The student newspaper at USF St. Petersburg

The cream of USF’s crop

Which members of the football team are being eyed in the NFL Combine?

pg. 8

DON’T RATE MY PROFESSOR

pg. 4

We listened to the students. That’s a service we needed to provide, and we provide it.

Mark Lombardi-Nelson

It is our duty to give you the experience for the career you want.

JIMMY RICHARDS

STUDENT BODY
PRESIDENTIAL
TICKET

FULL COVERAGE STARTING ON PG 2

VOTE ON BLACKBOARD MARCH 4TH - 7TH @5PM
#debate-a-bull

Tweets hashtagged “debate-a-bull,” were displayed on the University Student Center’s WOW wall during the debate. Some students used the platform seriously, posting thoughtful questions for the candidates. Others had a little more fun. A list of favorites chosen by the Crow’s Nest staff follows.

Scott Mange @scadie
Did anyone realize that we overuse the whole “a-bull” thing… #debate-a-bull

Frank Mathis
@Frank_D_Mathis
I like Mark’s beard but I like Jimmy’s muscles. #debate-a-bull

Thomas Hamby
@JustTacking
… #debate-a-bull

Bill Milazzo
@AskATurtle77
overuse the whole “a-bull” thing

Jeremy Wade
@JeremyWade6
Crow’s Nest staff follows.

By Jennifer Nessler
CROW’S NEXT CORRESPONDENT

Exercising and green initiatives are important to Karla Infazon, a junior and a team leader at both the Fitness Center and the Waterfront. Last week Infazon participated in Race for the Watts, an energy-generating contest sponsored by SGEF, the Student Green Energy Fund. Students representing various campus organizations on the sustainable cardio equipment on the second floor of the fitness center to see who could raise the most watts.

Infazon hoped the event would create awareness about the Fitness Center’s green equipment and SGEF’s influence on campus.

between my best friend, Vanessa, and I, we spent over an hour in the gym all three days (of the race) to generate as many watts as possible,” she said.

In total, Infazon generated 140 watts. Her team placed first place in the watt count with 507.6 watts, and third place in mileage, with 8.86 miles.

Infazon was on the volleyball team in high school and upon coming to USF St. Petersburg, she was disappointed to find the campus didn’t have a team. She immediately got involved in the Fitness Center.

As a team leader at the Waterfront, Infazon took part in the process of buying a hybrid truck, funded by SGEF. She presented the Waterfront’s proposal for a bi-fuel truck that operates on either gasoline or natural compressed gas. The proposal for the hybrid car was eventually accepted. Infazon said that it was easy to ask for money for the project from SGEF and the committee was very approachable. If students come up with green ideas, SGEF will pay, she said.

Neither green initiatives nor exercise are directly related with Infazon’s major, business management. Exercise is a way for her to stay healthy and live longer.

“Why not go green?” she said. “You always have to option, so why not?”

Meal plans, traditions top debate

By Tyler Killette and Amanda Starling

Over muffled chatter and clanging dishes in the University Student Center, two student body presidential candidates Jimmy Richards and Mark Lombardi-Nelson voiced their campaign platforms before a politically divided student audience on Jan. 27.

Among the debate’s big ticket items were Sodexo meal plan changes, the potential for Greek life on campus, the preservation of candidates Jimmy Richards and Mark Lombardi-Nelson voiced their campaign platforms before a politically divided student audience on Jan. 27.

Lombardi-Nelson suggested the majority of SG’s executive cabinet sits on Richards’ campaign staff. Lombardi-Nelson said though he respects the students’ right to side with the candidate of their choice, he is ready for the fight.

Both men are proud of what they’ve accomplished as president and vice president, in joint and individual initiatives.

“Voting begins Monday Feb. 4 and ends Thursday Feb. 7 at 5 p.m. Students can access their ballot through Blackboard.”

news@crownsneststpete.com

news@crowsneststpete.com
On Nat’l Grammar Day, USFSP balks

BY ERIN MURPHY
CROW’S NEST CORRESPONDENT

Writers across the United States will celebrate the sixth annual National Grammar Day on March 4 by dotting their “i”s and crossing their “t”s. National Grammar Day, founded in 2008 by Martha Brockenbrough of the Society for the Promotion of Good Grammar, brings awareness to the important building blocks of the English language.

