



First Gen Den open for students

The new space marks growth for the First Gen program



Photo by: Shaunti'ara Reynolds | Photographer

The First Gen Den opens its doors, giving first-generation students a place to thrive academically and personally at Ferris.

Emma Walters
News Editor

The new First Gen Den opened its doors to students on Nov. 14, following a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The event was well attended, with faculty and students surrounding the entrance to the new room in support.

The First Gen program is a service dedicated to students on campus who are first-generation students.

At Ferris, a first-generation student is defined as an individual who comes from a family where neither parent completed a bachelor's degree in the United States, and/or students who identify

as having minimal exposure or knowledge of the university experience prior to attending.

The goal of the program is to advocate for first-gen students and connect them with resources or support to assist them with their college studies.

Ferris State has been recognized as a First-Gen Forward Network Champion Institution, receiving the highest distinction through First-Gen Forward in 2025 as one of only 18 higher education institutions selected.

The First-Gen program at Ferris hosts monthly events for students in the program and provides a supply depot where students can get free

school supplies they need to succeed in classes.

The First-Gen Den is the next step to growing the program on campus.

Associate Professor of Integrated Studies David McCall is a Ferris alum and first-generation student himself, who now spearheads the First-Gen program at the university.

According to McCall, the Den has been an idea for years.

"It's been a vision for about five years now, to create a space for first-gen students and we have done tremendous work over the years," McCall said. "I always laughed when students

would email me or call me and ask where the first-gen office was and I would say, it's my faculty office. That's all we got. We wanted to create a space for them to bring a sense of belonging, support, celebration and a place where they could come hang out and feel like they were themselves."

McCall further explained that everything first-gen will now be housed in the Den space, including mentoring programs for students.

In his speech before the ribbon-cutting, McCall thanked the first-gen work group, first-gen RSO and faculty for their dedication and hard work in the program.

In attendance was President Bill Pink, who spoke to the importance of supporting students through college toward graduation.

"I love how we define first-gen. Revolutionary. Fearless. Proud. I want to get my Sharpie out and put champagne on there, because that's who you are," Pink said. "More start college than finish college. I wish that was an untruth. Many students start, but fewer finish. Here in our institution, you are looking at a space that is dedicated to helping you be one of the ones that says you finished. If you are one of our first-gen students, let's get this thing done."

Students from the first-gen RSO were also in attendance at the ceremony, with the opportunity to speak to attendees and share their first-gen stories, including what brought them to Ferris and the importance of the Den.

For many, having a space to be themselves and build community was the most important factor.

Dental Hygiene junior Mia DeBerry explained the importance of attending a school that seems to care.

"It makes me feel honored, that I go to a school that cares enough to see that first of all, has national recognition for their first generation demographics, but also that they put the effort into making us feel welcome, supported and gives us a great space to network," DeBerry said. "Being first-gen has given me a lot of perseverance and resilience. Using that experience and that resilience in this space to connect with younger first-gen students is very important to me."

McCall also announced at the ribbon-cutting that the program received enough funding to hire a full-time staff member dedicated to assisting students with their academic and professional needs.

Dental hygiene sophomore Sherlyne Moreno expressed that the professional assistance of the first-gen program has been a game-changer.

"First-gen, for me, has opened up a lot of doors. Right now I am an RA, and I wouldn't have been an RA without the help of first-gen, to be honest," Moreno said. "I've met so many people through first-gen and I have done a lot of networking, which is probably one of the most important things to do in college. I've met a lot of first-gen students who are more timid or keep to themselves, but this is a place for them to branch off."

The Den is located in FLITE 119.

News

The criminal justice program is adding a new course to their program, allowing students experience in handling cold cases. **PG. 2**

Culture

From hunting your own turkey to gathering at Grandma's house, Thanksgiving traditions are important to many students! **PG. 5**

Opinions

Idolizing celebrities isn't uncommon, but that doesn't mean it's healthy or that we know who they are behind the persona. **PG. 9**

Sports

Playoff season is here for Bulldogs football and volleyball, read about how the two squads match-up against their respective opponents this coming week! **PG. 11**



News

Emma Walters | News Editor | waltere8@ferris.edu

Michigan

Emma Walters
News Editor

Lansing, MI – The Michigan State Board of Education approved new state health education standards last Thursday, which include recommendations to teach students about gender identity and sexual orientation.

Supporters of the new standards expressed that they would help LGBTQ+ students understand themselves and are age-appropriate for students. Opponents stated that the standards undermine parental choice and religious liberty protections.

More than 100 people signed up to speak during public comment at the meeting, in which each person was limited to one minute.

National

Emma Walters
News Editor

Nationwide – The Federal Aviation Administration announced on Sunday that all restrictions on commercial flights that were imposed during the country's longest government shutdown have been lifted.

Airlines were instructed to resume regular flight schedules beginning Monday at 6 a.m. EST.

The FAA issued the unprecedented order to limit air traffic on Nov. 7, citing safety concerns over staffing shortages during the shutdown. Airports affected included major travel routes in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Atlanta.

The lift comes just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday travel season.

Global

Emma Walters
News Editor

Bangladesh – Former prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, was found guilty of allowing lethal force to be used against student protestors, 1,400 of whom died during unrest last year.

Hasina was tried by the International Crimes Tribunal in Bangladesh and found guilty. She has been sentenced to death.

Hasina governed Bangladesh for 15 years, with the latter years of her tenure in government marked by increased attempts to silence opposition through politically-motivated arrests, disappearances and extra-judicial killings.

The student-led uprising last year began with demands to abolish government job quotas, but evolved into wider anti-government movements.

New criminal justice class to investigate unsolved cases

CRIM 390: Cold Case Investigations begins in the spring



Photo courtesy of the Torch Archives

Ferris students prepare to dive into real-world crime solving with new Cold Case Investigations class.

Marc Stoufer III
Freelance Reporter

This spring, students at Ferris State University will have the option to take a new elective: Cold Case Investigations.

The class will focus on the responsibilities of crime scene analysts, teaching those who take it about “examining evidence, following leads and using modern forensic tools,” according to an official announcement released by the university last week.

Professor of Criminal Justice Steven Amey expressed that the lack of time is what has historically caused cold cases to be left out of the curriculum.

“Most of these cold cases lack the necessary ‘time’ it takes to help close these cases or investigate them. With over 100,000 cold cases in the United States there is no shortage of work to do,” Amey said.

