

Students worried for Ukrainians' safety after Russian invasion



Michael Mardones

ASSISTANT NEWS
EDITOR

When news broke that her home country invaded Ukraine on Tuesday, second-year Russian international student Anna Oustria was overwhelmed with shame and frustration that her government ignored the will of the Russian people while strong-arming the sovereignty of Ukrainians.

"There is a sense of responsibility and guilt I hold, even though it is out of my control to do anything about the situation," Oustria said. "I am very against war, especially with a country that we share lots of history with."

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine was set free from the grips of the failed communist regime and independently installed a democratic republic.

Russo-Ukrainian relations experienced violent turbulence in 2014 after the Russian annexation of the formerly Ukrainian

Crimean peninsula and the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk.

A resurgence of heightened tension between the two states materialized at the end of 2021 when Russia began mobilizing troops to the Ukrainian border, revealing a potential invasion.

The buildup leading to the Russian assault included failed discussions with the U.S., Ukraine and member states of the EU into the new year to ease the pressure.

As a Russian citizen, Oustria said it's important for Americans to recognize that the Russian government doesn't act on behalf of the desires of its people, but rather its own ambitions.

"I think Americans might not understand that what the Russian government does and what actual citizens believe in, are completely different things," she said. "Most of the Russians I know did not choose or agree with the current

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Some students are frustrated with the Russian government and global leaderships' inability to prevent assault on Ukraine. PIXABAY

Fraternity temporarily suspended for antisemitic acts



Clinton Engelberger

NEWS EDITOR

Pi Kappa Phi was suspended until further notice Thursday as a result of recent antisemitic acts performed by members of the fraternity.

The fraternity was charged with two conduct violations, including USF Student Code of Conduct/Alcohol/Alcohol 4 and USF Student Code of Conduct/Hazing/Hazing I, according to an email sent Thursday by Director of Student Conduct and Ethical Development Melissa Graham.

The incidents that were categorized under these charges involved underage students drinking and drawing swastikas on others at a Feb. 11 off-campus Bid Party, according to Graham.

"Guests were given sharpies and told to engage with the associate members and then write on their shirts," she said. "Associate members had inappropriate objects (penises and a swastika) drawn on their shirts and/or body parts. Alcohol was present at the event and consumed by associate members."

In an effort to address

these occurrences and reach a consensus on the status of the suspension, Graham said an informational meeting will be held Tuesday at 10 a.m. with the president of Pi Kappa Phi over Microsoft Teams.

"An informational meeting is an opportunity to explain the Student Conduct Process, the student organization's due process rights, the allegations and charges, and review all available information supporting the charges," Graham said.

"The Hearing Officer will review available information to determine if the interim suspension will remain, be modified or be lifted."

Before a final decision is reached on the level of suspension the fraternity will face, no discussions or meetings are permitted to take place by anyone associated with Pi Kappa Phi, internally or externally, according to Graham.

All events and pledging activities are also banned until further notice, as Graham said in the email the fraternity presents an unhealthy disturbance to the community.

"Based on the information received, the continual operations of the organization at USF likely pose an ongoing threat, disruption or interference to the health and safety and continued functions of the USF community," Graham said.

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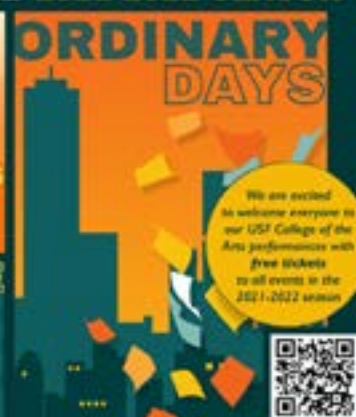


