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USF mourns loss of 4 in wrong-way car crash

By Tyler Killette
Staff Reporter

A wrong-way collision in Tampa on Feb. 9 resulted in the death of five men, including four USF fraternity brothers.

At 2:12 a.m., Jobin Joy Kuriakose, 21, Ankeet Harshad Patel, 22, Dammie Yesudhas, 21, and Imtiyaz “Jim” Ilias, 20, were struck head-on by a Ford Expedition going the wrong way on Interstate 275. Kuriakose’s 2010 Hyundai Sonata was torn apart, while the Expedition, driven by Daniel Lee Morris, 28, immediately burst into flames, the Tampa Bay Times reported. All five men died at the scene.

The men in the Hyundai were students at USF Tampa and members of the Sigma Beta Rho fraternity, an off-campus multicultural fraternity founded on society, brotherhood and remembrance, according to its website. Ilias attended USF St. Petersburg last year before transferring to the Tampa campus.

How or why Morris entered the wrong side of the interstate is unknown. His body was so badly burned that it took days to identify. Toxicology reports have not yet revealed whether drugs or alcohol were involved, but the Times reported that Morris was believed to be at a party on the night of the crash.

The day of the accident, a campaign was created on Gofundme.com to raise money for the funeral services and arrangements of Kuriakose, Patel, Yesudhas and Ilias, with a $40,000 goal. Within 24 hours, more than $55,000 was donated. At the time of reporting, $78,222 had been raised.

A vigil for the men was held at the Marshall Student Center at USF Tampa on Thursday, Feb. 13.

See STUDENTS, p.4
Last chance for free solar panels

By Ryan Ballogg
Staff Reporter

At the end of February, USF St. Petersburg will be considered for a $500,000 grant from Duke Energy to install an array of solar panels on campus.

This is the third year that USFSP will participate in the SunSense competition among Florida’s colleges, universities and technical schools, and the last year Duke is offering the grant.

According to USFSP’s sustainability coordinator Jennifer Winter, this time USFSP is ready to win.

“We were really close last year. I’ve been working really hard to make sure we have everything right this time,” Winter said.

Last year, USFSP came in second, losing the grant to St. Petersburg College. When Duke Energy officials came to campus for an on-site inspection, the biggest problems they cited were USFSP had no sustainability coordinator and no way to monitor the energy usage for major buildings.

Since then, Winter’s position was created, and she is close to coming to an agreement with administration to install an energy dashboard—a online system that would allow anyone on campus to access the energy use and water consumption for major buildings. The University Student Center, the Student Learning Center, Resident One and One and the Science and Technology Building would all be monitored.

The original estimate for such a system was around $400,000. On Friday, Feb. 7, Winter and a group of about 25 people that included students, faculty and administration met with a representative from Trane, a company that builds the systems, to discuss installation. At the meeting, the group determined that the scope of the project would have to be adjusted somewhat to bring down the price, but otherwise the reaction was positive.

Winter said the important thing to remember is that the monitoring system will pay for itself in time and provide a lot of educational benefits. She recently met with professors Yogi Goswami and Elias Stefanakos at the USF Tampa Clean Energy Research Center to discuss how to improve the argument for the dashboard.

“Their sustainability masters’ program would be able to do research using our dashboard,” Winter said.

At USFSP, the College of Education, the department of science education and multiple professors have submitted letters of intent stating they support the project and will incorporate the solar panels into their curriculum.

Winter and the group of students working with her, including Daniel McGarigal, Lauren Fink, Lily VanMeter and James Scott, are also trying to get the city involved. Council member Carl Nurse has offered his support for the dashboard and solar panel installation.

“The city is looking to us to be a leader, a microcosm of sustainability,” Winter said.

The proposed site for the solar panels is on top of the parking garage, in the form of a carport. According to McGarigal, director of sustainable initiatives for Student Government, the parking garage is the perfect place for the solar panels.

“There are policies in place that don’t allow us to put solar on our rooftops. But it works out because the parking garage is the largest, square-foot building on campus,” McGarigal said.

