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Campus weighing honor system

By Karen Davison
Contributing Writer

A series of workshops is expected to move USF St. Petersburg further along the path to a campus-wide honor system.

At the first workshop, held Nov. 14, students, faculty and staff discussed adding "trust" and "fairness" to previously selected core values. Conferences in the spring will define the values, the necessary next step in the development of the honor system.

Stephen Ritch, associate vice president of student affairs, leads a group exploring an honor system. He welcomes input from everyone on campus.

"Honor codes or systems should not be instituted from the top," Ritch said.

That democratic approach already has been in evidence. Last spring, students, faculty and staff received a survey asking them to name core ethical values.

A subcommittee narrowed the results to five: integrity, honesty, responsibility, respect and care. If approved, trust and fairness would be added to this list.

Each value will be the subject of a lunch workshop at which participants will restate the values in terms of behavior.

Ritch explained, "What would honesty look like if it were achieved on campus? What is the standard of 'care'?

Graduate student Tressa Whalen expressed her concern, "How do you define respect?"

Thomas Smith, a political science professor, suggested defining terms such as 'care' might be difficult, too.

"What we have come up with is soft," Smith said.

He referred to the College of William and Mary's straightforward honor code in which students agree not to lie, cheat or steal.

But defining the core values is the beginning of sticky issues, which have yet to be resolved. What will happen when someone violates the honor system? How will the honor system be tied to disciplin­ary actions? How will an honor system affect life in the classroom?

Will the honor system require students and others to identify and turn in violators?

Some students are uncomfortable with this last question.

"That would be a problem," said Jason King, a freshman marine biology major. "I wouldn't want to tell on other students."

"All eyes are on you," said Charles Adler, another freshman, majoring in computer science.

"I don't think I would turn somebody in. I would mind my own business," graduate student Matti Leiber said.

Another graduate student, Carolyn Perrine, came from the University of Pittsburgh, which has an honor code. "Nobody turned each other in," she said.

When asked about this issue, Grover Keams, a business professor, suggested viewing "Scent of a Woman," in which a student must decide if he will identify the students who pulled a prank. The film illustrates how an honor system itself can cause ethical dilemmas.

Despite their reservations, King, Adler, Leiber and Perrine agree an honor system is a good idea.

Keams said he could approve of an honor system if it were not too complex and didn't provide too many limits on faculty. He questioned the effect of the honor system on the classroom.

Smith also is worried about impact in the classroom.

"Things in an honor code may dampen intellectual activity," he said. "It could have a chilling effect on what happens in the classroom."

Mike Killenberg, a journalism profes­

Adopt-a-family helps spread holiday cheer

By Kristie Martinez
Contributing Writer

A man from the Salvation Army rings his bell outside the mall for donations. Bins used to collect canned foods are set out in churches and grocery stores. In the midst of the hectic holiday season, people pause and reflect and sometimes give to those in need.

While this once-a-year remembrance may be convenient for most individuals, homelessness and suffering are prevalent every day.

To help blunt these sharp realities, USF St. Petersburg's Community Outreach Committee offered student organizations the chance to adopt a family at the YWCA/USF Family Village.

The second of two brightly colored buildings on the corner of 48th Street and 4th Avenue South serves as a homeless shelter for single or two-parent families.

The first building is a daycare center for children of USF students and any children of parents living at the shelter.

The first floor of Family Village is the emergency shelter, where families are given housing for 30 to 60 days, so par­

ent can find work if unemployed. The eight residential units on each floor are furnished, two-bedroom efficiencies. Residents on the first floor must share bathrooms and showers outside of their units, while those on the second floor have their own bathrooms.

The second floor is designated for the transitional program, which allows families to stay for as long as a year while par­

ents pursue educational and working goals.

The Community Outreach Committee sponsored families from the transitional program this year.

