



UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1933

THE MINARET

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By KRISTA BYRD
News Writer

The University of Tampa Political Union held its first commencement ceremony in the Vaughn Center Crescent Club on Feb. 23. The first organization of its kind, the Tampa Political Union hosts and encourages debates between members of all political parties and provides a place for members to openly discuss policies and petitions.

The brainchild of its president, Pedro Belaunzaran, the organization was formed in December 2014. Belaunzaran, a senior biology major with a minor in chemistry and government and world affairs, hopes that the politically apathetic University of Tampa could become a place of change.

Whit Lloyd, speaker of the house

and senior history major, said UT is considered the seventh most apathetic college in the country, according to the Princeton Review.

"When Pedro first approached me he said 'I had a dream', and my reaction was 'the last time you said that we ended up with three members left in our last organization!' I was concerned but I know that this is something big," Lloyd said.

While UT has organizations for libertarians, republicans and democrats, the Tampa Political Union is the first organization of its kind and is aimed at uniting all parties to elicit change.

"We wanted to come together as a non-partisan platform for everyone to discuss anything from philosophical issues to social issues of today,"

Belaunzaran said.

The organization is not closed to undergraduate students only, and has created bills to allow graduate students to take a more active role.

"Within the first 30 days we passed a bipartisan bill that would allow graduate students to pursue full membership of the Tampa Political Union and to pursue executive office," Belaunzaran said.

Another goal of the Tampa Political Union is to promote diversity and embrace change with regards to civil rights issues.

"We have made a bipartisan effort to promote gender and racial equality by creating the first congressional

To POLITICAL UNION Page 4

MFA Program Director To Be Replaced Next Year

By BIANCA LOPEZ
News Writer

The Masters of Fine Arts (MFA) Program Director Steven Kistulentz stepped down for reasons undisclosed by the university on March 1. Dr. Erica Dawson, Assistant Professor of English and Writing, stepped in to serve as the interim director in his place.

Although the English department would not meet in person to discuss the reasoning behind the change, the Department of English and Writing Chair, Dr. Lisa Birnbaum issued a statement via email.

"A change like this always has its challenges," Birnbaum said. "Steve Kistulentz provided a special tone and vision to the program. But we

To MFA Page 4

Alum's Start Up "SoHo Sitters" Provides Jobs, Family Security

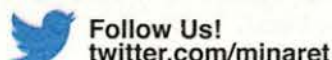
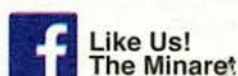
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Current Library Hours Hinders Student Success

See OPINION Page 12

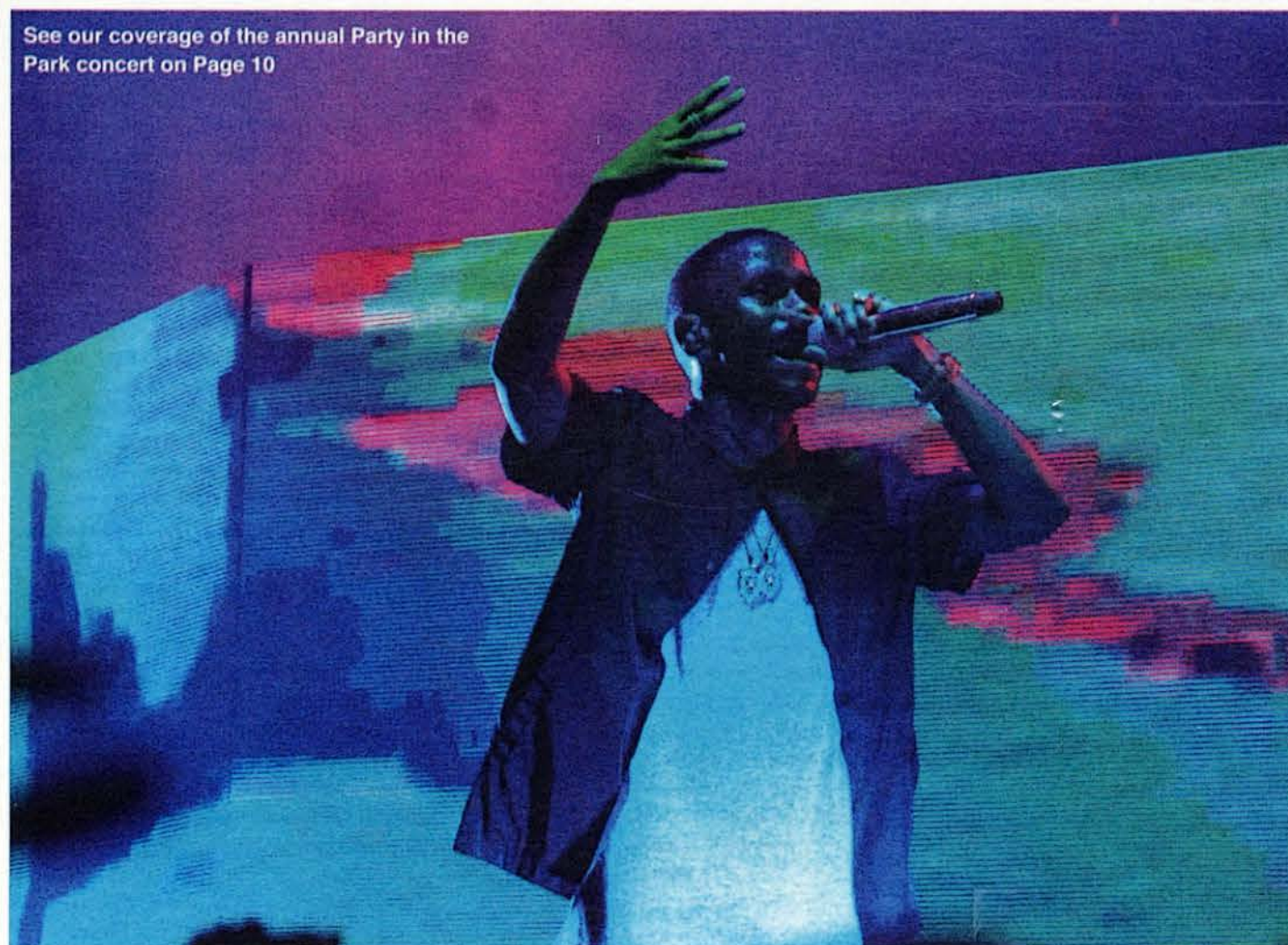
Swim Team Impresses at Nationals

See SPORTS Page 16



Thousands Turn Out for Big Sean Concert

See our coverage of the annual Party in the Park concert on Page 10



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Alum's Start Up "SoHo Sitters" Provides Jobs, Family Security

By ARIEL HERNANDEZ

News Writer

Stephanie Morris, a University of Tampa alum has started SoHo Sitters, a baby-sitting service, in South Tampa as a way of ensuring comfort and safety to both sitters and children in the community.

Soho Sitters is a service that promotes babysitters for families in South Tampa. Morris' service helps families find reliable and responsible child care by interviewing and matching sitters based on their qualifications and the family's request.

Morris strongly believes in both the safety of the child and sitter, which is why she came up with this service.

Morris graduated from the University of Tampa in 2011 with a degree in communications.

Morris' love for babysitting began at age 7 when she looked after her younger cousins. At 13, she began to babysit for other families, which she continued to do throughout high school and college.

Morris recalls her experience using child-care agencies online and meeting families online that she didn't know.

"I would call my mother and give her the address to where I was going every time," Morris said. "I would have anxiety until I finally met the family. I wish someone could have called me and said, 'Hey here's a family that we already got in contact with, and it's safe.'"

Morris worked as a nanny part-time during her summers off from college in the Tampa area. A lot of the families that she started SoHo Sitters with were families that she had babysat for in the past. When she began her business she was able to connect with families who already knew her and those that had heard of her. Many of the families she worked for in the past wrote testimonials for her and helped promote her services.

Morris worked for Triad Retail Media in St. Petersburg for two years as an account manager. Triad is a retail marketing firm that worked with top relatable retail and advertising agencies in managing all of walmart.com's website advertising.

While there, Morris missed being a babysitter and began to wonder what she could do by incorporating both her college education and dealing with children. That's when she came up with SoHo Sitters.

Morris began by using WordPress to create a website. She then researched competitors, looked up marketing materials and began the interviewing process. Before she could get the word out to the families, Morris wanted to make sure that she had sitters ready. She also completed all the screening processes and the legality procedures that ensures both the sitters and children are safe.

After preparing SoHo Sitters, Morris began marketing. Because she was involved in the Delta Zeta sorority, she got in contact with women from the sorority who currently attend UT, along with some members of Delta Gamma. With the help of the sororities, SoHo Sitters was advertised through word of mouth, in addition to posters and fliers throughout the South Tampa area and social media.

Soho Sitters launched Oct. 13, 2014, two months after Morris left Triad.

Soho Sitters has 45+ families involved in their services and 20+ sitters that are in the system, with most sitters being college students.

"SoHo Sitters is beneficial to me as a student because they really take



Liz MacLean/ The Minaret

Stephanie Morris used her college degree and love of children to create SoHo Sitters for local families.

into account your schedule and other obligations you have," said Sara Hart, junior elementary education major at UT. "They truly cater to your needs as a student."

In addition to part-time babysitting services, SoHo Sitters provides nanny services to families looking for full-time childcare.

"The nanny option is beneficial to families that are too busy to go through the whole process of finding the right care for their child," Morris said. "SoHo sitters ensures that they have someone coming into their home that are perfect for the job."

Although nannies are not its main market, SoHo Sitters has a more detailed process when setting families up with nannies. Morris meets with the families at their homes to see what they're looking for in a nanny, searches her database to see whether she has people who meet the criteria, and provides the family with the candidates they can choose from. SoHo sitters has 10 nannies in the system, and three families have been set-up with full-time nannies.

Morris' longtime goal is to hire someone to fill her shoes and manage the business. With someone managing the business, Morris will be able to expand her services and potentially franchise in other locations.

"It's not just about having a business and making a life for myself," Morris

said. "It's about making an impact on these families and helping one another in the community that I am involved in."

Madison Kenney, a junior art history major at UT, has been involved in SoHo Sitters from the start. She is Morris' go-to sitter and is continuously requested by families. Morris and Kenney have had a brief conversation about her potentially managing SoHo Sitters after graduation.

"What she has going on is an amazing company," Kenney said, "and I would love to continue to be a part of it."

Along with managing the business, Morris remains a babysitter and is a part-time nanny for a family in the Tampa area.

Morris continuously receives calls and texts from the families who are pleased with the sitters and the services that SoHo Sitters provides.

Stephanie Romero, mother of two, has been one of their clients since fall of 2014 after seeing a flier on the wall at a local Jamboree.

"SoHo sitters is great," Romero said. "the sitters are very enthusiastic and always have a great attitude. My kids love them."

"It warms my heart and makes me feel blessed that my business is blooming," Morris said. "I feel like I was put in this world to work with children."

Ariel Hernandez can be reached at ariel.hernandez@spartans.ut.edu

SG Candidates Discuss Campaign Platforms



3D: The Real Deal for UT

Jimmy Uteg III and Michael DeMaria

Designed by Brianna Cronin

By **LAUREN RICHEY**
Managing Editor

The student government general assembly met in the Sykes Chapel to hear from and learn more about the candidates running for office for next year, this past Tuesday night. Each candidate was allowed a short amount of time to say who they are and what qualifies them for a position in student government.

The main event of the meeting was the presidential candidate speeches and the debate that followed. First up was Jimmy Uteg III and his running mate Michael DeMaria. Uteg and DeMaria made clear that the primary platform of their campus was something they called “#userfriendlyUT,” a program aimed to bring convenience to the lives of UT students. It includes extended pool, computer lab, and library hours, ATMs and laundry card machines in every dorm, and a dining services app.

According to Uteg, another major part of their campaign is something they call “organization accountability.” This part of their platform is centered

on promoting school spirit, and organizational outreach.

“If students feel like they’re not at home here at UT then it’s probably because they’re not involved enough,” Uteg said. “When you’re a part of an organization then you feel like you’re involved on campus. School spirit isn’t always just about sports.”

Uteg ended his speech with an open invitation to the general assembly, that if he was elected, they could stop by anytime to see what how they are using the SG budget to greater benefit organizations.

Up next was Sarah Daniels and her running mate Matthew Hartford. Daniels began with her promise to bridge the gap between Greek life and student government, to make a more coherent student body. To further this idea, Daniels and Hartford want to include at least one Greek life representative on their cabinet. Daniels wants to encourage people in the student body outside of the NCAA sports to be excited to go cheer on their friends and fellow Spartans, and use the student government

budget to promote school spirit at all organizational events.

Hartford even referenced the new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), stating that their goal is to “implement a bi-semester report from the colleges about the opportunities offered to students, so that when students graduate they can have at least one example of real life experience on their resume.” Daniels finished her speech by stating “Everything starts with education.” She concluded that if elected, she will educate the general assembly on what goes on behind closed doors in the senate, and make it known what responsibilities each student has.

“I think that more students will be aware and want to get more involved,” Daniels said.

Voting for the student government elections started Tuesday night at 8 p.m. and ends this Sunday. All students can log on to OrgSync with their spartan domain to vote.

Lauren Richey can be reached at lauren.richey@theminaretonline.com

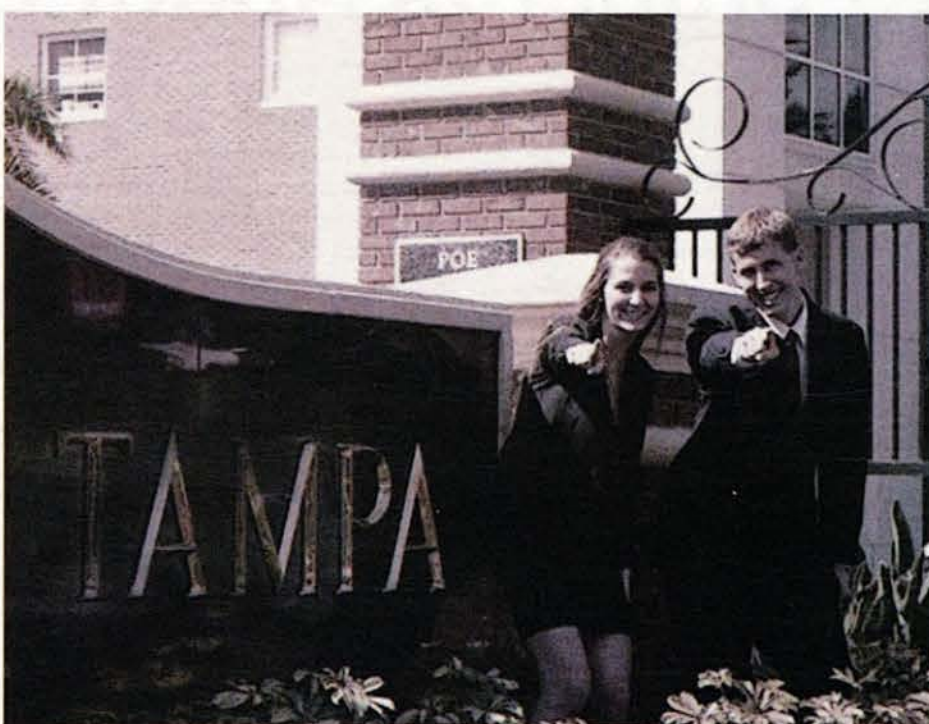


Photo courtesy of Alyssa Duet

Other Students Running For:

Sophomore Senator:
Sabrina Greco
Aislinn Sroczynski

Junior Senator:
Jabria Lewis
Brianna Cronin

Senior Senator:
Lia Quinones
Daniela Ramirez

Speaker of Assembly:
Mallory Kuba
Alyssa Duet
Alexandra Rey

Campus Wide Senator:
Benjamin White
Mitchell Arnold
Gianna Rocco
Joe Maus
Alexis Moretti
Daniel Indorato

INFORMATION



POLICE BEAT

Reports compiled by Zoe Fowler

She Ain't Comin' Back

On March 17, a visitor to the campus had her purse stolen from the Spartan Club Food Area.

