University plans to add parenting room on campus

BY SAMANTHA PRITZLAFF
Crow’s Nest Contributor

How would you feel if you had to eat your lunch in the restroom stall? What if someone told you to go to the restroom to prepare your dinner?

Currently, this is how nursing babies who come to USF St. Petersburg eat their meals.

But plans are in the works to set aside a specific room on campus where mothers can breastfeed their babies.

The room is planned to be in Student Life Center 2012.

Dwayne Isaacs, assistant director of the University Student Center, said he’s working on the room with the Wellness Center. The space modification request was submitted, and now it’s a bit of a waiting game. If the project goes as planned, it will be ready for the new school year once the renovations in the SLC finish in August.

Many of the details still need to be worked out. Isaacs said they still need to figure out where the funding will come from. But overall, he’s very optimistic.

“There’s definitely a need, so we’ll definitely push to make it happen,” he said.

The idea was brought to attention by senior anthropology major Indira Goins. She has an 8-month-old baby named Omni, whom she often brings to campus. Goins noticed the absence of a private place on campus where she can breastfeed her baby.

Goins resorts to going to the Wellness Center, but it has its limitations. She says she can only get a room to breastfeed by appointment, and the Wellness Center closes at 5 p.m. After 5, it’s off to the restrooms.

During student government elections, Goins reached out to Nia Joseph and Chardonnay Tyson’s ticket online, which advertised commuter recognition. Tyson said she met with Goins in person, and Goins voiced her concerns about the need for a parenting room on campus.

TRiO Support Services seeks to remain on campus

BY MARY ANN PUTULIN
Crow’s Nest Contributor

The future of TRiO Support Services, a USF St. Petersburg organization that offers academic and personal support to first generation and low-income students, is uncertain.

The program is undergoing administrative processes to determine whether it will continue to stay on campus as is or as a renovated program available to more students.

The TRiO SSS program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, which offers students academic and personal support. Students who are in low-income families or are the first to attend college in their immediate family may apply to the program. They are then selected based on their needs.

“Coming (to USFSP) was like a whole different culture and TRiO’s been there every step of the way and that means a lot to me,” said freshman Brooke Perez, a current TRiO member.

“TRiO is like family and community to me,” Perez said. “High school was difficult for me, not necessarily academically, but there was a lot going on that was rough to deal with.” The federal grants TRiO receives run on a five-year cycle and must reapply for another five years of funding in order to continue, according to Terrye Wilson, the director of the program.

Aug. 31 marks the end of TRiO’s fifth year after applying in 2010.

Just before the winter break last year, the program “began the reaplication process but discovered that the data needed in order to renew funding for 2015-2020 did not support the university’s demographics,” Wilson said.

The data needed to show a significant gap in academic performance between the university’s population and the first generation and low-income students to receive the grant.

Wilson went to Han Reichgelt, former regional vice chancellor of academic affairs, after this discovery and put in a proposal to receive at least a year’s worth of funding for the 2015–2016 school year from the university, and the possibility of bringing in more future students.

“I’ve proposed that we would accept students who struggled with having a low high school performance, but do not necessarily have to meet TRiO’s current requirements,” Wilson said.

The program, currently open to 200 students, would welcome an additional 50.

Things changed when Reichgelt

Continued on p. 3

Student Indira Goins wants a parenting room to nurse her 8-month-old son Omni in a comfortable setting on campus.
USFSP student develops Android application

By Nick Emmert
Crow’s Next Contributor

It all started when Ryan Callihan’s uncle gave him an account for Photoshop.

Ever since, Callihan has taught himself how to code apps that redesign icons on Android phones.

Since February, Callihan, a sophomore at the USF St. Petersburg, has been using Photoshop to design the apps.

The apps that he creates have a flat, 2D look. He takes the images of popular icons and turns them into his own stylized images. He has created over 2,400 icons since he started. His first app is called Tyles and features squared off icons with flat imagery.

Ryconography is the name of his Google Plus account. He started posting his apps in February 2015. There are currently six apps associated with the account.

Callihan wrote this message about his Charge Icon Pack: "Charge Icon Pack is a truly flat icon pack that was created with a color palette, incorporating bright colors that contribute to a beautiful viewing experience!"

He actively engages with purchasers of his apps. While his apps were new, he would redesign any app that was requested. He has been having a difficult time getting around to requests since they have been coming in from all over the world. He can easily be contacted through his Google Plus account.

He also uses the Twitter account @Ryconography to communicate.

Alex Sorkin, a fan of the app, wrote a comment for the Charge Icon pack on the Google Play store. …The artist / developer responds to emails personally and very quickly fills out requests,” Sorkin said. "Aside from a couple of icons without a background that clash with my wallpapers, basically every icon in this pack is fantastic."

