

Ferris groups react to executive orders

Minority students express concern after political changes



Photos by: Ciara Brooks | Torch Photographer

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center, Hispanic/Latino Cultural Center and Office of Multicultural Student Services provide safe spaces for students.

Harmony Goodman
Production Manager

Ever since the start of Ferris, diversity has played a big role in development, but President Donald Trump's new plans that directly affect minority groups are leaving those on campus unsure about the changes to come.

Trump has sent out several executive orders that directly affect immigrants and the elimination of the federal diversity programs.

With all the uncertainty around the future, students are becoming nervous about what resources will be taken away from them. Television and digital media junior

Aimee Reynoso Cupido expressed concern.

Born and raised in Mexico, Reynoso Cupido came to Ferris on a student visa to practice news television. She was planning on finding a good news media position using her degree that would cover her stay in America.

Reynoso Cupido was orig-

inally planning on staying after college and applying for a work visa.

"[The new executive orders] make me not want to stay here after I graduate," Reynoso Cupido said. "Even before Trump won, I was receiving racist comments from people and the way I'm treated is different."

Reynoso Cupido spoke up about how she doesn't exactly fit in with other Mexican students on campus who were born here. She has always felt like an outsider because they know more English.

Even though she's found support in her tennis team, considering most of the

team are also on student visas, some comments haven't gone unnoticed. Reynoso Cupido mentioned a close friend who called her slurs and a drug dealer.

CONT. ON PG. 4

News

Crime reports are required to be reported by universities. How does Ferris' crime rates compare to other universities in the area? **PG. 3**

Culture

The 30th annual B.L.A.C.K. Image Awards celebrated community leaders, and advocates, honoring their contributions to social justice and education. **PG. 5**

Opinions

It's hard to care about a Super Bowl when the only thing you'd care about is the half-time show. Swapping games for one that matters is a better way to spend a Sunday night. **PG. 9**

Sports

The men's basketball bench continues to be a strong factor to the Bulldogs' success this season. Read more about the reserves and their contributions here. **PG. 10**

News

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

Michigan

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced her plan to raise money from large corporations to raise funds for Michigan roads on Monday.

She named the plan "MI Road Ahead." She hopes it will raise \$1.6 billion from larger corporations according to the Detroit Free Press.

She also proposed a plan to increase taxes on vapes and non-nicotine tobacco products starting in October. This is expected to generate around \$2.45 billion.

National

Connor Grypma
Sports Editor

On Sunday, Feb. 9, the Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Kansas City Chiefs 40-22 in the 2025 Super Bowl. The Eagles captured their first championship since 2018 while breaking up the Chiefs' possible three-year championship winning streak.

Philadelphia quarterback Jalen Hurts threw for 221 yards and two touchdowns, along with a rushing score, en route to earning the Super Bowl MVP award. Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes finished with three touchdown passes but threw two interceptions.

Global

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Ed Sheeran's concert was shut down by the police in India on Sunday.

The officers said that Sheeran did not have permission to perform as the city wanted to avoid an overcrowding of people in that area, according to BBC News.

Sheeran claimed that he did have permission to perform in the area on Instagram. He was met with a response from the police, who stated that just because he was famous, he still should be following local rules.

Radiology upgrades

New equipment purchased for radiology program

Kate Babel
News Reporter

The radiology department received new fluoroscopy and X-ray equipment for their students to operate before using them in the field.

This equipment and the new rooms inside the Victor F. Spathelf Center for Allied Health closely resemble radiology equipment used in hospitals. Students will be able to get hands-on experience, understand how these machines work and learn how to operate them before they enter the field.

Through Perkins grants and funding, the Dean of the Radiology Department Dr. Lincoln Gibbs procured the equipment for the College of Health Professions at Ferris.

Radiology instructor Gary Moore discussed the importance of this equipment for students in the radiology department.

"The ability to train the students on the type of equipment that's actually out there and that they're gonna be using, I mean that to me is so important because the technology with digital imaging has changed quite a bit," Moore said. "In a nutshell, they're gonna get used to some of the technology and see a lot of things that when they get to in the field that they're also gonna be utilizing."

Moore explained how each piece of equipment works and the purposes that they serve in teaching his students.

The fluoroscopy equipment allows for high-resolution imaging, multiple fluoroscopy modes and smart metal technology to enhance diagnostic accuracy and procedural efficiency. These machines are commonly used in orthopedic surgery, vascular procedures, cardiac interventions, pain management and general

surgery.

Radiology junior Alivia Lis talked about her thoughts and feelings on receiving the new equipment.

"Fluoroscopy is ongoing. It's like surgical radiology. The radiation is constant because you're trying to see what's going on as the surgery is happening," Lis said. "We haven't gotten to experience what that's exactly like yet, so I'm excited for it."

Another piece of equipment is the new mobile X-ray. Mobile X-ray units are utilized throughout the hospital. They are perfect when the patient cannot come directly to places like the ICU and emergency rooms. They are mainly used to examine the chest and abdominal area but are also used for the hip, pelvis, spine, extremities and other regions.

With this new equipment, students will learn to engage in classwork related to their

field and practice real-world scenarios. This way, students can interact with and learn how to operate the equipment and when the time comes to enter their field, they'll know what to do.

Radiography sophomore Delaney Dessellier shared her perspective about the new equipment.

"I was so excited because there's so much room to grow within the radiology department, the fluoroscopy room is next level," Dessellier said. "I know there's a lot of stuff that's different. I think that a lot of us will be working in this room and I think it will benefit us so much when we get into the field. It's like having a step up."

Each radiology student will have to go through clinical before entering their respective field. A clinical is where a radiology student will experience a whole year working in a hospital as a

radiology technologist. However, they need to get certified in view or an exam first. The students will choose up to five sites they prefer. They will have a clinical instructor monitor their progress and their professors and clinical coordinator will go through and pick which site will be best for them.

The equipment will give students some much-needed experience and boost their skills.

"It's just super exciting to be able to teach the students on the latest and greatest technology," Moore said. "I just feel like I'm a kid on Christmas morning opening up some brand new toys to play with them and that's pretty cool."

Construction for the new fluoroscopy room is set to be finished by the beginning of May 2025.

Join us at The Torch

Now Hiring

Looking for:

- News Reporters
- Culture Reporters



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

riderd1@ferris.edu

Ferris State Torch Corrections

In the Feb. 5 edition of the Torch, the article "Mia Riley embraces leadership role" includes a photo caption that contains a typo. Riley is averaging 14 points per game this season, not 24.