A Bicycle Was Fined for Existing

On March 18, a bicycle was impounded for blocking a stairwell.

See, What Had Happened Was...

On March 18, a student filed a complaint about a roommate.

Check Free & For Sale

On March 19, a student reported that his clothes were stolen from a residence hall laundry.

Full Time Student, Part Time Thief

On March 21, a student and her non-student were found in possession of stolen property.

Wait, This Isn't MetroMart?

On March 21, a non-student was arrested on campus by the TPD for possession of cocaine.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

General Assembly

GA is canceled the week April 7.

Senior Week

The event is April 6 through April 10. The tickets are available in the Student Government office until April 3.

'Goonies' Actor Promotes Movie, Talks to Students About Careers in Film

By GRIFFIN GUINTA
News Writer

Actor Sean Astin made a pit stop at Reeves Theater this past Tuesday morning while en route to Tampa's "Gasparilla International Film Festival". Astin, known for his roles as 'Samwise Gamgee' in *Lord of the Rings* and 'Mikey' in *The Goonies*, was joined by producer Jeff Gendelman and director Gil Cates Jr. to discuss their new film *The Surface*, which premiered Tuesday evening at the Tampa Theater.



wikimedia commons/Mooshuu

The film chronicles the story of Mitch, a suicidal man who seeks to end his life by charting the tumultuous waters of Lake Michigan. Before he can off himself, however, he finds Kelly, the survivor of a plane crash (Chris Mulkey), and together the two form an unlikely bond.

Beyond just having the aforementioned trio speak about their experiences shooting the indie flick, film professors Aaron Walker and Gregg Perkins (the facilitators of the panel discussion) wanted to give student filmmakers, actors, and media enthusiasts a chance to glean knowledge from the consummate professionals. The panelists fielded a bevy of student-asked questions, ranging from "What is your best advice for an aspiring actor?" to "How do you adequately budget a film?"

Though each delved into various topics and stories, the consensus among Astin, Gendelman, and Cates Jr. was that patience will ultimately pay off. Gendelman recalled his experiences as a martial artist and told the crowd that "Before you start dabbling in other forms of martial arts, you have to get a black belt in one discipline first." In other words, sharpen your craft before spreading yourself too thin. Astin agreed with Gendelman's sentiments, explaining that he felt a lack of identity and direction before ultimately landing his big break in *Lord of the Rings*.

"You're going to get your moment, and when you get that moment, take advantage of it," Astin said.

Patience may be a virtue, but Gil Cates Jr. also stressed the avail of being bold and having a healthy air of confidence when first entering the business. As a brash young filmmaker, Cates Jr. managed to



Astin, Gendelman, and Cates Jr. discussed their new movie, *The Surface*, which premiered at the Tampa Theater. Griffin Guinta/The Minaret

sneak Morgan Freeman into one of his movies by simply walking up to him and asking if he would do a cameo for his film.

"One take," Freeman said.

The talk left students beaming as they exited the theater; reassured by the panel's sage advice that their dreams can come to fruition with hard work, forbearance, and a bit of luck.

Senior, film major Stevie Handwerk said that the talk empowered her to remain persistent in her goals. "Hearing from guys that have been successful and have achieved what they have it made me

feel like with determination I could make it as a filmmaker," she said.

Immediately following the discussion, Astin took to his Facebook page to thank the UT community.

"What a blast. Your questions were awesome and it's clear you all have very bright futures ahead of you. Thanks for having us. We'll see you at GIFF," he said.

Griffin Guinta can be reached at griffin.guinta@spartans.ut.edu

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UNIVERSITY of WEST FLORIDA | splash

Erica Dawson to accept MFA director position

From MFA Page 1

are fortunate that our exceptional MFA faculty and staff are committed to the students and to continued excellence."

Kistulentz is a published poet and writer whose work experience in academia includes Johns Hopkins University and Florida State University.

"I'm grateful to have had the chance to run the university's graduate creative writing program these past two years," Kistulentz said. "We have a dedicated core faculty and their strength shows in the success of our students."

Kistulentz looks forward to focusing on his own creative work while remaining in the Tampa area.

"I'm grateful to Steve for his help and support during this transition," Dawson said. "I have always been and will continue to be committed to our program's growth and success. I'm looking forward to June's residency."

Dawson was a member of the group of UT faculty members that

originally proposed the MFA program and has worked within the program since its inception. Dawson has a number of honors and awards for her poetry credited to her name, including the Florida Book Awards Bronze Medal for her most recent poetry collection, *The Small Blades Hurt*.

"The usual processes for planning the June residence are ongoing, and we expect it to be one of our best thus far. We are doubly fortunate that Dr. Dawson has agreed to step in as Acting Director," Birnbaum said. "She is well known to the students and faculty, and she is deeply familiar with the program itself. She is an exceptional teacher and writer. All in all, the program is robust and we're enthusiastic about the prospects."

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

TPU assembles political parties on campus

From **POLITICAL UNION** Page 1

women's caucus and the first black caucus at the University of Tampa," Belaunzaran said.

Alexis Carro, the leader of the women's caucus and president of the He for She Student Alliance is excited to use the Tampa Political Union as a platform for women. Carro is a sophomore music education major, and is hoping to share the word about the He for She campaign.

"He for She is a movement to advocate for gender equality by getting men involved and getting them to speak up for women's rights and the inequalities that women and girls face," Carro said.

"He for She has something to offer for men as well," Carro said. "Women have fought long enough on their own. When men stand up for women, women can stand up for men and we can start the road to gender equality."

In the next semester, Carro hopes to have a kick off event to inform everyone about He for She and the work that the Tampa Political Union is doing to help gender equality.

Aside from promoting gender and racial equality and a healthy debate, the Tampa Political Union will also host an array of lawmakers and legislatures.

"The goal is to give students the connections that they may need to help them in a political aspect down the line," Belaunzaran said.

One confirmed speaker is the influential Paula O'Neil, Pasco County Clerk and Comptroller. Belaunzaran

hopes that through speeches given by politicians, not only can students gain a firm understanding of politics and how they operate, but that they can also meet and speak one on one with people who may help students further their career down the line.

In speeches given by both the leaders of the Young Republicans student group and the College Democrats student group, it is apparent that party lines are not going to separate these students from a hearty debate.

At the commencement ceremony, parties from all sides, even the ones most greatly opposing, were cordial and friendly—high-fiving as they stood to take their oaths with their hands on an American flag.

"We came together and a lot of people had a lot of skepticism about the political union and its sustainability throughout the year," Belaunzaran said. "However, at this point, what I've found is that since we have unified the political parties together we have grown stronger than ever."

The future of the Tampa Political Union looks bright, according to Belaunzaran.

"We are finally able to have a platform to come together and not only influence the UT community but also to help promote a positive change in the Tampa Bay community as a whole," Belaunzaran said.

Krista Byrd can be reached at krista.byrd@spartans.ut.edu



Krista Byrd/The Minaret
Pedro Belaunzaran (Center), Whit Lloyd (Top Left), and Lexi Carro (Top Right) are spearheading The Tampa Political Union, which will join the groups on campus under one umbrella organization.



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DIVERSIONS

ON CAMPUS

MARCH 26
Free STI Testing
Free and private STI testing will be offered in the Brevard Community Room from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Go to gytnow.org for more information.

MARCH 27
Chiller Film Screening
Chiller is offering a free viewing of the film "Animal" to UT students. The movie starts at 6:00 p.m. and will play in the Plant Hall Grand Salon. Come for free food and giveaways!

MARCH 28 & 29
Plant Park GreenFest
Tampa's premier gardening event will take place in Plant Park for two days from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event is free but donations are suggested.

MARCH 30
This I Believe
Speak freely about character building, spiritual development and understanding world cultures and religions at the This I Believe open mic. The event takes place at 7:00 p.m. in the Rathskellar.

OFF CAMPUS

MARCH 26
Ariana Grande
Pop diva Ariana Grande will perform at the Amway Center in support of her most recent album "My Everything." Tickets start at \$27.50.

MARCH 28 & 29
Safety Harbor Song Fest
Enjoy a great variety of musicians and chill vibes at a beautiful waterfront location for two days. Tickets are available at Safetyharborsongfest.com.

MARCH 28 & 29
Food Truck Rally
Last year, the World's Largest Food Truck Rally made the Guinness Book of World Records after hosting over 121 food trucks. This year, Tampa hopes to stake its claim at The Florida State Fairgrounds once again.

MARCH 31
Breakfast Club Anniversary
In celebration of the film's 30th anniversary, Park Place Stadium 16 is screening the 80s classic with a feature including cast interviews. Don't you forget about it!

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websudoku.com

PICTURE of the WEEK



Holi, celebrated on Phalgun Purnima, comes in March each year and honors the renewal of relationships. UT celebrated the colorful Holi March 21 at the intramural field.

Photo by Nikki Nunzio

ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

Atmosphere Talks Rap, Minneapolis and Aesop Rock

Sean "Slug" Daley, half of the rap duo Atmosphere, chatted with The Minaret about past projects and the rap community

By SELENE SAN FELICE
Asst. Arts + Entertainment Editor

M: You incorporate a lot of piano and funky instrumentals into your music-- do you usually start with the composition or with lyricism?

Slug: We usually start with the composition, and then the music tells me what kind of song I should be writing.

M: Two years ago you did an AMA on Reddit where you said "pirates are an important part of the food chain" when someone asked about stealing music. Can you explain your stance a little more?

Slug: I was raised in a culture of bootlegging. Before file sharing, we used to dub tapes from each other. Same thing. I've never been an opponent of file sharing.

M: You've listed Aesop Rock as one of your biggest inspirations and you two even collaborated on "I'll Be OK" in 1999. Did he become an inspiration to you before or after that experience? What was it like to work with him?

Slug: He's a lot of fun. Most of the inspiring he has done to me has

been during our friendship.

M: You've been putting out music as part of Atmosphere since 1997. What would you say a good starting point is for someone trying to get into your music right now?

Slug: I'm the wrong guy to ask. I stand too close to the music to have a proper opinion of it.

M: Aside from Atmosphere you've worked on other projects like "Dynospectrum," "Felt," and "Deep Puddle Dynamics." Can you tell me a bit about those? What did you take away from those experiences?

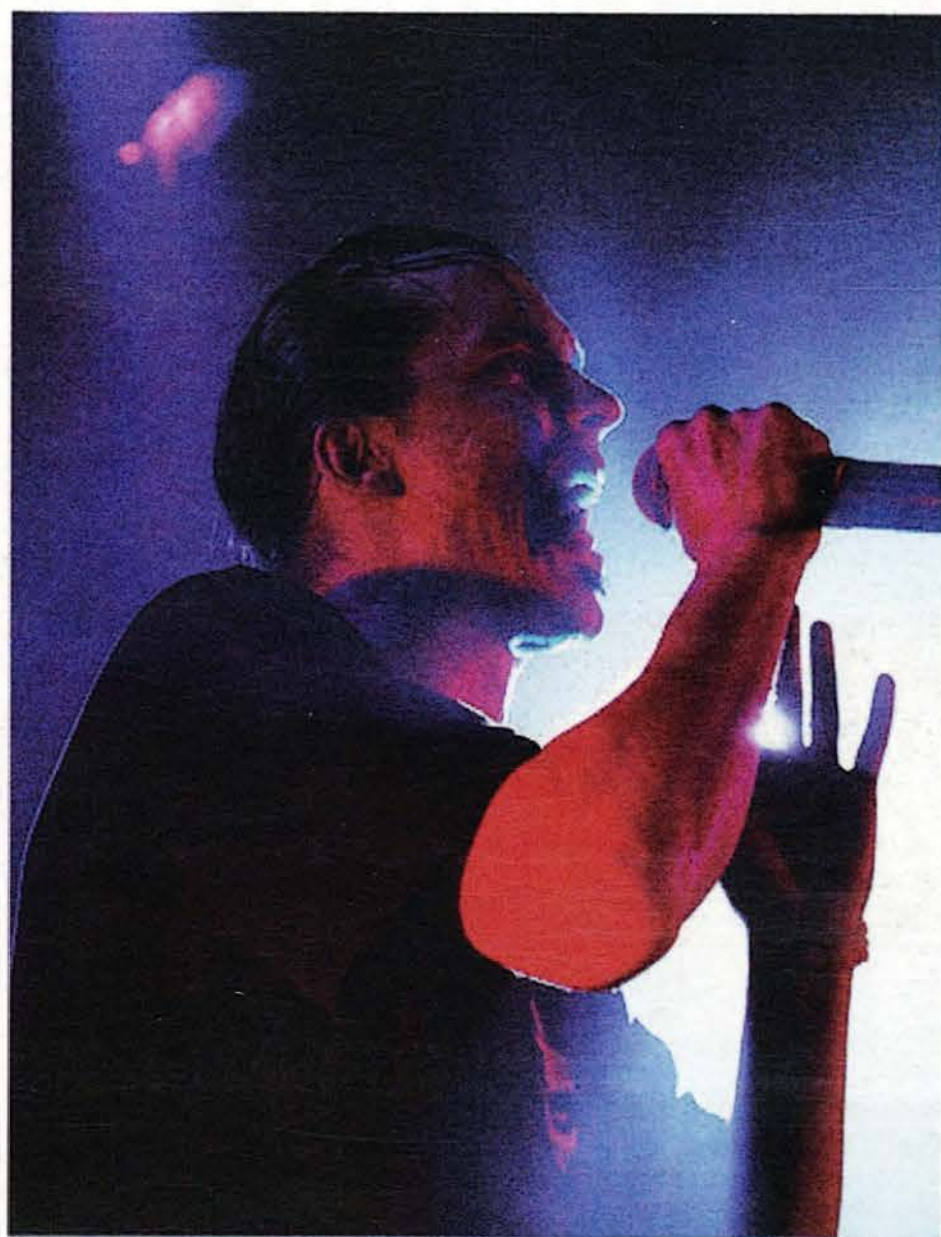
Slug: I have no recollection of dynospectrum or deep puddle dynamics, afraid I've probably drank those memories away. I remember making the felt projects though. A lot of rapping and a lot of arguing.

M: How has growing up in Minneapolis influenced you musically?

Slug: Winter makes me productive.

Atmosphere will play the Orpheum in Tampa on March 27 as part of their Welcome to Florida tour.

Selene San Felice can be reached at Selene.Sanfelice@theminaretonline.com.



Atmosphere/Flickr.com

Atmosphere's latest album 'Southsiders' was released in 2014 and is now available on iTunes.

Digital Album Releases Shift in Right Direction

By JORDAN WALSH
Arts + Entertainment Writer

The significance of a release date in the music world has been shifting almost constantly since music entered the digital realm, but it seems that the industry has only recently started to try and accommodate. With the dawn of illegal downloading and Internet leaks, the concept of the rigid release date, toward which all marketing plans are based, has become weaker and weaker. Fans build up excitement toward an impending early leak date instead--a practical inevitability in this online business. Besides the obvious surprise digital release date that Radiohead brought into relevance with "In Rainbows" in 2007 (and Beyoncé used successfully with her last record), not enough moves have been made to change the industry standard of release dates.