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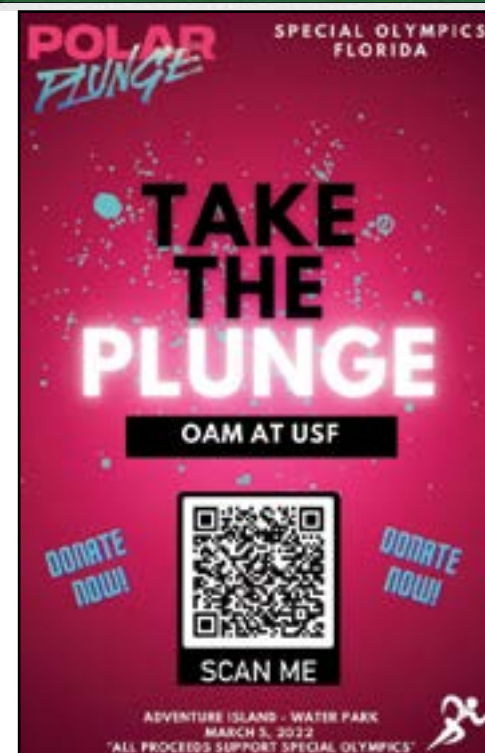
British International Theatre Workshop Showcase
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TAR 120

Staged Readings
Everybody by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
March 7, 6:00PM
TAR 120

House of Desires by Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz,
translated by Catherine Boyle
April 12, 6:00PM
TAR 120

Spring Dance Concert
Marc Brew, Guest Artist
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March 3-5, 7:30PM
March 6, 3PM
Theatre I

Ordinary Days
Music and Lyrics
by Adam Gwon
April 7-9
& 14-15, 7:30PM
April 10 & 16, 3PM
Theatre 2



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CORRECTIONS

The Oracle will correct or clarify factual errors. Contact Editor in Chief Alexandra Urban at oracleeditor@gmail.com

UKRAINE

Continued from PAGE 1

government.”

Oustria fears the potential repercussions of the war, such as economic sanctions and reciprocated attacks, on how Ukraine will damage the welfare of the Russian people.

The other side of Oustria's dorm room houses her Ukrainian roommate, who Oustria said could not believe the news that the liberty of her home country was in danger and was scared for her family remaining in the invaded nation.

“It is very scary to see how devastated she is,” Oustria said. “Yesterday she stayed up crying and shaking all night when they announced the war.”

Despite not having any family or heritage from the conflicted region, freshman marine biology major Sydney Tritschler said she was appalled when she learned of the invasion.

“I was shocked [when] I heard about it in the news,” Tritschler said. “I’m angry at Putin, and I’m concerned for the sovereignty of Ukraine and the future of Europe.”

The resilience the Ukrainian people have had in lieu of the uphill battle the country faces



Some students worry the conflict will escalate to warfare with global consequences. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

about them,” she said. “I’m mostly angry with the ‘need’ for violence in the first place.”

Sophomore biomedical sciences Keon Huang feels similarly and is concerned about what this attack means for the future security of other European states.

“I’m shocked and horrified,” Huang said. “I’m scared for

in negotiations from preventing the conflict, to begin with.

“I think we had seen it [the invasion] from a mile away, yet we still did little to nothing to stop it altogether,” he said.

Dissatisfaction with global leadership and concerns for the future of the globe are reactions junior psychology major Andrea Moreno had when she heard about the attack.

“My concerns going forward are that if other countries like the U.S. do get involved and help Ukraine,” Moreno said. “Considering he [Putin] is very power-hungry and has no sympathy for innocent people, who knows to what extent he will go to get what he wants.”

Although the fighting between Russia and Ukraine has just begun, Moreno said she is hopeful for a peaceful resolution.

“I’m definitely anxious about this conflict and sympathize with the Ukrainian people,” she said. “I’m hopeful for a better future, but it does worry me.”

USF World, a university outreach program that promotes global culture on all three campuses, said in a recent Instagram post that mental health services are available for all members of the community that are fearful of an escalation of global conflict.

“The University of South Florida recognizes that many in our university community will be affected by this International crisis in different ways,” the post said. “Whether you are a student, faculty, staff or community partner with a connection to this region of the world we understand that we all process events differently.”

Most of the Russians I know did not choose or agree with the current government.

Anna Oustria, international student

against one of the world’s most powerful nations is inspiring, according to Tritschler.

“I honestly feel very hopeful for Ukraine and proud of their soldiers and the stories I hear

the future of the East, as well as economic and political implications for the West.”

