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Ocean forum success for campus and community

Chris DeLeo
Nest Contributor

Planners for the Florida Forum on Ocean Conservation invited local residents to the first public forum on preservation of global oceans. But they didn’t expect a crowd.
The University of South Florida hosted the two-day event in the Campus Activities Center Feb. 2-13. The idea behind FFOC was to educate Floridians about the necessity of global ocean conservation and to inform them of the resources available to the community. Apparently residents are interested.
The FFOC was originally planned as a one-time promotion. The committee that designed the forum expected about 250 guests and were surprised to see 350-400 people actually showed.
“We did not expect such a large turnout. I think everything went very well,” said Dr. Sandra Vargo. “We weren’t sure of the type of audience we would attract, but the speakers came across well.”

Registration for the event was $5 for students and $10 for non-students. The fee covered the cost of the provided lunches. The speakers were paid through private, state and federal funding.
Dr. Vargo said the committee was encouraged by the turnout to hold another forum and possibly make it an annual event. The committee gathered on Feb. 26 to discuss its options.
Comments from the participants also encouraged the idea of a future FFOC. Freelance biologist and environmental consultant Bob Parcell attended the event out of concern for the oceans’ environment and said he was fascinated by the program.
Natalie Wilkie, research assistant for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, traveled from Port Charlotte to attend the event. She said, “I was very interested in the talks given, and the speakers were wonderful. It was definitely worth the trip.”

Saturday’s program began with opening remarks by Florida State Rep. Rudy Bradley, who discussed the importance of understanding what impact humans have on the oceans and, in return, what impact the oceans have on humanity.
“Nature can exist without us, but we sure cannot exist without Mother Nature,” said Bradley. “The ocean is in trouble, therefore, so are we.”
The forum featured a variety of speakers including Dr. Carl Safina, director, Living Oceans Campaign; Dr. Lew Elhart, sea turtle biologist and professor, University of Central Florida; Dr. Joan Rose, USF professor of marine science and a marine microbiologist; and Dr. Susan Bell, USF Department of Biology.
Among the topics addressed were implementing a Florida ocean policy to educate the public, preserving the nation’s only coral reef and informing the residents about specific marine life, such as, manatees, sea turtles, penguins and fish.
“We are at an incredible turning point, and we need to think of new ways to utilize nature so it can be sustained for a number of years to come,” said Dr. Dee Boersma, president of the Society for Conservation Biology, during her lecture on the penguins of the Galapagos Islands.
Dr. Bruce Ackerman from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection gave advice to boaters on how they can participate in marine protection. “We need to focus on reducing mortality of manatees induced by humans by invoking speed boat regulations,” he said.
Various community groups were also represented at the forum. Residents were able to speak directly with the people involved in organizing the event. Tables of brochures were set up so people could gather literature on a topic that interested them.
“Oceans are the beginning of life. When you wreck our waters, you destroy life,” said St. Petersburg resident Marcie Lee.
Dr. Robert Huerter, another speaker, encouraged community involvement, invoking awareness about the protection and preservation of global oceans and marine life.
“It is okay to be emotional about the sea,” he said. “It is okay to have a child-like fascination with the sea. Complacency is the enemy. There is hope if we are passionate about how we feel and call this our home.”

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Dr. Robert Huerter, Mote Marine Laboratory, assured the forum audience that it is all right to be emotional about marine life. “Complacency is the enemy. There is hope if we are passionate about how we feel.”

March Madness tips off on campus

Akira Hibino
Sports Editor

Tickets for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Final Four at Tropicana Field are sold out, but Tropicana Field isn’t the only place to enjoy the excitement of March Madness.
On March 29, the final game will be televised at the Campus Activity Center at USF St. Petersburg.
The student government and the Alumni Association will co-host a party from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. (or the end of the game). The tip-off time of the final match is 9:16 p.m. Tickets will not be required, and everyone is welcome. Inexpensive snacks, soft drinks and beer will also be available.
“It’s like having our own sports bar,” student government president, Erin Dunn said.
Dunn also said the event will be especially convenient for students already on campus for evening classes.
Since no tickets were available, Dunn said event planners thought the screening would be a great opportunity for everyone who wants to see the game.
Describing the Final Four as “the Super Bowl of basketball,” Dunn said “We may not get NCAA (Final Four) in St. Petersburg (for another) 10 or 15 years. This is something that happens once in a long time.”
“It’s a very important event. It’s something that happens every year, so we want to recognize that and provide a place for people to come with their families and have a fun time,” Dunn said.
Warm smiles and cold beer on tap at the Tavern

Loiri Holland
Assistant Editor

S top by the Tavern on the Green, smack dab in the middle of campus, and you can grab a beer and a sandwich and a side order of attitude. Of course if you hang out on a Friday night and talk with the regulars, you’ll discover that the Tavern has less to do with grabbing a beer and a sandwich than a whole lot more to do with friendship.