The last month, however, has provided an interesting cross section of what could become major changes in the handling of release dates. March 16 saw the early release of Kendrick Lamar's "To Pimp A Butterfly" and Modest Mouse's "Strangers To Ourselves"—the former unleashed 11 days before the expected release date and the latter just one day.

These are just small, minute moves in the grand scheme of the business, however they could (and hopefully will) anticipate a wider wave of changes to

come in the release standards for the music industry. Perhaps these changes could include a more widespread utilization of the early release method, or maybe even an adoption of an explicitly digital release date much closer to a record's announcement, with physical products to follow. These kinds of changes could perhaps allow labels and artists to combat with leaks and illegal downloading, or even use them to their advantage.

Although this may seem like a moot issue in the age of Internet all-access, this breaking of strict release day standards could actually anticipate a larger shift toward a less stringent time table of record releases. Both records, hotly anticipated, are major label releases—"Strangers To Ourselves" issued through Epic Records and "To Pimp A Butterfly" distributed by Interscope Records. This isn't the same thing as a small indie label putting up downloads in response to early album leaks (a strategy labels like Run For Cover and Topshelf have adopted over the past few years to much success). This is an instance fully in the public eye. After all, it's not an easy task to ignore a record that, according to The Wall Street Journal, broke Spotify's record for most full album streams in one day, like Kendrick Lamar's did. And, even if the act isn't as popular, it's also a large move for an independent scene staple like Modest Mouse, dropping an

album eight years removed from its last. Major releases are getting this kind of treatment from big labels who perhaps have the most money at stake. These moves, however slight they may seem, can mean a lot when executed by some of the biggest powers in the industry.

This defiance of projected release dates showcases a hint of newfound flexibility in major label activity—a kind of flexibility that indie labels have been adopting since Napster dragged the industry, kicking and screaming, onto the web. The adaptation here is essential. After "Beyoncé" tested the waters of major surprise release in late 2013 to massive success, it seemed to finally become clear to the few powerhouse labels left that the Internet is now the central home of music distribution. The masses consume music online, legally or illegally and physical products available in stores on a specific date are niche products. Asthmatic Kitty Records reflected this sentiment perfectly in the wake of the leaking of Sufjan Steven's latest record "Carrie & Lowell."

"The people who download music are a) super enthused and just want to listen early and will support it one way or the other, or b) never would have bought it in the first place, in which case it didn't matter anyway," according to a statement released by Asthmatic Kitty.

The people who buy music are going to buy it whenever it's possible to do



so. They're going to listen whenever it's available, legally or otherwise. In order for the industry to successfully adapt to the modern climate of music consumption, the release plans have to bring a sort of flexibility into play so that these two occasions are as close to each other as possible. With the recent instances of official early release, it seems as if the majors and the business as a whole are finally starting to get that on a massive scale. Whatever happens, it's great to finally see the industry making bolder moves after a surprisingly long era of unnecessarily slow transition in the wake of the digitization of music consumption.

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A Recipe

Adapting the Young Adult Novel

By Sammi Brennan
Arts + Entertainment Writer

Transferring the image in the reader's mind to the big screen is a complex process-- one wrong decision can determine whether the film is a hit or a flop. The latest attempt at adapting the young adult fiction book was the recent opening of the "Insurgent" movie, the second installment in the "Divergent" trilogy.

Unfortunately, "Insurgent" failed at resonating with the critics. Rolling Stone movie critic Peter Travers mentions in his review that the film has a "draggy tempo" and overall "stubbornly fails to surge."

However, "Insurgent" is not the only young adult adaption that missed the mark. "Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" has several issues transferring from the page to the screen. Moira Macdonald, movie critic for the Seattle Times, expresses her disappointment of

the film adaptation, describing the book as, "a witty first-person tale of a 12-year-old who learns he is a demigod...and goes on a series of adventures to find a stolen lightning bolt" while "on screen, the kid is 17, the wit is pretty much gone and many of the adventures are different... fans of the book may not recognize this movie." "The Golden Compass" cost over \$180 million to produce generated only \$70 million in ticket sales in 2007. "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events," an

adaptation of the series' first three books, barely broke even domestically, making \$118,627,120 from a \$100 million production budget.

Several factors need to be considered when bringing a young adult book to life that can determine the fate of the film. With time and research, the proper ingredients have been gathered to make a recipe for a young adult film adaptation that succeeds in every aspect.



3 cups of Talented Cast Members:

The cast determines whether the reader will love their favorite characters on the big screen as much as they did in the book. A successful young adult adaptation can be done with an Oscar nominated cast, such as in "The Hunger Games" (Jennifer Lawrence, Woody Harrelson, Stanley Tucci) or with fresh faces, such as in "Harry Potter." What's crucial is that the actors skillfully and accurately portray the characters. However, even with an Oscar-winning cast, that cannot be what the film relies on the most. Kate Winslet alone cannot save the ratings of the "Divergent" movies.

4 cups of Plot Detail:

Deciding on what parts of the book to include in a film and what parts to leave out is very difficult. This is the basis for how the reader will feel about the film. Critics praised the adaptation of "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" for this reason, among others, while films such as "The Mortal Instruments: City of Bones," left out key plot points. In her New York Times movie review Jeanette Castoulis said, the film's plot "sacrifices clarity for density, and emotional resonance for flirty one-liners."

2 ounces of Character Detail:

In a book the author describes the physical traits as well as the personality of their characters, which gives the reader an overall image of what a character looks and acts like. If the film leaves out character details, even a simple hair color inconsistency, that can have the potential to make the reader feel disconnected from the film. The portrayal of the main character Lena in "Beautiful Creatures" had many readers disappointed. In her blog on Huffingtonpost.com, Anouska Stahlmann explains she was upset by Lena's appearance on screen since the character is supposed to have long, curly black hair and green eyes,

neither of which the film's version has. According to Stahlman, Lena's "eyes are very important and they completely screwed that up." In Stahlman's words, "I don't think this book was done justice at all."

1 pinch of Dystopian Realism:

Dystopian societies are inevitably depressing. We see this in "Hunger Games" and "Divergent." However, a dystopian society provides great visuals for the reader and brings up questions about today's society. It is of utter importance for the filmmaker to incorporate visuals and achieve an overall idea of what this society is like if it did exist. In his movie review for The Boston Globe, Ty Burr describes "Catching Fire" as "a muscular, engrossing, unexpectedly bleak epic of oppression and insurrection, directed with dramatic urgency and a skilled eye by Francis Lawrence." He compares the futuristic setting of the film and the idea that a mass audience would watch a spectacle such as The Hunger Games to today's society, where we feed off reality shows and watching other people suffer. In the movie adaptation of "The Giver," however, the dystopian society lacked depth. In John Anderson's review for The Wall Street Journal, he describes the film as being "melancholic" and that for most of the film "viewers will be asking themselves where the conflict is" as well as the drama.

2 tablespoons of On-Screen Chemistry:

Vampires, werewolves and zombies...oh my! If a filmmaker is going to adapt a young adult book, there almost always to be some sort of hindered romance involved to bring in the dollar signs. One of the characters could be dying, ("If I Stay," "The Fault in Our Stars") or maybe it's just the strain of separation, either way, the conflict needs to be as emphasized on screen just as it is on the page. Essential to emphasizing conflict is on-screen chemistry. The viewer has to experience the conflicting emotions of

the characters without being in their heads, which is an arduous task, to say the least. There has to be a connection between the depicted lovers. In a Rolling Stone review Peter Travers mentions how Shailene Woodley and her "Divergent" co-star, Theo James "needed to generate a sizzling chemistry on screen."

1 dash of Comedic Relief:

Who doesn't like a good laugh every once in a while? In "Twilight," Bella's human friends are needed to provide a comedic relief and give the audience a break from Bella and Edward's constant lip-biting and drawn out eye contact. Just as the saying goes: laughter is the best medicine. And what better way to heal a struggling young adult fiction adaptation than with a few chuckles?

2 dollops of Author Input: Having the author help with the writing process of the film is the best way to go. He or she can facilitate converting the book into a film. Stephen Chbosky, author of "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," wrote the screenplay, which definitely contributed to the film's success.

1 teaspoon of a Killer Soundtrack:

A great soundtrack can do wonders for promotion. Big artists help popularize the name of the film and can draw fans in from unlikely places. "The Hunger Games" soundtracks include widely popular artists such as Taylor Swift, Sia, Maroon 5, Miranda Lambert, Arcade Fire and Kid Cudi. Lorde's track "Yellow Flicker Beat" was a pop hit and was even remixed by Kanye West.

Blend all of these ingredients together into a smooth, dystopian and action-packed batter. Follow this recipe and your young adult film adaptation is sure to be a success.

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Students Shine in 'Moon Over Buffalo' Production

By GRIFFIN GUINTA
Arts + Entertainment Writer

Landing the lead roles in Ken Ludwig's classic comedy "Moon Over Buffalo" is just another exciting step in Mitchell Spencer and Sally Fint's young acting careers. The two take the Falk stage this weekend in the Karla Hartley directed production as the quirky couple George and Charlotte Hay, roles each have described as some of their most challenging ones to date. Nevertheless, the two are grateful for this opportunity, especially given their respective journeys up to this point.

For senior Mitchell Spencer, the last three years have been nothing short of surreal. The Plant City native traded his country roots for the bright lights of Tampa, a decision that has paid off abundantly. While at UT, Spencer has become a regular on the Falk Theater stage, typically starring alongside his good friend John Millsap as the male lead. He's demonstrated his multifaceted acting abilities by taking on roles ranging from the mysterious Duke Vincentio in Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" to the bawdy and boisterous Monsieur Thenardier in UT's recent production of "Les Misérables."

"It's an awesome compliment to keep getting leads in plays; I guess that means they think highly of me and I've been taught a lot," Spencer said.

Spencer concedes that his most current role as George Hay has been pushing him in ways other roles have not. Though both the Duke and Thenardier were comedically inclined roles, his part in "Buffalo" dabbles in a drastically different area of comedy: slapstick. For a witty person like Spencer, cheap laughs aren't his forte.

"This role in particular has been a bit of a struggle for me, because I haven't done over-the-top slapstick comedy since high school," Spencer said. "Ever since I got here they keep casting me in dramas or when they do cast me in comedies, it's shows like 'Measure for Measure,' which isn't comedy in the sense that we think of it today."

Spencer has certainly carved a name for himself in his own regard, but he emphasized the influence that others, such as his co-star Fint, have had on his personal growth. "She's been awesome to bounce chemistry off of," he said. "For instance, I've never had to make out with anyone before, and she made that fairly painless. Although the first night was a bit awkward in that [her boyfriend] Nick was there. But we've grown comfortable with each other—we go out of our way to spend time together to work on the show."

Though Fint is praised by her fellow actors today, she was initially unsure of how people would receive her upon her arrival at UT. As a transfer student, she feared the difficulties of adapting to an entirely different social sphere and having to prove herself to an entirely new unit of directors and professors. Yet to her delight, she was greeted with a warm reception right from the start.

"I assumed everyone was going to be like 'ew, new girl, go away' but I was pleasantly surprised when people just instantly started asking me to hang out or have lunch. It's been an easier transition than I thought it was going to be," Fint said.

Though grateful for the warm reception by her new peers, Fint had to wait before getting the chance to grace the stage. After stage-managing Vaclav Havel's "Temptation" during her first semester, she subsequently landed her first mainstage role as Mariana in Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" the following semester, then kept the ball rolling by portraying The Mother in "Six Characters in Search of an Author" at the start of this school year. Since then, Fint has established herself as quite the character within the theatre department. More specifically, she's known for her upbeat, affable demeanor and frequent use of "sound effects" in everyday conversation. She punctuates her feelings with a wide array of noises, such as a 'quack' or a pitched screech, and has even acted in a studio theatre production as a character who spoke only in cryptic babel. On stage,



Griffin Guinta/ The Minaret

Moon Over Buffalo pushes actors to achieve comedy in dense, complicated roles.

however, Fint is a very sophisticated actress and possesses the ability to evoke intense emotions and deep feelings quite brilliantly.

Like Spencer, Fint has experienced similar challenges in adjusting to her character in "Moon Over Buffalo." Aside from the pressures of being a leading lady, Fint has worked tirelessly to embody the idiosyncratic qualities of Charlotte Hay, which differ greatly from her own attributes. Charlotte is supposed to be a burnt out actress in her mid-forties; Fint is a budding young actress in her early twenties. Charlotte is literally a drama queen; Fint is a humble, mild-mannered free spirit.

"We're pretty different but I do have a soft spot in my heart for her," Fint said. "She desperately wants to be famous, to have these roles she's not capable of doing anymore. I can relate to her in that she almost tries too hard sometimes. If you have tried too hard

for something, you know what it looks like, if that makes sense."

Taking on dense, exhausting roles has become commonplace for both Fint and Spencer. They live for the challenge, knowing that upon graduation only the most versatile can survive in the world of professional theatre. Given their impressive resumes and experiences thus far, they're primed to succeed for years to come.

"Moon Over Buffalo" is directed by Karla Hartley and opens Thursday, March 27 at 8 p.m. in the Falk Theater. Additional performances include Friday, March 28 at 8 p.m., Saturday, March 29 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m.

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Late Night Television Presents Promising New Hosts

By CLAIRE FARROW
Arts + Entertainment Writer

Back in 2014, NBC shook up its late night lineup when Jimmy Fallon transitioned into "The Tonight Show" and Seth Meyers took over "The Late Show." Now CBS is following suit and shaking up its late night roster, bringing in an established host and an up-and-coming one. This shift in late night comedy isn't just reserved to CBS, however; Comedy Central is also going through a few changes. This of course begs the question, how will this affect viewership for both networks? This shift also calls into question the relevancy of late night comedy shows.

The announcements of David Letterman and Craig Ferguson's retirements from "The Late Show with David Letterman" and "The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson," respectively, were made in April 2014. However, Craig Ferguson didn't depart until Dec. 19, 2014, and David Letterman won't be saying his goodbyes until May 20, 2015. Now the question is—when will the new hosts make their debuts?

Following Ferguson's departure in December 2014, CBS scheduled a number of guests to fill the approximate two and a half months before James Corden takes over the desk, which was originally scheduled for March 9, but was pushed back to March 23. Such guests included Kunal Nayyar, Will Arnett, Drew Carey, Judd Apatow, Whitney Cummings, Lauren Graham, Wayne Brady, Adam Pally, The Talk after-dark edition (normally The Talk is a daytime talk show starring Julie Chen, Sharon Osbourne, Aisha Tyler, Sara Gilbert and Sheryl Underwood; the timeslot was briefly changed to The Late Late Show time), Jim Gaffigan, Judd Apatow, Regis Philbin, Sean Hayes, John Mayer and Tom Lennon.

Corden, an actor and stand-up comedian, has slowly been rising in fame here in the United States, beginning with two memorable "Doctor Who" guest appearances, continuing with "Begin Again" and most recently portraying the Baker in the Oscar nominated and award winning film "Into the Woods."

In an interview with USA Today, Corden gave a tour of his brand new set. He explained in the interview that all of his guests will be coming out at the same time and having conversations simultaneously. Interestingly, his new set is very reminiscent of "The Graham Norton Show," which is a British late night show currently on air, and shown on BBC America. However, that is not to say that Corden won't have original content. There seems to be much too look forward to with this new host; audiences receiving and willing, Corden should be a smash.

