3-16-2015

Crow's Nest : 2015 : 03 : 16

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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Survey reveals favorite pier design

By Ian MacCallum
Crow's Nest Contributor

The city of St. Petersburg is one step closer to knowing what will replace the iconic inverted pyramid adorning its waterfront.

An online public survey closed its voting on March 6 and, of the seven designs to choose from, three received the most votes.

"Destination St. Pete Pier," the design which has a huge hometown following, garnered the most votes with 10,751 clicks. "Pier Park" came in at second place with 6,811 votes, and "Blue Pier" came in third with 4,728 ballots cast. The results of the online survey were made public on March 9.

Designed by the St. Pete Design Group, "Destination St. Pete Pier" retains the inverted pyramid design.

Of the 229,780 residents who call St. Petersburg home, only about 4 percent took the time to make their voices heard in the ongoing pier debate. Even from the 22,290 votes collected, only 13,005 of those voters could be verified as actual St. Petersburg residents.

USF speech codes revised

By Jennifer Nesslar
Staff Reporter

The University of South Florida has some speech codes that "prohibit expression that would be protected by the First Amendment in society at large," according to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

The Crow’s Nest reported on these codes in November, after USF St. Petersburg’s codes were scrutinized by the FIRE.

But this semester, two of the codes that the FIRE viewed as the greatest offenders have been edited. Azhar Majeed, director of the FIRE’s individual rights education program, was pleasantly surprised.

"Typically we see universities revising these kind of policies over the summer," Majeed told The Crow’s Nest. "Obviously, we’re very happy to see this."

Jodi Adamechak, a USF official who works for the office of general council and deals with the policies, did not return The Crow’s Nest’s calls or emails.
New electric vehicle charger provides full charge in 30 minutes

By Jack Moscone

A new electric vehicle charger has been installed at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg parking garage. The charger is one of seven installed around the Tampa Bay area, including one in the USF St. Petersburg parking garage. The chargers are able to charge electric cars in 30 minutes or less.

For educational and research purposes, they will be measuring what and how much the battery stores and discharges.

“I hope the installation of this charger will incentivize students and others in the community to purchase electric vehicles,” said Kriseman. “EVs save money in gas, decrease greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainability.”

Seven Nissan Quick Chargers have been installed around the Tampa Bay area, including one in the USF St. Petersburg parking garage. The chargers are able to charge electric cars in 30 minutes or less.

Only 4 percent of St. Pete residents voted in pier design survey

Continued from p.1

While the survey is valuable to St. Petersburg mayor Rick Kriseman and his six-member selection committee, it hardly guarantees which design will take the current pier’s place and the $46 million budget assigned to the project.

“The key to this process has always been transparency,” Kriseman said in a prepared statement released with the survey results. “That is why it was important to take the pulse of the community and hear their voice.”

The selection committee’s final rankings are set to be revealed on March 20, followed by the city council’s approval of those rankings. To continue the arduous process, the top three designs will then be compared to determine which of the three will be the best bet for the city in the long run.

According to the website, www.newstpetepier.com, the final contract approval will be made public in late May or early June.

The current pier, the iconic inverted pyramid, was constructed in 1973, and its doors remained open until May 31, 2013. The city council voted to close the pier in 2010 due to concerns with aging support structures, which were deemed by many to be too costly to repair.

In a voter referendum on Aug. 27, 2013, residents chose to terminate the city’s current contract to tear down the pier and replace it with “The Lens,” a design that polarized the residents of the city.

The first pier of St. Petersburg was established in 1889 by the Orange Belt Railway. In 1906, the railroad pier was replaced with the Electric Pier, which extended the existing structure 3,000 feet into Tampa Bay.

After eight years, in 1914, the Electric Pier was once again replaced with the Municipal Pier. A massive hurricane in 1921 all but destroyed the Municipal Pier, prompting the city council to allocate $1 million for a new pier. In 1926, the Million Dollar Pier was dedicated and opened for business. The Million Dollar Pier held the site until 1967 when it was demolished.

