Meet the esteemed Quacked Metal characters

As the Crow's Nest moves into the next century, we look forward to bringing you the highest quality newspaper available. That said, we thought you might enjoy a comic strip beyond compare and that's exactly what we found. Of course, in this case, it might not be a good thing ... but since they are all we can afford, allow us to introduce you to the mindless, madcap adventures of the manic mutant macabre... a.k.a. Psyco Duck... Tanuk the Great... (well, not really, but he thinks he is)... Java the coffee-loving cat... and Felix the Dustball... There's not too much you can say about a dustball without being censored... --SIGH-- Together these four characters are, sheesh, we can't believe we have to put this in print... QUACKED METAL!
Proposed athletic fee increase raises concern

By Rachael Lee Coleman

Regional concerns

Students and faculty on USF's four regional campuses are voicing concern that the proposed fee increase is unfair. Although the St. Petersburg campus now

"I'm very pleased that [the athletic department and our office] independently came up with the same numbers," Ritch said. "However, as I review the budget, I wonder if the amount is workable and if they plan to reduce it by a 468 percent for administrative purposes."

Although Sarasota, Lakeland and New College campuses receive nothing from the fund. "How do the athletic fees come to us because we don't have any sports on my campus?" asked Derek Williams, USF-Sarasota's student government president.

Griffin sees things differently. "We're all part of the University of South Florida," said Griffin. "We should help to meet the needs of areas we may not have interest in, in hopes that our other needs are met."

While those regional campuses do not have intercollegiate athletics, they do offer intramural athletics and fitness activities. Thus far, only intercollegiate athletics receive funds, from the athletic fees. The Florida statute that designates the rules for athletic fees does not specify that fees must only fund NCAA athletics.

"The funds can go to all athletics, not only NCAA," said Rachael Morris, USF-New College's student government president. "Students on our campus use our fitness center and participate in intramural athletics, but receive none of the athletic fees."

CITF

Activities and Service (A&S) fees currently fund intramural athletics, and fitness and recreational centers on the regional campuses are currently supported by the CITF. Created and disbursed by the regents, CITF traditionally supports construction of non-academic university buildings and renovation projects.

For instance, CITF money supported the construction of the Sun Dome, its roof renovations in 1997 and the $7 million dollar roof replacement slated to begin this spring.

On the St. Petersburg campus this year, CITF money will be used for the new USF entry feature ($24,397), the swimming pool heating project ($126,600) and fitness center locker room upgrades ($30,000), among other projects.

Athletic fee continued on Page 6
Take a sniff of this

Something stinks in USF's athletic department and it isn't dirty sweat socks. It seems, however, that only a few of the members on the athletic fee committee have their sense of smell intact.

Over the summer, the Executive Budget Committee decided to propose a university-wide athletic fee increase. To comply with state law, a committee of faculty and students had to be formed and university officials acknowledged that a summer committee would be problematic because many students wouldn't be available. They waited until the fall, drawing up a 16-member panel of eight students and eight faculty.

The foul odor was immediately recognized by certain some campus representatives. In the state statute, student fees are broken down into three categories: Activity and Service (A&S), health, and athletic fees. And in further reading, the statute authorizes each university president to establish an A&S, health and athletic fee on the main campus. It also states — and here's where interpretations come into play — that A&S, health and athletic fees can be established on any branch campus. The statute goes on to require that any increase in fees must be recommended by a fee committee, at least half of which must be students appointed by the student body president.

The question at issue is why are regional campuses now being viewed as part of the whole, rather than functionally, independent, fee-generating entities? Essentially, why is the university pushing this issue with a Tampa-based committee only, and not allowing each campus that statutorily-granted option to form campus-based athletic fee committees that make recommendations to Tampa?

Call it semantics if you will, but this issue of one Tampa-dominated committee versus regional campus committees is at least a relative of the State's rights versus the good of the nation issue that led to the Civil War. It is about more than a fee increase. It is about regional campus autonomy.