Though Corden will be a brand new face on late night television, David Letterman's successor is a well-known personality. Letterman has been a late night show host for thirty-two years, longer than any other late night host, including the legendary Johnny Carson. He has been hosting "The Late Show" since 1993, and was on the air longer than his rival, "The Tonight Show's" former host, Jay Leno. Now he is retiring and his successor is none other than Stephen Colbert. Colbert ended "The Colbert Report" on Dec. 18, 2014, after nearly 10 years on the air. Colbert has won two Peabody awards and four Emmys; he is seasoned, but still extremely relevant and in touch with his audience. Hopefully this will transition to his new position as host of "The Late Show." So far there have been no announcements made for what CBS plans to fill the "Late Show" time slot within the time between Letterman's leaving (May 20) and Stephen Colbert's



Craig Ferguson/Wikimedia.org, James Corden/twitter.com

James Corden will be taking over hosting duties for Craig Ferguson on the "Late Late Show."

arriving (Sept. 8).

Colbert isn't the only star leaving the Comedy Central network. "The Daily Show" host Jon Stewart announced that he will be leaving the show after 17 years. His exact departure date is yet undetermined, but it will most likely happen by the end of 2015.

With Colbert ending "The Colbert Report" and Jon Stewart leaving as host of "The Daily Show," Comedy Central has lost two of its most recognizable faces. On Jan. 19, "The Nightly Show with Larry Wilmore" debuted on the network following "The Daily Show," in the old timeslot "The Colbert Report" occupied. So far there hasn't been any word on who or what will be replacing "The Daily Show" in Comedy Central's late night lineup.

In addition to the older hosts (Ferguson, Letterman, Colbert and Stewart) looking to move on and do new things with their

careers, both CBS and Comedy Central are prime for these host changes. As is true with most genres of television, new faces, ideas, etc. are always in demand. Of course, this isn't new—these "rebirths" have taken place in many different areas of television throughout its 60+ year history. American culture lives for the new and exciting.

Late night television is an interesting mixture of comedy, news, celebrity news and interviews, and more comedy. The hosts of these shows must have an ability to not only entertain audiences, but connect with them and form an almost trusting relationship with them. They must also possess an ability to have a rapport with celebrities.

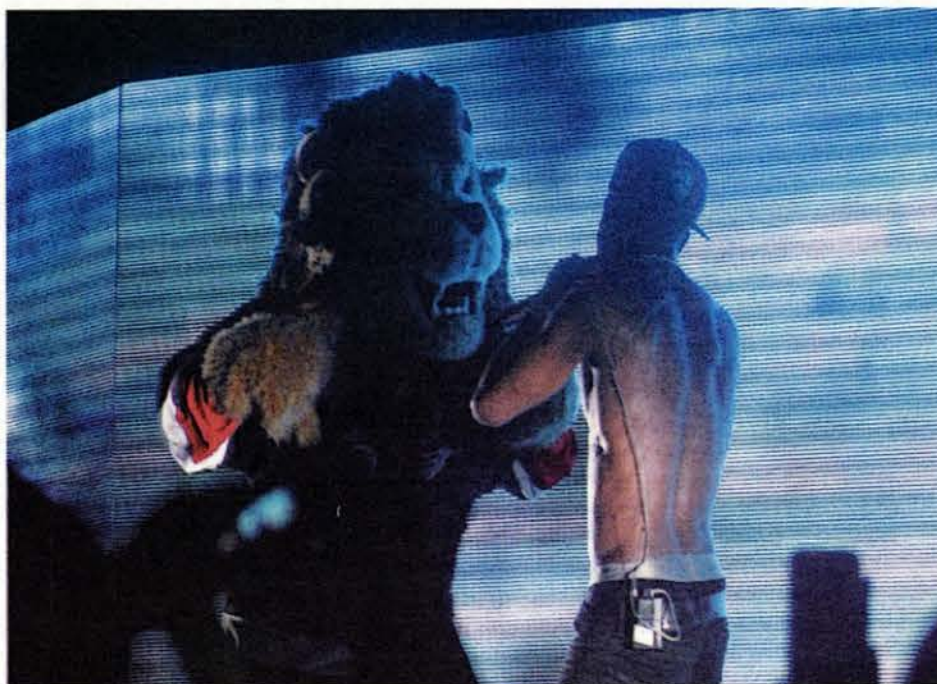
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Big Sean Brings Big Hype to Plant Park

Hip-hop artist Big Sean attracted over 3,000 fans to Plant Park on March 21 for the 8th annual Party in the Park.

By CASEY BUDD
Photo Editor



OPINION

New Oregon Voting Policy Sets High Bar

POLITICS

MARISA NOBS
Opinion Writer



As of 2012, there were approximately 51 million qualified, yet unregistered citizens who could vote in America. This past week, Oregon took drastic measures to make the process as simple as possible in hopes of drastically increasing voter participation. Governor Kate Brown signed House Bill 2177 into law that automatically registers someone to vote when they receive or renew their license or identification card, according to the Oregon State Legislature. People will be given a three-week window to remove themselves from the process, should they choose to. The information provided from the DMV will be sent to the Secretary of State's office in order to initiate the registration.

While the concept is revolutionary for America, it is surprising that it took so long to be adopted. It seems a no-brainer that the right to vote should come automatically with being a citizen and require minimal effort. People may be unaware of how to register, or just don't care enough to figure it out. If it slips someone's mind and Election Day rolls around, it's too late unless they are in one of the 10 states offering same day registration. No American should lose their say due to a technicality. By obtaining a license, you are already providing the necessary information: legal name, residency, citizenship information, and an electronic signature. The bill dictates that this is all that is needed for the state to approve voting registration. Even more convenient, Oregon will automatically send out a ballot to each registered voter 20 days

before any election. This is expected to cut Oregon's non-registered voter number in half.

Interestingly, not a single Republican voted in favor for the bill in either of the state Legislature chambers, according to *The Huffington Post*. The argument was that it invades privacy and puts victims of domestic violence at risk if it were hacked, since a home address and phone number are part of the information provided. However, people in favor of the bill insist there are provisions in place for those situations and the information will not be made public. In addition, if there is the option to opt out, this problem seems to fix itself.

Every state should look to Oregon's new voting system for guidance. While there is no ensuring how the new law will be taken or play out, there seems to be far more benefits than drawbacks. Voting should be as simple as possible as long as it is safe and effective. Unnecessary and increasing restrictions supported by Republicans are some of the basic reasons people don't make it to the polls. A prime example of this is voter ID laws, which sought to stop impersonators from voting. Now implemented in 31 states, the law really has little purpose since, according to *The Washington Post*, it wasn't a major problem to begin with, let alone enough to truly impact the outcome. Oregon's system should actually help identity verification automatically, which is why it is even more surprising there was so much opposition from the right wing. Many Republicans have also been in favor of closing off early voting, according to *The Atlantic*, creating yet more excessive limitations.

All these laws seem to create an extensive maze just to complicate the basic right of voting. It is clearly an attempt to limit the voting pool, and the low voting percentages indicate it has been remarkably

successful. In the 2014 midterm elections, only 36.4 percent of those eligible to vote participated, according to *The Washington Post*. This isn't a result of not caring, but rather an overarching feeling of insignificance. The irony is that those who feel this way are in the majority and could drastically alter the outcome of elections. In the state of Florida, college students

in Florida since 2004, and if an ID is forgotten, a provisional ballot can be entered. Similar to Oregon, it is a closed primary state. While Florida's voting laws are not necessarily the most rigid, they could be improved upon. Personally, I had no idea how to register until I went on the site and saw that there is an online form that can be filled out. Only when sought out are questions about voting registration

Unnecessary and increasing restrictions supported by Republicans are some of the basic reasons people don't make it to the polls.

are able to register as residents despite the location of parents or if they intend to stay here after school. The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) at Tufts University calculated that about half of citizens in America ages 18-29 voted in the 2008 elections. As young adults, we are actively advocating our ideas and getting involved in causes we value. Since we have so newly gained the right to vote in both state and federal elections, I feel that this percentage should be much higher. While the influence of voting registration has not yet been determined, it could not hurt to simplify the process. If anyone, college students should care about the leaders of our country, since we soon will have to venture into the daunting "real world."

In addition, early voting has been available

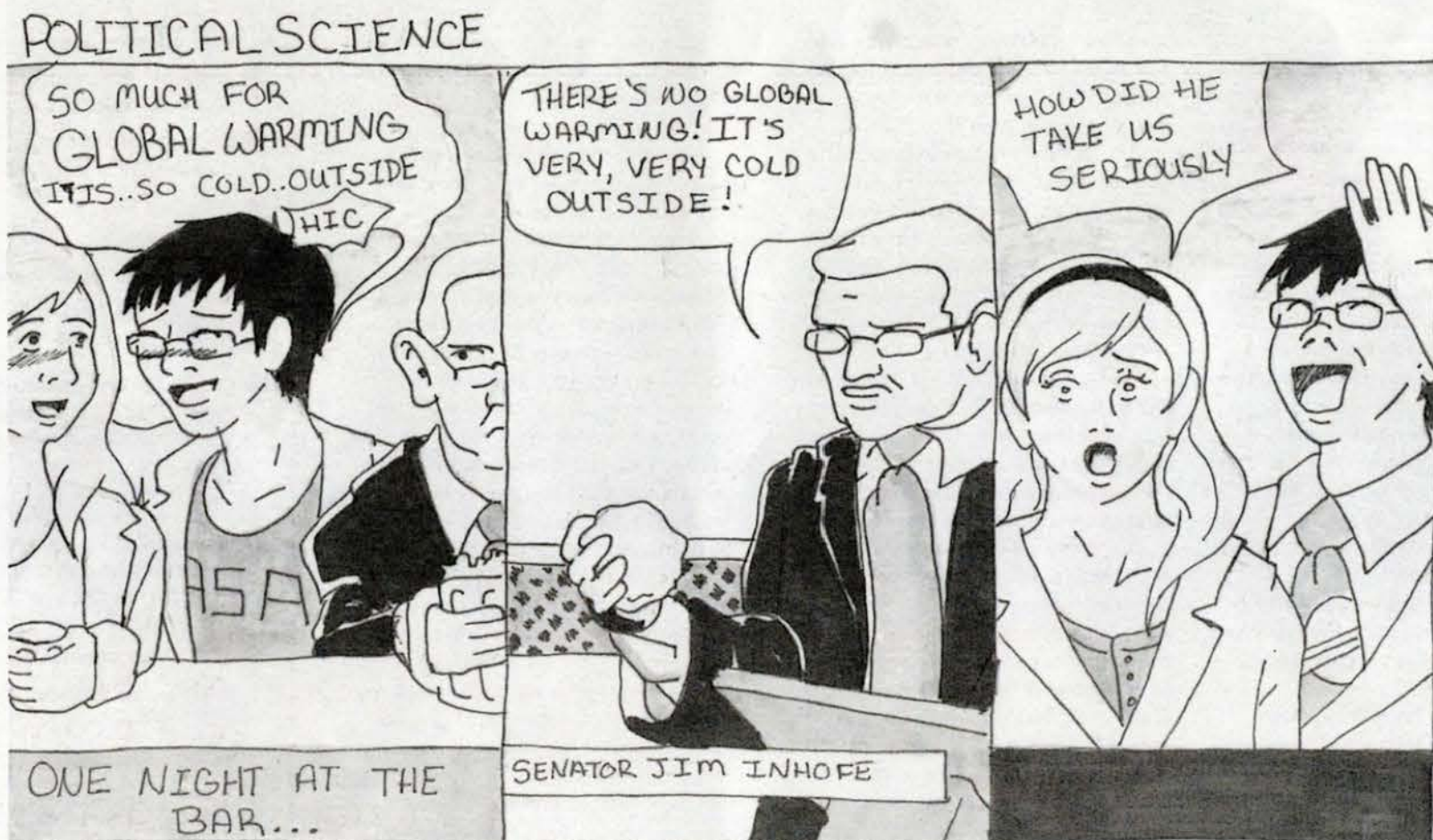
discussed. This implies that voting is a privilege rather than a right, which is the opposite of what it should be.

Voter registration is just as politicized as any other part of government. For now, Oregon has made the most progress of all the states in correcting the problem. It is surely within our reach to make voting as simple as possible while maintaining a safe and secure system. It sounds so simple; once a citizen, you automatically are registered to vote. I struggle to see how it is problematic and controversial. Just because someone does not want to go through a complicated registration process does not make their vote any less valuable. Loopholes and regulations only hinder the kind of democracy America prides itself on.

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Commentary:

By Kaytlyn Sims



Current Library Hours Hinder Student Success

CAMPUS

LIZ ROCKETT
Opinion Writer



Over the past four years, I have studied in the library less and less. This is not because there is a lack of resources, but because the hours have dwindled tremendously, while the amount of students who use the library has seemed to increase. With less time and space to study, the library is becoming increasingly less desirable.

Until just a couple Fridays ago, I was unaware that the library hours had changed yet again. Since I was used to being able to use the library to print until about midnight or 1 a.m. each night, it came as a shock to me that it was closed when I attempted to go there at 7 p.m. on a Friday. Although the number of students utilizing the library may be significantly less on the weekends, it is still of utmost importance that students are able to access the resources the library until later.

Based on my friends and myself, I can confidently say that the study habits of a student are not consistent with your average 9-5 work day, so closing the library as early as 7 p.m. on a Friday doesn't seem logical whatsoever. While some students may have a "TGIF" attitude and replace work for play on the weekend, there are just as many students who do not.

Allison Chandler, a freshman allied health major who is a member of the swim team, does a lot of her studying on the weekend because that is when she has the most time.

"I have studied there five times," Chandler said. "Sundays are usually my days that I study, so that's why I don't really go to the library."

Since the library is only open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Saturdays, and from 11 a.m. until 12 a.m. on Sundays, she prefers to go elsewhere, such as the athletic study lounge in the Martinez building, or in her own room so that her studies remain uninterrupted.

Chandler mentioned that the library has an

unpleasant scenery that reminds her of a jail cell. I can definitely see how that would be an unpleasant atmosphere to study in!

Sarah Cho, a junior public health major who commutes to campus, feels very strongly about extending library hours due to her "night owl" lifestyle.

"A 24-hour library would totally be beneficial to students, especially to students like me who'd rather study at night than during the day," Cho said. "I actually wrote a formal proposal paper on extending our library hours my freshmen year." Within her research, Cho found that the Harvard College library had a successful trial run of a 24-hour period over the course of 20 days. Although the study habits of Harvard students could be a little more rigorous, who's to say we don't work just as hard here at UT?

Cho also feels that there is not an adequate amount of space in the library.

"This semester, almost all of the time, all the tables are taken up by students and I end up working in an individual cubicles," Cho said.

"I like to keep things organized so I have to lay out my notes across an entire table, and the library has a limited amount of tables available for students to work at." Much like Cho, I work better when I can see everything in front of me, which I'm sure a lot of students can relate to. It should be a priority of the university to provide a library that is conducive to the needs of students, whether it is time students can spend there, or space students have to study in.

Sam Marascio, a junior communications major, has heard complaints of the library hours and size over social media. Surprisingly, considering he is a commuter, Marascio doesn't find much of a problem with the library. It would seem that commuters would rely more heavily on the resources of the library if they don't have printers or books in walking distance at all times.

