In our final issue of the fall semester, our readers can find articles and columns all about the upcoming holidays. • If you are traveling for your holiday, make sure to read Taylor's column “Packing smart for the holidays,” where she explains how to travel with your essentials. • Thinking up gift ideas for all your loved ones can be difficult, so consult Amanda's “Gift-giving Guide 2010” for inspiration. • The Cackling Hen reviews holiday tunes, both classic and contemporary, in this week's column. Need a Lady Gaga Christmas fix? The Cackling Hen's got you covered. • Malory provides a behind-the-scenes look at a Christmas classic, The Nutcracker, being shown locally at the Palladium Theater. • If you aren't in the holiday mindset quite yet, there are plenty of USF-related articles. Check out stories on: The Debate Team • The Career Center Open House • USFSP's Ethics Bowl victory • Jim Leavitt's lawsuit update • Intramural flag football champions • and more! Happy Holidays!
The Cackling Hen: Not your average holiday tune

Robbie Crowley
Campus & Beyond Editor

Since Halloween is over, it immediately became time to get in the holiday spirit. Christmas and holiday merchandise overruns the Wal-Mart garden section, and songs related to the December holidays play through retail stores, dentist offices and that random radio station.

But how many years can we pretend that we enjoy hearing “Jingle Bells” for two months? Thankfully, pop music record labels force some of their musicians to record holiday albums, so a true Clay Aiken fan can hear him sing “Jingle Bells” and other classics. The devout Beyonce fan can even enjoy her one Christmas song from days when she was a part of Destiny’s Child. And leave it to Lady Gaga to expand your options to holiday tunes that aren’t the most family-friendly.

Example A: Mariah Carey’s version of “All I Want for Christmas Is You.” This modern Christmas tune emerges from the tried and true. It’s not the most family-friendly, but it’s the only one that has a catchy chorus.

Example B: “Silent Night” from . . . anyone? The song will be even more confounding in 20 years, when no one remembers what a holiday song was supposed to sound like.

But then there’s Lady Gaga. Even she has a Christmas song, but she turned hers into a sexual innuendo. This is probably why “Christmas Tree” hasn’t hit the airwaves with “Silent Night” and “The First Noel.” When the references underneath her “Christmas Tree” title is too adult.

For the best day is the third day, when the trio sings, “Oh, on the third day of Christmas, my baby gave to me, a gift certificate to get my favorite CD.” The song will be even more confounding in 20 years, when no one remembers what a gift certificate was supposed to sound like.

As the holiday season and we quickly tire of songs about Rudolph and F irst Noel, expand your options to holidays tunes that pop stars were forced to record. Some cover the classics with their powerful voices, like Mariah and Christina. Some tweak classics that maybe shouldn’t be tweaked. Sorry, Destiny’s Child. And leave it to Lady Gaga to give a Christmas tree a sexual innuendo.

E-mail: rcrowley@usf.edu
Beyond the lesson plan

Meghan Hoodhood
Contributing Writer

Students from USF St. Petersburg competed in the Regional Ethics Bowl Sat., Nov. 13 at St. Petersburg College. USF St. Petersburg took third place behind the University of Central Florida in second, and Eckerd College in first. USF St. Petersburg will go on to compete in the National Ethics Bowl on March 5 in Cincinnati.

Eckert Elliott, professor in the department of journalism and media studies, promises students in her media ethics class, “this class will change your life.”

Elliott requires her undergraduate communication ethics students to participate in the Regional Ethics Bowl. Easily in the morning on Saturday, the room was silent. Four anxious ethics students from Palm Beach Atlantic University sat in a row, staring at their opponents with smiles and shifting eyes. They wore suits, and had backgrounds in law, business and politics. Across from them, members of the USF St. Petersburg team put on their journalist hats, and looked their competition up and down.

“They all look so intense,” said Kelcie Vesburn, a USF St. Petersburg presenter, while grabbing her water bottle nervously.

Twelve chairs were placed adjacent in the room—four for PBU; five for USF St. Petersburg, and three for the judges. The rest of the room was silent.

The first round started off with the ethics students, bringing support and confidence with them.

The moderator flipped a coin—heads. A big sigh cut the air and the men in suits squinted—they were to present first. The five students from USF-St. Petersburg turned around to their cheerleaders with tense faces, and the cheerleader silently performed victory dances. PBU laid out the case in eight minutes.

USF-St. Petersburg had five minutes for rebuttal. The crowd's fads looked tight, their teeth gritted.

The judges hold up their scores. USF St. Petersburg was behind by 11 points, they move onto the next round.

The room changed, and this time the cheerleaders were so loud the moderator had to ask for them to quiet down.

“We are slightly intimidated by the home court advantage, we didn’t bring our fan club,” said a member of the team from the University of South Florida.

The second round started with USF St. Petersburg student Taylor Gaudens, whose case about Facebook privacy was chosen next.

“I’m not scared to talk,” she said. “I’m more nervous that I’ll forget important facts.”

Gaudens was strong in her presentation, but the judges and opposing team noticed a contradiction. Both teams grab for their water bottles and take deep swigs. USF St. Petersburg wins its second round.

The teams are on break, and everyone seems to have disappeared. “We were so nervous we just kept drinking water,” Vesburn said.

The last match began; the winner would get to go onto the semifinals. The match went by faster than any of the others, and USF St. Petersburg wins in last round. Their next competitors, Eckerd College, have been victorious in the Southeast Region Ethics Bowl.

But USF St. Petersburg manages enough points to secure a spot to Cincinnati. “I’m more confident than ever,” Vesburn said, “as a team. Elliott's promise to the class lingered for the competitors—this class will change your life.”

USFSP debate team hosts high school tournament

Keeley Sheehan
Managing Editor

The USF St. Petersburg Debate Team hosted a tournament for high school students on Sat., Nov. 20.

The Debate Team began planning the invitational debate tournament in August. The team has connections with a wide network of schools and coaches in the state, using that list to invite schools to participate, said David Trigaux, president of the Debate Team.

