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Duke Energy grants $1M for solar panels

By Emily Wehunt
Staff Reporter

A $1 million grant has been awarded to USF St. Petersburg from Duke Energy’s SunSense program. The grant will go towards a new solar panel, which will be installed on the top floor of the parking garage on 5th Avenue S., and to cutting edge research about battery stored energy. After two consecutive years of failing bids, the university’s sustainability coordinator, Jennifer Winter, has spent the last year putting together a new proposal for the grant. She was determined to make sure all components were met.

The grant is a part of a study that will research how much electricity can be stored in the battery, and how well it will operate. USF Tampa’s College of Engineering will be partnering with USFSP to conduct the research for Duke Energy.

“Hopefully we can get the power during the day when the sun is out, and then store it in the battery to use at night,” Winter said. “Our plan, with help from the LED lights we just put in, is to get the garage to net zero.”

A net zero building means that the amount of energy the building uses is equal to the amount of energy it generates.

This is Duke Energy’s fourth and final year granting SunSense to higher level institutions. SunSense has granted similar solar panel structures to the University of Central Florida, University of Florida and St. Petersburg College. USFSP came in second place last year to St. Petersburg College.

Daniel McGarigal, a senior at USFSP majoring interdisciplinary social science, believes two of the main reasons the university lost last year was due to lack of student involvement and curriculum.

“Spent the last year putting together a new proposal for the grant.”

McGarigal, who has been involved with this project for more than two years, contacted professors from all three colleges and received back roughly 12 letters of support. The university will be working with professors from the three colleges to conduct the research.

Repairing the pool would not be a guaranteed fix, Campus Waterfront told The Crow’s Nest last October. The cost of building a new university-grade pool was also too much, as the Waterfront only had access to $1.1 million, coming from the Capital Improvement Trust Fund. So the pool has been closed since last fall.

Trubacz said that the university’s decision to repair the existing pool and not build a new one is based on money. Since the original estimates in 2013, Trubacz said, the cost of a new pool has increased.

“(Money) is the main factor,” Trubacz said. “The cost of building a new pool at the time would have been $1.5 million.”

The structural issues, discovered almost six years ago, include cracks in the gutter system – responsible for returning water to the filter through four collection boxes – surrounding the pool. The cracks

The Waterfront pool has been closed since fall 2013. The university has decided to reopen the pool in the spring semester after making about $400,000 in repairs to gutter system and overall structure.

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Grant sponsors garage solar panels

Continued from p.1

intent stating that professors would include the solar panels into their curriculum. The new solar panel will also become part of the campus tour.

Combined effort from Winter, students such as McGarigal and other faculty, turned the project into reality. “There are no parking garages in the city that creates as much energy as it utilizes,” McGarigal said. “So this will be a first.”

Construction for the solar panel will be starting around the beginning of November, according to Jim Grant, the university construction project manager. “Everything will be in place and operational by end of the year,” Grant said. “There are a lot of different things that happen at different times.”

Winter has placed a bid for an online dashboard, which will allow students and faculty to monitor the energy usage and storage from a computer. A kiosk, which will contain the dashboard, is also planned to be installed in the elevator lobby on the first floor of the garage.

When the actual construction of the solar panel begins in November, which will cause the entire top floor of the parking garage to be closed down for a week. This has caused a concern on where student residents will be able to park, which has posed a problem for both student residents and commuters this semester. An alternative for parking during the week of construction is being planned by university administration.

The solar panel will not take up any parking spots on the top floor once construction is complete. It will be installed over the ramp and will be high enough that cars will have room to park under the panels that extend over parking spots.

The solar panel installation and storage research is hoped to help USFSP become recognized as one of the top green schools nationwide.

“We are super excited for sustainability on campus,” Winter said. “This is a huge step forward for our university.”

news@crownestspete.com

Student Government seeks club management

BY JENNIFER NESSELA Staff Reporter

New clubs on campus may soon need approval from student government rather than the Office of Leadership, Development & Programming.

This is at least an idea proposed in a bill, sponsored by Sen. Angela Wilson. If passed, the bill, titled “A Better Purpose,” will put SG in charge of approving clubs and organizations. The bill also gives SG administrative access over Orgsync, the website that campus clubs and organizations use for engagement.

Currently, the Office of Leadership, Development & Programming approves organizations and manages Orgsync. SG manages the activities and services fees, which fund student organizations. SG also funds the Office of Leadership.

