4-5-2010

Crow's Nest : 2010 : 04 : 05

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Young, local drivers compete in Grand Prix

At a young age, Hayden Duerson and Nick Andries knew that they wanted to drive in the IndyCar Series. At this year’s Honda Grand Prix, they got their chance.

On Friday, March 26, 18-year-old Hayden Duerson from St. Petersburg and 19-year-old Nick Andries from Seminole practiced for the first time in St. Petersburg in the Star Mazda Series.

The Star Mazda Series is the level drivers compete in before going to the IndyCar Series.

Duerson, a senior at Shorecrest Preparatory School drove car 94 for Juncos Racing, based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and is sponsored by Tampa Bay Endodontics.

Duerson’s begun watching his father race—first motorcycles, then cars. “When I was about three years old he started racing cars. I always went to the races with him.”

“When I was about eight he bought me my own car and I’ve been racing ever since,” Duerson said.

Andries is a full-time student at St. Petersburg College studying mechanical engineering. He is the driver for car 81 sponsored by Team Peltry, Anderson Race Park and Allied based in Palmetto, Florida.

“I was five years old when I started racing,” Andries said. His younger cousin got him started in racing. He said that his cousin was driving a go-cart around a parking lot and asked him if he wanted to drive it. “I tried it out and just stuck with it,” Andries said.

“
“This is the first time that I have gotten to race at this event; it’s exciting,” Andries said.

Majoring in mechanical engineering will teach Andries the other side of IndyCar. Duerson said that he spent three months with his team and during that time they taught him how to fix his car.

“I would like to go to college,” Duerson said. “After I get a job I would like to one day have a team.” He chose Pre-Med as his major for college.

“Figured that should give me enough money to do it,” Duerson said.

To train for a race, Andries says that he drives a lot on asphalt in order to practice on sharp turns and passing. Practicing with simulators is also a good way for drivers to get comfortable with a race track without having to travel to it.

Andries said “I Racing” is a good simulator because you can learn the configuration before going to a track.

“The simulators are really popular now. The track and the cars are pretty accurate,” Andries said.

Preparation and practice is key to being successful in any career path. Andries said that he prepares for a race by going to the gym five days a week for three hours and practices by driving on a track.

Duerson placed 20th and Andries placed 21st in the Star Mazda Championship race.

If you would like to follow the rest of Hayden Duerson and Nick Andries’ season with Star Mazda, go to www.starmazda.com/index.htm.

Candidates compete for top executive positions

The polls are open and voting has begun for the next SG president. Over the past few weeks candidates James Scott and Claudian Anderson have campaigned and debated, but now they must sit back and wait for the student body to deliver the outcome.

As required by the Election Rules Committee (ERC), two debates were held before the election in which each campaign ticket was given the opportunity to answer questions about their platform.

Scott believes he is qualified to lead SG because of his prior experience with the organization. He served as a Senate President from 2008-2009. Scott was also elected to the executive office last spring but resigned shortly after in summer 2009. Ellington replaced Scott as SG President and still serves that position today.

Anderson believes she is qualified as a presidential candidate because she has been involved in many leadership organizations on campus. She was a campus tour guide, a member of Law Society and belongs to the Black Student Association and the Gay-Straight Alliance. She is also an RA in the Residence Hall.

The Crow’s Nest is accepting applications online! Completed applications are due April 16th.
Minors ‘Sexting’ should not be considered child pornography

By Lenay Ruhl
Section Editor
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One in five teenagers has sent sexy picture messages, according to an article in the St. Petersburg Times. These sexual text messages are known as “sexting.” Should these provocative pictures of minors be considered child pornography? Florida lawmakers do not think so. On March 22 Florida lawmakers voted that ‘sexting’ is not child pornography.

In a world where we can easily snap a photograph with our cell phone and within minutes have it sent to all our contacts, our email or have it uploaded on Facebook, why should we not take advantage of this convenience? The problem forms when these pictures end up on the Internet or sent to someone else against the sender’s will.

Should we be held accountable for the content on our cell phones? Once it is sent to any of the places mentioned above it is no longer private. With so many children sending explicit pictures of themselves to one another and more and more cases arising, decisions had to be made about what type of criminal offense this should be considered.

