

Homecoming Concert on a budget



Alyssa Stewart

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Homecoming is right around the corner, which means students can start looking forward to events such as the Stampede Comedy Show, Homecoming Ball, the USF-BYU football game and of course, the Homecoming Concert.

The concert will be held Oct. 10 at 8 p.m. in the Yuengling

Center and for the second year, students will be charged an entrance fee.

The Student Government (SG) Senate voted last Thursday — 40 yes and two no — to

allow the Center for Student Involvement (CSI) to charge students \$10 for Homecoming

Concert tickets. Last year tickets were \$12, and it was the first time students were charged to enter the event due to budget cuts.

Center for Student Involvement (CSI) Director Monica Miranda said an artist has been chosen for the concert but details cannot be shared until the contract is signed.

The unannounced artist is expected to be paid \$75,000.

Tickets will be on sale the week of Sept. 16 for students and the week of Sept. 23 for alumni, staff and faculty.

While all tickets are general admission, only students are allowed on the floor. Student

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Students watching last year's performers, Rae Sremmurd, in the Yuengling Center. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/USF HOMECOMING**

Out with Lyft, in with Uber: SG's ride-sharing program replacement



Leda Alvim

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

After months of constant issues with Lyft, Student Government (SG) changes gears and launches a new partnership with Uber to

provide discounts to current USF students.

The \$45,000 yearly contract with Uber will offer \$5-off discounts per ride, Wednesday to Saturday, 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. Students can use the discount up to four times every month.

To claim the discount, students must provide their USF email and be currently registered USF Tampa students. Once they sign up for the discounts, an email will be sent out by Uber confirming their status and eligibility. The discount will then be added to

each user's Uber app.

As of Sept. 4, there are currently 608 active users signed up for the program and \$923 in discounts have been used since the first ride.

Student Body Vice President Travis McCloskey said the contract with Uber does not have any financial obligations or extra fees attached to it. The funds allocated are solely used to maintain the student discount.

"If the funds run out, that's it for the year," McCloskey said. "So it's not like we're going to

pull from somewhere else. It's a limited program, where if we run out, we run out.

"We broke it down by how much we can spend per month. If we go over that, they will look at the total budget available and maybe decreasing hours. We don't want to reduce the price of the discount, because we think \$5 is a good discount."

For football games, SG is offering a special discount for students to arrive safely at the Raymond James Stadium. The game day ride discount will

give students the same \$5-off discount, from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. to get to and from the stadium. As of the last football game on Aug. 30, 14 rides were requested with the discount.

Through its own dashboard provided by Uber, SG has access to their total budget, live data based on the usage as well as control over the discount's restrictions and value. In addition, SG can reevaluate its budget on a constant basis in order to stay on track throughout

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The Oracle

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COMMENTARY

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season or perhaps it was because McCloud was the spark the Bulls needed to power a tight contest.

Regardless of the loss, the USF fans' energy was felt throughout Bobby Dodd, a distinct difference from the home atmosphere last week.

But given that this is USF's

eighth consecutive loss and second this season, fans' hopes have most certainly taken a nosedive.

Defense is a silver lining

A promising takeaway that could allude to greater things to come was the defense, which Strong described as one of the best defensive performances in

the last two years.

Graduate safety Devin Studstill led with seven solo tackles, and junior cornerback KJ Sails made a crucial interception that debatably kickstarted the Bulls' offense.

Even after a tight loss, Studstill is feeling the energy.

"We're cooking with gasoline," Studstill said.

NOTEBOOK

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USF volleyball (2-3) left Coral Gables with as many wins as it had coming into the weekend, dropping all three matches in the Hurricane Invitational.

The Bulls fell in straight sets twice — Friday to FGCU (13-25, 17-25, 14-25) and again on Saturday evening against host Miami (21-25, 26-28, 19-25).

USF's best chance at coming home with a win was Saturday

afternoon versus Auburn. The Bulls fell to the Tigers in five sets, with four of the five being decided by fewer than five points (25-20, 26-28, 13-25, 25-21, 15-17).

"I'm proud of the way our team fought this match. It was very evenly matched and could have gone either way, unfortunately we came up short today," coach Courtney Draper said in a statement after the Auburn match. "We are still working to find the right lineup and, as a team, we just need to perform

more consistently."

It won't be easy next weekend, though. After a home match against North Florida on Tuesday, the Bulls travel two hours north on Interstate 75 to participate in the Gator Invitational, which includes a Friday afternoon matchup with No. 10 Florida.

