Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. and Lake Erie on Saturday, Nov. 9, also at 7 p.m. Last season, Ferris defeated Northwood and Lake Erie, scoring 94-59 and 80-76.

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