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the
crow's
nest



DEAD BIRDS AND BONES

There's some weird stuff
going on at a local bar

pg. 4

Gentlemen, start your engines

Construction is
underway on this year's
Grand Prix track.

pg. 8

crowsneststpete.com

SG Supreme Court calls for cases

BY TYLER KILLETTE
STAFF REPORTER

The Student Government Supreme Court, which exists to ensure a process of justice within the student body, has not seen many cases this semester — a fact that Sean Ericson, chief justice, finds “dubious” considering the level of power the court holds.

“There is a gap between the level of controversy in SG and the activity of the supreme court,” Ericson said. This semester the court has only seen two cases, both involving the same issue — the nonfunctioning Clean Energy Resource Conservation Commission, which holds \$70,000 of unused students fees.

Ericson thinks the court sees so little activity because nobody knows it exists. As a reactive body, the court can monitor the actions of SG but cannot actively police them unless petitioned from the outside.

“If no one is bringing cases to the court, it cannot do anything,” Ericson said.

He wants students to realize that the court has the final say over all SG cases and controversies, including activity and service fees and officer behavior.

A main goal of the court is emphasizing a balance of power so the student body is not overrun by the “noise” of politics and the determinates of whether statutes are being upheld are not being regulated by politicians with ulterior motives, he said.

“It's very important that students know the standards that allow SG to exist,” Ericson said, adding that students should be aware of the restraints of the school's constitution to understand what goes on within SG, which controls more than a \$1 million of fees that effect students each year.

See SG, pg. 2

UNDER THE HEAT LAMP

After a student is denied meals for a weekend, an SG senator calls to denounce Sodexo

BY MIKE HOPEY
STAFF REPORTER

When sophomore Andrea Inman tried to pay for her dinner at The Reef, her card was rejected. Something in the computer said she had not paid for her dining plan. That was on Friday at 4:30, a half hour before dining services closed for the weekend. ¶ As a resident of the University Student Center, which does not have kitchens for student use, Inman was left for the whole weekend without an on-campus dining option.

A month ago Inman's card stopped working for a similar reason — she hadn't paid, it read. She thought her meal plan was paid for the whole year, but it turned out she had only paid for the fall semester. She took care of the balance on her account through OASIS and her card started working again.

So Inman was puzzled when the card stopped working on Friday. She thought the problem with her meal plan had been dealt with. Another student saw Inman's problem on Facebook and decided to take action.

Freshman Jozef Gherman, a Student Government senator, decided that he had had enough. Gherman drafted a resolution for Student Government to officially “condemn and denounce” Sodexo, the food services company that runs The Reef.

“I'm going to with the students,” Gherman said. “I hope this resolution puts pressure on them... Hopefully they shape up.”

Gherman said he has heard too many complaints about the quality of the food in The Reef. He also said Sodexo's decision to raise the

price of meal plans by 3.3 percent is selfish.

“They came to us [at the SG General Assembly] out of good faith I suppose,” Gherman said. “Basically all they said was, ‘We're doing this.’ It was just an announcement.”

Sodexo's contract with USF St. Petersburg allows the company to raise the rate of meal plans by 1 percent to adjust for inflation. Their contract with the school is for five years and began with the opening of the USC.

In the infancy of his resolution,

Gherman only heard a smattering of feedback, but he cites SG's recent recommendation to increase the health fee by \$1 beginning next year as a sign of how he thinks the senate will vote on the resolution.

“If this is the same student body that cares about health of the students they will be in favor of this,” he said.

He doesn't see the resolution as the end of the discussion with Sodexo. Gherman would like to see them take his criticisms and improve.

See, DINING, pg. 3



Thomas Boyd/The Crow's Nest

See also: Sodexo agrees to allow other caterers on campus, pg. 3

Hogarth's unfinished business

BY CHELSI KALLIS
CROW'S NEST CORRESPONDENT

As Bill Hogarth's time as USF St. Petersburg's leader comes to an end, he reminisces on the accomplishments he has made as interim regional chancellor and makes plans to do the most he can with the rest of the spring semester.

As the Regional Chancellor Search Advisory Committee whittled down candidates, Hogarth was not among the three finalists recommended to USF President Judy Genshaft for the position. Though Hogarth said he was disappointed

with the decision, he assured it will not stop his actions as interim chancellor.

"I am not going to stop doing things," he said several times, emphasizing the importance of continuing to work on the school's needs.

Overseeing the installation of a 1,100-gallon fish tank in the University Student Center — paid for with \$12,000 from student activity and service fees and a \$25,000 grant from Progress Energy — is among Hogarth's top priorities to have achieved by the end of the school year. He is also

focused on equipping the College of Business with its own building, set to be built on the lot now occupied by the Piano Man building.

Enhancing campus security is also on Hogarth's agenda — he worked with campus maintenance to have the tall shrubs trimmed to discourage intruders from hiding in them.

Other plans include hiring new faculty members, relocating the lounge in Davis Hall to the Student Life Center, reviewing and revising budgets, exploring alternative dining service options and using personal funds to provide

scholarships to dedicated students.

"It is interesting to watch how students operate and react in their environment," Hogarth said, explaining that he feels it is important to interact with students on a daily basis. He makes an effort to be among them when he's not in his office.

Though it may have been short lived, Hogarth said he has enjoyed his time as chancellor.

"If it is not the best, it's one of the best jobs I have ever had," he said.

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News Briefs

Librarian Jim Schnur and anthropology graduate Elizabeth Southard will present "Early Footprints in the Sand: Pre-Columbian Settlements along the Pinellas Peninsula and the Legacies of First Contact" on Feb. 21 from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Poynter Library.

