



Charlie Kirk vigil held on campus

Students speak from dividing sides



Photo by: Blase Gapinski | Editor in Chief

Students gather around to mourn the loss of Charlie Kirk.

Blase Gapinski
Editor in chief

On Thursday, Oct. 2, over 100 community members, faculty and students gathered at the Robinson Quad for a vigil in remembrance of the late Charlie Kirk.

The vigil began at 7:30 p.m. and was organized by Ferris' Turning Point USA chapter. It began with people lining up to write down their feelings about what Kirk had meant to them and share some of their favorite memories. Worship and patriotic music were played, setting the intended tone of the night.

Around three weeks ago, the political commentator was assassinated at the University of Utah during a campus-wide speaking event where hundreds gathered to listen and wait for their chance to debate or speak with Kirk.

Although the vigil comes a

few weeks after Kirk's death, the sentiment that the assassination happened on a college campus still lingers in the minds of the people in the community.

Welding engineering technology freshman Andrew Strawn was hanging out with friends when they received word about the vigil. They decided to walk from their dorm as a way to pay their respects.

"It's just the right thing to do," Strawn said. "I personally didn't agree with everything he said, but seeing all these people out here praying for his kids, his wife, his family is just the right thing. There's no point in beating down on someone's name when they are already gone."

Around 8:00 p.m., candles were handed out to members of the audience to be lit during a moment of prayer and worship led by a pastor.

Strawn observed a clear contrast between the two

groups at the vigil and felt it wasn't the right time or place for protests. He believed the moment should have been reserved for honoring Kirk's life, regardless of political views.

"Imagine if you were put in that situation where someone you knew, like your father, was shot and killed over something they were doing that they felt was right and believed in," Strawn said. "The video is going to be up forever too, so I try and tell people to just really empathize, sympathize and just let the guy rest."

While many attendees gathered to honor Kirk and share their memories, a group of students stood nearby in protest, holding signs and speaking out against what they described as the dangerous ideology Kirk promoted throughout his career.

The event quickly became more than just a memorial and became a reflection of

the sharp divide Kirk's legacy continues to spark, even after his death.

Psychology senior Rayona Charles helped organize the peaceful protest and stated the group had intentionally planned for them to make a silent presence at the vigil to show solidarity and support for Black and minority students on campus.

"We believe that his life should be celebrated, but we just feel like it should not be celebrated on our campus, where we have such a large demographic of students and so much diversity," Charles said. "We have the LGBTQ+ community here, the Black community here, Hispanics here so that's why we kind of are just coming out today to show that even though all of this is happening on our campus, we don't stand for it."

Charles described that the reason they were out there was to raise awareness about some of Kirk's more inflam-

matory statements and comments that she described as racist and dismissive of DEI initiatives, which she felt like many students weren't really aware of.

"He [Kirk] said things like school shootings were okay, or that Black people don't have the educational standards to be doctors or teachers and that's just not true," Charles said. "Black excellence is real and we came out here because human rights are equal rights, and a lot of what he stood for goes against those basic human rights."

Although both sides remained peaceful, the overwhelming tension could be felt in the air. Those attending the vigil received a candle and as the sun set, the sermon began with everyone lighting their candle.

The event grew louder as more people began to show up and represent both sides of the vigil.

Welding engineering technology freshman Tristan Stead didn't understand the need for a protest during a time of remembrance. He reflected on the impact of Kirk's death and the broader social tensions that have arisen.

"It never seems to evolve in this country," Stead said. "It's just one violent act after another. One assassination attempt followed by another and it doesn't seem to go anywhere. We're backstepping rather than moving forward."

The side protesting began to get louder when the pastor began speaking. Chants began to emerge from the crowd of 'Jesus spread love, not hate.'

As the chants echoed through the quad, Stead reflected on the difficulty of bridging such deep divides in today's climate.

"It's like with free speech, you can't say whatever you want without backlash," Stead said. "There's one side and then there's another, and you really need to understand those two sides of the story, but it's difficult when you don't really know that other side very well."

Psychology sophomore Derek Stallworth attended the protest to show his solidarity with minority groups on campus and push back against what he described as a misrepresentation of the university's values.

"We're all out here today because we want to make one thing clear: not on our campus," Stallworth said. "We can't be celebrating someone whose values went against everything this university is built on. We won't allow that. Not on this campus."

As candles flickered and chants rose in the darkness, the vigil for Kirk became more than a moment of remembrance as it transitioned into a snapshot of a campus still grappling with how to co-exist in an increasingly polarized world.

News

Ferris is well known for providing students with real, hands-on opportunities, including showcases in the recent ArtPrize event, located in downtown Grand Rapids. **PG. 2**

Culture

Award winning singer and songwriter Natalie Hemby recently visited Ferris to share the truths and inspiration behind her music. **PG. 6**

Opinions

Learning to love yourself is important for everyone, especially for autistic individuals in light of recent events. **PG. 9**

Sports

Learn about the twins of the Ferris football offensive line, Tim and Bob Anderson and their lives of being siblings in sports **PG. 10**



News

Emma Walters | News Editor | waltere8@ferris.edu

Michigan

Emma Walters
News Editor

Wayne County, MI - Former top managers of the Wayne County juvenile jail sued the county last week, claiming that complaints made regarding a supervisor’s illegal order to consolidate residents had lost them their jobs.

Former Director Tamika Lofton, Deputy Director Anthony Moorman and Deputy Director Quiotis Fletcher allege that the county violated the state’s Whistleblower Protection act through wrongful termination and constructive discharge following the complaints.

