2-21-2001

Crow's Nest : 2001 : 02 : 21

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/crows_nest

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/crows_nest/298

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University History: Campus Publications at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Crow's Nest by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.
Bill: ‘Best of both worlds’ for USF

By M.E. BAKER
Editor

Suspense surrounding the future of USF-St. Petersburg ended Friday, Feb. 16, when influential Pinellas legislators announced that they want to make the campus autonomous while keeping it within the USF system.

In an outdoor news conference overlooking Bayboro Harbor, state senators James Sebesta and Don Sullivan announced that they will introduce a bill next month which will give the St. Petersburg campus freedom to write its own budget and create its own academic programs while remaining affiliated with the Tampa campus.

The bill will be sponsored in the House by Rep. Frank Parkas. Parkas, USF President Judy Genshaft and Vice President William Heller also took part in the event.

In announcing the bill, Sebesta noted that discussions had been going on for several months about whether to sever the St. Petersburg into an independent university. The effort had centered on trying to "blend the best of two worlds, to keep this a part of the University of South Florida and to address many of the problems that this campus has had over the last few years."

"I truly believed that this campus should stay a part of USF," he said. "A degree from USF today is very valuable. A degree from USF in the future will be invaluable."

The bill would:

• Make USF St. Petersburg an organizationally and fiscally autonomous campus, with a budget prepared by local campus administrators. Genshaft would review this separate budget before submitting the complete USF request to the Legislature.

Although Genshaft will still review the St. Petersburg campus' budget request, Sebesta said that "we will be going directly to Tallahassee for our operating budget and for our capital expenditures."

• Mandate that the university seek separate accreditation for the St. Petersburg campus. Commenting later See AUTONOMY, Page 6

Universities part of solution for water conservation woes

By JAY WILKE
Of the Crow's Nest

Universities can help to seek long-term answers to water conservation problems, a former United States senator told a packed house Feb. 17 at a forum on water-related issues.

With his trademark bow tie, Paul Simon, a former U.S. senator from Illinois, was the featured guest at the forum, held at the Campus Activities Center.

His speech addressed serious water conservation issues that can become explosive. Water conservation is a "situation that can become grim and will become grim," Simon said. With the world population rising rapidly and the water supply of the world remaining level, we are in for some serious problems, Simon told the audience. "There is no substitute for water," Simon said.

Simon lauded Florida, the Tampa Bay area and USF for making strides in water conservation. "You have done more than any other state," he said. Desalination is an area where more work needs to be done, Simon said. USF is a leader in desalination.

The government needs to spend more money on developing desalination technology, he said, offering to try and "line up some votes" for USF President Judy Genshaft to lobby Washington for funding.

Simon urged the audience to do the "little things" that make a difference and to motivate public officials to do something about water conservation. Writing letters to congressmen can help to sway legislators, he said. "I want you to change history positively," Simon said.

The water forum kicked off the celebration for Genshaft's inauguration as sixth president of the university. "It is only fitting that we start at the St. Pete campus," Genshaft told the audience in her introductory remarks. She reiterated USF's commitment to water conservation. "We are facing a crisis in our state when it comes to water," Genshaft said. The president emphasized that she valued the fact that her first interdisciplinary conference at USF concerned water and water resources.

The forum focused on several See FORUM, Page 5
Television shows getting a little too 'real'

By JAY WILKE
Of the Crow's Nest

The current glut of highly rated reality shows that are clogging up our television sets are starting to bother me. I hate 'reality television.' I really, really hate reality television.

I remember back in my high school days when a show called the "Real World" debuted on MTV much to the delight of teenagers everywhere. The stuff made me sick at first glance. (Oh look, Johnny stole the toothpaste again.... We should all sit around in front of the camera and talk about it.) My life is enough like a "Melrose Place" soap opera as it is. I have about all of the real-life drama that I can stand, and I don't need to watch it on television.

Here in 2001, we are literally inundated with all of these reality shows. We have "Survivor," "Big Brother," "The Mole," "Road Rules," and the rib-so­
subtle "Temptation Island." Have we really sunk this low? Did we finally just run out of good ideas for televi­
sion shows? Maybe Hollywood just got tired of paying real actors. The actor's strike is just around the cor­
ner, and if untalented hacks can draw ratings, why not use them?

The sad truth to all of this is that people actually watch this stuff (although not too many will admit to it). The ratings are enormous, and more of these types of shows are in the works. "Survivor" even beat the still-funny "Friends" in the ratings during their much­
vaunted head-to-head political campaign on Thursdays.

