By JAY WILKE
Of the Crow's Nest

Although the student performers in MTV's Super Bowl halftime show looked ecstatic on television, many of them were actually less than pleased with the way they were treated by MTV.

Complaints from students who voluntarily participated in the show include long practices, paltry food and disorganization on the part of coordinators.

"It was very disappointing to me because I'm a big MTV fan," said Kristin Vella, a 20-year-old USF student. MTV put on the halftime show at Super Bowl XXXV.

The show included Aerosmith, Britney Spears, N'Sync, Nelly and Mary J. Blige. The musical personalities slanted on rock, hip-hop and pop music.

One actress in the show, student volunteer Mark Barnes, said MTV's production was very unorganized, and they didn't have anything for us to do," said Brynn McDowell, a 15-year-old student from Lakewood High School.

Performers also allege that the meals MTV served during the practices were substandard.

"Feeding us stale sandwiches and coleslaw that was sitting out in the sun all afternoon did not do much for my opinion of MTV," said volunteer Mark Barnes.

By the second rehearsal, "it became obvious that MTV didn't care about those people who were participating in the show," Student Government President Clayton Tieman said.

"I was starting to understand why the people at Woodstock started to riot," Tieman said.

Performers were angry about more than just the food.

"There were poor conditions like having three restrooms for 4,000 people," said Holly Heintz, a 35-year-old volunteer.

Most of the volunteers agreed that MTV's production was disorganized.

"I felt that the MTV employees used very little common sense," Barnes said, "and that the organizers were, as a whole, highly disorganized.

"I didn't have any reason to dislike them before this," Barnes said, "but now I do."

Routines they practiced were not followed through with during the actual show, students said.

"As many hours as they had to work with us, they blew it," Heintz said.

Following the Super Bowl performance, MTV quickly herded them out of the stadium, participants said.

"They told us we had to run out of the stadium," McDowell said, "all the way back to the mall parking lot."

After jumping up and down for 15 minutes during the show, McDowell said, many of the performers were out of breath and did not feel like running back to the buses.

"MTV was disappointed in us because we did not run," he said.

Still, McDowell said that appearing in the show was "awesome."

"I didn't really care about the conditions," said Natalie Jones, 16. "I thought it was cool just being at the Super Bowl!"

Although they didn't get a chance to meet any of the stars or players, many of the performers made new friends.

"Although I probably would not do the show again," Jason Roberts said, "I will always remember the friends I made during the process."

But MTV didn't gain any new fans.

"If they treated the people that were supposed to be in the biggest halftime show ever like crap, who knows how they treat everyone else," Tieman said.

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Mayoral hopefuls show diverse personalities, slants on issues

By CHRISS CURRY
Of the Crow's Nest

With a field of participants to rival the number of contestants in the Kentucky Derby, the St. Petersburg mayoral debate hit the Campus Activities Center on the evening of Jan. 30.

Nine candidates showed up to discuss issues such as racial unity, water conservation and economic development on the south side of the city. Some 300 people attended, with a heavy smattering of senior citizens.

The show included Aerosmith, Britney Spears, N'Sync, Nelly and Mary J. Blige. The musical personalities slanted on rock, hip-hop and pop music.

Given the number of candidates, the debate progressed with almost extraordinary order. This may have been a surprise to moderator and Bay News 9 anchor Al Ruchel, considering his opening remarks.

"We had these giant boxing gloves we wanted to bring out and give to all the candidates, this being St. Petersburg politics," Ruchel said.

One issue the candidates did spar over was campaign financing.

In initial financial reports, candidate Rick Baker had raised in excess of $50,000, more than $20,000 more than the next-closest candidate, Karl Nurse. And that was before Baker brought in Jeb Bush for a fundraiser at USF-St. Petersburg.

"It will be interesting to see if this election can be bought," candidate Larry Williams said. "A lot of people expect this to be a coronation. This is an election."

Other candidates took more obvious shots at Baker.

"I will raise enough money to get the message out," Nurse said. "I won't bring in the governor, of course."

When it was his turn to talk about money, Baker decided to play it cool.

"I wonder what they're all talking about," he said.

Political neophytes Patrick Bailey, a collection agency owner, and Louis Miceli, a lathe operator at Jabil Circuit, seemed uncertain about certain issues.

Miceli used only seconds of the two minutes allotted for his opening and closing remarks or the one minute granted for question responses.

"This is all new to me," he said in his opening statement. "If you want something done come to me, and I'll get it done. That's all I have to say right now. Is that okay?"

