2-11-2013

Crow's Nest : 2013 : 02 : 11

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Final three to visit campus

BY TYLER KILLETTE
STAFF REPORTER

A psychologist and former editor of the Journal of Pediatric Psychology, an engineer with 30 years experience in higher education and a multi-lingual Russian literature extraordinaire — USF St. Petersburg may find itself with any of these three candidates as its next regional chancellor.

Ron Brown considers himself a “transformational leader” who will roll up his shirt sleeves to better the university.

Brown most recently served as senior vice president of Academic Affairs and provost at Wayne State University, which has about 30,000 students and is its own independent university, not a regional campus like USFSP.

But Brown sees strengths in being a regional campus, explaining that partnerships within a large university system can serve as recruitment tools to attract students, faculty and grants.

With an educational background in psychology, Brown says he is people-oriented and knows how people think and feel and what they will find exciting. He has more experience as a professor than an administrator, and feels he can understand and relate to the needs of faculty members.

During his time as an administrator at Temple University, Brown secured multiple large gifts for the school while focusing on research and philanthropy. However, the successes of his many students and those he has mentored are what make him most proud.

As USFSP’s chancellor, Brown said he would work to ensure everything was “top of the line.” He would impose a student-centric academic focus, while accentuating the school’s core strengths and capitalizing on them.

Though he has never worked in Florida, Brown’s career as an educator has brought him here many times. He feels his love for sailing, theater and museums will be welcomed by St. Petersburg’s urban waterfront location.

See CANDIDATES, pg. 2

SG recommends fee increases

BY MIKE HOPEY
STAFF REPORTER

USF St. Petersburg’s Student Government held an emergency general assembly meeting on Feb. 4 to vote on increases to student health fees and activity and service fees.

Senators at the assembly meeting voted to approve a total $1.58 increase to the two fees, which are charged to all students per credit hour every semester. The $1.58 figure came from a suggested 5 percent increase by USF Tampa.

The suggested increase allows Student Government to better anticipate the school’s growth, which is estimated to increase by 7 percent next year. The capital fund, where unused activity and service fees are collected, currently stands at about $100,000.

Student body President Mark Lombardi-Nelson originally proposed the $1.58 be split equally between health and activity and service fees, with a 79-cent increase to both. Sen. Anthony Patterson amended the proposal to give the health center a $1.30 per credit hour increase.

The health center, located on the second floor of the Student Life Center, is operating with half the staff that director of Student Achievement Diane McKinstry would like. Prior to the general assembly meeting, McKinstry told Lombardi-Nelson she would be happy with a 60 cent per credit hour increase next semester.

Senators spent the remainder of the meeting debating the need for more staff in the health center. The original amendment put forth by Patterson was pared down from $1.30 to $1 for health service fees. Next year that fee will increase from $3.90 to $4.90 per credit hour, incorrectly recorded as $4.99 in the official minutes of the assembly meeting.

Activity and service fees will increase by 58 cents per credit hour, going from $25.05 to $25.63, also incorrectly recorded in the minutes as $25.62.

USFSP has the highest activity and service fees among all Florida public universities. However, $13.08 of that total is a special fee used to pay for the long-term bond on the University Student Center. The $11.97 remaining is only 26 cents higher than Tampa and in line with the $14.41 average across all state schools.

Senators chose not to raise the athletic fee, which helps pay for the USF sailing team and other USF athletics. That fee will stay at $2.45 per credit hour.

The emergency meeting was necessary because the Campus Board meeting in which the issues would be voted on was moved up to Feb. 7. SG’s vote was only a recommendation — a fee committee comprised of three students, three administrations and a chairperson must approve or deny the increases. The USF System Board of Trustees must also approve the increases.

news@crownestspete.com
Power from 93 million miles

By John Funke
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Among USF St. Petersburg’s newest additions are three solar powered charging stations, two of which are mounted to patio tables along Bayboro Harbor and one placed next to the Solstice and Harbor Walk.

The stations are equipped with solar powered outlets to plug in laptops, notebooks, cell phones, PDAs, personal gaming devices, digital cameras and recorders, or whatever power thirsty gadget students may have tucked away in their book bags.