The county recently paid \$2 million to settle a lawsuit after a juvenile was allegedly assaulted.

National

Emma Walters
News Editor

Ithaca, NY - Researchers at Cornell University have received \$5.1 million in grant money from the Autism Data Science Initiative.

This has come as a part of the Trump administration’s increased scrutiny on the disorder as well as plans to track sources for the condition.

The funding comes after the administration previously announced controversial plans to study autism, including plans for a proposed database of individuals with the condition.

Autism has been the focus of research for decades but has undergone extra scrutiny as the Trump administration has placed it as part of the foundation for its public health agenda, despite termination of other federal research grants.

Global

Emma Walters
News Editor

Tibet - Hikers are currently battling a blizzard near the eastern slopes of Mount Everest.

At least one hiker has died and more than 200 remain stranded on the mountain.

Snowfall began on Friday evening and worsened over the weekend. Many local villagers and rescue workers have been deployed to clear out snow blocking access to the area.

Rescue efforts have guided 350 people to safety while authorities remain in contact with those still trapped.

Art for the prize

Ferris students featured on billboards at ArtPrize



Photo courtesy of Ferris State University

Ferris State student Ausin Nesbitt posing in front of his billboard design

Marc Stoufer III
Freelance Reporter

Each year, artists from diverse backgrounds in the Grand Rapids area come together for ArtPrize, an 18-day competition voted on by city residents.

The event has been taking place for 16 years, since starting in 2009 and has a total of \$400,000 up for grabs.

This year, Ferris State University’s Kendall College of Art and Design participated in the competition in a new way.

20 students in various programs would have their artwork displayed on a billboard during the event.

The types of artwork displayed on the billboards represented the fields of illustration, fashion design, product design, welding engineering, digital art, interior design and architecture.

Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications Dave Murray explained that it was time to showcase students in KCAD programs.

“Ferris State’s Kendall College of Art and Design has been part of that creative community for nearly 100 years,” Murray said. “This felt like the perfect moment

to showcase the programs at Ferris that lead to exciting careers in creative fields—both to prospective students and to the broader community.”

In the months leading up to ArtPrize, leadership at Kendall College reached out to current and former students about the opportunity and narrowed the list of those interested down to the final 20.

From there, the school worked with Outfront Media to find billboards in and around competition venues that would highlight the artwork.

“To our knowledge, this is the first time Ferris State student work has been featured on billboards—an exciting milestone,” said Murray.

The opportunity to have their work featured in this way means something different to each student.

Illustration senior Sydney Higgins expressed what it meant to have her artwork featured.

“This billboard represents a very high point in my journey as an artist,” Higgins said. “It is such a good opportunity to showcase my artwork, especially something I am so proud to have created.”

Illustration junior Ally Grant, who created color pen-

cil drawings of frogs, felt her billboard was a sign that she was on the right track.

“As artists, we often have to deal with rejection regularly, and to be accepted for something like this makes all the other letdowns completely worth it,” Grant said. “I know to most, this is just an advertisement on the side of a building, but for me, it’s validation and proof that my hard work can lead me to success.”

The process was different for Grant, whose illustrations began as a class assignment.

To achieve as realistic a look as possible, Grant spent up to twelve hours a week observing the animal at parks, museums and zoos. While there, she studied how lighting and anatomy would affect her design.

Each billboard, part of an advertising campaign titled “Make it Here,” also features Ferris State University’s logo and acts as a representation of the kinds of programs the school offers.

Grant took inspiration from her childhood in Alaska to promote a message of understanding between species.

“For me, it’s not about the hyperrealism, it’s about trying to capture personality and emotion. Growing up in Alas-

ka, we were taught to treat animals with dignity and respect, and since living in the States these past few years, I’ve realized that people here see animals in a completely different way, simply because they look and communicate differently,” Grant said. “With these frogs in particular, I hope that people can connect with them and see them in a way that’s relatable in some form or another.”

To Higgins, the project represents the power of art.

“I hope when people see my billboard, they feel inspired to create something of their own. Even more than that, I hope that people are motivated to chase their dreams. I never would have thought four years ago, when I started my artistic journey, that I would have my art on a billboard,” Higgins said. “The quote ‘nothing is impossible’ has really been resonating with me lately.”

In addition to these student billboards, more than 50 Ferris State University students and alumni have entries in ArtPrize throughout Grand Rapids.

Applications open?

Career fair links students to jobs amid struggling job market



Photo by: Delaney Stewart | Photographer

Ferris students looking for future job opportunities at the career fair.

Davaria Pharr
News Reporter

Ferris State University held its annual fall career expo on Oct. 2 in the Student Recreation Center.

The goal of the event was to assist students with building connections with potential employers, especially in the current job economy.

Employers from various fields come to the event to speak with and recruit students.

The career expo provides students with the opportunity to showcase their skills and connect with potential employers through one-on-one conversation.

Students hand out resumes to employers in hopes of standing out from other applicants.

The biggest challenge employers are currently faced with is an influx of applicants and not enough positions.

When a job posting goes up, what would normally receive 20 applicants is now receiving hundreds.

More employers are being strict when it comes to the hiring process.

In order for students to gain an internship, they are going to have to work harder for those positions. With competition going up and demand on the decline.

Talent Acquisition for Sherwin-Williams Stephanie Vertal stated that the company has become more selective as more applicants are rolling in.

“We had a lot of job open-

ings after COVID and now we don't have as many openings. So now we're being a little more selective,” Vertal said.