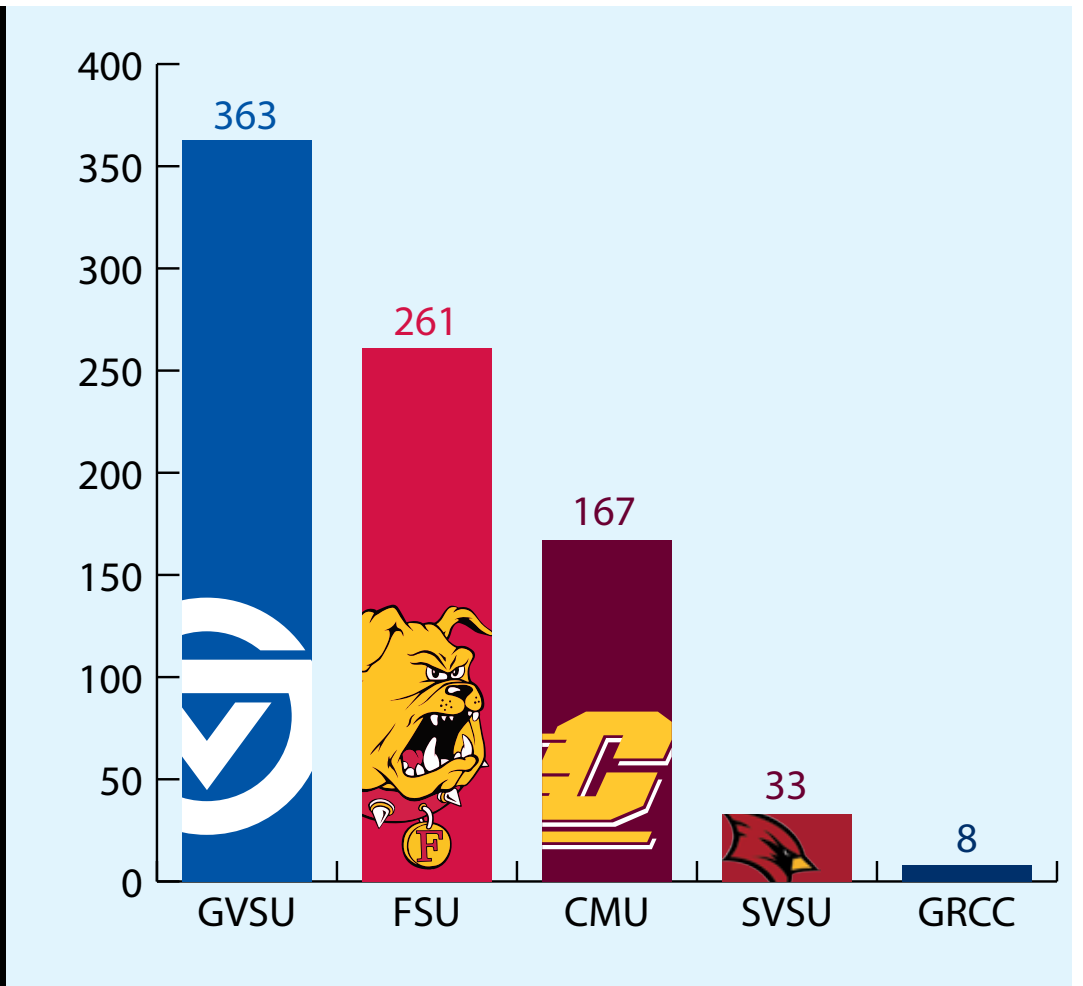
Corrections can be submitted through email at torch@ferris.edu

Crime on campus

Ferris State placed high on crime statistic comparison

**2023
UNIVERSITY
CRIME
REPORTS**

2024 crime reports have yet to be released



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Emma Walters
Freelance Reporter

A crime statistics comparison across five Michigan universities has placed Ferris State University second in terms of total criminal offenses on campus.

In 2023, Ferris had 261 crimes occur on the main campus.

Among these was one reported hate crime, determined to be intimidation based upon sexual orientation bias.

Among the criminal offenses reported on Ferris' main campus in 2023 were four occurrences of rape, 10 reports of fondling, two burglaries, three aggravated assaults, five reports of domestic violence and 20 reports of stalking.

Noted arrests for 2023 on the main campus included three in conjunction with weapons violations and two related to drug abuse violations.

Ferris also had a total of 203 disciplinary judicial referrals from the main campus for that year.

Within the comparison, Ferris was found to be the university with the second-highest number of criminal offenses within Michigan in 2023. First place was held by rival Grand Valley State University, which had 363 crimes for the year.

The 2024 security report for Grand Valley State University noted that four of the crimes included in the 2023

statistics occurred in 2022, but were reported for 2023.

Also included in the comparison were Central Michigan University, Saginaw Valley State University and Grand Rapids Community College.

Grand Rapids Community College had only eight criminal offenses reported on its main and DeVos campus in 2023.

Central Michigan University had 167 reported criminal offenses on the main campus for 2023, and Saginaw Valley State University had 33 criminal crimes reported on campus for the year.

Saginaw Valley State had one hate crime included in their 33 criminal offenses for 2023, determined to be property/vandalism related.

Grand Valley State University, Central Michigan University and Grand Rapids Community College did not have hate crimes reported on their main campuses for 2023.

Each year, universities are required to create a security and fire safety report in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act.

The Clery Act, established in 1990, is a federal law that requires universities and colleges to report criminal offenses that occur on campuses as well as share an annual security report.

Dispatch Specialist Brittaney Taylor explained that the crime statistics report provides Ferris with needed in-

formation to adjust security needs as necessary.

"If we have a lot of thefts in a parking lot, we're going to have patrol heavily go through that lot to make sure those criminals don't come back," Taylor said. "It's just a matter of identifying and making sure officers are being seen and people aware that we are here."

Taylor additionally mentioned that there is currently a project focused on getting more cameras on campus to improve security measures.

Within the 2024 annual security and fire safety report, Ferris State outlines several safety policies and procedures that have been implemented on the main campus.

Included in the safety policy procedure are the emergency blue lights, which are posted at various points around campus. The blue lights are designed to allow students to quickly request help if needed.

Ferris also noted the use of the FSU Emergency Alert system, which notifies students via email or text message of potentially dangerous situations on or around campus.

The most recent use of the FSU Emergency Alert was in early January when there were reports of gunshots near Top Taggart Field. These reports were determined to be unsubstantiated.

Ferris State has also provided a crime map, which demonstrates the exact location where reported crimes

occurred.

Despite these safety measures, digital animation and game design junior Morgan Keller stated that safety on campus is not where it should be.

"The camera situation on campus is incredibly lacking," Keller said. "I have had several friends who work for the university share their opinions and stories where things end up going wrong because they don't have any cameras. I think it's a huge disservice to what Ferris can be."

Keller additionally noted that the concern goes beyond the lack of cameras on campus, but also with the effectiveness of the emergency blue lights, which may not be helpful depending on the threat of the situation.

While information such as crime reports and statistics must be available to the public per the Clery Act, there is no part of the law that requires the university to advertise this to students.

Digital animation and game design junior Maddox

Epps stated that information regarding crime reports should be made more easily available to students.

"I don't know if it'd make people feel safer if it was posted somewhere, where more people could see it," Epps said. "I'd want to see it, even if it's just small stuff."

Ferris has not yet released the annual campus crime statistics for 2024. These statistics are expected by late September of 2025.

Maddox Epps was formerly employed by the Torch.

Great Lakes Provision Center

\$0.99 pre rolls! **10% off first time customers!**

Whether you're looking for concentrates, edibles, flower, pre rolls or more we've got you covered!