Narcolepsy



Have you been diagnosed with narcolepsy type 1 (narcolepsy **with** cataplexy)? Are you between the ages of 18-65 years? If so, you may be interested in this clinical research study.

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LYFT

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the year.

The plan for the future is to fund the program through sponsorships, according to Associate Justice Adam Matern.

“This is a program that will build with time as a successful way with funding coming from multiple different sources,” Matern said. “Every discount that we give to the students is fully funded by student government. We are looking for sponsorships to make sure that students can get around safely and as affordably as possible.”

A pilot program began in early August to evaluate how the program would be utilized by students. From the test, about 60 rides were requested before the program was officially launched Aug. 29.

Matern proposed the idea of partnering up with Uber after

several issues arose with Lyft’s contract including IT issues, difficulties when scanning the code and its overall employee turnover.

“I noticed a lot of difficulties around the program while working with Lyft, such as constantly having different account managers, issues with the discount code, location restriction that was constantly changing and even multiple rounds of contracts per code,” Matern said. “That wasn’t sustainable, it wasn’t the best that we could do for the students.”

The idea came after Matern worked in an internship with Johnson & Johnson, where he managed the company’s partnership with Uber and interacted with the program behind the scenes.

The program started growing in November, under the direction of former Student Body President Moneer Kheireddine.

Even though Lyft had its issues, Kheireddine said the Uber partnership will enhance the ride-sharing program.

“My goal, and I think everyone’s goal at Student Government, should be to give students the best service and deal that we can provide, and if something is not working as it should be, then we need to fix it,” Kheireddine said. “Sometimes, we have to go back and forth with the provider to see what’s working and what’s not in order to provide those services.”

The partnership between SG and Uber began back in November, under Kheireddine’s term. Now, after the program’s official launch event on Aug. 29, the purpose of providing a safe alternative of transportation to students is still a priority, according to Matern.

“At the end of the day, students have paid for this service and it’s under their Activity and Service fee (A&S),” Matern said.

HOMECOMING

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guest tickets are \$15; alumni, faculty and staff are \$20; and community tickets are \$10.

The 2019 concert budget is prospected to be \$124,472, which is \$6,003 less than last year. The 2018 headliner, Rae Sremmurd, was paid \$100,000.

Miranda said this year CSI wanted to have an opener that was also well known to students so the budget increased from \$2,500 to \$20,000.

Besides the opener and headliner, there is still \$57,100 worth of charges that make up the rest of the Homecoming Concert price tag.

The rest of the costs include the \$23,000 Yuengling Center rental, a \$23,000 production budget, — headliner requires a \$5,000 video package — \$9,500 for a middle agent, \$600 dinner for the artists and production staff, \$750 for the green room items and \$250 for advertising.

Miranda shared the importance of having a middle agent because of a situation in which an artist attempted to cancel the Homecoming Concert two hours before the show. In 2016, the rapper 2 Chainz said he wanted to avoid being stuck in Florida because of Hurricane Matthew.

“The middle agents that we work with provide us with the artist and protect us to make sure everything runs smoothly,” Miranda said. “Without that middle agent, the artist that day would have not been on that stage.”

Although CSI’s budget is

\$124,472, the total cost of the concert is projected to be \$152,100. This put CSI in a \$27,628 deficit, which is why they had to supplement with charging students.

After the ticket sales, CSI will be able to bring in a surplus of \$26,872 with \$4,500 worth of Ticketmaster revenue and over \$50,000 worth of student revenue.

The extra money made from ticket sales that is not being utilized will go back into the Concert Auxiliary Fund which is used for Bullstock and Homecoming Concerts in future years, according to Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Yusuf Fattah.

Last year, 3,862 student and guest concert tickets and 221 non-student tickets were sold, which made a total of 4,083 total tickets.

Student Body President Britney Deas shared the costs of student tickets and performers from surrounding universities for comparison.

UF charged its students \$15 to \$25 for hosting performers such as Snoop Dog, Walk the Moon and Ty Dolla \$ign, which cost \$100,000-150,000.

Similarly, FSU’s student tickets were \$25 for its performers — Solange and Rae Sremmurd. FSU paid Rae Sremmurd \$125,000, whereas USF only paid \$100,000.

The only clue Miranda revealed about the artist is that they were one of the highest voted for on the Homecoming survey that was sent out to students.

“While I cannot share just yet who it is, I would be comfortable in saying that it will be good,” Miranda said.



