



UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1933

THE MINARET

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Eastwood's American Sniper Stumbles on Pot Holes

See A&E Page 9

Muslim "No-Go-Zones" Falsely Represented

See OPINION Page 12

Women's Tennis Team Strives for the NCAA Tournament

See SPORTS Page 16

Campus Calendar and Sudoku puzzle on Diversions, Page 10.

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Campus Parking Revoked From Freshman Next Fall



Nikki Nunzio/The Minaret

Preventing freshman from parking on campus next semester will alleviate parking for upperclassmen and faculty, making the commute a little easier.

By **BIANCA LOPEZ**
News Writer

Upcoming freshmen at the University of Tampa will get to learn a lesson in public transportation. Beginning Fall 2015, the university will revoke the parking privileges once extended to freshmen students.

Dean of Students Stephanie Russell Krebs assembled a small committee in Fall 2014 to discuss the parking situation.

"This group evaluated the parking

needs of our campus, consulted with students and also looked at best practices for first year students in regards to their engagement," Krebs said. "The committee came to the conclusion that restricting first year parking would benefit our campus and also the first year students."

This decision affects freshmen students who will begin their studies at UT during or after Fall 2015. New students who bring in credits from high school are not exempt from the policy, even if these credits place

them as sophomores during their first academic year.

"If I'm a sophomore [by credits] I want to be treated as such," said Sofia Santa-Cruz, a prospective student. "I like being able to drive and if I want to do things like take a last minute trip home, it would be easier if I have a car."

Krebs explained that the university has not found data demonstrating

See PARKING page 2

State of the Union: Obama Addresses "Middle Economy Taxes"

By **DOHA MADANI**
Multimedia Editor

Sometimes social media can create a disconnect between the masses and the people that run the country. On Jan. 20 President Barack Obama discussed issues in the State of the Union, and these are some of the points broken down.

One of the concepts Obama kept pushing was a new plan to expand what he calls "middle-class economics." This term is a way to summarize a budget plan that discusses a lot of tax breaks and federal support for families under a certain tax bracket. Some of the explicit programs the president discussed included education reform, tax cuts on family income, tax breaks

for childcare expenses and increases in the minimum wage.

"It is a set of policies to enhance the well-being, in [Obama's] view, for those not at the very top," said Robert Kerstein, professor of Government and World Affairs at UT. "But among those who would benefit are relatively high up in the economic ladder and would be a wide spectrum who might benefit depending on what program you are looking at."

Some of the controversy surrounding this plan is the fact that it will lead to a redistribution of wealth from those at the very top economically to those on the lower end of the spectrum. A new program he proposed would provide students with two free years of community

college. The average amount of federal student aid was \$4,600 with 43.6 percent receiving some form of federal aid, according to the American Association of Community Colleges. There is no information on how much more spending this plan would require.

Along with the tax breaks and federal support for those who are struggling comes tax hikes for those who are more wealthy. Theoretically, these increases would help fund some of the projects that would require the extra spending.

"After all, some of these are tax cuts. Republicans have long supported that. Conservatives economists have long supported that. What in my opinion is getting the ire



wikimedia commons.org

See UNION Page 4

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New Student Program Encourages "Learning By Doing"

By ZOE FOWLER
Asst. News Editor

A program called Learning by Doing: Inquiry-based Experiential Education is a new educational plan underway on campus, and it will focus on developing the hands-on experience that UT is built on.

"[Learning by Doing] is about getting all UT students to focus more on inquiry-based activities, research and creative works that apply learned skills to solve a problem. It also focuses on better and more internships for students," said Joseph Scalfani, Professor of Psychology and Director of Reaffirmation for UT.

Learning by Doing ties into The Quality Enhancement Program for UT, a requirement for the reaffirmation process through the agency, the Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). UT has to select, create and implement a QEP every 10 for regional accreditation through SACSCOC. The process for the QEP started in Spring 2013 and will debut in Fall 2016.

The QEP is defined as addressing "student learning by focusing on specific student learning outcomes or improving student learning environments," according to the summary of the QEP for UT. The inquiry-based activities will be funded per year by the university in the amount of \$1.2 million.

"As a psychology major in pursuit of obtaining a bachelor's degree in science, I believe that if the QEP program carries out what it was designed for, that it will be quite beneficial to improving the research experience of all majors, particularly science," said Victoria Sunseri, freshman and psychology major.

The program is composed of a three-tier approach. The bottom tier begins during the first year of the undergraduate degree. The goal is to



UT Video Channel/YouTube

build a foundation and get first-year students interested in inquiry-based explorations, according to the Summary of the QEP for UT.

The middle tier will be where students begin to learn discipline-based skills, such as "information/reference searching; quantitative literacy; work techniques; creative thinking; or problem solving," according to the Summary of the QEP for UT. These skills will be tested through courses that already exist, courses that are modified and new courses in the major.

The top tier will include select juniors and seniors who will apply for activities that are inquiry-based, which can be in the form of a presentation or recital. "The project will be student-driven and faculty mentored: students will identify skills they will apply to a discipline-specific outcome," according to the Summary of the QEP for UT.

"These will have faculty mentoring and would result in a final product that the student would publicly share."

The QEP also highlights relationships between faculty and students through research that is inquiry-based, internships and creative works.

"I am hopeful that there will be a number of group internship experiences that will provide students an opportunity to provide the specialized knowledge of their academic discipline alongside that of students from other disciplines as they work for an employer to solve some kind of problem that they are facing," said Tim Harding, Associate Dean of Career Development and Engagement.

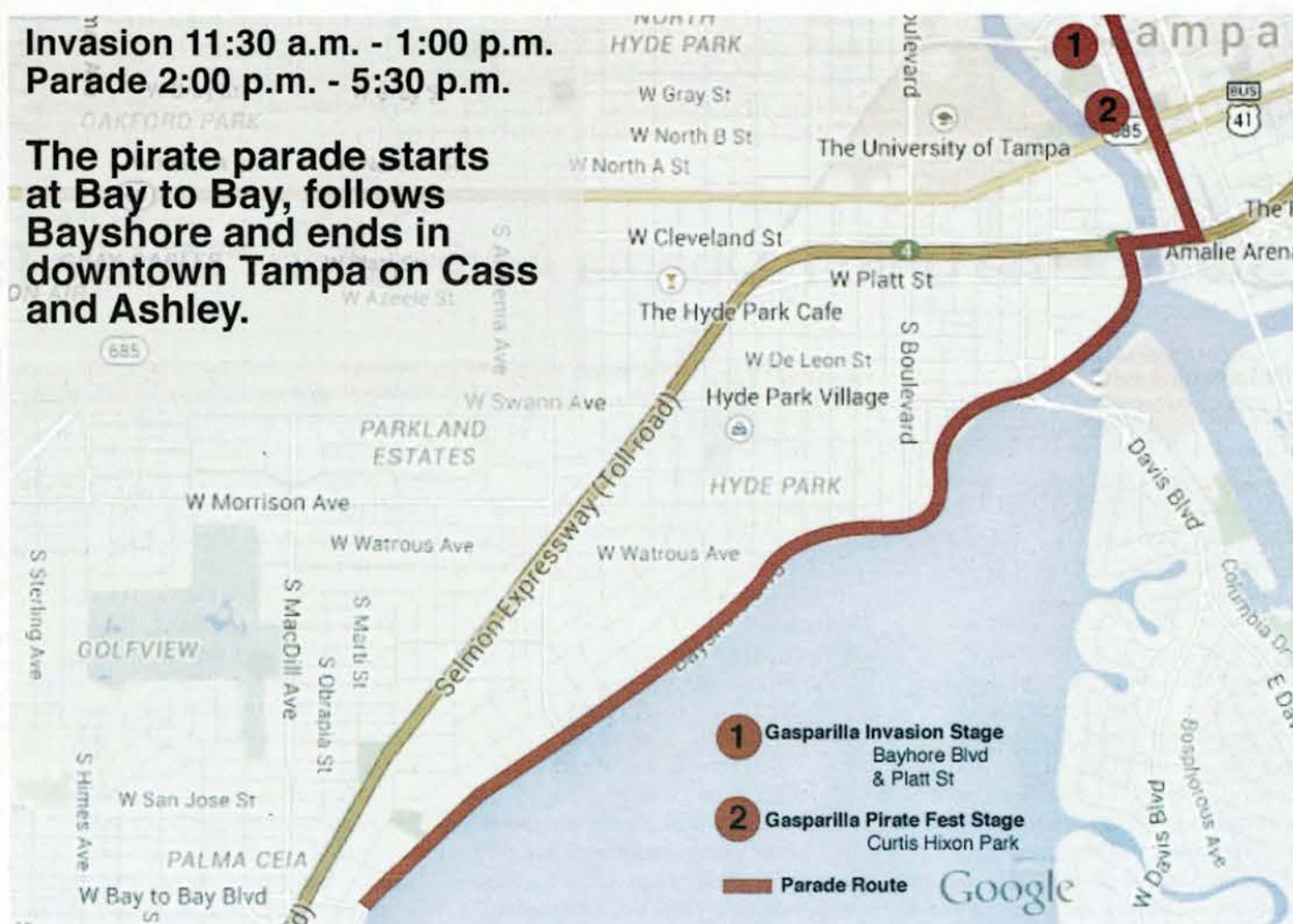
A site visit will take place on Feb. 9-11 to review all of the documentation and discuss the QEP. 1,700 GTW students and 800 random upper class students will be given QEP T-shirts during the week of Feb. 2 and are encouraged to wear them on Feb. 10.

Zoe Fowler can be reached at zoe.fowler@theminaretonline.com

Gasparilla Parade Route

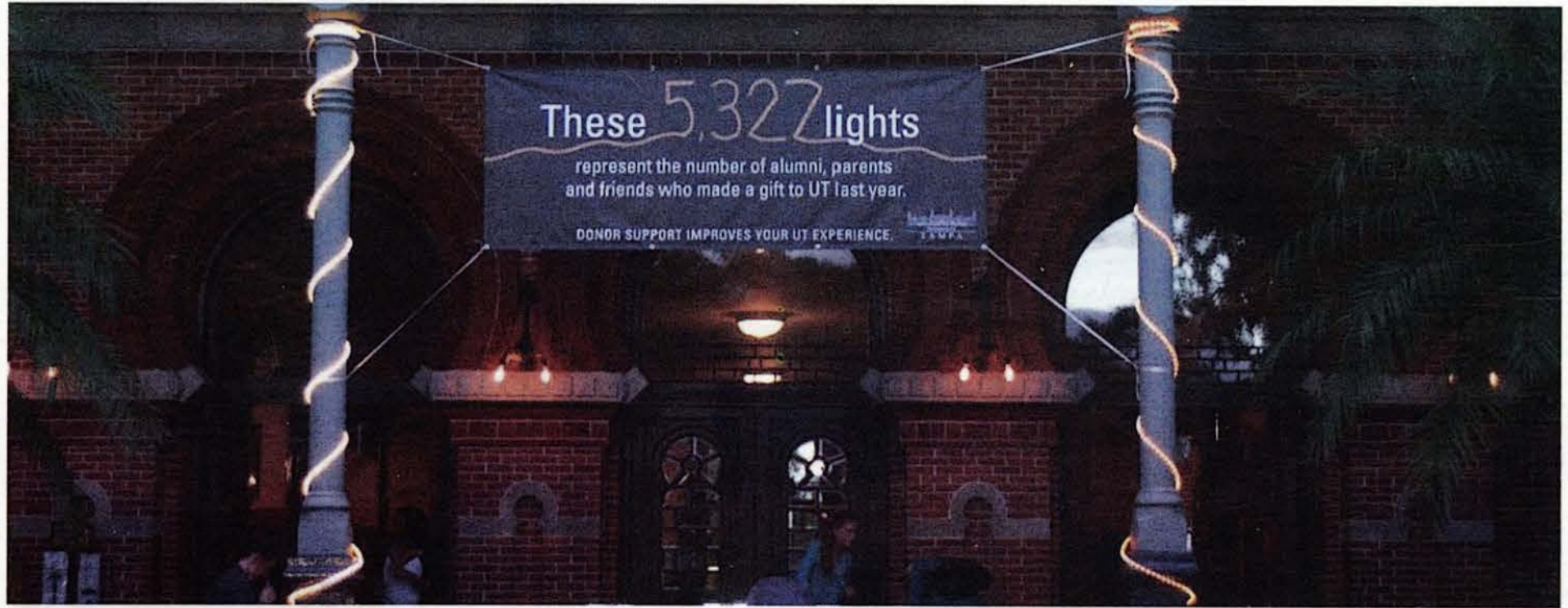
Invasion 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Parade 2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

The pirate parade starts at Bay to Bay, follows Bayshore and ends in downtown Tampa on Cass and Ashley.



Graphic by Justine Parks

SHINE Aims to Educate, Energize and Engage Students Through Philanthropy



The SHINE networking convention took place on the verandah of Plant Hall this past semester where students and alumni wrote thank you letters to donors that supported their education. *Photo courtesy of Alyssa Duet*

By **MADISON IRWIN**
A&E Writer

SHINE Philanthropy Council, a new student organization on campus, is all about helping students. SHINE stands for Students Helping to Improve Needs Educate, and has three goals which comprise their mission statement. The group's motto is Educate, Energize and Engage.

Kayla Harris, the founder and president of SHINE, is an Annual Fund Intern. Harris and her fellow staff members came up with the idea of the organization.

Annual Fund is one of the departments in the Office of Development and University Relations.

"It's the general fundraising 'account' you could say," Harris said. When people donate money to UT, their contributions go into the Annual Fund. Then that money goes to whatever the university needs most." This includes wifi, money for student organizations and new technology for

classrooms.

"A lot of college kids don't realize that most things, such as their scholarship, is a gift that came from someone else," said Harris, a senior management information systems major.

The first goal of the organization is to educate students on where scholarships and buildings from UT come from. The second is to help students put on and organize fundraisers. Its last goal is to have a shine foundation so they can apply to the Annual Fund. If they are having financial trouble, such as not having enough money for rent or groceries, they will be eligible for funds.

"Through SHINE, I hope to bring people together and let them know that as a student, you have the power to orchestrate fundraising in order to help other students who are in need of financial help," Harris said.

Joycelyn Mahone, the assistant director of Annual Fund at UT and advisor for SHINE, is in charge of

the phonathon on campus, as well as thanking donors. She tries to see if they would like to contribute more to the school. She is also in charge of student fundraising at UT.

"I hope to really bring awareness of the donations that we get from the alumni, families and corporations to the student body," Mahone said. "These donations aren't just coming out of thin air. I think that SHINE is important because the UT community is a family, and you as a family member should want to help."

Nzinga Lowe, a sophomore and the vice president of SHINE, said the organization is a work in progress and that they still have yet to plan more.

"I'm so happy to be a part of SHINE because it means a lot to me personally," Lowe said. "I'm so grateful for the donors to be able to have my scholarship. It's about the fulfillment in having UT actually pay it forward. It's getting us prepared for the real world because there is bound to be a time when we need someone."

Most of us here are on scholarships, so I think it's important to lend that helping hand."

SHINE hosted its own philanthropy week last semester. The organization raised awareness by having different events on campus, such as a reception which was held for students so that they could get the chance to thank donors. They were given papers and a list of names for them to write to. Their biggest event was their Not-So-Polar Plunge. The event was held at the pool where an abundance of raffles and food were offered.