In the loft above the bar, the owner, Gavan Benson, 35, a big, bearded man wearing a navy “Tavern” T-shirts and khakis, feeds a slab of fresh turkey through the mechanical slicer. He then weights the sliced meat and places it carefully between two pieces of Saran wrap as the soda machine pops and hisses in the background. Like most days, he’s been there since 8:45 in the morning, preparing for the day. Soon he’ll be shooting at the crowd—rushing in for early lunch—to line up out the green doorway into the hall.

Benson has owned the Tavern for 12 years with his partner Mike Tarantino. They signed the purchase papers on Sept. 13, 1987, which also happens to be Tarantino’s birthday.

Financial partner, Tarantino, is married with two sons ages 2 and 4. He’s a real estate agent, who also manages The Red Roof Inn in Palm Harbor. Although he used to spend more time on the premises and partying with regulars, his other commitments keep him close to home.

Benson’s days are long and he often puts in a six-day workweek. At the Tavern, you’ll usually see him sipping drinks, serving sandwiches, sweeping the floor and tidying up after the patrons. Rarely does he take a break and the long days sometimes take their toll. Benson even admits to falling asleep in his car on occasion while waiting in the drive-through bank line.

Benson doesn’t consider the Tavern a typical bar or pick-up joint. It’s more of a social hang out, he says, the kind of place you go “instead of staying home and watching TV with your dog.”

Kris Kelly, a dark-haired woman wearing a gray T-shirt, shorts and silver-leaf earrings, chimes in with a New England accent, “I’ve been here longer than him.” She was working for the previous owners and insists he had to keep her because “he didn’t know the difference between salami and pastrami.”

Kelly works full-time and says she’s stayed because of the nice people and because it’s been convenient for her to raise her son, who is now 16.

Kelly says that she and the other employees are close friends and they all get along because, she says, “We all have a sick sense of humor and enjoy insulting each other.”

Kelly’s best friend and former roommate, Bonnie B. Feng, 37, from North Carolina, is an imaging specialist and researcher for Raymond James, who now works at the Tavern Tuesday nights, although she used to be a full-timer. The two became roommates, Kelly said after “we both dumped our husbands.”

Fong wears a baggy white sweatshirt and jeans, her blond hair pulled back in a ponytail. She says she “loves” working here and she “loves” Benson, whom she describes as a “big, fat teddy bear.”

“I’m never quitting here (unless I can’t do it anymore),” Feng said.

Benson is community minded, and has hosted several events for campus patrons, including a graduation party, yearly crawfish boils, birthday parties and Halloween parties. Several couples have even been married in the Tavern, although Feng added matter-of-factly, “a couple (marriages) turned into divorces.”

During the week, students, professionals, workers and all kinds of folks pop by for lunch. After dark, the tavern takes on a different flavor depending on the crowd and the type of entertainment.

On Thursday nights, the Tavern hosts various bands, ranging from African Sokos to Norwegian Blues. On this particular Thursday, “The Thrusters” jam out 60’s surf rock while the Tavern crowd chatter, occasionally fixated on the three long-haired go-go dancers, dressed in black go-go boots, hot pants and tight “Thruster” T-shirts, performing their somewhat chaotic routine.

The next day Benson and the crew will have a laugh or two about the unique stage show. As for the cute go-go girls, Feng says graciously, “I remember when we were the toast of the town.”

Friday night is solo night and usually features a guitarist. Of course it’s also “regulars’ night when tight-knit groups of diverse folks get together and socialize. ‘The Tavernites,’ most of whom have been coming here for years, now travel together a few times a year.

In fact, they traveled to Las Vegas a few months back and have booked a flight to New Orleans for the Jazz Festival in April. In May, they’re also planning a trip to New York for the opening of Richard Haerthon’s romantic Off-Broadway comedy. A regular, Haerthon has a dark beard and moustache and wears a silver earring. He’s a buyer for the city, and a playwright, and says the group goes out to new restaurants monthly, and they’ve come to a group consensus, “Tofu sucks.”

Sue Gerhart, an outdoorsy type with long, brown, wavy hair, is another regular who has been coming here since graduate school. She says, “I passed my exams at USF because of the Tavern.” Gerhart and her husband, Tom, usually show up a couple times a week and, of course, they “always” come on Fridays.