Companies including Handshake, Hayworth, and the Secretary of State face the challenge of finding quality applicants.

According to hiring manager for the Oakland County Government Nicholas Gazowski, students coming out of graduation need to expect lower salaries.

“Hate to say, but, salaries. They're probably gonna be a little bit lower than what you anticipate,” Gazowski said.

Gazowski also expressed that some employers are finding it less costly to hire someone with less experience versus more. Some employers feel it is less costly to hire someone with less experience versus more experience.

“When we look at candidates, do we want somebody who has 20 years of experience that could be more costly?” Gazowski said. “Stress levels have gone up, which leaves employees questioning if they're going to lost their jobs.”

Students who hope to obtain a dream job or internship are faced with a tough reality.

Artificial Intelligence sophomore Lola Watterson explained that with a rough job market, students are left with questions and uncertainty about the future and job security.

“My major was Biology, but

I ended up thinking about the future and how the pay will be,” Watterson said.

Beyond the classroom, students are working harder to cultivate the interpersonal and professional skills necessary to stand out to employers.

“If you talk to my current employer, they would say I am hard working, pick up on things fast and a people person,” Watterson said.

On the other side of things, some companies are thriving

in this climate.

Senior Product Specialist at Handshake Mark McDonald expressed that the company is doing well despite the current job market.

“Our company is doing quite well in the economy by virtue of a few diversified approaches,” McDonald said.

Despite the current environment, some students are managing reasonably well in this economy.

Mechanical Engineering sophomore Cornell Young

stated that his experience has been fine.

“I would not say that I've had a hard time finding a job,” Young said. “The jobs that I apply for, I already have the experience.”

Director of Career and Professional Success Angela Roman stated that students can advance themselves by developing wanted skills.

“They are looking for job-specific skills and a bachelor's degree,” Roman said. “They're looking for students

who can think critically and are adaptive to change and technology.”

Roman further explained that while degrees remain important, employers are also prioritizing strong problem-solving and adaptability skills.

Students looking for assistance with resumes and career readiness can make an appointment with CAPS on the Ferris website.

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From brim to benefit

Alumni Association partnered with Stormy Kromer hat company



Photo courtesy of Ferris State University

Brutus visiting the Stormy Kromer factory following partnership agreement.

Emma Walters
News Editor

The Ferris State University Alumni Association has entered into a partnership with Upper Peninsula hat company Stormy Kromer to sell Ferris-branded merchandise and raise scholarship funds for students.

The alumni association is a non-dues-paying organization that students are automatically entered into upon graduation from the university.

The goal of the associa-

tion is to assist alumni with staying connected to the university and other alumni post-graduation.

The association holds events across Michigan, allowing networking opportunities, as well as offering benefits such as store discounts.

One of the priorities of the association is to give back to students, most frequently in the form of scholarships.

The main scholarship that the alumni association fundraises money for and manages is the Legacy Scholarship. This financial aid award

is a one-time opportunity of \$2,000 available to students who are the child, sibling or grandchild of a Ferris alum.

Executive Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Brandi Behrenwald explained that the partnership is directed toward both marketing for the university and scholarship fundraising.

"We are very proud of the Bulldog logo," Behrenwald said. "That's always a good look for Ferris and it's about showing Ferris pride. We also sat down and negotiated with Stormy, and for every cap

that's bought, Stormy is giving us twenty dollars toward student scholarships."

The partnership developed when the President of the association, Luke Eddington, found a LinkedIn post from Stormy Kromer about a project the company had done with a different school.

Members of the association reached out to the company and began negotiating potential outcomes of a partnership deal.

The company has offered three hat designs with the FSU logo on them, which

were unveiled at the Homecoming football game tailgate on Sept. 26.

Stormy Kromer offered a full line of college-branded gear, showcasing logos from several Michigan schools, such as Michigan State University and Northern Michigan University.

Ferris is the only university that has three different color designs offered.

The Ferris hats are offered in black, red and black flannel and the signature red and gold colors.

The hats retail for \$55 on

the Stormy Kromer website.

The company also offered to create custom hats for each player of the FSU hockey team.

These hats will be personalized with the player's jersey number.

Math education sophomore Braden Free expressed appreciation for the alumni association partnering with a local company.

"I would say having a partnership with a local branch makes it easier to connect with students on that level," Free said. "Larger companies have scholarship contests that nobody really wins, so I think it is helpful to be partnered with a local brand."

The alumni association has engaged in partnerships such as this one in the past with the same goal in mind.

Most recently, the association partnered with Shinola to create custom watches.

According to Behrenwald, while the Shinola partnership was successful, the hope is to better cater to the Ferris audience through the Stormy Kromer partnership.

"This is a piece of apparel that fits everybody's wallet almost," Behrenwald said. "They sell for \$55, which is more of a blue-collar object, whereas the Shinola, you might consider more white collar. Now we're going to offer something more casual. It's just a whole different market and that is what Ferris is about."

Behrenwald also explained that it was important for the association to partner with a brand that shared similar values and morals with the university.

Students interested in learning more about the alumni association can visit the association's page on the Ferris website.

ON THE RECORD

Emma Walters
News Editor

Verbal Dispute

Oct. 1 - FSU police responded to a report of a verbal dispute between two parents at a campus bus stop. According to officers on the scene, one parent alleged that a racial remark had been made toward her child in the previous claim, while the other parent disputed the claim. Officers determined no threats, weapons or physical altercations occurred. Both parties were advised to avoid further confrontation and were referred to campus resources.