"Most [families] are extremely glad to be here and that people have an interest in them," said Joyce Pritchett, director of housing and support service. They don't have the funds to provide a Christmas [for

Please see HONOR CODE, 6

Please see FAMILY, 7
Can internet dating work for students?
By Larry Halstead Contributing Writer

It is the holiday season, my third with my wife, Jere. As my thoughts reflected on our three years together, I remembered how we met and how people squirm when we tell the story now.

We met on the Internet... see, you're squirming too. Not in one of those hokey chat rooms, but through a legitimate dating service site wherein men and women post ads in hopes of attracting responses from the type of mate they are seekin.

Most of our friends either laughed or offered condolences when we told our story. But that's the truth - we met on the Internet.

While the system worked for us, my real question is: will it work for tradition al students? I'm one of those "non-traditional aged" students who is older than most students' parents. Can young stu dents find real friends via the electronic airwaves or is the Internet fraught with weirdos and perverts?

I decided to find out. One of my stud ent colleagues, a 22-year old female named Marianne, was lamenting about wanting to meet some new guy friends. I

I'm not your normal gal, hung up on frilly, froufrou activities. Let's hang out in a country bar, toss down a cold one and listen to Kenny Chesney. How 'bout drinks at sunset at the Hurricane on St Pete Beach, Italian food at Bruno's and a movie at Baywalk? Ever go bowling? What about hot tub hopping? Do you like curling a movie? I won't mention shopping, although I love that too, but you don't have to. I love being on the go and would love to meet a guy who doesn't think the remote is an extension of his hand. If any of this sounds like you, email me and let's find out more about each other.

Looking for fun first
Age: 18-23
Occupation: student
Hair: brown
Eyes: brown
Weight: 140
Height: 5'7"
Ethnicity: White
Religion: Unimportant
Category: Women Seeking Men

She wanted to meet some new guy friends. I'm one of those students who is older than most students' parents. Can young stu dents find real friends via the electronic airwaves or is the Internet fraught with weirdos and perverts?

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Christmas spirit lost on commercialism pressure

Christmas is time to help less fortunate
By Annette Boglev
(U-WIRE) ST. BONAVENTURE, N.Y.

If ever there were a time of year that induced hair jerking and stress-provoked shortness of breath, now would be it.

The holidays bring a time of jingling bells, carolling neighbors and scurrying elves at local malls. It only takes an hour's worth of television exposure to let you know Christmas is on its way. We watch advertisement after advertisement, ultimately succumbing to the eloquence of corporate giants infiltrating our minds with everything from colorful candies and expensive scarves to useless gadgets and diamond rings. Yes, Christmas is indeed on its way, but it does not have to be so bad.

In the business world, Christmas begins in October. Companies strategical ly begin marketing and bombarding us with this superficial notion of Christmas as soon as the time seems appropriate. This year is no exception. Companies felt the need to jump right in as an attempt to get America's mind off of the attacks of Sep. 11. In fact, the holiday season has become so commercialized that most of us have never really known how wonder ful this time of year truly is.

Those of us who celebrate this great holiday will naturally partake in the joy of opening gifts in the morning of Dec. 25, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. But Christmas definitely offers more than the gift giving and receiving rituals embedded in our knowledge of the Christmas spirit from day one.

Everybody celebrates Christmas differently. People have traditions unique to their families, which is only natural. Whether your tradition consists of a family vacation or simply family gatherings full of cheek pinching and egg nog, the quality of the Christmas spirit lies there. Christmas can involve giving and receiv ing, but it does not necessarily have to involve material goods.

Giving can be volunteering at a local Salvation Army, and receiving can be as simple as the smile on someone's face in appreciation for your help. Christmas is about capturing life at its best.

We all fall into the commercial traps fed to us by stores everywhere we turn. This especially takes place during the holiday season because companies cleverly bait us. It is all too convenient to see an ad on television, go to the store and then buy it for someone as a Christmas gift. For many people, Christmas has become just that, which is very unfortunate. We should not need a store's approval to feel validat ed, and we most certainly do not need a store declaring how to be happy this Christmas.

