



UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA'S NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1933

# THE MINARET

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## HOUSING POLICY SPARKS DEBATE

By **BIANCA LOPEZ**  
News Editor

Dean of Students Dr. Stephanie Russell Krebs and the Residence Life (ResLife) office announced that first-year students will receive priority placement for on-campus housing beginning in Fall of 2016. This announcement came in the form of a campus-wide email from UT Emergency Operations on September 29 at roughly 8 p.m., moments after Dr. Krebs spoke during the weekly Student Government general assembly.

The announcement was met with

pointed criticism from disgruntled students, particularly upperclassmen who would like to continue living on campus. Soon after the initial email from UT Emergency Operations went out, a petition was drafted, asking that the university "Reverse the Housing Rule." The goal of 1,000 signatures was met within 20 hours of the petition going live.

Traditionally, UT has given preferential treatment to those with more credits-- making it easier for juniors and seniors to secure rooms in the apartment-style housing that UT offers; however, the email announced a

180-degree flip, giving those with fewer semesters on campus higher priority.

"We believe that on-campus housing should be provided for those students who will benefit the most from the personal and community support of living on campus," read the email. "As such, starting with the 2016-2017 academic year, the on-campus housing selection process will be adjusted to allow a greater number of first-year students to live in on-campus housing."

ResLife officials announced that the buildings reserved for first-year students would be Austin, McKay, Boathouse, Morsani, Smiley and Vaughn. Depending on the student class size, Brevard may also be used to house some first-year students.

Continuing students will have the option to apply to live in Brevard, Jenkins, Palm, Straz, Urso and The Barrymore Hotel. Given the change in housing selection and priority, current freshmen (who will classify as sophomores in Fall 2016) will select their housing preferences before current sophomores and juniors, giving them the highest chances of living in the more popular upperclassmen housing options.

"I feel like it will be good for freshmen because they will be easier acquainted with the university and get a feel for college life having guaranteed housing on campus rather than The Barrymore, compared to a junior who already knows his or her way around," said Mason Whitlam, a freshman international business and marketing major. "But then again,

I feel like upperclassman should have priority since it is kind of like a seniority thing. I like the [previous process] where priority is given based on most to least credits."

In order to receive priority, incoming freshmen will have to meet the May 1 housing contract and deposit deadline. Continuing students must meet the Feb. 1 deadline and be sure to complete all steps in the housing process to be considered and claim their spots.

The Barrymore Hotel, despite shuffling through many different names, has held ties with the university for 17 years and will continue to take in overflow students. Based on the information gathered, The Barrymore Hotel will house a mixture of freshmen students who applied past the May 1 housing deadline and "super seniors" and other students with many semesters on campus under their belts.

"These properties have served as a way to accommodate students who wanted housing when the on-campus inventory of rooms was exceeded," Dr. Linda Devine, Vice President for Operations and Planning said. "It is not an uncommon practice in postsecondary education."

Although the idea has precedence, with other schools such as Virginia Wesleyan College partnering with local hotels for overflow housing, it is an unfavorable choice based on research gathered by university officials. UT's relationship with The Barrymore Hotel was a major factor in the decision to



The Barrymore Hotel, which traditionally housed only first-year students, will now house some upperclassmen.

Bianca Lopez/The Minaret

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# Obama Streamlines FAFSA

By ARIEL HERNANDEZ

News Writer

Despite the excitement college students have after successfully completing an academic year, there's one aspect of summer that everyone dreads—the torturous Financial Aid application.

President Barack Obama has enacted a plan to end the hassle.

Just last month, Mr. Obama announced a new reform that will allegedly help students during the financial aid process starting in the upcoming 2016-17 academic school year, in an effort to make college more affordable.

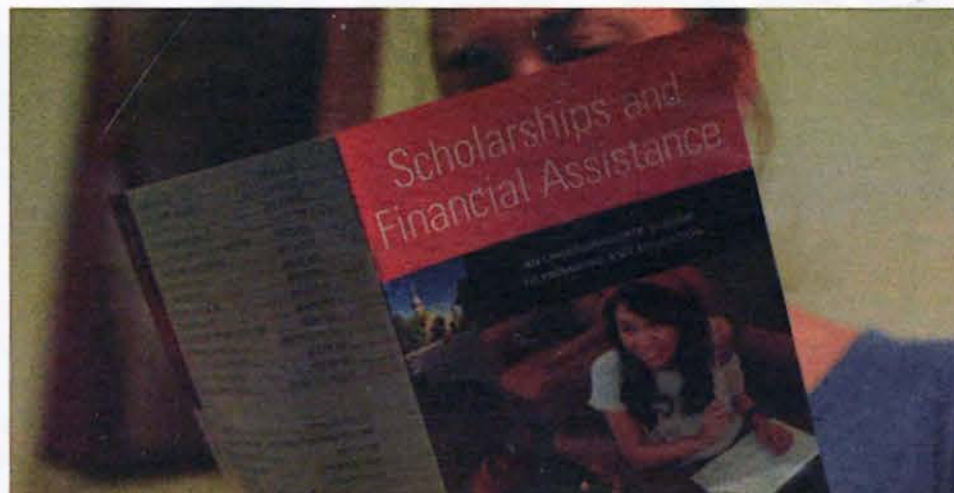
His reform will allow students to file their FAFSA applications in October rather than having to wait until January, and will also allow students to electronically retrieve tax information filed for a previous year rather than having to provide an estimate of what their taxes will be like that upcoming year.

According to the UT's Director of Financial Aid, Jackie LaTorella, Obama's Financial Aid reform allows students to fill out the FAFSA application with a tax return that had already been filed as opposed to forcing families and students to make an estimate of their expected tax return and correct it later on.

"This does two things: A: the information you are putting on the application is going to be accurate because you already filed that tax return, and B: it allows you to use the IRS data retrieval tool where your tax return data can be imported, making it more accurate rather than being error prone," LaTorella said. "We've all made typos."

Had the executive order in the previous tax year been in play for this academic school year, students who filled out their 2015-16 FAFSA application wouldn't have been asked to submit their 2014 tax return, but instead would have been asked to submit their tax return for 2013.

"It's amazing and less stressful that we now have the opportunity to import our tax returns," said Amanda Sanchez, a sophomore communications major. "I always found it difficult to fill out my



Nathan Legger/The Minaret

Beginning in the 2016-2017 academic year, Obama's financial aid reform will allow students to file FAFSA earlier.

FAFSA when the time came because my parents didn't know how. It now benefits both of us [her and her parents] because I don't have to stress putting in the wrong tax information and my parents don't have to stress having to get their taxes done because I need to do my FAFSA application."

Considering that Obama recently announced the reform, administrators at UT are still trying to figure out how the aid process is going to change for them.

"Moving the date up from January to October is going to mean that we can begin processing aid for the new academic year three months earlier, but there is still some information that we don't have yet so we're not sure how we're going to be able to accommodate," LaTorella said. "We're still trying to work out the details."

In LaTorella's opinion, it is not the schools that have a lot to figure out. She feels that the Federal Government and the United States Department of Education have to come up with a way to tell the schools how they are going to make changes so those schools can react.

"We now know the Department of Education has to make the changes, we just don't know when and how," she said. "Until we have that guidance, there's not much that can be done."

Considering that students will be awarded their funds months earlier, students and parents will be able to plan much farther in advance. This

will hopefully help with student debts, considering that, as of this year, student loans are collectively totaling \$1.2 trillion.

"This reform will allow me more time to plan my college finances," Matthew McCormack, a freshman international studies major at UT said. "Receiving my financial aid award package three months earlier gives me three extra months to manage my future finances instead of forcing me to apply for personal student loans so last minute."

President Vaughn sends a letter to students and parents every year with the Federal Aid for the upcoming academic year. The federal aid budget for the 2015-16 academic year was over \$50 million.

According to LaTorella, the financial aid budget always increase each year and all the funds get disbursed with no extra aid at the end of the year.

"We don't want to leave any money on the table because that means that there are aid programs that students could have received or benefited from and we didn't reward it," LaTorella said. "We make sure we award the institutional dollars that we've been allocated."

The FAFSA application is what determines what aid, whether it is federally supported students loans or Pell Grants, a student is eligible for.

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## Absence of Fall Season Leads to Homesickness

By HANNAH FARROW

News Writer

Fall has arrived but Tampa's temperatures still sit in the high 80's and low 90's. With 32.5 percent of UT's students coming from colder regions, these temperatures give the season a whole new meaning.

For Jamie Ferree, a junior at UT, being in Florida while her friends are home in Pennsylvania experiencing cooler temperatures makes her miss home.

"I miss my room, and home-cooked food, and my friends from home, and everyone in my town," Ferree said. "I like the hot weather, but it'd be nice if it were to change. I miss the crisp and cool air of fall."

Ferree's responses aren't uncommon. With roughly 50 percent of students coming from out of the state of Florida (ut.edu), the term Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) has a new twist to it.

SAD "is a type of depression that occurs during the same season each year. You may have SAD if you felt depressed during the last two winters but felt much better in spring and summer," according to WebMD.

In this case, students are feeling gloomy because they miss the fall season. Brandon Raye, a senior at UT, grew up in a small town

in Maine, which is typically known for its perpetually cool weather.

"The fall is one of the most beautiful times in the state of Maine," Raye said. "I'll be missing that for the third year in a row. We also have mountains, a rocky coastline, thick forests and winding rivers that you don't see here."

Not to mention that hunting season is a week away.

"It's depressing to think that I won't be able to hunt," Raye said.

Although homesickness is common, there are bigger issues on campus to tackle. Dr. Rahul Mehra, the Medical Director of the Counseling Center at UT, explained that most students venturing through the Dickey Health and Wellness Center doors seeking counseling are suffering from depression.

Dr. Mehra said that students may feel depressed because "they're worried about their family, significant other, or status of a relationship." It can also occur when students leave the comforts of their home and enter into a new living environment.

While Mehra says homesickness is not a main concern in the Health and Wellness center, it remains an issue that many students encounter daily.

"They best thing they can do is talk about

it," Mehra said.

There's a stigma with seeking help for mental health issues, that those who do are weak. But there is no need to feel embarrassed or guilty.

In fact, the National Institute of Mental Health reported that, "In 2011, the American College Health Association—National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA)—a nationwide survey of college students at both two and four-year institutions—found that about 30 percent of college students reported feeling 'so depressed that it was difficult to function' at some time in the past year."

The Dickey Health and Wellness Center offers six free sessions with one of four full-time employed counselors. Sometimes the issues can be resolved in one session, sometimes it may take 12, Mehra stated. If it is more than the six free sessions, the student's health insurance should cover the rest.

Mehra encourages those experiencing depression to utilize the resources on campus. For more information regarding this topic, visit <https://www.ut.edu/counseling/>.

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# The Real Deal About Fake IDs

By LAINEY LOUDON  
News Writer

It's no secret that countless students like to live it up on the weekends at local bars like Hyde Park Cafe, which is open to those over 18, but if you are 21, the cover charge can be \$15 cheaper.

In order to attain all the perks of being a 21 year old, many people purchase fake IDs from countries like China, where they are easy to order from online websites. Others resort to local fake ID distributors, who are usually found by word-of-mouth.

Legacy Production Group bouncer and UT senior management major AJ Desatnik says fake IDs are easy to identify depending on the state.

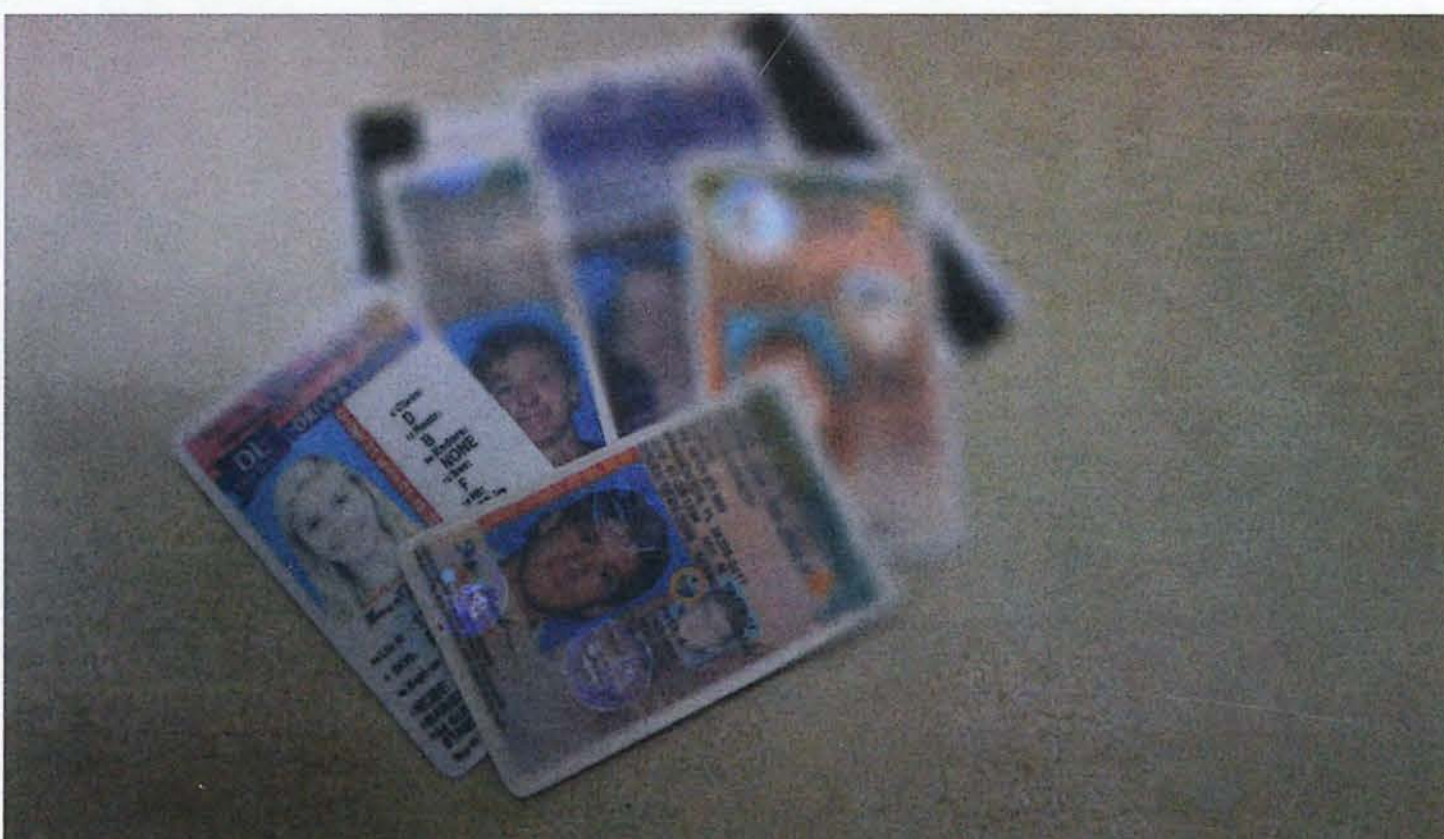
"Different states use different material and transcendent marks that are hard to replicate," Desatnik said. "Some authentic IDs are made out of bendable plastic and some are made of flimsy material that, when rubbed together, create a friction that leaves residue afterwards."