When questioned on topics from the fate of police Chief Goliath Davis to uneven city code enforcement, Miceli repeated statements similar to this creed, often prompting chuckles from the crowd.

But the audience seemed amused by an ongoing contest between Kathleen Ford, Omali Yeshitela and eventually Baker to announce their campaign Web sites as many times as possible and USF alumnus Ronnie Beck's declaration that he would handle the emerging water problem by hiring Williams as "water czar."

Besides Miceli and Bailey, the other seven candidates in the race were Kathleen Ford, Richard Laster, James McCloud, Tony Rosso, Larry Williams and Karl Nurse.

A forum for mayoral candidates in the upcoming St. Petersburg city council elections will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 15 at Bethel Community Baptist Church, 1065 16th Street S.

The meeting, open to all residents of St. Petersburg, is sponsored by the National People's Democratic Urban Movement.

For more information, call 720-0575.

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See CANDIDATES, Page 7
Both church, state threatened by plan to put money in pews

Recently, President George W. Bush put forth plans that would allow religious groups to compete with secular and government groups for federal tax dollars. The plan would also give more generous tax deductions to Americans who donate regularly to charitable groups and set up an office to oversee the handing out of federal money to faith-based charitable organizations. These religious groups would receive billions of tax dollars to provide social services to Americans in need over the next 10 years.

If this is Bush's ideal of compassionate conservatism, he is sadly mistaken. This plan is deeply flawed and has the potential to do great harm to the country's citizens and institutions.

A faith-based charity is nothing more than a political euphemism for a religious mission. Bush's plan would put the fate of the United States' marginalized citizens into the hands of religious missionaries who often have the dual goals of helping those in need as well as proselytizing.

Americans seeking social services should not have to accept the religious precepts of a group offering aid. This is inevitably what will happen. The partiality of religious groups makes them reluctant to take on thorny issues which may clash with their morals, leaving segments of the needy high and dry.

This is not compassion. People in desperate situations have enough worries without having to feel uncomfortable asking for help.

If Bush is the compassionate conservative he claims to be, he would not be concerned about who is helping people—he would only be concerned with helping people. Instead of displaying a genuine interest in helping the needy, Bush's plan is nothing more than an attempt at blurring the lines of church and state, thereby appeasing the religious right that helped elect him. This plan will have disastrous consequences for Americans in need and this country's cherished institutions.

Don't space out in search for parking spot

By CHRIS CURRY
Of the Crow's Nest

Here are a few well-advised options for those who have trouble finding a parking space on campus:

- Spray paint your last name and reserved spot number on the curb of a space next to Davis Hall. Don't do anything foolish like picking number "1" because that's sure to attract attention. Take something modest like "63." Next, paint the name of some well-known university administrators on the spaces to your left and right. For example: Ginshaft 1 You 63 Heller 2. This way you've flanked yourself with respectability.

- Carpool to school with a friend. If you pass an empty space on the walk to class, have your friend lie on their back in the space while you move up the car. This is known as the "wagon wheel flea market lot cruise."

- Boat to class. There's plenty of docking space along the harbor. It doesn't have to be anything elaborate like a yacht, just something sturdy and reliable like a 13-foot Boston Whaler. If a boat is beyond your budget, ante up the six bucks to see "Cast Away" and you'll learn to build a sailboat out of tree trunks, spoons of VHS tape and the wall of a Port-O-Let.

- Parachute to campus from a low flying Cessna bound for Albert Whitted. One problem with this plan is that if you're the pilot, it only works once. On the upside, if your class is in Coquina Hall, you might land in your favorite seat.

- Get a GTI truck (a few should be available now that they're Verizon) and a tool belt and park on the lawn next to any building you choose. If someone complains or parking permits arrive, start ranting about switches and fiber optics. If they ticket you, pay it off with the $85 an hour you charge for labor.

- Stop circling around the lot next to Davis Hall and drive the 300 feet to the lot behind the Florida Center for Teachers. It's usually near empty except for a 1973 Buick Riviera and a lone journalism student staring off into the horizon at a future that probably will not include the New York Times.

- And remember no matter how bad the parking is, it's better than the shuttle rides and mile walks you would face at the mammoth Tampa campus. But let's give it up for Tampa. Some much needed landscaping has the campus looking a lot less like the desert planet Tatooine from Star Wars. Students there no longer need to feel paranoid about being jumped by a couple of Tuskan Raiders.
Yeshitela: Mayoral try real thing

By CHRIS CURRY
Of the Crow’s Nest

In 1966, Omali Yeshitela, then named Joe Walker, tore down a wall inside St. Petersburg City Hall and sprayed a caricature of black minstrels.