- \$15 ounces
- Buy four same price pre rolls/gummies get one free (in store only)
- Buy two \$99 ounces, get a half ounce free
- **Bring this ad in for a \$0.01 pre roll!**

Great Lakes PROVISION CENTER

811 Maple St, Big Rapids, MI **Monday-Saturday 9AM-9PM** **231-598-9190**
Sunday 9AM-6PM

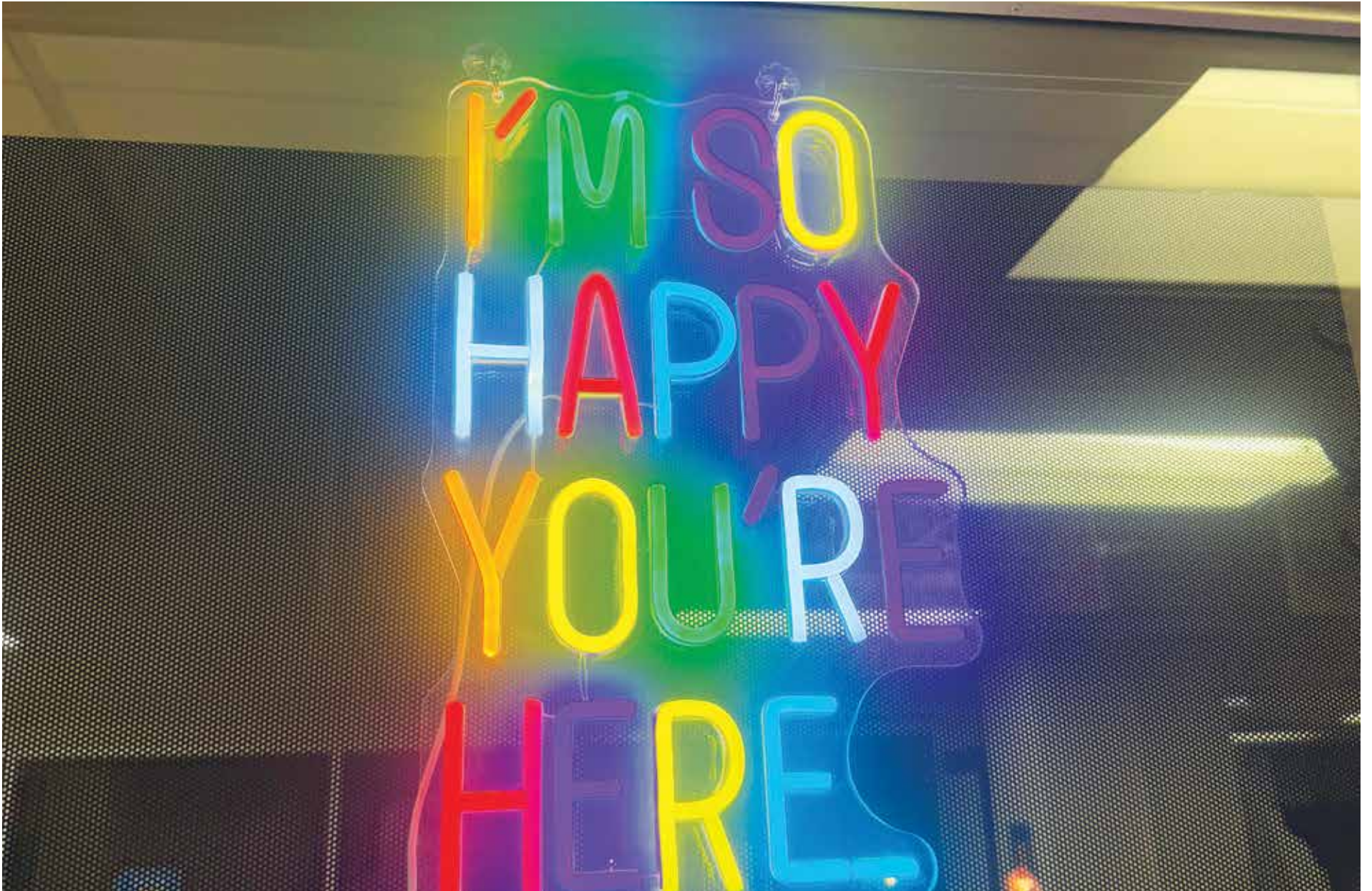


Photo by: Ciara Brooks | Torch Photographer

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center, located at the David Eisler Center in the Center for Student Involvement, offers many student resources and forms of support.

MINORITIES REACT TO EXECUTIVE ORDERS CONT.

"[My friend said] America is going to be great again without us and I [didn't know how to react] because we were supposed to be friends," Reynoso Cupido said.

Campus support can be found in the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance. Only three years old, FMLA is filling the gap for feminist student organizations on campus since the National Organization for Women became in-

active due to COVID-19. Vice President of the FMLA Jamie Kocks advocates for more students to attend events and find support within the organization.

"The main goal of the organization is to teach that feminism is for everyone," Kocks said. "We're a safe space. We try to offer help [by] giving resources and being a resource [for students] to come in and talk."

Support at this time is the main focus of FMLA following the new executive orders.

With talk of adding more support group meetings and mentioning other campus resources to students, such as the Anti-Violence Alliance.

FMLA is already starting to see anxious students who are looking for support.

"We've had members who will text and [say,] 'Hey, I don't know how to handle this right now.' I read [the texts,] and it's sad what it's doing to people," Kocks said.

The e-board of the FMLA is facing a lot of emotions, similar to their members. The

group believes that compassion must be shown at this time, even if the events happening aren't affecting us at the moment. Especially while there are so many questions waiting to be answered.

Unfortunately, the FMLA doesn't have answers for what the future could look like for diversity organizations on campus. All organizations at this time have been told not to panic about the new executive orders and instead wait them out until the public knows more.

Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Strategic Initiatives Dr. David Pilgrim is encouraging students to stop by his office with any concerns regarding the new executive orders.

"We are closely monitoring the issuance of new executive orders related to diversity, equity and inclusion. At this time, we have not received formal guidance from the federal government regarding their potential impact on our programs," Pilgrim said. "Given the evolving

nature of these policies, it would be premature to speculate on any changes."

At this time, the future could look like moving forward for students and staff is unknown. As more information about these new executive orders reaches the public, preparations will have to be taken. Until then, students and staff are encouraged to reach out to support organizations on and outside of campus during these uncertain times.

ON THE RECORD

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Pulled out, pulled over

Feb. 9, 1:03 a.m. - Officers stopped a vehicle after it pulled out in front of another. Officers reported smelling alcohol on the driver and gave them a sobriety test. The driver failed the test and was arrested.

Keying the side

Feb. 9, Unknown time - Someone reported that their car was keyed in the Rock Cafe parking lot. The case was closed due to lack of leads.

Open driving

Feb. 9, 9:28 p.m. - A driver was pulled over for running a stop sign. Officers found that the driver was under 21 and had an open alcohol bottle inside the vehicle. The driver was given a verbal warning.

Super Bowl turned super no

Feb. 10, 1:21 a.m. - A vehicle was stopped after running a stop sign. Officers smelled alcohol on the driver. The driver admitted to drinking while watching the Superbowl and failed to pass a sobriety test. The driver was arrested.

Culture

Blase Gapinski | Culture Editor | gapinsb@ferris.edu

30 years of empowerment

B.L.A.C.K. celebrates annual Image Awards



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

David Reed, a founder of B.L.A.C.K. and the special guest of the 30th Image Awards, accepts the DeJuan Hayes Award.

Blase Gapinski
Culture Editor

The Black Leaders Aspiring for Critical Knowledge celebrated its 30th annual Image Awards, honoring individuals who have made significant contributions to the community.

The 30th annual Image Awards, hosted by B.L.A.C.K., celebrated the accomplishments of minority community leaders, educators, and advocates. Held at Williams Auditorium, the event featured comedian Mike Winfield, a performance by the Ferris' Golden Majorettes and celebrated individuals and groups who have made lasting impacts in various fields, from social justice to education, emphasizing the importance of leadership, empowerment, and unity within the Black community.

