More chicken in Coquina Club’s future

By Tyler Killette  
Staff Reporter

WOW Café and Wingery is coming to USF St. Petersburg’s Coquina Club, joining a long list of vendors that have occupied the spot since it opened in 1984.

With the Reef Dining Hall’s opening in the University Student Center came Sodexo’s monopolization of vending and catering services on campus. “This meant no other service could open a dining hall or cater on-campus events (though loopholes have been found).”

WOW Café is an independent company; however, through contracts with university dining services, it operates on more than 40 college campuses nationwide. It will open at USFSP under a partnership with Sodexo.

Before Sodexo came to campus, a food service committee awarded three-year contracts to vendors that were renewable upon both parties’ agreement. Up to five vendors could be used for catering campus events, including the one operating in the Coquina Club.

“Vendors know that catering is a main source of revenue for an on-campus enterprise—that is why companies want the exclusive contracts,” said USFSP alumna Sudsy Tschiderer, who works in the Snell House on campus.

Many were sad to see Chick fil-A, the Coquina Club’s last occupant, close when its contract ran out last year. But before Chick fil-A, the Coquina Club housed mostly local vendors serving three home-style meals a day.

The first vendor was Aunt Hattie’s, a “signature St. Pete restaurant,” according to Tschiderer. On it’s opening day Aunt Hattie’s served roasted duck with all the trimmings, she said.

See HISTORY, pg. 3

WiFi routers bring down Internet

By Jennifer Nesslar  
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Students in USF St. Petersburg’s residence halls experienced wireless Internet connection problems the past few weeks due to prohibited routers and wireless printers set up in dorm rooms.

Residents received an email on Jan. 22 from Scott Hendershot, the school’s interim housing assignments and operations coordinator, informing students of the problems caused by the prohibited devices. Failure to remove the devices within 48 hours would prompt USFSP Campus Computing to run a report determining where the routers and printers were located.

Students in violation would then be processed by Student Rights and Responsibilities conduct officers.

According to Jeff Reisberg, the director of Campus Computing, wireless routers broadcast a signal in the same channel as the USF wireless network. The wireless channel is then unable to function properly. While the routers do not cause the Internet to crash, they disrupt the connection, causing it to slow.

“The slow Internet makes it really difficult to get anything done,” said Angelina Bruno, a freshman who lives in Residence Hall One.

See WIFI, pg. 2
‘Unplug your WiFi routers’

Continued from front page

A $10,000 bronze bull statue will be placed on the Harbor Lawn in effort to promote campus tradition. Money from Student Government’s capital account—made up of $25.05 per credit hour service and activity fees—will be used to fund the statue.

The bronze bull will look similar those outside the Tampa campus’s Marshall Student Center (let’s hope this one isn’t neutered).

Many students believe the statue will boost morale and assert USFSP as a valued part of the USF system. Nothing says school spirit like a life-sized bull in the middle of campus.

SG is hosting a fundraising competition benefitting Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. Each college—Education, Business and Arts and Sciences—is working as a team to raise the most money.

A collection jug for each college is set up at the University Student Center help desk. Green (dollar bills, quarters, nickels and dimes) adds points to a team’s score while gold (pennies and dollar coins) subtract points. Throw gold into opposing teams’ collection jars to bring down their scores while continuing to donate money.

The contest runs through Feb. 12.

Do you enjoy a nice cruise through campus on your longboard but hate lugging 40 to 60 inches of plywood into class every day? Then you’ll be relieved to know that the campus will soon have longboard racks available for you to use.

Alicia Caruso, another RHO resident.

Her roommate, Krystal Castro, added, “I lose connection halfway through.”

But residents in the University Student Center, such as freshman Rebecca Pirie, haven’t noticed much of a disruption. “Sometimes it takes a second to load, but I really haven’t had any problems,” Pirie said.

Hendershot is working to deal with students’ frustrations.

