UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
ST. PETERSBURG
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LOCAL PRESS ANSWER TO RACE COVERAGE

USF St. Petersburg hosts a town meeting to discuss the media's portrayal of the October disturbance.

Sara Jenkins
Next Editor

In what was billed as a "town meeting," news directors, reporters and editors from local television and print media met in the DEP Joint Use Auditorium February 19, along with St. Petersburg residents and USF students to discuss the media's coverage of the disturbance in St. Petersburg last year.

The event, co-sponsored by The Ethics Center, The Poynter Institute for Media Studies and the Society of Professional Journalists, was one of several similar meetings that have taken place since the disturbances.

The purpose of the meeting was to give residents the chance to voice opinions and concerns directly to the media, and to discuss how coverage can be improved.

Why was your first interview with a white European male?" demanded one resident, referring to Channel 28's initial coverage of the disturbance. "Why not talk to people that are there, that know what was going on?"

Maurice Sebastian, who works for Channel 28's news director,leta Hix, responded. "I really can't comment on your situation," she said. "I was never told about it. We had so many calls that night, and it was so busy. But I apologize for us not responding to your story."

As to the first interview being with the white male, she replied, "We got the information on the air as we got it in. Within the hour we were down at the scene and did talk to residents of the neighborhood."

Footage of Channel 28's coverage was shown, and also that of Channel 10. Channel 10’s vice president of news, Mike Cavender, told the assembly, "Our coverage was conservative. We didn't show any pictures until the 11 o’clock news, where we provided full coverage."

At this point, differences between the two channel's coverage was apparent. Channel 28 reported that the car driven by TyRon Lewis moved forward and hit the policeman, while the footage of Channel 10's coverage reported that the "car smashed into police after it was told to slow down." It was this alleged sensationalizing of the story that many objected to.

Terminology overall was a main criticism. "Where exactly is 'south St. Petersburg'?" asked Shirley Davis, a resident. "South St. Pete encompasses a very large area. This term has become a euphemism for the black community."

It was not our job that night to 'serve the community.' We were there to report what was happening. People should be criticizing us for not warning them that this would happen," said Forrest Carr, assistant news director at Channel 8.

"The media really blew it," Diana DeVore, student government vice president, told the assembly. "This has been happening for a long time. They should have known."

The print media's coverage was also discussed. Different layouts of the St. Petersburg Times was shown on the screen, but with print having more time to consider stories.
Coney Island offers New York-style dogs in a classic venue

Cary Wimer  
Staff Writer

Low on cash? Try the Coney Island Sandwich Shop for a budget lunch. Coney Island transports diners back in time with low prices and atmosphere. It’s a place where customers can sit at the worn yellow counter on old-style barstools or in a cozy booth and feel for the community. Most of clientele have dined here most of their lives.

There’s something magical about the family-owned eatery. The Coney Island offers simple, basic food. It is clean and bright with picture windows at the front that overlooks 9th Street. A no-frills menu hangs above the kitchen area where the menu items include grilled cheese, egg sandwiches and hamburgers. They have a limited selection of beverages: Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, hot tea and coffee. The Coney Island Sandwich Shop is a part of St. Petersburg’s history. In 1926, Peter Barlas, a native from Greece, opened the shop with the idea of selling chili dogs. It was a time when downtown St. Petersburg was thriving. Sears Roebuck was across the street and the only movie houses were downtown. Street cars were a common form of transportation. Today his two sons, Hank and George, run the family business and can be found behind the counter “slinging dogs.”

Perhaps the secret to the success of this business is the small turnover in employees. The newest addition to the staff has been there 5 years. Some of the waitresses have been there 12-14 years. One cook has been there 15 years and the dishwasher 20, an abnormality for the hospitality business.

Coney Island Sandwich Shop is located at 250 9th Street N. and is open from 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

They have a massive lunch crowd and are extremely busy between 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Take-out is available. For more information, call 822-4493.
Improving relations with community policing

Tammy LeMaster  
Special to the Next

The February Crime Watch meeting featurred community police officer Richard Berthelot, who addressed community relations in St. Petersburg.

Berthelot has been in the area for five years and has been involved in community policing in St. Petersburg's area of disturbance. Community policing involves dedicating officers to geographic regions within the city where they will get acquainted with people living in the area.

The discussion during the meeting, which had eight faculty members in attendance, revolved around some of the steps that are being taken to improve relations within the city of St. Petersburg.

"Since the riots occurred, a number of groups have come forward with complaints about the community," said Berthelot. "We are learning that there are many people within the community who have been dissatisfied with the city for a while," said Berthelot.