Thirty-four years later, Yeshitela seeks to walk the halls of that building as St. Petersburg’s mayor.

The civil rights activist’s run at the office has been a long time coming. In the late 1960s, he spent a year and a half in jail for his act of civil disobedience. As a convicted felon, he lost his voting rights under Florida law, until gubernatorial clemency in October restored them.

Yeshitela, founder of the National People’s Democratic Uhuru Movement and chairman of the African People’s Socialist Party, has never shied away from the often-controversial arena of civil rights activism in south St. Petersburg.

After white police officers shot and killed TyRon Lewis, an 18-year-old black man, during an October 1996 traffic stop, Yeshitela led protests that had some city officials suggesting he should be charged with inciting riots.

Yeshitela currently is using well-developed legal routes to pursue his professed goal of equal rights. He is one of several plaintiffs who have filed a federal lawsuit against the state of Florida on charges that the lifetime revocation of felons’ voting rights violates the U.S. Constitution. He is also involved in a Pinellas County resident’s lawsuit against the school board for depriving black children the right to equal educational opportunities.

Yeshitela’s independent candidacy for mayor, based on a message of unity and shared prosperity, has the support of some prominent community leaders, including several church pastors. USF-St. Petersburg geography professor Rebecca Johns is a member of Yeshitela’s steering committee.

“I completely agree with his view that what St. Petersburg needs is more attention to poor communities, which for the most part are African American communities,” Johns said. “He is a person with a lot of influence in the community, not only in the black community, but a growing influence in the white community.”

Yeshitela recently discussed his mayoral campaign and his vision for the city. Following are excerpts from that interview.

Crow’s Nest: Thirty-four years ago, when you believed there was injustice at City Hall, you tore the mural down. Now you see something wrong, and you’re running for mayor. Why have your methods changed?

Yeshitela: The truth is for 34 years, I couldn’t participate in the electoral process because I lost my right to vote. The intent of that law in 1865 manifested itself in 1966 when I tore that mural down. And it still does now.

Something like one out of every seven people in the state of Florida can’t vote because of felony convictions. It wasn’t until Oct. 9, 2000, that I had my basic civil rights restored, so all my life I’ve been involved in the struggle for social justice, and all my life I’ve used the methods available at the time. When I was pushed out of the political process, I did it quite stridently from the outside and earned a reputation that agitated some folks but that I’m quite proud of. Now that it’s possible to do it another way, I am.

Crow’s Nest: Money is a big factor in winning elections. (Mayoral candidate) Rick Baker has more than $50,000 in campaign contributions, and you have just $1,000. How can you still win?

Yeshitela: I really do think people want something different than the traditional politics. I think it’s possible to get the message out, enough people will vote for me. I think the police killings and rebellions of 1996 brought to the surface the fact that there’s a seething, profound, very deep discontent in a major sector of this city. And there is no meaningful response to it.

Mayor Fischer’s so-called Challenge concept really didn’t produce and was based solely on a challenge to the black community. I think the whole city of St. Petersburg needs to be challenged.

Certainly there are challenges to the black community. It needs to expect more of itself and to expect that it is possible to have a better life in this city. The challenge for the white community is to overcome whatever prejudices might block it from moving forward in its best interests.

There is a need and a benefit to the entire city to raise the conditions of existence in this community, to make commerce and economic development happen.

Crow’s Nest: What did Jeb Bush’s appearance at Rich Baker’s fundraiser at USF-St. Pete say about Baker’s commitment to the black community?

Yeshitela: That was an extraordinary contradiction. If a guy could do that, could bring Jeb Bush here, and still be concerned about this community, it at least shows a serious blind spot in his conscience. And to have brought him here right after the election when it’s clear what the African-American community feels about it is a hell of a statement about what this community could expect of this guy if he’s mayor. It’s one thing to say I really respect the community and I go to funerals of black people, etc. It’s another thing to bring Bush in, who is a symbol to this community of the complete disenfranchisement of black folk in the election.

Before the Jeb Bush thing, the guy had suggested that he had promises of $150,000.

Crow’s Nest: What changes would you make to the police department?

Yeshitela: I would guarantee that George Davis would never again be chief of police, and I would give him a mandate to further reform the organization by getting rid of all the cowboys who have done so much to divide this city and keep sections of this community living in fear. …

I think it’s important that the reforms continue in the police department that they have attempted to initiate. I think this in spite of the fact that there have been several suits by disgruntled cops. I really think that’s preferable to the kinds of suits happening in places like Philadelphia, Chicago and New York by people victimized by police departments. It is extraordinary that there has not been a police killing in this city since 1996. There are few cities of this size in this country that can say that.