The discussion will focus on the indigenous people who inhabited Florida's west coast before Spanish colonization and remnants of 500-year-old tools and pottery will be on display.

International Week, featuring a series of films, forums and luncheons focusing on global interaction, is coming to USFSP Feb. 25 through March 1.

The week kicks off with the Moldovan Student Exchange on Feb. 25, which will connect USFSP students to students in Moldova via video chat at 9 a.m. in the University Student Center Coral Room.

On Feb. 26, the Peace Corps will have an information table set up in the library from 9 to 11 a.m. Further information on joining the Peace Corps will be provided in the USC Ocean Room from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

On Feb. 26, Ashraf Khalil, an Arab-American journalist, will present "Liberation Square: Inside the Egyptian Revolution" in the USC ballroom from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Khalil's discussion will address the role of social media in sparking the Egyptian revolution.

A full list of the week's events can be found at usfsp.edu/iweek.

Student Government had secured permission to use the USF athletic logo on the basketball court outside the USC.

Plans for the logo's placement will be finalized at a meeting on Feb. 18. According to SG general assembly minutes, the logo will cost about \$3,000.

Corrections: In the Feb. 11 edition of The Crow's Nest, an article entitled "SG recommends fee increases" suggested the meeting minutes detailing new activities and services and health fees were incorrect. Those minutes were correct — the senators quoted in those minutes were wrong.

SG court seeks fifth justice

Continued from front page

SG officers can petition the court by either a writ of mandamus, which can force any other officer to perform a duty specified in SG statutes that is not being fulfilled, or through a petition for declaratory judgment, which requests the court to interpret a statute in the state or school constitution.

Students not involved in SG

can request a trial to remedy an improper action by any SG officer.

Ericson became chief justice at the beginning of the spring semester after the student previously holding the position transferred to the Tampa campus, leaving the court disabled.

The now fully functioning court is working on creating a mobile

courtroom that could be used to hold SG trials and mock trials in law classes. Ericson said the court wants to become as official as possible and is working with Mark Lombardi-Nelson, student body president, to get robes and a gavel — things that the Tampa campus' court already has.

The court is also looking for a

fifth justice. Interested students can apply by contacting Ericson at sdericso@mail.usf.edu or by attending one of the court's open meetings on Mondays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the University Student Center Palm Room. Applications are due March 21.

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The wheels on this bus go nowhere



