12-3-2012

Crow's Nest : 2012 : 12 : 03

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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Holtz fired
3-9 season worst in team history

By Mike Hopey
Staff Reporter

The move South Florida fans expected came down quickly following the conclusion of the Bulls’ worst season in program history. Athletic Director Doug Woolard announced on Dec. 2 that Skip Holtz was fired as the head coach of the football team. Holtz will receive a $2.5 million severance over the next five years after he went 16-21 in three seasons.

“My responsibility to our students, our fan base and the university as a whole is clear,” Woolard said in a statement. “We must strive to put a more successful football program on the field. Beginning today, we will move in a new direction toward that goal.”

“Throughout my time here, the young men on this team never gave up, and that reflects on their character as individuals and as a team. I believe we made some positive strides, most notably in our academics, that were helping to build a foundation for this program and I would have liked the opportunity to see it through.”

“The writing was already on the wall. The $2.5 million severance spread out over five years amounts to $500,000 a year—a sum Woolard and USF President Judy Genshaft felt was manageable even when combined with the $2.75 million dollar buyout the school and former-coach Jim Leavitt agreed to in 2009.”

“We have made the very difficult decision to relieve Coach Skip Holtz of his duties at USF,” Woolard said. “During his three seasons as our head coach, Skip has served the university and the football program admirably. Our team has excelled on and off the field. Their record in the American Athletic Conference over the past three seasons is 20-19-1. They have won two of the last three AAC West Championships. They have posted back-to-back winning seasons and seasons with winning records over the past three years. They have also had the highest attendance over the past three years.”

“We are excited about this new chapter. The university is clear that we want to build a program that is competitive in the American Athletic Conference and that has the potential to win a championship. We have begun the search for our next head football coach and will announce our choice as soon as we are able.”

See HOULTZ, pg. 8

Sources: Attinella signs with Salt Lake

By Mike Hopey
Staff Reporter

Sources close to Tampa Bay Rowdies goalkeeper Jeff Attinella tell The Crow’s Nest he will sign a contract with Real Salt Lake of Major League Soccer. An announcement is expected Monday or Tuesday.

Attinella was the hero of the Rowdies’ 2012 North American Soccer League Soccer Bowl Championship. He made three saves in the penalty shootout that clinched the second ever championship for a Rowdies team.

Originally from Safety Harbor, Attinella played his high school soccer for Countryside High School in Clearwater. He moved on to play at the University of South Florida in Clearwater. He moved on to play soccer for Countryside High School.

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Attinella made his pro-debut in 2011 for the Rowdies against the Atlanta Silverbacks and went on to start the majority of games that season. He allowed 31 goals for the Rowdies, who lost in the playoffs to Minnesota. In 2012, Attinella had a comparable campaign to his rookie season finishing with a 1.07 goals against average and 118 saves while starting all 28 games for the Rowdies.

Attinella was an NASL Best XI in 2012 and was named the player of the month in October. He also won player of the week five times. Attinella had a shutout streak that spread out over more than three fall games.

Real Salt Lake finished the season with the MLS’s third fewest goals allowed total with only 35. Attinella would help bolster an already strong goalkeeping corps in Utah. The team currently has three other goalies under contract.

‘I can’t do it any more’
Short $2,000, student considers loans, dropping out

By Tyler Killette
Staff Reporter

As the semester nears its end and final exams loom ominously over USF St. Petersburg students, it is distressing to think about coming back after winter break to do it all again. But when 19-year-old freshman Lisa Lugo leaves campus on Dec. 15, returning for spring classes may not be an option.

Lugo is $2,000 short for the spring semester. Although she has Florida Prepaid, a Bright Futures scholarship that covers $75 per credit hour and Federal Work Study, her financial aid is not enough to cover the combined total of tuition, housing and a meal plan.

Knowing her birthday and Christmas money wouldn’t be sufficient to cover the remaining costs, Lugo turned to the financial aid office for help.

“Their response: get a loan,” she said.

“I’d basically be taking loans out for food,” Lugo said, whose mandatory $1,705 meal plan expense accounts for majority her problem. She is just three credits shy of being a sophomore in the spring, a ranking that would have saved her over $600 by allowing her to purchase the less expensive plan.

The aspiring teacher has heard the horror stories of people well into their 40s still paying off student loans. “As an education major, I just don’t want to graduate with debt,” she said.

Of the nearly 200 scholarships Lugo applied for, she only received one.

