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USF St. Petersburg trashes recycling program

Sara Palmer
Staff Writer

While construction continues on the new $9 million environmentally friendly Science and Technology building, the campus struggles to make its recycling program work.

President takes steps to put this problem to rest. The Academic Advising Center is working to create a successful recycling program.

Plans for a student union

USF St. Petersburg proposes to build a student union in years to come

Parking garage alarms car owners

USF St. Petersburg takes steps to put vehicle owners at ease

Stimulus plan off to a slow start

President Obama discusses why stimulus package is crawling through Congress

Recognizing heroes

The Florida Holocaust Museum showcases the heroic efforts of the Bielski brothers
We asked . . .

**How often do you use the campus gym?**
- Courtney Allen: Not regularly
- Danielle Villarreal: 3-4 times a week
- Catherine Uphoff: Zero
- Adrienne Robert: Never
- Eddie Peacock: 1-2 times a week

**If you could be a mythical creature what would you be?**
- Unicorn
- Jabberwocky
- Invisible
- To fly, because I'm lazy
- My Bloody Valentine

**If you had a super power what would it be?**
- Time travel
- Reading minds
- Able to transport myself
- Invincible
- To fly, because I'm lazy

**Most recent movie you watched?**
- Super Bad
- Twilight
- Bride Wars
- My Bloody Valentine
- The Hangover

**Favorite sports team?**
- USF Bulls
- Denver Broncos
- Tampa Bay Lightning
- Boston Red Sox
- Chicago Bulls
The student union, a three-story building proposed to be built on the USF-Sarasota/Punta Gorda campus in the next five years if the economy permits, will be partially funded by an increase in student fees.

James Scott, senior vice president of Student Government said he believes students will pay $13 per credit hour, "which isn't bad...a lot of universities have more fees than actual tuition." Students currently pay about $100 per credit hour for classes and the extra fee will only account for 13 percent of the per credit hour amount, he said.

According to Dr. Kent Kelso, regional vice chancellor of student affairs, a student fee proposal to the university system is still in the works. It first has to be approved by the state legislature and the USF board. Whether or not the fee increase will move forward will be decided in a few weeks, he said.

Scott said the per credit hour fee was going to be in the high teens or 20s and it might come to that point one day. "We'd still like to do that but whether it's politically digestible is the question," Scott said.

It will take several years to raise enough money for the union. The Capital Investment Trust Fund (CITF), a source of money used to build facilities, is another monetary resource the university will use to build the student union. This fund is an accumulation of saved student fees from each university when students register for classes; the state holds and then allocates the saved funds back to Florida's public universities.

"Every aspect of the money, especially on the side of this building, is being analyzed the hell out of," Scott said.

Kelso said the student union is a not-for-profit entity; however, there will be revenue generating opportunities from the ballroom and meeting rooms, Scott said.

Restaurants will provide job opportunities in the student union. There will also be people running the front desk. Any income sources that are separate from the academic budget will go toward paying student union workers, Scott said.

Scott said the union, which will be open to the general public, would be located in a grassy area between the recreation courts and the new science building currently under construction.

The student union is one of the main goals in a "master plan," which will be presented to the student body in a Student Government meeting Feb. 18 at 4 p.m. Students can look forward to other projects, such as the Science and Technology building and the central-lawn project which will both be completed before the fall 2009 semester.

A new lawn with "cool," interwining sidewalks, palm trees and benches will be built beside and wrap around the new science center, Scott said.

In the long-term master plan, "to my knowledge by the time the student union is built we should have at least one more residence hall," Scott said.

Scott said he believes that in the extreme long term there will be a phase two of the student union, where the recreation courts will be knocked down and a second-half of the union will be built.

Students will need to pay to make the university's dreams come true. "The different chunks of this campus were built one at a time... and all university's history made sacrifices that ultimately the next generation reaps," Scott said.