“We started really planning after we got back from the tournament in early November,” Trigaux said.

He and other members of the team did all the registration, planning, set up, and keeping the tournament running through-out the day. They had to plan each stage of the tournament, from parking to lunch for the participants, to securing classrooms around the university to hold each part of the competition.

Around 250 students participated in the all-day tournament. Some of the judges were teachers and coaches from different schools participating, and a number of the judges were professors from USF St. Petersburg and members of the debate team.

“The high school students like us to judge because we know what we’re talking about,” Trigaux said. “We know how debate works.”

Members of the USF St. Petersburg debate team are well acquainted with debate and tournament format, having participated in college, and many of them in high school. They know different debate and argument techniques that inexperienced judges may not recognize, and can offer more detailed, helpful feedback, Trigaux said.

Some teams will contest the results of a debate round if inexperienced judges are making the calls. Having judges that know debate well keeps results consistent and the rounds running smoothly, Trigaux said.

Registration began early, with the first rounds beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The high school students participated in a number of different types of rounds. One round gave participants 20 minutes to write a 10-minute speech on the presented topic. Other rounds involve topics like government, policy or philosophy. Some involve a number of students, while some are one-on-one.

The students also enjoy competing in tournaments like the one held Saturday because it offers them more time and opportunities to compete, at a registration fee a little cheaper than other tournaments.

Members of the USF St. Petersburg Debate Team like hosting these kinds of tournaments because analyzing and judging the high school students gives them a new perspective that can help them focus better when they compete in their own tournaments, Trigaux said.

“It can help us become better debaters,” he said.

Career Center reorients students with open house

Tom Chang
Staff Writer

The Career Center hosted an open house for students on Nov. 17 to reintroduce students to the center, according to Barbara Oliver, the new assistant director of the Career Center.

“Many folks who work at USF St. Pete know who I am, but there are so many folks who don’t know who I am and may not have interacted with me outside the college of business,” Oliver said.

Oliver had prior experience at USF St. Petersburg in the college of business. She returned to USF St. Petersburg after a stint as an alumni career center coach at USF-Tampa.

“Coming back here to St. Petersburg has been a great experience. I’ve enjoyed career services, but I especially enjoy working with all students,” Oliver said.

She finds the campus unique with its downtown setting, waterfront, and small, intimate size. Oliver said she prefers the smaller classroom settings and feels USF St. Petersburg has a lot to offer students and the city of St. Petersburg. She said an advantage to coming here is that there are no large lecture halls for classes.

“I love this campus,” Oliver said. “I like the fact there is more individual attention and we have the opportunity to get to know students a little bit better.”

She credits her work at the Tampa campus with the idea that the USF campuses are unique, but also need to work together.

Rosaria Pipitone works as a graduate assistant for the career center. She works with undergraduate students. She is currently working on her master’s degree in the career counseling program at USF Tampa. She said traffic flow was steady in the morning for the open house.

“We had some students coming in and take the Holland Code quiz, which is a career quiz where we put it up to a computer,” she said. “It’s a code that describes what type of settings match your personality; and what majors and what activities are associated with the three letter code.”

They also handed out flyers and had raffles during the open house.

Aaron Dulley is an undergraduate student who works part time at the Career Center office. He enjoys working at Oliver’s office, and likes helping students.

“If there’s something simple, I help them get started while they wait for their appointment with the counselor,” Dulley said. “I’m the first line—if they have a quick question, I can help guide them and things like that.”

Oliver said they are always trying to get the word out more about career services and planning. The program is offering a class next semester for students who are indecisive, called “Career empowerment: Dreams to Reality?” The class will feature guest speakers who will talk about a variety of professions in addition to the resources that help students research different career options to help determine a plan of action.

E-mail: tomchang@mailusf.edu
Miss Florida campaigns for anti-bullying

Brad Richardson
Contributing Writer

Miss Florida, Jacyln Raulerson, visited Pinellas County schools on Thursday, Nov. 18, to talk about anti-bullying.

Raulerson visited Seminole High, Seminole Middle and Bauder Elementary during the Great American Teach-In.

Raulerson presented her anti-bullying campaign with a story about being bullied when she was a young girl. When she went to school, children would make fun of her height and try to crush her dreams of being an Olympic swimmer. She was able to overcome the heckling and obstacles to get where she is today because of the love and support from her family and close friends.

When Raulerson spoke at Bauder Elementary, she saw her purpose and platform related better to a younger age group she was talking to.

"This is my absolute favorite part about what I do as Miss Florida," Raulerson said. "I can directly see the impact that I'm doing with my cause and [the students] come to me and tell their stories and how they are feeling."

During her discussion, Raulerson requested the children in the room to close their eyes and raise their hands. She then asked how many of them were the bully and how many were the victim. A majority of hands stayed up when both questions were asked. According to the Website Family First Aid, 30 percent of kids in the United States are estimated to be involved in school bullying.

Bauder employee Valerie Hannah thought Raulerson's discussion with the students was a great way to help them.

"To have someone who is in her position can talk to children and motivate them," Hannah said.

After asking the children if they had similar experiences, she pointed out the types of people involved in bullying. Besides the bullies and the supporters, she put great emphasis on the defenders and the onlookers.

"As teachers, neighbors, students and as peers, we have to unite in stopping this because it is a team effort," Raulerson said. "We all have to contribute to the cause."

She then asked for a few volunteers to come to the front of the room and participate in an activity. She asked five of the children to hold up signs. These signs had important information explaining how children should act and not participate in bullying.

Raulerson not only talked about bullying in schools. One of the many points that she reflected on was cyber bullying.

This type of bullying relates to children who have MySpace and Facebook pages. It is becoming the newest type of bullying to affect young children.

According to the Website Cyber Bullying Research, 20.8 percent of students admitted that they were the victims of cyber bullying due to the negativty that they received while on the internet. This comes from comments posted on pictures or videos featuring young children.

"I just want anyone who is a different race, a different gender, a different sexuality to know that they are valued and that they have a special place in this world," said Raulerson. "I just want to reach out and tell them that they have meaning."

