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Women gather at USF St. Petersburg to discuss race, gender and common ground.

Ellen Kirkland
Nest Staff

Sipping orange juice and sipping muffins in a softly lit room on the USF St. Petersburg campus, four women shared their experiences of race and racism, discussed divisive issues, and offered possible solutions.

The round table discussion was part of a journalism studies class project and included Rose Moench, a retired Pinellas County School teacher representing the newly formed Racial Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg; Dione Karr, a chemistry teacher at Gibbs; Muriel Tracey Watts, a graduate student; and Rosalind Dyer, a recent USF graduate.

The issues contained within the stories they told were representative of their ages and the changes in society that have shaped their experiences of race and gender.

"I was real excited when schools began to integrate," said Rose. "I thought that was great... [from what] I heard from the teachers who were teaching at Gibbs the supplies and the books they had to use... certainly [were] not equal. It was very difficult, a scary time to go through. But I am glad we stuck with it. A lot of kids in school nowadays want to know what all the fuss is about," said Rose.

"I was born in Jamaica," said Dione. "I grew up there. I came here to go to college... from a society that was predominantly black. I never thought of myself as African-American, because that's not what I am. But, on forms I had to check off something, so that's what I put. There was no other option. I think from there I had a perception of what it is to be African-American... to always have to see yourself as black..." said Dione.

"When I lived here... during kindergarten, they told my Mom that I was retarded. Back then my tongue was heavy...they told my Mom, 'we're going to put her in a special class.' But another teacher said, 'no, no, no, she's very special. In another way she's very intelligent.' We ended up moving to Buffalo, where I was placed in a speech class. They recognized my true ability and my true intelligence level. And I always [ask] myself, 'what if I had stayed here? If I had stayed here there is a good possibility that I would not be in college...,'" said Karmika.

"The comment addressed one concept that surfaced: race cognizance, the idea that people need to respect differences between ethnicity and gender. 'I have two sisters and they both have kids,' said Rosalind. "They don't have a father figure there... my parents are still together and as a family we come together and we take care of those kids. A lot of these things need to stop. The men should be more involved in their kids' lives. It shouldn't just be the woman.'"

"I think that we all need to recognize that in some form or another, we are all a little bit racist... but, I don't think that everything that keeps us together... is necessarily wrong." Dione said at one point. "People are different and I believe that people ought to recognize the differences among each other even if it's race, age, gender, etc.," Karmika said.

"Since the civil rights reforms of the 1960s many people have, as a part of society's unwritten code, pretended there are no cultural differences between people in an effort to create a color and gender 'blind' society. A color and gender blind society obscures difference and in the process obscures the past, according to a passage in Race, Class and Gender, edited by Patricia Hill Collins. "I think we all need to respect differences between ethnicity and gender. 'I have two sisters and they both have kids,' said Rosalind. "They don't have a father figure there... my parents are still together and as a family we come together and we take care of those kids. A lot of these things need to stop. The men should be more involved in their kids' lives. It shouldn't just be the woman.'"

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She recall how it was like to sleep in later like other children who didn’t have to be bused. Her family also never lived close enough to her school for her mother to attend PTA meetings. Ironically, school administrations frequently condemn parents for minimal participation and attendance without offering a reasonable remedy.

Rosa, a retired teacher, was excited when busing started because it meant that black children would have access to the same ed­ucational opportunities as white children. She recalled the historical reasons for it:

"Prior to busing, the black community struggled from within ... because we de­deteriorated inner city school without offering a reasonable remedy. Their involvement in the solution, Karmika saw a different picture. She never knew what it was like to sleep in later like other children who didn’t have to be bused. Her family also never lived close enough to her school for her mother to attend PTA meetings. Ironically, school administrations frequently condemn parents for minimal participation and attendance without offering a reasonable remedy.

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Paulson's lecture raises awareness
St. Petersburg's history sheds light on racial tensions

Lauren Holtwurt
Special to the Next

The recent disturbances in St. Petersburg parallel the 1968 Sanitation Strike that led to rioting, fires, and the National Guard being called in to restore order. The Sanitation Strike was about the right for sanitation workers to unionize and gain a 25-cent per hour raise. The city manager refused the request and fired 211 workers, 210 of whom were black. Eventually, the city re-hired all the workers, but they never got a raise and lost all seniority. During this time, the Chamber of Commerce funded Community Alliance, a bi-racial organization developed to resolve race-related conflicts.