“Campus Computing and housing and residence life are working as quickly as possible to figure out how we can make the wireless Internet experience the best that it can be for all students,” he said.

Although the routers impair wireless networks, the wired network is still operating and available for students to use. Reisberg encourages students to visit usfsp.edu/computing to answer any questions they may have about the available networks at USFSP.

Students can visit usfsp.edu/it to read the USF system policy on which devices are prohibited on campus. Specific consequences for failing to remove prohibited devices have not yet been decided.

“We would hope that students will unplug their wireless routers so that we do not have to take further action,” Hendershot said.

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Students march for Martin

By Haley Christian
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

USF St. Petersburg clubs and organizations showed up to celebrate history at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade on Jan. 21 in downtown St. Petersburg.

USFSP students started arriving at 9 a.m. for the 11 a.m. parade, dressed in gold and green and ready to hand out beads to the crowds along the route.

Lazar Anderson, director of Student Government’s University, Community, and Government Relations, helped organize the event to get the school involved with the community.

Abby Featherstone, a member of the sailing team, thought marching in the parade was a fun way for her and her teammates to be a part of the city they attend school in, explaining, “not everyone on the team is from St. Pete.”

According to Juggling Club President Lena Wray, USFSP jugglers got involved to support the school while amusing people with their unique talent.

“Who doesn’t want to juggle in a parade?” Wray said.

Freshman Sarah Smith made balloon animals for children attending the parade in hopes of promoting her idea for a new club on campus. The Longboarding Club also participated, using their talents to pass out beads while cruising along the sides of the parade route.

But the parade wasn’t just about promoting clubs. Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a tradition in Monica Edwards’ family.

Edwards, president of the Black Student Association, believes it is also important to learn about the history of Martin Luther King Jr. while celebrating the holiday.

“It means everything to me,” Edwards said.

Members of the juggling club entertain parade watchers, who cheered and collected thousands of beads from USFSP students and faculty.
Free flu shots at Wellness Center

By M.S. Butler
Crow's Nest Correspondent

Amy Brown wants to make it perfectly clear that contracting this season’s flu is no fun.

“Severe body aches and a high fever are the main symptoms to look out for,” said Brown, the nurse practitioner at the Wellness Center at USF St. Petersburg. “It’s the feeling that I’ve been hit by a truck.”

Avoiding that kind of misery is the driving force behind Flu Shot Fridays, an ongoing vaccination program provided free of charge to USFSP students.

Since December, the Wellness Center has provided flu shots every Friday morning from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., no appointment necessary.

“Everybody should get the shot because nobody can afford to take days off from school or work,” Brown said. “And that’s if you get a minor case of the flu.”

For many, the possibility of a long backlog of missed homework and compromised grades would be enough motivation to take action to prevent the illness; however, that’s not the worst that can happen.

“We like to remind everyone that’s if you get a minor case of the flu,” Brown said. “And that’s if you get a minor case of the flu.”

Still, many USFSP students had little or no knowledge of the eff rt to get students vaccinated. Freshman and athletic training major Matt Perper was unaware of the program, but said it would have made no difference in his decision not to get the vaccination.

“I’ve never gotten it,” he said. “I have a really good immune system and I rarely get sick.”

Likewise, sophomore graphic design major Mia Culbertson had never heard of the vaccination program. But knowing about the free flu shots may have made a difference in her decision to get a flu shot.

The program is scheduled to continue through Feb. 1, but could go longer if the need arises. Students can also make an appointment for a flu shot at their convenience during normal operating hours.

The Wellness Center is located on the second floor of the Student Life Center in room 2200.

Students can also make an appointment or get more information regarding the center’s other services by calling the Wellness Center at 727-873-4422 or visit their website at usfsp.edu/wellness.

news@crowsneststpete.com

Indigenous species will occupy tank

Senator Andrew Kramer voiced his grievances on the USFSP Know it All’s Guide, the school’s unofficial Facebook page.