Being recognized as an official club at USF St. Petersburg allows organizations to reserve rooms and tables on campus free-of-charge, apply for funding and use the university’s name along with their club. Not all students are happy with the proposed change. Nia Joseph, president of the Caribbean Culture Exchange, does not like the idea of going through SG rather than the Leadership Office.

“I would rather have a professional staff member assist me with my needs,” she told The Crow’s Nest, adding that she didn’t think many SG members were qualified to help her.

After frustrations boiled over in a Facebook forum, SG members sent the bill from the general assembly to the Senate Committee on University, Community, and Government Affairs to be re-evaluated. Concerned organization members gathered there to discuss the problems with the bill. Senate Pro-temporary Jared Pieniazek said the bill is intended to support the organizations who get denied club status at the university by the office of leadership.

To be approved, the organization’s constitution must fit within university policies and the guidelines spelled out in the SG statutes, which include that organizations must not require loyalty oaths or mandatory dues, discriminate against students seeking to join or deny membership privileges to any student.

The office of leadership has denied organizations university status because of reasons outside of university policy and SG statutes, according to Pieniazek. He pointed to fraternities, which the leadership office is not prepared to handle. Students in fraternities at USFSP do continue to gather, but without university support and funds from SG. Pieniazek thinks clubs should not be denied university status if they fit with university policy and SG guidelines.

“They should be rewarded all the rights and privileges as you are,” Pieniazek said to the club members attending the meeting, explaining his support for wanting SG to approve the clubs rather than the leadership office.

If SG bill is passed, clubs will go through the Senate Committee on University, Community and Government affairs rather than the office of leadership to get their organization’s constitution approved.

Several members of the Gay Straight Alliance attended the meeting, because they were concerned about what they had read on Facebook. But after they heard the reasons for the bill, they told the chancellor they supported it.

Everyone thought student government was going to be dominating,” Dani Merewether, the president of GSA, said, adding that their concerns were resolved easily.

This weekend, C) Vila from the office of leadership, development & programming will review the bill suggest changes. He could not reach for comment before publication.

news@crownestspete.com

Parking options frustrate students

BY JACK MOSCONE Staff Reporter

As the attendance of morning classes at USF St. Petersburg increases, desirable parking spots rapidly decline, which forces some commuter students to seek parking around campus.

As some students rush to the top floor of the USFSP garage, which is reserved for on-campus residents, the stress of finding a spot leaves students settling for city parking meters.

“Some people have zero awareness for speed-limits and/or others in the garage,” said student Chelsea Bailey. “I try to avoid it.”

From tailgating to hit and runs, the parking garage seems to be a nightmare place for commuters. Katrina Weeks, among other students, has had her share of parking issues.

“Living over 50 miles away with a toddler, there are times I just can’t leave any earlier on the week-days,” she said. “When it takes over 20 minutes, being cursed at, and almost hit to find a parking spot on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., I begin to wonder why I pay the school to park there at all.”

Around campus, it was rumored that a new parking garage would be constructed. But there are no plans for a new parking garage, according to William Benjamin, purchasing manager at USFSP.

“The extension was going to be added to the current parking garage a few years ago, but it didn’t happen,” he said.

Benjamin also thinks there is enough parking on campus.

“It’s not that there isn’t enough parking, there are just so many commuting students with classes between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Some students find it surprising that nothing has been done.

“My main issue with parking is the fact that we can’t get passes with our financial aid (until we get the check, that is),” said Jacqueline Barrett. “I got $75 worth of parking tickets the first week of school because I didn’t have money for parking.”

Students also have access to additional parking lots located near Harbor Hall.
Club cleans up, cares for beach

By Caitlin Ashworth
Crow's Nest Contributor

Trash in Bayboro Harbor has caught the attention of students, who posted pictures of it on the USF St. Petersburg student-run Facebook forum this week. But it’s been on the mind of the Student Environmental Awareness Society for longer.

SEAS is seeking a miniature grant from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program to fund a restoration plan for the campus harbor and beach. Ideas for the plan include dredging, planting native flora, habitat protection, oyster dome installation, sand replenishment and eradication of trash and pollutants.

USFSP is located along Bayboro Harbor, which connects to Booker Creek and Salt Creek. Daniel Gladstein, a member of SEAS, said that Booker and Salt Creek can carry pollution over to Barboro Harbor. Because Bayboro Harbor is a concentrated area, SEAS is concerned for the harbor’s ecosystem.