The process of putting the class together, said Amey, felt like the stars were aligning.

After his old department in the St. Clair County Sheriff's

Office solved a 40-year-old cold case around the same time, a student asked about a cold case in Reed City. Amey happened to buy a true crime novel at a thrift store that had a handwritten note on the inside cover dedicated to someone sharing his first name.

This chain of events pushed him to reach out to a former student who'd gone on to work at the Michigan State Police crime lab, when he discovered that another former student had recently started at their cold case department and that people there had already been talking about the possibility of Amey developing a cold case class at Ferris.

After meeting with people behind similar programs in the area, he started the process of bringing the class to life.

“I have expanded my ideas to help with cold case investigations, not only from the ground level but with a twist of modernity to hopefully further or even solve an unknown question for many loved ones that want an answer to their missing or ho-

micide,” Amey said.

Ferris State University's criminal justice program already offers several bachelor's programs, as well as a master's, an associate and a minor. Other courses in the program include classes in creating safe schools, police report writing and firearms.

The cold case class will be open to junior or senior students studying in any field.

In order to be accepted into the class, they must first undergo a criminal background and fingerprint check, attend an in-person interview, write an essay about why they want to join the class and sign a non-disclosure agreement that covers anything involved with it.

Additionally, the course will only be offered on campus and students' employment must not conflict with class time.

The class will join a growing number of similar courses at universities around the country, with Western Michigan University's equivalent class that began in 2020 having already helped solve six previously unsolved cases.

Amey suggests that taking

Ferris' cold case class could improve students' attention to detail, writing ability and understanding of how the legal system works, as well as teaching them more practically about what working on an unsolved case is often like and all the questions it can raise.

“There is no shortage of cold cases. Cold case classes have been successful in other universities, and I am confident Ferris will be no different. We have a biology forensics program, a nationally recognized criminal justice program and we have a fantastic computer forensics program that has some of the newest technology out there. We are good at playing in the sandbox together, we all want the same goal, to educate a new mind with the ability and the skillset to help solve a cold case crime,” Amey said.

Students interested in learning more about the class and what it entails can visit the Ferris State University School of Criminal Justice's website or contact Dr. Steven Amey at stevenamey@ferris.edu.

The future of learning

Digital academic assistant tools growing in classrooms



Photo courtesy of the Torch Archives

Students use a variety of learning tools and resources to support studying.

Davaria Pharr
News Reporter

Ferris State University is offering new digital learning tools this semester to assist students with learning in the classroom.

One such tool is Read&Write, a literacy support tool that helps students with everyday digital materials, such as e-books, articles, also websites.

This tool assists with reading out loud, understanding unfamiliar words, conducting research and proofreading written work, including

catching grammatical errors, punctuation, clarity and consistency.

This tool can be found through Ferris360 and typing Read&Write in the search bar in addition to going directly to the Read&Write website.

Another tool offered is Net Tutor. This tool provides virtual one-on-one professional tutoring, with services across a wide variety of classes and programs.

Users are able to meet with live tutors twenty-four-seven and there is no limit to the number of sessions students can book.

This tool can be accessed through Canvas by selecting any course, then clicking “Net Tutor” from the panel on the left-hand side of the screen.

Dental Hygiene freshman Tristan Miller stated she finds it useful to implement learning tools into education, particularly for students who learn differently.

She expressed the vital impact of these specific tools being accessible to students with learning disabilities and the way in which they influence their approach to studying and retaining information.

“There are students who

have learning disabilities such as ADHD, making it more challenging for them to focus so it’s a great idea,” Miller said. “This whole narrative that every student learns the exact same way feels like it has been around, and I think teachers in educational facilities are realizing that’s so untrue.”

She further stated that finding versatile learning styles to accommodate students with special needs is important, allowing students to unlock their full potential.

Sonography freshman Da-

lia Marabell stated that she utilizes these tools to prepare for exams and to improve positive studying habits in her classes.

“I used ChatGPT last year for my bio class. It helped me make a study guide,” Marabell said. “After I started doing that, my grades improved a lot and I passed a lot of my classes.”

She notes that with her classes mostly online, it helps her better understand the material. She expressed how essential it is to know what you are doing for your

career.

“It just helps me better comprehend what’s going on,” Marabell said.

She expands on the fact that while AI helps, it doesn’t replace the professors. She explained how AI lacks the empathy and humanization to replace the teaching profession.

She briefly stated some examples of those predicaments such as turning in an assignment late or emergencies are something AI couldn’t account for.

Optometry senior Erin Bizak discussed how AI is integrating itself into the medical field and what the future of healthcare could look like going forward.

“I think optometry as a profession is pivoting because of the use of AI,” Bizak said. “There are studies done where there’s a condition called diabetic retinopathy, a disease in the back of the eye from diabetes. AI can detect it with like five times as much accuracy.”

She elaborated on how AI can detect this disease in very early stages, where you may not necessarily always see the signs and symptoms.

Even Ferris State University itself is embracing AI, as seen with their recent announcement of FanWord Assist, an AI-powered storytelling software designed for sports. This addition highlights the university’s recognition that AI can enhance learning and creativity.

As students and faculty continue to explore these tools, Ferris demonstrates a growing openness to technology shaping education’s future.

Ferris State Torch Corrections

In the Nov. 12 edition of the Torch, an article regarding the future of Pickell and Hallisy halls quoted a student source saying that many people they knew had already signed contracts for those dorms set for the 2026-27 academic year. This is not accurate, as the announcement for the closure of the dorms was made on Nov. 4, and return student contracting for campus living opened on Nov. 5.

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

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Initiative for student support launched

Ferris Cares to build off work of the Bulldog Basic Needs Alliance



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Emma Walters
News Editor

The Dean of Student Life announced the implementation of a new campus-wide initiative, titled 'Ferris Cares', on Nov. 12.

Ferris Cares is a program designed to assist students

with meeting their basic needs and accessing support that they may not otherwise receive.

The email explained that the Ferris Cares initiative will build off the work of the Bulldog Basic Needs Alliance (BBNA).

The BBNA was created

during the COVID-19 pandemic in an effort to help students face unexpected challenges that arose from the health crisis, such as food and housing insecurity.

The email cited the contributions of the BBNA Workgroup as a critical factor in the growth of the program.