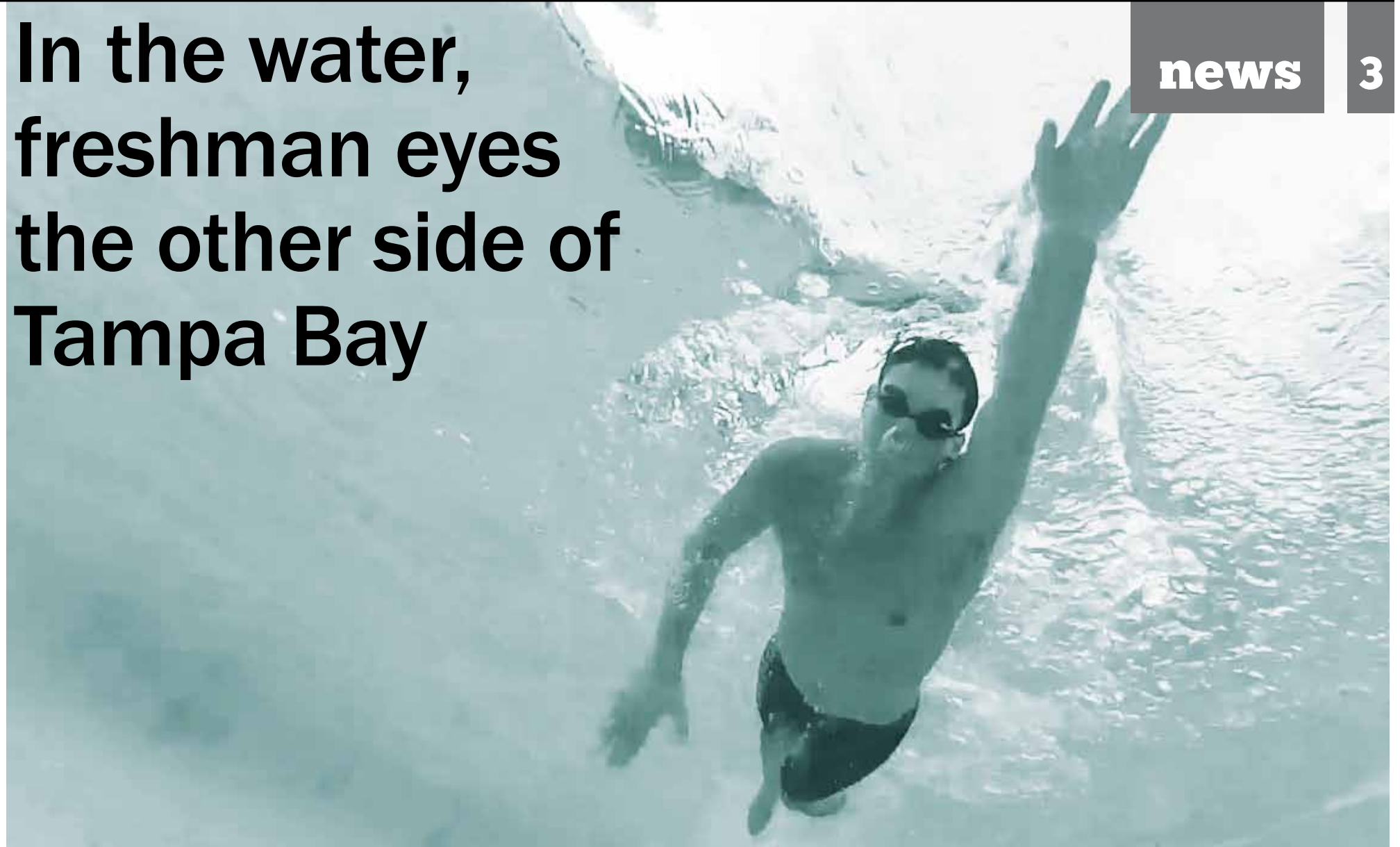
Thomas Boyd/The Crow's Nest

Jimmy Richards, vice president of the student body, talks with a bus driver after no students showed up to take the bus to the men's basketball game at USF Tampa. The bus would have cost \$1,000, but Richards negotiated to pay a \$100 cancellation fee. Richards said Student Government marketed the event for over a month.

In the water, freshman eyes the other side of Tampa Bay

news

3



Thomas Boyd/The Crow's Nest

Thomas Tarantola swims 5,000 yards three to five times a week in preparation for his 24 mile swim across the bay. Competitors in the Iron Man Triathlon only swim 2.4 miles.

BY AMANDA STARLING
CROW'S NEST CORRESPONDENT

Quick strokes cut through the water as freshman Thomas Tarantola zips from end to end of the pool.

Water or land, Tarantola spends his days training for the 16th annual Tampa Bay Swim Marathon — a 24-mile swim stretching from the Sunshine Skyway Bridge to the Courtney Campbell Causeway in Tampa.

"I try to visualize what my goal is, what I'm going to encounter and how to overcome that," Tarantola said. "With that mental set, I'll be prepared to swim in the bay."

Tarantola spends three to five days a week training at St. Petersburg Aquatics or practicing with the intramural swim program at USF Tampa, swimming more than 5,000 yards in each session. Time spent out of the water is used to train at the USFSP fitness center.

"It's going to be choppy and there is going to be wind," Tarantola said.

To prepare for the resistance anticipated in the bay, he has been swimming with drag and a drag suit to increase friction.

Tarantola has been a swimmer since high school. His older sister, who insisted he attend tryouts, piqued his interest. However, his appreciation for swimming was not

"I try to visualize what my goal is, what I'm going to encounter and how to overcome that."

instant.

"It wasn't my thing," he said, explaining that he'd been more comfortable with the running and movement of lacrosse. But on second attempt, Tarantola bonded with the water, going on to win the district championship in the 100-yard and 200-yard freestyle for Matanzas High in Palm Coast.

Despite knee and shoulder surgeries, he ranked 25th in the state.

Participating in the Tampa Bay Swim Marathon will not be cheap. Entry fees are \$1,500, not including gear. Tarantola is seeking funds to compete, having raised \$300 in contributions so far with help from fellow students. He hopes to gain sponsorship from the university.

"It isn't just a race where I'm just swimming this and it's only for me," Tarantola said. "I'm representing everyone who works at and attends USF. I know that I'm representing them, so I know I'll have the motivation to win this race. Not just complete it, win it."

Assuming the necessary funds are raised, Tarantola will hit the water on April 20 from 7:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. He envisions the USF "U" embroidered on his suit.

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Dining plans don't please Gherman

Continued from front page

If the resolution passes and Sodexo improves, Gherman said he would put forth another resolution to denounce his previous one.

Resolutions passed by Student Government are not binding. They serve to document the legislative body's position on a topic.

Gherman has had his own struggles with school's meal plan options. As a resident of Residence

Hall One, he is required to purchase a meal plan but has been trying to get out of that commitment.

He hasn't eaten at The Reef "in a long time" and cooks his meals in the kitchen of his RHO suite.

"Everything I've had there, I've had better," he said.

news@crowsneststpete.com

Catering rules loosened

BY MIKE HOPEY
STAFF REPORTER

Amid growing concerns and criticisms about Sodexo being the exclusive caterer for on-campus events, an agreement was reached to reverse that policy.

Effective immediately, all food purchases made with university funds can be made with a licensed caterer. That policy also includes grocery stores.

Until now, any department, club or organization that used university funds had to purchase catering through Sodexo. If Sodexo could not provide what they were asking for, the food services company could agree to make an exception. Many of those groups found the requirement unfair, citing poor food quality and a lack of variety. There were also concerns that a lack of competition would inflate prices. Despite losing their exclusivity

with on-campus organizations, Sodexo has retained its role as exclusive caterer for any off-campus group using the campus, which includes Harbor Hall and the University Student Center, which recently hosted a wedding.

Requests for information from Sodexo and Student Government were not fulfilled by the time of publication.

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Booze and bones at loc

BY RYAN BALLOGG
STAFF REPORTER

As any cold that ever was here recedes and spring rolls around, a weekend camping trip might sound like an appealing proposition. If you do decide to visit the wilds, remember that you are a sheltered human in an uncensored environment. There are more things that can go wrong than can go right.

• Though camping sounds romantic, don't attempt to take a date if you're under the age of 20, as you are still subject to death by lunatic serial killer. Full moons, Friday the 13ths and black lagoons should be planned around, in any event.

• If serial killers don't scare you, consider this: Smokey is always (always!) watching. Only you can prevent forest fires, and if you don't you may be roasted over one. Smokey often has his good friend Tony the Tiger over for the weekend, and they don't mind chowing down on a disrespectful camper. Don't let their ability to speak fool you, domesticated they are not.