The most popular fake IDs attempt to replicate states like New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania because they are the easiest states to create, Desatnik said.

When a fake ID is presented, Desatnik said, bouncers are supposed to turn both the ID and person presenting it over to the police, but that's not always the case.

"If they are polite and quiet about it, most bouncers would give it back," Desatnik said. Needless to say, their entrance to the venue is subsequently denied.

A sophomore at UT, who prefers to stay anonymous because she is breaking the law and the university policy, said that she has a variety of fake IDs, and has had up to six at one time. She also frequently uses her friend's old IDs to get into clubs and



Bianca Lopez/The Minaret  
Many bars and clubs in the South Tampa area, like MacDinton's, have binders or trays of fake and confiscated IDs.

bars. Despite getting into many bars with her fake IDs, two of her previous fake IDs have been confiscated.

"I got one taken at a casino and it was a real look-alike. You can pretty much get away with those anywhere but my friend also had a fake so that basically blew my cover," said the source. "[The bouncer] asked me all of my information and my horoscope sign, but I got the birthday month wrong so I got kicked out."

The anonymous student said that she thinks that owning a fake ID is worth the risk of getting in trouble with UT or the law.

"I've never been arrested for it and I don't think they take it serious enough to arrest you," said the source. "I'm just young and trying to have a good time and I'm not

going to let the thought of getting in trouble stop me. There are a lot more important things cops should worry about than kids trying to get drunk."

MacDinton's Irish Pub & Restaurant's co-head of security and UT alumni Jeff Phillips says MacDinton's has a binder filled with fake IDs that people have tried to use to get into the venue.

"We may go a couple of weeks with no [fake ID's presented] and then we might get as many as 10 in one night," said Phillips.

People under 25 are required to present two forms of IDs when entering MacDinton's, the first being state-issued or government-issued. The second ID can be another form of picture identification, such as a Spartan Card. According to Phillips,

more UT students attempt to present fake IDs than do students from neighboring colleges.

"We get a lot of customers from USF and it doesn't seem as common for them to have fake IDs, like UT students," said Phillips.

In the state of Florida it is a felony for an individual to own or use a fake ID, or attempt to use another person's ID card. Owning a fake ID or using someone else's ID breaks UT's identification policy.

"You're in college and want to party, but does the risk outweigh the benefits?" Desatnik said.

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## LOCAL BEATS



### POLICE

#### An Indecent Proposal

On September 30, An underage, intoxicated student was referred to the Office of Student Conduct for exposing himself in a public area.

#### Need a Lift?

On October 3, Sixteen passengers, both students and non-students, were temporarily stranded within an elevator in Plant Hall.

#### Burnin' Up

On October 1, A faculty member reported a strong odor of smoke inside a lecture hall. It was discovered that a small generator had stopped working and was smoking.



### CAMPUS

#### De-Stereotype Me Day

On October 12, join the Spartan Sustained Dialogue to analyze and deconstruct stereotypes. The program starts at 11:30 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. and will be interactive. All who attend will receive a free t-shirt. Contact Cristina Muyshondt at [diversity@ut.edu](mailto:diversity@ut.edu) for more information.

#### Internship Fair

Join Career Services on October 14 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. for the annual internship fair in Fletcher Lounge. It is free, but students should pre-register on HireUT. Contact Melena Postolowski at [mpostolowski@ut.edu](mailto:mpostolowski@ut.edu) for more information.

#### Hypnotist David Hall

Student Productions will host hypnotist David Hall on October 14 at 8 p.m. in Reeves Theater. For more information contact [studentproductions@ut.edu](mailto:studentproductions@ut.edu).



### GREEK

#### Alpha Chi Omega Signature Event

Join Alpha Chi Omega sisters for their signature event on October 14 from 4 to 7 p.m. in Vaughn Courtyard.

#### SoHo Donuts with Delta Zeta

Delta Zeta will host a fundraiser at the SoHo Donut Company on October 15 from 6 to 9 p.m. All are welcome to purchase doughnuts to support Delta Zeta's philanthropy.

#### Gypsy Trunk Show

On October 15-16, Sigma Delta Tau for a gypsy trunk show in the Sykes courtyard.

#### Panhellenic Clothing Swap

Feeling the need to refresh your wardrobe? Bring clothes you no longer wear to the Vaughn Center on October 12 at 10 p.m. and trade in your old clothes for another girls' treasures. All clothing left over will be donated to The Spring Shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

# Freshman gain housing priority next year

From HOUSING Page 1

change the housing selection process.

"Our students that started in the hotel were not as successful as students that lived on-campus," Dr. Krebs wrote in an email. "I am now in my fifth year as Dean of Students and in that time I have personally been involved with many first years students as they struggle to adjust to college life and find a connection to UT because of their housing placement. Many of these students end up leaving UT."

A major concern for many students is having to live in The Barrymore if they wish to continue living on campus as a senior, once it is no longer a viable option to transfer.

"As someone who lives in the hotel, I feel like it's actually better for freshmen to live here. Everyone on my floor is really close and I've made friends I otherwise wouldn't have met," said Mina Buzzek, a freshman English major. "Putting upperclassmen over here isn't fair to them and it doesn't make sense to give them worse housing than underclassmen. It kind of takes away from the whole experience of the dorms getting better as you get older and I'm not happy about it at all."

With ResCom under construction in Fall 2016, roughly 140 housing spaces will be lost until the extension of Palm Apartments is complete. This will give upperclassmen a greater chance of ending up either in The Barrymore Hotel or off-campus.

"Each year, our number of upper-class students that choose to reside on campus gets lower and lower," Dr. Krebs wrote. "[A small workgroup of administrators looking into on-campus housing] made the recommendation to UT's Senior Staff that we move in this direction for Fall 2016. When we made this recommendation, we were clear we could not move in this direction if we were not able to allocate additional resources to our upper-class students. We want upper-class students to know they are valued and appreciated."

The university will begin using new software in Fall 2016 to make the housing selection process more user-friendly and created the new Off-Campus Housing Coordinator position this year held by Joe Wynn as measures to help students adapt to the changes.

The petition is evidence that, despite the administration's efforts, upperclassmen expressed that they do not feel valued and appreciated since hearing the news.

The comments under the petition ranged from notes written by



Bianca Lopez/The Minaret  
Brevard is listed as a possible housing option for first-year students, depending on the incoming class size.

aggravated parents with safety and monetary concerns to disappointed students who feel overlooked by UT.

Policies such as this one are not unheard of, as schools such as Penn State abide by the first-year student priority policy. Penn State requires first-year students to live on campus and most schools using this policy are situated in college towns. UT's landscape, in the heart of downtown, makes it difficult for students to find equally safe and affordable housing if encouraged to live off-campus. At nearby schools such as Eckerd College, "Returning students are given first choice of rooms for the following academic year" (eckerd.edu). Even the University of Florida, while much larger than UT, assures that, "On campus housing is not guaranteed for incoming students" (housing.ufl.edu).

"Before this change in policy, I was planning on living on campus all four years because I love the community and involvement on campus," wrote Molly Bagg, one of the 1,366 signers of the petition. "I hope that in the future, I still will be able to live on campus. The housing options for seniors was part of the reason I decided to come to UT. I can neither afford living off campus or the transportation needed, and I have absolutely no desire to live in a hotel during the most important years of my education."

While Wynn has been hired to educate students on off-campus housing, many students attest that they are simply not in a position to be able to pay for the cost of living

that is associated, nor do they want to live north of campus where prices are lower but crime rates are higher. A single room in an apartment style dorm like Palm or Straz is \$4,188 per semester and includes furnishing and utilities, while a one bedroom apartment in popular Bell Channelside costs between \$1,389 - \$1,496 per month before utilities and furniture costs. Off-campus housing also requires a year's lease and transportation. However, students who wish to live off-campus can save money by sharing with roommates.

"I have seen the petition, and I always value hearing feedback and especially value reading the comments of students," Dr. Krebs wrote. "As we move forward with the new philosophy, we will work diligently to support students' individual housing needs that have been identified both in the petition and in open meetings."

Other concerns came from athletes and members of ROTC who will no longer be given housing preferences with the implementation of the new policy. Emily Barbosa is a junior allied health major who plays lacrosse for UT. With her strenuous class and practice schedules, school is a very delicate balancing act.

"The convenience of living on campus as a student athlete is somewhat of a necessity for me," Barbosa said. "Having to deal with commuting back and forth with my busy day would add a whole new obstacle that I don't want going into my senior year. The choice of UT regarding housing is not only unfair to student athletes but is also unfair to all upperclassmen."

Those with questions or concerns were encouraged to attend any of three "open community meeting[s]" held by the Office of the Dean of Students and Office of Residence Life on Sept. 30, Oct. 6 or Oct. 8.

At the first of the meetings, anger-fueled conversations filled Reeves Theater, while confused and disappointed students, such as junior advertising and public relations major Michael Womack, filed in.

During the question and answer portion of the meeting, questions from students were non-stop. Administration seemed to lose control of the audience for a short spurt of time as students questioned the university's ethics and

priorities, among other things.

When his time came to speak, Womack stood and pulled a piece of paper out of his folder. He shared his story with those in attendance.

"I have lived in Tampa my whole life," Womack later reflected in his email. "I grew up in Brandon and went to high school in South Tampa. I had a lot of options when choosing colleges. I could have chosen to attend a nationally recognized institution like The University of Florida or Florida State University. I would've been surrounded by old friends, more resources, and a more complete college experience- at a much cheaper cost. I chose UT based off the personal interaction that came with it. UT sold itself to me on the idea that I wouldn't just be a number. Smaller classes, on campus living, and the community as a whole were supposed to be a reflection of this."

Although he spoke highly of his first impressions of the university, his tone quickly shifted.

"The decision by UT administration to place brand new students, who haven't applied yet and currently have no relationship with the school, before graduating seniors is unconscionable," Womack wrote. "More and more I feel like I am attending a two-year university or a for-profit trade school like DeVry or Keiser. I never thought I would be treated this way here. For the first time, I have started researching possibly transferring to another college. I am embarrassed to go to UT."

Womack voiced his feelings of unimportance and rejection by the UT administration. He thanked Dr. Devine for "graciously listening" to his concerns, however, Womack shared that he did not feel as though any real solutions were offered. Womack showed the piece of paper in his hands to the audience - it was a transfer sheet for FSU.

Only time will tell whether or not the policy helps or hurts the retention rate in the coming years.

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Bianca Lopez/The Minaret  
ResCom will be under construction during the next academic year to build phases two and three of Palm.

# Welcome to the Space Jam, Here's Your Chance

By **REBECCA TURNER & JESS FORTE**  
Features Editor/News Writer

It's been a stellar few weeks for astronomical discoveries. Events like the Supermoon, water on Mars, and new insights about Pluto's moon Charon have brought not only excitement for astronomers, but ordinary citizens as well.

The Supermoon, also called the blood moon, appeared on the night of Sept. 27 and was the result of three lunar events happening at the same time: the total lunar eclipse, the full moon closest to the fall equinox (known also as a harvest moon) and the moon's closest approach to Earth this year. This converging triad of events isn't scheduled to happen again until 2033, according to National Geographic.

This year's orange-colored moon was seen in much of the world, including North and South America, Europe, Africa, parts of West Asia and the eastern Pacific, as reported by CBS News. While the lunar event was technically visible in Tampa for over an hour, it was difficult to catch more than a glimpse of it through the cloud cover until the end.

Courtney Ripp, a freshman accounting major, attempted to see the Supermoon with her friends.

"We tried, but there were too many clouds surrounding it," she said. "I was disappointed since everyone talked about it a lot."

Even though it wasn't totally visible, some students were able to get a peek.

"I went out and looked all around," said Samantha Milillo, a freshman with an undecided major. "I saw that some of the clouds were a little pinkish looking though."

The day after the uncommon Supermoon, astronomy news grabbed the world's attention again with a surprising announcement from NASA. The organization confirmed that there is evidence of liquid water flowing on Mars.



*On Sept. 27, the Supermoon "blood moon" appeared; unfortunately, clouds obstructed the view in Tampa.*  
Graham Hall/Flickr

Mysterious lines appear seasonally on the slopes of Mars's mountain ranges and it is probable that these streaks on the planet are water, according to NASA. The scientists haven't actually seen or sampled the water directly, but they used a method called spectroscopy to chemically analyze the streaks at a distance, according to The Washington Post.

Scientists are now debating what the presence of liquid water on Mars would mean for the planet. They are using a multitude of spacecrafts, calculations and theories to simplify this new information. The average person should just know a few basic things.

For one, the planet could sustain life. That does not mean there are Martians. Well, at least not any Martians larger than microbes. But, even microscopic organisms still may not exist on Mars now. That would depend upon how saturated it is with salt compounds, according to The New York Times. There's likely water, but it might not be suitable for supporting life.

Keith Francisco, a senior business management major, is fairly confident that life can exist on Mars.

"There's life, for sure. There's no way that we're the only ones out here," he said. "If humans and other animals need water to survive, there's a chance that something else does too."