"Thanks to the BBNA Workgroup and their dedication, we've build a strong foundation of care that continues to guide how we support Bulldogs."

The Ferris Cares program will work to connect students to resources for emergency help, food access and hous-

ing support, transportation, childcare and technology assistance, mental health and wellness resources and long-term connections to campus and community programs.

The email further noted that Ferris Cares will not replace BBNA, but grow from the work that has already been done.

The announcement of the Ferris Cares initiative is the newest development in the implementation of student resources on campus.

Last year the university opened the Bulldog Pantry, located on the lower floor of the DEC.

The pantry opened to all students, who simply need to swipe their student ID before entering the pantry to "shop" for food.

The university houses another food pantry in the West Campus Commons, also available for students with the show of student ID.

During the summer semester, the Bulldog Pantry offered coupons to the Big Rapids farmers' market for purchase of local fruit, vegetables, meats and cheeses.

The Ferris Cares program has a page on Ferris360, where students have the ability to access information about resources and help available to those in need.

Last week, the page posted resources for Thanksgiving meals in the local area for students who may be unable to go home or have access to a holiday meal.

Sonography sophomore Aubrey Lincoln explained that the initiative will help students worry less about their needs and more about their schoolwork.

"If they have a lot of those stresses, like food insecurity and transportation issues, if they have those taken off their shoulders, then they'll

be able to focus on their academics more, instead of all of those other stresses," Lincoln said. "I feel like the program could make them feel like they are not in this alone, because not everyone has as much support from their family, and some people here are doing it by themselves. I think that our school helping them would make it feel like that's somewhere they'd want to be."

Lincoln further expressed hope that the program could grow to include more resources such as access to counseling, school supplies for those who cannot afford to purchase it on their own and tutoring access.

Career technical education freshman Kiley Robidou echoed similar sentiments to Lincoln, explaining how access to these resources, particularly transportation, could change the experience students have at Ferris.

"I definitely think transportation is a big one, because car struggles are real," Robidou said. "I live in Cramer and it's kind of a far walk, especially in the cold. I think having the resources like these could allow for students to be more successful in classes. We're paying a lot for tuition, so having resources available is a lot better than them saying okay, here you go, you're paying for your classes, now go back to your dorm and figure it out. There's more to it."

Robidou also mentioned the possibility of tutoring being offered as a resource that could be helpful for students.

At the time this article has been written, faculty were unavailable for comment. The Torch will continue to update this article with pertinent information and university statements as it becomes available.

ON THE RECORD

Emma Walters
News Editor

What's that smell?

Nov. 13, 12:05 a.m. - FSU officers stopped a vehicle that failed to stop at a stop sign. Upon approaching the vehicle, officers noticed a strong marijuana odor and the driver admitted to using the substance earlier. The driver was also in possession of an expired license. A small amount of marijuana was found during a consented search. A certified Drug Recognition Expert evaluated the driver and found no signs of impairment. A sober, licensed acquaintance arrived to remove the vehicle, and citations were issued.

Assault/Battery

Nov. 11 - A student athlete reported two incidents of unwanted physical contact by other student athletes. One of the incidents occurred in early September, and the other on Oct. 2. No injuries were reported. The student declined Title IX involvement but asked for the matter to be reviewed for possible charges.

Threats/Harassment

Nov. 10, 1:15 p.m. - FSU officers responded to a harassment report after a caller said an acquaintance had accessed their phone and contacted people in their contacts. The caller was advised on blocking communication, securing accounts and the PPO process. The other party later stated they also no longer wanted contact. Both parties were advised to stop communicating.

Culture

Grace Heethuis | Culture Editor | turnek29@ferris.edu

Shared meals and community building

Food and comfort offered to students during the holidays



Photo courtesy of the Torch Archives

Students gathered in the University Center for a holiday-themed event.

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

As the holiday season approaches, many Ferris students find themselves far from home, juggling end-of-semester stress with the question of where they'll spend Thanksgiving or whether they'll get a traditional meal at all.

To help bridge that gap, there are many resources around the university and community that are offering several free Thanksgiving meals and resources aimed at creating connection, comfort and belonging for students who remain in Big Rapids over the break. These events provide not only food but a sense of community during a time when many students feel most isolated.

University leaders say programs like these are essential to supporting student well-being and building a campus culture rooted in care.

Dean of Student Life Lina Blair emailed students on Nov. 10 about meal options

for anyone staying on campus or in the area during the Thanksgiving break. The email detailed campus dining facilities and local organizations that will offer meals throughout the week and over break, as it is a way to ensure everyone on campus has the resources they need.

"As the Thanksgiving season approaches, we want to ensure that all Bulldogs can enjoy a warm meal and a sense of community during the holiday," Blair said in the announcement. "There are several Thanksgiving meal options available both on campus and in the Big Rapids community."

On campus, the Academic Literacies Center will host a Thanksgiving meal for all students on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 11 a.m. in FLITE 120. Organizers say the event is open to anyone looking to share food and connect with others ahead of the holiday.

For those seeking a meal on Thanksgiving Day, Our Brother's Keeper is organizing a free community dinner at Angels of Action, located

at 200 S. Stewart Ave. The meal will be served on Thursday, Nov. 27, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Transportation will be available through Dial-A-Ride for anyone who needs assistance.

Several community groups are also offering resources. ResLife Church is distributing Thanksgiving boxes that contain ingredients for a traditional holiday meal on Saturday, Nov. 22. Although the referral deadline of Nov. 12 has passed, this initiative highlights one of the key ways local organizations support residents during the holiday season.

Another source of support for students staying in Big Rapids comes from the Ferris State Wesley House, a campus faith-based organization focused on community building and mutual care.

Reverend Kim Bos, campus pastor and executive director of the Ferris State Wesley House described how they aim to support anyone who is looking for a community, regardless of beliefs.

"We're an organization

that's mostly about building a Christian community. We always say we're Christians, but you don't have to be," Bos said. "It's more about connecting and feeling connected to other people than believing all the exact same things."

The Wesley House also hosts regular social events aimed at giving students a break from academic stress. This Saturday, Nov. 22, the group is holding a Twilight movie marathon designed simply to bring people together.

While the Wesley House isn't hosting a large Thanks-

giving meal this year, Bos said staff are still working to support students who remain in Big Rapids.