“In my opinion, it just seems like the educational devices are just a manner to find a way to justify spending such a large amount of funds on a petry fish tank,” Kramer wrote.

He also noted that The Pier Aquarium—which in conjunction with USFSP Marine Science and Environmental clubs will be responsible for the tank’s maintenance—will close with the renovation of the St. Petersburg Pier, and asked if the responsibility of maintaining the school’s aquarium would be left unfilled.

but in a time when downtown St. Petersburg was not doing well financially, the restaurant closed.

Another popular campus restaurant was Orange Blossom Catering, which has occupied the Coquina Club multiple times throughout the years. A few other catering services took over but none were as well received as Orange Blossom, said Robert Dardenne a journalism professor.

Later came a soul food restaurant called Atwater’s Cafeteria. “Atwater’s had great ribs and fish, and greens, and cornbread and other similar food,” Dardenne said, who remembers the Coquina Club—then called the Coquina Dining Hall—as a campus meeting place.

“One of the early days had his own reserved table and was there for many days,” Kramer said, adding that many faculty members would sit and chat during meals.

“I’d say a lot of business was conducted and a lot information was exchanged there,” he said. “It was basically the center of campus.”

But for the last 10 months, the Coquina Club has not been much more than an empty room. It hosts an occasional event for student clubs and organizations but without the allure of food, attracts little attention.

WOW (an acronym for World of Wings) Café and Winery will bring its New Orleans-inspired Tampa of burgers, wings, salads, wraps and jaits to the school. While it’s unknown if the Coquina Club will once again become a choice destination, WOW Café will at least provide students and faculty with another dining option.

news@crowsneststpete.com

ISS is No. 6 major

An article in last week’s Crow’s Nest identified the top 10 majors at USF St. Petersburg, but due to the way USF calculates majors, it failed to mention interdisciplinary social science.

With 235 students, interdisciplinary social science ranks as the sixth most popular major on campus. The program allows students to combine other science or social science majors to broaden their studies and satisfy a wide variety of interests.

“There are a lot of things the university doesn’t have,” said Rebecca Johns, the ISS program coordinator. “ISS allows students to do them.”

Johns said many students combine majors such as social work and psychology or social work and criminology to better prepare for their careers.

The program has a robust intern program, with students interning at CASA, a domestic violence non-profit; the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, a government agency that seeks to end juvenile delinquency; Family Resources, a foundation that helps teenagers and runaway children; and more.

Contact Johns at rjohns@mail.usf.edu for more information.

news@crowsneststpete.com

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A tournament of innovations

By Amanda Starling
Crow’s Next Correspondent

Wildly named ideas like City Sleekers, Hedge Hugs, Mission Sleekers, and the Spanull were among those presented at the Entrepreneurship Club’s Business Idea Pitch. On Jan. 22, students gathered in the University Student Center ballroom to compete in the tournament of innovation.

“Our mission is to equip our members with best skills and contacts to help them change their environments the way they see fit, no matter what their major,” said Entrepreneurship Club president Chris Carpenter. “We are the club. We don’t do ice cream socials—we do startup workshops, business competitions and networking events.”

Fourteen “pitchers” were given 90 seconds to explain their idea and impress the judges. Following the pitch, the judges asked questions about the idea presented, from cost and assembly to target buyers. As students elaborated on their ideas, judges spoke to them more as investors than instructors.

“We see this as a once-a-semester event and we want to build some tradition around it,” said Entrepreneurship Creative in Residence and judge Nathan Schwager.

Other judges present included John Morrow, the Entrepreneurship major’s Entrepreneur in Residence; Bill Jackson, director of the entrepreneurship program; Kevin Hackett, a Wells Fargo representative and sponsor; Daniel James Scott, the associate director of the entrepreneurship program; and Reuben Pressman, the first graduate of the entrepreneurship program. The judges based pitch rankings on presentation quality, and whether the idea presented validated an assumption and solved a problem.

Pressman spoke to the audience and the young entrepreneurs about the event and entrepreneurship as a major.

