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More security after thefts

New College of Business building is ‘top priority’

BY TYLER KILLETTE
STAFF REPORTER

A building to house the College of Business at the St. Petersburg campus is the USF System’s top new-building priority for this year according to Tom Scherberger, USF St. Petersburg’s communications director.

The USF Board of Trustees has designated $27.5 million for the project and has retained the St. Petersburg architecture firm Harvard Jolly for construction, he said. Prospective sites are being studied.

Currently, the College of Business uses classrooms in six buildings across campus, with majority being broken up between Davis Hall and the Piano Man Building, situated on the corner of Seventh Avenue South and Third Street South.

Senior Joshua Moushan, a finance major with a minor in economics, says the sporadic placement of classes causes confusion.

“Trying to find professors can be a hassle, especially when office hours are short,” he said.

In December, Moushan represented the College of Business and Alpha Beta Psi, an honorary

See BUSINESS, pg. 3

Campus police erected a barricade to deter access to the Marine Science Shop and Warehouse and docks after thieves stole equipment in November.

BY MIKE HOPEY
STAFF REPORTER

After a string of late-night thefts behind the Marine Science Laboratory and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute buildings, USF St. Petersburg and the campus police are making strides to prevent further thefts at the buildings on Peninsula Drive.

Joe Donnelly, the facilities manager at the USF College of Marine Science, said the school is currently taking bids from three companies to install permanent fencing and gates.

Once a bid is accepted the school plans to move forward as quickly as possible to get the fence installed. USFSP police have increased patrols near the facility and placed temporary barricades to prevent easy access to the buildings.

“In light of some recent theft activity in the [Florida Institute of Oceanography/Marine Science Shop and Warehouse] west peninsula area, the USFSP police will be placing barricades across the roadway at two locations: the southwest corner of [Marine Science Laboratory] and on West Peninsula Drive by the city dumpsters,” Donnelly wrote in another email on Nov. 1 to students and staff that use the building.

A trailer belonging to a College of Marine Science professor was stolen and used to take a pile of scrap aluminum that was going to be recycled, along with a diving platform and ladder. A pressure washer was stolen from FWC as well.

USFSP police decided to put barricades up during the evening/early morning hours just to provide a visual impediment to traffic,” Donnelly wrote in another email on Nov. 9. “This is only a temporary action, not a proposed solution to the problem.

See SECURITY, pg. 3

Early life prepared Hogarth for USFSP

Bill Hogarth has become the name on everyone’s lips this year. After Regional Chancellor Margaret Sullivan suddenly stepped down at the end of the school year, Hogarth was tapped to take her place until a new chancellor could be found.

Hogarth—brought in from the College of Marine Science—has spent his first six months on his feet. Among other things, he obtained a grant to put new furniture in the renovated Student Life Center and secured funding for a large fish tank for the University Student Center.

Now, despite earlier plans to step down at the end of the school year, Hogarth has applied for a permanent role as regional chancellor. In the first of a series, The Crow’s Nest talks to Hogarth about his resume, plans for campus and the future of USF St. Petersburg.

The Crow’s Nest: I was looking through your resume earlier in the day and you’ve done a lot of research, but I think the most interesting thing was the grocery store you owned.

Bill Hogarth: [laughs] A lot of people pick that up.

CN: What’s with that?

Hogarth: Well, I was born and raised in a small town of 600 people. And the grocery store always seemed like the center of town. Everyone would just gather around and seemed to be involved in the town. And I kept saying, when I was growing up, ‘I’d love to own that grocery store.’

And so I was married and working in Carolina Power & Light Company in North Carolina.

I went home on the weekend and found out the grocery store was for sale and so I said, ‘I’ll think about it.”

See HOGARTH, pg. 3
Emergency alert system remains silent during near-campus incident

By MIKE HOPEY
STAFF REPORTER

Despite an emergency situation on Sunday night near campus the automated system designed to alert students was silent. Students did not receive the first text message until around 8:39 p.m., well over an hour after the original incident, to tell campus community members the emergency was over. The message directed users to usfsp.edu, which displayed an all-clear alert across the top of the page.

Mol Bull Messenger was used less than a week earlier. On Jan. 2, students were warned of a bomb threat at a USF Tampa library. Two messages went out: the first to warn students to avoid the area and the second to give the all clear.

