RACIAL SLUR SOURS CAMPUS

MARCH • MARCH • MARCH
WITH USF ST. PETERSBURG
STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF
FOR THE ANNUAL PARADE
HONORING

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1997
SIGN UP NOW IN DAVIS 113
393-9129
Gather at North Shore Park at 15 Noon
Parade is 105 PM until approximately 4:00 PM

Involve yourself in issues of diversity

Baird Lefter
Next Editor

In what university officials and students are describing as a shocking yet isolated incident, an announcement posted on campus bearing the picture of Martin Luther King Jr. became an invitation for more than a parade.

The flyer also evoked the handiwork of an apparent racist.

Emphasized with an exclamation mark and again with an underline, the racial epithet was scribbled next to the face of Dr. King by an unknown person.

Created by Diane McK­instry of USF St. Peters­burg's Cultural Diversity Committee, the flyer was one of several placed throughout campus over five weeks ago inviting students, faculty and staff to march on behalf of the university in this year's Martin Luther King Day Parade on Jan. 20 in downtown St. Petersburg.

The brazen act was discovered two weeks ago by Lynette Conat, a student who has a class adjacent to the bulletin board where the flyer was posted on the south-end of the west wing of Cognoa Hall's second floor.

"Shock" was her immediate reaction when seeing the racial slur, Conat said. "Is that really what I'm seeing up there?" This person is "ignorant and really uninformed," she said, and that more diversity and tolerance is expected in a setting that revolves around learning.

Conat and another student, Kevin Vander­hoof, removed the flyer and Vanderhoof passed it on to Omni Cultural Society's president, Randy Richards.

"I can't recall anything like that ever happening," said Richards, who has at­ tended USF St. Petersburg since the fall of 1995 and presides over a club aimed at al­ leviating a variety of misconceptions, in­ cluding those involving race.

"My reaction is disgust," said Student Affairs Director Steve Ritch, who knows of no similar incidents occurring on this campus before. An administrative investi­ gation will not be conducted at this time because the act appears to be isolated to this one incident, Ritch said. But a height­ ened awareness will be present to watch for any additional incidents which could warrant an in­ vestigation.

If the offender is a stu­ dent, that person faces a dis­ ciplinary review for violat­ ing USF's Student Code of Conduct, which specifically addresses harassment de­ fined as "conduct which creates an intimidating, hos­ tile, offensive working or educational environment ... prohibited whether on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation ... ."

The offender may also face criminal charges.

The USF Police Depart­ ment learned of the defacing incident on Wednesday, Feb. 12, and promptly began an investigation to determine if the act violates any criminal statutes, in particular the "hate crime" laws.

"This is not something the school will tolerate," Sgt. Margie Carr said. If this act falls under a hate crime cate­ gory, she said, the perpetra­ tor stands to receive an "enhanced penalty" under the law for the act's racial moti­ vation.

Although university offi­ cials and students are disgusted with the act, not all are surprised.

"I can believe it," said Karmika Burton, a student who realized last semester that prejudice can lurk anywhere. During the second disturbance last fall in St. Peters­ burg, a St. Petersburg police officer who Burton had in a class announced to Burton and a few other students that "I don't give a s— about that (black) community, I don't care if they burn it down.""

"This is disappointing because I truly expect more out of my classmates," Burton said.

"This person is ignorant and really uninformed," Conat said.

"I've never witnessed anything like this until now," King said.

"This person is ignorant and really uninformed," Conat said.

"If you have any information that could assist the USF Police in investigating this case, contact Sgt. Margie Carr at 893-9140."

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Peggy Harris  
Next Staff  

In 1971, Jim Martin spent eight hellacious days on a raft between two islands in the mountains of North Carolina. He was a classroom teacher in the Pinellas County school system at the time and chose to participate in an Outward Bound program he’d heard about in a staff meeting. When he got back and collected his thoughts, he found his fears “were more perceived than real. It was a life-changing event that altered my perception of the world,” he says.

Turns out, his worst experience revealed his life’s work. Not long after returning from the Outward Bound experience, he spearheaded an adapted wilderness education program in the Pinellas County school system. Funds dwindled after three years, and Martin took his idea into the private sector, starting Stepping Stone Inc. in 1979.

Having proved the approach important and possible, he found renewed support from the Pinellas County school system and started booking up with other social support networks. Stepping Stone became the Oasis program in 1986.

Today, grants, staff and/or in-kind donations are supplied by the University of South Florida, the Juvenile Welfare Board, the Governor’s office in Tallahassee and the Pinellas County school system. Money to buy computers and make other instructional upgrades is raised through an annual Bowl-a-Thon and individual contributions.