Historically, regional campus have set up separate committees to determine student fees. On the Tampa campus, for example, there is a different health fee than on the Tampa campus because there are different and more limited services. The St. Petersburg campus individually formed a health services fee committee to determine this, and gained university approval. The A&S fees have long been determined in the same way.

All of a sudden, just when the university needs a massive amount of money to make Division I-A football status, interpretation of this statute has been revisited.

The prevailing argument for this new interpretation is shaky at best. Dr. Jose Porteiro, faculty assistant to the president, would have us believe the student segment of the panel is a fair representation of the whole university. He sees the committee as numerically proportionate of the entire university. But no where in the statute is there any mention of proportionate representation. The university simply thinks that athletic fees are important enough to re-interpret the law.

Porteiro would also have us believe that the faculty members are making their recommendations for the benefit of the university; that they are state employees and not partial to their respective campuses. Right. If that really were the case, they why do we have separate student governments, separate administrations, different deans and independent budgets? Yes, USF is a family, but families are made up of individuals, not just one person.

Here is the make-up of the current athletic fee committee set to make recommendations on what could amount to a 468 percent increase in regional student athletic fees. Of the eight student members, four represent the Tampa campus. The remaining four are split between the regional campuses: Lakeland, St. Petersburg, New College and Sarasota. Of the eight faculty members, all but one, St. Petersburg's Steve Lang, are Tampa professors.

When asked about the formation separate athletic fee committees on the regional campuses, Porteiro insisted that no such committees could even exist since there is only one athletic department for the university.

Why then, back in 1997, when St. Petersburg student government president Diana DeVore formally requested a campus-specific athletic fee increase to cover USF sailing, did Paul Griffin, Director of Athletics, respond, "I would be supportive of a position ... for permission to increase the St. Petersburg campus athletic fee and retain the increased fee collections for the support of sailing."

This letter was written in May 1997. In no subsequent document regarding this request to Paul Griffin, former President Betty Castor or the Executive Budget Committee was the formation or validity of a separate athletic fee committee challenged. (In the end, the fee increase was to A&S funds, not athletic.)

The point is, a regional campus has formed an independent athletic fee committee following the proper procedures, and made decisions that were validated and endorsed by Paul Griffin and the university as a whole. What an amazing feat considering Tampa is now saying such a committee has never and could never exist.

When these very issues were brought up in the current deliberations, they were dismissed as irrelevant, or at least not important enough to answer before the recommendation. There was business to be conducted and questions of the committee's legitimacy were tabled. How can a seemingly invalid committee make a recommendation on anything?

In his proposal, Paul Griffin has recognized a difference between the regional campuses and the main campus by requesting different increases. Yet he is requesting a university-wide recommendation from a committee made-up of more Tampa representatives (two of which are directly connected to the athletic department) than those from other campuses. If each member expresses the voice of their constituency, how can the proposal not be recommended? The Tampa campus voice largely outweighs the voice of any regional campus.

Consider the fact that the proposed increase will support just about 450 athletes, a mere 1.2 percent of the entire university student body. If all this smells funny, fishy or downright funky to you, speak out. Maybe they'll listen to you.

-Krista Reiner, Next editor
I was introduced to the possibility of ghosts in this historic house [located across the street from the Campus Activities Center] when both the Williams and the Snell houses were newly relocated our harborside campus.

Shortly after their relocation, the houses were opened to students and to the public for touring. As a student (and historian), I, and my family, took advantage of this opportunity to get a look at genuine Florida cracker houses.

During the tour of the Williams House, our group met up with one of the workers who was gathering supplies for the night. In talking about his work and the history of the house, the man volunteered that he believed to be haunted.

Existed with the possibility of witnessing a haunting, I kept a lookout for any unusual activity, but the spirit was quiet that night.

Since the tour, I have discussed the possible "haunting" of Williams House with others on the campus and my queries led me to the office of Suzy Tschiderer — an active and well-known woman about campus for decades. Tschiderer works in the Snell House which sits adjacent to subject of my intrigue, the Williams House.

"Well, there are many rumors about the house," Tschiderer said, "one of them being that the spirit of a woman in a dancing gown appears. She is supposed to be the spirit of the mother of a former owner.