The two charging tables sprout umbrellas that are decked out in USFSF colors and logos. At first glance, they look like giant metallic mushrooms. Sci-fi movie props, maybe. But in addition to providing shade, they support solar panels, and have LED lights for those students given to late-night study habits.

The product is the brainchild of Joe Kobus, inventor of these solar powered charging stations, and owner of Enerfer, Inc. According to Kobus, the two Solar-Doks, and the Solstice, the charging post near the fountain, like all Enerfer’s products, are self-sustaining, made from recycled materials, and provide off the grid green energy.

Kobus came up with the idea for the charging stations after having trouble finding an outlet to charge his laptop at a Denver airport. He realized the world did not anticipate the need for charging portable electronic devices, which are becoming ever more popular. Recognizing this need, Kobus decided he wanted to do something, and do it in a sustainable way. Thus, he invented the Solar-Dok and the Solstice.

Kobus discovered USFSP’s interest in green energy through Zachary Oppenheim, head of USFSP Campus Recreation, at a national conference in November 2011 and discussed the product with Kobus. The Solar Doks and Solstice are funded by the Student Green Energy Fund. Catie Wonders, president of the Student Environmental Awareness Society, proposed the fund’s use for this project.

Kobus believes that this is a very visible hands-on solar experience for students.

“They are aware of solar but have seen it from afar. They see it on rooftops, or in a field where there is an array, but they don’t really get to touch and feel solar like the Solar-Dok allows. They sit down, plug in, they know everything coming from this product is generated by the power of the sun.”

Kobus and his nephew worked well after dark on Feb. 6 assembling the Solstice unit near the fountain, the light needed to complete their project provided by the school’s new solar powered walkway lamps.

The Student Green Energy Fund is currently accepting proposals for clean energy or waste reducing projects for the spring semester funding cycle. More information can be found at usfsp.edu/sgel.

news@crowneststpete.com

Candidates will visit this week

Continued from front page

Ralph Rogers said a campus like USFSP is just what he has been looking for. Currently serving as vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and a mechanical engineering professor at Purdue University Calumet, a regional campus with about 10,000 students, Rogers believes regional campuses are “where the action is” in higher education.

“I see higher education at regional campuses as a way to transform lives,” he said, explaining his belief that regional campuses serve the student body in a way that larger, central campuses cannot. He believes the nature of regional campuses allow them to focus on affordability, accessibility and quality.

USFSP’s relationship with the USF System is similar to that of Purdue Calumet’s with its main campus. Rogers feels it is important to establish relationships with the main campus in order to take advantage of the resources that can be brought from larger campuses.

The only candidate who has worked in the state, Rogers held the position of interim chair and associate professor of industrial engineering and management at the University of Central Florida from 1989 to 1998.

One of Roger’s greatest career accomplishments was establishing a college of engineering at East Carolina University — a feat that required many internal and external battles to achieve.

“Making a difference in the lives of these students, helping them grow and enhancing the learning environment are what Wisniewska considers her greatest accomplishments. At USFSP, Wisniewska sees opportunities in health care, the biomedical field, marine science, business and hospitality. She wants to learn more about the faculty and business leaders in the community to see where the school’s opportunities for growth lie.

A self-described “Pink Floyd nut,” Wisniewska loves music and the arts. She is also a health enthusiast with lots of energy — made evident by her recent trek across Pennsylvania.

She believes USFSP is the perfect size and has a talented and caring faculty, and is impressed with the opportunities that exist for students here.

The three finalists will be on campus over the next two weeks to meet with faculty, staff, administrators, students and community representatives.

Students can meet with Rogers on Feb. 12, Brown on Feb. 15 and Wisniewska on Feb. 19. Each meet and greet will be held in the University Student Center Ballroom 1 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

news@crowneststpete.com
Students tired of parking on the sunny seventh floor of the parking garage may finally have some relief. Plans for a 350-spot expansion and a solar panel rooftop covering for USF St. Petersburg's parking garage are underway to eliminate that problem while generating green energy.