Downloading his apps are a simple process. Once the app is installed on your phone, all you have to do is hold your fingerprint down on the app that you would like to change, and it will give you the option to select an icon pack. Callihan is working toward a degree in mass communication. He hopes to write about new technology. These interests develop because he was a part of the Center of Advanced Technologies (CAT) program at Lakewood High School.

Learning Photoshop in the eighth grade allowed Callihan to design icons. He played around with the designs of icons on his phone. He draws the icons on Photoshop and then uses the coding that he has learned to put them on the apps.

Abduzeedo is a tutorial website for Photoshop. He used this website to teach himself how to edit the images of icons.

While in high school, Callihan took a coding class. The class scratched the surface of how to do coding. It gave basic knowledge that he could apply to the formation of his apps.

Callihan stays up all night working on his icons, and his passion for design shows in his work. He hopes to have more free time over the summer, so that he can develop new apps.

The free apps are the most downloaded. The app that he sells for $2.99 has been installed on over 1,000 phones.

The Google Play store has a three-stride policy for copyright infringement. It takes trial and error to learn how to avoid breaking any rules. Callihan had an icon pack taken down for a period of time when he first began uploading his apps.

Callihan is a full-time college student and tutors middle school students at Academey Prep in St. Petersburg. He primarily helps with math, but he also assists students in other subjects.

news@crownestpete.com

Professor studies flesh-rotting disease in West Africa

By Caitlin Ashworth
Staff Reporter

Once a year, USF St. Petersburg anthropology professor Micah Boyer ventures out to Benin West Africa to research the disease Buruli ulcer.

Boyer works for Optimus Foundation Stop Buruli research consortium on a social science team with Dr. Mark Ntich, who was Boyer’s Ph.D. adviser at the University of Arizona.

Buruli ulcer is the third most prevalent mycobacterium disease—the first two being tuberculosis and leprosy. According to the World Health Organization, Buruli ulcer is caused by a germ, Mycobacterium ulcerans. It mainly affects the skin and soft tissue in the area of the body, which destroys tissue.

However, Buruli ulcer is not just a problem in Benin. Stop Buruli consists of eight teams across four continents.

Boyer said this flesh-rotting disease is poorly understood. The transmission of the disease and latency is unknown.

Through his research, Boyer has found that the disease is caused by the environment and not human-to-human transmission. Boyer said Buruli ulcer is believed to be associated with areas such as fresh-water streams and rivers. However, Boyer said symptoms can take five or six years to appear.

The disease is most prevalent in children. Boyer said he believes it is due to their immature immune system.

Buruli ulcer does not cause pain and is easily treated with antibiotics. When treated early, an ulcer can vanish or recover with a small scar. If treatment is delayed, Buruli ulcer can take a serious toll on the body.

Boyer has immersed himself in Benin, researching why someone in Benin would delay treatment and how to get people to get the treatment they need.

Social pressure, religion and cost come into question.

Social pressure is an important factor when treating an illness. The stigma is associated with leprosy and its horrific social history. Though, leprosy is easily treated and hard to transmit.

Boyer said to imagine the social pressure in middle school; would you go to school if you smelled like leprosy?

Many people in Benin believe in sorcery. They understand physics and structure; sorcery explains why that happens. Why bad things happen to them, according to Boyer. Boyer said they learned that their beliefs are irrelevant when solving the problem of Buruli ulcer.

The health care in Benin is free, but a trip to the hospital comes at a different kind of price.

In the rural and poverty-stricken country of Benin, a trip to the hospital may not cost anything, but the work could mean no food on the table for the family. Going to the hospital is just not practical and the opportunity cost is too high.

Boyer has helped bring local treatment to Benin to help people get treatment during the early stages of the disease.

Boyer plans to come back to Benin in June. He will take the fall semester off to work on publications and plans to be back at USFSP in spring 2016.

news@crownestpete.com

Pool anticipated to reopen in June

By Jack Moscone
Staff Reporter

The USF St. Petersburg Coquina Pool is now on track to open June 1, just in time for the summer. Pool staff hiring and the final touches to construction will be completed within the next month, according to Zachary Oppenheim, assistant director of Student Life and Engagement.

The anticipated date for students to begin swimming is June 1st,” Oppenheim said. “Construction has been going well and they have recently paved over the pipings. They are currently adding another layer of cement to the floor and installing the lights.”

The Waterfront just finished phone interviews with potential lifeguards, and swimming and scuba instructors. All that is left before hiring new staff are face-to-face interviews and verifying that potential employees’ schedules are compatible with the Waterfront’s. This is planned to be all set by the opening.