SG hosted the \$1,000 Uber Launch Event Aug. 29 on the USF Bookstore lawn. SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/SG MARKETING

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Another parking garage is not the answer

By Nathaniel Sweet
CORRESPONDENT



If we want a real, cost-effective solution to our parking problem, then we have to think holistically and invest in alternatives to driving on campus. **ORACLE FILE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**

At the start of each semester, especially in the fall, USF students take to social media for a time-honored tradition: airing their grievances about parking. Anecdotes are abound of students and faculty searching for ten, fifteen or thirty minutes at a time for an open spot.

USF students deserve a real solution. Contrary to popular belief, however, that solution isn't bigger parking lots.

At face value, the reasonable solution is to build new parking facilities, but there's good reason why USF won't (and shouldn't) try.

The problem is not that there aren't enough spaces, but there aren't enough spaces close to classes and amenities. A new parking garage makes little difference if it's on the outskirts of campus.

Looking at a map of USF, there are few, if any areas to build new, centrally-located parking without worsening traffic and sacrificing greenspace.

Even if there was a good location for a new parking garage, it would likely cost millions of dollars (\$24,000 per space on average, over a full year's cost of attendance), meaning even more expensive parking permits.

If we want a real, cost-effective solution to our parking problem, then we have to think holistically and invest in alternatives to driving. Alternatives include

biking, walking and mass transit. Most student housing is within about two miles of campus.

In traffic, it takes about the same amount of time to get to campus by bike as it does to drive. Cycling, however, can be a dangerous proposition on major roads: the nearby stretches of Fletcher Ave. and Bruce B. Downs Blvd. both made the list of Hillsborough County's most dangerous roads. Conditions aren't much better on Fowler, Bearss or McKinley either.

Public transit, meanwhile, remains lackluster. There's a reason USF runs its own bus lines via the Bull Runner system: the county hasn't had the money to pick up the slack.

Between chronic underfunding and low ridership, Tampa's mass transit system has

been called "one of the worst in America" by the Tampa Bay Times, particularly for a city of our size.

There is, however, some good news.

Last November, Hillsborough County voters approved a 1-cent sales tax to make transportation improvements, including better sidewalks, new bike lanes and expanded bus service.

The ball is now in USF's court to lobby for improvements that benefit students directly — including expanded bus service, safer crosswalks and separated bike paths in the neighborhoods around campus.

Nathaniel Sweet is a senior studying political science.

Students unconcerned about protecting their social media



Jared Sellick

COLUMNIST

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody joined the bipartisan investigation looking into the troubling habits of social media giant, Facebook, from not protecting consumer data to their practices meant to uphold their monopoly.

Florida is one of six states currently investigating Facebook for potential antitrust violations.

This probe is occurring after companies like Facebook and Google have been met with increased scrutiny in recent years. The probes have resulted in the U.S. government fining Facebook \$5 billion.

Students today have grown up online and therefore are much less troubled that our information is out there to be traded by various parties.

In fact, according to a study by Viber in 2018, only about one-third of Viber users were concerned that their data was being shared with advertisers.

The actions of attorney generals around the country are an excellent step in the right direction if the goal is to

protect the private information of citizens.

Beyond information gathering, there are also incredibly troubling aspects of social media in the way in which it facilitates conversations between users.

How do we ensure that we keep false information off these platforms while at the same time uphold principles of free speech?

The way in which Facebook was able to absorb the cost that was levied on them from Congress shows that companies like Facebook are not likely to make decisions for the common good.

We should be concerned that our private information is repeatedly stolen and that there is little to be done to protect users. We should also be concerned that those same corporations have no incentive to ensure that we have productive conversations online.

This investigation into Facebook is an important first step toward actually holding these platforms accountable. With any luck, the attorney generals will conclude that further oversight is necessary in order to protect American citizens.

Jared Sellick is a junior majoring in political science.

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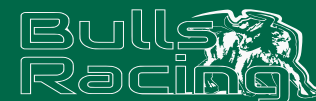
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Commentary

USF - Georgia Tech takeaways



Nolan Brown

STAFF WRITER

ATLANTA — USF football's (0-2, 0-0 AAC) 14-10 loss against Georgia Tech (1-1, 0-1 ACC) on Saturday at Bobby Dodd Stadium looked like an actual game, a stark contrast from last week's blowout to Wisconsin.

Despite the close final score, the diagnosis for the loss was a disorganized offense.

The offensive line looked like a liability

Starting quarterback Blake

Barnett was sacked three times for a loss of 21 yards during his time on the field.