“I look forward to the next steps as we plan for a new St. Petersburg Pier,” said Kriseman in his statement. With the small, yet optimistic, response to the new designs for the pier, St. Petersburg may soon have its sixth pier in one of the seven designs placed before the six-member selection committee.
The First Amendment to the Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Before:

"A. The following actions are prohibited:
1. Sexual harassment by or between any faculty member, staff, or student, including individuals of the same sex.
2. Examples of prohibited conduct include, but are not limited to:
   a. Making actual or implied promises of an employment or educational opportunity or benefit in exchange for sexual activity.
   b. Inferring or displaying favoritism that benefits or adversely affects another based on sexual involvement or a sexual relationship.
   c. Such conduct is sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to alter the conditions of, or have the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with, an individual's work or academic performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment. This may include off-campus acts of sexual harassment that have effects on campus which may contribute to a sexually hostile environment."

Now:

The following actions are prohibited: 1. Sexual harassment, including sexual violence, by or between any faculty member, staff, or student, including individuals of the same sex, in all academic, educational, extracurricular, athletic, and other programs of the University, whether those programs take place in University facilities, at a class or training program sponsored by the University at another location, or elsewhere.

Examples of prohibited conduct include, but are not limited to:
1. Requesting or coercing sexual intercourse or sexual favors, or attempting to or actually engaging in a sexual assault or sexual battery.
2. Inappropriate and unwelcome sexual attention or touching, including—but not limited to—leering, patting, fondling, pinching, and attempted or actual kissing.
3. Making actual or implied threats to impede or interfere with employment or educational opportunities or benefits for failing to agree to or engage in sexual activity.
4. Making actual or implied promises of an employment or educational opportunity or benefit in exchange for sexual activity.
5. Inferring or displaying favoritism that benefits or adversely affects another based on sexual involvement or a sexual relationship.
6. Making sexually explicit or suggestive gestures or sounds.
7. Sexual Harassment (which includes sexual violence) is any of the conduct below:
   - Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: . . . Such conduct is sufficiently severe or pervasive so as to alter the conditions of, or have the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with, an individual's work or academic performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment. This may include off-campus acts of sexual harassment, including sexual violence, that have effects on campus which may contribute to a sexually hostile environment.

USF System Policy: Diversity and Equal Opportunity-Discrimination and Harassment 14-15

Before:

"B. Examples of Prohibited Conduct Include, but Are Not Limited To:
1. Writing or displaying letters, notes, or e-mails which are derogatory toward any individual's race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or veteran status.
2. Making comments, slurs, or jokes which are derogatory toward any individual's race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or veteran status.
3. Making gestures or displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, or magazines which are derogatory toward any individual's race, color, marital status, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or veteran status."

Now:

A. The following Actions Are Prohibited: 1. Discrimination and/or harassment by any USF System employee or student against any individual(s) or group(s) within the USF System.
Tips on making it to the end of the semester

The memories of spring break are fading fast behind us, and summer is still a distant thought. Our desks are cluttered with stacks of papers that keep growing around us, threatening to suffocate us. And we don’t get another break until this semester ends. It’s a depressing thought, but take heart -- your friendly Crow’s Nest staff has some tips to help you make it to the end of the semester.

For the Kids

From 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. on March 13, USF St. Petersburg students gathered in the University Student Center ballrooms for the first annual dance marathon. The marathon raised money for All Children’s Hospital. Throughout the evening, various families who benefitted from the care they received at All Children’s gave testimonials. Through donations, entry fees and their own contributions, students raised $6,776.14, far exceeding the original goal of $2,015.

The event also included a human-size jenga set, a light-up ping pong table, a bounce house and henna tattoos.