• Tigers and bears still not enough to discourage you? Fortunately, you shouldn't be seeing any lions in these parts. Regular lions, at least — the mountainous variety exist here. Unfortunately, a more vicious creature could be lurking in the shadows. See below.

• Raccoons are notorious thieves. They're climbing in your windows, they're eating all your s'mores. Grabbing your shiny objects up. They're biting everybody out here. The sturdiest of tent flaps will be no obstacle. Come prepared with a tasty trash offering, or coon repellent.

• If you glimpse any unicorns, sasquatches or other cryptids, you've probably tasted a little too much of the local fungi.

• Houses made of candy or propped up on chicken legs should be avoided at all times. Treebeard won't always be there to save you.

• Follow these three simple rules for downtime: Don't bed down atop anthills. Don't stargaze in patches of poison ivy. And most importantly, don't pitch your tent in quicksand.

If you successfully avoid these obstacles, you should have a dandy time. Bon voyage!

If good art is enhanced by a good libation, then the reverse must also be true.

At least, that is how Craig Dragoonis and his friends, owners of The Bends bar on First Avenue North, are doing the math.

A few months ago they decided to open their doors and their walls to the artists of St. Petersburg, displaying temporary galleries and exposing locals to art they might not otherwise have seen.

"St. Pete really needed this," said local Kevin Simpson, who visits the bar a couple times a week. "And it's awesome that they're willing to support the local scene."

For the first half of February, the theme was bones. Dragoonis and his friends worked with artist Nicole Morris to organize the show. When all of the pieces were assembled, the six

participating artists came in and set up shop, lining the bar with photographs, paintings, a cut-out collage and several taxidermy specimens. The bar-owners hosted an opening night party with live music.

The display changes every month. "We've had illustrations, fashion photography. The art adds to the atmosphere. It's a super fun place to be," Dragoonis said.

The venue has advantages for the artists as well. "It's not the typical art gallery crowd," Morris said. "All walks of life people come here."

The bartenders are authorized to sell whichever pieces patrons are interested in, or at least get them in contact with the right artist. Dragoonis says so far they have gotten a great response from visitors, selling a lot of art and alcohol.

A native of Scotland, Dragoonis traveled abroad and lived in Australia for a few years before settling in St. Petersburg. He came to be with family and friends who live in the area.

Starting the bar was a dream of several close friends, and it didn't take long before they convinced him to join in.



For Craig Dragoonis, mixing a good drink is serious business.

"It was amazing how quickly it started escalating into a reality," Dragoonis said.

The Bends has also been quick to become popular with locals. It shares a building with a tattoo parlor and an art gallery, a collective environment that Dragoonis is proud to be a part of.

According to Morris, it is that kind of supportive network between local artists and businesses that is progressing the culture of St. Petersburg so fast.

In addition to hosting shows, the owners hired several artists to create permanent installations



Ryan Ballogg/The Crow's Nest

Making art from a decomposition

BY RYAN BALLOGG
STAFF REPORTER

Outside of fairy tales, animals don't talk.

But local artist Nicole Morris is doing her best to speak for them in death.

Morris curated "bones, a collective study," a hybrid art gallery at The Bends bar in St. Petersburg that ran for the first half of February. Her animal rights taxidermy pieces were central to the display.

Morris has only been working with bones as a medium for a year. Prior to that she mainly drew and painted. It was something good that came out of a negative situation.

About a year and a half ago, Morris' 3-year-old daughter Lola was diagnosed with epilepsy and she was forced to become a stay-at-home mom. One day, a black heron dropped dead in her yard. It eventually decomposed. She has a degree in massage therapy from Aveda that included some knowledge of human anatomy and body systems. She also has an arts degree she earned while living in New York. When she

looked at the bird's skeleton, something clicked.

"I started to mesh and combine the two degrees and taxidermy just fell into place from there," Morris said. "When it came to actually skinning an animal I knew where I needed to and where I didn't need to."

Sometime before seeing the fateful bird, she had visited the home and studios of Brian Zaccane, a friend from art school who makes anatomical models. His collection was featured on the Science Channel show "Oddities."

"That's how I got introduced to the whole thing, period," Morris said. "He takes actual human skulls, dissects them and retracts them with wires and gears."

Most important of all to Morris is their storytelling aspect of her pieces — and she makes sure it is a story that the animal in question would be okay with.

"I'm doing all animal rights taxidermy," Morris said. "I don't dress them in clothes, and I put them in natural forms. They're doing very weird things, like holding their own broken tail, or coming out of a bear trap

looking pissed. When you look at taxidermy as an illustration art form, it's all about how you build your basins, and what your story is, and then how you execute."

Besides the bones themselves, the environment they are placed in is essential to the story. Local metal artist Frank Strunk designs most of the fixtures for Morris' creations.

"I could sit here and have the squirrel in my hand but it's not going to look as cool as it does chilling in that nice steel box," Morris said.

The showing at The Bends is Morris' first public display of her work. It was a new experience for several of the other artists involved, as well. The reception was positive. A man from Pennsylvania bought a piece featuring a squirrel the first day of the show and had it shipped back to his home state.

"He had to have it, right then," Morris said. "It's that kind of enthusiasm that is exciting to see as an artist."

Now that "bones" has run its course at The Bends, they will try to find a more traditional gallery to place it in.

Morris has made bone art full-time for more than a year. She plans to go



back to school in August, though, to have time to study electroneurodiagnosis at Erwin Technical Center in Tamiami. She hopes to learn more about her daughter's condition, a theme that she often explores in her art.