Ferris Alumni David Reed, one of the eight original founders of B.L.A.C.K. shared insights about the Image Awards event. He reflected on the event's evolution and discussed its impact on student self-esteem and the broader community's view of

the university.

"The Image Awards is about celebrating the other students on campus," Reed said. "Recognizing their exercises and things they're doing on campus and giving them an opportunity to be shined, heard, and seen on campus. It does a great thing for self-esteem and their overall presentation and remembrance of the university."

Each award was named after iconic Black figures such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood Marshall, and Rosa Parks, reflecting the event's deep connection to Black culture.

Reed highlighted the organization's founding in 1995, aimed at improving the retention rate of Black male students. He expressed personal pride in the event's continued success, particularly in winning his first Image Award this year.

"As a founder coming back. It was a highlight, just to see that they kept the traditions and things that we set for 30 years ago and that takes a lot," Reed said. "I think my personal highlight

was winning my first Image Award. I was always the one who was back backstage working and was never the one out there receiving it. That was something special and I just wish more founders could have been here right along with me."

President of the Black Student Union, Tamyra Parnell-Davis, a sophomore majoring in pre-med shared her perspective on the significance of the Image Awards.

"It's about celebrating Black culture and everything we've been through over the past 30 years, while also celebrating those in our community today," said Parnell-Davis.

The Black Student Union, under Parnell-Davis' leadership, took home the Rosa Parks Award, with their advisor, Dr. Kasey Thompson, receiving the Sojourner Truth Award for her outstanding support and guidance.

"Our advisor has done so much for us in just the short time she's been with us, so it was great to see her honored tonight," Parnell-Davis said.

Brian Gary, the current president of B.L.A.C.K., took



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

B.L.A.C.K. members and their sisters from Y.B.B.W. host events on campus for student involvement, with the largest being the Image Awards.

charge of organizing this year's Image Awards, marking his first time running the event. This was his third year being involved, but his first as the event's leader. He shared his excitement about the success of the night, noting that the performances and turnout exceeded his expectations.

"I see how it's different running something like this and how stressful it can be but in the end, my boys and I came through, we did what we needed to do, and everything went smoothly," Gary said. "The event went phenomenal and I loved it."

He and fellow members

of B.L.A.C.K. took the stage to accept the Marcus Garvey Award, which recognizes the Registered Student Organization for their exceptional efforts in community service, social responsibility and advocacy. Gary was surprised but glad to see B.L.A.C.K. bring home an award.

Gary also discussed the changes he's seen in the Image Awards over the years and the direction he hopes to take it in the future.

"This year was special because we wanted to elevate the event to a more professional level, and I think we did that with the comedian, the performances and the

flow of the evening," Gary said. "Next year, we're already planning to make it even bigger with more impressive decorations and the goal is to continue growing and making this a standout event in the community."

As the night drew to a close, the excitement lingered, marking not just a celebration of achievements but a commitment to a brighter future. With each award, B.L.A.C.K. reinforced the importance of unity, empowerment and the shared goal of uplifting the community.

An advertisement for Ferris State University's Torch. It features the Ferris State University logo and the word "TORCH" in a red box. The main text reads "Advertise Your Business Here!" in large, bold, red letters. Below that, it says "Contact Me: Danette Doyle" and "danette.doyle@hearst.com". A red speech bubble at the bottom right says "START TODAY!".

Leadership and change at Ferris

A fireside chat with President Pink and Dr. Pilgrim



Photo by: Shaunti'ara Reynolds | Torch Photographer

David Pilgrim and President Pink, among other guest such as OMSS Director Chris Sanders, discussed Ferris's growth and what they hope to achieve.

Grace Heethuis
Freelance Reporter

There's no better way to kick off Black History Month than with a conversation about where we've come from and where we're going.

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, the First-Gen Organization at Ferris hosted a fireside chat featuring President Bill Pink and Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion and Strategic Initiatives David Pilgrim.

The chat consisted of four central questions discussed that centered around leadership, change, inclusion and the importance of the past when looking toward the future.

Pink and Pilgrim demonstrated what it means to be true leaders and foster positive change for Ferris students, as well as others in the community.

They spoke about the change that has occurred since the abolition of slavery and what still needs to be done in the future.

To follow, they explored the history shaping Ferris and driven it to become what it is today, reflecting on what Woodbridge Ferris intended his university to be.

Pink and Pilgrim share an

incredible passion for standing up for what is right despite what the popular opinion might be.

"If you don't stand up for something, you'll fall for anything," Pilgrim said.

Pilgrim also expressed the importance of vulnerability in leadership throughout the chat.

After the conclusion of the event, Office of Multicultural Student Services Director Christopher Sanders reflected on Pilgrim's insight on good leadership.

"I think what it looks like to be a true leader is being yourself," Sanders said. "Like Dr. Pilgrim was saying, standing up for something and not compromising on your values, no matter what those are."

Pilgrim reflected on the values and desires that Ferris State University was founded upon, expressing the importance of creating a space that welcomes everyone.

"Woodbridge Ferris wanted to create an institute where common people could reach their fullest potential," Pilgrim said. "He wanted to create one where everyone believed the university belonged to them as much as it belonged to anyone else."

They were not the only

ones who stressed the importance of this idea moving forward.

Sanders expressed his desire for inclusion in the future at Ferris, mentioning the goals that Woodbridge Ferris originally had as well.

"I want it to be a place where every student at Ferris feels like this is their university," Sanders said. "That there's opportunities that they can take advantage of just knowing that this is their space as well."

Another discussion point was the cruciality of being a voice for those who aren't included in conversations.

Associate Dean of Students Kavaris Sims emphasized why it is imperative that we seek to create change on a small scale by standing up for what is right in everyday conversations.

"Change happens at the dinner table," Sims said. "Often people believe that the most effective work happens on stage. When we're walking out, protesting, or boycotting something. It really happens in the kitchen at your table."

Conversation between Pink and Pilgrim stressed the need for understanding the past in order to carve a path to move forward on.

Sims reflected on how he views why knowing about the past is important to moving forward.

"It's important to understand where we came from and what that looks like because it's very hard to make a pathway forward if you don't know where you came from," Sims said.

Before concluding the chat, Pink expressed his concern about social isolation and the forces that drive it.

"Sometimes I walk past students and ask them how they're doing, and they never even look up," Pink said. "They've got their earbuds in and many of them will ever even know I walked past them."

Sims reflected on Pink's discussion of the social isolation that is currently plaguing our society.

"I think where we are now, people need to have more in-depth discussions amongst their peers and family members, and the folks they're closest to because the problem right now is that we're so isolated," Sims said.

As Black History Month continues, this event reminds us all of the importance of inclusion and community at Ferris.

Heard on Campus

"I'm basically taking care of my roommate like a pet at this point."

Hear something funny on campus? DM us on Instagram @fsutorch for your submission to be possibly featured

Media minute

Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl LIX performance



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production manager

Blase Gapinski
Culture Editor

Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl LIX halftime show on Feb. 9, was a powerful blend of cultural commentary and musical artistry.

The performance began with actor Samuel L. Jackson portraying "Uncle Sam," introducing the show as The Great American Game. Throughout this game, Uncle Sam serves as a judge criticizing and ridiculing Lamar's performance.