SHINE hopes to plan more events this semester, including Life After UT in partnership with Career Services. You can contact Kayla Harris at kayla.harris@spartans.ut.edu for more information.

Madison Irwin can be reached at madison.irwin@spartans.ut.edu

INFORMATION



POLICE BEAT

Reports compiled by Zoe Fowler

She Doesn't Even Go Here

On Jan. 20, Bursars Office called to report a disorderly former student.

Cue Potential Mass Destruction

On Jan. 21, Fire Alarm was activated in the Palm Apartments due to a lit candle and system problems associated with it.

Oh, Freshmen!

On Jan. 22, an intoxicated, underage student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct for intentionally damaging university property.

You Don't Talk About Fight Club

On Jan. 23, a student reported that he had been injured in an off-campus fight.

What's Syllabus Week?

On Jan. 23, a student was arrested off campus by the Tampa Police Department.

Like, Can You Not?

On Jan. 24, a student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct for impersonating a university official.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Two Committee Chairs Opened

Sustainability and Community Standards Committee Chairs are opened until Friday, Jan. 30 at 11:59 p.m. Apply on OrgSync.

Student Government Meeting

First General Assembly is Feb. 3.

Election Information Coming Soon

Election information goes out the first week of February. The information will be presented at meetings and in the SG office.

New policy will free up parking spaces next year

From PARKING page 1

any negative influence from the parking change on student enrollment decisions. Research done by UT showed that most comparable universities do not allow freshman parking privileges.

"At most major universities, the freshmen don't have cars and they're actually not allowed to park on campus just because a lot of them are influxing from different areas and this is their first time in the area," said Samuel Blair, junior film and media arts major. "It's downtown Tampa and it's really not that big. They can get around here pretty simply."

The updated parking policy specifies that it "...does not apply to local students who live off campus and commute to campus" and "...does not apply to students who matriculated prior to fall 2015." This means if a student begins their first semester of freshman year this spring, they will not be included in the parking policy for the coming fall, their second semester.

Upperclassmen can find solace in the fact that finding parking next semester may not add an extra 15 minutes to the commute and require an extra gallon of gas.

For a while now, students have made UT parking into a popular running joke - falling just behind the

status of the school's wifi.

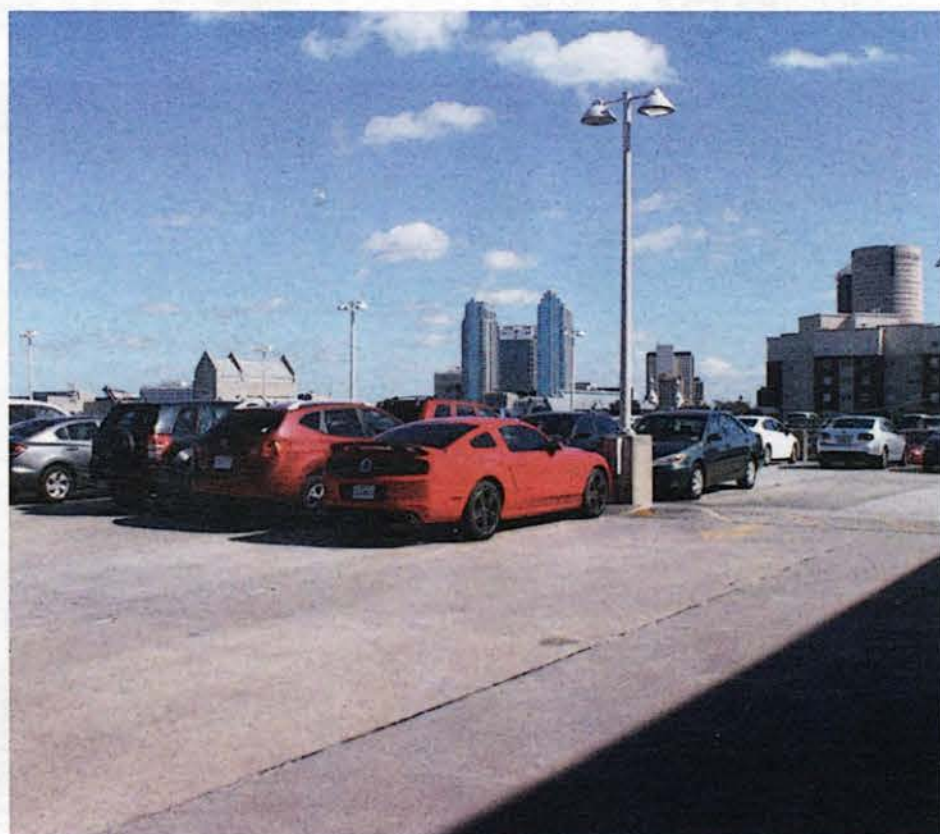
Although additional parking is under construction, the growing population on campus makes it difficult for the university to offer parking to each and every individual on campus. During special events like career fairs and games, spaces for visitors are in high-demand.

"Our number of registered vehicles on campus continues to rise," Krebs said. "Even with the new parking garage, availability for parking for students, faculty, staff and visitors will barely meet demand."

The revised policy includes a warning which explains how falsifying information to receive a parking permit, or having an upperclassman student purchase the permit will result in a revoking of future parking privileges and possible student conduct action.

Students have the opportunity to request an exceptional transportation waiver under special circumstances. The accepted students may request the waiver by sending his or her rationale to the admissions office - each request will be reviewed on a case by case basis by a committee chaired by Dr. Krebs. More information on the exemptions can be found in the January 2015 Freshman Parking Policy.

The new policy states that first-year students should spend their first



Nikki Nunzio/The Minaret

Every morning spots fill up in both parking garages making it difficult for students to get to class on time.

academic year experiencing all the campus offers, which is the driving rationale behind the decision.

"I like [the policy] because I feel like freshmen should be on campus their first year anyway," said Sedrika Sargeant, junior pre-med major. "As a commuter, we need those spaces

because we don't live here. Most freshmen live on campus so I agree with it."

Bianca Lopez can be reached at bianca.lopez@spartans.ut.edu

Obama asks Congress to authorize force on ISIL

From UNION Page 1

of many in the right is higher taxes on financial institutions, capital gains for the wealthy and changes in some of the tax inheritance system," Kerstein said.

Obama discusses a budget plan that includes some extra spending from the government, but also talks about closing many loopholes that have cost the government extra revenue. Simplifying the tax system is one of the few bipartisan issues in Washington D.C, but has seen little action in the past. Since Obama and Senator John Ernst mentioned this in their speeches Tuesday, this may indicate that there will finally be some resolution on the complex structure.

"I don't think anyone defends the system exactly as it is. Most democrats and republicans I am aware of have called for lowering the top rates, but as well closing the loopholes. Why that hasn't been done, I don't know the intricacies, but we certainly know that part of it has to do with political influence," Kerstein said.

Much of the language in the State of Union indicated that Obama was pushing a hardline with Congress, threatening to veto bills and making it clear that the government should not play a part in halting progress. Even when discussing foreign policy, the president publicly pushed Congress to support his decision on the terrorist group ISIL, also referred to as ISIS.

"And tonight, I call on this Congress to show the world that we

are united in this mission by passing a resolution to authorize the use of force against ISIL. We need that authority," Obama said.

While it is unlikely that this administration would put boots on the ground in another international conflict, it is possible there was another agenda behind this statement. Kerstein points out that having Congress support military power would be key leverage when discussing action with other countries against the group. Leverage seems to be another theme of this year's State of The Union, as many of these actions may not go through at a

federal level.

"There are some areas where right away I think we can get some cooperation. There are some areas where it's important to frame the debate, and get the American people behind us because even something doesn't happen immediately here in Washington. It starts happening around the country," said Obama in his interview with Youtube star, Hank Green.

It is important to remember that the president is unable to create laws, but can certainly use his position to exert influence over the type of issues Congress tries to reform.

Even if those on Capitol Hill refuse to address his plans, this speech is an opportunity to push states into creating referendums for citizens to vote on.

"I think he is trying to stimulate activists in the state level, democrats in the legislature including state levels. And democrats have been losing seats in the state levels. So I think he is encouraging them to go forth with legislations and referendums on the ballots and so on," Kerstein said.

Doha Madani can be reached at doha.madani@theminaretonline.com



President Barack Obama addressed the nation from Congress on Jan. 20 highlighting policies he plans to enact in the remainder of this presidency.

wikipedia.org



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ST. JUDE UP 'TIL DAWN

STJUDE.ORG/UTD

If you are registered and raise \$100 by February 4, 2015, you will be entered into a drawing to win (2) Disney tickets OR a signed Tampa Bay Lightning hockey stick signed by Filppula.



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Questions? Contact Executive Director
KHADIJAH KHAN
EMAIL: KHADIJAH.KHAN@SPARTANS.UT.EDU

Yearbook Photo Days

February 4th - 6th
10am-5pm

underclassmen WELCOMED
senior cap & gown available



ut.yearbook@gmail.com

DIVERSIONS

ON CAMPUS OFF CAMPUS

JANUARY 30
Pirate Fest
Begin celebrating Gsparilla early with the fun activities, food, music, giveaways and more. The event takes place outside of Morsani Hall at 3 p.m.

JANUARY 30
SP Film Double Feature
Join Student Productions in a back to back showing of *The Purge* and *No Good Deed* at Reeves Theater from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Admission is free.

JANUARY 31
Women's Basketball
Come support your fellow Lady Spartans in a game against Nova Southeastern at the Bob Martinez Athletic Center. The event starts at 7:00 p.m. Attendance is \$5 and free with a UT ID.

FEBRUARY 4
CMF Registration
Stop by Vaughn lobby to get everything you need and sign up to participate in the Campus Movie Festival.

JANUARY 29
The Book of Mormon
The hit musical comedy from the creators of South Park has made its way to the Straz Center. Tickets start at \$38.50 and the show begins at 7:30 p.m.

JANUARY 30
Gasparilla Concert
Join the Pre-Invasion Celebration in Curtis Hixon Park. Gates open at 5 p.m. Proceeds to benefit The Humane Society of Tampa and Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla's Community Fund.

JANUARY 31
Gasparilla Invasion
Take part in a Tampa tradition by attending the anual Gasparilla parade along Bayshore Blvd. The parade starts at 11: 30 a.m. and ends at the Tampa Convention Center at 1 p.m.

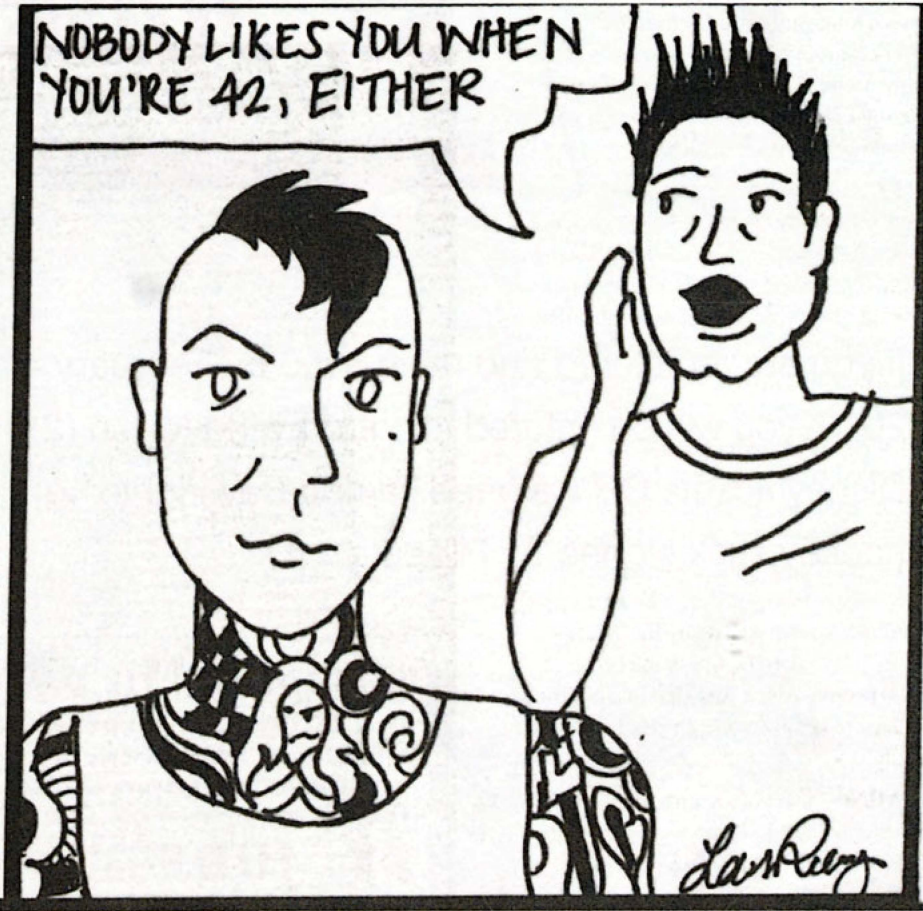
FEBRUARY 4
First Date at Straz Center
A musical interpretation of the ups and downs of a first date. Tickets are \$40 and the show starts at 7:30 p.m.

	3	2	9		4	5		6
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2								7
			8	7	1		9	
6			4		8			5
	2					9		4
1		7	5		6	2	8	

websudoku.com

BLINK 182 OLD

comic by Lauren Richey



Blink 182's Mark Hoppus and Travis Barker gave Tom Delonge the "indefinite" boot this past week.

ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

Future Islands Talks Highlights 2014

By JACKIE BRAJE
Arts + Entertainment Editor

The Minaret chats with Future Islands' guitarist and bassist William Cashion about crowd surfing, The Cure and DIY recording.

Baltimore-based trio Future Islands made strides over 2014 like a long-distance runner over the finish line. They've made appearances on big-name late-night talk shows, released their fourth album *On the Water*, and toured both nationally and internationally. Cashion sat down to talk about what exactly the group's been up to.

MIN: It seems you've had a pretty eventful year with your latest album released last March and appearances on shows like *David Letterman*, *Jimmy Kimmel Live* and *Jools Holland*. I was wondering if you could tell me a bit about that?

FI: Yeah, it's been kind of totally crazy and we've toured pretty hard. We usually work in a DIY sort of way but we knew this year was going to be a little different, which I guess started with the *David Letterman* deal. We did a short promotional tour last February to promote a few singles, and it was on that tour when we found out Letterman wanted to have us, and we had about two weeks to get ready. We were nervous as crap. And it's just crazy, I mean people are still sharing that video all over the Internet and it's exciting for us to see that happening. We never expected this.

MIN: I agree. You guys have definitely come a long way since *On the Water* (2011), and seeing you on *Letterman* was pretty exciting. But speaking of your mini promotional tour, I was wondering if you had a favorite performance in mind?

FI: Awesome, thank you. There were so many cool performances this past year, but... I guess my favorite was at South By Southwest [Festival]. We had heard so much about it and we kind of avoided it, but I remember that show being one of the highlights for me this year. There was just such a crazy energy there. I think it was our third show of the day, and by the time of our last performance we just wanted everyone to go completely crazy and gave an extended invitation to crowd surf. It was a really surreal moment. And there were a lot of press people there who I don't think were fully prepared to deal with a bunch of punk kids, so that was really fun. We also played in London for, like, a full house of 2,400 people, which was kind of a milestone. And we're getting ready for our 1,000th show in July!

MIN: Could you describe the general process you take in composing your music? Does it usually begin with lyrics? With melodies?