How did this happen?

What is the point of "reality" programming any­
way? When I turn on the television, I don't want to see reality. Reality sucks. It is cold, cruel, merciless and often boring.

I turn on the television to be taken away from the real world. I want to be entertained by actors and actresses who are excellent at their craft; I want to watch things that don't happen in real life. I want to watch Buffy the Vampire Slayer kill a hundred demons and then curl up on the couch with her vampire boyfriend. I want to watch Alyssa Milano and Shannon Doherty use their special witch powers to destroy the forces of evil. I have no desire to watch real-life idiots trying to log camera time, eat bugs, compete for food and vote each other off of an island.

I have a great idea for a reality show: Gather up all the cast members of the "Real World," "Road Rules," "Survivor," "Temptation Island," and "Big Brother." Take all of these camera-hogging prima donnas, smear them with blood and throw them all into the Shark Encounter at Sea World in Orlando. Now that is a show that I could tune in to.

Mommy's studying: juggling books and kids

This is the first of a series of articles about the difficulties of getting a college education while raising children. The author raised six children by herself for several years before recently remarrying. We welcome all com­
ments about the series, as well as sugges­tions for columns/topics. — EDITOR

By RACHEL ALEXANDER
Contributing Writer

The beautiful night skyline reflects city lights and moon into the still bay. It is late, and I'm tired after a long day at school. Time goes by as I sit alone in a half­
away. I am embarrassed as I explain to a tollbooth collector that my driver's side window is broken because my car's elec­
trical system is going. With only 15 cents to spare, I squeeze the bridge toll through the crack. The window will go neither up nor down, and the door handle no longer opens the driver's side.

Spouse 'warfare' may be encouraged by professionals

Who is really the victim? I contend that it is not as clear as it may seem.

Spouses wage psychological warfare against each other. They use family mem­
bers, coworkers, children and even pets as pawns and or cannon fodder. They play upon and viciously exploit the most ini­
mate knowledge they have about each other's insecurities and weaknesses. Many spouses ruthlessly and with horrific malice join cunning subterfuges to chip away at the self esteem and financial resources of each other with the primary objective being, to bring about total per­
onality disintegration of the other so as to render him or her defenseless.

The most common objective for one of the partners is to incite the other partner to an (exact measure) of anger which will not result in serious physical injury but will be sufficient enough to "legally"

remove the offending partner from the shared residence, keep the offending part­
der from them and the children and create a serious prejudice against the offending spouse which is so damaging that if a divorce proceeding should transpose the offending spouse's credibility by this time is so severely damaged as to have the effect upon them (equal to) being denied of all and any ability to defend themselves in a court of law as though all their civil liberties were swept away by a tornado.

I am inclined to believe that this "bat­
tery strategy" is encouraged by and even orchestrated by many professionals. I would like to see the press investigate this phenomenon. This is "news" which has been under the carpet for a long time.

Daniel P. Quinn
St. Petersburg
quinn@gts.net

Crow's Nest

The student-sponsored newspaper of the St. Petersburg campus of the University of South Florida.

Published every other Wednesday during the semester.

EDITOR
M.E. "Buddy" Baker

COPY EDITOR
Lauren Anzalado

STAFF WRITERS
Chris Curry
Jay Wilke

PHOTO EDITOR
Aaron Quinn

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Doug White

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Roch Alexander
Lori Grayson
Krista Reiner
Aaron Thomas

FACULTY ADVISOR
G. Michael Killenberg

Crow's Nest

Feb. 21 — March 6, 2001
Scribbles raise writer from poverty’s ashes

By AARON QUINN
Contributing Writer

Hand-written notes produced over the course of nearly three decades shaped a work that won awards, fame and the hearts of millions of readers for Frank McCourt.

On Thursday, Feb. 1, McCourt, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of “Angela’s Ashes,” spoke during the first day of the 29th Suncoast Writer’s Conference at USF - St.Petersburg. McCourt was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1930 and at age 4 moved to his family’s native Ireland with his parents and brother.

Notebooks full of “scribblings” from McCourt’s destitute youth in Ireland continued to build little by little while McCourt taught high school in New York City. “I’d keep notes in the left column and write the story on the right,” he said.