Paul Forschen, wearing a bandana around his head, raises salt-water fish. He says, “It all starts with Gavan.” Forschen says that after you’ve been through a few times, Benson remembers your name and your favorite sandwich or favorite beer. Before you know it, he says, Benson introduces you to someone new. Gerhart adds, “We’re all friends because of this place.”

As the regulars will tell you, very little has changed at the Tavern since those early days whether it be the menu or the restaurant itself. The biggest cosmetic changes have to do with the unique objects hanging from the walls of the Tavern.

The first year Benson owned the place his beer and wine license was set to expire at the end of October. With the frenzy of starting over the restaurant, he had forgotten to renew the license. On Oct. 31, he frantically phoned his friends for assistance, and they flew up to Tallahassee that day to take care of the paperwork. A proffer from that plane was mounted on the wall.

As for the collages, Kelly and Feng spent many long evenings creating them from pictures of the regulars to the casual passers through. Customers have also sent the postcards that paper the walls, which include anything from scenic views to scantily clad bikini girls. And the “retired” bartend hanging on the wall, as retired football jerseys hang in locker rooms, is dedicated to weekly regular Will Reardon.

The teddy bear, that peaks out of a pair of Tavern T-shirts on the wall, travels with the gang on their excursions which sometimes includes a bit of gambling.

And Benson adds that the rubber chicken hanging from the wall arrived a week after he made a comment that there’s nothing funnier than a rubber chicken.

On the surface it seems that a real appreciation for raunchy humor binds these diverse souls. But the roots of their camaraderie runs deeper. Many of the “Tavernites” have pitched in with hard labor to build the deck outside. Benson notes that the most surprising show of loyalty occurred on the 10th anniversary of the Tavern when several regulars chipped in and presented him with a $1,200 check to go towards the green awning over the outside deck.

Benson’s partner, Tarantino says he doubts any bar has regulars that faithful and adds, “It’s not our bar, it’s theirs.”
**News Features**

**Organization proves how to succeed**

*Christine DeLeo, Next Contributor*

The USF St. Petersburg Management Information Systems Society (MISS) started in the fall 1998, with the initiative of one person but has since evolved into a strong organization with almost 100 members.

Robin Miller, a former student, belonged to MISS in Tampa and realized students in St. Petersburg were interested in the organization, but found it difficult trying to make the Tampa meetings. She worked as a liaison between Tampa and St. Petersburg and organized with the faculty to speak with students in information systems (IS) classes about starting their own campus chapter.

"We really wanted a chapter. We just needed someone to get it going," said Robin Hinton, public relations for MISS. Hinton recalls, "Miller came to one of my classes. She let us know there were a lot of interested people and together we could get a chapter on campus."

The organization was initially going to be an extension of the Tampa campus branch, but students at St. Petersburg soon realized the society needed to function on its own. It was difficult trying to organize in Tampa and operate in St. Petersburg.

Much of the interest in MISS can be contributed to the fact that the St. Petersburg campus now offers all six required IS classes and several electives. "The interest in MISS can be seen: The members wear logo shirts and organized with the faculty to speak one on one with local employers and to find out more about the many exciting jobs available to them upon graduation," according to faculty advisor Dr. Ellen Hufnagel.

**Film Review:**

**Shakespeare in Love**

*Jason Lenes, Next Contributor*

Mid-way through John Madden's Shakespeare in Love, an air of familiarity kept ringing in my head like the sound of a coin insistently tossed to the sky in a contemplation of odds. Only at the end, while watching credits roll by in quiet contemplation and admiration did it strike me. This movie was written by Tom Stoppard. I couldn't prevent a smug smile from slithering across my face. "Now everything makes sense," I said to myself.

The author of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Stoppard erases Shakespeare's stuffy image presented on the back of Signet Classics and re-creates the bard (Joseph Fiennes) as a young, passionate artist, tormented under the insistent pressure of Phillip Henslowe (Geoffrey Rush), the owner of London's Rose Theatre. Fighting a severe case of writer's block, Will struggles with his new play, Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter. Hence introduction of the fair muse, Lady Viola De Lesseps (Gwyneth Paltrow), disguised as a boy auditioning for the role of Romeo. Will falls in love instantly, not with the woman dressed as a man, but to the young tragedian, John Webster. A stunning cast, excellent direction and believable settings help drive Shakespeare in-jokes and gripping modern-day references. In one scene, Christopher Marlowe (Rupert Everett) suggests the idea for the plot of Romeo and Juliet. In another, we are introduced to the young tragedian, John Webster. A stunning cast, excellent direction and believable settings help drive Shakespeare in Love, but the script will allow the film to take its rightful place among the classic Shakespearean spin-offs.


The small campus benefits us. We go to class with our shirts on and everybody knows who we are," Gaddies said.