FI: It's usually the same formula—just the three of us in a room, jamming until we catch on to a good chord progression or melody that works, then we just kinda build on it. That's how we wrote "Seasons." It takes awhile to work out the nuances of a song, but it's usually written pretty quick. And we actually like to play new songs live before we take them to the studio, just to try them out. Although I think our manager is wanting us to... not do that [laughs]. Or he at least wants us to take a break between albums.

MIN: Wow, I've actually never heard of someone doing that before. But I know you guys are usually super DIY, I mean wasn't some of your earlier stuff recorded in a living room?

FI: Oh yeah, our first record was recorded in a warehouse space above a skate shop in North Carolina, and our second was recorded in our house in Baltimore. So this was our first time in an actual studio, which was great.

MIN: There's definitely a distinct sound you're all making and I've heard some people define your music as electro-pop, indie-pop, all that jargon. But I was wondering how you, specifically, would define your music?

FI: We've always called it "post-wave" since we got started in college, or "post-wave dance music." We want to blend the best elements of post-punk and new wave. Plus it just sounds cool.

MIN: Huh, it does! And this is a bit silly, but I was wondering... if you could only listen to one album for the rest of your life, which would it be?

FI: Ugh, one album?... I'd say *Staring at the Sea* by The Cure.

MIN: Why is that?

FI: Well it's a compilation of singles and it catches a lot of their diversity, which I like. Or maybe I'd also say *Discreet Music* by Brian Eno, just because it's so beautiful and it would be a good instrumental background. I guess if you're listening to one album forever you probably won't want someone singing to you the whole time.

MIN: Both are solid choices, my friend.

FI: Well, thanks! And thanks for the chat.

Jackie Braje can be reached at Jacquelyn.Braje@theminaretonline.com



Future Islands/bamproject.org

Future Islands' newest album, *On The Water*, was released in 2014 and is now available on iTunes.



www.bourgol-phot

Olivier Bourgol/Plickr.com

Sleater-Kinney Makes Long-Awaited Comeback

By JORDAN WALSH

Arts + Entertainment Writer

I'm the queen of rock and roll.

This line, from Sleater-Kinney's 1996 sophomore outing *Call The Doctor*, was delivered more tauntingly and angrily than triumphantly. It wasn't yet a declaration, with the band still in its youngest era and lacking a stable drummer. It was more of a mission statement—less about filling a role of the male rock superstar as it is displayed (mockingly) in "I Wanna Be Your Joey Ramone," and more about stretching the boundaries about what it means to be a "rock star" in modern America.

Sarcastic intentions or not, by the time Sleater-Kinney's initial run fizzled out in 2006, Janet Weiss, Corin Tucker and Carrie Brownstein (best known in recent years from her work in the IFC comedy series *Portlandia*) were the queens of rock and roll. From 1995's sonic eruption of Sleater-Kinney to 2005's equally loud but significantly grander *The Woods*, the members of Sleater-Kinney declared themselves as one of rock 'n' roll's all-time finest and let out a fierce, guttural scream at the constructed and accepted norms of our society.

The band's first full-length in ten years is not merely an echo of that scream muted by time, new projects, or maturation. Instead, *No Cities To Love* is just as loud and clear, just as pissed-off and affective as ever. Flaunting all of the aggression of 1996's *Call the Doctor* with the top-notch songwriting and confidence of *The Woods*, *No Cities To Love* sees Sleater-Kinney returning at full force.

And they hit the ground running. Opener "Price Tag" wastes no time lingering on the fact that this is the band's first album in ten years, there's no huge build-up to what surely is a pressurized can of expectations pent up over a decade of silence. No. Weiss,



SLEATER - KINNEY / NO CITIES TO LOVE

Washington-born riot grrrls and queens of rock n' roll, Sleater-Kinney, make a punk-induced comeback with *No Cities to Love*.

Sleater-Kinney/ Facebook.com

Tucker and Brownstein just launch right in to a blazing release of frustration at the monotony of routine life and the modern fixation on money. Brownstein's opening riff is bouncy and sinister and immediately draws listeners back in to the distinct but ever-evolving sound of Sleater-Kinney's tight, hooky but incredibly complex brand of punk rock. Brownstein's and Tucker's guitar lines bare their fangs at each other in somehow beautiful and rousing harmony, as Tucker's assertive, intense vocals seem once again to lead an army of today's discontents into a sort of moral, spiritual and societal war.

Each of *No Cities To Love*'s ten tracks delivers an attack on the powerful and corrupt, and strives to unify the outcasts, the underrepresented and the wrongfully suppressed. "Surface Envy" has all of the gusto and spirit of a classic punk rock song, a vocal back-and-forth with Brownstein and Tucker culminating in a chanting, anthemic chorus of, "Only together do we break the rules." "Bury Our Friends" carries on in a

similar fashion as a proclamation of self-awareness and self-empowerment—"Only I get to be sickened by me...we're wild and weary, but we won't give in."

And this is the essence of the album as a whole, and indeed much of Sleater-Kinney's back catalog—not letting the perceived notions of what a person should be stop them from being everything they can be. The band proves this point better than they ever have before simply by releasing an album this fantastic ten years removed from their last. That magic is supposed to be gone by now, isn't it? *No Cities To Love* is a swift "to hell with that notion" jammed into 33 minutes of intense, passionate and damn good rock and roll music.

No Cities To Love is capped off by the doomsday march of "Fade," a siren-sounding lead riff leading the listener to emergency, a signifier of time running out more quickly than we imagined. Weiss's drum lines build steadily to an apex and then die off into cautioned cymbal ticks as

Tucker warns, "If there's no tomorrow, you better live." "Fade" begs us to make the most of our time as Tucker's razor-sharp croon nearly seems to be coming from another world—"if we are truly dancing our swansong, darling/shake it like never before."

Sleater-Kinney's eighth record embodies this idea, with every minute exuding this tension of having so much to say and do but so little time and space to do it. As a result, *No Cities To Love* is a blast of colorful, liberating, fist-in-the-air sing-along rock music that is so dense and satisfying that it's good enough to hold us off for another ten years— but let's hope we don't have to wait so long. We need the queens of rock and roll now more than ever.

★★★★★
4.5 out of 5 stars

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The Decemberists Maintain Storybook Folk Feel

By GRIFFIN GUINTA

Arts + Entertainment Writer

What a Terrible World, What a Beautiful World was released on Jan. 20.

Despite what their seasonal name may suggest, The Decemberists do in fact produce albums in January. Their most recent creation *What a Terrible World, What a Beautiful World* hit stores this past Tuesday, Jan. 20, and for die-hard fans of the indie-folk quintet, it does not disappoint. The album is a unique concoction of sorts, combining elements from their previous six albums while still g

Though The Decemberists have fostered a fanatical following in certain communities, they aren't exactly a household name quite yet. Their story begins in Portland, Or., in the early 2000s when songwriter Colin Meloy met fellow musicians Nate Query (Guitar), and Jenny Conlee (Keys), and the trio underscored a silent film together. (current drummer John Moen and guitarist Chris Funk joined later on). Realizing they had similar interests and a knack for producing quality music, they christened the name "The Decemberists" and hit the ground running.

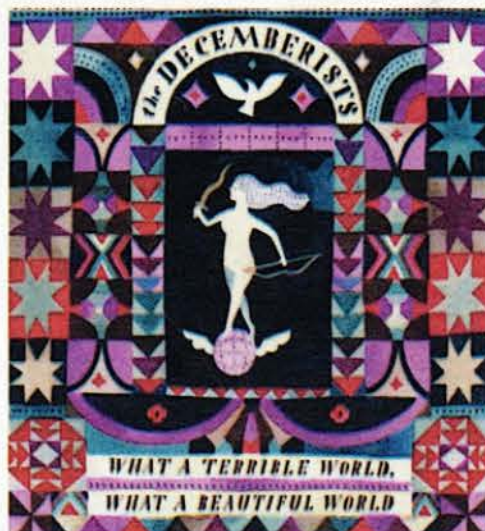
Fifteen years later, the band is as strong as ever. These eclectic bards

have improved their sound with time and groomed it into an elaborately innovative work of art. This innovation is evident in their new album, as Meloy & co. convey the contrasting themes of happiness and sorrow through diverse folk ballads, gospel undertones, and organic rhythms.

The album aptly begins with the not-so-subtle track title "The Singer Addresses the Audience," which includes cryptic lyrics that will leave Decemberist followers satisfied, like: "So when your bridal processional is a televised confessional to the benefits of Axe shampoo," and "We're aware that you cut your hair in a style that our drummer wore in a video."

Arguably the most enjoyable track on this album is "Make You Better," a single released back in November as a means of generating buzz for the upcoming January album. The song has a bittersweet feel to it and documents the benefits and pitfalls of being dependent upon another human being. ("I wanted you, I needed you, oh-oh to make me better").

While the album still maintains its quintessential storybook narrative feel, it distances itself from past albums like "The Hazards of Love," and "The King is Dead," by injecting an aura of simplicity into the overall sound. This is most noticeable in tracks such as "Carolina Low," and "Easy Come, Easy Go," in which the only two ingredients are vocals and



The Decemberists/ duqsm.com

This album is now available on iTunes.

blues guitar. By stripping away some of the distractions, the band allows the lyrics, their most distinguishable output, to come across stronger than ever. The old adage "less is more" really applies here.

That said, it wouldn't be a Decemberists album without the big-band, Americana feel we've come to know and love. Songs like "Cavalry Captain," and "Anti-Summersong" will make you want to throw on suspenders, dust off your old cowboy hat, and hit the dance floor for a boot-stomping good time.

The band also plays a tribute to the victims of the Newtown

school shootings in a song entitled "12/17/12," signifying the date that President Obama made a speech pleading for these tragedies to end. According to the band's official website, this track encapsulates the essence of the album and its title. "[The album] is called *What a Terrible World, What a Beautiful World*, which pretty much sums up the state of things since last we graced your record player, wouldn't you say?," they stated. The last album was released in 2011, after all, and a multitude of tragic events have transpired since then.

On the whole, it's hard to find anything wrong with *What a Terrible World, What a Beautiful World*. Though a few tracks tend to sound a bit repetitive, it provides no detriment to the overall intimacy of the album. Any student looking for a refreshing, unconventional sound will enjoy the authentic rhythms of this new compilation.

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★★★★★
4 out of 5 stars

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Underground Sound: Connor Zwetsch

By KARA DELEMEESTER
Arts + Entertainment Writer

Connor Zwetsch's musical journey began when she was a high school freshman with a guitar under the Christmas tree. She started writing music when she was sixteen after she taught herself to play guitar and sing. This resulted in a plethora of embarrassing songs that have since been wiped from existence, and she eventually she picked up some inspiration from 90's pop/rock artists like New Radicals, Matchbox Twenty, and Alanis Morissette. Zwetsch has taken her journey and inspirations and transformed them into her first EP, *What Comes After*, which was just released on Jan. 27.

Twenty-two year old Zwetsch writes about experiences and emotions that most anyone can relate to, like struggling with depression and moving on from heartbreak.

"I like to write about human relationships and memorable moments," Zwetsch said, "but I think the core of all my songs definitely starts from a general feeling."

For Zwetsch, recording her first EP was no easy task. The making of *What Comes After* involved driving across the country to record at Bear Creek Studios, where she worked with Ryan Hadlock, who is known for producing The Lumineers self-titled debut, currently one of Zwetsch's favorite albums.

"I sent him over a playlist of bedroom demos consisting of about 25-30 songs and he narrowed it down to five," Zwetsch said. "His thought process was to take five songs that bring something totally different to the table."



Connor Zwetsch/ Photo by Gabrielle LeGendre
Tampa native singer-songwriter Connor Zwetsch's debut EP was released on Jan. 27 and is now available for free at noisetrade.com.

The entire EP was recorded in just six short days, spending one day on each song. Zwetsch said the whole process was very rushed, but the intent never to create something that would become wildly popular.

"The idea behind the EP wasn't exactly to create something special with hopes that it would spread and catch on. We were all on the same page with wanting to make something that would allow people to hear the potential in my music and to possibly open up bigger and better doors for me in the future," Zwetsch said.

With songs about whiskey in mason jars, bridges burned, and trying to find the laughter you lost, every line of the tracks

in *What Comes After* makes the listener feel understood. All five handpicked songs have a genuine and honest feel that make you want to "roll your windows down, and sing the whole way home" as Zwetsch instructs in her song "Open Road."

With the EP finally released, Zwetsch is both excited and relieved. The behind the scenes work of creating an EP, planning an album release party and self-promoting took Zwetsch's energy away from writing and creating new material.

"I'm excited to see how all of the hard work that was put into the EP will pay off and most definitely excited to get back to focusing on writing," she said.

Zwetsch is hoping that this album will

not only gain her new listeners and fans, but will also introduce her to someone who will help her record a full-length album.

Now that the EP is out and available as a free download on noisetrade.com, Zwetsch is going to continue to pursue her dream of making a career and a life out of playing her original music. Zwetsch can be found playing acoustic cover gigs in Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Clearwater five days a week. As for her immediate plans, Zwetsch is going to keep taking it one day at a time, growing as an artist, and happily waiting for what comes after.

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Eastwood's *American Sniper* Stumbles on Plot Holes

By SAMMI BRENNAN
Arts + Entertainment Writer

Bradley Cooper portray's Chris Kyle in Clint Eastwood's feature film of the year.

Director Clint Eastwood's *American Sniper* portrays the "legend" Chris Kyle (Bradley Cooper), a deadly Navy SEAL sniper who toured four times in Iraq. As the face of an American hero, Cooper gives a spectacular performance depicting Kyle as he struggles to cope with the traumas of war. Earning a record-setting \$105 million at the box office on its opening weekend debut, *American Sniper* is also Eastwood's highest grossing film.

Chris Kyle is first introduced as a sweetheart cowboy wooing women with his Texas charm. When a news station shows a video of the 9/11 attack, a sense of duty arises in Kyle and he uses his already skillful precision to become a sniper for the Navy SEALs. The truly groundbreaking aspect is that throughout the course of the film, the audience sees Kyle's steady decline as he brings the war home with him. A once friendly, neighborhood cowboy slowly grows cold and hard. As he returns from each tour, the line grows blurry between his duty as a soldier and his duty as a husband/father. Sienna Miller gives an

accomplished performance as Kyle's concerned wife who immediately notices her husband's change in personality. The audience crumbles as she does.

What lacks in *American Sniper* is the perspective of his children. Even at a young age, the constant absence of their father had to at least bring up a few questions. The birthday party scene could have been elaborated on, especially since Kyle's children did not seem to wonder exactly why their father was acting different. When Kyle observes their dog playfully

attacking his son, he whips out his belt and the audience would squirm in their seats. Luckily, Kyle's wife stops him before he does so, but surely someone at that birthday party must have been a bit concerned.

However, Kyle's innocence and vulnerability during particular scenes in Iraq reassures the audience that deep down, the old Kyle is still in there. Most of that emerges when Kyle is faced with the decision of shooting armed children. Eventually, as his troop is under heavy attack, Kyle breaks down and calls his

wife, desperately telling her that he is ready to go home. That's when the audience has the most faith that at least part of the old Kyle has returned.

As for the dynamic of Kyle's troop, the bond seems a bit forced. In many war films, there are archetypes that repeat themselves. The amusing soldier who provides comic relief has been seen in cinema far too many times and Biggles, played by Jake McDorman, does not stand out. Perhaps this is a purposeful tactic by Eastwood so that the audience recognizes how much Kyle is the lone wolf no matter how close to the troop he is. But it is hard to feel Kyle's pain when the audience does not feel a bond with the soldiers to begin with.