It seems like such a small thing to worry about—young couples exploring their sexuality through text messaging, yet this innocent experimenting can put people in an uncomfortable situation. If two adults are sending each other sexy pictures of themselves, it is different. When two minors are doing it and one of them decides to send the photograph to someone else or post it online, then it becomes a problem. According to www.im.about.com it is illegal for someone to have lewd pictures of minors.

In a previous sexting case in Florida, an 18-year-old boy had naked pictures of his 16-year-old girlfriend. He proceeded to send the photographs to all of his contacts, including the girl’s parents. He was charged with possessing child pornography. He received five years of probation and had to register as a sex offender.

In the state of Florida it is completely legal for a 16-year-old to have a sexual relationship with an 18-year-old without it being considered statutory rape. Taking this into consideration, can we really say that he had “child pornography” when they were clearly in a consensual sexual relationship?

The new law says if a minor sends an explicit photograph to another minor, they will serve eight hours of community service. The second time an offender gets caught it is considered a second-degree misdemeanor. This time they could spend up to 60 days in jail. If they are caught doing this anymore after that a teenager could face up to five years in prison, and charged with a third-degree felony.

Sexting between minors should not be categorized as child pornography. In a fast-paced world where pictures can be sent at the push of a button, teenagers aren’t thinking about the consequences of a seemingly harmless photograph. If prosecuted they should not have to register as sex offenders; instead they should be made aware of the consequences of sexting.

The Crow's Nest is taking applications for the fall!

If you are interested, please visit the Web site at studentmedia@usfsp.com to get an application.

Completed applications are due by April 16th, and can be returned to the CN office in the CAC or emailed to usfcrowsnest@gmail.com.
Presidential candidate receives points against campaign

By Sadie Hewitt
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shewitt@mail.usf.edu

The Election Rules Committee assigned Claudian Anderson four points against her campaign at a hearing March 18. According to Sandra Kissoondyal, Supervisor of Elections, Anderson was charged with campaigning before meeting with the ERC and for campaigning in Residence Hall One without approval of RHO staff.

Anderson "had a whiteboard stuck to the outside of her RA door in RHO opposite the elevator, which proclaimed the fact that she and Demerrio Tobler had been approved to run as President and Vice President in the 2010-2011 election," Kissoondyal said.

"I was aware of the rules but unaware that what was placed on my whiteboard was considered campaigning," Anderson said.

"This infraction increased awareness of their campaign to RHO residents (being on a highly visible RA door right opposite elevator doors), which is unfair to the opposing ticket who is waiting until the start of campaigning to start making students aware of their candidacy," Kissoondyal said.

The ERC has the authority to penalize candidates through a point system. An accumulation of 10 points is automatic disqualification. Anderson was assessed 2.5 points for campaigning in RHO without staff approval, and 1.5 points for campaigning prior to meeting with the ERC.

Anderson appealed the demerits saying that the definition of campaigning is vague in the statutes. The ERC granted an appeal but dismissed the case due to lack of evidence.

Candidates compete for top executive positions... from page 1

Scott: Think globally, act locally. "We need to create a vision where we have an active student culture driven by civic engagement."

Best leadership qualities:
Anderson/Tobler: Punctuality, working with other people from various cultural backgrounds. "I listen and I am well informed. I have a student-faculty relationship," Anderson said.

Scott: "We're genuine, honest, we get along with people and we're easy to work with."

Qualifications:
Anderson: Was a campus tour guide, a member of the Law Society, and an RA in the Residence Hall.

Scott: Was a former Senate President and as SG President, Ellington is the current SG President.

Major changes the candidate thinks will benefit the campus:
Anderson: Having more town hall meetings where students can come and express themselves. Collaborating with other USF campuses. Community involvement. Making sure that the Council of Clubs meeting takes place once a month.

Scott: Creating a campus culture. Overhaul of the pro-viso in the statutes that deals with A&S fees in order to make the campus green. "Our fundamental purpose is to provide support and services to students."

