They call it MURDERBALL

Local wheelchair rugby team exhibits hard-hitting sport for Disability Awareness Week

Mix wheelchairs, a ball, and a whole lot of aggression and you have the unique sport of wheelchair rugby, one that lives up to its intimidating other name: Murderball. The chair-to-chair contact sport for quadriplegics is based loosely on basketball and soccer rules, with a little hockey thrown in.

Those who went to the Campus Activities Center Tuesday, Oct. 25, got to see a demonstration of the exciting sport as part of the campus' second annual Disability Awareness Week.

The Tampa Generals, a local team that competes in tournaments all over the nation, showed spectators at USF St. Petersburg the unique sport and how it's played.

Brian Sterner swore he wouldn't play "crippled sports" after an accident left him paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair. But that was before he joined a wheelchair rugby team and an opponent threatened to punch him in the face his first game.

"It was the first time someone treated me normally since my accident," Sterner said.

Murderball has grown in popularity since this past July when the movie of the same name was released. The film gained nationwide acclaim for its depiction of athletes driven by a competitive spirit despite being confined to a wheelchair.

The game is played along football guidelines, with two end zones that players have to pass through in order to score. Whoever has the ball must either pass or bounce the ball every 10 seconds to keep the game moving along.

Participants must have impairments in both their lower and upper body. Most of the competitors are quadriplegics, who have limited or no function in any of their four limbs.

The players are classified according to a points system based on their arm skill level. A level 3.5 is considered the most able while a 5 indicates the least amount of arm strength.

All the players have to pass through in order to score.

Despite all of the banging and hitting that goes on during a game, players usually end up with only minor bumps and bruises. The chairs are specially made with wheels bent in two endzones that players have to pass through in order to score. Whoever has the ball must either pass or bounce the ball every 10 seconds to keep the game moving along.

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Members are evaluated before they join to make sure they are qualified to participate.

Dave "Ruti" Ceruti, an offensive lineman for the Generals, is rated as a level one. Although he has limited strength, he can still move his chair fast down the court. Sterner refers to him as the "claw" because he bumps into people, interlocking their chairs so that opponents are unable to move unless Ceruti unhooks himself.

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Despite all of the banging and hitting that goes on during a game, players usually end up with only minor bumps and bruises.
USFSP budget officer Max Kerlin takes over as interim regional vice chancellor of Administration and Finance by JUSTIN LOWERY staff writer

On Oct. 20, Abdul Nasser stepped down from his position as the regional vice chancellor of Administration and Finance for USF St. Petersburg.

Since coming to the campus in June 2003, Nasser has overseen major additions to the growth of the campus, including its first residence hall and a new six-story parking garage, all to open in fall 2006. His job was to provide leadership for the campus and manage multiple financial and administrative units including: budgets, human resources, plant operations and maintenance, facilities planning and construction, and public safety and parking services.

"I believe Mr. Nasser's contributions are most apparent to the students and general public in the construction projects, but his ability to work with people and to develop a strong team of professionals in Finance and Administration was significant," said Regional Chancellor Karen A. White. "He was also effective in working with the USF System-wide Finance Committee on issues that cross all campuses of USF."

Nasser, who was unable to be interviewed for this story, left for a similar position overseas at United Arab Emirates University.

With the campus being knee-deep in a variety of construction projects this fall, White said she will miss Nasser's leadership.

"When someone is as effective and personable as Mr. Nasser, there is no good time to leave," White said. "Although we are sad to see a friend and competent leader leave, the University will continue to grow and move forward."

Max Kerlin, budget officer for USF St. Petersburg, has been appointed as the interim regional vice chancellor of Administration and Finance. The school has also launched a search for a permanent replacement. Chris D'Elia, vice chancellor of administration and finance, has started the search committee, has started the screening process by devising a job description and placing an advertisement in the Chronicle for Higher Education. The campus has already received many applications, nominations and inquiries, Brown said.

