Athletic committee formed

By Lee Kasprzyk
Contributing Writer

USF Vice President Harold Dixon approved St. Petersburg's student government request to form a separate athletic fee committee, but problems with the fee remain.

Dixon's approval allows USF St. Petersburg to establish a committee chaired by student government president Bobby Koonce to replace the single campus representative of the central committee in Tampa. Disagreements, however, occur between the central committee and USF's regional campuses on the deadline to determine regional campus' increases and the maximum allowable increase per year.

Further complicating matters is a Florida Senate bill that attempts to control the amount universities are allowed to increase athletic fees annually.

The concept for a St. Petersburg committee began after St. Petersburg student government officials were given 24 hours by USF President Judy Genshaft to elect an official to the central committee that was deciding on an undisclosed athletic fee increase for regional campuses. With only one representative (likely Koonce, who was unreachable while on vacation in Lakeland), the 14-member central committee, comprised largely of Tampa students and faculty, needed only a majority vote to change branch campus' fees. Fearing a repeat of two years ago when branch campus' athletic fees were increased, the student presidents of USF's three regional campuses sent a letter to Genshaft following an Oct. 10 St. Petersburg student government meeting, calling her request "taxation without representation."

"Tampa students favored the views of regional campuses," Koonce said referring to the vote two years ago. "They saw our point. But it was stacked in favor of the Tampa faculty. They outvoted the students because they had faculty and some of the students. We never had a chance."

St. Petersburg's committee, consisting of six students selected by Koonce and five faculty members elected by St. Petersburg Vice President William Helfter, hears USF Athletic Director Lee Roy Selmon's case for the athletic fee increase Nov. 4. Selmon's case for the increase will likely include $1 million the university is allowed to use.

Cassie Hawkins, student government secretary, played a major role in leading the charge to get regional campus recognition in the athletic fee process.

Bayboro Tower Apartments good choice to become first student residence hall

By Ed Ericsson
Contributing Writer

The Bayboro Tower Apartments may become the University of South Florida St. Petersburg's first student residence hall.

Replacing the mix of adult couples and singles that now live there with an all-student population won't necessarily remove the little white picket fence or the brownstone façade, but it will change the character of the place.

On a cool fall evening music flavors the air from the open windows of the four-story building north of the Florida Center for Teachers and sets the scene for students walking past. A classical symphony boils from the upper floors, rap simmers from the middle, while African and Latin rhythms spice the whole stew. Paint bits of conversation compliment the international flavor.

"There are nice people who live here," said James Cullen, 63, as he coasts his bicycle to the door off of the parking lot on the building's east side. "With practiced motions he turns his key and opens the door. Cullen has just ridden his bike from work, about a five-mile journey. Two years ago Cullen was mugged on the sidewalk in front of the building, but he still loves living there. "You're not going to beat this neighborhood," he said.

A tenant who identified herself only as Sue pulled a grocery bag from her car in the little parking lot east of the building. When asked about the prospect of having USF buy the place she said, "It would be terrible. I'd have to move. Why don't they just leave it alone?"

Her friend Pete, 75, emerged from the other side of the car with an idea. "I'll just have to enroll in the freshman class."

Future studying site outside of Bayboro Towers?
USF St. Petersburg students' disinterest in campus life is perplexing. In fact, for some of the campus leaders, such as our student government, it is downright maddening.

Perhaps the best USF St. Petersburg student motto I've heard so far is "Excellence in Apathy." Having a community life on campus as a student is certainly not a requirement for graduation. Students don't even have points taken off their grades for poor manners. Students who show no interest in having a student life, however, do lose.

Here are some of the ways students can lose: First and foremost in the practical category, students can lose money. By not taking part in the student community, students can lose in decisions that change student fees, but they can by speaking with or taking part in the student government.

Students also miss valuable networking possibilities. By attending seminars, joining clubs and organizations and simply getting to know faculty and staff, students have myriad possibilities in advancing academic and career goals. Specifically because USF St. Petersburg is small (and friendly) enough that networking is a reality.