"We're reaping the benefits of sacrifices made by students before us and it's our turn to be up to bat," Scott said. "I know it seems like a bad idea to raise any kind of fee at this point... but this is a great thing for the university and I want to make sure that I have 100 percent support behind it." Scott, who has two more years as a student at USF St. Petersburg, said he will be paying the student fee too. The "altruistic" part about paying the student fee is the act of "sacrificing for the next generation of USFSP students," Scott said.

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**Spring break brings options**

Kaitlyn Laichak
Contributing Writer

During the school year, students are set free for one week of bliss. Spring break is a time for beaches and beach bods, rest and relaxation, vacation and parties, and students are planning to savor every moment of it.

"I love the rest, relaxation and time away from school work," said Kristian Weinandt, senior economics major.

For students staying in the dorms during spring break, there are some local activities to take part in. The Original Waiters are performing at Jamas Landing on Mar. 20 at 7 p.m. Tickets are $18 in advance and $22 at the door.

Movies such as "The Box," "Duplicity," "Fixed Up," "I Love You Man," "Knowing" and "This Side of the Truth" will be released during this week of March 16-20.

For students interested in looking as bronze as possible, St. Pete Beach is 4.8 miles away.

"It's a great time for everyone to party on the beach and get together," said Scott Monk, freshman business management major.

For the coveted beach body, the fitness center offers a number of classes to help shed the extra pounds.

Toni Ormoyat, freshman and journalism major said, "A few weeks before spring break I always work out extra hard when I play basketball and football. I've got to look good for the ladies and spring break is no time to mess around."

Some students are choosing to take advantage of their vacation time by traveling abroad. Some of the popular spots this year are Mexico, Bahamas and Europe.

Jannus Landing on Mar.

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**Black History Month**

**Elijah McCoy (1843 - 1929)** invented an automatic lubricator for oiling steam engines in 1872. The term "the real McCoy" is believed to be a reference about the reliability of Elijah McCoy's invention.

**Otis Boykin (1920 - 1982)** invented electronic control devices for guided missiles, IBM computers, and the control unit for a pacemaker.

Parking garage raises concerns for students

Nicole Groll
Assistant Editor

Just about three years old, the garage is patrolled daily by USF St. Petersburg’s parking services and police, but even they cannot always prevent accidents from occurring.

Committees and all students living in the residence hall utilize the parking garage on campus.

One of the biggest complaints about the parking garage is that it is not wide enough. James Grant, director of facility planning, agrees that the garage is “not as roomy, but worked for the budget.”

According to Officer Ada Bell of USF St. Petersburg Police, “the design of the garage is fine, as long as people do what they are supposed to do and obey the rules, there wouldn’t be a problem.”

In order to try and cut down on the speeding in the garage, five mph speed limit signs are posted. They hang from the ceiling with hopes that drivers take notice of them. This is the beginning of safety measures being enforced to make the garage as safe as possible, especially for pedestrians. If the speed limit signs do not work, speed bumps may be constructed at strategic points in the garage, Grant said.

Along with the speed limit signs are more stop signs on the pedestrian walkways to attempt to slow cars down. Another safety precaution drivers should take is “turning on your headlights when going through the garage,” Bell said. It makes drivers more noticeable.

People in the garage need to follow the directional signs that are posted on the walls. Grant said, drivers are supposed to go “up and turn to the right and down is supposed to go to the right.” Basically, there is supposed to be “two rotating circles going clockwise.”

While the police patrol the garage, they are handing out tickets for speeding, running stop signs and careless driving. Bell has noticed the careless driving of students and how drivers zoom around the corners. She believes that if students “don’t act like they are the only people in the garage” there would be fewer complaints.

Tony Zarate, junior and criminology major, feels that one group of vehicles should be given special rules.

“Trucks should be ticketed for parking at the corner turn spaces reserved for compact cars,” he said.

This is another big issue for drivers turning onto the different levels. Large trucks park in the corner spaces and drivers are not able to see around them.

When this was brought to the attention of Don Pettit of Parking Services he said, “there is no precedent about the trucks parking there. We can only write warnings for this year because the “Compact Car Only” signs are new. The only physical ticket that can be given out is for parking over the line.”