This holiday season, urge yourself to think about what Christmas means to you. Think about a gift you would like to give that does not involve going to the mall, and then give it. You would be surprised the rewards it has to offer. If you do anything at all, put some heart into the holiday season. Hopefully, you will come to find that the very best things about Christmas do not come with a price tag.

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

The Golden Key International Honour Society is a non-profit, academic honors organization that provides academic recognition, leadership opportunities, community service, career networking and scholarships. Membership is invitation only and available to the top 15 percent of juniors and seniors in all fields of study.

Biographies for the latest Golden Key International Honors Society Inductees follows below.

Phyllis Lenahan, senior, graduating May 2002

Phyllis, a New York native, graduated with an associate degree in medical science right out of high school. She worked as an administrative assistant for a large pharmaceutical company for 11 years, until 1972, when she moved to Florida. Phyllis spent two years in North Carolina as an advocate and ESL teacher for a group of Monteguard refugees from Vietnam. Phyllis has two children, and when both were in college, Phyllis decided to go back to college, too. In 1997, she began at St. Petersburg Junior College and earned an A.S. degree in legal assisting and transferred to USF St. Petersburg in 1999. Phyllis has been active in student government and PTK Alumni Association since coming to USF St. Petersburg.

Pauline "P.J." Crosby-Miller, senior, graduating December 2002

P.J. was born in London, England, and raised in Long Island, New York. From Jamaican ancestry, she claims all three countries as home as each piece makes her whole. She is currently enrolled as an interdisciplinary social sciences major with her two cognates being psychology and political science. She's involved in the America Reads program and an office manager for a small business. She sees a future in working with children either as a child psychologist or the author of children's books. She's an eight-year-old, Patrick, whose childhood has been filled with things she's learned as a student and volunteer. She is currently a representative in student government and secretary of Campus Women's Collective.

Margie A. Thorpe, senior, graduating May 2002

After producing a feature-length documentary, ALMA, Margie's sole ambition is to get an education. At age 36, she started work on her bachelor's degree in Atlanta, Georgia. She will finish at USF with a degree in interdisciplinary social sciences. Margie is currently applying to graduate schools, and as a McNair Scholar, is being courted by several universities.

Investing at an early age brings big profits

By Dayton Wong

(U-WIRE) HONOLULU - When you receive a paycheck there are three things you can do with it. You can spend it, you can save it or you can invest it.

If you spend it, you will have no money. If you put it in a savings account, you will earn about 1.5 percent a year. (If you put $50 a month in a savings account at the going rate, you would have $22,714.86 in 30 years.) However, if you were to invest $50 a month in the stock market for 30 years, you could end up with more than $70,000.

Edward Jones Investing will talk about the options you have at its basic investing seminar at Campus Center room 307 on Dec. 11 at noon. Edward Jones is an investment company that serves individual investors and small business owners.

The free seminar is sponsored by the University of Hawaii at Manoa Activities Council and is open to all students, faculty and graduate students.

Rhodora Pagay, a financial advisor at Edward Jones, will talk about the benefits of investing. She will go over mutual funds, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA), stocks, bonds and educational loans.

"It's a good opportunity for students because not too many students know about investing," said Claire dela Cruz, head of the education committee for the UH Activities Council.

Pagay said that most people don't know about investing because it's not something that's taught at home or in school.

"We are taught how to ride a bike, we are taught to do math but no one ever sits down and says this is a bond, this is a mutual fund, this is an IRA. No one ever teaches you that. That's what a financial advisor does," she said.

Pagay said that it is a good time to invest when you're young. The longer you have your money invested the more you will make.

"If you invest $50 a month, in 30 to 40 years you will have a lot of money,"

Please see INVESTING, 6
Police teach mail handling safety

By Larry Halstead
Contributing Writer

Six months ago, a seminar on how to handle mail safely would have seemed like a joke. But nowadays, security is no longer taken for granted.

The St. Petersburg Police Department held a seminar on "Terrorism and Mail Safety" at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg Campus Activity Center on Wednesday, Nov. 28.

