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Solons hint at 'happy' outcome

By CHRIS CURRY
Of the Crow's Nest

When you host the people who control your destiny it helps to be gracious. This thought could well have been on the mind of campus dean and CBO William Heller on Nov. 14 when Pinellas County's state legislators had their first meeting of the term at the Campus Activities Center. Heller used his allotted three minutes on the agenda to thank the delegation for past support of USF and the St. Petersburg campus.

"We are accelerating our growth thanks to you," Heller said, "by adding new programs and faculty and expanding existing programs." Heller got something nice in return when State Sen. Jim Sebesta (R-District 20) dropped a big hint that this campus will become a more autonomous part of USF and not separate into a new school through an act of the legislature.

Sebesta said that he and St. Pete Sen. Don Sullivan (R-District 20) were working together on the issue and that the audience of more than 130, which included several faculty members would be "very happy by the eventual outcome."

Last spring, Sullivan sponsored a bill that would have created a second tier of public universities in the state and transformed USF - St. Petersburg into a start up school called Suncoast University. The bill failed but Heller and Sullivan's fellow Pinellas County legislators credited the senate with drawing the attention of the USF administration and the state legislature to this campus.

During the campus meeting, a brief cloud of conflict about the potential reintroduction of that bill this term passed between Sullivan and student government president Clayton Tieman.

Reading from a prepared statement, Tieman said that student government endorsed new USF president Judy Genshaft's plan for increased campus autonomy, which met the university's requests except a separate student union.

Tieman said student government was against the creation of a new university or a potential merger with St. Petersburg Junior College, which Sullivan had mentioned as an option.

"That would be very insulting to students on this campus, many of whom have already graduated junior college," Tieman said.

Sullivan responded by engaging in a bit of a gentleman's confrontation with Tieman.

"You have implied that I have rejected what the president has suggested," Sullivan said. "I have rejected nothing the president suggested. I have taken no position. I want what is best for community number one and what is best for the University of South Florida number two."

Sullivan has said at several appearances that he will not take a stance on Genshaft's plan for autonomy until the Education Commission of the States finishes a study into the undergraduate education needs in Pinellas County. The

Pinellas gets 'D' in meeting college needs

By CHRIS CURRY
Of the Crow's Nest

Pinellas County comes up short in meeting the needs of residents and business for undergraduate college degree programs, a survey of several Florida counties has found.

Preliminary results of the study were released Nov. 8 by the Florida Postsecondary Education Planning Commission (PEPC). In a meeting in Davis 130, the commission shared its initial findings about the needs for bachelor's degrees in Pinellas with an audience of USF administrators and alumni, Tampa Bay area business leaders, the presidents of St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC) and Eckerd College and St. Petersburg mayor David Fischer.

Following state Sen. Don Sullivan's (R-Seminole) attempt to form a second tier of public universities and separate this campus from USF, the Florida legislature and Gov. Jeb Bush asked PEPC to commission a study into the need for expanded access to bachelor's degree in Pinellas.

PEPC executive director William Proctor said that the purpose of the study was to find out if there were enough people with bachelor's degrees to satisfy the job market in these areas. He said it was not an effort to answer the question the audience members kept bringing up: "Will this campus stay with USF?"

The study found that in Pinellas County, less than 19 percent of the adult population has a bachelor's degree, a figure below the state average.

The study said that community and business leaders interviewed were "dissatisfied with contributions and responsiveness of the University of South Florida, both the main campus in Tampa and the St. Petersburg campus."

It said that complaints ranged from "the array of programs, course schedules, location and campus safety."

"We know that commuting is a major problem for people who live in Pinellas County and commute to the main campus in Tampa," PEPC member Kathleen Kelly said. "Adults with families want convenient locations for their degrees."

USF President Judy Genshaft said that these complaints were true in the past but that the university had a "strong commitment to make it possible that citizens of Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota and Pasco counties can earn bachelor's degrees in or near their communities."

"There's a saying that reputations linger longer after they're deserved and I think that's true in this case," Genshaft said.

The president said USF was working to meet the needs of the Pinellas job market by adding to the St. Petersburg campus full degree programs in high demand business areas such as finance and management information systems. She said the school was currently recruiting faculty to turn partial business programs into full degree programs.

Genshaft said the university's expanded course offerings were growing at locations across the county, such as the nursing program at Palm Harbor University High School and a master's in business administration degree available at the north Clearwater SPJC campus.

