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They think they can, they think they can ... What's the secret behind USF's sailing success?
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Don't sound the death knell for student activism

By Pamela Griner Leavy

College and university students with multi-colored hairdos, pierced bodies, t-shirts promoting a variety of social causes, jeans and backpacks made up the majority of the estimated 10,000 participants at the Nov. 21 and 22 protest vigil and march at the School of the Americas in Columbus, Ga.

Located on the Fort Benning Army military reservation, the School of the Americas is known as a training ground for Latin American officers fighting communist uprisings in their home countries. School officials say the school helps to promote democracy. Graduates include former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, now serving a 40-year sentence for drug trafficking.

The annual protest has been held since November 1990, commemorating the November 16, 1989 killings in El Salvador of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her young daughter. A United Nations investigation found that 19 of the 26 Salvadoran officers involved had been trained at the school. School officials stress that only about 1 percent of the approximate 80,000 graduates have been involved in such activities.

Nathan Musselman, 22, a senior majoring in justice, peace and conflict studies at Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va., was one of nearly 40 students from the school who drove to the protest in vans. “Experience after experience has taught me that this is something I don’t want my government to support and that I certainly don’t want to support,” Musselman was quoted as saying in the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer.

Katherine Fernandez traveled to Fort Benning from Oberlin College in Ohio. “Being Colombian and Venezuelan I feel the School of Americas is staining and covering my culture with blood,” Fernandez was quoted as saying.

Dwight Lawton, 69, and Mary Berglund, 66, of St. Petersburg drove eight hours to Columbus to be part of the protest. Berglund is a former president of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg area. Lawton was arrested at the November 1997 protest. Subsequently convicted of criminal trespass—a misdemeanor, Lawton was ordered to pay a $3,000 fine and spent six months in a minimum security federal prison outside Jessup, Ga.

Lawton and Berglund say they were thrilled to see so many college university students involved, although they met none from Florida.

Many of the attending students who were there wore white death masks and carried symbolic coffins splattered with a substance that looked like blood.

On Dec. 13, 160 students will walk down the aisles of Mahaffey Theater to become the last graduating class of the century for USF-St. Petersburg.

Along with diplomas, students, faculty and staff will receive words of wisdom from this year’s commencement speaker, long time St. Petersburg resident and businessman, Gus Stavros.

Stavros, who grew a small business forms printing company into the largest of its kind in the southeast, received and honorary doctorate in Humane Letters from USF in 1996 and the university’s Enterprise and Economic Education Center is named in his honor. The Gus A. Stavros Institute runs Pinellas County’s Enterprise Village, a teaching center focused on educating local fifth graders on our economic system and free enterprise.

Also to be awarded Monday night are the Outstanding Senior Awards, annually given recognitions of overall excellence in academic performance, community and university service.

Ceremonies begin at 7 p.m. For more information call the office of Student Affairs, 553-1162.

The Crow’s Nest would like to thank all of our contributors, supporters and readers who helped to make this a memorable semester. We wish you and yours a most joyous holiday season and a spectacular new year! ‘Til 2000, your loyal Nest staffers

Cover photo by Rachael Lee Coleman

Jamey Rabbitt, one of USF’s sailing team leaders, sails a 420cm boat with teammate Valarie Beers at a practice session on the St. Petersburg Pier.
other local churches hosted A Great Day of Thanksgiving. The annual event enlisted volunteers from all walks of life to serve dinner to, and eat with, the homeless.

"Want to hear a joke about Maid Marian?" asked William Joseph Patrick O'Shaughnessy in his thick, Brooklyn slang. "I promise it won't be a dirty one." One of many enjoying the festivities, O'Shaughnessy struggled to keep hold of his bicycle, piled high with a yellow coat, bible and plastic bags filled with untattered clothing.

"This is simply beautiful," he said after 30 minutes of joke-telling. "It's a gorgeous day for wonderful people to come together." At one time, O'Shaughnessy proudly served the U.S. Navy, where he sailed around the world, and he built parts for nuclear reactors. After a 27-foot fall, back injuries kept him from his trade. Now he walks through Williams Park — alone, unbathed and hungry.

One hug and O'Shaughnessy’s eyes lit up like a flashlight in a darkened room. His tight embrace and repeated kisses on my cheek caused concerned glares from onlookers. "You are the first person to touch me in weeks," he said.

Across the green, Amy Ryan stood, brushing herself with her wheelchair, which overflowed with her latest finds. Listening intently to the suited preacher on stage speak of inviting God into everyday life, her electric blue eyes gazed over the crowd. But they always returned to her dearest possession — a handmade clown doll, adorned in a bright blue, pink and yellow silk, polka-dot suit — sitting guarded atop her handmade clown doll. "I need to change her shoes," Ryan said, while caressing the doll's legs. "She has pretty, white patent leather shoes with buckles on them." The doll, which came from Boston, has accompanied Ryan throughout her travels for nearly 10 years.

