

# THE MINARET

VOLUME 87 | ISSUE 6 | OCTOBER 9, 2020 | THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA



"Envision 2030 suggests that the consideration of aerial taxis, aerial gondolas, and hyperloops may be worth looking into for the improvement of Tampa's transit."



## Tampa Explores New Technology for **FUTURE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION** p. 10-11

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**WUTT**  
UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

## Celebrating for a Cause: WUTT Donates Money for Breast Cancer

**“We donated all of the money raised to the national breast cancer foundation.”**

- Emma Friedman, General Manager of WUTT and senior communication major

### **Madeline McCarthy**

*Staff Writer*

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On Friday, Oct. 2, The University of Tampa's student radio station, *WUTT: Spartan Radio*, raised \$110 for breast cancer awareness during their World College Radio Day event.

Music filled the heart of campus as different DJs from the radio station took turns spinning the tracks. Many students set up blankets on N. Walker Lawn and enjoyed picnics during the mini concert.

“We donated all of the money raised to the national breast cancer foundation,” said Emma Friedman, General Manager of *WUTT* and senior communication major.

Everyone passing by the event was encouraged to donate through *WUTT*'s Venmo. After giving whatever amount they could, the donor wrote down their name to be placed in a raffle for different music records.

Mikayla Rothschild, freshman marine biology major, was one of the many students who attended the event and donated to the cause.

“We just thought it would be a good idea to come after our class and bring food for a little

picnic.”

Koma Ogak, a senior entrepreneurship major and program director for *WUTT*, has been involved with *WUTT* on and off for his past couple of years at UT. Ogak was the first DJ to play at the World College Radio Day event.

“I think it's important to be involved in stuff like this because it's all about giving back and having fun,” said Ogak. “I want to leave a legacy when I graduate. One of my goals is to train as many new students who are interested in getting into DJing and learning the system and platforms we use.”

And he had some key advice for people just getting into the DJing world.

“If you screw up, just go with the flow,” said Ogak.

Ogak describes his personal DJing style as differentiated and multicultural. During his time playing at World College Radio Day, Ogak transitioned from afro-beat, to hip-hop, and even some country.

Currently, *WUTT* is not running programs due to issues with their server. Friedman explained that the shows and programs for *WUTT* will return to normal when the issues are fixed.

Cassie Disharoon is a new member of *WUTT* this year. Disharoon, a freshmen communication major, hopes to host an alternative music radio show.

“We have been having weekly meetings just to get to meet people and talk about upcoming shows. I don't know any of the equipment, so I'll have to do training,” said Disharoon.

In the past few years *WUTT* has hosted multiple charity events. Cydney Norpoth, senior international marketing major, is currently serving as the news director for the station. In her third year with *WUTT*, Norpoth hosted a show called Artist Hour and previously served as the music director for the station.

“We try to have a charity event once a year,” said Norpoth. “One year we had a [charity] event that donated to local food pantries. We had three local bands come out and had a concert. It was really fun.”

Although COVID-19 made *WUTT* cancel last spring's charity event, the radio station has plenty more things planned for the rest of the year.

“Tonight's event went well and we got to know some of our members better, but it was a smaller crowd that expected,” said Friedman. “We figured that may happen though because of the timing of the event.”

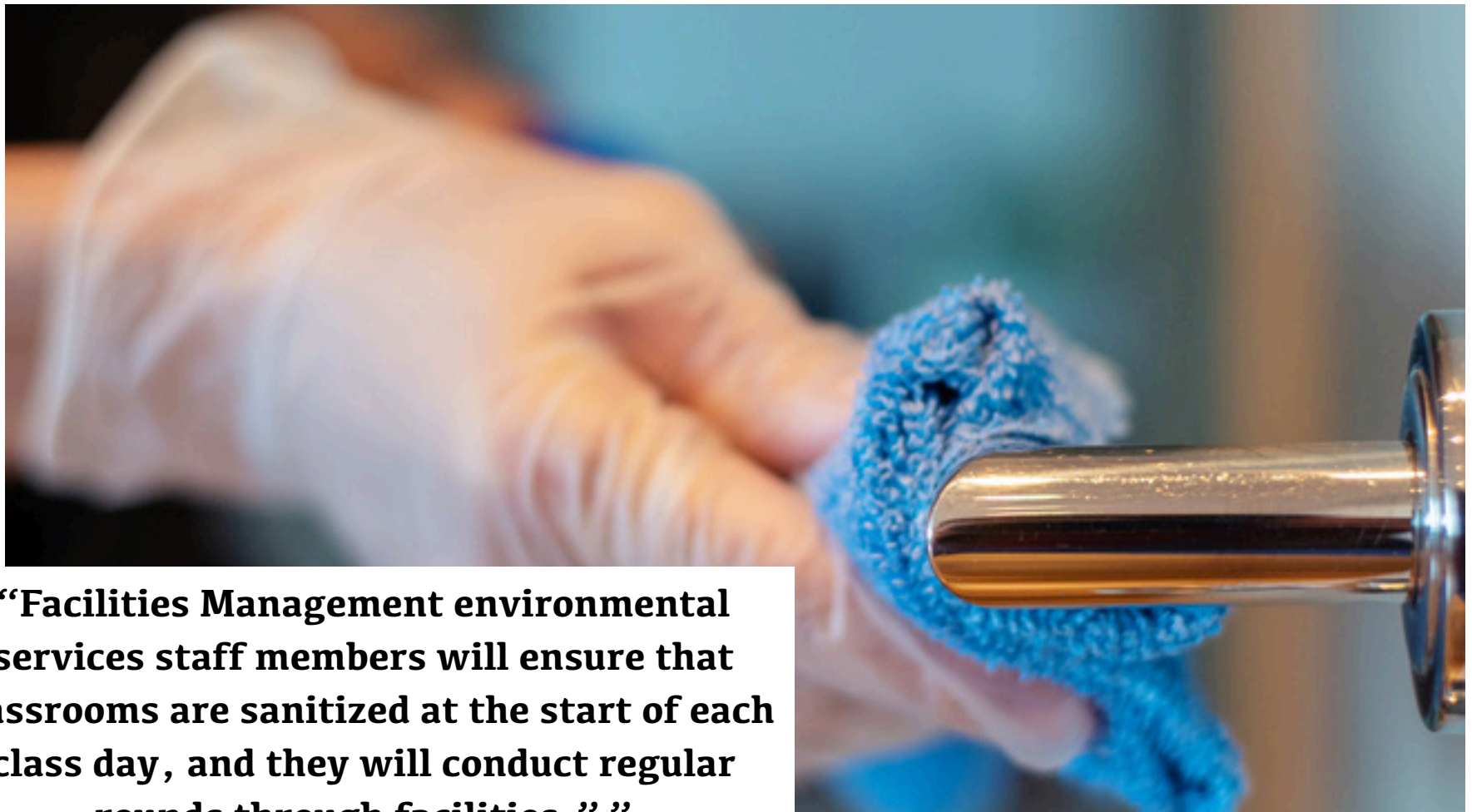
*WUTT* hopes to have a poolside event next. But the station is currently working on getting their student's shows back on air.

# Students Report Lack of Cleaning in Classrooms

**By Gabriela Mendez**



*Photo by Sydney Rhodes*



**“Facilities Management environmental services staff members will ensure that classrooms are sanitized at the start of each class day, and they will conduct regular rounds through facilities,” ”**

- UT's Spartan Shield Health Safety Plan

*Photo Courtesy of iStock*

### **Gabriela Mendez**

*Staff Writer*

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As The University of Tampa returned to in-person classes for the Fall semester, a COVID-19 Health Safety Task Force was implemented. The task force is responsible for the necessary sanitation on campus in order to ensure UT faculty, staff and students remain healthy and safe following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) suggestions.

As of Friday, Oct. 2, over 300 UT students and 3 faculty members have tested positive for COVID-19 throughout the Fall semester, according to UT's COVID-19 database. Some are questioning the cleaning process around campus and within classrooms.

On Thursday, May 7, President Ronald Vaughn established a health task force called Spartan Shield which determines how UT handles the mitigation of COVID-19 on-campus to maintain a safe, in-person learning environment with COVID-19.

One of the major aspects that the task force handles is the sanitization of classrooms. Seeing as, UT has around 9,700 students that occupy its classrooms 18

hours each day.

“Facilities Management environmental services staff members will ensure that classrooms are sanitized at the start of each class day, and they will conduct regular rounds through facilities,” according to UT's Spartan Shield Health Safety Plan.

Each classroom is fogged and sanitized in high-touch areas and wiped with sanitizer four to eight times per day. Classrooms are fogged nightly and early in the morning. UT has also arranged desks so students are socially distanced with CDC guidelines, as well as implementing a mask requirement.