By Crow’s Nest Staff

Take one day off every week. It’s easier said than done, but putting the books away one day a week will keep you refreshed and ready to tackle the rest of the week. If you work on weekends, taking one day off is even more essential, but also difficult to schedule. Guard that time. And on your day off, make sure to do something relaxing. If you’re a people person, spend it with friends. If seeing people exhausts you, maybe you should settle for a good book or a Netflix night. -- Jennifer Nesslar

Get involved. That means more than just being involved in classroom discussion. There are student organizations of all different flavors on campus. You might make some friends in the classroom, but chances are you won’t make a whole lot of deep relationships over a textbook. There is a different classroom, but chances are you might make some friends in the classroom. There is a different classroom, but chances are you might make some friends in the classroom. There is a different classroom, but chances are you might make some friends in the classroom.

Go kayaking. No, don’t get in your car and go to the beach--although the proximity of the beach is another perk of this campus. Just sit along Bayboro Harbor. The dolphins come around more than you may realize.

Get involved. That means more than just being involved in classroom discussion. There are student organizations of all different flavors on campus. You might make some friends in the classroom, but chances are you won’t make a whole lot of deep relationships over a textbook.

Joining an organization will allow you to do life with other people on campus. It’s rare to make a life-long college friend in a classroom. You have to get involved to find them.

Try the Peanut Butter Dream at the Coral Cafe. Walk yourself over to the University Student Center and purchase one of these drinks. Be forewarned: If you are counting calories, you should probably forgo this part of the checklist. But it sure is heavenly. Try it at least once.

Study. If you don’t, college will end much sooner than it should.

Manage your time wisely. It’s important to schedule time every day to work on school work, with small breaks in between. Shut out distractions such as social media and texting friends. If you can structure your time correctly to maximize efficiency when you are working, you’ll be amazed how much you can do daily and how much stress you will avoid. --Andrew Caplan

Change your surroundings. Don’t have just one comfortable study spot on lock. The University Student Center can get a little noisy, and the library is sometimes too quiet. The waterfront is beautiful and calm, but the weather has been fairly irregular. Everyday has their preferences, but a change of surroundings can help almost anyone avoid dozing off or unintentional people watching. If you’ve been isolating yourself on the third floor of the library all semester, and you’re getting tired of the same routine and surroundings, try cozying up on a park bench downtown. If outdoor studying isn’t particularly creative, try Starbucks, Community Cafe or other cafes in the area. Most offer free WiFi and an assortment of seating arrangements, including comfy couches. Plus, coffee. -- Emily Tinti

Get creative. Find a painting or pottery class downtown and learn a new skill. It can help relieve stress. If you’re strapped for cash and can’t afford to pay for a class, pick up a skill like knitting, sewing or crocheting. We’re sure the Needle Arts Club at USFSP would be happy to show you how to do it. If all else fails, just scribble on blank piece of paper with some colored pencils. Stress relief at its finest. --Jennifer Nesslar

life@crownestsstpete.com
USFSP Florida studies co-founder wins writing award

**BY ASHLEY AGRIPPA**
Crow's Nest Contributor

In 1980, Gary Mormino spent a year in Rome as a Fulbright scholar. In Rome, Mormino read the news from Florida. There were the race riots in Miami, a campaign to make English the only language in U.S. government documents, a mass emigration of people from Cuba and Haiti to Florida.

Mormino thought: "The greatest story in my lifetime is unfolding not in Rome, but in Florida. Upon his return, Mormino dedicated his research to Florida history.

Since then, Gary Mormino co-founded the Florida studies program at USF St. Petersburg, and became the Frank E. Duckwall Florida professor of history emeritus.

And in 2015, Mormino was awarded Florida Humanities Council’s 2015 Florida Lifetime Achievement Award for Writing. The award honors living Florida authors who published "a distinguished body of work that has a major influence on Floridians."

"It's a heavy award in that one of the previous recipients was Carl Hiassen," said Mormino, the sixth writer to receive the award."I find it gratifying that a historian won. Because of all the disciplines now, I think historians write the best prose for both an academic and a popular audience, and I hope I've bridged the two."

