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Beach Buddies clean up

By Chris Curry

From her cluttered office on the third floor of the Knight Oceanographic Institute, Hope Botterbusch can see the water that she and 500 buddies work to keep clean.

How did Botterbusch get so popular?

She formed Beach Buddies, a shoreline clean-up program for students in grades 4 through 12 in Manatee, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

Aided by a $5,000 grant from the Tampa Estuary Program, Botterbusch began Beach Buddies in April of this year. The program has become a popular service project for student organizations.

"In only 19 schools we have more than 500 students signed up," said Botterbusch. The majority of students in the program are from middle schools and high schools in Hillsborough County.

As the coordinator of research programs for USF's marine science department, Botterbusch's duties include grant writing and fund raising. With the Beach Buddies she takes on the roles of teacher, mentor, Botterbusch's duties include grant writing and fund raising. With the Beach Buddies she takes on the roles of teacher, mentor, and environmentalist as well.

Also, the program has a Web site, <www.marine.usf.edu/beachbuddies>, with lesson plans designed to teach students how the litter left at the beach gets into the ocean and harms marine wildlife.

"We really want to show students how to reduce trash and dispose of trash properly," said Botterbusch. "We want them to appreciate the beautiful marine environment we have, to keep it clean and to show others how to keep it clean."

In June, Botterbusch won an annual environmental award from Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful. John Fitzgerald, the organization's executive director, cites Beach Buddies' educational goal as a reason Botterbusch was recognized.

"It's a good approach because it goes through the classroom," said Fitzgerald, also citing the program's effectiveness as another consideration.

"Most programs don't go anywhere, but Hope implemented it and got it going quickly."

In July, the Beach Buddies cleaned up along the Courtney Campbell Causeway in Clearwater. Nineteen students from Johns Hopkins Middle School's 21st Century Community Center, a federally funded program that provides extracurricular and educational activities for students in urban schools, participated. According to Irene Sybould, director of the program at Johns Hopkins, Beach Buddies provided her students with an opportunity for science enrichment and community service.

"The next thing about Beach Buddies," said Sybould, "is that it makes citizenship an educational experience."

On Sept. 18, 245 buddies in three different counties took part in the National Shoreline Cleanup. More than 350 are signed up for the 12th Annual Mayor's Hillsborough River and Waterways Cleanup on Nov. 20.

"A lot of the program's success is due to the partners we have," said Botterbusch.

One of these partners, the Tampa Bay Parrot Heads in Paradise Club, has more than 1200 members who share a love of Jimmy Buffet music, good times, and the environment.

"We say 'let's leave the world a little better than we found it and have a blast doing it,'" said Capt. Harry Fink, the director of the Parrot Heads. "This means we clean the beach and then we go have a party."

Beach Buddies continued on Page 3

Nest Notes

The saga continues ... The masses have spoken, the word is out. We have our fingers firmly placed on the nearly non-existent pulse of campus opinion.

According to an unnamed university spokesperson (see photo, right), "The fate of the Crow's Nest goes hand-in-hand with the very identity of this institution. Change the name of the Nest and you might as well board the doors of the university."

Well, it sure is nice to know somebody actually gives a damn.

In a related matter, a recent town meeting in Davis lobby found hordes (about 127) of prostrating students sobbing at the ankles of the very underpaid and overworked, yet still creatively inspired, eyes and ears of this institution — your loyal Nest staff.

Please send us your final name change suggestions before we make a rash and somewhat hysterical and potentially life-altering name change decision. Stay tuned fair readers for the final installment of "This is Your Campus Newspaper."

-Nest Staffers
BOR Chair balks at state salaries for teachers

By Pamela Griner Leavy

Education majors beware, the pay you receive for teaching at a public school in Florida may be $5,000 below the national average. At least 20 percent of new teachers drop out of the profession within the first two years. Half of those who teach in inner-city schools only last five years. Student leaders, stop whining about tuition increases. Tuition at state institutions in Florida is up to $1,600 less per year than the national average. Florida ranks 49th in the nation when it comes to college and university tuition fees.