The MISS Society is a chapter designed for students majoring in information systems, business and accounting. Meetings held every Thursday at 4 p.m. in Davis 108, help bridge the gap between students and professionals.

Students who participate actively in the MISS activities will have opportunities to speak one on one with local employers and to find out more about the many exciting jobs available to them upon graduation, according to faculty advisor Dr. Ellen Hufnagel.

**Prestigious fellowship for USF Student**

*Susan Keith*

Susan Keith has received a Freedom Forum Fellowship for doctoral study in journalism at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

She was one of three persons selected for the fellowship program, which is a 27-month Ph.D. curriculum designed for journalist with 10 years or more experience in the field. Recipients earn a stipend equal to their professional salary.

Keith, a copy editor on the sports desk at the St. Petersburg Times, has been an editor or reporter for 16 years.

Keith said she is very excited about the wonderful opportunity and feels "privileged and lucky" to have been chosen for this fellowship over other very qualified candidates.

"Winning such an award speaks well of Susan, and we hope, speaks well of the journalism studies program for the St. Petersburg campus."

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It don't mean a thing if you ain't got that swing

It's just a dance step that was supposed to happen. And, best of all, instead of bouncers, there are more nights for you to test out your rhythm ... or lack thereof. Call 813-248-5549 for dates and prices. When you really get into the dance and want to learn more, several clubs and dance studios, like Right Step Studio (727-821-9420), offer paid lessons at rather reasonable rates. And there are beginner, intermediate and advanced classes so you won't get deserted on your way to certain stardom.

Most people take advantage of these lessons. After all, it usually takes just one visit to hook most fans of swing. Be it the atmosphere, the music, or the exercise...people just love this dance and the clubs that have made it popular again. Where else can you dance with your friend's boyfriend without it turning into a disaster? Where else can you dress like a gangster without raising police suspicion? Where else can you be told, as I was, "Your feet aren't going to leave your ankles, so stop watching them!" and learn from it?

Randy Atlas, a swing instructor in Miami Beach and one of the selected dancers to perform the Lindy during the recent Super Bowl halftime, says one of the reasons swing enjoys such popularity is that people like the return to the "style and era of great wealth, abundance and new prospects" the swing period reminds them of.

In fact, many people attend swing clubs like The Sugar Palm Club dressed in period costumes from the '20s to the '40s in an effort to create the atmosphere of the past, to feel connected to a time when dancers first made swing popular at the Savoy Ballroom of Harlem in the 1930s. These clubs often cater to that taste and style. The Sugar Palm, for example, uses a classy décor, dressed in seating areas, an intimate martini bar and a large ballroom floor to give customers a feel reminiscent of the great ballrooms of the past.

At Gulfport Casino, it's more casual dress on the ballroom floor and a more casual atmosphere in the seating area, but it doesn't lose the effect. Music from the greats, like Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole, do the transporting back in time for you. With fewer patrons and a larger dance floor, it's the perfect place to make beginners feel comfortable.

But no matter what club you try, you probably won't be disappointed. Swing is popular again with good reason and it's got little to do with khakis. It's more about stepping out than learning steps. It's more about atmosphere and new friends. And it's more about the Savoy style of the '30s finding a home in the swing clubs of the '90s. And now it's easier than ever to get a taste of it in your own backyard. If you go, The Sugar Palm Club is located at 2015 N. 15th St. (at the corner of 15th and Palm Avenue in Ybor). To get to Gulfport Casino, take 22nd Avenue South to 58th Street and turn left. Turn left on Shore Boulevard and the ballroom will be on your right.
The Amara Zee — a show on the sea to see

John Ellis
Nest Contributor

Shakespeare's theater was named The Globe, but Paul Kirby's stage is the globe.

Kirby and his theater troupe, the Caravan Stage Company, have been traveling and performing aboard the Amara Zee, a 90-foot-long tall ship docked in Bayboro Harbor for the winter, since August 1997 when they completed the four year project to construct the ship.

Kirby and his partner, Adriana Kedler, founded the Caravan Stage Company in 1970, and the troupe traveled in horse drawn wagons throughout Canada. In 1993, the troupe decided to make a unique dream into a reality and began the construction on the ship that is now both stage and home.

It was a tremendous challenge.

The Canadian Coast Guard was baffled that a group of actors expected to build a ship.

Even to professional shipbuilders, completing the Amara Zee would not have been simple because of the ambitious design and budgetary constraints. The troupe expended nearly $2-million and four years to make it float.

And somehow, the ship was launched.

Since then, the Amara Zee has borne the troupe from their home base in Kingston, Canada all along the Eastern seaboard. They have performed from the deck of the New York City; Savannah, Georgia; Beaufort, South Carolina, as well as performing in St. Petersburg at the Salvador Dalí Museum.