"My daughter has epilepsy and we both have scoliosis, so with my art installations I generally do spinal studies," Morris said.

In whatever she does, Morris tr

cal bar



Ryan Ballogg/The Crow's Nest

the bar. A light fixture fashioned from bullet
ings was a collaborative effort between Morris
local metal worker Frank Strunk. A wall-size
ating by anonymous street artist STOIC lies
e back of the bar behind a disc jockey booth.
With more pieces soon to come, The Bends
y is a local affair.

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ng body



Ryan Ballogg/The Crow's Nest

to keep in mind that there are no
limits.

"I do everything in the arts world,"
she said. "There's no can'ts in art."

Morris' work can be seen at etsy.
com/shop/bonejewelrybynicol.

arts@crowsneststpete.com

THE HUMOR OF HAIR LOSS

Freshman spins genetic loss into comedy win



Thomas Boyd/The Crow's Nest

Devon Alter attacks the microphone with a voice made for radio.

BY ERIN MURPHY
CROW'S NEST CORRESPONDENT

British band the Buggles may have
declared the radio star dead in 1979,
but don't tell that to Devon Alter.

Alter, a freshman mass communi-
cations major, is the booming
voice behind the local podcast "18
and Balding," an auditory journey
that aims to give listeners a humor-
ous peek into conversation between
good friends.

The podcast plays like a radio
show, complete with guests, inter-
views, segments and amusing
musical interludes. Each episode
is roughly 30 minutes long and
revolves around a defined topic.

"I choose the general theme
based on who my guests are and
their interests, as well as how relat-
able said interests will be to my
audience," Alter said. "Each episode
I change the name to fit the theme."

Previous episodes include "18
and KPop" and the Valentine's Day
special "18 and Friendzone."

Devon records the podcast at his
home with a few high school pals
that help with sound and editing.
Friends also occasionally appear on
episodes.

"I had my friends Miranda and
Amanda on to talk about the sensa-
tion of PSY and Korean pop music,"
Alter said. "I choose my guests
based on how big of a personality
they have as well as if I feel they will
bring an interesting, well-spoken
perspective on the podcast."

The improvised show aims to
let its audience in on conversa-
tions that could be had in between
classes with a familiar face. "18 and
Balding" invites anyone who wants
to feel like they have best friends
with them for 30 to 40 minutes to

take a listen. It is this
kind of real and often
random conversation
that drives the
podcast.

"I believe that
casual, unscripted
humor is the best
kind," Devon said.
"[It's] most genuine
to audiences."

Though Devon
has received com-
ments on his voice
and its "radio-like
potential" since his
middle school days,
he has only recently
employed it to host
"18 and Balding."

"I initially came
up with the idea to
create a podcast after I had gone
to a radio open mic tryout about a
month ago," Devon said. "[I] was
asked by a fairly important man
there if I had a podcast he could
listen to. I decided there was no



Thomas Boyd/The Crow's Nest

The "18 and Balding" host uses his guests to determine each show's topic.

"My goal for the podcast is to be
able to continue it throughout my
college career and hone my skills
in hosting successfully funny and
interesting shows," he said. "When
it comes time to be given an oppor-

up people's days as much as I can.
Entertaining people and talking is
what I love."

Perhaps it is this friendly and
relatable conversation that draws
listeners. In a visually oriented cul-
ture, the appeal of an audio show is
rather simple: familiarity.

"The best, most genuine humor
comes out of good friends just talk-
ing about stuff," Devon said. "It's
a good show when someone can
listen to it and feel like they are in
a room of a couple of good friends,
and laugh it up with them."

For more information on "18
and Balding," visit facebook.
com/18AndBalding. The podcast
itself is available for free subscrip-
tion on iTunes, under the pod-
cast section. The audio feed can
be found at gorager.podbean.com,
though Alter said the URL will
likely change soon.

*"I believe that casual,
unscripted humor is the best
kind. [It's] most genuine to
audiences."*

time like the present to start build-
ing some sort of following."

"18 and Balding" is both an
extension of Devon's passion for
radio broadcasting and an auditory
portfolio of sorts.

tunity in radio, I can point to '18
and Balding' and show that I have
what it takes."

This is his passion, after all.

"I aspire to be a radio talk show
host who entertains and brightens

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Letter from the editor

We put our money where our words are

BY REN LAFORME
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

They were words we had used many times before.

"We're just a student newspaper." This time, they were used to justify misspelling a professor's name in three different ways throughout an article. Our editor was livid but our staff was unrepentant.

And our adviser wouldn't accept it. In an impassioned speech, she challenged us to accept our roles as professional journalists. Could our articles not create change? Did our words not have power? We needed to stop thinking about ourselves as reporters-in-training and realize our potential as agents for democracy in our campus community.

That incident happened more than half a decade ago and over a thousand miles from *The Crow's Nest*, but it's something I remind this staff as often as possible. It's something last year's editor, who was in the room with me that day, reminded her staff as often as possible.

Not that they have to be reminded.

Our employees are paid a meager stipend for their work — but they show up, every week, with fervent respect for their roles. They take as many as 17 credit hours a semester, work other jobs and internships and still manage to produce journalism once per week that can, and does, bring fundamental change to USF St. Petersburg. If those aren't the hallmarks of a

passionate professional then I don't know what is.

Perhaps, as Daily Tar Heel editor Andy Thomason suggested about his own publication in a recent column, *The Crow's Nest* is best defined as a "student-produced, community newspaper" rather than a "student newspaper" — a title that suggests amateurism.