Tschiderer then told a tale of a strange event that occurred shortly before the Williams House was to be moved to the St. Petersburg campus. Some of the workers hired to prepare the house for the move refused to enter. These men — who immigrated to the U.S. from the Caribbean — told the owner that they "sensed another presence" in the house. But "presence" or no "presence," the house was moved.

But the question remains: Has the Spirit moved with the house, or did it remain on the original land left behind?

"When I walk in the house, I feel a presence of previous generations," Tschiderer said, "the house has a sense of history to it. It's one of the few old buildings native to St. Petersburg. It's one of the only icons of that era."

"When the Manhattan Hotel was added to the original Williams House, it became St. Petersburg's first hotel. It's one of the only icons of that era."

By Brandy Stark
"the place to stay," Tschiderer added. "Many famous people, including Babe Ruth, stayed there. When you look at the house, you can really feel what went on in there for the past 100 years."

At present, the Williams House stands empty. It is difficult to report any unusual happenings since no one has been in the building for any length of time since the public tours ended. However, students and attendees of the 25th Hour Bayboro Spooktacular may have a chance to see if there is a ghost for themselves. This year's Spooktacular, held Oct. 30, 9 p.m. — midnight, is set in the Snell and Williams houses. Both places will be decorated to the hilt for that thrill-seeking adult looking for some pre-Halloween fun.

A warning for those who plan to attend: If you encounter an unusual woman looking slightly out of place as you wander the Williams House — look twice — she may belong there more than you do.

For more ghostly lore, see page 9

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**Ghost lore frightens campus**

"I never heard anything about a ghost or the elevator before you asked," she said.

Perhaps the refurbished Bayboro isn't what Poynter's ghost is interested in. Maybe he "left the building" — so to speak — when the Bayboro was gutted and the administrative offices took the place of his beloved books.

It could be that Poynter's ghost was "there" in the first place, but rather, was just a creative way to explain a quirky old elevator. Or maybe, just maybe, he moved with the contents and now remains a guardian over the faculty, staff, and books in the new library houses.

According to the night crew, if you find yourself alone deep in the stacks of the library, or if you find the Bayboro elevator "acting up" as you coast between floors, you might say "Hello" to Mr. Poynter — I'm sure he'd appreciate a little conversation.

**The haunting of Williams House**

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For more ghostly lore, see page 9
Recognizing alcoholism

By Sandy Blood

Symptoms of alcoholism

Does someone you know:

- Need a drink to get over a hangover?
- Like to drink alone?
- Lose time from work due to drinking?
- Need a drink at a definite time of day?
- Lie about, cover up or make excuses about drinking?
- Suffer loss of memory while drinking or afterward?
- Have decreased energy or motivation?
- Drink to relieve stress, fear, shyness, insecurity?
- Find that drinking is harming or worrisome to the whole family?
- Become more moody, jealous or irritable after drinking?
- If any of the above answers are YES, then the person may be on the road to alcoholism.

Recognizing the problem is the first step to stopping it. Also, many people have family, social, job or legal problems related to alcohol use but don't fit the definition of someone with alcoholism. Remember, problem drinkers need help, too.

Information obtained from 1994 Channel L. Bete Co., Inc./Brochure, Alcoholism — A Treatable Disease.

— Sandy Blood

Continued from Page 3

In his proposal presentation to the athletic fee committee on Oct. 7, Griffin promised the athletic department would give up access to CITF funds if the athletic fee increase is approved. If the department does relinquish access to the funds, future capital improvements, including the dome, will be supported solely by athletic fees, said Griffin.

Griffin described CITF as a "hidden component" of tuition dollars collected from students. New College's Morris questioned whether the athletic department's forfeiture of this resource was a comparable exchange for the increased athletic fee. She argued that students would continue to contribute to the CITF through tuition, and would be exhausted again with the athletic fee.

In order for regional campuses to establish athletic teams, Griffin said he would observe what clubs develop on their own and assess the needs of those campuses. "I have a federal mandate to respond to emerging needs on regional campuses," he said. "We also monitor emerging growth in high school activities."