"We only have one student staying, and we helped her partner with a church family for Thanksgiving," she said. "They were so excited to have her. It was almost like seeing a movie star for a second."

In previous years, the organization has hosted holiday meals or partnered with Angels of Action to promote community dinners.

The Wesley House will still hold its annual Friendsgiving on Thursday, Nov. 20, where students bring a favorite fam-

ily dish and spend the evening playing games.

"By this point in the semester, everybody's just hanging on until Thanksgiving," Bos said. "So having a goofball night the Thursday right before Thanksgiving break is really helpful."

Ferris students away from home have the opportunity to find meals and community, ensuring no one spends Thanksgiving alone. To stay up to date with the Wesley House and events they are hosting, follow their Instagram at fsuwesleyhouse.

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Embracing Thanksgiving traditions

Students share their Thanksgiving family traditions



Photo courtesy of wikimedia commons

A traditional thanksgiving dinner plated and ready to be served.

Grace Heethuis
Culture Editor

Each year, families across the country celebrate Thanksgiving with various traditions that are unique to each family.

Many gather together to eat dinner and acknowledge what they are thankful for, embracing the traditional Thanksgiving foods that are so popular.

Education sophomore Riley Bigger shared about his family's unique Thanksgiving tradition.

"Every single year, the Friday before Thanksgiving, we hunt our own turkey," Bigger said. "There's always a family gathering, so I'll just spend time with people."

Bigger also revealed what his favorite part of Thanksgiving is, emphasizing the importance of family.

"I enjoy having a bunch of people in the same area because then you can crack jokes and everybody has to laugh," Bigger said.

Other students have much more typical family traditions that they enjoy as a way to celebrate the holiday.

Mechanical engineering sophomore Jim Anderson shared what his family enjoys doing to celebrate Thanksgiving.

"Usually we play cards. We play a game called Tank," Anderson said. "We used to go to our grandma's house, but now we just kind of go to whoever's house is available, just to have dinner and watch the football game if it's on."

Eating dinner together and watching football is a common tradition in many families in the United States.

Dental hygiene freshman Isabel Tostige is another student whose family gathers together to share food and laughs.

"We always go to my grandma's house for dinner," Tostige said. "I think my favorite part is going home and getting to see all of my extended family."

Several students have emphasized the importance of family in their Thanksgiving traditions.

"I think it's good for a family to have such traditions," Tostige said. "Just so as the years go by, families can grow closer together."

Thanksgiving traditions are special to many students at Ferris, and they continue to participate year after year because they believe that family is important.

"It's just a good way to bring everybody together and not forget about everybody," Anderson said. "It's a good way to connect with everybody around you and just have dedicated time to that."

Other students, like Bigger,

appreciate the routine that these traditions bring to their families each year.

"It's good to have a routine," Bigger said. "Life is kind of random, you know, and it has a lot of stuff that happens and stuff going at you, and it's nice to have something that you can do with your whole family that's structured."

While so many students emphasize the importance

of traditions in bringing their families together, they certainly have not forgotten about the food.

It is common for families to serve turkey at their Thanksgiving dinners, but some families prefer to change things up.

Tostige mentioned that her family typically cooks ham instead of turkey.

Besides serving meats other than turkey, some families

have a unique touch on how they cook their turkeys.

"Usually, my dad deep fries a turkey, which is really good," Anderson said.

Students are getting prepared to go home for Thanksgiving break and embrace the many unique traditions their families have before wrapping up the semester soon.



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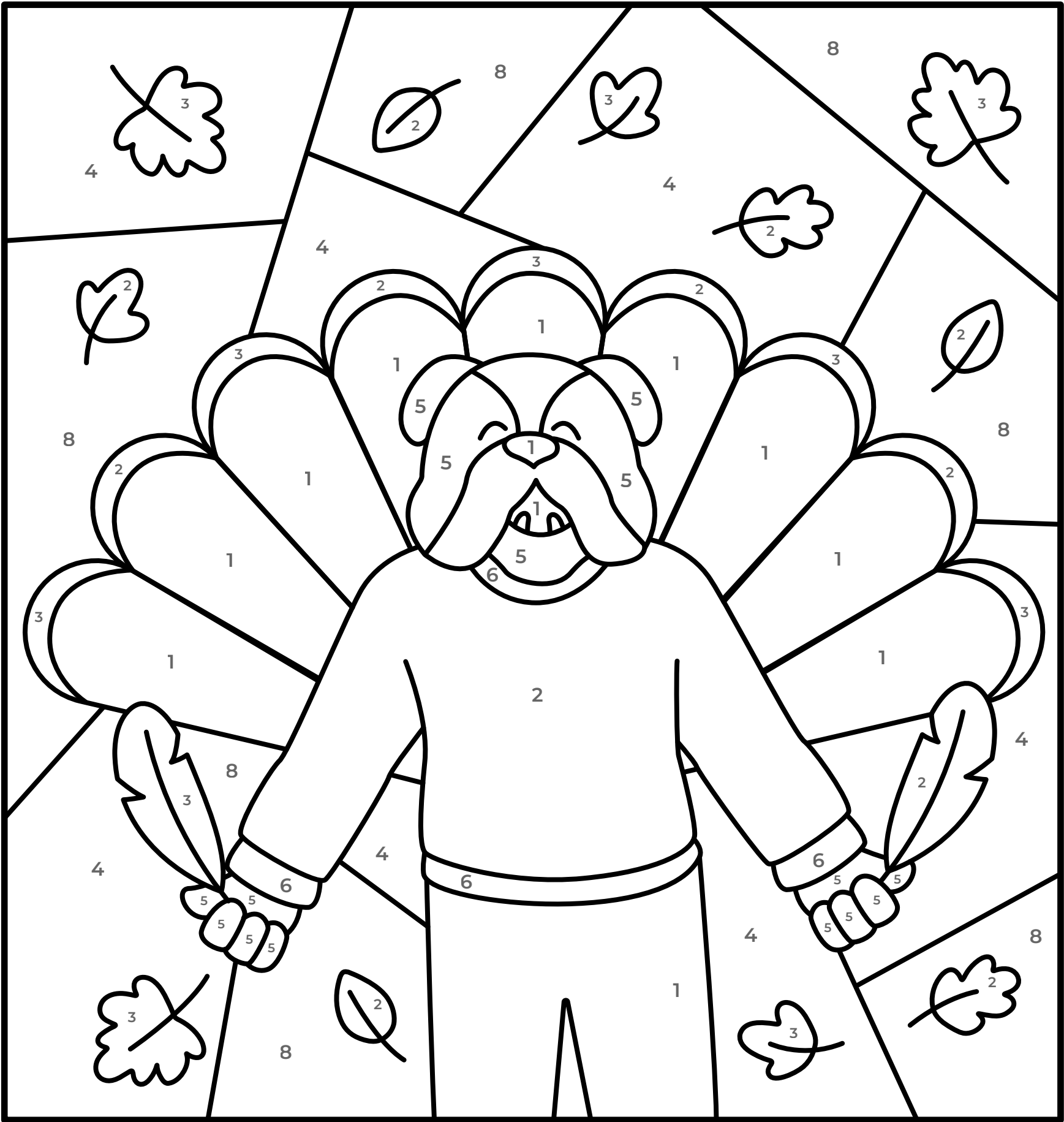
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Contact The Torch Editor-in-chief Blase Gapinski for questions and more.