GPA: Will the requirements of the Executive Office affect your academics?
Anderson: 2.37 GPA - says she is working to improve GPA. "As a leader you need to excel in the classroom." Says the time required of an SG President will not be a problem for her.

Scott: 2.56 GPA - "SG does impact your GPA... but I value my leadership. There is a trade-off between academics and leadership."

Voting locations are:
Davis lobby and Poynter library

Time:
8 am to 6 pm

Days:
Monday April 5 - Thursday Apr 8
Fitness Center renovated in time for summer

By Robbie Crowley
Writer

Now that Florida’s warm sunshine has returned after a long winter of hiding, it is time to dust off those bathing suits and enjoy some of this great weather. However, after a long winter of counting snow days in history, many of our bodies may be just a little bit flabbier than we want the beach hotties to see.

Thankfully, the fitness center has some new renovations and additions just in the nick of time to tone up for that swimsuit.

Recently, new cardio equipment arrived at the fitness center, offering students not only more machines, but also more modern, updated options for cardio equipment. With the additional equipment, the fitness center also opened a new upstairs area, or “mezzanine level,” which now holds most of the cardio equipment and creates more space on the main level. A total of 11 new machines have been added to the fitness center, which includes four True treadmills, two Octane ellipticals, three True bicycles, and two Cybex Arc Trainers.

The new machines not only allow more students to use cardio equipment at the same time, but the new equipment will also enhance the workout experience for students, according to Marty Dempsey, USF St. Petersburg’s Intramural and Fitness Coordinator.

They offer many new features compared to the old ones and will now put us on the same page as many of the best fitness facilities in the area,” Dempsey said.

Dempsey also said, “The Cybex Arc Trainers are the next generation of the elliptical product with increased versatility to really challenge any set of fitness goals.”

One current drawback of the new machines being on the mezzanine level is the lack of televisions or windows. However, the improvements to the fitness center are not complete. Marty said that entertainment will soon be added to the new cardio area.

The space under the cardio floor is currently roped off and vacant. Within the next few weeks, new strength equipment from Magnum will fill the space. Another improvement to the fitness center is in the aerobics room, which recently acquired a new set of steps with risers, jump ropes, dumbbells and resistance bands.

“I feel that with the new expansion and renovations, we can expect to see a whole new flow of people coming in and using our facility,” Dempsey said.

The combination of the warmer weather and numerous improvements to the fitness center will hopefully inspire many of us to achieve some new fitness goals, even if the sole motivation is looking just a little hotter in a bathing suit.

April raises awareness for autism

By Aimee Alexander
Staff Writer
aralexa26@mail.usf.edu

Autism gains high visibility this month as communities band together to raise awareness and support for this developmental disability that has seen a drastic upsurge in recent years.

Autism is a neurological condition that disrupts pathways to communication within the brain. Compared with neurotypical persons, individuals with autism absorb and process information about their environment in atypical ways. Language, communication and social issues are the central challenges that individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) must manage. There are three forms of autism: Autistic Disorder, Asperger Syndrome and Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS).

Speculation regarding the cause of autism is still in the air. Scientists say genetics play a large role. The Autism Society of America says the intake of unsafe substances during pregnancy is to blame. Toxic exposure to lead and mercury have also bumped up the risk of autism.

In 2007, actress Jenny McCarthy, parent of an autistic son, became embroiled in controversy. McCarthy shined a spotlight on the idea that thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative found in childhood vaccinations, was the primary cause of autism.

Although the Federal Drug Administration say they began phasing thimerosal out of childhood vaccinations in 1999, with exception to the current inactivated influenza vaccine, the statistics of autism appear to be ballooning at epidemic rates.

The Center for Disease Control estimates an average of one in 100 children in the U.S have an ASD. More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than cancer, diabetes, Down Syndrome and AIDS combined. Boys are four times more likely to have autism than girls. As many as 1.5 million Americans today are believed to have some form of autism.

Statistics from the U.S. Department of Education project autism will increase by 10 to 17 percent each year. The Autism Society approximates nearly four million Americans will have autism within the next 10 years. Parents or caregivers should pay attention to signs and symptoms that can be detected as early as 12 months, but typically become more apparent between ages two to six years old.