The garage currently has 1,167 parking spaces. Last year, a total of 5,688 permits were sold, though this includes 1,752 daily passes and others that were sold by the semester or monthly.

Last year, $96,000 was collected in parking citations on campus. This revenue is used to maintain the parking area, pay employees, and will soon go towards expanding the garage. Maintenance efforts are also funded by parking permit fees, which will increase by about five percent in the 2013-2014 school year.

Details for the garage's expansion are still being discussed but the process could start within the next couple of years.

Earlier this month, USFSP applied for a grant from Progress Energy to install solar panels on the roof of the garage. The plan originally called for ground panels, but the school proposed to have them installed on the roof in order to provide shade for students like Haley Christian who dread parking there.

“The sixth floor had entirely filled up, so I parked on the seventh and thought nothing of it, until I got back to my car and realized that the heat had melted the volume knobs on my stereo,” she said.

According to Julie Jakway of USFSP's Administrative and Financial Services, the university will know if it made the list of possible sites to receive the solar panel grant by the end of February, and if it's awarded the grant by the end of the spring semester.

“Solar panels provide an educational and sustainable opportunity,” Jakway said.

Jakway said the parking garage has never been filled to its maximum capacity, but explained that USFSP's rapid growth make a larger parking area necessary.

USFSP applies for parking garage solar panels

By Jason Marcus
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Students and faculty watch as the new, yet-to-be-named bronze bull is fitted for cement supports on Harborwalk on Feb. 6. It was permanently installed the next day.

Nice degree.
What else you got?

Extra-curricular involvement is a top indicator of success while in college and when looking for a job.

Join The Crow’s Nest as a writer, photographer or graphic designer and earn your one-way ticket to a solid career.

Contact Ren LaForme at editor@crownsnstpete.com

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Type of federal income tax is based on taxpayer’s personal situation and IRS rules legislation. From 1996 EZ is generally used by single/unmarried taxpayers with taxable income under $100,000, no dependents, marital deductions, and certain types of income including wages, salaries, tips, taxable scholarships or fellowships, and unemployment compensation. Additional fees apply for Earned Income Credit and if you file any other returns such as state or local income tax returns, all these product other products or services such as a Federal Filing Checklist. Available at participating H&R offices. Offer expires February 15, 2013. IRS Form 1040EZ issued to H&R Block Inc.
This February marks the nine-year anniversary of the founding of Facebook. Thinking about the progression (or regression) of the site might make you marvel. On the other hand, it might remind you of a time when social media wasn't trying to suck out your soul. Recently, some things are making the effort to stay connected even less worth it. Remember when...

Facebook didn't ask you how, what and dare-we-say who you were doing. There are real, creepy people for that. Some call them stalkers.

Facebook wasn't public, meaning they weren't charging money for a lot of ridiculous services like "promoting" a post. If you're not getting enough attention from your friends, try adopting a kitten.

Old people hadn't figured out how to use it yet. Chief among those old people, of course, are your mother, father and weird aunt and uncles. Family reunions are nice to have every five years, but every day in your newfeed is too much.

Poking was still a thing. It was the king of ambiguous Internet behavior — nobody could quite tell you if it was a friendly jab to the ribs or something more seductive. It's still there, but you need to crawl through dozens of little submenus to find it.

"The Social Network" hadn't been released yet. After that, the fame really started going to Zuckerberg's head.

Middle-schoolers hadn't discovered it yet. Some things are better left to Myspace.

Facebook wasn't recommending gifts to send your friends on their birthdays. Whatever Johnny does want for his birthday, we're pretty sure it's not lemon cake.

Who thought that Timeline was a good idea again?

"Oh hey, is that me in my pajamas in that sidebar ad for pajamas?"

There was a time when Facebook wasn't using people's pictures for advertising without even a heads up. Be careful what you upload, kiddies.

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Designers recreate kid art

**By Krystal Blais**
Crow's Nest Correspondent

SpongeBob Squarepants, Hello Kitty, the Hulk, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Pikachu were all there for Ryo Perez-Palmer.