See LUGO, pg. 3
New senators eye campus culture

By Christopher Gunn
Staff Reporter

Two names supplied to the chancellor selection committee by the higher-ed headhunters at R. William Funk and Associates will be familiar to the USF St. Petersburg community.

After experiencing the big office on campus for a semester, Interim Regional Chancellor Bill Hogarth has apparently changed his mind about taking on the role permanently. When he assumed the chancellorship during the summer, he told The Crow’s Nest he had no intention of pursuing the permanent position.

As USFSP approaches its 50th year, the community of stakeholders needs to come together and set a "course for the future through a meaningful strategic and master plan process," he wrote in his letter of intent dated Nov. 28.

"Hiring and retaining top faculty is the key to USFSP's success," he wrote. "In serving as the Interim Regional Chancellor my first priority has been to increase the number of tenured track faculty."

Former Regional Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Kent Kelso has also applied for the campus' top spot. Kelso, a campus building specialist, was originally hired to foster Residence Hall One during its first years and the creation of the University Student Center.

"Having served at USF St. Petersburg, I know that this position offers opportunities and challenges within an environment that promotes student-centered education, opportunities for civic engagement and service to others," Kelso wrote in his cover letter.

Kelso currently works as the vice president for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Texas A&M University-Texarkana.

Over the next week members of the chancellor search committee will narrow down a list of over 70 applicants to their top 10 picks for campus executive. R. William Funk and Associates supplied the committee its list and application materials on Friday, Nov. 30. For this service, the firm was paid $50,000.

The committee will attempt to reach a consensus at a public meeting on Friday, Dec. 7, at 9 a.m. in DAV 130 to determine which applicants will move forward in the process. The selected applicants will receive further scrutiny and in-depth interviews.

By Ren LaForme
Staff Reporter

Nineteen new senators joined Student Government during November’s elections.

In the second part of an ongoing series, The Crow’s Nest sat down with three of the new senators to learn more about them and their plans as USF St. Petersburg’s newest crop of leaders.

A dream of connecting the campus with the city and a little push from Student Government’s president were all it took for Cory Santero to run for senate.

Santero, a freshman business administration major originally from Staten Island, N.Y., applied for special funding in September to start a radio program on campus. Its goal: to connect students with businesses and events in St. Petersburg.

"Though Santero did not get the funding he asked for, SG executives suggested he join the organization and pursue it as a senator.

Santero’s first move after election was to draft a bill to start the radio program. He envisions a series of live shows about campus life, news and entertainment, as well as prerecorded podcasts.

Student Government can add value and opportunity to a university, Santero said, listing a few of the ways he plans to do so: fix the recreation building, add lights so students can play at night, enclose the basketball courts so they’re usable in all weather conditions, add water fountains to areas that don’t have them, like the second floor of the new University Student Center.

"Santero has so much potential," said Santero, explaining his passion doesn’t just come from fellow students, but from university administrators.

"I’m extremely interested in it because they’re coming down from the top extremely interested in it," he said.

If it’s on campus, freshman Sarah Smith is probably part of it.

Smith, an undecided major who jokingly says she is studying "open opportunities," began college with a dream of connecting the campus with the city and is a small enough campus to where I had a shot. I’ll try everything." She’s not exaggerating.

Smith is involved with the women’s sailing team, Bulls Buds and the juggling club. She’s the secretary for the Sex & Relationships Club, secretary for the new Longboarding Club and a V.P. tour guide for prospective students. This semester, she started a club called the Balloon Animations Club and held an unofficial event for it. She also signed up for the French Club, with an impromptu trip to Paris in mind, but hasn't made it to a meeting yet.

Smith was on campus over the summer, and remembers seeing members of Student Government work hard and get results. So this semester, when the opportunity to become an SG senator arose, she took it.

For now, Smith is taking an "observational stance" as a senator — watching what others do and collaborating when she can. She has plans to update the library to include textbooks that could be useful to students, and has an overall goal to make USFSP "as cool or similar" to the Tampa campus. And, in a few years, she has her eye on the president’s seat.

As one of the busiest people around, the new senator has a message for her fellow students:

"This is the start of your professional career. You’re on a campus full of resources that can help you succeed. Take advantage of it."

Freshman Laura Rodriguez has kept busy over the past few years.

Her dad moved to the United States from Colombia in 2000 and enrolled in the Army in 2006. He was granted citizenship the day before he was scheduled to leave for Iraq. Rodriguez had been living with her grandparents, but also became a citizen because she was still a minor.