Statewide comparison

Even with the increase, USF's athletic fees will still be among the lowest fees in the state, said Griffin. Regarding the per-credit-hour fees, USF ranks in the third lowest, only behind UF and FSU. The University of Central Florida's athletic fees top the list at $9.90 per credit-hour, FSU currently charges $4.90 per credit hour and UF maintains the lowest athletic fee, $1.70 per credit hour, but students must pay for admission to athletic events. In response to committee member Billy O'Hare's concern that USF will adopt a similar policy, Griffin said the athletic department "didn't intend to" charge students for admission to I-A athletic events.

"You have to compare apples to apples when dealing with the athletic fee," said Tim Lenahan, USF-St. Petersburg's student government president, "because what seems to be a simple comparison, does not tell the whole story."

"The amount of money isn't relative to the number of students, it's relative to the number of student athletes."

"If Paul Griffin is so interested in coinciding with state averages in funding, it seems inconsistent that he should disregard the fact that our university is making the leap to I-A faster than any school in the history of intercollegiate athletics."

Unlike A&S fees, which are usage fees available to any student via clubs and organizations, the athletic fee could be viewed more like a tax. Of USF's more than 38,000 students, there are only 444 intercollegiate athletes. Since the fee only benefits 1.2 percent of the university's student body, it's not used by student. "The athletic training facilities are things you can't get into with your student ID," said Lenahan.

While few committee members deny the need for a small athletic fee increase on the regional campuses, the amount and the nature of its disbursement, or lack thereof, raises concern.

"I'd support a reasonable fee increase," said Lenahan, "but I don't believe that any evidence has been presented to show that Mr. Griffin's proposal is reasonable."

A town meeting will be held on the St. Petersburg campus to discuss the proposed athletic fee increase. All students and faculty are invited to attend. — Oct. 25 in Davis Lobby at 4:45 p.m.
Making waves

Pamela Hallock Muller, a biological oceanographer at USF who specializes in the ecology of reefs, will receive a national award for researching this month presented by the Association for Women Geoscientists (AWG) on Oct. 26 in Denver.

Muller will bring home the AWG 1999 Outstanding Educator Award for her research efforts in the area of coral symbiosis in evolution, reef history and anthropogenic influences on modern coral reefs. She is a leading authority on larger foraminifera in studies of paleoenvironments, carbonate sedimentation, and environmental quality.

The AWG also recognized Muller as an “enthusiastic teacher” who challenges and inspires her students, and an “innovative researcher in the laboratory and the field” who is very active in public service and is a strong advocate of women in science and environmental education.

Listed among her many talents and mentoring skills, Muller participates at the USF Oceanography Camp for Girls that encourages middle-school students to think about science and math in high school and beyond. She also presents innovative classes in coral reef geology for Project Oceanography, a televised science show that reaches middle schools nationwide.

Information and photo provided by the USF Office of Media Relations.

Décor-8 offers simplicity

By Brandy Stark

Things are nice on First Avenue North. Traffic flows in a simple one-way pattern—east to west. Shops, restaurants and hotels line the street, their large windows offering potential customers a peek inside. One such window displays the seated form of a 14-foot finned Triton. This particular adornment belongs to one of the newest attractions to land on First Ave.

The Décor-8 Art Gallery.

The Décor-8, which opened June 12, is run by gallery director Rick Merritt. With an oddity mixed background of insurance finance and artistic expression, Merritt is the embodiment of enthusiasm and excitement when showing the art displayed in his gallery. Nor is this his first gallery experience. Merritt also owned Eclectic Avenue which closed in 1991 to make way for new construction projects in downtown St. Petersburg.

The gallery promotes local established artists. Presently, 25 artists are on display. Merritt's goal is to increase that number to 100 within a year.

A wide range of art styles tease the eye inside the spacious interior including mid-century to modern furniture, custom jewelry, abstract painting, and wire sculpture among other unusual and eccentric artistic statements. It is, says Merritt, “the art of everyday life.”