Secondly, if the streaks are actually water, it's no vacation paradise. The water isn't likely pooling anywhere on the planet and is probably flowing underneath the sandy surface when the streaks are visible, as reported by The Washington Post. Even if the liquid water is there, there doesn't appear to be enough to provide for humans, even at the planet's warmest 70 degree temperatures. So don't pack your bags for Mars just yet.

Also, NASA has no current plans to investigate the streaks of probable water up-close any time soon. The spacecrafts they currently have up there weren't sterilized before leaving Earth and could contaminate water rich areas of Mars with Earth microbes. While NASA will launch a new spacecraft in 2020, it too will not be sterilized and therefore not used for these investigations. They aren't going to use a sterilized spacecraft because it is more expensive and requires a

non-traditional design, The New York Times reports. Therefore, we have no way to test what NASA's new report tells us.

As for (dwarf) planet news, Pluto's moon Charon has some newly discovered mountains and crevices. The moon is half the diameter of Pluto, but little was previously known about Charon's features. The New Horizons spacecraft's camera took photos of the moon recently and transmitted them back to Earth around the same time that these other astronomical events occurred, according to a Fox News report.

These new images are the best obtained so far of Charon, and show geological aspects that we were unaware of before. The moon has fissures and canyons above its equator. Some are as much as four times the length of the Grand Canyon and twice as deep, according to NASA. The photos show that some kind of geologic event occurred on Charon, though the exact cause of these features remains uncertain.

While much of Charon appears disfigured by these geologic gashes, some sections appear seemingly newer or repaired. One early explanation for this is the possibility of cryovolcanism, or the presence of ice volcanoes, on the surface, the report also stated.

Astronomy captured our attention the past couple of weeks, but the sky stuff doesn't stop with these three events. Every year, there are at least four eclipses and various astronomic bodies become visible. Over the next two months we may even see, cloud cover permitting, several meteor showers and a few comets.

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## New Adventure Park Zips into Dade City



*Photo courtesy of Ted Major/Flickr*  
Treehoppers park offers zip line adventures.

By **HANNAH FARROW**  
News Writer

On Sept. 15, Treehoppers, a new adventure zip line park, opened in Dade City. On the same property, SCREAM-A-GEDDON, a haunted house, opened on Sept. 19. Both are only a 40 minute drive from UT.

Treehoppers' general manager Cary Tear said the park isn't like a typical zip line park. Instead of a mile-and-a-half long

zip line ride, the course includes wooden bridges, ropes and tunnels, making this one of the few parks of its kind in the state.

"We want [the participants] to focus more on the challenges and conquering the obstacles. Then they can reward themselves with the zip line," Tear said.

The eight different courses and 100 different elements range from yellow, the beginner course, which is closest to the ground, to double black, the expert course, which is 50 feet in the air. The levels increase in difficulty from yellow to green to blue to black and then, the most strenuous, double black. In order to even attempt the double black, participants must complete both the green and blue courses or the blue and black courses.

Upper body strength is a must when attempting to complete the double black. Some elements rely strictly on balance and strength.

"Only six of the 2,000 people that have been here so far have completed all courses," Tear explained.

Paige Transue, a freshman at Pasco-Hernando State College and a monitor at Treehoppers, said she went through a week-long training, complete with a test, to start her job.

"What's most rewarding is when a

participant gets stuck and needs saving," Transue said.

"I like the one-on-one experience where I can prove I know what I'm doing," she explained. Some participants get tired and physically can't go on.

Treehoppers' trees are all safe and certified by an arborist who inspected each tree to insure that they will not collapse. According to the director of marketing John Pianki, the safety inspector said Treehopper's harnesses are the safest he has ever seen.

Treehoppers adds another adventuring outlet for Floridians, but it's just the beginning. While the park is currently 13 acres, the company owns 60 acres of land to build upon in the future.

One attraction being featured at Treehoppers is SCREAM-A-GEDDON, voted Best New Haunt by USA's Best Haunted Houses. The park opened last weekend and will remain open until Nov. 1. The haunted house is interactive, meaning characters have the right to get closer than usual if a waiver is signed allowing them to do so.

In a press release, Pianki said, "SCREAM-A-GEDDON is a brand new type of horror park that Central Florida has never experienced before. Simply put, words

can't describe the terror within. It truly needs to be experienced in order to be believed."

SCREAM-A-GEDDON will be Howl-O-Scream's biggest competitor, according to Tear. There are six attractions, including a haunted hayride and Bedlam 3D.

According to the website, "Bedlam could be thought of as pandemonium and anarchy, but you could also say that it's immersion in the chaos of the unknown. You'll experience all of these in the craziness of the maze, and it will have you running for your life. The clowns that fill Bedlam 3D will terrorize you, chase you and try to consume your flesh."

The same company that opened SCREAM-A-GEDDON owns Indy Scream Park in Indianapolis, the number-one haunted house in the country, according to USA's Best Haunted Houses.

Treehoppers is open 8am-7pm every day. SCREAM-A-GEDDON is open 7:30pm-11 or 1am every day except Mondays and Tuesdays. Tickets for SCREAM-A-GEDDON range from \$19.95 to \$29.95 and tickets for Treehoppers range from \$29 to \$49 for adults. Both parks offer group discounts.

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# DIVERSIONS

## ON CAMPUS

- OCTOBER 8  
**Global Perspectives - SEED Workshop**  
Vaughn Center, Room 219  
10:00pm-11:00pm  
Free

OCTOBER 9-10  
**Chamber Chair and Camerata Concert**  
Sykes Chapel  
7:30pm  
Free

OCTOBER 10  
**Emerging Leaders Professional Development Seminar**  
Sykes College of Business, Room 131  
9:00am-4:00pm  
Free

OCTOBER 12  
**De-Stereotype Me Day**  
Vaughn Courtyard  
11:30am-3:00pm  
Free

## OFF CAMPUS

- OCTOBER 9  
**Fitline Zipline**  
Downtown Tampa  
10:00am  
Free

OCTOBER 9  
**Oktoberfest Tampa**  
Curtis-Hixon Park  
4:00pm  
\$10


OCTOBER 10  
**Florida Viking Fest**  
Tampa Garden Club  
2:00pm  
\$5

OCTOBER 10  
**Muder House**  
Town 'n' Country  
10:00am  
\$5

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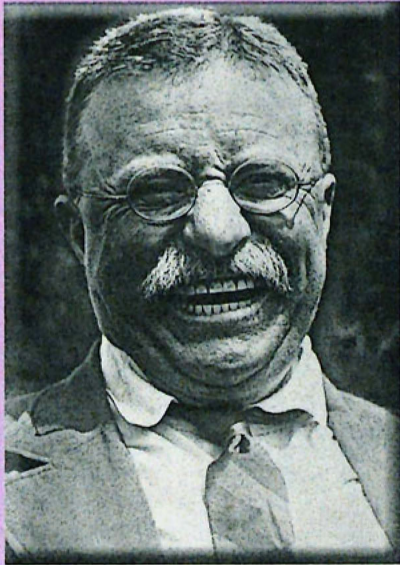
## PICTURE *of the* WEEK



*Ellis Catalan/The Minaret*  
Dylan Berry's 3D Printing project was displayed at the Alumni Art Show.

## TRIVIA CHALLENGE

IN WHAT YEAR DID TEDDY ROOSEVELT VISIT THE FORMER PLANT HOTEL--THE BUILDING THAT IS NOW UT'S HISTORIC PLANT HALL?



DO YOU KNOW YOUR UT HISTORY? BRING THE CORRECT ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION TO MINARET HEADQUARTERS IN VAUGHN 211 AND GET A FREE PIECE OF MINARET SWAG.

## ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

## From Bar to Bar. Juice Bar, That Is.

BY SAMANTHA FITZMAURICE  
Arts + Entertainment Writer

"What do you want to eat?" might not be the question you want to hear when your stomach is growling. A Tampanian might ask "What do you want to drink?" And no, I don't mean alcohol. I mean JUICE. The number of juice bars through the streets of Tampa are on the rise, and almost equivalent to the amount of actual bars in the city.

As I walked into my first juice bar, SOHO Juice Company, I felt more out of place than I do at a regular bar. It wasn't a bad feeling, just a weird one. I was welcomed by a girl standing behind a simple counter in her Lulu Lemon yoga apparel.

Chelsea has been a dedicated employer at SOHO Juice Company for over a year now. The company has been up and running for over two years and their clientele ranges from the daily regulars to the curious customers like myself.

Many juicing shops in Tampa are conveniently located within just a few miles from The University of Tampa. Some of the more popular shops include: SOHO Juice Company, Squeeze Juice Works, Swami Juice, and Urban Juice Company. It appears as if juice bars have popped up over night. In a city of college students, workaholics and fit families from Bayshore, Tampa seems to be the place where health trends catch on fast. That's no different when it comes to specialized diets.

At SOHO Juice Company, one wall is full of colorful juices that fill the see-through glass fridges. All of the juices seem to be color coordinated, grouped from the brown and white milk-colored drinks to the fruity purple and orange ones. Of course you can't miss the vibrant green drinks which take up a majority of the fridge. The colors of the juices nonchalantly hinted at what ingredients they contained. The layout of SOHO Juice Company was much less intimidating for me than at Squeeze Juice Works. Squeeze had a long, granite bar and a smaller fridge in the corner which held gallons of juice.

At both juice bars, I was lucky enough to try some samples of what I referred to as "the green stuff," thanks to its appealing color. Each company used similar ingredients in their green vegetable juices including apple, cucumber, kale and spinach. At SOHO Juice Co., a bottle of juice goes for \$9.62, where at Squeeze it's \$8.99, but the \$0.63 does pay for the difference in taste. SOHO Juice's 'Tropikale' is a customer favorite because it is sweeter. Personally,

the Tropikale was much nicer to the taste buds than Squeeze's 'Simple Green' juice. My friend Talia Pappas, a junior public relations and advertising major who had come with me on this adventure strongly agreed. "I can't drink a bottle of that," she said in reference to Squeeze's "Simple Green" juice. If you're one who adjusts quickly to the unique and bitter taste of vegetables, then Squeeze might be the juice company for you.

Juicing can also be done at home, but the juice bars do have their benefits. The basic juicer has a history of its own dating back to 1954. It wasn't long before the juicer found its home on QVC. Most juicing companies, including SOHO Juice Company and Squeeze Juice Works, use a cold-press technique to make their juices. Most people who own a juicer at home have a centrifugal juicer, which contains a metal blade that generates heat. This leads to accidentally cooking your fruit and vegetables without you even knowing it.

The cold-press technique used by the Tampa juice bars crushes the fruit and vegetables into their tiniest form and then presses them to extract their juice and nutrients. Because the cold press doesn't produce heat like the centrifugal juicer, more of the fresh ingredients are kept. The nutritional value you receive at juice bars is a big reason why the Tampa juicing industry has skyrocketed.

Fitness and health have become such a popular concern and obsession for many, so people use alternatives, such as juicing, to better themselves. One juice bottle contains almost your entire recommended daily serving of fruits or vegetables. Many don't know the average person should be consuming between five and thirteen servings of fruit and vegetables a day.

There are many different options when it comes to juicing, including the popular juice cleanse. A cleanse is meant to "jump start your metabolism, reprogram your taste buds and recharge your innate nutritional needs," according to the SOHO Juice Co. pamphlet.

Although juicing is meant to benefit one's body, people should understand their body and how the juicing process works before jumping into it. Most cleanses are meant to be done over a three-to-five-day period and specify what juices you need for the right nutritional value. Many of us are guilty of looking up "diets to lose weight" or actually know someone who has drank only lemon-infused water with cayenne pepper for two weeks because "the diet guru said



Juice Squeeze Juice Works/ Facebook

Local juice bars like SOHO Juice Co. and Juice Squeeze Juice Works provide healthy and delicious beverages.

to." That is not the way to do it.

Many juicing places like to say a juice is a meal replacement, but Joe Dalessio, an employee at Squeeze Juice Works, disagrees. He says that a juice should be in addition to a diet because it gives you extra nutrients you probably wouldn't get normally.

If you don't think you can down a whole bottle of juice, most juice bars in Tampa have other popular options known as One Ounce Juice Shots. The shots are about 1 to 1.5 ounces of juice jam-packed with nutrients. They are beneficial in helping to increase circulation and decrease inflammation within one swig.

They also have shots designated to cure symptoms of common issues, including hangovers.

Juicing also has many other benefits. The common issues of migraines and joint pains as well as the infrequent health issues such as morning sickness can all be alleviated with certain juices. So, if you're interested in getting your daily intake of fruits and vegetables within a few sips, it is no question that juicing is the way to go.

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SOHO Juice Company/ Facebook

# Tampa's Chayce Halley Releases Beautiful Debut

By JORDAN WALSH  
Arts + Entertainment Editor

It seems like Chayce Halley has just secured his position as the Tampa music scene's most prized treasure. His debut record *Bloom House* is a dizzying, tenderly wrought work of experimental pop and an incredible first chapter for this local artist.

*Bloom House* is a testament to balance—the record teeters perfectly on the line between spectral and earthly, distant and close. Opener “Agoraphobia” is unique and intimate with an intro that sounds like circus music that’s been flattened and softened enough to be warming. The

result is a hypnotic and strange kind of tune that allows *Bloom House* to gently slide itself into gear.

“Wolf” is a perfect follow up to “Agoraphobia.” The song’s distinct transition from a breezy, distant drifter to a much sparser acoustic round is a great example of Halley’s ability to flourish with and without the record’s impressive use of production layers. “Wolf’s” successful and seamless use of this transition works to bring Halley closer in the song’s final moments. This gives the song an element of humanity and personality which sometimes feels drowned out in other dream pop records of this type.

Lyrical, *Bloom House* comes off like a quaint fever dream. Vibrant and unsettling images are described but not explained, like the strange scene described in “Agoraphobia”—“Bright faces and white lights reflecting in the pale linoleum/ My voice is calling, voices screaming/ Danger in the marketplace.”