Ryo was born with a heart defect that required open-heart surgery, leaving his father, graphic design student Esteban Perez-Palmer, with a tough decision. He left school due to the accumulating hospital bills and to give Ryo the support and attention he needed.

The Big Kids art show at Studio@620 on Saturday helped raise money for the family. The show featured artwork by students from Symmes Elementary School in Riverview and remarks of their work by USF St. Petersburg graphic design students.

"We are such a tight knit group," said Jimmy Breen, vice president of USFSP's graphic design club, AIGA. "Esteban was only with us for a few weeks and when he left, we really felt like we lost one of our unit. We're all very supportive of each other, we help each other out."

To involve kids in the show, the students asked students of Symmes to draw a picture. Most were done in crayon. The pictures were then sent the students of USFSP's Graphic Design program. Participants picked at least one picture to be their inspiration. They took the drawing and transformed it into an entirely new piece of art. Whether they used computer graphics, paints, pencils, ink, clay, wood or a combination of materials, the art was taken to a new level.

"One of the coolest aspects of this is meeting the kids and getting to interact with them," said Scarlett Schiraldi, president of AIGA. "Plus, them getting to see that their art is valuable and hopefully it encourages them to continue making art in their lives."

"Overwhelmed," Palmer said about the show. "I am amazed at the turnout, the amazing artwork, such cool ideas and that it takes on children's artwork."

Palmer also said that part of whatever amount is raised will go to the St. Joseph's Children's Hospital in Tampa.

The artwork will be on display Feb. 11 through 28 in USFSP's Harbor Hall lobby, open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Funny stars can’t steal a laugh

**By Matthew Thomas**
Crow's Nest Correspondent

While stars Jason Bateman ("Arrested Development") and Melissa McCarthy ("Mike & Molly") have shown quite a bit of comedic talent in previous films and television shows, the filmmakers behind "Identity Thief" leave them out to dry with script that's not entirely sure if it wants to be a gross-out comedy, an action comedy or a heart-warming comedy. Regardless, it fails at all three.

"Identity Thief" opens with Sandy Bigelow Patterson (Bateman) falling for a scam over the phone where he gives out his social security number, full name and birthday to loud and crass identity thief Diana (McCarthy) who has a fondness for punching people in the throat. She then proceeds to party it up in Florida, buying countless drinks for bar attendees and spending a ridiculous amount of money on flashy items under Sandy's name.

Sandy eventually becomes aware of this and talks to the police, who apparently can't do much for him since Diana is out of their jurisdiction. He decides to fly from Colorado to Florida to pick her up and take her back to Colorado by car. The circumstances that lead up to the two making that trip by car is hard to believe.

Regardless, "Identity Thief" aims to be an odd couple road trip comedy in which one highly irritable and slightly uptight character is stuck with an obvously obnoxious individual he really doesn't want to be with, in the vein of "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles", and most recently, "Due Date".

And just like in those movies, the trip can't just go smoothly. Diana has a bounty hunter (Robert Patrick, "Last Resort") and two-drug runners (T.L. "Boss", and Genesis Rodriguez, "The Last Stand") chasing and shooting at her and Sandy. This is where the movie tries to be an action comedy.

The gross-out comes in when Diana attempts to make Sandy, who refuses to let her out of his sight, uncomfortable by inviting a male suitor to the hotel room they share. And the heart kicks in when Jason Bateman eventually comes to sympathize with Diana's situation. These plot points don't blend well and on top of all of that, the movie just isn't very funny, despite the efforts of the two leads.

"Identity Thief" is, at best, something to catch on Netflix on a boring night.

### 'Side Effects’ is first great film of 2013

**By Matthew Thomas**
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

An effective plot, great acting and smooth direction help Steven Soderbergh deliver the first great film of 2013 with "Side Effects."

Commercials advertising new prescription drugs often spend more time detailing side effects than benefits — often to the point of unintentional hilarity. "Side Effects" is about that concept, except it’s not all that funny here.

The first shot of the film is of an apartment. The camera slowly pans into the room down to blood on the floor before flashing back to three months.