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<div>1</div> <div>Brown</div>	<div>2</div> <div>Green</div>	<div>3</div> <div>Yellow</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Blue</div>
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Opinions

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EDITOR'S COLUMN: When life catches up

Feeling the weight of what we don't process



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Blase Gapinski
Editor in Chief

Lately, even the simplest parts of my day feel like mountains, and I wake each morning already exhausted, staring at the ceiling wondering how I'm supposed to make it through another one. One thing that has been on my mind recently is how little time we actually get to process the emotions that we are feeling because of how busy everyday life can get. Sometimes, it feels like the days are never-ending and I never have time to mentally process them. There are many reasons I could point to for feeling this way. The amount of student employment hours the Torch has received this year has really put a damper on our production process. Not having the amount of hours to pay a full and fleshed-out news staff per week puts so much more pressure on the small staff that we do have. This, in turn, has made it feel like I am overworking my editors and reporters, who are all people I consider to be my closest of friends. I know it isn't my fault and I am doing everything that I can to help them but it always feels like I'm never hitting the mark.

The abrupt ending of a five-year relationship has also been prying away at my mind as well. Despite it being almost two months since the relationship ended, I feel like I am finally starting to find the time to reflect and look back on memories she and I shared and realize that what once was is no longer there. What is the common denominator of both of these issues? We have to adapt and move forward, no matter how hard it is. I understand that this is no easy feat. It is easier said than done when it comes to dealing with the cruelty of the world and sometimes it feels like we won't be able to get back up after being knocked down. With all of the time I spend running around trying to accomplish the work from classes and the Torch, it's almost like I have had little to no time to process how much the heartbreak and being overworked have affected me over the last few months. It is also that time of year when we college students are locked in more than ever. Especially if you are trying to graduate come springtime. This has left me feeling more alone than ever. All of my friends are in a similar boat as well, which also feels

like it is sinking because of their workload. The only time we really see each other is when we have to for work or for the occasional meal together. Even then, it feels almost tense because it's like we are all subconsciously thinking about the work we could be getting done, rather than enjoying our time together. Sure, I used to enjoy being by myself but the time I used to spend alone is now clouded with negative thoughts, constantly worrying I am not doing enough as a leader for the Torch, as a student, as a son and overall as a person. Although I am making it sound like all doom and gloom, I remain hopeful. I know there will be better days ahead, even with how tough they have been now. Recently, I was reflecting on a trip a few editors from the Torch took to New Orleans last November. Dylan, our former editor in chief, brought something to my attention while we were exploring the city. Something I completely forgot to consider: The streets where we were standing were once significantly submerged in water due to Hurricane Katrina. I didn't know it at the time but he was working on his weekly editor's column and

the focus was on the resilience of the human spirit, connecting it back to the city of New Orleans as an example of how, as difficult as it may seem, we have to move on and rebuild after tragedy strikes. I am in no way undermining the events of Hurricane Katrina or disregarding the thousands of lives that were claimed, but as people and as communities, the only thing we really can do is pick up the pieces and continue to move on and rebuild wherever it is needed. The same thing can be said when we experience hardship throughout our lives. I have learned so much about myself over these last few months after being in this unique position. I don't think I would have had to build this sense of resilience or confidence if it weren't for everything I have been through these last few months. A meme comes to mind, also shared with me by Dylan, and was mentioned in his initial column. It is this insanely silly, yet insightful picture that shows a basketball player labeled as "the indifferent cruelty of the universe," getting dunked on by a cat labeled "the indomitable human spirit."

To some, this idea won't

resonate, but truly, it is all about thinking in perspective. The American Psychological Association has highlighted this as the number one key when it comes to developing healthy thoughts. The other keys mentioned throughout this section of APA's article stay true to that meme's sentiment as well. Accepting change, maintaining a hopeful outlook and learning from your past are all the best ways to develop this healthy way of thinking. It might take a lot of time, confusion, sadness, anger and sometimes hopelessness dealing with the adversity life throws at us. Just know, there is always a way to escape the what seems to be never-ending feedback loop of negative thinking. Take it from someone still stumbling through adversity. Sometimes all we can do is make like the cat in that meme and posterize the universe's indifferent cruelty. Because the human spirit isn't graceful or perfect, it's defiant. And maybe that's all resilience really is, choosing to rise even when it isn't easy.

The toxic behavior of idolization

Celebrities and politicians are not our friends

Harmony Goodman
Production Manager

It's no secret to anyone who knows me that I'm a Taylor Swift fan. She was a huge role model to me growing up, and I got into music because of her. While I still love her music, I'm realizing that it's not healthy to idolize celebrities.

I want to be clear; there is a difference between being a fan and idolizing a celebrity. It's easy to believe that your favorite celebrity is capable of no harm, but that's just not the truth. Celebrities are sort of a persona; we're never going to know who exactly they are.

We have to understand that this is their career, and given how critical the media and cancel culture can be. For most, celebrities are going to do what they need to do to stay in the spotlight.

I don't mean to be a downer, but there's a lot of bad stuff happening in the world right now. There's an ongoing argument about how celebrities should be using their platforms and reach. No matter what your take on this is, there's always going to be that outside influence that what they choose to speak up about can and will affect their career.