In keeping with the sound’s balance between intimacy and outer space level distance, these more opaque illustrations are responses to cheerful specifics (“My little Sophie P. how do you be/ Just a sleepin’ the whole day long?”). Sprinkled throughout are striking one-liners like “Gravity’s” opening couplet—“Nothing is isolated, everything touches you/ Like a cancer or a kiss, who’s to say which?” These clear sentiments help to keep the little world of *Bloom House* grounded and

real while the stranger segments work to keep it fascinating.

*Bloom House* is anchored by its two most ambitious and successful tracks. The longest songs on the record, “Gravity” and “17,” showcase Chayce Halley’s ability to sustain an engaging tune over a more substantial length of time. These tracks never lose steam, the extended extraterrestrial lullaby of “Gravity” especially thriving with the extra space. “Gravity” and “17” use their time wisely, carving out distinct and unique atmospheres for themselves in their six-plus minutes.

But it’s the closing “(A Round) for Angelina” that makes the biggest impression for Chayce Halley. A spinning daydream of a song, “(A Round) for Angelina” is *Bloom House*’s crown jewel. Halley’s delicate delivery is calming and sweet—perfect against a track driven by deliberate and colorful synthesizers. “Angelina’s” odd but beautiful descriptions of love bring *Bloom House* to an end with an understated euphoria.

*Bloom House* is an incredible debut from this Tampa-based artist, a meticulously crafted project that succeeds in creating a strange and beautiful sonic world. One of the best records of the year so far, *Bloom House* is the sound of an artist bursting their way to the center of our scene.

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Chayce Halley/Facebook

Chayce Halley will officially release ‘Bloom House’ on October 23, but it’s available now on Bandcamp.

# ‘Drafter’ Gives New Series a Stellar Start

By KAITLYN STOCKDALE  
Arts + Entertainment Writer

These days government agencies have been popularly romanized as great settings for movies, TV shows and books; however in real life things are more complicated. We trust them because we have to, and we understand that we don’t always know what they’re doing, but we accept them because they are, after all, trying to protect us.

But what if one of them was corrupt?

That’s the central question in *The Drafter* the first book in the new series *The Perri Reed Chronicles* by Kim Harrison. The action novel revolves around a government secret agent, Perri Reed, who has to deal with the looming question of corruption as she struggles to remember who she is after multiple memory losses. With power comes a price, and the price of changing time is forgetting it.

Perri’s a “drafter,” a person who can go back in time and create a new timeline, but it’s the second one, the “draft,” that sticks. And after the two timelines “mesh” and time snaps back, drafters can’t remember either timeline, and they lose parts of their memory of their lives before the draft, depending on how large of a change they make—at least according to Opti, a government agency. And of course they need a partner, someone to rely on, an “anchor” who can help drafters remember what they’ve forgotten. With all the trust involved in the partnership, working together for Opti as spies or even assassins, Perri falls in love with her “anchor,” Jack.

Then he betrays her, and everything falls apart.

So what do you do when you find out you might be corrupt, but you can’t remember if you are? And what

do you do when you find out the government agency you work for has implanted a tracking device in you without your knowledge? And what do you do when you find out that the people you work for can wipe your memory at any time and remake you into whoever they want you to be?

For Perri, it’s simple. You fight back.

This book is all action while cleverly playing on one of society’s biggest questions: Who am I? And this question is not just addressed to children and teenagers, but to the adult that is having her mind twisted at arbitrary commands. And now Perri has to face not knowing who she is. Her mind tells her she’d never go corrupt, but her intuition tells her something isn’t right, and she wonders if she’s the reason why.

And that’s an important point, Perri is not a perfect hero. In fact, she may not even be a hero. She likes the freedom and power that Opti gives her, so much that some people—including Perri herself—wonder if she didn’t realize the corruption sooner because she didn’t want to. And even more than that, she’s a strong character who still falls for human weakness—her relationship with Jack is all about pretty things: elegant clothes, fast cars and high society. This fake relationship continues to taunt her, lure her, throughout the novel, even after Perri realizes that Jack had been using her for three years.

Perri’s not always a likeable character. She has an independent streak but is also used to relying on someone else, an anchor. This combination makes her rude, self-serving, and often shortsighted. It makes her easy to manipulate, and oftentimes she takes too long to recognize difficult truths, so that by

the time she does realize them, it’s already too late.

She’s a flawed character, but as she realizes her flaws and tries to change them, readers root for her. Because as humans we are all flawed and for us, sometimes it is easier not to pry, to take things at face value, and to be content to have people respect us, love us or even be in awe of us. As the book progresses, readers fall into Perri’s story because they can see themselves in her.

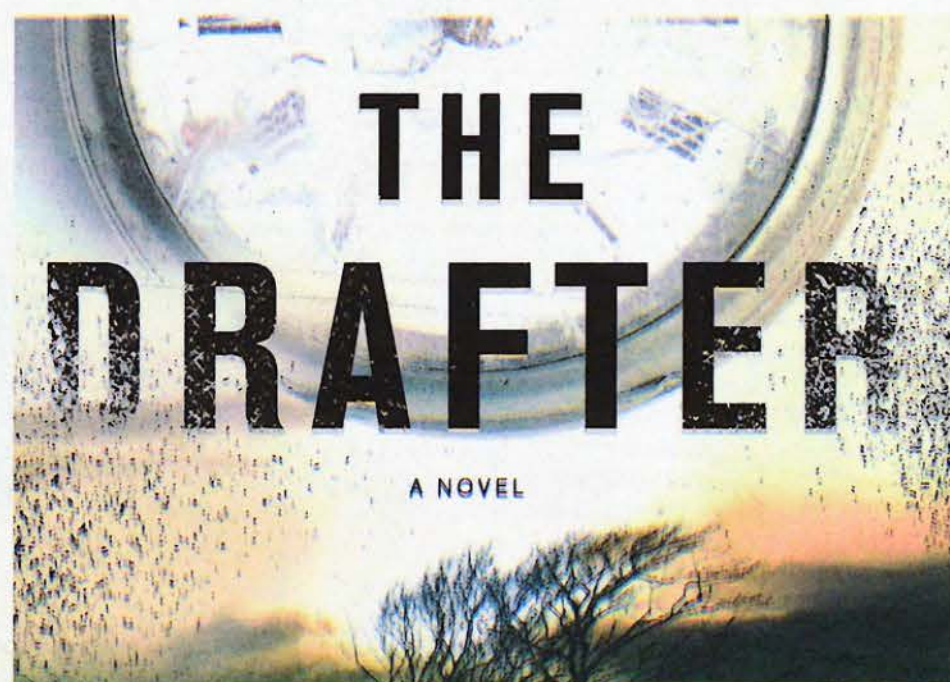
The book is full of twists that keep readers guessing, all while playing on their fears. Fears that everyone can relate to, that your friends are not really your friends, that the person you love could betray you, and that there’s no one in the world you can trust—not even yourself.

Harrison takes a James Bond-like character and knocks her off her pedestal, reminding us all that

we are not infallible. Perri’s flaws, even down to the hidden plotline of her estranged relationship with her mother and her desperate struggle to control her own life, make her more relatable and more likable than the classic gun-toting, thug-slinging, super-secret agent.

*The Drafter* strips the mystery away from spy work and reveals a character that is not always perfect, real or determined to take control of her life. It’s high paced with dozens of twists and clever foreshadowing, leaving readers guessing until the very end. A perfect debut novel, you’ll be caught up in Perri’s story and ready for more.

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Amazon.com  
‘The Drafter’ is Kim Harrison’s first book in the new series *The Perri Reed Chronicles*.

# Netflix Guru's Monster of the Week: Laughs and Gasps

By **SAM ALLEN**  
Opinion Editor

**Editor's Note:** Each week in October, Netflix Guru will showcase a series of films that focus on a specific theme or subgenre of horror. Within each theme there will be a variety of well-known and obscure flicks to round out the subgenre. After all, what is Netflix for but to give you options for alternative film?

Horror and comedy are two odd genres to merge together. If done correctly, it can create something truly unique and magnificent. In the tradition of many horror-comedy classics, like *Army of Darkness* or *Shaun of the Dead*, the following films have an element of gore or terror that kill it in more than one way. So, for this week's Netflix Guru we'll explore a few off-the-wall horror-comedy films that are just as spooky as they are humorous.

## **John Dies at the End (2012)**

*John Dies at the End* is my favorite horror-comedy novel of all time. So you can imagine my excitement when the book was adapted into a film a few years later. I did suffer my fair share of book-to-film adaption woes, as per usual, but there are still a ton of things to love about this film. The context that got lost from novel to film ended up making this movie a hilarious "what the hell did I just watch?" comedy. Its ridiculousness is a huge part of the pleasure.

The film centers around Dave (Chase Williams) and John (Rob Mayes) who gain the ability to see dangerous creatures that leak into our world from other dimensions after taking a drug called soy sauce. Things escalate quickly just 10 minutes into the film, when an attractive girl

erupts into hundreds of snakes. Dave and John have a hard time escaping as the doorknob to their only exit turns into a flaccid penis. Meanwhile a literal meat monster, who puts Lady Gaga to shame, threatens to destroy them. This film doesn't try to be taken seriously, which is part of its charm.

## **Tucker & Dale vs. Evil (2010)**

Generally, when I tell others about my favorite horror-comedy on Netflix, the first words out of my mouth are "Go into it blind, this film is perfect when you have no idea what's going on." However, since I'm dying to tell as many people as possible about this film, I'll allow myself to give a little away.

*Tucker & Dale vs. Evil* follows Tucker (Alan Tudyk) and Dale (Tyler Labine), two best friends who are mistaken for crazed serial killers. All they want is to renovate their "fixer-upper" vacation home, when a group of teenagers ruin their weekend by accusing them of kidnapping their friend. Tucker and Dale spend the better half of the film trying to return said friend, but end up getting themselves into trouble as a result of a few maddening misunderstandings.

This film is simultaneously hilarious and aggravating. The viewer sees both sides of the story and watches as each and every misstep on the part of Tucker and Dale turns into a nightmare. Tucker and Dale are two truly loveable characters and it's saddening for the viewer to see them undergo such strife. This film, however, is immensely satisfying and wildly entertaining. *Tucker and Dale vs. Evil* is dark humor at its finest. As much as you may feel dismayed about the struggles of the protagonists, you will find yourself laughing hysterically at the teenagers and their preposterous antics.



*Tucker & Dale vs. Evil*/ Facebook

*Tucker & Dale vs. Evil* is one of many uproarious horror comedies featured on Netflix.

## **Rubber (2010)**

The final film on our off-the-wall horror comedy list is about a serial killer named Robert who obliterates anyone and anything with his mind. Robert isn't your average serial killer ... Robert is a tire. *Rubber* is absurdist horror comedy like you've never seen it before. The film is odd in every way; it begins with Lieutenant Chad (Stephen Spinella) who emerges from the trunk of a car to tell the viewer directly why things happen in film. "No reason." He uses this phrase as a metaphor for life in general and of course, as a helpful guide for viewers. The best way to enjoy this film, as implied by Lieutenant Chad, is to not think about it too hard.

The camera pans out on a tourist group who has gathered in the

California desert to "watch a film." Or in other words, they watch a homicidal tire make people explode from afar with their trusty binoculars. The tourist group gives context for what we are viewing as well as pointing out cinephile pretensions, by providing commentary on the tire's actions throughout the "film" within a film. This existential satire is a gore fest of absurd and hilarious proportions. If you're willing to accept the pointlessness of it all, *Rubber* really is an amazing time.

Be sure to pick up next week's issue to read the Netflix Guru's recommendations on the legendary werewolf vs. vampire matchups.

Sam Allen can be reached at sam.allen@theminaretonline.com.

# Oddball Comedy Show is Star Studded Hilarity

By **MARRA CIUFFETELLI**  
Arts + Entertainment Writer

Booming laughter, controversial jokes and the humid Florida air created the perfect setting for Funny or Die's annual Oddball Comedy and Curiosity Festival at Tampa's MIDFLORIDA Credit Union Amphitheatre. The night consisted of eight hilarious comedians including comedic geniuses Amy Schumer and Aziz Ansari. The evening's host Jeff Ross, notable for being Comedy Central's "Roastmaster," started out the festival by warmly greeting "Trampa," on Oct. 3. Ross brought out his "roast cam" and scanned the unsuspecting front row interacting with the crowd by asking questions like: "Man, look at those sandals! Did you walk here from Nazareth or something?" Picking up a guitar to sing a rather raunchy tune, Ross set the tone for what turned out to be a hysterical night.

Singing, showering and shocking Bridget Everett, known for being a cabaret comedian, came out covering the front row in champagne and immediately captivated the audience. Everett's first song stunned the audience members by pulling her dress up and gyrating on the speakers. She flashed the crowd multiple times before climbing down off the stage to interact with the crowd and motor-boating several unsuspecting people's faces. Everett, reminiscent of the wild child star Miley Cyrus with her shocking attire and controversial behavior, belted out Cyrus' "The Climb," and in true rebel fashion gave quite a shocking performance. It started with holding a man's head in her crotch and ended with her sitting on a woman's face on

stage. Everett provided the crowd with a riveting experience full of gasps and uncontrollable laughter.

Tim Michin's 15-minute musical act consisted of a song about relationships in which he offered up some strangely hilarious comments such as, "If you really loved me you'd let me wear your underwear when we visit your mum," and hit the nail on the head with, "we go together like racism and ignorance." He managed to put on quite a show while also bringing the real issues of today bubbling to the surface.

Amy Schumer appeared to the roaring screams of thousands. Her 30-minute act of hilarity began with her practicing her SNL monologue for next week's episode. Schumer transitioned into an account of a recent interview in which she was asked, "Isn't it an exciting time for women in Hollywood?" Her response was resounding and honest, "Absolutely Not." Tackling the issues of the immense hypocrisy women face in the media, Schumer discussed how *Women's Health Magazine* tears down women's confidence by teaching them "How to eat just enough to survive, maybe." Furthering her outrage, she expressed her disappointment in Khloe Kardashian for losing a "Kendall" size amount of weight in order to be featured in *Women's Health* and also losing her reputation as the only relatable Kardashian. She expressed her indignation that she is labeled a "sex comedian" because she occasionally talks about sex; but if she were a man telling the same jokes she would be considered "just a comedian."