Despite grammar’s importance, the USF St. Petersburg English department cut the linguistics courses, Traditional English Grammar and Structure of American English, from this year’s curriculum.

“English never had a grammar requirement,” said Julie Armstrong, a literature professor. “Technically, our two programs are literature and writing, and grammar falls under linguistics or teaching the English language. As we were doing our research for curriculum revision, we did not see many peer universities with grammar as a required course.”

USFSP also currently lacks an instructor to teach this type of class.

“We do not have any full-time, tenure track faculty who specialize in those areas to teach the courses,” Armstrong said. “Most students come into college with a basic command of language; some better, some worse. What skills they do need would not improve by taking a class called ‘Grammar.’

“Though grammar classes are currently unnecessary for completion of the English major, Armstrong says good grammar is still important.”

“Language is not just about communicating,” she said. “It’s about power. If you don’t know the rules, then you don’t play the game as well as others. Then you might lose.”

And losing the game sometimes means making very obvious spelling errors.

“I read an essay where a student was writing about an escaped goat,” Armstrong said. “It took me several pages to realize he meant scapegoat.”

To enhance grammar and communication skills, Armstrong believes it is essential to use them often.

“If students are to improve their language use, they need to read copiously and write consistently,” she said. “I think that communicating in multiple formats on a regular basis — including writing essays, texting, sending emails, delivering presentations — makes us more sophisticated users of language because it teaches us how to respond to different rhetorical situations.”

Jimmy Richards
Age: 19
Year: Junior
Major: Accounting

Experience
Current Vice President
Student Government Senator
Future Business Leaders of America in High School (First place in districts, Third in state, participated in nationals)

Top 3 Issues
First Time College Students
“They have never experienced college. They should get what they want out of college, which they haven’t received yet.”

Internships
“Everyone comes to college for a career. Internships would give students the experience they can apply to a career. We should give that practical experience to our students for a leg up.”

Academic Resources
“We aren’t allowed to hire teachers or purchase books, but we do have the technology fee for Smartboards in the library, ebooks, etc. Our influence can be used to get the academic resources we need. With a strong student voice, administration would have to respond.”

What sets you apart?
“I will not make promises that I will not follow through with. I will do what is in the best interests of the students.”

Jordan Iuliucci
Age: 20
Year: Sophomore
Major: Management, with a minor in Political Science

Experience
Current Student President Pro-Temore
Student Services and Audits Chair
PSTA Marketing Internship (11th grade)
Technology Student Association

Top 3 Issues
Clubs and Organizations
“Clubs should be spending money, not us. Student Government should show them how to understand, how to budget, etc.”

Internships
“A lot of students don’t realize that internships help you get a job after college. If you have one or two internships, you stand out from the bunch.”

Sustainability
“We’re a green campus, with Clean Energy Resource Conservation Commission, Student Green Energy Fund, the director of sustainability… You can get the students what they want while still being green.”

What sets you apart?
“Accountability, communication, and our ability to lead. Out of the past two years, they have met the requirements, but it’s time for new leadership.”

Mark Lombardi-Nelson
Age: 20
Year: Junior
Major: Entrepreneurship and Finance

Experience
Current President
Vice President
Started three clubs: Musicians Society, Ultimate Frisbee Club and Poker Club

Top 3 Issues
Sodexo
“The largest documented group of student concerns deal with this. We are working with Sodexo now and we’ll continue working with them until we see solutions.”

Keeping Our Culture
“We are inclusive. We love our class sizes and our one-on-one relationship with faculty. We will address the total size of our university and make sure it is integrated with keeping our culture.”

Building Tradition
“We’ve started grassroots organizations. We’re at a point in our journey that we get to build the things that will be here 50 years from now. Cardboard boat races, Martin Luther King Jr. Day parades… we know our traditions but we want to create some more.”