So, when her dad got back from his first deployment, Rodriguez moved to a town near Miami to live with him.

As a senior in high school, Rodriguez took an opportunity to become an exchange student in Italy. She got sick and was forced to come home after a semester, but her dad was in Afghanistan. Living alone for a year, Rodriguez learned how to take care of herself and began applying to schools.

She was drawn to USFSP because of its environmental science program, but ultimately decided to pursue finance because she saw it as more profitable. Still, the school on the bay remained her top choice.

On campus, she was helped by people with disabilities adjust to college life and has signed up to be a peer mentor.

Now, as a new elected senator, Rodriguez plans to provide more events for minorities on campus. A Hispanic club is in the works, including plans to rent out one of the University Student Center ballrooms to blast salsa, merengue and other Hispanic tunes as a weekly dance lesson.

"Everybody wants to learn how to dance to Hispanic music," she said.

news@crowsneststpete.com
After 19 years on campus, Justice to leave for county job

BY JANE McINNIS  
Staff Reporter

Charlie Justice's election to Pinellas County Commissioner earlier this month signaled his resignation at USFSP, a place that has been more than a work place and alma mater to him over the last 19 years.

"I don't think it's really hit me yet," Justice said about his conclusion at the university.

Justice has served as the coordinator of Leadership Development and Programming since 1999, working with students to foster and facilitate leadership growth. He was named the Director of Leadership Development and Programming in 2006, a position at the university.

Justice helped to coordinate the move, which proved to be no easy task. The building was housed in a small historic Snell House from Second Avenue North to campus on Seventh Avenue South. At the time, Justice was a jack-of-all-trades student assistant for the Development Office.

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Justice has already begun his work as District 3 County Commissioner. A week after Justice was sworn in, fluoride is back in Pinellas County's drinking water in the midst of an impassioned county commission meeting over the controversial subject.

He knows commission chair is the right seat for him, but says he won't be a stranger to USFSP.

Students and staff at the campus on the bay are a little bit different than other universities, he said. They are able to pursue projects at a relational level that couldn't be achieved at a 5,000-student campus.

"There's some people like me who have been around [the university] a long time," he said. "Whether it's faculty or staff, people fall in love with that campus."

Messes abound in move to new SLC

Staff Reporter

After a year displaced to cramped quarters in Coquina Hall, student organizations joined the health clinic and re-occupied the Student Life Center on Nov. 27. Organizations joined the health clinic and re-occupied the Student Life Center on Nov. 27.

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"There's some people like me who have been around [the university] a long time," he said. "Whether it's faculty or staff, people fall in love with that campus."

The renovation was the final piece of a campus services expansion that included the University Student Center. The $2.9 million project converted the indoor basketball court of what used to be the Campus Activities Center into offices, an atrium and a second floor.

Move-in day was originally planned for before the Thanksgiving break, but concerns over access control convinced Student Life administrators to delay the move. Currently, the building is secured by lock and key, but in the future, swipe card locks will be added.

Campus administrators had hoped to have the building furnished in time for the move, but the process has been delayed despite Interim Regional Chancellor Bill Hogarth securing $120,000 from the USF Foundation.

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Lugo: ‘USFSP cost estimates inaccurate’

Continued from front page

“It was for $100, so that covered about one textbook,” she said.

Lugo used money saved up from high school to put herself through school this semester. But with personal expenses like gas and groceries, funds quickly dwindled. She makes the trip home to Wesley Chapel multiple times a week to care for her parents, who are both ill. This responsibility leaves Lugo with a weekly gas bill of about $70.

Even with her mother on long-term disability and her step-father battling cancer, Lugo has not been able to get out of her $3,845 Residence Hall One housing contract for the spring. The only way out is to leave USFSP.

“I love living in RHO. I love the atmosphere and living with my friends but I just cannot do it anymore,” Lugo said. "Living expenses here cost about $1,500 a month, and that’s ridiculous.”

Estimations on the school’s website say students living on campus pay $8,960 a year for housing and food. Lugo paid $5,550 for this semester alone. For students like her, living in RHO with a G and a Plan from the Reef, a more realistic housing and meal estimate is $11,100 per year.

Although she has a full load of morning classes, Lugo occasionally bartends downtown to cover personal expenses. But a commitment to late nights and early mornings isn’t the only one she is willing to make to continue her education. She and her fiancé, who is in the military, have considered getting married in December so money from his GI Bill can be put towards her school expenses.