A woman (Rooney Mara, "The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo") is having a trouble readjusting to her life just as her husband (Channing Tatum, "Magic Mike") gets released from prison after four years for insider trading. After an incident she winds up seeing a therapist (Jude Law, "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows") who prescribes her an experimental drug. Things seemingly take a turn for the better but, of course, the pill has its share of side effects.

And it’s at that point where "Side Effects" is truly engaging. The movie manages to work as effective commentary on the pharmaceutical industry while delivering its own twisting tale.

"Side Effects" is a movie that requires attention, as what seems to be a throwaway line one minute becomes a lot more important later in the film. It might be a little difficult to attach to the story due to its indifferent tone in the first act (an effective timbre), but soon afterwards it becomes easier to warm up to the characters. Credit goes to all four leads, including Catherine Zeta Jones ("Broken City"), for turning in such strong performances.

If "Side Effects" has any fault it's that the third act stretches — though looking back it’s hard to see where they should have trimmed a scene out.
Monday - Feb 11th
Vreck It Ralph - 8PM to 10PM  Lawn

Tuesday - Feb 12th
Make Your Own Valentine - 12PM to 4PM  Harbor Walk

Wednesday - Feb 13th
Dueling Pianos - 8PM to 10PM  USC Ballroom

Thursday - Feb 14th
Condom Casino - 7PM to 10PM  USC Ballroom

Week Of Love

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Greek life is ‘evolutionary step’

By Cassie Pinyan
Guest Columnist

With many of the students going back and forth about the question of whether or not USF St. Petersburg should have Greek life on campus, we have heard a resounding “NO” from many students. However, I believe that most of the people who disagree with Greek life only see the negative connotations that it has acquired. Look at some of Greek life’s biggest statistics: Since the 1900s, 63 percent of the presidential cabinet members have been Greek, 43 of the nation’s 50 largest corporations are led by Greek members, 85 percent of Fortune 500 executives belong to Greek life, and a U.S. government study shows that members of a sorority or fraternity are 20 percent more likely to graduate.

Greek members volunteer over 850,000 hours annually and they give their time and money to many organizations that need help. Not only does being Greek look good on a resume, it also helps members gain crucial leadership skills that will remain with them for life.

As striking as many of the statistics are, they are not the only reasons why people join. The Greek system is a family and each member gains a sister or a brother they can depend on for life.

“Greek life creates a stronger bond for individuals than just joining a club and having ‘friendly faces’ around,” said Jenna Willard, a junior business administration major.

Membership in the Greek community can offer a support system to many students that need help transitioning into the college lifestyle.

Delta Sigma Zeta is trying to become the first sorority on USFSP’s campus. DSZ is working to become nationally recognized by the Panhellenic Council. This process can take years, and will not affect the majority of students that are on campus now.

Many students are unaware of Delta Sigma Pi, a non-social fraternity already at USFSP. I’ve heard no qualms about DSP, so why shouldn’t people give other types of Greek life a chance as well?

Bringing Greek life onto our campus would be an opportunity for many students. It would create life-long relationships and commitments as well as a feeling of belonging. It wouldn’t hurt anyone who didn’t want to join, it wouldn’t deter students from coming to USFSP, and it would be something new and exciting that students could look forward to being a part of.

Our campus is different than most but as we grow and change, the addition of Greek life would be one more step in the evolution of USFSP.

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Quotes & Notes

The IBM supercomputer Deep Blue defeated chess grandmaster Garry Kasparov for the first time on Feb. 11, 1996. Kasparov ultimately won the match by a score of 4-2. IBM upgraded Deep Blue to “Deeper Blue” and, in 1997, a non-human participant was the reigning world chess champion for the first time. Kasparov accused IBM of cheating.

Technology is a state of culture... state of mind... the delification of technology, which means that the culture seeks its authorization in technology... its satisfactions... its orders... Those who feel most comfortable in Technopoly are those who are convinced that technical progress is humanity’s superhuman achievement and the instrument by which our most profound dilemmas may be solved.