During lunch breaks, ferry rides from work to home and other downtime, McCourt recorded the defining moments of his life in Limerick, Ireland, most of which were cheerless. In 1994, the notes, compiled over most of his 27-year teaching tenure, became a completed memoir—“Angela’s Ashes,” finished after McCourt’s retirement from teaching. Twenty-seven thousand books were published in the first run of “Angela’s Ashes.” “I hoped that I could see them in bookstores someday,” he said.

The first group sold quickly and as a result placed McCourt on the New York Times’ Best Seller list. From there sales skyrocketed and he earned a Pulitzer Prize.

McCourt noted that spending his life teaching was a foundation for his development as a writer. “I was always learning,” he said. Teaching English for so long, McCourt encountered many students. “The American teenager,” he said, “is a warrior.”

Facing kids everyday was a daunting task, according to McCourt. “They’re not your friends,” he said, half-joking. “They’re your enemies. They try and kill the old.”

Using the Irish wit that won him acclaim as a writer, McCourt described that his role as a teacher is likened to a much higher position.

“As a teacher, McCourt said, students think of you as the ‘man,’ the principal, the mayor and even God. I’d tell them, ‘I am God,’” he smiled.

McCourt also spoke of honesty in teaching. “Kids always expect answers, and at first, when I didn’t have an answer, I’d lie,” he laughed. It took him 15 years to learn how to teach, he said, and after his enlightenment, he decided that he’d rather tell the truth. “When I didn’t know an answer, I decided to tell them I don’t know,” McCourt said.

“The truth works much better.”

The range of student talent in New York varied greatly, he said. One memory from a New York vocational school involved high-school girls who studied cosmetology. He had to ask what cosmetology is, he said.

The girls remarked how his hair and nails were a mess. “They offered to ‘do me,’” he said, referring to what is now known as a makeover. “One thing that I refused,” he professed, “was to be done.”

Writing “Angela’s Ashes” doesn’t present the same difficulties as teaching, but it’s no easy task, either, said McCourt. “Writing helped me discover my demons,” he said. “You have to dig, dig, dig.”

Despite his success, McCourt wasn’t always confident in the potential for his book to sell. While developing material for “Angela’s Ashes,” he spoke of his earliest memory as a child. “I was on a see-saw with my brother, and I jumped off. He landed hard and bit his tongue,” he said. “I thought to myself, would anyone want to read this.”

Apparently, yes. McCourt’s soul searching was often treacherous as he remembered the drudgery of being poor. When McCourt was a child, his alcoholic father left him, his brother and mother for England. Frank was older than his brother and attempted to be the man of the house. “We literally could have starved,” McCourt said of his father’s departure.

At 19, McCourt sailed into New York harbor and returned to residence in New York. Although life wasn’t easy, compared to Ireland, there was hope. “The stink of poverty is what I remember,” he said remembering the misery of Limerick.

McCourt manages to wrestle his strong childhood emotions by using humor to mellow his thoughts into masterful prose. McCourt and his brother joked long ago that if they traveled from New York to California and took only scraps from the hamburgers and milk dinner that “all Americans ate,” they could easily become obese; obesity was not an option in Ireland.

McCourt’s advice to writers is: “Everyone should write their own best-seller.” McCourt joked that he has a work-in-progress which is tentatively titled “Yo, Teach,” after having been referred to that way by a high-school student. “I feel lucky, he said. I didn’t think that I’d survive New York.”

McCourt is also the author of “Tis: A Memoir.” His brother Malachy is author of “A Monk Swimming.” Frank McCourt lives in New York.

Change makes Ireland of McCourt’s youth ‘hard to find these days,’ USF tour finds

By KRISTA REINER
Contributing Writer

When Rick Wilber first visited the city of Limerick, Ireland, in the late 1980s, he saw remnants of the poverty-stricken place Frank McCourt would later portray in his 1996 memoir “Angela’s Ashes.”

It was very much a third-world country,” said Wilber, a USF professor in mass communications. “It was a gloomy place, partly because of the weather, but also the sense of poverty.”

Though the damp, cloudy weather hasn’t changed, the Limerick of today is a town of great prosperity, a boom set off some years ago when Ireland joined the European Economic Union. Once one of Europe’s poorest countries with over half its college graduates leaving for better jobs overseas, Ireland is now Europe’s hottest economy, Wilber said.

Wilber has witnessed the changes in Limerick for the past several years as co-director of the USF/University of Limerick Irish Summer School in Contemporary Writing. Along with 15-20 students, many from USF, Wilber and his class spend a week in residence with 12 Irish students writing and studying literature of all forms—poetry, fiction and nonfiction—before heading off for a tour of the countryside.

