10-3-2011

Crow's Nest: 2011: 10: 03

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/crows_nest

Recommended Citation

Ex-minors rule debate, Juan Williams says at Poynter discussion

By JANE MCINNIS
Contributing Writer

Fox News political analyst Juan Williams believes genuine debate in America has been stifled by political correctness and polarizing politics.

Williams discussed these and various themes found in his recent book, “Muzzled: The Assault on Honest Debate,” during a community conversation at The Poynter Institute on Sept. 26.

“I think debate today is driven by the extremists,” Williams said.

He recognizes debate online and on cable, but says debate about hot subjects—such as abortion—is left to provocative lobbying or advocacy groups who speak to their niche audience.

“The way conversations are held is really among people of like minds,” Williams said.

Williams traces the scarcity of honest debate to people’s fear of being politically incorrect. Williams believes the emphasis on being politically correct has turned into stifling debate.

Williams discusses these and various themes found in his recent book, “Muzzled: The Assault on Honest Debate,” during a community conversation at The Poynter Institute on Sept. 26.

I think debate today is driven by the extremists,” Williams said.

Both sides use the political correctness tactic against each other, Williams writes in his book.

“While the Left mostly uses PC politeness to minority see WILLIAMS, page 6

Labor unions, communism topic of Banned Books Week talk

By ARIELLE STEVENSON
News Editor

David Lee McMullen, history professor at USFSP, explored the role of three American Communists in the 1920s as part of the fifth annual Banned Books Week.

“So are American Communists as evil as we think? No,” McMullen said during his Sept. 29 talk.

“There are good republicans and good democrats, as much as there are bad ones.”

Starting with the Red Scare in 1919, McMullen said Communism in America has been villainized ever since.

“I guess the government doesn’t notice that the Chinese are communists,” McMullen joked.

All documentation of the American Communist Party has been destroyed. The remaining records sit in the basement at New York University.

“To the victor belong the spoils,” McMullen said. “You can silence new and alternate views and reduce available options. It eliminates positive change because it eliminates the possibilities.”

“Books can be dangerous,” McMullen said. He reminisced about a time when the Florida legislature required all graduating high school seniors to take a class in Americanism v. Communism. Behind him was an image of a book used in the course, “The Masks of Communism.”

McMullen was a high school student in Jacksonville, Fla.

“It put me on a different wavelength,” he said. “If the Florida legislature was trying to make me a diehard capitalist, they failed.”

McMullen’s high school class inspired him to hold a magnifying glass to American Communism. That interest resulted in McMullen’s book, “Strike!: The Radical Insurrections of Ellen Dawson.”

Dawson was raised in working class Ireland, immigrated to the United States and became the first woman to join the American Communist Party.”

Want to join The Crow’s Nest? Come to staff meetings, Mondays at 5 p.m. outside PRW 108.

All documentation of the American Communist Party has been destroyed. The remaining records sit in the basement at New York University.

“To the victor belong the spoils,” McMullen said. “You can silence new and alternate views and reduce available options. It eliminates positive change because it eliminates the possibilities.”

“Books can be dangerous,” McMullen said. He reminisced about a time when the Florida legislature required all graduating high school seniors to take a class in Americanism v. Communism. Behind him was an image of a book used in the course, “The Masks of Communism.”

McMullen was a high school student in Jacksonville, Fla.

“It put me on a different wavelength,” he said. “If the Florida legislature was trying to make me a diehard capitalist, they failed.”

McMullen’s high school class inspired him to hold a magnifying glass to American Communism. That interest resulted in McMullen’s book, “Strike!: The Radical Insurrections of Ellen Dawson.”

Dawson was raised in working class Ireland, immigrated to the United States and became the first woman to join the American Communist Party.”

Want to join The Crow’s Nest? Come to staff meetings, Mondays at 5 p.m. outside PRW 108.

So are American Communists as evil as we think? No,” McMullen said during his Sept. 29 talk.

“There are good republicans and good democrats, as much as there are bad ones.”

Starting with the Red Scare in 1919, McMullen said Communism in America has been villainized ever since.

“I guess the government doesn’t notice that the Chinese are communists,” McMullen joked.