“We are looking for people with experience in knowledge of water safety and activities to fill these positions,” said Oppenheim. “These people will help make recreational swimming and other water activities possible at USFSP.”

Students can look forward to a more enjoyable swimming and intramural pool sports. This summer is due to be a perfect time to cool off in the Coquina Pool.

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Room for nursing children planned to open in August

The room, which will cater to student parents and their children, will likely be in Student Life Center 2012.

UPI

Continued from p.1

“We’re not a traditional school,” Tyson says. “That’s a service community does deserve.”

The new room will also be a place for mothers to pump breast milk. Even if Goins doesn’t have baby Omni with her on campus, she still has to use a pump to “keep up the supply.” Goins said instead of the “mothering room,” she would want it to be called the “parenting room,” so it wouldn’t be restricted to any specific gender.

Both Goins and Tyson said they’ve been working to make this room a reality throughout this semester, talking to many people, including administration, student government and students in general. While most jumped on the idea of a breastfeeding room on campus, some weren’t as supportive. Goins says someone went as far as saying she has “dirty nipples” when trying to find someone to help with the issue.

Public breastfeeding has been a hot topic in the news lately. More and more public places, including airports, shopping malls and universities have implemented spaces for mothers who breastfeed.

The school recently designated the gender neutral restroom on campus as an official breastfeeding area. Goins originally agreed to this, but now says she regrets it. She added she’s happy the school is recognizing the need for mothers who have to breastfeed on campus, but she doesn’t want to give people the wrong idea that breastfeeding in a restroom is acceptable.

“People working better at figuring out new things were better at the game,” said psychology major Molly Quinn. “They actually were using the right prefrontal lobe more for the first character.”

Another group project was created by mass communication students Danielle Kreede, Choya Randolph and Bryana Perkins called “Meme Messages.” The project analyzed the content of 60 random Internet memes. They categorized the different themes and found that most had 42 percent neutral/negative tone, and more top-to-bottom text placement. The group based the tone on “what was going on and a person’s type of humor,” said Bryana Perkins.

Courtney Thompson, a biology major, did research on a bacteria called Staphylococcus Aureus to detect factors that help the bacteria survive in paper currency. During her experiment, she grew different strains of the bacteria, examined their genomes, and placed them in DNA and blood plates to test their resistance. She found that there is a 7 percent chance of somebody getting the bacteria from paper bills.

Taylor Adams researched the predatory behaviors of crocodiles. He watched YouTube videos of crocodiles attacking animals to see how many times they succeed and failed. His results showed that they have “low predatory success” in catching and killing their prey.

“They don’t succeed in a kill as often as many people would think of crocodiles” Adams said.

The room was crowded with the excitement of students, faculty and visitors. During the symposium, psychology professor Mark Durand and Thomas Smith congratulated the students, who were given a certificate for their projects after the symposium.

After tragedy, cookbook writer returns to career

By Tierney Tran
Crow’s Nest Contributor

Ten weeks after losing her daughter to cancer, cookbook writer Sherry Gore found her fresh start at USF St. Petersburg’s 2015 Food Conference. Experts from the culinary world were featured at the conference, including the celebrated Chef Don Pintabona, co-owner of Locale Market at Sundial.

Gore spoke on how to successfully make your own cookbook.

Gore tended to her daughter Jacinda Gore, 24, tirelessly for the past 10 years, until she passed away from a rare blood disease and brain cancer. Gore used her writing as a diversion from cleaning doctor’s houses and spending most of her time in and out of hospitals with her daughter. She found unexpected success with her cookbooks. For Gore, the conference was the first time she has appeared publicly in years. Though she has been invited to many prestigious media engagements regarding her upcoming and previously published books, she has not appeared anywhere recently.

Jacinda was Gore’s biggest fan, she was proud of her mother’s accomplishments. As Jacinda’s health declined, Gore pulled back from all the attention her books had gained her. As she said, “You can never get a day back.” Gore chose USFSP’s Food Conference as her official fresh start. Moving forward, she intends to put her full focus into her career as a food writer; for herself and for Jacinda.

Gore lives in Pineland, Fla., an Amish and Mennonite community in Sarasota. It was there she wrote her book, “Taste of Pineland.”

In 2006, she went store to store in Pineland looking to buy a cookbook as a gift. During a particularly challenging time for Jacinda’s health, a 19-year-old woman had stepped in to help Gore. Before departing, she left Gore with a personal cookbook entirely in German. Gore wanted to return the favor, but couldn’t find one. This inspired her to combine all of the best Pineland foods into a cookbook.

She self-published her first cookbook and was able to sell around 600 copies through Facebook. This caught the attention of some important people and got her a feature in National Geographic.

“It was like getting a commercial during the half-time show of the Super Bowl, for free,” she said.