What sets you apart?
“I have the experience. We have a track record for reaching out to students, whether they are or aren’t in clubs and organizations, because we’re passionate about helping.”

Christa Hagedus
Age: 20
Year: Sophomore
Major: Political Science

Experience
Current Senate President
Student Government Senator
Vice Chair for Judiciary and Ethics Legislative Affairs Chair

Top 3 Issues
Sodexo
“We would like to voice student concerns and have a sufficient pricing for the meal plan that students will be happy about.”

Culture
“Keeping our culture means creating traditions. We want a traditions committee for the purpose of students having an opportunity to voice ideas to further expand our campus.”

Traditions
“By increasing traditions, we can increase our view on sustainability and our leadership for clubs and organizations.”

What sets you apart?
“Our views and ideas about campus. We believe in a more cultural place and sustainable initiatives.”

news@crownestpete.com
Pro's not ‘hot’ on rating site

By M.S. BUTLER
Crow’s Next Correspondent

The comments include “HORRIBLE teacher. Shouldn’t even call him a teacher because he doesn’t teach. Complete jerk” and “He’s definitely one of the best professors I’ve ever had.”

These two evaluations of the same USF St. Petersburg professor can be found on RateMyProfessors.com, an open source website where students can anonymously post evaluations of professors based on criteria ranging from the easiness of a class to “hotness.”

Many students swear by the advice and democratic empowerment the site provides. Many professors question the fairness of being thrust onto a cyber-evaluation reality show they never chose. Searching through the website’s database of USFSP reveals a listing of 504 professors, some with no ratings, and many with dozens.

While the site features a tab for professor rebuttals, most USFSP professors have not responded. A website component called Professors Strike Back features videotaped responses to student reviews. These are sandwiched between upbeat and electric guitar riffs and flashy graphics normally reserved for energy drink commercials.

The segments feature professors discussing issues such as why attendance is important and the value of purchasing the textbook. French professor Martine Fernandes questions whether the students are prepared for more honest responses.

“How would they feel if we started writing comments about them? I’m not even sure if the school would allow it,” she said.

In fact, Fernandes would prefer to be excluded from the site.

“I wrote to them a couple of years ago and asked them to take me off and I never got a reply — I never heard anything,” she said. Calls and emails to Rate My Professors went unanswered.

Originally founded in 1999, Rate My Professors was purchased by Viacom in 2007 to be included in their mtvU network, MTV’s college channel. Chosen as one of Time Magazine’s 50 Best Websites of 2008, it boasts over 15 million student generated comments on 1.7 million professors in three countries.

The website’s terms of use details what counts that possibility.

As for the likelihood of responding to the comments directly on the site, Quintana immediately discounts that possibility.

“It would be unprofessional,” Quintana said.

French professor Frederic Leveziel dismisses the entire concept of the site as unnecessary.

“It’s American Idol syndrome,” he said. “Everyone has to say this is good and this is bad. Who’s to judge?”

Leveziel, like many other professors, takes exception with the “hotness” rating.

“Rating someone as hot or not brings down the whole thing,” he said. “It’s demeaning.”

It is a sentiment echoed by Fernandes, who added, with an amused smile, “And how would you feel if you found out you were not hot?”

Egyptian journalist talks revolution

By JENNIFER NESSLAR
Crow’s Next Correspondent

Ashraf Khalil always knew he wanted to be a journalist.

During his Feb. 29 on-campus lecture, Khalil said Cairo was the perfect place for a journalist, especially during the Egyptian Revolution — a topic he covered extensively in his career. He discussed how media affected the revolution and how it continues to affect Egypt.

“Egyptians are Twitter addicts,” Khalil said. However, he noted that social media’s effect on the revolution is sometimes overrated.

On Jan. 25, 2011, the first day of protests calling for the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak, it seemed like all Egyptians were on Twitter tracking revolution activity. The government shut off Internet access, and on Jan. 28, phone access was lost as well. Khalil remarked that the loss of media didn’t stop the revolution. If citizens wanted to know what was happening, they only needed to walk outside. This allowed them to band together in protest.