For now though, the only aide Lugo plans on walking down is in Bayboro Hall to the Financial Aid office, where instead of a marriage certificate, she’ll be applying for a loan. Though reluctant, Lugo said she loves USFSP too much to leave, and hopes working all summer will be enough to pay the loan off.

news@crowsneststpete.com

Correction

An article in the Nov. 26 edition of The Crow’s Nest mistakenly referred to Student Government Sen. Bryce Fitzgerald as Bryan Fitzgerald. We regret this error.
Beach life source of local band’s sound

By Ryan Ballogg
Staff Reporter

At least as fast as the speed of sound, local band Danfi ld is breaking barriers. Their disregard for conventional genre styling has connected with music lovers on campus and around St. Petersburg.

The four-piece is made up of front man John Holt III, bassist Sean Fote, drummer Chris Trull and multi-instrumentalist Mike Wileys. All avid music lovers from a young age, they started the band with a simple desire to express and enjoy themselves, but people quickly took notice of how they were making sounds that defied labels.

“Like all artists, we hate the idea of being conventional, and by definition genre is a category placed on a piece of art, music, literature, etc. to make it fit within or relate to predetermined traditions and conventions,” said Trull. “That’s just boring.”

The thought of picking one label for a project where so many other influences overlap seems wrong, Holt said.

“But as a band, we realize it’s inevitable, and if we don’t do it, someone else will. We’ve embraced the indie/reggae/soul label, and we’ll go with that for now,” he said.

Danfi ld opened for fellow local band Mighty Mongo at the Coquina Club last March to a positive reception, and has since developed a following on campus.

“There are some people in this world that hate local bands, music, or enjoying themselves in general,” said Lazar Anderson, Student Government’s Director of University, Community, and Government Relations. “I would not recommend this band to those people. For everyone else, they’re a relaxed sounding band that’s not decidedly peg- gable to a specific genre, giving them a niche quality people should check out.”

The band cites musically progressive artists like The Beatles, Stevie Wonder, Bob Marley, The Dirty Projectors and Paul Simon as major influences. The Beatles were the first band to use reverse guitar and vocal tracks on “Revolver” in 1966. Paul Simon traveled around the world to capture the organic sounds of Africa and Latin America for his album, “The Rhythm of the Saints.”

The break-from-the-mold mentality of these musicians is something that Danfi ld has tried to keep alive with constant experimentation. A diversity of music styles is also reflected in the band’s first release, the “Time Machine EP,” which engages reggae, rock, blues and indie conventions.

“There are little bits and pieces of everyone’s influences that come out in Danfi ld id so it makes for quite an interesting blend of sounds,” said Trull.

“That chilled out vibe is something we’ve always been exposed to growing up skateboarding, skiing and such,” Holt said. “It’s really just where we come from more than anything.”

The band lives, hangs out and performs in St. Petersburg. They have been embraced by venues around the city, and received an ideal reception from the local music community, especially places like Ale and the Witch, the Hideaway Café, Ruby’s Elixir and Mandarin Hide.

“It’s pretty cool to have the business behind what you do as well,” Trull said. “Not every town is like that, so we appreciate it.”

In their eyes, the arts scene in St. Petersburg is still young and evolving, and they are happy to be a part of the process.

“I guess you could say it’s simmering but not quite boiling yet. Hopefully, with time and unity, we can make St. Pete known for its mass amount of talent,” Holt said.

Performance is a big part of the band’s character, and Trull and Holt described playing shows as one of the most rewarding parts of being in the band. Rarely do they fail to get people out of their seats.

Holt said Danfi ld’s fans often connect with them off the stage as well, describing a recent run-in with WMNF’s Center Stage radio program, which featured local musicians. They average at least one show a week, and they are almost done working on a new release entitled “The Golden EP.”

The band says “The Golden EP” will have a more cohesive sound than previous albums—an evolution and maturity but not a dramatic change. It will feature four songs and be available by the end of 2012, with another EP in the works for spring.

The band’s name and fan base is growing, but they are still self-managed. Beyond writing, there is a lot that goes into maintaining the band.

“We are all full-time musicians, and this band is our job; every day from the minute we wake up we’re at work. Trull said. “We have rehearsals, booking, marketing, promotions, merchandising, networking, cool interviews and all the other countless things we must do to run a band as a business. Basically the band comes first, any outside work we do is usually to benefit the greater good of the band in some way.”

It can be tough to get four people in the same room at once, but we are all so passionate and believe in our music so much that we find the time.”