Jogging energetically onto the stage, Aziz Ansari immediately began his act

by expressing his complaints about how the littlest things can annoy someone in a long-term relationship. He conveyed the struggles of not being religious in a religious family, and specifically growing up in the Muslim religion and really loving bacon. He confided in the audience that he wished he read more books instead of spending hours on the internet reading senseless tweets about "Ludacris going to Jamaica." To finish out the night, he discussed the very real issue of police brutality and racism. Ansari skillfully approached the subjects

of Sandra Bland, police brutality and #blacklivesmatter while still managing to entertain the crowd of thousands. His comedic flare not only makes one cry laughing, but also tackles the very real social issues that we face daily. Each comedian was able to confront important social issues while delivering hearty laughs to the attentive crowd.

Marra Ciuffetelli can be reached at marra.ciuffetelli@spartans.ut.edu.



Casey Budd/ The Minaret

The Oddball Comedy Festival on October 8th featured popular comedians like Aziz Ansari.

# Apps to Simplify the Life of a College Student

BY MARIA MCGEE AND  
IVY VELAZQUEZ  
Arts + Entertainment Writers

There seems to be a new app almost everyday. And while many of them are just pointless games, there are few that can be helpful. From making college life easier to making your way around a theme park, these apps are worth the download.

## MyScript Calculator

MyScript Calculator is a must-have study tool for all college students. Allowing you to solve mathematical equations by swiping your finger, this innovative app tosses away standard calculator procedures. By naturally drawing out any math problem with your finger or stylus, this modern calculator uses your handwritten gestures to solve complex problems more easily. This app includes features such as undo/redo, the ability to scratch out mistakes, and the convenience of saving your work.

MyScript Calculator also provides its users with the option to export their work to other apps or even as a photo to share. With extraordinary simplicity and easy-to-use features, it is no question why this app was given the *Tabby App Award* for best personal productivity tool this year.

## GrubHub

Looking to get mouth-watering food without having to move a muscle? GrubHub is the app for you. Founded in 2004, GrubHub now serves millions of diners in 800+ cities in the United States; Here in Tampa, this modern food delivery app works with about 348 restaurants. Ranked #1 by Heavy for "Top 5 Best Free Food Delivery Apps for iPhone & Android," GrubHub serves its purpose by linking convenience with food delivery. This app is a necessity for busy college students because it allows them to order great meals in little time, with no hassle. By simply opening the app and enabling your current location, you are provided with a variety of restaurants in your area, including their cuisine type, rating and distance. Once you tap on the restaurant of your choice, a full menu appears featuring popular items, prices and dishes by category, where you are then able to individually add items to your order. GrubHub allows their users to choose whether they want their food delivered or prepared for pick-up. If delivery is selected, you are then able to "Track Your Grub" every step of the way, through the app or by text. This advanced take-out service is equipped with a customer service team that is available 24/7, the use of coupons



Grubhub.com

This new app is available for free download on Apple and Android devices. Once downloaded, MyScript offers an in-app purchase of the "Power Pack" for just \$0.99; This add-on includes immediate reuse of previous solutions, memory to store past results and history to give the user the ability to recover all prior equations. "Every math student should download MyScript Calculator," said the *Wall Street Journal* in a recent article on essential back to school accessories.

and promo codes and the ability to securely store payment information as well as your addresses and previous orders. If you have not used GrubHub, your days of effortless delivery have not yet begun.

## My Days X

This one is for the ladies.

Have you ever planned an event and worried that it would fall around your time of the month? Or worse, not expect it at all and end up having an accident? This app estimates



**Astro Orbiter**  
Tomorrowland, Magic...  
9:00 AM - 12:00 AM

10 min wait



**The Barnstormer**  
Fantasyland, Magic...  
9:00 AM - 12:00 AM

5 min wait

FP+

Screenshot/My Disney Experience  
My Disney Experience is a free app that can help you avoid long lines at Disney World.

when your cycle will start. It may not be super accurate for the first few months, as it has to get adjusted to your cycle, but it's still useful to know around what time you'll be getting your period. You can also make note of when you've had intercourse, if you took the pill, your blood flow, etc. The app even tells you when you're ovulating. And multiple "profiles" can be entered, meaning more than one person can use the app to track their flow.

My Days X is available both free and to buy for \$1.99 in the Google Play Store and the iTunes App store. The only real difference in the paid version is slightly better graphics, different themes to choose from and no advertisements. The free app works great for the basics.

## What the Health

Have you ever gone to a restaurant and been totally grossed out by something? Maybe your dishes weren't clean, or a cockroach crawled across your table? With "What the Health-FL," you can figure out which are the go-to restaurants and which are the ones you want to stay far away from. It even shows scores for food trucks.

This app shows you the last time various restaurants were tested by the Health Department and the scores of all the restaurants near you, and it uses your location to figure which ones are close. Not only that, but it tells you what violations were made and if they were fixed.

Admittedly, this may reveal things that you don't want to know. But it's good to know whether or not the place

that is serving you food knows how to keep it clean.

This app is free to install in Google Play and the App Store.

## My Disney Experience

Many students have either been to or want to visit Disney World at least once. Attending college in Florida provides an ideal opportunity. But no one wants to wait in lines all day.

The My Disney Experience app provides maps of all the parks, as well as wait times and show times right there in your phone. You can even reserve a FastPass from the app by using your park ticket.

So instead of hurrying to one ride across the park, only to find the line is nearly two hours long, you can check the app and plan accordingly. This way, you can use the time you would have spent waiting in line to catch a show. Maybe the wait time will go down later and you can make your way over having gotten more out of your day. It's also very useful for finding the nearest restaurant or bathroom. Time management at its finest.

Available on Google Play and iTunes, you do need to be at least 18 to make an account on the app. It is free and useful in making your way around the parks, whether you're a first timer or an old pro.

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# OPINION

## Volkswagen's Cheating Will Cost Us All

### GLOBAL

**MARISA NOBS**  
Opinion Editor

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced this September that Volkswagen, the world's largest automaker by volume, has been using software to cheat on diesel emissions standards for many years. Appallingly, this is the same company that has partaken in a "clean diesel" theme since 2008.

The impact of this immoral and harmful behavior stretches far beyond the estimated 11 million vehicles worldwide, including 500,000 in the U.S., that received the manipulating software. Credit Suisse has estimated the financial costs to VW as high as \$86 billion, which would far eclipse the cleanup cost paid by BP in the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil disaster.

The moral, medical and financial costs to society from VW's behavior raise many concerns, some easier to answer than others.

Who knew and when? Martin Winterkorn, the CEO of VW who just resigned, was a lifetime employee and had the top job since 2007. The EPA traced the cheating back to at least 2009. The maker of the software,

Bosch, warned VW that it was illegal to use the capabilities to defeat emissions testing. This proves that the practice was by no means new, and it was certainly no secret to those with the power to stop it. Also concerning, Bosch is a major supplier to many auto manufacturers.

It is an insult to the company, its employees, and customers to take this risk when it was a certainty that the deception would eventually come to light. Punishment can include enormous civil and criminal penalties plus long-term damage to the brand and network of VW dealers worldwide. Doesn't seem worth it. Class action lawsuits will be launched and linger for many years.

The cost elements of this cheating scandal are staggering. Stock price decline is obvious; 20 percent decline occurred the day of the press release. VW clearly had no regard for how its carelessness could affect global markets. Costs to recall and repair, plus warranty extension, are still being assessed. Reduced car values for millions of VW owners are definite. Lost sales, which go to competitors and weakening of the VW dealer network, are assured. Why would any consumer choose a car company today that has been caught cheating over a

long period of time? Reliability is a core value they all strive to showcase. The trust between a customer and a car company is sacred; after all, people are ensuring their safety with them.

This makes me wonder if the cheating is limited to just VW vehicles. VW owns several brands including Audi and Porsche. Then there is the concern of other major car manufacturers that share the same global network of suppliers and their growing desire to advertise better mileage and emission results. This scandal puts the future of diesel autos, which were advocated as a way to reduce harm, at risk. VWs are reported to have emitted nitrogen oxide pollution up to 40 times above the U.S. allowance. That's no white lie or simple oversight. Loss of credibility for diesel as an option has important ramifications to our society, especially at a time when global vehicle sales are mushrooming.

A more personal concern is the long-term health costs like lung cancer and lung disease. With tens of millions of vehicles emitting higher than known and permitted levels, VW has created a moral hazard for which there should be significant consequences.

This VW emissions scandal influences everyone's health and should be treated as such. Even those who do not own one of their vehicles



Unknown/Wikimedia Commons

may unknowingly have to suffer the consequences. It is not just an economic loss; there will be broad ramifications for society and the environment that will ultimately be immeasurable.

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## Feminism: Not Just For Females

### EQUALITY

**EMMA PAYNE MURPHY**  
Opinion Editor

Allow me to introduce you to feminism; potentially the greatest, and most relevant, social movement there is. Feminism, as defined by the Oxford English Dictionary, is the "advocacy of equality of the sexes and the establishment of the political, social, and economic rights of the female sex" (OED). This social movement has been chugging along for centuries, and although it has evolved drastically, it continues to be a highly discussed topic of debate. This is because most people still do not understand the true fundamentals of feminism.

When the word "feminism" is brought up in conversation many people, including women, tend to cringe. The word seems to have some type of negative connotation, and it is extremely disappointing that this is the case. For some reason, people are led to believe that feminism creates a divide or separation between men and women. Oscar-winner Marion Cotillard stated in an interview with Porter Magazine, "We need to fight for women's rights but I don't want to separate women from men. We're separated already because we're not made the same and it's the difference that creates this energy in creation and love. Sometimes in the word feminism there's too much separation." Cotillard implies that the feminist movement creates a separation between the sexes, which, if it were true, would be counterproductive; however, it isn't true at all. The purpose of feminism is to lessen the divide and promote equality.

People also assume feminists dislike

men in every way, shape and form. This is most likely the reason people roll their eyes at the idea of feminism. They will automatically deny or reject the idea of being a feminist themselves, because of this skewed sentiment about the movement. Now, what I am about to say may shock you, so make sure you're sitting down...feminists don't dislike men; not even in the slightest. In fact, feminism promotes the idea of men and women working together as a team to achieve total equality, not some middle school battle of the sexes nonsense.

For those of you reading this who are totally against feminism, and would never consider yourself a feminist, I regret to be the one to inform you (not really though), that if you believe women should be granted the same rights as men, including in the workplace, then you, yes you, are in fact a supporter of the feminist movement.

Go ahead, cry about it, but I promise you there are plenty of worse things in the world that you could be than a feminist. If anything, feminism will help the world; not only will it help women with their own personal growth, it will help men dismiss the idea that they are primary supporters. So, technically, you are doing a good thing. Heck, I'll even go as far as considering it an honorable act!

In my eyes, feminism can be one of the most positive social movements; not only because it strives to create equality between men and women, but it also encourages young girls to be independent, and be in control of their futures. From my own personal experience, I used to feel very submissive, and almost irrelevant to society. I wasn't quite sure what my purpose was, how many opportunities I could be given and what I could offer the world. The idea of



OpenClipartVectors/Pixabay

Feminism frequently receives a bad reputation, despite only wanting to achieve equality of the sexes.

a group of women, and men, coming together to empower what it means to be a woman, was exactly what I needed to help me determine the kind of life I want, and more importantly, the kind of woman I want to be.

So, for those of you reading this and rolling your eyes right now, just stop and look at the bigger picture. Feminism isn't

doing anything to hurt you, and it isn't doing anything unbeneficial to the world; if anything, feminism will only make the world a better place.

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# The Early Bird Doesn't Always Get the Worm

## Following Your Natural Sleep Pattern is Beneficial

### HEALTH

KATE SIMS  
Opinion Contributor

In college, it is fair to assume that a lot of students are extremely sleep deprived and spend each semester trying to catch up on vital rest. Between class work, student organizations and part-time or full-time jobs to balance, even the wisest and most experienced college students still struggle with sleep. Only 11 percent of students get "the proper amount of sleep," according to a study by Brown University. Most groups were separated into those who stayed up late or got up early. I myself identify with the crowd that stay up late. Recently, I decided it might be better to change my pattern with a great logic behind it. If I were to wake sooner, rather than stay up late, I wouldn't feel so tired when I hopped up at 7 a.m. to get the same work done that I would do that night. That experiment did not have the results I predicted, yet I did gain a new sense of what makes a person have strange sleeping patterns.

For the night owls of the world, many factors can keep them awake. Insomnia, or sleeplessness, can be provoked by stress, anxiety, chronic pains, changes in schedules, and more. I can't think of a better catalyst for these causes than college, where the idea of night owl stems from students denying themselves sleep to get things done. This is inaccurate because a night owl isn't someone too stressed out of their minds to sleep; it is someone who is still alert in the later hours when others are heading to bed. People in this group are said to have a higher cognitive complexity, according to a study by the London School of Economics and Political Science. I for one find that my creative peak is in the later hours. Think about it; these are the people who choose to be active in a period of time with minimal distractions prone for higher productivity: late at night.

Early birds have the advantage of alertness and productivity. An early bird has the more optimal timing for things like breakfast, exercising and equal exposure to "quiet time" than a night owl, according to studies collected by Jennie Kakkad, a writer for Ezine Articles. They are less stressed and more energetic



Getting enough sleep during college is already difficult enough, so don't push yourself to change sleeping patterns unless it would be beneficial to your health.

throughout the day. However, it doesn't seem that way for most "early birds". This may be because true early birds are only 1 percent of the actual population, according to Dr. Donna Arand, the clinical director of Kettering Sleep Disorder Center. This can explain the multitude of blogs and feeds that brag about their switch in sleep patterns, and those that speak of the "disadvantages" of early birds, such as energy loss and irritability. It's because most of these people either writing or being observed are not actual early birds, but people who have made the choice to wake up before their natural clocks say so. I can attest that going against my biological clock presented more issues than solutions.