-Neil Postman, “Technopoly: the Surrender of Culture to Technology”

No Idea
a series by Elizabeth Malley

Dinner.

Dali!

Do we have to name it?

Bullwinkle!

Taurus!

No! Not like Tampa!

We're different!

Sharon!

Rocky! Like Tampa!

No, seriously, do we have to name it?

Help name the bull!

Frank!

Rocky!
From food to the garage, a commuter’s life is tough

BY ERIN MURPHY
Guest Columnist

Live at home for the first year of college, they said. It will be fun, they said. Ah, commuting, such a delicate, misunderstood beast.

Caught in between life on campus and elsewhere, the commuter student tries to have the best of both worlds. But it doesn’t always work out that way.

While many USF St. Petersburg students may enjoy a leisurely nap between classes, the typical commuter wanders around the library in hopes of finding a comfy chair big enough to curl up in (blanket optional). If sleeping outdoors is more your speed, you can always lay down on one of those ever-cushy cement benches encircling the majestic Harborwalk fountain. I’ve seen it done before. Really.

When your nap is over and you still have a little bit of time to kill before that underwater basket weaving class, lunch is always a good option. Without a meal plan, the commuter’s food options are essentially limitless, although finding a place to sit down with your chow is not always as easy. A word of advice: seek out the seagulls by the harbor, although plump, are surprisingly aggressive. If you offer up that Dorito you might lose a thumb. (And you thought the squirrels were bad!)

Not to say that being a commuter student is all a struggle. There are certain perks that come with commuting that dorm students will never understand. For instance, you learn to form valuable relationships outside of class. I’ve become pretty chummy with my local gas station clerk, seeing as how cars need gas and I am purchasing so much of it. Seriously folks, we commuters are driving ALL THE TIME. If I’m not behind the wheel to school, I’m studying. Commuters also learn how to perfectly calculate the time it takes to drive to USFSP — including the minutes it takes to sprint from the parking garage to class in case you oversleep.

Learning to navigate the perils of the parking garage can be a commuter’s worst nightmare. While gold permit-holders have the run of floor one, commuters have an uphill battle — literally. Most commuters have inadvertently gotten stuck behind The Slowest Driver Ever while climbing the many levels of the parking garage. While you crawl at a tender 2 miles per hour up to that fourth level, prepare your gams for a lively sprint to class or you just might miss that lesson on underwater basket weaving after all.

After an eventful day of classes, writing papers and dodging seagulls, there is one more feat for the commuter student: the stairs. (And I mean the stairs from the seagulls, which can be equally as bad.) Running up the stairs to get to whatever level you parked earlier in the day should qualify as an Olympic event. If you’re not one for steep steps and asthma attacks, then you have another option: the elevator. If you’re willing to brave the confines of the elevator, you will most likely enjoy a brief, awkward ride with 20 of your closest strangers. I highly recommend staring at the wall pensively. It’s quite the alternative to texting.

Then comes the most majestic part of commuting: getting to explain it to someone else. Occasionally a friend you haven’t seen in a while/or your Great Aunt Mable/the hobo you just met on the bus will ask you about your college experience. The words “academic rigor” and “independent studies” will be slung around like nobody’s business.

And just when you thought you could avoid it, you will get asked The Question: “So, are you living on campus?” No. Didn’t you see that green sticker on my car? And per- haps worse than the initial (well meaning) nosiness of getting asked The Question is getting asked The Second Question: “Then are you living at home?” With cost of room and board so high, you very well might be. “There’s nothing wrong with that,” they’ll say to you; your commuter face suppressing a smile. And maybe there isn’t.

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Living life as the ‘bro girl’

BY SHANNON KELLY
Guest Columnist

When I first meet people, one of my biggest fears is that they think I’m gay. Not that anything is wrong with being gay; I’m just not trying to scare away potential datable guys.