The emergency alert speakers that echoed a message that Sunday’s incident was over could be heard throughout campus except in Residence Hall One, the occupied building nearest the incident.

Sophomore Kayleigh Lutman said she was in RHO at the time of the incident but could not hear the campus-wide message. The lack of information in the building led to confusion among the students exiting through the back door.

“A cop stopped me and said someone got shot and they might be dead,” said junior Jordan Iuliucci. RHO staff received the direction to lock the building down when one staff member was given the order from a USF St. Petersburg Police officer who was taking cover behind one of the concrete pillars in front of the entrance.

Staff members were placed at stairwells to prevent students from leaving the building. St. Petersburg Police were responding to a possible battery around 7 p.m. on Fifth Avenue South. A suspect pointed a gun at the officer who fired a single shot at the suspect. No one was hurt and the suspect was taken into custody.

“It was a whole lot of hoopla,” said Sgt. Brian Taylor of the St. Petersburg Police Department.

news@crowsneststpete.com

New website to link students, on-campus organizations

By TYLER KILLETTE
STAFF REPORTER

In effort to simplify communication for student organizations, USF St. Petersburg is introducing Pete Sync, a website that conveniently facilitates interaction between club leaders and members.

“It’s like Facebook for student organizations,” said Student Government President Mark Lombardi-Nelson.

He is confident that Pete Sync will solve communication problems on campus—an issue he says SG has been promising to fix for three years.

SG paid $13,000 to bring the site to St. Petersburg, while the Division of Student Affairs contributed $4,000. It will cost half that total annually after the first year, Lombardi-Nelson said.

A master calendar of events is one of Pete Sync’s most attractive features. Organization leaders can post events on the calendar for all users to see. Other key elements include individual websites for organizations, a customizable news feed of updates, a co-curricular transcript generator and poll and survey software.

While the student life section of Blackboard is the official site for organizations, a majority of students use Facebook as their primary communication outlet. Many club leaders use the USFSP Know It All’s Guide page to post meeting times and event information, though the page is cluttered with other posts ranging from questions about professor’s grading styles to ad listings for textbooks.

Pete Sync will help streamline the updates received, Lombardi-Nelson said, explaining that users can choose to receive updates from only the organizations that they are involved or interested in.

Organization leaders can create to-do lists in which tasks can be delegated to specific people. Students can log their progress as they accomplish tasks to inform fellow members of their completion.

Accomplishments will also be logged in an e-portfolio that showcases one’s involvement in student organizations. When users attend events or work on projects, the time spent and learning outcomes of the experience are compiled, creating a co-curricular transcript.

“It documents your entire college experience,” Lombardi-Nelson said. “It’s like Facebook timeline for college.”

Pete Sync is hosted through org-sync.com, a campus engagement network used by more than 250 schools nationwide. The software purchased by USFSP can be used by 50 organizations. Lombardi-Nelson expects a program with a larger umbrella will be necessary in the next three to five years as the school grows.

A dinner will be held in the University Student Center ballroom to officially introduce Pete Sync to student leaders, the date to be announced. Training sessions demonstrating how to use the program will be on Jan. 16 and 17.

After organization leaders are trained to use Pete Sync, they can invite their members via email. Those interested in exploring Pete Sync before then can sign up at org-sync.com. 

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New COB building may be necessary to support growth

Continued from front page

organization for business students, at the Pinellas Legislative Delegation. He and fellow business student Lazar Anderson spoke before Florida Legislators to demonstrate the need for the new building, positioning it as “the next step for USFSP to keep moving forward and drive education.”

Moushan believes students and faculty of the College of Business will benefit from having a designated place to come together, not only to enhance communication, but also to add a greater sense of community.

The new building would make the lives of business students easier, but as the school continues to grow, the decision to build it may be made more out of necessity than convenience. Moushan notes that the program of accountancy had more graduates last semester than ever before.

“The university is getting larger and to support the growth we are having, we need a space for the College of Business,” he said.

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A campus planning document from 2011 places the new College of Business building between the Science & Technology building and the Student Life Center, currently a parking lot. Other locations have also been discussed.

Hogarth: ‘You ought to try stuff’

Continued from front page

It seems like things happen a lot right at the same time. The work I was doing at Carolina Power & Light Company was environmental work and at one point we’d finished a lot of stuff and there was no growth. I was going to be doing different work and I wasn’t really happy about the type of work I’d be doing. I said, well, I’m just going to start out new. I’ll go buy the grocery store.