Sharing ideas

New faculty group aims to encourage conversations about research by CHRISTINA CASTELLANA staff writer

It's obvious to students that professors at USF St. Petersburg spend most of their time teaching. But faculty members have other two responsibilities as well: to serve the profession and to research.

The last of those three elements enriches the educational process by ensuring that instructors are learning from professors who are themselves actively engaged in their fields of study. This is a key goal in pursuing their research projects. Cheryl A. Koski, assistant professor of English and Afro-American Studies, is in the process of developing the Scholarly Research Roundtable with input from Lisa Stark, associate professor of English, and Chris D'Elia, associate professor of journalism and Media Studies. The group’s monthly meetings are intended to allow junior and senior faculty to discuss their research projects in an informal setting.

Koski said that because research tends to be a solitary endeavor, she wanted to provide professors with a network on campus that will encourage research by providing faculty with a sense of camaraderie. She added that she was inspired to create the Roundtable by attending a presentation on faculty research that was made last year by V. Mark Durand, Regional Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

The Roundtable will allow professors to brainstorm future projects and receive guidance on current projects, thus enriching the quality of their teaching. Above all, Koski said she wants educators to have the opportunity to be part of a research community where their enthusiasm for scholarship will flourish. She emphasized that new junior faculty members would benefit greatly from the Roundtable, allowing them to harvest the knowledge and experience of senior faculty.

The research group will start initially in the journalism department in January 2006 when the department's new director, Tony Silvia, arrives on campus. Once the Roundtable gains momentum, Koski hopes that it will encompass all three colleges—Arts and Sciences, Education and Business—to foster faculty collaboration and in general to boost research productivity on campus. The benefit to students at USF St. Petersburg is that they will be learning from professors who are at the forefront of the fields in which they teach.
Opinions

The Crow's Nest

By Anthony Salveaggi

If you have a television, chances are you and your family did what my family did two weekends ago and periodically tuned in to one of the local stations to keep track of Hurricane Wilma.

For a month of Sundays, Wilma was content to batter the resort town of Cancun, Mexico, leaving most Floridians in a state of anxiety and meteorologists plenty of time to calibrate their instrumentation, consult the weather tracking system named after a car security device and re-analyze the data. This was a crafty storm, they kept reminding us.

And by George if all their efforts didn’t pay off. By Sunday evening, forecasters in the Tampa area confidently and accurately predicted the storm would take a northeasterly turn, somewhere between Newfoundland and Cape Horn.

Less we forget that we were still in the “rising action” mode of Wilma’s plot development, brave reporters kept their weather reports supplemented by sending the pluckiest reporters to report live from various locales in south-west Florida. Not to interview anyone. Not to show us the insides of shelters or update viewers on the progress of evacuation efforts. Instead, they were fulfilling their solemn obligation to enable people to govern themselves by reminding us that hurricanes are very, very windy and very powerful.

I’m grateful for local news broadcasts that expose dirty restaurants and shady businesses and give me the sports scores at 23 minutes past the hour.

But what I don’t need to see ever again are reporters and camera operators driving hundreds of miles so that they can show me that hurricanes are dangerous.

Instead, they were fulfilling their role as reporters and camera operators by standing in water.

“Instead, they were fulfilling their role as reporters and camera operators by standing in water,” said the weather anchor.

“Instead, they were fulfilling their role as reporters and camera operators by standing in water,” said the weather anchor.

“Look, if you’re not sure if it’s safe to go outside and you have TV, chances are you are living in a fortress and have little to worry about.

So I get a bit miffed when I see reporters who can barely keep their eyes open from the stinging rain that wouldn’t move, instead they were fulfilling their role as reporters and camera operators driving hundreds of miles so that they can show me that hurricanes are dangerous.

Instead, they were fulfilling their role as reporters and camera operators by standing in water.

Now I understand. I’m grateful for local news broadcasts that expose dirty restaurants and shady businesses and give me the sports scores at 23 minutes past the hour.