Another problem here is that students lose out on the "college experience."

Despite being a commuter school, USF St. Petersburg has numerous ways for students to get to know one another. How many other schools offer peaceful waterfront views or an opportunity to learn how to sail? Do it with classmates. Hell, do it with strangers. Just do it.

Perhaps the greatest reason of all to be involved is for comfort. If students want a degree and plan on taking courses, then they have to come to campus. Why not come to a campus on which you feel comfortable? What better way to feel comfortable than to know the people that you see as you peruse the bookstore, the library or take a walk along the waterfront?

What evil can we blame for our apathy?

Things that make life convenient also seem to be things that ruin our ability to communicate. When we use e-mail and mobile phones as our "voice" we lose the intimacy and personality of person-to-person conversation because it's convenient for us to use a machine instead.

It took only a brief conversation with a "non-traditional age student" for me to realize the things we in the "information generation" are missing. Compassion is one.

In between angry cell phone calls with our significant other, we of the information generation take time to courteously take our foot off of the acceleration pedal, turn to our right, smile and flip off the person who so ignorantly decided to block our changing of lanes. This is on a good day.

By the time we arrive to class and the professor is so rudely interrupting us with, um, reading, we storms out of class as the clock strikes ten 'til, walk swiftly back to our cars, dial the cell phone, make the obscene gesture and scold the significant other for his/her insensitivity toward our stressful situation. How can we survive like this?

We shouldn't. One way we can inch back into a reasonable life is by first opening our lines of communication and our flow of compassion to the people with whom we spend much of our time. Furthermore, we can improve our lives by being involved in the communal processes that were developed to serve us, if we first serve ourselves by getting involved.

When student government elections come, vote. Make an informed decision about that vote by reading the campus newspaper—it's here for you. Take advantage of the sailing lessons, the fitness center, the open gym, the campus organizations, and the intramural sports.

Ultimately, you pay for these activities you don't use by paying fees or taking part in the student government. It's your own personal loss.

Apathy. Having a common interest in the activities you're paying for is a reasonable request.

Letters to the Editor

The State Department is using a Madison Avenue style ad campaign to sell it's point of view to Muslims everywhere.

There already exists, a point of view that was adopted and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948. Specifically, "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights." It called upon all member countries to publicize the text of the declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories."

Adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) Here is its preamble.

"Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people, whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by rule of law, whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations, whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge. Now, Therefore THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction." This preamble is followed by 36 articles that fully articulate the aforementioned rights.

It is my opinion that if the experts from Madison Avenue focus their expertise on propagating this document to the widest audience possible, the objectives of the State Department will be achieved.

Daniel P. Quinn
USF St. Petersburg, Florida quinnid@cs.com

Want to be heard? Give us your thoughts. We will publish the best letters.

November 14 - Fall 2001
The idea never crossed his mind.
Not at Boca Ciega High School,
where as a 1994 graduate he spent most of
his time involved in extra-curricular activities
outside of school. The same can be said for his
time at St. Petersburg College,
where he earned his associate of arts
degree. Even in his first year at USF St.
Petersburg, Student Government President Bobby Koonce had little interest
in student affairs.
"I had no experience. I always was
out in school," Koonce said. "I was
done when the (school) day was over. I
never really enjoyed high school or partici-
pated in anything. I just wanted to do my
work and get out; do what you have to
do." 

"I was more interested in things out-
side high school. I was involved in my
[Penadena Baptist] church youth group and
I worked on martial arts."

Since a suggestion from a classmate
to fill an opening in the student govern-
ment prior to spring 2001, Koonce has
come full circle. Admittingly "coaxed"
into joining the student government by
friend and College of Arts and Sciences
representative Phyllis Lehman, Koonce
now balances his time between the responsi-
bilities of student president, work
and classes in his dual majors of psychol-
yogy and English.