Crow’s Nest: You have been outspoke.n about what you believe to be the poor level of education offered to black children in Pinellas County. Education is run countywide by the school board. How can you work from the mayor’s office to make changes?

Yeshitela: St. Petersburg is the largest city in the county with more children in the school system than any other city in this county. It is the responsibility of government to look out for its citizens. It cannot simply abdicate that responsibility by saying that it’s the school board who has the authority there. If we do not have educated children, then we won’t have the ability to have commerce in this community.

The mayor should constantly be waging struggle with a school board that doesn’t produce. The whole city government should be doing that. I’m associated with a suit against the Pinellas County School Board in state court right now for its failure to educate black children. I think the city government should have initiated that suit. It’s just good old boy politics — “You scratch my back, I scratch your back. We all go to the same cocktail parties, and our children attend the same private schools” — that prevent these current politicians from taking it on.

Crow’s Nest: What can you accomplish if you lose this election?

Yeshitela: The candidates are having to raise the question of economic development for this community, something I think is a consequence of my participation in this campaign. I’m hoping that if I should not win this election, we will be able to get Davis to stay, and at least emerge. I want to say, this is not a protest campaign. I am running to win, and that will be very obvious in the next couple of weeks.
Online service puts books within reach around the clock

By LORI GRAYSON
Contributing Writer

Patrons of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library now can access an online collection of more than 20,000 full-text books through NetLibrary.

NetLibrary allows users to borrow, search, read and return the electronic version of printed books 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Fiction, other than classic literature, is not available. The collection's strongest academic subject areas include literature, business, history, health, medicine, sociology and religion.

The NetLibrary offers three different functions: preview, checkout and read.

The preview function allows the user to view the full text of an eBook without logging in and "checking out" the book. The user can preview an eBook in 15-minute increments, after 15 minutes of inactivity, the eBook is returned to the collection and may be checked out by another library patron.

The checkout function gives the user exclusive access to a copyrighted eBook for two hours. The read function generally refers to books in the public collection. Since these books are not copyrighted, access is unlimited.

A highlight of the NetLibrary is that users don't have to worry about returning a book on time, said research librarian Tina Neville. Once the checkout time of two hours is over, the eBook is automatically returned and is available to another user.

Another feature is the presence of the American Heritage Dictionary. The user can look up the definition of a word and hear the correct pronunciation.

NetLibrary can locate information that isn't in the book index, allowing a search of the entire text; therefore, users can zero-in on content.

Although the librarians are working on getting the records onto the library catalog (WebList), that option is not yet available, Neville said.

The NetLibrary site and online eBook Reader support any operating system including Linux.

Windows OS Hardware:
- Pentium 100
- 32 MB RAM
- 32 MB free hard disk space
- 950MB NT 4.0 or greater
- Will not work with Web TV, Macintosh or any version of Unix; including Linux
- Inability to print sections of eBooks
- Checking out more than one eBook at a time can violate copyright laws. For information on copyright, see the USF Copyright Policy at http://www.lib.usf.edu/acessvc/copyright.html.

For more information, call 553-3135 or 553-3138.

Oasis bowl-a-thon seeks teams in 12th annual fundraising event

Knock down some pins and help raise money for Oasis students. The Oasis Program is seeking teams to compete in its 12th annual bowl-a-thon.

The bowl-a-thon will be held March 3-4 at Sunrise Lanes in St. Petersburg.

Teams will consist of five players. Each player will receive a door prize. Individual bowlers who collect and turn in the most pledges will receive a grand prize. The team that collects the most pledges will win a special prize.

Each bowler will receive a buffet lunch. Players will not be charged a fee for bowling or shoes. However, each bowler is asked to obtain at least $40 in pledges.

The event will help raise funds for a student research trip to Newfound Sound Harbor Marine Institute and to support program expenses.

Oasis is an alternative education program for 11- to 15-year-old children and is supported by the University of South Florida.

For more information, call 553-3135 or 553-3138.

Check out what's happening on campus and around town in the Campus Calendar and What's Going On?