In fact, students should feel fortunate they were accepted at the University of South Florida at all. Based on grade-point averages and test scores needed for admission, Florida has the second-most stringent admissions requirements in the country, ranking just below Delaware. It's because the state doesn't want to earmark any more money to expand enrollment at four-year universities.

"We're cheap and proud of it," was how Board of Regents (BOR) chairman Dennis Ross — who is leaving his post in January — described Florida education to Suncoast Tiger Bay members at a Nov. 10 meeting in St. Petersburg. "The abysmal state of education in the state of Florida will not change in our lifetime," the USF graduate and North Redington Beach resident told community leaders.

Calling himself "an equal opportunity offender," Ross took aim at Republicans and Democrats in Florida for historically making education a low priority. Politicians, Ross told the bi-partisan audience, "have all sucked when it comes to providing funding for higher education.

Introduced by USF-St. Petersburg Dean and Tiger Bay Club member Bill Heller as a "great friend of the [USF-St. Petersburg] campus," Ross, a member of the USF Presidential Search Committee, took issue with the state's focus on supporting community colleges. He sees too much emphasis placed on expanding community colleges and not enough energy put into four-year programs.

While the state leads the nation in associate in arts and associate in science two-year degrees, statistics show that only 12 to 25 percent of these students matriculate on to get a bachelor's degree, Ross said.

It's not just about education; it's about economics, he said. According to a 1997 U.S. Census Bureau report those earning associate degrees have, on the average, a potential of earning upwards of $1 million over the course of their lifetime. Those who earn baccalaureate degrees can hope to earn as much as $1.4 million. The figures climb to $1.6 million for people with a master's and $2.1 million for those with a Ph.D.

While Ross isn't pleased with salaries, he praised Gov. Jeb Bush's proposal to guarantee a spot at state universities for the top 20 percent of each high school's graduating class, thus eliminating race as a factor in admissions. "[It's] the greatest thing since sliced bread," was his reaction. He sees the plan as a way of increasing admissions, helping to eliminate favoritism towards students from "rich" schools, and a way to bring an additional 20,000 minority students into the university system.

According to Ross, rich students do perform better than poor kids in school. One of the reasons is that schools with rich kids have received better resources and support than schools with poor students, Ross said.

Ross passed out copies of the "Tuition Battle Begins Today" article in the July/August 1999 issue of PSA Today, an update from the Florida Student Association, Inc. In the article, student leaders across Florida are said to be "stunned" by the BOR's tuition increase proposal and are calling for other students to contact the governor's office as well as their local legislators.

"Student leaders in the state are the most courageous," Ross said sarcastically. "They actually have the backbone to contest tuition increases. It's profiles in courage." Florida is a low tuition state because it's a low tax state; therefore there is low support for education, he said.

Ross also shared data offering that increasing tuition in the national average would annually generate an additional $211 million for State University System undergraduates and $37 million for community college students enrolled in credit programs.

As for support of teachers and programs in grades K-12, Ross lamented that current funding in Florida lags behind what was committed last year. Calling the voucher program allowing state money to go to private schools a "shill game," Ross said the question is whether lawmakers want to support public education or not.

As for the lottery that continues to be touted as a way to boost the salaries of teachers and pump money into Florida's schools, Ross scoffed at the rationale the state has attempted to sell to people in Florida. "I am the proud owner of an outstanding bridge in New York City," he said, noting that he would be available after the meeting for anyone interested in buying.
It’s time to de-press the press

By Jason Gell

“Don’t bite the hand that feeds you” is a cardinal rule that most people never break. I say to Hell with the rules. If I see something wrong, I’m gonna say something about it. So here goes.