All documentation of the American Communist Party has been destroyed. The remaining records sit in the basement at New York University.

“To the victor belong the spoils,” McMullen said. “You can silence new and alternate views and reduce available options. It eliminates positive change because it eliminates the possibilities.”

“Books can be dangerous,” McMullen said. He reminisced about a time when the Florida legislature required all graduating high school seniors to take a class in Americanism v. Communism. Behind him was an image of a book used in the course, “The Masks of Communism.”

McMullen was a high school student in Jacksonville, Fla.

“It put me on a different wavelength,” he said. “If the Florida legislature was trying to make me a diehard capitalist, they failed.”

McMullen’s high school class inspired him to hold a magnifying glass to American Communism. That interest resulted in McMullen’s book, “Strike!: The Radical Insurrections of Ellen Dawson.”

Dawson was raised in working class Ireland, immigrated to the United States and became the first woman to join the American Communist Party.”
HAB, SG move to Coquina during CAC renovation

By TAYLOR GAUDENS AND AMANDA PRETULAC
Life & Arts Editors

Construction on the Campus Activities Center will have Student Government, The Crow’s Nest and Harborside Activities Board sharing the same room, Coquina 101, by the end of October.

The three entities currently have separate offices located in the CAC. However, in the new location, they will share one large room, a storage closet and one office. It’s a much different space from their usual separate offices, but the construction left them with limited choices.

“It’s a good amount of space,” said Jamie Kennedy, president of HAB. The clubs plan to arrange the furniture to create a separation between the organizations and leave a general open space.

“It’ll lead to more access while keeping that boundary,” Kennedy said.

If infrastructure will be installed in the space at no cost to the organizations, said Norine Noonan, regional vice chancellor of Academic Affairs.

With homecoming festivities on the way, Kennedy said she hopes to get storage bins right away. The club owns shelves to put away. The bins were “not something we originally planned to purchase,” she said. Nine bins add up to $120. The money for these services, Noonan said.

Kennedy learned of the move over summer 2011, and was notified Sept. 1 on the specifics about when the move would start.

“The projects were always paired together, but the schedule was never concurrent,” Noonan said. “In terms of space utilization, there is no overlap. Everyone who is in [the CAC] now is scheduled to go back there.”

Noonan said the construction should go as planned, because weather delays won’t affect the workers since they will be inside the building.

St. Pete Moving and Storage will take care of moving the furniture, Noonan said.

“We used the company to move the graphics design department to Harbor Hall, the College of Business to Bayboro Station and I believe we’ll use them for the move for SG, Crown’s Nest and HAB,” Noonan said.

The organizations will have to move their supplies on their own.

The moving arrangements are already set, but Kennedy questions the timing of the construction projects.

“Is it most beneficial to start construction on the CAC after the Multipurpose Center was finished because people moving into the new CAC already have offices [elsewhere on campus],” Kennedy said.

“It’s not like they’re waiting and needing to move.”

“We felt as a leadership team, that it was important to get these projects done as soon as possible, because frankly, our students need these services,” Noonan said.

Noonan said the decision about where to move the three entities’ offices was “a discussion as to where we had space. We knew Coquina 101 was going to be available because that was the graphic arts studio, which moved to Harbor Hall,” she said.

“Lots of other spaces were considered in this decision,” said SG Vice President Mark Lombardi-Nelson. “I know there was talk of the PRW building, though Coquina was the choice made for the best possible situation [for the organizations].”

Coquina 101 is 1,800 square feet, Noonan said.

“We felt it was a good place to keep the entities that wanted to be together. Except for that space, the only spaces we had, which we are now using, are individual offices in Davis Hall that would not have necessarily been contiguous,” Noonan said. “We didn’t think that’d be particularly suitable, especially for Harborside and Student Government who need a place to meet.”

Kennedy and the HAB currently have offices right next to the Multicultural office, which will be relocated to PRW.

“It will make it more difficult to work with the Multicultural offices,” Kennedy said.

HAB, SG and The Crow’s Nest will be located in Coquina 101 “until the CAC reopens. I’m guessing nine months, 10 months. I think they’re hoping it’s done before next school year,” Noonan said.