I’m flirty with everybody and use humor as an icebreaker. No one has flat out asked me if I like girls, but once when meeting a lesbian, she asked if I played softball in high school. As the most uncoordinated individual who sucks at all sports was thinking, “I see what you did there…”

When discussing the topic of this column with a friend, she assured me that I had started a conversa- tion with guys at a bar with “want to hear something awkward?” I was wearing a vintage-looking shirt that read “Batman fan club,” jeans, and barely any makeup. I told them about my friend who met up with some Jamaican guy she met online at the bar that night, and how his friends from Africa with thick accents made him laugh with their eyes. I had a guy interested (for the night) and made some friends.

My voice has been described as somewhat deep and raspy (but I don’t think it’s the sexy raspy like in movies) and my accent as “redneck surfer.” I’ve been told I’m intimidat- ing and I talk like a “bro.”

What am I all about? Well, I have a ton of guy friends, I relate to sick humor and I’m not afraid to look silly. This, however, reflects on my dating life. A guy once told me he had the courage to like me, I would be his No. 1. Cool. So, I sit on the backburner to the girly girls that giggle at the jokes instead of making them, the damsels in distress that play dumb in conversations. I’m the “chill” girl that rides the roller coaster of my homeboys dating the life-sucking females.

Then I ask myself, “Do people actually prefer drama?” Do they secretly love the pas- sion of fighting and the reward of making up? I can’t count how many times I’ve gone through the motions of dating a guy, only to have him decide to rekindle things with an ex, I being the “laid back” one, go back to being “just friends.”

When I’m out with male friends, they don’t think to hold the door for me, it’s assumed I’m paying for my own dinner. Boy own him own hole standing near the mosh pit. How does one “hang” without losing all respectable femininity?

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College National Signing Day is mostly just a bunch of hoopla

BY FRANK KURTZ
Staff Columnist

Feb. 6 was National Signing Day for college football. For those of you who don’t know, signing day takes place on the first Wednesday in February when high school seniors sign letters of intent to attend a certain college to play football there.

I love college football, probably more than the next person, but I hate all the attention this generates. There seems to have been increased attention given to this event in the past decade, especially from ESPN. Wall-to-wall coverage for the entire event in the past decade, especially when ESPN bid on ESPN. Wall-to-wall coverage for the entire event in the past decade, especially when ESPN bid on

ESPN. roll off the fax machine. All of this attention is nice for the families and athletes, but I don’t need five of the eight pages in the Tampa Bay Times sports section dedicated to recruiting the following day.

I’d be a hypocrite if I didn’t mention I check the Orlando Sentinel’s website to see if any- body from Oviedo High School, my alma mater, signed anywhere. Same goes to the rest of the public schools that make up the Seminole Athletic Conference. They are local kids who went to schools I played against.

It ain’t just signing day that irks me — it is the entire recruiting process. A player can give a verbal commitment, but that doesn’t mean much of anything. Example from this year: Jojo Kemp, a running back from DeLand High School, gave his verbal commitment to South Florida, only to sign his letter of intent with the University of Kentucky. There was a story in theubit about a player from Plantation, Fla. who committed to the University of Miami, de-committed, then committed to the University of Arkansas. His mother said that he ain’t going there (my Ma told me the same thing when I got my acceptance letter from the U of A). His father allowed him to be a Razorback and his mother hired a lawyer. Now that’s a recruiting story.

These are 17- and 18-year-old kids for crying out loud. Are you doing now what you thought you’d be doing when you were 17? Do the national sports media have nothing else to do except put these kids on a pedestal and pressure them to win? We are in the middle of an intriguing collegiate basketball season. For five weeks in a row the newly minted No. 1 team has lost. The United States men’s basketball team is 0-11 in the hexagonal, or the final stages of CONCACAF World Cup qualifying. We lost to Honduras last Wednesday.

It doesn’t matter what happens in February — it matters what hap- pens two, three or four years later when these kids are young men starting on Saturday afternoons. Sadly, chances are most of the play- ers won’t finish their collegiate careers with the same coaching staff that recruited them.