Although individuals with ASDs are different from the neurotypical population, persons within the autism spectrum can also be quite different from each other. Some are intellectually gifted while others exhibit more acute symptoms such as diminished speech or unresponsiveness to their environment.

If you or someone you know recognizes some of the symptoms of autism in a child, the CDC recommends scheduling an evaluation with the child’s pediatrician. Additional resources, such as neurologists, psychologists, developmental pediatricians and speech/language therapists, may be contacted to determine where a child falls within the autism spectrum.

Scientists and doctors believe that early intervention of autism greatly improves a child’s development and benefits patients, families, caregivers and educators.

Although there is no cure for autism, there are several treatments available such as auditory training, vitamin therapy, anti-yeast therapy, music therapy, sensory integration therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy.


Indicators of a child with ASD are:

- Doesn’t respond to his/her name by 12 months
- Doesn’t point at objects to show interest (points as an airplane flying over) by 14 months
- Doesn’t play “pretend” games (pretends to “feed” a doll) by 18 months
- Avoids eye contact and wants to be alone
- Has trouble understanding other people’s feelings or talking about his/her own feelings
- Has delayed speech and language skills
- Repeats words or phrases over and over (echolalia)
- Gives unrelated answers to questions
- Gets upset by minor changes
- Has obsessive interests
- Flaps his/her hands, rocks his/her body, or spins in circles
- Has unusual reactions to the way things sound, smell, taste, look or feel
Movie Review: Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans

By Andrew Silverstein
Staff Writer
silverstein@msj.edu

"Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans" is one really good bad movie. It is brutal, gritty, and pretty disturbing at times, but, all the while, strangely captivating: like a backyard fistfight... or a night out with Lindsay Lohan.

The story begins in what we can assume is New Orleans right after, like right after, Hurricane Katrina hit. Terrance Mcdonaugh (Nicholas Cage) and his partner Stevie Fruith (Val Kilmer) are investigating a flooded and mostly evacuated prison. Mcdonaugh tries to save a prisoner slowly being consumed by the rising flood waters, but injuries his back in the process, soon gaining a promotion to lieutenant and a doctor-prescribed, endless supply of painkillers; key elements that propel this film. Each arc or twist in this film. Nothing matters to Mcdonaugh except his fix, be it drugs or just solving a case to look good to his superiors. Nicholas Cage really does a brilliant job as the bad lieutenant. While Cage had trouble hitting his acting stride in, well, nearly every performance prior to this, he fits this role incredibly well, almost too well.

While it is funny to laugh at how bad he is at playing the sensitive dad in "Family Man", or an unintentionally crazy cop in "Wicker Man", it is just mesmerizing to see him spiral downward like this. It is almost like you are watching him suffer for all these terrible movies he has done. Nicholas Cage just does crazy well.

What will probably irk most people about Bad Lieutenant is the fact that there is really no one to root for throughout. The film is more spectacle than relatable story, but, even so, still finds a way to work. Director Werner Herzog probably deserves the credit for some of this. While he could have easily made "Bad Lieutenant" a simple, quick-cut, action flick, he crafts the film with care and unapologetic creativity of some of modern film's most visionary directors.

It definitely will not be for everyone, but if you are not hell-bent on finding some deep, emotional connection in every film you see and can suspend some disbelief for a couple hours, "Bad Lieutenant" is one awesomely bad ride.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 5 - April 11:

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<td>Noon - 3 p.m.</td>
<td>11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Joey Brooky's Pizza</td>
<td>Tropicana Field</td>
<td>Davis &amp; 120</td>
<td>Noon - 10 p.m.</td>
<td>Collinaсу</td>
<td>Tampa Bay Rays vs. New York Yankees</td>
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Photo courtesy of collider.com

Mcdonaugh is the obvious lynchpin of this film. Each arc or twist in the story line is a direct result of Mcdonaugh's fervent, drug-addled conquests or another outside force having some kind of effect on him. Mcdonaugh is also a clear-cut sociopath. Key characters, friends of Mcdonaugh's, are played like cheap arcade games by him throughout the film. Nothing matters to Mcdonaugh but himself. He will not stop till he gets his fix, be it drugs or just solving a case to look good to his superiors. Nicholas Cage really does a brilliant job as the bad lieutenant. While Cage had trouble hitting his acting stride in, well, nearly every performance prior to this, he fits this role incredibly well, almost too well.