"I have to go store these things so I can sit in my chair," said Ryan, who has difficulty walking. "But they always returned to her dearest possession — a handmade clown doll, adorned in a bright blue, pink and yellow silk, polka-dot suit — sitting guarded atop her clothing.

With a look of both compassion and disbelief, Nancy Aaronson, a mission volunteer, smiled. They make up the volunteer activities.

William Joseph Patrick O'Shaughnessy gives thumbs up to the volunteer activities.
Dear Old Elf,

As winter approaches, we thought we would make our Christmas list... since we have been DOOOOOO all year. We haven’t beaten up any other kids — or professors — and we’ve almost done all of our homework.

We only have a few requests... and we don’t even mind if you deliver them a little early!

First, we’d like to speak on behalf of most of the human race when we humbly request world peace. We don’t think Saddam will mind, seeing as how this is a Christmas gift. Even he probably believes in you once in a while. As for those who think world peace would be a waste of time — freeing up our defense budget to feed, clothe and educate much of the Earth’s population — we would not object to their permanent relocation to the remote desert Isle of Richard Simmons. Forever. (We understand this request may take some fancy maneuvering, so we will settle for a small token of nuclear disarmament.)

Finally, as small, understaffed newspapers are wont to do, we cannot stress enough the need for HELP — psychologically, physically and, oh, yes, editorially. We believe the use of Poteregoat-like subjugation and subliminal messaging through the Internet will enhance the formulation of your action plan. Regarding this matter, we have tried unsuccessfully and now seek your omnipotent aid. Most specifically, we seek the recruitment of copy editors, writers, photographers, designers, advertising reps and, well, anyone who can piece together a somewhat readable sentence. Oh, and did we mention that applicants must consume ghastly amounts of Folgers in the name of 3 a.m. Sunday morning production extravaganzas?

So Santa, if you’re making your list and checking it twice, please note that some have found our naughtiness a little bit nice. We’ll be waiting for any of the above requests you deem worthy of our bequestment. Nonetheless, we’ll be waiting with homemade cookies and milk on Christmas Eve. Do you prefer Scotch with that?

Love,

Rachael & Krista

Internet shopping takes consumerism to new level

By Bryce Alderton

Mustang Daily (California Poly State U.)

(U-WIRE) — Another holiday season quickly approaches and brings with it the annual question, “How bad is consumption getting and is there anything Americans can do about it?”

Consumption is getting worse, especially in the United States. Americans comprise five percent of the world’s population, but they consume 35 percent of the world’s resources. That is quite a chunk out of the earth. One of the possible culprits is the Internet.

The ability to buy gifts online at Web sites such as etoys.com allows people to avoid the crowds at malls and shop in the comfort of their own homes. This will cut down on the number of shoppers at the malls, but people may get carried away at home when the only thing they have to do to buy a gift is click the mouse. They may not realize how much they’ve purchased until the box arrives on their doorstep and the bill eventually stares them in the face.

Online shopping isn’t any less expensive since shipping and handling charges must be added in, but the biggest advantage is convenience. With the click of a mouse you can make your purchase and be done with your shopping in a few minutes. Why would you want to leave your house on a Saturday afternoon to battle the traffic and the people to go inside a hot, stuffy mall. Why sacrifice your time in this way?

The reason is simple: humans interacting with humans. We have a need to socialize with others and enjoy the company that good friends, family and others have to offer. Call me old-fashioned but I enjoy going to the store and actually touching the things I’m thinking of buying. I see and feel the product instead of looking at it on a computer screen. I enjoy talking to other customers and owners of the stores. Who knows, maybe someone will tell me the difference between the new Titleist driver and the Big Bertha when I’m planning to buy my dad a golf club. I might not have received that tip if I logged on to golf.com.

Shoppers can only carry so many bags in their hands, often putting a damper on consumption. Internet consumers can click to their hearts’ content and not realize how much they’ve bought until the gifts arrive on the doorstep.

As long as the Internet is there for the taking, consumers will buy online with nothing standing in the way. Americans need to revert to simpler lives. Americans’ fascination with “the new thing is the only thing” needs to stop so we can concentrate on what’s important — family, friends, education, and children.

Instead of spending a majority of the day at the mall, a father may have more time to spend with his kids because he bought a new software program on Microsoft’s Web site. This free time may only be temporary. Once the product arrives, he may spend more time with it, and the time he spends with his kids will shrink.

Increasing consumption equals increasing time on the goodness we buy. Online buying is increasing this propensity for consumption, and there is no way of stopping this boom in the foreseeable future.

As long as the Internet is there, people will use it. At least going to the mall provides a chance to interact with other shoppers and build that all important skill of communication. But whether it’s a mall or the Internet, we need to buy less because the earth isn’t an unlimited source of resources. Twenty percent of the earth’s population uses 80 percent of its natural resources. This consumption can’t last forever, and it won’t. Be prudent in what you buy and don’t overdue it.