After that, her career took off in a way that some would call a miracle. Gore was able to break into a difficult market with ease. She landed a three-book-deal with HarperCollins publishing house just two days after sending a proposal for one. This process usually takes about six weeks.

Her third book “Me, Myself and Pie” recently came out, offering more than 100 pie recipes. Gore tested each of these recipes on average, eight times, so she knows they are phenomenal.

On Aug. 1, her first novel in a set of three, “Made with Love,” will be published. She and Tricia Goyer are working on this series together.

Also, Gore’s memoir, “The Plain Choice,” will be published on Aug. 25.

“In a nutshell, I’m grateful,” Gore said.

Roommate wanted

FULLY FURNISHED - Large Town-home with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths available for rent. Includes use of downstairs kitchen, living room, half bath; upstairs media room and laundry; outdoor grill; and community pool. All community amenities, lawn maintenance, garbage/reycle collection included. New appliances, hardwood flooring and granite kitchen; town-home is in pristine condition.

Must be responsible individual. Located near Gandy Bridge in Venetian Bay. It is very close to 4th and 9th Streets North in St. Pete with easy access to downtown St. Pete. Close to beaches, restaurants, shops, pharmacies and grocery markets nearby on the St. Pete side of Gandy, as well as on the Tampa side of Gandy.

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**Fashion from recycled material**

By Caitlin Ashworth

Students got their creative juices flowing at the Reuse-a-Bull Fashion show, where designers created a wardrobe from materials you would find in the trash.

Models strutted down the catwalk in their garbage attire on April 13 in the University Student Center ballroom while guests chowed down on Tijuana Flats tacos. The event was coordinated by Catherine Kouretros, university relations director, and Nora Khatcherian from The Needle Arts Club.

The event was judged by Josef Gherman, the newly-elected student body president, Juan Salazar, vice president, and Senator Beenly Khoum.

Amaura May won first place and a brand new Xbox 360. Allison Vilardi modeled the design -- an elegant dress made from a box, plastic bags and St. Petersburg pamphlets. May said the dress took about six hours to make during numerous Needle Art Club meetings.

Khatcherian won second place with her Wonder Woman inspired design, sported by Chiana Hamilton.

A Marie Atoinette-inspired dress designed by Lilie Wiszniewski and modeled by Stephanie Eide, and made from stockings, plastic bags and flower petals won third place.

Freshman Cadin Small said he designed outfits for Jenesia Jackson, Chardonnay Tyson and Dominique Euzebe using cereal boxes, duct tape, trash bags, yarn and paint sploshes.

Jackson's outfit won best use of recycled materials. Tyson and Euzebe's outfits won "trashiest."

Rachel Clementon won best walk with a design made from chipotle bags and plastic bags, which Khatcherian whipped up 20 minutes before the show.

The show displayed innovation and style using material with trash-can origins.

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**Preparing for summer classes**

It's a shortened but focused semester. Taking challenging classes can set you up for success if you're prepared to work hard.

By Jonah King

Crow's Nest Contributor

Another (hopefully) successful year of school has gone by and while some students look forward to a vacation from the daily school grind, many more students have to weigh their required summer course options.

So what are the go-to courses? First, be aware that you have options.

Joan Eldridge, college of arts and sciences adviser, suggests students stay on top of their course schedules and recommends students in need of scheduling make an appointment with their academic adviser.

"The recommended courses will vary depending on a student's major and how far along they are in their program," Eldridge said. She noted DegreeWorks as a useful tool to pick out classes before getting academic advising.

Upperclassmen offer their opinions to students who still need to take their required summer courses.

"Take classes that you think are going to be harder," senior Nicholas Patdies said, "The learning is more concentrated."

Senior Solange Gorleku recalled being able to take Childhood Literature, which was an exit requirement and also counted for her summer credit, "Why not kill two birds with one stone?" Gorleku said. The class is easy, Gorleku said, but it can be tedious.

Another attractive option is studying abroad. Senior Jonathan Boyd took advantage of studying abroad in Costa Rica and reflected on the value of the experience -- to be able to travel and still take required summer courses.

Dr. Eldridge also reminds students not to just sign up for the summer courses, but make sure to register for classes next fall, "Do not just do summer, and then wait; or all the good classes will be gone by the time they get back to it."

Eldridge said.

Summer classes for A and C start on May 11. Summer B starts on June 29.

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**On-campus events that will relieve your stress**

By Emily Tinti

Staff Reporter

No matter how you're feeling during final exam week -- optimistic or rather regretful you didn't go to your 8 a.m. lecture more often -- stress will find a way to rattle your senses. But there's no time for worrying, and there's barely enough time to cram Chapters 1 through 11 into your brain. Just accept everything that has happened, or more likely didn't happen, and put everything you've got into moving forward.