Since the garage is new, the administration is learning how to run it as smoothly and efficiently as possible to keep up with the demand of student drivers using it.

Administration is discussing the possibility of moving all the larger trucks into a different lot and getting them out of the garage permanently.

Parking Services knows that the oversized vehicles are a problem and suggests that drivers pick up ‘Your Guide to Parking’ handbook. It comes out every year and is revised to explain new policies being implemented.

Parking Services gives out tickets for not having a parking permit, parking over the line, not parking on the proper level and other things. The handbook has a list of all parking violations and how much the ticket costs. It can be picked up at Parking Services in Bayboro Hall.

The driving in the garage is a concern for all. Drivers need to be aware of the rules and follow them.

--California Love

Though I don’t know the nature of your relationship, your friends may be giving you sound advice. If you do want to move there, your best bet may be to get a place of your own. This way you and the BF can have some time to date while in close proximity. Be a realist. Since you haven’t lived with him, you need to give yourself an out just in case things don’t work out.

--California Love

I am going to graduate in the summer and when I do, I want to move to California where my boyfriend lives, who I have been in a long distance relationship with for three months. Before dating we were friends for a year and lived near each other. My friends are all saying that I am taking this serious step too quickly. Are they right? What should I do?
COMMUNITY

Writers roundtable showcases Florida's great outdoors

Kechi Conforti Staff Writer

For one day only, the St. Petersburg Museum of History hosted the Florida Trails and Waterways Writers Roundtable, giving guests a chance to hear from four authors who make a living writing about their adventures in Florida's natural habitat.

Guest speakers included Johnny Molloy, who specializes in writing about hiking and fishing; Tim Ohr, author of number of books about Florida's canoe trails; Terry Tomalin, the Outdoor Editor for the St. Petersburg Times; and Gary R. Mormino, a Florida Studies professor from USF St. Petersburg.

The event took place on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 2-4 p.m. in the aviation room of the St. Petersburg Museum of History and was free to college students with a valid university ID.

The four writers sat at a long table facing the audience of about 50 people. After a brief introduction about how they became interested in writing about Florida's natural wonders, each spoke about the interesting experiences they encountered over the years.

"It's a great job if you don't mind being cold, broke, lost, alone and dirty," Molloy said after the presentation. "I stuck with it and now everything's great!"

Molloy, originally from Memphis, started off by describing his first hiking experiences in Ohr, once he figured out how cold the mountains are its natural forests.

Mormino, a New Jersey native who later came to study mass communications on the Gulf Coast, described the different canoe trails he paddled, including the Florida Blueway, a 150-mile long paddling trail that circumnavigates the entire coastline of the state.

The last writer to speak was Tomalin, a New Jersey native who later came to study mass communications on the USF Tampa campus. Tomalin spent a year backpacking through Europe after graduation, took another year off to backpack through Australia and New Zealand before becoming Outdoor Editor for the St. Petersburg Times.

He describes his articles as more adventures than guides, adding that they are often "full of a lot of drama and madness." One such story involved a nasty storm his sailing crew hit outside the Marquesas Islands.

"The sky was black and the rains came sideways," Tomalin said, telling the audience how he tied a rope around his waist and dove into the eight-to-ten-foot waves to repair the boat's engine.

"There's a noise at sea you never want to hear," he said, describing the moaning sound of the wind meeting the boat's rigging. He said he could almost hear the moans of other sailors who perished before him on this same voyage. "I thought if you're going to die, at least this'll make a good story."

During the question and answer session, the writers spoke about how eco-tourism is becoming a popular trend, adding that this can be good for state tourism yet potentially traumatic for wildlife.

The authors advocated volunteerism and the idea of people registering their canoes and kayaks in an effort to raise more money in support of Florida's natural parks.

The presentation ended with a member of the audience asking each of the writers about their most frightening experiences, which were either weather related or brought on by rather large alligators.

Obama talks economy, stimulus slow to pass

Amanda Smith Staff Writer

President Barack Obama took the stage for his first press conference as commander-in-chief on Monday, Feb. 9 and one issue dominated the conversation — the President was here to define his plan for reviving the United States' flagging economy.