“This would also move the parking garage closer to becoming a certified green building. Energy-efficient, motion-sensing LED lights were recently installed on one floor, and there are plans to do the same for the rest.

Applications for the SunSense grant are due Feb. 28, and the top candidates will be announced on March 28. The winning school will be selected in July after on-site inspections, and then the solar panels will be installed in the fall.

For McGarigal, the appeal of the panels is obvious.

“We’re in Florida, and we’re significantly underusing solar power,” he said.

If USFSP wins the grant, it will host the largest and most efficient solar array in St. Petersburg. Currently, the largest array is at the net zero energy office building at 1950 Central Ave., which houses Big Sea Design and Development, Roundhouse Creative and the Sierra Club.

Students serve up Sodexo input

By Jennifer Nesslar
Staff Reporter

Thirty-six black chairs were placed in a circle in the University Student Center ballroom for the Open Forum on USFSP Dining Services. At the beginning of the forum, held to enhance communication between students and Sodexo, only eight seats were filled. Half of the attendees were part of Student Government, The Crow’s Nest or Sodexo’s staff.

Aaron Wasserman, one of the two SG coordinators of the event, taped a sign to the wall that read, “Where can we strengthen and develop the dining experience for all parties?”

The Regional Vice Chancellor of Financial and Administrative Services, Joseph Trubacz, reminded students in attendance to keep their suggestions reasonable.

“You must recognize that, in fact, Sodexo is a business,” he said.

Taylor Russell came in last semester as a freshman, but because of the number of credits she entered with, she is now a junior. She was frustrated because she was not able to change her meal plan.

“I have a humongous meal plan, and I only eat two meals a day,” Russell said.

The size of the institution doesn’t allow for smaller meal plans, Trubacz said. Sodexo budgets for a certain number of students in the residence halls. This year, the number of students living on campus is less than Sodexo budgets for. To make up the difference, Sodexo relies on food purchased by commuters to cover.

In order to offset the required meal plans purchased by residential students, commuter students must begin to purchase more food, added Louis Duran, Sodexo’s general manager.

Student Leilani Reilly countered that it is cheaper for students to eat at the Tavern or the Campus Grind than at a Sodexo-run food service.

“The conversation turned to the World of Wings Café, the alter- native to the Reef, and the close competition to the Tavern.

“We are really hurting at WOW,” Duran said, noting that the cafe is under revenue. He expressed frustration that last year, students wanted chicken, but now that they have chicken, they are unsatisfied and want something else.

Franklin Alves said customer service at WOW is poor. Sophia Constantine, a SG coordinator of the event, suggested WOW use names rather than call numbers to showcase food.

But to compete with the Tavern, Kerrin Naef, the USC marketing and conference coordinator, had one suggestion: beer.

Duran shook his head. “We would not be able to sell beer on the meal plan,” he said. “I don’t think your parents want me to sell you the beer.”

“There’s just a bunch of new issues when you bring alcohol to campus,” Trubacz added.

Naef reminded the group they were addressing commuters, and noted that at the two universities she attended, beer was available for purchase.

To close the time, Duran expressed his desire to offer more food selections and better hours, but said this could only happen as the campus grows. He asked the group if they had any other suggestions.

“Really, small improvements make a big difference,” Alves responded.

As a result of the forum, SG members Sophia Constantine and Mark Lombardi-Nelson plan to meet with Joseph Trubacz regarding extended hours, better food quality, healthier options, roll-over meal plans, meal plans for commuters, equal food portions, smaller meal plans for residents, alcohol at the World of Wings Café, improvement to catering services, more special event nights and a larger dessert bar. They also plan to increase the marketing of food services on campus. To add your input, contact Constantine at scon- stantine@mail.usf.edu.
**SG Presidential Elections 101 cont.**

**Bird/Gonzalez**

Bird said. "We've tackled that pretty well. Now, let's look at the other side of school."