Stress is unfortunately natural, but additional, weighty stress will only hold you down.

The Crow's Nest offered some specific suggestions on how to stay focused and on top of your work, so here are some of the stress-relieving activities taking place on campus before and during one of the most stressful weeks of your life. Attend one or more of these events and you'll feel like heaven.

Godspeed, my friends.

**Thursday, April 23 | Breakfast of Champions**

The University Study Center will return from 10 p.m. to midnight to provide a free breakfast meal, along with fun games and prizes.

The extensive line is worth the hot comfort food and leisure time with your friends. Honestly, who isn't already taking a break from studying to boil some ramen or brew their third serving of coffee at 10 p.m.? And don't worry, people do arrive in pajama pants.

**Monday, April 27 | Therapy Dogs**

When you're stressed or under the weather, sometimes all you need is a dog's company. Head on over to the library at 3:30 p.m. to meet some of the most comforting creatures you'll ever meet. The dogs are there to provide comfort and affection during your times of stress, and they appreciate you just as much as you appreciate them.

**Tuesday, April 28 | Laughter Yoga**

From noon to 12:30 p.m., certified Laughter Yoga teacher Karine Lespinasse Sabourault will hold an introductory session to destress your mind, body and spirit. You don't actually have to be a flexible pro-yogi to participate, and you don't have to bring an original standup routine. It's all for fun and a simple way to exercise your muscles and breathing. Laugh away the anxiety.

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California punk-metal trailblazers Strung Out have risen from the underground to unleash “Transmission. Alpha. Delta,” a 12-track barrage of adrenaline-fueled anthems.

By Mark Wolfenbarger
Staff Reporter

Twenty-five years since the band first bit the scene and 23 years since its first album, “Another Day in Paradise,” was released on longtime label Fat Wreck Chords, Strung Out have continued to stretch their melodic skate-punk roots toward a more diverse, technical and expansive sound.

“Transmission. Alpha. Delta” is the culmination of a career of unwavering progress. The guitars shred more proficiently. The rhythms batter and groove more effectively. And vocalist Jason Cruz croons, wails and scathes with unconventional melodies and a bouncing rhythm to finish the onslaught.

The hulking clarity of the instruments is something that Strung Out have lacked throughout much of their career. Yet, the album never sounds over-produced.

Charlie Chaplin – yes, that Charlie Chaplin – opens the first act with an excerpt from “The Great Dictator.” What follows, however, is anything but black and white. “Rats in the Walls” is a call-to-arms with a breakneck beat from drummer Jordan Burns before exploding into the album’s most frenetic attack. The deceptively alluring chorus provides momentary respite from Ramos and co-guitarist Jake Kiley’s vicious riffs. A scaling solo sweeps over a murky bass riff makes way for “Black Maps,” one of Strung Out’s most powerful songs to date. Dust rises from the nighttime air over an open road as shifting tempos lead us into the unknown with only Cruz’s ascendant vocals to light the way, and the singer makes a pronounced display of his penchant for poetic lyrics. “In dreams I navigate to the space inside my heart, where I find grace among these souls that only live to hate,” says Cruz in the final verse. The song winds through peaks and valleys before it reaches a soaring guitar solo and cruises across its entrancing flurry of cascading notes. The journey ends with a wall of shouts declaring “We’re all lost,” followed by a soothing bass-driven crescendo.

Proving that the band’s roots still have a place in today’s musical landscape, “Nowheresville” provides a nostalgic burst of ’90s skate-punk bliss. Fans of Strung Out’s seminal 1998 release, “Twisted by Design,” will be especially fond of the tune’s thrashing major-key riffs and double-time gallop. Sun-soaked melodies and a bouncing breakdown harken to a simpler time of circle pits and a hunger for discovery. Herein lies Strung Out have improved their formula for crafting half-pipe-ready rippers.

Three tracks later, an alternating bass riff makes way for “Black Maps,” one of Strung Out’s most powerful songs to date. Dust rises into the nighttime air over an open road as shifting tempos lead us into the unknown with only Cruz’s ascendant vocals to light the way, and the singer makes a pronounced display of his penchant for poetic lyrics. “In dreams I navigate to the space inside my heart, where I find grace among these souls that only live to hate,” says Cruz in the first verse. The song winds through peaks and valleys before it reaches a soaring guitar solo and cruises across its entrancing flurry of cascading notes. The journey ends with a wall of shouts declaring “We’re all lost,” followed by a soothing bass-driven crescendo.