Until the new EP’s are released, Danfi ld has plans to post acoustic and band versions of songs performed for WMNF on YouTube. More information on the band, shows and tickets is available at facebook.com/danfieldmusic.

Gardening Club growing toward sustainability

By Courtney Parish
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

The USF St. Petersburg Gardening Club is planting seeds and growing future gardeners. After a rocky start involving conflicts with administration and a sudden change in leadership, the Gardening Club has found a successor and is building a foundation for its future.

William Nicks and Luke Hoernser are currently sharing leadership duties. They have divided club meetings between Monday and Thursday, and are training Abbey Wakely to be the head gardener next year. Besides Wakely, most of the club members are seniors. In an effort to keep the club alive after they graduate, the Gardening Club is reaching out to the university and the community.

“Way people they hope to attract new members is through individual student projects.”

“We have a few students who have reserved plots and are experimenting with aquaculture, fluid dynamics and solar growing methods,” Nicks said.

The Gardening Club has recently been working with the physics department, hosting research on barreloponics—a relatively new type of aquaculture that makes use of barrel PVs, PVC and other common home improvement goods.

They are also collaborating with Edible Peace Patch and other community gardens. The club receives seeds and trees and in exchange advertises the community gardens on their own garden fence.

This season they are growing broccoli, onions, jalapenos, chilies and bell peppers. At its current size the garden can only yield enough crops to feed the gardeners, but in the future they hope to expand enough to provide food for the Reef. For the present they are working with Sodexo—the school’s food services provider—smaller ways, collecting used coffee grinds and cardboard and using them as gardening materials. The coffee e grinds get mixed in with the soil to decompose, and the cardboard is used as a biodegradable weed blocking system.

The club’s newest endeavor is a push to get rain barrels to feed the watering system in the beds. The barrels would eventually pay for themselves and save significant amounts of water.

“The garden has evolved into a way for students to come together and experiment with sustainable gardening methods,” Nicks said.

Those interested in joining the Gardening Club should contact William Nicks at (727) 520-5796. More information on the club, shows and tickets is available at facebook.com/danfieldmusic.
A wonderfully witty and slightly wintery holiday playlist

It’s not officially winter yet, but the holidays are here. It’s as good a time as any for a shot of yuletide cheer. As you’re whizzing through the last weeks of class and finals on a caffeine high, take a little time to revel in the moment. Holiday spirit can last you all the year, if you stretch it far enough. And then there’s the holiday fruitcake—so indestructible, it just may outlast all of civilization.

Christmas Waltz
By She and Him
Zoey Deschanel has become a common sight around the holidays ever since her feature role in the now-beloved Christmas film “Elf.” Funnily enough, her indie rock band also plays a quaint little melody about seasonal feelings. Will Ferrell isn’t in it, but otherwise it’s pretty good.

White Winter Hymnal
By Fleet Foxes
This delightful round of snowy sounds is from the Foxes’ self-titled first album. Every member of the band sports a lustrous beard, which not only looks great, but acts as a surefire human heater in colder weather.

Winter Trees
By The Staves
A trio of British sisters with a soft acoustic style laced with harmony. They recently toured as an opening act for Bon Iver. There’s nothing like a skyline of snow-tipped pines, and they relate that winter euphoria well. There’s also nothing like the time-honored heathen tradition of chopping down a handsome evergreen and bedecking it with festive odds and ends.

Long Haired Child
By Devendra Bandhart
This decidedly strange song from DB relates how his children will have long hair, forever avoiding the horrors of having a cold, bald head in a winter blizzard.

Winter Winds
By Mumford and Sons
The winter air brings pangs of sorrowful memories of time lost and years past for some. This uplifting ditty from Mumford and Sons addresses such woes, and will leave the downtrodden feeling fit as little lions. Man.

Frosty the Snowman
By August Burns Red
There’s nothing like a touching verse of Frosty the Snowman, reinforced with aggressive metal distortion and a hardcore breakdown. Hope this doesn’t melt your snowman!

Sleigh Ride
By fun.
This playful take on the Christmas favorite shows off Nate Ruess’ Queen-esque vocals. His fashion and flamboyance aren’t quite up to par yet, but he’ll get there one day.

Winter Wonderland
By Bob Dylan
Bob Dylan’s throaty old howls on this Christmas album are strangely comforting, though they do make you wonder if he got a bag of coal for Christmas one year—and then ate it. Perhaps more than one bag.
Hey lazy: Easy A is not the way

There’s no such thing as an easy A.