Students will move into the new resident hall in August 2012, Noonan said.

“We bite the bullet for a year, and it’s miserable and we all hate it, and we’re all bunched up together, and then a year from now, we’ll forget about it,” Noonan said.

The new CAC, which has yet to be named, will contain the career center, health and wellness center, and disability services along with SG, HAB and The Crow’s Nest.
St. Pete Times columnist talks business, leadership

By DAWN-MARIE PARKER
Contributing Writer

St. Petersburg Times business columnist Robert Trigaux gave a speech on “The Challenge of Business Leadership in Difficult Economic Times” at the USFSP LeaderSpeak event on Sept. 29. He spoke to an audience of varying majors, with interests ranging from journalism to finance and entrepreneurship.

Trigaux has won several awards from organizations like the National Association of Newspaper Columnists and the Society of Professional Journalists.

At an early age, he was engrossed in the fields of economics and English. He worked in New York City at an investment firm and in 1991 moved to St. Petersburg to work for The Times as a business columnist.

Trigaux discussed various leaders on the local, state and national level, and focused on what he called “leadership qualities.”

He started with Walt Disney, who Trigaux thinks might not be who college students instantly think of when they are challenged to think of inventive people.

He said that for his era, Disney was one of the most formative people in terms of bringing imagination to life and pitching a brand new economic idea. Trigaux highlighted people like Disney and Tom James of the Raymond James Financial Investment Firm as examples to help students realize they are capable of anything as long as they possess true dedication and determination.

“Small bottom-up economic development can be a powerful tool,” Trigaux said.

Charlie Justice, assistant director of Leadership Programs, said that he reads Trigaux’s column weekly and thought he would be a good choice for LeaderSpeak.

“The country’s economy is very relative, especially to college students,” Justice said.

“Trigaux’s comment on the risk retirement age and the pressure it’s putting on our generation was based on his overlapping theme that networking was as important as our majors,” said Jaylyn Maloney-Wallace, freshman finance and economics major.

Sabrina Aldridge, a senior economics major, said his list of leadership qualities were “inspirational and helpful.”

“Some parents would not be supportive of teachers,” she said, but in her house, she took the teacher’s side by default. “I had to be on top of it.”

As the politicization of teachers continues, policies that link standardized test scores to teacher employment and compensation have become more popular.

When jobs are based on FCAT scores, teachers have to choose between educating students and teaching to the test, Butler said. Teachers struggle with learning how to do both, he said.

Standardized testing has other consequences, as well, he said. When a school’s test scores are low, the school’s grade is low, so it receives less funding. Property values in the area served by the school will also drop, exacerbating the problem.

Gina Novakovich, an education student, is currently interning at a school and has learned some of the difficulties that an inflexible, mandated curriculum can bring. Students can get frustrated and lose motivation if they don’t get a concept but it’s time to move on to the next subject, she said.

Novakovich said she does not have any second thoughts about her choice in career.

“No, I’m in the right field. I love it,” she said, but the strict controls were “alarming.”

“It’s a political quagmire,” Barnard said. Funding comes through the state, which diverts money away from the neediest schools and gives it to the highest achieving students, she said.

“When politicians get involved in education, education goes down the drain,” said Braunsberger, who see EDUCATION, page 6.
first female labor leader in the textile union. Histories of working class women are scarce from this time period, which is part of why Dawson’s story sparked McMullen’s interest.

“Only in the past few decades have we’ve stopped writing history and started writing his and her-story,” McMullen said.

She began working at a textile mill in 1914, at age 13. It was a turbulent time in labor history for Ireland and Dawson was in the heart of it. After World War I, she witnessed “Red Clydeside” in 1919, a major and violent working class revolution in response to massive unemployment. Nearly 500,000 workers lost their jobs. English troops and tanks came to quell the riots. Dawson immigrated to America in 1921, and found work in Passaic, N.J.

“I went to 35 different libraries on two continents to piece together the tidbits of her life,” McMullen said.

She worked the nightshift at a textile factory in Passaic. Dawson met fellow labor organizers Albert and Vera Weisbord and orchestrated a strike that lasted 16 months and included 16,000 workers, mostly immigrants.