From a field of 15 nominees, a five-person panel chose him. The award will be presented at the Florida Book Awards held at the Governor’s Mansion in Tallahassee on April 10.

Despite the honor, Mormino doesn’t let it go to his head. "I also realize that awards are very subjective, and I don’t take it too seriously," he said.

Mormino, whose office is in the Snell House on campus, thinks that some of his colleagues in the Snell House would also be good candidates for the award.

"This is an amazing collection of talent in this one house," he said.

His best-known work is “Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams: A Social History of Modern Florida.” He has also written about immigrants in Florida, and the impact that World War II had on the state.

"Florida went from being the least populated state in the South to the third largest state in the Union," Mormino said. "I wanted to capture the fury of that growth."

Mormino also received the Theodore Saloutos Prize for his outstanding book, “The Immigrant World of Ybor City,” where he surveys ethnic-immigration history.

"The first draft is never any good, but by the sixth draft, it can be pretty good."

This week, USFSP announced the creation of the Gary Mormino fund, according to University Advancement’s publication HarborNotes. In honor of Mormino, the university plans to raise $30,000, which will fund the Florida Studies program. More than 25 people have already agreed to contribute to the fund, according to HarborNotes.

Mormino is also a frequent contributor to the Tampa Bay Times. He recently wrote a perspective piece entitled, “Dastardly cats and the pelican massacre.” His writing is also familiar among other Florida newspapers, as well as to the New Yorker and the New York Times.

Growing up, Mormino learned the value of hard work from his father. He honed his writing while working on his doctorate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Writing has never been hard for me," he said. "I always believed that I belonged in the mills and the factories, not higher education. This is a privilege. I’ve had profound influences from teachers, especially at the college level."

Even in retirement, he teaches one class a year on the history of food and considers himself the cook of the family.

USFSP launches Shakespeare Festival

**BY EMILY TINTI**
Staff Reporter

Shakespeare enthusiasts and literature lovers in the USF St. Petersburg community fused their passions and talents to collaborate with the brand-new St. Petersburg Shakespeare Festival.

USFSP’s Dr. Lisa Starks-Estes, the textual director, and USFSP alumna Veronica Matthews, the creative director, developed the idea of an annual outdoor production along with the university’s student-led Shakespeare Society. This is the the Shakespeare Festival’s first year.

The group brought life to Shakespeare’s celebrated comedy “As You Like It,” which was met with laughs and cheers from the audience during its first run of performances. The story is about Rosalind, a woman avoiding prosecution in court by escaping to the Forest of Arden, where she, as well as many others, ultimately find love.

The play is known for incorporating some of Shakespeare’s most notable characters, such as Jacques, who delivers the famous speech “All the world’s a stage.” The character’s comedic delivery and gestures excited laughs from the audience, especially from Touchstone, played by Rebecca Adamec and Duke Frederick, played by Christopher Rutherford.

Additional shows will be held March 19-22 in the William’s House Courtyard on campus, where the encompassing trees double as the play’s Forest of Arden. The production is in partnership with the department of verbal and visual arts and the masters of language arts in liberal studies program.

Starks-Estes said education in and out of the classroom is the main purpose of these performances. She is currently teaching “As You Like It” in class, and many of those students have contributed to the play.

“Their passion for reading, performing, analyzing and adapting Renaissance plays will fuel a vibrant future of Shakespearean study here at USFSP,” said Matthews.

Starks-Estes and Matthews knew from the beginning that they wanted to produce the play in the Forest of Arden, where she, as well as many others, ultimately find love.

Hope asks that you pay what you can. Additional showings of “As You Like It” will be held on March 19-22 in the Williams House Courtyard. The shows begin at 8 p.m. each night. The festival asks that you pay what you can.

If you go: Additional showings of “As You Like It” will be held on March 19-22 in the Williams House Courtyard. The shows begin at 8 p.m. each night. The festival asks that you pay what you can.
Editorial

Protect constitutional speech on campus, no matter how offensive

Your constitutional right to free speech doesn’t end when you step foot on a university campus.