SPJC received rave reviews from community and business leaders in the PEPC preliminary analysis. SPJC president Carl Kuttler said the increase in full programs at USF St. Petersburg was encouraging but that more
Students not harmonious on Napster suit

Unlimited music for $5 a bargain for music junkie

By KRISTIN BUEL
The Maneater
University of Missouri

I don't give a damn about my bad reputation.

I am a music stealer, folks. I proudly download free music from Napster and burn it on my own CD mix tapes.

I will continue doing this for a flat fee of $4.95 a month. Bad girls never really give up their vices.

My main vice in life is music. I'm not a psycho-stalking fan or die-hard indie rock fan, but I make sure I've got a long list of MP3s accompanying me during my daily homework routine.

I wake up to Joan Jett and Limp Bizkit, take a few minutes to say hey to Justin Timberlake and the rest of my boys and end the day with a little Broadway.

Do I mind a small fee looming in the near future? Hell, no.

At this rate, the recent decision to charge a small monthly fee, part of which will be distributed to record companies, is a sigh of relief for creator Shawn Fanning and Napster users everywhere.

The company won't be shut down. Shawn is going to make millions of dollars. Napster will continue to share software between users, possibly even making a profit that will allow the company to enhance program features.

Early responses from Napster users indicate dissatisfaction with the decision. Hello! We were essentially stealing from the record companies — as stupid as I think that reasoning is — and for an hour's worth of minimum wage, you can still enjoy all the music you want.

I still contend that most recording artists and record companies are making way too much money to be charging $15.95 for a CD.

Napster is a file-sharing program, people just trade music they enjoy. It's been going on for years with mix tapes. Record companies argue that sharing is still copyright infringement, and users say it's just paling around with friends.

See JUNKIE, Page 6

Opinion

Democrats neglect voters source of presidential loss - not Nader

From the Harvard Crimson
Harvard University

If Texas Gov. George W. Bush is declared the winner of the 2000 presidential election, one of the scapegoats of Democrats will surely be Ralph Nader. The lawyer, consumer advocate and presidential nominee of the Green Party has had a significant impact on the results of the election, in the all-important state of Florida, where his 90,000 votes, if they had gone to Vice President Al Gore (as Democrats presume), would have determined the outcome of the presidential election far before the networks could make a mistake.

But Ralph Nader is not the problem.

The idea that the Democrats lost the elections because of Nader ignores the fact that Democrats could not keep a significant amount of votes in their party from balking to him. With the rise of the "New Democrats" and the centrist policies of President Clinton and Gore, the Democrats have slowly but surely alienated the liberal base of the party.

These votes have embraced Ralph Nader, and not because they believe Gore and Bush are the exact same candidate. There are obvious differences between the candidates on many issues, especially social policy (abortion, gay rights and affirmative action). Instead, these voters feel that the entire democratic process in the United States is a sham, that the vast amounts of money that corporations are pouring into political campaigns are corrupting democracy, and that both parties simply ignore the problem.

And while his supporters did not reach the 5 percent necessary to gain federal funding, Nader showed that there is a significant proportion of Americans who feel that the democratic system has abandoned them. If these 90,000 votes did indeed cause the election to tilt to Bush, Democrats must look within their own party and reevaluate their direction.

As Nader defiantly said the morning after the election, "I did not cost Al Gore this election. Al Gore cost Al Gore this election." We agree.

—University Wire

Letters

Ballet problems consequences of officials' neglect

The butterfly ballet has a design flaw and is as patient defective as the Firestone tire.

The butterfly ballet and its consequences are a result of incompetence and negligence on behalf of our elected officials. I recommend that a "class action-specific performance law suit" be filed against Gov. Jeb Bush, et al., charging him and others with failing to perform their oath of office.

Specifically: failing to provide "specific policy," "specific budget" and/or a "specific legal defense fund" for the purpose of effectively and deliberately "upholding, preserving and defending" the United States Constitution. However, there are budgets, policy, equipment, staff and moneys, "specifically" for infrastructure, economics, agriculture, recreation, education, etc.

All of these latter responsibilities are

of lesser import and antecedent to the defense of the United States Constitution as is evidenced by the solenomy and ceremony attendant to "oath of office."

Yet virtually across the board in every city, state, county, etc., there has been such a long "history of negligence" in this regard as to have become a "tradition of negligence." This is the very reason we have such an antiquated and cavalier federal electoral process which has allowed 19,000 voters to be summarily disenfranchised. And to add insult to injury, "the public servants" behave instead like tyrannical "public sovereigns" and prevaricate the blame upon the trusting electorate.