During the 2020 election, Swift posted on her Instagram story endorsing Biden and a link to register to vote. From that post alone, 35,000 people registered to vote using the link, according to the National Public Radio. So, to say that celebrities have no influence is far from true. Celebrities are influencers; this

is exactly why brand deals exist. Because we idolize these celebrities, when we see what they have, we tend to want it too. If it's good enough for them, it's good enough for me.

However, since this Swift has been fairly silent on the current hateful climate that is growing larger, with ICE raids left and right, ripping apart children and families, with the false ideology of making a better America. Let alone the threat of losing LGBTQ+ rights, as well as abortion rights, state to state, you start to wonder where is the Swift that stood up for us? If she cared about bad press, then why would she ever speak out back then?

I'm starting to wake up, though, and I think all of us need to as well. Celebrities are nothing like us; they live in a completely different world from us. How do we expect them to speak up when these issues will never affect them personally because they have money? I want to be clear; this article isn't about hate. This article is about the fact that we need to stop idolizing celebrities; it's unhealthy and unrealistic.

Swift is a billionaire; the politicians we are expecting to run our country and speak for us have been handed everything on a silver platter, likely their whole lives. Politicians these days are treated more like celebrities, which is a completely different job title. We idolize and buy merch of politicians and celebrities with money we've had to fight to earn our whole lives.

I'm begging you to wake up. These billionaires, ce-

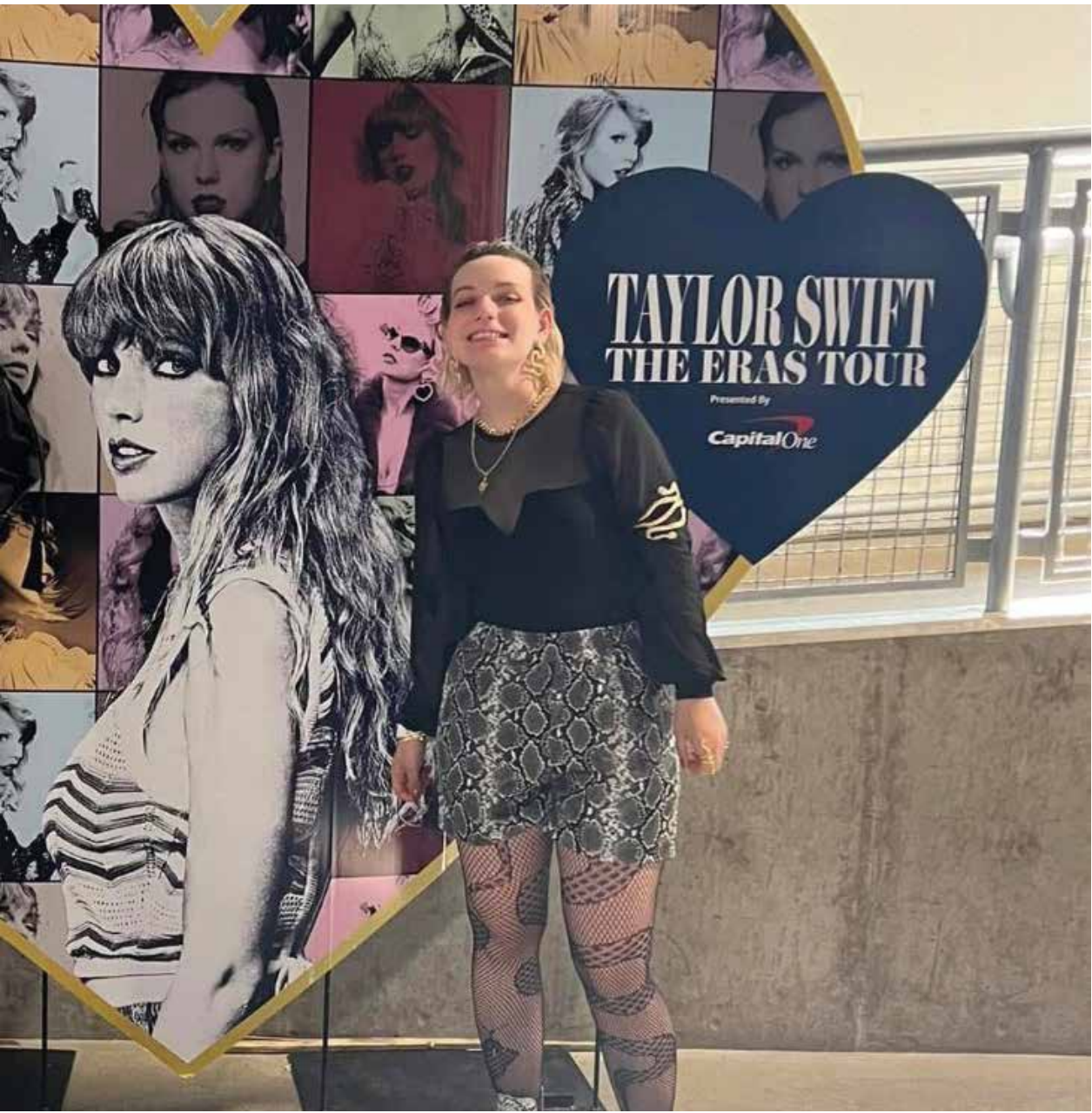


Photo courtesy of Harmony Goodman

Goodman attending the 2023 Eras Tour concert in Detroit MI.