Although there has been a change in the level of extra steps that UT has taken in sanitizing classrooms, UT had already implemented the fogging step of cleaning classrooms last semester.

Yet, students such as Kimberly Giangrasso, junior political science major, find no difference in how sanitized UT's classrooms are in comparison to previous semesters and don't see that the classrooms are as sanitized.

Others find that UT has been doing enough in sanitizing classrooms and keeping students and faculty safe during these times with COVID-19.

“I think UT has done enough in maintaining the

classrooms sanitized,” said Natalia Cruz, English and theater double major. “While I do see there is room for improvement, I do find that the desks and overall classroom is sanitized to an extent when I come in for class.”

UT has also enforced rules between faculty while following the Spartan Shield guidelines when giving classes. The university has also enforced rules upon students, such as limiting the number of individuals at gatherings on campus.

Some students find that professors have followed all policies and are taking the situation seriously but think students are lacking in that department.

“Teachers have definitely been taking and following COVID policies seriously. I haven't seen a professor not wearing a mask,” said Giangrasso. “We as students however could do better at wearing masks in places like resident halls and not hang out in large groups of people.”

As of right now, Jennifer Isenbeck, director of Facilities, said that there are no future policies or plans to be updated in Spartan Shield but are always monitoring updated COVID recommendations.

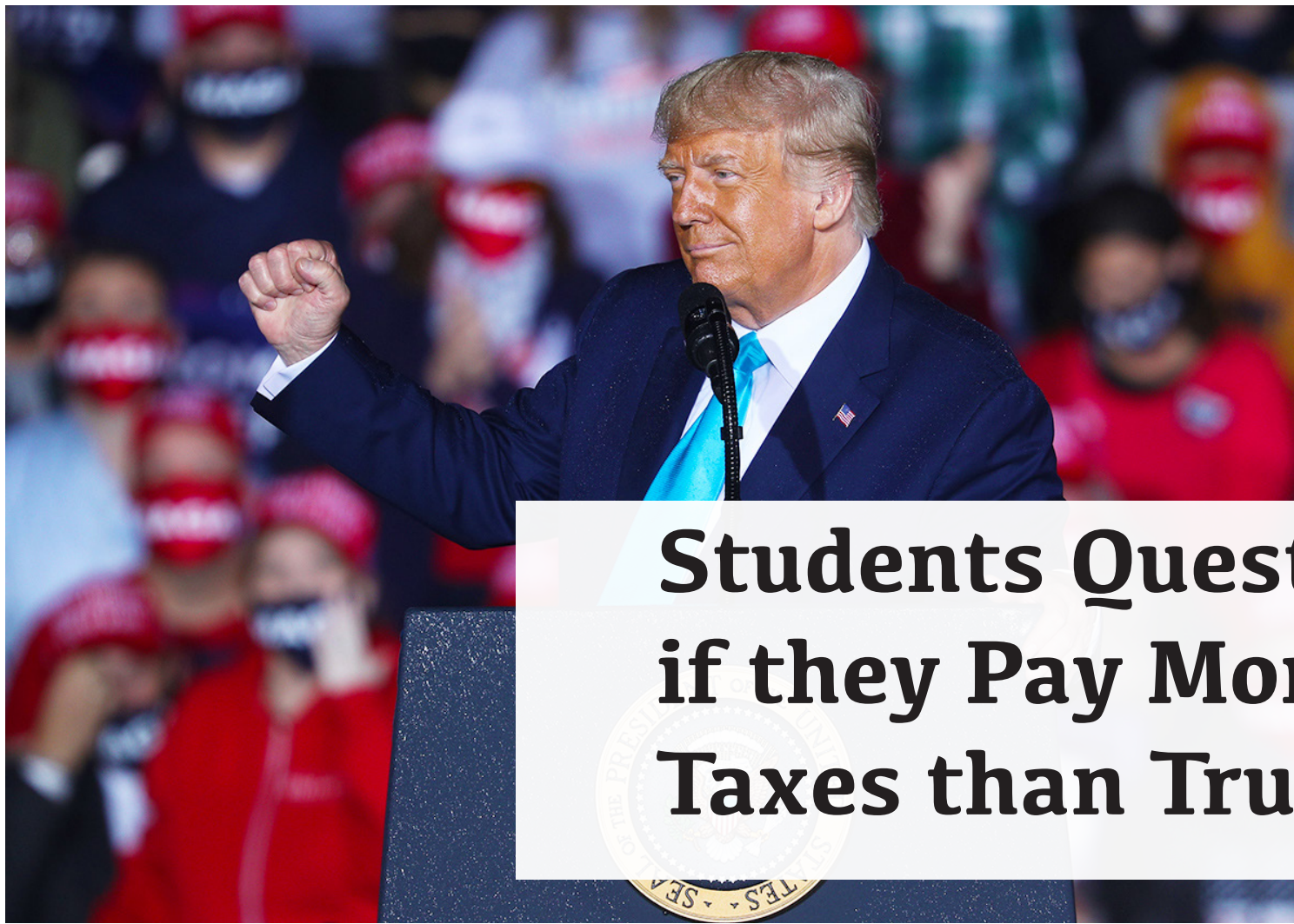


Photo courtesy of Getty Images

## Students Question if they Pay More in Taxes than Trump

**Juliana Walter**  
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*The New York Times broke news earlier last week that President Trump only paid \$750 in federal income tax for both 2016 and 2017. And for the past 10 out of 15 years before this, the President had paid no federal income tax at all. So, how could one of the richest men in the world get away with paying less taxes than a college student?*

President Donald Trump has paid less taxes in the past decade than some students at The University of Tampa, based on news reports in the last week.

The *New York Times* broke news earlier last week that President Trump only paid \$750 in federal income tax for both 2016 and 2017. And for the past 10 out of 15 years before this, the President had paid no federal income tax at all. So, how could one of the richest men in the world get away with paying less taxes than a college student?

Christopher Janak, senior cybersecurity major at UT, was one of these students who paid significantly more federal income tax than the President, despite being a full-time student. Janak said he paid nearly \$8,000 in federal income tax in 2019.

“For tax year 2019, I had a [full-time] summer IT internship in New York City,” said Janak. “I also worked five to 10 hours a week on the side for a Property Maintenance company to make some extra cash in the summer. Then throughout the school year I worked part time for UT’s Media Services.”

Janak estimated that he made over \$20,000 in the 2019 tax year. While the *New York Times* reported that President Trump went into the red for the year 2017, in the annual disclosure the President is required to give, he reported he made at least \$434.9 million.

But not all college students paid more than Trump in taxes since students who earn an income less than \$12,200 a year are not required to file taxes. Kimberly Giangrasso, junior political science major, paid \$621 in federal income tax for the 2019 tax year.

Giangrasso worked as a counter assistant at Pennington Bagel in her hometown of Pennington, New Jersey. For 2019, Giangrasso estimates that she made around \$6,300.

“I find it perplexing that a man who is considered one of the wealthiest men in the country has paid only \$129 more than me in income tax,” said Giangrasso.

Many students feel the same way as Giangrasso, that they should not be paying more than the multimillionaire President. But for students like Janak, this news is not surprising at all.

“When President Trump’s taxes came out, I was not surprised because I am semi-familiar with tax laws,” said Janak. “He owns many businesses; therefore, he gets lots of tax write offs and exceptions. Also, he lives in most of his ‘businesses,’ aka hotels, so it would be a tax write off”

“All I see is a lot of people complaining that they spent more on taxes than he has and it’s not fair to them, but honestly they just don’t know the tax laws,” said Janak. “Every other wealthy person in the U.S. does the same thing. People should be upset at the laws that allow it to legally happen rather than the individuals who want to pay less money.”

## Tampa Tik-Toker Reviews Businesses to Promote Growth

Alex D'Eramo

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If you follow social media platforms these days, you are aware of the fact that TikTok has completely taken over social media. It is the newest media platform that can be considered the entire package. Everyone's TikTok account is personally customized based on videos they like, post, and share, ultimately, making it a platform like no other created before.

Tik-Toker Savannah Jarell, 24, known as Savvy J. on social media and @Likecherrieinspring on TikTok, is Tampa's guru when it comes to hotspots in Tampa and new places to try out. Looking for secret hideaway coffee shops or restaurants with the funkier food creations? Looking for taro pancakes and unicorn drinks; if you even know what those are? Well, she has the perfect places for you to check out.

Jarell has been a full-time beauty blogger for years now and never assumed her media content would be geared toward posting about local businesses.