However, the technique in editing drastically helped the film. Kyle's struggle in balancing two worlds is emphasized to the viewer in dramatic cuts and flashbacks between scenes. Following up his *Silver Linings Playbook* nomination, this Oscar nod is again well-deserved for the nearly recognizable Cooper. The audience is so fixated on what lingers in Kyle's mind we forget the man under all of those layers of pain.

The film's abrupt ending left the audience wanting more, however, as it is simply cut short. Regardless, when the entire theatre is silent while the credits are rolling, that is when you know this film leaves us speechless.



Bradley Cooper/Redcarpetroxy.com
While Cooper and others give stellar performances, *American Sniper* lacks in detail.

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Netflix Picks of the Week: Classic '90s TV

By **CLAIRE FARROW**

Arts + Entertainment Writer

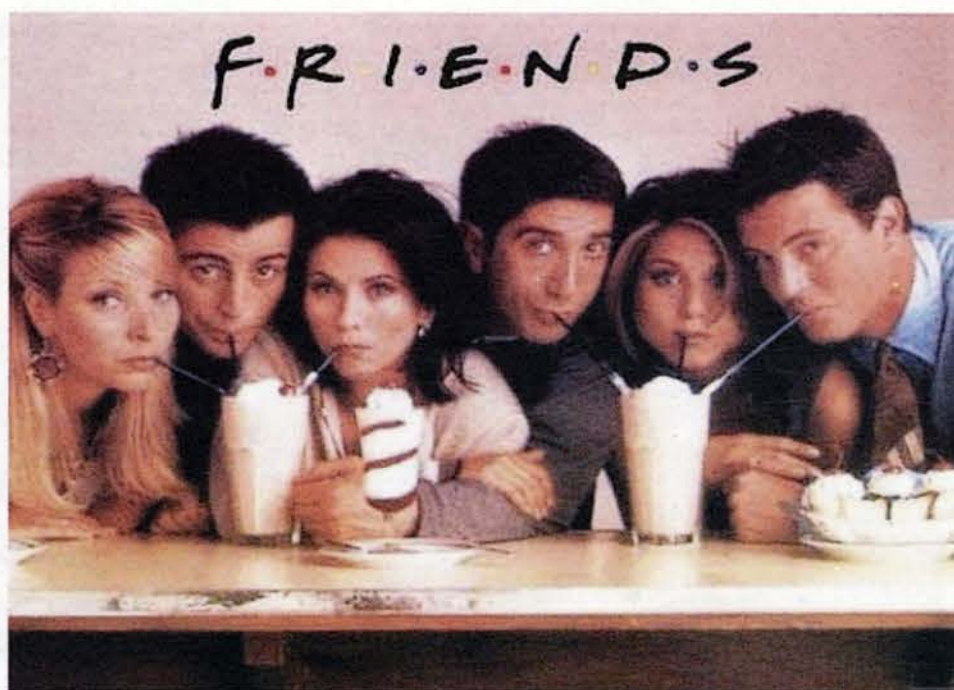
With the dawn of a new semester here at the University of Tampa, it's time to get back into the normal routine—class, eat, sleep and watch Netflix (in varying order). Here are a few suggestions to get you back into the swing of things.

This week's picks focus on one of most beloved decades (by most college students and the internet)—the 1990s. What is it about the '90s that get us all wishy-washy and nostalgic? Even when some of us were technically too young to watch some of these shows during their initial run and/or failed to grasp their brilliance. Now that we're older, however, we can enjoy them in all their glory as Netflix intended: one episode after another.

Friends (1994-2004)

What is it? Simply put, *Friends* is a comedy about six friends, Rachel (Jennifer Aniston), Ross (David Schwimmer), Monica (Courteney Cox), Joey (Matt LeBlanc), Phoebe (Lisa Kudrow), and Chandler (Matthew Perry). These characters' lives are all somewhat complexly intertwined with each other, be it relationships, jobs, or other various subjects, and these escapades are often met with zany, sweet, or detrimental outcomes. However, more than that, this sitcom has a certain heart to it that connects viewers with these characters.

Why you should be watching: While this is probably a no-brainer for many of you out there, and indeed, many of you may already be re-watching your favorite episodes or discovering it for the first time, this show is one of the defining comedies of the 1990s and, in a way, encapsulates the essence of a generation. Aside from the amazing and endearing main characters, one of the best things about this sitcom was the famous guest stars that frequently appeared during *Friends*' 238 episode run. Truly, this show had a lot of big names from film and television as guest stars. For instance, movie stars such as Brad Pitt, Elliot Gould, Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie, George Clooney, Paul Rudd, Julia Roberts, Winona Ryder, Susan Sarandon and Bruce



Friends/ Flickr.com

The wildly popular TV show *Friends*, which aired 10 seasons, is now available on Netflix.

Willis, just to name a few, livened up the screen with their large status presence. Likewise, all-stars of the television world weren't in short supply either, such as John Stamos, Jason Alexander, Tom Selleck, Christina Applegate, Aisha Tyler, Eddie Cahill, Anna Faris and Alec Baldwin.

The West Wing (1999-2006)

What is it? For those of you waiting anxiously for season three of *House of Cards* (out Feb. 27), binging on *The West Wing*, should help to fill the void. *The West Wing* is snippy, snarky yet serious, with well-written, fast-paced banter and deftly crafted characters. *The West Wing* follows the lives of the fictional President Jed Bartlet (played by Martin Sheen) and his senior White House staff as they try to navigate through the mess of politics. While this show has quite serious overtones, the characters themselves are, while very complex, warm, witty, funny, and sometimes petty, but still are overall good people.

Why you should be watching: Aside from an antidote to *House of Cards* withdraw,

The West Wing is brilliant in its own right. In addition to its all-star cast, this show was a defining drama of the late '90s and early 2000s, and one of the first of its kind in terms of content and presentation. Not only did the show feature witty dialogue at lightning speed, the fact that *The West Wing* presented drama in this way was special. Speaking of all-star cast, Rob Lowe, Martin Sheen, Allison Janney, Bradley Whitford, Dulé Hill, Jimmy Smits and Alan Alda, just to name a few, round out this cast and give *The West Wing* its heart.

Frasier (1993-2003)

What is it? A spin-off of the classic 1980s sitcom, *Cheers*, *Frasier* documents the life of Dr. Frasier Crane, a snobby psychiatrist who hosts a successful radio talk show. Throughout this series, Frasier, who is much better at doling out advice than giving it, must contend with his relatively wacky, dysfunctional yet loving family and his various relationships with friends and potential lovers.

Why you should be watching: In a word—*Frasier*'s hilarious. True, the jokes do tend

to venture to a slightly more sophisticated tastes in terms of its references (a lot of opera, classical music, history, art, psychology, etc.), but still has a touch of physical comedy and classic social bumbblings that allows anyone to enjoy the series. The characters certainly make the show. The main character, Frasier Crane, played brilliantly by Kelsey Grammer, combines enough egotism with heart to make him endearing. David Hyde Pierce, who plays Frasier's ninny brother, Niles Crane, brings an additional ego to the show which creates a lot of bickering and banter between the two brothers, which is quite enjoyable to relish in and laugh at. Adding to the family dynamic and disfunction is Martin Crane, played by John Mahoney, the patriarch of the Crane family, and very much a typical man's man, very down to earth, and is a former cop wounded in the line of duty. The very opposite of both his sons. Jane Leeves plays Daphne Moon, a somewhat hippy, ditz physical therapist and psychic that Niles literally moons after. Roz Doyle, played by Peri Gilpin, is Frasier's radio producer, and a free spirit and independent woman not afraid of engaging in racy one night stands. Not to mention, there's Eddie, Martin's Jack Russell Terrier, who adds an adorable dimension to the show. Overall, a cast that instills warm regards for these crazy characters.

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François Pichard/ Flickr.com

'90s drama *The West Wing* now available on Netflix.



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OPINION

State of the Union: Economic Solutions for Middle Class

By DOHA MADANI
Multimedia Director

President outlines steps to continue economic recovery



As President Barack Obama revealed his new economic plans during last Tuesday's State of the Union address, the cries of socialism inevitably rose on my Facebook feed. After reading the speech, I was reminded of an old life lesson: no one rides for free.

While the president discussed everything from foreign policy to education, the big focus of his address was on unrolling new economic plans for America. This new strategy focused on a few key points involving tax breaks for the middle class, tax hikes for the wealthy, new labor benefits, a higher minimum wage and two years free community college. For the past few years, people considered these ideas as "freebies" given out by the federal government. Truthfully, that is a very short-term view of this type of policy which ignores the fact that there are certain unspoken expectations to any favor being offered.

Middle class economics, as Obama calls it, comes with a few unmentioned purse strings attached. Reduced taxes and new write-offs are done in order to develop a feeling of financial stability for the working class that was stolen during the 2008

recession. As many families lost their jobs and savings, tightened budgets meant less frivolous spending. In a capitalist-based economy when consumers don't spend, then profits, companies and workers take massive blows.

"To give working families a fair shot, we still need more employers to see beyond next quarter's earnings and recognize that investing in their workforce is in their company's long-term interest," Obama said.

An aspect not discussed on increasing education and labor protections is that it encourages more people to go to work. The yearly cost of two children in a daycare center is more than the cost of the median rent for a year in every state, according to a study done by Child Care Aware. By offering tax breaks, it encourages families to have two working parents, meaning more financial security and more income to tax. Offering free education and programs like Biden's workforce training gives Americans who have been struggling for years new opportunities.

"Tonight, I'm also asking more businesses to follow the lead of companies like CVS and UPS, and offer more educational benefits and paid apprenticeships -- opportunities that give workers the chance to earn higher-paying jobs even if they don't have a higher education," Obama said.

Basic mathematics tells us that it is impossible to work 40-hours a week on the current minimum wage and live above the national poverty line. After food and rent comes living expenses, leaving very little after to a splurge on a new pair of shoes. When a trip to Target seems out of reach, it also affects more than four

million Americans who are employed by the retail industry, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Those little trips to the mall or a restaurant fuel private industry and states, like Florida, that impose a sales tax. Everything you spend is revenue, which is why the government wants you to feel able to buy more.

"And to everyone in this Congress who still refuses to raise the minimum wage, I say this: If you truly believe you could work full-time and support a family on less than \$15,000 a year, try it," Obama said.

President Obama claims that 17 of the 50 states raised minimum wages in his first interview after the speech with Hank Green. Some of the benefits of increased minimum wages are not only more money in the bank accounts of Americans, but also less turnover and training costs for companies as more workers are incentivized to stay in their positions. This was a concept implemented by the famous businessman Henry Ford, who paid twice the minimum wage in 1914 in order to allow his laborers to purchase the Ford product.

It is as simple as this: the government will help you put more back in your pocket so you can go out and buy more, therefore improving our economy.

Increasing taxes on the wealthy is not a permanent solution, but a Band-Aid to cover the real problem of funding this new fiscal policy. With all the loopholes in the tax code, the entire thing should be re-evaluated and rewritten, a fact Republican Joni Ernst agreed with in her response to Obama's address. With different agendas at heart, both parties agree Uncle Sam wants Americans to pay their taxes.

"Republicans think tax filing should be easier for you, not just the well-connected. So let's iron out loopholes to lower rates — and create jobs, not pay for more government spending," said Ernst in her GOP rebuttal.

Early in 2014 there was a large controversy regarding a study published revealing that 26 of America's largest corporations paid no taxes, including big names like Verizon and Boeing. Now this was released by an independent activist group, Citizens for Tax Justice, but it isn't the first time the issue has been brought about. Unfortunately, the lack of money being brought in to government revenue is completely legal due to legislation that has historically been pushed for by lobbyists and special interest groups that hold the purse strings.

"As Americans, we don't mind paying our fair share of taxes as long as everybody else does, too. But for far too long, lobbyists have rigged the tax code with loopholes that let some corporations pay nothing while others pay full freight," Obama said.

Democrats are hoping to use these tax changes to fund this new economic plan, but I highly doubt that will manage to pass a Republican-dominated Senate without serious compromises along the way. In theory, middle-class economics will pay for itself over time. The wealthy tax increase will have a very short lifespan even if it does manage to succeed through the Senate floor.

If this economic plan goes forward, it will go forward in a modified capacity with compromises on corporate tax incentives to help develop labor protections and create American jobs. Once consumer spending increases and expands the private market, tax cuts for the wealthy will once again pass through Congress.

So what happens in the long term? "If America cannot get its act together on the jobs front, its many other serious wounds will not heal," wrote Bob Herbert, author of *Losing Our Way*.

Unemployment and poor job opportunities aren't the only problems facing us today but as Herbert points out in his book, the only way to fix this nation is through a strong middle class. A representative government has long since fallen to special interest groups and lobbyists to create policies that do nothing for the people. Right now, we may have to spend the money to get back to solid ground.

Frankly, unless anyone else can come up with a bipartisan plan to help decrease the wage gap and stabilize the working class, Obama's plan may be the only option to move the American economy back from barely surviving to thriving.



NASA HQ PHOTO/flickr.com
President Barack Obama waves upon entering Congress before beginning the State of the Union address on Tuesday, January 20.

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Muslim “No-Go Zones” Falsely Represented

By RYAN CLABAUGH
Opinion Writer

In the wake of the terrorist attack on *Charlie Hebdo*, a French satirical newspaper based in Paris, much has been discussed in the media about Muslim “no-go” zones in France and Great Britain. In these supposed zones, where local police dare not enter, Islamic radicals have allegedly established enclaves and are enforcing their own Islamic Sharia law. Debate has raged over the last couple of weeks as several news outlets such as Fox News and CNN as well as prominent US politicians have attempted to shed light on these zones.

Fox News’ terrorism expert Steven Emerson ran a story claiming the existence of these zones stating that the host nations in Europe “don’t exercise any sovereignty” in these immigrant-controlled areas. Chris Cuomo of CNN also acknowledged their existence stating “problems of policing, problems with disenfranchisement.” Even Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal has joined in on the conversation. He recently went as far as to say “How does such evil rise again in democratic countries? I believe it is because radical Islamists have been given too wide a berth to establish their own nation within



a nation. In America we are quite happy to welcome freedom-loving people, regardless of religion, who want to abide by our laws allowing for freedom of expression and a host of other democratic freedoms. But we will never allow for any sect of people to set up their own areas where they establish their own set of laws,” according to *USA Today*.

These claims, however, are unsubstantiated at best. Emerson has since apologized for his statements saying that his comments were in error and CNN has retracted its statements as well.

Despite these apologies the mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, has said that she will sue Fox News for the inaccurate reports that she believes tarnished the image of her city. Even British Prime Minister, David Cameron ripped Emerson (in true Brit fashion) stating, “When I heard this, frankly, I choked on my porridge and I thought it must be April Fools’ Day. This guy’s clearly a complete idiot.”

The lack of evidence coupled with the backlash from foreign leaders makes it tough to support any claims of no-go zones at this time. The question begs, though, as to how these rumors gained traction in American news outlets in the first place?

To answer, one can look at the current state of the suburbs in Paris. The city itself has identified 751 “zones urbaines sensibles,” or “sensitive urban zones.” These areas are defined as containing high

unemployment, high rates of public housing, low educational levels, low socioeconomic status and, perhaps most importantly, a high amount of Muslim immigrants as reported by *The Atlantic*.