In the past two years, this little news organization has transformed from a press agent for the university and Student Government to a resolute voice for student concerns. Our articles have challenged administrative initiatives, questioned expenditures and made more than a few people think before they acted.

Now, on Monday evenings, it's not uncommon to overhear campus higher-ups grumbling about something we published. It's not uncommon for newspaper stands around campus to be almost empty by the time our latest issue is delivered. It's not uncommon to hear even non-students discussing an article at the Tavern.

This has all happened in the face of some tremendous roadblocks.

Several potentially hard-hitting stories had to be shelved last year after the university blocked our requests for information. Requests regarding non-USFSP students using student fees to travel with the campus debate team, late-night room checks in Residence Hall One and the school's purchase of the Dali Museum were all denied due to creative interpretations of privacy

laws, or were priced out of our budget — Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine laws allow agencies to charge for the personnel costs associated with gathering public records.

But the biggest hurdle is, undoubtedly, our funding structure.

The Crow's Nest was independently founded by a group of students in the late 1960s but became a full-fledged campus organization just a few years ago. That status and association with the university comes with benefits — we have an ample office on campus that will soon have new furniture and our editors are paid, among others — but it also comes with strings. We rely on a heavy subsidy from activities and service fees that is allocated year to year by Student Government.

If an SG administration is unhappy with the coverage we provide, they can attempt to cut our budget. Judges have interpreted the First Amendment to favor newspapers when these instances go to court, which they often do, but SG has successfully slashed our budget under the guise of "helping" us become "financially independent." In 2010-2011, for instance, *The Crow's Nest* was allocated \$22,855 — half of what it received the year before. Whether it was a coincidence that this came after the 2009-2010 editor published a photo of the SG president's police mugshot is not for me to say — I wasn't even in Florida during that time — though

my gut certainly has an answer.

With all of the criticisms this paper has published 1,000 times weekly across campus under my guidance, it would be hypocritical of me to not seek out criticism for the paper, as well.

I met with SG President Mark Lombardi-Nelson last week to agree on the paper's yearly budget for submission to the SG Senate and other approving bodies in coming weeks. I requested a few small increases, and Lombardi-Nelson added a few more. The requested amount is a 28 percent increase over our previous request, bringing it back to about the same level it was before it was slashed in 2010.

We still maintain the smallest organizational budget among recipients of activities and service fees funding.

To demonstrate the transparency, fairness and professionalism of the staff at *The Crow's Nest*, and in the spirit of our bold colleagues at The Beacon of Merrimack College, I am making our requested budget, as well as the 2012-2013 budget, available online for public consumption at crowsneststpete.com/budget.

I will also meet with anyone who wants to discuss our budget, funding, journalism or any topic related to USF St. Petersburg — a great school I only wish to see improve through diligent reporting.

rlaforme@mail.usf.edu

No Idea

a series by Elizabeth Malley

INBOX

<input type="checkbox"/> ☆ ▷	Jennifer Parker	[USF-INFO] Please take the Alcohol Survey
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<input type="checkbox"/> ☆ ▷	Professor	CLASS CANCELLED - Have fun.
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Traditions: This foam bull is just a big load of bull

BY FRANK KURTZ
STAFF COLUMNIST

A proposal has been making the rounds in Student Government to help create a new tradition on campus. Here we go again.

Bill S13-021, titled "Lets Grab This Bull By The Horns," will provide, if passed, \$4,800 for the purchase of a "foam bull" that students in various organizations would paint each month. The idea behind it is that students will paint the bull in the midnight hours at the beginning of each month for the rest of the campus to gander at, creating layers of student memories.

The bill does not say whether SG will provide the paint for the organizations or if each will have to foot its own paint bill. Nor does it specify which organizations would be eligible to paint said bull, or how the selection process on which will paint the bull each month.

I personally think this is a waste

of money — spending money for the sake of spending money. We already spent 10 Gs to purchase a large bronze bull. Now we want to spend an additional five grand for a bull made of foam. There's probably a better way for SG to spend five racks.

It has been my experience that students outside the power structure create student traditions that are initially met with resistance from above. Eventually, the higher-ups will cave in the face of student persistence and look the other way.

Example from the main campus: when students hop up on the bulls in the fountain in front of the Marshall Center, snap a photograph and hop off. There is no policy saying we can or cannot ride our new bull for the same purpose. Another example of a student tradition would be members of *The Crow's Nest* hanging out at the Tavern at Bayboro — something we have done for decades.

Now, I am not advocating the defacement of university property, but why not paint on our new bronze bull? One of the goals specified in the bill is to "express and show off the creativity of our campus." The new bull is situated at the intersection of Second Street and Sixth Avenue South — countless automobiles not associated with the university pass by every day and would see a freshly painted bull.

I can see a time that if we ever had Greek Life on campus (though I hope that day never comes — a story for another day) that as a part of the "hazing process" that "does not occur" pledges would be "forced" to paint the Greek letters of their fraternity or sorority on the bull. You have to admit it would be funny to see Delta Gamma painted on the anatomically correct testicles of the bull on the way to class. Members of that sorority are pejoratively called "dirty girls"

anyway (Greek life slang for those of you who have not visited a college town).

If something like that happened time and time again, administration would eventually give in and look the other way. Those who got in trouble prior to it being "OK" would wear it as a badge of honor.

I am all for campus traditions. However I do not like authority telling me what those traditions are and should be. Go out, do something, get in a *little bit* of trouble and see if it sticks. Twenty years from now when you are bringing your children to check out where you went to school, you can smile when you say, "I helped start that."