"We know we want to help SGEF out," Gonzalez said. "We've already been so sustainable and so environmentally-friendly with everyone here, and we'd like to get everyone involved in that."

**Top 3 Issues on Campus**

**Campus Improvements:**

Free Printing -- "It's gotten to the point where we have set aside rooms to last until Friday and they are gone by Tuesday," Bird said. He mentioned a kiosk from the University of West Florida, which implemented a kiosk that would allow students to scan and reimburse their activity and service fees through "free printing."

Campus Diversity -- "I want to showcase that we are a diverse campus and really build on our culture that way," Bird said.

**Academics and Scholarships:**

"College is expensive and I'm finding that putting up more scholarships will attract more students, and they don't have to worry so much about jobs and trying to do academics at the same time", Gonzalez said.

**The Pool:**

"One of the things I wanted to do while in senate was work to remodel that whole area so that there was more seating, a better look to it, that it brings more attention to the Waterfront," Bird said.

**Why should you lead the student body?**

"We aren't going to promise unrealistically big things, such as we can't promise you a full indoor basketball court," Bird said. "Our ideas are grounded. We're logical, but also care about people."

**Hanson/Tift**

"I told them, 'I don't just want to run for senate, I just want to be a normal dude and voice my opinion. You can't do that here.'"

**Top 3 Issues on Campus**

**Opening SG to the student body:**

"We want to create easier methods for the average student to be involved in Student Government and give their own feedback and input," Hanson said.

**Services:**

"We would try to put in all of the effort we can in order to make it easier to have reduced meal plans and to avoid what is unfair to contract," Hanson said.

**Budget:**

"We need to make it clear to students where the budget's going. It's very hard to find what the SG budget is going towards and what money is being spent on," Hanson said. "I'd like to make it easier for students to see where their funds are going."

**Why should you lead the student body?**

"I've always had a strong leadership mentality toward organizing groups," Hanson said. "I'm not afraid to express my opinions on issues … I feel I would be able to help lead us in a direction that favors not just the most connected people on campus but the individual student, especially commuters and others who can feel like they are less involved in what's going on."

"When there's a problem, I like to solve it. We need solutions to some of these problems," Tift said. "I feel like a lot of these problems can be solved quite easily, it's just that nobody is paying attention to them."

**NOTE:** Cody Boyer and Jordan Iuliuacci entered the race late for president and vice president. They were not able to be interviewed before time of publication. Boyer is a senior majoring in Entrepreneurship and Iuliuacci is a junior majoring in Criminology.

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**New election format**

**BY AMANDA STARLING**

**STAFF REPORTER**

The Student Government presidential election is poised for its first election with a primary before electing a leader.

Five candidate teams will compete for the votes of USF St. Petersburg students, opening with a debate between president- and vice president-hopefuls.

"We have a plan for a runoff election, which will be on the following week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays," said Andrew Hart, election rules supervisor for SG.

"This is the highest number of students vying for the presidential seat ever, according to Hart. If a campaign ticket does not earn 50 percent plus one vote, the top two tickets with the highest number of votes will compete during a runoff second vote. Candidates will be alerted via email for another election to be held in two days instead of four.

"It was challenging because with the debate, we had to change up the format," Hart said. "We don't have enough podiums to do the size of the debate."

"A second debate is possible," Hart said, but funding is necessary. The election rules commission would have to appeal to the executive cabinet for more funding.

"If we did, it would just be pretty small scale. It's definitely a possibility that we could look into," Hart said.

Behind four podiums, candidates will switch off at tables. The vice president candidates will be first with five questions, with one minute for each response time and a closing argument. President candidates will have seven questions, with a minute each to respond and rebut with a one minute closing argument.

"The point of the debate is not to provide every single point of their platform," Hart said. "It's to provide a snapshot, for important questions to be asked and for students to get an idea of who these candidates are."

The debate begins at 6 p.m. on Tuesday in the University Student Center ballroom.

