Dining hall manager wants to hear from students

By Tyler Killette
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Sodexo General Manager Louis Duran is implementing new ways for students to leave feedback and have their grievances addressed following complaints that food at the Reef lacks variety and taste, and even causes illness.

In order to obtain feedback more efficiently, Duran organized the Food Service Committee, made up of students. Members of the committee serve as ambassadors for the Reef, talking to their peers about the quality of its food and service and relaying the information back to management, Duran said.

Despite the number of complaints circulating behind his back and on the student body’s unofficial Facebook group, Duran said he almost always receives positive responses when walking around the Reef asking students for their opinions. He said he received only three or four direct complaints, one of them from a lactose-intolerant student who suffers from stomach issues after eating an item containing cream.

The Reef displays key ingredients and nutrition facts on menus next to each food item. Ingredients students are commonly allergic to, such as milk, egg, soy, wheat and gluten, are always listed, Duran said.

The Reef even makes customized, gluten-free meals for six students with celiac disease. When these students come in to eat, they receive food cooked completely uncontaminated, Duran said.

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Building traditions $5k at a time

By Christopher Guinn

Students seeking money for a special project through the President’s Initiative Fund may want to look to the event planners in the Harborside Activities Board for advice. By presenting well-researched and achievable ideas, two HAB members will see their proposals realized.

For sparkly vampires and those who love them, the committee also approved $1,740 to rent out a theater at Baywalk for the opening night of “Twilight.” Frank Mathis, the event proposer, said it was geared toward “anyone who likes ‘Twilight.’” Girls mostly.

The Harborside Activities Board is a special student organization that plans most of the university’s signature student events, including the Homecoming Masquerade Ball.

During the inaugural meeting of the five-person president’s committee, members debated feasibility, cost and potential attendance before selecting the two winners. Ultimately, the ideas backed by the most research, including actual price quotes, appealed to the committee members.

After more than two hours of deliberation, the members individually selected their two favorite proposals. The homecoming mechanical bull and a battle of the bands proposed by USF Sarasota-Manatee Student President and USFSP student Andrew Gould were the initial selections.

The concert, with a proposed price tag of $5,000, was shelved based on the amount of uncertainty and lack of specific costs.

An idea to create a breakfast cereal buffet and cartoon lounge, proposed by members of the Cartoon Club, had its fans but was considered too much like an idea for a club. There were also lingering questions about the cost and difficulty of maintaining a food service, which would have required consent from campus dining provider Sodexo.

As the process is refined and the first projects are launched, the committee may be more willing to go bigger, committee members said.

The $30,000 President’s Initiative Fund was created from a portion of unspent activity and service fees from the last academic year. The Senate approved the fund during the summer session, giving the student body president the power to appoint four other members to the selection committee.

Student President Mark Lombardi-Nelson said he wanted a diverse group of knowledgeable and campus-connected stakeholders to comprise the committee. Standing members are Angeline Bruno, a freshman and secretary of the Entrepreneurship Club, Ren LaForme, Editor-in-Chief of The Crow’s Nest, Lauren Dakers, president of the Harborside Activities Board and Austin Piazza from St. Pete Sociabulls. Each member, including Lombardi-Nelson, has an equal vote.

Each month, the committee will make available $5,000 for the purpose of special events, projects and tradition-building. Remaining balances will roll over into the next month. Applications not accepted can be modified and re-submitted.

Contact Lombardi-Nelson at mark7@mail.usf.edu for more information on applying for the grant.

news@crowsneststpete.com

Events planned for National Food Day

By Wendy Joan Biddlecombe

In honor of Food Day, SEAS and the Garden Club will host a canned food drive along Harborwalk and a talk in Bayboro Garden.

Food Day is recognized across the United States on Oct. 24 to promote healthy, “real food” and address hunger. Eckerd College professor Kip Curtis, founder of the Edible Peace Patch Project, will speak on the importance of food availability in urban communities.

The canned food drive will start at 1 p.m. on Oct. 24, Curtis’ talk will start at 4:30 p.m. in Bayboro Garden, located behind the Piano Man Building, at the corner of Seventh Avenue and Third Street S. Local, organic food will be served.

news@crowsneststpete.com

Correction: A story on page 1 of the Oct. 8 edition of The Crow’s Nest incorrectly attributed a comment to lecturer Seth C. McKee. The first sentence was intended as a paraphrase, not a direct quote.