My family went ballistic. You get a good education and you come and buy a grocery store. You know, it was pretty enjoyable. I think part of it was my father owned a little, very small… I wouldn’t even call it a store. It was pretty enjoyable. I think part of it was my father owned a little, very small… I wouldn’t even call it a store. It was pretty enjoyable. It was a good job.

I went back to the store the next day and he called and offered me a job. I had a young lady that was working with me, she was a meat cutter, she was local, a friend of the family. And I said, Linda, if I do this, will you run the store Monday through Friday? I’ll come home every Friday night, and then I’ll be here Friday night, Saturday and Sunday to take care of things.

We made it work for a while. It became very difficult, but we did, but it was obvious that I wasn’t going to go back to it. I finally had the opportunity to sell it, so I sold it. I was probably in it for about three years.

CN: Talk about living a double life.

Hogarth: Almost like I’m doing here, 60 percent [at USFSP], 40 percent over there [at the Florida Institute of Oceanography]. But it was quite an experience, you know, I like people. You learn a lot about business principles from people.

It’s interesting that you bring it up, because honestly everybody always picks that out of my resume. I guess it’s a little strange to see that in the middle of things. But it just really has to do with the tale and the timing in my life. Sometimes I think there’s a purpose in your life that you don’t quite understand and all, but there’s some things that happen that are meant to be.

CN: Are there any similarities between being a grocery store owner and being in small town and being in charge of a bunch of students?

Hogarth: Yeah, I think it’s all dealing with people. But you’re dealing with students and people that are really starting their lives and their careers so it’s a little bit different.

But, I think, in looking at the business aspects of the university it’s a lot of similarities. There’s efficiency and making people happy, so to speak. We’re here to bring in students and educate them and get them hopefully really ready to go and face the world and life. And the grocery business, you’re working with people, trying to make a living, but you’re also trying to fulfill a service to your community.

Reporting by Wendy Joan Biddulcombe. Transcription by Rene LaFonve. Responses have been edited for length.

Future security measures ‘still in discussion’

Continued from front page

Discussion is currently underway between the College of Marine Science, USFSP, and FWC regarding more proactive and permanent measures (e.g., security cameras, gates).

In January, Donnelly said that security measures past the fencing and gates are still in early discussion phases with no set timetable to implement them. FWC is also looking into hiring a security company to patrol the area after-hours, at least during the interim period while the option of gates and cameras are being considered.” Donnelly also wrote in the Nov. 9 email.

The FWC already has security cameras in place but the footage was described as grainy and not very useful, according to Donnelly. The facility manager at FWC could not be reached for comment.

USFSP police have no suspects at the time of reporting.

The FWC has dealt with theft before. In 2010, four former employees were arrested after stealing $400,000 and using $350,000 to purchase a fully furnished home in Las Vegas. The four employees had all worked for the state for more than 18 years.

The employees worked with a local vendor to circumvent Florida’s laws concerning bids for government contracts. The accused made false purchases, altered invoices, falsified billing records and tampered with bids.

They broke up larger jobs into smaller tasks that never were completed and then split the money the state had paid to the vendor.

All five involved were arrested in 2010 on charges of racketeering and conspiracy to commit racketeering. In June 2012, two suspects, Allen and Melody Ann Nelson, were sentenced to 10 years in federal prison.

news@crowsneststpete.com
Food trucks headed to campus

By Tyler Killette  
Staff Writer

“You haven’t lived in Tampa Bay until you have...attended a cool weekend event or food truck rally at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg,” Ernest Hooper, a writer for the Tampa Bay Times, said in his column last month.

On Saturday, Jan. 12, USFSP students can experience a Tampa Bay staple right on campus. A food truck rally will be held in parking lot 2, next to the Science and Technology building, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in celebration of the first week back from winter break. The event is free and open to the public.

Nine food trucks are participating in the rally, with menus ranging from barbeque to Tex-Mex. The trucks will not be serving alcohol, but the Tavern will be selling beer and wine.

This will be the second food truck rally held on campus. The first was on May 5, 2012, the day after exam week ended. The unfortunate timing meant that most students were already off campus.

Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Norine Noonan, who helped organize the event, estimates between 700 and 800 people showed up for the 13 trucks that participated in May. She believes the extreme summer heat may have thwarted visitors.

“Though attendance was not as high as organizers had hoped, all those involved expressed great enthusiasm about repeating the event in the future,” she said.