This was one incident Darryl Paulson, a Professor of Government at USF and author of several articles on St. Petersburg politics, discussed during a recent lecture entitled, “African American Politics in St. Petersburg.”

Paulson’s lecture, sponsored by the Student Activities Board, focused on racial issues and events in St. Petersburg’s history, as well as current happenings. He discussed public protest, sit-downs in the 1960s, the emergence of black voters and officials in the 1960s and changing strategies and tactics for African Americans to gain political equality.

During his lecture, Paulson cited three events in the 1970s that contributed to a weakening of the black population in St. Petersburg. In 1974, the city rebuilt the neighborhood of Jamestown as an urban renewal project. Jamestown was a black, Methodist area west of Ninth Street and north of Central Avenue. In the process of rebuilding, 376 black families were forced to move from their homes. In 1975, the interstate came through St. Petersburg and forced 54 black businesses and churches and 800 families to relocate. Later, the Glass Plant Area, which was part of Peppertown, was destroyed to construct a business park. Peppertown was home to St. Petersburg’s first black residents and was located on Fourth Avenue South between Seventh and Ninth streets. The Glass Plant Area caused 27 businesses, nine churches and 800 families to move. The business park failed, and the area became the site of a baseball field and is now the home of Tropicana Field.

Paulson considered those events in the 1970s as the downfall for black residents. “The city came in and destroyed the fiber of the black community,” he said. However, Paulson pointed out that matters in St. Petersburg are better than they were 20 years ago because there are more job opportunities, more economic equity and more blacks in governmental power roles. But black businesses are still struggling.

“People are staying in the Holiday Inn rather than staying in the mom and pop establishments,” said Paulson.

Michael Atwater, manager of Atwater’s Cafeteria, was a member of the lecture audience and could clearly identify with the effort of running a successful black business. The Atwater Cafeteria was established 37 years ago and is located in the area Paulson described. Atwater felt that St. Petersburg needs a transformation.

“No one is going on that I feel needs to change. We’ve got to figure out what’s fair for the people,” said Atwater. “White Americans need to understand black Americans deserve a fair opportunity.”

Paulson believes that another problem in St. Petersburg is that people are moving away to better areas. However, he said the move isn’t race-based but class-based. “[That] leaves behind a growing concentration of residents that don’t have role models,” said Paulson. Atwater added, “We being Americans, got to take a stand and start being mentors ... the help is going to come from us.”

Classes Starting Soon for the June LSAT!
Tampa: Saturday, March 22 & Tuesday, May 6 Sarasota: Tuesday, April 1
St. Petersburg: Wednesday, May 7

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Tips for effective studying

• Keep study periods to no more than 2 hours. Your brain will stop absorbing new material after that, so it's best to break after that point.
• Daylight is the best time to study. The natural light of the sun is most conducive to learning.
• Traveling? Use time on the road or in the air to listen to study tapes.
• Create two schedules that will keep you on track. One will list priorities by the hour or week, and show you time available for studying. The other should be a semester-long schedule of exams, due dates, etc. to keep you informed of what is coming due when.
• Keep a daily to-do list that includes study time. Prioritize your studying, and stick to it.
• Use the 30-2 method Study for about 30 minutes. Take a break for 2, during which you think about anything but your study subject. Before resuming studying, take 2 minutes to review material you covered before and preview what is next. This will make your study time the most productive.

LECTURE: “Positive Approaches to Loss” by Charles Larsen, LCSW
Thu • March 20 • 4:00PM • CAC 133
“Ecstasy is fashioned into words, but it is in their hollow emptiness that their use depends.” This 2500-year-old Lao Tzu quote will be the spin off for a view of how to cope positively with loss. Larmen has 30 years experience as a psychotherapist with specialization in post-traumatic stress in honor of Women's History Month.

LECTURE: “The Changing Face of Professional Women” by Elizabeth DeVore, DC
Fri • March 21 • 7:30PM • CAC 133
Oncology will discuss the growing forms and diversity among professional women through her own variety of experiences. Part three of the Women’s History Month series, “Women in Non-Traditional Roles”.

FAMILY FEST: “Easter Fest”
Sat • March 22 • 10AM • Harborside
Join City of St. Petersburg’s Kids’ Fest! Jim Carter Special for adults, family, interactive learning. Fun in Spring! Dress up, magic, molecular science, the Easter Bunny and Peter Rabbit.