"I think there's enough space, it gets a little crowded at some parts, but there are places to be alone," Marascio said. He also feels that the library could use a bit of a face lift. Marascio suggested that the library add more computers, since there aren't very many of them, as well as vending machines for students who don't want

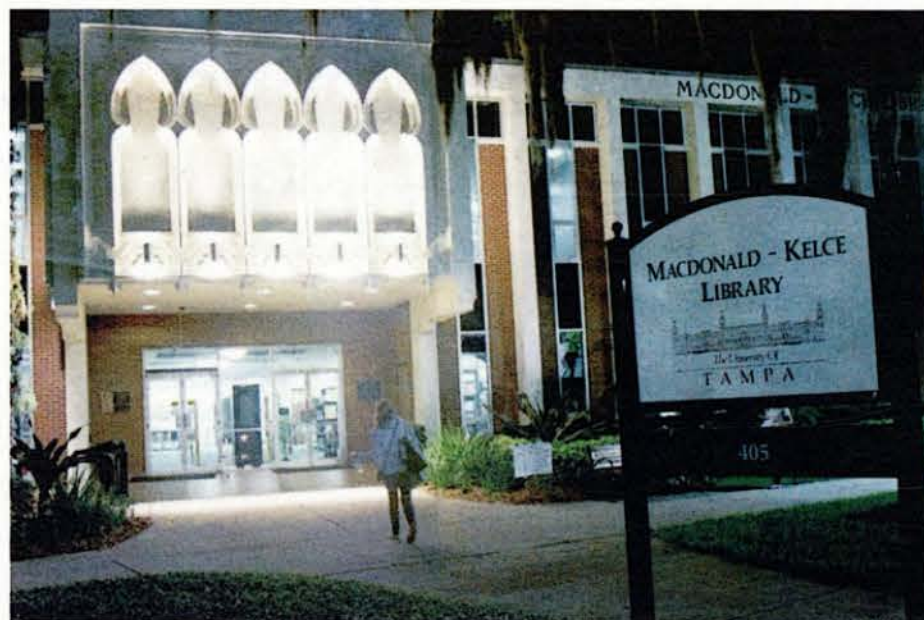


Photo courtesy of Casey Budd

Library hours need to be extended and the building expanded to best accommodate students.

to leave their studies to get snacks and drinks.

Marlyn Pethe, the director of the Macdonald-Kelce Library, has been working at UT for over 40 years. Pethe oversees the nine librarians and 11 staff members who cover a wide range of library duties.

"Duties can range from reference, classroom instruction, web design and support, budgeting, acquisition of materials, processing and cataloging of materials and interlibrary loan to name of few," Pethe said. "There are many, many more responsibilities of the library staff." With so many people ready to help students at the library, we can be certain that we are capable of accessing the resources we need. The issue still, however, is that we can't access them at all times.

Over the years, Pethe and the rest of the library staff have given extended hours a try in order to accommodate student requests.

"We would always like to provide every service students would like but whenever we have done trials with extended hours there has not been a significant number of students that take advantage of the hours," Pethe said. "There are always a few who take advantage of the additional hours." If we as students want to see a change in library hours, we have to

actively participate in the extended hours trials. If we do not prove that we will utilize them, there is no reason for the university administration to employ more staff members or assets.

While it may be out of the realm of possibility for the library to remain open 24 hours during the week, it would definitely make sense to extend the hours so that every student can have access to the resources the library provides. According to Pethe, with the construction of the new academic building, there is the possibility of a 24-hour study area, in which security would be able to monitor at all times.

"It will be a safe location for all night studying," Pethe said.

Whether a student is an athlete with a busy schedule, a commuter who is pressed for time, or an on-campus student who prefers to study late at night, it is important to remember that students are here to learn, and it is imperative that we have access to the tools we need, when we need them.

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Unanimous Vote in Death Penalty Good for FL

POLITICS
CAITLIN MALONE
Opinion Writer



A new bill that requires a unanimous jury recommendation in death penalty cases could go into effect in Florida, July 1. The bill was passed with a unanimous vote by the Senate on March 16 and is waiting to be reviewed by the Judiciary committee.

I stand behind this new law and have high hopes for it going into effect later this year. Deciding whether someone should live or die, whether they are truly guilty or not, is a daunting task and one that should be decided on unanimously.

Of the 32 states with the death penalty, only Alabama, Delaware, and Florida do not require a unanimous jury recommendation in death penalty cases.

In Florida, a trial is split into two phases, verdict and sentencing. In the first phase, the jury would need to come to a unanimous vote, but only a majority vote in sentencing. The judge has the final decision. Before deciding to sentence a defendant to death, the jury and the judge

are asked to determine whether the crime committed could be considered "especially heinous" based on factual findings, according to *The New York Times*.

The fact that a judge can override the decision of the jury puzzles me. What's the point of the jury voting on a sentence, then? I also wonder what goes into the jury's decision-making process during their deliberations when they know they do not have the ultimate say. In fact, a study done by Joan Kessler called "The Social Psychology of Jury Deliberations" showed that in unanimous deliberations, the jury's behavior is much more thorough. Without the seriousness of a unanimous deliberation, I would imagine it would turn into a pretty careless process, which is a problem.

Since 1973, 140 people nationwide have been released from death row with evidence proving their innocence. Twenty-five of these cases were in Florida, which is also the state with the largest number of exonerations since 1973, according to deathpenaltyinfo.org. From 2000 to 2011, there was an average of five exonerations a year. It is obvious a jury, or even a judge for that matter, can make mistakes. This is why it makes sense to do whatever possible to make death penalty cases error-free. In a majority vote, one jury

member could be the deciding factor in a defendant's death sentence. Juries would deliberate longer if they knew they had to come up with a unanimous vote.

Assuming that this law reduces the number of death penalties, it would save the state a huge amount of money. As of October 2014, Florida has 404 inmates sitting on Death Row. It costs Florida \$51 million more a year than it would to sentence all first-degree murderers to life in prison without parole. Since 1976, Florida has carried out 44 executions; each execution cost the state \$24 million, according to deathpenaltyinfo.org. That is a ridiculous amount of money that could be spent on something much more productive.

I have always been a huge supporter of the death penalty overall. I think we can all agree that there are some sick people in this world, and anyone that commits a crime should receive the punishment he or she deserves, even if it's the death penalty. This new law will place emphasis on the process a jury goes through to give out the most serious punishment imaginable. I believe it will serve as a positive change within the judicial system.

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- Since 1976, Florida has had 44 executions.
- Each execution costs approximately \$24 million.
- 32 states have the death penalty.
- Death Penalty
No Death Penalty
- Only Alabama, Delaware, and Florida don't require unanimous decision.
- - Since 1973, 140 people nationwide on death row were proven innocent and released.
 - 25 of these were in Florida.
 - Florida
Other States
 - As of October 2014, Florida has 404 inmates on death row.

Graphic courtesy of Wendy French

Students Need Increased Awareness of Candidates

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

SAM ALLEN
Opinion Writer



Lesser-known candidates should not be overlooked

Although 2016 is a ways away, it's not too early to look into who may be running for the 2016 presidential election. The top potential candidates for the election are currently Hillary Clinton for the Democrats and Jeb Bush for the Republicans, but other potential runners include Democrats Joe Biden and Martin O'Malley, and Republicans Scott Walker and Rand Paul, just to name a few. Though Bush and Clinton are the big names in the pool of potential candidates, it is crucial that voters look towards other potential runners. Jeb Bush not only has the disadvantage of being compared to his brother (George W. Bush) and father (George Bush Sr.), but Newmax.com points out that he may have to endure hurtful questions about past family scandals.

It is time to deviate from the potential candidates whose names are already familiar to us and do some research on some of the up and coming potential runners. This will prevent us from voting for the lesser of two

evils and allow voters to feel secure in their choices come election time. For a full run down on potential candidates, Madison.com and Associated Press have put out an interactive guide that highlights the experience level of each potential candidate as well as links to their official twitter accounts. Keeping tabs on potential candidates is important when it comes to making smart decisions.

Ted Cruz, Senator of Texas, was the first to announce a presidential bid this past Monday March 23, but all other potential candidates so far haven't formally declared themselves as candidates. Many hint at an interest in running by using phrases like "exploring a campaign" (Scott Walker, Governor of Wisconsin) and "looking at the possibility of running for president," (Jim Webb, previously a U.S. Senator) prolonging their status as undecided.

It has been speculated that this apprehension in declaring candidacy is a result of campaign finance laws. "Federal campaign finance law has specific rules for people exploring a presidential campaign. These include strict limits on the amount of money the candidates can take from a single donor and restrictions on coordinating with supposedly independent groups like super PACs," Paul Blumenthal of *The Huffington Post* said.

Potential candidates won't be able to hide behind "explorations" for long. Soon their true intentions will be revealed, giving us a clearer

view of who is expected to run for the 2016 presidency. The most promising potential candidate is Hillary Clinton, however Clinton found herself in hot water earlier this month when it was revealed that she had been using her personal email account for State Department related correspondence. Clinton's popularity has seen a decrease since the scandal, however she still took the lead in popularity against all other potential presidential candidates, Slate.com reports.

Clinton defended her use of her personal email with this statement: "First, the laws and regulations in effect when I was Secretary of State allowed me to use my email for work ... under the Federal Records Act, records are defined as reported information, regardless of its form or characteristics, and in meeting the record-keeping obligations, it was my practice to email government officials on their State or other .gov accounts so that the emails were immediately captured and preserved."

Clinton's troubles don't stop there, "Reuters revealed Hillary and Bill Clinton broke the disclosure rules they agreed to with the Obama administration by failing to disclose Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) donors since 2010," Breitbart.com reported. The article also mentions the acceptance of foreign donations by the Clinton Foundation is generating concern that the Clinton Foundation and State Department scandals are related.

As Clinton's image begins to dwindle, it is important for us to consider other potential candidates. If you take another look at Associated Press's interactive tool, it is easy to see the credentials of other potential candidates. For example, Rick Santorum (potential Republican candidate) has 12 years experience as a former Pennsylvania State Senator and Martin O'Malley (potential Democratic candidate) has 26 years experience in State and Local Government.

There are many different avenues to explore when it comes to potential candidates of the presidential election and being in the know is very important. I was in Clinton's corner until I discovered her string of terrible choices and after reviewing Bush's baggage I decided it was necessary to look elsewhere.

Research into possible candidates, even in this early stage, can benefit you in many ways. The main benefit is that it enables you to make an educated decision on who you choose to vote for when elections roll around next year. Mistakes made this early on in the process are important as they may reveal a more accurate view of the potential candidate's character than will be available to us during an all out campaign. Read up; elections will be here before you know it.

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D&G Deserve Boycott Retaliation for Insensitive Comments

POLITICS

BECCA TURNER
Opinion Writer



Elton John recently took to social media with the hashtag "#BoycottDolceGabbana," in retaliation for Domenico Dolce's comments against in vitro fertilization (IVF) and gay adoptions, according to *Rolling Stone*. While Dolce and his business partner, who was also a former romantic partner, Stefano Gabbana are entitled to their opinions on these issues, the two erred in presenting and supporting these comments without explanation while representing their shared company.

Dolce spoke against non-traditional parenting following a runway show where the models carried children and were obviously pregnant women, according to *The Washington Post*. "We oppose gay adoptions. The only family is the traditional one. ... No chemical offsprings and rented uterus: Life has a natural flow, there are things that should not be changed," Dolce said in Italian.

Upon hearing the translated version of this, John was outraged considering he has two children born from a surrogate via IVF with husband David Furnish, according to NPR. He had a right to be upset. However, Dolce had a right to say

what he did, too.

It seems strange that Dolce, an openly gay man, would so strongly oppose these alternative childbearing methods, but he's also not typically a gay rights activist. Dolce does not support marriage equality either, according to *Rolling Stone*. However, the issue of IVF, with which Dolce disagrees, is not just a gay rights issue.

Other couples, many of whom are straight, turn to IVF as a way to conceive. IVF has helped people all over the world. It is a relatively new method in science, though, and it makes sense that some would be hesitant to get on board with something that only a few centuries ago likely would have been misappropriated to witchcraft or something of the sort. Change can be frightening, but Dolce is a grown man and he is one of the faces of the major design brand.

Dolce should have utilized a higher level of restraint in how he spoke about such a sensitive issue if he had wanted to avoid the negative repercussions of his words for the company. That's why John is completely in the right to be upset over Dolce's words that Gabbana supported. John expected more from this fashion icon. It's fair to expect that a business owner wouldn't judge you or speak poorly of you or others who just wanted to have a family despite the function or combination of reproductive parts in the relationship. Dolce and Gabbana both failed many of their customers, including John, in this regard.

This is why John's social media campaign, which may have seemed like a bit of an overreaction at first considering Dolce didn't specifically mention him, is actually justified. Dolce may not have targeted John intentionally, but he did target John's family style and thus John himself.

The campaign has drawn average citizens and celebrities alike to boycott D&G products. Many celebrities, such as Ricky Martin and Courtney Love, have tweeted their support to John and joined in boycotting the company. What many of John's social media supporters fail to realize, however, is that nothing Dolce said is inherently hateful; it is his unpopular opinion on a controversial topic, and it is not the idea itself that people should be upset with. Rather, it is that Dolce was representing the company when he said these things, not himself. That is why it was a stroke of brilliance for John to not only publicize the issue further, but to do so through boycotting their products. Dolce is entitled to his opinion, but he is also entitled to a financial downswing because people no longer wish to buy products from someone with this opinion. In business, especially when you represent your company, it may just be better to keep your mouth shut.

Gabbana hilariously attempted to boycott John in return with a misspelled hashtag, but this campaign has been far less successful, according to *Rolling Stone*. It is

unlikely Dolce realized just how many people he insulted with his words. The strong, mainly negative, response to his comments may have prompted the slight clarifications that both Dolce and Gabbana made in separate statements. Dolce's statement explained his reasoning for thinking the way he does about IVF and gay adoptions, and both statements clarified that neither man intends to judge others for their choices and that they believe in freedom and love regarding these choices, according to *The Washington Post*. It seems as if Dolce and Gabbana simply want to quell the negativity toward their brand.

In the initial comments, Dolce stated what he believes: that IVF and gay adoptions are wrong. Just by saying that it is fine for people to choose what they want shouldn't convince customers that he is totally cool with these processes. Dolce may have explained his opinions, but they are still his opinions. If customers are in fact boycotting D&G as part of John's campaign because of the co-founders' views on IVF and gay adoptions, then this statement should not change anything. Dolce and Gabbana represented themselves and their brand with these comments and they must now suffer the backlash of their publicized opinions.

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Monogamy: One Size Does Not Fit All

SEX AND LOVE

SELENE SAN FELICE
Opinion Columnist



"I'm a single girl and I love it. I want to focus on my career, school and friends. What do you think about monogamous relationships? Are they even real? Can you be with one person for the rest of your life? Is that how humans were made?"

-Monogonymous

Dear Monogonymous,

Based on biology: no, humans were not made to be monogamous. However, society today (especially in the U.S.) seems to think monogamy is the best or even the only option.

Christopher Ryan, Ph.D., coauthor of "Sex at Dawn: How We Mate, Why We Stray, and What it Means for Modern Relationships" notes on the FAQ webpage for his book that monogamy is perfectly fine as long as people are able to accept that their decision conflicts human evolution.

He states that, for example, "you might happily choose to work the night shift, but the resulting disruption of your circadian clock will increase your risk of cancer, cardio-vascular disease, gastric disorders, and so on no matter how committed you are to your decision."

He further notes. "Similarly, we can choose to wear tight corsets, or ill-fitting shoes, or to live on chili-dogs and ice cream, but because all these behaviors run counter to our evolved nature they will cost us over time. Like celibacy, lifelong sexual monogamy is something we can certainly choose, but it should be an informed decision."