“It teaches you to challenge assumptions,” he said. “It teaches you to turn problems into opportunities and talk at things differently and tackle them with a whole other way of thinking.”

Winners of the event included Nick Price in first place with City Sleekers, Evan Kotles in second with the Spanull and Lazar Anderson in third with Localmark it.

City Sleekers is Price’s newly founded eco-friendly mobile car detailing company. The service dispatches bicyclists to ride out to vehicles and do the cleaning with eco-friendly cleaning products. Price has two locations and mobility in downtown St. Petersburg. He won $300 and a spot to compete at the Southeastern Entrepreneurship Conference Pitch Competition at the University of Tampa, on Feb. 1 and Feb. 2.

“I’ve been pitching to myself for practice,” Price said. “I’ve been here in front of the mirror recording myself. The pitch will support itself as long as I don’t get nervous.”

If your non-college or commuter friends ever come over to your dorm room, they will probably have some questions about dormitory life. Living away from home can be a frustrating idea for those who have never tried it. But with freedom comes responsibility. You might find yourself in need of a thoughtful answer to some common questions about USF St. Petersburg dorm life. Here are some typical scenarios.

Q: Why are there elevators so slow?
A: One of the trolls that operate the pulleys must be asleep.

Q: Why doesn’t USFSP look like a universe?
A: It doesn’t. Dungeons don’t have electricity, so we don’t really know what they look like now, do we?

Q: What smells like ______?
A: Probably the big pile of ______ over there.

Q: How do you deal with noisy roommates?
A: Drown them in death metal. Or Lady Gaga, if I’m feeling particularly vengeanceful.

Q: What do you call this pretty carpet pattern?
A: Sludge.

Q: Where do you study?
A: On the roof, usually.

Q: Why isn’t the Internet working?
A: Word has it they have a possum problem in Tampa. They chew on the generators sometimes.

Q: Are there mice here?
A: No. (Ed. note: The Hilton does have mice. It’s a hotel.)

Q: Then who takes out the trash?
A: No one. That’s why there’s trash everywhere.

Q: Why don’t you have a picture of Judy Genshaft on your wall?
A: I don’t know, but it’s not from motion sickness. These things are so slow.

Q: Why does this place look like a dungeon?
A: It doesn’t. Dungeons don’t have electricity, so we don’t really know what they look like now, do we?

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A dean thinks the library is too quiet. A business program doesn’t prepare students to go out and get a job. A professor says it is important to listen to sex workers. "What’s going on here! Those who attended The Genius Next Door—a new, monthly series at the Dali Museum—were able to find out.

On Jan. 17 in the museum’s theater, a three-member panel from USF St. Petersburg presented vastly different ideas with the same bottom line: individuals need more opportunities to create and share their own ideas.

The moderator, Frank Biafora, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, explained that the series was launched so that the Dali Museum could work more closely with USFSP, and it was decided that they would “live on the edge and try something new.”

“The mission dream has changed,” said Daniel James Scott, associate director for the Sustainable Entrepreneurship & Innovation Alliance, who cautioned that students should no longer assume that a job will still be there when it is time to retire. Scott presented a solution to the changing career landscape—give young people the knowledge to start a new business.

“We are innovating all of the time—we are at the forefront,” he said about USFSP’s leading entrepreneurship program. “Can you teach an undergrad to be an entrepreneur? Yes.”

Carol Hixson, dean of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, said she wants to dispense with the silent library because libraries should be a place for collaboration (with, of course, some areas for quiet study). Her vision: to dismantle old space and open new areas in the library where people can “connect and interact” with resources and each other.

“I never aspired to be a librarian. I’m not a library kind of person,” Hixson said. She explained that her early interest in foreign languages and cultures developed into a commitment to providing multiple points of view in graduate school. Hixson is all about connection—between the library and the community, and among the students.