Huang also harbors frustrations with the leadership in the West for not being as tactful



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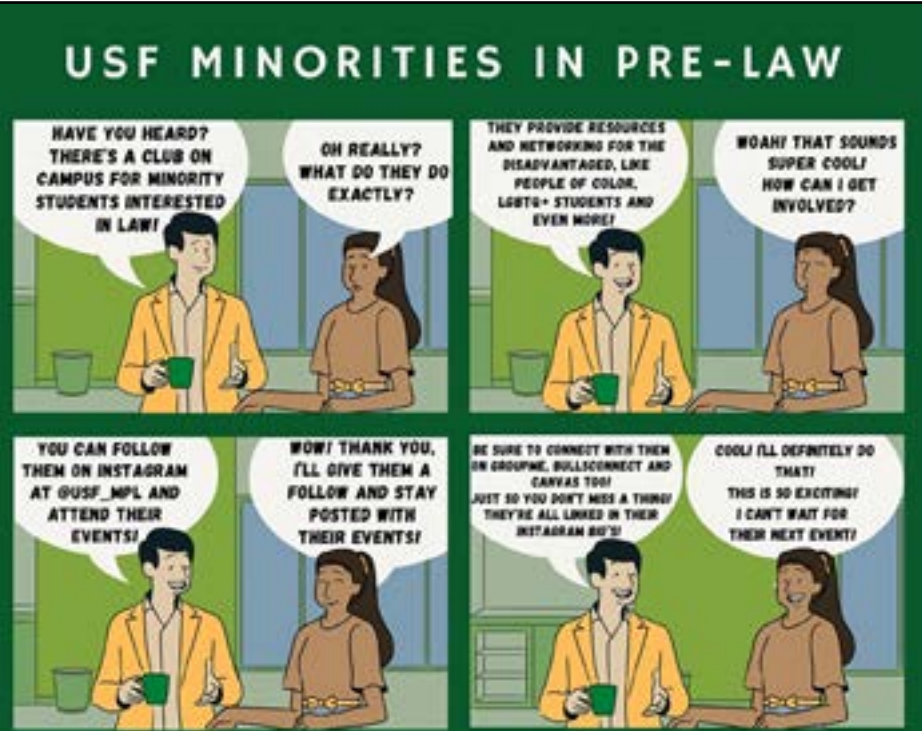




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We meet every **Tuesday at 7:30 PM in MSC 3711!**

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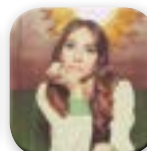
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Bull Bucks should work like a credit card

By Kerin McAleese
CORRESPONDENT

USF's Bull Bucks system is the student commerce structure currently in place. Bull Bucks are electronically preloaded onto a student's ID card through the USF website, according to its FAQ page.

The system operates like a debit card, requiring students and parents to upload money prior so they can use up to \$1,000. Typically students use Bull Bucks to pay for food, printing and at select USF retail locations, according to the Bull Bucks website.

Instead of preloading Bull Bucks, students should be able to use them preemptively, billing their tuition and fees to pay off later when they have the money. This would help students who might not have the money to load their card upfront.

This system was created to limit the need of carrying cash on campus for students, and to provide an alternative to commercial bank cards, according to the website.

Bull Bucks are non-transferable, are limited to a spending balance of \$600 daily and can only hold up to \$1,000.

The biggest limitation placed on Bull Bucks users is that they require a cash balance loaded in advance, which is inconvenient for students who don't have the money yet, or those who have to depend on their parents to reload the card.



The Bull Bucks system shouldn't require money in advance but it should allow students to credit charges to their USF accounts instead. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

Students would also avoid the inconvenience of running out of Bull Bucks without realizing it, leaving them without necessary resources like lunch or printing.

No student is allowed to graduate with an unpaid balance and students face financial holds or constraints when registering for the next semester if fees are unpaid, according to USF's registrar website.

Students also can't have their transcripts or diplomas released without paying the fees off.

This is known as a "BD" hold for debt owed. To lift this, students would have to contact Student Services for assistance. These measures are already in place, ensuring USF wouldn't face a loss by implementing this

new system.

Bettering the Bull Bucks system by altering it to operate under credit-based allowances would allow students to purchase necessary items without worrying about overdrafting their card, giving students more convenience and peace of mind when purchasing necessities.

If the purpose of the Bull Bucks system is to act as a convenient alternative to bank cards, USF should make them as convenient and stress-free as possible for students and parents.