Seconds into the conference, the President told reporters that before he would take their questions, he first needed to address the economic crisis and the necessity of enacting a relief plan as soon as possible. Over the next hour, Obama answered 13 questions, spending the majority of that hour explaining and defending his Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Plan as a catalyst for economic renewal.

He acknowledged other vital factors influencing economic strategy: the problem of political interests as a hurdle in solving the crisis at a federal level, the importance of the private sector on energizing an upturn, but repeated often that the crisis plan — specifically the economic stimulus package — was a necessity.

"This is not your ordinary run-of-the-mill recession. We are going through the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. We've lost now 8.6 million jobs, but what's perhaps even more disturbing is that almost half of that job loss has taken place over the last three months, which means that the problems are accelerating instead of getting better," Obama said, when addressing why action by the federal government must be taken immediately.

So just what is the Obama administration's Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Plan?

The day after Obama's press conference, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner held a press conference to disclose details and revisions to the administration's crisis plan. CNBC's John Harwood explains the strategy as a plan that will utilize up to $2 trillion with four goals in mind:

- New capital injections for the nation's troubled banks. Banks will vie for funds by undergoing a stress test from regulators that will discern whether or not each specific bank is capable of surviving. As a catalyst for economic renewal, the plan will provide incentives to buy up to $2 trillion with
- By dramatically expanding lending by the Federal Reserve, the Obama administration hopes to restore confidence in consumers and small businesses that are scared to invest.
- Using taxpayer and private sector money, the relief plan will provide incentives to companies who buy "toxic assets," or assets that have been weighing down the financial institutions such as the housing bubble burst.
- By encouraging lenders to write down mortgage principals, crisis-stricken homeowners will be able to lower their payments.

The plan also includes a stimulus package, but the details of the package are constantly in flux. The House passed a version of the stimulus package in January, but the version passed by the Senate on Feb. 10 is drastically different.

The Senate bill, at $383 billion, is $18 billion larger than the House version and the money is distributed differently as well. With varying proportions, the House and the Senate's bill is divided into money allocated for tax cuts and spending. The Senate bill places more emphasis on tax cuts as a means of jump-starting the economy while the House bill places a heavier reliance on government spending to create more jobs.

The spending aspect of the stimulus plan encompasses both direct payments to individuals and purchases of goods or services. Purchases of goods and services will include spending on everything from creating electronic health records to new resources for public schools, both of which Obama has publicly defended. He said electronic health records will "speed up the process" and "reduce errors," while promoting the energy-efficiency of going paperless.

President Obama stated that part of the goal of the stimulus spending is to promote energy efficiency, making the U.S. less dependent on foreign oil and facilitating long-term environmental benefits.

The plan will renovate schools and federal buildings, making them more energy efficient and creating jobs in both planning and labor for the projects.

The second part of the spending effort will be in the form of direct payments. Also known as stimulus checks, direct payments refer to things like unemployment compensation, Medicaid and tax credits.

The Democrats define some of this as tax cuts, which is a major point of contention between the parties.

At Obama's press conference he spoke of these partisan contentions as a major hindrance to action. He said philosophical convictions dominate the debate, with political and ideological beliefs on how the money should be spent acting as roadblocks to any federal action.

According to Obama, the partisan contention must be resolved — and the U.S. constitution agrees with him. Before any stimulus package is passed — which Obama stressed the urgency of at his press conference — the House and the Senate must reconcile the difference between their bills, to arrive at a compromise that will again be brought to Congress. Both the Senate and the House will vote again, with 40 required votes from the Senate to pass the initiative. Senators of both parties, specifically the three moderates, Republicans who sided with Democrats in the Senate to push the bill through, warned that if the bill changes in the compromise process too far, they'll vote no.

"I'm more scared of traffic in Tampa Bay than I am of the river," Molloy said, describing how he becomes more comfortable with the outdoors as time goes by.