"I'm always running back and forth
from meeting to meeting," Koonce said.
"I used to say, 'I can do this, this and this.'
But now I know I have to plan things out:
I have to two, this at four, this at six. I
just have to run around a lot."

Lenahan said Koonce's potential
uses for the student government
were obvious. Her decision to pick up entry
information began Koonce's student govern-
ment career.

"He just seemed like a really organ-
ized person," Lenahan said. "Plus, he's
real friendly and a good worker."

"It just popped up," Koonce said of
joining student government. "Phyllis said
there was a spot open, so I ran for treasur-
er. She thought I would be good at it."

After serving as student government
treasurer last spring, Koonce set his sights
on the highest student office.

"It was fun because I actually got to
run against someone," Koonce said.
"Usually just one person runs, but I got to
get into it: making posters, doing some
campaigning. I got to be part of the poli-

tical process."

Since his election to office for the fall
2001 semester, it is hard to find a student
government activity in which Koonce or
Secretary Cassandra Hawkins, aren't
involved.

"He's here more to run around a
lot," Hawkins said. "Bobby's here more than
other officers and representatives. He has
to be here for committee meetings and
wherever a problem comes up."

"Bobby is around a lot," College of
Education representative Michelle Little
said after deliberating Davis Hall for home-
coming with Koonce and several mem-
bers of student government. "He puts in
a lot of time and is always active in differ-
ent committees."

Koonce typically spends 10 to 15
hours a week in meetings and his office in
the campus activities center. Another 10
hours is spent on various other student
government business, "stuff that has to be
taken care of." However, the 25-year-old
Columbia, Ohio, native also has other
responsibilities. Koonce is not only active
in student government activities, but is
also a member of the Capital
Improvement Trust Fund, the Campus
Advising Committee and expects to be a
member of the USF St. Petersburg Board of
Trustees. These jobs can make finding
time work difficult.

"I usually work around 15 to 20
hours," Koonce said of his job at Tyrore
Mail's Suncoast Video. "Anything more
than that and I'm not doing it. But my boss
(Jim Lane) is real understanding. He gives
me less time during the week and more
time on weekends. My job is secondary,
maybe around Christmas or something I
might want to work more."

Despite his demanding schedule,
Koonce maintains his patience.

"He's very down to earth," Little
said. "He's real easy-going and fun to be
around. He keeps the peace of meetings up
and still gets everyone's opinions heard."

Essentially having a full-time job
between being student president and work
part-time, Koonce said his
instructors realize the time's constraints.

"I've never been from last semester when we
take classes," Koonce said, referring to
making his schedule around meetings.
"My teachers understand if I am a few
minutes late, I'm not skipping class or
something. They know I'll be there."

When not occupied by meetings,
classes or work, he enjoys free time at
home with his mother Terry Chapman,
stepfather James Bryant and brother
James. He also keeps up with recrea-
tion he began long ago.

"When I'm not sleeping?" Koonce
said laughing. "I'm relaxing and trying to
keep up with my martial arts. I work on
getting my second-degree black belt in the
kwo do."

As for the future, Koonce graduates
in fall 2002 and hopes to become a
research psychologist, one who studies
the psychological impact on people from
advertising, and hints his busy days in
government may not be over.

"The job is a little more hectic than I
thought," he said. "But I enjoy the responsi-
bility, the notoriety. This allows me to be
involved and see how things start and
where they go. With that comes stress
because when something goes wrong,
persons come to you too. But this (presi-
dent) has got me thinking about a job at
some level, like city or something."

As for USF St. Petersburg, Koonce
sees the future bright and filled with more

Study to test campus dorm possibilities

By Ed Ericsson
Contributing Writer

At many universities, dorms are as
much a part of college life as classrooms.
Whether they will be the future for stu-
dents at USF St. Petersburg is to be deter-
dined by a committee being led by Steve
Ritch, associate vice president of student
affairs.