These areas aren’t all that different from urban areas in the United States. Lower socioeconomic, minority heavy areas are common throughout the country and are usually associated with higher crime rates, according to a 2011 FBI uniform crime report. Any law enforcement officer would be wary and apprehensive about going into an area fraught with crime, regardless of the ethnic or religious background of its inhabitants. It is easy to see how a false correlation could be made between the status of these sensitive urban zones and the existence of outright no-go zones.

Another phenomenon that could be a cause for confusion is the claimed presence of Sharia law. As aforementioned, some think that these factions of Muslim people abide by and enforce these laws, eschewing the democratic laws of the land. In reality, there are many jurisdictions throughout the world, including here in the United States, that allow certain matters to be decided by a Sharia judge provided both parties agree. However, these judges aren’t exactly dealing with high profile cases. Instead they usually intervene on civil matters such as family law and business disputes, according to BBC News. The punishments that are handed out must fall under the

laws of their local governments, preventing anything unfair or unusual from occurring.

These types of independent courts are nothing new and have existed in the United Kingdom for decades. Even more interesting is that they are not specific to the Muslim religion. British Jews have long turned to their own religious courts called the Beth Din. These courts, just like their Muslim counterparts, are voluntary and must be agreed upon by both parties. English law allows for third parties to arbitrate in a dispute between two sides so the fact that this third party is of religious influence, assuming that it is consented by all involved, should be no cause for alarm.

In the end it appears that these claims made in the press about no-go zones are nothing more than an overreaction. The proprietors of these rumors are guilty of ignorant exaggeration as opposed to outright slander. However, the consequence of their errors can be far reaching as journalism has a way of catching hold and influencing people’s opinions, regardless of its validity. The negative connotations can also have detrimental effects on the areas in causing people to fear and avoid them unnecessarily. Next time, they may benefit from digging a little deeper into laws and customs of the nations they are criticizing before doing so.

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American Sniper Encourages Freedom of Speech From Critics

By EMILY SILVERMAN
Opinion Writer

Clint Eastwood’s latest cinematic masterpiece, “American Sniper,” has many viewers walking out of theaters starry-eyed and overcome with patriotism, ready to grab the nearest American flag and dance with Uncle Sam. While moviegoers across the country are riled up watching Chris Kyle gun down bad guys in the name of freedom, not everyone has been so quick to put Kyle on a pedestal. Some Hollywood big shots have taken to social media to question the messages the film sends.

Seth Rogen recently sparked a Twitter debate by vaguely comparing “American Sniper” to Nazi war propaganda, tweeting “American Sniper kind of reminds me of the movie that’s showing in the 3rd act of *Inglourious Basterds*.” The scene he’s referring to shows clips from a fake Nazi war propaganda movie about a Nazi sniper. It quickly continued to spiral as Michael Moore



tweeted “My uncle killed by sniper in WW2. We were taught snipers were cowards. Will shoot u in the back. Snipers aren’t heros. And invaders r worse.” While Rogen later attempted to retract his initial claims, saying “I wasn’t comparing the two. Big difference between comparing and reminding. Apples remind me of oranges. Can’t compare

part of me was furious with Rogen and Moore for their comments, but a bigger part of me was relieved by them. Their tweets and the numerous responses that followed made me more proud to be an American than any war movie ever could. Everyone living in our country is free to say whatever they want to say about anything they want. The ability

reading what others have to say and then frantically typing out and sending your own thoughts into cyber space is freedom. We have access to information and the ability to gain knowledge and understanding of what happens in the world around us, and the freedom to speak our minds, be it about movies or the more serious topics addressed within them. We are not shackled to the beliefs of others and oppressed by unfair leadership. By publicly making their thoughts known, Rogen and Moore are embodying a major part of being an American; they are making use of their freedom of speech and others are encouraged to respond, whether in agreement or disagreement.

Maybe this movie is just an action-packed thriller blown way out of proportion, and maybe it’s something more. Regardless of what your opinions of snipers and war movies or religion and government are, here in the United States you have the right to express that opinion without fear and that makes me overwhelmingly proud to be an American.

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“Maybe this movie is just an action-packed thriller blown way out of proportion, or maybe it’s something more.”

them though,” and Moore stated in a Facebook post that his tweets were not in reference to the movie, huge waves had already been made by their statements.

As I watched the story unfold and felt for the characters portrayed,

to watch “American Sniper” for yourself, read up on the surrounding controversy for yourself, formulate your own opinion and make that opinion known is where patriotism truly lies.

Sitting in front of a computer

Bill Cosby Innocent Until Proven Guilty

By **CAITLIN MALONE**
Opinion Writer

Bill Cosby once said, "Through humor, you can soften some of the worst blows that life delivers. And once you find laughter, no matter how painful your situation might be, you can survive it." Within the past several months, Cosby's words have been put to the test as he is facing some of the "worst blows" life can deliver.



Decade-old accusations of sexual assault have resurfaced, and now more than a dozen women have come forward saying that Bill Cosby drugged and raped or molested them, according to *TIME Magazine*. When dealing with accusations as serious as sexual assault, it makes it so hard to determine who is outright guilty without any proof. It would be terrible to find out that these girls were in fact telling the truth, but it would also be terrible to find out they were not and only seeking attention. The problem is that nobody has any proof, but so many girls

and made accusations as well. The lawsuit between Constand and Cosby was settled, but not in court and the terms of settlement were never disclosed, according to *TIME Magazine*.

These accusations came up again in February of 2014 when Gawker published an article summarizing the past accusations against Cosby. At this point, it doesn't really matter if Cosby is even telling the truth or not; his reputation has been severely tainted, if not ruined by these women. I am not disagreeing with a woman's right to come forward about sexual assault, but because so much time has gone by, in most cases nothing can be done legally for most of these women.

I just hope they are speaking only the truth. It's hard to form a correct opinion these days when the media will put anyone on the air as long as they're going to say something shocking. The media doesn't care if there's any truth to it. It seems that everyday, someone new is coming forward to say some nasty thing Cosby did to them over 10 years ago. Now 33 women have come forward, according to Entertainment Online. Somebody needs to bring a stop to this by finding proof and figuring out

is wrong here, which is, this is the United States of America. I know it's changing, but it's still the United States of America and there are tenets that we live by," said Phylicia Rashad, who played Cosby's wife on *The Cosby Show*, according to ABC News. "There is the Constitution of the United States, which ensures innocence until proof of guilt, and that has not happened. But what has happened is declaration in the media of guilt, without proof. And a legacy is being destroyed because of it. It's being obliterated."

As I stated above, I do agree with her. I think that every American being accused of something should be treated as innocent until proven guilty. There should be a burden of proof in any situation like this. His son on *The Cosby Show*, Malcolm-Jamal Warner, recently spoke out as well. "I can't really speak on any of the allegations because obviously, I was not there," he said, according to CNN. "The Bill Cosby I know has been great to me and great for a lot of people."

One of the most recent accusations was made by model Chloe Goins who has met with police in order to pursue criminal charges against Cosby. She is saying that he allegedly drugged and sexually abused her at the Playboy Mansion in 2008. Goins would be the first woman whose sexual assault allegations against Cosby may fall within the statute of limitations, according to *The Huffington Post*. Cosby's lawyer, Martin Singer, has already made a statement in response to the accusations saying that Cosby was not in Los Angeles at the time of the alleged assault, according to *The Huffington Post*. In my mind, Cosby will remain innocent until one of these women can bring forth proof.

Cosby is remaining positive about his career as a comedian and promises his fans that the show will go on, according to *The Inquisitr*. Before his performance in Denver he released a statement to his fans saying, "I have thousands of loyal, patient and courageous fans that are going to leave their homes to enjoy an evening of laughter and return home feeling wonderful," he said according to *The Inquisitr*. "I'm ready! I thank you, the theatre staff, the event organizers and the Colorado Community for your continued support and coming to experience family, fun entertainment." He finished it off with, "Hey, Hey, Hey -- I am far from finished."

It has been sad to watch the well known "father figure" that we have seen on *The Cosby Show* for years get torn down over the past few months because of the alleged accusations. My hope is that all of this will soon pass after an investigation is done so that a clear declaration of innocence or guilt on Cosby's behalf can be decided.

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"There is no question that these accusations have interfered with Cosby's career."

have come forward. A good handful of the women are substantial figures as well such as Tamara Green who is an established lawyer and Therese Serignese who works as a nurse here in Florida, according to *Business Insider*. I don't know who is to blame here, and I'd like to go by the rule of innocent until proven guilty. However, I can't say that I believe Cosby is innocent in all of this even though I believe he should be privileged to the rule that every other American would be privileged to, and that is innocent until proven guilty.

Cosby has continued to deny the allegations against him, and has never been criminally charged for any of these accounts, according to *TIME Magazine*. Cosby was first accused back in March of 2005 when a woman named Andrea Constand came forward saying Cosby had drugged and molested her while she was at his Pennsylvania home back in 2004. Constand was the former director of operations for the Temple University women's basketball team, according to *TIME Magazine*.

Not long after, a second woman named Tamara Green accused Cosby of giving her pills which knocked her unconscious and then groping her, according to *TIME Magazine*. After these two women, more than a dozen women came forward anonymously

who is in the wrong here.

There is no question that these accusations have interfered with Cosby's career. He was recently met with numerous protesters outside of a Denver theatre he was scheduled to perform. People were holding up signs saying things like, "if you support Cosby, you support rape," and "rape is not joke," according to *The Huffington Post*. However, hundreds of ticket-holders were said to have still shown up to the event and would later give Cosby a standing ovation.

In addition to the protests, lots of institutions and networks have cut their ties to Cosby. On Jan. 16, NBC made a statement saying that it would never work with Cosby again, according to *The Huffington Post*. I think these networks are being put into tough positions here and are having to make hard decisions, but I have to say I think they are making the right one. Having involvement with a celebrity who has been accused numerous times of sexual assault is something that could seriously hurt their reputation as a network and could potentially affect the amount of viewers that choose to tune in.

Two of Cosby's TV family members have spoken out on his behalf. "We are really missing what

Alleged Sexual Assault Claims

1969

JOAN TARSHIS
AGE: 19
CINDRA LADD
AGE: 21

21

women claimed they were drugged when they were sexually assaulted.

1975

TAMARA GREEN
THERESE SERIGNESE
AGE: 19
SHAWN BROWN
JOYCE EMMONS

1982



JANICE DICKINSON

RENITA CHANEY HILL
AGE: 15
BETH FERRIER
BEVERLY JOHNSON

1995



MICHELLE HURD

34

women have claimed that they have been sexually assaulted by Bill Cosby.

Get Smart: Our Nation's Need for Transrespect

SEX AND LOVE COLUMN

By SELENE SAN FELICE
Opinion Columnist

Progress made in the transrespect movement has skyrocketed over the last year with award-winning shows like "Orange is the New Black"



featuring Laverne Cox and "Transparent" starring Jeffrey Tambor. President Obama became the first President to use the terms "lesbian," "transgender," and "bi-sexual" in a State of the Union address. However, along with the notable progress made for the trans community this year, there have also been devastating losses of life that could have been completely preventable with more support and understanding from the non-LGBT community.

Leelah Alcorn, a 17 year-old transgender female took her own life with a desperate cry for progress in her suicide note in Dec. 28. Lamia Beard was defamed after her murder on Jan. 17 by local news outlets who named her as a man and speculated that she may have been working as a prostitute. These are just two of the hundreds of trans women to lose their lives in the past year. While their stories have raised awareness for the transrespect movement, the media has focused on blaming various parties instead of informing people on how to help. As we continue to mourn the loss of these women, their deaths also signal that education on transgender issues is critical for humanity.

Most recently police are investigating the death of Lamia Beard, a 30-year-old trans woman who was found on a sidewalk in Norfolk, V.A. with a gunshot wound. While reports on Beard's death are scarce, many news outlets are handling the story incorrectly by treating Beard as a man who "preferred to be called Lamia," as WTKA put it. *The Virginian Pilot* went as far as to speculate that Beard may have been working as a prostitute at the time of her murder. Speculation alone violates

the moral principles that journalism was founded on. The fact that *The Pilot* insinuated that Beard could have been working as a prostitute could be considered libel and is uncalled for. These outlets either ignored the rules of journalism or didn't bother to look them up. WTKA's use of Beard's male name and reference to her as a man is sloppy and further shows that ignorance is everywhere, including the media. Everyone needs to start learning.

There have been 226 reported cases of trans people murdered in the last 12 months, according to transrespect-transphobia.org. This report takes the entire globe into account with the highest number of killings happening in Brazil, Mexico, Honduras, Venezuela and the United States, respectively. From Jan. 1, 2008 to Oct. 1, 2014 there were 1,612 reported killings of trans people in 62 countries worldwide. One hundred of those killings occurred in the United States.

Forty-one percent of transgender or gender-nonconforming individuals have attempted suicide at some point in their lives, according to *The LA Times*. Alcorn left behind a suicide note detailing her struggles growing up transgendered with unsupportive friends and Christian extremist parents. Transgendered people need incredible amounts of support, and while it may seem easy to back away from something you don't understand, there are still consequences.

"The only way I will rest in peace is if one day transgender people aren't treated the way I was, they're treated like humans, with valid feelings and human rights," Alcorn wrote. "My death needs to mean something. My death needs to be counted in the number of transgender people who commit suicide this year. I want someone to look at that number and say 'that's fucked up' and fix it. Fix society. Please."

The media was quick to blame Alcorn's parents for her suicide, especially after they continued to call her by her birth name, Joshua, and refer to Alcorn as a boy even after her death. As frustrating as the situation is, continuing to place blame

on Alcorn's family and friends serves no use at this point. Instead this tragic event should serve as an example to the public. Calling someone--especially a loved one--by the wrong pronoun or continuing to label them as a gender that they do not identify with can be incredibly harmful. Instead of doing what seems to make the most sense in your head, try considering what a transgendered person wants or is feeling first.

In her note Alcorn also mentioned that she was a victim of conversion therapy. Conversion therapy is a religiously based practice which focuses on attempting to convert members of the LGBT community to become heterosexual and make transgendered individuals give up their gender identity for what complies with their biological sex, according to princeton.edu. This sparked the fastest growing Change.org petition of 2014 in the last few days of the year, asking for a nationwide ban on the practice. California and Illinois both have bans on conversion therapy, and D.C.'s city council just approved their ban last month. This may seem like rapid progress, but without continuous support it may very well be short-lived.

On Jan. 22, a bill seeking to ban conversion therapy in Virginia was struck down by the state senate. Almost a dozen states have been stalled in conversion therapy bans, according to MSNBC. People need to remember that transgender rights are not a trend, and signing an online petition is not enough. Non-trans individuals can make the most impact by educating themselves and others so that they may understand why banning conversion therapy is so important.

Understanding the transgender community means accepting that anyone's gender or sexuality can be fluid. In his Ted Talk, "Understanding the Complexities of Gender," Sam Killermann explains, "Your gender identity is how you make sense of your inner self, and what you understand gender to be. Sometimes this aligns with your biological sex, or fits into the gender

binary. Sometimes it doesn't." Trans women can have penises and be women. Trans men can have vaginas and be men. Biological sex, gender expression, gender identity and who someone is romantically and sexually attracted to can stretch far beyond preconceived notions of what we previously knew.

While these concepts and combinations may seem a bit complicated (see Killerman's "Genderbread Man" below for a breakdown), education on sexuality is important, and it is never too late to learn. Those who have transgendered and LGBT people in their lives especially need to educate themselves. Don't fall short on being there for someone because you don't want to take the time to learn. Take the time to learn about what a transgender person in your life is going through.