Since the revolution, all Egyptian political parties have begun using social media, Khalil said. The Muslim Brotherhood, which rose to power after Mubarak, has an active Twitter feed and uses Facebook for nearly half of its communications.

Khalil sees the transformation of media outlets as a crucial measure of the revolution’s success. The government currently owns the newspapers and the TV stations in Egypt.

[The media outlets] settle into satisfying whoever is in power,” Khalil said, explaining that during the revolution, Egyptian news defended Mubarak and even denied the protests occurring in Tahrir Square for some time. After the revolution, however, the media suddenly switched to defending the Muslim Brotherhood. Khalil feels this happened because Egyptian journalists have improper training.

The son of Egyptian immigrants, Khalil grew up in Chicago. In his junior year of college, he studied at the American University in Cairo. While in Egypt, Khalil received his first paycheck for writing and realized he wanted to eventually live in Egypt. He returned to the United States and wrote for a newspaper in Fort Wade, Ind.

At 27, Khalil moved to Egypt as a freelance journalist, where he has reported on the governmental power shift.

The party currently in power is composed of members of the Muslim Brotherhood, and the Salafists, a Muslim fundamentalist group that stayed out of politics for many years but recently “came out of nowhere,” Khalil said. He believes that the Brothers find the Salafists annoying. The two factions

“will have to stay on the same page for years,” Khalil said, adding that he doesn’t see that happening.

Media demonstrates the trouble between the two parties. Khalil suggested YouTube searching “Salafists Parliament Call to Prayer,” a video in which a Salafist stood up in the middle of a parliament session to do a call to prayer. A member of the Muslim Brotherhood, whose position was equivalent to the U.S. Speaker of the House, began yelling at him.

Khalil said that the Salafists try to make the Brothers look “soft” on their beliefs. “Brothers are happy to go to jail for their beliefs,” Khalil said. “They are sincere; that’s their appeal.”

Newsroom@Crownestspete.com
1. SODEXO / DINING HALL
   - Removal of Exclusive Catering
   - Cheaper Meal Plan Options
   - Quality of Meals and Experience
   - Variety of Meals Offered
   - Different Places on Campus to Eat

2. KEEPING OUR CULTURE
   - Continuing to Stress Class Size
   - “Faculty Relationship”
   - Addressing The Total Size of our School
   - Building Clubs and Organizations

3. BUILDING TRADITION
   - Creating a Tradition Club
   - Continuing to Build Communication
   - Supporting Clubs and Organizations
   - Scholarship Fund for Students
   - USFSP Bucket List

4. SUSTAINABILITY
   - Renew Student Green Energy Fund
   - Bike Program
   - Botanical/Butterfly Garden

5. TECHNOLOGY FEE COMMITTEE
   - Accomplishing Better Wifi on Campus
   - Smart Study Rooms in The Library
   - Updating the Computers in The Library

6. EXPANSION OF STUDENT LOUNGES
   - Outfitting the Coquina Club
   - Expanding the New Student Lounge in the SLC
   - Art in Our Lounges

7. SUPPORT FOR CAMPUS RECREATION
   - Extending Hours to Gym and Waterfront
   - Developing New Aquatic Programs
     Ex.( Fishing and WakeBoarding)
   - 5 Year Plan For a New Recreation Building

8. COMMUNITY OUTREACH
   - Rays Partnership for Discounts
   - Dalí Art Project on Campus
   - Teen Arts and Culture Festival

9. FACULTY SENATE OUTREACH
   - Work on Cheaper Textbooks for Students
   - Address +/- Grading
   - Create a Faculty Vs. Student Competition

10. PROVIDING A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE
    - Well Known Artist For Campus Concert
    - Continuing Free Printing
    - Support For The Wellness Center and Hammocks Around Campus

11. (YOUR IDEA HERE!)
Editorial

Examing ‘bias’ during election

In an age of bloggers, pundits and hacks broadcast from coast to coast, few people seem to understand newspapers, and even fewer know the meaning of the word “bias” as it pertains to news media.