In the past, SEAS used a device called a “water goat” to clean out trash from the harbor. The water goat is braided steel with buoys hooked in a “C” shape to the stormwater drain. Below the surface is netting that collects trash and allows fish to still swim underneath.

The water goat is located in front of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration building in Bayboro Harbor, where the harbor connects to Booker Creek.

The water goat is currently broken, but how it broke remains a mystery to SEAS members. The company that made the water goat is now out of business, but SEAS president Brandi Murphy believes the water goat can be fixed by an ambitious engineer student.

To help filter water and restore oyster population, SEAS plans to have new oyster domes placed in the area by the Tampa Bay Watch, a non-profit organization. Oyster domes are concrete circular domes that oysters can cling to, where they can clean up to ten gallons of water per hour.

After adopting the beach from the Keep Pinellas Beautiful Adopt-a-Shore program, SEAS wants to restore the beach by replenishing the sand and planting native flora such as muly grass, black needlerush and beach sunflowers. At a recent SEAS meeting, members considered fencing off the native flora to allow it to grow without being disrupted.

“(Native) plants are instrumental in keeping the sand in place to form a beach along the seawall,” Murphy said. SEAS also hopes to restore the beach by removing non-native flora, such as an oak tree that is growing on USFSP beach.

Murphy believes that the beach was formed around 1980 when the Army Corp. of Engineers dredged it in Bayboro Harbor. The beach was developed from storm and tidal influence, boat traffic from the USF Watersfront on the east, and a stormwater run-off outflow on its west.

“USFSP’s Student Government Association … awarded capital and operating funds to two new watercraft programs while keeping the direct out-of-pocket costs to the students low or non-existent,” Oppenheim said.

Right now wakeboarding – available every other Friday – is the lone activity of the Tow Sports program, but there are plans to add waterskiing and tubing to its list. Fishing is available most Mondays.

Pool repairs to begin

Continued from p.1

caused the chemical-containing water to miss the filter and leak into the ground.

The university needs to determine whether they want to upgrade the gutter system to stainless steel or use an improved version of the current material. To solve this issue, the university is working with Aquamarine, the Clearwater-based pool company that did the pool’s first significant repairs in 1985.

“They’re very familiar with the pool,” said Jim Grant, USFSP project manager.

Along with the repair, the pool’s filtration system and main drainage system – installed in the 1930s underneath the pool’s deep end – will be replaced.

The current filtration system is manually operated and uses diatomaceous earth, a sedimentary rock that is ground into white powder to catch fine particles that could pass through and clog the filter, the new one will be automatic and use sand.

Grant said that switching to an automatic filtration system will be convenient and safer because people won’t need to constantly handle chemicals. He also said that a small pump house will be built for it.

Removing the existing drainage system, however, would require breaking through the pool’s floor. Instead, the new system will be built on the surface of the 11-foot deep end and the area will be resurfaced, decreasing its depth to about 9 feet. Stairs will be built into the shallow end.

Trubacz said that Aquamarine estimated the total job cost with stainless steel gutters at about $400,000, while the other material would substantially lower the prices.

Like the pool’s first repairs, Trubacz and Grant said that these will be made to last.

“I wouldn’t invest money into it if I didn’t think it would be a long-lasting project,” Trubacz said.

“The repairs we’re looking at now are definitely permanent,” Grant said.

In 2012, the university planned to use the construction-related Capital Improvement Trust Fund to build a new pool. That idea was shot down in May 2013 by a university legislative vote that capped CITF spending at 30 percent. The approved funding wasn’t enough for a new pool, but it will factor into the repairs.

The money was first used for the new campus volleyball courts and the remainder will go toward the pool, which Trubacz said should be a little more than $500,000.

When the pool closed last November, its programs, including USF College of Marine Science summer camps and Safety at Sea, which teaches sailing safety, went with it. But the university found other positions for its displaced employees.

“(Lifeguards) were able to seamlessly transition from lifeguard responsibilities to similar Campus Recreation responsibilities … no one lost their job in the closing of the pool,” said Zac Oppenheim, assistant director of Campus Recreation.

To compensate for its losses, the university developed two cost-effective aquatic programs that take advantage of the campus’ waterfront location – Fishing and Tow Sports. In addition to the new programs, the university has increased its boating Adventure Trips to Egmont Key.

New course prepares freshmen

By Chelsea Abrams
Crow’s Nest Contributor

A new freshman experience course has been introduced with the intent of getting students off on the right foot.