“I want to encourage people to see that you don't have to have just one style in your surroundings. Antiques mix with the modern. For example, a rocking chair is not just a chair but a beautiful piece of art.”

This gallery, however, holds more than just art. It also serves as a site for local charity events—a personal effort made by those who run the gallery to “give back” to their community. In the past, the gallery has held a live art auction for the Avon Breast Cancer Fund, offered sponsorship to the Silver Lining Fund, held concerts for the Avante Jazz Music Series and is currently preparing to raise money for the FACT ( För AIDS Care Today, Inc.) Charity.

It is also a place of learning, says Merritt, who encourages students to visit the gallery and hopes to develop tours, lectures, and an internship program in conjunction with local colleges.

Merritt says his goal is to offer an experience for anyone interested in learning about the unique set of responsibilities in running a gallery or learning more about promoting and displaying art where he can mentor students in an artistically-motivated business environment.

“I believe in a positive attitude. I want people to have respect for their careers, art, and themselves,” Merritt says.

As for his business philosophy, Merritt mixes art appreciation with an affordable price tag. “People should not be intimidated by art,” says Merritt. “If I have to ask the price, I can’t afford it” is absurd. I sell original art for the same price as art bought in replica from the mall.”

USF Tropicana

Concessions would like to thank all of the clubs and organizations on the St. Petersburg and Tampa campuses for their participation at the Trop for the 1999 Devil Rays season.

Information regarding the 2000 season should be available mid-November. Please call 727-653-1569 if your group is interested in the upcoming dates.

We hope to see you at the Trop!

Suzanne Struthers, Coordinator, USF Tropicana Concessions

Harris Blair, Andrea Clay, Danielle Pirrello and Susan Strehl, staff

Teresa Kelley-Brownell

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Photo by Brandy Stark
The interior of the Décor-8 Gallery offers eclectic furnishings.
Soft Maniacs packs hard punch

By Krista Reiner

Readers have no choice but to listen to Maggie Estep. Her 1997 first novel, Diary of an Emotional Idiot, evoked what Village Voice writer Emily Jenkins called "the kind of urgent babble one might expect from a roving id." In her second full-length piece of fiction, Soft Maniacs, Estep maintains her urgency. The narrators of her inter-connected short stories are all men obsessed with one of the two main characters: Katie, daughter of a circus lion tamer and aspiring photographer; or Jody, a nymphomanic psychiatrist.

Soft Maniacs is not for the faint of heart who may have trouble with the explicit sex. Keeping the narrators straight can also be a challenge.

In Soft Maniacs, Estep lets go of her standard ranting of a lot of Estep's use of irony intensifies the story line s, and you'll be less inclined to homeless man and a recovering alcoholic throw up, but there's no explicit sex. Keeping are only directly confusing Jack with Joe, or Jim with Pete. who stalks her for weeks without her anything sentmental in a way that would be inappropriate.

Despite these obsessions, Soft Maniacs has a tender underbelly. Estep's work: namely, the helpless nature of sexual longing and ultimately, love, conveyed in strange, but touching ways.

There is hope in Soft Maniacs, despite the explicit sexual escapades of Jody and her various patients. The book takes a deep look inside the human spirit and closely portrays men and women as striving for normalcy in a crazy world.

Jody and Katie are only directly connected in the first story, "Horses," a tale of circus workers in which Jody is dating Katie's father. The remaining stories are set in New York where both Jody and Katie move to live out their dreams. Jody's dreams are fulfilled by sexual trysts with her patients, while Katie's are played out by taking home a homeless man and a recovering alcoholic who stalks her for weeks without her knowledge.

Estep's use of irony intensifies the story, as readers become aware that Jody's ex-lover becomes Katie's new lover, demonstrating the two women as two sides of the same coin. Katie is unconditioned.

If you can get through the continuous rants and overt sexualization of women by these men, you may find the heart of Estep's work, namely, the helpless nature of sexual longing and ultimately, love, conveyed in strange, but touching ways.

What started out as a dare to write in a man's voice, ultimately became a look into the intricate relationships that form in life. In Soft Maniacs, Estep effectively creates the tenuous edge many of us simultaneously fear and desire to know.
Lurking for freaky films?