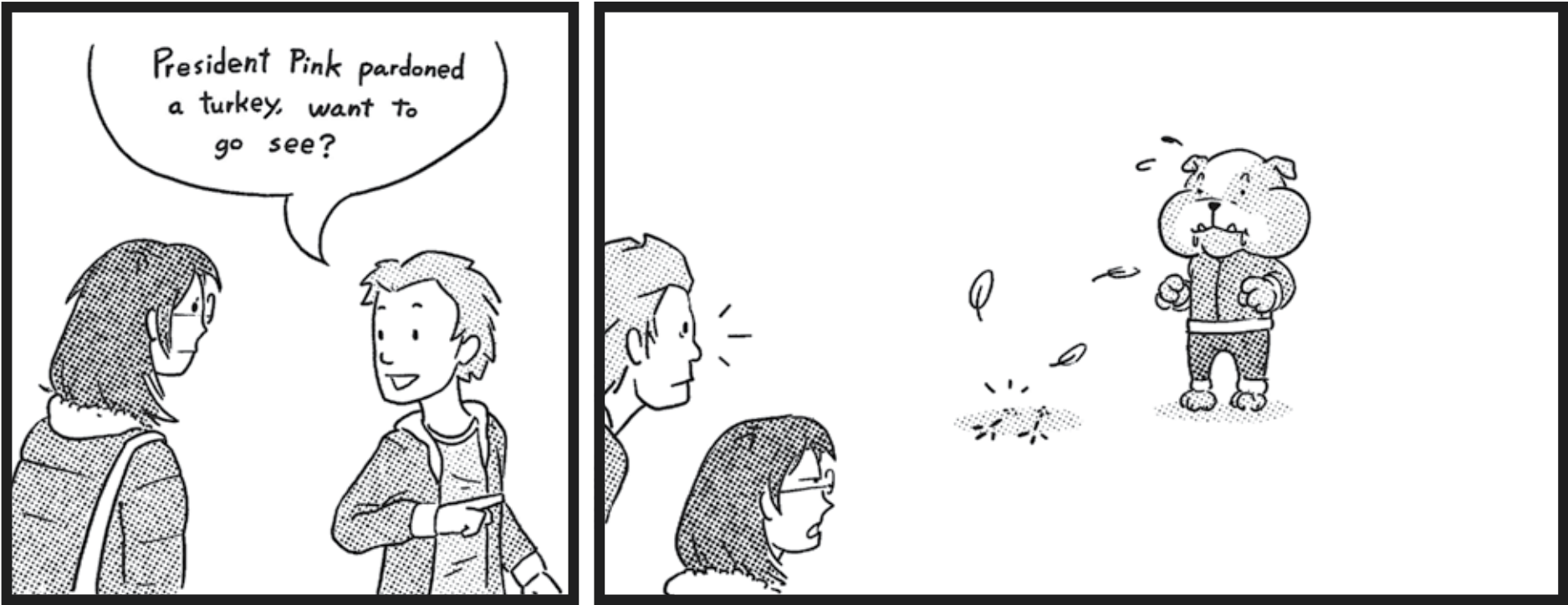
lebrities and politicians will never understand us, and at the end of the day, they are a part of a corrupt system that feeds off those in poverty. The money they make in

a single day could solve half of the world's problems and still have more than enough left over to live comfortably, yet they don't; instead, they ask for more money.

We need to learn to be the good in the world we want to see. Why are we relying on celebrities to do the heavy lifting on a situation they may never fully understand?

Change happens when we all come together, not when we're all against each other.

Turkey day



Comic by: Blake Flanery | Cartoonist

Sports

Nolan Matthews | Sports Editor | matthen4@ferris.edu

Freshman phenom

Quarterback Wyatt Bower talks about his career



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Wyatt Bower has passed for 1,709 yards and 18 touchdowns this season.

Devin Wardrop
Sports Reporter

Growing up in Corunna, Michigan, redshirt freshman quarterback Wyatt Bower started playing football at a young age, thanks to his dad. His dad was very passionate about football, and at the age of six, Bower started playing flag football and eventually started tackle football in third grade. During his time at Corunna High School, Bower set school records with 214 career pass completions, 3,850 passing yards, 45 passing touchdowns, and rushing for 2,295 yards. Bower talked about his time in high school. “Being in a small town, we played Division 5 football. Our big year was our senior

year. We had about 25 guys on the team, which isn’t a lot, so most of the guys were playing both ways,” Bower said. “Playing like that is tough, but we ended up going 13-1 our senior year and made it to the state championship at Ford Field, which was one of my dreams as a kid, to make it there, and being able to put my skills up to show. We didn’t end up winning that game, but it was just a great experience.” Bower was really happy to have had the opportunity to play in Ford Field. The whole city of Corunna and the neighboring town were in attendance for the game, and it was a great experience for the community and for the kids. Bower got offers from Division 1 colleges like Colorado

State and Central Michigan, but they wanted him to play on defense, which Bower disliked. He was a quarterback. With Head Coach Tony Annese being from Corunna, Bower grew up with the Ferris head coach, having known him for 13 years. Annese hosted football camps in Corunna, and that is where the two first met. Bower got the offer from Ferris during his junior year of high school. Bower went on his official visit and then committed to Ferris State the next morning. Bower talks about his favorite part of being at Ferris State. “It’s the culture, for sure. I’m very blessed to be in the position I am now, and it’s been working out very well,” Bower said. “Big Rapids is a

similar size to my home. It’s more like a team atmosphere here, and everybody’s working for each other. Especially on the team, all the guys aren’t selfish; they just work for the team. We all strive for team success, and that’s why we are successful.” This season, Bower has shared the quarterback job with sophomore quarterback Chase Carter, who has usually come in for Bower in the second quarter of games. Carter feels that Bower has helped him grow as a quarterback, as well as a person. “Even though Wyatt is younger than me, he’s helped me a lot in finding myself as a quarterback and as a member of this team. Watching him kind of get thrown in the fire as a redshirt freshman and lead

this team has been truly inspiring,” Carter said. “He may not even realize how much his performance and leadership have helped me with my own confidence. On top of that, he’s just been a great friend and supporter, so all the quarterbacks feel welcome and needed on this team as we go deeper into the season and try to make another national championship run.” Bower loves all of his teammates, but he’s really close with one of them, his brother, redshirt freshman wide receiver Tarick Bower. The two grew up together, and Wyatt is excited to have his brother come up with him and play football in college. The two have been able to start receiving chemistry early in their college careers,

with the two already connecting for three touchdowns this season. Tarick Bower knew early on he wanted to play football at the next level with his brother. “It was probably sophomore or junior year in high school,” Tarick said. “We talked about it with each other, and we wanted to go somewhere and continue our legacy. The connection we have is just awesome, and it’s awesome him being the one to throw me the football.” The end goal for Wyatt Bower this season is to win a national championship, and he feels that this team has what it takes to do just that.

Playoff storylines

What to watch as the Bulldogs head into the playoffs



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Slot receiver Taarik Brett carries the ball against Davenport.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

After taking down the Davenport Panthers by a score of 44-23, the Bulldogs have secured an undefeated regular season for the eighth time in program history. The Bulldogs look to keep the momentum rolling into the playoffs.