Opinion writing has long had a home in American newspapers. In fact, most early newspapers depended on opinion for readership. They served as de facto arms of the popular political parties — seeking only to appeal to the fans of those parties. It wasn’t until after World War I — a time when propaganda was consistently published on the front pages of papers as prestigious as the New York Times — that objectivity found a home in American journalism.

Aware that opinion was still valuable and popular among their readerships, editors established the editorial and op-ed page — named so because it often appears opposite the editorial page. Though some may question the need for opinion in news media, they are uniquely positioned to provide informed views because they are at the center of the information transfer.

Modern newspapers generally limit all opinion content to those sections to retain objectivity and steer clear of real or perceived bias. The Crow’s Nest limits opinion to these two pages.

Publications that are not so linearly defined have a more difficult time keeping opinion away from objective news. Network news, like ABC, CBS and NBC, tend to keep programming objective and clear of opinion. However, cable news stations — especially Fox News and MSNBC — have clear biases. An educated viewer can easily spot the differences between news programs like “Fox Report with Shepard Smith” that stick to the facts more often and shows that depend more on opinion, like “The O’Reilly Factor.” However, networks that claim to be fair and balanced often are anything but — an understanding that is even more important on the Web than from any other medium. Thousands of websites exists that claim to offer “the truth.” But most of these provide at best nothing but watered-down opinion with no original reporting, and dangerous conspiracy theories at worst.

In most cases, there is nothing wrong with a blog or website offering an opinion — as long as it is properly labeled. A campus blog featuring a story about a student presidential candidate, for example, is not violating an ethical standard if it is made clear the article is an opinion.

Despite its popularity, opinion writing attracts a wide variety of critics. Many people mistakenly assume that an entire publication leans one way or another because of the editorials it publishes. The New York Times, for example, tends to publish editorials that lean left, but most of its news content is objective and fair. Newsrooms tend to keep a wall between editorial writers and news reporters — the people who write objective news are not also allowed to write opinions and vice versa.

Newspapers are never as controversial as they are during elections, when many of their editorial boards choose to “endorse” a candidate. This process brings their claims of fairness and objectivity into question, critics argue. But endorsements should not be viewed as a unanimous approval from an entire newspaper’s staff. It is merely a majority vote of the members of the editorial board, usually made only after hours of heated argument and debate.

Because of the candidates running in this year’s election, The Crow’s Nest is not endorsing a candidate or party in the Student Government elections, held this year on March 4 through 8 on Blackboard. We believe both presidential parties have significant experience and similar goals, and either would do a satisfactory job in representing student interests to the administration.

A total of 25 senators are campaigning for 30 open seats this year. In the future, when these positions are contested, The Crow’s Nest may provide recommendations for election. However, for now we applaud those students willing to put forth the time and effort of representing the students at USF St. Petersburg.

Editorial Cartoon

Quotes & Notes

One of the first cases of the devastating Spanish flu pandemic was reported on March 4, 1918. A cook from Fort Riley, Kan. reported sick and, within a week, 100 soldiers were in the hospital. The pandemic killed an estimated 50 to 100 million people — 1 to 3 percent of the world’s population at the time. Unlike similar diseases, the 1918 flu killed more young adults than the elderly and children because of the way it caused the body’s immune system to overreact.

“The 1918 has gone; a year momentous as the termination of the most cruel war in the annals of the human race; a year which marked, the end at least for a time, of man’s destruction of man; unfortunately a year in which developed a most fatal infectious disease causing the death of hundreds of thousands of human beings. Medical science for four and one-half years devoted itself to putting men on the firing line and keeping them there. Now it must turn with its whole might to combating the greatest enemy of all — infectious disease.”

-Journal of the American Medical Association, 1918
A thanks to the thankless workers

By Frank Kurtz
Staff Columnist

What makes a university? First there is some land. Then there are some buildings that contain classrooms, the all-important library, a dormitory for students to live, offices for faculty, staff, and administration, spaces for students to gather and relax in between classes, restrooms are a necessity, water fountains for both drinking and decorations are a must. Add some parking lots and boom, you’ve got a university.