"We are looking into how dorms
integrate into the academic programs," Ritch
said. "We must first determine if
living on campus fits with the campus
educational goals."

Ritch's committee is also undertaking
a marketing study to see how students feel
about campus residential life. "The study
will have to show that this is what the stu-
dents want. And it will have to show that
the rent we can get will balance with the
price we pay to acquire the properties," Ritch
said. He speculates that the rent
would probably fall between $400 and
$600 a month.

They are looking into the number of
rooms needed, where the buildings might
be located and whether to privatize the
deal. An outside group could be contract-
ed to finance, build and run the facility
with the understanding that the university
will take it over in about 20 years.

According to Ritch, if the current
study shows that it's better to buy an exist-
ing building than to build one, the list of
possible properties includes the Carlton
Tower Apartments, the Fountain Inn, or
the Bayboro Tower Apartments.

Jim Grant of the Office of Facilities
Planning and said the top priority of the USF
St. Petersburg capital improvement plan is to buy properties within the cam-
pus borders. Those properties include the
Bayboro Tower Apartments at 210 Fifth
Ave. S. and the Fountain Inn, an assisted-
living facility on the corner of Sixth
Avenue South and Third Street South. The
Florida legislature will be asked during
the 2002 session to $18 million to buy the
properties.

USF pursued the purchase of the Fountain Inn since 1983, according to the
facility's executive director, Jan Swallow.
In her office, tucked deep inside the Inn's
first floor, Swallow declined to comment on the possibility of the transaction.

"The Fountain Inn was built in tradi-
tional dorm style - small bedrooms with
shared bathrooms and kitchens. But today
students want full-facility apartments," Ritch
said.

The Bayboro Tower Apartment build-
ing is the first choice. The building, just
north of the Florida Center for Teachers,
has one bedroom apartments. USF will
have to negotiate with the owner, Hilltop
Investments. Hilltop gets $452 or $550 a
month for the recently renovated units.

It will probably take a few years for
students to be living on campus, but today
students want full-facility apartments," Ritch said.

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It will probably take a few years for
students to be living on campus, but today
students want full-facility apartments," Ritch said.
Youth retention eased with fresh air

When students struggle with school and life, nature can be a helpful place

By Rachael Carroll
Contribution Writer

Jim Martin knew just what to do when he developed Oasis: Take the classroom outside.

Oasis is a special program on campus that few people know exists. It's a dropout prevention program for eighth graders.

The alternative education program promotes learning in a traditional classroom setting 5 days a week, but it moves to an outdoor classroom that involves the staff, students and parents going on a wilderness trip at least once a month. The activities on these trips can include canoeing, camping, swimming, ropes course, rappelling and snorkeling.

On Saturday in October, eighteen people including parents and their children, loaded up the blue and gray Oasis bus at 8 a.m. Program Specialist Edward Martin then drove them to Seargent Park in North Tampa for a 4-hour canoe trip down the Hillsborough River.

Following the bus was director of Oasis, Debbie McFarlane, and Jim Martin, both driving pick-up trucks with big, green canoes trailing behind. The moment they arrived, the students knew what they had to do. They simultaneously began unloading the canoes from the trucks and strategically placed them on the grass next to the river.

The staff and parents recognized that the kids could not unload the top canoes on the trailer and immediately teamed together to get the canoes down safely.

Next, each parent and child partnered up in a shady grass area next to the river. Jim McFarlane went over detailed instructions on how to canoe. This ranged from how to hold the paddle to communicating direction to your partner. McFarlane employs a role-reversal approach to canoeing with the child sitting in the front, guiding and leading their parents, who sit in the back. According to McFarlane, this approach teaches the parent and child about each other and the roles in their relationship.

The kids seem to like the idea of leading their parents. They realize they can learn something, put it into action and accomplish a goal. "I get to sit in front and lead you," said Betty, 13, to her mother. They also learn about communication styles, problem-solving, decision-making and team-working while on the trip.