Jill McCracken, associate professor in the English department, explained her research on sex workers stems from her interest in power relations. McCracken said that it is important for sex workers to directly participate in exploring issues, such as individual safety, so that the results can make the most sense.

“What’s fascinating is the connection between the helper and the helped,” said McCracken, who emphasized that it is important when conducting research to ask, "Who is helping who?" Sandee Steinberg, who recently retired from her job as a general merchandise manager with Dillard’s, said she loved the program and was “fascinated by the idea that the entrepreneurship program at our university is on the leading edge of something in business.”

Lucy Trimarco, a USFSP art professor, said she enjoyed it and thought the event was a beautiful overlap of the whole community.

“Salvador Dali, with his penchant for seeing things differently, would probably have enjoyed it, too,” she said.

The next program in The Genius Next Door series is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 21 at 6:00 p.m.
**Top Pick:**

Acropolis Greek Taverna

Top-Voted Restaurant
Best Greek Restaurant

**Honorable Mentions:**

**The Tavern**

*Best Sandwich*

*Best Lunch Alternative*

*Best Hangout Spot*

*Best Cuban*

**Hiro’s**

*Best Date Spot*

*Best Sushi*

**The Dali Museum**

*Overwhelmingly voted the favorite local museum by the student body*

**Mazarro’s Italian Market**

*Best Gourmet Market, also offering a delicious lunch menu*

**Taco Bus**

*Best Late-night eatery, Taco Bus is open 24 hours most nights*

**World of Beer**

*Best beer bar, and a favorite for write-in voters*
Hey commuters, wake up!

This issue marks the culmination of the inaugural St. Petersburg Student Choice Awards, sponsored by The Crow’s Nest.

Every day last week, we asked students to vote for their favorite everything around St. Petersburg. Some voted online, some voted on Harborwalk (and got some sweet schwag, to boot) but everyone’s voice counted.

With the tallies totaled, Acropolis and the Tavern came out on top (see pg. 5 for full results). It turns out students love to hang out at the Greek restaurant’s vibrant Central Avenue location, where plate breaking is celebrated and fires are known to flare up on purpose. And the Tavern, ever a campus mainstay, continues to please those who appreciate a great sandwich and a great location.

But one thing was a little troubling. On Harborwalk, where we offered students free pull-string backpacks, free snacks, free water, free candy, free beads and free pins, nobody wanted to vote. Students walked by and gave a quick “no thanks” when they were offered something from the pile. We would have offered, but it happens all over campus.

USF St. Petersburg, still somewhere between a commuter campus and a real, thriving university, has a problem with participation.

A recent poll performed by Student Government to test student opinion about a giant bronze bull statue was deemed successful when fewer than 60 people replied. At a campus of over 4,000, that’s an abysmal figure. But it’s better than usual.

You can see it at almost any event. Sure, the numbers are improving. And sure, there’s a core group of students—mostly made up of those who live on campus—that attends almost everything clubs and organizations put on. They have fun and enjoy the activities and make sure they’re getting their money’s worth. But they’re in the minority.

Commuter students just don’t spend much time at their school, and that’s a shame. Whether they want to or not, students pay $25.05 per credit hour toward activity and service fees—a pot of money used to fund clubs and events (though a good chunk of it is used to pay the bond for the University Student Center). By not participating, students are throwing that money away.

Many complain. Few do anything. But there are options.

One: You can attend events, join clubs and make sure your money is being put to good use. Colleges exist to educate. But they’re also a great place to have fun. Get out and make it happen.

Two: You can talk to SG, Harborside Activities Board and any club about throwing an event or starting a club you’d like to see. Most of these folks are here to make sure students have a good college experience, but they’re not mind readers.

Three: If you really hate everything offed around here, or if you’re concerned about your future student loan repayments, you can start a movement to get A&S fees lowered.

Any of the three options will improve your college experience. Maybe you’d even make some new friends.

And now, thanks to your fellow students who choose to participate, you have a list of good places to go with them.