Lamar starts the show with an unreleased track and "Squabble Up." He is stopped short by Uncle Sam, who tells him his performance is "too loud and too ghetto," asking if he really knows how to play the game.

This highlights the challenges Black artists face in mainstream America, as they are always being placed in a

categorical box.

Uncle Sam advised Lamar to tighten up, a directive that foreshadowed the next song, "HUMBLE.," emphasizing the tension between artistic expression and societal expectations.

As Lamar transitioned into "HUMBLE.," the stage transformed into a divided American flag, symbolizing the nation's current state.

In a satirical twist, Uncle Sam deducted "1-life" from Lamar, as if penalizing him for not adhering to conventional norms. This moment underscored the performance's critique of America's treatment of Black artists and the pressure to conform.

The mood shifted as Lamar performed more mainstream tracks with SZA, such as "Luther" and "All the Stars." Both artists wore red and blue, meeting together

in the middle of the stage to embody unity and patriotism.

Uncle Sam's commentary, "That's what America wants, nice and calm," suggests that the public favors artists who produce palatable, commercially successful music over those who challenge societal norms with lyrical depth.

A pivotal moment occurs after Uncle Sam tells Lamar to not mess up as he is almost finished playing the game.

Uncle Sam is then interrupted when "Not Like Us," is teased and Lamar's backup dancers ask if he is really going to perform it, as they know Uncle Sam is infuriated with Lamar going against the rules of the game.

Lamar's response to that, "40 acres and a mule, this is bigger than the music," referenced the unfulfilled promises to emancipated slaves,

emphasizing that his performance was a statement on systemic issues, something far more important than winning a feud.

He ends his performance with the five-time Grammy-winning track "Not Like Us," which reflected Lamar's sentiment of wanting to move towards the future, not the past. This is signified again with 'game over' being displayed within lights in the crowd, which some have taken as his way of ending the conflict between him and Drake.

While the performance was a powerful political statement, it left some fans yearning for a deeper connection to Lamar's earlier work. The setlist, which included tracks like "Squabble Up," "HUMBLE.," "DNA," and "Not Like Us," showcased his recent material but lacked some of

his earlier hits that resonated deeply with audiences.

As a fan of all of Lamar's work, I would have liked to hear more of his music. He has so many songs and it felt like we barely got a glimpse into who he is as an artist. It felt a little lackluster and it didn't really scratch that itch the way I was expecting with a Lamar half-time show.

Songs like "Alright," "Institutionalized" and "King Kunta," which all have become anthems for social justice, were sadly absent. Including these tracks could have provided a more comprehensive representation of Lamar's artistic evolution and the themes he has consistently explored.

Additionally, while the performance was rich in symbolism and political commentary, some fans felt that the musical experience was over-

shadowed by the theatrical elements. A more balanced focus on his musical catalog, alongside the powerful messages could have enhanced the overall impact of the performance.

Kendrick Lamar's Super Bowl LIX halftime show was a groundbreaking event that seamlessly blended cultural commentary with musical performance. While it effectively addressed pressing social issues and showcased his artistic vision, it also highlighted the delicate balance between political expression and audience expectation.

For fans seeking a more nostalgic connection to Lamar's earlier work, the performance may have felt incomplete. Nonetheless, it stands as a testament to Lamar's ability to use his platform to provoke thought and inspire change.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN TIRE
WHERE THE RUBBER HITS THE ROAD!

989.352.TIRE
19342 W. Lake Montcalm • Howard City, MI 49329

SELLING BOTH NEW AND USED TIRES!
USED TIRES AND ALL TIRES
COME WITH A 30 DAY GUARANTEE!

WE CAN HELP STUDENTS WITH ANY BUDGET GET THEIR CAR BACK ON ROAD.

WE FIT WITHIN ANY BUDGET, CALL US TODAY!!

RAY FINUP, SALES

Opinions

Jackie Moglia | Opinions Editor | mogliaj@ferris.edu

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

The Ferris State Torch welcomes comments on topics of interest to the general readership. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and The Torch reserves the right to edit for length. Letters will not be edited for grammar, punctuation or spelling. The Torch will not print letters deemed to be libelous or obscene. All letters must be signed by their authors and include his or her phone number.

Unsigned editorials appearing on this page are the opinion of The Torch and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the university's administration, faculty or staff. Signed columns represent the opinion of the writer. Inquiries regarding editorial content should be directed to the Editor in Chief at (231) 591-5978.

To advertise with the Torch, contact Danette Doyle at the Pioneer Group at (231) 592-8359 or Danette.Doyle@hearst.com.

Student media retain the same rights, responsibilities, privileges and protections afforded by the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and under applicable state laws.

The Torch and fsutorch.com, the student newspaper and its accompanying online version focused on Ferris State University, are public forums for student expression. Student editors have the authority and responsibility to make all content decisions without censorship or advanced approval for both the print and online editions of the student newspapers.