The course, called University Success, covers the topics of university culture, campus resources, academic advising, career exploration, time management, financial literacy, health and wellness, diversity, university policies and procedures, and study skills. All of the assignments are geared toward preparing students for university studies.

Similar courses are offered at University of Florida, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida Tampa, Miami University, Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University. University administrators are considering making this a mandatory course for freshmen at USF St. Petersburg, but University Success is an elective for now.

“I wish there had been a course like this when I first started here,” said senior political science major Todd Matthews. “Even though I was a Junior, as a transfer student it would have been a helpful for getting used to a new school.”

Deanna Bullard, an advising coordinator for the College of Education, hopes to see graduates become proud ambassadors of the USFSP community.

“It is my hope that they succeed, persist, and ultimately graduate in a timely manner,” Bullard said.

“I want them to get involved, get the most from their classes, make connections, and leave here with a sense of satisfaction.”

She worked to develop the course with other colleagues at USFSP – Jennifer Carbon and Solitaire Kelly, academic advisors, and Dwayne Isaac, assistant director of student affairs …

Bullard credits Carbon for pushing her to start the process, and calls the project a collaboration between her and her colleagues.

The strategic plan to increase student enrollment from 4,700 to 10,000 by 2024 didn’t factor in to the development of the course, Bullard said. Bullard foresees an increase in the number of course sections with added members of the student body.

The course is currently structured as a hybrid. It meets twice a week for 55 minutes and uses Canvas for other coursework. It is listed in the Oasis course catalog under Selected Topics in the College of Education, though Bullard hopes that the category will change by the spring semester.

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News is available most Mondays.
Cheap eats in St. Pete

BY MARCOS DE FABIA BASURCO
CROW’S NEXT CONTRIBUTOR

Pabst Blue Ribbon just went red. Russian firm Oasis Beverages purchased the hipster’s beer of choice for $700 million. What will the thirsty, wanna-be punks drink now? Is it time to put away the thick-rimmed glasses and admit we have 20/20 vision? Do we stop reading Spark Notes on Jack Kerouac? Do we migrate back to the mainstream and admit we have 20/20 vision? Do we stop reading Spark Notes on Jack Kerouac? Do we migrate back to the mainstream?

Let’s be honest— it’s good riddance to the steadily overpriced and waning interest in PBR. Sales had begun to plateau and drop in 2013, so it was destined to be sold to a foreign interest group. It stopped being trendy the moment that festivals started to charge $5 or more per can. Or maybe that was when PBR began to sponsor all of the major festivals, thereby no longer cool?

But wait, there’s a savior in this madness. Rolling Rock, a pilser that sells for $2 a can, may be the next to upstage those Commie PBRs. Sure, it tastes like a watered-down Heineken, but it’s an Extra Pale Ale. Therefore it’s extra American—circa 1939, in Latrobe, Penn. Cheap and from ‘murica, right? Can’t beat that, unless it was brewed with the tears of Super Bowl champions while stirred by a bald eagle.

Oh wait, what’s this Orange Wheat delicious froth in my glass? It’s from St. Pete Brewing! That soft roasted coffee scene is coming from that Green Bench Brewing Temple Mound Brown Ale? Swamp Head Brewing is only two hours away in Gainesville!

As nifty as these trendy beers are for maintaining the hipster identity, it’s better to sport a growler from Cigar City than another cheap can. The alcohol content in microbrewery beers can surpass 10 percent. Those more anxious for a buzz will find it in the stronger, tastier options. The alcohol content in microbrewery beers can surpass 10 percent. Those more anxious for a buzz will find it in the stronger, tastier options.

Upon entering the ballroom, guests saw eight chandeliers lining the ceiling. Pink and purple lighting showered the room with a royal glow, and hundreds of chairs engulfed the floor surrounding the white catwalk. Hosts Jorge and Anjie got the audience dancing before the show began. Lights slowly dimmed, the music started booming, and every guest’s eyes turned to the front of the runway.

Starting off the show was the collection “Rhonda Shear Intimates” by Rhonda Shear. She took undergarments to a whole new level, as her collection was nothing short of glitz and glam.

Ten collections were shown on the runway, with each displaying their own personalities and colors schemes. The crowd was wowed by the finite detail that went into each garment. Photographers stood the entire show, flashing their cameras at each model from many angles. One of the main beneficiaries of this year’s show was an organization called “Becca’s Closet.” The organization was created by a young girl named Rebecca Kirtman. “Becca’s Closet” gives dresses to underprivileged girls who otherwise wouldn’t be able to afford one.