Kerin McAleese is a senior majoring in English.

Energy conservation around the USF campus is important

By Eshaani Arvind
CORRESPONDENT

It's no surprise that USF, a public university with over 45,000 students, utilizes a great deal of energy each year.

Lights and other electronics remain switched on after hours in buildings around campus, resulting in a huge waste of electricity.

USF should take pollution-mitigating measures like ensuring that the lights and other electronics are turned off in campus buildings when not in use to promote sustainability.

It's unnecessary for so many electronics to stay on after hours. The TVs should be turned off, for example. No one's in the building to watch them and they don't contribute to the security of the building, so keeping them on is pointless.

If everything cannot be shut down when the buildings are closed, then the number of electronics that remain switched on should be significantly reduced.

The International Dark-Sky Association, an organization combating light pollution, shows how leaving lights on can directly harm the environment. It's stated that the lighting wasted by the U.S. releases up to 21 million tons of carbon dioxide per year.

Offsetting such a problem would mean planting 875 million trees annually, according to their website. USF has the opportunity to do its part in reaching that

number.

Keeping the lights on after hours also isn't economical. USF takes a green energy fee of \$1 per credit hour from students with tuition each semester.

The Student Energy Green Fund (SEGF) council said this fee is supposed to be used to assist USF in energy conservation and sustainability.

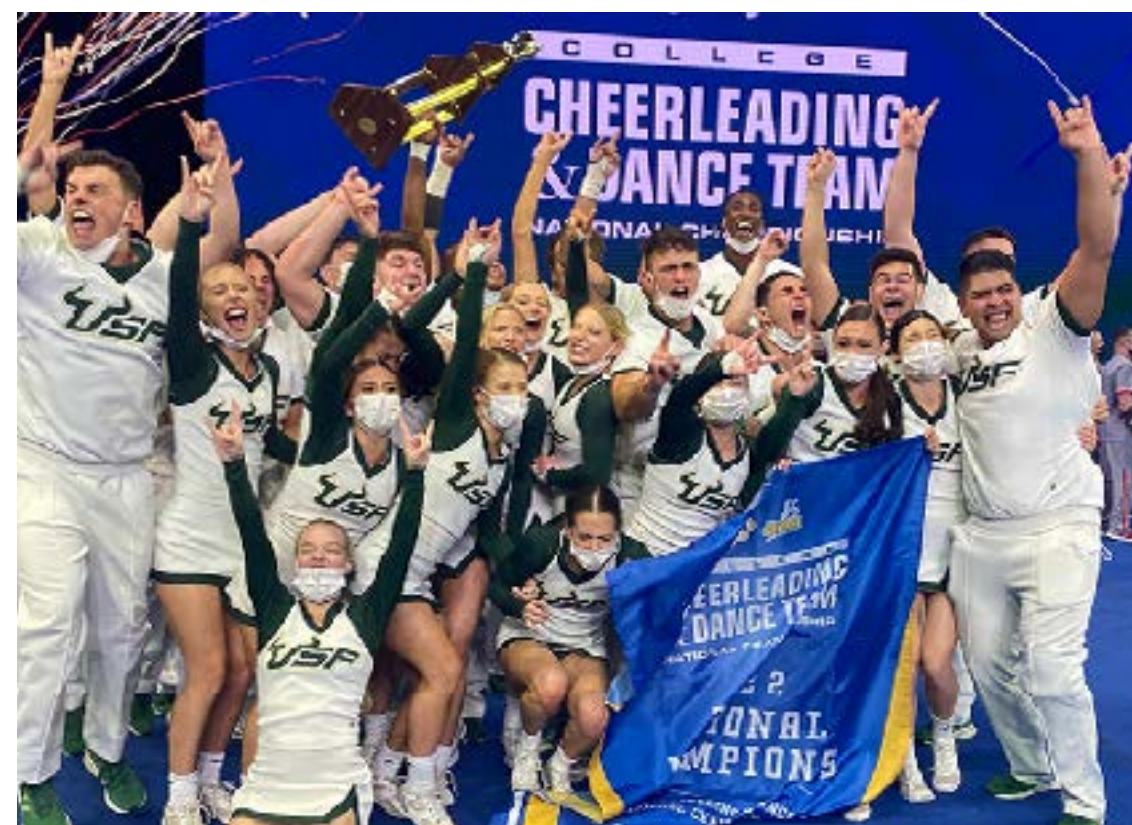
SEGF has taken green initiatives like the installation of solar panels in the Marshall Student Center in 2017, that promotes the use of sustainable energy.