Torch Staff

Editor in Chief

Dylan Rider
riderd1@ferris.edu

Podcast Manager

Liz Brown

Production Manager

Harmony Goodman

Videographer

Jasmine Baar

Production Assistant

Hailey Nye

Cartoonist

Blake Flanery

News Editor

Ember St. Amour

Freelance News Reporters

Emma Walters

Culture Editor

Blase Gapsinski

Freelance Culture Reporters

Tate Zellman
Grace Heethuis
Max Sorek

Sports Editor

Connor Grypma

Sports Reporters

Caden Hofmann
Nolan Matthews

Opinions Editor

Jackie Moglia

Freelance Sports Reporters

Jasmine Baar
Devin Wardrop

Multimedia Editor

Jordan Wilson

Photographers

Sam Mulder
Ciara Brooks
Abe Kraus
Shaunti'ara Reynolds

Web Editor

Lucas Gill

Managing Copy Editor

Anthony Malinowski

Copy Editors

Connor Fuller
Thomas Maxwell
Carly Judge

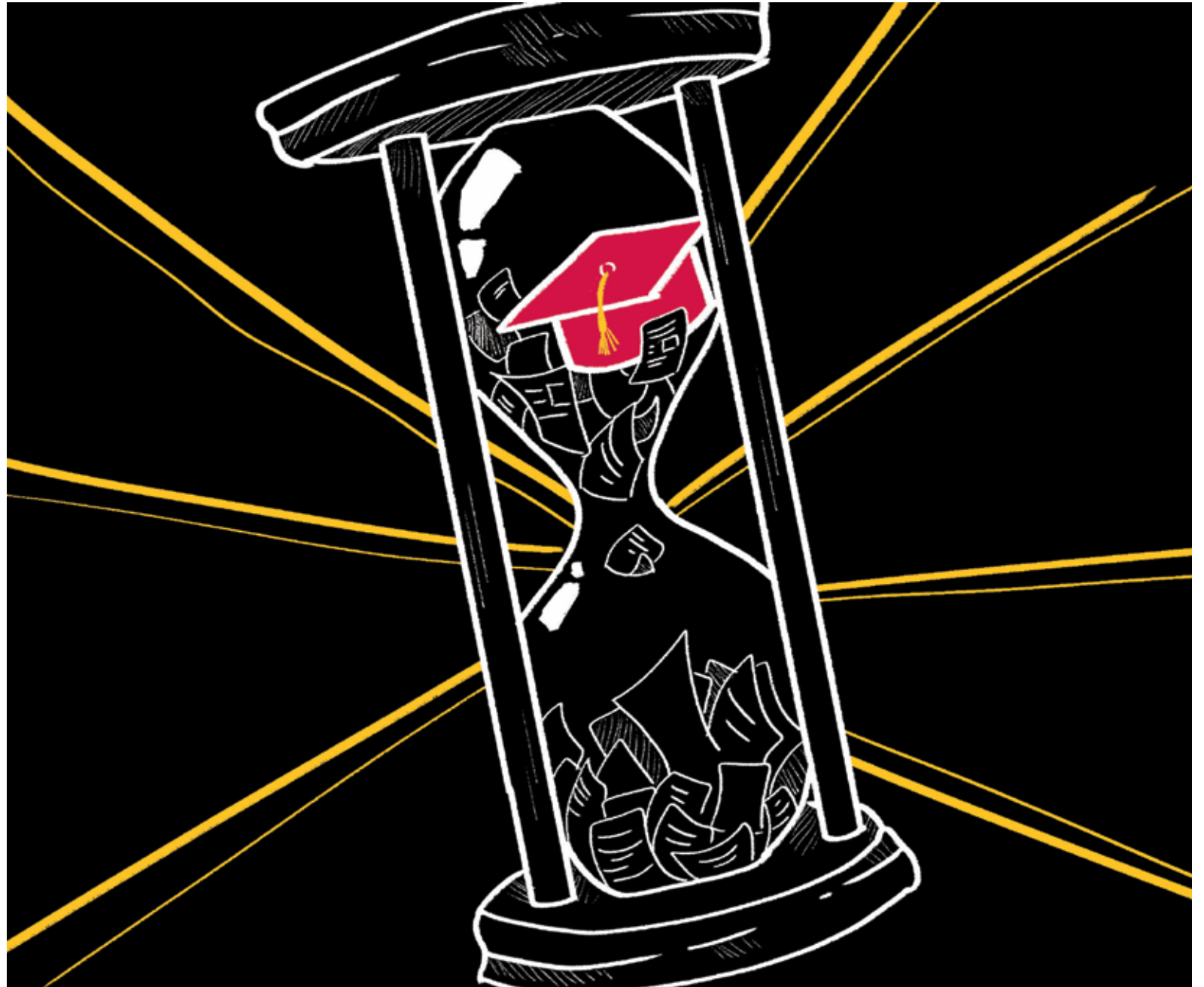
Advisor

Scott Kowalewski
Scott.Kowalewski@ferris.edu

EDITOR'S COLUMN:

The burden of senioritis

Senioritis has become more than homework assignments



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Dylan Rider Editor in Chief

I've never been the poster boy of academic excellence.

With that being said, I've never been a slacker either. I know my happy medium and how much time I need to complete an assignment. However, I continually push my deadlines to the absolute last second before I know it would cause trouble. I'm a procrastinator.

However, with my current standing as a graduating senior, the procrastination issue has united with my senioritis. My early days of procrastination were filled with fears of failure. A bad grade was the death of me. I'd be close to tears.

Fast forward to now, I don't have a shred of worry. However, this isn't because I've

mellowed out. I still have my issues with failure. This lack of worry is born from a lack of caring. Yes, I've never been one to let myself fail. Yes, the assignments will be done on time. But the same passion from my years as an underclassman is long gone.

I've used the phrase "slogging through" lately. I feel it's pretty accurate. My combination of procrastination and senioritis has made everything due on Canvas nothing more than a chore. A means to an end. That's all it is.

A former, younger, more optimistic version of myself would feel more excited about his classes. He'd be more excited to almost be at the finish line. Not to say that I'm not thrilled to collect my diploma, but it feels more like a part of the plan now than something that I once

thought was so far away.

Now with graduation less than three months away, the classes I currently have are just large, looming steps in the way of being done. The joy isn't exactly there, at least for right now.

I don't think this is great. I wish I could feel excited every moment. Every assignment turned in is truly one inch closer to walking across a graduation stage.

The apathy from senioritis and the academic stubbornness from my procrastination have put me in this state. Is it worth it to get out of it for three more months? Yes and no.

It's not exactly productive to remain apathetic regarding homework. I'm unwilling to test my uncaring nature when it comes to assignments. So, I suppose I'll have

to complete all of them. Unfortunately, my senioritis isn't isolated to homework.

Now I know senioritis is a solely school-based ailment. I know it's derived from schoolwork. However, I think it goes a little further.

The feeling of apathy has spread to the university and the surrounding town. I'm not saying this because both have massive issues that ruin my quality of life, but because the same thing for four years has taken its toll on me.

It's a feeling I'm sure I felt in my final year of high school. Seeing the same years of 18 years and being on the brink of something new only exacerbates that version of senioritis.

I'm pining for something new with this Ferris State senioritis. I've seen enough of a rural town to last me

another 22 years. There's a driving force in my heart that wants me to see more. Trips to Milwaukee and New Orleans this past year have given me a new lease on life being somewhere more lively.

I'm not motivated by Big Rapids. Nice, small town, sure. But the youthful exuberance I know I still have needs more. There's an entire world out there, and I'll be damned if I retire to somewhere just yet.

Between homework assignments, senioritis, procrastination and this town, I'm slogging through. Maybe I'll wake up one morning with a burning desire to be interested and on top of things. Until then, I'll be counting the days until the next step.

Not so Super Bowl

Why I am missed the big game



Photo by: Blase Gapinski | Culture Editor

Instead of preparing for the game, some opted to attend a Detroit Pistons game in Detroit.

Blase Gapinski
Culture Editor

This year, I won't be watching the Super Bowl, and I believe my decision is valid.

For many fans, the Super Bowl is a must-watch event,

but for me, it's not the same. My favorite team, the Cincinnati Bengals, didn't have a shot at making the playoffs, and the other teams I would have liked to see in the big game got knocked out early. So, the Super Bowl has lost

its excitement.

To make sure I kept my word on this, I purchased tickets to watch the Charlotte Hornets take on the Detroit Pistons at home on the same day as the Super Bowl.

The reason behind this

is that the tickets are inexpensive and it offers me a chance to watch a team I actually care about.

The main reason I was looking forward to the Super Bowl this year was Kendrick Lamar's halftime perfor-

mance. I never have experienced the Pistons playing live, so the opportunity to see them on a Sunday when I am relatively free just made more sense to me.

It isn't just because I am upset the Kansas City Chiefs made their way back to the big game yet again. The Super Bowl has just felt bland throughout the last few years and I have a few reasons to support my case.

It's hard to stay invested when the teams that captured my attention earlier in the season aren't in the running anymore. Especially when you have watched the games religiously throughout the regular season.

There's also the issue of familiarity. Over the past two decades, we've seen a lot of the same names dominating the NFL. Tom Brady, the Manning brothers, Ben Roethlisberger and many others. Now, we are seeing the same thing happen with Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs.

While I respect their talent and the legacies they've built, it feels like the same old story year after year. I understand this is common in sports, where dominant players stick around for a long time.

But wouldn't it be refreshing to see a new, young face take the spotlight? Someone like Jayden Daniels or even a team like the Detroit Lions winning the Super Bowl would shake things up in a way that feels new and ex-

pecting.

It's not that I don't appreciate the greatness of the players we've come to know, but a change in the narrative would feel like a breath of fresh air for fans like me.