Kirtman’s parents spoke during the show. Tears welled up in the eyes of many audience members when they learned Kirtman had passed away in 2003. Becca’s mother and father still carry on her legacy with her organization of Becca’s Closet. More than 100,000 dresses have been donated throughout the years.

Review: Tampa Bay Fashion Week

BY KATIE GRAY
CROW’S NEXT CONTRIBUTOR

Flash lights, selfies and energetic photographers. These were just a few things visitors of the 2014 Tampa Bay Fashion Show saw this year. The event was held at the Hilton Hotel in Downtown Tampa. Prior to the show, guests mingled with vendors from all over the country. Complimentary food and drinks were given to guests to sample, while jewelry and apparel was available for purchase.

The Chattaway, located at 358 22nd Ave S. offers a Spaghetti Night on Thursdays.

Dollar Tacos at Burrito Boarder come with a choice of soft or crunchy shells, beef or chicken for filling, and up to three additional fillings.

Cheap eats in St. Pete

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Telling the story of a journalist

**By Caitlin Ashworth**
Crow’s Nest Contributor

Robert Pierpoint covered six presidents as a White House correspondent, including President John F. Kennedy’s assassination. In all, he spent 40 years at CBS News.

But only two people have ever touched Pierpoint’s notes—Pierpoint himself and USF St. Petersburg’s Tony Silvia, professor of journalism and media studies.


While doing research for the story, Silvia looked through Pierpoint’s reporter notebooks. Silvia said it gave him the feeling of discovery. He said he got to know Pierpoint through his personal notebooks.

Pierpoint played an important role in the coverage of the Korean War. He did a radio broadcast in Korea at the cease fire. Pierpoint recreated the original broadcast for the final episode of MASH, which is the highest rated TV finale in history.

Silvia played the clip from MASH. In the broadcast, Pierpoint announces the end of the war, but pauses for a moment. After a moment of silence, Pierpoint says “that’s the sound of peace.”

During the speech, Silvia humored the audience with an excerpt from the book’s foreword, written by Face the Nation’s Bob Schieffer.

“Silvia tells how Pierpoint once tried to get a comment from John Kennedy and used a beautiful White House visitor as “bait” in hope of attracting Kennedy’s attention. Kennedy took the bait, stopped to chat with the lady but moved on before Pierpoint could ask a question.”

Silvia explains how Pierpoint overcame odds at a young age. He suffered childhood asthma which, at that time, was treated as tuberculosis. Pierpoint spent the majority of his childhood at a sanatorium. Silvia says that Pierpoint’s childhood in isolation gave young Pierpoint a lot of time to think.

“Asthma influenced my life for many years afterward, and may have been the best thing that ever happened to me,” Pierpoint says, quoted by Silvia.

Pierpoint never studied journalism and believed that journalist should know something about other countries, cultures, history and anthropology. Silvia says Pierpoint was a “better reporter, better journalist because he strove to be a better person.”

“The best pro was a pro with a passion for accuracy,” Schieffer said in the forward of the book.

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**Local weekend guide**

**By Emily Wehunt**
Staff Reporter

Downtown St. Petersburg is a bustling city with plenty of ways to stay entertained on the weekends. Whether you are a local, new to the city or even a commuter - here are some ideas to get out of the library and out on the town.

**ARTpool Gallery & Vintage Boutique**

ARTpool is a unique multi-functional space that houses funky fashions, vintage decor, vinyls, a variety of artwork and gifts. ARTpool has monthly themed events - like a Gatsby Gala. Indie markets are also hosted each weekend from 11 a.m to 5 p.m. Stop by to shop, look around or get a bite to eat at their cafe.

2030 Central Ave
St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Courts

Shuffleboarding was made popular in St. Petersburg and migrated to New York.

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To apply, email Jennifer Nesslar at jnesslar@mail.usf.edu and request an application.
Editorial

The dangers of de-recognizing a club

California State’s moves to promote diversity only stifle it.

The American public university system feverishly strives to promote diversity. The principle behind it may be noble, but sometimes they take it a bit too far. Sometimes, their drive to be diverse leads them to be exactly opposite.

Such was the case this month when California State University de-recognized InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a nation-wide Christian organization, on all 23 of its campuses.