Everything is good in moderation, as the saying goes, including junk food, tight clothes and even monogamy. There's nothing wrong with experiencing lots of different people (safely), but if two people choose to remain exclusive this can also be a wonderful thing. In my eyes, monogamy can only go wrong when it's assumed that two people are going to be together forever.

Relationships are also commonly viewed by their end result. Couples either break up or get married (or just cohabitate for the rest of their lives). With that mindset, practically every budding relationship is doomed. Instead each relationship should be seen as a learning experience. Two people grow and change on their own while learning from and enjoying each other. These experiences can be for a few weeks, months, or years, but eventually most couples find themselves at different points in their lives. Instead of trying to miserably push through and make it work because you said "forever and ever," it's okay to accept that a relationship is over. You don't have to be friends in the end, but unfriendly exes are better off than couples that loathe each other.

Fairy tales, rom-coms, and almost every love story ever has broadcast the message that as humans we walk around as empty halves. Those halves are supposed to be filled by our soulmate and we're just not complete without them. That is completely false. Even in a relationship, two people should be perfectly capable of completing themselves. Falling in love is a wonderful thing, and yes, life may be not be the same without that person, but if the relationship is simply not working out in the end, everyone should be able to move on and be happy with themselves.

Long-term relationships in high school and college are often shrugged off and seen as unrealistic or idiotic, but this is far from the truth. Young love can be one of the most beautiful things a person experiences in their

entire life. The point where it gets idiotic is when teenagers and people who are barely considered adults tell each other that they're going to be together forever. At such a young and impressionable age there's almost no way you're going to like the same things or the same people 10 years into the future.

This concept doesn't necessarily change with age either. The person you are at the age of 30 probably won't be the same person as 50 or 80-year-old you. Sure, it is possible to be able to grow and change with someone for a long period of time, but this is certainly not as common as the media makes it out to be. Saying you want to be with someone and grow old with them shouldn't have to come with a 100 percent guarantee.

Live your life and love as many people as you want, easy. There are two things, however, that can totally screw this up: money and babies. In Aziz Ansari's standup special "Buried Alive" he details a marriage proposal as a man creepily asking a woman if she wants to "keep hanging out until one of us dies," making her "swear to God you won't back out of this deal" and feed him a slice of cake "with two tiny dolls that look like us," all in the name of tax purposes. While this is hilariously exaggerated, it's not too far off from reality.

The way our country is set up, if you're an independent adult in a committed relationship, there are a ton of benefits to promising you'll be together forever and ever. The website freedomtomarry.org details many of the rights unmarried same-

sex couples are denied, which apply to heterosexual unmarried couples as well.

Domestic partnerships are only honored in a few countries and U.S. states and are generally not given any legal recognition, "and leave families without the clarity and security of knowing what their legal status and rights will be," according to the site.

Freedom to Marry notes that, "If a couple is not married and one partner dies, the other partner is not entitled to bereavement leave from work, to file wrongful death claims, to draw the Social Security of the deceased partner, or to automatically inherit a shared home, assets, or personal items in the absence of a will." Unmarried couples also have no access "to the courts, structure, or guidelines in times of break-up, including rules for how to handle shared property, child support, and alimony, or protecting the weaker party and kids... Unmarried couples cannot file joint tax returns and are excluded from tax benefits and claims specific to marriage. In addition, they are denied the right to transfer property to one another and pool the family's resources without adverse tax consequences." The law seemingly punishes couples who aren't married, and the pressure to gain access to rights like these are what cause many people to marry who may not have even thought about being together forever.

Children in this country are taught that the couple who raised them is supposed to be together forever and ever. When this doesn't happen and a child's parents decide to divorce, the process can be traumatic.

"Children of divorced parents are seven times more likely to suffer from depression," according to an article for Naples News written by Allen S. Weiss, M.D., President and CEO of NCH Healthcare System.

In December of 2014 *The New York Times* took a look at divorce rates in the U.S. They noted that while divorce rates among young couples are falling, "gray divorce," which occurs between middle aged couples, is on the rise.

"As life expectancy continues to increase, gray divorce will most likely continue to rise, even if divorce at earlier ages continues to decline," according to *The New York Times*.

With that being said, there's no reason to start planning your wedding or even your divorce right now. While you're still young and single go ahead take the time to focus on yourself. If you fall in love, great. Make every relationship a learning experience. Some may end with a break-ups, divorce, or even friendship. Hell, you might be lucky enough to find one that never ends. But in the end, you are still one whole complete person who doesn't need anyone else.

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Need advice from our Sex and Love columnist? Want us to cover something specific? Go to <http://ask.fm/MinaretLoveAdvice> and send in your questions anonymously.



Not every relationship needs to last forever; monogamy can be great in small doses, but isn't necessarily meant for everyone.

konsumterra/flickr.com

UT Master Calendar Reveals Hypocrisy: Advertises Alcohol Events on Campus

CAMPUS

KATIE DRAKE
Opinion Writer



There are multiple outlets to search for events on campus and in the Tampa area for students. Of these sources, the master calendar on ut.edu is by far the easiest to access. However, this calendar has displayed hypocrisy by advertising alcohol

organizations and other important academic dates.

The alcohol policy on campus has many different aspects that students may not be aware of. The resident assistants in each dorm briefly review the alcohol policy with their floors at the beginning of the year depending the dorm is considered "wet" or "dry." However, not every detail is covered in this meeting and this can set students up for failure when they don't thoroughly understand it, for instance, if certain roommates are of drinking age but others are not. The

establishment that sells alcohol can be a topic of debate; the official rule being that any restaurant or bar cannot make over 50 percent of their profits from alcohol. To serve alcohol at a school event isn't even an option worth mentioning.

The Cigars and Mojitos event is being held for the Board of Fellows and counselors but is open to the public with the event being held off campus. However, the Speakeasy event is geared towards their University of Tampa alumni and their friends taking place on campus.

Since Cigars and Mojitos is an open event held off-campus, I can understand why it is acceptable. Although if a student organization tried to host even a "Cigars and Mock Mojitos" event, I think it would be a much harder sell. On the other hand, the Speakeasy event is being held on campus in Rathskeller, a location well involved in the alcohol discussion. After contacting the Alumni Office, I discovered that the event was only open to UT alumni and their guests. I find it wrongfully placed on the master calendar rather than simply in circulation within the alumni organization.

In the midst of student-run homecoming week, an alumni barbecue, which serves alcohol, is held in front of the Sykes College of Business in plain view of many passing students. This barbecue is not promoted through the Homecoming board but instead through the Alumni

Office that lists the week's festivities. Though the interest in homecoming events increases each year, any attempt or even mention of alcohol at any other event planned by students would be improper, yet this event is held each year for all to see.

While the school continues to deter any student alcohol consumption on campus, they continue to hold and sponsor events for non-students involved in the university community revolved around alcohol. If the school would let student organizations host events similar to the speakeasy, closely monitored and in accordance with university policy, I think it would be best for both the university and students alike.

Student organizations host events all the time but are limited due to the school's restrictions. Even for fraternity and sorority formals, they have to jump through hoops to try to get alcohol approved even after following a school-required care monitor training session to learn how to safely host an event with alcohol.

If the university created simpler, more effective rules to monitor alcohol consumption at school-sponsored events, it would deter students from breaking the rules and increase responsibility.

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I've learned through my experience that even sponsorship from an establishment that sells alcohol can be a topic of debate.

related events that contradict the school's strict alcohol policies. The two events that caught my attention were Cigars and Mojitos and the Tampa Bay Alumni 1920s Speakeasy Event that were both held on Friday, March 20. This was the last thing I expected to see on the school's student calendar since generally most of the events posted relate to student

only way to know the alcohol policy in its entirety is to study Article 9 in the Student Code of Conduct or have it read to you at a conduct meeting when it's already too late.

Furthermore, the university is strict with the alcohol policy in regards to event planning. I've learned through my experience that even sponsorship from an

WWI, II Veterans Deserve Unsegregated Plaques

POLITICS

KAMAKSHI DADHWAL
Opinion Writer



Multiple generations have passed since the time of World Wars I and II, marking substantial changes in racial tenets. Equality resulting from the Civil Rights Movement is a core value of the present U.S. democracy. Nevertheless, racism continues to be a very sensitive topic, especially in the South where the racially segregated past still casts a shadow over small towns. In Greenwood, S.C., Mayor Welborn Adams and the local American Legion have raised \$15,000 to make new plaques for the town's war memorial that will replace ones that designate the dead veterans as either "Colored" or "White," as reported by *The LA Times*. Instead of being commended, this noble gesture of trying to create a more inclusive present has resulted in arrest threats for the mayor, accusing him of trying to erase the true history of the town.

During World Wars I and II, thousands of both black and white soldiers willingly endangered their lives for America at a time when racial seclusion was a blatant reality. Thus, it comes as no surprise that World War memorials to commemorate the dead valorous veterans-- built in the same era of racism-- have plaques with segregated columns for people of different races. A

law made in 2000 states that no historical memorial may be "relocated, removed, distributed or altered" without legislative approval, according to the South Carolina Code of Laws. The logic behind the law is simple: the history of any place deserves to be represented the way it truly was.

It is understandable why many historians in the region thought it essential to speak out when the idea of replacing the plaques was originally brought up. Any rational citizen ought to question an erosion of truth. However, after four years of rejecting the project to discuss its repercussions in detail, the American Legion post's executive committee finally voted 10 to zero to remove the plaques. Consequently, the post worked very hard with Adams to raise the money. They now eagerly await Senator Floyd Nicholson's bill to pass in the State Legislature of South Carolina.

"It's a segregation between men who all paid the same sacrifice, were all serving the same country, together, fighting the same war. You are lessening these African-Americans' sacrifice," Adams said in an interview with NBC. However, according to National Park Historian, Eric Williams, future generations "need to know that the country was not always as welcoming and integrated as it is now for different races." I cannot grasp how the knowledge of a racially segregated past, which is very well imparted through education in public schools all over the country, is changed

in the slightest by a few plaques. What is clearly recognizable is that those who surrendered themselves for America in the past deserve to be equally commemorated in the present. That is Adams' thought behind wanting to replace these plaques.

It is evident, given the scenario, that the decision makers must have a legitimate argument for believing that these plaques need to be removed. The intentions ought to

first questioned the erosion of truth ought to know that the only fundamental element that any war memorial should embody is patriotism and heroism.

What the mayor is trying to achieve in his relatively small area of influence is bold and righteous. By detaching the unnecessary variable of racism attached to those who fought in the World Wars,

"It's a segregation between men who all paid the same sacrifice, were all serving the same country, together, fighting the same war."
-Welborn Adams

be seen as magnanimous. The soldiers who died in these brutal wars died as defenders of the American ideologies and land, not as black or white men. It seems unquestionable that the color of their skin is utterly insignificant to their sacrifice for the country they considered their homeland.

Regardless of race, it is the patriotism of these military men that matters, which was affiliated with America. The same rational citizen who

a huge leap can be made in further eliminating existing racial tensions. Meanwhile, people need to critically examine the effort and debate that goes behind any legislative decision instead of misplacing evaluations against something that should have been done a long time ago.

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SPORTS

Swim Team Impresses at Nationals

Men's, Women's squads finish up postseason in Indianapolis

By ANN MARIE DISTASI
Sports Writer

13 swimmers out of the 16 who were invited to compete at the 2015 NCAA Division II Championships in Indianapolis, Ind. over spring break became All-Americans. In the Championship, the men placed ninth and the women placed 13, which poses a huge improvement to their rankings in the past.

"Six of our relays were top eight, including the men's 200 Free Relay that broke the national record and finished second," said head coach Ed Brennan.

Top individual scorers at the meet were sophomore Marisa Barton and senior Erin Plachy of the women's team and juniors Jordan Augier and Runar Borgen of the men's squad. Augier was one of seven men who made the A cut. He placed in the top eight for the 200 Medley, 400 Medley, 400 Free Relay and 100 Free.

"On the guys side we had a little bit of an upset on the first day," Augier said. He said that all but one of the men swimming the 50 free on the first day of the meet swam a best time, but the others didn't do as well as they

expected. During the next few days, the men were able to redeem themselves by placing fourth in the 200 Medley.

The men also placed eighth in the 400 Medley Relay. The team lost two of their strongest swimmers for this relay, freshman breast stroker Philip Nordenberg who transferred and Karl Burdis who graduated, but they were able to rise up and place in the top eight. Other men who made 2015 All-American were freshman Wayne Denswil, senior Derek Krell and juniors Jeremy Parker, Borgen, Martin Hammer and Khalid Aldaboos.

The women placed 23 in the 2014 NCAA Championships, making this year a drastic improvement from last season. The national team for both the men and women combined also increased from nine to 16 swimmers, which also gave them more of an advantage. Six women made All-American, including senior allied health major Briana Murphy. With NCAAAs being her last meet of her college career, Murphy thinks that the team has improved since last year.

"We beat our rival Florida Southern," Murphy said. "Especially since they beat us in our dual meet and at conference, it was cool to beat them." She said that the team's performance could have been better if they had more time to prepare. "It's hard to do two big four day meets only two weeks apart."

Overall, Murphy said that she is happy with her individual performance during

nationals but her times have been better in the past. She became All-American in the 200 Free Relay, 800 Free relay and 400 Free Relay.

Freshman Brittany Bayes, sophomore Marisa Barton, freshman Amanda Fernandes, freshman Sophie Long and Plachy also placed All-American. Augier said that freshman Allison Chandler and Victor Philaire did a good job at the meet, especially for their first time at nationals.

"Allison qualified with B cut and made B finals for 200 back only a few seconds off the school record," Augier said.

Although Philaire didn't place, Augier thought that experiencing nationals as a freshman counts for a great experience for the future. Both Murphy and Augier were happy with the team's overall performance those four days.

"I think that a lot of that goes to the coaches," Augier said. "We have amazing coaching staff and they care so much about us."

Brennan is also happy about his team's results at NCAAAs, but will miss the 12 seniors who will be graduating in May. The four seniors from this year's national team that he thinks will be the most difficult to replace are Plachy, Murphy, Kerll and Zane Hranac. Murphy is confident in the rest of the swimmers who will be moving up after her and thinks that the team is left in good hands.

The 2015-2016 men's team has already set goals to break the national record in the



Photo courtesy of Tom Kolbe
The men's and women's swim teams finished off a strong season with an impressive performance at Nationals.

400 and 200 Free Relays and to become national champions. As long as the men keep moving up, Augier believes that they can fulfill those goals, especially since they won't be losing any key swimmers for those events.

"Next year we will graduate the best mens class we've had in my 35 years at Tampa," Brennan said. "I don't even want to think about that!"

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Baseball Team Captures Consecutive SSC Road Series

By REGINA GONZALEZ
Sports Writer

The baseball team has been on the road the past few weekends as they took on Sunshine State Conference (SSC) rivals Florida Southern College (FSC) and Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBA).

In both battles, they fell to their opponents in the first game, then came in to sweep the rest of the weekend and take home the series.

On March 13, the Spartans traveled to Lakeland, Fla. and were defeated by the FSC Mocs in the series opener. The Mocs came in strong in the bottom of the second inning with a home run from their junior outfielder Jhalan Jackson, and brought in two more runs in the fourth inning to jump on the board with 3-0 lead.

UT retaliated in the fifth inning with a home run by junior third baseman Nick Flair and again in the seventh with an RBI single by senior outfielder Ian Townsend that brought in junior centerfielder Casey Scoggins to get on the board with FSC in the lead at 3-2.