Despite all the name and funding changes, the core concept remains the same: Martin is executive director of a program that combines classroom education and individual and group counseling with wilderness experiences to help bright but unmotivated 11 to 15-year-olds stay in school and develop life skills to negotiate a tricky and often unfair world. Fifteen eighth graders a year attend school and counseling sessions in the two-story SPN 204 building, directly behind the USF St. Petersburg Police and Parking Services offices.

In addition, the program offers an after school counseling group and a summer program. Altogether, Oasis serves 75 middle schoolers each year.

"The name encompasses Martin’s vision for the program. “It’s a place for them to come for one year, a respite, a cool, restful place to refresh,” When they do go back into the school system at large, he hopes they will have acquired the tools to make it seem less barren.

The program also prepares parents to help students make a return to academic and overall success. Once a month Parents Support Groups meet to discuss healthy and effective discipline and coping strategies. They are also required to be present for the most unique parts of the class — wilderness canoe trips.

“Last year,” says Martin, “we started out with a five-day, 80-mile canoe trip, had two canoe trips during the year and ended with a five-day trip to the Keys.” He agrees with the wisdom that the best learning comes on the heels of experience. The canoe trips are, he says, a way to apply marine biology lessons and a time to test out coping skills.

The idea behind Oasis is not new. “It goes back to the Greek philosophers,” says Martin. “We grow up to believe that external circumstances affect us, when really we need to pay attention to what we’re thinking and how that shapes reality.”

Self-management, self-confidence, self-control and self-teaching are key elements of the program. Debbie Rice has been counselor to nine classes of students. She runs them into everywhere. “They grow up and look different, taller, their faces are fuller,” she says. “They remember me and they remember, and it’s rewarding to see them and see if they’re on the right track.”

Volunteer opportunities to help with the Oasis program are available for USF students, especially in the areas of education, student teaching and test layout and design. The eighth annual Oasis Bowl-A-Thon is set for Sunday, March 2. For more information, please call (813) 893-9159.

Lecturer: "African American Politics in St. Petersburg"  
by Darryl Paulson  
Thu • Feb 20 • 4:30-5:30PM • CAC 133  
A USP Professor of Government, Paulson is the author of several articles on the political aspects of jazz in St. Petersburg and will discuss the current status of St. Petersburg jazz and politics.

FAMILY FEST: An African Adventure!  
Sat • Feb 22 • 10AM • DAV 130  
Featuring Gordon Bennett’s monuments in “Jungle Safari,” Claude Kennedy’s bamboo flute demo and “hands on” thumb piano, African crafts, refreshments and more.

PLUG INTO SAB! SAB Meeting  
Mon • Feb 24 • 4PM • CAC 133  
Help SAB plan, coordinate, produce and promote this semester’s events while gaining for next semester. New members and guests are always welcome.

WEDNESDAY JAM AT THE USF COFFEEHOUSE: Future Perfect  
Feb 26 • 11:30AM-1:30PM • Bayboro Cafe  
Enjoy Future Perfect’s “progressive art music” while sipping on coffee or enjoying lunch. Wednesday jam mug are $2.00, refills are 50c.

WEB EVENTS:  
FOR MORE INFO ON THESE EVENTS OR TO HELP SAB PLAN  
FUTURE EVENTS CALL...  
893-9596

FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE INFO, CALL ACTIVITIES & RECREATION’S SPECIAL EVENTS HOTLINE...  
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University of Tampa  
Saturday, February 22, 9 a.m.
A Dutch film that was entered in no less than the East German film festival provides visitors with opportunities for bird watching, hiking, canoeing, fishing and lessons of the past.

The area is rich with evidence of the Native Americans who once lived on these islands. Dotting the islands are burial mounds filled with the remains of Florida’s first residents and containing pottery, clay pipes, spears and primitive tools.

In the park office a 10,000-year-old pottery vessel is on display filled with other artifacts from the islands.

Folklore has it that Weedon Island was a battleground for the conquistadors and the Timucuan people in the early 1500s. Home to more than history, the park offers visitors a chance to experience a part of Florida that is becoming hard to find. Among the red, black and white mangroves discover woodstorks, roseate terns and murrells. The preserve encompasses 1,000 acres and actually consists of six islands with Weedon Island being the largest.

The facilities on Weedon Island currently include a canoe ramp, a 4-mile canoe trail, a fishing pier, foot trails and an osprey viewing area. But the preserve is scheduled to receive an extensive renovation. Sometime before April the park will close from 18 months to two years for several improvements to include: a new fishing pier, a new canoe ramp and at least one lookout tower. Charley said. Periodically, the park also offers talks on the history of Weedon Island and on Florida’s wildlife.