The ship is integral to the performances. Actors climb the rigging, and the mast acts as supports for large props and backdrops. The ship is fully equipped with its own lighting and generators, and only requires a place to perform and an audience.

Finding a suitable place to perform has been made easier because of the ship's design, which is modeled after that of a Thames River barge. Thanks to the barge design, the ship draws only three and a half feet of water and can navigate shallow bodies of water.

Being able to dock in very little water is important because the troupe has to perform in a suitable location for both the ship and the audience, who sit on adjacent docks or landings.

While designing the ship, comfort was also important. When the full compliment of actors and crew are on board, there are 18 people living together in tight quarters. Sleeping three to a cabin in small triple-decker bunk bobs, the troupe is forced to live with little privacy.

"You're living with total strangers in a room smaller than a small bathroom," Paul White said.

White is a shipbuilder who helped build the Amara Zee and also built and donated many of the wagons the theater troupe used during their Clydesdale driven days.

The small rooms also make it necessary for the troupe to accept only the smallest actors. "The configuration is too tight for a large person to even consider getting a night's rest.

For now, the ship is home to only the core crew who take care of the administrative duties and the maintenance of the ship.

Before they leave, the crew must complete several repairs. The ship's topmast broke on January 10th, when the ship was under full sail in Tampa Bay. They also are appealing for donations to help them repair damage done to the hull of the ship and to replace the ships aging compliment of 12 eight-deep-cycle batteries.

Donated time and help have been very important for the Amara Zee. Much of the material used in the building of the ship, and labor was donated by people who wanted to be involved in such a creative project.

The crew is more than willing to put any skilled laborer to work and will allow almost anyone who is willing to learn how to maintain the ship's deck to donate a few hours of time.

The theater troupe will begin rehearsing in the middle of March for their season, which begins in April. They will be performing "Shakespeare's Dog," a play based upon the novel of the same name by Leon Rooke, that is told by Hooker, the Bard's dog.

Fittingly, the troupe travels with their own dog, Sadie. Life aboard a ship is difficult for many humans to get accustomed to, but the troupe's black-and-white canine is a natural sea-dog. Despite not having a backyard to call her own, she is still an amiable traveling companion.

The troupe plans on performing locally before setting sail. Sadie hasn't said what she plans on doing; unlike Hooker, she isn't talking.

The Amara Zee will set sail in May, and will return next winter for a New Year's Eve performance written for the St. Petersburg First Night millennium celebration.

Career Expo '99: opening doors for your future

Amy Hopkins
Nest Contributor

Career Expo season is fast approaching and I would like to take this opportunity to explain exactly what a career expo is and how to be better prepared for the experience.

A career expo is a "job fair" type of event. Area employers are invited to speak with students about their companies, potential career paths for various majors and the employment market in the bay area. Students graduating soon, a career expo is a chance to network with company representatives and become a candidate for any positions currently available. For students who have a few semesters left at USF, a career expo event is a chance to begin networking with employers. Many of these employers feel comfortable discussing their own career paths and offering suggestions about what skills or areas of knowledge you might want to develop prior to pursuing a particular career path.

In addition, we have invited representatives from area graduate schools in an effort to assist students who plan to continue their education.

The key to benefiting from the Expo is for active job hunters to prepare ahead of time for the event.

Although you don't have to dress quite as formally as you do for an actual on-site interview, plan to dress to impress and take several resumes with you to pass out.

This event is considered to be "informal" or "screening" interviews, however, you will probably want to practice some standard interview questions ahead of time. Pay particular attention to both the form and content of your responses.

Plan to be open-minded. For example, hospitals and social service agencies hire individuals for the business end of the operation or an accounting or computer firm might hire an English major for technical writing.

Be bold. Don't be nervous about speaking to an employer who works for a company you know nothing about. At a career expo, an employer doesn't necessarily expect you to have done extensive research on their company.

For students not yet ready to graduate there are still important steps to take before attending the Expo.

Come as you are and gather information about a variety of companies. Ask questions about career paths for your major.

Network by collecting business cards and discussing positions that may become open in the future. That way, you will have a place to start when you are ready to begin your job hunt.

Explore the possibility of working for a company part-time or in an internship-type capacity to gain some experience prior to graduation.

Ask for advice about specific skills or areas of knowledge you should develop to give you an edge when seeking employment in a specific field.