"I never had any intention of dedicating my content to anything local," said Jarell. "That said, one day a video for a restaurant in New York City came up and I loved the concept of doing a mini-review."

Originally, she was posting short clips on TikTok of her day-to-day life and used the platform to try to create "aesthetically pleasing videos." Born and raised in Tampa, Savvy J. now uses this media platform to highlight some of her home city's best and most underrated or unknown spots after realizing so many people were interested in that kind of content. A few of her most popular TikTok videos promote the following businesses:

The Attic Cafe and Bar - located on 500 E. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 400. This local cafe and bar has such a tasty breakfast and lunch menu, and even serves beer and cider on tap.

With 408.3K views, The Attic is bound to receive major attention from Jarell's video. In fact, Jarell said, "I never thought a video I posted to the internet could have any kind of impact. But for example, The Attic Cafe, a video I did when there was practically only one person working/

cooking/running the whole Restaurant, has now hired five new people. It is crazy, but I'm so thankful I can help small local businesses in the time when businesses need the most help."

Not only did Jarell never expect anything from making her TikToks, she certainly did not expect that she would have such a major influence on local businesses and their growth, exposure, and popularity around the area.

Sweet Buns Bakery and Cafe - an Asian bakery located on 2788 E Fowler Ave. Jarell's video currently has 364.8K views and is a huge hit. Sweet Buns offers a variety of delicious sweet and savory treats like cranberry butter toast, egg puffs, red bean cookies, England peach rolls, and so many more to choose from.

Casa Di Mazzaro - an Italian market that offers so many different fresh food options and is popular in the St. Petersburg area. This market has many fascinating features: a cheese and caviar room, a wine room with hundreds of different wines, a gourmet coffee bar, and freshly-made pasta. If you find yourself in the area be sure to check out Casa Di Mazzaro on 3001 22nd Ave N in St. Petersburg.

If any of these concepts sparked your interest, you're bound to enjoy the rest of the places she highlights in her TikTok videos as well. Be sure to check out her page, @Likecherrieinspring.



Photo courtesy of @Likecherriesinspring/Tik Tok

# SPOOKY SEASON IS HERE: TAMPA HALLOWEEN EVENTS

**Kennedy Haugen**

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With COVID-19, this year's "spooky season" is looking a lot different. Both Disney and Universal have cancelled their popular Halloween events. But, here in Tampa, there are plenty of events to fill your calendar with, all the while complying with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) COVID-19 guidelines.



*Photo courtesy of buschgardens.com*

## BUSCH GARDENS HOWL-O-SCREAM

On select nights between Friday, Sept. 25 and Sunday, Nov. 1, Busch Gardens will be hosting their 21st annual Howl-O-Scream event. Following CDC guidelines, the event will feature open-air scare zones instead of haunted houses. The scare zones range from Busch Gardens mainstays like Deadly Toys and "Dia De Los Muertos" to brand new zones Lycan Landing and The Junkyard. Admission is limited and reservations are recommended to guarantee a spot.



*Photo courtesy of @screamageddon/Instagram*

## SCREAM-A-GEDDON

Located in Dade City, Florida, just outside of Tampa, Scream-A-Geddon features six immersive horror attractions. The attractions range from typical haunted houses sporting names like Ravenhill Asylum and Blackpool prison to unique experiences of Zombie Paintball Assault and Bonzo's Beer Garden. Visitors to Scream-A-Geddon have the option to "mark" themselves, which allows scare actors to grab them and possibly separate them from their groups.



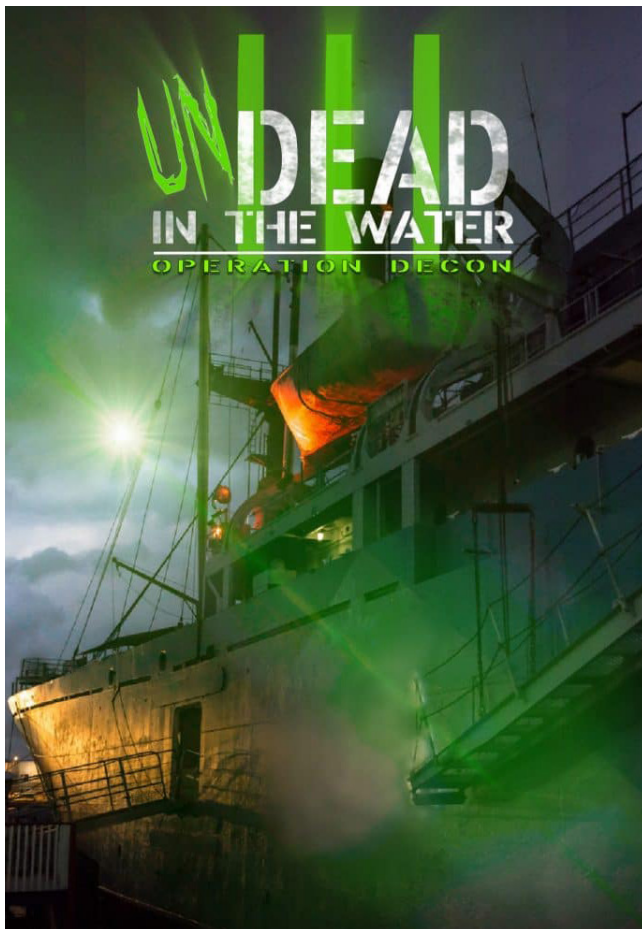
*Photo courtesy of buschgardens.com*



*Photo courtesy of plantmuseum.com*

## HAUNTED ZOMBIE CRUISE

Join the crew of the Pirate Ship, Lost Pearl, as they board the S/S American Victory to save Tampa from zombie stowaways. This haunted zombie cruise takes off from the Tampa Convention Center on a 30 minute journey. The attraction is completely open air and includes a complimentary cocktail. The ship is operating at partial capacity for healthy and safety protocols. There are select nights for the cruise between Saturday, Nov. 28 and Sunday, Dec. 20.



## AN EERIE EVENING AT THE TAMPA BAY HOTEL

Across three nights, Friday, Oct. 23, Saturday, Oct. 24, and Friday, Oct. 30, Plant Museum will hold nights of intrigue where guests will have to solve a murder mystery before the killer takes another victim. With period lighting and atmosphere, guests will feel like they've been transported back in time. Evidence and clues will be scattered throughout the rooms for guests to put together in a timely manner. Space is limited to 30 guests per hour, with time slots of 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Masks are required and rooms will be cleaned between hours. Tickets start at \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members.



*Photo courtesy of @sparkmanwharf*

## HAUNTED WHARF

From Thursday, Oct. 15 to Saturday, Oct. 17, Sparkman Wharf will host its annual Haunted Wharf. The event features an interactive maze on the waterside wharf, with plenty of photo-ops and "other worldly" visitors roaming around. The event is both kid and adult friendly. Tickets for the maze are \$10 and must be purchased in advance. Sparkman Wharf will adhere to CDC guidelines for its guests.

# Full Capacity at Tangra Nightclub Raises Concern Among Community

**Loren Adams**

*Staff Writer*

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On Friday, Sept. 25 Gov. Ron DeSantis announced that bars and restaurants are allowed to open to maximum capacity in Florida. Despite still being in a global pandemic, clubs restaurants and bars are taking pleasure in opening. Although this is good news to some, there are still some concerns.

Tangra Nightclub, a popular nightspot in Ybor City, took to social media to announce that they will be back to full capacity. In a recent post on Instagram the nightclub answered questions regarding the club's COVID-19 restrictions. Some were pleased to hear of the opening but others were unsure about the club's guidelines. Alex Velez, (@rican\_freedom) a follower of the Tangra Nightclub, was one of those who seemed uncertain about the night clubs COVID-19 restrictions.

"From my understanding seating will no longer be a requirement," commented Velez on Tangra's Instagram post. "The other clubs haven't mentioned it for this weekend or replaced it with '100% social distancing.' Tangra needs to be more clear."

Although night clubs like Tangra are opening up there are local businesses that chose not to open to full capacity. Green Lemon, a restaurant and bar located in Soho is not changing current operations.

"It is important to us at Green Lemon to keep our community as well as our staff safe," said Ryan Chapman, managing partner at Green Lemon. "We have been following the CDC guidelines from the very beginning. We want to continue to do that."

Chapman said the establishment will not open to full capacity and will continue with how they have been operating.

"We have table spacing, outdoor seating, hand sanitizers readily available, our staff have to wear masks and be health screened. What we have here has been working out for us," said Chapman.

While establishments like Green Lemon are not taking any chances, some are trying to have the best of both worlds.