Rick Stelljes, division manager, community awareness division, welcomed about 45 local residents and introduced the new chief of police, Mack Vines. Also introduced were other officers who headed up various police districts and departments.

Vines returned to the top police position, after a 20-year absence. During that time, he was the chief of police in Charlotte, N.C. and Dallas, Tex. "It's rare, but almost impossible to return as chief to a police department," Vines said.

Vines praised outgoing chief Goliath Davis. "He was the right man at the time." 

Davis had three main tenants as chief: integrity, accountability and respect. Vines told the crowd, "I'm adding empathy now," Vines said.

The new chief, who started on Oct. 5, identified traffic, illegal drugs and the quality of life as the three main issues now. He warned that the recent drop in the economy could adversely affect the local crime rate.

Vines talked about the homeless downtown. "It's not against the law to be homeless. It's not against the law to be dirty," he said. "It is against the law to interfere with the rights of others. We intend to deal with the homeless in a humane manner," said Vines.

After Vines' opening remarks, officer W.D. "Chip" Wells, gave a slide show talk about home safety and how to handle suspicious mail.

He described the types of mail that might be suspect: letters with threatening messages on them; letters with oily stains; envelopes with no return address; envelopes that are lopsided, rigid, bulky, discolored or have a strange odor; envelopes without postage or with non-cancelled postage and unexpected envelopes from foreign countries.

Wells then described the steps to take if someone encounters one of the above mentioned mail pieces, which includes calling 911.

After the slide show presentation, Chief Vines opened the floor to questions. Among the concerns raised were prostitution and drugs, auto theft and police intervention in the African-American community. "We're going to enforce the laws and respect the rights of people," Vines assured the residents. "One of our biggest challenges is to be more open-minded," he added.

What is the biggest difference in St. Petersburg now and when he was first here? "St. Pete is bigger," Vines said.

Welcome USF Students
Free drink with lunch and student ID

The BROWN BAG Café
Home of the $4.00 Lunch
Unbeatable Delicious Sandwiches, Subs, Salads
1939 Central Avenue (across from Haslam's Books)

Baybororo 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. Return 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

December 12 - Fall 2001
Campus pool resurfaced over holidays
By Nadine Beard
Contributing Writer

Major renovations to the USF St. Petersburg swimming pool, which began Nov. 27, will cause the facility to remain closed until Jan. 7, 2002.

Plans to resurface the pool have been under way for some time, but scheduling the work to coincide with the semester break was an important consideration in limiting disruption of service to users of the pool. It takes time when draining, drying, curing, refilling and restoring the chemical balance of a pool holding approximately 190,000 gallons, said Director of Student Life Nancy Coscia.

"The natural thing is to do it during the holiday season," December and the first week in January are the months when the fewest number of people would be impacted," Coscia said.

In November, the Capital Improvements Trust Fund members met but remained uncertain when the renovations would begin, because the bid solicitation process from contractors had not been completed. State regulations require a bid process for any improvement at or above $25,000, Coscia said.

After reviewing the bids, the facilities planning and construction office awarded the job to The Pool Doctor of Clearwater. The accepted bid requires resurfacing the pool, installing decorative tile and completing some additional minor work. The final cost is $24,499.21.

"It was a decision we had to make," Dickson added.

After the resurfacing, the pool will be open for use, Dickson said. The pool, which measures 11 feet at the deep end, will be closed until January 7. It will reopen until mid-June, when the pool will be drained and resurfaced. The pool will remain closed until January 7, 2002. It is scheduled to reopen on January 8, 2002.

The pool is a popular place for student and faculty gatherings, Dickson said. It is also used for special events, such as graduations and commencements.

"It’s a very popular pool," Dickson said. "It’s a great place to gather and have events."

In addition to the pool, the pool deck and bleachers on the east side of the pool and bleachers on the east side of the pool were resurfaced. The pool was resurfaced with a watertight seal underwater, and the finish can last for 20 years.

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 Stagecharge Theatre Company
- Suncoast Trailblazers - help with therapeutic horseback riding.