Our natural clocks play a massive part in this charade of being a night owl or early bird. The actuality of whether someone prefers late nights or early mornings is purely genetic, and enhanced with daily routines. There is a massive misconception during our young

adult lives, especially with the adolescent lot, that we are night owls, thought biologically only for social purposes. But studies show that this majority will show behavior in their elderly years to be the exact opposite, turning late nights into early mornings, where one's middle years are in line with the nine-to-five pace. The scientific name for night owl is Delayed Sleep Phase Disorder (DSPD). Early birds are Advanced Sleep Phase Disorder (ASPD). Both patients of these sleep phase disorders will keep a regular balance of their sleep patterns from youth to elderly years.

Most sleep experts, like Arand, suggest that we shouldn't fight our chronotypes (see there is even a scientific term for it) and that society should be the one to acknowledge this and make the change. I tried to change my patterns to commendate the new lifestyle that had me waking up earlier than I was used to, but found that my productivity suffered more. Now it isn't going to be a walk in the

park once you've accepted your sleep pattern. Just being aware of whether you are naturally wired to run a certain way can help you prevent yourself from making life choices that can harm the necessary amount of sleep you need. Don't force yourself to operate during early hours when you need them "later". It can also help you learn what directions you need to take when it comes to scheduling the rest of your life, like that 8 A.M. compared to that 6 P.M. Just keep in mind that your body knows what's best for it. Sleep should be as natural as breathing.

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# Mars? We Have Enough Problems on Earth

### SPACE

NICOLETTA PAPPAS  
Opinion Contributor

NASA shocked the world last week by announcing that satellite images show what could be flowing water on Mars. Dark streaks on craters and slopes increase or decrease size seasonally. Referred to as "recurring slope lines (RSLs)," these dark streaks are the first observable evidence that indicates non-frozen water on the below freezing surface of Mars. If the RSLs truly are flowing water, it not only opens the door to the existence of extraterrestrial life, but also for plans of human exploration. This is a terrible idea considering that the temperature on Mars is equivalent to Antarctica and there is no oxygen present in the atmosphere. Human exploration should be cautiously considered and scientific discoveries should be critically looked at before we start sending our men and women millions of miles away.

I think it's dangerous for humans to explore or colonize on Mars. Taking a look at our history, humans tend to locate and claim every new territory, usually ruining

the natural resources in the attempts to create an empire. It may not be our intention to destroy; yet it seems to be the inevitable aftermath of our expansion efforts. Take a look at Earth. The once luscious Native-American inhabited North America is now industrialized from coast to coast, dispensing clouds of pollution into the atmosphere. China's air quality is so damaging it is equivalent to smoking 40 cigarettes a day, according to a new study done by Berkeley Earth. If this is what humans have manufactured Earth into, imagine what we would "accomplish" on Mars?

Apart from the well being of the planet, traveling to Mars would be a perilous quest in itself. It would take about half a year to just orbit the red planet, depending on the orbit pattern. Scientists would have to build a spacecraft with enough fuel to reach Mars, as well as enough supplies and fuel to sustain humans for the duration of the trip. This would be an incredible amount of money. Astronauts would have to be trained for a mission where they do not know what to expect. Only 18 out of 43 probe missions to Mars have been historically successful, according to NASA. That is less than a 50

percent success rate. If I were an astronaut, I would want more briefing on the expedition and more successful explorations done before I embarked.

Scientists based their "new discovery" off of dark lines that extend on the edges of cliffs during the summer time. They have no empirical evidence that these lines are water apart from soil samples, atmospheric testing, and aerial photographs, yet have the means to gain empirical evidence. Scientists have theorized that because of the salt on the slopes and higher temperatures during the summer months, ice found in the soil melts and flows down. They also theorized that there could be an underwater source where the flowing water stems from. NASA's hope is the discovery of flowing water will allow human missions in the 2030s to produce drinking water and oxygen. If NASA is wrong about the flowing water and sends astronauts out there, they could be attempting to live off of flowing rock slides instead of water.

Even if we were to attempt to test the water, rovers on Mars are unable to approach the RSLs due to the United Nation's Outer Space Treaty. Signed in 1967, this treaty states that countries exploring planets like Mars "shall avoid harmful contamination of

space and celestial bodies." What this means is that rovers from Earth have the potential to contaminate RSLs if they prove to be water. Exploring any further than scientists have already will tiptoe on the edge of violating the treaty. Landing humans on Mars significantly heightens the chance of contamination, especially if they must live off the land to survive. Although scientists think they have located water, there are no way of safely verifying it without breaking the treaty and facing anger from the United Nations.

At the present moment, more government funding and focus should be put on the violent issues on Earth instead of a planet we may never land on. It is interesting and exciting, but much more successful research should be done before we rush into sending humans on Mars. Until progress is made to lessen economic turmoil and world violence, NASA and the Mars exploration need to take a backseat.

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# Syrian Refugees Face Problems Away From Home

## INTERNATIONAL

KAMAKSHI DADHWAL  
OPINION WRITER

The horrific actions of the Islamic State (ISIS) in the Middle East have caused the largest migration of people Europe has seen in 70 years. Although the year began with a promise from most European Union (EU) members to shelter immigrants, the mounting influx of people has become a challenge for European countries, resulting in some of them closing off their borders completely. With Germany's most recent decision to close its borders, after being the only country following an 'open arms' policy to refugees for the past nine months, the future looks rather grim for immigrants. They left their homes and risked crossing the Mediterranean Sea— in hope of an improved life—only to end up in limbo for survival. Clearly, Europe is passing around the ball of responsibility when it should be collaborating in a systematic act of ushering stability to end the migrants' suffering.

Around 300,000 people have crossed the Mediterranean in search of asylum since the beginning of 2015, and the number is predicted to reach 700,000 by the end of this year, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR.) When figures are this high, one expects the world to prepare to provide assistance. Instead, countries are backing out of the pledges they first made in the United Nations General Assembly for a multiplicity of reasons. Since the Great Recession, the European economy hasn't stabilized enough to support such an influx of people. Moreover, the number of refugees the UNHCR had first predicted had already been surpassed by May, leaving nations in charge of more people than they were equipped for. There is also a substantial and terrifying chance that ISIS members could enter Europe disguised as immigrants.

In addition to the common reasons,

many EU countries have their specific explanations behind not accepting any more refugees. Italy and Greece fear riots because they don't even have jobs to offer their own citizens, while countries like Slovakia have refused to accept anyone who is a non-Christian because they don't have mosques, the BBC reported. Countries that readily accepted immigrants until now, like Germany, as opposed to those that only pledged to help a select number, like the United Kingdom, claim that they are carrying the whole burden of the immigration crisis. Their highest officials feel that countries like France and the UK are just waiting for other countries to soak up the influx, so that they don't have to accept many immigrants, while still claiming that it was a joint EU effort. Although the reasons are valid, a look at the current life of the migrants should be enough to understand why this is the time to focus on saving them instead of worrying about who does it and how much it costs.

The most obvious threat to life has persisted in the Middle East, thanks to ISIS. Cities of historic and economic importance have been seized and wreaked havoc in. Citizens, both Muslim and non-Muslim, have been forced to fear death and poverty. To escape these conditions, about five million people have taken upon the quest to migrate across the Mediterranean Sea. They have boarded dinghies that charge approximately \$1000 a person and don't guarantee safe arrival or any welcoming arms in Europe. Many families are travelling with little children and hardly any money to feed them. Their only hope is the UNHCR process that permits migration to a country as a refugee and working status within the next nine months. "If European countries close their borders to these helpless people, what will become of them and their families? Death will be the only outcome and that is unfair, since it could have been prevented through a combined effort," says UT student Victoria Maxedon. If our world upholds the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, then it is plain to see that nobody



Mstyslav Chernov/Wikimedia Commons  
Syrian refugees frequently are forced into crowded places, like this Budapest railroad station.

should be forced to live a life of fear without any humanitarian aid.

Furthermore, European countries have more than enough reasons to help immigrants for self-interest. There have been many new member additions to the EU in the last few years. These countries have the chance to show that they are worthy of being a part of the EU and enjoy the status that comes with it. If they were to help in the migration crisis together, then it would certainly prove to the world that the EU is exactly the mark of solidarity it flaunts about. Yet another fact is that the population of Europe has been slowly aging, and countries are in dire need of manpower. Immigrants would more than willingly provide this manpower, if they were only to be accepted. A large intake of human resource could only be in Europe's benefit in the long run, even if the short-term costs are high.

Granted, the balance of Europe's population is being thrown off completely and resources and funding are diminishing fast. The duty of sheltering these refugees shouldn't be on just a few members of the EU. However, closing off

borders just to get the point across to other member nations isn't necessarily putting pressure on them to accept more refugees, either.

The global community needs to join hands to support Europe monetarily and members of the European Union need to use the open border policy that they boast as a catalyst, rather than a deterrent, in the noble cause of protecting lives. Any rational person can tell that those refugees deserve a better future, unmarred by the life-threatening traumas of their present. Give them that, and they will bring nothing but long-term development to Europe.

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# Hypocrisy in Views of Female Icons

## POP CULTURE

CLAIRE FARROW  
Opinion Contributor

Demi Lovato posed nude and without makeup for Vanity Fair Oct. 2. The photos aren't photoshopped or doctored in any way. These pictures evoke a sense of acceptance and vulnerability, and they are beautifully done. In a short video about the shoot, Lovato opened up about how this experience was about her coming to accept her body as beautiful, as a statement of how she is overcoming her past struggles with an eating disorder.

This amazingly powerful stance made by a woman of influence in the media should be celebrated. However, why does Lovato's body positivity and acceptance trump other women's? Is there really a significant difference between her and others like Miley Cyrus? If you were to see these pictures without the context of the Vanity Fair interview, your perception would be different. You'd be less empathetic towards Lovato if you thought she stripped down for a less sensational cause.

There is a thin line in society between what a woman wears, says, or does as being construed as empowering or demeaning. One woman shows off her bare, well-endowed backside and is slammed by how pathetic

and tasteless her choice was. Another poses completely naked in a tub and reveals her backside and is applauded for her bravery. While the emotional weight in these pictures are different, the medium isn't.

The tone of media is extremely black and white; either the goal is to venerate or villainize. Simply examine the perception and reception of a celebrity like Nicki Minaj. She fully embraces her sexuality and her body, but there is constant judgement on how gross or cocky or overtly sexual she is. Nicki is simply doing the same as male artists in her genre and, unlike them, has the full right to present her body the way she wants. Her male colleagues are generally not viewed by the media as outrageous, at least not when it comes to exploiting women for their oversexualized videos. What needs to stop is the obsession the media has with covering female celebrities' weight. Too fat, too thin, letting herself go, too uptight—the list of polarizing criticisms goes on. The media is never satisfied; and we are bombarded with such messages, and begin to adopt them as our own.

To say that Kim Kardashian and Nicki Minaj don't emulate the same empowerment as other entertainers such as Beyonce, Portia de Rossi and Demi Lovato is grossly skewed. While saying that every woman should feel free to get naked in front of a camera may be met with intense disapproval, why exactly is this freedom so

wrong? It's as if when a female celebrity does something, everyone in the world must watch and judge. True, celebrities are meant to be watched, but this viewership needn't always come tethered with a novel's worth of judgement.

Here is the bigger issue: our society has an insatiable need to have women find their confidence in their physical appearance, because god-forbid they have an intact oneness of self and evoke an aura of self-power. This is not to say we should belittle a person's struggle or ignore their journey to self-love. However, to put these individuals on a higher level of respect over those who seem to have always had confidence in their bodies and sexuality is wrong. In a way, Demi Lovato's photoshoot speaks more volumes about the vicious atmosphere of celebrity coverage than about her as a person.

True, strength can come in vulnerability, but it can also come in ownership. To hold a person in lower esteem because they have always viewed their bodies as whole is reprehensible. The same is true for being judgemental of those who have struggled with their body image. Having respect for both parties is intrinsic to female empowerment. You do not need to struggle with your weight or have crippling body image issues to be respected or applauded, but you shouldn't be made into a joke either. A woman is allowed to be in control of her body, and should never be made to



Live & Let Die </3/Flickr  
Demi Lovato tries to share a body positive image.

feel less of a person by others' perceptions of her image.

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# They Claimed It Never Happened

## A Woman is Arrested After Reporting Her rape

### PUBLIC SAFETY

**BRENDA SARABIA**  
Opinion Contributor

On Sept. 27, *BuzzFeed* came out with an article telling the story of Lara McLeod, a 19-year-old college student, who had been sexually assaulted by Joaquin Rams, her older sister's fiancé. The summer after her freshman year of college back in 2011, McLeod agreed to go to a concert with her future brother-in-law to show support for her sister.

However, the night took a horrific turn when, after the show, Joaquin took out a gun and gave Lara an ultimatum: to let him have sex with her or be taken to a party where she would be gang raped. McLeod fought for hours until she realized there was no escape, so she relented and let him take what he wanted. The next day, she told her family what had happened, but decided against involving the authorities. She just wanted to forget the assault had ever happened. Yet at the insistence of her parents and the Prince William County Police Department, she agreed to make a statement against Rams.

If someone were to stop reading after the previous sentence they would most likely assume that Rams was then booked and locked

up for the rest of his miserable life. It's only natural to believe our world is that perfect and our justice system is good and righteous. But unfortunately, we don't live in such a world, and it definitely wasn't the case for Lara McLeod because she ended up being the one to pay for her own rape.

Her assailant had caught the entire assault on video and, because it seemed like she wasn't fighting back, except for occasionally saying no, the police immediately assumed she had made up the entire story. People are born with an array of automatic defense behaviors that the brain is ready to activate at the first sign of immediate danger, according to the *Harvard Review of Psychiatry*. McLeod had made use of "tonic immobility" which is the last resort response to an inescapable threat when all other defenses have failed. Nevertheless, the police took her lack of action in the tape as consent and charged her for filing a false report. Though the charges were later dropped, this was not the end of Lara's ordeal.

Two weeks after McLeod's arrest, a burner email account sent an email to her ex-boyfriend and her sorority sisters with a link to a website with details of her charges next to her mugshot. Not to mention, the authorities released false information stating that Lara and

her sister had tried to manipulate the crime scene and had already received a partial sentence. Needless to say, McLeod lost many friends and job opportunities.