Frank Kurtz is a graduate student pursuing a master's degree in Florida studies and the Circulation Manager.

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Two girls walk into a bar...

BY SHANNON KELLY
GUEST COLUMNIST

Bar etiquette is should be required with the privilege of drinking. After polling bartenders and witnessing first handedly the obnoxious behavior of drunken patrons, I figured I'd compile a list of the dos and don'ts:

Don't be the creepy guy that has to grind his way past a group of girls, sexually assaulting them to get through a crowd. It never fails. Every time this happens, I turn around and there is eight feet of clearance for the guy to get by — no molesting necessary.

Do make moves when walking into a bar. Don't walk into a huge crowd of people dazed and confused — either get a drink or find a table. Don't lead your group of friends into the building like Stevie Wonder.

Do start a conversation with something clever. If I knew how many weirdos would come up to me saying, "So, are you a Georgia peach?" in reference to the tattoo on my arm, I would have seriously rethought the placement. Come up with something more original than, "Did those hurt?" or, "I like your tattoos," then proceed to show me your tribal armband you got tattooed ten years ago, in a garage by your uncle.

Don't be rude to the bartender. It is the most unattractive thing when someone is trying to "talk you up" and doesn't have the courtesy to politely address the bartender or tip them for their efforts.

Do tip! If a bartender "hooks it up," tip accordingly. Pouring free water takes almost as long as pouring a beer.

Do have your order ready. In a packed bar, don't stumble on your drink order. The bartenders are slammed. Don't waste their time.

Don't order basic everyday drinks with some fancy name. "Yeah uhhh I'll have a 'Cape Cod.'" IT'S A VODKA CRANBERRY! Your superior beverage is being consumed daily by the masses.

Do return the favor of buying a round. If someone buys a shot, you get the next one.

Don't be that drunk friend who needs to be baby-sat. You think you're cute and hilarious, but everyone hates you.

Shannon Kelly is a senior mass communications major.

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Circuses and fairs are slowing the country's moral progress

BY SAMANTHA OUIMETTE
STAFF COLUMNIST

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way in which its animals are treated."

Really think about that. For a minute, look at the world through the same perspective that Gandhi had — a perspective that put value not in vast economic success nor prominent political standing, but in how the most powerful species on the planet treats those that are most vulnerable.

Think about where that puts the United States in terms of progress. We are the only developed country that continues to conduct invasive experiments on chimpanzees; experiments that see these chimps cut open, addicted to drugs or inoculated with infectious agents without any legal recourse.

We force lions, tigers and bears to perform in circuses purely for the purpose of our entertainment. We allow the sale of those same animals as "exotic pets" because cats and dogs just won't do. And then we confine them to a cage without even a second thought about the

environment they're meant to have.

If you think these and practices like them are common in all countries, you've been misled. Austria has illegalized the use of lions and tigers in circuses. The Netherlands outlaws fox and chinchilla farming. The United Kingdom has banned veal crates, and Spain has been the first country to grant great apes "human" rights.

These things that have been deemed inhumane in other developed countries are still practiced daily in the United States. The response to this seems to usually be, "Yes, that's terrible. I wish none of those things happened here. But how are those things my fault, and what can I do about it?"

If you're like most of the American public, you facilitate animal cruelty without even knowing it. If you go to the circus, if you attend large fairs, if you pay \$5 to pet a tiger cub, you help to create a demand for businesses that make their living off the exploitation of animals.

It is a cruel farce that the majority of the population has been led to believe most circus animals are treated very well, or that these

animals enjoy performing for us. In reality, these animals are beaten if they do not wish to perform, are chained down to concrete when they're not performing and are simply left to die when it is deemed that they are no longer "useful." But as long as people keep going to the circus, the mistreatment will continue.

County and state fairs are also guilty of animal cruelty. Besides the "agribusiness" aspect that plagues large fairs on a yearly basis, they also promote animal "entertainment" acts that involve cruelty. The Osceola County Fair in Kissimmee, Fla. featured an act involving a dancing bear and a petting zoo that featured servals, a medium-sized African wild cat. Promoting these events as "educational" and "good family fun," thousands flocked to participate in them without the slightest clue of the harm they were causing.

But some parts of fairs and circuses are fun, right? How can I tell you to stop going to these things without offering some alternatives?

There are several circuses in the United States that do not feature any animals in their acts, with

the most popular and well known being Cirque du Soleil. Not only do they offer cruelty-free entertainment, but they tour a wide variety of shows many times each year. Smaller fairs like the ones held at local schools and churches generally offer the same rides and greasy food that the larger fairs do, and because of their size animal acts are not involved.

The United States is better than the way it treats its animals, and the vast majority of its people have good intentions. By taking a stand against circuses and fairs, you'll be taking a stand against the business that is animal cruelty. You'll be helping this nation's moral imperative move forward.

Samantha Ouimette is a sophomore mass communications major and the Sports Editor.

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BRIEFS

"I'll answer anyone's question but yours because you're an idiot and really a disloyal person. And a few other things I can add, but I'm not gonna go there."

-Jim Boeheim, head coach of Syracuse's men's basketball team and the second winningest coach in NCAA Division I history, to ESPN reporter Andy Katz. Boeheim later confirmed speculation that his annoyance with Katz stemmed from a previous incident where Katz repeatedly asked him about the investigation of Bernie Fine, despite being told that it would not be discussed. Boeheim has no plans to apologize for his comments, instead opting to say that he "probably shouldn't have called [Katz] an 'idiot'. That slipped out."

The Golden State Warriors have revealed plans to become the first team in NBA history to sport short-sleeve jerseys.