Florida Southern answered in both the seventh and eighth, bringing in four runs for each inning. The Spartans fought back to make it 7-5 before the Mocs scored eight to end the game with an 11-5 loss for the Spartans.

The next day, the Spartans returned on Saturday to defeat the Mocs in two back-to-back games and take home the series.

"We saw a big jump from our guys on Saturday," said Head Coach Joe Urso. "That next day we came on and from the first inning it was non-stop, these guys were focused and played as good as I've seen them and I'm hoping they can play with that focus every single day on."

The Spartans jumped on the board quick scoring two runs in the top of the first and seven more runs in the second to force a defining lead of 9-0. Florida Southern was able score three runs in the bottom of the third and two in the bottom of the seventh, but by then it was too late for the Mocs as UT brought in four more runs in the top of the seventh inning and one in both the eighth and the ninth for a 15-5 victory.

A home run once again by Flair, as well as home runs from junior second baseman Cody deNoyelles and senior captain Stephen Dezzi contributed to the win.

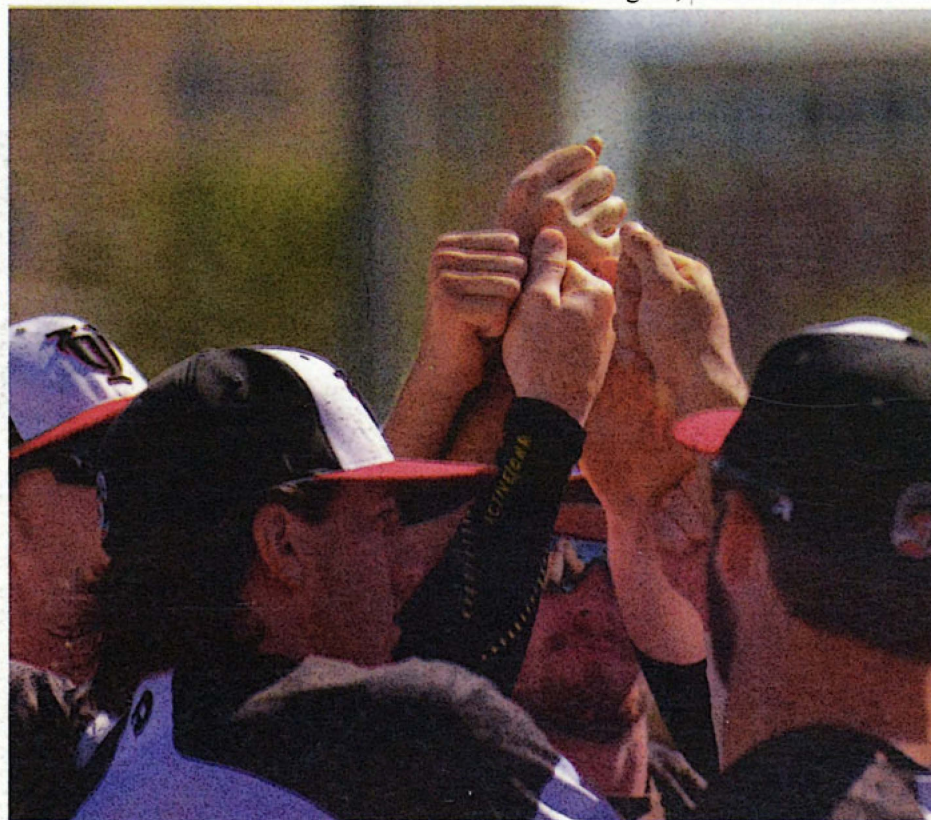


Photo courtesy of Tom Kolbe
The baseball team finishes 4-2 on their road trip against Florida Southern and Palm Beach Atlantic.

The Spartans' aggressive offense continued into the final game of the series as the Spartans took home another 11-5 victory and a series win. The men registered 34 hits that day and walked seven times. "We never had a dull moment offensively the second day, we had two or three really big innings in each game and the led us to win the series," said senior second baseman Andrew Amaro.

The series earned Flair SSC Player of the Week honors. During the 11-5 win in the final game of the series, Flair went 3-for-5 with six RBIs, three runs scored, and two home runs. "It feels good," Flair said. "I was more

or less just trying to take care of business. It's not a goal to get that title every week, we're supposed to sweep teams and that's my goal."

The men then traveled to play Palm Beach Atlantic University and were defeated in the opening game. The Spartans were able to hold the Sailfish scoreless until the fifth inning when PBA came in strong offensively and scored four runs in the bottom of the fifth. The Spartans were able to jump on the board with two runs in the top of the sixth inning. The Sailfish added another run in the bottom of the seventh to take on 5-2 win against the Spartans.

The Spartans then came in the next day to sweep a doubleheader against Palm Beach Atlantic, picking up a quick 3-1 win in game one before battling the Sailfish in a 13-inning game in which Tampa pulled out with a 14-13 victory.

Between the two games, the Spartans had 23 hits, eight walks and eight extra-base hits. The Spartans were led by Amaro and Scoggins defensively as they recorded 11 and eight putouts. Amaro was a leader in the infield while Scoggins used his speed in the outfield to make numerous plays that kept the Sailfish from bringing in more runs.

Both series brought the top ranked Spartans to a 4-2 SSC standing, and the men remain confident in the future of their season and will continue to work hard against top opponents:

"We need to win all of the games that we should win," Amaro said. "Our goal is to be the host of the regionals so that we have a better chance to make it to the World Series and anything can happen when you get there."

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Julia Morrow Pitches Perfect Game



Senior pitcher Julia Morrow is having a record-breaking campaign for the Spartans in 2015.

Softball ace leads team as they push through season

By **CANDACE MARTINO**
Sports Writer

Pitching a perfect game stands among one of the most rare occurrences in today's sports world. For years, sport scientists have conducted endless hours of research, spending the right amount of dollars just to imperfectly define the odds down to the last remaining digit.

Julia Morrow threw the only

perfect game in Riverhead's history back in 2010 as a senior. Now, a senior for UT, she's done it again.

Not once, but twice. Morrow helped pave the way for the Spartan's two game sweep over the No. 10 LIU Post Pioneers, earning her tenth victory of the season.

"It was just the right day at the right time, and the right batters not making contact," Morrow said.

Previously named on the 50-player watch list for NCFA Division II National Player of the Year award,

her performance this year might just be enough to land her a spot at the top of the list. Twenty one batters stepped up to the plate against Morrow, and all 21 retired.

She hurled seven perfect innings with 15 strikeouts. Not only did she record her second career perfect game, she racked up another no-hitter, which tallies eight perfect games and 27 no-hitters in school history. Both teams were held scoreless through the first five innings as Morrow and the Pioneers' pitchers dominated the mound.

Tampa took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the sixth, which would eventually be the final score.

Morrow led the NCAA last year in earned run average (0.72) as a junior, which gave her the expectations of coming into this year's season firing on all cylinders. Although Morrow has come close to throwing a no-hitter in the past, actually doing it would be hard to predict.

"My success comes from the work I've put in during the off season, a lot of time in the weight room, cardio and spending time with my pitching coach as well," Morrow said. Jaci Davis is in her tenth season as the softball team's pitching coach.

Davis has been instrumental in guiding one of the nation's most premiere pitching staffs in Division II softball.

Also, it has helped develop All-American's Deanna Henriott and Kayla Cox, with Cox being named National Pitcher of the Year in 2013.

Though Davis could not be reached at this time, head coach Leslie Kanter is more than pleased with the effort Morrow has given this year. "Julia has been pitching great for us this year. If she can stay healthy she can have a record setting year," Kanter said.

Record setting indeed. Morrow has claimed her second Sunshine State Conference (SSC) Pitcher of The Week award, helping the Spartans improve their overall record to 16-8 on the year.

Morrow also pitched a three-game series against conference rivals, No. 15 Rollins, taking two of the three games against the SSC-leading Tars.

The Spartans currently sit sixth in the SSC standing at a 4-5 record, with much more room for improvement.

"We are not yet where I would like for the team to be at this point, but everything is coming together. Our mentality is if we do well enough in the conference games, we can make it to the postseason," Kanter said.

As the softball team looks to improve and adapt throughout the season, one thing Morrow will not change is the mentality that she brings to the pitching circle.

"Going onto the mound I have a mentality of 'twisting the knife.' Pretty much that I am going to do anything and everything in my power to ease the job of my teammates and retire batters," Morrow said.

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Blundell, Dennig Lead Track Team To Victory At USF

By **ERIN TOWNSEND**
Sports Writer

The UT track team ended its spring break by running against USF for their second meet of the season. "We had a good meet, just tough at the end of spring break as the kids are away and the training on their own is not the same as being here and training as a team," said Assistant Coach Dror Vaknin.

"Despite the hot and windy day, the team as a whole each had great individual races and performed to their utmost potential," said freshman Jake Poore. Poore ran a personal record and placed second overall in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Through the injuries, wind, and heat the Spartans walked away with multiple personal records (PR's) and a school record. Freshman Kayla Sullivan, who is recovering from a bruised tailbone, ran a personal record and placed 10 overall in the 1,500 meter run.

"I was fairly happy with my performance. I was bouncing back from a minor injury so I don't think I was 100 percent, but ran my best despite that," Sullivan said.

For the men's team, "Notable efforts were Brendan McGonagle with another big personal best of 8:58 for the 3000m. Steven Dennig was second in the 800 in 1:56.4," Vaknin said.

Dennig, on top of his personal record and second place in the 800 meter, was also part of the men's relay that placed 1 overall. "I think I performed pretty well this past race. I know I had more in me

so that's something to look forward to in future races," Dennig said.

The women's team also excelled despite the weather challenges. "Overall, everyone raced well and the meet shows that our team has a lot of potential," said junior Chantalle Bundell.

"At USF, Chantalle Blundell placed third in the 3000 meter race in an excellent time of 10:19. The 4X400 meter team consisting of Sara Balser, Stephanie Silver, Madison Cox and Rachel Higgins set a school record. In the 200 meter race, Madison Cox had an excellent performance in 25.35," said head coach Jarrett Slaven.

"I was pleased with my 200 race as I broke my school record again, but I still have lots of work to do since it's only the beginning of the season," Cox said.

The Spartans have a busy schedule ahead of them, including another USF meet and the UT invite before heading off to the NCAA Championships in the end of May. The UT Invite is a landmark for the Spartans' season. "We are looking forward to our home meet on April 11 and hope to compete for first place," Slaven said.

The team's excitement for the upcoming home meet is widespread. "Everyone's really starting to get into

their best shape and our home meet in April should prove to be a good one," Sullivan said.

With almost an entire season to look forward to, the UT Track team has many goals. "The biggest goal for the season is to get PR's for everyone on the team, but more importantly have the top seven from cross country come around and set the tone for the upcoming cross country season. But we want to first have all our athletes healthy and competing on a higher level," Vaknin said.

"I really want them to set high expectations for themselves because they are capable of a lot. We have such a young team so it is very exciting seeing all the talent and potential everyone has this year and in the future," Blundell said.

The Spartans are collectively setting these high expectations, not only for themselves, but for the team as a whole too. "We should run a PR (personal record) each race now, our training is going great and we're getting faster and faster each week," Poore said.

The track team ultimately has their eyes set on the end goal of nationals. "All of us including myself want to qualify for the national finals in May," Poore said.

The Spartans, with Sullivan and Vaknin, seem confident about excelling this season and having a good turnout at nationals. "With Coach Slaven guiding me I feel confident that I can achieve those goals," Sullivan said.

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Members of the women's track team set multiple personal records at the USF Meets over spring break.

Photo courtesy of Tom Kolbe

Women's Season Concludes on Low Note

The Spartans fall against Nova Southeastern

By **ED KERNER**
Sports Writer

The Spartans traveled to Silver Spurs Arena in Kissimmee to kick off their Sunshine State Conference (SSC) title push against the Florida Tech Panthers in the first round.

Tampa started off scoring the first points of the game, and never looked back. Junior guard Juliana Cavallaro, who was recently named All Conference, led the Spartans with 19 points.

She shot 55% from the field, and was 5-7 from the charity stripe. Junior guard/forward Ellen Nurmi was close behind, scoring 15 points while shooting 50% on the day. She finished the game with seven rebounds and eight assists as well. Senior forward Aisha Rodney also finished the game with double digit points, scoring 11 points.

The Spartans started the game off hot taking an early 11-2 lead six minutes into the contest. Tampa showed another dominant performance as they lead by a commanding 21 points at the half.

Nurmi was the star of the first half scoring 11 of her 15 points in the half while shooting three of five from



The women's basketball team caps off their season with a loss to Nova Southeastern in the SSC Tournament.

behind the arc. With six and a half minutes remaining in the second half, Florida Tech cut the lead to within nine.

This was the closest they would come, as the Spartans pulled away to win by 17. Tampa's work under the boards powered them to victory as they recorded 35 defensive rebounds, to Florida Tech's 17. Tampa would go on to win by a final score of 69-52.

In the second round, the Spartans faced Nova Southeastern, who played

Tampa tough all year. UT won the first matchup by a score of 76-75; while Nova Southeastern went on to grab the second game by a score 55-53.

The two teams were evenly matched as they were tied at 16 with 8:24 left in the first half. Nova Southeastern finished the half on a 13-2 run to take a 29-18 lead into halftime. Rodney and junior center Taylor McVey led the way for the Spartans in the first half as they combined for 13 of the 18 points.

The Spartans went cold in the second half, as they were only able to make six field goals for the remainder of the game. Nova Southeastern was dominant in the second half as they shot 50% from the field, making 13 of their final 26 shots down the stretch. Nova Southeastern was a force on the glass as the outrebounded Tampa 40-28, with 14 of them coming on the offensive glass.

The Spartans would go on to lose this one by a score of 67-40. After the game, coach Jessee said, "there was not much we could do differently. We did not shoot it very well and our defense really let us down."

"We had a very inconsistent season but we were able to start to come together toward the end. We had too many injuries along the year to gain the traction we wanted. The best thing is we bring back seven seniors to next year's team so we have high hopes for them," said Jessee talking about the season.

Looking forward to next season, Jessee talked about the two things he was looking forward to. "First, will be to see how hard our returning players train over the summer. Second will be to see how good our recruiting class be."

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Men's Basketball Falls Short In SSC Tournament Opener

The Spartans finish the season with with an 18-10 record

By **MARCUS MITCHELL**
Sports Columnist

While many students were on vacation during spring break, the men's basketball team was competing in this year's Sunshine State Conference (SSC) Tournament. The Spartans have won five SSC Championships, but they haven't hoisted the trophy since 2002.

Held in Kissimmee at the Silver Spurs Arena, the Spartans would be playing alongside some of the best Division II teams in the nation, including the No. 1 nationally ranked Florida Southern.

The Spartans were in discussions of getting an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament and a successful run in the SSC Tournament would all but guarantee a spot for the Spartans at the "Big Dance."

Last year, the Spartans made a deep run before falling to Florida Southern in the SSC Championship game. This season, the Spartans entered the tourney as the No. 3 seed with a conference record of 10-6 (18-10 overall). Momentum was on the Spartans' side after their last game was a win against Barry University, ranked as one of the top teams in the nation at the time.

However, the Spartans ran into a brick wall in their first game by losing 91-84 against Nova Southeastern University. Previously in the season, the Spartans were swept by Nova Southeastern and had unfortunately been drawn to play once more against their rivals.

"Nova Southeastern is a very good team and it is really tough trying to beat someone who seems to have our number," said head coach Richard Schmidt. "The tournament and this conference are tough and the way teams match up makes a huge difference in who moves on."