You may think that asking around on Facebook groups, rummaging through sites like ratemyprofessor.com or searching course books for breezy leisure study classes that about underwater basket weaving might be good for your transcripts.

And you know what? You’re right.

An easy course will get you an A, and in some cases, that’s all you need. If you’re teetering on the edge of your financial aid cutoff or a smidge below the GPA necessary to enter your academic program it might be worth throwing a few credit hours away as a sort of academic success lubricant.

But a transcript is not a résumé—you know, that thing that matters in the real world. Hard work is almost always better for personal and professional development.

Think for a minute about what trying, actually trying, in college means for your future. Odds are good you’re reading this newspaper somewhere around campus. Stop and look around. Half of the people in your immediate vicinity will find jobs after graduation. Half will not, according to an Associated Press analysis, which found 53.6 percent of bachelor’s degree-holders under the age of 25 were jobless or under-employed in 2011.

Which half do you think the people who search for the easiest way out will be a part of? Here’s a hint: Remember that Robert Frost poem accompanying every high school senior’s profile? That’s a useful parable.

But maybe it’s not your fault. The image of the dusty, teacher-less school senior’s professors keep the Everglades on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

There are no such things as an easy A.

Some classes I wait all semester for the day we do teacher evaluations.

But remember: These are important and they do matter.

Throwback

On Dec. 6, 1947, the Everglades National Park was established to protect the marshlands from man, who dredged the environs as far back as the late 1800s. The Florida land boom caused careless land drainage to largest mangrove ecosystem in the western hemisphere.

Today, languid efforts keep the Everglades on the List of World Heritage in Danger by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

What had been a river of grass and sweet water that had given meaning and life and uniqueness to this enormous geography through centuries in which man had no place here was made, in one chaotic gesture of greed and ignorance and folly, a river of fire.

—Excerpt from Marjory Stoneman Douglas’ book ‘The Everglades: River of Grass’
Remembering a friend
At 21, losing danger-prone Johnny is tough to understand

BY CHELSEA TATHAM
Staff Col umnist

White and brown crosses dot streets in every town. They mark spots of tragedy. I never thought, at the age of 21, I’d be standing on the median of a busy highway watching my best friends and my boyfriend drive a white wooden cross into the ground where, just a few days ago, our friend was hit by a car. I still haven’t wrapped my head around the fact that I will never speak to my friend again. I will never ride in his lifted diesel truck that smelled of tobacco and bile when we went outdoors. He and my boyfriend will never again wake me up to see if I want Taco Bell at 4 a.m.

How are you supposed to feel when you lose a friend? The only people I have lost before were my grandparents. What are you supposed to say to your best friend who is crying her eyes out because she lost the man she loves? How are you supposed to comfort your significant other when he can’t keep himself together after losing his best friend who was more like a brother? I met Johnny through a friend of a friend of a friend, and so on. We weren’t the best of friends, but he meant the world to a lot of people. He was the one who stood in my friend’s driveway challenging others to gallon milk-chugs with the others.

Every January, he’d spend a weekend camping with my boyfriend and best friends roughing it and getting into all kinds of trouble. That’s how Johnny was: trouble. His closest friends called him “danger-prone Johnny”; always the one getting himself in trouble, always seeking trouble. “Hey, school isn’t for everyone,” was something of a famous line of Johnny’s. He was right, school isn’t for everyone, especially not him. He was the hardest worker, and loyal too. He was there when anyone needed him. He would help out with anything, at no cost. Johnny was the one who introduced me to the love of my life, and I will forever be grateful for that. Once he paid for my lunch a few hours after losing his job. He never let anyone pay; they were on his tab. His funeral will be some day this week, and I’m dreading it. It’s going to be hard for me to see all of us together to say goodbye to our friend one last time. Johnny is gone now, but this fact will not hit me for a while. His death is like a horrible dream I’m waiting to wake up from.

I think one of the most important things Johnny asked me was, “Chelsea, do you think I’m a—?”

No, Johnny, you are the farthest thing from it.

cheleata11@mail.usf.edu

The party is over for the Big East, it’s time to clean up and go home

BY FRANK KURTZ
Staff Col umnist

USF Athletic Director Doug Woolard should be running up substantial long-distance phone bills to Irving, Texas, home of the Big XII Conference. This is how one of those phone calls should go:

Woolard: Commissioner Bowlsby, Woolard of South Florida here. So, do you think we can be a part of your league? We’ll be your doormat, we’ll be your Vanderbilt— hell, I think Iowa State could’ve beat us this year. If you add us and UCF that means Texas and Oklahoma will be able to play a game every single year in recruitment-rich Florida, plus the weather is pleasant here, unlike in Ames, Iowa.