Kayla Witeck and Luke Hoerner pick basil in Bayboro Garden, a community garden behind the Piano Man building where students are welcome to participate. The Garden Club meets on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 to 6 p.m.
Sodexo survey asks
Reef diners for input

**Continued from front page**

To help students with other dietary needs, the Reef uses a system of symbols to indicate various food types—-“VG” for vegetarian and an apple for well-balanced. These symbols can be found on the menus.

Senior Kayla Bradford, a vegan, finds it difficult to eat a balanced meal at the Reef despite the salad bar and array of vegetables offered. Although there are many vegetarian options, she cannot eat many of them because they are prepared with butter or cheese, she said. And even the vegan options do not seem to settle well with her, giving her stomach cramps after every meal.

In contrast with Bradford’s grievances, Carly Shadduck, a senior, said the Reef needs more meat, stating that since beginning the meal plan, she has never consumed so much tofu. Shadduck, who usually eats two meals at the Reef per day, said she experiences stomach aches and bloating at least once a day. Fried foods like chicken and many of them quit, Duran said, explaining that training new workers has been a difficult and time-consuming process.

“We’re only as good as our employees,” Duran said, who is working toward certifying all of the Reef’s employees through ServSafe, a food and beverage safety training program administered by the National Restaurant Association.

The Reef encourages students to take a customer loyalty survey online at vcl.cc/q7a325. Comments can also be submitted directly to the Reef’s website, usfspdining.com/people/service.html.

**news@crowsneststpete.com**

An Osprey stakes out the campus from its perch atop the emergency public address system in the parking lot along Sixth Avenue S. Also known as sea hawks, Ospreys inhabitate near bodies of water and feed almost entirely on fish.
The good witch’ performs passionate poetry about poverty

By Chelsea Tatham
Staff Reporter

The Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading is returning for its 20th year and will feature 38 authors along with bookstores and exhibitors.

The festival will give book lovers a chance to interact with authors, discuss books and get them signed, and shop at dozens of vendor stations around campus.

Eliot Schrefer, author of the young adult novel “Endangered,” has recently been named as a finalist for the National Book Award for young people’s literature. Schrefer, a featured author this year, graduated from Countryside High School.

The Festival of Reading is expected to draw several thousand people this year.

“I start receiving emails asking for the festival date as early as January, because fans want to save the date,” said Colette Bancroft, book editor for the Festival of Reading.

Most of the attending authors are invited each year and are selected based on book releases and their appeal to the local audience.

Applications are also accepted from authors who wish to present their books. The authors attending include teachers, journalists, former students and even writers whose books have been made into films.

“Fostering literacy and strengthening our relationship with people who love to read and learn is essential for the Times,” Bancroft said. “We also feel this free event is a great way to give back to our community.”

The Festival of Reading is Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on campus.

Students sat anxiously in front of the University Student Center building as the sun set on Oct. 8, keen on the possibly of having a paranormal experience.

Just before 8 p.m., the participants were split into two groups of 35 and set out on a ghost tour of downtown St. Petersburg, an outing sponsored by the Harborside Activities Board.

Guides dressed in period clothing and brandishing lanterns explained the walking rules and what the tour would primarily consist of—ghostly tales.

“We pride ourselves on being storytellers,” one guide said.

The roughly 75-minute tour wound through the dark streets of St. Petersburg and stopped at supposedly haunted locations along the way. The guides explained the history of each location and connected ghost stories to the city’s past.

The first stop was the old Williams House on campus. John C. Williams built the Queen Anne-style house for his wife in 1891. It was originally located on Fifth Avenue S. Before the university had it transferred to its current location at 511 Second St. S. Today it is used as office and meeting space.

“Poetry is truly therapy,” De La Luz said. “It comes from struggle and pain, and wanting to be recognized. Don’t sleep on your own magic.”

Downtown’s history of hauntings

By Kelly Rojas
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Students sat anxiously in front of the University Student Center building as the sun set on Oct. 8, keen on the possibly of having a paranormal experience. Just before 8 p.m., the participants were split into two groups of 35 and set out on a ghost tour of downtown St. Petersburg, an outing sponsored by the Harborside Activities Board.