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Elvis Presley made his first television appearance on Jan. 28, 1956. Shortly after, he recorded “Blue Suede Shoes” and became the first rock & roll performer to top the Billboard charts. His career didn’t quite take off from there, though. A two-week stint at a ritzy Las Vegas hotel was poorly received—critics said Presley was “like a jug of corn liquor at a champagne party.” A few months later he upset “good people” everywhere by autographing one young lady’s abdomen and another’s thigh.

"The first time that I appeared on stage, it scared me to death. I really didn't know what all the yelling was about. I didn't realize that my body was moving. It's a natural thing to me. So to the manager backstage I said, 'What'd I do? What'd I do?' And he said, 'Whatever it is, go back and do it again.'" - Elvis Presley, as quoted in "The Leading Men of MGM"
Giants have Bulls connections

By Frank Kurtz  
Staff Columnist

I tend to say that a concert is the best way a musician knows of Mangum’s. Anyone familiar with the ’90s music scene knows of Mangum’s. Such an appearance and attitude — such a character — makes you want to know a little more about the individual. He seems to have borrowed his shabby wardrobe from a homeless man or a Civil War re-enactor. You hear about those historical figures like Abe Lincoln who have such a commanding presence — almost an aura. I would argue that Mangum is one. It’s something you know when you encounter it.

He sat down in a lone wooden chair next to a row of mismatched guitars. He eyed them all for a moment and then selected one that might have been a cheap toy.

Then his mouth opened and he sang, and his voice cut through the lights and a gush of crowd screams. The theater ends up being a movie theater. When you encounter it, you’ve got to explain it.

The way Mangum walked his path in that spirit. He has gloriﬁed his music instead of himself.

Most of all, he has kept alive some much needed uncertainty. There is beauty in the mystery of not knowing everything. It prevents existence from becoming mundane, and leaves room for the creation of modern mythology. Or at the least, a folk legend.

ryan20@mail.usf.edu

How a concert rewrote my deﬁnition of ‘artist’

By Ryan Ballogg  
Staff Columnist

I’m not sure you know that the San Francisco 49ers of the NFC will be playing against the Baltimore Browns — excuse me, the Baltimore Ravens — who will be representing the AFC in Super Bowl XLVII in New Orleans, La. broadcast on CBS.

My bet? It’s going to be boring — CBS doesn’t do a good job with anything they do and I’m otherwise conﬁicted on who to root for.

I was raised, as a Bills fan, in an AFC household. I have pulled for the AFC when watching the NFL championship game ever since Buffalo went to four straight Super Bowls in the early ’90s. However, I cannot bring myself to cheer for the Baltimore Browns.

You may be wondering why I keep referring to the Ravens as the Browns. In 1996, the late Art Modell moved the Cleveland Browns to Baltimore. Then-commissioner of the Non Fun League, Paul Tagliabue, announced that within three years an NFL team would be back in Cleveland. Said franchise would be named the Browns and hold on to the history of the team. The staff and players of the Browns team that went to Baltimore efﬁtively became an expansion franchise.

Granted, it is nice to see a team back in Baltimore. The way the Colts left that city for Indianapolis on the morning of March 29, 1984 was just criminal. As a fan of a fellow Rusty Belt city team, I shudder at the thought of the Bills leaving Western New York, even if it is just a mirage.

The Browns originally played in the All-American Football Conference and eventually were sucked up by the National Football League beginning with the 1950 season — which means they were an NFL franchise prior to the merger with the enemy, the AFL. Upon the merger, the Browns, Steelers of Pittsburgh and Baltimore Colts left the old guard NFL and joined the 10 American Football League teams in the new NFL.

Back on the topic of Super Bowl XLVII, I vividly remember an uncle joking that the parents of a kid wearing a jersey for Baltimore’s Ray Lewis should be locked up for child abuse for wearing the jersey of an alleged murderer, Ray Orenthal James, commonly referred to as “The Juice,” waited until he was out of the league to get wrapped up in murder charges.