It’s bizarre that universities seem to think it does, as they create speech codes that, if applied to the letter, could punish students for freedom of speech.

This is why we are delighted that some of the speech codes at the University of South Florida and, ultimately, USF St. Petersburg have been amended (for our story on the codes, see the front page).

These codes still have a ways to go to protect the speech of students, and we hope that USF continues to amend their codes in support of the First Amendment rights of their students. Universities have the duty to support their students’ education, and telling students that constitutionally protected speech is prohibited on campus does not help them prepare for the future.

The truth is, we will encounter offensive speech wherever we go. We are blessed in the U.S. because we do not need to worry about legal repercussions for our speech. We can say what we want without punishment. This means we may be highly offended by the speech of others.

This week, an American university did a poor job of upholding the First Amendment rights of their students. You may know the story. Last week, a video depicting the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter at the University of Oklahoma performing a racist chant was posted on the internet. What followed was a firestorm of criticism across the nation. Two leaders from the group were expelled from the university.

The news of this likely disgusted you. It definitely disgusted us. Perhaps you cheered a little when the president expelled the two leaders.

But let’s back up a second. The things the fraternity said, as horrible as they may be, are protected by the First Amendment.

You may object: The speech used by the students referred to violence. “Speech doesn’t lose its constitutional protection just because it refers to violence,” according to Eugene Volokh, a free speech law professor at the UCLA School of Law and columnist at The Washington Post.

In some instances, speech truly threatening violence won’t be protected. The chant at the University of Oklahoma was protected by the First Amendment, Volokh says. The University of Oklahoma had no business kicking these students out, especially without a formal hearing. This denied due process to the students, who were expelled by the university president and did not receive a hearing from the conduct board, as the University of Oklahoma’s code procedures clearly state, according to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

To be clear: If the speech of these students upset you, you should speak out against it. But the answer is not silencing the students and kicking them out of their university.

In the words of Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis: “If there be time to expose through discussion the falsehood and fallacies, to avert the evil by the processes of education, the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence.”

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A little bit of ping pong

Gardiner Tucker, interim regional associate vice chancellor for student affairs, returns a ping pong ball during USF St. Petersburg’s first annual dance marathon. For more pictures from the dance marathon, see p.4

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.

Editor@crowsneststpete.com

Throwback

The first African-American newspaper, Freedom’s Journal, was published on March 16, 1827, in New York City.

While it is unclear who founded the publication, two well-educated, black men named John Brown Russwurm and Samuel E. Cornish edited and published the paper.

Russwurm, who was born in Jamaica, was the first black man to graduate from Bowdoin College and third black man to graduate from an American college. Cornish, who was born in Del., organized New York City’s first black-owned newspaper. Russwurm, who was born in Jamaica, was the first black man to graduate from Bowdoin College and third black man to graduate from an American college. Cornish, who was born in Del., organized New York City’s first black-owned newspaper.

Although it gave a much-needed voice to the black community, the Journal ceased operations on March 28, 1829, due to Russwurm’s enrollment in the American Colonization Society.

Despite its short run, however, the Journal ignited a chain reaction that caused a series of black-owned newspapers to spring up before the start of the Civil War. And its principles had a lasting impact that can still be felt in contemporary African-American journalism.
In the aftermath of the shooting last year at Florida State University, lawmakers are considering a bill that would allow students who hold a concealed carry permit to bring their firearms on campus with them for self-defense.

Unsurprisingly, this has stirred some controversy. The bill will continue through the necessary committees before it is voted on later this year.

I am an advocate of gun rights. I strongly believe in the natural right to defend yourself wherever you go. This includes college campuses. The current system of making firearms illegal on campus will not effectively prevent shootings. People who have already made the decision to shoot another person will not change their minds because it would be illegal to take a weapon on campus. Murder is a more serious offense than illegal possession of a firearm, and if the person has already decided to murder another person, worrying about breaking the latter law would do little to change their mind. A person will not change their mind about robbing a bank simply because they would be too afraid to jaywalk across the street in order to get to the bank.