By Therese Mattioli

OK, for those of you who are considering a nice quiet night at home with that favorite guy or ghoul this Halloween, the Nest staff has compiled a list of horror movie classics sure to keep things cozy on the couch.

Since none of us have had the time to actually see a movie since Indiana Jones took on the Temple of Doom, these flicks, remembered more for the fear they instilled in the deep, dark recesses of our childhood, are cherished because upon recent recall they still make our skin crawl and leave us wanting a nighttime, a baseball bat (or preferably a M-16), and, at best, the hulking figure of some long forgotten superhero to accompany us to a fair night of rest.

So, smuggle up tight (keeping in mind that a well-wrapped blanket makes you invisible to monsters), leave the closet door ajar and the hall light on, and try not to toss the popcorn when that go "BOO" across your TV screen.

Amityville Horror (1979) — Oozing walls, bleeding staircases, screaming bugs, voices from nowhere and stupid homeowners too oblivious to leave make this a classic horror film.

Something Wicked This Way Comes (1983) — Sheds a whole new perspective on the world of traveling carnivals — be careful what you wish for, you might just get it at a price you can’t afford.

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1978) — I still think this is what REALLY happened to my parents. You know, you think you know somebody until you realize, too late, that they are actually somebody alien.

Crawlspace (1982) — Between cockroach-infested cereals in the crawl space and whatever it was that was in that crate under the stairs, I jumped every time the house created for months.

Night of the Living Dead (1968) — Flesh-eating zombies reaming the countryside vs. a happy-go-lucky group of the not-dead-yets barricaded in an old farmhouse. Uck.

Pitchfork dancing isn’t pretty.


Ghost Story (1981) — Nearly dead revisits a horribly evil 50-year-old secret. I don’t know what is worse the nearly dead or their creepy secrets.

Eating Raoul (1983) — No so much scary in its tilling as in the concept that the plot successfully depics planted people (like little rows of corn or carrots), their harvesting and vols — dinner is served.

Rosemary’s Baby (1968) — The fact that Mia Farrow plays the lead is scary enough — at eight months pregnant she might tip the scale at 90 pounds. But this is why I think adoption is a good idea. You know what you are getting. No fuss. No muss. No demon babies springing forth from your loins.

Carrie (1976) — To be honest, I would have loved to have had her powers for MY prom. ‘Nuff said.

Jaws (1975) — Not your typical horror film, but I was only eight-years-old when this movie came out and I know a whole passel of grown-ups who were eight-years-old when the commercials aired for this movie — we all agree that the soundtrack alone kept us out of the deep end of the pool for years. Not Hart. Hart, it made the beach pretty spooky.


Deliverance (1972) — This only became scary after a canoe trip I took two summers ago with a couple friends through northern Georgia.

Know your paranormals...

By Brandy Stark

Ghost sightings and ghost stories from all over the world have been reported since the earliest times through modern day. In fact, the first record of a “ghost story” hails from the Epic of Gilgamesh, written in the time of Babylon.

Amusingly enough, many of the injuries claimed to be caused by ghost sightings occur when witnesses panic and do not pay attention to where they are heading. To prepare for that chance encounter with a ghost check out these “signs” of spirit manifestation:

• Cold spots — ghosts are thought to create cold spots. These are usually localized areas of unusual cold. They may also form as cold winds, or sudden drop in temperature (like a refrigerator door being open and closed suddenly). One theory states that ghosts absorb a certain amount of energy when they manifest in an area, thus creating a sensation of cold to the living who often generate some of this energy.

• Sudden strange behavior by animals — If an animal suddenly acts in a hostile or scared manner for no apparent reason, a ghost may be present. Some animals are known to be more aware of ghosts than are people. They can be sensitive to the changes in the local atmosphere that ghostly manifestation creates. Animals may appear to be barking at nothing, lick the air, or stare at a spot for prolonged periods of time.

• Not everyone can “see” a ghost — During a ghostly manifestation in a room full of people, some may see a ghost, some may hear it, some may “sense” a change in the room, and others may experience nothing.