At the end she allowed the children to ask her questions about her role as Miss Florida and what inspires her.

Raulerson will continue speaking at other functions around the state of Florida. She states that until the end of December, she will be visiting 10 other schools in Florida before attending the Miss America pageant on Jan. 15, 2011. For more information about Miss Florida and her cause, please visit her Website at http://www.missflorida.org.

E-mail: bhreith@usf.edu

Faculty Profile: Bob Dardenne

Niknya Williams
Editor-in-Chief

Inside of his office he has The Mon­ gol Mastodont and Shaghai Star newspa­ pers posted near the doorway, and on the top of one his bookshelves sits a picture that reads "Tampa's Cool Vacation Land." Each of his bookshelves is packed solid with literature, books on news writing and media law books.

Bob Dardenne, department chair for the Journalism and Media Studies Program, sits in the middle of his office sharing his experiences as a young journalist.

His desire to become a journalist started when he was in middle school.

"My father and I read the newspaper from cover to cover each morning, so I grew up with the newspaper," Dardenne said. "I thought that travel would be involved in it."

He was a curious person, he liked asking questions. He worked on the school newspaper in high school, and then at Louisiana State University.

"In LSU, I worked on the LSU newspaper for about the whole year," Dardenne said. "I did that more than school sometimes."

When he graduated from LSU, he worked at the LSU newspaper for about a year before he was drafted in the Vietnam War.

"I graduated from LSU in 1968, and I got my draft notice and diploma on the same day," Dardenne said. "Instead of joining the army—people in the army had a short life during those days—I enlisted in the Navy for four years."

After serving four years in the Navy, Dardenne was sent home due to an injury.

When he arrived back to Baton Rouge, LA, he worked for a local newspaper. After working there for a while, Dardenne moved to Mexico City to work for the only English translated newspaper named The News.

"I got an opportunity to go to Mexico City to work on the English language paper," he said. "I helped the Mexican staff with translating English, and I edited what they wrote."

While in Mexico City, Dardenne also played baseball for the industrial league, which is almost like the major leagues in Mexico.

"I pitched and played outfield," he said.

"But after a year in Mexico I was ready to come back to the U.S."

After he came back to the US, he was offered a position at The Times Union Newspaper. "It was a great newspaper and great staff," Dardenne said. "One of the people that I worked with was my wife."

As a journalist for The Times Union Newspaper, he also met and interviewed famous country singer Dolly Parton, and comedians Anne Meara and Jerry Stiller—act­ tor Ben Stiller’s parents.

Although Dardenne had a successful career as a journalist, he loves to teach journal­ ism more than anything.

In 1991, Dardenne moved to St. Peters­ burg to help create and develop the St. Petersburg Journalism and Media Studies Program. "I like the idea of starting the pro­ gram," he said.

Dardenne and Mike Killenberg, execut­ utive professor and founding director of the program, created the Master’s Professional Program in Journalism for USF, since then there was not a master’s program at the USF Tampa campus. "We started taking graduate students in 1991, and we had large class in 1992," Dardenne said.

E-mail: nswilli6@mail.usf.edu
GIS day maps the future of technology

Amy Heckler
Contributing Writer

Over 300 students from local elementary, middle and high schools attended GIS day at USF St. Petersburg on Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The event provided students the opportunity to learn more about GIS, or geographic information system—computer software that maps and analyzes geographic data.

“It’s really cool. So many people use this technology. It’s the way of the future,” said Matthew Sandoval, a seventh grader from Seven Springs Middle School.

Vendors from throughout the area hosted booths at the event to share with students their use of GIS technology. The U.S. Geological Survey hosted a booth providing data on GIS mapping of the Gulf of Mexico during the recent oil spill. Other vendors included the National Marine Fisheries Service, City of St. Petersburg, Spatial Networks, Manatee County Government and ArcGIS.

Lesley A. Ward, GIS coordinator for the City of St. Petersburg, attended the event as a vendor. She said there is a shortage of GIS professionals right now so “it’s good to expose these kids to what GIS does.”

Volunteers also hosted exhibits to share their knowledge of GIS technology. Jennifer Beltran, an environmental sciences and policy student at USF St. Petersburg, spoke to the attending students about mapping in Africa. She explained that GIS mapping could help determine how much safe water may be available throughout the continent.

Nickeria Williams volunteered to assist with field spectrometry. The students had the opportunity to take a hand-held spectrometer out on campus and experiment with measuring wavelengths of simple things such as grass, Williams said. By utilizing these “real world applications, it helps them connect science together with technology,” she said.

The schools also participated in a treasure hunt on campus with a hand-held Global Positioning System device. Alexandra Voglioggi, a fourth grader from Perkins Elementary School in St. Petersburg, said that she didn’t know that the GPS had 29 satellites and that you can locate cars with this technology.

The event provided students the opportunity to learn more about GIS, or geographic information system—computer software that maps and analyzes geographic data.

“Great I liked it a lot. It explains more of GIS in depth,” said Casey Houlton, a sixth grader from St. Petersburg High School. She said she was fascinated with the Google Earth technology.

Google Earth, available on the Internet, offers free mapping of anywhere “on Earth to view satellite imagery, maps, terrain, 3D buildings, from galaxies in outer space to the canyons of the ocean,” according to the Google Earth website.

Rebecca Johns, professor of geography at USF St. Petersburg, said that this event has been running for over five years and is organized by Barnali Dixon, associate professor of environmental science, policy and geography.

“GIS is a revolutionary program,” Johns said. “It’s wonderful for the students and a plus for the vendors as it allows them to showcase what they do.”

According to Dixon’s website, “The National Geographic Society has sponsored Geography Awareness Week since 1987 to promote geographic literacy in schools, communities and organizations.

GIS day is held on the Wednesday during Geography Awareness Week.”