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

Eric "Shorty" Carnamea, a Pool Doctor employee, lays a base foundation underneath where new tile will adorn parts of the pool.

Photo by James Quiner

USGS adds new lab
By Stephen Fairchild
Contributing Writer

Even scientists sometimes need more room for their stuff, so the U.S. Geological Survey is planning to add a third building to its complex on the USF campus.

The 60,000-square-foot addition will be built south of USGS' two existing structures, in an area now used for parking. Construction should begin in spring 2002 now that federal funding is approved, said Lisa Robbins, the team chief scientist at the USGS Center for Coastal and Regional Marine Studies. The cost will be $6.5 million, and construction will take about a year and a half, Robbins said.

USGS will retain its historic look. The new, three-story building will have the same brick appearance as the original 1925 Studebaker building and an addition built in 1997.

Robbins is more interested in the new building's interior. When complete, it will double usable space at USGS. The addition will house 66 staff, some from the overcrowded, existing facility, she said.

Patricia Mullan, USGS administrative officer, projects a combination of new hires and transfers from other USGS locations will add 55 employees.

The role of USGS has expanded beyond geology to include a variety of sciences, Robbins said.

Please see LAB, 6
HONOR CODE, from 1

The push for an honor system? "Dictating what's honorable and what's not means imposing a set of values and behaviors that not all members of a community might agree with. For example, an honor code might condemn 'hate speech' and even punish those who engage in it. Free speech advocates likely would resist any attempt to squelch expression," said ethicist in residence Brian Schrag.

Senior Jackie Wertel said the honor code was "a very good idea. I've known of incidents in my major where students have been caught cheating."

As Ritch pointed out in a memo, research presented at a recent conference "showed that schools with honor codes or modified honor codes do, in fact, report lower incidences of academic dishonesty."

But Ritch said that the reasons for an honor system extend beyond academic integrity at USF St. Petersburg.

"Some schools are only about the classroom. Why shouldn't this be about whom we are as a community?" he said.

As such, the honor system would apply to students, faculty and staff, he said. But just how it all would work is another issue for the USF St. Petersburg community to decide. At this point, it appears there are more questions than answers.

LAB, from 3

science disciplines, Robbins said. The new building will therefore include laboratories for biology, microbiology and geology, she said.

The design of the new labs depends on the science, said Terry Kelley, Operations Manager at USGS. For example, the microbiology lab will require more equipment than the geology lab, he said.

Both city and university staff favor the prospect of an expanded USGS facility. "USGS is a very important part of our graduate program," said Peter Betzer, the dean of USF's college of marine science. Betzer looks forward to the additional scientific expertise that an expanded USGS will provide his graduate students.

"It's a positive thing for the city" because of the good salaries brought to the community, said Cindy Margiotta, manager of economic development for the city of St. Petersburg.

Dale Griffin, USGS environmental microbiologist, is also eager to see the new building constructed. Griffin studies pathogens in dust clouds from Africa and Asia that may transmit diseases to this country. Air samples collected in the Virgin Islands are sent to USGS for analysis, he said.

The new building will provide more space for laboratories, equipment and people, Griffith said. "I have equipment in boxes waiting to be set up in addition to equipment on order," he said.

INVESTING, from 3

said Pagay.

If one person decided to invest $50 per month at 8 percent and another person waited 10 years to begin investing, in 20 years, the difference between the value of the two investors' accounts will be almost $20,000.

Students new to investing should start by setting aside money that they don't need.

"Set aside what you want to save, then buy stock with the rest," said Rosita Chang, professor of finance and executive director of the Asia-Pacific Financial Markets Research Center.

"Money should be split between savings and stock," said Pagay. "Students who are new to the market should diversify their investments. Chang said the saying, "don't put all your eggs in one basket" holds true for investing. She said that "you want to diversify," because you have a greater chance of success.

"Never invest in just one stock," she said. "You should have a portfolio of stocks from different industries."