A common misconception is that people are just getting gender reassignment surgery on a whim. The truth is that transitioning is a long and expensive process that varies from person to person depending on what they want and how their bodies react. The gender reassignment process requires years of counseling, permission from a mental health professional, years of hormone therapy before surgery, and subsequent hormone treatment for the rest of that person's life. In addition, changing hormone levels in a person's body can cause or worsen mood changes, depression, and anxiety for someone who may already deal with those things in their daily life and struggles to feel accepted.

A Swedish study in 2011 showed when "Using a sample of 324 individuals, with 191 male-to-females (MTF) and 133 female-to-males (FTM), researchers found that mortality rates for transgender individuals after surgery were significantly higher. The main culprit was suicide," according to *The Daily Caller*. Just knowing what trans people go through and understanding how physically and emotionally stressful the transition process is can make the difference for tons of trans people in need of help.

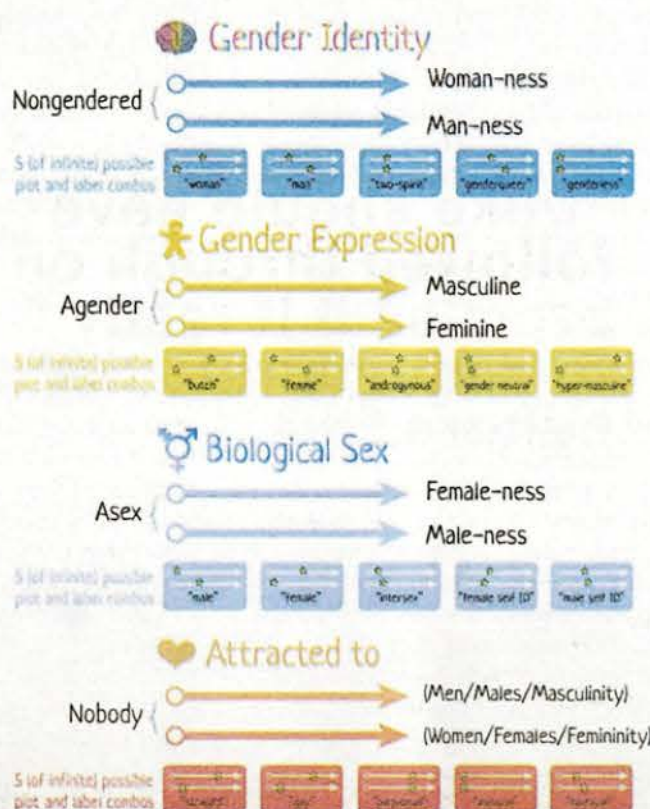
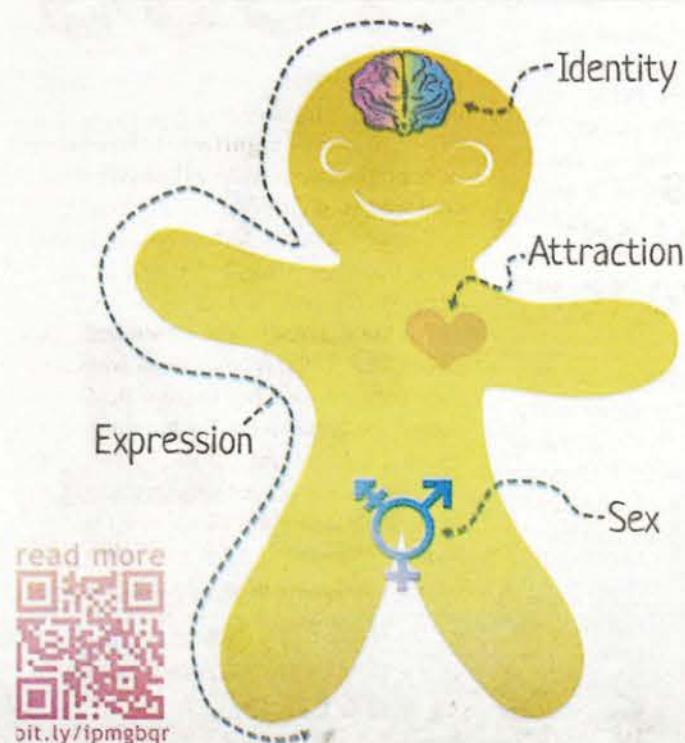
As college students and millennials, we are the generation that can make a difference for the future of the LGBT community. We are the people who will soon make decisions for our country and society. Don't make these changes without being educated or by being clouded by judgements and misconceptions. Even if you say that you support a cause, keeping your feelings on an issue to yourself and letting others remain ignorant doesn't help anything. Right now some of the people leading our country are choosing to make decisions based on ignorance. Parents are raising children to feel worthless in their own skin and unaccepted in their own homes. People are dying and others are taking lives because of something they simply just don't understand. Leelah Alcorn stepped in front of a tractor trailer to get the world's attention. Lamia Beard was murdered on the street only to have news sources call her by a male name. Do not let these innocent individuals and thousands of other trans people die in vain. Act on education, not ignorance.

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The Genderbread Person v2.0

it's pronounced METROsexual

Gender is one of those things everyone thinks they understand, but most people don't. Like *Inception*, Gender isn't binary. It's not either/or. In many cases it's both/and. A bit of this, a dash of that. This tasty little guide is meant to be an appetizer for understanding. It's okay if you're hungry for more.

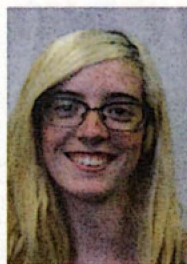


Graphic courtesy of Sam Killermann/itspronouncedmetrosexual.com

Mall Employees Not Prepared for Shootings

By **SAM ALLEN**
Opinion Writer

One man was killed and a woman injured in a recent mall shooting in Melbourne, Florida. Leonard Coppola, owner of the Scotto Pizza inside the Melbourne Square mall was shot and killed in an attempt to protect his employee, Idanerys Garcia-Rodriguez, from her husband, according to *The Orlando Sentinel*. Recently, stories like this are becoming far too familiar as public shootings are on the rise. In fact, mass shootings have “increased threefold since 2011” according to *The Huffington Post*. While gun control debates take the foreground of conversation when a shooting occurs, students and retail workers are left ill-prepared to handle an active shooter if they should encounter one. Victims of an active shooting attack are often left feeling helpless as the unimaginable fills their world with chaos, but they don’t have to feel this way. Training programs to prepare all employees and students for a shooting situation should be implemented in an effort to save lives.



Though the Melbourne Square Mall shooting was not a mass shooting, it very well could have been if Coppola had not intervened. Before taking his own life, evidence supports that Garcia-Rodriguez planned on taking the lives of more innocent people as three handguns were recovered at the scene on Jan. 17. reports *Florida Today*. It was further stated that Vince Pryce, Melbourne

Police Commander, discovered that “[Garcia-Rodriguez] had several pockets full of ammunition.”

It is important that people are prepared for the worst by training them to think clearly in the event of gun violence. “I think it would be extremely advantageous to include a ‘what if’ shooter scenario when new hires are being trained,” said Leanne Ballering, a UT Alumna and International Plaza employee, “An emergency like that causes extreme chaos for customers and chances are they will be following the employee’s move. Several high school students apply to stores at the mall and as they are seeking out their first job ever they may not be considering the risk factors that come with working in such a densely populated area. Having prepared employees would most likely result in a smoother outcome.”

Luckily, some retail stores have started such training. Bass Pro Shops stores are equipped with a gun range and fully stocked sections filled with weapons and ammunition that can be used against employees and customers. Therefore, to protect their employees they have included a program to prepare them for an active shooter. I spoke with Michael Boutin, a Bass Pro Shop employee, about the training they are given on gun violence. He referred me to the training video “Run. Hide. Fight. Surviving an Active Shooter Event.,” a project funded by a Department of Homeland Security grant. “Run. Hide. Fight.” reminds the viewer to be aware that an active shooting scenario is possible. It would be simple to incorporate this video into corporate and retail training and in many cases it can be life saving advice,” Boutin said.



Training precautions would better prepare mall employees for emergency situations. m.simon.com

“Run. Hide. Fight.” offers tips and instructions on how to prepare oneself for gun violence in the workplace. Some of these tips include recognizing warning signs and suspicious activities of individuals who enter your workplace, encouraging evacuation followed by police notification, and even instructs those who are in immediate danger to fight for their lives by “improvising weapons.” A repeated phrase throughout the video was “be aware of your surroundings,” which is a good piece of everyday advice, but in dangerous circumstances, being aware of what is around you can be the difference between life and death. The likelihood of survival increases by allowing students and employees to become well-versed in the procedures provided by the video. “Thinking to do something and acting on it are two different things and that

is what this video is for. It prepares employees to act when a threatening situation occurs,” Boutin said.

It is tragic that Coppola’s heroic actions led to his death. Predicting who will become publicly violent and where the incident will occur is next to impossible. can be difficult. There are ways to prepare and defend yourself if that day does come, the key is knowing how. Video training like that of “Run. Hide. Fight.” is an excellent start, but more effort needs to be put into training employees and students in the area of self-defense and crisis situations. Self-defense seminars and tutorials should be offered to increase the safety of employees. This world is an increasingly violent place and no one deserves to feel helpless.

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Duke Falls Short When Attempting Religious Equality

By **REBECCA TURNER**
Opinion Writer

Duke University made headlines recently by reversing its new policy allowing the Muslim call to prayer, or “adhan,” to occur in the church’s belltower. Muslim students would have been permitted to chant the call to prayer from the bell tower on Fridays, according to CNN. Duke should have followed through on its promise if it really wanted to demonstrate the love for culture vehemently expressed in the “Diversity” section of its website. Instead, Duke allowed ignorant people threatening the safety of the students to direct them away from what was right and inclusive.



Duke students continued with the adhan on Jan. 16 without a hitch, but it was moved to outside the chapel instead of its original location inside the belltower. A public affairs officer for the school, Michael Schoenfeld, said “It was clear that

what was conceived as an effort to unify was not having the intended effect,” according to *The LA Times*. What Schoenfeld fails to mention, however, is that they never really

concerns” without specifically citing what those concerns were, according to CNN. Presumably, Duke officials believed that harm would come to their students, staff or capital. The

“Duke should have followed through on its promise if it really wanted to demonstrate the love for culture.”

tried. Duke gave up after ignorant backlash, both over the phone and internet, directed at the university by people who were mainly concerned with keeping Muslims out of the chapel because their beliefs didn’t match the building, according to *The LA Times*. Duke claims the plans were altered because of “security

idea of protecting Duke is noble, but they achieved this by bowing to ignorance and hatred. Duke gave in to the pressure and failed to support its students, in contrast to the past.

“The institution [Duke] was begun in 1838-39 when Methodist and Quaker families in northwest Randolph County united to transform

Brown’s Schoolhouse into Union Institute, thus providing permanent education for their children,” but “the college and university have always been nonsectarian,” according to the Duke website. The university also previously held Jumma, another form of Islamic prayer, in the chapel basement. Thus, it was not an extraordinarily significant change in school practices to allow Muslim students to chant the adhan from the belltower, and there likely would not have been an issue had it not been excessively publicized.

To the university and its students, this policy was just another way to weave their cultural web, but Duke officials ruined the opportunity for heightened cultural interaction by backing out of the plan so quickly. Especially in the wake of the Charlie Hebdo shootings, Duke should have stood up for its students, who are not extremists, but rather young adults trying to express their religion at an institution founded on similar principles.

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SPORTS

Maldonado Returns to the Baseball Team as Assistant Head Coach

By REGINA GONZALEZ
Sports Writer

On the first day of practice, the baseball team received a huge surprise when Head Coach Joe Urso announced that his friend and former colleague, Frank Maldonado, would officially be returning to the Spartans staff in time for the upcoming season.

Alongside other incredibly experienced faculty members on the team, Maldonado has accepted the position as assistant coach and will be a key addition to this season, specifically working with infield performance. Maldonado previously served as the hitting coach for five seasons, from 2006-10 at UT before branching off to accept a coaching job at the University of South Florida.

"At the time, I saw going to USF to work with their baseball program as an opportunity to move on and advance in my career," Maldonado said. Maldonado worked at USF for four seasons as an assistant coach then later moved on to become the Director of Baseball Operations. Aside from foreseeing the day-to-day aspects of base running, hitting and scheduling, he also volunteered his time to work with younger athletes at baseball camps that were run through the university.

While coaching at USF, Maldonado always kept a tight-knit relationship and remained in contact with his friends on staff at UT, especially Urso. Both coaches met through a mutual friend in California where Maldonado was coaching at his alma mater, California Lutheran University. Urso was playing ball in Cali and Maldonado had watched him play multiple times. After meeting and keeping in touch afterwards, Urso later contacted Maldonado to come work with him at UT.

"It really is funny how things work out," Maldonado said. "Urso was already coaching at UT and one day called me up saying that he

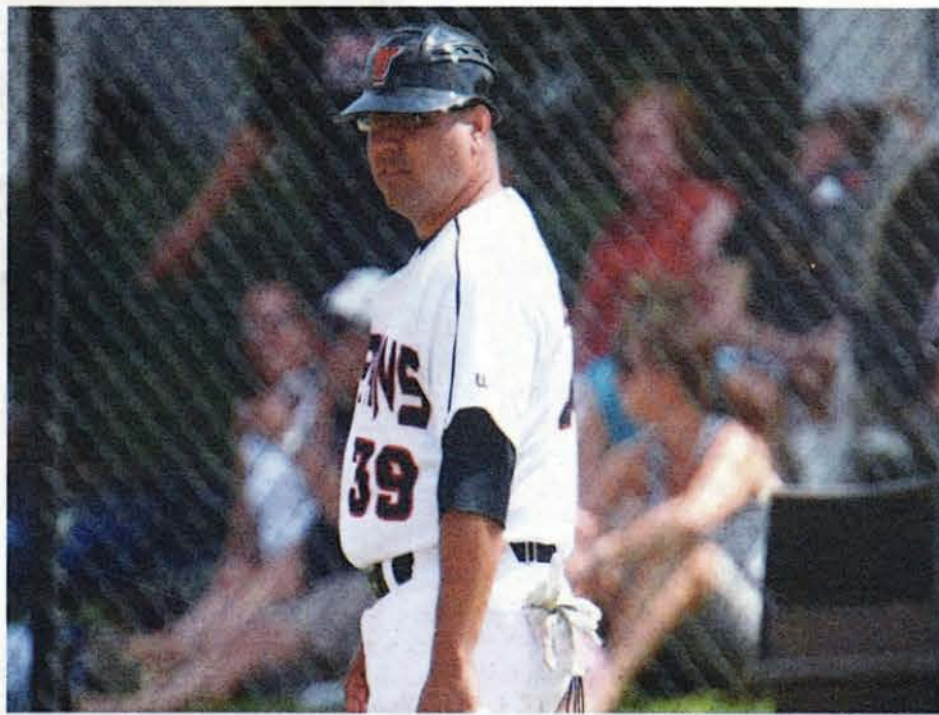


Photo courtesy of Tom Kolbe
Frank Maldonado returns to UT for his second stint as assistant head coach of the baseball team.

had a 'possible' position open on his coaching staff but couldn't guarantee anything. I took a risk, and while we didn't have any children, took a chance with my wife and moved across the country for what could have been a non-paid position. I got lucky and everything turned out great."