Proving that the band’s roots still have a place in today’s musical landscape, “Nowheresville” provides a nostalgic burst of ’90s skate-punk bliss. Fans of Strung Out’s seminal 1998 release, “Twisted by Design,” will be especially fond of the tune’s thrashing major-key riffs and double-time gallop. Sun-soaked melodies and a bouncing breakdown harken to a simpler time of circle pits and a hunger for discovery. Herein lies Strung Out’s resurrection, you are the bullet that killed the revolution, cuz you’re the sum of every moment that you’ve been alive.”

His steady stream of inflections adds even more emotional heft to his captivating proclamations. Strung Out ties the song and album together with another illuminating verse, “... Articulate the chaos and the way to resurrection, you are the bullet that killed the revolution, cuz you’re the sum of every moment that you’ve been alive.”

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Editorial

Our thoughts: Grateful for the experience

Note: As the year winds down -- and graduation approaches -- the editors at The Crow’s Nest want to offer their insight on life at USF St. Petersburg. This is the third in a three-part series.

By Mark Wolfenbarger

Staff Reporter

Journalism wasn’t my first choice. It wasn’t even my second or third choice. In 2001, I graduated high school and began working for my dad’s electrical company as a residential service technician. I also enrolled in the fire fighter program at St. Petersburg College. That goal didn’t last long, however, so I took the most obvious route — the electrician program at PTEC. That also seemed like a good decision until two years later when I realized how much I dislike the trade.

I then became a human pinball, bouncing from job to job and major to major. It created the illusion that I was progressing, but really I was spinning my wheels. School was something I was supposed to do; not something I wanted to do. So I quit.

After grinding through a warehouse job for a couple of years, I realized that I was going nowhere without a college degree.

Once again, I returned to electric school without purpose or direction. That lasted until 2012 when two people — probably feeling a little sorry for me — suggested that I give journalism a shot. I had enjoyed writing since I was a kid, but never considered it a viable career choice; it was nothing more than an extracurricular activity.

I followed the idea, however, and enrolled in Creative Writing and a class ambiguously titled Journalism.

Now, this might sound hyperbolic, but for the first time in my embarrassing long college career I felt inspired. I felt like I had found my calling. To me, the two classes went hand in hand. Creative Writing expanded my ability to develop a narrative and show readers what I was writing about. Journalism, on the other hand, taught me basic reporting and gave me an opportunity to explore the field as a potential major.

Two semesters and three articles for SPC’s the Sandbox News later, I was on my way to USF St. Petersburg with an associate degree and a mission — to become a journalist.

In my first semester at USFSP in spring 2014, I took three classes, including News Editing I. I was excited to learn that the professor of that class was a former Tampa Bay Times reporter with more than 40 years of experience in the field. But my neurotic tendencies also had me crapping my pants.

Until that point, I didn’t really know if I was cut out for journalism. I knew I could write adequately, but that is only half the battle. And at 31, I wasn’t heading back to the drawing board. Journalism was my last stop -- changing majors again was not an option.

I decided that if I didn’t walk out of USFSP within a couple of years with a bachelor’s degree, I would accept my mediocrity and bounce around the workforce, doing meaningless grunt work until death do us part.

Fortunately, it worked out and the professor suggested that I give The Crow’s Nest a shot. So I applied during the summer semester, which is when I met our current editor-in-chief.

Not long after summer ended, she assigned me as news editor. I was pumped. This would be my first time getting paid to do something I loved. Sure, I still had and have a day job to pay the bills. But getting paid even a little to gain experience in news reporting! Yes, please.

That gig didn’t last long, however, due to my aforementioned — and much loathed — day job. But our editor-in-chief was gracious enough to keep me around as copy editor. In January — after our former managing editor graduated — she offered me that position. After a little delibration because of my job and full-time class load, I said screw it, slashed a day of work off my schedule and took the role. I believed it would make me a better reporter and sharper writer, and it has.

Now, here we are -- the final issue of the semester and, for most of us, the end of our run with The Crow’s Nest.

I am not very nostalgic or sentimental. For me, this isn’t a time to get emotional as I reflect on the past eight or so months. Honestly, I don’t think any of us will. We know what The Crow’s Nest is — a place to gain experience, get our work published and maybe make a few friends along the way. It is a place that has hopefully prepared us, even just a little, for the daunting road ahead.

After graduation, many of us will head our separate ways and The Crow’s Nest will become a memory. But we will carry the skills we have learned into our futures.

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Introducing the new president

Student Body President Jozef Gherman and Vice President Juan Salazar take an oath during their inauguration at The Rocks on April 14th. The event celebrated student leaders, organizations and offices on campus.

Throwback

On April 22, 1916, Wyoming’s infamous train robbing outlaw “Wild Bill” Carlisle, known as the “Robin Hood of the Rails” or “White Masked Bandit” was caught and sentenced to life in prison.