The next question is who is a university? The answer is multiple groups of people: Our university allows retired members of society to continue their educations by taking classes — this enriches the classroom experience for all who are involved.

The student newspaper, which serves as the voice of the students, informs the university on the goings-on in the area and is the campus watchdog and thorn in the side of administration when they do things not in the best interest of students (example: the funding of the University Revenue Building.)

Then there are the professors, who are specialists in their field of study, who lecture and lead discussions in classrooms (and sometimes at the Tavern). Some students complain about the amount of assigned readings or how professors drone on about “boring subjects,” but this is a shortsighted view. Scantily clad coeds (especially in the summer months) run around from one side of the university to the other and distract the male students in and outside of classes.

There is the administration, which oversees the operation of the university, makes sure paperwork is correctly filled out and does other things that the vast majority of people on campus do not know about or understand.

But there is another large group of people. Though they are arguably the most important, they are generally overlooked: the staff.

By Tyler Killette
Staff Columnist

Fighting to stay alert in my four-hour night class last week, I found myself per-turbed by one classmate’s repetition of particular filler phrase. In response to our professor, this classmate recited a 30 second mono-logue in which she followed almost every sentence — and some sentence fragments — with, “You know.”

It actually sounded less like “you know” and more like “yuhhnow” — one word. And even though her voice got higher as she said it, she didn’t seem to be asking a question. If she was, she sure didn’t allow anyone time to answer.

For purposes of this story (and because I don’t know her name), let’s call this elo-quently spoken classmate Lucy.

If Lucy were writing this column, this is how it would look.

“So there was this girl in my class, you know, and she just talked in this really annoying voice, you know, and I just sat there wanting to, like, stab my pencil into my eye, you know, cause she just wouldn’t stop saying ‘you know,’ ‘you know’?”

Wait. Was that a sentence? I do envy Lucy’s strong lungs, however. She doesn’t seem to require breathing as regularly as most humans.

It may have been my newly heightened sense for this excruciatingly annoying phrase, but after Lucy spoke a few times, “you know” seemed to spread through the classroom like smallpox. Suddenly, Lucy wasn’t the only one infected with inar-ticulateness. I caught at least three other students saying, “you know” in excess. If only Edward Jenner were alive today; perhaps he could tweak his smallpox vaccine to cure this pandemic as well.

“you know” seems to have become the new serial filler phrase, replacing the word “like.” People still overuse “like” but I feel valley girl lin-guistics like “totally,” “duh,” and “as if” that have been slowly fading out since the ’80s, are almost dead. They’re definitely on the endangered list. People have finally begun saving those phrases for their appropriate uses … if there’s ever actually an appropriate time to say “duh.”

But this only means we will adopt new phrases to fill the space; hence, “you know.” Another rising filler phrase — one that I am guilty of using daily — is “I mean.” Say a friend asks if I want to go a party. Chances are I’d rather spend my night watching Netflix with my cat but instead of saying, “I don’t feel like it,” I say, “I mean … I just don’t really feel like it.” My version adds a filler phrase and two extra words but at least I use “like” appropriately.

I suppose my admitted guilt makes me somewhat hypocritical, but there is a point where filler phrases become unconscious noises. Define that line and never cross it. Or at least do others the courtesy of keeping your mouth closed in class as to not spread your filler words germs.

By Amanda Starling
Staff Columnist

Students shuffle through two lanes of lines, weaving through the Reef cafeteria. They lean against the glass shields the food from their touch as they rumble their orders. Servers dip their ladles and spatulas into the serving bins and onto stoves, hasty in their delivery.

“How are you today?” The cashier looks up from entering a meal plan code on his register. “Wow, you’re the first person to ask me that today.”

Attitudes toward Sodexo employees are often cold or quiet. In the rush to scav-enge a meal before an exam or meeting, students neglect their manners. “Please” and “thank you” are rare. Trails of spilled juice lining the countertops are left behind.

“Hey, are you going to chop that fruit?” The server from a hot food station pauses his scooping of eggs and raises his eyebrows. “If we have time, of course. We’re very busy this morning, as you can see.” He gestures to the line stretching back to salad bar.