Some will argue that these live shots are essential because people need to see the dangerous conditions so they can understand the urgency of planning for an evacuation. If that were the case, scammers could get the footage and come right back to the studio.

But then we wouldn’t have scintillating exchanges like these:

News anchor in dry studio:

“What are the conditions like? They look pretty bad.”

Drenched reporter: “It is bad. It’s extremely windy. If I wasn’t standing in this doorway I’d get blown into the Gulf right now.”

News anchor in dry studio:

“That’s very interesting. Could you move out a bit so our viewers can get a better sense of what you mean?”

Drenched reporter: “Sure, I’m stepping back now and... ahaah!”

I’m grateful for local news broadcasts that expose dirty restaurants and shady businesses and give me the sports scores at 23 minutes past the hour.

News anchor in dry studio:

“Look, if you’re not sure if it’s safe to go outside and you have TV, chances are you are living in a fortress and have little to worry about.

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Instead, they were fulfilling their role as reporters and camera operators by standing in water.

Now I understand.

Anthony Salveaggi is a graduate student in journalism. He can be reached at usf@msn.com.
FESTIVAL OF READING

1. Stine's mascot Rocky the Bullfinch he muscled during his audition in the costume contest at the Festival of Reading on Oct. 29. Rocky did not win but he the crowd cheered wildly as he shook off some mush. 2. St. Petersburg resident Alyssa Koehler, 4, wins the fairy costume contest at the St. Petersburg Times Festival of Reading. 3. After being judged in the costume contest, (left) Van, 1, and Anne Jones, 2, seem to be more concerned with their miniature fire truck. 4. Participants wait anxiously for the judge's decision during the Festival of Reading costume contest.

with R. L. Stine

by GENESSA POTTH

R. L. Stine came to USF St. Petersburg on Saturday, Oct. 29 for the St. Petersburg Times Festival of Reading. Stine spoke about one of his latest book series, "Mostly Ghostly," and books for fans and judged the Publix Halloween Costume Parade. Assistant editor Genessa Potth got together with Stine via e-mail to bring Crow's Nest readers the scoop about this best-selling children's author.

Crow's Nest: What did you do to read as a kid? What do you do to read now?

Stine: When I was a kid, there were these great horror comics called "Tales From the Crypt" and "The Vault of Horror." They were bloody and gruesome and had hilarious, twist endings. I loved them! Then I discovered the short stories of Ray Bradbury and got turned on to science-fiction stories. I couldn't get enough of them! These days, I read a lot of mystery novels and thrillers and a lot of new fiction. I only read fiction – I don't like anything real.

Crow's Nest: What scared you as a kid?

Stine: Just about everything. I was a very fearful child. Afraid something was under my bed, waiting to grab my ankle when I got out. Afraid something was lurking in the garage, waiting for me. Luckily, I can remember that feeling of R.L. Stine's "Rotten School," I get to wish everyone a ROTTEN DAY!

Crow's Nest: Why do you prefer writing horror stories for children versus writing horror stories for adults?

Stine: I've been writing for kids for 30 years. They're a wonderful audience. They write to me and tell me how much they enjoy my books. Adults don't have time to write to authors. Kids are a much more enthusiastic audience.

Crow's Nest: Why did you decide to participate in the Festival of Reading? Have you ever been to the Tampa Bay area before?

Stine: I've been to the Tampa Bay area a lot of times. That's because my 4-D movie, "R.L. Stine's Haunted Lighthouse," is playing at Busch Gardens in Tampa. I hope everyone has gone to see it. It's great 3-D and you get WET!

Crow's Nest: What's next? Long-term and short-term goals for the future...

Stine: I'm having great fun writing three different series. "Mostly Ghostly," "Fear Street Nights," and "Rotten School." As long as kids keep reading my books, I'll keep on writing 'em!'