It is my opinion that the "root cause" of this comes not so much from purposeful intent but for confusing the "familiar" with the necessary.

Daniel P. Quinn
St. Petersburg

Crow's Nest

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Crow's Nest
Nov 22 — Dec. 5, 2000

Hank Barry. Faceless bureaucrats and soulless lawyers have turned a once proud and defiant company into a whimpering sellout.

I am referring, of course, to Napster's recent agreement with the European publishing conglomerate Bertelsmann AG. Bertelsmann owns BMG Records, which in turn represents a broad range of clients, including Christina Aguilera and Dave Matthews. Under this agreement, Napster will start charging a monthly subscription fee. Most of the profits will go back to the record companies and artists that own the copyrights, with Napster keeping any extra income. Bertelsmann has also agreed to lend Napster a substantial amount of money and, in turn, will receive an option to buy a large stake in the music-sharing service.

Napster was forced to choose between its founding principles of open and free distribution of music and its desire, as a business, to make a profit. The once renegade file-sharing company that we have all grown to love did indeed have business demands that necessitated some type of compromise. Years of litigation over copyright violations, no real revenue sources, and its status as a corporate pariah had slowly sapped the soul and the will of the rebellious Internet start-up. So Napster abandoned its principles and sold itself, quite literally in stock options, to BMG, its former arch-enemy.

The transaction immediately earned the ire of music socialists who believe that music should be inherently free and that record companies are evil monopolists, right up there with tobacco and gun manufacturers. Napster user PunkFrocker56 posted one such insight.

Napster sold its soul and saved itself with fee deal

By AARON PAGE
Cornell Daily Sun
Cornell University

The Napster revolution is dead. The vision of founder Shawn Fanning has been supplanted by the pontificating corporate bull... of men like Napster CEO Hank Barry. Faceless bureaucrats and soulless lawyers have turned a once proud and defiant company into a whimpering sellout.

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See SOUL, Page 6

Crow's Nest
Nov 22 — Dec. 5, 2000
SG press sows seeds for Greek clubs here

By AARON QUINN
Of the Crow’s Nest

Fraternities and sororities might soon take residence at USF-St. Petersburg now that the first and second-year student population is expected to grow into the thousands.

Just one year ago, only 150 underclassmen were enrolled in courses at USF-St. Petersburg. Starting this fall, those numbers more than doubled and is expected to grow steadily for at least the next five years. Students’ expectations are changing with the traditionally-aged students, and college life is among their concerns.

“Fraternities and sororities are part of the college life to many people,” said Student Government President Clayton Tieman.

He proposed the idea of creating a local chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE), and has met with university staff to propose the idea.

“So far I have had a lot of support from the university,” said Tieman. “It might take some time to work out the details since this is a new thing for our campus, though.”

Large universities with fraternities and sororities typically have a staff of advisers that assist in event planning, internal organization and university relations. For a campus such as Bayboro, however, a staff and supporting crew for Greek affairs is unlikely.

“They have to deal with fewer students,” said Tieman. “It’s not likely that we’ll need a lot of overseeing if we keep the organization small enough.”

Tieman says that 30 to 40 people are interested in joining TKE, and would like to form the organization as soon as possible.

Not everyone is openly supportive of the Greek system, though. “Don’t get me wrong, I like the idea,” said Christine Kelsey, student government treasurer, “but there are issues among women when it comes to fraternities.”

These are issues of alcohol, drugs and rape with fraternities, Kelsey said. However, Kelsey, who is a non-tradition-age student, said that if she were a typical freshman or sophomore she would consider joining a sorority.

Tieman addressed classrooms around the campus while conducting a survey to determine student support. He found that approximately two out of three students support the idea of having a Greek system. “It’s part of the college experience,” he said. “And besides, it’s not all about drinking and parties.”

Referring to TKE’s national fraternity platform, Tieman said that the national fraternity expects its sub-chapters to participate in community service and other activities beneficial to university and non-university communities.

“Sure, we’ll have parties, people will drink, but we’ll also be helping St. Petersburg’s elderly and other people in need,” said Tieman.

Friendship and brotherhood are components that all fraternities claim to promote. “There are people around this campus that I see almost everyday that sit by themselves and do very little socially. If that’s what they want, fine. But, we’ll give them a chance to be among friends,” Tieman said.

Tieman’s idea to start a fraternity came from the University of Florida’s TKE chapter. After spending a weekend with his friends and their fraternity brothers in Gainesville, he realized that partying was secondary to character building.