Campus Calendar

Upcoming activities on the St. Petersburg campus:

**FEBRUARY**

7 • USF BASKETBALL v. Memphis, 7:30 p.m., Sun Dome, Tampa campus
10-11 • Gasparilla Fencing Tournament, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., CAC
10 • USF BASKETBALL v. UAB, 7:30 p.m., Sun Dome, Tampa campus
12 • Academic Frontiers lecture series, 6 p.m., CAC
13 • Student Accounting and Business Organization meeting, 4:30 p.m., DAV 130
16 • CITF Committee meeting, 10 a.m., CAC 133
17 • Academic Frontiers lecture series, 6 p.m., CAC
19 • Academic Frontiers lecture series, 6 p.m., CAC
21 • Student Government Meeting, 4:45 p.m., CAC 133
22 • USF Spotlight, CAC
23 • President Genshaft's Inauguration, 1:30 p.m., Sun Dome, Tampa campus
26 • DEADLINE FOR MID-TERM GRADES
• Academic Frontiers lecture series, 6 p.m., CAC
27 • Student Accounting and Business Organization meeting, 4:30 p.m., DAV 130

**MARCH**

1 • USF BASKETBALL v. Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m., Sun Dome, Tampa campus
3-4 • Oasis Bowl-A-Thon, Sunrise Lanes, 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
11 • LIBRARY CLOSED
12-17 • SPRING BREAK
19 • Academic Frontiers lecture series, 6 p.m., CAC
21 • Student Government meeting, 4:45 p.m., CAC 133
23 • STUDENT GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE PETITIONS DUE
26-29 • 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., Harborside
9 • Academic Frontiers lecture series, 6 p.m., CAC
10 • Student Accounting and Business Organization meeting, 4:30 p.m., DAV 130
12 • Blood drive, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., FWC Circle

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Crow's Nest
Feb. 7 – 20, 2001
Parking saga has elusive ending for some

By CHRIS CURRY
Of the Crow's Nest

If there was a book about the parking situation at USF-St. Petersburg, a good title might be "A Tale of Two Lots."

During the campus' peak class times in the late morning and early evening, the main parking area near Davis Hall is packed all the way to Sixth Avenue South, with an assortment of vehicles that could make a CarMax manager green with envy. Late-arriving students troll the lot like hungry predators in search of the ultimate kill: an available space.

Meanwhile, on the northwest corner of Second Street South and Sixth Avenue South, the lot behind the Florida Center for Teachers is somewhere between vacant and half empty.

This semester, the growing number of freshmen and sophomores has made available spaces an even greater commodity.

"It's all right," junior nursing major Kelly Howelker said of the parking on campus. "It's middle-of-the-road. I've been better places. You've got to come at the right time when class is getting out. If you come in the middle of class, you're screwed.

Junior Monica Michaels, a psychology major, offered a more optimistic outlook.

"So far it's pretty good," Michaels said. "I found easy parking for a 10 o'clock class. It's great compared to Tallahassee."

During the first week of the semester, the parking services department conducted a survey on lot use. Twice a day, at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., parking officers cruised the campus' 18 official lots—some as small as two spaces—and counted the number of spots being used. The results were somewhat predictable: the longer the walk, the emptier the lot.

Davis Hall Lot 2 and the adjacent Lot 3 on the corner of Seventh Avenue South and Second Street South were packed. The number of cars in Lot 2, which has a capacity of 169 vehicles, ranged between 147 and 168.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Children's Research Institute lot, almost four blocks from the bulk of campus on the corner of Sixth Avenue South and Fifth Street South, was usually near empty. On the evenings of Jan. 8 and 9, this lot, with a capacity of 124, had one car in it.

The lot on the peninsula behind the marine science building, convenient for marine science students but a hike for the rest of the campus, was near full some mornings and almost empty every evening.

Rusty Richmond, office manager for Campus Police and Parking Services, said that, while building a parking garage is an emerging campus priority, there are ample spaces for students willing and physically able to walk the extra distance.

"Students want Lot 2 and 3 and flux when they're full," Richmond said.

Michelle Little, a junior elementary education major who prefers to park in the Davis Hall lot, said she once drove around for 20 minutes searching for a space. "It gets very frustrating," she said.

Freshman Sean Thompson said that parking on campus was less than adequate but that USF didn't compare to the parking nightmare he faced at Boca Ciega High School.

"It was a lot worse there," Thompson said. "You had to fight for a spot."

Still, Thompson said that he cruised Lot 2 for at least 10 minutes one morning searching for a space.

The contest to find the coveted vacant space near Davis Hall is not limited to students. Unlike their colleagues at the Tampa campus, faculty members at USF-St. Petersburg do not have designated parking areas.

Education professor Stephen Mickelo said that the prospect of having spaces set aside for faculty in general had been discussed.

See related column, Page 2

"I'm not convinced either way on that," Mickelo said. "I am against reserved spots that can be bought and used by one person and only one person. I would not like to see that come to our campus. It's not an optimal way to use our parking.