Recently I saw what has become a standard media practice come to its peak of tolerability. As Americans, we have grown accustomed to the in-your-face tactics used by the mass media. Celebrities, public officials, and now even a common citizen can be thrust into the media’s spotlight and have their personal lives made public. The media has pimped the First Amendment to such great extents that anything and everything could be considered something the public “has the right to know.” The public has given the media too much power, and we continuously feed this trend with our undying support of their so-called scoops. Did we learn nothing from such media travesties as the O.J. Simpson trial, Princess Diana’s death, and Bill Clinton’s escapades with that Monica girl? Thinking so, I was sorely mistaken.

As I said, I was recently subjected to the mass media at its unscrupulous best. During the opening ceremonies of one of the World Series games, The Major League Baseball Association announced the players chosen for the All-Century Team. One by one, the players were honored and recognized as baseball’s greatest players. The crowd cheered and emotions ran high. Patrons at Ferg’s Sports Bar even joined the fun as names such as Mark McGwire, Babe Ruth, and Hank Aaron were announced. Then, to my great surprise, the name Pete Rose was voiced. I was shocked, amazed, and happy for the man. Gambling charges or not, he was one helluva ball player, and I disagreed with the league for not allowing him into the Baseball Hall of Fame. The crowds roared their approval. In the stadium, the crowd gave Rose the longest ovation of any member of this elected team. This, in itself, says a lot. The public gave its approval and more to this man that night.

After the ceremonies were over, Rose gave an interview. An interview I am sure he now wishes he had not granted. During this interview, I watched the reporter imply heresies, badger, and totally embarrass Pete Rose. The reporter did his best to force Rose to recant his testimony on his gambling charges. Even after Rose graciously declined to do so, the reporter continuously probed the same subject. I was utterly appalled. The media had taken it upon themselves to publicly humble a man on his night of honor. They took away a piece of his dignity. And why did they do such a thing? Well, ratings, of course. If Rose had made an omission of guilt; the story would have been huge. So, in the hopes of a scoop the media trashed yet another public figure.

Now, I know I am coming down rather hard on the mass media, but it is an issue that has bothered me for a long time. I am a mass communications student and I love to write, but I will never be a reporter. I aspire to do opinionated columns or outdoor magazines. The requirements for such a job would never entail in-your-face research. I would rather switch professions than have to be a reporter that jams a camera in people’s faces when their lives are at their worst. I have no want to be caught up in the excitement of getting “breaking news”. I want only to earn a living and take away some of the power the media has. To take away their power to pressure people. In a sense I’d like to de-press the Press. I say the First Amendment is fundamental in our lives, but that right should be applied to our personal freedom; not for late-breaking, nationally-simulcast, public enjoyment!
I amuse THEM. You can never tell about Jack thought, was screwing with him. 

a clam. Right there on Central Avenue. 

from the nearest clam bed? Somebody, out on Central Avenue all alone and miles 

Crap.

other day, Central Avenue to be exact. Just 

clam skittered across the sidewalk, spinning in a store window. Kick a clam. Taking his time and enjoying the scenery 

reaction was part of some class experiment. 

Left foot forward, then right. Get out 

chewed-up end of his computer screen. As he trained the 


Prepared by 
Michael Mann 
A few years ago, 60 Minutes, America's oldest and most prestigious television news magazine decided not to air an interview with a 

chemist in question, Jeffrey Wigand, was a former tobacco company employee. The information he had 

acquired through his job was so telling, so dangerous, that two of the largest media companies in the world refused to let any­ 

one hear it for fear of losing their shirts. 

One man with the gumption to tell the 

truth brought corporate America to its 

knees. The evolution of these events is the 

premise for The Insider.