“You, but will you do it later? Like by 7:30?”

It’s 7:45. Early Saturday morn-ings, the Reef is spotless. Tables gleam and chairs are neatly tucked by their cor-responding tables. Come evening, trays, cups and spilled food are spread across some tables. Sodexo staff rushes to scrub off the grime as they see students abandon their messes.

A Facebook post by Sodexo employee and freshman Ashley Harvey brought awareness to the issue of student cleanliness. It read: “I love my job and I love to make sandwiches/wraps/ subs, etc., for all of you, but as a worker I don’t think it is fair to have to stay an extra hour every night, going around picking up trash, trays, and other dishes. This is YOUR caf-eateria and some students, not all, are too lazy to bring their dishes to the tray rack. I’m not asking for all Cinderellas, but please just pick up after yourself.”

The result was 18 “Likes.” After concerns about food quality, Sodexo has responded with a rotating menu, placement of fruit for nutritious options, and has focused efforts on gaining different meal plan options. They have dissolved the part of their contract that allows them to be the exclu-sive caterers on campus.

Attitudes toward the Reef may be linked to The Crow’s Nest, accord-ing to general manager for Sodexo, Louis Duran. “People read this, pick it up, and go with it,” said Duran. “We try to give students good customer service.”

Sodexo employees are trained to work with stu-dents. Rolling eyes and atti-tudes, said Duran, should not be brought to work and should not be brought home after work. After 11 years with Sodexo, Duran always tries to teach his employees something.

“Handing a student ID to the cashier, a girl grips her tray and braces to dash off. The card is handed back and cashier smiles as she dashes away.”

“Have a nice day.”

Amanda is a sophomore majoring in mass commu-nications and the assistant news editor. She can be reached at astarling@mail.usf.edu
USF drafts could go far

By Justin Romaine
Crow’s Next Correspondent

The NFrappe Combine is a pre-draft event where top college football players showcase their talents in front of scouts from all 32 NFL teams. Players are turned into products, their numbers and scores become more valuable than their records and history.

USF defensive tackle Cory Grissom, linebacker Sam Barrington, and cornerback Kayvon Webster were invited to participate at the NFL Combine, hoping to open some eyes while proving critics wrong.

Who will be the steal of the draft? Sometimes it’s someone scouts least expect, someone who comes out of nowhere. That’s the purpose of the combine, and it’s what draws the attention to those players.

Cory “Pork Chop” Grissom fits the definition of a nose tackle. He’s somebody who can clog up the middle of an offensive line, allowing other defensive players to make plays. His large midsection and strong legs help him create a powerful punch when attacking off the line. The space-eating nose tackle is a player who could solidify many teams’ run-defense.

What the big man possesses in strength, he lacks in speed. The 5.31 40-yard dash time he posted wasn’t the worst of the defensive linemen, but one of the slowest. His lack of speed wasn’t a surprise, but proves he might have a hard time making plays outside the box or in the backfield.

Grissom’s major weakness is his history of injury. During his career, Grissom experienced ankle problems beginning in the beginning of his senior year.

According to NFL.com, he is ranked 18 out of 218 defensive tackles. When healthy, Cory Grissom looks like a mid-round pick and eventual starter, but due to his history of injury, he is likely to be drafted in the late rounds.

NFLDrafts.com ranked Barrington 15th out of 147 line backers, and projected him to be a 7th-round draft pick. Barrington did what was expected of him. Even though his 40-yard dash time was a little disappointing, his stock stayed about the same. The rest of his numbers landed around the middle of the pack and the Florida native received a grade of 53.

In his four-year career at South Florida, Barrington followed a good junior year with an even better senior year. In 2012, the linebacker recorded 80 total tackles and 3.5 sacks (both career highs), helping him earn second-team All-Big East honors. Durability isn’t in question with Barrington, as he played in all but one game with USF.

