

## Air handling units seek replacement, numerous offices to be displaced in SVC



Clinton Engelberger

NEWS EDITOR

Four air handling units located in the Student Services building (SVC) are being replaced entirely, causing multiple offices located in the building to be temporarily displaced.

Replacements come after the units, which provide ventilation to portions of the basement and the first, second and fifth floors, had been used beyond their expected lifespan, according to Associate Director of Communications Aaron Nichols.



Royal Aire will replace multiple air handling units to improve ventilation in the basement and first, second and fifth floors. ORACLE PHOTO/ALEXANDRA URBAN

Being executed by Royal Aire, the project is estimated to be completed by this summer,

Nichols said.

The reason the replacement is taking place now is because

it must be completed by this summer due to the requirements of receiving the federal funding

for the work, according to Nichols.

“Between the funding stipulations, the fact that many organizations across the country are trying to accomplish similar projects and supply chain challenges, the manufacturing and delivery lead times are largely driving the project schedule,” he said.

“This is complicated by the physical locations and layouts of the large, existing equipment and ductwork that must be removed in pieces and parts before the new equipment can be installed. The total duration of the removal and reinstallation of systems is greater than the length of the summer break.”

A budget of \$1.55 million

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## OMA Black Heritage Month events aim to highlight intersectionality education

By Michael Mardones  
STAFF WRITER

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) aims to commemorate Black Heritage Month (BHM) with 21 events mixed between online and in person across all three campuses after last year’s events were online due to the pandemic.

OMA aims to provide an educational environment for students, staff, faculty and alumni to educate the USF community on Black culture and celebrate the contributions the Black community has made to society.

Although COVID-19 restrictions are not being enforced by the university, OMA

Assistant Director Nicole Lockett said every event will provide resources like masks and hand sanitizers to make students feel comfortable.

“We really try to make sure that we do what we can,” said Lockett. “They make their own choices, but we just want to make sure that we’re being safe, and we’re setting an example.”

Feb. 2 marks the start of the events with the Black Heritage Month Kick-off at the USF Tampa Bull Market starting at 11 a.m. and ending at 2 p.m.

OMA will seek to boost engagement for upcoming events and provide exposure for student associations involved. Students who attend can expect free “swag” such as BHM T-shirts

and informational stands from student organizations to become more connected with them, according to Lockett.

In previous years, BHM included events that educated students and staff on the intersectionality of the Black community of USF for those identifying as women and

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The project is expected to be completed by this summer. ORACLE PHOTO/ALEXANDRA URBAN

## STUDENT SERVICES

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has been permitted for the replacement, and it is being funded from monies received from Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act,

Some offices in the basement, such as The Controller's Accounting Office and Resource Management and Development (RMD) (Business Transactions), are both working remotely, and some RMD employees are temporarily moving to the John and Grace Allen building.

Feed-A-Bull is moving across the hall from its original location in SVC 002 to SVC 0040 so it stays close to its existing location, and The Oracle offices are repositioning temporarily to a space in the Marshall Student Center.

Beyond the basement, Nichols said offices located on the first floor will either work remotely or shift locations if employees are required to come in person to do work.

"The Admissions Office is returning to remote operations with selected personnel working from spaces in the Registrar's office area," he said. "The

functions of the Admissions Office that require public interaction, face-to-face, are relocating temporarily to the second floor lobby areas of the Central Human Resources offices, upstairs from where their lobby is now."

The second floor, including offices such as Career Services, Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention and Undergraduate Student Support Services will also be moving locations or will shift a majority of their work remotely.

On the fifth floor, RMD (HR & Payroll) will shift to a space in the Behavioral Sciences building and Information Technology will be working remotely.

With the staff's experience during the pandemic, Nichols said the accelerated pace of the project is not going to sacrifice the quality of the replacement.

"All personnel we have been working with have been extremely understanding and cooperative during this complex planning process," he said.