Remember the famous quote: “Everything in moderation.”
Planes regularly swoop over the spot where Davis and Coquina halls meet. Anthony Nelson has a plan if one looks like it will come flying through his office window.

"Hit the floor," he said. "That's if I can't get out the door in time. And I probably can't."

Nelson, an assistant professor in information systems, said he does wonder sometimes about the small planes that appear to brush the tops of buildings on the USF-St. Petersburg campus on their way to and from Albert Whitted Airport. But it's not something he thinks about every day.

Some people do, however, and they think it's pretty safe.

The city of St. Petersburg owns Albert Whitted Municipal Airport, which annually records approximately 100,000 aircraft operations — defined as a take-off or a landing.

According to air traffic controller and pilot Fred Veazy, the airport is home to more than 150 aircraft, as well as to the flight school of those who simply want to land at the airport to patronize local restaurants or — like the Mariners' Ken Griffey Jr. — take in a ball game at Tropicana Field. The airport provides air traffic control to the planes overhead as well as to the USF-St. Petersburg campus on their way to and from Albert Whitted Airport. But it's not something he thinks about every day.

It is important to remember that the campus was built under the flight path, and the planes overhead are as safe as any airplanes can be. "You're probably in more danger from a fuel truck going out of control and crashing into the Department of Environmental Protection building," he said. "Planes can be touch down on the campus. According to Sgt. Alan Hebdon, the University Police will first secure the scene.

"Our primary responsibility would be to protect innocent bystanders and secure medical attention, and we would notify the fire department." Even though there has never been an aircraft accident on, or even near, the campus, Hebdon says emergency plans are in place if an accident does occur. Jack Tunstill said the airport control tower is connected directly to the fire station at Webb Plaza, so emergency help would arrive quickly. "In fact, the plywood on the gate at Sixth Avenue South and First Street is there so a fire truck wouldn't have to stop on the way in; it can just crash through."

But that possibility is small, according to Veazy, an air traffic controller. "Planes don't just drop out of the sky," he said. "Even if a plane lost an engine, it can always make it back. If they're as close as USF, they'll make it to the airport."

The airport's control tower was contracted out in August 1995 to RVA Inc., according to Glenn Lenhoff, air traffic manager for RVA. The air traffic controllers have a total of 234 years of experience among them, Lenhoff said, and the tower is certified and adheres to all FAA regulations.

And the tower has something unusual for an airport the size of Whitted: Brite Wings. All aircraft crew members have been trained to understand Brite Wings. And the personnel are there so a plane can always make it back.

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One of the planes that flies over the airport was here first, Tunstill said. "And the tower has something unusual for an airport the size of Whitted: Brite Wings. All aircraft crew members have been trained to understand Brite Wings. And the personnel are there so a plane can always make it back.

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Objects not as close as they appear

By Lynn Stratton

Campus was built under the flight path, rather than the other way around. In fact, the first regularly scheduled airline service began at Albert Whitted in 1914. What would happen if a plane did touch down on the campus? According to Sgt. Alan Hebdon, the University Police would first secure the scene. "Our primary responsibility would be to protect innocent bystanders and secure medical attention, and we would notify the fire department." Even though there has never been an aircraft accident on, or even near, the campus, Hebdon says emergency plans are in place if an accident does occur. Jack Tunstill said the airport control tower is connected directly to the fire station at Webb Plaza, so emergency help would arrive quickly. "In fact, the plywood on the gate at Sixth Avenue South and First Street is there so a fire truck wouldn’t have to stop on the way in; it can just crash through."

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"That's pretty safe," he said.
The little program that could

By Therese Mattioli

From his tiny office at the edge of Davis Hall, Dr. Steve Lang, a professor in the School of Education by day and sailor by night, will tell you in his thick Southern drawl a tale of a competitive sailing program that began at the USF-St. Petersburg campus in the fall of 1994.

Lang will speak of the sailing team’s humble beginnings and the lack of financial support from USF’s athletic department.

He will tell you with a smile and a hint of incredulity that Ed Baird, a top-ranked professional sailor and captain of a $20 million sailing vessel competing for the America’s Cup — the oldest worldwide competition in boating — attended school at USF-St. Petersburg in the 1980s and took his bachelor’s from USF without ever racing a sailboat for USF. He will say it and pause so that the words sink in.

Four students and a coach, that is how the St. Petersburg sailing team began. Ken Hardy, Scott Norman, Dawn Service, Ashley Sarrett-Lippencott and Lang. “That was the beginning of the first team,” said Lang. “They all had the same interest. They wanted to race.”

By the spring of 1996, the team, still not funded by USF’s athletic department, became a member of the Intercollegiate Yacht Racing Association (ICYRA). “That was the first year anyone made it to nationals,” said Lang.