Noonan is hoping for a much higher turnout this time around, which she believes will happen because of cooler weather and more students on campus. It has yet to be determined whether a food truck rally will become an annual event for USFSP.

Following the implementation of the Sodexo dining services contract that placed limitations on catering school events, Noonan met with the Sodexo general manager and USFSP auxiliary services director to secure permission for the rally. She said Sodexo was “most gracious” about it, though the bindings of their contract meant they didn’t have to be.

The rally is being put on by Tasting Tampa, a company that organizes food truck rallies in the Tampa Bay area. Beginning as a food blog in July 2011, Tasting Tampa has expanded its services to include restaurant and food truck consulting, event promotion, catering and exclusive private dining, according to Shannon Sturtz, the company’s director of operations.

“I believe that food truck rallies are a great way to attract visitors to campus and to promote interaction between students and our community in a fun way,” Noonan said, adding, “and you get to eat some fantastic food.”

She believes the campus’ location is ideal for visitors because after attending the rally, they can easily migrate to the Dali Museum, the Mahaffey or shops downtown. Also convenient, the Looper Trolley stops right at the rally site.

Participating food trucks and menus:

- Fat Tortillas: Southwest Tex Mex
- Burger Culture: variety of delicious burgers
- DoChos: best Cuban in the bay and delicious pressed sandwiches
- Jimmy Meathballs: meatballs of all different varieties
- American Wieners: Delicious, themed hot dogs
- Unforgettable Cupcake Truck: maple bacon, cookies n cream, chocolate peanut butter and more!
- Just Smokin’ BBQ: pulled pork, turkey and delicious homemade BBQ sauce
- Nico’s Arepas Grill: arepas filled with homemade cheeses and a variety of delicious meats
- The Cheesesteak Truck: excellent classic cheesesteaks plus a few fun twists

Club seeks to break stigmas, recruit new members

By Ryan Ballogg  
Staff Reporter

The Gay Straight Alliance at USF St. Petersburg is scouting for long-term members this semester through campus outreach and the strengthening of a few traditions.

The purpose of the organization is to “promote diversity and acceptance on campus and in the community.”

“We seek to foster a safe place for anyone,” said President Nicole Katsihtis, who feels misconceptions about the organization may be holding off some potential members.

“The biggest stereotype we deal with is that people assume that GSA is only for gay people,” she said. There are current members of the group that identify as gay, bisexual, lesbian, straight (allies), queer and transgender. Others choose not to disclose their orientation.

“About 25 people currently contribute to the Gay Straight Alliance at varying levels. Katsihtis said that there is “a small core of very dedicated members,” while a lot of other people drift in and out throughout the year. Members must attend at least three meetings or events to gain voting privileges.

“We had a very strong turnout at the beginning of last semester, but we have seen a decline,” she said. “It’s especially bad closer to major weeks like midterms or finals, but we make it clear that no one is obligated to attend and that school is a higher priority.”

Especially important for their membership is letting people know what the group is up to and how they can participate. They are planning to make a strong push for new people at the upcoming Get On Board Day and Club Crawl, the biannual icing breaks for organizations at USFSP. They also recently unveiled a new Facebook page and website.

The GSA experience revolves around the weekly meetings, which take place every Tuesday from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Coral Room of the University Student Center. They fall somewhere between business and social gatherings, according to Katsihtis.

“It all depends on the agenda and flow of the week. We have business meetings, where we have amendments to pass, events that we are planning, etc. We also try to have more social meetings, where we get to know everyone, and talk about what’s going on for them.”

A big part of the group’s goal is to host events and outreach that promotes awareness, like Coming Out Day, and safe sex talks. The club’s biggest event is an annual drag show, coming up on its fourth year this semester. Members also participate in the annual St. Pete Pride parade, where they march and set up an information booth.

There is also a more casual social element to the group. Informal events include picnics and kayaking trips. Katsihtis hopes there is something for everyone.

“This is my second year with the organization and I have seen it become more accepted and well-known than ever,” said Katsihtis. GSA also sponsors a community service project with Pinellas County schools, promoting awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer issues and providing students with information on available resources and support groups. They also mentor students through a group called Pinellas Youth Pride that funds high school alliance organizations.

Many members of the USFSP GSA were involved with similar groups in high school, and now have a chance to return the favor.