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The first stop was the old Williams House on campus. John C. Williams built the Queen Anne-style house for his wife in 1891. It was originally located on Fifth Avenue S. Before the university had it transferred to its current location at 511 Second St. S. Today it is used as office and meeting space, though the Williams couple is said to still linger in its halls. According to the tour guide, staff members with offices in the mansion have reported objects rearranged over night. Supposedly, they are often found on the floor in the morning. Other downtown spots with ghostly histories are the Detroit Hotel and the St. Petersburg Yacht Club.

The HAB committee planned the event in hopes of combining education and excitement.

“When I was trying to think of events to hold, I thought back to my freshman year when they had the ghost tour and it was really popular,” one guide said.

On the tour, the guide encouraged the group to download ghost hunting applications on their smartphones. Several enthusiastic students downloaded the apps and used them throughout the evening. Some were a little startled by the “activity” they saw on their phones. However, the scariest moment of the tour occurred on the walk back to the campus, when a student popped out of the bushes in front of the group as a joke.

The company that led the tour, Ghost Tours of St. Petersburg, has guided walks in Tampa and John’s Pass as well. All three cities have rich histories, and the years it takes to accumulate lots and lots of dead people — great ghost potential.

The excursions are meant to be enjoyable for believers and non-believers alike. There is real history to be gleaned from the ghost stories, and the walks provide a unique social experience. Ghost sightings are by no means guaranteed, though many who have taken the tour claim to have witnessed strange occurrences.

However, no one on the tour reported seeing any apparitions with their own eyes.

“It was very well presented,” said Freshman Brittany Yingling. “I learned some things about the city that I did not know.” Sophomore James Alvarez commented that it was “very educational” and he “learned a lot.”

Students on the Harborside Activities Board’s ghost tour cross the street to visit the first stop, the Williams house. The tour included several other stops including: The Detroit, the Ponce de Leon and the Museum of Fine Art.

“It was love at first pipe, so she made it her life. She was engaged to addiction, and would die as its wife,” said Colette Bancroft, book editor for the Festival of Reading.

Caridad de La Luz addressed themes of poverty, heritage and equality Oct. 10 in Coquina Club.

“She’s an intriguing and powerful speaker who is proud of her heritage,” Guevara said. “With it being Hispanic Heritage Month, and especially with this political thing going on, it’s about knowing that everyone has a story; it just depends on how you want it portrayed.”

Born in the South Bronx, La Bruja made her debut in 1996. She has performed on HBO’s “Def Poetry Jam,” and published an album, book and DVD.

“Her performance was great,” said freshman Darren Lasso. “She was very energetic and she’s also a great role model for young people who are going through the same struggles she went through.”

De La Luz ended her performance by encouraging others to have their voices heard.

“Poetry is truly therapy,” De La Luz said. “It comes from struggle and pain, and wanting to be recognized. Don’t sleep on your own magic.”

arts@crowneststpete.com
“We do not believe in hyping what happens, nor do we endorse the television shows,” Stark said. “We do not see this as entertainment but as a form of community service. We are secular and do not believe in scaring people. We want to empower home owners to deal with the situation.”

Stark and her fellow investigators look for an “overlap of evidence” to verify a genuine haunting. This involves finding multiple symptoms of activity, and visiting the same locations more than once to compare results.

A general consensus has developed in the field that there are several types of hauntings. In its brief history, S.P.I.R.I.T.S. has handled most of them.

“We have everything from residue haunting (memories trapped at a location), family apparitions (we get a lot of those), crisis apparitions (trying to get a message through), mild haunting and major haunting (rare),” Stark said.

Founded in 1888, St. Petersburg is an older city—though not as old as cities purported to be extremely haunted like St. Augustine, Fla., Savannah, Ga. and New Orleans. Thus Stark was surprised to see just how many investigations S.P.I.R.I.T.S. has gotten over the years. There even seem to be clusters of concentrated activity within St. Petersburg.

As a relatively new area of inquiry, paranormal investigation has garnered a lot of criticism. Stark and her colleagues think this is a good thing.

“I agree that this field should be criticized. We have done a terrible job of creating a form of legitimate study. Many people have learned about investigation techniques from television, which I find inappropriate. Television does not depict a natural investigation and often uses dramatic angles, lighting and whispering to create tensions in the viewers,” Stark said.

“There is little objectivity. Folks go at this from a sense of religious ideology, from folklore, from superstition. I disagree with the fear mongering. We all must die and I believe that it is healthier to respect the dead, rule out natural phenomena and empower the living rather than antagonize the dead.”