This past summer, the group took a walking tour of places detailed in McCourt’s Pulitzer Prize-winning memoir. They were a bit dismayed there was even a tour because most of the sites don’t exist anymore.

The tenements and slums are gone,” Wilber said. “The Limerick of McCourt’s youth is hard to find these days.”

Some residents dispute McCourt’s version of the city in the mid-1900s altogether.

“The controversy was born within weeks of the publication . . . when immediate local reaction was to describe it as 426 pages exercising a grudge against Limerick,” writes Gerard Hannan, a 40-year Limerick resident, journalist and author of “Angela’s Ashes—Untold Stories.”

“Nowadays, some people in Limerick are utterly fed up with ‘Angela’s Ashes.’ . . . There are those who don’t believe Frank McCourt’s memoir, and those . . . who wish Angela, the Ashes and everyone else would just go away.”

Wilber encountered the mixed feelings among the people of Limerick regarding the book. “Some are delighted that (McCourt’s) brought a certain amount of fame for more than just the bawdy poetry named after him.”

Frank McCourt holds a portrait of himself presented to him by the artist, Wolf. McCourt spoke to a sell-out crowd of 500 at the opening session of the Florida Suncoast Writers Conference, which was held Feb. 1-3 at USF-St. Petersburg.

By Aaron Quinn

Photo by Aaron Quinn

Feb. 21 – March 6, 2001

Crow’s Nest
Papers add to local black history

By CHRIS CURRY
Of the Crow's Nest

Two new donations to the special collections at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library present the lives and work of two important and different figures in the history of St. Petersburg's black community.

The Norman E. Jones Papers includes the memoirs, transcripts and audiorecorded commentary of the black historian and conservative political columnist who lived and worked in this city from 1935 up to his death in 1999.

The Ernest Ayer Ponder collection contains the writings, photographs and family memorabilia of the longtime educator who was the first black teacher at Lakewood High School after integration. Ponder, who died in 1998, also served as director of the Gibbs St. Cecilia Choir.

"He enjoyed music. That was his first love," said his widow, Clara Ponder, who donated the collection. Mrs. Ponder said her husband loved teaching "because he dealt with students and not grown-ups."

KathyArsenault, the special collections librarian at Poynter and the library's acting director, said that Ponder's own family-history was tied to the history of the community. His father was known as the "Negro City Physician" and tended to health care in the black community from the 1920s until his death. Ponder's mother was a teacher who was active in civic organizations.

"His belief in integration was destroying the black community," Arsenault said. "He had some very unusual social opinions."

In 1972, Jones formed the National Black Citizens Committee for George Wallace. He drew front-page headlines in the Wall Street Journal and the criticism of a lot of civil rights activists by supporting the presidential campaign of the Alabama governor who once proclaimed "segregation forever."

"(Jones) used that national stage to talk mostly about black history and black culture," Jones Jr. said. "He'd never had a national stage like that before. He'd written in national publications, but they were exclusively black publications."

The older Jones, who wrote a syndicated column called "Let's Talk Politics" for some 20 years and hosted the Norman E. Jones Show on the old WTOG Channel 44, had some unique solutions for the problems and issues faced by the black community.

"He wanted to disband the NAACP and replace it with an economic organization, an organization with that emphasis instead of social programs," his son said. Jones Jr. also said his father firmly believed that social programs "perpetuated a state of begging for existence instead of working and going into business."

"I think my father was well-versed about politics in America," Jones Jr. said. "He knew more about it than almost anyone and explained it in his own way. He called black leaders political whores because of how they worked the black population's dilemmas without fully explaining what they were doing."

Arsenault said that, while Jones and Ponder had different beliefs and styles, they were actually very similar. "They both had a deep and passionate belief in black history. Both are committed to young people and transferring their beliefs to young people. Both were committed to social justice."

There will be a reception Feb. 25 from 3-5 p.m. to introduce the two new collections in the library's third-floor special collections area. The reception is open to all.