“Personally, I never had a high school GSA experience of my own, but from what I’ve seen going into the schools and working with them, we are a growth of it. Now we’re older and working to educate and help younger members of the community,” Katsihtis said.

For more information on the organization, visit gsausfsp.org, or call 272-599-9877.

life@crownsnestsstpete.com
New Year’s Playlist

 Luckily for humanity, the world didn’t end last month. Maybe 13 isn’t such an unlucky number after all. Drink a toast to the Mayans and don’t take it for granted. The world is for the taking, and this might just be the year that you do that one thing you’ve wanted to do for all these years. Whether 2013 finds you filled with resolve or ready to dissolve, you’ll need a good soundtrack to do it by. Happy New Year, and many returns.

 Little Talks
 By Of Monsters and Men
 Nothing rings in a new year like a bright and trumpety folk song. The interchange of male and female vocals is interesting; they manage to sound like Mumford and Sons with less testosterone. The video is a spectacle as well, and features the band as a troop of cardboard cutouts that battles monsters in an icy land.

 Movement and Location
 By Punch Brothers
 Inspired by legendary baseball player Greg Maddox, this stirring melody is about perfecting an art form, whether it be pitching or picking. Good inspiration for a new year’s project.

 Auld Lang Synge
 By Jimi Hendrix
 No one could do this song more justice than the left-handed, starry-eyed and smoke-wreathed king of guitar. Reminders to spread some good will and keep the past in mind are punctuated with crunchy guitar licks. Neither will we forget one of his fellow 1960’s musicians, Ravi Shankar. The tremendously accomplished sitar player passed away last month at the age of 92.

 Two Weeks
 By Grizzly Bear
 This euphoric song is a good one for forgetting your troubles. In fact, the band is so relaxed in the music video that they don’t even mind when their heads burst into flame.

 Conquest
 By The White Stripes
 As you set out with visions of grandeur and glory this year, keep this song in mind and don’t get too carried away by your passions. If things don’t work out, you can always do something pseudo-exciting, like get a weird haircut or try a new flavor of ice cream.

 Shadow People
 By Dr. Dog
 This year, any night can be “the right night for the wrong company.” Take every chance you get to hang out with your ne’er-do-well friends. The universe might sling at a meteor at the planet and end the world a couple weeks late out of some sick sense of irony.

 Singapore
 By Tom Waits
 An inviting tale of strange adventures on the high seas put to music. Tom never fails to endear his listeners with accounts of his terrifying dreams and exploits. Don’t take his word for it though; there’s a whole weird world out there awaiting exploration.

 Sun Will Shine
 By Akron Family
 The vibrations of warm winter sun that this song puts forth would have been perfect to put Rip Van Winkle to sleep, if it weren’t for the raucous chorus of Auld Lang Synge that explodes at the end.

 Also out this month:
 Jan. 8:
 Dropkick Murphys - “Signed and Sealed in Blood”
 No one does Celtic punk rock quite like the Murphys. The first single from the album, “Rose Tattoo”, shows off the band’s acoustic abilities, as Mike McColgan literally describes all of his tattoos and his reasons for getting them.

 Tegan and Sarah - “Heartthrob”
 This will be the seventh studio album in the career of the twin sisters. They seem to have turned over a new leaf since their older and more introspective music—now they’re just having fun. The first single, “Closer”, is lighthearted and electronics laden.
Editorial

Spring ‘13 state of the campus

The fall semester was something of an iconoclasm for USF St. Petersburg. No longer content to be the sleepy campus by the bay, and fueled by a swelling number of resident students, the school exploded with life.

The semester didn’t start that way, though. Not long after Debby hammered campus while most of the campus was gone for the summer, Tropical Storm Isaac had parents wondering whether they’d be back not long after move-in day.

Summer storms weren’t limited to the kind in the sky, as wavering faculty support and pressure from above pushed Regional Chancellor Margaret Sullivan from her position. And a new multi-tiered mandatory meal plan requirement fell all too hard on students left many scratching their heads.

But amidst the shiny new University Student Center, the renovated Student Life Center and an interim chancellor who has proven his mettle when it comes to listening to students, those spots on campus life were quickly forgotten.

Now, students, faculty and staff look to the future. The USF System has announced St. Petersburg’s College of Business is a priority— it will be built before any other project on any other USF campus. Residential Life staff members have announced the ground will be broken on a new residence hall in the next few months, further pushing USFSP from its former status as a commuter school.