Join us in Davis Hall Lobby on Wednesdays, March 3, 17, and 24 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. for "Three Evenings of Career Expo '99." Stop by the CCC anytime after February 24th for the exhibitor listing or evening #1 and to drop off your resume for the Career Expo Resume Exchange. Questions can be directed to the Counseling & Career Center Resource Library, DAV 112, 555-1129.
Commentary

To Crow's Nest readers
Krista Reiner
Nest Editor

With this semester reaching the midpoint, I thought a little reflection was in order. As a graduate student in journalism studies and the editor of the Crow's Nest, I have learned a lot of the "hows" and "whys" of journalism. We talk in classes about writing, reporting skills and crafting interesting stories. We also talk a great deal about theory, ethics and law. Journalism education is designed, in my point of view, to prepare students to enter a professional field that requires commitment and high ethical standards.

In the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to gain a bit of education of a more practical nature. My lessons have been focused on the function of a newspaper and the service it inherently performs for its audience. The Crow's Nest is a student-run campus newspaper. As any free press, we have the right and the responsibility to print articles we believe our audience will learn from and enjoy.

As a newspaper, it is necessary for editors to decide what news to cover. Certain topics can become habitual beliefs, with negative assumptions, beliefs, and theories, but with constructive action? Do you wait and listen patiently to your secretary's explanation for her tardiness? If you get depressed or angry, that's your choice. Choose to be open and optimistic.

D is to Distract yourself if pessimistic thoughts sneak in. Wear a rubber band on your wrist and snap it to get off negative thinking if it works, or carry a note card with the word STOP on it in big red letters (as Dr. Seligman recommends). Anything you can do to shift your concentration to something more optimistic is helpful.

Another therapeutic technique is writing. I like to ventilate my feelings on the page, and while doing it finds ways to boost my level."

We show our love of life not just with opinions, beliefs, and theories, but with our actions. Optimism is the springboard for all good actions. In this often frustrating world, good actions require faith, which is our fuel, and optimism, which is the spark that lights our faith to produce. With optimism, great things are possible.

Dr. Robert A. Norman is a dermatologist and freelance writer in Tampa.

We encourage our readers to point out inaccuracies in articles or content with which they disagree through letters to the editor. We can only make the paper a better publication if we receive comments directly. Those letters that are relevant to the paper and not personal attacks of character, will be published.

In the past weeks, for example, we have been made aware of two types of comments regarding the paper. The first, addressed directly to the reporter, was a constructive piece of criticism that pointed out how a published article could have been improved and thereby made more accurate. From a student's perspective, this type of criticism is helpful and constructive. It also seems inappropriate for a university environment where the goal of students is to learn, and the goal of faculty is to teach.

It is difficult to understand why this type of criticism was not directly addressed to the Crow’s Nest or the editor. We can only hope that the USF St. Petersburg campus community members are aware that we acknowledge and respect their right to question our publication through direct, constructive comments.

The Crow’s Nest serves the student body of USF St. Petersburg first and foremost, and as such, is a valuable resource for the campus community. We thank those who have supported us this semester through contributions of articles, letters and constructive comments. We strive to continue to foster a campus environment where we celebrate and welcome any suggestions from our readers.

Calling all Bulls football fans

The third season for the USF Bulls football team is fast approaching, and we are well on our way to having a successful collegiate football program. Our team has done exceptionally well in its first two seasons, and appears to be well poised to enter the 1AA level of collegiate play. While the athletic department has a remarkable job in considering the needs of the team, it has done a horrible job in considering the needs of the students.

Currently, the students are given the worst seats in the house, the End Zone. Although I made an effort last semester to bring this error to the attention of the athletic department with the power of hundreds of student signatures demanding 50-Yard Line seats, our concern fell on deaf ears. The athletic department makes it clear that they were more concerned with making money than with helping the student body support its team. They also made it clear that they had no intentions to make any changes in the foreseeable future.

Dr. Robert A. Norman is a dermatologist and freelance writer in Tampa.

We can change that! We can have 50-Yard Line seats! USF is a college team, not a professional one. The players are college students just like we are. We should be allowed to support our fellow students with a respectable seat, not shoved into the end zone at the will of the athletic department.

To do this, we must speak up. Thousands of USF students need to send an unmistakable message to the athletic department. While the athletic department can choose to ignore the voice of hundreds of students, it can't choose to ignore the voice of thousands.

Let's show the athletic department and the administration that we should be respected! Let's form a petition drive on our campus and collect thousands of signatures! If you are interested in writing me in this effort, please contact me at rogerclark@tntonline.com. We'll set up tables, make signs, and encourage our fellow students to voice their feelings: Respect The Students!

Roger Clark
MARCH 13 Giant Steps Family Concert, 6 p.m., Davis Hall. Info: 6393 9th St. N, 553-1159 for info.