The film may not do much for those who are unfamiliar with the case of Jeff 

Wigand and his interview with 60 Minutes. This is a movie based on pure 

fact. Although one must have been sleep­

ing under a rock for the latter part of the 

'90s to have missed this event, the story 

went something like this: 

Lowell Bergman, a producer at 60 

Minutes (played by Al Pacino) was doing a 

segment on smoking and fire safety, and 

during his research he acquired a large 

number of documents from a tobacco 

company. He is given the name of Jeffrey 

Wigand (played by Russell Crow) as 

someone who can make sense of the docu­

ments. Wigand, former head research 

chemist at the Brown and Williamson 

Tobacco Company, agrees to translate. 

The producer sees Wigand has more to 

say. As the two become friends, Wigand 

confesses and Bergman schedules an 

interview with head correspondent Mike 

Wallace, planning a news segment about 

Wigand. Wigand claims that his former 

boss perjured himself when he testified to 

congress about the addictiveness of nico­
tine in cigarettes. In fact, Wigand claims 

that the tobacco companies actually 

"spike" cigarettes with additives to make 

nicotine more easily absorbed into the 

bloodstream. The segment is cut together and an air date is set.

Having caught wind of Wigand's inter­

view, CBS head legal counsel Ellen Kaden 

warned that if the segment airs, the tobacco 

company could actually sue CBS because 

Wigand's interview violates a 

confidentiality agreement he signed with 

his former employer. The possible lawsuit 

is so serious that the tobacco company 

could actually end up owning CBS if they 

were to win. 60 Minutes news chief Don 

Hewitt and Wallace agree to cut the seg­

ment. An abridged version of the interview 

aired with voiced objections by Mike 

Wallace and Lowell Bergman.

Digging deeper, Bergman finds out that 

CBS is actually considering selling 

itself to publishing giant Westinghouse. 

The segment did not air uncut because 

CBS was afraid that it would hinder its 

profitable sale to Westinghouse, not 

because of the possibility of the suit. 

Making matters worse, two people who 

had large amounts of stock in CBS were, 

low and behold, Kaden and Hewitt. 

Bergman leaks the whole thing to the 

New York Times, who publishes the entire story 

along with pieces of Wigand's interview. 

With the information already public and 

the fear of liability gone, 60 Minutes airs the entire uncut 

interview. For a news show so 

dedicated to truth and courage, this is nothing short of humil­

iating for all included. WHERE? Is this exactly how it goes in 

the movie? Hell, yes. That's the 

point. The Insider is about truth. 

It is faithful and committed to its 

subjects and never fears for itself. 

Director Michael Mann, 

(Late of the Mob棰cians and Heat) has 

visual savvy coming out his ears and spins this tale of cor­

ruption into a '70s style thriller 

in the tradition of The 

Conversation with all of his 

severe, trademark camera tricks 

in tact. 

If you want to be a journal­

ist, you are required to see this 

movie. If you just want to see a 

moving, passionate, well-constructed film, this is also for you. 

The Insider may be a long story, but 

it's worth it.

C++ Programming is a good way to catch up on missed sleep. An insom­

nia's dream — if there is such a thing. 

The concepts are unattainable, the 

formulas unremarkable, and its very basis 

foundations are so difficult as dirt. Plus, 

Jack didn't "get it." 

So, when Professor Lima Chump began 

lecturing baring him in front of the 

entire class for a few ill­timed stories, 

Jack became defensive. 

"The problem is," said the fearlessly 

outspoken and terrifyingly monotone Prof. 

Chump, "you don't want to learn. I can 

teach programming to anyone in this class that..."

"Anyone?" queried Jack, cutting 

Chump off mid-sentence. 

"Anyone," Chump responded, confi­

dently. 

"Then teach my friend here. His name 

is Fred," Jack said as he reached deep 

into the recesses of his bookbag/neck 

support and fished out his clam. 

Carefully, he placed Fred on top of 

Chump's computer monitor. 