There was a sense of spirit and commitment on the river that day you could feel and see in the performance of two mothers, Priscilla Bryant and Deborah Davis, who overcame three obstacles against them. They were scared of water, they could not swim and they had never canoed before. They appeared nervous and made it clear to the staff that they wanted a lifejacket. Despite their nervousness, however, they remained focused and determined.

The parents and their children shared a goal—to have fun and learn something new about each other and nature.

Josh McBride, 13, who has been a student at Oasis for three months, demonstrated how to enter the canoe properly to prevent tipping. Then, each parent and child team began entering the canoes and accelerated slowly down the river.

Finally, McFarlane and Martin entered canoes and followed the fleet of parents and children.

Oasis was designed to teach students who have low motivation and low self-esteem in a hands-on, experiential way with a focus on the outdoors. They learn that life is what they put into it and that they can achieve a high school education. The Oasis program has proved its effectiveness, with 93 percent of its students graduating from high school.

As McFarlane puts it: "It's not about (the students) ability, it's about their attitude." As the students and their parents traveled down the Hillsborough River on that beautiful Tuesday morning, they seemed to represent the program's motto displayed on the back of the students T-shirts: It states, "Life is a river, adjust your attitude and paddle!"

Bayboro Fiction Contest

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Any University of South Florida student who is registered full or part time.

ENTRIES: One previously unpublished short story of 2000 words or less. Entries should be typed double-spaced on one side only of 8 X 11 inch paper.

Do not include your name on the manuscript pages. Instead, attach a cover sheet with your name, address, phone number, campus, your major and the title of your story. Only the title of your story and page number should appear on each page. Retain a copy as mailed copies will not be returned.

DEADLINE: January 10, 2002

Submit your entry to:
Fiction Contest c/o Niela Eliason
636 15th Avenue Northeast
St. Petersburg, Florida 33704

Questions? Call Niela: (727) 823-4877

First Prize $250 Second Prize $100 Third Prize $100

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November 14 - Fall 2001
New scholarships ready

Education, science and psychology majors benefit from fresh grants in aid

By Karen Steen
Contributing Writer

There's good news on the horizon for the financially strapped student at USF St. Petersburg.

The financial aid office reports four new scholarships added to the list of 26 already established for the academic year beginning in fall 2002.

First, the St. Petersburg Times provided two $2,000 scholarships for minority students majoring in education.

The second new award is the Dena and Brad Stenz Writer's Scholarship for students pursuing a career in science writing. Dena and Brad Stenz are alumni who received assistance through the scholarship program. They want to help USF St. Petersburg students as they had been helped. Candidates for the $500 scholarship must be full-time students with a 3.0 grade point average or higher and submit a writing sample.

Psychology or counseling majors can apply for the Dr. Robert J. Stout Scholarship of $2,000. Marjorie Stout donated the award for the next five years in memory of her late husband, Robert J. Stout, a marriage and family counselor. Applicants must specialize in rehabilitation or marriage and family counseling. Financial need will be a consideration.

Finally, one $500 St. Petersburg minority scholarship is available. Established in 1992, the major donor being the Ernst and Young Foundation, the endowment has been added to over the years by the faculty and staff of USF St. Petersburg and has now reached maturity. Applicants must be of African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaskan native descent.

According to Jennifer Clarke, assistant director of financial aid, deadlines are strictly applied. Applicants must be enrolled at USF St. Petersburg and should meet these guidelines: Complete the St. Petersburg campus scholarship application and return it to the Office of Financial Aid by 5 p.m., March 7, 2002.

Attach three letters of recommendation, including one, preferably, from a USF faculty member.

- Attach the most recent high school or college transcript, if the applicant is a new USF student.

Any specific requests in conjunction with a particular scholarship should also be turned in at the same time, such as specific references or writing samples. For more information, contact the financial aid office at (727) 553-1128 or drop by Bayboro 105.