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**Bulls go to Tally:** Students representing the University of South Florida system meet and pose with Florida Gov. Rick Scott during the annual "Rally in Tally," an opportunity for students to lobby state legislators for university needs. Pictured from the left: Rebecca Guthier, Jean Cocco, Sophia Constantine, Darren Gambrell, Evan Brown, Gov. Rick Scott, Greg Berkowitz, Nia Jackson and Robert Ritzenhailer.
Turnout doubles for world conference

By Thomas Hamby
CROW’S NEXT CONTRIBUTOR

The idea for the St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs began in an apartment.

That day, Douglas L. McElhaney, a former U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, sat in his apartment and planned to take the knowledge of U.S. foreign policy from the “D.C. Beltway” to St. Petersburg, he told the conference audience on Thursday.

The conference, now in its second year, was held last week at USF St. Petersburg. Speaker from the government and public policy sector gather on stage to discuss hot-button world issues.

The discussion format stems from the idea that listening and discussing allows educated opinions to formulate. The audience decides what is right or wrong.

“We will give you good information. It is your job to tell what the truth is,” McElhaney said.

This year’s attendance doubled from last year, according to USFSP Honors Program Director Thomas Smith. “The University Student Center’s ballrooms filled with residents from St. Petersburg and beyond. In some sessions, there were more audience members than seats.

“This year the panel themes were especially engaging and provocative, from sustainability and climate change to whether or not Snowden and Manning are traitors. We were thrilled with the level of engagement and interest,” Smith said. “It’s great to see USF-St. Pete as a place where campus and community can engage the critical international issues of the day.”

Though pleased with the attendance, Smith said he wanted to see more students in the audience next year.

In each panel, moderators allowed speakers eight to 10 minutes to discuss their positions. There were 15 panelists ranging from the hotly contested debate on Religion and Politics, growth-driven topics of up and coming powers and the discussion on U.S. military intervention that became heated from audience input.

Audience members wrote questions on cards, which volunteers gave to the panelists to answer at the end of each session.

A luncheon on Friday allowed USFSP students and community members to meet with a representative from the State Department and discuss the process to enter the Foreign Service. The luncheon was held by retired ambassadors, diplomats and others within the international community who provided a look into what life on the field is like.

Rick Kriseman, mayor of St. Petersburg, said at the conference: “St. Petersburg needs to be globally focused…environmentally focused and that the city has a part to play in addressing ‘humanitarian rights and the LGBT community.’”

A student audience noted said he attended the conference last year and enjoyed himself, but this year the conference improved on ‘excellence.’

The conference has applied for nonprofit status, and is funded by donations. To keep the conference running, McElhaney joking asked the audience to “please contribute in your democratic-capitalist way.”

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Love-a-Bull students auctioned

By Haley Christian
CROW’S NEXT CORRESPONDENT

Students strutted down a catwalk as fast-talking auctioneer Thomas Boyd read their biographies, asking for higher bids. Each of the 35 participants in Love-a-Bull, a Student Government-sponsored charity auction, did all they could about themselves.

Those in the crowd yelled their bids and threw their bidding cards in the air as they competed to win their dream date, who they’d get to accompany to other Valentine’s Day-themed events throughout the week.

The eligible students posed, danced and even twerked. Some students dressed to impress, while others made the crowd go wild by taking off their shirts. Sam Farnan dressed in a full lifeguard getup, complete with a red bathing suit and a whistle.

“Boyfriend” while the audience clapped and stomped along.

Malory Koay and Taylor Adams

Most audience members kept it light by bidding on friends. The students being auctioned also had the opportunity to bid on each other, resulting in eight large group dates, the largest containing nine people.

Thomas Hamby received the highest bid at $110 by his sailing teammates. Other students with high bids included Skyler Gorleks for $100 and Jozef Gherman and Sophia Constantine, each for $76. While not many students had the courage to bid on strangers, a few, like Patrick Logan and Mallory Koay, took a leap of faith. Logan won Alexa Albright, and Koay won Taylor Adams.

