



## NEWS RELEASE

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Leah Nixon  
(Assistant Director of News Services)

### **Tim Wise to speak at Ferris State**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University will welcome acclaimed anti-racism speaker Tim Wise Sept. 28. Wise will talk on the politics of prejudicial and racial scapegoating in post-nine 11 America at 7 p.m. in G. Mennen Williams Auditorium. Admission is free.

This presentation will assess the rise of anti-Arab, anti-Muslim hostility in the wake of the New York City and Washington, D.C., terrorist attacks and the importance of resisting racial, ethnic or religious prejudice.

Wise has made appearances across the United States, having spoken to more than 80,000 people in 47 states, to educate the masses about the damage caused by racism and encourage people to break its cycle through the spoken word, literature, art, protest or any other means possible.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Tulane University, where he received international attention from Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu for his anti-apartheid work.

“I guess I would consider myself one part social critic, one part anti-racist organizer,” he said.

According to Wise, racism and the system of white supremacy have existed in the U.S. since the late 1600’s when “whiteness as a concept of automatic advantage” was developed.

“White people hold on to negative stereotypes about people of color because to acknowledge their falsehood would be to admit that we had fallen prey to a negative, destructive mentality,” he added. “Most people don’t want to be racist.”

Wise is the author of two books to be released in 2005, “White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son” and “Affirmative Action: Racial Preference in Black and White.”

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