On a shoestring, a prayer and the tactical skills of his sailors, St. Petersburg’s little sailing team has qualified for national competitions ever since. “It hasn’t been easy,” said Lang. “Especially when you are dealing with teams that have the funding to give them the advantage of better boats, better equipment and foul-weather gear for the sailors.”

Just last weekend the team raced in Charleston, S.C., and some of USF’s sailors had to drop $120 and buy their own dry suits. “We had one girl out there who couldn’t afford it. She was out borrowing stuff so she could stay warm while she was racing,” Lang added.

Even with tight financial constraints, a small, tired and well-used fleet — the team owns eight sailboats and, when necessary, “borrows” boats from the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. Sailing World Magazine even listed St. Petersburg’s team among the top 20 college teams in the country last spring.

On the weekend of Nov. 19 through 21, Bayboro Harbor was the site of the East Coast semi-finals for the U.S. Olympic sailing team. The USF-St. Petersburg sailing team hosted the event. The team has already hosted district championships, organized a winter regatta for Jan. 8 and 9, 2000, and is hosting their first national-level women’s regatta next March.

They have done all of this with little support — financial or otherwise — from the university athletic department. And the team continues to grow. Currently, there are 22 sailors who travel from all the USF campuses to practice and compete.

What it comes down to, Lang said, is a love of racing no matter what the conditions, and a locale that seems to breed racers. “You have to wonder why we have a budget that is 10 percent of the national average for college sailing teams in a place where youth sailing and high school sailing is the best in the world,” said Lang.

His sailors are students who attend USF because they want to go to college where they live — and they live here. Lang said when he finds a student that student will be capable of competing well against any team in the country.

Teammates Crissy Roland, 21, Aubry Eich, 21, and Genoa Griffin, 19, are perfect examples of Lang’s sentiments. All three young women have been sailing for years. All three tear up the East Coast sailing on Tampa Bay.

When talking of racing they chatter like sisters one minute and fierce competitors the next. They step on each other’s words and finish each other’s sentences. They liken the team to a family, albeit an odd one at times.

Each has a handful of stories that range from humorous to downright terrifying. Stories about getting stuck, sinking ships and bailing snow in icy waters.

“You have to make yourself get along. You focus on the team and forget about yourself,” said Griffin. “You forget about your outside problems when you get on the water.”

Eich added, overlapping Griffin, “I love it. It’s knowing that I know what to do in a boat. Not so much racing, but getting the boat tactically and physically from one place to the next as fast as you can.”

What it comes down to is funding. “We have a really good team. We do really well,” said Roland. “We are ranked, but we could be in the top 10. It’s all about visibility. It’s so expensive and we don’t have the money to get seen. We need funding for boats, for traveling, everything. Right now we are practicing with stuff that is old and broken and beat up. Imagine what we could do with the right equipment.”

This year, the sailing team asked USF’s athletic department for $80,000 — athletic director Paul Griffin granted them $25,000. Team members raised an additional $5,000 on their own — mostly by pushing sodas at Tropicana Field during Devil Rays home games this past summer — to offset travel expenses.

Lang said he developed his budget proposal by calling around to similar schools across the nation and requesting budgets from their programs. “I contacted College of Charleston, Old Dominion, the University of Hawaii and Michigan University. They all have a waterfront location, all have a good sailing team and all have state support. Based on their numbers, I pulled together a composite that would support 25 people, pay the coaches and provide boats. All in all, it came to a little less than $100,000.”

Even with the best sailors, the team has to travel and compete nationally to get recognition — a difficult task with a bare-bones budget. When they travel, which is almost every weekend, who goes and who stays? How many people do they need versus how many can they afford to take?

Sailing continued on Page 7
Olympic sailing trials held on Bay

By Cherelyn Hernandez

The race was on to choose the top 10 semi-finalist sailors in the single-handed Olympic boat division at the weekend of Nov. 19 through 21 for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. The only East Coast semi-finals held this year for the Laser class took place near the St. Petersburg Pier and was hosted by the St. Petersburg Yacht Club (SPYC).

The Olympic semi-finals featured two local favorites: sailors Mark Mendelblatt of St. Petersburg and Brett David of Largo. Both men were expected to place in the top 10 over the weekend.

Indeed, on the first day of racing Davis and Mendelblatt placed in the No. 1 and No. 2 positions respectively. Mendelblatt, recognized as the Male Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Sailing Olympic Commission, and Davis are among the top-ranked sailors in the Olympic Laser class. An Olympic Laser boat measures approximately 12 feet and weighs about 130 pounds. USF sailing coach Steve Lang said that while Lasers are fast, popular, single-handed, they are tricky to maneuver and capsize easily.

But when the winds aren’t blowing, it’s not easy to sail at all. That was the case on Sat. and Sun. Nov. 20 and 21 — the winds simply did not cooperate. Sailors need the wind velocity to reach five knots in order to complete a one-hour qualifying race and on both days there wasn’t enough.