"This is another example of how the experiences over the last 20 months have enabled USF to operate remotely and deliver excellent services in circumstances that require flexibility and adaptability."

## OMA

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members of the LGBTQ community.

OMA intends to expand its representation this year with the Latin American Student Association, Dominican American Student Association and Club Kreyol co-sponsoring events such as the Feb. 3 Afro-Latinx Conversation from 7-10 p.m. at the Marshall Student Center (MSC) Amphitheater to educate attendees about Black and Latinx origins and influences.

"We are taking those African communities and Latinx communities and influencing or infusing them together to make sure that they are looking at the representations of those two heritages together, which is really cool," Lockett said.

Lockett said students should keep an eye out for White Scripts and Black Superman: Black Masculinities in Comic Books, a film screening and discussion with documentary filmmaker

and anthropologist Jonathan Gayles, hosted by OMA. The screening will take place March 1 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the MSC Oval Theater.

Gayles earned his Ph.D. in applied anthropology from USF and won the 2012 Outstanding Documentary Feature from the Popular Culture/American Culture Association for the film.

"We're going to bring him back to talk about some of the scripts that are written by white people, but featuring Black men as Superman and talking about toxic masculinity," Lockett said.

Lockett also encouraged students to attend the online Enlightenment Workshop Series held on Microsoft Teams on Feb. 8 from noon to 1 p.m.

The series hosts a panel of educators, including Director of the David C. Anchin Center for the Advancement of Teaching Dana Thompson-Dorsey, English professor Geveryl Robinson and Senior Advisor to the President and Provost for Diversity and Inclusion Elizabeth Hordge-

Freeman to discuss perspectives on racial bias and systemic racism.

"So it's really courageous conversations that are designed to foster a culture of inclusive excellence at the University of South Florida," she said.

"We have different speakers to really talk about different perspectives on bias, cultural competence, systemic racism and those intersecting identities, or trends that we see facing black communities across America and the African diaspora."

OMA's efforts this year to partner and coordinate with student organizations that reflect the USF experience has been a highlight, according to Lockett.

"The Office of Multicultural Affairs has been really intentional about programming with student organizations because this is their student experience on campus and we want to be able to support them and do the things that they would like to see," she said.



Black Heritage Month events return to all three campuses with an expanded focus on intersectionality among Black identities. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM



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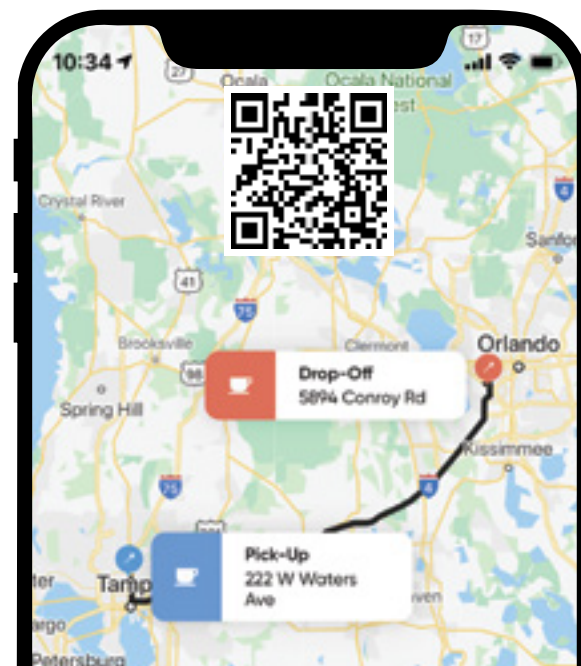
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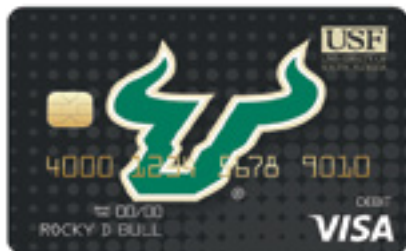


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## Food at The Hub could be more inclusive

By Eshaani Arvind  
CORRESPONDENT

There are a lot of dining options available for USF students, and The Hub is one of the prime places to go when you live on the Northern part of campus.