While the chances of a situation similar to what occurred at FSU happening at our school are small, the possibility does remain. And as his own, all the while maintaining that the 2008 Great Recession was Obama's fault.

During the CNN Florida gubernatorial debate in 2014, when asked whether or not he supports the concept of a minimum wage, Scott responded, “How would I know—I mean, the private sector decides wages.”

Allowing the private sector to define the minimum wage will not lead to an increase in wages overall. Who would pay anyone more than they have to? There may find some companies that are willing to do so, but those jobs are few and far between. Lowering wages and busting unions can be a shortcut to job competitiveness, but it is a short-sighted business decision for the company and the workers alike.

Ironically, one of the agencies that is most affected by this law is the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)—the very agency whose utmost concern should be keeping this state literally alive.

If that wasn’t enough, the governor had the audacity to announce a plan—in the style of former Texas Governor Rick Perry—to travel to California in an attempt to lure businesses from The Golden State to The Sunshine State.

This could be considered a noble attempt to keep Florida competitive in the national job market. However, Scott is specifically targeting the California shipping industry, which has recently been the subject of contentious labor disputes between dockworkers and West Coast port operators. All of this comes just off the heels of Scott’s recent denial that climate change is real. With his “I’m not a scientist” attitude of ignoring the uncomfortable truths about global warming, the very ports to which he is inviting is the California shipping industry will be under water in a few decades—a short-sighted business decision for an industry that depends on coastline infrastructure.

Scott wants to tempect executives of the shipping industry to bring jobs over to this low-tax, anti-union, Right-to-Work, fiscally conservative haven of a peninsula. The goal is to take decent-paying jobs away from Florida, and entice shipping companies to move to a state where the labor force is used to working for much less. Think of Florida as a low-wage country that businesses look to for outsourcing labor.

“Florida’s low-tax, business friendly climate and our commitment to investing in our transportation infrastructure are great reasons for you to consider shipping your goods through Florida ports,” said Scott.

By the time we are all suffering the consequences of competitively low wages, Scott will be out of office and the vast income inequality will be the next governor’s problem. He may leave on a high note, touting Barack Obama’s economic recovery as his own, all the while maintaining that the 2008 Great Recession was Obama’s fault.

“American Dad!” is now aver-aging about 1.2 million viewers per episode, a mere one-third of its viewership during its tenure with FOX. However, TBS has less demanding ratings requirements than FOX, which gives “American Dad!” some wiggle room to experi-ence creative leniency and slightly looser standards. The standard of humor should not be whether a show could get away with a joke on network television—vulgarity is not a catch-all tool to increase humor. What makes a joke funny is creativity, delivery and intrinsic value.

The pleasurable escapism of post 9/11 jingoism. “Family Guy” creator Seth McFarlane finally had a show to put on the air that, alas, did not do so.

The very fact that the weapon in question will not change their minds because it would be illegal to take a weapon on campus. Murder is a more serious offense than illegal possession of a firearm, and if the person has already decided to murder another person, worrying about breaking the latter law would do little to change their mind. A person will not change their mind about robbing a bank simply because they would be too afraid to jaywalk across the street in order to get to the bank.

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Ironically, one of the agencies that is most affected by this law is the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)—the very agency whose utmost concern should be keeping this state literally alive.

If that wasn’t enough, the governor had the audacity to announce a plan—in the style of former Texas Governor Rick Perry—to travel to California in an attempt to lure businesses from The Golden State to The Sunshine State.

This could be considered a noble attempt to keep Florida competitive in the national job market. However, Scott is specifically targeting the California shipping industry, which has recently been the subject of contentious labor disputes between dockworkers and West Coast port operators. All of this comes just off the
USFSP Baseball Club

The Big Mack is back

Andrew Caplan
Staff Reporter

USF running back Marlon Mack surprised everyone last year when he broke the school’s all-purpose yards record in his first collegiate game. And he didn’t stop there.