Following the presentation, the speakers stayed to meet audience members and sign copies of their books, which were on sale in the museum gift shop as well as at the authors' table.

"I loved it," McCarthy-Cantar, a graduate student at USF St. Petersburg, said. "Not only did I learn a lot about the stories of Florida from these guys who went to places I never knew existed, but I also liked the casual feel. I was very comforting."

"It's a great program," Thomas Hallock, an assistant professor of English at USF St. Petersburg, said. "What Johnny Molloy said is true. We don't deserve the natural resources we have here."

Thomas Hallock attended the Writers Roundtable with his mother, Mimi, who said the family plans to go camping at Ft. De Soto in the near future.

"It was a nice forum style," Mimi Hallock said. "All of them have a similar job, but they all had a different take. It was very interesting."

Tomalin offered the audience a short list of Pinellas County's best places for kayaking, hiking and exploring. Among those listed for northern Pinellas County were the Brooker Creek Preserve, Honeycomb Island and Caladesi Island, while the Weedon Island Preserve and Ft. De Soto State Park were mentioned as southern Pinellas County.

As Molloy said, "There is no other place like the Florida outdoors."
Amanda Smith  
Staff Writer

A defining aspect of American culture is our dedication to professional sports. Often referred to as "The Big Three"—the NBA, MLB, and NFL—are more than organizations that house traditional American past times. All three sports are huge money makers, from merchandise to ticket sales, from gambling to television shows. The ultimate moneymaker? The Super Bowl. While professional basketball and baseball championships are played in a series, alternating locations between the two competing teams, you won't notice much of an event playing in the Super Bowl do not determine the event's location. The location is decided four years in advance based on the attractiveness of the city to tourists, sponsors and spectators. Who hosts a Super Bowl? According to Craig A. Depken, IL a sports economics professor at the University of Texas at Arlington, the economic benefit of hosting a Super Bowl is substantial. An average Super Bowl creates 500 new jobs, even if they are only short-term part-time. Those already employed in the service industries can potentially reap huge benefits, because they will work overtime and be compensated at increased pay rates," Depken said.

According to the St. Petersburg Times, "experts disagree about the actual impact" of the Super Bowl, but Tampa Bay citizen Leonard Costantino saw the economic impact directly in his wallet. Costantino, a food management supervisor for the University of South Florida stadium said he made more money thanks to the big game. "I definitely made more money; because I got more tips and it was all on sales, so I only have work when games are played. I must definitively worked more hours this week than any other week this season... now that football season's over, I'm out of a job," Costantino said.

Costantino said his work continued long after the game because of the amount of food that went to waste. "I was absolutely astonished by the amount of food that was thrown away. Dumplings and doughnuts of unopened food were thrown away because we made a load of food that wasn't consumed. It was disgusting."

He said he "didn't know" why none of the food was donated. While Costantino criticized the wastefulness of the event, NFL commissioner Greg Aiello told the St. Petersburg Times that Tampa "did another outstanding job hosting the Super Bowl" and he congratulated the team to remain a contender for Super Bowls in the future. City of Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio praised the planning and execution of the event, expressing her interest in becoming a regular city in the Super Bowl rotation like Miami, FL, who will host its tenth Super Bowl in 2011 because of the economic benefits and sense of community it brings to the Tampa Bay area.

Depken's research predicts the net economic impact the Super Bowl will have on the host city, thus measures the actual net economic impact after the event.

"When your city hosted the Super Bowl in 2001, it estimated its local Tampa Bay area made somewhere between $30 and $50 million. The NFL net profit, after paying for increased police services, parking and other things surrounding the event, was a lot of work for the host city, but in the end, it's more than a few million extra dollars pumped into the local economy.

In the current crisis, this could be the difference for a lot of people in Tampa.