The San Francisco 49ers, the AFC representative, are also former members of the All-American Football Conference. They’re not quite NFL like the Green Bay Packers or Chicago Bears, but NFL nonetheless.

I was born in San Francisco’s East Bay, so I guess I can root for the West Bay team, though if I said that I’d be liable to roughed up by Oakland Raiders fans back in my birth town. I like riding cable cars and eating Rice-A-Roni, it is after all a “The San Francisco Treat.” Pier 39, home of the famous seals, is a sweet spot to hang out. I’d suggest a trip to Trish’s Mini Doughnuts for delicious bite-sized miniature doughnuts.

Former South Florida Bulls head coach Jim Leavitt is the linebackers coach for the ‘Niners, so that’s cool (we miss you, a lot.) Current head coach Mike Taggart was with current San Fran head coach Jim Harbaugh when he was at Western Kentucky and Stanford.

So I reckon that I’ll be rooting for San Francisco and some good commercials.

fkurtz@mail.usf.edu

A bad movie

By Thomas Boyd  
Staff Columnist

Last weekend I chose to indulge in the greatest of America’s pastimes: the bad movie. Just like a good comedy, you go to be entertained. But you won’t be laughing with actors on screen — you’ll be laughing at them.

For this particular journey into the bowels of Hollywood’s underside, I decided to go to see “Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters,” which, for the record, is an excellent bad movie. But what happened at the theater ensured I ad the worst movie experience ever in the two decades I have inhabited this earth.

The first problem occurred when I was purchasing my ticket. Recently, Movico has decided that their theaters should become like airplanes, you have to reserve the specific seat you want to sit in. Movico has even set up their own first class — they call it D-Box. You pay an extra $8 to sit in a bigger chair in the middle of the theater and have it to massage you for the length of your viewing.

The whole selected seating becomes a massive problem because no one wants to sit next to someone they don’t know. The theater ends up looking like a massive block of Swiss cheese — random holes poked throughout that no one wants to inhabit for the next hour and a half away from their friends.

Once I bought my ticket, my friend and I found our selected seats near the back of the theater. Unfortunately for myself, the empty seat next to me had been ﬁlled by a couple in their late 60s, and I swear they must have raised skunks. The lady’s perfume was the mostest thing I have ever smelled.

This lady wasn’t even the worst of the moviegoers there. Behind us were two 14-year-old girls who insisted on making conversation with us for the whole 10 minutes before previews. During this time there was no question that they would not ask.

“Who’s your girlfriend? Are you seeing her and that girl next you dating? What’s her name? Do you know Chuck Finley? Can I touch your hair?”

After asking that particular question, they began molesting my hair. They kept doing it, randomly. At one point during the movie I saw a couple who decided that they needed a picture of themselves. They pulled out a hone, took a self-photo and blinded the individual behind them. But at least they had the courtesy to only disturb the people behind them. Another group took a group photo with flash while the movie was rolling. Their shadows were cast across the screen for the whole theater to see — not just once but three times.

After putting up with these schmucks for the length of my bad movie, I’ve decided something. I’m just going to pirate from now on.

thomas47@mail.usf.edu
Bulls alumnus at Bowl

By Samantha Ouimette
Staff Reporter

Jim Leavitt, the first coach in USF football history and the man who built the program from the ground up, is headed to the Superbowl. Shortly after his departure from the USF, Leavitt was hired as the linebackers coach for the San Francisco 49ers. He has flourished under Jim Harbaugh’s direction since that time, and in only his second season with the team he will have his players competing for the most coveted prize in professional football.

Leavitt’s success in the NFL will have many USF fans rooting for the 49ers this weekend. However, his success has also led to those same fans wondering what might have been had Leavitt been allowed to stick around, and where the USF football program might be today had he never been fired.