Logan and Albright have been texting and plan to go on a date sometime soon. Koay and Adams decided to spend time together at an on-campus event on Valentine’s Day where they drank Shirley Temples, ate chocolate and watched ‘90s cartoons.

The event raised a total of $1,317 for the Edible Peace Patch Project. The project pairs college students and adult volunteers with elementary school students, who work together to plant a garden at the younger students’ school.

The Edible Peace Patch currently has gardens at seven schools in south St. Petersburg. The garden helps students and volunteers learn about locally grown food and address the health-related issues of poverty. Learn more at facebook.com/peacepatch.

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Students hold vigil, share memories

Continued from front page

Earlier that day, USFSP students gathered to remember Ilias as the gazeebo near the waterfront.

Tea-light candles flickered inside brown paper bags as wind gusted through Bayboror Harbor. A group of about 25 students -- the friends, classmates and rememberers of Jim Ilias -- held hands in a moment of silence for a fallen fellow Bull.

Over puffing leaves and suppressed sniffles, they told stories about meeting Ilias on campus, about connecting with him over a shared heritage and about finding a true friend with an unrelenting smile.

Christa Hegedus remembers meeting Ilias when he came up to the Sex and Relationships Club booth at orientation. His interest was in more than just the club.

“At first I thought he was kinda hitting on me,” Hegedus told the group with a chuckle. “But he was so sweet.”

She said Ilias texted her not too long ago asking her to go to lunch, but the plans never materialized. They never had their lunch date.

Jonathan Jones met Ilias through USFSP’s grappling club.

“He always had a smile on his face, always had a joke to tell,” Jones said. “Whenever I’m having a bad day, I’ll think of that smile.”

Jones said he could picture Ilias running across the waterfront lawn carrying a grappling mat, as they often did for practice. Whereas others would team up to lift the heavy mats, Ilias would always take on his own.

Luis Bruno, who also knew Ilias through grappling, said the waterfront vigil was fitting. Ilias recently confessed to him that though he loved the Tampa campus, he missed the water at USFSP.

Bruno said he is trying to get Studio A in the Fitness Center renamed after Ilias. Those who knew him knew he was always in the gym.

Anamul Preetom considers Ilias “his first real guy friend at USFSP.”

“We just clicked,” Preetom said, who shares Ilias’ Bengali heritage.

“He always had that energy … I don’t know what it is. Since the accident, I feel like he’s here with me giving me that energy.”

Rehanna Hack also connected with Ilias over their shared culture. When she first met him in the old Davis Lounge, Ilias immediately knew she was Muslim. When she asked how he knew, he told her, “You just flow like that.”

Hack regrets not getting to say goodbye to her friend. And so do the rest.

Kayla Robbins initially suggested the vigil for Ilias.

“He was a friend of mine, a friend of everyone’s really,” she said. “I don’t think there was a soul who didn’t like him.”

Ilias’ friends said he loved his life. He loved his friends, his family, his school and his fraternity. He was happy, always joking and always ready with a smile to pass on -- a smile that will live on through the halls of USFSP and the lives of all he touched.

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Over the Moon

A Playlist

Outer space has served as a universal source of inspiration for artists of all kinds. Stars, the moon and aliens have made their mark on everything from Florence and the Machine tunes to Lisa Frank backpacks. Listen to these star-crossed songs for a playlist that is truly out of this world.

By Erin Murphy
Staff Reporter

“Spaceman” by the Killers
Scientific fact: It is 125 percent impossible to listen to this stellar tune without smiling. Not just because Brandon Flowers dons a sassy spacesuit in the song’s music video -- a mix between Michael Jackson on the moon and Miley Cyrus circa “Can’t Be Tamed” -- but that certainly helps.

“Across the Universe” by the Beatles
Melancholic and meandering, this psychedelic jam brings to mind visions of the night sky and distant planets. For the spacey soul in us all.