“There is no agreement on philosophies, techniques, ethics or ideologies” within the field, Stark said.

“I do advise folks to have an open mind but not one so open that the brain falls out,” Stark said of the paranormal. “Be skeptical. But every now and again there is something that comes up that is hard to explain; focus on that.”

Stark will give a talk at St. Petersburg College Gibbs Campus on Thursday, Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. regarding the history of Halloween, death rituals and superstitions and the signs of a haunting. S.P.I.R.I.T.S. of St. Petersburg’s website, spiritsofstpetersburg.com, includes extensive documentation of past investigations and applications for investigation requests.

“Life is hard and we need rituals to help us,” Stark said. “Religion gives us a way to make sense of things that we cannot explain.”

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A bounce house used to be the bee’s knees of kids’ birthday bashies, one that inflated young egos and insured attendance of party guests. But in the spirit of one-upping, business in Madeira Beach offers a pet and children of the Bay area a party gimmack that couldn’t be outdone: alligators for backyard swimming pools.

Oh! How the parents were interested and the children overjoyed! For $175, a handler and a couple of baby gators with mouths taped shut would go to the home of the birthday boy or girl and take a dip as the ultimate party guest.

“I’m not afraid of alligators anymore,” a pool-soaked birthday girl said in a Bay News 9 video. As she talks about her previous fear of the ridged reptiles, she swims with her face inches away from a baby gator, petting its belly like it’s a puppy.

The summer of gator pool parties was a short one, with the Florida wildlife officials calling it off in October after the service was profiled on Good Morning America.

With too many awful accidental encounters to play out, countless ‘it-all-happened-so-fast’ possibilities punctuated with gator teeth and underlined with a all-whip, the flukey aren’t the only problem here.

Children should be afraid of alligators, because they are alligators. Getting comfortable with an animal because they’re in your swimming pool with its mouth taped-shut isn’t educational; it’s artificial.

Also, there’s no way chlorine, muratic acid and algaeicides is any good for gator skin. Parents should settle for throwing their kids underwhelming parties and gators should swim in the swamps.

About 250 miles south to Deerfield Beach, Fla., a 32-year-old man entered a contest at a reptile shop to win an ivory ball python for his friend.

The ivory ball python gets its name because of its color. Ball pythons are called such because when frightened, they curl into a ball. Their eyes are dark blue with red pupils. It’s easy to see why the prize was desirable.

Is it worth eating as many cockroaches as you can in four minutes? Edward Archbold thought so. Closing out an evening of worm and cricket-eating, a bucket of disdoidal cockroaches was brought out for the final round.

After swallowing dozens of the 2-inch long critters, Archbold was declared the winner before throwing up and dying.

Finding someone willing to eat cockroaches doesn’t seem usual, but someone dying from eating cockroaches is even more unusual. Bug experts say roaches aren’t toxic, but Archbold’s reaction could have been an allergic one.

In America, eating bugs is on par with eating shrimp heads, rare and uncoth. But bugs are traditional food in cultures of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Of course, eating an insect for food is diiff ent than bolting them in a gross-out competition. But the conclusion for many readers following the story’s release was all too easy: Serves him right. It doesn’t. A 32 year old lost his life, a friend lost his outrageous pal and two little girls lost their dad.

The Bay’s Mystery Monkey has been hard to miss, making appearances in Pasco County, Clearwater, Tampa and south to the pink streets in Pinellas Point.

The male macaque, believed to be casted out of a colony near Ocala, has eluded Florida wildlife officials since 2009. He’s also developed a super-animal resistance to tranquilizer darts: they don’t aff it him.

Through the years, people have called the Florida wildlife officials to report monkey sightings. When officials would ask for the location, callers would refuse relaying the macaque’s whereabouts. Officials said callers wanted the monkey to remain “free.”

Wildlife officials have been concerned about the likelihood of a violent end for the macaque since 2009. The monkey slowed his rambling ways about a year ago, settling into a quiet neighborhood of Lake Maggiero, about three miles from the USFSP campus.

Residents in the neighborhood have kept quiet about the monkey, ensuring its safety from the public. The Tampa Bay Times reported the monkey sits neighbor’s windowsills and roofs, usually when residents are inside preparing dinner or eating meals together.