R. J. Rusniak, sailing master for the SPYC, said the competitors looked like “lonely sailors out there” waiting for the wind to increase. There were no race results recorded for Nov. 20 and 21. It was questionable whether any semi-finalists would be chosen at all.

The International Regatta Racing Tropicana Field to raise travel money, traveling with a skeleton-crew racing team and solid national standings may not be good enough for Griffin, but it sure makes Lang feel as if his team deserves more.

Weber said we would evaluate the program based on participation levels, which at this point look a little modest,” said Griffin.

Sleeping on floors, racing without sufficient weather gear, spending hours of summer vacation staffing concession stands at Tropicana Field to raise travel money, traveling with a skeleton-crew racing team and solid national standings may not be good enough for Griffin, but it sure makes Lang feel as if his team deserves more.

We have proven again and again that we can do this, and not on the backs of student’s athletic dollars. This is a sport that represents this campus and we really don’t want anymore Ed Bairds, or Jane Does for that matter, going to school here without a sailing team.”

Rules stipulate that a certain number of races must be completed prior to choosing the top 10 sailors. Since that number was not met, the Olympic commission allowed an extension of the semi-final competition until Nov. 22. In all, four races were completed over the weekend meeting the necessary quota.

In the end, Davis placed in the No. 1 position, six points ahead of Mendelblatt in the No. 2 spot. USF freshman Noah French, impressive for even making the semi-final rounds, placed No. 33 of 53.

Now that the top 10 East Coast semi-finalists have been chosen, these sailors, combined with the top 10 West Coast semi-finalists, will go on to compete in the April 2000 Laser Olympic finals in San Francisco.

Sailing continued from Page 6

"As an athletic contest, it is the longest of any sport," said Lang. "It’s basically 16 hours of athletic competition over two days. It is a constantly competitive, emotionally, physically and mentally taxing sport. We take as few people as possible and sleep on people’s floors to save money. Based on that, what we lack in size and physical strength, we try to make up in strategy.

The best thing for the team, said Lang, is experience and exposure. But travelling with the team, as glamorous as it sounds, isn’t a stroll in the park. "You get there, you get settled, you get up early and sail all day, get back to where you are staying, usually drop from exhaustion, wake up early the next day and do it all again and then go home.”

Whenever sailors travel to a new locale, they face different wind and water conditions, use unfamiliar boats, experience new situations — all this leads to better skills.

"Earlier this year, we traveled to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for a race and they have designed and built their own boat molds," said Lang. "It was something we had never seen before.

It’s about tactical skill, Lang said, like a form of aqua-chess. “The best racers have good balance, overall athletic, have lots of stamina and are very intelligent. Racing is about strategy and tactics and rules. It’s much more complicated than pleasure sailing. You are not going to do very well if you can’t think.”

Of course, Lang adds, the more you race, the better the chance you will qualify for other types of races. "It’s a playoff system; once you move to the top of your district, you can be asked to race against another district.”

In the Southern Athletic Conference (Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina) there are 22 schools — USF-St. Petersburg is tied for first place.

As for funding for the upcoming academic year, athletic director Griffin said it’s too early in the process to make any commitments as to what will be made available for each team. His department will begin assessing revenues in February 2000, based on athletic fee projections and meetings with coaches and coaching staffs.

Griffin said that the USF-St. Petersburg sailing team presented a budget proposal requesting $86,000 in funding, and he did speak about a possible $100,000 commitment from the athletic department for the program. "But those numbers were based on the full approval of fee requests made earlier this year and that won’t be approved. Changes have been made to the request and that changes the athletic department’s ability to fund programs,” said Griffin.

The fee request he is referring to called for an increase of student athletic fees from $0.66 per credit hour to $3.75 per credit hour for regional campuses. After some discussion and debate between the Tampa campus and the regional campuses, an increase to $2 per credit hour was accepted for the regional campuses.

"We said we would evaluate the program based on participation levels, which at this point look a little modest,” said Griffin.

(Information provided by the Michele Burlingame, USF athletic department accounting coordinator. All figures are rounded up.)
**Tibetan rituals to be revealed**

By Cherelyn Hernandez

For more than 40 years, Tibetans have witnessed the eradication of their culture under China's rule. Since the invasion of Tibet in 1950, the Chinese government has outlawed freedom of speech, assembly and religion in Tibet.

However, many Tibetans continue to risk crossing the Himalaya Mountains into India to gain their freedom. Among those Tibetans who escaped and survived the trek are more than 2,500 Tibetan Buddhist monks who established the Drepung Loseling Monastery-in-exile in India.

Ten monks from the monastery-in-exile will visit the USF Tampa campus in February 2000. USF's Campus Activities Board will host "The Mystical Arts of Tibet" festival in the spring, featuring mandala sand painting, a five-day Tibetan ancient ceremony.