“There was a [fraternity] brother who was very shy, but without the fraternity he would just have been another guy sitting on campus alone,” said Tieman. His “brothers” claimed that his confidence had grown tremendously since joining the fraternity, Tieman added.

“Fraternities will be open to all races, ethnicities and whatever,” said Tieman. “Too many times I see all of the black students with other black students, and all of the white students with white students. I want to break down the barrier.”

Although plans are in the making, there is still one paramount concern: USF-St. Petersburg is a commuting campus. “I’ve already been scouting for a house for the fraternity if everything works out,” said Tieman. “We don’t need campus residency to have a strong system.”

**Upcoming activities on the St. Petersburg campus:**

22
- Student Government meeting, 4:30 p.m., CAC 133
23 - 24
- THANKSGIVING - Holiday
  - Library closed
  - Pool and waterfront closed
27
- COMMENCEMENT TICKETS AVAILABLE - CAC
28
- Student Accounting and Business Organization meeting, 4:30 p.m., COQ 206A
- Resume writing and interviewing skills workshop, 5-6 p.m., CCC
29-12/1
- Conference on Bio-Terrorism, JUA.
29
- Student Government executive meeting, 4:30 p.m., SG office

**DECEMBER**

1
- World AIDS Day
- Choosing a major and career workshop, 2-4 p.m., CCC
- Sail Club meeting, 5:30 p.m., Bayside Cafe
3
- DEADLINE TO PICK UP COMMENCEMENT TICKETS - CAC
4
- Student Affairs division meeting, 1 p.m., CAC 133
- Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association, 4

**Campus Calendar**

**Multicultural concert**

**Nov. 28**

**The Spittin’ Out Sunshine Tour**

11:30-2:30
Harborside

Good luck on finals.
Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Nov. 22 - Dec. 5, 2000
Crow’s Nest
Albert Whitted proposes longer runways

By MELANIE BARAT
Contributing Writer

St. Petersburg's only downtown airport wants to lengthen its runways. Albert Whitted Municipal Airport is seeking to extend the length of its approaches by as much as 210 feet.

Airport director Monty Burgess said the extensions are necessary in order to meet Federal Aviation Administration standards. "Currently, three of the four approach ends are over water," Burgess said, "and do not meet the existing standards set by the FAA. However, waivers have been obtained, which allows the airport to continue to operate."

The FAA requires an extension beyond the end of the runway for a runway protection zone, according to Kathleen Bergen, public affairs manager for the FAA's southern region. "The size of the protection zone varies depending on the size of the runway and aircraft," she said.

The size of the protection zone required for Albert Whitted is 240 feet, according to Burgess. Currently, three of the four runways fall far short of that requirement. "Right now there is a little over 100 feet on one runway, with only 80 feet and 50 feet on the other two," Burgess said.

The airport is located on the eastern edge of the USF-St. Petersburg campus, and airplanes often fly low over campus buildings as they land or take off from the airport. However, the campus is not expected to be adversely affected by the plans if approved.

"We expect that there is going to be a natural growth in the air traffic, however we don't expect the types and sizes of the aircraft to change unless technology changes," Burgess said.

Primarily general aviation aircraft and small helicopters utilize the airport. "In fact it is intended to make the airport safer for the surrounding community," he said. "In addition, the airport has a positive economic impact on the community, contributing between $23 million to $33 million per year depending on the developments going on."

The airport recently finished a $4.2 million construction project for 48 new hangars, taxiway improvement and field drainage improvement.

St. Petersburg city council, Florida Department of Transportation and the FAA must approve the proposal.

The plans may be submitted as early as the first quarter of 2001, Burgess said. Any concerns about the proposal should be submitted to the FAA.

"If any airport wants to update its master plan, it has to undergo an extensive environmental assessment," Bergen said. "Twenty-three different areas are taken into consideration, including noise and safety of surrounding buildings."

Marine researchers put to sea to investigate mysteries of toxic red tide blooms in Florida

By KRISTIN THOMS
Contributing Writer

Scientists from Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) headed south earlier this month to collect samples from a bloom of toxic red tide algae in Charlotte Harbor.

The scientists are part of a program called Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms in Florida (ECOHAB), which works to further understand the physiology, ecology, and biology of harmful algal species, said Dr. Gabriel Vargo, a marine science professor at USF.

After collecting surface and bottom samples, "the scientists will look for relationships between the physical oceanography and chemical properties of the water, and study the basic physiology of the blooms," Vargo said. "Gymnodinium breve has been studied for over 50 years, and we still don't have a clear understanding of how the blooms occur."