The athletic linebacker bench-pressed 22 reps of 225 pounds. His strength and athleticism could allow him to become a serviceable player in the NFL, but his disappointing 40 time might hurt his chances of being drafted. If he does get drafted it’s going to be late, as NFLDrafts.com is projecting him to be a seventh-round draft pick or possibly an undrafted free agent.

Known for his physical prowess and ability to jam receivers, Webster is a very aggressive corner who earned All-Big East second team honors in 2011. He followed his successful junior year with 82 tackles, two sacks and three forced fumbles his senior year. Webster didn’t miss a game during his four-year career.

Webster’s 40-yard dash time proves he can keep up with most NFL wide receivers and his bench press score suggests he is capable of getting physical at the line of scrimmage. There is a high demand for cornerbacks, and the Tampa Bay Bucs have issues in the secondary. Maybe they take a chance on the Florida native in the late rounds.

NFLDrafts.com has projected the USF cornerback will go in the seventh round or will possibly be undrafted.

Given the fact that physical defensive backs are so valuable in the NFL today, it wouldn’t be a surprise if he gets drafted and goes earlier than people might expect.

DePaul's bulls look to make big dance

By Sandy Czarnecki
Crow’s Next Correspondent

The University of South Florida’s women’s basketball team played its final home game of the regular season on March 2, taking on the UConn Huskies. The Bulls celebrated Senior Day at the Sun Dome, recognizing eight graduating players during the game.

However, the team couldn’t pull off an upset over No. 3 UConn, eventually falling by the score of 85-31.

Overall, USF reached the accomplishment of having more than twice as many wins than losses this season (19-9 total, 8-7 Big East). The Bulls started the season on a hot streak, winning their first eight games. Within a four-day span, they beat Louisville and Syracuse – then ranked No. 12 and No. 21 respectively – and hoped to clinch a spot in the Top 25 for the first time ever with a win over the Huskies. However, the loss to UConn eliminated any chance for the Bulls to get a Top 25 ranking this season.

A loss to Rutgers on Tuesday broke the team’s three-game winning streak. The Bulls also faced close games against two ranked conference opponents earlier this season, forcing overtime against No. 2 Notre Dame (and losing by 4 points) and suffering a last second 3-point loss to then No. 12 Louisville.

The Bulls wrap up their season March 4 on the road against Georgetown at 8 p.m.

After the regular season comes to an end, USF will participate in the Big East Tournament, which will be held at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn., March 8 through 12. USF has already clinched a bye to the second round.

The fragility of athletes

By Mike Hopey
Staff Columnist

The hockey micro-verese on Twitter blew up on Wednesday afternoon when New York Islanders goalie talking about how much it hurt that the Islanders waved him and sent him to the minors. The really disturbing part of the story was that during his prolonged struggles to stay healthy and live up to large 15-year, $67.5 million contract he considered suicide.

The way that we treat athletes is unlike any way we treat other human beings. Fans pour so much of their love and passion into the players on their local teams.

When they succeed they are lauded; when they lose they are treated sub-human. It is so easily forgotten that the wins and losses affect them more than they affect the fans.

Watching DiPietro play five, six, 26, eight, three games a season is a cruel way to look at things.

Yet the disappointment of DiPietro just adds to pitiful pile of awful that has been the New York Islanders in recent years. A bad team, a bad arena, a county that can’t afford to keep them; this team has resorted to trading for large contracts just to meet the league’s minimum salary requirement and planning a move to Brooklyn where they will be less than second-class tenants in the Barclays Center.

But no one feels residual effects of all that more than the Winthrop, Mass. native, DiPietro.

I am an expert on Rick DiPietro. I remember when he was supposed to be the franchise for a new dynasty at Boston University, then left after year. I remember him being drafted first overall, when he probably shouldn’t have. I remember him signing an unprecedented contract after the 2004-05 lockout that he never had any hope of living up to.

I have been one of those fans, one of those writers and one of those “experts” that has said he is a bust, a loser, a complete disaster of a player. But I don’t stop to think — none of us do — that professional athletes are human, as fragile as the rest of us.

Rick DiPietro has been a lot of things in his professional hockey career. The Bulls took us this long to remember that he was a human being first.

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