This started Dawson’s membership in the communist party and her role as a leading female labor activist. She became the leader in the United Textile Workers union in Passaic.

“She covered the local press during the New Bedford Strike in 1928 because she was coming from outside the community, an outside agitator,” McMullen said. The New Bedford Strike lasted eight months and included 30,000 workers. But it wasn’t as simple as employer against employee. There was a battle amongst native-born “skilled” workers and immigrant “unskilled workers.” Ultimately, the skilled laborers sold out the unskilled labor in the end, a common theme in labor history.

She also helped with the Lowry Mill Strike of 1929, one of the largest strikes in the South, McMullen said. But she was expelled from the communist party and the union she led.

“Dawson didn’t believe in Stalin’s form of communism and was more concerned with helping the worker,” McMullen said. “She was expelled from the union because she wasn’t as concerned with dogma as the union.”

SB married and Albert retired to Port Charlotte, Fla. Her husband moved to St. Petersburg, where he in 1992.

The couple Dawson worked with, Vera and Albert Weisbord, are the subject of McMullen’s current research.

“Albert was the brain and Vera was the heart,” McMullen said.

Albert went to Harvard Law school not to be a lawyer but because he “wanted to learn how the capitalist screwed the worker.”

He organized numerous protests for labor unions in the 1920s and 1930s, and traveled extensively through Mexico researching the plight of the worker. He visited Leon Trotsky in Turkey after Lenin died. He worked for The Nation covering the Spanish Civil War.

Albert was a controversial figure, had an enormous ego, was a prolific writer and a true Marxist philosopher,” McMullen said. “When Albert asked Vera to marry him, he asked her to be his Krupskaya, which was the name of Lenin’s wife.”

After his presentation, McMullen answered questions from the audience.

USFSP alum Tyler Crawford asked McMullen what happened to Albert after the 1920s and 1930s.

“It seems like he just petered out after the ‘20s and ‘30s,” Crawford said.

After the Communist Party’s leader Lenin died, Stalin took over and had Trotsky assassinated and the Weisbords were Trotskyites.”

“He had his 15 minutes of fame in 1926 during the Passaic workers strike but he never really got back to that same level,” McMullen said. “He is ignored, not banned. And being ignored is worse than being banned.”

McMullen was asked if communism has been replaced by any other ideology in American culture.

“With the rise of the war on terror, communism has replaced communism,” McMullen said.

arts@crowsneststpete.com
Embracing Fall in Florida

By AMANDA PRETULAC
Arts Editor

The air is crisp, colorful leaves coat the sidewalks, and everyone’s wearing the latest plaid fashions…in Massachusetts. Meanwhile in St. Petersburg, it’s humid, palm trees sway in the breeze, and shorts remain the dress code until early November.

Welcome to fall in Florida—similar to spring and summer in Florida. For those of you who are nostalgic for a northern fall or wish to embrace the season, there are a few simple ways to celebrate in Florida.

You can easily fake the spicy, comforting scents of northeastern autumn air with a candle from stores like Bath and Body Works. Indulge in scents like Leaves, Marshmallow Fireside and Creamy Pumpkin.

Opt to decorate your living space with a mini-pumpkin vase filled with fresh flowers, a leaf wreath for your door, and a candy dish filled with Halloween treats to make the season more of a reality. Another tip is to make it fall somewhere is the return of the pumpkin spice lattes at Starbucks.

Instead of investing in cor-duroys, try a pair of white denim pants paired with a rich jewel-tone top or a classic button down. Cardigans are a fresh alternative to a chunky hoodie and perfect for a freezing classroom.

Moving on to the more complicated issue: fall fashion. Most retail stores already have heavy cashmere sweaters and corduroys in stock, which isn’t practical for Florida weather.

Choose a classic structured satchel, a boxy leather bag, or a chic backpack. Jewelry can range anywhere from bright neon pieces to tribal charms.

Welcome to fall in Florida—enjoy the seasonal specials air, play tunes like “Monster Mash,” “The Time Warp” and “Thriller” to entertain your guests while surrounding by the accents in your faux fall apartment.