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Marching among the million
Anthony J. Joiner
Special to the Nest

I am a part of history. An American history which included one million Black men who descended upon the United States capitol in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, October 16, 1995. It is through verse that I will tell you how one man felt:

Their past is like a tree without roots
Africa for Africans
Those at home and those abroad
If you have no confidence in yourself
You are twice defeated in the race of life
But with confidence you have won even before you have started
Come on children say it loud
Make them know we are still Black and proud

Everyone remembers their past
Building monuments, museums, and written books
So that their children's children will never forget
We must all learn from the past
So as not to repeat those things that have kept as back for over 500 years
Trying to escape from Slavery

Not to mention the plantation
Fighting for liberation
The say all over the earth
Black Life not have any worth
But we survive the percussion and their crimes
Still today in these time
33-63-961 -million! Thirty-three years since the historic 1963 Civil Rights March on this nation's capital, the 1966 One Million Man March caused the world to take notice of generations of Black men coming together for a common goal — a "Day of Atonement." I take this opportunity during African-American History Month to talk about how one million Black men pledged to "love my brother as myself."

I want to take you on a journey. One which I took with three students who took the oath of respect to women, children and brothers, support Black families, show unity, and to take home the spirit of the day by saying their names to the 12 challenges of responsibility. Like many others we took to the highways to start our journey. As we traveled, there was a sense of unity, understanding and pride. Every encountered African Brotherman knew that he, like you, was part of the march in order to take a stand for his neighborhood, children, mother, the so-called "lost young Black man."
The day began with a worship service with more than 200,000 people gathering before 6 a.m. Throughout the day's events, we talked about the strong sense of oneness among the brotherhood — a Black-man bond.

There was a sense of community despite controversy surrounding the Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who was the keynote speaker. Our presence in such an extraordinary numbers sent a message of Black solidarity. The March's impact is important because it gave Black men, regardless of their ideology, agenda or problems in their communities, the opportunity to share our ideas. We felt our strength and made atonement. We did not need, as Minister Farrakhan declared, "White America to validate us." The sea of Blackness from the Capitol to the Washington Monument to the Lincoln Memorial — sheer numbers were enough validation. I observed all class levels: poor, middle and rich. We came to our own.

On October 16 (the sense was as a Black man, where else would you have been on this day?) to address the issues of drugs, illegitimacy, joblessness and crime within our community, showing that we can achieve economic self-sufficiency. This March showed that Black men will not be defined by the societal problems in our community.

There were men from various political or religious views: from conservatives, Democrats and Republicans to Nationalists, Muslims, Christians and Jews. These varying backgrounds provided the foundation for self-empowerment: a power that helps to dispel the negative belief of statistics plaguing Black men ranging from unemployment to incarceration. The March focused the need for Black men to take a serious look at themselves. We must stop Black-on-Black crime and stop the genocide of Black men. The whole system has a negative affect on Black men, one cannot just identify any one issue. This March was a jump start effort — much in the way of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s jump-start of the Civil Rights Movement — for the Black community to work locally to resolve issues which exist throughout our nation.

Yes, the Million Man March was an historic event and clearly the largest civil rights gathering in U.S. history — over one million (despite the debate over estimated attendance). Three young Black Brothermen and myself were charged to be more responsible for our lives, condemn racism, atrone for our shortcomings, dedicate ourselves to a better future, respect our women, children, ourselves and, above all, love ourselves.

I close by using the prose of H. Carlyle Church, a Black sister who attended the March.

The world looked at Black Men really hard October 16th.
Not, that we had been unseen before.
They were she said bronze, purple,
caramel and red spectrums.

Black Men with the nap and their day and their fold and their first and their gray which clothed their intellect and sanity

The world has always been captivated by our language (now Ebonics),
Code words, [illegible] syllables, off-the-street jargon.
The world stared at Black men again and saw giants, carrying giant burdens in a no-so-giant world.
They saw giant minds and took a long journey through Black men eyes.
Glanced at Black souls and cried.

The world saw men, real men, wise men, good men, great men, gentle men, rich men, poor men.
Men who came from her body and her sister's bodies. Black men, giant men, renting . . . sleeping . . . embracing caring.

I marched among the million . . . one million Black men, I marched.

—Anthony J. Joiner is USF St. Petersburg's Assistant Director of Student Affairs and can be reached in SAC 138 at 893-9562.

Keep fighting fear and hatred
It makes you mad. It makes you want to scream in frustration that someone in our community is doing such a thing; deface the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Flyer in the manner shown on the front page of this issue.