Look at Tommy Tuberville. He left an orientation dinner at Texas Tech on a Friday night and the next morning he accepted a job the University of Cincinnati. The coaching staff is what builds a recruiting class into a football team. The staff like “Bear” Bryant’s did and Nick Saban is doing now is what turns 18-year-olds into national champions in the years to come.

fkurtz@mail.usf.edu
New season, new blood

Bull’s football signing day recruits

JOHNNY WARD
Defensive Back
Moultrie, GA

DARIUS WHITTY
Defensive Back
Jacksonville, FL

TORKEL SAFFOLD
Defensive Back
Kansas City, KS

TAHMUN SWAIN
Linebacker
Lithonia, GA

DELLKK CALLOWAY
Defensive Tackle
Bradenton, FL

BERNARD WRIGHT
Defensive Tackle
Tampa, FL

LAMAR ROBBINS
Corner Back
Sarasota, FL

MIELOVE
Defensive End
Clearwater, FL

THEO LEEHAN
Linebacker
Tampa, FL

MIKE WHITE
Quarter Back
Fort Lauderdale, FL

ZACH BENJAMIN
Wide Receiver
Tampa, FL

JEREMY HALL
Offensive Guards
Atlanta, GA

ERIC MAYS
Defensive End
Sarasota, FL

DOMINIQUE THREATT
Offensive Lineman
Atlanta, GA

AUGGIE SANCHEZ
Fullback
St. Pete, FL

STAFFON MCGRAY
Running Back
Kissimmee, FL

DARIUS TICE
Running Back
Miami, FL

EMILIO NADELMAN
Place Kicker
Miami, FL

In light of the Penn State child molestation scandal, the Paterno family has released the findings of former U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, who investigated the scandal independently, on crowsneststpete.com.

In these findings, Thornburgh claims “there is no evidence that Paterno acted to conceal information about Sandusky” and that “the assertion that Paterno lacked empathy for children and/or victims of child sexual abuse is contradicted by his long history of dedication to the development of young people.”

The Freeh report, released in July of last year, found “the most powerful men at Penn State failed to take any steps for 14 years to protect the children who Sandusky victimized.”

Penn State was hit with unprecedented sanctions after the release of the Freeh report, including a $60 million sanction, a four-year football postseason ban, and the vacat- 

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Ultimately the choice should fall to the student athlete, not his mother or father. After all, it’s not as if the parents are paying anything. These students are getting free rides to play college football.

Following Dwight Howard’s shoulder injury, Kobe Bryant said the Lakers, “don’t have time for [Howard’s shoulder] to heal,” Howard Sr. told the Atlanta Journal Constitution that Lakers head coach Mike D’Antoni was to blame for not controlling Kobe’s mouth.

“The problem is the coach. D’Antoni needs to step in and say, ‘You guys have got to be quiet. We’re trying to secure something here.’ I think the coach has a lot to do with who controls Kobe’s mouth right now,” Howard Sr. said.

Howard was reluctant to respond to the comments, but eventually stated that he was “not going to get into it. My dad is a grown man. If that’s how he feels, then we’ll leave it at that. I’m not going to get into it.”

Hungry, hungry hockey players. Toronto Maple Leaf forward Mikhail Grabovski will have a hearing on Feb. 11 with NHL disciplinarian Brendan Shanahan to address an alleged biting incident from Feb. 9.

Grabovski is accused of biting Montreal’s Max Pacioretty during Toronto’s 6-0 blowout of the rival Montreal Canadiens. The incident was captured in crystal-clear HD on CBC’s Hockey Night in Canada.

By Mike Hopey
Staff Columnist

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A couple years ago I watched the Under Armour All-American Game from Tropicana Field. During one of the on-field announcements a student got to tell the whole world his choice for college. He picked LSU over Alabama, which visibly upset his mom. She proceeded to steal that special moment from her son to say that he had made a mistake.

At 17 and 18 years old, the expectation is that these young men will start to make mature decisions. Wouldn’t choosing where they will go to college for free qualify as a good place to start?

Mom should still have a say. When heading off to college the advice of a parent is invaluable, but only if that advice comes from a supportive place.

Fans make a big thing out of National Signing Day. The reality is many of these players will not pan out and ride the bench behind better players. But on that day in February they get all the attention.

Let’s stop letting mom hijack that day.

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Mom, signing day isn’t about you