Oh, and did I mention? When combined, Tampa and Orlando is the country’s fourth largest media market. We won’t raise a stink, like A&M did, about UT having their own television network, I promise.

Please take us. Please let the Longhorns, Sooners, Cowboys, Wildcats and those pesky Jayhawks beat us up as we year in and year out. Did you catch the fact we are in Florida, land of sunshine, girls in bikinis year-round, and oranges? We just fired our coach; we’ll get a better one, maybe even his father, promise.

Due to the constant shifting of the collegiate athletic conference landscape, the Big East Conference of today is starting to feel eerily similar to the Confederate States of America of early 1865—utterly crumbling around itself. In past years we have lost members of our conference, followed by emails from Woolard and President Judy Genshaft saying that it is all going OK. A quick scan of the newspaper headlines paints a different picture. West Virginia didn’t play in the Big East this year as it bolted for the Big XII; who left in the middle of the last decade (opening the door for South Florida, Louisville, Cincinnati to the ACC) and getting into all kinds of trouble.

No, Johnny, you are the farthest thing from it.

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I choose bread that molds

BY JANE MCINNIS
Staff Col umnist

A study this year conducted by the Natural Resources Defense Council found that Americans throw away 40 percent of their food.

For most developed countries, about one third of global food production is lost or wasted every year.

Think of the too-big portions at restaurants, or when you casually buy celery only to realize you’ll never use that much celery, or getting sick of the same old ham and cheese sandwich so the bread you bought turns to mold.

Oh! How bread faithfully turns to mold. This is a familiar hitch when I purchase bread; living alone has turned me to Wasa Crispbread. This fibrous bread has made from rye, water, salt, with no preservatives, no sugar. But it sure isn’t bread.

Imagine my initial excitement to read the BBC headline “Bread That Keeps for Two Months.” Two months? I’ll take one month! I’ll take two weeks!

I should have stopped at the headline.

Scientists with MicroZap Inc. in Lubbock, Texas, have been keeping busy zapping out mold spores in bread through their super-micro-wave, which acts as sort of fountain of youth for food, killing the blemishes of salmonella and wrinkles of E. coli.

The story made me want to click far, far away.

But America’s food waste is despicable and it surely isn’t news we’d like to be known for. It’s embarrassing. For the first time, I was happy to know that the citizens of North Korea have no Internet access so they couldn’t learn this about us.

I contribute to the problem—the culprit for me is going out to eat at a restaurant while my food wilts in the fridge, only to be later shad-owed by Styrofoam boxes containing my leftovers.

The UN Regional Information Center for Western Europe weighed in on the subject, saying “Consumers in rich countries are generally encouraged to buy more food than they need and fail to plan their food purchases properly.”

So it’s time to start a smart grocery list. Curse the day that two-month bread is a good idea beyond the headline.

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op-ed

The party is over for the Big East, it’s time to clean up and go home

BY FRANK KURTZ
Staff Col umnist

USF Athletic Director Doug Woolard should be running up substantial long-distance phone bills to Irving, Texas, home of the Big XII Conference. This is how one of those phone calls should go:

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Holtz slowed rising program

Continued from front page

in the classroom, setting a new USF standard for team GPA.

The formula for Holtz was origi- nally in the area of $1 million before he signed an extension in July 2012. That extension, which came after a disappointing 5-7 season, was to keep Holtz in Tampa amidst his being courted by other top college programs, according to Woolard.

We will immediately begin a search for a new head coach,” Woolard said. “We will move as quickly as possible, but will be as thorough as necessary to find the best fit for our football program here at USF.”

Woolard said the search pro- cess would be open with no time- table, stating several times that cur- rent staff members can apply for the vacant position.

That would include offensive coordinator Todd Fitch and defensive coordinator Chris Cosh, who will now handle the operations of the football program until a replacement is hired.

The university says the search will be nationwide and will reach out to the highest levels of college football. Woolard indicated the school won’t use a search firm to find their new head coach.

The move to fire Holtz doesn’t come as a surprise after the Bulls finished the season 3-9, their worst record in the 16 years of the program. The 27-3 loss to the University of Pittsburgh Panthers on Dec. 1 at Raymond James Stadium finished off their second straight 1-6 record in the Big East, a task for the pro- gram’s worst conference record.