One victim of the race to find a space is Tavern at Bayboro owner Gavan Benson. Benson said that students regularly infiltrate the car-only spaces owned by Benson and Bayboro Book.

"Everything but one or two spots are filled," Benson said, "and you can see there aren't that many people here and everybody in here is parked here.

Benson said he tried to solve the problem by putting notes on the cars of repeat offenders, asking them to please stop parking there. This move, he said, often met with either ambivalence or hostility.

"It's almost come to fistfights," Benson said. "I turn and walk away. It's not worth it for a parking space."

Now he said his only solution is to have repeat offenders towed.

"It's a bad situation," Benson said. "We don't want to tow. This is a tight little campus. But each spot out there costs me $5 an hour. We don't want to be bad guys, but we got to do something, and I'm afraid something is towing."

In addition to the survey, parking services also issued an average of 20 tickets a day during the first week of the semester, Richmond said. She said this number is likely to increase during the semester as ticketing for parking without a valid decal becomes a higher priority.

The money from both parking fines and decals remains on the St. Petersburg campus, funding such activities as lot maintenance and installation of signs.

Study says texts don't pass test

DURHAM, N.C. (U-WIRE) — Rife with inaccuracies, poor readability and egregious errors, middle school science textbooks are inhibiting students' learning and are due for vast improvement, according to a recent study out of North Carolina State University.

John Hubisz, a visiting professor of physics at NCState, examined in detail 12 popular middle school physical science texts that currently reach about 80 percent of American middle school students. The books ranged from the latest editions to those that are 10 years old.

"Some of the more humorous errors found by the study include a photograph of singer Linda Ronstadt described as a silicon crystal in the 1997 edition of Exploring Physical Science," published by Prentice-Hall; a photo of the Statue of Liberty that appeared backwards in four separate editions of the same book; and the placement of the equator as far north as Texas in South-Western Educational Publishing's "Science Links."

"It's not so much the errors as it is the sheer number," Hubisz emphasized. "Students are not able to see any kind of continuity ... The thing is that these books don't teach science."

The Durham public school system does not use any of the books reviewed in the study. This year the system adopted Glencoe's "Science Voyages" series, but for the past five years it used Glencoe's "Science Interactions," a book which was hardly criticized in the research.

"If one were forced to choose a book to use in middle school, it is a sorry state of affairs that among the most used books in the country this one would have to be it," Hubisz wrote.

Schools in North Carolina order books from a list approved by the state textbook commission. Among Hubisz's criticisms were suggestions for reforming this system. He recommended having scientists look over the books for accuracy.

At the Durham School of the Arts, a public magnet school, the eighth graders currently use a high school textbook, but until last year, they used a Prentice-Hall book criticized in the study. Eighth-grade science teacher Alex Hill specifically remembers errors with the chemistry section, especially the gas laws.

"The overall difficulty with science textbooks is to be appealing enough. They can't pass test, but one or two spots are far it's pretty good," Hubisz said, explaining how multiple authors can write a book like that."
University goes online with Dred Scott papers

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (U-WIRE) -- WU. -- For the first time in 14 years, the University of Virginia will host a special exhibition of Dred Scott papers. The exhibition will feature over 100 documents related to the Dred Scott case, including original court documents, correspondence, and personal reflections of those involved in the case.

The exhibition will run from March 1 to April 30 and will be located in the Rotunda of the University of Virginia. A special reception will be held on March 1 at 5 p.m., and the exhibition will be open to the public during normal hours.

The exhibition is part of a larger project, "Dred Scott: A Legacy of Inequality," which aims to explore the historical and contemporary implications of the Dred Scott decision. Other events associated with the exhibition include a symposium, a lecture series, and a film screening.

The exhibition is free and open to the public, and it is a great opportunity to learn more about one of the most controversial and important cases in American history.

Doctoral degrees show decline

WASHINGTON, D.C. (UPI) -- The number of doctorates awarded by American research universities has decreased for the first time in 14 years, according to a new report from the National Center for Education Statistics.

The report, which is based on data from 2006-2007, shows that the number of Ph.D.s awarded by American research universities decreased by 5.6% compared to the previous year.

The decrease in Ph.D. awards is part of a broader trend of declining enrollments and funding in American higher education. According to the report, the number of Ph.D.s awarded by American research universities decreased from 42,396 in 2006-2007 to 39,530 in 2007-2008.

The report also notes that the number of doctorates awarded in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics declined by 7.5%, while the number of doctorates awarded in the humanities and social sciences increased by 0.5%.

The decline in Ph.D. awards is a concern for many universities, which rely on these degrees to attract top students and faculty. It is also a concern for policy makers, who are looking for ways to support higher education and maintain a strong workforce.