Fire ants are more than just for killing

By Nadine Beard
Contributing Writer

Deby Cassill, a new USF professor, has a burning desire to discover all she can about fire ants.

The mere mention of fire ants sends most Floridians scurrying to the nearest Home Depot for a bag of ant killer to destroy any trace of their existence. Deby Cassill finds them fascinating.

Studying the pesky little creatures, believe it or not, enables her to delve deep into the human psyche. With fire ants as subjects, she finds the possibilities endless.

"I realized I could learn much more about social behavior and more quickly by studying ants," Cassill said. "When human subjects, you can't starve them or separate them. With animals, you can't starve or separate them from their mothers."

Imagine finding a society of animals on Mars. "Wouldn't you just be itching to know how they find food, how they build their shelters, how they find mates, how they rear their offspring and how they keep from being eaten by a larger animal?" These are just a few of the questions that fuel Cassill's flare for discovery.

An explorer by nature, she became interested in fire ants while eating breakfast as a young girl. Responding to an advertisement in a cereal box, Cassill sent for a mail-order ant farm. Since then, ants crawled under her proverbial skin and stayed there.

Her desire to study nature and insects never waned, but the political climate while Cassill attended college shifted her interest from biology to psychology. The 1960s brought President Johnson's vision for the Great Society, and Congress allocated vast numbers of jobs related to social sciences. Finishing college in the least amount of time and securing a job to pay student loans motivated Cassill to take

Volunteer Projects

There are numerous community needs for volunteers and service-learners. A sample of the projects:

- Sojourn Bear - Make a stuffed bear for a cancer patient. Sew or stuff.
- YouthLead - Be a mentor for a high school student leader. Monthly sessions.
- Caravan Stagebarge Theatre Company - help with therapeutic horseback riding.

For more information on these or other projects, contact Barry McDowell, Bayboro 111, 553-1162.

Please see FIRE ANTS, 7

KOONCE, from 3 student involvement.

"I like the way it makes it more like a regular campus," he said of the USF St. Petersburg's growth. "There should be more student support. It would be nice to have hundreds of people at things like homecoming instead of the normal 20 or so we get now. It's hard to find people. You have to drag them out to things."

With more freshman and sophomores, he hopes things get like that.

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November 14 - Fall 2001
By Kristie Martinez
Contributing Writer

Am I ready for sex? What starts the pattern of unhealthy relationships? What are the signs of alcohol addiction? Questions like these and knowing where to find answers can make adolescence and early adulthood one of the most turbulent periods in life. Often, these issues cannot be raised around just anyone. But physicians Dr. Drew Pinsky of radio and MTV’s “LoveLine,” has heard them all.

Pinsky, more popularly known as “Dr. Drew,” co-hosts “LoveLine” with Los Angeles comedian Adam Carolla. The duo has offered advice to teens and young adults about an array of issues, and Pinsky has concentrated on the health-related aspects of the questions. The show is now syndicated to radio stations nationwide, including WXBT-FM 97.9, the bay area’s 98 Rock.

Pinsky gave a lecture Thursday, Nov. 1 in USF St. Petersburg’s Campus Activities Center. The event garnered a mixed crowd of college students and adolescents carrying copies of “The Dr. Drew and Adam Book: A Survival Guide to Life and Love,” written by Carolla and Pinsky in 1998. Parents and associates of the Bayfront Health Foundation Ambassadors Group, who hosted the lecture, filled more seats.

Pinsky’s speech involved the topics of attraction, sexual relationships, raising adolescents and addiction. His story of how he “accidentally” encountered a radio show 17 years ago immediately arrested the audience, halting teens’ discussions of the school day and adults’ browsing of given literature.

“There’s something that young people don’t get a clear enough message about, which is to trust their instincts,” Pinsky said. He highlighted the importance of listening to oneself throughout the lecture, explaining that it was his own instinct that drove him to continue speaking to young adults on the radio.