However, it appears students are not satisfied with the food options available at The Hub, complaining it is sometimes difficult to find food they can eat if they have dietary restrictions.

“The vegan section is easy to miss because it’s a tiny spot at the back and doesn’t get promoted a lot,” said first-year student Lee Davis in a Jan. 20 interview with The Oracle.

Some students have also had occurrences where the food has been mislabeled.

The sign that says “contains nuts” on the counter at the front is sometimes misplaced and students with allergies are confused about which item contains it. This issue is worsened when some employees are not always aware of what is in the food they are serving.

“I didn’t have any specific training when I started. They just tell me that this is on the menu today, and you have to serve it,” said Apoorva Inani, a new employee at The Hub, in a Jan. 23 interview with The Oracle.

This could explain why when students ask about specific ingredients in the food, like whether it was gluten free or not, some employees don’t appear to know the answer.



The Hub is one of the primary dining options on campus, but the food options leave much to be desired. ORACLE PHOTO/ LEDA ALVIM

It should be mandatory for all employees to receive an orientation session where they are informed about the menu and prepared to answer any questions regarding the ingredients.

The low quality of food and service could be the cause of the rush at Argos and other dining options, because students prefer them to The Hub.

Not all students have the option to eat elsewhere, and might be depending on their meal swipes for food every day. This is why improving the food at The Hub should be a priority.

The Hub’s efforts to avoid waste and serve lesser portions of food has been helpful, so is the addition of vegan options to the menu. It would be for the betterment of a lot of students if more of such measures were

taken.

Conducting mandatory orientation sessions, ensuring the signs and menus are visible and accurate, adding kosher and more gluten free options on the menu and improving the quality of the food could improve the student experience at The Hub.

A good diet is important for the overall well being of students and the dining locations at USF should ensure that all students get the best out of their meal plans.

*Eshaani Arvind is a freshman studying computer science.*

## EthicsPoint: A great resource for USF community

By Rachel Beard  
CORRESPONDENT

EthicsPoint is a third party hotline that has been partnering with USF for 11 years to give students, staff and other members of the community the opportunity to anonymously report violations of university policies and regulations.

This hotline helps keep the university accountable and ethical. It is important that more people are aware of it and feel safe reporting misconduct, such as fraud, discrimination and misuse of funds, without having to worry about backlash.

EthicsPoint is extremely user-friendly and filing a report is simple. This hotline gives people a voice. Anyone is able to file a report, and all of them are taken seriously and thoroughly investigated.

The EthicsPoint landing page can easily be accessed through a link on the USF website under Compliance and Ethics. EthicsPoint makes reporting violations and misconduct a much less intimidating process.

As reported by the 2020 Annual Report from the USF Office of Compliance and Ethics, EthicsPoint addressed 102 reports in 2020. Of these reports, 87% were closed and only 13% were still in progress by the end of 2020. All reports, regardless of the claim, are treated as legitimate and the issue is resolved quickly and efficiently.

It is important for people to

report misconduct as soon as possible, USF Chief Compliance Officer Caroline Fultz-Carver said in a Jan. 28 interview with The Oracle.

“I would rather someone let us know so we can do something than it become a bigger problem years down the road,” she said.

Fraud, discrimination and other issues reported through EthicsPoint affect the lives of real people. When members of the USF community hesitate to report, they may go unnoticed until they grow into a much larger and more harmful problem.

Often, people are hesitant to report misconduct because they are worried about anonymity. Fultz-Carver explained that once a report is filed, there is no way to know who filed it. The identity of the filer is not attached to the report at all.

Once the report is closed, it becomes public record, but remains anonymous because the filer’s identity was never attached to it.