Traffic Stop and Detainment

Oct. 1, 11:42 p.m. - Officers conducted a traffic stop after observing a vehicle operating without headlights during nighttime hours. Upon investigation, officers discovered a handgun and suspected narcotics. Three individuals were detained and arrested – one for carrying a concealed weapon in a vehicle, one for possession of MDMA and one for an out-of-state felony warrant. All individuals were transported to the Mecosta County Jail.

Dating Violence

Sept. 30, 5:17 p.m. - Officers responded to a report involving two students with prior dating history. One student alleged that the other student took personal property and made threatening gestures suggesting possession of a weapon. No firearm was found. The missing property was later recovered, and one individual was arrested for domestic assault.

Culture

Grace Heethuis | Culture Editor | turnek29@ferris.edu

An account of overcomers

Students share obstacles they have conquered



Photos courtesy of Alli, Olivia and Adrianna

Alli (left), Olivia (middle), and Adrianna (right) share their struggles.

Grace Heethuis
Culture Editor

College students come from all different walks of life, overcoming significant challenges to make it to where they are today. Every day, tragic stories fill the news and social media platforms, leaving many people feeling scared and hopeless. It is no secret that life can be overwhelming and gives more than its fair share of challenges to overcome. However, many students display their resilience and share their stories with the hope of inspiring others to keep going. Social work senior Olivia Harris lost her mother to suicide during her freshman year of college after her mother's long battle with depression. Harris shared her story and how it has shaped who she is today. "This experience has shaped me into the person I have become by advocating for others suffering with a mental illness and advocating for suicide awareness," Harris said. Along with sharing about the tragic loss of her mother, Harris offered advice to others who are going through difficult times. "There are so many things you still haven't had the opportunity to experience, and you're journey isn't over yet," Harris said. "Also, you are

never alone, and there are so many people that you don't even realize have your back." For Harris, becoming a social worker is a way to make a positive impact on those around her by offering hope and support to others. "The passing of my mom definitely influenced my decision to further my education and choose to go into the field of social work," Harris said. At first glance, the major students choose may simply seem like just a good fit for them or something they're passionate about. Looking a little more closely, there is a deeper reason for the career choices of many students. Pre-dental senior Adriana Drier shared about one of the hardest things she has had to overcome so far when she was involved in a life-altering skiing accident. "It was New Year of 2021, and I actually broke my hip at my femur at the shaft in a ski accident," Drier said. "And then I got a compression fracture on my back, so I had to reteach myself how to walk." According to Drier, the accident forced her to re-evaluate her college plans and left her questioning what to do with her life, unsure if she'd be able to walk again. "Before I broke my leg, I was turning into a self-centered person. Everything in my head at the time was aimed toward me, going to Ferris, and I wanted this and

that," Drier said. "I was very selfish and close-minded, and my relationship with everyone around me, including my family, wasn't exactly amazing." Drier reported that the accident changed her mindset drastically, offering a new perspective on life. "When that accident happened, it definitely was a wake-up call for me, and it showed me who was there for me and who wasn't," Drier said. "It changed my perspective with people around me and with kindness, too." Drier offered advice to others going through hardships that seem too difficult to navigate. "Hold onto your support system," Drier said. "When that happened to me, my support system is what got me through it." There is a lot to learn about students just by sitting down with them and discussing their past and what they have overcome in order to make it to Ferris. Many of them have abundant advice to offer to those who are struggling, as many of them have in the past. Medical laboratory science fifth-year student Alli Mony shared about her experience with medical issues as a result of being born prematurely. "I was born prematurely at 26 weeks, so because I suffered a brain bleed, I have cerebral palsy, so I spent like 15 plus years in physical

therapy," Mony said. As a child, there were many experiences that she had to miss out on that most kids were able to participate in. "I had to miss school," Mony said. "And I couldn't partake in certain sports because it was too hard on my body." Despite the significant challenges Mony faced as a result of her health issues, she has found a way to help inspire her to be a better

person. "I think it's made me more empathetic. I feel for people more," Mony said. "It's just easier for me to understand what other people are going through, especially if they also suffer from things that prevent them from living life." Mony also shared about how such obstacles helped her in her career choice. "I think always being around medical stuff has made me want to help others, so that definitely influ-

enced me," Mony said. "As well as I think I just had the mindset to prove everyone wrong and that I could be capable enough to go to college." Many Ferris students have faced a lot of hardship to get where they are today, and are excited to share their stories, hoping that they can help others make it through the obstacles they are facing.



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Meaningful truths behind songs

Award winning songwriter Natalie Hemby expresses truths in her music



Photo by: Shaunti'ara Reynolds | Photographer

Singer and songwriter Natalie Hemby performs, entertains and gives tips at “The Truth About a Song” concert.

Tate Zellman
Freelance Reporter

Two-time Grammy winner Natalie Hemby performed her one-woman show in front of the Ferris community to show that there are deeper truths within songs.

“The Truth About a Song” consists of Hemby’s songs, where deeper truths are both valued and interpreted. She performed in front of 80 members of the Ferris community, as well as people she knew who traveled from out of state. The performance took place on Tuesday, Sep. 30, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in DEC Ballroom A.

Born in Bloomington, Illinois, Hemby has been songwriting since she was little. She has gone on to pen songs for famous music

artists like Lady Gaga, Kelly Clarkson, Lauren Daigle and so many others. Her primary genre for singing and songwriting is country. She is currently a writer at Universal Music Group Nashville (UMPG) in Tennessee. She has also released two solo albums, “Puxico” (2017) and “Pins and Needles” (2021), along with being a member of The Highwomen’s debut studio album “The Highwomen” (2019).