The purpose of the police is to serve and protect the public. Yet, this specific department decided to take the side of a grade-A sociopath who had an extensive history of violence and deceit. They even had the nerve to make the victim apologize. What kind of justice is that? This woman, who didn't even want to report her assault, came to the Prince William County Police Department looking for help and they threw the book at her.

And out of all the stories I've heard involving police brutality and corruption within the system, this one is by far the worst. Those victims may have been shot dead, but this girl was forced to take the blame for her own rape and go into isolation. They sentenced her to a fate considering the agony they made her suffer through. They took everything from her. Her job, her reputation, her mental health. This ordeal as well as the slander made by the Prince William County Police Department will follow her for the rest of her life.

Though Lara McLeod's story is both depressing and infuriating, what I found the most troubling was the fact that this could have happened to anyone. After all, she was just a normal college student. She went to

her classes every day. She was a part of a sorority. And all it took was one pathetic excuse of a human to destroy her entire world.

One out of every six American women has been the victim of attempted or completed rape and those enrolled in college between the ages of 18 to 24, are three times more likely to be the victims of sexual assault. Males attending school are 78% more likely to be abused than those who aren't, according to the Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network. Out of those numbers, only 20 percent of victims report it.

It's understandable to not want to talk about being taken advantage of, especially after reading what happened to Lara McLeod when she spoke up, but keeping it bottled up will only cause more pain. In the end, it doesn't matter who did it, what you were wearing, or where it happened. Rape is rape and should not be kept a secret.

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## Comic of the Week: Early Sprouting Season

By Kate Sims



Fun Fact: Studies concluded that in the past three decades, the sprouting season for spring trees has increased by 13 days, but the rate at which has slowed by 40% in the last decade. This is due to the climate change in temperature where the trees actually need that set amount of cold days for a healthy sprouting season.

(information obtained for the article, "Global warming: are the trees going on strike")

7/5 '15

# The Internet Endorses Sensationalism

## EDITORIAL THE MINARET STAFF

*Every week The Minaret staff will offer our take on issues that are creating a buzz or we feel strongly about. This time, we focus on sensationalism and how the internet perpetuates it.*

In an Internet age, clicks are everything. The more clicks your site gets, the more likely your site will survive among a flurry of thousands of others. Such is the state of things for online publications in 2015--but how does this affect our content?

Lately, the editors at The Minaret have noticed an influx of sensationalism on the Internet. In these instances, publications and individuals have seen and understood only a small portion of a developing story and blown it way out of proportion for one reason or another. Tweets and headlines become cut-throat and conclusions are jumped to.

Sometimes this misreporting of a situation can arise from the publication's effort to be the first to report what they may think will be

an important story. Other times, this exaggerating or conclusion jumping can come from a less honest place--perhaps a desire to generate more traffic to their website, thereby generating more revenue.

Occasionally, these hastily reported stories are co-opted for more selfish purposes, to quickly and disingenuously frame a situation in a way which may justify a certain line of thinking.

This phenomenon seems to be especially true as the issues involved in the story become more and more important. Case in point--an issue recently arose in the alternative music world involving a black metal band called Deafheaven. Somebody went through the Twitter account of Deafheaven's guitarist Kerry McCoy and found that he was very flippant with certain hateful words in Tweets posted in 2012.

This news blew up rather quickly, with a Change.org petition called "Stop the promotion of hate-speech in the music community" springing up soon after the news broke. The petition specifically called for the removal of Deafheaven from the annual Pitchfork Music Festival.

While hate speech is something to be combatted and surely McCoy was in

the wrong for his use of these words, this development was not used as a productive means of fighting against hate speech. Instead, the news was used as a sort of "gotcha" moment against another band called Speedy Ortiz, who has recently taken active and important steps in making their own shows safe. The Twitter account which broke the news was using Deafheaven's affiliation with Speedy Ortiz to devalue the latter's very real attempts to make the community less hateful.

Meanwhile, this incident was employed by fans on other music-centric platforms in a similar fashion. Users who normally actively oppose other more concrete and troubling incidents in the music world (eg., a rapist being signed to a prominent underground label, a pedophile given a platform on a prominent music festival's stage) are undermined by users looking to have their own "gotcha" moment--a band they like has used hate speech and so all of their efforts are moot. All of this happens before anyone reaches out to the band or Pitchfork Fest.

A chance was never given for the Tweets to be confirmed as authentic, for an apology to be issued, for the real importance of calling Deafheaven and

McCoy out to come to light.

This situation is a microcosm of the state of the news in a full-blown Internet age. Immediate sensationalism is often the result of a piece of news being co-opted for somebody's purpose--and, as shown in the example of Deafheaven, that purpose could easily regressive and harmful, even sinister.

The only real antidote to keep you from falling into this trap is an active consumption of your news. That is, you should never just read a story and close the book on your perception of it immediately. In order to truly understand the story, you need to understand where it's coming from--who is reporting? Why? Why now? And, taking it one step further, follow up on it--stay conscious of developments and changes that could completely reframe your understanding. Do your best not to fall victim to sensationalism.

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SPORTS

Minnesota Invite Challenges Spartan Runners

Cross Country Competes Against Nation's Finest

By FATIN AMIN  
Sports Writer

The cross country team traveled to Minnesota to compete in their first ever Roy Griak Cross Invitational, hosted by University of Minnesota, on Sept. 26. A total of 37 teams from Division I, II, and III participated in the event as the Spartans took their strides and competed with the nation's top runners at Les Bolstad Golf Course.

The women's team came in seventh place overall, racking up an impressive 187 points in the 6K run, while the men's team came in with a total of 581 points in the 8K to finish in 23rd place. Leading the women's overall time for the meet was senior Chantelle Blundell who finished seventh overall with a time of 22:58.8, followed by junior Claudia Canello (24:09.3), senior Danielle Kissel (24:27.8), junior Elaina Canello (24:32.6) and senior Aimee Epps (24:44.4). For the men's, junior Cory Munsch came in 99th place out of 392 runners with a time of 28:14, followed by junior Brendan McGonagle (28:21), sophomore Jake Poore (28:22), junior Matt Hoffman (28:38) and freshmen Joe Weber (29:06).

Munsch described the meet as a learning experience since he felt the opportunity to run with the top schools in the nation was an eye-opener. As the meet was on uncharted grounds, Munsch looked forward to see the difference from running in Florida compared to other states.

"The benefit of racing outside of Florida

is that it allows us to experience different competition and courses," Munsch said. "This was our first time going to the Roy Griak Invitational in Minnesota so for us it was fun to see how we stacked up against everyone else. In Minnesota, we were able to compete against some northern teams that we typically never see during the regular season."

Since the start of the season Munsch has seen progress among his fellow runners. However, the Spartans faced many challenges during the meet as Munsch felt the hilly course was a different monster to tackle, especially with key runners like Lars Benner and Tyler Blackburn absent from the meet.

"I believe this team has improved from our first meet of the season," Munsch said. "However, our times were slower due to the amount of hills on this course compared to our first two meets."

On the flip side, junior Elaina Canello found the tournament incredibly refreshing and beneficial for the team's growth. Branching outside of the Sunshine State Conference offers a unique perspective on how other colleges strategize before and during races. She also praised the weather for being a refreshing alternative to the sweltering heat of Florida.

"I thought it was a really good experience getting to run with a lot of the big teams that we'll get to see at nationals," Canello said. "I also really enjoyed the weather because there was no humidity."

Women's head coach Jarrett Slaven echoed Canello's sentiments, finding that the team performed well despite the long journey and unfamiliar territory.

"We went up there because we wanted to take on some of the best teams in the nation



Photo courtesy of Tom Kolbe

Senior Chantelle Blundell led the team at the Minnesota Invite, placing seventh overall.

and it was overall a great trip," Slaven said. "Chantelle Blundell was seventh and there were 37 teams competing, so there was a massive [amount of people who participated] at the beginning, but she ended up running a wonderful race. The team came in seventh place so we're really happy with the outcome."

Slaven spotted various weaknesses his team faced as they battled it out on the course. Even with practices on undulating hills, nothing could compare to the course his runners had to endure. However, Slaven was satisfied with his team's overall results and commended his runners for their hard work.

"There were a lot of hills and, as you know, in Florida it's hard to practice on hills," Slaven said. "This course in Minnesota was very hilly and a lot of twists and turns so the course itself was brutal but the girls handled it well."

Men's head coach Dror Vaknin, expressed a desire for his team to compete in bigger events as compared to small ones to give his runners a feel of what it is like to compete among the top runners in the country.

"We like to take our guys to bigger meets sometimes," Vaknin said. "Sometimes it may be too big for us but it's good to challenge a kid and get them to compete against top athletes and see how they compare to bigger programs."

The cross country team will have a chance to prove the experience of the tournament paid off, at their next meet. They head out to Kissimmee, FL to compete in the Disney Invite presented by New Balance on Oct. 10.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL  
PICK 'EM:  
STUDENTS PICK THIS  
WEEKEND'S BIG GAMES

GAMES

WHO

					
	Georgia v. Tennessee	Georgia Tech v. Clemson	Florida v. Missouri	U Miami v. FSU	Maryland v. Ohio State
 <b>Annie Mainiero</b> Sophomore Psychology Major	 14-14	 21-7	 35-28	 21-14	 14-7
 <b>Dylan Seidle</b> Junior Government and World Affairs Major	 19-7	 28-14	 35-28	 32-21	 21-7
 <b>Christian Maldonado</b> Sophomore Business Management Major	 32-7	 35-21	 45-17	 42-17	 45-7
 <b>Bay Simpson</b> Sophomore Advertising and Public Relations Major	 42-21	 32-13	 35-32	 21-13	 35-7

Graphic by Wendy French

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# Calisthenics Turns Exercise on Its Head



Photo courtesy of Drew Pesale

Drew Pesale is the vice president of the Spartans Calisthenics Club, which aims to show that exercise can be exciting.

By **ERIN TOWNSEND**  
Sports Writer

While exploring the campus last year, sophomore Tasha Bewernitz spotted a fellow student doing one-armed chin-ups on a bar. Intrigued by this impressive skill, she walked over and introduced herself. The student, senior Drew Pesale, told her he was practicing calisthenics, a form of working out using only your body weight and exterior surroundings. Pesale is the vice president of Spartans Calisthenics Club, and encouraged Bewernitz to join.

"Right then at that moment I knew I wanted to be a part of it," Bewernitz said. "My favorite part of being a member is meeting people who are interested in calisthenics, but haven't quite taken the plunge, and showing them what's possible."

Pesale is excited to promote the overall goal of the club: to show people that exercising can be both fun and accessible. The club meetings are held every other week at 8 p.m. in Plant Park, but they can also be found in Agliano Park by the new Innovation and Collaborations building when it is available.

Official meeting details can be found weekly on their Facebook page, Spartans Calisthenics Club.

"I love seeing people starting from a very basic movement and reaching an advanced level. That type of diligence is what really inspires me," Pesale said.

Each meetup consists of a workout that is best suited for the surrounding space, and varies from week to week to ensure all parts of the body are trained. The club is hoping to build a community of members that share the same excitement for exercise, and welcomes

all levels of fitness. Whether you haven't done a pushup in a year or can effortlessly do a handstand, you will gain valuable experience from attending meetings.

"We have two types of workouts. The first involves skill training. This is when we teach fundamental movements like handstands, pull-ups, jumping and other movements that people are interested in. The second type is just a nomad workout that will either train the whole body or focus on a certain muscle group," Pesale said.

Partnering up with the community was a major priority for both Pesale and the club's president, senior behavioral health major Austin MacFarland. The group meets bi-weekly with a The Muscle Up Misfits, a local calisthenics group, to learn more advanced techniques and continue to build their community connections. The Muscle Up Misfits also hold competitions that the UT club hopes to start competing in soon.

The Spartan Calisthenics Club is redefining what it means to work out and has proven that you don't necessarily need the gym to build strength and get in shape. Both Pesale and MacFarland have created a sustainable infrastructure and hope the exercise form will become more ubiquitous to the UT population in the coming years.

"The club has become a lifestyle for those who've stuck with it. We work as a group, mentally, socially, and physically. As seniors, we hope to leave this club with a sustainable future. We've built this club up from the ground and have members to continue the legacy," MacFarland said.

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## Flag Football Set to Begin Third Season



Tess Sheets/The Minaret

Sophomore Malcom Anderson (left) prepares to catch a snap from his center in a practice on Oct. 7. The team practices late at night on what is left of the Morsani practice field.

### Campus Rec offers alternative for football enthusiasts

By **CANDACE MARTINO**  
Sports Writer

Down. Set. Hike! The University of Tampa club flag football team is calling all those interested in joining their roster this fall. For those students who can't get enough of the football action and possess a valuable skill set, joining the flag football team might sound appealing—especially considering UT doesn't have an NCAA football team of their own.

The club is entering its third year of competition play under The National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA), the governing body for all college recreational programs. NIRSA assures a safe and healthy playing environment for those who are interested in taking the field come October. Prospective participants must meet the eligibility

requirements found on the respective web page in order to be eligible for competition play. Regardless of one's gender, NIRSA encourages all students to engage in collegiate recreational activities and are more than willing to accommodate to each gender accordingly.

Of note, there are some changes to be accounted for when gearing up to play flag football. Unlike regulation football, players wear four or more flags attached to their belts and tackling is prohibited. The field measures 80 yards by 40 yards; starting from the five-yard line, and teams have three downs to cross midfield or to score. Three extra downs are rewarded for crossing midfield, and the ball changes hands if the team fails to do so.

Though rules and regulations may differ, the concept of winning it all remains the same. Chris Grisby, a senior communications major, has been with the team since early fall of 2013. Closely working with the Campus Recreation coordinators, Grisby assures that all funding is budgeted properly and scheduling tournaments runs smoothly. With hopes advancing further than ever before, the team looks to capture

regionals for the third consecutive season. But for now, Grisby believes the team has a lot of work yet to be done.

UT kicked off the start of preseason this past week taking the field for the first time during Delta Zeta's Rose Bowl: Hike for Hearing. After finishing in second place, Grisby was left disappointed in the weekend's performance.

"We didn't play as [well] as we should have. We ended up losing in the championship game. But, that's what preseason is for. We will identify our weak points and work on them before we head to The University of Florida."