Campus Calendar

Upcoming activities on the St. Petersburg campus:

**FEBRUARY**

23  President Genshaft's Inauguration, 1:30 p.m., Sun Dome, Tampa campus

26  **DEADLINE FOR MID-TERM GRADES**

27  **Academic Frontiers lecture series**, 6 p.m., CAC

**MARCH**

1  USF BASKETBALL v. Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m., Sun Dome, Tampa campus

3-4  Oasis Bowl-A-Thon, Sunrise Lakes, St. Pete

5  **Academic Frontiers lecture series**, 6 p.m., CAC

6  **COC meeting**, 4 p.m., CAC 133

7  **Student Government meeting**, 4:45 p.m., CAC 133

9  **SUMMER/FALL STUDENT GOVERNMENT BUDGET REQUESTS DUE**

11  **LIBRARY CLOSED**

12-17  **SPRING BREAK**

19  **Academic Frontiers lecture series**, 6 p.m., CAC

26  **Academic Frontiers lecture series**, 6 p.m., CAC

27  **STUDENT GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE PETITIONS DUE**

29  **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS, Davis Lobby**

**APRIL**

2  **Academic Frontiers lecture series**, 6 p.m., CAC

3  **COC meeting**, 4 p.m., CAC 133

4  **Student Government meeting**, 4:45 p.m., CAC 133

7  **Easterfest, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Harbourside**

9  **Academic Frontiers lecture series**, 6 p.m., CAC

21  **Academic Frontiers lecture series**, 6 p.m., CAC

By LORI GRAYSON
Contributing Writer

USF-St. Petersburg alumnus Mary E. Scribner is helping inaugurate a new exhibit space on the third floor of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library by displaying her landscape photography.

Scribner, who got her degree in mass communications 50 years after graduating from high school, has launched a contest in conjunction with the exhibit. If a viewer can correctly guess where one of the 14 photographs was taken, that person will be awarded the picture of his or her choice from the collection.

Scribner said she keeps busy taking photographs for the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting ceremonies. The chamber has voted her "Ambassador of the Year" the past two years running. She also keeps her Realtor's license, something she originally started to pay for her hobby of flying airplanes. She is originally from Bangor, Maine.

She is a life-time member of the International Organization of Women Pilots, better known as the "Ninety-Nines."

Next month, Scribner travels to Ireland as a member of the Greater St. Petersburg Area Awesome Original Second Time Arounders to march in Dublin's St. Patrick's Day parade.

Other than the landscape photographs, Scribner has an autobiographical layout in the new exhibition space that highlights her love of airplanes, her six children and 13 grandchildren and all things related to USF-St. Petersburg.

Kathy Arsenault, the interim director of the library since July 1999, said the exhibition space would be available in the future to other campus organizations seeking to display an exhibit. However, an exhibit must be sponsored by an USF-St. Petersburg campus organization or department, and priority will be given to library-sponsored exhibits. The library director will approve scheduling and permitting of any exhibit.

School issues focus of panel discussion in lecture series

A panel of educators and attorneys will discuss school choice, vouchers, desegregation and education reform at 6 p.m., Feb. 26 at USF-St. Petersburg's Campus Activities Center.

The panel discussion, titled "Our Schools: Where Can We Go From Here?" is free and open to the public and is part of the lecture series on ethical issues in Florida's future.

The panel includes Howard Hinkle, superintendent of Pinellas County schools, Jade Moore, executive director of Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association, Kathy Walker, Pinellas schools' planning specialist for pupil assignment and zoning, Enrique Escarraz III, NAACP attorney, and Darryl E. Rousson, attorney and president-elect of the NAACP St. Petersburg branch.

The panel's moderator will be Bill Heller, vice president of USF St. Petersburg.

For more information, call 553-3458.

Campus Calendar

Upcoming activities on the St. Petersburg campus:

**FEBRUARY**

23  President Genshaft's Inauguration, 1:30 p.m., Sun Dome, Tampa campus

26  **DEADLINE FOR MID-TERM GRADES**

27  **Academic Frontiers lecture series**, 6 p.m., CAC

**MARCH**

1  USF BASKETBALL v. Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m., Sun Dome, Tampa campus

3-4  Oasis Bowl-A-Thon, Sunrise Lakes, St. Pete

5  **Academic Frontiers lecture series**, 6 p.m., CAC

6  **COC meeting**, 4 p.m., CAC 133

7  **Student Government meeting**, 4:45 p.m., CAC 133

9  **SUMMER/FALL STUDENT GOVERNMENT BUDGET REQUESTS DUE**

11  **LIBRARY CLOSED**

12-17  **SPRING BREAK**

19  **Academic Frontiers lecture series**, 6 p.m., CAC

26  **Academic Frontiers lecture series**, 6 p.m., CAC

**APRIL**

2  **Academic Frontiers lecture series**, 6 p.m., CAC

3  **COC meeting**, 4 p.m., CAC 133

4  **Student Government meeting**, 4:45 p.m., CAC 133

7  **Easterfest, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Harbourside**