Holocaust Museum exhibits Bielski brothers

Tampa, Monday, 16 February 2010

The Holocaust Museum featured a special exhibit promoting the story of the Bielski brothers—Tuvia, Asael, and Zus—whose heroic efforts helped to save over 1200 Jews during the Holocaust. The story of the Bielski brothers portrayed in the film, "Defiance," starring Daniel Craig as Tuvia Bielski, is one of unimaginable suffering, extraordinary courage and the endurance of the human spirit during one of history's darkest moments. The display itself takes visitors to the forest scenes and pictures of the Bielski partisan group. Visitors can also view large personal items from the victims that were discovered at the killing sites, including a number of glasses and bullet cartridges.

After hearing about an increase in Nazi support and more mass killings in Belarus, the three brothers and other neighbors took refuge in the forest. A panel described how their young- est brother, Aron, was interrogated at gunpoint by a policeman who was once a friend of the family. The brave 11-year-old did not disclose their location and hobbled was later released.

Visitors can view a panel describing the vibrant Jewish community that existed in Lida and Novogrudok prior to World War II. The panel described how Jewish children worked in factories or were farmers.

Audience members were taken on a tour of the museum, viewing the exhibits and learning about the Bielski brothers' heroic efforts during one of history's darkest moments.

On Dec. 8, 1941, the Nazi invasion began in the Soviet Union and conducted "selections" among the residents. Those who were not approved for labor were to be shot outside the city. As a result, Tuvia lost his parents and first wife, while his brother Zus lost his wife and baby girl. In May of 1942, the Nazi killings continued in Lida, where over 5,000 were killed and put into mass graves. A display box holds personal items from the victims that were discovered at the killing sites, including a number of glasses and bullet cartridges.

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**VARIETY**

**King Crossword**

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**ACROSS**

1. Lingerie item
2. Beer holder
3. Rate of walking
4. Will Ferrell Christmas movie
5. Craving
6. Exist
7. Old Italian money
8. Pray
9. Confuse
10. Lends a hand
11. St. Bernard's burden
12. Rough struggle
13. "That hurts!"
14. Gab
15. Happen
16. Bobcat
17. Rate of change
18. Author
19. Member of the group
20. Ball prop
21. Old soap
22. Ingredient
23. "Yeah, right!"
24. Chuckling
25. Bobcat
26. Amorphous mass
27. Lamb's
28. Jacket
29. Author
30. Corporate barrier
31. Massage
32. Sunlight
33. Responsible for running
34. "Lingerie item"
35. "Rate of change"
36. "Member of the group"
37. "Gab"
38. "CRaving"
39. "Exist"
40. "Happen"
41. "Bobcat"
42. "Happening"
43. "Author"
44. "Ball prop"
45. "Old soap"
46. "Ingredient"
47. "Yeah, right!"
48. "Amorphous mass"
49. "Lamb's"
50. "Jacket"

**DOWN**

1. Oath
2. Hold the scepter
3. "Yeah, right!"
4. Moments in the center
5. "Yeah, right!"
6. Dad's
7. "Amorphous mass"
8. "Happening"
9. "Old soap"
10. "Ingredient"
11. "Yeah, right!"
12. "Mommy"
13. "Mommy"
14. "Scepter"
15. "Center"
16. "Mommy"
17. "Scepter"
18. "Center"
19. "Mommy"
20. "Mommy"
21. "Scepter"
22. "Center"
23. "Mommy"
24. "Scepter"
25. "Center"
26. "Mommy"
27. "Scepter"
28. "Center"
29. "Mommy"
30. "Scepter"
31. "Center"
32. "Mommy"
33. "Scepter"
34. "Center"
35. "Mommy"
36. "Scepter"
37. "Center"
38. "Mommy"
39. "Scepter"
40. "Center"
41. "Mommy"
42. "Scepter"
43. "Center"
44. "Mommy"

**SUDOKU**

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each number from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** * * *

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NFL bets on new breed of coaches

Peter Pupello
Staff Writer

Out with the old and in with the...unknown? Yes. No known security for those wearing the headsets and roaming the sidelines on Sunday in the NFL. Over the last three seasons, there have been 31 head coaching changes - just one away from equaling the aggregate total of the 32 current NFL franchises.