Soon, tremendous bronze bulls may adorn parts of campus, and fish may swim near students eating at the Reef. This is not the campus your parents remember.

But just because we’re looking forward doesn’t mean we should stop looking back.

While much of the open conjecture about the University Student Center has waned, members of Student Government still wonder whether student money went to the right place. Original plans for the USC included a health center, spaces for student organizations and other things most student unions provide. Other questions deal with the lack of separate power meters, and whether student funding for the project was within limits.

A number of concerns remain about Sodexo’s role as USFSP’s food services provider. Some student organizations and faculty members are unhappy with the contract line items that give Sodexo exclusive catering rights for campus events. Food quality complaints are common, though Sodexo management has partnered with students to improve.

Many students remain discontent with the meal plan requirement for all those who live on campus—a necessity of the contract, Sodexo said, to meet fiscal goals. But students argue Residence Hall One rooms come with full kitchens, negating their need to pay over $1,000 per semester for food.

Parking remains a top issue for many students. The campus parking garage reaches capacity at peak times of the semester. Many students don’t obey the rules of the garage—speeding around corners, parking in spots that are too large for their vehicles and disobeying signs. Other lots are far from the campus center.

Tuition costs remain a problem at universities nationwide. Some students, maxed out with student loans and unable to secure ones from private sources, simply drop out before they have earned a degree.

Perhaps it is unfair to criticize a school that has changed so much in such a short period of time. Growing pains are to be expected, after all.

But to really become the top-tier university USFSP claims it wants to be, these issues, and many more, must be addressed. Perhaps then the little commuter campus will finally become the jewel by the bay.

Recent graduate: ‘Make the decisions to change your life’

BY CHRISTOPHER GUINN
GUEST COLUMNIST

Alone I sat in the glow of my computer screen, mindlessly scrolling through web pages and oxidizing the last remnants of a bottle of red and a few Bud Heavies. It was an early night: everyone else had gone home for work in the morning.

Sunday is a terrible evening for me. All my plans went out the window. I was supposed to go out with my friend on Saturday, but we decided not to go. I had a lot of work to do and I was feeling a bit down. I realized that I was going to have to stay in and spend the night alone.

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America is a violent society

By Frank Kurtz
Staff Columnist

I'm in Gaineville with my family. We celebrated Christmas six days early because this was the only time all of us could be together here in Florida over the holiday. The following morning I was watching MSNBC as Chuck Todd, a fellow Florida Boy, interviews Kay Bailey Hutchinson, the outgoing senior senator from Texas. Discussion ranges from her time in the Senate and the impending "fiscal cliff," and then the discussion turns to guns.

In the wake of the tragedy up the way in Connecticut (and later in Webster, N.Y.), news editors, cable television producers and radio talk show hosts breathed an awkward sigh of relief—something to fill space and time for the slow news weeks that occur during the holiday season. I mean, c'mon, how many stories about mall Santas, Christmas lights, and shopping lines do we need to see year after year?

During the interview Hutchinson says that the violence on the boob tube and in video games needs to be looked at. She then follows that up with the fact that her 11-year-old son likes to play those types of games and that concerns her.

"My father, sitting next to me, had a response for her. Then why do you let him play those games when you probably bought them for him. God Bless America," he said. "And are these the people that run our country? We don't have to worry about aliens invading us because there is no intelligent life here."

That rant reminded me of a conversation I had with a friend at a roadside BBQ choke n' puke in Auburndale days after the first tragedy. We discussed whether anything would change and we both agreed whatever change is coming can't be legislated—folks'll get guns and ammo if they want to get 'em. Change must be societal. Quinn points to a study that concluded this country's attitudes on torture began changing when Jack Bauer of Fox's "24" started using advanced interrogation techiques and getting information. That got me thinking, America is a violent society.

We were founded on an idea and won our freedom through a bloody revolution. Francis Scott Key wrote our anthem while being held in captivity aboard a limer vessel shelling American Fort McHenry during the war of 1812. We forget much of our current country comes from a war that we won against Mexico in the 1840s. One of the most discussed and misunderstood in our nation's history is the War Between the States, where over a million perished. We celebrate this with re-enactments where men donning grey or blue get up after "the battle" and drive their Chevys home.