ECOHAB is going into its fourth year of red tide research, and will continue to provide monthly surveys of the coastal waters between Tampa Bay and Charlotte Harbor. "This is the third large bloom in our study area this year," Vargo said. Blooms have occurred in this area every year for more than 25 years.

Red tide is caused by a higher-than-normal concentration of Gymnodinium breve, a microscopic algae that releases a toxin deadly to fish and other marine life. It also causes respiratory discomfort in humans.

Questions surrounding red tide blooms have puzzled researchers for years. Blooms usually occur in the late summer and early fall, but they have also occurred every month of the year.

The highest concentrations of red tide usually occur September through December, and lower concentrations are found May through July," said Jay Abbot, a volunteer offshore monitoring coordina­tor for FMRI.

Although the algae has become known as the "Florida Gulf Coast red tide organism," it also has been found on Florida's east coast, as well as Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Mexico and the Carolinas. Scientists never know exactly when or where a bloom will occur.

Red tides have been a part of Florida's history for hundreds of years, and scientists are unsure if they will ever be able to control or eradicate red tide blooms. Furthermore, scientists do not fully understand the role these blooms play in the Gulf Coast ecosystem.

"I am not sure if we should ever try to control it. It may be that red tides and other harmful algal blooms have a forest fire effect. That is, maybe they do some good by cleansing the environment and letting new things move in," said Lizz Singh, an ECOHAB scientist at FMRI. "It is unknown what would happen if we eliminate red tides, and it's possible that the effects would not be favorable."

Tips help riders stay safe on bus

By OFFICER JOHN SPICUGLIA
Contributing Writer

When riding on public transportation, you need to stay alert and use common sense precautions. Here are some safety tips designed to make your trip safe and enjoyable:

• Avoid a seat near the door. A thief may try to grab jewelry or personal items and then exit quickly.

• Never doze off or become engrossed in a book. You may seem like an easy target.

• Never leave personal items on an empty seat. Keep purses, shopping bags, backpacks, laptops and other items in your lap, on your arm or between your feet.

• Avoid displaying expensive looking watches or jewelry.

• Passengers who are noisy, arguing or causing a commotion may be trying to cause a disturbance so an accomplice can steal your property.

• Always pay attention to the other passengers. If you feel uneasy or threatened, change seats and alert the driver.

• Avoid overly crowded buses or trains if at all possible.

• If you have any questions for the university police, call 555-1140 and leave a message for Officer John Spicuglia.

Crow's Nest

Nov. 22 – Dec. 5, 2000
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Met unveils new opera season

Two broadcast premiers and three new offerings mark the season opening of the Metropolitan Opera which begins Dec. 9 on WUSF-FM.

Ferruccio Busoni’s “Doktor Faust” on Jan. 20 and Sergei Prokofiev’s “The Gambler” on March 31 will receive their Met radio broadcast premiers.

New productions include Ludwig van Beethoven’s “Fidelio” on Jan. 6 and Giuseppe Verdi’s “I Trovatore” on Jan. 13 and “Nabucco” on March 24.

In addition, “Aida” will be performed on Jan. 27 to mark the 100th anniversary of Verdi’s death.

JUNKIE

from Page 2

I don’t care which one it is — know­ ing that it will be legal for me to down­ load my secret pleasures is well worth the 

I want to be assured that I can listen to Britney and Christina without having to worry about being spotted with their CDs at Best Buy.

I want to download Gavin Rosdale’s banter with an audience in Seattle. I want the Boston Pops version of “Rhapsody in Blue.”

I want a live recording of both ver­ sions of the new Off-Broadway/

Broadway production of “The Wild Party.” I want, no, I NEED the Mr. T song.

Most of all, I want to know that Metallica bad boy Lars Ulrich isn’t going to be dragging my name into court and shutting down my system.

I want my right to trade music with fellow enthusiasts to be protected. I want to save money on one-hit-wonder CDs by playing them to death on my computer.

I want to make mp3’s for my friends back home.

I want to teach my dad the wonders of combining his T3 connection and Napster.

Ivy’s check’s already written. Is yours?

— University Wire

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Soul

from Page 2

on the Napster online discussion board:

"i mean, if Panning wants to be all happy with the free music, why does he go all extra sellout now? cuz he’s greedy, he just want napster to be the record compa­ ny [sic] that every artist is on, so he got cash flowin’ out his ears fannin’ you suck with a passion." Word for word, I couldn’t have phrased it better myself — those socialists are truly eloquent writers ....