Finally, there's the culture surrounding the Super Bowl. For many, it's more of a social event than a celebration of the sport itself.

The game often becomes an excuse to eat junk food, drink excessively and socialize, which can be frustrating for a true sports fan.

I want to watch the game for the game's sake, not to be distracted by the party atmosphere. I understand that for some, this is part of the fun, but it doesn't appeal to me. I'd rather focus on the action on the field with my small-knit group than navigate the constant chatter, eating and drinking that often overshadows the game.

For these reasons, I believe it's perfectly valid to sit out and not watch the Super Bowl this year. Sports fans should feel comfortable skipping an event if it no longer excites them or aligns with their preferences.

Whether it's because their team didn't make it, the same names keep showing up, or the surrounding culture of the event doesn't match their love for the game, it's okay to take a pass. We're all entitled to our opinions, and for me, skipping the Super Bowl is a choice I feel confident in making.

To-go security



Comic by: Blake Flanery | Cartoonist

Sports

Connor Grypma | Sports Editor | grypmac@ferris.edu

Bench mob

Men's basketball's bench aids Ferris' success



Photo by: Abe Kraus | Torch Photographer

The Bulldog bench averages 38.3 points per game, accounting for 959 of Ferris' 2,103 total points this season.

Caden Hofmann
Special Editions Editor

Before the season, men's basketball head coach Andy Bronkema raved about his teams' bench and claimed their depth was the biggest strength on the roster.

So far, the reserves have lived up to that praise by helping the Bulldogs to a 20-5 start.

The scoring outbursts have made the unit effective in Ferris' start to the season. They account for 48 of the Bulldogs' average of 84 points per game and had at least one player in double digits off the bench in 10 out of the last 12 games.

Junior guard Tyler Hamil-

ton is the leading scorer off the bench and second in total scoring. Hamilton, in his first year with the Bulldogs, is a transfer from St. Clair County Community College, and has embraced his role on the team and has maximized it.

"I really just come in and do what they ask me to do," Hamilton said. "It's my job as a sparkplug off the bench to score, when I come in the game, I'm looking to put points up."

The depth that was so key for Ferris earlier in the season has taken a hit in the last month. Junior forward Donovan Brown-Boyd, who appeared in 16 games off the bench and averaged 8.5

points per game, has not played since Jan. 9 with an injury.

Senior center Kenny Turner has also missed time for the Bulldogs, he has not played since Jan. 16. When Turner was healthy, he was a key part of Ferris' rotation. He averaged 5.6 points and four rebounds per game, serving as the backup center.

Without the help from Brown-Boyd and Turner, the Bulldogs have been forced to run an eight-man rotation instead of the usual ten-man that Bronkema would prefer to run.

The injuries have affected the team but have not changed the goal according to freshman guard Jaxson

Whitaker.

"The injuries have hurt us but it has also prepared us in a lot of ways," Whitaker said. "It has some guys ready to play different positions and allows us to exceed in different roles."

One of the players who has taken a big leap for the bench has been Whitaker.

Whitaker has averaged 7.3 points per game and is third on the team in three-point percentage, with 42.5% from beyond the long line.

Whitaker says the biggest thing for his progression has been confidence.

"My teammates give me so much confidence," Whitaker said. "They don't get mad at me for taking shots

and actually get mad when I don't shoot enough. I just give them all I can to help the team, I am always ready to go when my name is called."

During the last five games, Whitaker has seen an uptick in minutes. He is averaging 22.2 minutes per contest, in which he has averaged 11.3 points, including a career-high 19 points on six made threes in a loss versus Michigan Tech.

Bronkema has loved the development from his sharpshooting freshman.

"He comes in every day and works extremely hard," Bronkema said. "It's encouraging to see him do what we ask from him and I know he is going to have a ton of big

games for us the rest of the year."

The Bulldogs will be looking to get fully healthy as they pursue a GLIAC championship to close out the season. The bench will certainly be a key piece in pursuit of that goal on both sides of the ball.

Ferris has six games remaining, all of which are against conference opponents. The Bulldogs are currently tied for third in the GLIAC alongside Northern Michigan.

Ferris will return to action versus the first-placed Michigan Tech Huskies on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. on the road.

Softball aims to build off Hawaii split

Bulldogs enter the Blue Ridge Battle

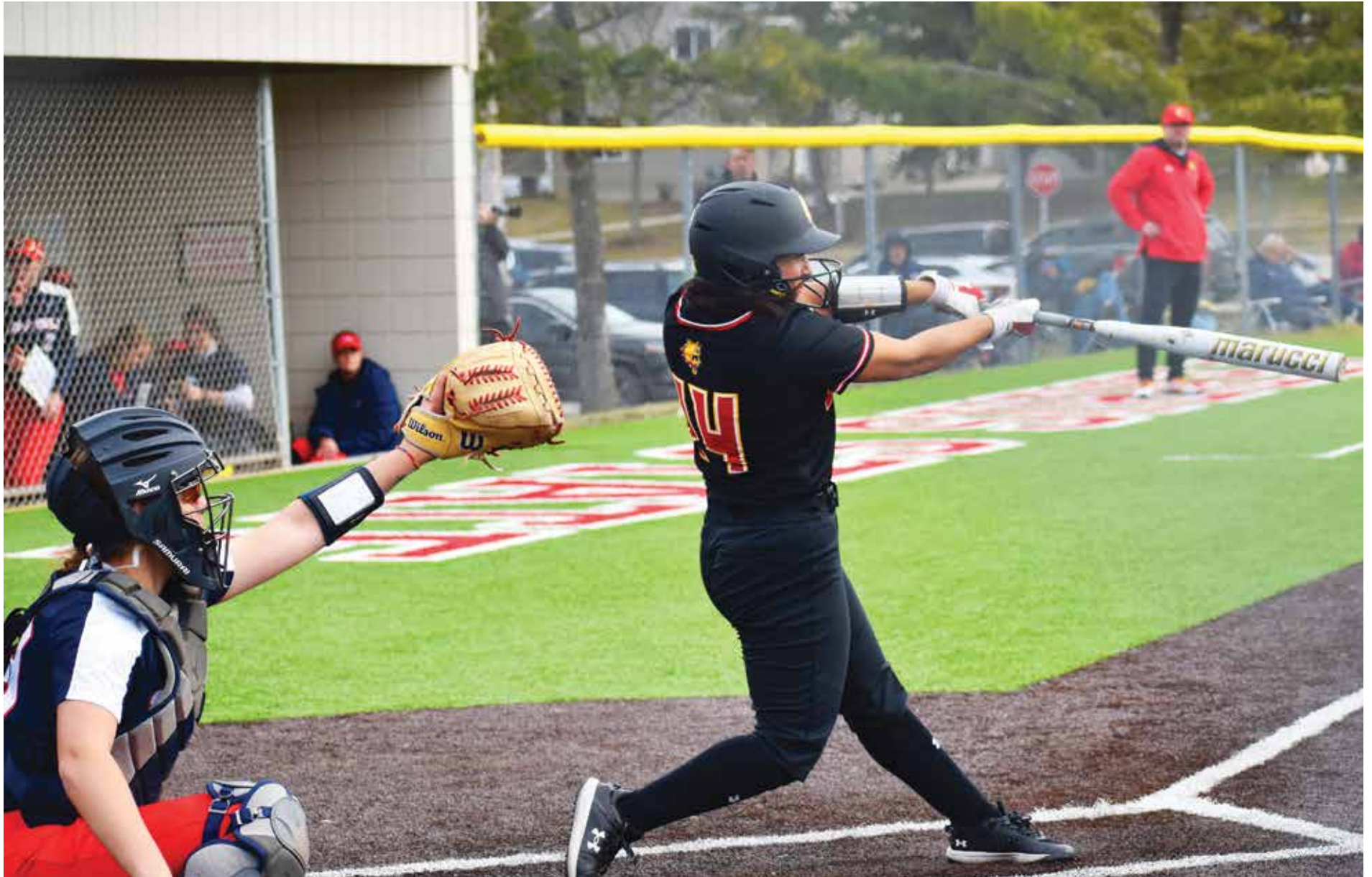


Photo by: Brianna Wichmann | Torch Archives

Junior catcher Emily Killion has generated five hits in five games during the Bulldogs' young season.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Reporter

Looking to start the season strong, Ferris softball opened its season in Honolulu, Hawaii this past week.