March 8-12 Spring Break

March 5-6 Quilt Show, Fri. 12-1 p.m., Sat. 10-4, and Sun. 12-1 p.m., Davis Hall.
March 5 Last day to withdraw.

March 4 Workshop: Time Management, 12-1 p.m., CAC 133.
March 4 Women’s performance night, 8 p.m., Davis Hall.
March 3 Film: Lethal Weapon, 4 p.m., CAC 133.
March 3, 17 & 24 Career Expo 99, 4-8 p.m., Bayboro Cafe, 894-8223 for info.
March 2 Workshop: Assertiveness, 12-1 p.m., CAC 133.
March 2 Workshop: Effective Communication, Noon-1 p.m. DAV 112, 553-1129 for info.
March 2 Harborside Productions meeting, 3 p.m., CAC 133.
March 2 Workshop: Time Management, 12-1 p.m., CAC 133.
March 1 Lecture: Ethical Leadership, 3 p.m., CAC 133.
March 1 Workshop: Effective Time Management, 10-5, Sunrise Lanes, 8811 for info.
March 1 Lecture: Dali: The Avant Garde & Contemporary Art, Noon-1 p.m., Davis Hall.
March 1 Workshop: Assertiveness, 12-1 p.m., CAC 133.
March 1 Harborside Productions meeting, 3 p.m., CAC 133.
March 1 Lecture: The Amphibians of Florida by Paul Moler, research biologist, 7:30 p.m., at Cooperative Extension Service, 12175 125th St. N in Largo, 727-586-5423 for info.
March 1 Workshop: Effective Communication, Noon-1 p.m. DAV 112, 553-1129 for info.
March 1 Lecture: Ethical Leadership, 12-1:30 p.m., DAV 130, RSVP to 553-3171.
March 1 Lecture: "The Museum and Remembrance" with Steve Goldman, Director of Tampa Bay Holocaust Museum, 6:30 p.m. CAC, 553-3458 for info.
March 23 Harborside Production Meeting, 3 p.m., CAC 133.
March 22 Lecture: [Title], 6:30 p.m., CAC 133.
March 22 Lecture: [Title], 3 p.m., CAC 133.
March 21 Lecture: [Title], 6:30 p.m., CAC 130, RSVP to 553-3171.
March 20 Field Trip: Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Davis Hall.
March 20 Lunch, DAV 108, 3171.
March 18 An evening with Alan Dershowitz, author and Harvard Law School professor, 7:30 p.m., Temple Ahavat Shalom, 1575 Curlew Road, 785-8811 for info.
March 17 Film: Above and Beyond, 4 p.m., CAC 130.
March 16 League of Women Voters’ discussion: “Medicare in the 21st Century”, 7 p.m. at Largo Medical Center, 201 14th St. SW, Free. 345-2541 for info.
March 16 Big Band Ballroom Series, 8 p.m., Coliseum, 535 4th Ave. N, 892-5202 for info.
March 16 Lecture, 6:30 p.m., CAC 130.
March 15 Lecture: Dali: The Avant Garde & Contemporary Art, Noon-1 p.m., Davis Hall.
March 15 Workshop: Assertiveness, 12-1 p.m., CAC 133.
March 14 Workshop: Effective Communication, Noon-1 p.m. DAV 112, 553-1129 for info.
March 13 Lecture: Ethical Leadership, 12-1:30 p.m., DAV 130, RSVP to 553-3171.
March 13 Lecture: "The Museum and Remembrance" with Steve Goldman, Director of Tampa Bay Holocaust Museum, 6:30 p.m. CAC, 553-3458 for info.
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March 23 Harborside Production Meeting, 3 p.m., CAC 133.

OFF CAMPUS

March 2 Lecture: The Amphibians of Florida by Paul Moler, research biologist, 7:30 p.m., at Cooperative Extension Service, 12175 125th St. N in Largo, 544-7341 for info. Every weekend for six weekends from Early March through Mid April: Renaissance Festival, Central Park at E. Bay Dr., Largo, 727-586-5423 for info.
March 4-7 World Class Gymnasts from 16 countries, Bayfront Center, 400 1st St. S, 892-5767 for info. Volunteers needed, call Holly or Vanessa at 464-6220.
March 6-23 Salvador Dalí: A Mythology exhibit, daily 9:30-5:30 and Thursdays 9:30-8:00 p.m., 823-3767 for info.
March 16 Gulfport Gallery Walk, 6-10 p.m., 28th Ave. on Beach Blvd., S., 321-7741 for info.