Programs to 'cross boundaries' talk to discuss issues of race, identity

VENICE, Fla. (UPI) -- The Florida Center for the Arts will host a series of programs to "cross boundaries" and discuss issues of race, identity, and culture.

The programs, which will run from March 1 to May 30, will include a panel discussion on "Black Women in Literature and Film," a performance by the dance troupe "Black Women in Motion," and a screening of the film "The Color Purple.

The programs are part of a larger initiative to create a more inclusive and diverse arts community in Venice. The Florida Center for the Arts is committed to promoting the arts and culture of all communities.

Oldsmar show fetes local artists

The "Wired & Framed Art Show," featuring the work of local artists Cheryl Day and Brandy Stark, is underway at the Oldsmar Art Center.

Day is a graphic artist who studied under the instruction of Terry Allis. She was named Photographer of the Year by the Tampa Area Professional Photographers Association in 1999. Recently, she was invited to show nine pieces of her work online in Paris.

Stark is the creator of Stark Images Studios and has been creating her "Metal Myths" series for five years. She uses bronze, copper, and nickel to create stunning pieces. Each piece is unique and one of a kind.

The exhibit runs through March 28. A reception will be held at the Oldsmar Art Center on March 2 from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Both artists will be in attendance.

The Oldsmar Art Center is located at 402 St. Petersburg Dr., Oldsmar. The phone number is (813) 585-6223.

Crow's Nest

Feb. 7 - 20, 2001
Education chief opens office, says he may support autonomy

By M.E. BAKER

Editor

Autonomy for USF-St. Petersburg may have picked up a high-powered supporter in the person of Florida Education Commissioner Charlie Crist.

Crist, on campus Feb. 1 to open a regional office of the Department of Education, said he was "real close" to supporting the idea of giving the St. Petersburg campus autonomy from the main Tampa campus.

He said he was "still researching" questions surrounding the controversy raised last year by Sen. Don Sullivan, who introduced a bill to break off the St. Petersburg campus and convert it into a separate institution called Suncoast University.

Crist added that "I want to listen more to Sen. Sullivan" before making a decision.

Sullivan and Sen. James Sebasta have said they plan to introduce another bill on the subject during this year's legislative session.

In a brief ceremony attended by a class of education majors, Crist said the central Florida office of the education department was designed "to make sure we are as accessible as possible."

"With the opening of this office, the people of South Florida no longer have to travel to Tallahassee to conduct DOE business," Crist said. "Now we are coming to them."

The day before, Crist opened another regional office at Florida Atlantic University in Ft. Lauderdale.

CANDIDATES

From Page I dates, including first-timer Maria Scruggs-Weston, gave informed responses to most issue questions. Their replies often were similar to one another. There were a few exceptions.

While most candidates stood behind Davis as police chief, Ford said that management was not keeping department personnel happy and changes might have to be made. On the issue of Bayfront Medical Center, Williams said that it was time for the city to sell the land to the hospital and get out of the health care business.

Audience member Dave Shafer said he supported Nurse but was impressed by Williams' "command of issues."

"Some candidates surprised me," Shafer said. "They're much more knowledgable than I thought they would be. But no one said something astonishing to let them set apart from the pack."

"I would have liked to have seen more (students), although I did see quite a few," Director of Student Affairs Dr. Stephen Ritch said after the debate. "This is a very busy class night. It's difficult to schedule events so the community can come after work when so many of our students go to class after work."

Supporters of Yeshitela and Ford lined the back of the room, often applauding so enthusiastically that Ruechel had to be made free. Reservations are recommended.

The theater is located at 4025 31st St. S. Box office phone number is 866-2059.

The debate was brought to the campus by business law professor John Jewell and the office of student government. "I think it went very well. The turnout was great," said senior Student Government representative Jackie Wenzel. "I think its good publicity for the campus. It shows our involvement in the community."

The candidates who participated in the debate were: Patrick Bailey, collection agency owner; Rick Baker, attorney, former chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Ronnie Beck, business owner, USF alumna; Kathleen Ford, City Council member, attorney, registered nurse Louis Micielli, lab operator, former maintenance worker for minor league St. Petersburg Devil Rays Karl Nurse, city planning commission chairman Maria Scruggs-Weston, head of breast cancer awareness program at St. Anthony's Hospital, former public housing administrator Larry Williams, City Council chair, business owner; Omali Yoshitela, founder of St. Petersburg's Ummah movement, civil rights activist.