“Gravity” by John Mayer
John Mayer may be many things (read: a womanizer, as well as one of the many men who broke Taylor Swift’s fragile Southern heart), but he is also one of the only songwriters who can pen a tune about gravitational pull and have it not come out cliche. On this track, ironically, Mayer gets down to earth.

“Starlight” by Muse
Win. Just so much win.

“Satellite Heart” by Anya Marina
Marina’s earnest, whispery voice is both haunting and beautiful on this string-laden song. Perfect listening for a long night drive or while stargazing at the beach.

“Brother Moon” by Gungor
Husband and wife duo Michael and Lisa Gungor use a healthy dose of personification to celebrate the creation and the beauty of the moon. Other glorious moon-themed jams include “The Moon is a Magnet” by Jon Foreman and “Talking to the Moon” by Bruno Mars.

“Counting Stars” by OneRepublic
Although every radio station ever has been playing this tune ad nauseum, it’s actually not too shabby. Despite its repetitive hook, we’re feeling the falsetto Ryan Tedder & Co. employ on the chorus.

“Counting Stars” by Augustana
Although this is the second song called “Counting Stars” on our space playlist, it’s the first sung by husky-voiced singer Dan Layus. Listening to Layus is not unlike indulging in a syrup-drenched plate of waffles, and we mean that in the most positive, polite way. Sing on, Dan. Sing on.

“In a Northern Sky” by Fossil Collective
Stargazing turns somber on this forest-y Fossil Collective track. Though if it spawns tracks like this, we can’t really complain.

“Clair de Lune” by Claude Debussy
Meaning “moonlight” in English, this classical piece is delicate and soft, like a tender kiss, or what we imagine it’d be like to sleep on a frosted pastry.

Casting Call

The walk to class from designated parking areas is filled with cars speeding in the garage, impatient drivers inching forward into crosswalks and cars blowing through stop signs.

This short traverse is essential for both commuter students and students who live on campus, students who deserve to feel safe on their walk to class. Professor Deb Wolfe’s Advanced Multimedia class is looking for students who are willing to be filmed voicing their experience as a pedestrian on campus. The footage will be used in a multimedia news report on the issue of pedestrian safety at USF St. Petersburg, titled PedX.

The class meets Thursday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. in PRW 107. Students will be available to film during class sessions until spring break. Email Deb Wolfe at dpwolfeusfsp1@gmail.com or stop by the classroom if you are interested in participating. Allow a total of 15 minutes for setup and an on-camera interview.
Spirits of lost Bulls live on

In the seven months our current staff has been in place, we’ve had to cover four deaths — three former students and one professor.

Eddy Vasquez was the first case. The USF St. Petersburg graduate was fatally shot near the downtown Publix, just blocks from campus. His shooter was said to have been a friend.

Robert Dardenne, the beloved journalism professor and mentor to many of our editors and writers, was next. He passed away in his sleep.

By the time we received word of Paula Witthaus’s death, the story of her brutal murder was a top local news story. Her classmates remembered her for her community activism and perseverance.

On Feb. 9, USF St. Petersburg lost another former student with the death of Intiyaz “Jim” Ilia. Three other Bulls were lost with him in a wrong-way interstate crash in Tampa.

The gazebo near the campus waterfront has developed into a place to memorialize those we lose.

When Dardenne passed, we toasted his honor with shots of bourbon and thanked him for all he taught us. Last week, we stood in a circle, holding hands, talking about all the times Ilias made us laugh. They were amiable.

The gazebo is square. It has four benches, coincidentally representative of the four people USF St. Petersburg has said goodbye to this year. The location is sort of perfect. Anyone who comes to this campus loves it for its beauty, for the ability to sit by the bay and watch dolphins.

Standing in the gazebo, the wind blowing, the water glistening — among laughter and muffled sobs — is a special moment. Regardless of one’s beliefs in the afterlife or degree of connection with a life lost, it’s a moment when we can come together for a common purpose and support each other. It’s a place where we can be both happy and sad, where we can crack jokes and question the cruel ways of the world within the same event.