As far as the Ferris community knowing about her story, Hemby hopes to inspire students that they can achieve anything if they put in the hard work and use their personal gifts.

“I hope that they realize that they can do this if they really want to,” Hemby said. “I hope they realize that it takes

a lot of courage and bravery to step into this type of profession. But if anything I just hope that they’re encouraged to use the gifts that they have been given.”

Hemby also said it was a pleasure performing in front of the community by also trying to connect her story to other people.

“I’m happy to be here because I remember being in college,” Hemby said. “I studied this very thing, but I sometimes felt like where do I go from here. I just like to compare and tell my story because it is complicated but it’s also a journey and it’s really beautiful if you choose to go on it.”

Before she performed almost every song, Hemby would talk about a truth within the song. The first song she

performed was called “The Bees,” which she wrote for Lee Ann Womack. The truth behind it was that writing occurs in the most unexpected place at the most unexpected time.

Another song where she expressed a truth was “Crowded Table.” She wrote this song during COVID, and now plays it during Thanksgiving and times of bonding. The truth behind it is that if a song is not written, then the person doesn’t know where it’s going to take them.

That song spoke to music entertainment business junior Al Rineer because of the truth it represents.

“She wrote a song that I just absolutely adore called Crowded Table,” Rineer said. “My jaw dropped when she said she wrote that song

because that songs means so much to me personally because I love being around people. And not a lot of people think about songwriters behind the songs.”

Other songs Hemby performed were “Pontoon,” which she wrote for country music vocal group Little Big Town, and some originals, including “Timing is Everything”, “Candlelight” and “There’s No Music.”

Paul Kwant, an associate professor in the music and entertainment business, wanted to bring Hemby’s music and story to the Ferris community to provide a good opportunity for inspiration and entertainment.

“We want to have something where people learn but yet enjoy the entertainment piece of it,” Kwant

said. “Learning about the truth about a song and the struggles that writers have as well as the joys that they experience is learning an educational experience. So it’s edutainment.”

Hemby’s albums are available to purchase on Spotify and Apple Music. Her music can also be listened to on YouTube.

The second arts and lecture committee event of the semester will host former Detroit Lions kicker and NFL Hall of Fame candidate Jason Hanson. The lecture will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at 7 p.m. in the DEC Ballrooms.

AUTUMN WORD SEARCH

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

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

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: The main character in life Live for yourself, not others



Photo by: Jack Jamerino | Copy Editor

Getting on the court has helped Blase develop confidence in daily life and allows him to work on his basketball skills.

Blase Gapinski Editor in Chief

In the fast-paced and media-driven world we live in, oftentimes it feels like we're too caught up in worrying about what other people think about us, rather than living a life we're truly happy with.

Personally, I can attest to this as someone who still constantly worries about how others perceive me. Is it important to me that I am making a good impression in front of the people around me?

It has always been hard for me to understand that people are too busy worrying about their own lives to form a truly negative perception about you and actually remember who you even were.

I never knew there was a term for this until now. The spotlight effect is the phenomenon where you feel like all eyes are on you in social situations or settings.

Even if we acknowledge that those thoughts aren't true, it can be hard to let go of that feeling, especially for individuals who struggle with self-consciousness and anxiety.

Psychological studies like the Barry Manilow T-shirt experiment and the "Bad Hair Day Study" show how little others actually notice about us. While we often assume everyone sees our flaws or embarrassing moments, the truth is that most people are far less tuned in; they're too focused on themselves to dwell on how we look or what we're wearing.

This experiment perfectly illustrates how our self-consciousness today, especially in the age of social media, often exaggerates how much others are really paying attention. Most people are too preoccupied with their own lives to scrutinize ours as closely as we fear.

These studies revealed a simple truth: we tend to overestimate how much others notice or care about our appearance. Whether it's a silly T-shirt or a bad hair day, most people barely register the things we stress over.

It took me so long to see that other people go through the same conscious thinking as well, worrying about how others are going to perceive them or what they think about their personal flaws.

I was having a conversation with a friend about the tasks we had to complete for work the day before. I told him about a bad habit I have of typing out an assignment or something like this article, and then just not reading it over because I tend to dislike my writing style.

This friend explained something to me that I never really took into consideration. He told me you are your harshest critic. You would

never have this judgment on a stranger, so why judge yourself so harshly?

At that time, that was something I really needed to hear, because the spotlight effect isn't just a passing feeling. It's something that can shape how we act in everyday life. It could be choosing what to wear, hesitating before raising your hand in class or worrying about what song you're going to play with friends in the car.

The truth is, people are far more likely to remember how you made them feel than what you were wearing or whether your joke landed perfectly.

Realizing this slowly helped me step outside of that fear, even if just a little at a time, and there have been many things I started doing over the last month to help myself build this self-appreciation.

One of the key takeaways from battling with this idea is

that practicing positive self-talk is crucial to overcoming any anxiety or insecurities.

Lately, I've also started asking myself one simple question before I commit to something: Am I actually going to enjoy this? If I can't answer that within the first ten seconds, I probably shouldn't be doing it or I should be spending my time in a way that serves me better.

It's a small habit, but it's helped me tune out the noise of other people's opinions and check in with what I actually want.

At the end of the day, most people are too caught up in their own worries to notice or judge us the way we fear they will. So why let that fear make our choices for us? The more we show up for ourselves, the less power those imagined judgments have. And to me, that's when we really start to live.