R. L. Stine Biography

Robert Lawrence Stine was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1943. Stine started writing at the age of 9 and has sold over 100 million books to date. In 1966, he graduated from Ohio State University and decided to go to New York City to write humor books for kids. In 1986, Stine wrote his first horror novel, "Blind Date." A few years later, in 1989, Stine began writing the "Fear Street" series. And in 1992, Stine created his popular "Goosebumps" series, which became an instant hit with children all over the world. Stine still resides in New York City with his wife Jane and his dog Nadine. His son Matthew is a composer, musician and sound designer.

Ahead in red

The Red Hat Society, an American women's organization, was founded by Sue Ellen Cooper, the society's founder and self-proclaimed Queen Mother, in 1988.

What do you do?

Nothing. This is the happy response Sue Ellen Cooper gives when asked about the Red Hat Society. Cooper, the society's founder and self-proclaimed Queen Mother, was one of the many guests who spoke at the St. Petersburg Times Festival of Reading held at USF St. Petersburg Saturday, Oct. 29. But her unique attire made her impossible to miss.

Cooper is the author of "The Red Hat Society's Laugh Lines: Stories of Inspiration." Initially reluctant to write a book, Cooper went ahead after getting a call from a major publisher. The Society began when Cooper gave her best friend, Linda, a red hat for her birthday. Along with the hat, Cooper gave her a poem called "Warning," written by Jenny Joseph, about an eccentric older woman in purple clothing and a red hat.

Linda liked the hat and poem so much that Cooper sent the gifts to other friends. This inspired them to dress up in red and purple and have tea. The social went so well that the first Red Hat Society was born, consisting of 18 members.

Chapters started popping up all over the United States. Comprised of women 50 and older, the Society's dedicated to taking care of each other. Cooper told her best friend if they ever reached 10,000, they would get a tattoo. Once the milestone was reached, she and Linda got what else? – red hats.

The once small group blossomed to a million worldwide. "It's like dropping a mat on the floor," Cooper said. "It just took off."

"Once one person starts a chapter, it gets picked up by others," Cooper said. "Even men join.

The group prides itself in being eccentric and not being taken too seriously. "We're figuring out how to figure out how to go and have fun," Cooper said.

Cooper stressed the importance of making time for friends. If she sees a friend she hasn't seen in a while, she'll just say, "We go out and play now." Once, Cooper said, a friend wrote her a letter saying she was considering giving up the Red Hat Society. Cooper replied, "Get out there and start a chapter."

"It's about fun and taking care of your friends," Cooper said. "What else is there?"
Tiny superheroes and fair maidens claimed the campus as their own for a short while last week

by ANTHONY SALVEGGI

The mini forces of good, evil and cuteness descended upon USF St. Petersburg Friday morning. By the time they left, they had received lots of goodies and smiling faces.

Nearly 50 children from the nearby YWCA Family Village, located at 429 Sixth Ave. S., came dressed as their favorite characters for Hallowe'en – the Hulk, Human Torch, Dracula and a bevy of princesses were among those who made an appearance to delight USFSP faculty and staff.

While parents and staff members guiding them along, the two- to five-year-olds marched from Bayboro Hall to Coquina Hall, stopping for treats from campus offices along the way. Regional Chancellor Karen A. White joined the group for much of the trek, taking pictures and talking with the children.

The colorful characters made stops at Academic Advising and Barnes & Noble Bookstore. They then returned to Bayboro Hall, where they were greeted by costumed staff members from Financial Aid, Parking Services and Enrollment Services.

Erin Dunn, interim director of Financial Aid, coordinated this year's event.

Dressed as the Yellow Rose of Texas, Dunn said entertaining the children brought a lot of joy to the staff members. She said it was also a way to bring awareness of the YWCA's services to the campus community.

"Our students get discounts on child care and some of them know about it," Dunn said.

Dunn praised the efforts of Derk Lynn Rivinius, who coordinated last year's first campus Hallowe'en event with the YWCA and helped chaperone the children Friday morning.

Rivinius' three-year-old son Dougie has attended the YWCA since he was three months old. "It's been wonderful to work here and have him so close," she said.