With the Raiders being the odd team out and owner Al Davis still running the show in Oakland, it is likely this number will come full circle in completing the newest fad occurring behind closed doors in football’s front offices.

With the recent firings of veteran head coaches, it is clear there is a significant deviation towards closely examining the lists of coordinators and assistants in the league. Goodbye Mike Shanahan and Mike Martz.

So long Herman Edwards. Welcome to town Josh McDaniels, Jim Schwartz and Jim Caldwell. A sparkling resume, certain personal allure and prior head coaching experience has yielded to refreshing innovation, endless energy and the humility to accept lesser contracts. Teams are not looking into the past to hire a proven genius. They’re simply looking for the next one.

“I think owners should be very impressed by the guys who come in and interview as real people and not just on reputation,” Atlanta Falcons General Manager Thomas Dimitroff told FoxSports.com. “I really believe owners want to see coaches who not only carry themselves with confidence but also show their real side. In today’s game, players respond to coaches who shoot straight and treat them like men. It’s not all about the mystique and ego of being a head coach.”

While the focus surrounding Super Bowl XLIII was on the game itself, the incident occurring inside Raymond James Stadium was also a much covered topic in the weeks leading up to kickoff. Right before Mike Tomlin and Ken Whisenhunt entered, Jon Gruden exited. His reputation, his ideology, his unrelenting desire for control no longer won football games. His demeanor and price tag was no longer a hot commodity.

Although selecting unknown head coaches is a gamble, the success of the low-profile 2008 coaching class should serve as the prototype for future actions. Of the four rookie head coaches - Washington’s Jim Zorn, Miami’s Tony Sparano, Baltimore’s John Harbaugh and Atlanta’s Mike Smith - three took their teams to the playoffs, yet all were equally qualified for NFL Coach of the Year through the first half of the season.

Furthermore, each brought an innovative approach laden with fresh philosophies and new schemes. Sparano’s Dolphins, coming off a 1-15 record in 2007, faced Harbaugh’s Ravens in the first round of this season’s playoffs where the changes instituted under the new head coaches were evident. Miami ran an offensive that flourished around the Wildcat formation, while Baltimore quarterback Joe Flacco fulfilled his coach’s wishes in making the Ravens multi-dimensional rather than solely defensive-minded.

In the NFC, coach Mike Smith’s presence was enough to make his team and the city of Atlanta feel good about football. The Falcons’ opponent? The inimitable Whisenhunt and the Arizona Cardinals. The culmination of the 2008 season even ended with the same theme that defined it. At age 36, despite never holding a previous head coaching position, Pittsburgh Steelers second-year head coach Mike Tomlin became the youngest coach ever to win a Super Bowl.

Tomlin appeared from behind Monte Kiffin’s shadow in Tampa Bay as the Buccaneers’ defensive backs coach. His success reassures Buccaneers’ owner Malcolm Glazer that he made the right call in appointing Raheem Morris as the team’s new head coach.

“In our mind, there’s a plan of where we want to go,” Glazer told USA Today. “We’ve thought it through very carefully. It will become apparent as we move along.”

Morris, 32, is the latest mystery man to fill a head coaching vacancy. He also served as defensive backs coach under the tutelage of Kiffin as Tomlin’s successor. A young, undisputed, defense-oriented, African-American head coach out of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers’ system. This sounds familiar. Soon enough, the small names in big positions will too.

1. Who was the first player to hit three home runs on Opening Day?
2. Name the last skipper before Bobby Cox and Joe Torre to win 1,000-plus games with one franchise.
3. In 2008, Purdue’s Curtis Painter became the fourth Big Ten quarterback to surpass 10,000 passing yards for a career. Name two of the other three.
4. Who had more NBA scoring titles - George Gervin or Bob McAdoo?
5. Which has tallied the most goals in NHL history among Russian-born players?
6. When was the last time before 2008 (Maryland vs. North Carolina) that two ACC teams met in the College Cup finals for men’s soccer?
7. Thoroughbred trainer Steve Asmussen set a North American single-year record in 2008 for most races won. How many did he win?