Luv Child, another restaurant that is located in the Soho area will be opening up to maximum capacity. Fiona O'Keefe, a server at the restaurant, said they have been enforcing COVID-19 regulations and they are confident that what they have in place will be sufficient.

"We have masks, hand sanitizers, and plexiglasses on our tables so that there is some distance between our customers. I believe we have taken all the necessary precautions this far so I believe that we are prepared to cater to more people," said O'Keefe.

**"No more masks.  
No more sitting  
down."**

- Comment by @TangraNightClub/Instagram



Photo courtesy of @TangraNightClub/Instagram

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# THE MINARET

VOLUME 87 | ISSUE 5 | OCTOBER 2, 2020 | THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

## TOP NEWS STORY

### Barrimore Guests Unaware of Students Quarantining

READ MORE ON PAGES 4-5



By Mallory Culhane & Ella Malmgren  
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Some students at The University of Tampa have been quarantining at the Barrimore Hotel, in accordance with UT's quarantine procedures as outlined in the Spartan Shield Health Safety Plan. Although this is common knowledge for members of the UT community, guests staying at the Barrimore Hotel are not made aware of this at any point during their stay.

"Oh wow okay, no I wasn't [aware]," said Brandy Brown, a guest of the Barrimore Hotel, when told that UT students were quarantining at the hotel. "Most people, yeah, they'd probably want to be aware of something like that," said Brown.

On the UT website under the "COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions" section, it states, "If students need to quarantine in a residence hall, there are a number of rooms

reserved for this purpose in Urso Hall and at the Barrimore Hotel."

Although this is public information, as of Wednesday, Sept. 30, there are no statements pertaining to the isolation of UT students at the hotel on the Barrimore Hotel's website. Additionally, there are no warnings during the process of booking a room online.

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, a *Minaret* reporter called the Barrimore Hotel to inquire about whether people were quarantining at the hotel. The employee who answered the phone said that, to their knowledge, "no." The employee also stated that the staff doesn't have access to medical records and that students come there for housing purposes only.

It's unclear how many students have had to quarantine at the Barrimore Hotel. Jennifer Scaia, associate dean of Student Conduct, Orientation and Residence Life, could not provide a specific number of students who have had to isolate at the Barrimore Hotel specifically since the start of the Fall semester.

...read more on pages 4-5

## TOP OPINION STORY

### The Suite Life of an Isolated Student

READ MORE ON PAGES 11-13

"...five days into quarantine, I started to receive only one food bag per day instead of two. In the form, they state they'll bring me food two to three times per day. That didn't happen for the rest of my quarantine. I didn't even bother to complain because the food wasn't tasty; I had to order from UberEats most of the time."

-Sophomore Matteo Herrera



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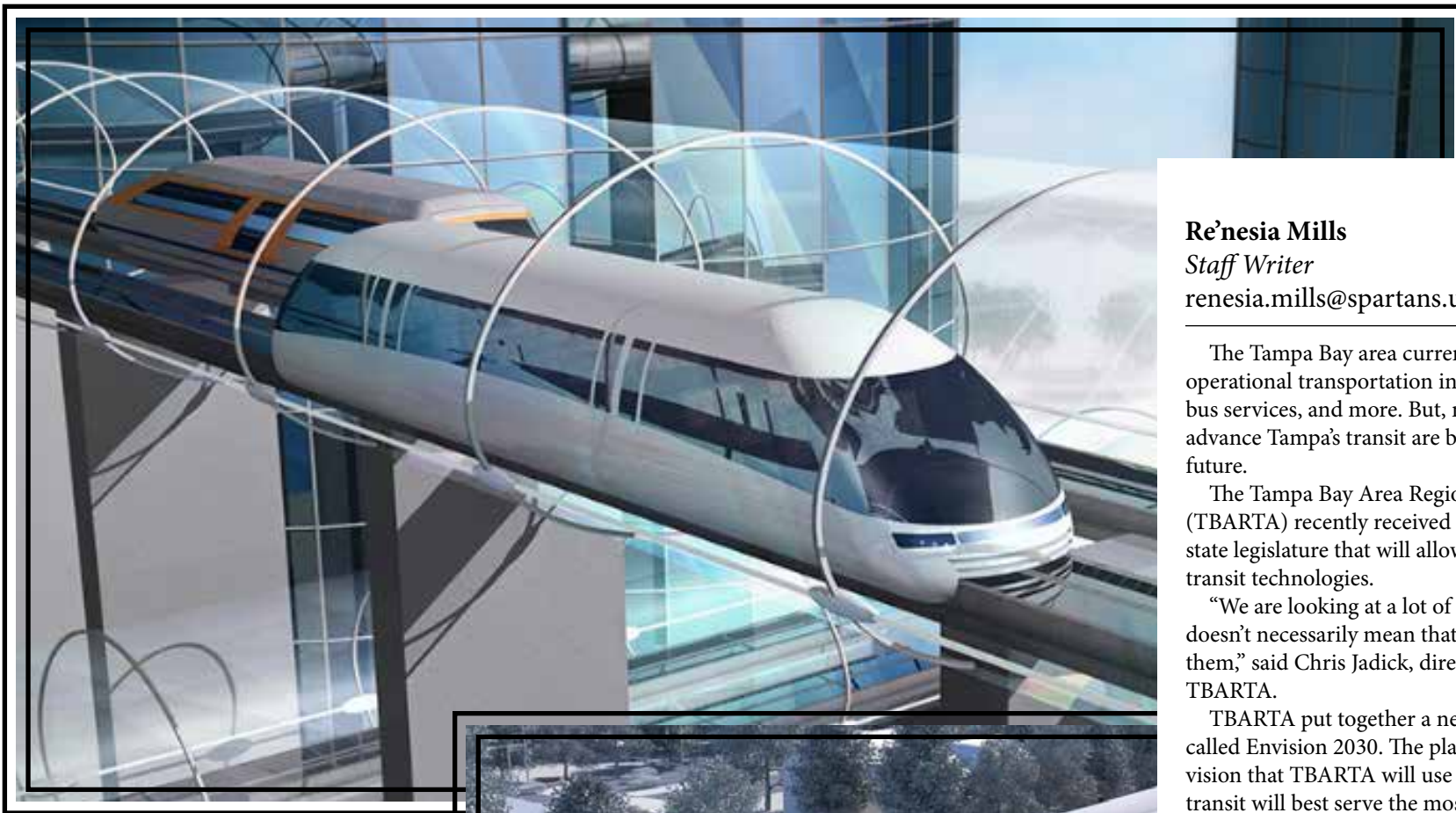
**Missed our last issue?**  
**(October 2, 2020)**

SCAN FOR THE MINARET VOLUME 87, ISSUE 5

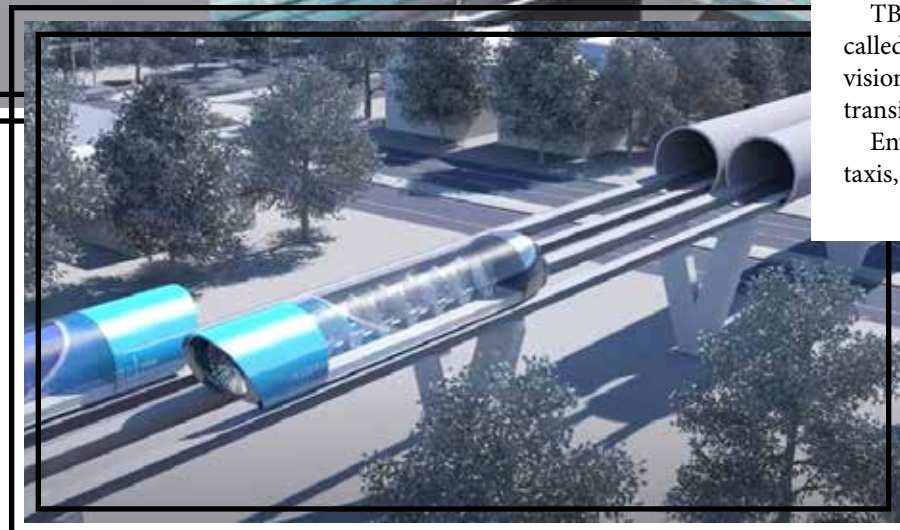
“I think these additions could be cool in Tampa as long as they are energy cautious and don’t disrupt wildlife and the environment – that would concern me...

## TAMPA EXPLORES NEW TECHNOLOGY

## FOR FUTURE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



All photos courtesy of TBARTA.com



### Re’nesia Mills

Staff Writer

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The Tampa Bay area currently has several forms of operational transportation including taxis, streetcars, bus services, and more. But, new technologies that may advance Tampa’s transit are being considered for the future.