Jack had him and Chump knew it, 

but much to Jack's surprise — and to 

the amusement of the class — Chump played 

it up. Quickly removing a cheap dispos­

able pen from his pocket protector, 

Chump tapped the top of Fred (as if to get 

his attention) and pointed to the projected 

computer screen. As he trained the 

c Chewed-up end of his PaperMate on the 

image drifting on the hanging screen in 

front of the classroom, Chump began to

blather on about the basis of the most 

rudimentary problems facing C++ 

Programming today. This continued for 

the rest of the lecture period. 

Jack was surprised that Chump 

explained problems even HE could solve. 

Yet at the end of class Chump pulled Jack 

aside and admitted, in a rather resigned 

manner, that he couldn't teach program­

ming to anyone in the classroom. In par­

ticular, Chump indicated, he couldn't 

teach programming to Jack. 

"You would be doing us both a great 

service by withdrawing from this course," 

said the apt professor, rather discreetly. 

So, that is exactly what Jack did.

School ended early for Jack on that 

dark afternoon. To celebrate, Jack went to 

The Clam continued on Page 7
World AIDS Day hits home  

By Sheri Beaudreau

Over the past 25 years AIDS has gone from being virtually unknown to a major health crisis in America. The National AIDS Quilt is so large it is almost impossible to publicly display the entire collection of 3-by-6 foot panels representing the lives of those who have died from this horrible disease.

Five years ago I lost my uncle to AIDS. Although this was one of the most difficult things I have ever experienced, I kept most of my feelings inside due to the stigma I perceived about the disease.

Over time, I have learned that AIDS should be a topic of discussion if only to enlighten people who may be touched by the disease, personally or through the lives of family or friends. If my story can prevent even one person from carelessly contracting the virus, it will be worth the grief that I still feel every time I think of my uncle suffering.

The grief caused by my uncle's suffering to me, and to a suffering, pale, barely plump, healthy, 6-foot-tall uncle dwindle for about one year, and later with my family. This grief was accompanied by the fear that I would contract the virus, it will be worth the grief that I still feel every time I think about my uncle's suffering.

I was one of three primary caretakers—a responsibility I shared with my sister for about one year, and later with my mother who relocated to spend the last month with her brother. I watched my plump, healthy, 6-foot-tall uncle dwindle to a suffering, pale, barely 80 pound twig of a man.

It broke my uncle's heart to give his 135-pound golden retriever to his sister when he was no longer able to walk or injure him in play.

The night before my uncle died, my mother called to say the end was near. As the family members who remained loyal to him throughout his illness gathered around his bed to support him, my uncle was unable to speak. A condition called thrush, which had prevented him from eating in the last month, developed to the point he could not talk, even though his brain was functioning normally. Rigermortis, usually occurring after death, had already set in as we sat by his bedside. Each time his legs would draw toward his chest my mother would gently push them back down.

I saw my uncle smile for the last time. I knew that he was happy that his family—both blood and those bound by friendship and loyalty—was with him. His suffering ended that morning, Oct. 20, 1994 at 6 a.m. He was 44 years old.

The grief caused by my uncle's suffering touched every member of my family. My 15-year-old nephew, Chris Sanders, wrote about the pain he experienced losing his uncle (see related story, right). In an effort to heighten awareness about AIDS, USF's Division of Student Affairs is constructing an AIDS quilt pattern for the World AIDS Day ceremony on Dec. 1 in Martin Luther King Plaza on the Tampa campus. Having been touched personally by the loss of a close family member, I am also constructing a panel in the event. Panels made by university members are currently on display in the Nelson Postyer Memorial Library, at USF-St. Petersburg.

One Saturday evening around six or seven o'clock, we had a long distance phone call from my Uncle Jerey in Florida. He spoke in a very sick-sounding voice—"Will you come get my dog?"

"Why," we replied not really understanding.

"I'm sick and I need to go to the hospital," Jerey said sadly. "Will you drive here in your van and get Randy?"

"Oh sure. We will come right away," we told him. It seemed that Jerey was very confused. After all, we would come to take care of him, not just to get the dog.