• Ghosts may hold a variety of forms — They may manifest as columns, balls of light, geometric shape, animals, or people. They may appear older or younger than when they died and their clothing can be different as well.

• Ghosts may appear in photographic images — Often they show up as flashes of light, or as shadowy images in the picture. Many times these images can be scientifically explained or it is just plain fraud. However, a small percentage of the pictures cannot be explained and it is those that scientists and amateur ghost hunters study.

Like visions, not everyone can take “ghost” pictures. Some relate it to a form of psychic ability to imprint ghostly manifestations on film.

Terms of the trade

• Apparition — A ghost that interacts with its surroundings or with the living. This is what many people identify as a “ghost.” Sometimes these ghosts appear for a special reason to convey messages to the living.

• Ghost haunting/site haunting — An event or memory that has been “recorded” by the surrounding area and is periodically “played back.” These ghosts are seen at different times by different people but are the same ghosts doing the same activities. The ghost has no interaction with the living, but is simply a form of three-dimensional memory played back to the living.

• Poltergeists — Poltergeists are those beings (or that energy) which has the ability to move objects and appear to be hostile to the living who do not pay attention to where they are heading.

• Parapsychology — The field of study that relates to ghosts, Extra Sensory Perception (ESP), and extra-ordinary feats of the mind. This is a separate field from the paranormal and the occult. Psychiatric research investigations are made by specially-trained people trying to find the reason behind ghostly haunting. Investigations normally begin by sorting through the evidence and eliminating any natural cause that might be mistakes for a haunting. The aim of psychic research is to discover what the forces are which produce ghostly events. 

deCom/Nex
Families of victims band together against hate

(U-WIRE) FORT COLLINS, Colo. 10/13/1999 — Families that have lost members to crimes of hate came together to stand up against the violence that took their loved ones.

Darrell Scott, father of Rachel Scott; Mylinda Washington, sister of James Byrd Jr.; and Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard, met yesterday to introduce a new documentary called "Journey to a Hate-Free Millennium." The family members strongly support the new documentary because they feel that it represents their heartbreaks thoughtfully and creates solutions, they said during the conference.

"I truly believe that one person can make a difference," Scott said. "When I went before the judiciary committee, I told them that I know I am a pawn. But, I also know that a pawn in a master's hand can checkmate a king."

The film is an attempt by its makers, Martin Bedonge and Bret Scarpo, to solve the problem of hate and empower individuals to make a difference. It features the stories and families of Shepard, Bird and the 12 students killed at Columbine High School.

"My husband and I are excited about this project," Shepard said. "We feel that it was the closest to our ideals and what we believe Matthew's ideals would be."

The film was originally designed to tell three separate stories, but at the time, Byrd's story was all they had. The Shepard incident sharply drew their attention to Colorado and resupplied a fire to finish the project.

"Coincidences are God's way of remaining anonymous," Scarpo said. "We were moved by this story."

Waiting for a sign to tell them what direction their film should take and empowered by the Shepard story, the two film makers relocated to Denver. During the hour long conference, each family representative was given a chance to tell their story.

"Rachel wanted to be an actress, but she also wanted to be a missionary," Scott said.

Two weeks ago Scott's second daughter found a code of ethics that Rachel had prepared for a class. The code stated, "Through the acts of kindness I can start a chain reaction that could be felt around the world."

Three weeks before the Columbine High School shootings Scott's daughter had pulled over during a downpour to hold an umbrella over a young man's head who was changing a flat tire.

"I wish that I wasn't here," Scarpo said. "It was so perfect for her to share that with us."

It was where Matthew died, at Poudre Valley Hospital, and where an educational piece belongs – in a place of higher learning, Shepard said.

"Hopefully this will help put an end to hate in this world," Shepard said.

Scarpo, along with his co-producer, said he was satisfied with the end product. But, in closing at the conference said he wished it could be different.

"I wish that Matthew was shopping with his mom, and I wish James was playing out a fun hat with her father."