Ribfest promotes BBQ competition

Lauren Martin
Staff Writer

“Don’t play with your food!” doesn’t apply when you’re eating barbecue ribs at the Tampa Bay Ribfest. With 13 vendors, each selling the same style of ribs, choosing the right rib joint to go to can be the toughest decision of the night.

Everyone tries to make them and some succeed, but getting that perfect BBQ rib can be a real challenge. The three-day festival offered something for everyone. It is a classic rock concert and definitely a rib lover’s paradise.

Some of the best barbecueers around fired up their grills and smokers to cook thousands of pounds of meat. Nearly all the vendors have been to Ribfest before and some come every year. Awards are given for best ribs and best sauce.

The 2010 winners for best ribs were Porky-N-Beans in first place, Blain! Bronco in second place, and Desperado in third place. The 2010 winners of the best sauce were Camp 31 in first place, Blain! Bronco in second place, and Desperado in third place.

All the vendors had ribs, trophies and newspaper articles out for everyone to see how awesome their ribs really are—or how they think they are. Good ribs should be smoky, but not so smoky that it’s all you can taste, and tender, but not quite fall-off-the-bone, which just means overcooked. They should have a caramelized exterior that’s slightly crispy, but not too much. All of the vendors search for that perfect combination but some fail very short.

The local Top-Chop BBQ of Tampa, Fla. is an award-winning BBQ vendor, but fell a little short. Even with a table full of trophies, the ribs lacked sauce, one of the most important key components in rib recipes. The ribs were dry, over cooked and the promised delicious BBQ flavor was sadly missing. They were pretty in the to-go container and the smell was inviting, but that’s about the only thing these ribs had going for them.

Other treats included popular desserts such as funnel cakes, ice cream, kettle corn and strawberry shortcake. There were also hot pretzels, corn on the cob, hot dogs and corn dogs, and onion rings. Willingham’s BBQ offered potato salad. It was more like a homemade potato salad, with fine potato pieces. It was made with mustard, but it was mild enough to enhance, not overpower.

One disadvantage of the festival was how costly it was—$15 dollars just to get in the door, with most ribs samples hovering in the $5 to $7 range. This can add up quickly if you’re the hungry type.

With all the food available, if you didn’t get any of it on your shirt, you weren’t enjoying Ribfest.

E-mail: lauren.m@usf.edu
The magic behind the curtain

Malory Speir
Contributing Writer

Leonards, tunics and dresses are scattered around the small dance room — on the floor, in boxes and draped over wooden ballet bars. The floor is a maze of large plastic boxes and cardboard with costumes. Dancers and parents wander around to ask questions while those in charge try to organize the chaos. Welcome to a costume fitting for “The Nutcracker,” presented by the Academy of Ballet Arts.

It’s after 10 a.m. and Artistic Director Suzanne Pomerantzeff hasn’t even had breakfast yet. She woke up at 5 a.m. to prepare for a day of fittings and rehearsals.

“She’s always so busy; I don’t know how she’s able to have time for herself,” said dancer Tai White, who plays the Mouse King in this year’s production. “She’s always so put together.”

Pomerantzeff has been putting on this timeless ballet since the late 1970s. Every other year it is performed with the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School. This year, however, it will be held at the Palladium Theater in St. Petersburg on Dec. 9-11.

This particular venue has a smaller stage than that of PCCA, which presents a performance. Usually, “The Nutcracker” has an elaborate set to help make the show come to life; sometimes the Christmas tree even “grows” right before the audience’s eyes. But this performance doesn’t have that.

“We have to create the magic in another way,” Pomerantzeff said.

Sharon Rowe is in charge of sewing and creating most of the costumes for the performance. She trained with the National Ballet of Cuba. She has been dancing since age 3, but has six or seven years of serious ballet training.

ShelbyBatista, 17, and Kenneth Shelby, 17, joins hands as the Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier to rehearse their duet. He lifts her up above his head in a graceful arabesque. It looks effortless from afar, but the strain of their muscles can be seen close-up.

“The whole idea is to make it look easy, but it’s extraordinarily difficult,” said Sean Musselman, ballet master for the academy’s production. “These two have impeccable classical ballet technique.”

Batista moved here from Cuba, where she trained with the National Ballet of Cuba. She has been dancing since age 5, and has six or seven years of serious ballet training.

Shelby explains that the physical elements of rehearsing vary from which muscles to use and how to use them, to the correct alignment and precision.

“In partnering, we lift people all day,” Shelby said. “We’re just as much athletes as football players and basketball players.”

Batista and Shelby agreed that performing on stage is a means of expression and a way to escape everyday life.

Shelby has been dancing since he was 8 years old, but serious training started about three years ago. He danced the same role of the Cavalier in last year’s performance, but Shelby said, “We’re just as much athletes as football players and basketball players.”

The afternoon rehearsal for the party scene is about to start. Finally, the chaos travels from the waiting room to the dance room.

Dancers are scattered throughout the room as Pomerantzeff gives instructions. She reads names out loud of the different groups that will be familiar in the scene. After all groups are placed in the proper areas of the room, they are given very specific things to do. One boy sits in a toy car on the Christmas tree as his “sister” pulls his leg; other children are told to play charades in a corner of the stage while another set of children play hot potatoes.

The acting is not limited to the stage. Pomerantzeff will greet audience members at the entrance in costume, as if the Palladium is her house. There will also be parents in the party scene and other characters that will walk through the theater to get to the stage to make the audience feel like part of the show.

“You have to watch when there aren’t any words, so the audience needs to figure out the story and go on a journey,” Pomerantzeff said.

Tchaikovsky’s music starts. Violins and harps echo a slow, dramatic melody throughout the room. A sense of calm seems to take over the dancers as they begin to move.

Galifianakis smokes pot on Real Time

Lauran Martin
Staff Writer

Zach Galifianakis has more than just jokes on his side. The portly actor and comedian, best known for his dry humor and offbeat, mentally unhinged character on “The Hangover,” is also a man of mystery. It’s hard to tell if anyone really knows him, and he looks like underneath that beard. The 41-year-old comic actor from North Carolina abandoned college one class shy of graduation. He is offbeat and known for keeping a straight face. These were a big two years for Galifianakis.