The Warriors announced last week that they will debut these alternate uniforms in a home matchup with the San Antonio Spurs on Feb. 22, and wear them two more times this season during home games against Houston (March 8) and Chicago (March 15).

"I really didn't know what I was shooting for until I missed the first one. I look up, and I was like, 'OK, it's the 100 free-fries night.' So I put a smile on my face and I was like, 'I blew it,' and everybody was a little upset with me. But I'm one of the guys that's staying here through [NBA] All-Star weekend so I figured this would be a great thing to do."

-New Orleans Hornets forward Lance Thomas, on his missed free throw that cost the crowd the free fries they would have gotten if the team accumulated over 100 points. Not wanting to disappoint the fans, Thomas posted a message on Twitter telling those in attendance to bring their ticket to "McDonalds on Canal Street from 7-8 p.m. [Thursday] it's on me." Thomas spent \$104.70 on 60 orders of medium french fries in the span of that hour.

Indy track takes shape



Thomas Boyd/The Crow's Nest

Twenty million pounds of reinforced concrete will be placed around the 1.8 mile track that will make up the ninth Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg.

BY THOMAS BOYD
STAFF REPORTER

Construction has begun on the 1.8-mile temporary circuit that will make up the track for the ninth running of the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. The transformation of the St. Pete waterfront into an auto racing hotspot will continue through March 20, as the crews work to install the 20 million pounds of reinforced concrete barriers and the 44,000 feet of chain-link fencing that will line the track.

The race marks the beginning of the 2013 IZOD IndyCar Series, which will run 19 races over the course of this year. The track is a 14-turn circuit beginning on the main runway of Albert Whitfield

Airport, taking a long right onto First Street Southeast from there. The circuit then takes a chicane through the Al Lang Field parking lot, loops around Pioneer Park, heads down Bay Shore Drive and finally takes a hard left onto Dan Wheldon Way to finish the course.

"It's a tough track," said Sebastien Bourdais, a driver for Dragon Racing who will be participating in the IZOD IndyCar Series. "Like most street courses it's bumpy and narrow. The smallest mistake will cost you."

The Grand Prix consists of five races; four of them (The IZOD IndyCar Series, Firestone Indy Lights, Pro Mazda Championships, and the USF 2000) race open-wheeled cars. The remaining race,

the Pirelli World Challenge, will feature closed-wheeled racing. Not returning to the Prix this year is the Ferrari Challenge.

The event will take place from March 22 until March 24. Students should expect road closures on Bay Shore Drive, Dali Boulevard and Fifth Avenue until the teardown of the track is completed on April 7. Additional road closures occurring the week of the race should be expected on First Street Southeast, First Avenue South, Beach Drive and Central Avenue.

Tickets to the races will range from \$20 for a one-day ticket to \$135 for grandstand tickets.

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Rays fans welcomed back during Fan Fest

BY AMANDA STARLING
CROW'S NEST CORRESPONDENT

Not even two steps inside the entrance to Tropicana Field, Tampa Bay Rays fans were greeted with "Welcome back!" Fans and employees piled into the stadium, returning to the old swing of things for Fan Fest 2013 on Feb. 16.

"It's so good to see you," a security guard said, hugging a Rays Girl. "Don't work too hard, now."

Eagerness for the 2013 season was felt throughout the Trop. Free game calendars and bulletins for Rays events were snatched up by

the fistful.

Fox Sports Florida Girls Annalie Hastey and Jordana DePaula stood by a banner posing for pictures. In between camera clicks, Hastey recognized a fan waiting in line to meet Rays television broadcasters Todd Kalas and Dewayne Staats.

"I remember you from last year! How are you?" she asked, jogging over to hug the man.

The Tampa Bay Rays Fan Fest resembled a family reunion with the players, too. Shortstop Sean Rodriguez joined a round of Family Feud with a mother and two children. Outfielder Desmond Jennings

and pitchers Jeremy Hellickson and Matt Moore joined Rodriguez to call fans from the Metro PCS Call-A-Friend station. Children got a taste of spring training with batting, pitching, and run-the-bases racing.

The packed Tropicana Field signaled a jubilant return of baseball, and the hopes for an improved game turnout.

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Goalie flips the bird

BY MIKE HOPEY
STAFF COLUMNIST



In the third period, with his team up one goal, Austin Krause put his master plan of dis-

sension into action. Krause stopped a soft dump in behind his net. Instead of passing to a teammate, he skated to the front of his own net and put the puck into it. He turned around gave his coaches the middle finger, saluted his teammates and left the ice for the last time.

It was Senior Night for the Farmington High School boy's hockey team. Krause, a senior, should have been enjoying the night as his last go around before graduating, but it was far from that.

Krause would write in a Facebook post that he was fed up with what he perceived to be a lack of respect from his coaches.

"They played this sophomore goalie for the starter," he wrote. "He was terrible, I would try and talk to the coaches about this and tell them I want playing time but they never really listen to me or gave me a chance to show them that I'm a better goalie but still wouldn't trust me"

Krause wouldn't be entirely wrong with his teammate's performance. Both goalies had average records. The sophomore had only a slightly better save percentage and goals against average.

Krause had been planning to quit when he approached his teammates about his plan to leave in grand fashion. They thought it would be funny and that was that.

It really is awful. Any parent would be mortified if their son or daughter pulled a stunt like that. Let's not remember Austin Krause that way. He will always be the first goalie to score on his own goal, flip off the coaches and leave.

I don't have much of an opinion on this. Krause is an immature baby but other than that I thought the world would be a better place if this story was out there for your consumption.

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