The gazebo has become not just a place to mourn. It’s place to remember and to celebrate the times we’ve had.

The four deaths this year — each with a different cause — will serve as constant reminder that life, though short, is worth living. Eddy Vasquez, who died at 27, received a business degree from USFSP and used it to become the director of international sales for Grooveshark, an online music streaming service. He was bold, full of energy, a man about town.

Robert Dardenne, 66, was a year away from retiring after an accomplished career as a journalist, educator and the co-founder of our journalism program. He was dignified, witty and sweet, a true believer in his craft.

These four people, each immensely different from one another, do have something in common — they were Bulls. They were part of our USF family. And they still are. We are better for knowing them, and the university is better for having them.

Editorial

Bear Hug

Feb. 17, 1933 -- Blondie Boopadoop, a ditzy flapper girl, and Dagwood Bumstead, the playboy son of a millionaire, were two characters in the comic strip “Blondie,” created by cartoonist Chic Young. But when the Great Depression struck America, people stopped finding humor in their antics. In order to save his strip, Young married Blondie and Dagwood, an unconventional move for a cartoonist at that time. The event caused great media exposure, and the strip was saved.

Today, the strip, written by Dean Young and John Marshall, is still in print.
The problem with group work

BY MATT THOMAS  
Staff Columnist

Group work is frowned upon because somehow every member of the group believes they’ll end up having to do all the work. That’s what people say, but is it true?

I think it’s an ego thing. Sure, you have those who like to ride coattails, but as individuals, we all bring something to the table. The problem is, everyone doesn’t see everything the same, but that’s good. It sparks creativity.

An idea envisioned for months by one might seem idiotic to another, and something meant as a joke by one might be taken seriously by another. You want to play nice and avoid seeming rude, but when someone shares an idea that you think is, for a lack of a better word, dumb, it’s tempting to avoid conflict by saying, “That’s good, but I think we should (insert your own thought).”

I don’t like this non-sense. As someone working in group projects for different classes, this nice-on-the-surface culture is becoming more apparent and is a bit of an annoyance. As I am trying to make a movie, it’s news to me that all actors, no matter how small their part, are required to read the script. I struggle to keep everyone happy. I’m aware that I contribute to this nice-on-the-surface culture.

If an actor doesn’t like the way a character is portrayed, small changes are easy to work with. But when someone asked me to rewrite a major character and change their purpose in the story, I found that to be my “OK, I guess we’ll get someone else to do it” point. My question is, am I wrong to do that? I’m not paying the guy. If anything, he would’ve just done me a favor. Does that make me a control freak or a push-over? What is the middle ground?

Working with people isn’t easy; tensions get high. This is an issue that extends to several aspects of life, but let’s just narrow it to student life. Disagreeing with the person who edits your story isn’t uncommon. I don’t even want to imagine what’s truly going through the minds of some people during the Student Government meetings.

Let’s look at it from a different perspective. It’s one thing to hear an idea and do what you will with it, but giving that criticism in the first place is especially difficult when you’re close to the person. When you read a friend’s paper, how honest are you, really? You don’t want to hurt their feelings, but you want to help your friend. This is something we need to stop doing.

I’d like to become a professional movie critic.

Money speaks louder in politics

BY AMANDA STARLING  
Staff Columnist

In 2009, the Ugandan Parliament introduced a bill to criminalize homosexuality in the country ravaged by war. The bill passed on Dec. 20, 2013, providing a legal framework for the Ugandan government to prosecute anyone found guilty of homosexuality.

GROUP WORK IS FROWNED UPON

Group work is frowned upon because somehow every member of the group believes they’ll end up having to do all the work. That’s what people say, but is it true? I think it’s an ego thing. Sure, you have those who like to ride coattails, but as individuals, we all bring something to the table. The problem is, everyone doesn’t see everything the same, but that’s good. It sparks creativity.