I love who I am

I've learned to love myself as someone with autism

Tate Zellman
Freelance Reporter

As someone who was diagnosed with autism at a very young age, I've learned to love myself for who I am.

When I was little, I was afraid of telling kids my age that I was autistic. I was worried that I was going to be judged and excluded from games and activities. I was mainly afraid of being seen as "different."

But as I've gotten older, I've realized that being autistic is truly an amazing thing. Being autistic is part of my identity. It's never going to go away, and that is fine by me.

Being autistic, I had to fight and overcome a lot and find out who I wanted to be and what mark I wanted to make on this world. Now, as a young adult, I know exactly what I want to be. I want to be an English teacher, a published author, a good brother, a good son, a good friend and an inspiration to others.

I am so proud to share who I've become. Knowing who I want to be and what I want to do as an autistic individual is something I'm very happy to express. Autism is my gift that I get to share with everyone I know. All autistic children and adults should take the opportunities to understand the gift they have and use it to achieve remarkable things.

Just because I'm autistic doesn't mean that I should be seen as different. It means that I should be seen as human. Autistic people are able to express their gifts to the world by showing how their disability doesn't make them less superior, but unique and special.

As of recent, I have come to the displeasure of hearing that Tylenol is supposedly the cause of autism. And it wasn't pleasant to hear that those claims were stated be-

cause I find it so confusing as to why this specific medication and this specific disability are claimed to be linked at this specific time.

In all honesty, I am disgusted of this claim. One of the reasons is that there's a lack of science and evidence to back this up. That makes it feel like this claim is false information. Now, there could be science to back this up in the future, but since that is still unknown, it's hard to believe if that will eventually become true or not.

When I hear that Tylenol is what causes autism, it makes me think that autistic people like me are viewed as diseased and inferior, but I know damn well that we are not. Autism is not a disease that can be cured; it's another way of being human.

I don't want this claim or this misinformation to cause autistic people to question their purpose. I worry that this claim will fuel emotions and cause autistic people to fear what caused their disability. Furthermore, I worry that it'll cause harm to how they view themselves.

With that being said, I want to encourage every autistic person to love and accept themselves no matter what. Claims and information about us can either be true or false, but we don't have to let them define us if we view it as harmful. It's up to us how we want to present ourselves and share our gifts with the world. I hope this message helps another autistic person, as it has helped me find my purpose.

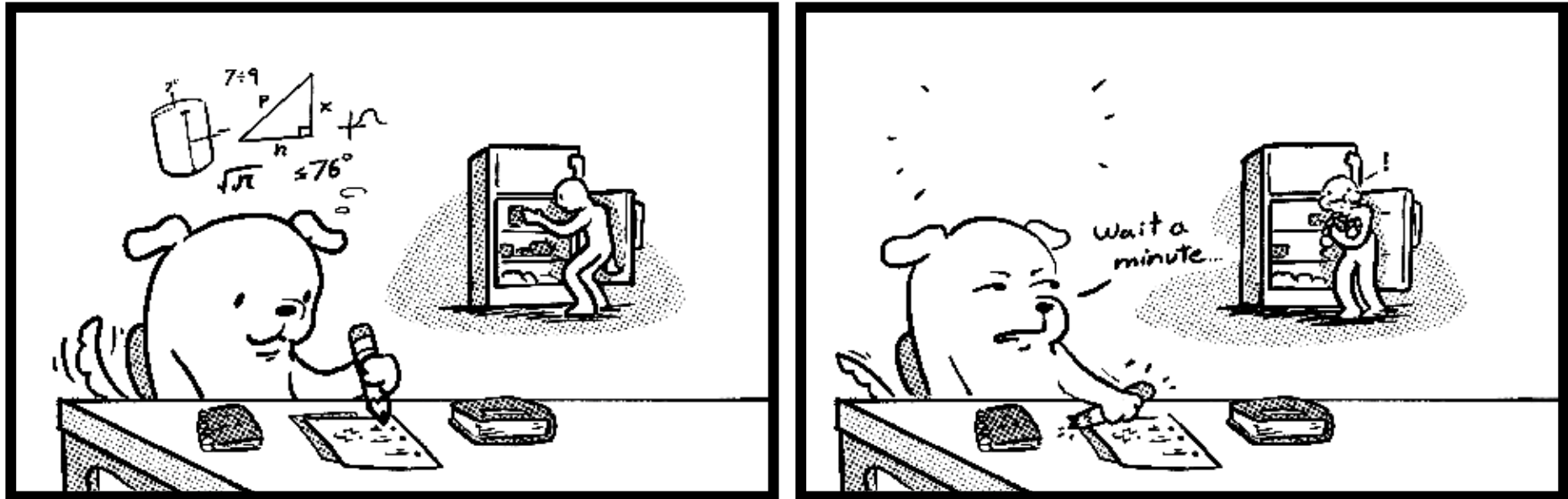
A drug or a medication does not define autistic people. The gifts that we can share with the world and the things that we can do, achieve and accomplish – that is what defines us.



Photo courtesy of Tate Zellman

Zellman seen observing the world around him at a young age.