Berthelot explained that there has always been talk about bringing the community together and trying to get local business more involved. Since the riots, the city leaders have now taken a more proactive role in channeling officers to geographic regions within the city where they will get acquainted with people living in the area. The perception is that the entire community has not been involved enough to know what it's really like in that area.

"There are problems we have with kids and they have the ability to influence other kids," said Berthelot. "The key to making it work is to get the juveniles in the area involved and to offer them a program that will give them things they enjoy doing," he said.

A community police officer such as Berthelot does not take random 911 calls unless he or she chooses to take a specific call. Community policing strives to get the community more involved in their own destiny by creating such programs as neighborhood watch programs. While there are some people involved, there is no where near enough," said Berthelot.

The first step is to get people to take stock in their community. The people in the community know better than anyone about what is going on and what the true problems are. We are trying to get people in the community to get involved and trying to get local business more involved in their own community. The people in the community need to be put in jail, but maybe he isn't a crack addict, maybe he is out of work and trying to raise a family. Putting him in jail won't solve the problem.

To help city leaders get a better idea of what the community thinks, they sent the citizens of the disturbance area a survey asking them to explain their largest concern within their community. According to Berthelot, the two most common concerns expressed were drug problems and violent crimes.

"Most of the crimes are committed by a small group of individuals, not the entire community. The perception is that the entire area of south St. Petersburg is dangerous. Our perception, however, is not always accurate," added Berthelot.

Not only does Berthelot work in this area, but he also lives close and attends a local church. With the close association he has in the community, he could not be accused of not being involved enough to know what it's really like in that area.

"There aren't a large number of juveniles in the 12-16 age bracket that have nothing to occupy their time," he said. "Many of the problems we have are with kids, and they have the ability to influence other kids.

The club helps build mass communications major's portfolios by assigning groups of its members to advertising campaign assignments. These tasks promote the teamwork needed when working in advertising, while helping local organizations like Student Health Services, based on the Tampa campus. The city leaders have now taken a more proactive role in community policing to get the people in the Atlanta area. The trip was partially paid for by the club. Dr. Dan Bagley, associate professor and advisor to the club, said, "A graduate degree is not enough; you need experience.

If you have tried the club in recent years, you may have found it struggling with as little as 12 members, five of which would show up to the meetings. Within the past two semesters, thanks to the outstanding work done by Henderson and the other club members, the membership has skyrocketed to 70, with as many as 30 people attending the meetings.

"How good the club has always been based on how good the president is," Bagley said. "Henderson is the best president the club has had in a long, long time."

The club meets every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to noon on the Tampa campus in CIS building.

The membership fee is $15 a year, which does not go to the club, it pays the national dues to the club's parent organization, the American Advertising Federation. The dues also include a monthly newsletter.

Currently, membership is composed of students from both campuses. Some commute from as far away as Clearwater and Lakeland. Most of the members are from Tampa.

Henderson hopes for more interest from the St. Petersburg campus. She said it is worth the drive.

"If you're serious about your future, what's 40 minutes?"
Infected Airwaves

Something foul is in the air. A symbolic decay pervades the airwaves across this country, and it has a noticeable presence in the Tampa Bay area.

This stench has become known as “shock radio,” where “shock jocks” spout off derogatory remarks that degrade the mentally handicapped, and in particular, homosexuals and women. Anyone who is not a heterosexual white male with full mental and physical faculties is a target.

The right of shock radio to spew their ignorance is constitutionally guaranteed, as it should be. But what is bewildering is the remarkable acceptance and mass-market support of this junk. When a local radio show features its “Humpday Home News,” which belittles homosexuals, ratings jump 25 percent. And in response to the expanding popularity of shock radio, one of the most well listened to stations in the Bay area has hired a disc jockey to host radio’s most recent indignities came in the form of breast implants, given away as a gimmick.

The popularity of homophobic, heterosexist, racist and sexist speech may be proclaimed by many of its supporters as nothing more than “fun,” harmless to no one and helpful to those who get a release from the laughter it generates. “Lighten up” will be the feeble attempt to silence those who question this form of fun.

But this fun comes at the expense of groups that throughout history have been the targets of those with the political, social and economic power used to oppress anyone who is labeled different. Fun is created by ridiculing others we all suffer. No one is free when one is stripped of equality and respect.

To get a “kick” out of laughing at others’ differences is a clear sign of weakness and insecurity, an attempt to exert pseudo-superiority over those that already have less power.

A root cause of this destructive mentality is the powerful force of indiscriminate profit-taking. We live in a society that scares us into believing that the only way to survive is by being better than the next guy. A free market, which in the case of shock radio, distributes fear, ridicule and hate, and collects millions of dollars doing it.