We barely discuss the Indian Wars, only to point out that General George Armstrong Custer was a fool. The imperial Spanish-American War, where Puerto Rico, Cuba and the Philippines broke free from the ailing Spain, too gets swept under the rug. We have forgotten most of The Great War, but we are still fascinated by poison gas, Gatling guns, and the depictions of trench warfare that characterized the War To End All Wars.

We've elevated the veterans of the Second World War to saint-hood and sit wide-eyed on the floor when they painfully recollect the horrors of North Africa, Anzio and Normandy. We cheer when we whoop the "kraut Nazi Huns" during the Battle of the Bulge or the "japs" at Guadalcanal. We do not to discredit those who served at the Yalu River or at Khe Sanh but we don't like talking about Korea or Vietnam because we didn't win. But America stood together during the NHL All Star Game in 1991 'Tore we took it to that mustache wearing despotic Saddam. We were again united in vengeance against those who per- petrated the 9/11 attacks.

We don't have a problem with the idea of violence. For evidence, just go see a film at the cinema, turn on the boob tube or turn the pages of a novel. For some reason we cry "think of the children" when America sees half of Janet Jackson's nipple during Super Bowl XXXVIII for half a second, talk about the Fifty Shades trilogy as "mommmy porn" or get our proverbial panties in a wad about the outfits of the Dallas Mavericks cheerleaders.

We won't let our teachers here in Florida properly teach safe sex in our classrooms, but we have no problem training them to carry and use a firearm in the same classroom.

I don't have the answers, just some ideas. First, if you don't think your child should be playing or watching violent content, it is time to be a parent and not allow it. Secondly, put more nudity on television, please.

B's Column

By Justin Duplain
Staff Columnist

Seeing the Newton headline come across my web feed was at once heart-wrenching and rage inducing. My first thoughts went to my son—what if it had been an 11-year-old in my middle school. I was inexplicably relieved that it did not happen here in Florida while knowing that it could on any given day.

While I was disturbed, I was not surprised. Using weapons designed for soldierly combat to carry out the murder of defenseless and increas- ingly younger school children has now—somehow—become a fringe aspect of America's psychotic gun culture. Even as overall gun vio- lence decreases, the brutish act of mass slaughter seems to grow more efficient in its lethality because they can shoot a lot of bullets before having to reload.

Switching 20-round clips is as easy and quick as flipping a switch and clicking a seat belt. Luckily, I have only ever fired at a target, and my training has given me a deep respect for what the weapon is: an efficient killing machine. Such a "prout" owner of an assault rifle should not be trusted with the weapon, as they should dread the day—if ever—that it must be used.

I stand on the fence for much of the secondary debate, how- ever it seems clear that there is absolutely no reason that a men- tally unstable person should have had access to any weapon. Nancy Lanza has already paid the ultimate price for her wretched stu- pidity, and I am sorry that she did not have the chance to directly face the parents of each of those chil- dren who she enabled her son to murder last month. For all their want of the freedom to bear arms, the conservatives and the NRA have got to do a better job of policing their own before their very own culture, which promotes casual acceptance of violence, will result in their own worst-case scenario. Placing armed guards in schools may be a deterrent, limit- ing the effects but not addressing the problem.

Two weekends after the Newton tragedy my son shot a 12-gauge shotgun for the first time—my father had planned a family clay shoot at a local range for the guys while my mother hosted my sister's wedding shower. I stood over my son during each stage of the shoot, watching him like a hawk to pre- vent any missteps.

A stranger in the stand next to us looked over as my son broke the clays, exclaiming, "That's awe- some!" I wasn't quite sure how to respond...
Men’s basketball team has potential, but not enough to beat the Orange

By Samantha Ouimette
Staff Reporter

For all the disappointment USF fans have faced during the college football season, the current men’s basketball team has the potential to be the perfect pick-me-up.

While students have been studying for finals and enjoying winter break, the Bulls have been hard at work on the court. USF has tackled the non-conference portion of its schedule with the skill and confidence of a team that is fresh off its first NCAA Tournament appearance in 20 years, boasting a record of 9-3 going into conference play.

The record is an improvement over last season’s non-conference record of 7-6, and in many ways, this 2012-13 Bulls team looks as strong as—or if not better than—its predecessor. Though some point out the squad lacks a true shooter and struggles in areas, it is difficult to expect perfection from a team that is experiencing the growing pains of losing key seniors and infusing freshman into a new environment.