WEDNESDAY JAM AT USF COFFEEHOUSE:
Clyde Walker
Wed • March 26 • 11:00AM-1:00PM • Bayboro Cafe
Enjoy the blues guitar and vocals of Clyde Walker while sipping on coffee or enjoying lunch. Mugs are just $2; reflux, iced tea or soda just 20 cents during coffeehouse events. Stop by and enter to win a free SAB t-shirt or coffee mug.

THE CROW'S NEST
March 19 - 25, 1997
We did it, but why?

A lot of discussion has surfaced since we published the "Racial slur sources campus" article four weeks ago. Many of the comments have been published on this page and we hope the feedback continues. We have heard from those who disagreed with our decision to run the story, citing the isolated nature of the incident. We have also heard from those who believed that the article was imperative, that exposing such an incident, regardless of its scope, was the duty of a newspaper in society's struggle to alleviate prejudice.

But the majority of the discussion has revolved around the decision to print the defaced flyer in its original form, complete with the prominently displayed racial epithet.

The decision to run the reproduction of the flyer was made without debate or formal discussion of the potentially negative effects. The Crow's Nest staff did not collectively consider the issue. But what did exist among those staff members and other students who were aware of our decision was agreement that this flyer needed to be published. Although the process behind making this decision was incomplete, we still believe that our judgment to run the flyer was sound and in the common interest.

When I and the other editor, Sara Jenkins, first heard of this incident we were angry. When we actually saw the flyer we were outraged, outraged that such an incident had occurred at all and especially that it had occurred in a setting with education as its goal. It was this latter reaction that convinced us of the importance of printing this material.

We felt that the majority of our readership would also be angered to learn of such an act, and we felt strongly that they needed to experience its full impact. Hearing or reading about something carries with it much less power than seeing it. We thought it important to make our readers witnesses, hoping that their tangible experience would invoke not just anger but action.

Perhaps we were overly idealistic to believe that we could generate a greater good than a greater harm by reprinting the flyer. Unfortunately, the results of our decision are difficult to gauge, so we ask you to please continue sending us your comments. To those who are in disagreement with our decision, we understand and respect the validity of your agreement. And for any personal damage we have done, we deeply apologize: our intent was not to harm but to promote a backlash against racism. This decision was bound to have negative effects, we just hope they have been minimal.

What we recognized before printing the flyer was our obligation to report an incident that indicates a continued presence of misconceptions and ignorance, conditions that subject our fellow human beings to degradation and oppression, reflecting badly on us all for allowing their persistence.

Letters to the editor can be mailed to:
The Crow's Nest
University of South Florida
140 Seventh Avenue S.
St. Petersburg FL 33701
E-mail can be sent to:
Nest@bayflash.spt.usf.edu
Send faxes to:
553-3190 Attn: Crow's Nest
On-campus mail can be sent to:
The Crow's Nest, OAC 128B

The Old South is alive at USF St. Petersburg

Randy Richards
Special to the Nest

With my graduation in the near future, I would like to reflect and share stories about the good of "collegiate days" with my friends back home who attended Ohio State.

Unfortunately, I would be embarrassed to share these stories with my friends who attended Ohio State. I am not embarrassed about my education or this fine institution; they have both rendered me well.

However, when it comes to sharing stories, there is not much I can relate to compared with Ohio State's High Street, or as referred to by the locals there, the "college strip." It's hard enough to compete with area friends and their stories about the good times on the University of Florida's University Avenue.

I have to wonder if I want to be big man-from-a-large-university. I just do not understand why more students will not become involved in clubs, organizations, and activities outside the everyday routine of classes and work.

The apathy of students does not surprise me due to all the Florida State and University of Florida license plates I see on cars in the parking lot. The display of these novelty plates on our own USF grounds is a constant treason and invasion of our school spirit. My school spirit is just a bunch of BULL.

Please see OLD SOUTH page 5.

Dear Editors,

In reference to the article "Racial Slur Sources Campus," in the February 19-25 edition of The Crow's Nest, I felt that it was completely unnecessary to print the defaced flyer. It was very offensive. The printing of the flyer only served the offenders purpose.

Thank you,
Tamica Gooden

Correction

In the article "Local Press Answer to Race Coverage," in the February 26 - March 5 issue, The Crow's Nest identified LeRoy Lewis as the father of Tyron Lewis; however, Mr. Lewis is Tyron's cousin.
Get buffed for summer

The campus fitness center offers students a free workout.