While it is funny to laugh at how bad he is at playing the sensitive dad in "Family Man", or an unintentionally crazy cop in "Wicker Man", it is just mesmerizing to see him spiral downward like this. It is almost like you are watching him suffer for all these terrible movies he has done. Nicholas Cage just does crazy well.
Monday, April 12
Movie on the Lawn: 21
8PM on the Harborside Lawn. Food and Drinks Provided!

Tuesday, April 13
Frank Deville   Mama Lou Strong Woman
Your girlfriend's favorite magician and America's Strong Woman all in one night!
9PM in the Coquina Cafe

Wednesday, April 14
Vanessa Graddick & Reggie Flenory Jr.
Comedy Night featuring the great comedy duo
9PM - 11PM in Davis 130. Snacks provided

Thursday, April 15
Casino Night
Come try your luck at our Casino Night! Free for all students, and
Prizes will be awarded to the top chip holders of the night!
8PM - 12AM in the Campus Activities Center
Sports

Bulls basketball has turnaround season

By Greg Lindberg
Section Editor
glindber@mail.usf.edu

This was the third time in school history the Bulls won the Sun Dome on an otherwise tremendous season. They earned perhaps its biggest win ever, beating Georgetown on the road — a team that was ranked No. 7 in the nation at the time. The Bulls also defeated then-No. 17 Pittsburgh at home. The Bulls also gained wins over Connecticut, Cincinnati, Seton Hall, Providence and Rutgers.

During the regular season, USF earned perhaps its biggest win ever, beating Georgetown on the road — a team that was ranked No. 7 in the nation at the time. The Bulls also defeated then-No. 17 Pittsburgh at home. The Bulls also gained wins over Connecticut, Cincinnati, Seton Hall, Providence and Rutgers.

They came close to beating Notre Dame twice but lost both times in games that could have been the difference between an invitation to the NIT and a trip to the NCAA Tournament. USF's last appearance in the big dance was in 1992. Since then, the school has experienced limited success on the court.

The USF basketball men's junior guard, Dominique Jones, has been named to The Associated Press All-America honorable mention team, announced on March 29.

Photo courtesy of USF Athletics

A season ago, the Bulls finished 9-22 with only four wins against Big East opponents and a 4-14 conference record. Their 11-win improvement this season marks the biggest improvement from one season to the next since the school began playing basketball 40 years ago. In his third season as head coach, Stan Heath brought about one of the biggest turnarounds in all of college basketball from last season to this season.

Junior guard Dominique Jones was the driving force behind the team's success all season. Jones scored 46 points in a comeback win at Providence and was the only player in the country to average over 21 points, 6 rebounds and 3 assists per game. He was the leading scorer in the Big East. Many believe the star point guard will leave early for the NBA if he is projected to be a first-round draft pick.

Augustus Gilchrist, a sophomore forward, appeared to be the leader out on the floor until he went down with an ankle injury and missed a good portion of the season. However, the Bulls made up for his absence and continued to play well. Should Jones move on to greener pastures in the NBA, Gilchrist would likely be the go-to guy next season.

Other key contributors during the 2009-10 season were senior guard Chris Howard, who was likened to a coach among players and will be greatly missed. Freshman forward Toarlyn Fitzpatrick also showed tremendous poise defensively in big games and should be a major player for the team in the coming years.

Next season will not be much easier, but expect the Bulls to be in the thick of the Big East conference once again after enjoying a breakout year this season. If the ball bounces their way more often, who knows how far the team could climb.

A look at the Honda Grand Prix

Photo by Michael Rohloff
Downtown St. Petersburg takes on a carnival atmosphere during race weekend.

Photo by Michael Rohloff
A member of the track safety team keeps an eye on the track near pit row.

Photo by Michael Rohloff
Danica Patrick signs an autograph for an aspiring young fan.

Photo by Michael Rohloff
Race technicians fine tune high-performance racing machines in preparation for the main event.