Why? InterVarsity requires its leadership to sign a statement of belief before taking their post.

That’s discrimination and breaking the law—both in California and in university policy—California State administrators say.

It’s easy to get upset about something like this. How could InterVarsity exclude people from wanting to become leaders, just because they don’t fit a certain mold?

But when you look at InterVarsity’s logic, it becomes a little clearer.

Greg Jao, the national field director for the northeast cluster of InterVarsity chapters, told the USA Today that student leaders are charged with teaching Bible studies and mentoring students. To be effective, they must actually believe what they are saying.

We agree. It wouldn’t make sense for a student to go to an InterVarsity Bible study and be taught by someone one doesn’t believe what they’re saying. InterVarsity doesn’t appear to be trying to discriminate against anyone. It seems they’re trying to better serve all students—including those who lack their beliefs—by giving them a clearer picture of what they do believe.

In InterVarsity’s defense, they scarcely break the rules. They don’t require members to share their beliefs—just leadership.

We think the university system has gone too far in policing students organizations. Even if a student organization requires all members to sign an agreement, it doesn’t make sense for the university to shut them down. If a student doesn’t agree with the form they are signing, they probably wouldn’t fit into the club in the first place.

To be clear, we are not arguing that clubs should require members to sign statements of belief and exclude students. We are just saying that the university should not ban a club solely on this reason.

If students don’t like having to sign a statement, let them say that. They don’t have to join the club. If the club ultimately fails due to a lack of members, that responsibility falls to the club, not the university.

The university should worry about a student’s education—not whether or not a certain club should be permitted to be recognized.

Of course, InterVarsity at California State University can continue to meet. But the implications of being de-recognized can be devastating, according to Bloomberg View piece written by Virginia Postrel, a member of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education’s board of directors.

Postrel says that recognition can keep an organization from identifying themselves with a university, using rooms provided by the university free of charge, participate in recruitment events or receiving funding from student fees.

The policy ultimately silences student organizations. And isn’t that the greatest discrimination of all?

Jennifer Nesslar | The Crow’s Nest

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Photo of the week

Fly like a seagull

A seagull takes flight on Saturday by the College of Marine Sciences. The college has a view of Bayboro Harbor as it connects to Tampa Bay. Dolphins and stingrays have been spotted from the college. It’s such a beautiful view, it almost makes you want to jump in.

But don’t try that. The sign warns students against swimming. That means you too, Mr. Seagull. Take out a kayak or paddleboard at the Waterfront if that itch to get in the water just won’t go away.

Submit a picture with a caption for photo of the week to jnesslar@mail.usf.edu by Friday at 5 p.m. The best photo submission will run next week.

Jennifer Nesslar | The Crow’s Nest

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Throwback

Justice was created in the form of six when president George Washington signed the Judiciary Act of 1789 on Sept. 24. The Supreme Court established to serve until death retirement. The first chief justice to serve was John Jay, nominated by president Washington.

John Rutledge, William Cushing, John Blair, Robert Harrison, and James Wilson became associate justices. By Sept. 26, all six justices were appointed.

The size of the Supreme court fluctuated over the years until 1869, which stabilized at nine. Congress can vote to determine how many justices may sit on the Supreme Court, according to the U.S. Constitution.

The first session of the U.S. Supreme Court was held on Feb. 1, 1790 in New York City’s Royal Exchange building.

The court is recognized worldwide as the most important judicial body worldwide in terms of its central proximity to the political process in the United States.
Challenges of being an international student

By Joe McDonald
Contributing Columnist

I’m writing this article from a place I’m quite familiar with — a seat on an airplane. Though this trip to Miami is certainly much shorter than the trans-Atlantic voyage I took eight years ago—and still take almost annually.

I, like 819,644 other students in this country, am an international student. I initially moved to the U.S. from Scotland, using my mother’s E2 investor’s Visa to obtain an F1 Student Visa to continue living in the country. Getting a student Visa can be quite a hassle. After getting accepted to a college, you must apply for sponsorship — which essentially means waiting for a piece of paper to come to you in the mail saying that you legally get to go your Visa.

Once this has been done, you must go to the embassy to wait in line for your interview. After that, you wait to receive your Visa (if you got it). Now, an F1 Visa like the one I have is essentially no different than the E2 Visa that I left behind. I still have no access to a worker’s permit, and can only work off-campus if I can get a position relevant to my major in my second year of education.