To profit from the practice of denigrating people should be criminal. But it is painfully obvious that the broadcasters and advertisers of this smut purposefully flout attitudes that could benefit us all, for with an audience unable to identify inequality, their rhetoric will continue serving them profitably.

Unfortunately, the legislative gains for human rights made in the last 30 years cannot guarantee that attitudes will be changed. Unless those members of society who realize the dangers of this kind of speech exercise their rights to denounce it, a future of social equality seems remote.

—Baird Lefter

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The following letter was faxed to The Crow’s Nest on February 13 in response to the February 12 editorial titled “Abuse and Ignorance, Verbatim.”

Dear Senator Grant,

An editorial recently appeared in the USF newspaper for Bayboro Campus in St. Petersburg, The Crow’s Nest, that encouraged us to contact you about your letter rebuking Betty Castor for allowing Greg Louganis to speak as a role model to the students of USF.

Thank you for having the moral courage to speak out in our best interests. I am deeply grateful that you understand the university’s role, acting in place of parents to guide students, and that you correct them when they act in abusive or neglectful ways. I am delighted to get such value from public funds spent on your upkeep and actions. How proud the Florida Senate’s leadership must be to contain such great thoughts!

I’m in your corner, I’m on your team. Way to go, Senator Grant!

Sincerely,
Joanie Phillips
Senior
Mass Comm/PUR
USF St. Petersburg

NEWS BRIEF

USF’s Sgt. Margie Carr to retire on February 28

Sgt. Margie Carr, a member of the USF St. Petersburg campus police department since 1993, is retiring on February 28, 1997.

Carr worked for the State of Florida for 31 years, nine of those on the Tampa campus from 1984-1993. She received the award for Outstanding Service in 1996 and is a certified Crime Prevention Practitioner.

During her career at the St. Petersburg campus, Carr conducted New Student Orientation, was coordinator of the Campus Crime Watch Group and the Bayboro Business Group.

After retiring, Carr plans to move to Hollywood, Florida, to work for the Seminole Department of Law Enforcement as the sergeant in charge of the Hollywood office.
GETTING BACK TO NATURE: Prof. Davis’ Tuesday night class was held outside on the lawn near the Bayboro harbor last week. The Florida State Checker Tournament occupied DAV 130, the room where the class is normally held.

STEPPING OUT: Attendance was high at the fitness center’s first aerobics class on Monday, February 17. Instructor Melanie Coleman will continue to teach aerobics through May 2 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 4 to 5 p.m. in CAC 109. The classes are free with a USF ID.

FROM THE HEART: Denise Turner lovingly creates cards for her brother and mother as part of the “Make Your Own Valentine” event in the Davis lobby. The Counseling and Career Center and the Wellness Committee sponsored the event.

DEFENSE continued from page 1.

ries, criticism was aimed more at decisions to run certain stories. In particular, the Times was criticized for their recent story on TyRon Lewis that exposed his background. “TyRon was perceived as someone who deserved to die,” said LeRoy Lewis, TyRon’s father. “No child deserves to die.”

Several in attendance didn’t see the need for the story, and the Times’ assistant metro editor, Sebastian Dortch, stood up to defend it. “We wanted to give the readers all the information we had,” he said. “Then it is up to them to form an opinion. I feel that the Times’ coverage was balanced. It wasn’t perfect, but it was a good.”

“Why did you have to expose his past problems? If I was arrested and charged, would you go look up court records and tell everyone what a bad person I was?” demanded Maurice Sebastian.

“We would talk to your family, past teachers, employers, everyone, to get a complete picture of you,” Dortch responded. “Lewis’s family didn’t want to talk to us. We wanted to have all the facts, full disclosure. It is our job to give you all the facts.”

John Sugg, senior editor at the Weekly Planet, added to the discussion, “There are not enough blacks in newsrooms. That is one of the major problems. We don’t get their perspective.

No definitive answers to the problems were presented, but many in attendance realized that the fact that so many in the media showed up demonstrates a recognizable need to improve coverage of racial issues, and to keep in touch with all facets of a community.

“We hold these meetings to give people a chance to have their concerns heard by the media,” said Jay Black, journalism ethics professor and mediator of the event. “The media was listening tonight.”

HELP THIS PAPER GET AROUND.

Get Your Butt In Some Jeans

Dungarees Used Levi's

THE CROW'S NEST February 26 - March 4, 1997
High blood pressure usually has no symptoms. Many people have high blood pressure for years without knowing it. Uncontrolled high blood pressure can lead to stroke, heart attack, congestive heart failure, kidney failure and more. The only way to tell if someone has high blood pressure is to perform a quick, painless test using a blood pressure cuff which is placed around the arm and measures the pressure in your arteries.