There are plenty of questions and storylines about the Bulldogs heading into their 30th playoff game since head coach Tony Annese took over the program in 2012.

Will Chase Carter take the starting job?

Redshirt freshman quarterback Wyatt Bower has had a great start to his college career, throwing for 1,709 yards and 18 touchdowns, and not throwing his first interception until week nine. But in his last two games against Saginaw Valley and Davenport, Bower has gone 9-18 with 75 yards and

three interceptions and four fumbles, while running 15 times for 96 yards and one touchdown.

Both of these games saw sophomore quarterback Chase Carter end up taking the starting snaps for the rest of the game, leading the Bulldogs in back-to-back comeback victories. In the last two games, Carter has gone 11-15 for 222 yards and four touchdowns through the air, while adding 39 rushes for 220 yards and another three touchdowns.

With Bower being a redshirt freshman, growing pains are bound to happen. Does Annese decide to stick with Bower like he has all season, does he start Carter after his back-to-back wins, or does he go back to the dual quarterback system like we've seen in years before?

Can the run defense tighten up before the playoffs?

While Ferris' defense is one of the best in the nation,

they've started to struggle slightly in the last four games of the season. In the first seven games of the season, the Bulldogs allowed, on average, 9.57 points per game, with the most points coming in a 41-34 victory over Tiffin in week three, but in Ferris' last four games, they've allowed 33.5 points per game.

This is likely due to the Bulldogs allowing a combined 667 rushing yards and nine touchdowns in the last four games, as the Bulldogs have been great at stopping the running game in the first eight games of the season. In those games, the Bulldogs had allowed only 63.8 yards per game and only three touchdowns, with the most coming against Michigan Tech, where the Huskies ran for 115 combined yards.

Ferris' passing defense still looks strong, only allowing 131 yards through the air and four touchdowns, while also snatching two interceptions in those games. Can

the Bulldogs' run defense tighten up before they take on a tough playoff opponent?

Looking ahead

The number one-seeded Bulldogs were selected to face off against their former GLIAC foes in the Northwoods Wolves, for the first round of the D2 playoffs. The two programs have a long and storied history, stretching back to 1972 when the two teams first faced off, and since then, the Bulldogs hold a 28-19 record against the Wolves, with their last

matchup coming in 2021 when the Bulldogs took down the Wolves 67-25.

The Wolves are led by a redshirt sophomore quarterback and receiver duo of Ethan Hamby and Case Boos. Hamby has been one of the best quarterbacks in the G-MAC, throwing for 2,256 yards with 22 touchdowns and zero interceptions, while rushing for 323 yards and five touchdowns. Boos has 49 receptions for 645 yards and four touchdowns.

On defense, the Wolves are led by senior defensive back Cole Simpson, who, on the season has 80 total tackles, 4.5 tackles for loss, and has snagged six interceptions, which is tied for third in the nation.

The No.1-ranked and GLIAC champions, Ferris State Bulldogs, will take on the Northwood Wolves at Top Taggart Field for the first round of the D2 playoffs on Saturday, Nov. 22 at 1 pm.

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Bulldog volleyball heads to GLIAC tournament

Ferris looks to return to the Midwest Regional for the second consecutive year



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Gabby Piazza goes up for a spike against Purdue Northwest.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Editor

After securing their seventh regular-season GLIAC championship in the last 10 seasons, and 19th in program history, Ferris volleyball looks ahead to the GLIAC tournament to secure a bid to the Midwest Regional for the second year in a row.

The No.20-ranked Bulldogs (22-6, 13-3 in GLIAC) will face off against the Purdue Northwest Lions (13-12, 7-9 in GLIAC) in a rematch of last year's first round of the GLIAC tournament, in which the Bulldogs beat the Lions 3-0.

The Bulldogs ended their season with a weekend

sweep of Roosevelt and Wisconsin-Parkside, where the Bulldogs won both matches by a score of 3-0. The first matchup against Roosevelt saw the duo, sophomore outside hitters Gabby Piazza and Emily May, co-lead the team in kills with 10 each. May had a kill percentage of .833, and Piazza had a .381. Sophomore setter Hayley Wegener led the team in assists with 25.

In the second match of the weekend, the Bulldogs took on Wisconsin-Parkside. In this match, Piazza led the team in kills again, this time with 12 and having a .391 kill percentage. With senior outside hitter Emma Bleacher having eight kills of her

own on a .316 kill percentage, Wegener leading the team in assists again, this time with 30.

Graduate outside hitter Tatum Outlaw gave her thoughts on the Bulldogs' second consecutive regular-season GLIAC championship.

"To be regular-season conference champions is definitely so rewarding for this team, knowing what we have gone through going back to January," Outlaw said. "We've worked so hard to be an elite program in the post-season, and now that we are here, we are filled with gratitude to be in this position and to have the privilege to battle through these

tough matches we have coming up."

Ferris has matched up against Purdue Northwest only a couple of weeks ago on Oct. 25, where they took down the Lions by a score of 3-0, with Piazza leading the team in kills with 17 on a kill percentage of .375.

The Bulldogs have a strong history against the Lions. In 14 matches against the Lions, Ferris has won every match, with Purdue Northwest only winning three total sets in those 14 matches, going back to 2017. The only close match coming in 2023 was when the Lions narrowly lost to the Bulldogs 3-2.

This does not mean it will be an easy match for the

Bulldogs, as the Lions have one of the better players in the GLIAC in senior opposite hitter Arra Cottrell. He has 322 total points on the season, which is good for eighth in the GLIAC, while having 257 kills, which is also good for tenth in the GLIAC. Cottrell isn't the only one on the team who can produce for the Lions; junior outside hitter Anika Huelskamp has 281 total points on 235 kills on the season, which is good for a .186 kill percentage.

May knows the Lions are a tough squad but believes their game plan will put them in position to win.

"Our focus is on controlling our side of the net," May said. "Purdue Northwest is

a strong team, and we're going to work to put pressure on them from the service line, as well as establish our offense early in the match."

The Bulldogs are led by Piazza, who has 408 total points on the season, with 364 kills, both of which are good for second in the GLIAC. Another standout player for the Bulldogs is redshirt freshman libero Hope Davies, who has 359 digs on the season, which is good for seventh in the division.

The No.20-ranked Ferris State Bulldogs look to take on the Purdue Northwest Lions on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. at Ewigleben Sports Arena.