King fought against the exact problem illustrated by that scribbled word "nigger." That act represents the hate and fear we must all fight.

In a university community, the hope is that we would not be beyond this kind of display. Unfortunately, sometimes this sort of act is seen as a joke by the person who performed it. That sort of ignorance is dangerous.

In light of the recent violent outbursts in St. Petersburg and the subsequent community forums that are trying to keep it from happening again, perhaps this kind of display should almost be expected. Emotions are high, and race relations have always been a volatile subject.

Our first reaction to this kind of smear is anger. Yes, we should be mad, but it is also a sign that there is much more work to be done. We have to keep trying, keep educating people. To all those that view King as simply a "nigger," the message needs to continue to be sent that that kind of attitude won't be tolerated, that it is the attitude of an uneducated, fearful person. Displaying hatred won't change the journey that black Americans are on; it won't keep them from fighting for a better life and better opportunity in this country. It will do is make us all fight harder.

When events happen as they did last year in St. Petersburg, it brings race relations to the forefront of our consciousness. However, race relations are a constant issue for those of other races. We need to understand that the issue deserves our attention all the time, not just when a single incident makes front page news.

Admittedly, this is difficult. We all have our own lives and concerns, and if you are white then race relations may not be a subject that is on your mind very often. If you are black, it can be a constant thought. As we all learn to understand one another and the differences in our views of the world, we can put this knowledge to use and work together.

We should all be outraged that someone decided to deface the King flyer. We should also realize that it represents work to be done, and start trying to turn fear and ignorance into acceptance and understanding.

—Sara Jenkins
The End Zone
by Teddie Aggeles

George thought of room 118 more as a sky box than a place to live. In the evening he sat by the window watching a high school team practice football on the field next door. Although Hollow Harbor's sound condition kept outside noise from disturbing residents, through the windows George discovered a cause to air you, a source of thoughts from old tissue. Emotion stirring in a shivered up old coat, as he added to that positive desire did not atrophy with muscle. When he immersed himself in the game, he felt closer to the team than to any resident of Hollow Harbor.

The medical staff prescribed television to break the monotony and stop him from staring out the window. So, he turned up the volume using the noise as camouflage. If he stayed quiet while the television blared, no one checked on him. He felt free to stare through the glass silently reflecting on the field, remembering friends and the joy of calling his own plays. On days when the boys were not practicing, he remained off sides with little stimulation. But today, excitement woke him before the steel cart delivered his dry toast and grits.

He had read the hand-painted sign a thousand times and tonight was the occasion, when he looked out of a sky box than a place to live. In the evening he sat by the window watching a high school team practice football on the field next door. Although Hollow Harbor's sound condition kept outside noise from disturbing residents, through the windows George discovered a cause to air you, a source of thoughts from old tissue. Emotion stirring in a shivered up old coat, as he added to that positive desire did not atrophy with muscle. When he immersed himself in the game, he felt closer to the team than to any resident of Hollow Harbor.

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George waved his arms. When he had played ball in college, Elinel always sat on the top row. Maybe someone now could see him. After a few minutes he stopped waving. Like a painting hanging in a museum, still behind glass, he looked at the people outside. Pink and white wisps of clouds drooped across the boughs of Florida pines conjuring images of Christmas Eve and Elinel reaching up with angel hair to decorate their tree. The memory picked at his heels. He needed to stand and change his position for comfort. Gently, leaning against the marble sill for balance, he stretched, straightened his spine. Then the dull pressure pushed him back into the seat.

When the quarterback threw the first pass, George moved closer to the pane. The window now served as a magnifying glass bringing details into focus. He watched the first three quarters in silence. As the moon pulled color from the sky, spotlights illuminated the field. George sucked in a breath. The dullness sharpened into pain as his team scored another goal and the stands shook from fans stomping their feet. Scoreboard lights announced the tie and remaining game time. He did not need to hear the two minute warning. Pain unwound through his left arm while players took advantage of a last time out. He concentrated on the field. When the quarterback tossed a Hail Mary pass, George's heart missed a beat. The ball sailed toward the end zone and George could no longer retain himself. A yell escaped his lips as a spasm snatched his words compressing them to a groan. His legs stiffened causing both slipppers to lose grasp of the tile. Pain permanently knocked him off his feet.

"Clear," the referee yelled. George realized he was alone. He was certain the residents of Hollow Harbor. When the quarterback tossed a Hail Mary pass, George's heart missed a beat. The ball sailed toward the end zone and George could no longer retain himself. A yell escaped his lips as a spasm snatched his words compressing them to a groan. His legs stiffened causing both slipppers to lose grasp of the tile. Pain permanently knocked him off his feet.