“You’ll lose your instinct if you start lying to yourself about what you’re actually feeling,” Pinsky said. “This is what I see young people doing all the time. They anesthetize themselves or they engage in highly arousing experiences so they don’t hear their feelings, and they don’t listen to their instincts.”

The second culprit of many adolescents’ sexual and drug problems stems from inadequate formation of healthy relationships.

“We enter the world with this undeveloped central nervous system. We utilize adults and their developed central nervous systems as a way of developing a hierarchical structure within our own,” Pinsky said. “To the extent that we don’t get enough of that or there are dramatic ruptures of that, the ability to develop becomes impaired.”

Parents asked for advice on how they could promote healthy teen growth. Pinsky advised a single mother of a 13-year-old boy to connect her son with a positive male role model, and encouraged another mother to continue to strengthen her relationship with her daughter in order to lessen the negative influence of the media. Regarding “the talk,” parents should have with their children about sex, Pinsky said there is a window between eight and 12 years of age when the issue should be addressed, and that it should be discussed when the child is ready or when they ask.

The younger crowd sought answers to more specific issues concerning them, such as the appropriate age to engage in sexual activity.

“I don’t think anybody has a specific answer to that,” Pinsky replied. “But under [the age of] 16, there is good evidence that your brain development, literally your cognitive development, is not sufficient to be able to manage the experience in a mature way.” Pinsky added that although it is more acceptable for 19- and 20-year olds to be sexually active in the American culture, adolescents should adhere to any moral and religious values that tell them otherwise.

An avid listener of Pinsky’s radio show asked what he could do for friends or relatives who had suffered “ruptures” in developing connections with others, while another had prepared a number of questions on the effects of drug use. Pinsky integrated statistics into many of his responses, the most striking of which were visual graphs detailing drug usage and brain scans displaying the damaging effects of addiction.

“I believe the way to reach [adolescents] is through the media,” Pinsky said. Since the media is the source of such negative effects, Pinsky said it should also be the source of positive change. “The message they should be giving is how to listen to your feelings, how to listen to your instincts, trust them and assert them.”

Information for this article was taken from:
www.sptimes.com
www.washingtonpost.com
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November 14 - Fall 2001
Civility goes beyond good manners

By Karen Davison
Contributing Writer

The braces are a surprise. The gray hair is not.

Neither is the voice that doesn’t rise above a polite level or the fact that he holds doors for women. It’s what one would expect from an ethicist who flew into town to discuss civility.

But Brian Schrag’s civility extends beyond his good manners.

Civility equals neighborliness, Schrag, a professor of philosophy at Indiana University, said. He used the example of farmers who help each other harvest crops. They act out of goodwill and expect it in return.

Schrag shared his insights during a recent visit to USF St. Petersburg as ethicist in residence for one week. Schrag was the second ethicist to come for a one-week visit at USF St. Petersburg this semester.

During his stay, he gave an ethics series lecture on civility, met with faculty and spent time in classrooms. At a gathering of faculty and a few students, Schrag led a discussion on faculty moral responsibilities.

“Faculty have an extreme responsibility to truthfulness in and out of work,” Schrag said.

They should model reasoning and civility. And, he said, they should treat others with respect. Grover Kears, a business professor at USF, said the faculty duty treats students with respect. “The score card is pretty good there. In fact, he said, it is better than in industry.

These issues were more straightforward than those discussed in Dr. Rebecca Johns’ geographic perspectives class, when the class debated the use of animals in research.

Ethical issues are more complex than at first blush, Schrag said.

Students’ comments ranged across the spectrum. Some students had total opposition to using animals for research, others gave their support if the research saved human lives.

“We must keep an open mind. We each have a piece of the truth,” Schrag said.

When asked later about his stance on animal research, Schrag carefully chewed his granola bar before answering. “I’m not willing to say animals shouldn’t be used in research.”

He supports the replace-refine-reduce method: replace animals with biomedical models when possible, refine the experiment to reduce the pain involved and reduce the number of animals used. “But researchers have to be very, very scrupulous. The research has to be very well planned, so that it will produce good results,” he said.