Other coaches on staff had the pleasure of getting to know Maldonado prior to his return as well, specifically Assistant Coach Jose Jimenez, who played for him at UT as an infielder and catcher from 2006 to 2009. "Playing for Frank was a blast," Jimenez said. "2006 was the first year for both of us in Tampa. Obviously, it was a great year with us winning the national championship." Following his career as a Spartan, Jimenez

went on to be selected by the Los Angeles Angels in the Major League Baseball Draft in the forty-seventh round and credits Maldonado as part of the reason for the opportunity.

"Frank brought a lot of knowledge and bonded with us instantly. He was our hitting coach and he helped me develop my game on the offensive side that allowed me to get a chance to play at the next level," Jimenez said.

Maldonado's current role for the season will focus on infield coordination, base-running and gameday defensive alignment. "It feels great to be back. It was the best decision for my family and I to return working at UT. I have been spoiled and am lucky enough that, on my first day, it had felt like I never left," Maldonado said.

Not only is Maldonado grateful and enthusiastic to be back, but players on this year's roster who have gotten to know him over the course of preseason training and practice, such as senior shortstop Giovanni Alfonzo, are just as excited to have him on staff. "Personally, I got to know Coach Maldonado before his return to UT while working with him at a USF baseball camp," Alfonzo said. "As a team we all reacted really well to his return because he really does know the ins and outs of the game." Since Maldonado has been working with the infield line-up, Alfonzo has closely witnessed the way he is prepping his guys for the season. "He's a very positive guy and is always giving ups tips," Alfonzo, "He'll go position by position and work individually with each guy in the infield, modifying techniques to how each player is comfortable."

In his previous years at UT, Maldonado greatly contributed to the success of UT's baseball program, helping the Spartans to back-to-back NCAA national championships in 2006 and 2007. While coaching at Tampa, he helped the squad to a first-place finish in the Sunshine State Conference and was among the top five statistically in every offensive category in 2006 and 2007.

His coaching has helped five Spartan hitters have been named All-Americans. During his time, Spartan hitters set school records for batting average, home runs, runs, hits, RBI, doubles and slugging percentage. His goals for this season are quite similar achievements.

"I've had the opportunity of being apart of two national championships while working with this program," Maldonado said. "My goal and the team's goal is to set out for another one."

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Women's Tennis Team Strives for the NCAA Tournament

By ANDREW STAMAS
Sports Writer

As the 2015 tennis season kicks off, the UT women's tennis team is finishing up their preseason preparation and getting ready to begin their season. The Spartans, ranked thirty-seventh in the nation will kick off their season with an exhibition match on Friday against Hillsborough Community College. Their first official match will take place February 7th at St. Thomas in Miami.

The Spartans will be competing this year with only six players, meaning they will have to play with one less player if someone gets injured. The top two singles players on last year's team (which included eight players in total), Thashia Garcia and Meg Wladimirski, would've been seniors this season. However, they both graduated a semester early this past December. Coach Al DuFaux also noted that the third singles player from last season, Lauren Hewett had graduated last May.

Senior Jenelle Morgan is aware that her team has changed a lot since last season, but knows that they are up for the challenge. "Our dynamics are different. It is a fresh new team, but we all work together," Morgan said.

Having only six girls on the team will also be a challenge because it will be harder for the players to cheer on their teammates during matches. Though tennis is usually seen as an individual sport, college tennis adds a more team-oriented atmosphere.

Some of the players feel that not having

any alternates on the team will make it tougher to do that, as matches are typically played simultaneously. One benefit of having a larger team is that the girls who are not playing usually spend matches encouraging and motivating their teammates from the sidelines.

This year with only six girls, everyone will be playing every match so the Spartans will not have the luxury of any additional players who can cheer on their teammates from the sidelines.

Senior Kelsey Matthews knows that this is an important aspect of college tennis. "We try to go to everyone's courts and pump them up. It makes a huge difference, especially if they're

down in their matches," said Matthews, who had an impressive season last year, going 16-1 in singles matches.

Morgan wants the support of the fans due to the lack of players on their roster. "Since we only have six girls, we want more fans!" Morgan said. Morgan and Matthews are actually the only two players left from last season's squad. The other four team members this season include three freshman, Emily Hewland, Cameron Moskol, and Gianna Pinasco, as well as junior transfer Kristen Mee.

Another obstacle that the Spartans have to overcome will be the strength of the Sunshine State Conference (SSC). "The toughest

conference in the US," DuFaux said, after already mentioning that their conference features five of the top ten teams nationwide.

Due to the strength of the SSC, the Spartans are ranked seventh in their conference despite holding an impressive national ranking of thirty-seven. However, they are not content with seventh place and would like to move up in the standings.

After finishing seventh in the SSC last season, the Spartans are keen on improving their position in the conference standings. "Our goal is sixth in the conference," DuFaux said. Improving one spot up to number six would be a great achievement for them, as it would put them in a better position for the SSC playoffs.

The NCAA tournament is another goal that some of the players have, which would mark UT's first appearance since 2007. "As a team, I'd like to finish top 20 in the nation, and make the NCAA tournament. Haven't made it [the previous three years but I'd like to]," Matthews said, who desires to end her final season on a high note.

The Spartans seem to be prepared for the upcoming season as they will try to reach their goal of finishing sixth in the SSC. "We also spent a lot of time in the weight room and on the track. A lot of conditioning. It's our last season, so we want to try our best," Morgan said.

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Photo courtesy of Tom Kolbe
The women's tennis team's goal is to earn a NCAA Tournament bid for the first time since 2007.

Club Hockey Team Starts Second Half Strong

By PHIL NOVOTNY
Sports Editor

The University of Tampa club hockey team is looking to continue its historic season. Overall, the Spartans capped off their first semester with a 9-9-2 record in American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) play along with a 2-3 record against Southern Collegiate Hockey Conference (SCHC) opponents as well.

For example, they played schools such as the University of Miami, the University of South Carolina and Florida Atlantic University. They also ranked thirteenth in the Southern Region of the ACHA for Division III. "This is the best season in university history, best strength of schedule we had and the best ranking we've ever received," said senior forward Matthew Fenby.

Overall, the Spartans capped off their first semester with a 9-9-2 record in American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) play along with a 2-3 record against Southern Collegiate Hockey Conference (SCHC) opponents as well. For example, they played schools such as the University of Miami, the University of South Carolina and Florida Atlantic University. They also ranked thirteenth in the Southern Region of the ACHA for Division III.

To begin the second semester, the Spartans schedule did not get easier as they opened up against the University of Central Florida at RDV Sportsplex Athletic Club in a home-and-home series.

UCF came into the second semester ranked third in the ACHA

South Region, but the Spartans were able to come out on top by a final score of 3-1. Senior goalie Greg Lemrow finished the game with 40 saves on the night. Also, freshman left winger Matthew Antonacci scored his thirty-fourth goal on the year to seal the victory.

In the second game against UCF back on home ice at the Brandon Ice Sports Forum, the Spartans dug themselves into a hole as they were down 2-0 at the end of the first period. Despite scoring two goals in the second period, the Spartans lost the second game to UCF 8-3.

Going into this weekend, the Spartans moved up to tenth in the ACHA South Region for the first time ever. The Spartans played their first game against Life University in Marietta, Georgia. Junior forward Evan Stawarz scored his tenth goal of the season to give the Spartans an early 1-0 lead.

The leadership of senior forwards Corey Tudor and Darren Gazaille showed as they both were able to find the net as well. In the end, UT defeated Life by a final score of 4-1.

In their second and final game of the weekend against fifteenth ranked Georgia Tech, the Spartans came out on top 4-1 for their first victory against the Yellow Jackets in school history. The Spartans dominated with 56 shots on goal in comparison to the Yellow Jackets' 20.

Antonacci scored a hat-trick in the game which were his thirty-sixth, thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth goals on the season. Antonacci's four-goal performance over the weekend strengthened his case to win the ACHA nationwide scoring title.



UT has won three out of their first four games to start off the second half of the season. Photo courtesy of Matthew Fenby

As a result of these two victories this past weekend, the Spartans ACHA South ranking could increase once again.

With that said, UT still has a long way to go if they want to qualify for the ACHA South regional tournament. To make regionals, the Spartans will have to be ranked in the top 10 in the region. In their quest for the postseason, they will, once again, play two games against The University of Miami, but they will be playing on the road this time around.

In addition, the Spartans will play a two game home series against Florida State University. Fenby

discussed the keys to success moving forward: "We need to learn how to finish out games and win when we go into the third period with a lead."

To conclude the season, the Spartans will play a home-and-home series against the University of South Florida. Their home matchup will be held at Amalie Arena on Feb. 15.

"USF will be the toughest team we play," said junior forward Nicholas Martin. "We just need to stick to our game and stay out of the penalty box and we can absolutely come out with a win against them."

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Women's Basketball Team Enters Home Stretch at 11-6



Photo courtesy of Tom Kolbe

Juliana Cavallaro is a major contributor for the women's basketball team in 2015.

By **ED KERNER**
Sports Writer

As the Spartans move into the second half of the season, junior guard/forward Ellen Nummi believes that defense will decide their fate. "In order to win the SSC, we need to pay more attention to detail and step up on defense," said Nummi. "Tampa has always been known as a great defensive team and we are trying to live up to that standard as well."

The Spartans currently stand at 11-6 on the season. With nine games remaining in the season, UT will look to improve on its sluggish start. UT is currently 4-3 in conference play, and are currently ranked fifth in the SSC. The

women's basketball team started off the season strong with a 6-2 record heading into winter break. In the first game back, the Spartans traveled to Florida Southern College to take part in the Florida Southern Basketball Tournament and they opened the tournament with a game against Eastern New Mexico.

They started the game on a 15-2 run and ran away with it, finishing up the blowout win by a final score of 84-59. Junior guard Juliana Cavallaro led the team in scoring with 20 points. Four other Spartans finished with double-digit points including junior center Taylor McVey who tacked on 11 points and 12 rebounds to finish with a double-double.

In the second game of the Florida Southern Tournament, the Spartans took on Molloy College. The game started out poorly for the UT who were down by 12 with 12 minutes left in the first half. They trailed for most of the game but had an amazing comeback to tie the game with nine minutes remaining.

The teams went back and forth the rest of the way until Cavallaro nailed two free-throws to give the Spartans a two point lead with 3.1 seconds remaining. On the inbound, sophomore guard Aliyah McDonald of Molloy College took the ball up the court only to hit a three-point shot from way behind the arc as time expired to give Molloy the one point victory.

UT hosted Lynn University in a game that showed Tampa's solid defensive capabilities. In the first half, the Spartans held Lynn to just 4-of-28 (14.3%) shooting from the field. Junior guard/forward Ellen Nummi scored 12 points in the second half, which led the resurgence of the Spartans offense in the half. Senior guard Aisha Rodney led the game with 14 points scored. The Spartans went on to win by a final score of 59-44.

Four days later, the Spartans traveled to St. Petersburg to take on Eckerd College. The Spartans started off poorly once again in this one, shooting just 3-of-22 (13.6%) from the field. UT also turned the ball over 11 times in the first half, which led to Eckerd taking a 32-10 lead into the half.

The Spartans had an excellent second half in which they outscored Eckerd 34-23 but were unable to overcome the poor mistakes of the first half. Eckerd walked away with the win with the final score of 55-44.

After the loss to Eckerd, UT looked to rebound against Florida Tech. The game did not start the way the Spartans hoped, as they trailed by 17 during the first half. They also committed

13 turnovers in the first half, as flashbacks to the previous weeks matchup loomed over the team. Nummi led the comeback for the Spartans as she scored 14 points in the second half. The Spartans pulled within two points with 1:51 remaining in the game, but were unable to complete the comeback. The Spartans fell to Florida Tech 62-57.

With three home games in sight and the Spartans desperately in need of a win, they took on their rival St. Leo. The Lions started the game strong shooting 64% from the field in the first half. Junior guard Kinnara Lewis scored 19 points in the first half. UT trailed by as many as 21 points in the half, but made a late push to go into halftime trailing by 17.

With only 5:51 remaining in the game, the Spartans took the lead and never looked back. The Spartans completed the comeback by a score of 62-53.

The next game the Spartans hosted Palm Beach Atlantic in a statement game for the Spartans. Tampa completely dominated this game as they won by a score of 64-39. Cavallaro led the team with 15 points which all came from behind the 3 point arc. She shot 5-10 (50%) from three which is a career best.

Junior guard Juliana Cavallaro has high hopes for the rest of the season.

"We have had some success along with the adversity thrown at us this season. As of now, we are improving and need to make the necessary adjustments to avenge the losses we had in the first round of conference play."

Following the blowout win, the Spartans took on Florida Southern in another big win. The Spartans won 63-52 and were led by Rodney who led the team with 20 points and eight rebounds.

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Men's Basketball

- 1 Barry Buccaneers 15-1 (7-0)
- 2 Florida Southern Mocs 17-1 (6-1)
- 3 Lynn Fighting Knights 12-4 (5-2)
- 4 Tampa Spartans 11-6 (4-3)