Yet those who point to the deal as a clear victory for Napster and Bertelsmann are tragically mistaken. To begin with, the newly formed consortium is going to find it rather difficult to demand money for something that was previously free. Napster users defend their free music with a fervor matched only by the relationship of IRL students to their free printing in Ivy. Thirty-eight million Napster users and an entire genera­tion of music lovers have gotten accustomed to not paying for music. They are not going to hand over $20 a month easily.

Napster also risks losing one of its most important sources of competitive advantage. As part of the agreement with the music companies, Napster also has to centralize its distribution system and store copyrighted materials on servers, which will be controlled by the music groups. This would eliminate the current peer-to-peer networking system, under which users download songs directly from other Napster users. Such an action would destroy the fragile sense of com­ munity between music pirates that accounts for so much of the company’s popularity.

It will also preclude users from tak­ing advantage of the diverse volume of MP3s that currently is available. By giv­ing the corporate Big Five music groups — BMG, Sony, Universal, EMI and Warner Music Group — an opportunity to control the content of music program­ ming, the availability of esoteric music will naturally decrease. For example, you can currently download MP3s ranging from the London Philharmonic playing the "Isreali National Anthem" to the Indigo Girls singing "All Along the Watchtower." Though it is doubtful that anybody has such bad music taste as to actually consider downloading the Indigo Girls, it does speak to the variety of music available online. If the Napster deal goes through, the corporate music complex will move to standardize the content, while also working to reassume control over new artists and to revive their powers of monopoly.

And finally, this deal is dependent on the shaky assumption that Bertelsmann will be able to use its posi­

force to the other four main record labels to reach an accord as well. Without such an agreement, Napster will be put in the awkward position of having to estab­ lish a double standard for MP3s from BMG records. In what could best be described as a technological nightmare, Napster would have to remove only BMG MP3s from illegal distribution and set up a separate service that will offer them only to paying customers. The other companies could also set up rival sites of their own, creating anarchistic condi­ tions, as users would be forced to pay subscriptions to numerous sites just to get music from different producers.

But whatever scenario ensues, it is painful­ly obvious that the era of maver­

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Bertelsmann executives have already asked Napster to send a letter of apology to Metallica — a symbol of how much things have changed. The rugged individual­

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tion. Though undoubtedly an inevitable occurrence, it’s still sad to see it happen.

And by the way, if anybody out there has figured out GnuCutter, drop me a message and let me know .... I might have to start using it soon.

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Download the complete text.
Grad students unions close study

(U-WIRE) DURHAM, N.C. - While most scholars don't usually consider themselves laborers, a trend of unionization among graduate student employees has taken hold at many of the nation's universities.

After a recent ruling by the National Labor Relations Board that gave students at private schools the right to unionize, a number of graduate students -- although not many at Duke University -- have begun to examine the benefits of forming collective bargaining units. And New York University's graduate students last week confirmed the positive results of their own vote to unionize. Meanwhile, many public institutions have had the right to form unions for more than two decades.

The most recent ruling has re-energized the collective bargaining debate at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, where last week, 96 percent of graduate students voted to unionize.

The vote will allow students at UMass-Boston to form their own branch of the Graduate Employee Organization, an affiliate of the United Auto Workers. The UAW already represents students at two other universities in Massachusetts.

"UMass-Boston wants to be more on the forefront of this trend," said UAW organizer Lisa Davis. "This was greatly needed. We believe students, research assistants and graduate assistants) at the universities already under GEO receive higher stipends, a decreased curriculum fee and access to health and dental care."

While benefits to students in Massachusetts have gone up, university officials across the nation said unionization has had mixed results. Joseph Childers, assistant dean of graduate school at the University of California at Riverside, said the unions have only caused problems at his school.

"The union has formalized relationships between faculty and graduate students," he said. "In many cases, graduate students are supervised by their faculty mentors, which has put the faculty into the management -- which is an uncomfortable working relationship that lessens collegiality ... I hope that we will be able to get around those issues and not damage the culture of the university by these kinds of work rules and demands," he said.

The University of Kansas instituted a union two years ago, and both grad students and administrators said unionization has caused a disruption in their relationships. But both groups agreed that unionization is one of the few ways grad students can receive proper wages and benefits.

"A union is like a strange bird at a university. It brings a level of bureaucracy between (graduate teaching assistants) and administrators and makes things more formal," said Jeanette Johnston, KU assistant to the provost. "Before the institution of the union, students would not have been able to bargain for what they probably deserve. It has made them eligible for health care and kept the individual departments, who pay their own graduate students, from squirrelling their money away for other purposes."