The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) recently received a \$1 million grant from the state legislature that will allow for them to study new transit technologies.

“We are looking at a lot of different things, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that we are going to undertake them,” said Chris Jadick, director of communications at TBARTA.

TBARTA put together a new transit development plan called Envision 2030. The plan serves as a long-term vision that TBARTA will use to determine which types of transit will best serve the most amount of people.

Envision 2030 suggests that the consideration of aerial taxis, aerial gondolas, and hyperloops may be worth



looking into for the improvement of Tampa's transit.

The hyperloop is a mode of transportation operated by pressure systems that would consist of pods that carry passengers from one destination to the next at a speed of 700 mph through metal tubes.

"We don't know which, if any of these, will be part of Tampa Bay's future," said Jadick. "If anything, they are just part of the consideration that we need to make because transit and transportation solutions take many years to unfold."

Some are unsure if the pros of these transportation systems will outweigh the cons.

"I could see them improving Tampa transit in terms of providing more choices," said Javan Sterling, junior finance major at The University of Tampa. "It could also be a con because the initial cost of partaking in these services could be high, so there won't be as much demand."

Sterling said he would utilize the new transportation services once they were first implemented, but he would not utilize them regularly unless they significantly cut his transportation time.

"I think these additions could be cool in Tampa as long as they are energy cautious and don't disrupt wildlife and the environment — that would concern me," said Amanda Hamilton, junior advertising and public relations major at UT. "I think I would use these modes of transportation, but it would depend on how much they cost and how safe they would be."

TBARTA's goal is to research and develop new forms of transportation that would more efficiently connect Manatee, Pasco, Hillsborough, Hernando, and Pinellas counties.

"I think aerial gondolas and aerial taxis are closer to implementation than hyperloop," said Jadick. "Hyperloop is probably the most futuristic and the furthest out of those three technologies. Air taxis have been demonstrated, still experimental, but are certainly possible within the next decade."

According to Jadick, there are some companies that are developing test tracks for hyperloop, but no one has successfully demonstrated the hyperloop model, so the next step is undetermined at the moment.

While it is believed that aerial taxis, gondolas, and hyperloop would advance and improve Tampa Bay's transit, there are still concerns to be considered before the transit systems can be produced and implemented.

"There are regulatory, feasibility, financial, and operational challenges that need to be answered first," said Jadick.

Before deciding whether or not to move forward with the production of new transportation models, TBARTA takes into consideration how the operations would be funded and whether or not the city would benefit from the implementation of new transit technologies.

"We want to ensure that we make the right choices to serve the most people in the best ways across Florida," said Jadick.

"...I think I would use these modes of transportation, but it would depend on how much they cost and how safe they would be."

- Amanda Hamilton, junior advertising and public relations major

## Netflix Documentary Questions Social Media

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Listed as the #8 movie in the U.S. on Netflix, *The Social Dilemma* is a cultural examination by former executive heads of big tech companies like Facebook, Twitter, Firefox, and Google. This documentary is ethically driven and urges digital consumers to hold those in charge of mass media to a morally higher standard.

However, a large portion of people see nothing wrong with the way our social media operates. Yes, fake news is abundant and our feeds are redundant, but is it up to the user to understand that both everything being shown to them is the truth? When we create a social media account, download an app, even activate a new cell phone, we agree to terms and conditions that are pages long, we never read them, and even memes have evolved satirizing the repercussions of agreeing to electronic terms and conditions that you never actually read.

This documentary calls attention to the idea that human beings were not made or evolved to have social interactions with tens of thousands of people. Social media gives each one of us access to millions of people every second, and they argue that for developing minds, this could affect self confidence and mental health in a negative way. The rates at which teenagers and adolescence have gone on a date or had a true romantic interaction has declined. Suicide rates

in girl aged 15-17 is up 70% since 2009, and suicide rates in girls aged 10-14 is up 151%, 2009 being the year most social media became accessible.

There are regulations on your privacy when it comes to phone companies, just like how there are laws and restrictions on television. Media like TV, and radio are not invasive to our deep personal psyches. The doc also cites restrictions put in place about advertising while cartoons are on so children aren't heavily influenced or persuaded. Since the introduction of YouTube Kids, children are receiving media from unrestricted platforms, and youtube kids is accessible on every phone, tablet, computer, gaming system, and even most televisions in the home, so there are more modes to watch this media than there is to watch basic cable.

To see a non-western adverse social media impact the documentary brings the viewer to the country of Myanmar. When you purchase a cellphone, Facebook is pre-downloaded and the sales associate will open an account for you. The government of Myanmar used Facebook as a means to spread propaganda that ultimately lead to civil outbreak that included mass murder and rape and forced migration of an Islamic denomination. Although government propaganda for the exploitation of its citizens has been around since the beginning of civilization, now it's much more accessible and easier to manipulate for an extremely low cost.

AI and algorithms are human made softwares that learns

patterns as you feed it more information. The person who invented Instagram's algorithm wanted to show you the posts that are most relevant to you, however, it doesn't seem that way lately. Your friends and family aren't the influencers who are selling you a product, and every three to four photos, they throw an advertisement in there, and if that ad is something you like, you can head down the rabbit hole of that product's website, or other ads and photos with similar content.

The scholars and tech moguls stress that if a company is not selling a product, then the user is the product. These apps are constantly fighting for the user's attention in order to show them as many ads as possible while you're still active in that app. Morality and ethical responsibility is the call to action, but each individual lives by their own moral and ethical code. How does a global network of people find common ground? What is and isn't acceptable?



Photo Courtesy of @TheSocialDilemma/Instagram

## The Oversexualization of Girls Made its Way to Netflix

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*Cuties*, originally titled *Mignonnes*, is a French film that has recently sparked controversy over social media after its worldwide Netflix release on Wednesday, Sept. 9. The movie follows 11-year-old Amy (Fathia Youssouf), and her introduction to pop culture and dancing.

At the beginning of the movie, the audience learns that Amy comes from a religious, strict household, and her purpose is to serve her family and make them proud. When her and her family move, she goes to a new school where she meets a group of mean girls that call themselves "Cuties", and Amy gets pulled into the group.

The group wears short shirts and skirts, and are obsessed with looking like teenagers. This is apparent when they watch a video of a group of teenagers provocatively dancing. Amy immediately tries to copy their moves and ties her shirt up.

The entirety of the movie centers around a dance competition that the "Cuties" are preparing for. They believe that if they act sexual like the older girls, it will appeal more to the judges. During the performance, the judges and audience members look shocked and disgusted, booing them off the stage.

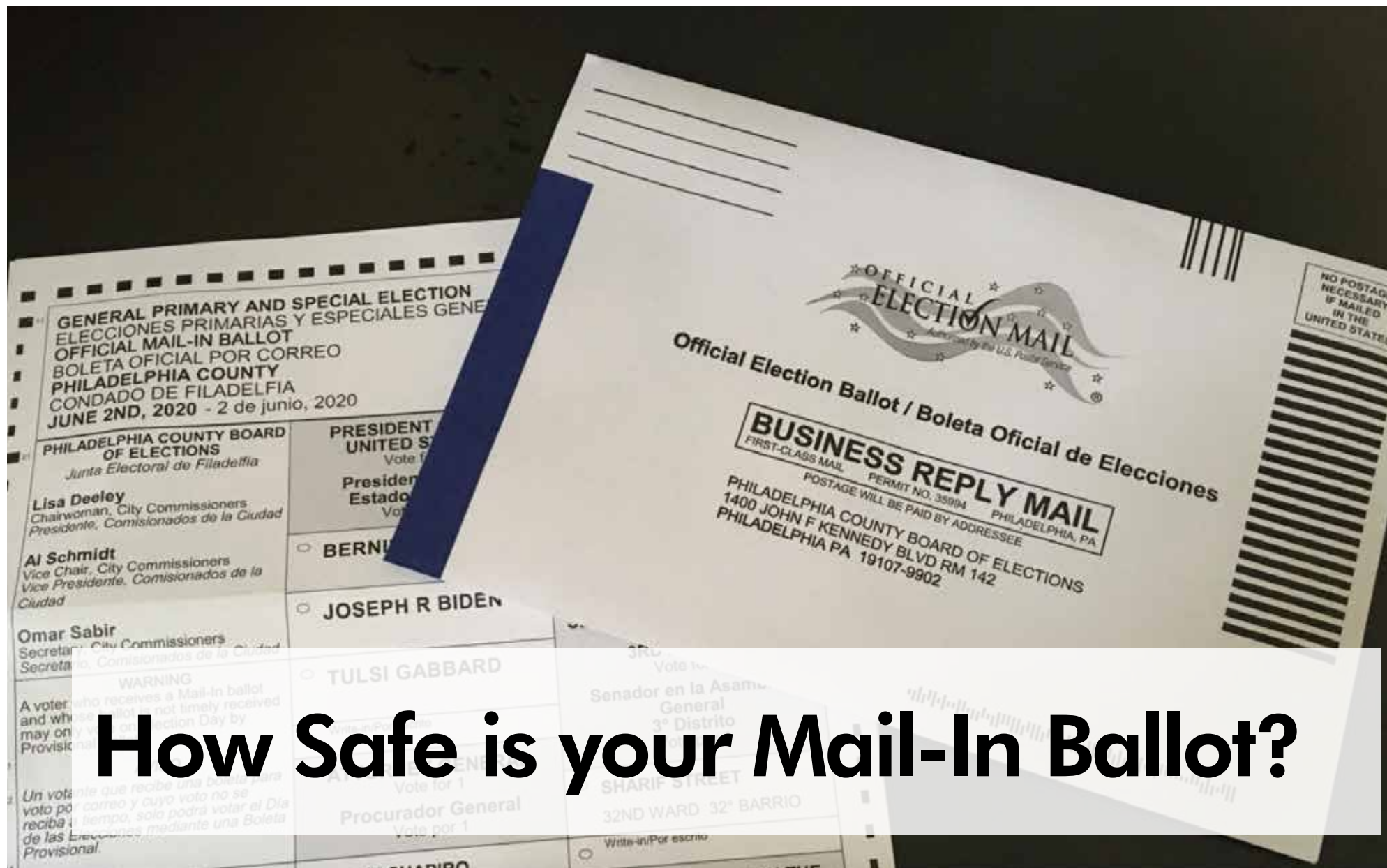
Viewers of this movie had the same reaction. According to *Variety*, this film's release led to a surge in Netflix subscription cancellations, and led to a #CancelNetflix trend on Twitter. People were concerned about the oversexualization of these underage girls, and the message it sends.