Rivinius, who works as a coordinator in the Regional Chancellor's office, said she took the initiative last year to help strengthen the campus' relationship with the women's organization. She added that USF St. Petersburg and the College of Education in
MURDERBALL

(from page 1)

are ranked 10th best. This area also plays host to the biggest international event in the world every January.

The General members all come from different backgrounds. Ceruti, Sterner and Ryan Lindstrom all injured themselves in accidents. Vi Vorasane contracted polio from the polio vaccine itself where he was three years old in his home country of Laos.

Through each has a unique story, they all play for the same reason: to express their competitive spirits and be active in their own way.

"Once you sit in the chair, you are hooked," Sterner said.

Lindstrom went to his first Murderball game shortly after his accident and knew immediately the sport was for him. His mother, who was sitting next to him at the time, was initially against him joining the team. What is her motherly advice now?

"She tells me to hit harder!" Lindstrom said.

Another player, Ryan Kress, said it "gives you something to do instead of sitting around the house all day."

The sport also allows teammates to bond by understanding each other and what they've endured in their lives. Sterner ended his part of the program with one small but powerful summation of Murderball.

"It's a support group for guys who hate support groups," he said. "It's where you learn to live again."


RELIEF

(from page 2)

around campus asking everyone to donate.

The signs directed faculty, staff and students to the cashier's office in Bayboro Hall, which was chosen as the lone donation point for security reasons. "We wanted everyone to feel safe about donating their money," Piccolo said.

Toni Johnson, a cashier at USF St. Petersburg, said a steady flow of people came in donating money. "It made me feel good to see people giving," said Johnson.

Emily Wilson, a junior majoring in International Studies, said she felt like she was able to help by donating a small amount.

"Everyone can be a part of this," Wilson added. "Who doesn't have a dollar to spare?"

TREATS

(from page 5)

particular, is working to enhance the relationship with the organization by establishing lectures and workshops for YWCA staff and parents.

After leaving Bayboro Hall, the children made their last stop at the Poynter library, where they sat down to rest their legs and enjoy juice drinks. At 10:30 a.m., a little more than an hour after they had arrived on campus, the diminutive troupe began the journey back to the day care center.

A life on the water

New sailing coach hopes to lead co-ed team to better performance, better national rankings

by TAMMY BARTHELLETT

New USF coed sailing coach Dave Fallon can't remember a time when he couldn't sail. From summer trips to his grandfather's yacht club to idolizing his older brothers, sailing has always been in his life.

"I don't remember learning to sail," said Fallon, a Massachusetts native. "I guess I was really young."

Fallon attended Skidmore College in New York, where he received his bachelor's degree in anthropology and minored in environment studies. Although Skidmore didn't have a sailing program, Fallon said he's made up for what he missed in college through coaching.

Fallon's coaching jobs have spanned all age groups and programs. He started his career as an instructor teaching young kids in learn-to-sail programs. He's been on race committees for regattas and was a high school coach in Falmouth, Mass. Before coming to USF, he was an assistant coach at Bowdoin College in Brunswick Maine.

Fallon found the USF coaching position on collegiansailing.org's job bank, the same place he had found his last job.

The position became open when former coach Garth Reynolds announced in late May that he wouldn't be returning. Fallon was the top choice out of three candidates interviewed by a campus search committee that included women's sailing coach Allison Jolly and Waterfront Coordinator Jim Stull.

"We simply wanted to reach another plateau with our team racing and Dave had plenty of that experience," Stull said.

While Fallon finds Florida "wicked hot," he has high hopes for the coed team this year.

"As of now, we're ranked 13th in the country and my goal for the team is to be back in the top 10," Fallon said. It can achieve that goal by finishing in the top 10 at the Atlantic Coast Championship at St. Mary's College of Maryland, Nov. 12 and 13.

Fallon's younger brother Peter competes for Tufts University and won the Freshman Atlantic Coast Championship in 2003. His brothers John, Mark and Tim have competed for Dartmouth College, Connecticut College, and Tufts University, respectively.