9  **Academic Frontiers lecture series**, 6 p.m., CAC

Feb. 21 – March 6, 2001
Self-government vital to Native American rights

By LORI GRAYSON
Contributing Writer

The most basic of Native Americans rights, the right of self-government, must be protected in the face of legislation that would further restrict self-governance and rights of sovereignty. In most instances, Quetone said, when a law is drafted, it is an effort to restrict self-governance and rights of sovereignty. In most instances, Quetone said, when a law is drafted, it is an effort to restrict self-governance and rights of individual groups. In the '70s, he said, there were 4,000 federal acts that pertained to Native Americans alone. Quetone noted that since then, there have been several more acts drafted.

"Native American concerns are not going away," Quetone said. "We're like the cockroaches; when everybody's gone and everything's gone, we will still be here."

William Cypress, chairman of the Miccosukee Nation, spoke more philosophically than the other speakers.

"There are four types of people in this country: yellow, red, black and white," Cypress said. "The red has continued among Native Americans which is that they have to constantly search for the appropriate balance between their own laws and those of other nations," Kickingbird said during his keynote address.

Kickingbird and two other Native Americans were on campus as part of a free semester-long public lecture series called "Ethical Issues in Florida's Future." Noting that Native Americans are the most under-represented group in the legal profession (out of 925,000 attorneys in the United States, only about 2,000 are Native American), Kickingbird painted a dismal picture.

"Not only are we the most impoverished, most poorly educated and have the shortest life expectancy of any group in America, jurisdiction and funding for tribal courts have diminished, leaving many Native Americans without the most basic legal protection," he said.

Assistant Dean Dominic J. Puglisi made an impassioned speech about water and education. "Education is the only way to create a better future," Puglisi said. "We need education to get the children out of the school system and into the work force."

Assistant Dean of Instruction Joseph Wilke added his comments about education in Florida."We have many different groups in Florida, and they all have different needs," Wilke said. "We need to reach out to all the different groups and help them succeed in the educational system."
ANALYSIS

"I believe the senator's backed off cutting this campus away from the university," Heller said. "He sees us get what we want and come out better in the long run staying with the university." If Sebesta's bill is successful, there remains a chance that USF might lose one of its branch campuses this session. In an interview two days before the Bayboro campus press conference, state Senate President John McKay said he remained dissatisfied with Genshaft's plan for USF-St. Petersburg.

Site monitors votes on parks protection

A national park advocacy organization has launched an interactive new action center to help spread the word about how legislators vote on protection of national parks. Visitors to the web site, at www.eparks.org, can type in their zip code to learn if their representatives and senators voted to protect national parks and, if not, send them an email to encourage them to do so.

The National Parks Conservation Association established the new interactive online tool to track how Congress is responding to critical park issues. "The future of our national parks depends on congressional action," said NPCA President Thomas Kiernan. Americans want our national parks protected -- they can now find out exactly who is failing them.

In addition to the action center, the site offers visitors the opportunity to explore the National Park System through virtual visits, wildlife and habitat conservation information.
WTVP wins top honors for water issues coverage

WTVP Ch. 10's coverage of local water issues throughout 2000 has won the "Water Blues in the News" competition sponsored by USF's Science Journalism Center.

Print journalists who were recognized include Jean Heller and Craig Pittman of the St. Petersburg Times and David Jaaper of the Weekly Planet.

The competition was part of USF's Water Forum on Feb. 17 that explored the critical water issues facing the Tampa Bay area.

The forum kicked off inauguration ceremonies for USF President Judy Genshaft.

Ch. 10's coverage was recognized because it showcased the station's "obvious commitment to covering the dire drought situation responsiby and within context," said Kristen Kosek, director of the Science Journalism Center.

The center, established in 1999 to help bridge the communication gap between the scientific and lay communities, is a collaboration between USF's College of Marine Science and the Journalism Studies Program. It is located at USF St. Petersburg.

LEAGUE

From page 8 series, as in the case in a divisional series, league championship series or World Series.

One series started Feb. 10 with a best-of-five series in which the Pelicans played the Blacksmokers.

English said the next series, which is a best-of-three series involving St. Petersburg, and Dunedin will be played "1900s-style." Certain equipment, such as gloves or batting helmets, was not used historically and will not be used in the series.

The league is "a salute to long-lost pioneers who never made it to the major Leagues," English said.