It wasn’t until he landed a lead role in the 2009 flick “The Hangover,” that he skyrocketed to the level of comic legend. In the comedy, which follows three friends searching for their best friend and groom-to-be the morning after a night of drunken debauchery, Galifianakis plays the awkward man- purser-toting, brother-in-law-to-be. As Alan, the socially awkward, mentally unhinged third wheel of the ensemble, Galifianakis is easily the funniest element of 2009’s highest-grossing film. For some time, he was labeled an “Oh, that guy” brand of star, the kind whom audiences don’t know by name, but can identify pretty quickly when words like “bearded,” “fat” and “sloppy” are tossed around.

Since “The Hangover,” Galifianakis has snagged roles in a number of movies, including “Youth in Revolt,” “Up in the Air,” and “Dinner for Schmucks.” He starred in two films that were released this fall—“It’s Kind of a Funny Story” and “Due Date.”

He’s one of the funniest people in movies right now. But Galifianakis’s fame isn’t the strangest turn of events. He’s been a little famous for about 15 years among other comedians.

Recently, Galifianakis lit up late night TV—literally—when he decided to smoke some weed on HBO’s “Real Time with Bill Maher.” Pulling a joint and lighter from his pocket, the funnyman proceeded to puff away. He was making a point that people freak out about something that he says is not less dangerous than alcohol. To poke fun at the serious debate about marijuana legalization, he yelled, “Oh my God! Look at those dragons!” He said that this is how some people mistakenly think pot smokers act and behave.

E-mail: mcpart@msn.com
Tunes for Transition concert hosted by SEAS

Tom Chang
Staff Writer

The Student Environmental Awareness Society and Repower America hosted Tunes for Transition: A Concert for Clean Energy at the Harborwalk on Fri. Nov. 19.

"The purpose of the concert is to create awareness on clean energy alternatives and benefits, and encourage students to make their opinions heard," said Chris Hastings, SEAS campaign director and Repower America campus coordinator.

When Hastings began his position with Repower America, volunteer Kristin Viola suggested they do a concert.

"I thought it would be a good way to reach out to a large group students and community members, and educate them about the benefits of clean energy, creating clean energy jobs in America and solving the climate crisis," Viola said.

Hugh Newmark, Viola's friend and member of a local band, Orange Hour, helped provide details about how to plan a concert. They worked on the details of sound, funding and advertising.

When Viola first tried to get sponsorship from national corporations, she received negative responses.

"I realized that the only way to find sponsors was going to have to be locally," Viola said.

With help from Repower America's Adriana Brunori, she found Scott McIntyre, the owner of Solar Energy Management of St. Petersburg, who supplied the solar bus and talked at the concert.

Rollin Oars offered to be a sponsor, Hooker Tea Company donated tea, and TBT gave the concert free advertising space for two days.

"I'm so happy with the way things fell into place," Viola said. She said Harborwalk made an ideal location for the event because any curious onlookers from downtown could check out the scene. Viola hopes the concert will become an annual event, and sees it improving in the future since the foundation has been laid out.

Brettin Cleveland, organizer for Repower America, wanted the community to be as involved as possible in the concert.

\"We want the community to see that there is a spirit of activism at USF St. Petersburg that rivals that of other larger universities around the state and around the country," Cleveland said. "There are many students on this campus that care deeply about the issue of clean energy and climate change, and realize that our generation has much to lose as a result of inaction, and at the same time, much to gain from a new clean energy economy."

Cleveland said the concert will be a big house with success for rent. Then it was a boxing gym for about 10 years. In '87 or '88, it finally became a restaurant, and today is known as Ringside Cafe. The bartender, Mitch Gray, has been working at Ringside, as he puts it, "forever." Ringside is nestled away discreetly on Fourth Street North.

With its weathered white exterior and big front porch, it looks more like an old house than a restaurant. Ringside Cafe's interior was speckled with a few people at the bar and various tables throughout the restaurant.

The atmosphere is extremely casual. It's a low-key bar, serving food and beer, along with live entertainment seven nights a week. Ringside Cafe has happy hour everyday from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m.

The drinks menu consists of several domestic and imported beers, along with a few wine selections. The menu has a fairly good variety to choose from, with appetizers, homemade soups and salads. Nothing on the menu is over $12.

The menu boasts all the awards they have won: "Best Blues," "Best Burger," "Best Bar," and "Best place for a date." Maybe so, but no awards should be given for the grouper sandwich. The fried grouper tasted too fishy for such a mild fish. But the jalapeno poppers were surprisingly cheesy and, surprisingly, didn't have too much of a kick to them. Served with a side of ranch, they were delicious.

The "homemade" chili resembled chili from a can. Topped with your choice of cheese, onion and jalapenos, the concept was more appealing than the actual substance of the chili.

The chicken wrap included mushrooms, lettuce and tomato with a side of ranch. The grilled essence seeped out of the chicken, and combined with the mushrooms, gave it exceptionally good flavor. The French fries were extra crispy and seasoned to perfection.

The live entertainment for the evening was the Juabamon Band. Very upbeat, they owned the small stage in the back corner of the restaurant, decorated with multicolored string lights. The music was bluesy and got people dancing.

The live music was great, but there were a few noticeable problems with the setup. It is already extremely dim in the restaurant. Once the music starts they dim the lights even more for special effect, but then you can't really see your food. The music is very loud, making it hard to hear anyone talk.

Aside from the loud music and dim lighting, the cafe had a very casual, relaxed atmosphere. The overall ambiance and menu of Ringside Cafe seems to keep locals coming back, and it's hard to blame them with a longstanding staple like this.

Tunne for Transition dance hosted by SEAS

African masquerade dance

LaVerne Reed, left, dances an African masquerade dance with a member of Dunu Delo's Urban African Ballet dance troupe at the Waterfront Park centennial celebration Nov. 6, 2010. Reed is also the creator of the Chocolate Nutcracker, a multicultural performance of Tchaikovsky's classic holiday tale.