“Having EthicsPoint is one of the great tools we have,” said Fultz-Carver. “It helps to ensure USF has a compliant, ethical environment.”

It is important for members of the USF community to have a safe and anonymous way to report violations of USF policies and EthicsPoint provides just that.

*Rachel Beard is a sophomore studying mass communication.*



Brady led the Buccaneers to a 13-4 record in 2021-22 and victory in the Wild Card Round before being eliminated in the Divisional Round. CREATIVE COMMONS

## BRADY

Continued from PAGE 8

For other students and the Tampa Bay community as a whole, it seemed a cruel coincidence that such breaking news would surface on a day Tampa was celebrating its annual Gasparilla Pirate Festival.

One enthusiast in the crowd alerted the rest to the story and the rumors quickly got around, according to junior Patrick Esposito.

"Someone just started screaming it," he said. "I thought it was going to be a little bit of a bigger deal, but it was just like five minutes of everyone going a little quiet. Everyone was just like 'What the hell is going on?'"

Esposito is not a Bucs fan himself, but as a Tampa native with a father who holds season tickets, the team's recent success and uncertain future hit close to home.

"I haven't heard from [my dad]. I texted him, I was like 'I can't believe Brady's retiring' and he just didn't respond to me,"

Esposito said. "He can't be too upset, he got a Super Bowl ring out of it."

Amid all the tribute messages on social media from former teammates, media outlets and sports fans around the country was a since-deleted tweet from TB12, Brady's media company. It was the first entity with direct affiliation to the quarterback to seemingly confirm the news.

Brady's agent quickly released a note to dispel the rumors, saying the quarterback has yet to make a decision on his future, but would address the situation in time.

A further report from Bally Sports detailed a phone call from Brady to Buccaneers general manager Jason Licht to declare he had neither decided to retire nor confirm he would return to the field. This is in line with previous reports that Brady was "noncommittal" to playing in 2022.

"I don't see why [Brady would walk away], he's still got a great team with the Bucs," Holecsek said. "I don't see why he'd leave

now. But maybe he's seen another team that he wants to try and get to the Super Bowl with because he's built like that and he can just choose."

Even in the event that Brady does decide to call it a career, the Bucs' roster boasts enough depth for the team to remain competitive, according to Esposito.

"It'll be really interesting to see who comes in at quarterback, because the roster is so good," he said. "They'll still be playoff contenders, but I don't know that they'll be Super Bowl contenders."

Ultimately though, Esposito thinks Brady would only return to Tampa Bay, rather than jumping ship to another team so late in his career.

"I think he's either retiring or staying in Tampa," he said. "Maybe he'll sign a one-day contract with New England and retire as a Patriot, but I doubt he goes anywhere else. He seems to love it here, everyone embraces him here."

## MLB

Continued from PAGE 8

league systems due to their contracting. Teams do this so the longer a certain player spends just below the MLB level, the more advantage they have in signing contracts with them for cheap.

Free agency is a huge subject and players have voiced how they think it should go. At the age of 29.5 years old, if a player has five to six years of time in the league, they should be available in free agency.

There have also been major complications and arguments over how free agency should work within the league. Players are wanting rules to be in place when it comes to age as well as contract amounts.

When looking at the MLB, there are many players people can name that make millions off their talents. However, a vast majority reside in the farm systems and are struggling financially to the point that they are needing a second job.

Players want a minimum salary that is reasonable for the time they put into the game and the expertise they have in their craft, as well as not being held back from playing in the majors.

In terms of the Tampa Bay area, it won't be long before the issues that come with this lockout come to light. The longer it takes for these agreements to take effect, the longer Tampa could go without baseball.

There is no timetable for a resolution to this dispute, and thus no start to the season in sight.

Pitchers and catchers are supposed to report to their spring training by mid-February, but if things don't look up in the first weeks of the month, the delay of baseball would begin.

Simply put, teams will lose a significant amount of revenue every day the lockout is pushed.