According to *The Washington Post*, this was not the intention of Maïmouna Doucouré, director of *Cuties*. She observed young girls dancing at a community event in a very risky manner, and decided to look more into the topic. She noticed that on social media apps like TikTok, the more sexually a woman dances, the more likes she gets. This was the issue that she wanted to highlight, not condone, in *Cuties*.

This movie was very difficult for me to watch. One scene that was disturbing to me was a scene where the girls break into a laser tag facility. When the manager catches them, they dance sexually for him and he lets them off the hook. This to me felt like the movie was condoning this behavior, and made me really uncomfortable.

Another scene that was jarring was when Amy goes to school in a provocative outfit and gets praised by her peers for it. Personally, I believe that this sends out the message to young girls that if you wear revealing clothes, people will treat you better and boys will like you.

I understand the point that Doucouré is trying to address. I have also noticed that the audience on social media apps has gotten younger and younger every year, and there is a lot of mature content that they are getting exposed to. But through making this movie, Doucouré depicts young girls doing the thing that she is fighting against. We have to remember that these are real girls and that they will have to suffer the consequences of being oversexualized at a young age.



# How Safe is your Mail-In Ballot?

Photo Courtesy of Flickr

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With the coronavirus conveniently taking place during the election year, and nothing has been done to slow down the virus, mail-in voting has become a popular choice instead of going to vote on voting day. Meanwhile, Trump has made it clear that he is unhappy with the idea of people doing this.

Over a million ballots have already been cast in states that publicly report that data, according to [forbes.com](http://forbes.com). It also states that 64 million mail-in ballots have been requested by voters in 24 states which has exceeded the number of votes cast prior to the election in 2016.

Mail-in voting has been used before and Florida is one of the states that allows this. However, given the circumstances of having to stay 6-feet away from people and the risk of getting COVID-19 is still a high probability, a lot of people, mainly democrats, have been promoting mail-in voting for this coming election.

Unless the big unlikely of the virus taking a steep decline in cases in the U.S. or we find a cure in the next month,

mail-in voting seems to be the safest bet. For those who are more medically inclined to get the virus, they should not have to leave their house to vote.

What I don't understand is how Trump and the right side of politics think of this as a bad thing. If all they talk and care about is people's rights to vote and how it is their civic responsibility, who cares if they mail the vote rather than show up. We already have higher numbers of voters than ever before, so just because the majority lead democrat means they should not count?

According to *Forbes*, 53.8% have voted democrat, 16.7% have voted republican, and 29.2% are unaffiliated voters. And I could be mistaken, but the "fake votes" that Trump keeps bringing up only account for .0025% of the votes accounted for. And nearly half of those are probably votes for him.

Trump also stated in the debate on Tuesday, Sept. 29 that the election is rigged with mail-in votes and it is a disaster. However, most of the states that have started mail-in voting are run by republicans and none of them have traces of fraud according to *CNN*. There are also other lies that Trump said in the debate that Daniel Dale and Marshall Cohen of *CNN* have debunked.

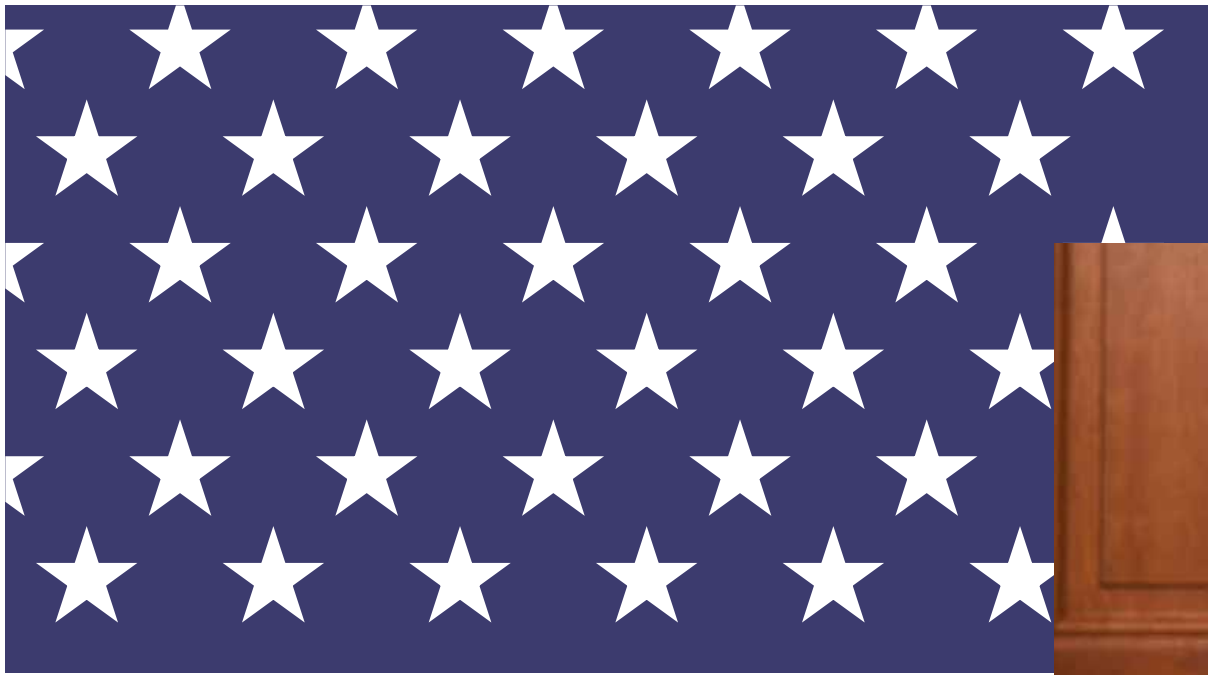
No matter how many times this man can lie, his followers are bound to believe him. But all he is doing is proving that he is offended and upset that people do not want him to be president anymore. He will refuse to look at the real facts that mail-in voting still works and is not rigged in anyway.

And I don't know why or how there could be fake votes when the process to get the mail-in ballot is one of the most excruciating things I have ever done. First things first, you have to be registered to vote in your home state, or there could be a way to register in Florida.

I personally am registered in Missouri. I receive a ballot by going to the voting website for Missouri, fill out an application, print it out and sign it, send it to the county election office, wait for them to send my ballot, fill out the ballot and sign it, and send it back.

The worst part of this process is the waiting. And the anxiety of if my ballot will get back in time for it to count. I also fear that because I am in Tampa, there could be a fine line since I am not in St. Louis, it does not count, or I won't be able to get a ballot, or it will take longer to mail.

No matter what I have to do or how long it will take, I will do my part in voting this year. I hope the rest of the students who can vote will do the same.