In the fourth quarter against Pitt, the Bulls had a 4-3 goal and lead the Panthers 8-yard line. Trails 27-0, Holtz sent out the 11th goal unit to a cascade of boos from the announced 35,141 fans at the game. vocalist Bonani hit the fi goal to make the score 27-3.

The game ended with that score and Holtz’s career at USF ended with the embarrassing loss burned into fans minds. In the final three games of the season the Bulls only scored one touchdown and were outscored 94-22. The offense against Pitt only gained 117 yards, the single lowest offe sive output by a USF team ever.

“I did certainly like to be back,” Holtz said following the game against Pitt. “There’s been a lot of hard work that has gone into this.”

While our program remains young, having just completed our 16th season of competition, our history is rich, and the expecta- tions of coaches, players, students, administrators and fans are high,” Woolard said. “That is why the past few months have been hard for all of us.”

By Samantha Oumette
Staff Col umnist

As each day passes, it is becoming increasingly clear the only thing that matters now in the sporting world is the bottom line. From the world’s most prestigious leagues to the most amateur of college pro- grams, the dollar reigns supreme over the fans.

Surely college athletes and ath- letic programs are able to avoid the ridiculous contracts despite record losses that preceded his firing. Among the many valleys of 2012 was the Bulls defense being held without an interception for the first eight weeks. USF was also hurt by the loss B.J. Daniels to a career ending injury against UVa.

The Bulls run of six straight bowl games came to an end in 2011 with a 5-7 record. USF began the year 4-0 but faltered and began the decline of Holtz career at the school.

In 2012, the Bulls began the season 2-0 before a six-game losing streak. Holtz would win his final game for the school on Nov. 3 against the University of Connecticut before the final three losses that preceded his firing.

What about college sports? Surely college athletes and ath- letic programs are able to avoid the seductive lure of big money and are playing simply for the love of the game...right?

If the current conference realign- ment is any indication, college ath- letics may be worse than profes- sional sports in terms of concern for the bottom line. Teams are con- stantly trying to make the jump to a better conference (see: Maryland and Rutgers to the Big 10, Louisville to the ACC) for a bigger piece of the pie, i.e. lucrative TV deals and high- paying bowl games.

But somehow, all of this is in the best interest of the fans. Rest assured that we, the “Average Joes”, are being thought of in all of these secret meetings and during all of the inane bickering.

If you’re able to believe that, you are certainly more optimistic than I am about this whole money mess. Until commissioners and athletic directors make it clear that the fans are the livelihood of sports, there is little reason to believe anything other than cash is king.

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Real was second in West

Continued from front page

This will be Attinella’s second stay with Salt Lake. In 2011, he was taken with the 5th selection in the MLS Supplemental Draft. Attinella was released by Real before the start of the season. Days later he signed his first professional contract with a team called FC Tampa Bay, now known as the Rowdies.

Real finished 2012 in a disappointing exit from the MLS Playoffs with a loss to Seattle Sounders FC. Seattle would go on to lose to eventual MLS Cup Champions the LA Galaxy. RSL’s record in 2012 was 17 wins, 11 losses, and 6 ties. Their 57 points put them second in the Western Conference behind San Jose.

By Samantha Oumette
Staff Col umnist

This is the first time the Portland Timbers have been eliminated in the first round of the MLS Playoffs after a disappointing 5-7 season. Portland defeated the Vancouver Whitecaps in the first round, 3-1. In the second round, Portland defeated the Seattle Sounders, 2-1. Portland will now face the New York Red Bulls in the Conference Semi-finals.

The Portland Timbers have struggled in recent years, finishing last in the Western Conference in 2011. Portland will be looking to improve on their performance in 2012 and make a deep run in the MLS Playoffs.

The Portland Timbers have a talented roster featuring players such as Darlington Nagbe, Andrew Wenger, and Timbers Academy products. Portland will need to step up their performances if they hope to advance past the Western Conference Semi-finals.

In the Western Conference Semi-finals, Portland will face off against the New York Red Bulls. The Red Bulls are coming off a disappointing 2011 season and will be looking to make a deep run in the MLS Playoffs. Portland will need to play well and avoid mistakes if they hope to advance to the Conference Finals.

The Portland Timbers have the talent and depth to make a deep run in the MLS Playoffs. They will need to step up their performances and avoid mistakes if they hope to advance past the Western Conference Semi-finals.