Todd Wilbur
Special to the Nest

Want to get in-shape for beach season? Check out the Campus Fitness Center. The center provides Nautilus weight machines, stair climbers, treadmills, stationary bikes and free weights. It also offers a racquetball court, aerobics classes and a walking group. Free to all USF students and faculty with a valid ID, the fitness center is located in the Campus Activities Center on Sixth Avenue. Friends and relatives of the USF community, and members of the USF Alumni Association, may also join for a sponsorship fee of $50 per semester. A 90-minute orientation by appointment is required before your first workout.

Sheri Beaudreau, recreation program specialist at the fitness center, started at USF as a lifeguard. She came on staff at the fitness center when it opened in 1990.

"We have a very nicely equipped facility," says Beaudreau. "The staff is trained to help members with the equipment, and there are lots of orientation opportunities during the week."

The staff is very helpful," agrees Marcia Stroud, an Alumni Association member. Ms. Stroud says she is thrilled with the center and works out five times a week using the treadmill, stationary bike and Nautilus machines.

With over a dozen Nautilus weight machines, free weights, and a universal machine, you can tone and build nearly every major muscle group. Pierre Jones, a USF criminology major, has been using the fitness center for the year and a half. He works out three times a week, mostly with free weights to develop his upper body and Nautilus machines for his legs.

"It's free," says Jones, as a reason why he works out at the center.

Several stair-climber machines, stationary bikes, tread mills, and a rowing machine provide an excellent opportunity to burn fat and work your cardiovascular system. The best part is doing it all in an air conditioned atmosphere.

The racquetball court is located between the weight room and the gymnasium. Evenings are the busiest time for the court and Beaudreau suggests reservations. Wallyball — similar to racquetball but played on the walls of the racquetball room — is played twice a week, also.

Aerobics classes are taught by USF student Melanie Coleman in the aerobics room. The high/low impact combination class will run through May 2. Classes are held three times a week and are free to USF students and faculty, $6 a week for the general public.

The center also offers a Walk for Wellness group which meets three times a week and walks three miles through the downtown waterfront area to the Vinoy Hotel and back. This program is free to anyone in the community.

"A lot of people enjoy [walking with the group] because they need the discipline of meeting with others to exercise," says Beaudreau.

The busiest times at the center are 7 a.m., noon, and from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday is the busiest day of the week, with Saturday coming in a close second. To avoid a crowd, Beaudreau suggests coming between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Call 893-9589 for more information or to schedule an orientation session. But call soon. It won't be long before you're going to be in that bathing suit, absorbing the Florida sunshine.

OLD SOUTH
continued from page 4.

...I guess?

It is tiring hearing the same old excuses from my fellow students who say, "I did not know that event was going on," or "I forgot." There is a bulletin board in Davis Hall lobby that informs students of events that take place on campus.

Another worn out excuse is "I work ten jobs and I have a family and..." I know participation may be difficult for some students, but I also know there are students out there who do not want to take time to make time for activities. I wonder if other students know there are clubs that are willing to give them free food for sitting in a chair for 45 minutes.

For those who want to become active and join clubs, there are a few academic clubs and organizations on campus that are worthy of your participation. New clubs that serve other interests are encouraged, although difficult to begin, but not impossible.

The state will even supplement a club's budget. It would be nice to see a club on campus dedicated to USF Bulls football and basketball teams. Should you want to start a new club or suggest an idea, go to the Campus Activities Center and the personnel will assist you in getting started. If somebody did not take the time out of their busy academic schedules to run clubs and organizations, this campus would be no more than a pretty commuter campus or ghost town. We all know ghost towns attract ghosts.

In the future the university should provide some kind of incentive for students to become involved in extracurricular activities. We may never be a University of Florida, but we do not have to live in the shadow of USF Tampa. We are not the little sister campus. It is time to think big.

Members of Student Government elected to spend $300 to be in a bed race. Spending like this comes from a small town attitude of a small town university. This small town attitude does not surprise me, considering the probability that most students go from high school to community college to a commuter college without ever experiencing a large city or a major university.

I hope Student Government will find better ways to spend university funds given the fact that this university does not have a true student union, which would house a TV for student viewing, a pool table and a musicbox. At the present time maybe we cannot be a big university, but we can be the best small university.

Furthermore, we are not the reflection of the racial tensions of our state, although, the defacing of a Martin Luther King, Jr. flyer (as recently reported by The Crow's Nest) reflects a small, old, southern-campus attitude. Maybe it's just too hot for participation, but not hot enough for racial harmony. The ghost from the Old South has reared its ugly head. If we can't come together for activities, let us do it for moral- ity. USF needs to support more campus diversity and community relations.