"(The fans in attendance) love it. They are the ones that remember the games of long ago, and they are the reason why there is a big demand. Each year they are waiting to see it again."

English said the league also plans a New Negro Baseball League All-Star Game, the location of which is undecided. In past seasons, the game has been played under the lights inside Tropicana Field, home of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Each team will be represented by at least one team member, like in the major leagues.

There might also be a playoff and league champion, English said.

"I'm hoping that a league playoff can be formed before this year's All-Star Game," he said.

Admission is free for now, but English said that might change during the season.

The league is sponsored by companies and businesses such as the St. Petersburg Times, Budweiser and Allen Sports Center, which provides the equipment for the teams.

Most of the games are played at Campbell Park or Bartlett Park, in St. Petersburg. Refreshments are available.

The general turnout is 100, English said.

STUDYING

From page 2 Miscommunication brought about a devastating divorce that left me nearly homeless with no degree and no child support for five children.

Don't give up your education until "the kids are older." My oldest is now 18 and going to college (by the grace of God). Those years were very quick! The others are still at home. With bigger kids, you have bigger bills and bigger problems. There's no such thing as day care for teenagers.

My children tell me that they don't remember that I pushed them aside to do homework. Forgetfulness is God's built-in protection for them, I suppose. They also don't remember that I spent 24 hours a day with them later, taking them to the park and to the beach instead of going to college. They do seem to remember the books I had read — one in particular about how Dr. Carson persevered. He was black and growing up in a Detroit ghetto with his mom and brother. Today he is a world-renowned neurosurgeon.

And they do know how poverty stricken we are without my degree. We don't have the luxuries of a two-parent income or even the income of one parent with a professional career. We can't spend money on activities. They have to work and are unable to be part of high school sports, which means they miss out on any possible athletic scholarships.

We don't know what the future will bring. I can't force them back into college now, as a single mom. Matters are even worse than the first time around. Time is even more of a commodity. This is the time the children remember. If I had hung in there and obtained a degree, I would have long been an attorney by now. And if my spouse at the time had hung in there, well, who knows where he'd be?

Burdens are inevitable, but at least we may not have looked homelessness in the face so many times. Whether you're married or single, persevere! Hang in there. You'll have stories to tell your children and your grandchildren. If you don't, you won't.

If you have any questions on how to get through college while parenting, you can email me at CSF@edx13.com. Your ideas and comments are welcome.

IRELAND

From page 3 the city. Others say it was never as bad as it seemed to him and it hasn't been bad in a long time," Wilber said. "It's nice to have a connection to a popular work, but some find it unfair because (the book) makes Limerick seem much worse than it is.

The book's popularity, and the major Hollywood motion picture that followed, increased tourism in the city and visitors are left to determine for themselves the version of Limerick they see — McCourt's or Ireland's.

Though it lacks the sunshine Florida has made famous, Wilber finds the feeling generated from the prospering city a striking contrast to McCourt's boyhood town.

There's a lot of emotional sunshine in Ireland these days," he said.

Crow's Nest
Sports foul out in book

PHILADELPHIA (University Wire) - James Shulman doesn't hate sports. In fact, he and William Bowen, the former president of Princeton University, rather enjoy athletics.

But the two authors of the newly-released The Game of Life, College Sports and Educational Values have presented some ideas that are shaking up the college athletics scene and attracting national media attention.

The Game of Life, according to Shulman, uses hard data -- rather than anecdotal evidence -- to examine the role that athletics play in schools.

"What we wanted to do was to gather real data so we could see the larger trends rather than just the anecdotes," Shulman said.

Shulman and Bowen examined the admissions, academic performances and "life outcomes" of tens of thousands of athletes and non-athletes from 30 different schools -- ranging from NCAA Division I-A to Division III colleges and universities -- from the 1950s, 70s and 90s.

The results, to say the least, are controversial.

Shulman feels the major issues that the book raises -- especially considering Ivy League schools -- concern admissions.

In the book, Shulman and Bowen use the hypothetical example of a school recruiting an outside linebacker who can blitz and rejecting a student who has made a documentary film.

"If you give a kid a chance to get into one of these places, then somebody else is going to [b] Shulman said.

Based on their data, the authors conclude that this hypothesis situation often reflects reality at highly selective schools. Shulman added that the trend among athletes is that they don't do as well in school as their non-athlete classmates, and that they underperform compared to what their standardized test scores predict for them.