Local café serves afternoon happy hour and homemade food

Levan Ruhl
Staff Writer

First it was a big house with success for rent. Then it was a boxing gym for about 10 years. In '87 or '88, it finally became a restaurant, and today is known as Ringside Cafe.

The bartender, Mitch Gray, has been working at Ringside, as he puts it, "forever." Ringside is nestled away discreetly on Fourth Street North.

With its weathered white exterior and big front porch, it looks more like an old house than a restaurant. Ringside Cafe's interior was speckled with a few people at the bar and various tables throughout the restaurant.

The atmosphere is extremely casual. It's a low-key bar, serving food and beer, along with live entertainment seven nights a week. Ringside Cafe has happy hour everyday from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m.

The drinks menu consists of several domestic and imported beers, along with a few wine selections. The menu has a fairly good variety to choose from, with appetizers, homemade soups and salads. Nothing on the menu is over $12.

The menu boasts all the awards they have won: "Best Blues," "Best Burger," "Best Bar," and "Best place for a date." Maybe so, but no awards should be given for the grouper sandwich. The fried grouper tasted too fishy for such a mild fish. But the jalapeno poppers were surprisingly cheesy and, surprisingly, didn't have too much of a kick to them. Served with a side of ranch, they were delicious.

The "homemade" chili resembled chili from a can. Topped with your choice of cheese, onion and jalapenos, the concept was more appealing than the actual substance of the chili.

The chicken wrap included mushrooms, lettuce and tomato with a side of ranch. The grilled essence seeped out of the chicken, and combined with the mushrooms, gave it exceptionally good flavor. The French fries were extra crispy and seasoned to perfection.

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Packing smart for the Holidays

Taylor Gaudens
Contributing Writer

Going out of town for the holidays? Car, plane or train, you need to pack light. Keep the essentials in mind when traveling this holiday season.

When I was younger, I always seemed to forget something, even when I made a list. Just recently I learned to pack just the right amount of outfits and accessories, and fit everything in one suitcase for a long weekend. Here are some tips on packing all your favorite things and having a little room for an extra pair of shoes.

If you are flying up north for a few days, it may be hard to fit all your beauty essentials into a carry-on suitcase and your purse. The key to packing beauty products is investing in little bottles, especially if you are in love with your current ones. Instead of purchasing sample-size shampoo, lotions and conditioners for every trip, buy some empty bottles, especially if you are going to South America. The Transportation Security Administration liquid limit for carry-on bags is 3.4 ounces and passengers are required to put all the bottles in "quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bags" so you can zip through security.

If you are looking to try some new winter-inspired beauty products, Bath and Body Works is the place. Three-ounce bottles of lotions, shower gels and hand creams are currently on sale for $3 each. It's a great way to try new scents and pack light.

Next: clothes. Start with jeans. Pack them even if you are going to South America. Jeans are a great staple—you can dress them up or down, or bring a nice pair that can suit any occasion.

You can't skimp on underwear, but you can on the number of shoes you stuff in your suitcase. Pack thick socks instead of slippers so you have room for your knee-high boots. Hats, scarves and gloves are important, but you can fit those in your purse and only need them when you get off the plane.

To make things easier, carry your winter coat on the plane. You may look silly carrying it around Tampa International Airport, but it will save you space in your suitcase and you won't have to worry about digging it out on the stuffy airplane.

If you plan to make snow angels and have snowball fights with your cousins, be sure to bring a pair of long johns to keep warm under your oh-so-stylish outfit (they can double for a pair of pajamas).

Last and probably the most important, pick out your holiday accessories, from the earrings to the pumps and jewelry. Selecting a dressy outfit or two before you pack will make the process much easier.

Everyone is different, so you may need to bring a few more (or less) items than the ones I mentioned. You may be lucky enough to pack a really big suitcase for a weeklong trip. If so, make sure to visit www.tsa.gov for packing and traveling tips to avoid baggage claim delays.

Happy travels and happy holidays.

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Visit: beautyownit.blogspot.com

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Gift guide 2010

Amanda Pretulac
Contributing Writer

While the holiday season is one of the happiest times of the year, the process of finding the perfect gift for someone special can be daunting. To help ease your racing mind, think back to the holidays when you were a child.

In elementary school, your teachers had you make gifts for your parents with Popsicle sticks, buttons and a little too much glitter. One year my teachers gave us blocks of wood to cover with the wrapping paper of our choice.

On the top of our wooden presents we attached a poem with a piece of tape to express how much we loved our parents. On Christmas morning, my mom had to hold back tears when she saw my gift. That wrapped wooden block still remains on her side table decades later.

Here are a few of the gifts I’ll be giving this year to give you a little inspiration for the special people in your life.

Panna Dolce Raspberry Chocolate Ganache French Macaroons
My French is terrible and my professor has been incredibly patient in helping me pronounce my accents and verbs. During one particular class, we learned how to order food, and she told us every cheese and dessert we must try when we go to France. I saw just how much she missed home and I hope these will bring her a little taste of Paris to St. Petersburg, Fla.

Pomele & Kumquat Delight Diffuser
My hair stylist has become one of my best friends and at my last appointment she was telling me how much she loved a website called CultRoom. She said she found her favorite candles and diffusers there. Hopefully this gift can surprise her and be something to help her unwind after a long day at the salon.

Anthropologie Gift Card
One of my closest co-workers keeps telling me how much she is obsessed with Anthropologie lately after her first visit. Hopefully with this gift card she can purchase something special for herself.

Brown Faux Lizard Box of Correspondence Cards
My dad is constantly traveling to different cites for work and he'll usually send me funny postcards and greeting cards to keep in touch as an alternative to an impersonal e-mail. I thought these correspondence cards would be a nice way for him to write to my mother and I while he's working miles away.

Essie Nail Polish 4-Pack
My best friend loves beauty products and new nail polishes especially. I am always blown away by how well she can paint her nails, because when I paint my own, they usually look like a 3-year-old painted them. These Essie for J-Crew colors will be perfect for her and they will stand the test of time through the seasons.