# Amy Coney Barrett: Religion v. Politics

All Photos Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

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When Biden and Obama left office in 2017, Trump claimed they left over 100 judiciary seats open within the U.S. courts, and Trump will soon choose his third Supreme Court justice during his first presidential term. According to the *Associated Press*, their fact checker stated that although 128 seats remained open in the courts when Obama left office, “Instead, unprecedented lack of action by the Republican-controlled Senate on Obama’s judicial nominees in his last two years in office left Trump more vacancies to fill.”

Amy Coney Barrett, Trump’s latest Supreme Court Pick is a federal appeals court judge, and was also a professor of law at Notre Dame. She obviously has a conservative background, having been on Trump’s radar to fill the seat, and could have a biased philosophy towards interpreting the law.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the hearing will begin on Barrett’s nomination. Barrett has also published many writings during her time in academia, and many of those writings pertain to her ideas on religion and law. She is a self-proclaimed Catholic, and putting anyone on the supreme court to have power over constitutional interpretation must be aware that the constitution was written with separation of church and state in mind. Not that having a supreme court judge who is religious and lives out her life actively

practicing her faith, we run into societal problems when people of different faiths are meant to coexist under one judicial system.

Intertwining faith and government brings attention to issues like the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, granting women the right to a first trimester abortion under the due process and privacy clauses written in the fourteenth amendment. However, when Barrett took her position in the circuit court of appeals, she claimed her faith would not influence her views on the law.

In the case of *Kanter v. Barr*, the circuit court of appeals denied a man’s claim that he should own a firm arm, even though he is a convicted criminal, and owning a gun as a convicted felon is against both Wisconsin state law and federal law. Barrett concluded that the man did deserve the right to own a gun, since the crime committed was mail fraud, and the law strives for us to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous fellows. If a felon commits a non-violent crime, they have the right to still exercise the second amendment since they have no prior record of reckless violence. She was the only one to dissent on this case.

Before the 2016 election, Barrett spoke at the University of Jacksonville to discuss how she believed *Roe v. Wade* could potentially change in the future. She stated, “...women have a right to an abortion – I don’t think that would change. But I think the question of whether people can get very late-term abortions, how many restrictions can be put on clinics – I think that would change.”

This calls into question, how late is too late term for an abortion to be performed? Are we going to result back to

the state level and have women’s health issues under state’s protection, or are we going to have abortion outlawed completely at the federal level? It’s not like Amy Coney Barrett can decide these things on her own, her opinion can only be given when asked in a court case, however, legal jargon is tedious and very difficult for most people to understand in its entirety. This type of language makes it possible for all of SCOTUS to interpret a law with personal opinions and outside forces influencing the final decision, but have to be cited within the constitution or the individual law itself, therefore their reasoning isn’t followed by their personal beliefs, it’s cited to the already written law.

Not only do Barrett’s personal decisions and motives have a significant impact on the law of this country, but if she is elected as Supreme Court Justice, she will accompany five other Catholic justices. Coming from a Catholic family and studying, not practicing, the religion for 14 years, many of the general beliefs like give to the poor, help the less fortunate, and do unto others are excellent examples to lead by especially with respect to societal laws to ensure everyone is safe and successful. However, different ideologies impact people’s opinions on how society should be run and what is an acceptable way for people to act, and what is deemed unacceptable.

Trump also stated during his rant at the first presidential debate, that he has been president for four years. An entire term doesn’t end after voting day. Whether Barrett is nominated before or after Tuesday, Nov. 3, or at all, we are going to feel the effects of her ideals for roughly the next 50 years.

## In-Person Spectators: Bucs Fans Return to Raymond James

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A few lucky fans and spectators on Sunday, Oct. 4 were the first to witness Tom Brady wearing his trademark No. 12 on a Tampa Bay Buccaneers jersey. Around 6,000 fans socially distanced themselves in the stadium that normally would be packing 65,890 fans into seats to watch the Bucs win their first game back in Tampa against the Los Angeles Chargers.

The plan to allow fans back in to watch the game was announced on Saturday, Sept. 26. Only the longest-tenured season pass members were allowed to attend the second home game of this year. But games, of course, will not have the same environment that they use to have before the pandemic hit.

According to Raymond James Stadium's website, there will be no tailgating allowed outside of the stadium, no recreational activities, and guests are expected to remain on their designated ticker seats at all times while in the stadium. All guests, 5 years of age and older, must be wearing a face mask at all times once they have entered the stadium. If a guest does not have a face mask or their mask breaks there will be one provided by the staff.

"The safety of all involved has been our No. 1 priority throughout this process," said Bucs chief operating officer Brian Ford on the Bucs home website. "We have been working tirelessly with local and state authorities, as well as medical experts, to ensure a safe environment at the stadium."

Before attending the games, each fan is required to take a survey called the "Bucs Fan Promise" prior to entering the stadium. According to the Bucs website, the Fan Health Promise contains an acceptance of the entry terms and a fan health promise.

"I would 100% go to a Bucs game to see Brady play," said Bryce Benedict, a Tampa native and graduate finance student at The University of Tampa.

"I don't think the atmosphere is the same with the restricted attendance, [but] I think it's good fans can go and watch, games aren't the same without fans so it's good to get back to the norm."

The Bucs only had about a 25% capacity of fans at this recent home game and are hoping to more than double that to roughly 16,000 fans for the next home game.

Before, the Bucs planned to not have any fans return to the stadium until after the first two home games, meaning no fans until Sunday, Oct. 18.

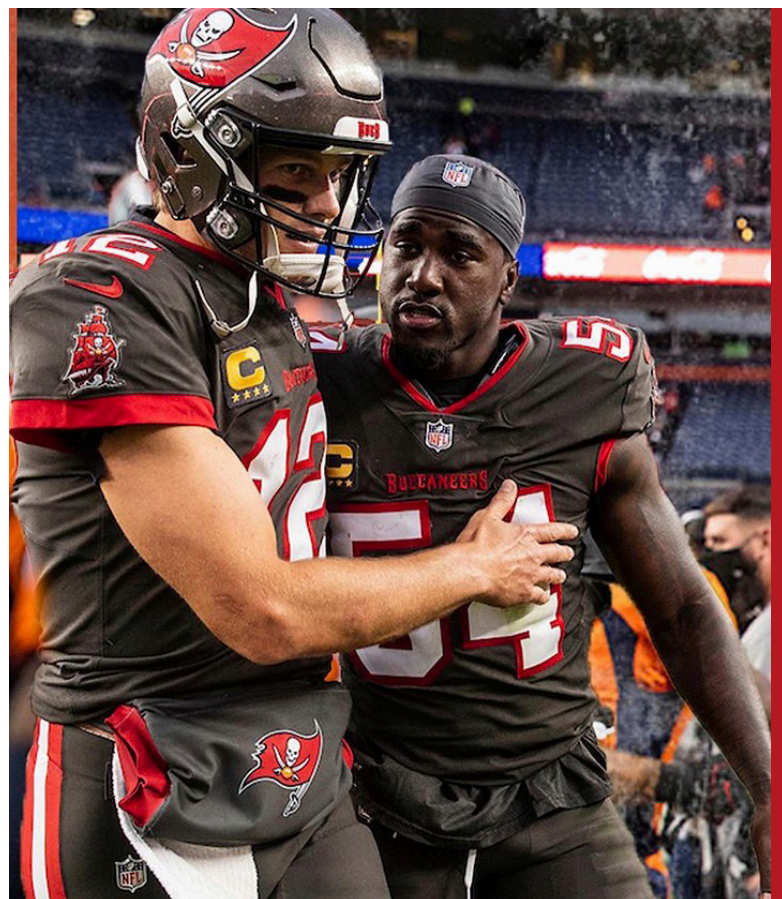
"They want to go slower than anyone. So it's not like they want to have full capacity," said Gov. Ron DeSantis during a news conference on Friday, Sep. 25. "I think you can do much more than what's been done. Outdoor transmission [of the coronavirus] has just not been a major factor."

The announcement to allow fans back into Raymond James stadium came after the Tampa Bay Lightning won the Stanley Cup. On Wednesday, Sept. 30, Tampa fans who bought tickets ahead of time came to Raymond James Stadium to continue celebrating the Stanley Cup win. Instead of packing into Amalie Arena, more than 15,000 fans were able to spread out and stay in pods no bigger than six people at Raymond James.