The Bulls are ranked 280th in the nation in points scored with a total of 798 points. USF also struggled in hitting shots, ranked 217th at 42 percent. This team has a long way to go in terms of improvement, but there are a lot of positives to this season’s squad.

It would seem that for every statistical struggle USF has as a team, there is always a bright spot to counterbalance it. The Bulls may have difficulty as a collective unit on offense, sophomore guard Anthony Collins is fifth in the nation in assists and 18th in assist-to-turnover ratio.

It is this balance that has been the key to the Bulls’ success this season. Even though the record may not show it, this team has seen its fair share of balance in its win-loss pattern as well. USF started off the season at home with a blowout loss to in-state rival Central Florida, and then won their next two games. Afterwards the squad fell to Western Michigan, but bounced back to win their next three games. USF lost to No. 23 Oklahoma State before tallying four wins in a row.

That back and forth took the Bulls to the opening of Big East conference play. First on the list was the highly ranked Syracuse Orange. Conference record is taken into great consideration when vying for a tournament spot; starting off on the right foot was USF’s goal.

However, true to the win-loss pattern that USF has established this season, the team dropped its Big East opener to the Orange by the score of 55-44. While the Bulls were able to start out strong, going on a 19-10 run during the opening minutes of the first half, their usual problems started to catch up to them. By the end of the game, the missed shots and sloppy passes were too much to overcome.

While a win against a nationally-ranked team would have been big for their NCAA Tournament resume, the Bulls will have plenty of chances to make up for this missed opportunity as their schedule does not get easier from here.

In less than a week the Bulls will be up against No. 4 Louisville Cardinals, who will meet again later in the season at the Sun Dome. USF will also navigate the rest of the talented Big East: No. 14 Cincinnati Bearcats, No. 15 Georgetown Hoyas, No. 21 Notre Dame Fighting Irish, and No. 24 Pittsburgh Panthers.

Coach Stan Heath knows that his team needs to play more consistently for the rest of the season. From this game on, there is little room for error; little room for sloppy play, poorly executed plays, or almost wins. Every single game counts.

For more on USF men’s basketball, check out usfcoach.com.

Sports Briefs

The NHL lockout has officially ended. As of 4:40 a.m. on Sunday, the NHL and the NHLPA came to terms on what is to be the framework for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement. The negotiating session that produced the deal was over 16 hours long. The season is expected to start on either Jan. 15 or Jan. 19.

The United States under-20 men’s hockey team took home the gold at the 2013 World Junior Ice Hockey Championship last weekend in Ufa, Russia. The team’s road to gold was not smooth—they lost to Russia and Canada early in the tournament. The U.S.’s best rival Canada, who failed to medal for the first time since 1998, 5-1 in the semifinals. The Americans would go on to win 3-1 over defending champ Sweden in the gold medal game, marking their second WHC title in four years and their third title win ever.

Get to know Toarlyn Fitzpatrick

Senior Toarlyn Fitzpatrick’s journey with the USF men’s basketball program has been a memorable one. The standout 6-foot-8-inch forward out of Tampa King High School received offers from schools such as Miami, Alabama, Ole Miss and Florida State. Ultimately, Fitzpatrick passed up these offers and chose to stay in his hometown and play for the Bulls.

Fitzpatrick, or Fitz, is an obvious candidate for a basketball star due to his size, but tried football instead. But when Fitzpatrick hit the 6-foot-4-inch mark in middle school, his father suggested his height might be put to greater use on the basketball court.

In 2012-13, Fitzpatrick is the team’s leading scorer. He hopes to build on the successes he has had and seeks to get some attention from the NBA.

Guard Jawanza Poland attempts field goal in USF 55-44 loss to Syracuse Orange on Sunday.

The BCS National Championship, to this year in Miami, will take place Jan. 7 at 8:30 p.m. on ESPN. The match features No. 1 Notre Dame Fighting Irish, who is undefeated, versus No. 2 Alabama Crimson Tide, who won the National Title last year. Alabama is favored by 10 points, but Notre Dame leads the all-time series 5-4.

Former head coach of Syracuse Doug Marrone has left the program to coach the Buffalo Bills. Marrone was formerly an offensive line coach for the New York Jets and offensive coordinator for the New Orleans Saints before being hired by Syracuse four years ago. He has led the Orange to two bowl wins and a co-Big East title in his final year as head coach.

The 2012-13 college football season is coming to an end as the last of the bowl games play out.