The Bulldogs (3-3, 0-0 in GLIAC) dropped their first two games to the Hillsdale Chargers and the Lewis Flyers before winning three of their last four in Honolulu to start the season 3-3.

The star during the team's time in Hawaii was freshman shortstop Jayden Marlatt, who finished with a .500 batting average (8-for-16), including four extra-base hits, four RBIs, three walks and two stolen bases.

While the pitching had some work to do, the star pitcher during these games was the sophomore transfer from Davenport, Cecelia Bell. She threw 17 innings to the tune of a 2.88 era and nine strikeouts while tossing a six-inning complete game win against the Lewis Flyers.

Looking ahead the Bulldogs have a week off before traveling to Evansville, Ind. for the Blue Ridge Battle to face off against non-conference opponents.

The Bulldogs will have

their hands full during this stretch of games, having to face off against the Indianapolis Greyhounds, who made the NCAA DII National Semifinals last season. Two games later, the Bulldogs take on the Ohio-Dominican Panthers, who themselves made the NCAA DII Midwest Regional before losing to Grand Valley.

Senior third baseman Brooklyn Verbeek is excited about the challenges ahead of the team in Evansville.

"We're definitely up against some tough competition in Evansville," Verbeek said. "But we find that more exciting than intimidating. This is a special group of girls, and we can't wait to get back on the field together, win some games, and hopefully enjoy some decent weather while we're at it."

The Panthers are led by sophomore third baseman Addie Triplett, hitting .667 (6-for-9) with a 1.414 OPS and two RBIs. If the Bulldogs look to stifle the Panthers in this matchup, it starts with locking down the young star.

While the University of Indiana is a challenging team, to sophomore first baseman Alexis Kozlowski, it's just an-

other game.

"Of course playing Ulndy will be a challenge for my team and I," Kozlowski said. "But me and the team just think of it as yet another normal game, I do not go into the game thinking another team is amazing, it really does not matter who the opponent is, we control our attitude and effort, and if we play to the best of our ability this game will be a dog fight."

The Bulldogs will need their offense to keep the runs coming in these games, as the offense has scored six or more runs in four of their six games thus far. The pitching needs to stay consistent, as they have allowed six or more runs in three of their six games.

The Bulldogs will have to clean up the number of errors the team is committing if they want to keep up with the Greyhounds and Panthers. In their first six games, the team has committed seven errors, with six occurring in three games. This is something that head coach Jake Schumann spoke about before the season started and continues to be a prevalent issue for Ferris.

Junior catcher Emily Kil-

lion knows the team needs to fix its errors, but the team will continue to make adjustments.

"It was our first time playing on dirt and outside since the fall," Killion said. "We

were able to make those adjustments over the first few games, our defense made great plays other than that and handled the ball well."

The Bulldogs will take a weekend off before play-

ing three doubleheaders in three straight days during the Blue Ridge Battle. Ferris' first matchup begins on Friday, Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. before they wrap up on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 1 p.m.

Tennis set to clash with McKendree

Bulldogs head back to Indianapolis for neutral site matchplay



Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Sophomore Kevin Kovacs won his singles match against the Tiffin University opponent by six points during both game sets.

Devin Wardrop
Freelance Reporter

After a two-match home-stand for men's and women's tennis, the Bulldogs will head back to Indianapolis,

Ind. for a neutral site match against the McKendree University Bearcats.

Ferris men's team (2-2, 0-0 in GLIAC) and women's team (3-1, 0-0 in GLIAC) are coming off back-to-back

home matches, the first against the Tiffin University Dragons on Feb. 8, and the second against the University of Findlay Oilers on Feb. 9.

Ferris State started its tennis season down in Indianap-

olis to play the No. 1 ranked University of Indianapolis before taking on Drury University.

Head coach Mark Doren highlighted how a strong start can set the tone for the season.

"It's super important," Doren said. "We always start at Ulndy, which is always a top five team in the country. I do it on purpose so we start with a difficult match and for the women to get a couple of match wins to start off the year, that was huge. The men didn't get any wins the first weekend, but it taught us a little about ourselves and gave them stuff to work on, which we saw yesterday versus Tiffin."

Men's tennis

Following an 0-2 start to the season, the reigning back-to-back GLIAC Champions swept their opening home series against Tiffin and Findlay. Now, the Bulldogs travel back to a neutral location to take on the Bearcats.

McKendree is 0-2 on the season, including getting swept 0-7 by Grand Valley State. The Bearcats have 13 days off following their 1-6 loss against Washburn

University on Feb. 2. McKendree will be ready to get into the win column against the Bulldogs.

Sophomore Kevin Kovacs talked about how they plan to take advantage of a McKendree team that hasn't played in two weeks.

"We haven't played against them for a long time," Kovacs said. "A couple of our guys played them at the ITA's, but now that we had two matches, a double header now against Findlay and Tiffin, we got a couple matches under our belt so I think we're going to use that experience. We're all playing well and we hope to take that to McKendree."

Other than the few ITA matches, Kovacs talked about, Ferris and McKendree have yet to play in a one-on-one match, so both sides will be looking to be the first to win a match in the series.

The key to the Bulldogs' success runs through the doubles play. Ferris has earned the doubles point in all four of their matchups this season, giving them an advantage heading into the singles flights. The Bulldogs look to come out firing against the Bearcats.

Women's tennis

Despite dropping all three of their exhibition matches to start the year, the women kicked off their regular season with a 3-1 record and they're hoping to add to their win column with a win against McKendree.

The Bulldogs split their home-opener series, capturing a 5-2 win over Tiffin before falling 6-1 to Findlay.

The consistency throughout the Bulldog's lineup has led to multiple wins this season. This includes freshman Yara Madi who competes at three singles. Madi has captured wins in all four matches this year.

Similar to its men's team, the McKendree women are 0-2 on the season. They were swept in both matches against Grand Valley and Washburn.

The men's and women's tennis teams will travel to Indianapolis to play McKendree University in the Indianapolis Racquet Club East. The match will be played on Saturday, Feb. 15. The matches are slated to start at 3 p.m. for both teams.

20% OFF for all Ferris Students!!!
Offer Valid with a Student ID!
Only valid for Pickup or Dine-In Orders.
You must call store to order and show ID when picking up your order.
Not valid for Online, Text or Delivery orders. Valid at the Big Rapids location only.

JET'S PIZZA
215 Maple Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307
(231) 527-0122