When searching for a Christmas present this year, don’t worry about how flashy it should be or how expensive. The best gifts every year are always the ones with the most meaning.

E-mail: amanda27@msn.com
Christian Coffey, left, president of USF St. Petersburg’s Gardening Club, and club members, attended the Bayboro Garden Groundbreaking Ceremony on Nov. 15. Coffey said the garden will include Florida native plants and organic vegetables. Students wanting to get involved can attend weekly Gardening Club meetings in the garden located behind the Piano Man Building on 3rd Street South, on Mondays at 5 p.m.

### Student Government Overload

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<tr>
<th>Meeting Times</th>
<th>MID ELECTION BBQ</th>
<th>SENATE ELECTIONS</th>
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<td><strong>Wednesday, October 20th from 11AM-3PM</strong></td>
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<td>Mondays at 2PM CAC Club Room</td>
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**Vote Online**

| **COOKOUT**                                                                  | **Wednesday, October 20th at 7pm**                                              | **at the Waterfront Pool. See you there!**                                      |
|                                                                               |                                                                                 |                                                                                  |
| **IMPORTANT UPCOMING BUSINESS**                                              | **Creation of a Bike Checkout Program**                                         | **Construction of a Recreational Space behind RHO**                              |
|                                                                               | **OPEN POSITIONS**                                                              |                                                                                  |
| **Elections Commission Officials (2), and Senate Clerk (paid)**              |                                                                                  |                                                                                  |
Rudigers beat Mercy Rule for flag football supremacy

Greg Lindberg
Sports Editor

The team named Mercy Rule, formerly known as the B.N. Penrodians, was going for its third championship in four tries in the USF-St. Petersburg flag football intramural league. But the Rudigers nixed their opponent's dreams of winning three titles by beating them, 20-14, in the Nov. 15 championship game.

The two teams had been very competitive throughout the regular-season matchup just a few weeks earlier. This set up a tough battle in the title game.

The Rudigers, named after the lead character in the popular 1993 football movie "Rudy," played well defensively against a Mercy Rule team that was on its third-string quarterback because of other two suffered injuries during the season. The Rudigers took advantage of this with an interception returned for a touchdown by Raiston Stewart in the first half. They also scored a TD on offense and led 14-0. The Mercy Rule's Matt Matting scored before halftime to get his team on the board and cut the lead to 14-6.

In the second half, Mercy Rule answered when Eric Russo scored a TD and QB A Jandel Lynam converted the two-point conversion to tie the game at 14. With about 20 seconds left in the fourth quarter, the Rudigers' Brice Haworth made an impressive—and somehow lucky—TD catch that would seal the win. Trails 20-14 with only six seconds remaining, the Mercy Rules were unable to score before time expired.

Rudigers team captain David Norge described the winning catch and how amazed everyone was at it.

"We lined up both of our tall receivers on the left and told them to do a 'go' route," he said. "Andrew threw the ball to Rashon and CJ (the much shorter defender) got two hands on it. Rashon jumped up, ripped the ball out of his hands and it caused the ball to fly out. Brock was running toward him, dove and caught the ball in one hand. It was pretty ridiculous."

Norge said, "I was pretty determined" that drove his team to victory. He helped assemble the public team several years ago.

Mercy Rule captain C.J. Hanlica noted his team's early deficit and late interceptions as the main reasons for why they came up short.

"It's always hard coming from behind," he said. "Later on we had the game under control but turnovers killed us."

Hanlica, a 22-year-old senior business management major, also said he was "disappointed" that his team failed to capture its third championship.

The game was held at Woodlawn Park on 18th Ave. N., a different location from the usual rec field site on campus. The field was lighted, which Norge believed helped his team play better. There was also a small set of bleachers with about 20 fans in attendance for the game, the Rudgers typically draw on campus.

For winning the game, the Rudgers players received championship T-shirts and will have a trophy made for them that will be displayed on campus. They also get something else that's a little more satisfying to Norge.

"We get bragging rights," he said. "That's all that I really care about."

E-mail: glindber@mail.usf.edu

Young Bucs raise some eyebrows

Greg Lindberg
Sports Editor

Who would have thought that the Tampa Bay Buccaneers would be in the hunt to make the playoffs in 2010? A bettor would have thought a bad football team.

Sporting the youngest team in the NFL, the Bucs have proven that you don't need a field full of All-Stars to win. Even more impressive, the team has played better on the road than at home, winning four of its first five away games this season. That includes two games on the west coast.

Quarterback Josh Freeman has set the tone for the team's young players. The 22-year-old has shown tremendous poise and especially on the road.

Ironically, the youngest head coach also leads the youngest team in the league. At 34, Raheem Morris is younger than former Boise State player while at 50. Morris has countless naysayers when the Glazers gave him the job. But he is working his way up the ladder, already achieving a winning record as both head coach and defensive coordinator since last season.

His coaching style has included some trick plays, like Jakerus paraphrase and inside kicks, keeping the playbook fresh and exciting for his young team.

In addition, Bucs general manager Mark Dominik was the second-youngest GM when he got the job last year and clearly demonstrated his abilities in the 2010 draft.

In a weaker NFC than usual, Tampa Bay has a good shot at making the playoffs, although the NFC South is the toughest division in the conference. Earlier in the season, Morris proclaimed the Bucs are the best team in the NFC. That is likely a major overstatement. But for a team with an average age of 25, there is no reason people shouldn't be excited about the Pewter Pirates both this season, and especially for the future.

E-mail: glindber@mail.usf.edu

Tampa Bay Lightning shapes up for a better season

Vincent Jacobi
Staff Writer

Since winning the Stanley Cup in 2004, the Tampa Bay Lightning have been stumbling on the冰—until recently.

With a respectable start a quarter through the 82-game season, the Lightning must stay focused and healthy if they wish to play in the post-season and repeat the magic that was the 2003-04 season.

In late November, the team sat second in the Southeast division and seventh overall in the eastern conference.