"The question is, are those the best [uses] of what is really the scarcest resource an Ivy League school has -- spots in its class?" he added.

Shulman took pains, however, to point out that the book's findings don't mean athletes are somehow "bad" human beings.

"People can get into a huge anti-athlete fervor," he said, noting that his data indicate student-athletes graduate at very high rates.

Even so, Shulman and Bowen feel it should be difficult for selective schools to reconcile their academic missions with the perceived recruitment of students simply because they are skilled athletes.

While The Game of Life addresses issues other than admissions -- such as the examination of long-held "myths" in college sports -- it seems to be the admissions issue that has caught the eyes of college administrators and college and national media.

And despite Shulman's wish that people not whip themselves up into an anti-athletics frenzy because of the book, there have been incidents of just that in some portions of the national media. For instance, the title of one editorial about the book in the Houston Chronicle included the phrase "dumb jocks."

Reactions to the book in the world of college sports have been mixed.

Penn Athletic Director Steve Bilsky, for one, disagrees with portions of the book's findings and methodology, but welcomes its potential for catalyzing discussion about college athletics. He also said he feels the book's findings may not completely apply to the Ivy League as much as other schools.

"One of the things I think that separates the Ivies [from] everybody else is that I think the Ivies take the cellar and the artist and the singer and the athlete," Bilsky said.

"My perspective would be having athletics programs is an opportunity to gain rather than an opportunity to lose," he added.

Volunteers sought for Special Olympics

Volunteer score keepers and timers are needed for the Special Olympics March 17 at Lakewood High School.

The event will showcase more than 650 athletes with developmental disabilities. Other volunteer opportunities include: • Coastal Clean-Up • Blues Festival • Marketing for the YMCA • Crime prevention family fair

For information on helping at any of these events, contact Barry McDowell, BAY Activities. See LEAGUE, Page 7

Campus sets open house for prospective students

USF-St. Petersburg will host an open house for high school seniors and graduating community college sophomores on March 2 from 3 - 5 p.m. in the Florida Center for Teachers, Room 118.

The event will give prospective students the opportunity to tour the campus, receive financial aid information, and discover the various career opportunities available under the USF colleges of Arts & Sciences, Business Administration, Education, and Nursing. Representatives also will be available from the Honors Program, Learning Community and Student Activities.

For more information, call John Vassel at (727) 553-1002.

Bilsky also questioned whether the authors' use of the GPA is the best way to gauge academic success. He wondered whether or not they took into consideration the detrimental effect of a student-athlete's time commitment on his or her GPA.

"There are a variety of questions about how the data are presented that I think are very important," said Jeffrey Orleans, executive director of the Ivy League.

He added that it is "very hard" to figure out what a chosen category of data -- such as GPA -- should be telling the reader. "I think [the book] omission a good deal of discussion about just what should be measured in trying to assess how athletics fits into an educational program.

"And I don't think there is any serious discussion about the value of athletics as an educational activity. The whole thing the book doesn't deal with that's not as easily measurable is, what kind of people are they because they've been athletes?" he said.

Bilsky and Orleans both feel that the book isn't successful in separating the Ivy League and its athletics philosophy from other types of schools. Indeed, Bilsky called this "the falling of the book throughout.

Bilsky's main gripe with Shulman and Bowen, however, was that he felt they didn't do what they claimed they would. "I was disappointed, as much as they said earlier in the book that they were not going to fall back and rely on anecdotes and subjective comments and stereotypes, that they did," he said. "They perpetuated some of the stereotypes that exist that athletes must be dumb jocks. They came across as condescending.

Orleans agreed and took this criticism of the authors one step further.

"They really shouldn't have been more humble in acknowledging the limits of what the book can do, what it does do, and the limits of the answers," he said, adding that he thought if The Game of Life were a manuscript submitted to an academic journal, it wouldn't pass the refereeing process.

College presidents and trustees, athletic directors, admissions officials, coaches, athletes and students across the nation will soon face off in what is sure to be a heated discussion of the book. Orleans and Bilsky look forward to it.

Classified Ads

HELP WANTED

Seeking advertising manager for the Crow's Nest, a weekly newspaper, sales, and want to get to know local merchants, this is the job for you! Salary plus commission. Must be able to work on deadlines. Call (727) 553-3113.

YOUR CLASSIFIED AD IN THE CROW'S NEST COSTS ONLY $2.50 FOR THE FIRST 30 WORDS.

Crow's Nest

Feb. 21 – March 6, 2001