The Tibetan monks create a mandala sand painting by pouring colored sand, grain by grain, onto a carefully drawn line design. The process takes three to five days to complete.

"The whole mandala process just sucks you in and you sit in amazement watching the monks create the sand painting," said Karen Bednarczyk, program coordinator of student activities.

The construction of the mandalas is fascinating to watch the monks' dedication to this religious ceremony," she said. For more information about "The Mystical Arts of Tibet" festival, contact the CAB office at (813) 974-5202, or learn more about the mandala sand painting ceremony on the web at www.drepung.org.

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**Chicago exhibition graces new museum**

By Bonnie Clark

One way to enhance a college education is to explore the unknown and unfamiliar. The work of feminist artist Judy Chicago is on display December 3 through January 30 at the new Gulf Coast Museum of Art, only 20 minutes from USF's St. Petersburg campus. The new museum, free to the public, includes a sculpture garden and unique gift shop, lectures and classes.

Chicago's art is big, bright and bold. Through her art, Chicago demands that viewers rethink gender roles in society. Dr. Viki Thompson-Wylder, curator of exhibitions at Florida State University Museum of Fine Art, said, "Provoking extremes of art — critical praise and condemnation, the contemporary presence of Judy Chicago is felt. She is studied in art history classes across the United States."

This exhibition has more than 75 finished works and studies side-by-side with sketchbooks and scrapbooks. Chicago's huge collaborative work Dinner Party is included, as is Holocaust Project, which was on display at the Tampa Bay Holocaust Museum several years ago.

The Gulf Coast Museum of Art is the only Florida venue to host Chicago's retrospective on its national tour, other than the FSU Museum of Fine Arts where the show originated. Dr. Thompson-Wylder will conduct a walk-through gallery tour on Thursday, December 2 from 6 to 7 p.m.

In the outdoor Courtyard Sculpture are 19 cast-bronze artworks by internationally recognized artist John Dreyfuss. Most of these sculptures are either animal figures such as Moon Bright (Reeling Cow) or human figures, including the baseball players in Full Count, Pitcher and Catcher. The Dreyfuss art pieces will be exhibited through January 9.
**Not your run-of-the-mill gift source**

By Brandy Stark

The sun always shines on Gulfport. But sometimes, it’s even more interesting when the sun sets! Gulfport, or more accurately, the waterfront district of Gulfport, is home to a series of eccentric galleries. These galleries display art from the sublime to the funky in a mixture of two- and three-dimensional art. Much of the art is made by local artisans who wish to carve a name for themselves in this up-and-coming art district. Joann and John D’Ambra, veteran artists and owners of the Top This Gifts and Gallery, host a series of handmade eccentrics ranging from wire-wrapped Barbie dolls to silk scarves, T-shirts to wire sculpture and jewelry.

Gulfport attracts people who are interested in the arts, Joanne says. This is confirmed by her “wall of fan,” which displays a photo gallery of a variety of people. A strange mixture of men and women, young and old, all proudly smile as they wear the gallery’s unofficial mascot: an authentic 1950s red, lace strapless bra. Joanne added that those who move into the area seem interested in keeping it a small, artsy community. Her gallery, which has been established in Gulfport for the past five years, is a cornerstone to the art district. “I see a lot of galleries that are becoming established here. People are very committed in this area to creating and selling art,” she said.

Top This Gifts and Gallery contains items that are sure to meet every gift need, and price ranges that even students can afford! Gulfport also holds a monthly gallery walk on the first Friday of every month. The walk, which starts at 6 p.m. and lasts until 10 p.m., features live performances, artistic demonstrations and sidewalk displays. For those who are late shoppers, Top This, along with the other waterfront district galleries, will hold a special art walk on Dec. 18. This walk will feature special Christmas and Holiday-themed art useful for special, unusual, or last minute gifts.

For directions to Top This or to the Gulfport waterfront district, call Joann D’Ambra at (727) 321-7741.

**Book ideas for bewildered buyers**

By Bonnie Clark

With the holidays right around the corner, thoughts turn to gift-giving. What better idea for a college student than books? They’re easy to buy and easy to wrap, but often difficult to choose. Here are some suggestions:

**MOTIVATIONAL**

**Joe Torre’s Ground Rules for Winners: 12 Keys to Managing Team Players, Tough Bosses, Setbacks, and Success by Joe Torre**

Everyone wants to be a winner, and three-time World Series-winning Yankees manager Joe Torre certainly knows of what he speaks. Torre works in the increasingly complex sport of baseball in a demanding role, under scrutiny from team owner George Steinbrenner, with a team of unique and challenging players. It’s no surprise, then, that Torre has three chapters devoted to “Dealing With Tough Bosses.” Although his career has been in baseball, the principles in this book are applicable to any organization or workplace with team leaders and team players.