Wildlife officials and neighbors believe the monkey does this as a way of socializing. This monkey’s search for a mate has been in vain, and the monkey is lonely.

Last week, the macaque violently attacked a woman in the neighborhood who was sitting outside. He bit her twice on the back before she threw him off and he scamped away.

And now the stakes are higher for nabbing the macaque and the approach for the catch becomes more extreme.

And humans continue setting boundaries for the animal kingdom without setting their own.

The views expressed—both written and graphic— in the opinion section of The Crow’s Nest do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board. Submit letters to the editor to crowsnesteditor@gmail.com. The Crow’s Nest reserves the right to edit these pieces for style and length. If a letter is not meant for publication, please mark it as such. All submissions must include the author’s name, daytime phone number, and email address.

The Crow’s Nest office is located at: Coquina Hall 101, University of South Florida St. Petersburg, University of South Florida St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 (727) 873-4113

Press run: 1,000
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The Crow’s Nest is printed by: Web Offset Printing 12198 44th Street North Clearwater, Florida 33762

Join us at our weekly staff meetings during the fall semester. Mondays at 5 p.m. in the Ocean Room of the USC.
Dillon was a friend of mine

By Ren LaForme
Staff Columnist

It’s hard to pinpoint the moment an acquaintance becomes a friend. Sometimes a shared experience is enough. Other times, tragedy binds us together.

That’s how I realized Dillon was one of my best friends. I have no idea what kind of cat he was. The shelter called him a “domestic short hair,” the feline equivalent of a mutt, but some of his traits hinted at a more exotic lineage.

At our apartment, he quickly grew from a whisper of black fuzz into a long, muscular prowler. From head to tail, he was a bigger by a third than most house cats.

He was ferociously intelligent. When he got sick, we hid his pills in treats designed to hide them, but Dillon figured it out. We tried pouring the powder from the pill casing into his food, but he noticed a tiny chunk and refused to eat it. He learned how to use the pet door much faster than our dog, taught himself to open cupboard doors so he could sleep in them and found some of the zaniest hiding spots in our apartment.

Dillon was loud. I always assumed he had a bit of Siamese in him for this reason. His meows were wild. He’d keep going all morning until we fed him, running from the window to the door. Sometimes he would lay in my lap when he got sick a few weeks ago. He didn’t do that much.

He jumped up on the bed and laid in my lap when he got sick a few weeks ago. He didn’t do that much. It was bittersweet. As I patted his head, I noticed it fit perfectly into the palm of my hand. That’s when I realized he was a friend. A good one.

Good friends are hard to come by. You might not even realize you have one. Sometimes they are enormous pains. They may tear up your furniture, break expensive glass decorations or claw up your hands. Appreciate them anyway, before it’s too late.

One night a week and a half after he got sick and three trips to the emergency room later, Dillon seemed to perk up a bit. He walked around the living room and then sort of laid down near the door to our porch and stared at me for a bit, like he did when he triumphed over my attempts to keep him off my desk. I rubbed his back and told him goodnight before I went to bed. He was gone when I woke up.

We wrapped my friend in his orange blanket when we took him in for cremation. I like to think he would wait until she was brush -ing his tail, her mouth, and then for a tail, her mouth, and then for a tail, her mouth, and....

Six years out, I still remember those salad days

By Frank Kurtz
Staff Columnist

In every August or September, automobiles queue at the entrances to dormitories countrywide. Teary-eyed parents turn their pride and joys out of their supervision into the real world to begin a new chapter in their lives.

It has been a while, six years come to think of it, since that humid August day when I said my goodbyes to my parents at my dorm room of Mu Hall at the University of South Florida. I had no idea at that moment that my travels in college would take me to the Everglades, Jacksonville, Miami, Tallahassee, Gainesville (way too many memories that can’t be printed from the county seat of Alachua County), Pensacola, Frostproof, Bartow, Sanford, Brooksville and numerous places in between within the Sunshine State, South and North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana once you cross the St. Mary’s or Perdido Rivers.

I didn’t know it was the beginning of a parade of people who would come into my life, the ones that would leave; the things these eyes have seen and the ground I have traveled over have made me the person I am today, and it began that fateful August day.

It has been a treat to watch the newest generation of students go about the growing process. I live in RHO and have noticed the different eras of people that have formed and continue to evolve and make mistakes together; you never know who you are going to run into while doing laundry at two in the morning.