He went on to have one of the best seasons for a running back in the program’s history.

Mack finished his freshman season with 1,041 rushing yards and nine touchdowns, becoming the school’s fourth 1,000-yard rusher. He exploded through defenders with five touchdown runs of 54 yards or longer, including a season-long 75-yard run against Memphis.

Mack’s emergence was a light in a gloomy 4-8 season. But the light may not have shined if it wasn’t for an injury to fellow RB Darius Tice.

Before the game against Western Carolina, head coach Willie Taggart told Mack that he would get the start. He went on to amass 275 rushing yards and four touchdowns, tying the American Athletic Conference (AAC) and USF rushing record. Adding a five-yard reception, Mack became the school’s record holder for the most all-purpose yards in a game.

“My line just kept blocking for me pretty good; they kept setting me up whenever I scored,” said Mack, reflecting on the 2014 season opener. “It was just a good feeling. It was a pretty thing.”

As the season progressed, defenders took notice of the Bulls rising star, and his average yards per game began to drop. Although other factors, such as quarterback issues and dropped passes, played a role in the slight decline.

“I just think I could’ve made better runs,” Mack said.

Freshmen took the AAC’s top three spots in rushing yards per game and Mack’s 86.8 ypg led them all, earning him conference Rookie of the Year.

“He was huge for our football program, just to have someone that we can rally behind,” Taggart said. “I think any program out there, especially when you starting again, at first you gotta get someone that you can get behind and build off of.”

Now a sophomore, the four-star recruit has a year under his belt and is gearing up for a second season with the Bulls. He added about 10-15 pounds and now weighs 205, which will help him endure more hits from defenders.

“He’s not going to be a surprise this year,” Taggart said.

The team is experimenting with an up-tempo offense and will likely have several other key contributors out of the back field, such as Darius Tice and D’Ernest Johnson.

“As a team, I want us to come together as one and make a bowl game, making our fans happy...” Mack said.

The Bulls will take part in their annual spring game on March 28. It will be the public’s first chance to see the changes in the offense and Mack.

“I expect big things from our football team, I really do,” Taggart said. “I love the way they’re working. I love the way that they’re competing. I love the way they are coming together and enjoying each other. I think that’s huge for us, and I think it’s going to pay off for us.”

Florida’s only MLS team opens in Orlando

By Thomas Boyd
Crow’s Next Contributor

A purple haze engulfed downtown Orlando, as a mob of 62,000 people descended onto the Citrus bowl.

March 8 marked the opening day for Major League Soccer’s newest club. Orlando City Orlando City is the only MLS team in Florida since the Tampa Bay Mutiny and Miami Fusion shut their doors in 2001.

Orlando’s opponent for the opening day was New York City, a team who, like them, was granted MLS expansion in 2013 and was playing its first game. Unlike Orlando City, New York had the total of the $100 million league expansion fee paid for by outside parties, namely the New York Yankees and Manchester City of Europe’s premier league. This outside backing would end up showing during the game.

At kickoff, it became clear that two different schools of thought were being played by the opposing teams. New York adopted the typical style seen in the premier leagues of Europe. They spread themselves far apart and passed the ball rapidly in a triangle formation, patiently waiting for Orlando to make a mistake and capitalize on it.

This was in sharp contrast to Orlando, who adopted an approach that can only be described as maximum attack. The players charged ahead with the ball; their teammates stayed close by. Orlando’s strategy seemed dependent on beating New York man to man, having the individual player outmaneuver his opponent rather than passing to a teammate.

The result of these two strategies meant Orlando was working its men significantly harder to get each yard and by the mid point of the second half they were spent. This gave New York the chance to score, which they did. By the end of the 90 minutes of regular play New York had the 1-0 lead. It was only in the four minutes of stoppage time that Orlando was able to equalize off a penalty kick.

For Orlando, opening with a tie was a let down for fans, but deserved. Being on attack the whole time is a risky strategy that will hopefully pay off for them in the future.

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