Emotional support dog's work



Comic by: Blake Flanery | Cartoonist

Sports

Nolan Matthews | Sports Editor | matthen4@ferris.edu

Allegations arise among Bobby Pietrack's resignation

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

On Monday, Oct. 6, the Durango Herald, which comes from Durango, Colorado, published an article about allegations against Former Ferris State and Fort Lewis College men's basketball head coach Bobby Pietrack. According to the Durango Herald, on April 2, 2024, Fort Lewis's athletic department received a four-page, sin-

gle-spaced letter accusing Pietrack of academic misconduct, threatening and coercive behavior, and the frequent use of racial, homophobic and sexist slurs. When asked for a comment, Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications Dave Murray gave a statement on behalf of the university and athletics. "It would be inappropriate for me to discuss personnel

issues," Murray said. On Friday, Sept. 26, Ferris State University announced that first-year head coach Bobby Pietrack had resigned due to a serious personal health issue and assistant head coach Alex Fodness had been named interim head coach. Pietrack was hired in May of this year from Fort Lewis College, where he had been coaching for almost a decade. The letter had come from Pietrack's former assistant coach, Daniel Steffensen. This letter started an internal investigation by Fort Lewis College, and only a month later, Pietrack resigned from his position. Pietrack cited personal reasons for his resignation in an X post. According to colleagues and former players, Pietrack used variations of the N-word, in writing, in the locker room, or in casual con-

versation, in and out of the office. It had been revealed that Pietrack had a record of aggressive, bullying behavior. Pietrack had a complaint filed against him by a professor at Fort Lewis College, which alleged discriminatory harassment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the NCAA granted athletes an extra year of eligibility. Steffensen alleged that when Fort Lewis star

player Akuel Kot was looking likely to transfer to a Division I program, that Pietrack deliberately manipulated his class schedule to keep him from graduating on time.

Read the full article online @fsutorch.com

Double trouble

Anderson twins highlight senior year

Devin Wardrop
Sports Reporter

It's not every day you see brothers, let alone twins, playing on the same team. Well, how about a set of twins playing on the same offensive line? Tim and Bob Anderson were born in Rochester, MI, with Tim being born 10 minutes before Bob, and the duo has been together ever since. They began playing football at the age of six and continued in Pop Warner up through their education at Adams High School. Bob Anderson talked about growing up with a twin. "We shared everything," Anderson said. "We shared a car, clothes, and many other things. Being a twin is a blessing." As seniors in high school, Tim and Bob were chosen to the Detroit News All-Metro North Team. Bob was an All-Oakland Activities Association honoree during his prep career, and also earned Associated Press All-State recognition his final year. The twins went 7-3 in their senior year of high school.

The two went to Veer Camp, a camp hosted by Ferris head coach Tony Annese that sees a lot of high school talent. Annese saw the twins and started recruiting them, followed by other GLIAC schools like Grand Valley State and Saginaw Valley State. Tim and Bob always wanted to go to the same school, and a winning school at that, and the twins committed together to Ferris State. Tim and Bob both red-shirted their freshman year, which was the 2021 National Championship year. The twins played in 2022, which was Ferris State's back-to-



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Tim (Left) and Bob (Right) Anderson, two corner stone pieces of the offensive line.

back national championship win in 2022. Senior wide receiver Jeremiah Lee believes the Anderson twins are good leaders for the team. "The twins are great leaders on our team," Lee said. "They always bring the energy to practice and games and are just so fun to be around. They are a huge part of our success." Following the 2023 campaign, where the Bulldogs went 8-3 and lost to rival Grand Valley State in the first round of the playoffs, the offensive line decided they needed to change the mentality. In spring ball the following spring, Offensive Line Coach Brian Rock said whoever played the hardest would receive a cup called the Society of Nasty, which both twins agreed that everyone wanted to be a part of, which was called "The Bulldogs Society of Nasty." After the offensive line won a big rep, Tim and Bob looked at each other and said how nasty the rep was, and the Nasty Boys were

born. Tim and Bob, as well as the rest of the offensive line, wear caps with the word "nasty" written on them. The Anderson twins have also coined the phrase "Stay Nasty" as a way to stay in their zone. "Being nasty is showing up every day and giving your best, all day, every day," Tim Anderson said. "Attack every play, don't be afraid to get hit, and love to give the hit." "Just got to enjoy punishing people in the mouth, especially up front," Bob Anderson said. "We need to attack the defense and send a message, and there's no better feeling." Both twins are starting on the offensive line this season: Tim playing Right Tackle and Bob playing Right Guard. Through the first four games of the season, the offensive line has been responsible for 213.8 passing yards per game and 259.8 rushing yards per game, which equals out to 473.5 yards per game. With the help of the Nasty Boys, the offense has scored

31 touchdowns so far, with seven games left in the regular season. Tim Anderson talked about what he wants to get out of his senior year of college football. "Just to have fun," Anderson said. "Embrace the last year. Not everyone gets the opportunity to play football. It's a blessing." The Bulldogs return to Top Taggart Field to take on the Wayne State Warriors on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 1 p.m.

Hockey home opener

Bulldogs home opener vs reigning national champions



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Ferris hockey looking to turn the page after opening the season 0-2.

Devin Wardrop
Sports Reporter

After hiring a new head coach and having a big off-season in the transfer portal, the Bulldogs will take on the reigning national champions, the Western Michigan Broncos, in a two-game set that starts at Lawson Ice Arena and then returns to Ewingleben Ice Arena for the Bulldogs' home opener.

Ferris State (0-2-0,0-0-0 in CCHA) faces off against the reigning champion Broncos (0-0-0,0-0-0 in NCHC) in what will be the Broncos' first games of the 2025-26 season.

The Bulldogs took on Miami of Ohio for their first series of the season. The first game saw Ferris lose by a score of 6-4. Goals in this game came from senior defenseman Xavier Jean-Louis, senior forward Connor McGrath, junior forward Emerson Goode and senior forward Josh Zary. Junior goaltender Noah Rupprecht started this game for the Bulldogs, and he went 35-40 on saves.