"Theatre to present tribute to black history"

St. Petersburg Little Theatre will present "A Tribute to Black History" in its Lobby Theatre in honor of Black History Month.

The performance will feature several different forms of entertainment, including a one-act play about the Underground Railroad entitled "Harriet Tubman and the Drinking Gourd," a reading about the invention entitled "A World Without Black People," and African and gospel songs, dances and displays depicting various aspects of the African experience in America.

Karen Mason directs the play. Performance dates are Feb. 9-11 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $5. Children under 5 are admitted free. Reservations are recommended.

The theater is located at 4025 31st St. S. Box office phone number is 866-2059.
Bulls’ sails catching nationals wind

By AARON THOMAS
Contributing Writer

Coaches of the sailing team have dreamed about bringing a national championship title to the USF-St. Petersburg Campus.

Now the co-ed team is one seed away from making the dream trip to the national competition.

After a strong showing at a regatta in Houston a few weeks ago, the USF sailing team finds itself third of 22 in the district in the fall rankings, behind Charleston University and the University of Florida.

The top two seeds in the district qualify for a trip to the nationals competition. In order to guarantee a trip to the spring national competition, the Bulls must place first or second in the Southern Championships in April.

"I think we have a great chance (of going to nationals) if we keep practicing hard," head coach Stephanie Doyle. "This year’s team has the best attitude of all the teams I’ve coached. They work really hard and show up to practice with a smile."

The middle of the season has been designated as the major or breaker. In March, the Bulls will sail in 11 of their final 22 regattas of the season. The next regatta is Feb. 3 and 4.

"We have a great group of sailors," Doyle said. "I think the team is a living example of how the Tampa campus and the St. Petersburg campus can work together as a whole. A lot of our sailors come from Tampa and drive an hour to come to practice and an hour going home."

If the freshmen and beginners on the team are able to compete, the team will benefit with good years in the future, said Dr. Steve Lang, assistant head coach.

"We have a very young and talented team with a lot of walk-on recruits," Lang said. "We have a very good program and a very good coaching staff with a wonderful level of experience."

However, the team doesn’t have the recognition some larger schools and schools with proven reputations have.

"But we are getting there," Doyle said.

Lang added that teams such as New Orleans, Annapolis and Maryland, last year’s national champions, have articles published consistently. The Bulls sailing team obtains its recognition by word of mouth.

"I think the team is aware that they are the underdog," Lang said. "They know they are not going to get many breaks. We have to keep growing."

"No one on the team has more than one year of experience," he said. "The same two skippers that placed 16th out of 16 teams are now basically finishing in the top 10 of the established programs such as Charleston and the University of Florida."

Matt Hickman and John Hirsch, both freshmen who represented USF in the Atlantic Coast Freshman Championships at St. Mary’s College in November, were the two skippers Lang referred to.

Doyle said she was optimistic about Hickman, Hirsch and the other sailors on the team.

If this year’s team qualifies for the national competition, which takes place sometime this semester, it will be the third trip in the history of the sailing team. The sailing team wants to try to bring up their level of performances from their last trips. Historically, the USF Bulls have placed sixth and seventh in the single-handed competition and 11th and ninth in the team racing event.

Lang said that the team racing event is probably the most exciting to watch. He compared it to a chess match or a NASCAR race. Each team participating in the event tries to block the other sailors from crossing the finish line or rounding the buoy. The team that scores less than 10 points is the winner.

The national competition consists of three different events. Sailors from each team can qualify for a dinghy race in which one sailor competes against 17 other sailors from around the district. Team racing, in which each school sends three boats against three others, and the women’s championship race are also part of the competition. There are no men-only races.

The Bulls will race Flying Junior boats, or F3’s, two-person, 13-foot-watercraft, if they attend the nationals.

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Speaker says Latinos must become better consumers

By LORI GRAYSON
Contributing Writer

Citing a "Time" magazine cover entitled "What Will the U.S. Be Like When Whites Are No Longer the Majority?" Dr. Paula Cruz-Takash warns that Americans must become more critical consumers.

"Once we (Latinos) have the racial majority, what will we do with that power?" Cruz-Takash asked a group of community activists at the University of California and other regions in America.

Her talk, "Rethinking Racial Paradigms in the U.S.: A Chicana’s Events offer chance for volunteering

Upcoming local events offer opportunities for class projects or volunteering:

* Citrus picking for the hungry or homeless
  * General office work for Front Porch community development
  * Special Olympics
  * Coastal Cleanup
  * Jesuit Volunteer Corps social justice program.

For more information, or to volunteer for any of these events, contact Barry McDowell at BAY 111 or call 553-1622.