"We always looked up to my older brothers as great sailors," Fallon said. "It's a lifetime sport and I hope to pass it on to my family in the future."

"It's a lifetime sport and I hope to pass it on to my family in the future."

DAVE FALLON

SAILING COACH

USF St. Petersburg sailing coach Dave Fallon finds the coastal waters of Florida brings a lifetime of sailing experience, competition and professionalism to the USF St. Petersburg co-ed sailing team with his coaching.

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SGA
(FROM PAGE 2)

Representative Heather Small said there should be more emphasis on presentations on new research being conducted. Leadership.

However, with the dorms soon to be finished, student government hopes that will change. They also discussed ways to make sure upcoming events were better advertised. Representative Diane Carter suggested having people come to meetings to discuss happenings around the community and campus and to give presentations on new research being conducted.

The next student government meeting is scheduled for Nov. 9 in Davis Hall, room 130.

AN ILLUMINATED DEBUT

by WENDY OWEN
senior staff writer

It's no secret that the movie industry is getting lazy and turns to books now more than ever for new ideas. In some cases, I find that a really good movie will actually inspire me to read the book — "American Psycho," "Cold Mountain" and "To Kill a Mockingbird" being a few good examples.

"Everything is Illuminated" is no different. The first novel by Jonathan Safran Foer became a best seller in 2002 and has provided the material for one of the best movies of 2005.

Liev Schreiber (Cotton Weary from "Scream") makes his directing debut in this film about a Jewish-American collector looking for his family's past in the Ukraine.

Not only is this film an amazing directing effort on the part of Schreiber, but it also proves to be a funny story, full of interesting characters, adventure and drama.

One of the most interesting aspects of this movie is the cast. The author of the book and namesake of the main character, Jonathan Safran Foer makes an appearance as a leaf blower and his real grandfather also has a lead part.

Elijah Wood resurrects his creepy expressionless character (like in "Sin City") as kleptomaniac Jonathan Foer.

Eugene Hutz has a hilarious acting debut as Alex, the Ukrainian urban Adidas jumpsuit-wearing translator with a penchant for Kangol caps. Hutz is best known as being the front man for the bizarre but awesome gypsy-punk band "Gogol Bordello," which also adds to the film's amazing soundtrack. Other eastern European bands like "Leningrad" give the film a truly colorful and upbeat score.

From a demented dog to a jogging polka band, "Everything is Illuminated" has a number of interesting aspects that may otherwise seem cliché. But the portrayal of these various characters and situations is more interesting than pretentious. The characters are endearing and the rolling Ukrainian countryside breathtaking.

Anyone that ever tried to piece together their heritage or find out where their family comes from will appreciate this movie. Though the film touches on material that is familiar to cinema (the Holocaust, for instance), it is a fresh breath of air among formulaic films. Unlike anything you have ever seen before, "Everything is Illuminated" may be one of the best movies of the year.

My Rating: 5 BULLS
1. St. Petersburg residents Naomi Gluck, 13, and Dawn Cecil, assistant professor of criminology at USF St. Petersburg, stand in front of the Hip Expressions belly dancing booth at Circus McGurkus. This year’s event was held Saturday, Oct. 29, at Walter Fuller Park in St. Petersburg. 2. St. Petersburg resident Ethan Ziesing, 7, swirls a fluorescent nylon piece of fabric at Circus McGurkus. This long fabric, called a Zuni Poi Swing, was originally used by the indigenous Maori people of Polynesia and New Zealand to increase their flexibility, strength and coordination. 3. Clearwater resident John Stonehouse sells jars of honeycombs at Circus McGurkus. 4. St. Petersburg resident Brady Johnson cooks hot dogs, polish sausages and corn on the cob on the grill at Circus McGurkus. Johnson also serves food at the Saturday Morning Market in downtown St. Petersburg. 5. Dunedin resident Tyler Kailey, 9, and St. Petersburg resident Violet McGovern, 9, play instruments and sing at a Hare Krishna circle at Circus McGurkus. All photos by Genessa Poth.