Ferris also lost their second game this time by a score of 3-1, with the lone goal coming from Zary. The Bulldogs were outshot on goals in this game, with the

Redhawks having 27 shots on goal to the Bulldogs' 20. The Bulldogs could not seem to get a shot to get past Redhawks' goalie, sophomore Matteo Drobac, who saved 19-20 on saves after playing all 60 minutes of the game.

Head coach Brett Riley is looking forward to playing on home ice at Ferris.

"We're thrilled to play on home ice in front of our great Ferris State and Big Rapids community," Riley said. "Our guys have worked incredibly hard these past few months, and I can't wait for them to showcase that against a very quality opponent. We're expecting an electric atmo-

sphere, and we truly appreciate the support."

The Bulldogs are coming off a series against Miami of Ohio at Miami. After the first two games this year, the Bulldogs are led in scoring by a player. A goalie started the games and posted stats.

Sophomore forward Jack Silich enjoys playing in front of the Bulldog fans.

"Playing in front of the Bulldog Faithful is one of my favorite things," Silich said. "It's something like no other college team can experience, and we just can't wait to be back at home."

This series is Western Michigan's first regular-sea-

son game this year. Last season, six players scored 30 points or more, with sophomore forward Alex Bump (23-24-47) leading the team in scoring as the only player with more than 40 points. Bump was the 133rd overall pick in the 2022 NHL Draft and is now playing for the Philadelphia Flyers. Junior forward Owen Michaels (18-18-36) led the returning players in scoring. Sophomore goaltender Hampton Slukynsky started all 25 games he played in last season, logging over 1500 minutes with a goals against average of 1.90. Slukynsky had 593 saves for a save percentage

of .922 and a 19-5-1 record.

Sophomore defenseman Logan Heroux can't wait to play in front of the home fans,

"I'm very excited," Heroux said. "It's been a long time since February, March, when we last played in front of the home crowd. When the crowds roaring and the student section is full, there's nowhere else I'd rather play. I think we have the best student section in the country so I'm truly excited to be back in front of them."

Ferris State's home opener will be on Friday, Oct. 10, at 7:07 p.m., at Ewingleben Ice Arena.

Warriors come to town

Ferris football takes on GLIAC rival in the Wayne State Warriors



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Darian Krujia (yellow jersey) making a leaping catch over a Rio Grande defender.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

After yet another commanding victory over the Roosevelt Lakers, the Bulldogs return to Top Taggart Field to take on the Wayne State Warriors.

Ferris State (5-0, 1-0 in GLIAC) won its first division matchup of the season and now faces off in their second GLIAC matchup against the Warriors (0-5, 0-1 in GLIAC).

The Bulldogs won handily against Roosevelt on Saturday, Oct. 4, taking the Lakers down by a score of 66-0. The Bulldogs have had back-to-back shutout victories, which is something they did not accomplish last season.

Redshirt freshman quar-

terback Wyatt Bower had his best performance of his career, going 20-28 with 371 yards and five touchdowns, while adding two rushes for 18 yards and one touchdown. Three of those touchdowns went to senior wide receiver Cam Underwood, who had three receptions for 141 yards and three touchdowns.

On the defensive side of the ball, Ferris had a total of four interceptions on the day, one coming from senior defensive back Daviere Jones and another from senior linebacker Isaiah Byars.

With the team performing as well as it has, junior slot receiver Taariik Brett believes this team is off to an incredible start.

"The team play has been excellent to start this season," Brett said. "We are 5-0, which is a great start to the season, our offense, defense, and special teams are growing each and every week, and we are going to continue to grow as the season continues."

This season's performance has been nothing short of dominant for Tony Annese's squad. In their five games this season, the Bulldogs have a 44.6 per game point differential, while having a total point differential of 223 for the entire season.

In comparison to the first five games of each of their championship seasons, 2024 had a 196-point differential, 2022 had a 140-point

differential, and 2021 had a 148-point differential. This season's Bulldogs look to be just as good, if not better, than prior years, even with all of their transfer portal departures in the offseason.

Senior slot receiver Brady Rose spoke about how excellent the offense has been playing to start the season.

"The offense has been clicking, everyone is on the same page for us," Rose said. "Our defense has been balling, we wouldn't be able to score as many points if our defense hadn't been as dominant as it has been. The offense is going to keep scoring while the defense is going to keep getting turnovers."

The Bulldogs have also tied the school's all-time

winning streak of 19 games, which was set between the 2021 season, where they went 14-0, and the first five games of the 2022 season, when they started 5-0, but lost to rival Grand Valley 22-21.

Junior quarterback Carson Gulker believes this team is only getting better every single day.

"The team has been playing incredibly well so far this season," Gulker said. "I think this has been largely due to how focused we have been in practice, and simply getting better every day. We are worried about ourselves and growing as a team and just getting better. I think if we keep that mindset up, we will keep playing well."

Wayne State is led by junior quarterback Champion Edwards, who has 569 yards and three touchdowns and five interceptions, while adding 118 yards on the ground.

The Bulldogs look to continue their winning streak against the Warriors, as Wayne State has not beaten Ferris since 2009, when they defeated the Bulldogs in Detroit 45-7.

Although Ferris holds the record against the Warriors, holding a 13-3 record since the two first faced off in 2002.

Ferris State returns home to Top Taggart Field to take on the Wayne State Warriors on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 1 p.m.