According to Draftkings Nation, the National Football League (NFL) has not created a league wide policy on spectators. Instead, each individual team will create their own



Photos courtesy of @rjstadium/Instagram



Photos courtesy of @tombrady/Instagram

# Wave of Injuries in the NFL this Season

Photos courtesy of ABC 30



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The National Football League (NFL) suffered major injury blows in their second week of the 2020 season. Numerous high-profile stars endured devastating injuries, some ending the season early for them. At least six players tore their ACL, the anterior cruciate ligaments. The rest have already been ruled out for games on week three. The teams affected by these injuries could be affected in the long run for competing for the Super Bowl. Some recognizable names joining Saquon Barkley on the sideline with an ACL injury are Seattle Seahawks outside linebacker Bruce Irvin, Denver Broncos wide receiver Courtland Sutton, Nick Bosa from the San Francisco 49ers, and more.

Recently, the Los Angeles Chargers lost their starting quarterback Tyrod Taylor. Their team doctor accidentally punctured his lung before the start of the game against the Kansas City Chiefs. Tyrod Taylor received a pain-killing injection to his cracked ribs, for now, Justin Herbert will be the starting quarterback until further changes.

## San Francisco 49ers

The San Francisco 49ers lost their starting quarterback, Jimmy Garoppolo, Pro Bowl defensive end Nick Bosa, running back Raheem Mostert, and others against the New York Jets. They ended the game with a victory, but with a high cost. Injuries had haunted the 49ers before the season began; this made the nightmare much worse as they watched Nick Bosa and Solomon Thomas, both are important to their defense. Both were carted off the field a couple of moments from each other and holding their left knee. MRI tests confirmed Bosa's ACL injury; for Thomas, there is concern that it is serious. Their star quarterback, Jimmy Garoppolo, is suffering a high ankle sprain, star tight-end George Kittle is suffering an MCL sprain, both players looking to be a week-to-week injury. Running back Raheem Mostert is suffering a knee injury; he will be out for multiple weeks. The injury list is lengthy for the San Francisco team.

## Carolina Panthers

The Carolina Panthers lost their star player, Christian McCaffrey, to an ankle injury; he is expected to sit out for four to six weeks. A massive blow to Carolina having to play with a valuable player who put up more than 1,300 rushing yards and 1,000 receiving yards, with a total of 19 touchdowns for the season.

## New York Giants

The New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley took heavy blows throughout the whole game. He first sustained a left elbow injury, but still played through it. A couple plays later; he tore his ACL. On top of that, wide receiver Sterling Shepard sustained a toe injury and is ruled out for a couple of days.

## Indianapolis Colts

The Indianapolis Colts got their first injury in the first quarter of the game, with wide receiver Parris Campbell being carted off the field after suffering an MCL injury, a tear to the medial collateral ligament. The Colts already stated Campbell as a low chance of returning for the season. They also lost safety Malik Hooker to an Achilles injury during the game, but he also suffered a torn ACL, he will miss the rest of the season.

## Green Bay Packers

In Wisconsin, the Green Bay Packers lost their star receiver, Devante Adams, to a hamstring injury.

## Los Angeles Rams

The Los Angeles Rams rookie running back Cam Akers injured his ribs due to a massive hit against the Eagles. He is being reevaluated for any other injuries.

## Denver Broncos

The Denver Broncos quarterback Drew Lock sustained a right shoulder injury with 7:42 minutes remaining in the first quarter. Denver's number one wide receiver Courtland Sutton tore his knee up and is out for the year to make things worse.

## Miami Dolphins

Bringing it down to Miami, the Dolphin's cornerback Byron Jones suffered a groin injury playing against the Bills; he is doubtful to play in week three.

## Minnesota Vikings

The Minnesota Vikings have been trying hard to bring back their linebacker Anthony Barr, yet he suffered from a shoulder injury. He is suffering from a torn pectoral and is already ruled out for the season. Mike Boone, their running back, was diagnosed with a concussion and is ruled out for week three.

## New York Jets

The New York Jets already ruled out their receiver Breshad Perriman due to an ankle injury; the injury is considered week-to-week.

## Seattle Seahawks

The Seattle Seahawks only have one injury so far, but devastating with star linebacker Bruce Irvin tearing his ACL and is out for the season.

## Washington Football Team

The newly named Washington Football Team lost their guard Brandon Scherff to an MCL sprain, and he is out for 3-5 weeks.

## Philadelphia Eagles

Philadelphia Eagles recently revealed their starting left guard, Issac Seumalo, is missing some time with a knee injury, but it is only for a short time.

# UT Student-Athletes Struggle with Post-COVID-19 Procedures

By Travis Politakis



Photo courtesy of @tampaspartans/Instagram

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread across the world, The University of Tampa athletic program is feeling its impact but also ensuring they take extra measures to protect UT's athletes and all members of the UT community. Student-athletes at UT have been able to safely undergo practices and workouts as they follow National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and protocols such as wearing face coverings and practicing social distancing.

Despite putting these protocols in place, some athletes have tested positive for COVID-19 and are required to undergo a thorough process before they can return to their teams. An exact number has not been allowed to be publicly. An exact number has not been allowed to be publicly released but according to assistant athletic director of Sports Medicine at UT, Scott Brickett, all the athletes who have tested positive are doing well and had mild, to moderate symptoms.

"The process that they go through is similar to that of a non-athlete student. If they test positive they are isolated at a location either on campus (if they reside on campus), off campus (if they reside off campus), or at home (if they prefer to return home)," said Brickett. "After they are released from isolation they will either begin a graduated return to play protocol (if they are asymptomatic) or they will be referred to a cardiologist for testing, be examined by our team physician, and then begin a graduated return to play protocol if they are cleared (for the symptomatic student athletes)."

For women's cross country athlete Sydney Rhodes, this process has not

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been easy. Rhodes tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday, Sept. 7, after experiencing symptoms such as headaches, chills, sore throat and loss of taste and smell for about five to six days.

“The worst for me was the body aches and the joint pain,” said Rhodes. “I had days where I could not move my neck or my back and there was one day where I could not get out of bed. I was also really fatigued where one day I was only awake for three hours out of the day. It hit me harder than I expected.”

Rhodes went into isolation for 10 days, under the impression that she would have been able to return to practice after the 10 day period, but there was a miscommunication.

“I was told by the school and rapid trace that I could return to all normal activity 10 days after I was symptom free, which would be Sept. 17,” said Rhodes. “I returned to class and I tried to go back to practice and my coach stopped me and told me that I have to go through all these protocols before I could return which I was not aware of.”

The UT athletic department emailed Rhodes after she had attempted to return to practice and laid out a list of protocols that she must go through and complete before being able to return to the track. The department is calling it a “Return to Participation Protocol.”

These protocols are put in place not only to safely allow athletes to return to play, but also to protect athletes health in the long run, making sure the after effects of COVID-19 do not impact their overall quality of life. The first step in the extensive list of protocols that an athlete must do, is provide a negative COVID test. This is something that has proven to be difficult not only for Rhodes, but for other members on the cross country team that tested positive.

“I have been going to CVS to get my test done because the UT health center will not re-test unless you are showing symptoms. I took my third test on Friday, Sept. 25 and all three of the re-tests have come back positive,” said Rhodes. “It’s been really frustrating for me because I have been symptom free for 17 days.”

One of Rhodes’ teammates has had to re-test six times before they got a negative test result.

After an athlete receives a negative test result, the next step in the “Return to Participation Protocol,” an Athlete is required to get set up with a cardiologist provided by the UT training department. The cardiologist will perform a check-up and have bloodwork done on the athlete.

Once that has been completed, the athlete will then receive a physical

from the team physician. Once all the physician care routines have been met, the athlete will then be able to begin a modified training program that will last about five to eight days. It involves activities such as light jogging, 70% heart rate max for 15 minutes, and slowly increasing day by day from there.

Rhodes is hoping to be back to training before Thanksgiving break.

The men’s basketball team had one player test positive, causing the team to go into isolation for 10 days. However, all players have experienced no symptoms and are set to begin a gradual return to practice next week.

“The players are all feeling great and are ready to return to practice next week,” said an anonymous source in the athletic department. “We are going to begin a slow return, starting off with just getting some shots up and then slowly increasing activity each day.”

Other teams within UT’s athletic department are experiencing the same issue. When an athlete tests positive for COVID-19, the entire team is required to cancel practice for the next two weeks, despite the number of teammates who received negative results.

The UT athletic department has set a number of procedures in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 with hopes of not only protecting the UT community, but also being able to return to play in the spring semester.

Some of these procedures include, “Educational resources that must be completed by all student athletes prior to participation, daily symptoms questionnaires that must be completed prior to daily team activities (practices or fitness sessions), and surveillance testing that involves randomly selecting a percentage of the student athlete population and testing them for COVID-19 even if they are asymptomatic,” according to Brickett.



Photo courtesy of @tampa\_vb/Instagram



Photo courtesy of @uttennis/Instagram



Photo courtesy of @utbaseball/Instagram