Carlisle escaped from Wyoming State Penitentiary in November 1919 in a crate of shirts. Quickly after catching the first breath of freedom, Carlisle robbed a train.

“He (Carlisle) sat down by the officer who told him he was protecting the train from “Wild Bill.” Carlisle commented breath of freedom, Carlisle robbed a train.

or “White masked Bandit” was caught and sentenced to life in prison.

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Once again, I returned to elec-

Photo of the week

“Wild Bill” Carlisle, wanted dead or alive.

stpetestpete.com
The kindness of strangers
I never got the name of the strangers who helped me the day I fell.

By Jennifer Nesslar
Staff Columnist

If you look at my right knee, you’ll notice a scar about the size of a quarter.

The scar reminds me of the kindness of strangers. I woke up the Monday morning after the Grand Prix in 2014, celebrating the end of the noise. I was also eager to go for a run. My favorite place to run is Beach Drive, and if you are at all familiar with the Grand Prix, you know that the run becomes nearly impossible for the entire month of March.

So that morning, I decided to go for a run. But when I got outside, I realized Beach Drive still wasn’t open to pedestrians. Frustrated, I decided to just run through downtown.

It sounds simple enough. But running on uneven sidewalks, through busy intersections and past parking garages can actually be a bit treacherous. I paid for my decision. Near the end of the run, I was running along a sidewalk on Second Street S. I had just crossed Second Avenue S and was headed back to campus, when I suddenly went airborne.

I can’t tell you whether I tripped over a piece of trash or a bump in the sidewalk, but I can tell you that I hit the ground hard. The sidewalk wasn’t forgiving. It was a thick, wide sidewalk, perfect for ripping the skin of anyone who is unlucky enough to have a spill.

I guess you could call me the unlucky one. Or maybe I just wasn’t picking my feet up enough. Regardless, I consider it to be one of the worst spills of my life.

A businessman passed me as I was struggling to get up on the sidewalk. “Are you OK?” he asked. I think, through my tears, I mumbled something to the effect of “yeah,” and the man continued on his way. I took a deep breath, pulled myself up, and tried to ignore the pain in my knee and the blood gushing out of it (sorry to those of you with weak stomachs). “Just get back to campus,” I told myself as I limped back toward Residence Hall One.

The moment seemed more traumatic than the actual reality. So as I passed the downtown Hilton, two employees working on landscape saw my tears—and my bloody knee. “Can we help you?” they asked.

I nodded and asked for a bandage. The workers let me into the hotel, gave me a place to wash my wounds and gave me all the first-aid supplies they could find. They allowed me to stay in the air conditioning as long as I needed.

They could have ignored me walking by. They could’ve expressed pity without helping. And they would’ve been justified in doing so. They were on the job, and busy too.

But now, when I look at the scar, I’m grateful for the kindness of strangers. I regret that I never got the names of the people who helped me.

In reality, my injuries were minor, but the impact these people made on me cut deeper than my wound.

I want to do the same for others, no matter how minor their wounds may be.

Jennifer Nesslar, a senior majoring in mass communications, is the editor-in-chief. She can be reached at jnesslar@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @jnesslar.

The Rolling Stone gathers no story

By Jeffrey Zanker
Contributing Columnist

The Rolling Stone article “A Rape on Campus” and the reports of its publication boil down to a recent fact: basic journalism rules and skills are getting missed in the big league publications.

The Columbia Graduate School of Journalism published an investigative report two weeks ago, which gives details to the article’s failure at basic reporting. They found that many of the names, such as the attacker “Drew,” were pseudonyms. They failed to contact the victim’s friends, and lacked detailed answers and attributions. The reporter gave vague details to the victim’s friends, and lacked the sources of the information since she had only one source. It might have been better to drop the whole story since the article, though gripping, looked too sketchy to be a report. It lacked the call-to-action spirit it was aiming for.

The consequences of this article were protests against the alleged fraternity and sending the idea that women lie about rape. The report stated that “social scientists analyzing crime reports that the rate of false rape allegations is 2 to 8 percent.” A small quantity that was projected to the extremes to make it an unintentionally sensational article.

Rolling Stone apologized and is now continuing with its business without consequences (the reporter is still writing for them). They place no blame on anyone but the story, which I find intolerable. Those involved with the story have been smeared by its effects.

Yet the magazine going free with-out change disturbs one about how the media tries to excuse itself of its crimes.

This “failure in journalism” should serve as a lesson for young journalists. Journalists need to hold their stories and sources accountable. The risk of preserving good reporting has never been higher than in this tabloid-media period.