Investing does have its risks. Chang said that investing in stocks is "still a better choice than other investments."

She said that if you want your money to be guaranteed then you should put your money in the bank.

"History shows that the market will go up and down but you will do well in the end because of the accumulation of money over the years," said Pagay.

Chang added that you shouldn't look at daily fluctuations because that doesn't become a loss unless you sell when it's low.

The events of Sept. 11 have caused stocks to drop and people to sell because of the damaged economy and the threat of further losses.

Pagay tells clients that they should "buy low and sell high." Taking that advice, this may be the best time to buy stocks because the prices are low.

Chang said that it makes little sense to sell when the market is down unless you really need the money.
FAMILY, from J

their children] that other kids and kids on television have," she said. Committee members were responsible for letting clubs know the ages and gender of the family members and of any specific things they would like to have.

The Adopt-A-Family program, headed by Carlos Gomez, treasurer of student government, is in its second year. The idea had started with last year's student government treasurer, Christine Kelsey, who adopted eight families from the Family Village shelter for Christmas. The families provided her with a wish list. Kelsey went to businesses and clubs for donations.

This year Gomez hopes to involve more people instead of letting the responsibility fall to one person. He sees this as a way for the school to get connected to the community.

"We have the responsibility to care of our own," Gomez said. "The Village should take care of the people." Other members from student government have taken part by making calls and collecting items. To Gomez, a successful campaign means both families and students are enriched.

"We ask the families if they would like to be adopted, and if anything in particular is needed, if there's a toy their child has their heart set on," Pritchett said. "But just about anything is fine. We are grateful for everything. There is nothing they don't like or want." Pritchett, who has worked at Family Village since January, doesn't know if students have ever delivered donations, but welcomes anyone who wants to meet a family.

"We'd hope they'd bring [the items] over, and they could even hold a party with the families," she said.

Elizabeth, 35, lives with three of her six children on the transitional floor of Family Village. Elizabeth, her husband, Carlos, and their children Marissa, 7, Isabella, 6, and Carlos, 4, lived in Toledo, Ohio, where they owned 55 acres of land and a collection of snowmobiles and three-wheelers.

"We vacationed in Florida around this time last year," she said. "We spent quite a bit of money downtown here.

Elizabeth and Carlos spent $13,000 on care for Carlos' grandmother. It was money they'd saved to purchase a home.

"We paid for her apartment, her medications, we took her to Miami," Elizabeth said. "I was told anything Grandma even looked at, buy it. We went back home with $500 to our name."

The family later decided to move to Florida, a move Elizabeth said was "stupid."

"We sold our three-wheelers, our snowmobiles, everything. People said we'd have no place to stay, no jobs. I said I'm going to call a homeless shelter so I know I have a place to stay."

The family left Toledo in May and lived at another shelter before coming to Family Village June 16. Carlos took roof- and moving jobs. While working as an electrician's apprentice, he was injured after only a few days.

Not long after the turbulence of losing everything, the family lost more.

Carlos was on probation when he and Elizabeth left Ohio because he owed child support for another child. Traced by the mother of the child, he barely dodged arrest one night at Family Village.

"He got on a bus to Toledo and now he's serving 10 months in a maximum-security penitentiary," Elizabeth said. "I was left in Florida with three kids, no money, nothing."

Marissa, Isabella and Carlos have since become very angry and violent, often cursing and complaining about the family's situation. But because of the re-punishment policy at Family Village, Elizabeth feels limited as to what she can do to correct her children's behavior.

"There's only so many things you can take away from them," she said. "Sometimes if I take the TV away from them, they don't care."

"They've been through a lot. They had a house. They left their bicycles [and] their toys. They miss their grandma and grandpa and their dogs. Their dad is gone."

But once her husband went to jail, Elizabeth said, by chance, things started falling into place.

"Until two weeks ago, I was working two jobs, and I go to school full-time," she said. Elizabeth, now a certified nurse's assistant, works weekends at the Children's Center while Marissa, Isabella and Carlos attend a local elementary school.