Doctors do not know what causes most high blood pressure, but they do know some people are more likely to have it than others. People whose family members have had heart attacks, strokes or high blood pressure are more likely to have high blood pressure themselves. People over the age of 35 and African-Americans are more likely to have high blood pressure. These risk factors are not modifiable so those at higher risk should concentrate on items within their control. These include:

- Keep your weight within the normal range. Overweight people are more likely to have high blood pressure.
- Cut down on salt.
- Be willing to teach in areas known for problems.
- Consider birth control other than the pill. People who do not get enough exercise gain weight more easily, and overweight people often have higher blood pressure.

If you are interested in finding out what your blood pressure is, stop by Davis Lobby on Wednesday, March 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. I'll be there taking blood pressures and distributing additional information.

A 10-minute American Heart Association video which explains blood pressure basics will be showing.

As Bernard Jensen once said, "Remember, health is not everything, but without your health, everything else is nothing."

—Adapted from the American Heart Association

Stacy Domante, a USF special education major. "I think it's important to get more kids at a young age involved in programs that focus on non-violence. As an educator, it is important to have a fair and open mind and be willing to teach in areas known for problems," said Domante.

There is a crime watch meeting every month at 10 a.m. in the Police Department. The meetings will be held over the next few months. According to Sgt. Margie Carr at the USF police department, "The meetings will probably start being held in the afternoons to boost attendance." For information about upcoming meetings contact Sgt. Margie Carr at 859-9140.

POVICING

community involved in identifying problems," stated Berthelot.

A member of the audience asked what the average person can do. Berthelot recommended to "get involved with the...". He recommended becoming a Big Brother which help children.

"There are families that live in the community that should have more of a voice. It shouldn't be just about the people involved in the riots. People should be able to raise their children in a safe environment," said

Under pressure

THE NEW YORKER DELI
A Gourmet Delicatessen
7630 34th Ave. N. St. Pete
(At Tyrone Blvd. next to Midas, 1 mile west of mall)

345-1560

HOURS: MON-SAT 10AM-9PM ONE IN OR CARRY OUT

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WILLIAM T. Q. LINDSAY, for 30 years with the University of Wisconsin Foundation, in charge of the laboratory and the library, was the son of John Lind- sley and Nettie (Roberts) Lindsay. He was married to Virginia E. (Roberts) Lindsay, who survives him.

LINDSLEY, a former member of the American Chemical Society, was born in 1854 and died in 1924. He was a native of Iowa and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. He was also a member of the American Chemical Society and the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

The late W. T. Q. Lindsay was a leading figure in the development of the Wisconsin University System. He was a long-time member of the University's Board of Regents and a member of the Board of Directors of the University of Wisconsin Foundation.

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Bayboro Hall re-emerges

MOVIN' ON UP: The original Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, now known as Bayboro Hall, is being revived to become the new administration building. The majority of renovations will be complete by March so that moving can take place over spring break. Bayboro Hall's second floor will house Dean Heller's offices, classrooms and computer labs, including one Macintosh lab (above) and three PC labs. Renovations are in the hands of A.D. Morgan, the independent contractor that built the new Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. The name "Bayboro Hall" once adorned what is now Davis Hall.

briefs

USF Co-sponsors Free Education Conference

An early childhood conference for teachers, care givers and others interested in young children will be held on Saturday, March 8, at Pinellas Park High School and Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School. Sessions run from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Eligible participants can qualify for up to five hours of HRS annual inservice training credit.

Charles Wolfgang, author of The Three Faces of Discipline for School Teachers, will speak on discipline strategies based on age-appropriate behavior of young children. The presentation will include strategies for dealing with passive as well as aggressive children.

Maryann Harman will present programs promoting basic skills through music and multi-cultural appreciation. Other workshops include Behavior Management, Math for Young Children, Puppets and many more. The new Kindergarten readiness booklet will be given to all who attend the kindergarten expectations workshop.

Marine Science hosts Macedonian excavation lecture

Greek archaeologist Eurydice Kefalidou, who excavated the Macedonian city of Aiani, will talk about extraordinary finds of gold treasure, silver jewelry, the necropolis with the royal graves of local kings, marble statues and ceramic vases with early Greek inscriptions from 5 B.C. found during the excavation of the ancient city.

The free lecture will be held Wednesday, February 26 at noon in the USF/DEP Joint-Use Auditorium. Greek lunch will be available afterward at the Bayboro Cafe. For more information call 893-9160.

To publish listings or briefs, submit in writing to The Crow's Nest, CAC 128.

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