At week’s end, Schrag returned to Indiana University, where he is executive director of the Association for Professional and Professional Ethics. The Program for Ethics in Education and Community at USF St. Petersburg sponsored his visit.

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November 14 - Fall 2001
Intramurals growing on campus

By Aaron Thomas
Contributing Writer

Bump, set, spike, dunk and strike are all joining the USF St. Petersburg students' vocabulary, but not in the classroom.

On most class nights students sit through a lecture, study hard, takes notes, get into their cars and leave for home. It doesn't have to be that way. Students, now more than ever, can get involved with intramural sports at USF St. Petersburg.

The intramural sports clubs at USF St. Petersburg provide students with extra-curricular activities to give students a break from hitting the books. They provide sports and recreation experience to students in St. Petersburg who do not travel across the bay to USF-Tampa, where most of the school's varsity collegiate teams operate.

Nancy Coscia, student activities coordinator for USF St. Petersburg, said students in the past two semesters have had significant requests to bring organized sports to our small, commuter-sized campus. Currently, the campus has just two teams in one organized sport, the co-ed women's sailing team.

"We are trying our best to get what students want," said Coscia. "We want to get students involved in this and spark some interest. It's challenging to provide a time for everybody. We know students want it, but they have so many different schedules."

Softball is one of many options students have to break away from the stressful atmosphere of school work and student life. USF sponsors two league-organized softball teams in the St. Petersburg.

Intramural softball is played on Tuesday and Thursday nights between 7 and 9 p.m., and the next season begins this winter. Games are played at Woodlawn Field located on 16th Street North, between the Police Athletic League building and Woodlawn Elementary, and at North Shore Park on Bayshore Boulevard.

Students are required to pay fees to play on the school-sponsored softball teams to cover the cost of the team entry fee in the league. Students can participate on one team for $15 and two teams for $20.

Faculty, staff and alumni can also participate on the school-sponsored teams. Fees are $30 for one team and $35 for two teams, but openings are reserved for students, with remaining spots going to interested faculty, staff and alumni.

"Intramural sports are great to meet people and get out," said David Brodosi, player-manager of one of two USF-sponsored softball teams in the city league.

"The sport is not competitive and people are there to have fun."

Softball is just one of many outdoor, extra-curricular activities available for students, faculty and staff.

According to Coscia, the student government is going to vote next week whether to allow students to play tennis at The St. Petersburg Tennis Center at Bartlett Park, located at 650 18th Ave. S. The center has held tournaments with some of the world's greatest tennis stars including Arthur Ashe, Billy Jean King, Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert.

Although the general public pays for use of the clay stadium courts, students, if the vote approves, will play free and the possibility of tennis classes will be considered.

USF St. Petersburg will also offer recreation for students interested in indoor sports.

Coscia said last spring the school took a survey to see what other sports should be offered. Since USF St. Petersburg has the Campus Activities Center, basketball and volleyball in the gymnasium have become extremely popular among students. Students can take advantage of basketball and volleyball during open gymnasium time that runs on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 11a.m. to 1 p.m.

The CAC may also house NCAA-style volleyball elimination tournaments, Coscia said. In forming a tournament, it is hoped more people will come and intramural volleyball will catch on as well as intramural softball.

Intramural sports are not the only type of physical fitness options offered at USF St. Petersburg; non-credit courses are also available for students. The CAC is home to fitness classes including aerobics, racquetball, water aerobics, and martial arts classes such as Shotokan and Tae kwon do.

Aquatics such as sailing and swimming classes at any level are available for students who need a reprieve from the daily stresses of student life.

If students wish to participate in other sports not included in the university's intramural sports clubs, Coscia said the CAC staff is always looking for suggestions from students.

For more information concerning intramural sports, visit the CAC building or contact by phone at 727-553-1389.

Sailing is among the intramural sports available to USF St. Petersburg students.