The book is written more like an upbeat handbook than a textbook, and the business advice sprinkled with Yankee stories makes for a fun read.

Published last summer, Torre’s “Ground Rules for Winners” is only available in hardback ($24) and audiocassette read by Torre ($17).

**CURRENT NEWS**

**Deadlines and Datelines: Essays at the Turn of the Century by Dan Rather**

This collection of Rather’s radio commentaries and newspaper columns offers a casual and chatty approach to writing. Those who only know Rather from his CBS News TV persona will find what one reviewer called “the loosened tie approach to communicating.” Publishers Weekly called it “refreshingly frank, direct, and intense.”

Some of the essays are warm and funny. The most emotional one is Rather’s eulogy to his own grandmother: “She tried, in her quiet way, to teach us many things: how to churn butter, how to make biscuits from scratch, how to rear a loving child. Now it’s time for us to pass her lessons to our own children and grandchildren.... And suddenly there are so many things I realize I don’t know.”

Released last summer, Deadlines and Datelines is available in hardback ($25) or audiocassette read by David Ackroyd ($25).

**MYSTERY**

**One for the Money by Janet Evanovich**

For those who are looking for crime, Evanovich’s sixth book will be published next summer. This wild tale involves students, academics and administrators at Mooo U, nicknamed because of the school’s steadfast devotion to agriculture majors. The most dynamic themes at Mooo U are the quest for money, the omnipotence of the dean’s secretary, and the most unique storyline: a group of first-year veterinary students who are planning an unauthorized experimental project: a pig named Earl Butz. Mooo is available in a small paperback ($8), a larger paperback ($12) and audiocassette read by actor B. D. Wong ($17).

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Up, up and away

By Lynn Stratton

When Jack Tunstill, the chief pilot of the Albert Whitted Flying Club, walked me out across the tarmac on the way to the plane ride that would help me write this story, I marveled at the tiny aircraft we passed. They were like toys, and I was amazed they made them so small.

Then he said, "We're taking one just like these."

We stopped beside a nifty little green and white Cessna 172, and I realized it was smaller than my car. He moved around to the other side, talking to me as he performed a check of all the things that could go wrong in the plane. A plan that would carry me over downtown St. Petersburg, out toward the beaches, and — I hoped — back again.

He held my door open as I climbed in and belted me into a seat on the tiny airplane. He moved around to the water, puffy white clouds, lines of little cars. Tiny golf carts.

"We're going to perform a check of all the things that could go wrong in the plane. A plan that would carry me over downtown St. Petersburg, out toward the beaches, and — I hoped — back again.

As we waited for the control tower to clear us for takeoff, I surreptitiously wiped my hands on my jeans, hoping he couldn't see how nervous I was. But the take-off wasn't bad. We were up before I opened my eyes.

No screaming engines, no feeling like I was being mashed against my seat, as in commercial airliners. No sense that a huge, possibly malevolent machine was dragging me skyward against my will.

No, the take-off was surprisingly gentle. It was staying up that appeared hard. The plane felt suspended, just barely, as if it really wanted to descend but stayed airborne only through the efforts of the pilot.

It seemed like being stuck at the top of the ferris wheel.

Turning was infinitely worse. The more the plane leaned into the turn, the more I feared sliding into the pilot, making him lose control and sending us plummeting downward.

Then we turned the other way, and I realized I wouldn't hit the pilot. I would just slide out the door.

I checked the lock. Pretty flimsy, if you ask me. So I looked out the windows again, trying to appreciate the gorgeous scenery below: the tropical blue-green water, puffy white clouds, lines of little cars. Tiny golf carts.

I concentrated on listening to the pilot's words as he told me about the buildings we were passing over. The pretty pink Don CeSar. The Sunshine Skyway Bridge.

Under me. I was looking at the skyway from above.

Then, suddenly, the roof of the Peister Library, and Davis and Coquina halls, and we were over the campus just like that, heading for the runway.

And I can honestly say it's true: The planes don't get as close to the buildings as they seem to when you're on the ground.

The accident, Bailey says, was not one that was attributed to pilot error. It occurred four miles out, over the bay.

Since 1985, according to Bailey, only one plane has crashed in the city, and that was a transient aircraft. Most accidents are minor and result from pilots going off the runway or landing in the water.

Veazey says he'd give the airport a safety rating of ten on a scale of ten. And the airport is important, he says, make no mistake. "It's training the next generation of pilots for airlines."

Certainly to those on the ground, the noise of approaching planes might indicate that they are close as they pass overhead. Hebdon, who has flown over the campus, said noise can be misleading, and the planes are not really as close as they appear.

So when one of those small planes passes overhead, students and staff can wave to the pilot, or mutter to each other about the noise, but there's probably no need for them to duck.