The largest qualm about having a student Visa, however, is that there is no promised route to permanent residency. I, along with anyone else on a student Visa, can stay in the U.S. as long as I am attending school. As soon as I graduate, I have a sixty-day grace period in which I need to find an employer that can sponsor me for an H1B worker’s Visa. Otherwise, I have to return to my home country.

International students have to put a lot of faith into starting a career immediately following graduation — something which can often prove difficult in the highly competitive job market. The fact of the matter is that legal immigration is in much need for reform. As it stands right now, there are very limited legal paths to permanent residency or citizenship.

The path which I will most likely have to take is getting the H1B Visa following graduation, and then eventually gaining eligibility for a Green Card. But if that fails, then I guess it’s back across the Atlantic for me.

Tattoos are a cultural art form

By Samantha Puttermann
Contributing Columnist

This past weekend I got the privilege of attending Tampa’s First Annual Tattoo Arts Conventions held at the Tampa Convention Center. The three-day event boasted more than 300 world-renowned artists from 150 different tattoo shops. The convention featured some amazing performances such as Burlesque and Suspension shows. Various vendors came out to sell unique jewelry and some hilarious clothing.

Event goers were able to get a glimpse of each artist’s portfolio book. Most artists’ books featured pictures of past tattoos they have done, and some included their own drawings, both of which reflected their particular style and expertise. Excited tattoo enthusiasts had the opportunity to get a tattoo they wanted on the spot. (Unless it was a crazy 8-hour back-neck-leg-arm-wrap-around-piece—ain’t nobody got time for that).

Many of the artists only had these few, precious days before having to return to their distant homes, which had the convention buzzing with an excitingly gutsy, “now-or-never” vibe. For some, such as me, having only three non-visible tattoos, I was simply astounded. And with hundreds of incredible artists, came hundreds of incredible styles, many that I barely knew existed. At least not ALL of them.

I happen to be a real indecisive butthead, causing me to have racked up over a dozen tattoo ideas in my head, but too particular and picky to commit to any one of them, not until I get it down ‘perfectly.’ And this?—smorgasbord of tattoos, appearing in every possible shape, color, size, placement, you name it, had made it a whole lot worse.

Nevertheless, there is always the flip side. Even though I didn’t personally leave with a new, awesome tattoo; I got over 30 business cards, two T-shirts and a real, newfound direction of what exact tattoo(s) I wanted—all of my little nit-picking details included.

Many individuals pass negative judgments about others because they have tattoos, similarly to how people are judged every day based on the clothes they wear, or the music they listen to. Just as we all should be open to another’s beliefs and opinions, so should we be open to the art they choose to enjoy, even it is on their own body. Remember: what’s an art form to some may not be to others. Skin can be a canvas too.

If you missed it, not to worry!
Tune in to Bulls Radio!
Crow's Nest sports editor Andrew Caplan hosts Talk Sports Live Mondays from 9-11 a.m. with Mike McDowell to discuss the biggest news in sports, as well as Bulls football and basketball.
1620 AM on campus or 89.7 HD3 Tampa

Bulls energy recharged

By Andrew Caplan
Staff Reporter

Facing off against the Connecticut Huskies for their fourth straight home game, the USF Bulls showed a new energy.

The Bulls players were amped up from the moment they took the field. Players sang the songs played on the PA system, jumping up and down and encouraging each other before the game even started.

Both teams were 1-2 entering their first conference game, but the Bulls showed their dominance early and held their lead until the end. The Bulls defeated the Huskies 17-14 and seemed to fix the mistakes from last week’s game.

For the third time this season, the Bulls defense opened the game forcing a turnover against their opponent. The Bulls defense allowed 132 yards and 1 offensive touchdown, a season best.

With the win, the Bulls tied their win total from last year (2), but players were not satisfied.

From the 49-17 beat down by North Carolina State last week, the Bulls knew they had problems and it started with the offensive line.

Offensive lineman Thor Jozwiak played after being sidelined the previous two weeks for a shoulder injury. Jozwiak brought leadership back to the Bulls offense, something that has been missing the last couple of games.

“We want to establish a grinding mentality. No matter what the down was, we were gonna hit you,” Jozwiak said. “And in practice we did that all week.”

Head coach Willie Taggart was pleased with the improvement from the O-line as well.

“They played well,” Coach Taggart said. “They stepped up. And it was good to have Thor back and his leadership and it was good to see. All week those guys were excited and motivated and locked in to do a good job.”