The Rays already have trouble bringing in money for their ball club, and a lockout is the last thing they need.

The Rays consistently rank toward the bottom of the league in attendance, ranking 28th in the 2021 season with an average turnout of 9,513 fans.

League-wide, TV viewing numbers and fans in attendance are one of baseball's main sources of revenue. Ticket sales are what drive each team's hard cash fund.

There was a similar issue with a shortened season in 2020 coupled with minimal attendance, brought by the onset of COVID-19. With few tickets being sold due to the pandemic, MLB wasn't making sufficient money. That year, the league generated \$3.66 billion in revenue, less than half what it made the previous year, according to Statista.

With no games in 2022, there won't be cash flow for the teams any time soon.

Minor leagues however, will be expected and allowed to play through the lockout since they are not directly affected by a major league lockout. The Bay will still be able to see the Tampa Tarpons and Clearwater Threshers play this season, but this doesn't mean they won't face problems.

The only issue that can arise for them at the moment are those players who may be part of their major league affiliate's 40-man roster, and are thus a part of the MLB Players Association union. If in the union, the player is locked by the MLB-wide lockout, according to Baseball America.

Sports are a huge economic booster for Tampa with the many championship-winning teams housed here. The lockout's impact on Tampa Bay baseball will only worsen if action is not taken to resolve this soon.

## USF students react to Tom Brady's rumored retirement



Alberto Camargo

ASSISTANT SPORTS  
EDITOR

Reports of Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady's imminent retirement and subsequent conflicting reports surfaced Saturday, shaking the city, football fans and USF students alike.

An initial report from ESPN claimed the 44-year-old was calling it a career after 22 seasons. He played his final two in Tampa



Tom Brady's two-year contract with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers ran out in 2022, leaving the seven-time Super Bowl champion's future in doubt. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Bay, winning the franchise its second Super Bowl in 2021.

For students like freshman Joshua Holecek, the news broke

on a sleepy weekend afternoon.

"I was in my bed because I saw it on my phone," he said. "I didn't really believe it. I thought that

dude is going to be playing until he's like 60."

Playing into his 50's is something Brady has teased in

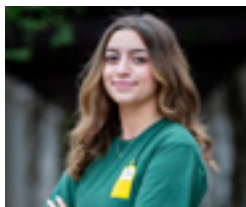
the past. Considering he set a career-high in passing yards and completions in the 2021-22 season, the reports of a retirement surprised Holecek.

"It was a little surprising that all of a sudden they thought he was going to retire," he said. "Because he's still playing at the top of his game, even at his age. So I don't see why he'd have to retire now. It's not like he had some big injury. I feel like he's still got plenty of good seasons in him."

Within minutes, the retirement report was retweeted tens of thousands of times, spreading across not just the digital sports world, but the mainstream news media in a flash.

■ See BRADY on PAGE 7

## How MLB lockout threatens Tampa Bay



Lanie De La Milera

STAFF WRITER

Major League Baseball has been stuck in a league-wide lockout since Dec. 2, a roadblock that threatens the financial security of the Tampa Bay Rays and the minor league system as

a whole.

The reason for the lockout is strictly political within the business of baseball. The owners of clubs and the players weren't able to agree on a collective bargaining agreement (CBA), a contract between the owners and the players' union.

One of the major problems that led to this is the disagreement over money and its distribution.

The owners want more money put into their ball clubs when it comes to postseason TV revenue by expanding the playoffs to

more games. In exchange, they are offering to shorten the season by eight games to 154 and a universal designated hitter, according to SB Nation.

Under the previous CBA, owners' share of revenue increased while the players were getting the short end of the stick. The MLB's player share dropped to 49.3% in 2021, more than two percentage points lower than it was as recently as 2007.

Players disagree with clubs keeping prospects in the minor

■ See MLB on PAGE 7



The 2022 MLB season is threatened by the league's ongoing lockout which started Dec. 2. CREATIVE COMMONS