SSC Standings

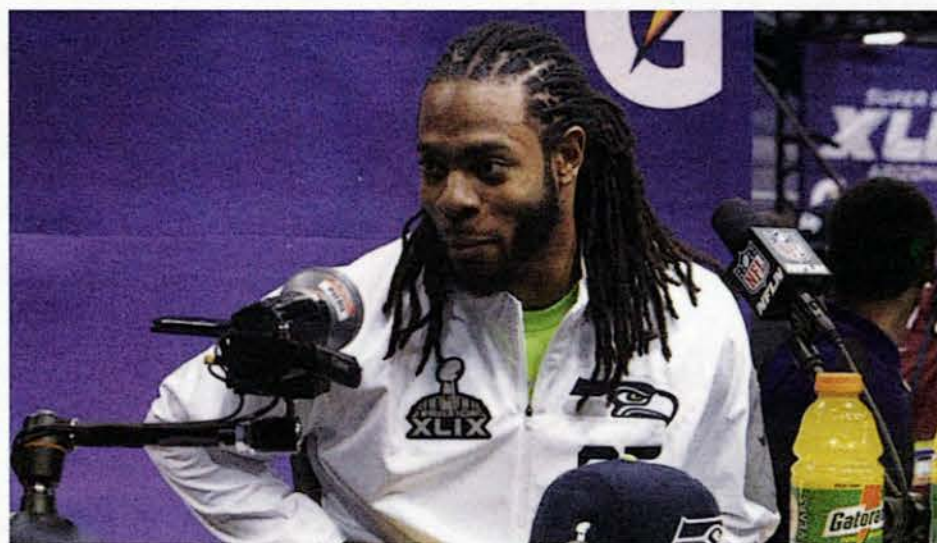
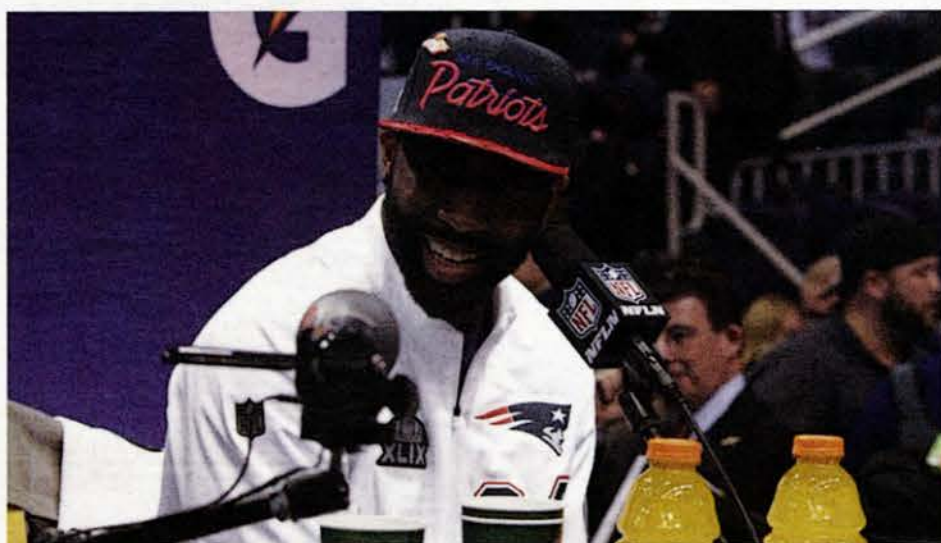
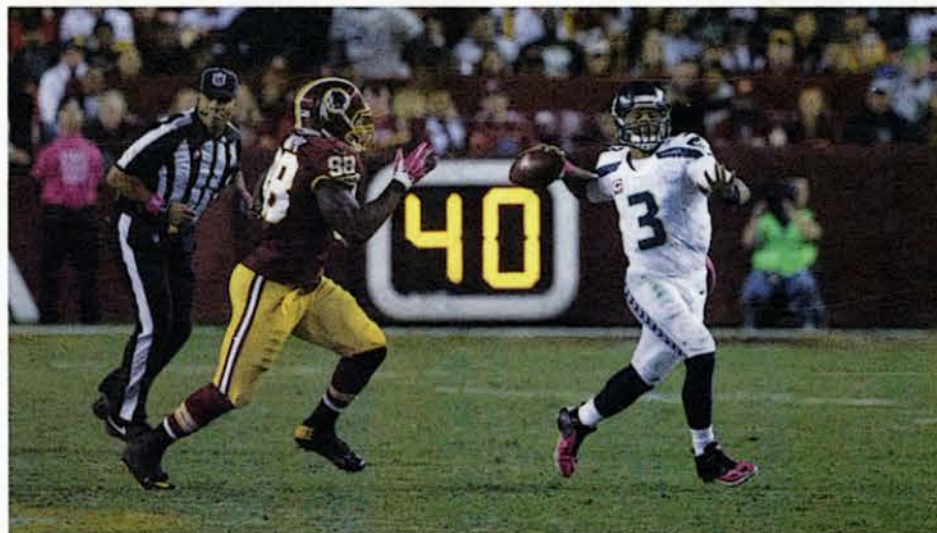


Women's Basketball

- 1 Rollins Tars 14-2(6-1)
- 2 Florida Tech Panthers 15-2 (5-2)
- 3 Nova Southeastern Sharks 13-4 (5-2)
- 4 Eckard Tritons 14-4 (5-3)
- 5 Tampa Spartans 11-6 (4-3)

Super Bowl XLIX Preview

Will The Seahawks Repeat, Or Will Brady And Belichick Capture Their Fourth Title?



(Clockwise From Top LEFT) Keith Allison/ Flickr (Brady & Wilson), WEBN-TV/ Flickr (Sherman & Revis)
Patriots quarterback Tom Brady is looking to capture his fourth title of his illustrious career on Sunday, while his Seattle counterpart, Russell Wilson looks to win his second in a row. Both signal callers will have their hands full with opposing secondaries. Seattle cornerback Richard Sherman leads Seattle's Legion of Boom, while Darrelle Revis, the Patriots' top offseason signing leads a revitalized New England defense.

By JORDAN LLANES
Asst. Sports Editor

Peter King made a remarkable point in his weekly Monday Morning Quarterback article released this Monday morning.

"One player out of 106 active Seahawks and Patriots was not healthy enough to practice when the two teams worked out this weekend," wrote King. "That player, Seattle starting right guard J.R. Sweezy (ankle), still is listed as probable for Super Bowl 49, meaning it's very likely he'll play in the biggest game of his young life next Sunday."

Each of these teams is playing their twenty-third game of the season next Sunday, and only one player has an injury that could keep him out of the game?

That's crazy. Props to the training staffs of both the Patriots and the Seahawks for keeping both teams in peak physical condition for the biggest game of the year.

But let's get into the meat of this matchup. The Seahawks and Patriots both come into Super Bowl Sunday in dominant form.

Despite throwing four interceptions in the victory over Green Bay last Sunday, Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson willed his team to victory, making tons of clutch plays in the fourth quarter and in overtime to send the Seahawks back to the big game.

Meanwhile, Patriots signal caller Tom Brady thoroughly dismantled the Colts in Foxborough, throwing for 226 yards and three touchdowns in the 45-7 rout.

During his third NFL season, Wilson has evolved from the game manager label he was unfairly given during his first two seasons into a dynamic threat who can beat a defense with his scrambling ability or underrated arm.

The fact that he has the Seahawks in position to win their second straight Super Bowl after having arguably the worst game of his career last weekend speaks to his drive and the team's resiliency when the situation looks its most dire. After last week's debacle, you can bet that Wilson will not have the same type of game this week versus New England.

On the other side of the field, Brady and Coach Bill Belichick are looking for their fourth title together. After winning three titles in the early 2000s, the duo has been denied twice by the New York Giants in the big game since then. After a masterful season in which the team has become even more dangerous on both sides of the ball, Sunday's game could very well represent Brady and Belichick's last chance to win a title together.

Unfortunately for them, Brady and the offense have to go against a Seattle defense that has been the league's best over the past two seasons. It's a star studded unit that is both loaded with talent and it can beat you from anywhere on the field.

The defensive line, which includes defensive ends Michael Bennett, Cliff Avril and Bruce Irvin, consistently hounds the quarterback into making poor decisions. Just look at Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers' first half against the Seahawks last week.

The linebackers, which features

stout middle linebacker Bobby Wagner and last year's Super Bowl MVP in Malcolm Smith, are playmakers of their own right and are always around the ball carrier, no matter where there are on the field.

And of course, we have the Legion of Boom. This is a unit that will dominate the game if Brady can't find a way to beat them. Three superstars, two of which signed big money extensions in the offseason, lead the secondary: cornerback Richard Sherman, who is arguably the best at his position; free safety Earl Thomas III, who is the definition of a speedy ballhawk; and strong safety Kam Chancellor, who is a classic thumper who excels in both run and pass defense. Over the past two years, this defense has hardly been tested, including during Seattle's 43-8 romp over Denver in last year's Super Bowl. Will Brady be able to do so?

I previously mentioned that the Patriots had improved on both sides of the ball. Well, that's especially true on the defensive side of the ball, as Belichick and the scouting department focused on beefing up the unit during the offseason, particularly in the offseason.

The signings of cornerbacks Darrelle Revis and Brandon Browner added to a secondary that was already on the rise with young corners Kyle Arrington and Logan Ryan as well as Pro Bowl safety Devin McCourty.

Revis has once again taken his place among the league's top corners after a recovery year down in Tampa Bay and is Sherman's main competition for the title of best corner in the league. Browner won

a title as Sherman's running mate last year in Seattle, so he will look to prove the Seahawks wrong as he looks to capture his second ring in a row. But the secondary isn't the only strong unit for the Pats.

The linebackers are another young, up and coming unit led by second year pro Jamie Collins and inside linebackers Dont'a Hightower. King and fellow MMQB scribe Greg Bedard named at least one of the aforementioned players to their All-Pro squads.

Last but not least is the Patriots' defensive line, which is another underrated group. Perennial Pro Bowl defensive tackle Vince Wilfork has played some of his best football in years in the middle of the line, and defensive end Chandler Jones has had a strong third season. It will be imperative for them to pressure Wilson and keep him contained in the pocket so they can minimize the damage he can do with his legs.

So who is going to win this one? Part of me wants to say Brady and the Patriots will be able to pull this one out in the end, but when the Seahawks have a lead heading into the fourth quarter, it's nearly impossible to take it back. That's what happens when you have the league's best defense and one of the best running backs in Marshawn Lynch. So on Sunday, look for the Seahawks to be the first repeat champions since the Patriots did it from 2003-2004.

The final score: Seahawks 28, Patriots 24.

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Davis, McCrory's On-Court Chemistry Means Wins for Spartans

By **MARCUS MITCHELL**
Sports Columnist

Anyone who has ever played sports has heard the phrase "there's no 'I' in team." As cliché as it is, this is true for most sports, including the game of basketball. Ball movement, chemistry and teamwork are vital to winning on the court.

Throughout basketball history, there have been duos that have landed themselves in the record books. Chicago Bulls legends Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen.

Utah Jazz duo John Stockton and Karl Malone. Lakers pair Shaq and Kobe. Here at the University of Tampa, there is a Spartan tandem that is quickly developing into a force to be reckoned with.

Senior guard Jordan Davis and senior forward Eugene McCrory have become a strong pair on the court for the Spartans so far.

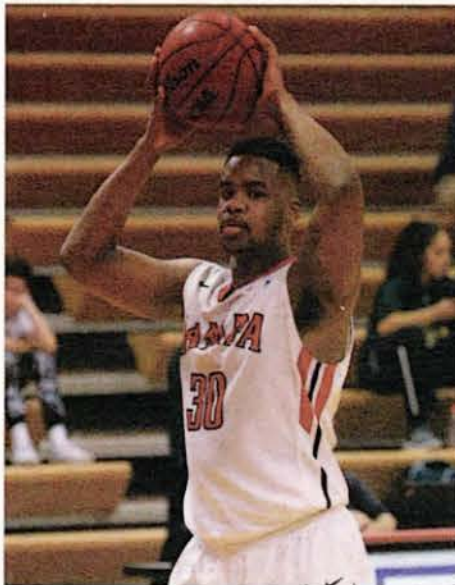
Together, they make a solid one-two punch on offense as Davis can make plays from the perimeter and McCrory can score from the post and in the paint.

The two are pillars of the offense and the team relies heavily on their chemistry and experience.

This year is McCrory's first at UT after transferring from the University of Central Florida, and this is Davis's second year at UT. In spite of this, both Davis and McCrory have played college ball before.

Two years ago, during the 2012-2013 season, Davis and McCrory were both players on the College of Central Florida (CCF) basketball team. Together they guided CCF to a national title and McCrory was named tournament Most Valuable Player (MVP) while Davis was named team MVP.

"I still find it funny that we are



Seniors Jordan Davis and Eugene McCrory's chemistry translates onto the basketball court.

teammates once again, but it feels just like old times when we are on the court together," Davis said. "We have gotten better since then but we still know how to play well with each other."

After their success together at CCF, they both went their separate ways, with McCrory going to UCF and Davis coming to UT.

Despite spending a year apart from one another, the reunited duo seem to be picking up right where they left off.

The offense goes through the both of them and together they have led the Spartans to a series of impressive wins this season.

With a strong Spartan lineup from top to bottom backing them up, Davis and McCrory have been efficient scorers, both averaging over 15 points per game.

As seniors, they are both highly experienced and their chemistry together has been the x-factor for the Spartans this season. "Our communication is very strong, some of it is verbal but a lot of it is unspoken," Davis said.

"It's weird, but we can look at each other and know what the other one expects to happen next." While unspoken communication isn't a rare occurrence in the teamwork centered sport of basketball, the communication between Davis and McCrory is unparalleled.

"Jordan and I are like brothers and that definitely translates onto the court," McCrory said. "Jordan has vision like no other point guard and sees things three plays ahead. Playing with him for so long, I can pick up on those things and he keeps the team together."

Like most traditional basketball pairs, Davis and McCrory complement each other excellently on the court due to their different play styles. Davis works well as a catalyst on the floor and his high quality playmaking ability is the driving force behind the Spartan offense.

He leads the Spartans with nearly seven assists a game and is shooting a respectable .364 from three-point range this season.

On the other hand, McCrory is a big man on the floor at six foot and eight inches and is usually the finisher under the rim for the Spartans. He is averaging close to 10 rebounds a game and leads the team in both points (17.2) and field goal percentage (.686).

Both are doing exceptionally well at the free-throw line and the team as a whole is excelling on defense. While Davis and McCrory lead the team in most categories, the supporting cast around them has been vital to the team's success and the team is looking to make another deep tournament run.

But first, they have to get through their season schedule, which is toughening by the minute.

The Sunshine State Conference (SSC) is littered with talented teams and they are only improving as the season wears on.

However, McCrory and Davis have the utmost confidence that they can do here what they did together at CCF two years ago.

"Playing with Jordan brings back those days at CCF and the championship we won. Now we are just trying to make another memory with this team and win another," McCrory said.

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Volleyball Team Reflects on Future Following National Title



The volleyball team has a target on their back following their national championship.

By **TESS SHEETS**
Sports Writer

Thirty consecutive wins led the women's volleyball team to a 2014 National title on Dec. 6, and with only three players graduating, the Spartans will return the majority of the players from their winning season.

The three seniors include setter Kahley Patrick, middle blocker Meagan Burke and right side hitter Jackie Neff. Although small in number, the players brought key elements to the team that head coach Chris Catanach assures will be difficult to replace.

"Two of the three were All-Americans and we don't have All-Americans replacing them, so that's going to be a bit of an adjustment," Catanach said. "Kids will come up through the program and hopefully fill in and take some of that load."

In particular, Catanach and the players note their apprehension as a result of the loss of a four year starter in Patrick.

"The setter position is critical," Catanach said. "We're talking about a four-year starter that is not going to be with us. So that's not going to be instant, it's going to be some work. We need

somebody to step up and show that they can do that."

However, while these crucial players are graduating from the team, many honorary players will be returning. For example, National Player of the Year, Berkley Whaley along with the Most Valuable Player of the National Championship, Jessica Wagner, will be back for their final season.

Plus, Marissa Lisenbee, who was a first team All-American, Allee Stelogeannis and Megan Heffron who "are all starters in some form or fashion" will also be returning, according to Catanach.

Now, it is only a matter of filling in the missing spaces. Despite the returning of these valuable players, Catanach still resumes a guarded feeling about the season, saying he has "no predictions" for the outcome.

With a second national championship under their belt, the team realizes that the competition has been more fierce.

"Obviously, because we won, we have a huge target on our backs now and have to work even harder to make sure the other teams don't catch up to us," said freshman Kasey Reynolds.

In order to stay on top of their game for the upcoming season, Catanach noted that the team will strive to work on three important skills: serve, serve-receive and a more varied offensive attack.

"It's hard to improve upon a national championship, as far as our record

goes, so we don't really focus on that," Catanach said. "We're going to play a really tough schedule again next year, so we're hoping to develop and be ready to compete when it comes down to the end."

While Concordia University was a prominent competitor according to players last season, this year the team does not have their focus on any single game. They know that while rivalries have occurred in the past, now everyone is trying to top the No. 1 team in the country.

"Every team in our conference always plays their best game against us, so that is our motivation to never look past any team," Reynolds said. "Every team we play will bring their biggest and baddest game."

If the team is able to make it all the way to the championship match in 2015, it will sure be one to remember, as it is scheduled to be held at UT.

In order to get there, however, Catanach asserts the importance of keeping the players focused on success while the coaches work on building the team itself.

"As a coach, I would love to see our kids be focused to achieve another championship, not rest on their laurels," Catanach said. "As a staff our goal is to bring in an impact player or two at the eleventh hour."

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