From the very start, Nova Southeastern imposed themselves on the game. The Spartans scored first, but that was their only lead of the game. The Spartans kept it close for the majority of the game, able to pull within a point of the Sharks multiple times in the second half, but they were never able to fully close the gap.

Captain and senior point guard Jordan Davis finished his final game in a Spartans uniform with a double-double, scoring 30 points and adding 11 rebounds. Davis played an incredible 40 minutes in the game and was only subbed out for short seconds throughout the contest. Davis finished the season as the fifth-best in the nation in assists per game (7.3) and was one assist shy of having a triple-double in his final collegiate game.

"I enjoyed my time here at the University of Tampa very much," said Davis. "I have built many relationships



The men's basketball team finished off their season with a loss to SSC rival Nova Southeastern.

percentage of .875 from over 140 attempts. After the season, Davis was announced on the 2015 Daktronics All-Region second team and the Tampa native was also selected to be on the 2015 All-SSC first team.

"It is an honor to be selected and it

after transferring from the University of Central Florida. McCrory has been the Spartans' leading scorer with an average of 17 points per game.

McCrory almost averaged a double-double a game with an average of 9.4 rebounds per game over the course of the season. He was also selected as the SSC Newcomer of the year for his work this season.

With a strong regular season finished by a stinging loss in the opening round of the SSC Tournament, the men's basketball team will be looking to make a statement in the SSC next year, but will do so without their star seniors.

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**"I enjoyed my time here at the University of Tampa very much."
—Senior Point Guard Jordan Davis**

on this campus that I will have for a very long time."

Davis transferred to the University of Tampa last year and finished the season with an average of 15.6 points per contest and a free throw

is proof of the hard work I put in during the offseason," said Davis.

Selected onto the 2015 All-SSC second team was senior forward Eugene McCrory. This was McCrory's first and final year at the University of Tampa

Men's Lacrosse Hits Midway Point

Despite injuries, men's team currently ranked ninth nationally

By **ANDREW STAMAS**
Sports Writer

With a 7-1 record and ranked ninth nationally, the men's lacrosse team has had a strong start to the 2015 season. Eight games in and they have already beaten two ranked opponents and are currently riding on a five game winning streak.

The season began with a huge win, a 20-4 rout of tenth-ranked Queens University. The Spartans quickly followed that up with a 14-8 home win over Tusculum the following day.

Then ranked fourth in the nation, the Spartans had their next game against the top-ranked team, Limestone. Things didn't go as planned for UT, losing it 16-7 at home. Although it was not the ideal result, the Spartans rebounded from that loss.

In their next contest, they opened conference play against Rollins, and the Spartans won the game 11-5. A 16-12 win at Florida Southern put them in a good position in conference play with a record of 2-0 against fellow Sunshine State Conference (SSC) teams. In the following game, UT dominated Emmanuel College 28-1. A narrow 9-8 win over Ithaca showed the team's great fighting

spirit, as they had trailed 6-1 at one point before rallying back to edge out their opponents on the road. A solid 11-7 win over No. 11 Mercyhurst capped off an impressive opening month for the Spartans.

Although their recent results have been superb, Coach Rory Whipple pointed out that the Spartans did in fact face some obstacles and are playing without two of their best players in juniors Jake Rooney and Marty Heyn. "We lost two all-Americans this year to injuries," Whipple said.

At the beginning of the year, Rooney was ruled out because of concussions. He had been the leading scorer last season. Heyn is also out after recently tearing his ACL. Despite these injuries, Whipple added that team is doing everything they can to make up for it and they are working really hard. He feels that his team's strong defense makes a huge difference in their fortunes.

The season may be about halfway over, but the Spartans are already looking ahead to a potential return to the NCAA tournament. Sophomore Conor Whipple spoke about his team's goals regarding the remainder of the year. "At the end of the season we want to finish in the best possible place that we can," said the younger Whipple. "We really want to try and win the national championship."

If the Spartans do go on to make a deep run in the NCAA tournament and possibly even win it all, Whipple would

definitely play a key role in that. He currently leads the team in goals and assists, having 17 goals and 16 assists after eight games.

Junior Mike Morris has been another key contributor offensively, also having scored 17 goals to this point. Senior Zak Goldbach and junior Matt Bilak have also been frequently able to find the back of the net, with Goldbach having tallied 13 goals and Bilak with 12. Junior Chris Vetter has added eight goals and six assists as well.

Senior Nick Ferreiro and junior Riley Piper have also done a great job to hold the midfield together this season. Senior Jon McGowan and

freshman Nick Balzano have been great contributors defensively. Five different players have featured as goaltender, though junior Andrew Failla and sophomore A.J. Arnold have seen the most time in net.

The Spartans still have three home games and four away games remaining in the regular season. Most notably, they will face fourth-ranked Lake Erie on April 1. They will conclude the regular season at home on April 17 against twelfth-ranked and conference rival Florida Tech.

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Photo courtesy of Tom Kolbe

The men's lacrosse team has won some tough games en route to a 7-1 start and a No. 9 national ranking.

Women's Lacrosse Pushes Through Growing Pains

Despite uneven start to second season, women's team pushes towards postseason

By **MELISSA TORRE**
Sports Writer

The women's lacrosse team has had a rough past couple of games, losing against Seton Hill and having a three game winning streak snapped by Queens University.

They remain optimistic for the remainder of the season. Despite these minor setbacks, the team is looking forward and trying to better themselves in every way as they begin their approach into the most difficult part of their schedule.

One of the major downfalls of the Spartans against Queens match-up was giving up fouls and turnovers, which proved to be very costly to the team in their 15-4 loss. Head coach Kelly Gallagher discusses her team's performance against Queens.

"We did give up a good number of fouls and turnovers, but I think it's just being young and getting used to how the college game is and always having pressure on the mid-field, and it is definitely something we've been working on all year," Gallagher said.

Another area in which the team has been looking to improve is on its defense. "We are really working on just making sure we are forcing our attacker to make a decision and we're telling

them where to go," said assistant head coach Kelly Ryan.

Although the team has had a rough start so far this season, they remain hopeful about the remainder of their season and hopeful about reaching their goal of making it to the first ever women's Sunshine State Conference (SSC) Title. "We've had this goal of making it to the conference finals since day one and any team that we play is beatable," said Ryan.

The members of the team are also sharing a similar positive outlook to their coaches and are looking to prove just how much heart and dedication this two year program has.

"Other teams see us as a second year team, but we don't really see ourselves that way. Every game we've played so far we've been in close competition," said freshman attacker Christina Burroughs said.

The team also feels that other areas have improved since the season began, including its offense. "I think our attack unit works really well together and we're really good at reading what we are going to do out there on the field," said freshman attack Natalie Carraway.

Lastly, the team's defense also has shown major signs of improvement and has started making progressive changes that will hopefully lead the Spartans to victory later on in the season.

"Every time we step on the field we get better and better, we're playing top ranked teams and we don't want to see them as rivals we want to see them as equals," said freshman midfielder



Raeshad Long/The Minaret

The women's basketball team won their season finale Saturday over fellow SSC team Barry.

Amanda Rom.

Although the team is hopeful and has high expectations for the remainder of its season, the real challenges have yet to begin. The team will face its toughest opponents in April, including most of its conference games against schools such as, Saint Leo on April 1, Florida Tech on April 11, and Florida Southern on April 18. The Spartans need to win at least one of these games in order to become one step closer

towards reaching their goal of making it to the SSC Final.

Again, Coach Gallagher said "one of the team's philosophies is if practice is hard it will make the games the easy and fun part", so everyone on this team, coaches and players, have been working to make this dream become a reality.

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Whipple Shines in Role as Lacrosse Captain

Coach's son leads scoring charge on the field this season

By **GRIFFIN GUINTA**
Sports Columnist

The idea of a father coaching his son is timeless. Throughout history, a myriad of legendary father-son duos have etched their names in the history books; Dale Earnhardt Sr. and Jr., Archie and Peyton Manning and Dell and Steph Curry to name a few.

During their time together at UT, the father-son tandem of Rory and Conor Whipple has been a major driving force behind the success of Spartan lacrosse. Rory, the head coach, owns a combined 45-7 record at UT to date, and Conor has garnered accolades ranging from All-American to Sunshine State Conference (SSC) Player of the Year.

In a season in which expectations run high for the Spartans, the younger Whipple has been tasked with leading the charge. Injuries to junior defender Marty Heyn (knee surgery) and junior attacker Jake Rooney (concussions) have only increased the load Conor must carry. If you ask him, though, he isn't letting that deter his focus.

"I like to lead by example and do the right thing," Conor Whipple said. "Hopefully people will realize that and do the same. I try not to complain and just get to work."

Teammates, such as junior defenseman

Peter Schofield, use the words "alpha male, jackhammer, and buzzsaw" to describe his grit, and he's not wrong. Conor's durability has been undeniable, playing (and starting) in every game since his arrival at the school.

So just where did all of this lacrosse prowess come from?

Before Conor could even walk, he had a lacrosse stick in his hands. Unsurprisingly, Coach Whipple had him playing all kinds of sports from an early age, even wrestling. An instance of vomiting on the mat before a match in sixth grade prompted him to explore other options. Luckily, he found lacrosse, a sport in which he has indeed not yet barfed while playing.

As a high schooler at renowned prep school St. Andrew's in Boca Raton, Fl., he achieved All-American status three times, prompting several Division I colleges to scout him. ESPN even had him rated as the 25 best high school junior lacrosse player. Eager to take his game to the next level, Whipple committed to Georgetown University to join a formidable Hoya team.

Like most things in life, plans didn't go exactly as he envisioned, and the allure of playing for competitive UT squad coached by his own father compelled him to transfer here after his freshman year. That being said, nothing is easier just because his dad is now his coach.

"I get on him pretty good," Coach Whipple said with a laugh. "I try to work him as hard, if not harder than anybody else. But it's an enjoyment. It's something I really cherish, and fortunately I have two and a half

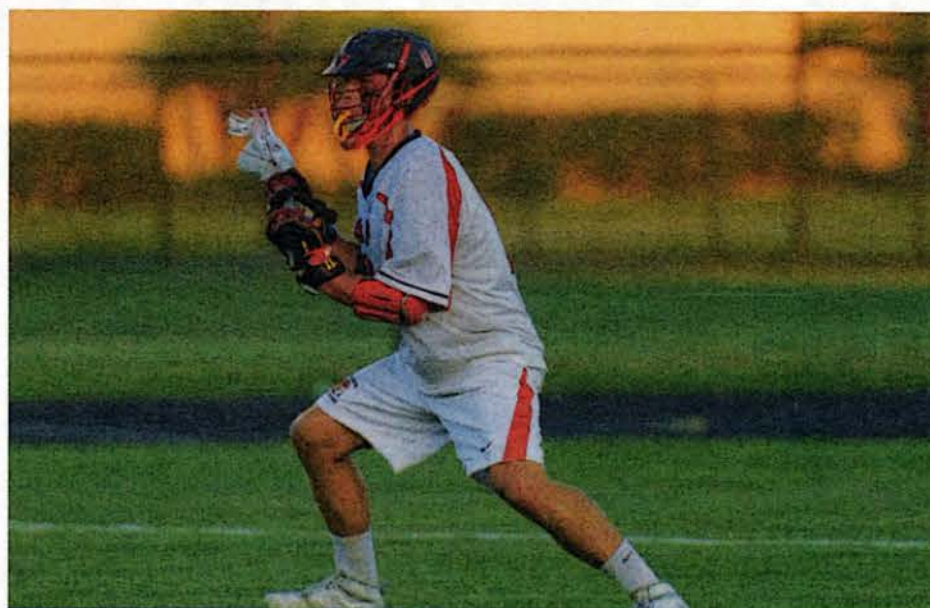


Photo courtesy of Tom Kolbe
Sophomore attacker Conor Whipple plays a pivotal role for men's lacrosse in 2015.

more years of coaching him."

Conor described his experience as "the coach's son" as unique, and ultimately doesn't find it to be a distraction.

"It's different. But at the same time he treats me like a normal player and doesn't try to single me out, so it's not too bad," he said.

Behind the scenes, Conor Whipple is a fairly straightforward guy. He prioritizes family, he isn't arrogant or boastful, and strives to push himself continually.

Even after a stellar freshman season, he frequented the weight room all summer (gaining twenty pounds of muscle), and admits that he still has a lot to work on.

All of these qualities make him extremely

coachable, and his lead-by-example mindset cools a locker room full of immensely different personalities.

"He will listen. He will do whatever you tell him to do. This year he was voted captain and he's only a sophomore, so kids look up to him. He's just always been a good leader. We're counting on him quite a bit this year," Coach Whipple said.

And count on him they will. In what is expected to be a title year for the Spartans, they'll need their captain leading the charge every step of the way.

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Brierley Leaves Legacy For Younger Players

Sole Senior Kirsten Brierley embodies a model of leadership

By **TESS SHEETS**
Sports Writer

Most college athletes understand the struggles of balancing school and sports. They are used to early morning practices and long weekends.

They know that managing good grades and playing a successful season is possible because they have seen it be done by generations of players that came before them. But what happens when you are the pioneers?

In its second season at UT, the women's lacrosse team has blazed its own trail. Because of this, several players have emerged to establish a foundation for leadership and character in the team.

Senior midfielder Kirsten Brierley has used her experience and understanding of these stresses to do just that.

Originally a member of the volleyball team during her freshman year at UT, Brierley has been able to share a certain expertise to a team full of players ranging from freshmen to seniors on the difficulties of being a student athlete.

"Off the field I know how hard it is to balance a sport and school and I've gone through all the stresses of making up work and having a test the morning after a big game," Brierley said. "I try and support the girls and let them know that it is possible to get everything done and graduate on time, but you have to manage your time well."

According to her teammates



Photo courtesy of Tom Kolbe
Senior midfielder Kirsten Brierley continues to be the focal point of the women's team.

and coaches, Brierley embodies leadership on the field as well. In order to achieve a successful season, she consistently aims to maintain accountability in both her own and her teammates' actions.

"Kir is one of the most motivating people on our team and keeps us on the right track," said freshman attack Natalie Carraway. "When we set goals she is always there to make sure we keep them

whether that's on or off the field."

Leading by example is something that Brierley is constantly cognizant of in her decisions and actions. A foot injury at the beginning of the season set Brierley back about a month and a half after she had successfully trained in the offseason. Despite the hindrance, she appeared just as capable as her teammates when she was finally cleared to play.

"In one of her first times back on the field she took the draw, got the ball, and ran right down the field and scored a goal," said head coach Kelly Gallagher. "Kir is the kind of student-athlete who works hard in all aspects of her life."

As the only senior currently on the team, Brierley knows that her actions have the ability to illustrate the team's reputation. The young players that the team is comprised of look to her for guidance and she recognizes that this responsibility means her examples now could have an effect on the program's standing in the future as well.

"Knowing that I only have a handful of games and practices left with my team I'm hoping I can leave a good impression and they know that I always had a strong work ethic, so they can keep setting the same example in the future," Brierley said.

Although her last season playing college lacrosse is swiftly coming to a close, Brierley's legacy is surely not. As one of the inaugural players on the UT women's lacrosse team, she has made her mark as a hard working leader and teammate.

"I truly believe that her legacy to this team and program will be that hard work pays off," Gallagher said. "Our team always talks about the phrase 'on it or with it' which, in Spartan tradition means when a warrior goes to battle they will either die on their shield or they will return home with it. Kir is the embodiment of that tradition in the classroom, on the field at games and practice and in the weight room."

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