When we had hung up the phone, I asked my mom, "are we going to take care of Randy?"

She said, "Mom has a good-sized backyard and she will probably keep Randy while Jerey is in the hospital."

It was very sad to hear about Uncle Jerey. He was always so nice to me, giving me gifts and taking me places whenever we visited.

Three days later we were in Florida. When we got to Uncle Jerey's house we saw a very sad sight. Uncle Jerey was in bed, very sick, and his dog Randy was lying on top of him as if he knew something was wrong. Jerey's mother, my grandmother, drove Jerey to the hospital that day. I was hoping that soon he would be fine and able to play with my brother and me.

As it turned out, Jerey was sicker than I thought and he never left the hospital.

Grandmother told us that she thought Randy would be better off because my brother and I would play with him. My mother agreed and we drove home in our van.

My brother and I just kept petting Randy and telling him that everything was going to be okay, because he seemed so sad. We were all sad for Uncle Jerey, but it seemed that Randy missed him the most.

Finally, after a while, Randy started acting like his old self again. Later, I started thinking about Uncle Jerey and how he liked to give my brother and me gifts. Randy was the best and last gift he ever gave us.

—Chris Sanders, age 10

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John F Kennedy: The Exhibition

November 20

Dunedin Celtic Festival — Featuring Seven Nations, Off Kilter, Celtic Soul, Dunedin Pipe Band and Noel Cowley. The event will also feature Celtic dancers and will include storytelling, folks music, arts & crafts, a food court, demonstrations and exhibition and children’s activities. The festival will be held at Highlander Park from 2 to 9 p.m.

No. 20-21

Holiday Boat Parade — come out and enjoy an afternoon of fun on the water. Participate in the parade around Davis Island parking lot. Meet at 1 p.m. at Davis Lobby for decorations. To participate in the boat parade, contact Jim Mosch of the Hanover Yacht Club at (727) 553-3113.

November 21

No Exit — Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center hosts a play about three people trapped in a room with only one door. Strangely enough, a porter can enter and exit the room, but the other three cannot exit. Showtimes are 4, 7 and 8 p.m.

November 21

Movies That Move — The Jeff Kruik film retrospective features Heavy Metal Movies That Move — Strangely enough, a porter can enter and exit the room, but the other three cannot exit. Showtimes are 4, 7 and 8 p.m.

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November 20

St. Pete Swing Kids — Free beginning swing lessons held in the CAC fitness center from 3 to 4:30 p.m. No partner or experience needed. For information email Beth at <supersadie@hotmail.com>.

November 17

Sheroes and Heroes, The Importance of Feminist Books for Women and Children — The Campus Women’s Collective will host a panel discussion in the Campus Activities Center (CAC) at 7 p.m. All students are welcome and admission is free.

November 17-18


November 17

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

on campus

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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/mis-nts>.

Student government meets every other Tues. in CAC 133 at 4:15 p.m. Next meetings will be held Nov. 17. Representative positions are still available for all colleges. All students are welcome to attend. For information, call (727) 553-1144.

Council of Clubs (CCO) 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 Crew’s Nest or e-mail with the subject line “currents” to <shenest99@hotmail.com>.

CLASSIFIEDS

Positions Available

Archaeology Field Technicians. Two month project begins in November. Covers central Florida. $80 per hour plus $25 a day for expenses. Hotel included. Some weekends required. Call Jodi Pracht at Janus Research for info. (727) 821-7600

Place a Classified To place a classified ad, call (727) 553-3113 or stop by the Nest office in the CAC.

Life guards Wanted for USF-St. Petersburg Pool Part-time positions available for certified guards. Over 87.50 and hour. Flexible hours. Some weekend work required. Call Recreation and Watercraft at 553-1597 for more info.

TV Production Educational Outreach is now accepting applications for part-time television production positions. We will work with your class schedule. For more info. call (813) 974-3330 or (813) 974-9276.

Teresa Kelley-Brownell

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