Students at KU agreed, noting their gains since organizing a collective bargaining unit.

It has hurt relationships with the administration but only because they take such a very cost-benefit analysis and think that the union costs them more money," said sociology graduate student Ophra Lpyer, president of the Graduate Teaching Assistants Coalition at KU. "But the contract is very beneficial."

The debate over graduate student employment is far from over. Members of Duke's Graduate and Professional Student Council voted overwhelmingly last week to endorse the NRLB decision, but stopped short of endorsing a union at Duke. It is, however, an issue that may surface again.

"This is definitely a trend things are taking especially with the NRLB vote," Davis said. "In the future we will see many more union organizations at both public and private universities."

The survey found that:

- Colleges vary wildly in the extent to which their students are involved in effective educational practices.
- Liberal arts colleges, as a group, scored higher than all other types of colleges in every area of effective practice that is measured.
- Similar kinds of colleges vary in their performance. For example, while many small colleges provide very engaging environments, many other small colleges do not.
- Colleges tend to be strong in particular areas rather than across the board. Of all the colleges and universities participating in the survey, only four scored in the top 20 percent on all five benchmarks.
- "Looking across all the benchmarks to see how students are performing," said Indiana University professor George Kah, director of the NSSE project, "most fourth-year and senior colleges and universities have plenty of room to improve. The good news is that the new NSSE survey allows us to take stock of our performance and measure our progress."
- The report features both promising and disappointing findings:
  - Most students, 79 percent, say that their institution expects them to study a significant amount. Few students actually meet this expectation. Less than 15 percent come close to following the long-established convention of studying two hours outside class for every hour in class.
  - More than half -- 55 percent -- spend only one hour or less for every class hour.
  - Sixty-three percent of seniors participating in community service or did volunteer work. More than two-fifths, 41 percent, were involved in a community-based project as part of a regular course.
  - Some 19 percent of first-year students "never" made a class presentation and 46 percent "never" discussed reading or ideas with a faculty member outside class.
  - More than 45 percent of first-year and senior students reported they "often" or "very often" had serious conversations with students of a different racial or ethnic group.
  - The development of NSSE is a first step toward opening the "black box" of higher education," observed Lee Shulman, president of The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, who co-sponsored the survey. "NSSE illuminates what students actually undertake and experience during their college years."

NSSE is co-sponsored by the Pew Forum on Undergraduate Learning and The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

"NSSE 2000" is the first of what is intended to be an annual survey of college quality and is being written by a $5.3 million grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts to Indiana University. The NSSE project also maintains a website: www.indiana.edu/~nssse.

'The survey found that...'

Survey finds wide differences in similar universities

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (PR Newswire) -- The first national survey to determine what colleges and universities contribute to student learning was released Nov. 14.

Titled the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), the report summarizes the views of 63,000 first-year and senior students at 274 four-year colleges and universities about the extent to which they participate in classroom and campus activities that research studies show are important for student learning.

The survey presents a different picture of college quality from that provided by some national newsmagazines, which rate colleges largely on the basis of the resources they have accumulated and the reputations they enjoy.

The survey focuses on whether schools are using their resources to truly help students learn and get the most out of college.

The results of the student survey provide the first set of comparative standards for determining how effectively colleges are contributing to learning. These benchmarks are: the level of academic challenge; active and collaborative learning; student-faculty interactions; enriching educational experiences; and supportive campus environments.

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By WU XIA
Contributing Writer

It was after 10 p.m. when the singing contest ended at the Special Events Center at USF-Tampa. Even so, on the night of Sept. 15, a group of Chinese USF students and scholars went to a student’s apartment to continue their Moon Festival celebration.

The hostess greeted them with a traditional Moon Festival feast: steamed crabs, grapes and apples. The main course was moon cakes, large pies made of flour, yogurt and dates.

Like Americans at Thanksgiving, Chinese celebrate their own harvest festival, the Mid-Autumn Festival. The Chinese call it the Moon Festival, because the moon is at its fullest shape of the year, and symbolizes a unified family to Chinese people.

Many of the young Chinese students at the party were single, excited about their new life in the U.S. They danced, chatted loudly, drank and played drinking table games with one another. For a few at the party, however, the celebration was filled with ironies.

At this traditional time to observe family togetherness, Liu Yonggang found his family spread far away across the Pacific Ocean in Hiroshima, Japan, and she had just found out she was pregnant.