Barnett was partly responsible — he managed the pocket poorly. However, the blame is mostly on the Bulls' offensive line for giving the Yellow Jackets' space to close in and failing to protect the passer for the first three quarters.

USF's line tightened up after the entrance of freshman Jordan McCloud at the end of the third quarter, however. McCloud threw for 90 yards, including a 54-yard pass to senior tight end Mitchell Wilcox, who was brought down at the Georgia Tech 1-yard line.

Poor offensive line performances can make or break a game. As of now, the Bulls are in serious jeopardy with the way the line is currently playing.

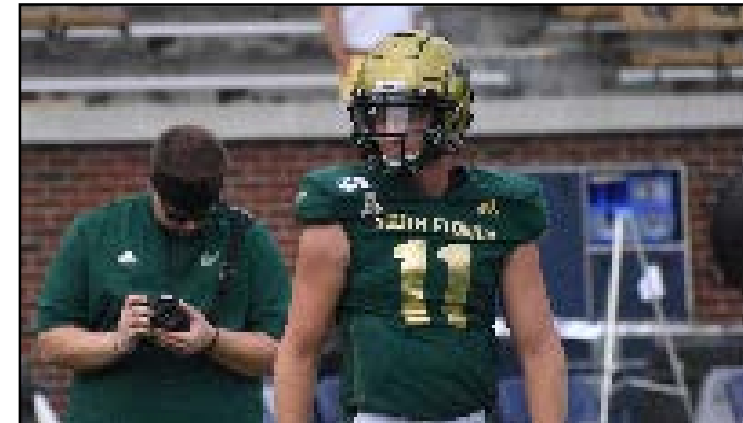
McCloud should start ahead of Barnett

Dropping a first-choice quarterback after two games may be a tough pill to swallow, but McCloud has been statistically more effective than Barnett, and this game confirmed it.

Barnett completed 60 percent of his 20 passes for 79 yards, while McCloud completed 80 percent, gaining 11 more yards in the process.

It's hard to see Barnett finishing out the season as No. 1. In fact, it wouldn't be surprising to see McCloud starting against South Carolina State this Saturday.

Coach Charlie Strong said that the team will re-evaluate its options for next week, so we may see a change.



Blake Barnett struggled against Georgia Tech and it's fair to wonder if he'll start against South Carolina State this Saturday. ORACLE PHOTO/BRIAN HATTAB

USF fans bring the energy announcer.

Despite the demoralized fanbase after last week's game, Bulls fans brought the energy with them to Yellow Jacket country. Prior to kickoff, traveling fans were singing USF's fight song, which drowned out the PA

Bulls fans were chanting "Let's go Bulls," after McCloud tossed a pass to slot receiver Johnny Ford for a 20-yard touchdown.

Perhaps it was because it was the Bulls' first touchdown of the

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Notebook

Viens messes with Texas



Brian Hattab

SPORTS EDITOR

No matter how good a weekend you had, it probably wasn't as good as the one No. 17 USF women's soccer's senior striker had in San Antonio.

Evelyne Viens scored five goals: a double brace during the Bulls' 5-1 win against Rice on Friday and a 76th minute insurance goal during USF's 5-0 shutout of Texas-San Antonio on Sunday.

Viens' double brace was the second four-goal game of her career and the third in program history. The four goals also tied a program record for goals in a game, while the hat trick — the third of Veins' career — tied the program record for career hat tricks.

USF (3-1) outshot its opponents by a combined margin of 26-10. The dominant weekend also included a penalty-kick goal by sophomore midfielder Sydney Nasello on Friday, a brace by senior forward Aubrey Megrath on Sunday and 135 minutes of clean-sheet play by freshman goalkeeper Kat Haarmann in both games.

Bulls get first win of season

USF men's soccer (1-1) is in the win column, although it probably should have entered it a bit more

comfortably.

The Bulls defeated Marquette 2-1 on Friday behind goals by freshman forward Victor Claudel and junior midfielder Trey Jackson.

The real story, however, was USF's inability to finish plays. Despite outshooting Marquette 26-9, the Bulls were only able to get two balls past goalkeeper Jackson Weyman.

"I think that the guys played pretty well, although we were a little unfortunate that we didn't have a few more goals, but I

think in general we created a lot," coach Bob Butehorn said in a statement. "Maybe the finishing needs to be cleaned up a bit but overall I think it was a pretty good game for us and one we deserved to win."

Senior midfielder Stephen Rudderham led the offensive attack with six shots, while four other Bulls had at least three.

USF swept in Hurricane Invitational

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