Jeffrey Zanker is a junior majoring in mass communications. He can be reached at zankerje@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @zankerjeffrey.
USF football players look to go pro

By Andrew Caplan
Staff Reporter

On April 30, the lives of 256 college athletes will change forever -- and then some.

The NFL draft can do that.

Players like Jameis Winston, Marcus Mariota, Todd Gurley and Amari Cooper are projected to go in the first round and are expected to bring an immediate impact to the teams that select them.

But after the household names are off the board, teams are looking for hidden gems.

A USF player could be one of those late-draft picks, or could be signed to teams as an undrafted free agent, as teams generally sign 15-20 additional players following the draft.

The Bulls have 17 eligible players up for selection; it’s a list topped by wide receiver Andre Davis, kicker Marvin Kloss, tight end Mike McFarland, linebacker Reshard Cliett, defensive back Chris Dunkley, and defensive linemen Todd Chandler and Elkin Waton.

At 6-foot-1, Davis has shown he can handle the spotlight. He holds a field goal percentage, ranking him 76.5 percent for a team with a dome stadium to show his leg strength off in perfect conditions.

Davis, McFarland had a 35-inch vertical jump and holds a 2015 draft grade of 6.7, 0.5 higher than the highly coveted TEs in the draft, McFarland stands just one inch taller and at the same vertical.

Although kickers are rarely selected in the draft, Kloss has shown that he can handle the spotlight.

The 6-foot, 210-pound Kloss has positioned himself in a light that rarely shines on kickers. The 6-foot, 210-pound Kloss has positioned himself in a light that rarely shines on kickers.

During the NFL Draft April 30 through May 2, the 2014 USF captains, Marvin Kloss, Reshard Cliett and Andre Davis (left to right), all hope to be selected by a team during the NFL Draft.

Mike McFarland received the highest draft grade for a USF player by NFL scouts with a 5.0. On his pro day, McFarland had a 9.8 foot broad jump and ran a 4.73 40-yard dash.

The grades may seem low on a scale of 1-10, but it is quite common when players have never been spoken. The last top-heavy offensive team that won the Stanley Cup was the Pittsburgh Penguins in 2009, and even they had great team chemistry with superb goaltending (Mark Andre Flurry used to play well under pressure) and a defense that wouldn’t be pushed around.

Since then, the Boston Bruins, a very defensive-minded team, has won the cup and advanced to the Conference Finals twice, knocking the Lightning out in seven games by wearing us down physically.

The LA Kings have won two cups in two years, and Chicago (a well-rounded team) has also won twice since 2010.

The Lightning’s first round matchup against Detroit will go six games. The Lightning have the edge on goaltending, defense, offensive power and size. Detroit is a gritty team traditionally, but their inconsistent goaltending will bury them.

Detroit Coach Mike Babcock will make adjustments to steal two games, stretching the series to six.

Assuming the Lightning advance into the second round, they will likely face the Montreal Canadiens. This round two matchup will be difficult as they face a very physical team, a team that could wear them down over seven games (as did Boston in 2011).

If Ben Bishop doesn’t falter, it’ll be up to Coach Jon Cooper to pair up the right guys on defense to match Montreal’s intensity and physical play.

With Lightning’s 6-foot-6 defensive captain Victor Hedman leading the way and tough guys like Matt Carle controlling the crease, the Lightning will advance to the Conference Finals.

Hedman is a two-way defender and able to score. He is fast enough to make sure he is not caught out of position. Carle is a “stay-at-home” defenseman who can throw the body around, clear the crease, dig for the puck and drop the gloves if things get chippy.

Braydon Corburn is another defensive acquisition that ex-Red Wing and current Lightning general manager Steve Yzerman brought in to improve the durability of our team.

Thanks to Yzerman and Cooper, the Lightning have a new team identity. No longer do they get pushed around on the ice -- it’s the Lightning pushing.

Opinion: Lightning will go as far as Ben Bishop and the defense allows

By Phil Lavery
Contributing Columnist

Game two’s high scoring affair Saturday resulted in a 5-1 Lightning win, tying the opening-playoff round between the Tampa Bay Lightning and the Detroit Red Wings 1-1.

But it won’t be the high flying Steven Stamkos that will get them to the Stanley Cup Finals. It’s going to be goalie Ben Bishop and the tough, physical and dominating defensive play by the blue line giants.

The phrase “defense wins championships” has become an overused cliché in the world of sports. For the NHL, however, truer words have never been spoken. The last top-heavy offensive team that won the Stanley Cup was the Pittsburgh Penguins in 2009, and even they had great team chemistry with superb goaltending (Mark Andre Flurry used to play well under pressure) and a defense that wouldn’t be pushed around.

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The Lightning’s Vegas odds of winning the Stanley Cup are 17-2.