Success has been surrounding center Steven Stamkos, a young player in his third year with the Lightning. He has been named "Three Stars" twice this season.

That is likely a testament to the Lightning in the National Hockey League, as the team has been fairly healthy and led the team with 16 assists in the first 18 games of the season.

He led the league in goals over Pittsburgh Penguins superstar center Sidney Crosby. As just 20 years old, Stamkos was a surprise at the end of last season when he accumulated 51 goals and tied Crosby for the most in the NHL. For this feat, both players received the Rocket Richard Trophy. The honoree Stamkos plans on getting to the 50-goal mark once again this year.

According to a blogger on Xombia.com, if Stamkos were to continue his hot streak, he has the potential to top up 70 goals this season. He was already named one of the "Three Stars" of October this season, along with Boston Bruins goaltender Tim Thomas and Colorado Avalanche right winger Chris Stewart.

While some of the young bloods have taken center ice, a few of the team's veteran players have been hampered by injuries. Longtime Philadelphia Flyers left winger Simon Gagne is now a member of the Lightning, and as of late has suffered fluid buildup in the back of his neck, as well as post-concussion syndrome.

Lightning fan-favorite Vincent Lecavalier suffered a broken hand and was out several weeks, while Marty St. Louis has been fairly healthy and led the team with 18 assists in late November.

With a modest turnaround beginning for the hockey franchise, the Lightning look to reclaim prominence within the NHL in a sport that is traditionally reserved for northeners. The organization took some significant steps to accomplish this goal during this past offseason. The franchise changed hands with its ownership and also hired Guy Boucher as the team's seventh head coach in franchise history.

"I am flattered to have the opportunity to coach in the National Hockey League, especially for the Lightning," Boucher told NHL.com at the time. The 38-year-old became the youngest coach in the league, coming to terms with Tampa Bay in the offseason.

"I believe I am the perfect selection for our team as we look to create a winning environment and re-establish the Lightning in the National Hockey League," new general manager Steve Yzerman told NHL.com.

Although it is not quite time to grow playoff beards, the Lightning may have just as good a shot as any to hoist the Stanley Cup when the season comes to an end in the summer of 2010.

E-mail: vjacobi@mail.usf.edu
Fantasy Football: Playoff Push Edition

Hannah Ulm
Contributing Writer

This will be my last column of the fantasy football season, so cherish my advice while you can. This week is dedicated to those who are striving toward a playoff spot, and for who to bench can all depend on a team's playoff potential, not a player's production. This week is dedicated to playoff potential, not a player's production. Those who have already clinched a playoff spot will rest their best players, instead of wasting their talents in a game that doesn't matter.

Week 15 offers a perfect example to illustrate. Even the Baltimore Ravens, who need to win Sunday to clinch the league's top seed and a first-round bye, will rest several starters. They've already clinched a playoff spot, and a loss to the Texans won't change their playoff seed or order. Meanwhile, the Buffalo Bills are fighting for a Wild Card spot and will presumably start all of their top players Sunday to try and win the game against the Jets.

This applies even to the New England Patriots. Sure, they won their 11th game of the season and clinched the AFC East title, but they've already clinched a playoff spot. They could keep starters out of the lineup Sunday and still make an identical playoff seed as the Ravens. The only reason they may play their starters is because New England's Week 17 opponent is still a mystery, and the Patriots would rather have a bye week if their Week 17 opponent is a team that can't clinch a playoff spot with a win over the Pats.

As for QBs, you really need to judge their fantasy value by their potential playoff teams. If a QB is on a team that will enter the playoffs with a first- or second-string QB, his value is gonna decline. You should consider those players announcers, and their Week 17 opponents are easy to project to see his fantasy value. That's why I've created this handy playoff guide for you. Keep in mind it's subject to change based on injuries and potential extensions.

IMPORTANT: This information is for Week 15 and beyond only!

E-mail: hunb@email.usf.edu

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Leavitt files lawsuit
Vincent Jacobbi
Staff Writer

With the USF football season well underway, with head coach Skip Holtz at the helm, the former presence of Jim Leavitt still lingers. Leavitt, who built the school's football program from scratch after his hiring in December 1995, recently filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against the university.

Jim Leavitt has been under fire for quite some time due to accusations that he allegedly struck running back Joel Miller in the face during halftime last year when the Bulls hosted Louisville in November. Miller decided not to sue his former coach despite the incident. However, Leavitt chose to take action against the school for what he believes to be wrongful termination.

Leavitt and those representing him in court have claimed that the university has withheld close to 150 pages of attorneys' notes that could point to the former Bulls coach's innocence and allow him to reestablish himself on the coaching bench. On Oct. 21, an order was filed to give the school 10 days to comply by releasing the documents.

Concerns from both parties have been raised on what can or cannot be considered public record from USF.

Hillsborough County Circuit Court Judge Bernard Silver is handling the case in agreement with Leavitt about the documents being public record and forcing the university to present them in court.

"While [the findings] do count as reflecting a mental impairment, conclusion, legal strategy or theory of an attorney, such exceptions are only valid when prepared in anticipation of imminent civil litigation," and the judge found that exemptions does not apply according to a report from the St. Petersburg Times.

Recently Leavitt has been dealing with the court proceedings to his case in which he claims that such accusations were false and that he was open to a full investigation. Leavitt received a letter of termination after three weeks of investigations relating to the situation.

According to ESPN.com, the university released a statement about its decision, saying its findings were backed by "independently corroborated statements of persons found to be in the best position to observe [the conduct]."

For some Bulls fans, the firing of Leavitt had been coming for a long time. A website called JimLeavittMustGo.com was created more than a year prior to the Miller incident. The Website says, "It may not be because of his conference record, but ultimately it came down to his lack of discipline, which led to this deplorable situation, where he allegedly attacked one of his players."

In his 14-year tenure at USF, Leavitt compiled a 95-47 record, and went 17-18 in the Big East conference.

E-mail: jacobbi@email.usf.edu
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RAW TEXT

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