The controversy surrounding Leavitt’s removal is well known. An investigation launched by the school found that he had grabbed former Bulls wide receiver Joel Miller by the throat, slapped him in the face and then lied about doing so. Leavitt continued to deny the allegations brought against him, but ultimately, President Genshaft and Athletic Director Doug Woolard found that they had all the evidence they needed to let him go.

Despite the documented back-tracking by Miller—and his father, who at one point told reporters that Leavitt did not hit his son but rather grabbed him by the shoulder pads in an attempt to motivate him,—it is not necessarily hard to believe that this sort of coaching style is up Leavitt’s alley.

Even with the findings of the investigation, many USF fans look back fondly on Leavitt’s time with the program. Leavitt is a primary reason for why the USF Bulls are playing Division I football today. His leadership helped to move the program up from independent to Conference USA to the Big East. Under Leavitt, USF enjoyed the fastest ascension into the top 25 rankings from entry into 1-A/ Football Championship Subdivision in NCAA history as well as many other records and firsts. So what if he had stayed?

There is simply no way to relate in definite terms what Leavitt might have accomplished had he stayed. After three disappointing seasons under Skip Holtz, and the relative uncertainty that comes with any new coach such as Willie Taggart, it’s easy to see why USF fans yearn for the better days of huge home wins over West Virginia and a No. 2 national ranking.

Many fans think if Leavitt were coach today, USF would almost certainly be out of the debacle that is the current Big East conference and into a more stable conference such as the Big 12 Conference. At the very least, the program would not have sufered ed the setbacks that have caused them to fall in the eyes of recruits and the college football world.

The future with Willie Taggart at the helm is looking bright, so the nostalgia felt towards Jim Leavitt will have to remain just that. The man who turned down the head coaching job at Alabama twice to stay with the program he built, the one who ran sprints up and down the field before games to get himself pumped up, is now lending his talent to the 49ers in their quest for a sixth Super Bowl win.

All Bulls fans can do now is wish Leavitt the best of luck going into this weekend’s game, and hope that Super Bowl predictions are a dime a dozen. Someone has guessed whether the first play will be a run or pass or whether the coin flip is heads or tails. Predicting the Super Bowl isn’t very hard. There is a fifty-fifty chance he’ll get it right—but some will manage to make a fool of themselves.

I won’t be predicting the game but I am willing to make another prediction. I am willing to bet that in the infinite expanse of social media Ray Lewis and his checkered past will be trending. It’s inevitable. Detractors will latch on to the story of the double murder after Super Bowl XXXIV in Atlanta that involved Lewis as a reason to root against him. Because even in his own mind, no one who has ever been involved in a murder has turned his life around.

Lewis’ supporters will cry foul at those critics because he has found God and leads a better life. Lewis appears in more commercials answering questions from little girls than ones where he snarls at the camera. To his supporters everyone who has found God is above reproach.

Sunday will be Lewis’ last NFL game and a day where noise will crowd the air from supporters and critics trying to have the last say on his legacy. After all, the public is the keeper of his legacy.

Ray Lewis doesn’t owe the people or God anything. There is little more he can do except live with the burden of the truth about that January night. If you have never had any faith that people can make a better life for themselves then Lewis is a good place to start.

Lewis isn’t going to care much on Super Bowl Sunday what the world has to say about him and his legacy. When you see a grown man crying and drooling on himself during the Spangled Banner you had better think that that is a man secure with who he is.

But they’ll still talk about him. One side wants to make sure our quick-to-forgive society doesn’t prematurely raise Lewis to sainthood while the other side wants to make sure that his past won’t condemn him.

When the talking heads on ESPN are doing yelling at each other and the dust settles on Lewis’ career both sides will have their voices heard. No one, not even a popular athlete, is remembered for just the Super Bowl predictions are a dime a dozen. Someone has guessed whether the first play will be a run or pass or whether the coin flip is heads or tails. Predicting the Super Bowl isn’t very hard. There is a fifty-fifty chance he’ll get it right—but some will manage to make a fool of themselves.

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