Having a permanently damaged back, Elizabeth has been told by doctors not to work, but endures the pain for her children and financial obligations. Aside from paying rent at Family Village, for the care of her children, insurance and gas for her van, she pays child support for her three older children, who live with her ex-husband.

"The more motivated you are, the less time you'll be homeless," she said. "I'm not quitting until I have my own place."

Elizabeth has tried to make the unit she shares with her children as much like home as possible. Portraits of Marissa, Isabella and Carlos line one wall. The open cereal box, bowls and spoons on the dining table suggest the spirit of the three children interrupted during breakfast. Candles and a tiny, metallic Christmas tree sit atop the family's coffee table.

"I plug the tree in at night to remind [myself] of where I am," Elizabeth said. She believes her time at Family Village has strengthened and empowered her, recalling her discontent being a housewife spoiled by her husband.

"Every time I broke a vacuum cleaner, [I'd tell my husband], 'So, you'll just buy me a new one,'" Elizabeth said. "We thought we were the stuff in Toledo. The Lord gave me a reality check real quick. He wants you to humble yourself."

Elizabeth makes sure her children go to church and that they know the difference between the types of behavior that will send them to heaven or hell.

"They need love, they need the Lord," she said.

Carlos starts screaming, showing his impatience. Elizabeth looks calmly but sternly into her son's face.

"Is that going to get you where?" Scowling, Carlos shakes his head.

"Where do people go for acting that way?"

Carlos points his thumb down toward the ground.

"Did you ask Jesus to forgive you?" Carlos nods and Elizabeth reaches out for him.

"Come here, give me a kiss. I love you, God bless you."

Karen McComis contributed to this story.
If you have ever contemplated exploring the underwater world, you may wish to consider taking the scuba diving course offered by USF's St. Petersburg Waterfront Office.

Non-credit scuba courses commence in January or February 2002, but the exact dates have not yet been determined. Normally the non-credit courses are offered each semester at the USF St. Petersburg campus, but classes were not scheduled during the fall because of uncertainties about resurfacing the pool, said Mike Kirschen of the Waterfront Office.

For students desiring college credit, a two-credit-hour course at USF's Tampa campus, PEN 2136, Skin & Scuba Diving, teaches essential skills and knowledge of skin and scuba diving. The non-credit course offered through the waterfront office costs $300 for students and $325 for non-students. The fee for the course includes a mask, fins and snorkel, which become the property of the student. Books and all other items necessary to complete the open water certification course are provided, without additional expense.

The generally accepted minimum age to receive open water certification is 15. Some certifying agencies have recently adopted age 10 as their minimum junior scuba requirement. Specialized training courses are also available for persons with physical handicaps.

To take the course requires a waiver of liability and a declaration of a history of illness or physical limitations. Certain conditions make it inadvisable to scuba dive, and a signed release form from a doctor is necessary for those with many physical or mental illnesses. Some limitations that can preclude one from enrolling in the scuba diving course include a ruptured eardrum, asthma and disorders causing blackouts or seizures.

Students must pass a written exam and demonstrate mastery of practical skills. Upon completion of the course, students are issued a certification card from an internationally accepted certifying agency. Once earned, the open water diver certification does not expire and requires no annual fees or re-certification.

The three-week course is separated into three segments: classroom, confined water (swimming pool sessions) and open water training. Classroom training provides information about scuba diving equipment, the aquatic environment, physics and physiology. Confined water sessions teach students how to properly use the scuba equipment and prepare for possible problems encountered when diving. Open water training consists of four "check-out" dives. All of the dives require students to perform and show mastery of skills learned in confined water sessions. The dives also allow time for enjoyment and exploration of the underwater environment.

Joe Bailey of Treasure Island Divers, the instructor of the USF non-credit course, said all of the open water dives take place in the Gulf of Mexico at depths that do not exceed 40 feet.

Dr. Marvin Berkowitz will argue that parents, schools and communities should invest in the moral education of children with the goal of building a more honest, caring and stable society.

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