ON GOING

Every Friday Gulfport Gallery Walk, 6-10 p.m., 28th Ave. on Beach Blvd., S., 321-7741 for info.
Every weekend for six weekends from Early March through Mid April: Renaissance Festival, Central Park at E. Bay Dr., Largo, 727-586-5423 for info.
March 15 Lecture: Dalí: The Avant Garde & Contemporary Art, 6:30 p.m., CAC, 553-3458 for info.

After April 10

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Pansies and Tulips ready to flex their petals

John Ellis  
Next Contributor

First there were the Tulips.  
Then came the Pansies to challenge them for a place in the sun.  

These Tulips play softball. And the bunch of Pansies wishing to steal the light will do so on a baseball diamond.  

It is time once again for the battle for the Flower Bowl, an on-again-off-again Bayboro campus softball epic that pits the Pansies and Tulips in battle to see who can round the bases the most times before witting.  

The series dates to 1992, when the Pansies and Tulips first faced each other. No one can say for certain which side leads the series, but everyone agrees that a few petals have fallen on both sides.  

The Tulips have been the more consistent team. Team members Ron Bugg, Rick Close and “Sudsy” Tschiderer have been with the team for many years.  

The Pansies, however, are cast-abouts that gather intermittently and then only to challenge their on-campus rivals.  

According to Pansy member Dennis Hans, the team was founded by journalism students who had been drinking at the Tavern on the Green while the Tulips boasted of their softball prowess.  

Fertilizer was thrown, things got said. In short, it weren’t purty!  

Campus legend has it that the Pansies—“Sudsy” Tschiderer says “Pathetic Pansies”—hired Dr. Robert Dardenne, a journalism professor, away from a stint with the Tulips with a box of cigars. Dardenne played semi-professional baseball in Mexico, and, according to Hans, was known around that league as “el derango derecho” for hitting 26 batters in one game.  

Hans has been known to be hit by a few balls himself. In a previous Flower Bowl, a softball took an odd bounce off the infield and broke his nose. The once bloodied Pansy is still a fighter, but one who now “plays not to get hurt.”  

Hans has even written a fight song for the Pansies that is sung to the tune of Frankie Avalon’s Venus:  

“Pansy, if you dare, lay down a bunt and scamper like a haremove that runner up a base the one whose sporting silk and lace...”  

After hearing the song, Tschiderer boasted that “the Pansies will never again hoist the Flower Bowl [the trophy awarded to the winner of the event].” Hans retorted: “Sudsy has lost a step, and she didn’t have a step to lose.” Hans didn’t stop spouting invective; he alleged that members of the Tulips are using performance enhancing compounds and unfairly utilize certain team member’s lack of hair to create glares to distract opposing batters.  

The teams are scheduled to meet Sunday, March 21. The location is to be announced and anyone interested in attending should contact J.M. “Sudsy” Tschiderer, the manager of the Tulips at 553-1842 at the campus special events center.  

John Ellis is a Pansy, but doesn’t wear silk or lace very often.

Let’s go to the Trop

Sharon Milian  
Next Contributor

Fun was the name of the game at Tropicana Field recently, where FanFest kicked off the 1999 Major League Baseball season in St. Petersburg. The two-day, free event attracted more than 32,000 fans.  

The FanFest, sponsored by various Tampa Bay businesses, included games and raffles as well as batting practice for youngsters who were also allowed to run the bases.  

A popular game was one in which children were allowed to take a running leap and stick themselves to a Velcro wall. There was another area where they could measure how fast they were batting. Young men in period baseball uniforms mingled with the fans. There was a museum set up where visitors could browse through vintage photographs and equipment.  

But the Devil Rays themselves were the main attraction. Over the two days, 53 players and managers diligently scribbled their names on baseballs, tee shirts and cards.  

Fans got to speak to players such as, Quinton McCracken, Miguel Cairo, Wade Boggs and Rolando Arroyo.

Rob Katz, one of the directors of the FanFest, said that the excellent turnout and the feedback the Rays received demonstrated the tremendous support the Devil Rays have enjoyed in the community.  

“The idea behind FanFest,” he said, “is to say thank you and welcome back to the baseball fans in the area. It is geared towards all the Devil Ray fans with a special focus on families, which is the major focus of our new Off-the-Wall marketing campaign.”  

Mike Veec, who is the vice president of sales and marketing, developed the campaign, said Katz. Its purpose is to communicate the fact that a trip to the Tropicana will be filled with family fun as well as an exciting baseball game.  

Katz said that 65 of the Rays’ big games of 1999 would feature promotional themes.  

There are several group promotions such as Little League Day and Parks and Recreation Day, and also laser shows on Saturdays. During home games on Saturdays, six of the players will be available before games to sign autographs. Every Sunday is Family Fun Day with the giveaways and events geared towards family fun, creating an overall excitement about the Tropicana experience.