—Randy Richards, a senior at USF St. Petersburg, is president of the Omni Cultural Society, a member of the Student Activities Board and a Student Government representative.

The Crow's Nest March 19 - 25, 1997 5
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ANNOUNCEMENTS
STRESS MANAGEMENT
A stress management training workshop for students who want to understand and manage stress more effectively. Develop a personal stress management plan. Wednesday, April 4, 4-6 p.m. Call for more information, 893-9297.

GOTTA HAVE A PLAN!
Learn how to structure a job search campaign, including organizational structure, goal setting and information gathering. Tuesday, March 25, 4-5:30 p.m., DAV 112. For more information, call the Counseling & Career Center, 893-9129.

GET YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR
Learn more about the job interview process and resources that will help you build your job search network. Thursday, April 4, 4:30-5:30 p.m., DAV 112. For more information, call the Counseling & Career Center, 893-9129.

SAY WHAT YOU MEAN
Prepare for interview questions and responses. Monday, April 7, 4:30-5:30 p.m., DAV 112. For more information, call the Counseling & Career Center, 893-9129.

ARTS & SCIENCES HONOR SOCIETY
If you are an Arts & Sciences major with 12 USFP-approved credits and a 3.0 GPA, you qualify for membership in the Arts & Sciences Honor Society. Call 893-9125 or stop by DAV 100.

ASSOC OF BLACK STUDENTS
Meets 5:30-6:30 Thursdays in DAV 130. Nothing is expected of you except an open mind and a positive attitude! For more info, call Karmika Burton at 553-3113.

TO PLACE AN AD
Submit your ad to writing to The Crow's Nest office at least one week before press date. All classified ads are payable in advance. Checks should be made payable to the University of South Florida. Personal checks should include a Driver's License number written on the check.

RATES
Single issue rate is $8.00 for 36 words or less, elaborated words are 10 each. Full-color ads will not be accepted. Ad payment is required. Classified ads are free to USF students, staff and faculty.

The Crow's Nest reserves the right to censor, classify, reject or cancel any advertisement.
Underwater archaeologist speaks

George F. Bass, a pioneer in underwater archaeology and professor of nautical archaeology at Texas A&M University, will talk about his excavation of the world’s oldest known shipwreck at USF St. Petersburg’s 130 Joint Use Auditorium at 7 p.m. on March 20.

The ship lies off the coast of Turkey and dates back to the 14th century B.C. Bass began the excavation in 1984 making 1,000 dives a year for four years to map the wreck and salvage artifacts. He believes the wreck was most likely a royal ship carrying prized gifts from one king to another and that its loss must have been devastating.

The discovery, which has been featured in National Geographic and on PBS’s Nova, has shed new light on the Bronze Age and the history of trade, seafaring, metallurgy, glass, shipbuilding technology and international relations.

The experiences of the teachers, all from spurgeon Middle School in Santa Ana, will talk about teaching disadvantaged and bilingual students, motivational teaching techniques, zero tolerance policy and inclusion in schools.

The event is sponsored by USF’s College of Education, Student Government and the Ford Foundation. It is free and open to the public. RSVP to 893-3172.

HARBORSIDELITERATURE CLUB:
Prof. Clarke catches up on his reading on a picture perfect Florida day. No one needed an excuse to lavish in last week’s beautiful weather, but a good book in hand keeps one from feeling guilty.

LEAVING THE FLOCK: Ron Bugg, physical plant manager, dressed up as Little Bo Peep for Officer Joe Panella’s retirement party luncheon at the Tavern.

QUASAR project on campus

Four teachers from The Ford Foundation’s QUASAR project, which explores teaching methods for helping students facing poverty and gang violence stay in school and live productive lives, will come to Davis Hall, Rm. 130 at 7 p.m. on March 25 to discuss their findings.

Six middle schools, who work with severely disadvantaged and high-risk students in literacy and mathematics, were identified by the Foundation and given a half-million dollars over five years to study ways to make education a more meaningful experience.

The experiences of the teachers, all from spurgeon Middle School in Santa Ana, will talk about teaching disadvantaged and bilingual students, motivational teaching techniques, zero tolerance policy and inclusion in schools.

The event is sponsored by USF’s College of Education, Student Government and the Ford Foundation. It is free and open to the public. Call 893-9537 for information.

To publish an event or brief, submit in writing to The Crow’s Nest, CAC 128.