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Photo by Rachael Lee Coleman

radar, which allows the tower to keep track of all traffic in a wide radius. According to Jim Bailey, another air traffic controller, the new radar was installed in response to a fatal accident that was attributed to pilot error. The accident, Bailey says, was not anywhere near either the campus or the airport; it occurred four miles out, over the bay.

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10 de Gour’s Not
'round town

Through May 29
John F. Kennedy: The Exhibition — Florida International Museum presents a story of heroism, romance, tragedy and legacy. The exhibit is stocked with old family photos, mementos, passports and personal possessions of the famous first family. Tickets are $7.95 for college stu­dents, $13.95 for adults, $3.95 for children 6-18 and children under 6 are free. The Florida International Museum is located at 100 Second St. N., St. Petersburg. For information call (877) JFK-SHOW.

December 19
Old Northeast Candlelight Tour of Homes — Spend some time wandering through one of St. Petersburg’s most beau­tiful neighborhoods. 4 to 8 p.m. For more information call (727) 823-2472.

January 8
Bay Area Renaissance Festival Auditions — Open auditions for interactive improvi­sional troupe of 75 actors. Seeking experi­enced and inexperienced male and female actors for six weeks of perfor­manses, Sat., and Sun. only, March 11 to April 6. For more information call (800) 779-4910.

Tuesdays
Safe Boating Course — a continuous course conducted at the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 72, 1300 Bosch Dr. S.E. Successful completion entitles partici­pants to a certificate which may earn a dis­count on boat insurance. Nominal fee for books only. For information call (727) 898-8774.

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 to 9:30 p.m. For information call (727) 822-4562.

on campus

December 13
1999 Fall Commencement ceremonies — Mahaffey Theater. 7 p.m. For more infor­mation call 553-1162.

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. 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.

Want to write?
The Crow’s Nest is looking to pub­lish short stories and poems next semester. Dust off those old pieces and send them in. Nothing over 2000 words, please. Call 553-3113 for info.

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Advertisers came forth in record numbers during the fall semester to support the Crow's Nest. Realtors, retailers, restaurateurs, health services, apartments, entertainment venues, tutoring and testing centers all helped in the present and future of USF-St. Petersburg. A holiday thank you to them and a New Year's wish for you, please support the businesses supplying this semester!

Shopping recently for an apartment at the beautifully renovated Carlton Towers, 470 Third St. S., just across the street from USF, and worried mates journalism major Matt Canon and mass communications major Sean Dunn. “The students like it here because it's a mix of professionals and retirees. They [the students] can actually study!” said leasing agent Melissa Torres noting that most USF residents are graduate students.

Patty Callaghan says she’s glad to have USF students commuting because of the school's strong women's studies program. Callaghan, the owner of Brigit Books, 3434 Fourth St. N., had special praise for USF faculty and staff. “It's the best,” she said about paying off students loans from the profits you make.”

USF-St. Petersburg is "it", the place to be, says Brownell, because of its location in a prime real estate area. Investors are finding it an excellent location because they want to cater to USF students.

Gavin Benson knows how to cater to students at The Tavern at Bayborow. Not only are the nachos and turkey sandwiches to die for (where does he get those fresh, ripe tomatoes?) but every Thursday night the Tavern buzzes with live music. Crow's Nest fall semester favorites included the Urban Gypsies and blues singer Sarneeta Slim. Open mike nights are every Wednesday. The Tavern at Bayborow made national news during the fall semester when it had to change its name. The infamous Tavern on the Green in the New York City's Central Park didn’t like the little establishment using the same name. Students and media types aren’t the only ones hanging out at the Tavern. Dean Bill Hall was recently spotted doing lunch with St. Petersburg City Councilman Jay Lasita.

Joe Cortese also made the news this fall when he spoke out against big bookstores chains for using what he called "crappy" books and sandwiches for lead advertising. Cortese, owner of Bayborow Books, can order any book, just like the bookstore big boys. He has joined Inwood Books in Tampa, Bratt Books and downtown mainstay Haslam's in fighting for the survival of independents. The intense on-campus bookstore carries textbooks, cookbooks, gift books, a great collection of journals and bestsellers.

The staff at All Women's Health Center, 4131 Central Ave., 327-3300, joined the list of Crow's Nest advertisers this past semester. The Center says they are more than about reproductive choice. They offer student discounts on gynecological services. IUDs are available as well as great discounts on brand name birth control pills.

Finally, Extra Innings Ball Park Cafe, 150 Central Ave., is a welcome addition to the 2000 Crow's Nest family of advertisers. Go there for over 20 television monitors, stadium seating, your favorite microbrews, good food and fun all around.

Peace on Earth, good will and stay safe! See you all next semester.

Your Crow's Nest advertising staff

The Nest welcomes everyone to advertise their annual classifieds (deep in mind we are willing to run personal), but others took advantage of our low rates. Among them, people offering tutoring, part-time television production work and those seeking everything from lifeguards, archæology workers and apartment renters.

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