For the past two years, UT has won the Regional Tournament, giving them an automatic berth to the National Championship held in Florida during winter break. Unfortunately, the team was not able to attend due to time constraints. University of West Florida will yet again be hosting the National Championship for the third straight year on Jan. 2, 2016.

"If we qualify for nationals, we do plan on going this year," Grisby said, "We plan on just playing normal football like we have been doing the past two years

and get the job done."

However, the team has to take care of business first on the field in order to get there. University of Florida, a flag football powerhouse, will host the first regional tournament of the season, "The Swamp Bowl," from Oct. 23-25.

"I want us to be able to come together as a team, win a few games and show that we are a team that will not lose easily. The team is proud to represent the university and we want everyone to know who UT is and what we are about," sophomore outside linebacker Houston Walls said.

Representing UT at these tournaments is one thing Campus Recreation prides itself on while competing at a high level of excellence. The team holds practice at least twice a week, competes in two preseason tournaments, and boasts a busy regular season schedule. With the first official tournament less than a week away, they're excited to take the field and get to work.

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# Fantasy Football: Week Five Forecast

## Freeman, Bradford Reliable Picks

By CHANCE SMITH  
Sports Writer

### Week Four Results (using ESPN standard fantasy scoring)

#### Expected Producers:

-*Frank Gore, Indianapolis Colts RB:* 17 rushes for 53 yards, six fantasy points.

-*Carson Palmer, Arizona Cardinals QB:* 29 of 46 on pass attempts, one touchdown, one interception, 16 fantasy points.

-*Amari Cooper, Oakland Raiders WR:* completed four receptions on nine targets for 49 yards and one touchdown, 10 fantasy points.

#### Expected Disappointments:

-*Alfred Morris, Washington Redskins RB:* 17 rushes for 62 yards, six fantasy points.

-*DeAngelo Williams, Pittsburgh Steelers RB:* Two rushes for five yards, zero fantasy points.

-*Vincent Jackson, Tampa Bay Buccaneers WR:* 10 receptions for 147 yards and a touchdown, 20 fantasy points.

In a weird Week Four with Indianapolis Colts Andrew Luck sidelined, still no Alshon Jeffery in the Bears' passing game, and a returning Arian Foster for the Houston Texans, a couple of different names stood out on the fantasy scoreboards. Kansas City Chiefs' placekicker Cairo Santos blew up the fantasy world with an astounding 27 points, a surprisingly high number for a kicker. New York Jets running back Chris Ivory returned to exploit the Dolphins' defense in London with 166 yards which made for a total of 22 fantasy points. The Colts squeaked one out against the Jaguars no thanks to Gore's mediocre production. And Jackson came up huge for the Buccaneers in a loss that featured four interceptions by quarterback Jameis Winston. So

who is going to step up in Week Five?

#### Who to Start:

Devonta Freeman, Atlanta Falcons RB: vs. Washington Redskins at home. Freeman was the only player to best the Chiefs' Santos in fantasy points this week. So, if you aren't familiar with the young second-year running back out of Florida State, get to know him. The 23-year-old ran the ball 14 times for 68 yards and three touchdowns while also reeling in five receptions for 81 yards in a 48-21 romping of the Houston Texans. The Texans' rush defense was ranked eighth in the league against fantasy running backs entering the game.

Freeman has been the leading fantasy scorer the past two weeks with 37 and 32 points respectively since taking over for the injured Tevin Coleman and looks to continue his success against a stout Redskins' rush defense in week five. The Redskins are currently second in the league in allowing points to fantasy running backs, but with the deep-threat capabilities of receivers Julio Jones and Roddy White, expect Freeman to continue to shine.

Jeremy Maclin, Kansas City Chiefs WR: at Chicago Bears. I know what you're thinking. How can you start a receiver for the Kansas City Chiefs who has shown little to no consistency in the receiving core this year? The answer is simple: Da Bears. They just haven't shown that they can stop the pass. The Chiefs lost this weekend to the Bengals 21-36 in a game that featured zero touchdowns from the Kansas City side. However, Maclin definitely proved that he is quarterback Alex Smith's favorite weapon. He was targeted 13 times this Sunday—twice as many times as any other Chiefs receiver—and finished the game with 11 receptions for 148 yards. Maclin also reeled in a 44-yard reception that showed he still has that big play capability he displayed when he played for the Eagles. Look for Maclin to dominate outside on a Bears defense that has allowed 10 touchdowns on the season—the second most of any team in the league.

Sam Bradford, Philadelphia Eagles QB vs. New Orleans Saints. After looking at his performances in the Eagles' first three games of the season, fantasy owners would have no reason to start Bradford. The struggling quarterback is currently ranked 30th among all players at the position with a QB rating of 32.3. However, in a close loss to a stout Redskins defense this Sunday, Bradford showed that he has the fight necessary to put up some

solid numbers. After a scoreless first half, Bradford came back to finish with 270 yards and three touchdowns which produced 23 points—the second most among all fantasy quarterbacks through Sunday. He matches up against a New Orleans Saints defense that has given up the second most fantasy points to quarterbacks this season. Currently, Bradford is only owned in 50.1 percent of all ESPN fantasy leagues, so if you're having some problems with the play caller spot on your team, then give Bradford a try this week.

#### Who to Sit:

Isaiah Crowell, Cleveland Browns RB at Baltimore Ravens. Consistency is key at the running back slot for producing points and the Browns simply don't have that at this point. The Browns are 25th in the league in rush offense, producing an average of only 89.8 yards per game. To make matters worse, the attempts are distributed evenly among Crowell and rookie running back Duke Johnson Jr. The Browns have often been in a position where they have to throw the ball to make a comeback, and Johnson Jr. has shown that he is the better flex option with the third most targets of any player on the team. Leave Crowell on the bench until the Browns find a defined starter.

Kirk Cousins, Washington Redskins QB at Atlanta Falcons. Don't let Cousins' solid play

in week four fool you. He's not your guy in week five. The Redskins face off against a 4-0 Falcons team that has allowed the eighth fewest amount of fantasy points to opposing quarterbacks this season. The Redskins have also proved that running the ball is going to be their first priority with a league-leading 558 rush yards on the season. The 'Skins also lead the league in yards per attempt and are second overall in rushing attempts. Look for them to try to exploit a Falcons rush defense that has allowed the most fantasy points to opposing team's running backs since the start of the season.

Golden Tate, Detroit Lions WR vs. Arizona Cardinals. Golden Tate was the savior for a lot of fantasy teams last year with the injury of star receiver Calvin Johnson. However, with the all-pro receiver back on the field, Tate's production has been miniscule this season. He is averaging just five fantasy points a game and has yet to score a touchdown. While he is seeing the targets, which would be good for a league with a points-per-reception (PPR) format, he just hasn't shown that he is a main option for scoring drives. The Lions will have their hands full against a Cardinals defense that has allowed the fourth fewest points to receivers this season.

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Sam Bradford/Facebook

# Women's Soccer Sweeps SSC Rival

By KATELYN MASSARELLI  
Sports Writer

No matter what sport, there's something about beating your rival that's inherently satisfying. After a hard battle against fellow SSC powerhouse Florida Southern, the UT women's soccer team came out on top with a season-defining 2-1 overtime victory against Florida. That being said, the win didn't come without its share of shaky moments.

At halftime, the Spartans were losing 0-1 and collectively decided to step up their game when they realized their opponents were not going down without a fight. New head coach Erin Switalski calmed the team down, urging the women to come out in the second half with their heads held high and ready to compete.

"We were a little discouraged coming off the field in the first half," said sophomore defender Miranda Gonzalez. "Erin gave us a great halftime talk and was able to pump us up and change our mindset going into the second half, which allowed us to come out stronger and improve our play so much. Once we started the second half, there was a sudden difference and I felt more comfortable with the way everyone was working hard and playing together."

Coach Switalski's motivation worked. Soon after the second half began, freshman forward Korey O'Rourke promptly scored UT's first goal of the night a minute into the second half.

"Korey O'Rourke was a key player," Gonzalez said. "She always brings high energy when she steps on the field and her



Photo courtesy of Tom Kolbe

goal to tie the game sparked our momentum in the second half."

Their high spirits continued to be a driving factor in the rest of the game. Key players like Gonzalez were a force that kept their team encouraged to come out with a win. Keeper Sydney Ross had a unique comparison for Gonzalez's elusiveness on the field.

"I compare [Miranda Gonzalez] to a ninja because she comes out of nowhere and no one can seem to get to her," Ross said. "She is the glue to our back line and I am sure she is respected by many teams in the conference."

After an exhausting 62 more minutes on the field, senior midfielder Cici Gonzalez finally delivered the golden-goal in the 108th minute of the match.

The women's soccer team came back from a 0-1 score at half time to beat FSC 2-1 at the finish.

"Cici is a player you can always rely on and she gives 110 percent for this team," Ross said.

Though the senior ultimately netted the game winner, it was the hustle of some of the younger players that put them in the place to win. Freshman midfielder Nastasia Asgedom wore down the formidable Florida Southern defense all night long, proving that together they are a force to be reckoned with.

"Our team excels when we play together," Junior midfielder Lauren Cicero said. "As individuals we are just okay, but when you put us all together and when we are all on top of our game, we are unbeatable."

For the team, this was a triumphant win they were very proud of.

"It's a confidence booster knowing that when our backs are against the ropes our team doesn't give up but instead we step up and work even harder for each other in order to win the game," Miranda Gonzalez said.

Going into the next game, there are things they need to work on to ensure their play is more fluid, such as maintaining focus and not falling behind early.

"Our team needs to stay focused and disciplined on the game ahead, take one team at a time and hopefully we can accomplish our individual and team goals together," Cicero said.

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## Who Will Take Home the T-Shirt?

By MARCUS MITCHELL  
Sports Writer

Hidden within the crowds and classrooms at UT are students with immense athletic ability. Unlike our varsity athletes, these students tend to go unnoticed. During the day, they lack any difference to the other students around them, but when the night falls they begin to truly shine. These Spartans storm their battlefields with only one goal in mind: to become an intramural champion.

UT's intramural program is the best in Florida and one of the top 50 in the nation, according to [bestcolleges.com](http://bestcolleges.com)'s 2015 rankings. And with 32 sports and tournaments collectively over the course of the school year, it is easy to see why the school received this designation. The fall sports already well into their seasons are Ultimate Frisbee, Indoor Soccer and Kickball, which is making its debut at UT.

Over 1000 students have registered for these three sports alone and 72 teams have been formed, all intending to capture not just glory, but also the coveted 2015 Intramural Champion T-shirt.

One such team looking to land in the UT intramural history books is kickball squad Bump n' Blaze. A name feared by all after their championship dodgeball run and second-place finish in handball, Bump n' Blaze is more than just a team; they're a dynasty in the making. With a 2-0 start in the co-rec division, senior captain Sammy Randazzo's eyes are set on adding a kickball championship shirt to the team's wardrobe.

"This is my first time being the captain for Bump n' Blaze," said Randazzo. "But we have played a lot of intramural sports together and know our strengths and weaknesses. That, along with great communication, has been our key to success on the field."

Played on the softball field, kickball is a favorite among students who want to go out and have fun with friends, while also feeding their competitive side. For senior captain Courtney Callahan, who has been doing intramurals since her sophomore year, the new addition to the fall season has been met with open arms, and not

just because her team, Who Kicked Your Ball?, is placed near the top of the standings.

"Kickball has been great, I can definitely say that Who Kicked Your Ball? is having a great time with it," said Callahan. "It's a little bittersweet since this is my senior year and I love doing intramurals, but it's been incredible to be able to play alongside both old teammates and new faces."

While senior captains are a mainstay in the realm of UT intramurals, a freshman captain has taken the men's ultimate Frisbee league by storm. International Business major Brendan Cave is the captain of Barn Muckers and his charismatic confidence and game-breaking talent on the field has led his team to a 2-0 start in the 10-team league.

"We are only 2-0 at this point, but after beating our opponent 17-2 I definitely believe we are the best team in the league," said Cave. "We have a group of really athletic and competitive guys who want and love to win. We recruited a high-class group of Frisbee-ers and we are gunning for a championship."

While intramurals are a recreational activity open to any UT student, some players like Cave use the opportunity to fuel their inner fires of competition. Some teams recruit players, add free agents and even practice to ensure that they reach the level of play they want to reach. This is true for many teams in the intense intramural sport of indoor soccer.

With 19 teams and 194 registered players in the men's division alone, indoor soccer has been the platform for both domestic and international students to showcase their love for the universally known sport. Played in a 5v5 format with goalkeepers, indoor soccer features many teams hoping to claim their championship shirts. Leading the pack of hopefuls is Classic IV, a team off to a hot 3-0 start and captained by sophomore striker Andres Gonzalez.

"I think we are one of the best teams,

I don't know if we are the number one team, but we are definitely up there," said Gonzalez. "Our first few games were very intense but we are a team that never gives up. We came from behind to win our first two games with goals in the last five minutes and our goalkeeper was injured in our third match and we still pulled through. I think we can win if we keep this up."

While captains like Cave and Gonzalez are focused heavily on the competitive aspect, the casual side of intramurals is enjoyed equally. No player understands the difference between competitive intensity and casual fun than junior men's kickball captain Austin Rettig.

Though currently captaining his team, SIGMA CHI, in kickball, Rettig is best known at UT for his role on the men's basketball team, where he was the third-leading scorer for the Spartans last season. With the basketball season not coming until this winter, Rettig has taken to the kickball field for a fun and casual way to spend his offseason.

"The competitive spirit I have when I am on the field is much less intense compared to when I am on the court," said Rettig. "The biggest difference for me is the time I put in to get better. I like kickball because it's fun and a nice way to get a workout in."

Whether you are a star basketball player or a freshman just looking for friends, intramurals is the perfect balance between casual fun and intense competition. Registration for sand volleyball has ended, but the sign-ups for flag football begin on Oct. 11 and ends on Oct. 25. So prepare a witty team name, whip up some uniforms and paint on the eye black. The road to becoming an intramural champion is a hard one, but you're a Spartan.

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The Minaret/Tess Sheets

A member of 'Sigma Wu', an intramural kickball team goes up to kick in a match against 'Balls N Dolls'.