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Spotlight on resume writing

Amy Hopkins
Guest Columnist

Career Expo '97 is fast approaching and, for those who have made a commitment in the Occupational Dimension of Wellness this semester, it is time to brush up your resume! If you hope to use Career Expo '97 as a job hunting and networking event, stop by the Counseling & Career Center during Resume Critique Week. Drop by between 3 and 5 p.m. during the week of February 24, for a quick resume critique — no appointment necessary! You will then have time to get your final copy and be ready to pass out your resume to approximately 50 employers from the bay area at Career Expo '97. Some of these employers may actually interview you on the spot. Others may collect your resume and keep you in mind for future openings within their company. Some may even be able to offer you advice as you job hunt in your chosen field. Those of you who are not ready to begin the job search process will want to stop by to meet with employers as well. Career Expo '97 is a perfect opportunity to find out about local employment trends, network for a future job search, and gather information about your career options.

Remember:
Resume Critique Week
February 24-28
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Davis Hall, Room 115
Career Expo '97
March 6
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Campus Activities Center
FOR SALE
PAGE DESIGN SOFTWARE $89
Version 4.1 for Windows re-activated
Adobe Illustrator page design software package. Must sell, will sacrifice for $90.
Call 353-3113, please have a message.

IBM COMPATIBLE COMPUTER
386 SX, 100MB Hard Drive, U.S. Robotics Superbeam 2+ Modem, Super VGA color
monitor. Windows 3.1. Works for Windows & more. Totally Internet ready will delivery
so to St Pete. $350 firm. Call Bedell, 576-8468.

GOODS FOR SALE
Korewood cassette/CD receivers: Sony equalizer; TDK's all terrain bike, couch, HP 9540 printer; Call Barb 821-4616.

APARTMENT FOR RENT
Recently cleaned 1 bdrm apt available in Lakewood Estates townhome. Call 845-0145.

APARTMENT FOR RENT
Large 1 bdrm, recently remodeled, near Round Lake, rent for downtown.
565 St N, St. Petersburg. Call 822-3252.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT
FOR RACE RELATIONS:
St. Petersburg, Florida Motion Bicic classes at no cost with your USF membership.
FOR WORKSHOPS:
Newly remodeled, 1.5 bdrm., for large house 2 min. from NISON.
FOR ACTIVITIES:
ACTIVITIES BOARD
Call 893-9128, leave message.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
ACTING WORKSHOPS
Join us for an open audition for workshops in film, TV & commercials. Learn to audition in light of being a member of the Florida Motion Picture & Television Association. Call 518-6117 or 8-105 5429 N St, St. Petersburg.

ROOMMATE WANTED
Non-smoker for large house 2 min. from campus (north of downtown), 95201 91/2 utilities. Please call Steve, 827-3351.

RACE RELATIONS DISCUSSION GROUP
Join us for an open discussion forum on race relations in our lives and our community. For information contact Tracey Watts, 276-0223.

FREE AEROBICS CLASSES
The Fitness Center is now offering aero­bics classes at no cost with your USF ID. Meet in CAC 105, MWF 6-9 p.m. Cost for the general community is $3 50/class.

FOR RENT
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Mayoral candidates vie for your vote
City of St. Petersburg mayoral candidates, (left to right) Bill Klein, David Fischer and Leslie Curran, will appear on campus February 24 to discuss the issues. The interactive forum takes place the day before the primary and will be mediated by Student Government Vice-President Diana DeVore. The forum is in Davis 130 at 6 p.m. and is open to the public. The general election will be held March 25.

briefs

Muslim leader comes to USF
Imam Wallace Dean Mohammed, leader of the African Muslim community, will present "Islam's Contribution to America: For Balance and Understanding Among All Citizens" on Thursday, Feb. 20 at 9 a.m. in the CAC Core. Mohammed will address over 200 high school students of all faiths to promote religious tolerance. The event is free and open to the greater community.

Museum of History hosts Tuskegee Airmen exhibition
During WWII nearly 10,000 African-American men and women participated in the Tuskegee experience. Working as mechanics, armorers, support personnel, gunners, bombardiers and fighter pilots, they fought the war's enemies overseas and the enemy of segregation at home. "The Tuskegee Airmen" exhibition is the story of their struggles. The exhibition opened Feb. 9 and will run through Aug. 10 at the St. Petersburg Museum of History, 335 Second Ave. N.E. For information, contact exhibition curators at 823-6468. A lecture series highlighting stories of the Tuskegee Airmen will also run throughout the year. For more information call the museum at 894-1052.