USF has also partnered with Coca-Cola to install reverse recycling machines to help reduce our environmental footprint. These are examples of great ways the fee can be used, and more similar steps can be taken.

The SEGF council needs to address the issue of the lights remaining switched on after hours and take action against such wastage on campus. Plus, if students are paying a fee, USF should follow up by taking every step to fulfill the goal of that extra funding.

USF should do its part in mitigating energy waste and making good use of student fees by taking every measure to minimize energy pollution and ensure technology should be turned off when it's not being utilized.

Eshaani Arvind is a freshman majoring in computer science.



USF coed cheer successfully defended its national championship at the 2022 UCA and UDA College Cheerleading and Dance Team National Championship. USF ATHLETICS PHOTO

COED CHEER

Continued from **PAGE 8**

to exceeds it, according to Carignan.

“Even when we practice, say 4:30-7:30, everyone comes in an hour early, and then everyone wants to keep stunting after that,” she said. “On days off, we stunt outside or we come in the Corral. We just stunt whenever and way more than we actually practice.”

When Guadagnino arrives to lead practice, everyone has already worked up a sweat. It’s a sight she’s become used to since arriving at USF in 2016, and this current crop of cheerleaders exemplifies that extra drive more than any group before it.

“They were always wanting to do more. They always wanted to get in an extra rep,” she said. “We practice a lot, yet they never shied away from practicing more.

“If they had another rep in them, they would do it and they

wanted to do it. They wanted to practice how they were going to perform.”

The squad’s hard work has paid dividends in the form of back-to-back Universal Cheer Association national championships.

USF coed cheer is the second program in the sport’s history to repeat as national champions, winning its first in 2021 and doing it again on Jan. 16.

Even with the success, the team refuses to let off the gas, according to Guadagnino.

“We actually went into this year pursuing a national championship, not defending one,” she said. “So we kind of flipped the script, because there’s a lot of pressure that goes with defending a national championship.”

Sanchez was wary of the possible downfalls coming off the championship high into a new competition season, making

sure the motivation remained.

“I think the biggest thing was definitely trying to keep that mentality of ‘Yes, we won before, but that time isn’t now,’” he said. “Last year isn’t this year, so we have to keep driving to keep being better because we can’t get complacent.”

The next step for coed cheer is replacing a record 11 seniors who are leaving this semester. Tryouts in May are more important than any in recent memory, according to Guadagnino.

Once the chosen few bed in, however, the objective will not change.

“The new team that we’re going to have in May are not national champions. It was the team before them that were national champions,” she said.

“That is how we’re going to continue to coach the kids so that they maintain their humility and their hunger to keep going in the right direction.”

BASEBALL

Continued from **PAGE 8**

Saturday’s 9-3 win as the team recorded 12 hits in their best offensive performance of the season to that point.

Throughout the game, USF was strong in the box led by redshirt sophomore infielder Ben Rozenblum who finished the game with two RBIs. Sophomore catcher Joaquin Monque also contributed to the cause with his first collegiate home run.

Although they were able to get nine runs across, coach Billy Mohl was disappointed that the team left 14 runners stranded on base.

“I thought we swung the bats well, I still think we left out too many opportunities on the bases,” he said.

Redshirt junior Brad Lord had a strong start Saturday, picking up his second win of the year behind five innings of solid work. He allowed just two runs and struck out three batters before making way for an impressive performance from the USF bullpen.

Redshirt junior Devin Hemenway, redshirt sophomore Hunter Mink and freshman Austin Grause all impressed in their relief stints. The trio combined for nearly four innings and gave up just two hits.

“I thought Brad Lord was really good,” Mohl said. “Kind of ran out of gas in the sixth and I thought Devin came in and kind of settled the boat and Hunter and Grause finished it up for us.”