An idea envisioned for months by one might seem idiotic to another, and something meant as a joke by one might be taken seriously by another. You want to play nice and avoid seeming rude, but when someone shares an idea that you think is, for a lack of a better word, dumb, it’s tempting to avoid conflict by saying, “That’s good, but I think we should (insert your own thought).”

I don’t like this non-sense. As someone working in group projects for different classes, this nice-on-the-surface culture is becoming more apparent and is a bit of an annoyance. As I am trying to make a movie, it’s news to me that all actors, no matter how small their part, are required to read the script. I struggle to keep everyone happy. I’m aware that I contribute to this nice-on-the-surface culture.

If an actor doesn’t like the way a character is portrayed, small changes are easy to work with. But when someone asked me to rewrite a major character and change their purpose in the story, I found that to be my “OK, I guess we’ll get someone else to do it” point. My question is, am I wrong to do that? I’m not paying the guy. If anything, he would’ve just done me a favor. Does that make me a control freak or a push-over? What is the middle ground?

Working with people isn’t easy; tensions get high. This is an issue that extends to several aspects of life, but let’s just narrow it to student life. Disagreeing with the person who edits your story isn’t uncommon. I don’t even want to imagine what’s truly going through the minds of some people during the Student Government meetings.

Let’s look at it from a different perspective. It’s one thing to hear an idea and do what you will with it, but giving that criticism in the first place is especially difficult when you’re close to the person. When you read a friend’s paper, how honest are you, really? You don’t want to hurt their feelings, but you want to help your friend. This is something we need to stop doing.

I’d like to become a professional movie critic.

Imagine a high school where F. Scott Fitzgerald, Zora Neale Hurston, Bayard Rustin, Chloé Merrick, Malcolm X and John Wallace were all in attendance during their formative years, learning within a hyper-diversified environment. Bizarre, but for my generation, this is the reality of opportunity.

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Olympic Roundup

T.J. Oshie: Everyone’s new favorite hockey player

Team USA's T.J. Oshie wowed fans on Saturday with his game-winning shootout performance against Russia. Oshie is from Everett, Wash. He played college hockey for North Dakota where he played with team Canada alternate captain Jonathan Toews. Drafted in 2005 by the St. Louis Blues Oshie has played his entire career with one team.

You shouldn’t trust the things you see on the Internet

The day after the opening ceremonies, a story circulated on social media that the technician who operated the ring that didn’t open was murdered. That didn’t happen. The story was written by The Daily Currant, a satirical news site. However, a shirtless Vladimir Putin did not escape unscathed. It was reported in Cur- rant, a satirical newssite. However, a shirtless Vladimir Putin did not escape unscathed. It was reported in

St. Pete wins battle of the bay

By JAY TELLINI
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Students witnessed USF St. Petersburg history on Saturday, as the school’s newly formed baseball team took on the new club team from USF Tampa in its first-ever home opener at Al Lang Stadium.

The home team did not disappoint, as the Bulls routed USF Tampa 14-4. The game progressed in support of its new team. A strong sense of baseball passion ran through the audience, which ignited the Bull's offense. Fans were in support of its new team. A strong sense of baseball passion ran through the audience, which ignited the Bull's offense. Fans were offered $3 beers at the conclusion of the game in reward for the home team win.

The Bulls will be playing again on March 8 in St. Petersburg against Brampton followed by a double header against Ontario the next day.

The game was sponsored by USFSP's Student Government, which recently made the decision to fund the baseball club. The Tampa Bay Rays also took part in the event, sending over some of the team's cheerleaders to root on the Bulls.

Fans were treated to free pizza and T-shirts before the game. St. Petersburg mayor Rick Kriseman was in attendance to throw out the ceremonial first pitch.

More information regarding the team can be found on their Facebook page at facebook.com/usfspbaseball.

The Bulls’ home opener comes at the start of Major League Baseball Spring Training, which began on Feb. 13 when pitchers and catchers reported to camp. Over a dozen teams will be making their way down to Florida as baseball season moves into full swing. Opening Day for the Rays will be March 31 at Tropicana Field against the Toronto Blue Jays.

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