The offensive line allowed quarterback Mike White to have his best game of the season. White went 4-for-5 passing in the first quarter for 70 yards, including a 30-yard touchdown to Rodney Adams on a 4th-down play.

“I was back there (in the pocket) eating my lunch. I could’ve waited on him, I could’ve went to the other sideline, and could’ve thrown it to him,” White said. “My big boys, man, up front they made me so proud.”

And with the passing game opening up, Taggart had the chance to get back to what he loves most, running the ball.

The Bulls ran the ball 53 times in the game and passed the ball 18 times. Freshman sensation Marlon Mack had his first 100-yard rushing game since the season opener where he collected 275 yards.

“The kid (Ciabatti) was unbelievable,” Taggart said. “I think tonight Ciabatti showed everyone what he was capable of doing.”

The Bulls received help from all angles of the ball. The team effort gives the Bulls momentum heading into their first road game of the season when they take the top-25 ranked Wisconsin Badgers Saturday.

Rays reflection on a rough season

By Andrew Caplan
Staff Reporter

Before this baseball season, many experts predicted the Tampa Bay Rays would finish atop of the American League East Division. The reality isn’t as good for the Rays.

The Rays welcomed back the 2013 A.L. Rookie of the Year, Wil Myers, third baseman Evan Longoria and arguably had one of the best pitching staffs entering the season.

Not only were the Rays projected to be neck-and-neck with the Boston Red Sox at the end of the year, but they were tied at No. 4 with each other for the best odds (12-to-1) to win the 2014 World Series. The Rays will finish above the Red Sox (67-48) when the season is done, but as of midnight Sunday they were 75-80 on the year. The Baltimore Orioles have already clinched the division by 14 games.

The projections are generally based off of previous performances and do not take into account possible issues like trades and injuries. And injuries have plagued the Rays throughout the season.

In April, the Rays lost starting pitcher Matt Moore for the season after tearing a ligament in his left elbow. They then opted to trade their “ace” David Price for a pair of 4th-down play.

Relief pitcher Grant Balfour, who was supposed to be a major off-season pick up, did not live up to his days in Oakland and had a mere 12 saves in his 2 wins and 6 losses. Myers was virtually invisible in his 300+ batting attempts through his 81 games played, even considering the two months he missed from a broken wrist. Myers has hit six home runs and 32 RBIs. His 2014 statistics have dropped nearly 50 percent from his Rookie of the Year campaign (13 HR, 56 RBIs) and his batting average dropped from .293 to .219.

The three-time all-star Longoria was about the only consistent thing on the team this season. Again, Longoria led the team with home runs and RBIs this season, in a year where the Rays couldn’t even buy a hit. Longoria is the franchise leader in home runs and RBIs.

As of opening day, according to The Associated Press, the Rays had the 28th lowest payroll ($77 million) in all of baseball, finishing just above the Florida Marlins and the Houston Astros.

Showing their “moneyball” skills, the Rays are eight wins higher than the Red Sox and four wins shy of the New York Yankees for No. 2 in the division. The Yankees have the second highest payroll in the MLB at just under $204 million and the Red Sox are fourth with just under $163 million.

There is much to take away from the Rays’ 2014 season despite their woes, starting with the stars of the team.

Longoria will enter his third year of his 10-year, $100 million contract. He has voiced his love for the organization, so he is not leaving anytime soon. At 23, Myers should have plenty of years to adapt to the pros–2014 could’ve just been a fluke. With Price’s departure, space is freed up. The Rays may go out and get a fresh face to lead the team next season. Moore will return healthy, alongside pitchers Alex Cobb and Chris Archer, all who have shown significant growth in the past few seasons. The fielding and baserunning is consistent; however, the problem is getting on base. The Rays will need to get an established power hitter or may call up some of their top prospects to fill that void.

If the Rays are able to stay healthy and hit consistently next season, we may be talking about them come October 2015.

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Wide receivers Deonte Welch and Rodney Adams celebrate after defeating the University of Connecticut Huskies.

“I think overall its not just the protection, its the run game,” White said. “I mean, UCONN knew with a runner like that, they know we gonna run the ball and we were still able to move the ball down the field, basically, whichever we wanted to.”

The special teams helped the defense perform to the level they did. Punter Matt Ciabatti kicked the ball away six times for 248 yards and five of his six punts fell inside the 20-yard line, backing the Huskies up against their own end zone.