You never know how it may alter the course of your collegiate career.

The sooner the new kids learn that life is a game of give and take paired with trial and error, the better equipped they will be to deal with the inevitable problems that arise during their tenures as students. That test you bomb hopefully gives you fuel to study for the next; the time you puke your brains out from being over-served will make you volunteer to be the DD the next time; the time your ex tells you it’s over, and you accept that it’s over; the last time you played Risk, and got trapped in Australia.

The one disappointment I have with the fresh crop: they don’t utilize the quintessential quad table. The legacy of this rite of passage and center of campus life may have been completely changed by the smoking ban. There were countless evenings when I found myself down at the table solving the world’s own problems while sitting around facing each other “That 70’s Show” style. Maybe the youth has their own version of this that I am unaware of.

Aside from that, I have hope for the freshmen. Chances are, they won’t recognize their campus when their time here is done. I now I don’t recognize my alma mater; for it has been hijacked (a story for another day). Sometimes the fresh can be frustrating, such as when they admit they don’t know who Paul Ryan or Rick Scott are (and they don’t really care).

Hopefully they have learned their lesson when it comes to being South Florida Bulls fans: root for the bye weeks on account of we can’t lose.

Sculpture

Thowback

Soft light

Before the invention of the white light bulb, people would either squinch their eyes past the glare and sharp shadows cast by the incandescent bulb, or they’d acid-etch the outside of it. This made the bulb much weaker, and cut its lifespan.

Marvin Pippin, of Lakeland, Fla., invented a way around the broken bulbs and blaze. Pippin discovered that etching the inside of the bulb softened the light without weakening the lamp in 1925. By 1947, he discovered that frosting the inside of the bulb with white silica was much more eff icient, producing the soft white light we know today.
Rowdies battle back from weak first half, secure advance to final

By Mike Hopey
Staff Columnist

The Tampa Bay Rowdies got themselves into an early 2-0 hole but rallied to earn a 3-3 tie with the Carolina RailHawks. The Rowdies got goals from Shane Hill, Mike Ambersley and Luke Mulholland and advanced to the North American Soccer League Finals 5-4 on aggregate.

“We have a lot of heart on this team,” Ambersley said. “It was a battle from the first minute at their place to the last here. The fans stuck with us the whole time. I just want to thank them for that.”

After a shaky first 45 minutes the Rowdies were lucky to only be down a goal. After Ambersley was taken down in the box, Hill capitalized by burying the penalty kick in the back of the net.

“Good fortune for us,” said coach Ricky Hill. “It gave us another fill up and a lift to get back in and shift the momentum.”

Hill told his players he believed they could score more goals in the second half. The Rowdies came out in the second half inspired. They generated quality tries with excellent movement of the ball. The hard worked ultimately paid off. Inside traffic in front of the net, Ambersley tied the game at 2-2 with his second goal of the playoffs. More importantly the goal dug the Rowdies out of their hole and put them back on top 4-3 on aggregate.

In the 84th minute Mulholland put a rebound in the net to put the Rowdies up 3-2. Mulholland says he got the inspiration for the dive from a documentary on former English footballer Ian Wright.

Luke Mulholland takes a dive over the barricade surrounding the field after scoring a goal that put the Rowdies up 3-2. Mulholland says he got the inspiration for the dive from a documentary on former English footballer Ian Wright.

The Rowdies defeated the RailHawks 2-1 back on Oct. 6 in Cary, N.C. Ambersley and Daniel Antoiniuk scored in the win.

The pressure was on the RailHawks to win on Saturday. Tampa Bay’s victory gave them another important road goals and a 2-1 lead on aggregate.

For fans who don’t know, the way a two-leg playoff series works can be confusing. The total goals by both teams are added up, and the one with the most wins. If they are tied after the two games then only goals scored on the road will count.

If the teams are still tied they play two 15-minute overtimes and then penalty kicks if necessary. Carolina would tie it up on a penalty kick a couple minutes later. Tampa Bay was whistled for a handball inside the box. Nick Zimmerman took the kick which Attinella made contact with but could not keep out of the net.

The Carolina goal would come too late. The RailHawks had a couple of free kicks in the final minutes but their last shot of the game weakly went wide of the goal.

The Rowdies advance to their first NASL Finals and will play the winner of the Minnesota-San Antonio match that took place late on Sunday night.

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