By Cj Rogers
Rocky Mountain Collegian

When the young man saw Rachel's picture in the paper after the shooting, he came to the funeral. Every day during the summer, carrying 20 gallons of water in a plastic jug and driving 15 miles, the young man Austin Wiggins would water the grass surrounding her grave site.

"All the grass nearby was dry and dead," Scott said. "But her grave flourished because one man's life had been touched by an act of kindness."

With the three traumatic stories, their documentary began to take shape. Months later their new film was ready and the only question remaining was where to premiere it first.

It was Shepard who recommended the film first debut at Colorado State University on the first anniversary of her son's death.

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-Margaret Mead

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October 20 - 24
Fright Fest '99 — Experience true terror as you walk down two haunted trails through the woods. Enjoy live entertainment, Halloween, fall and Christmas crafts, games and storytelling. The event will be located at the Renaissance Fairgrounds from 6 to 11 p.m. Tickets are $9.95 for adults and $3.95 for children. For information, call (800) 779-4910.

October 23
Paint St. Pete Proud — Participate in this day long, volunteer event to paint local residents' homes. Individual and corporate teams welcome. For information call (727) 894-5452.

October 27
Film Series: Movies that Move — View feature film Mary Jane's Not a Virgin Anymore and other short films at the State Theater, located on Central Avenue. Two showings at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Admission is $4. Organizer seeking films for possible screening. For information call (727) 381-4894.

October 30
28th Annual CIRCUS McGURKIS: Outdoor Peoples Fair — Enjoy art, music, games and progressive issues. Event theme: Let Us Build the Ship of the Future. The event will be located at Lakeview Park/Lake Maggiore, 20th St. & 28th Ave. S. from 10 a.m. to dusk. Admission is free.

October 28, November 4
St. Pete Swing Kids — Beginning East Coast Swing lessons in the CAC fitness center at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 28; 7 p.m., Nov. 4.

November 2
Remember to Vote

Weekends
Uptown Friday Nights — Participate in a Dome District Block Party located on Central Avenue between 11th St. and 13th St. Enjoy monthly free concerts from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. For information call (727) 822-4562.

African Festival Market — The grassroots initiative hosted by the Uhuru Movement, offers food, arts, music and dance. Every Sat. and Sun. from 9 a.m. to sundown at Campbell Park, 601 14th St. S., St. Petersburg. Vendors, volunteers and performers needed. Call (727) 821-2437.

October 25
Honey MoccaJoom — This comedy/thriller, by Shelly Niro, combines elements of melodrama, performance art and "whodunit" to examine and question native identity in the 1990s. The event will be held in the CAC at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

October 29
USF Homecoming — Participate in USF. St. Petersburg's Super Bull Bash. Activities include sign decorating, cheer phone decorating and a barbecue pool party. For more information call (727) 553-1147.

November 1 - 6
USF Homecoming — Participate in USF. St. Petersburg's Super Bull Bash. Activities include sign decorating, cheer phone decorating and a barbecue pool party. For more information call (727) 553-1147.

November 3
Stress Management Workshop — Explore strategies for resisting stress. Topics will include how and when to set limits, relaxation techniques, developing social support, and making healthful life choices. The workshop will be held at 5 p.m. For reservations visit DAV 112 or call (727) 553-1129.

clubs & orgs
Ongoing
Management Information Systems Society, a student organization dedicated to advancing ideas and methods of information systems management in today's business environment, and bridging the gap between the educational environment and the business world. Students with all majors welcome to attend. Meetings are Tuesdays at 4:30 p.m. in DAV 102. For membership info. and schedule visit www.coba.usf.edu/student/miss-stpt

Student government meets every other Tues. in CAC 133 at 4:15 p.m., beginning Sept. 8. Representative positions are still available for all colleges. All students are welcome to attend. For information, call (727) 553-1144.

Council of Clubs (COC) meets the first Tuesday of each month in CAC 133 at 4 p.m. All clubs and organizations must send at least one member. For information, call (727) 553-1144.

To be included in Currents, send the name, date and brief description of the event; the organization; and the contact name and number to Currents, c/o the Crow's Nest or e-mail with the subject line "currents."
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