Liu and Yuan, 29, married in January, three years after they met. His wife, Yuan Zhou, is a first-year doctoral student in the environmental science department at Hiroshima University. In their nine-month marriage, Yuan has been away in Japan only three times: on their wedding during the winter break, on her two-week spring break, and the last time in July. Shortly before Liu departed China for the United States.

Three weeks after Liu arrived at St. Petersburg, Yuan called to tell him that they would be expecting their first child in April 2001.

First overwhelmed with joy, Liu soon began to worry about his strong-willed wife. Yuan being the biological disorders of pregnancy alone, and didn’t want to take a break from her heavy load of courses. Both Liu and Yuan are excellent students. Liu received the Von Rosenstiel Fellowship in the college of marine science. Likewise, Yuan was granted a three-year scholarship at Hiroshima, without which she could not finish her education. Liu said Yuan considered taking a six-month leave so she could have the baby in China, but she wasn’t sure she could retain her scholarship. Taking the leave might mean postponing her doctoral degree for a few years. Liu said he would pay full respect to whatever decision his wife made. But his consideration for now is to bring his family together as soon as possible, to have his wife well taken care of, and to provide the coming child with a healthy, happy and complete family.

Liu said that if Yuan decided to stay in Japan, he would not be with his wife during her entire pregnancy, and most probably would miss his child’s birth next year. He didn’t want to quit his studies either, but neither could he afford frequent visits to Japan on his $12,000 annual assistant- ship. But he would try to visit both of them on summer break next year.

“I believe many fellow Chinese students are trying hard to balance between tradition and reality,” said a Chinese software engineer who asked not to be identified. At the party, he was concerned not with a wife or child, but with his parents.

“The choice of staying in the United States is the choice of another way of life,” he said. “On the one hand, I still adhere to Chinese tradition; on the other hand, the reality here has already changed my life style and point of view. It means a choice to me, but a sacrifice to my parents.”

He came to the United States in 1991, and visited his family in China once, in 1995. For his parents, their utmost happiness comes from having children around and all their family members together. With their older son living far away from China, the family could never be a complete one.

A sense of responsibility to family members is deeply rooted in Chinese culture. This responsibility entails supporting and taking care of parents once they retire or become sick, as well as raising and supporting children until they marry. In return, the elderly parents provide daily care of grandchildren. If a senior Chinese citizen were to live on Social Security and stay in assisted housing, people would assume either that the person did not have any offspring or that his or her children were not paying their “filial piety.” It is considered disgraceful not to be dutiful to one’s parents.

To maintain this family tradition is never an easy task for Chinese students who study outside the country. They cannot be physical- ly present and serve their parents on a regular basis. They also face personal pressures from work, study, and the complications of living in a foreign environment.

The engineer said there was a reason why he had not returned home more often. “I was then still a student and always felt like I was in the middle of the road to my destiny.”

In the 1980s and early ’90s, August, his parents finally came to Tampa to join him. “We have had this idea of living together in the United States for a long time,” the engineer said.

However, the engineer’s parents have had difficulty adjusting to American life style. He said his parents have found cultural differences here too much of a challenge. On Nov. 9 they returned to China to live with their younger son’s family.

Meanwhile, Liu and his wife Yuan are still not decided about their plans.

Liu said they have already changed their minds twice. He has sent the I-20 immigration application form to Yuan. Yuan’s parents objected to the idea of their daughter traveling to this country. So the couple has come back to their original idea. Yuan will keep looking until shortly before her due date, return to China to give birth, and let her parents take care of the child. Yuan has yet to reach any agreement with Hiroshima University about her scholarship, which would be canceled once she took maternity leave.

Today, men and women in their early twenties are a large segment of Chinese students studying abroad. Their situations are much better than their fore­ runners. With a lot of exposure to the West and more language training at school before going abroad, they don’t have as much difficulty in overcoming culture shock. They also have benefited from established Chinese communities around the U.S.

Their families in China are much better off too. That’s why more and more Chinese students can be seen going abroad even during their high school or mid­ dle school years, sponsored by parental immigration.

So for many of the students celebrating the Moon Festival that evening, they probably didn’t have a heavy family load of concerns. Their lives were like the banquet spread out before them that evening: a time of happiness and togetherness to be tasted and enjoyed. Yet the evening was not without its reminders that there is nothing like being together with the family, and that nothing could substitute for the sweet memories of all the Moon Festivals back home.

—Wu Xia is an international student from Beijing, China. She is a graduate student in the journalism studies program at USF-St. Petersburg.

Nov. 22 – Dec. 5, 2000

Crows’ Nest