USF quickly bested their nine runs on Saturday with an explosive 17-2 win on Sunday to sweep the Seawolves.

The Bulls were hot from the start, scoring six runs over the first two innings, highlighted by a two-run homer from Lane. Sophomore Drew Butcher added to the tally in the sixth inning with a three-run homer of his own.

The momentum stretched into the seventh with a home run from redshirt sophomore Daniel Cantu who had a strong weekend against the Seawolves with three RBIs.

“I feel good. I’ve been feeling good all weekend, just haven’t had much to show for it, but I got a good pitch and did some damage,” he said.

The scoring continued through the eighth inning as the Bulls finished with their most runs in a single game since a 20-run performance against Purdue in 2013.

“Everybody had a hit, everybody contributed today, which is what we talked about all the time from the freshmen to the seniors,” Mohl said. “Those guys came out and they competed well in the box.”

Following an encouraging performance, Cantu expressed his excitement not just about the result but also for the major contributions of a few of the Bulls’ younger players.

“The outcome for the weekend was awesome,” he said. “We had a lot of young guys step up and just do their job and be a good teammate.”

USF baseball will host its mid-week matchup in the USF Baseball Stadium against Florida International on Tuesday at 6 p.m. The game will be broadcast on ESPN+ and iHeartRadio Bulls Unlimited.

Bulls complete their first sweep of the season



Lanie De La Milera

STAFF WRITER

USF baseball's offense progressively improved over the weekend in its series sweep against Stony Brook. After winning by just one run on Friday, the Bulls won by at least six in the next two games.

The Bulls' (4-2) turnaround came after a rough opening weekend in which they went 1-2. The team was more consistent on the mound and at the plate against the Seawolves (1-5).

On Friday, redshirt sophomore pitcher Jack Jasiak put in six innings of work and recorded eight strikeouts. But while he was dominant, the Bulls' offense remained dormant for much of the game.

It wasn't until the bottom of the sixth that USF scored through redshirt sophomore Carmine Lane's RBI single.

Once the eighth inning came around, USF's bats picked up the pace and scored two more runs to make the score 3-2.

Redshirt junior pitcher Orion Kerkering closed out the game, sealing the win for USF and earning his first save of the season.

USF's offense came alive in

See **BASEBALL** on **PAGE 7**



Redshirt sophomore Daniel Cantu hit a home run on Sunday against Stony Brook, capping a weekend where he had three hits and three RBIs. USF ATHLETICS PHOTO

Dedication, hard work at the heart of USF coed cheer's dynasty



Alberto Camargo

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Corral can feel at times like a musty hidden closet within the sparkling Yuengling Center, yet it's under the ancient yellow lighting in this gym-within-a-gym where a USF dynasty is

being forged.

While the glory of back-to-back national championships is rightfully celebrated, the inglorious hours of physical work put in anywhere with a floor and two cheerleaders ready to stunt deserves to be recognized as well.

Unlike many sports, there is no clear offseason in cheerleading. The team transitions from tryouts in May, prepping for football season in the fall, competition season in the winter and back to tryouts the next spring.

"In the summer, we [practice]

two times a week," coach Gillian Guadagnino said. "Then once the fall semester starts, we'll go up to three days a week for three hours each, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Once November hits we'll add in a fourth day on Sundays to start working on choreography.

"Once December hits and as soon as finals are over, we actually go every single day from like 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. getting ready for our national championship."

Even though the holiday season is shortened, it is a sacrifice team members are

willing to make in order to reach their collective goals, according to senior Nicole Carignan.

"We only have five days for Christmas break to go see family," she said. "Two of those days are traveling days. So it's really three days, and the families get upset. My mom always is like, 'What are you doing? Come home.' And I'm just like, 'No, next year maybe.'"

The common trope of cheerleading not being a sport or not an intensive one is starting to fade from public opinion, yet plenty of people outside the

cheer bubble are still surprised to learn the true extent of the demand, according to senior Uriel Sanchez.

"It's basically a full-time job," he said. "When we tell people that, they're genuinely amazed, because they're like, 'Wow, you practice for about six, seven hours a day?' And we're like, 'Yeah, that's a full commitment.'"

If the hours the cheerleaders put into team practice amounts to a typical work week, the extra practice they commit themselves

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