To give your classroom or home a more fallish feel, listen to songs from the mid-80s, try Dunkin Donuts Pumpkin Iced Coffee for an alternative to the hot Starbucks drink. Whip up some easy fall recipes such as apple cider floats, pumpkin bread pudding, or black bean pumpkin soup after a long day of classes.

Hope you enjoy the book reveals truth about lynching

By TAYLOR GAUDENS
Life Editor

Julie Buckner Armstrong is a writer by nature. From journaling through her teen years to the release of her book “Mary Turner and the Memory of Lynching”—13 years in the making—the USFSP associate professor of English has a knack for the written word.

This year’s St. Petersburg Times Festival of Reading on Sat., Oct. 22, will be her first time at the festival as a festival author, “not a volunteer.”

Her personality shines like the Wonder Woman bracelet she wears. Seated at her desk in the newly renovated Harbor Hall, she is surrounded by colorful décor, an old Dali museum bookshelf. On the windowsill sit two Barbie dolls from the late 1960s. Armstrong keeps her childhood dolls in her office because “Barbie is the perfect thing for a women’s lit teacher to have,” she said.

Armstrong grew up in Birmingham, Ala. “You’re just exposed to [civil rights issues] a lot,” she said of living in Birmingham. “There is either a hyper interest or you avoid it entirely.”

Armstrong began researching her book before earning her doctoral degree at New York University. She was teaching at Valdosta State University in Georgia and read about the lynching of a woman in 1918 in one of the books for the National Endowment for Humanities Institute on teaching the Civil Rights Movement. She discovered there was nothing on the incident at the local level.

“It is a taboo subject [in Valdosta]. It was one of those traumatic things that happened locally that nobody wanted to talk about,” Armstrong said.

She researched the topic at the Library of Congress, scouring through NAACP investigative files and newspaper clippings. She ventured through documents at Howard University, the Beinecke Library at Yale University and examined the James Weldon Johnson papers, which is a collection of material related to early 20th century African-American writers, she said.

“It was really interesting because I was researching a woman, and you usually don’t hear about those kinds of stories,” Armstrong said. “It was a very horrific case, and it happened very close to where I lived at the time.”

Armstrong learned about the oral history of the lynchings while teaching Civil Rights Literature, African American literature and women’s literature courses at Valdosta State.

“I had no idea how to be subtle,” Armstrong said about conducting her research on the oral history of the lynching. “I marched into the historical society demanding to know ‘about the woman who was lynched here in 1918.’”

“Never occurred to me people wouldn’t talk about their little dirty secret,” she said.

Some change came about in Valdosta, Ga. There was a commemoration ceremony in 2009, where many people talked publicly about the lynching stories, which Armstrong said was “an amazing thing.”

“Nobody ever really talked to me. That wound is too painful. They don’t want to go there,” Armstrong said. She did not include oral history in the book, but she did include a few stories from the commemoration ceremony and off-the-record stories from a few Caucasian women.

A group called the Mary Turner Project established a historical marker in Valdosta, Ga. in 2010.

Armstrong’s current project, tentatively named “Birmingham Stories,” will be a collection of essays about civil rights.

“I’ve done some creative writing before, but not book-length. This is my fourth project, so I have more freedom,” Armstrong said. “I’m just tinkering with stuff right now. My goal is not to be quick. My goal is to be excellent.”

life@crowsneststpete.com
“School is microcosm of the community”

EDUCATION, continued from page 3

has also taught in Germany, U.K., and North Africa. “That has to stop. … Give the teachers the tools they need and appoint teachers” to policy-making committees, she said.

While working on systemic change, teachers and communities have to continue working on making better schools, Butler said.

“The school is a microcosm of the community … but the community might also be a microcosm of the school,” he said. Teachers, parents and students need to work together to get the most out of their schools.

Students expect to do well in college but don’t take important prerequisite classes, Butler said. If students don’t take Algebra I in middle school, they are much less likely to succeed in college, he said.

“One of the most important things students can do is say ‘I want to go to college’ to their teachers,” Smith said.

Butler recommended that individuals get involved in schools, rather than waiting for fixes from the top.

news@crowsneststpete.com

HAB event aims to raise domestic violence awareness

By JOE CASTAGNA
Contributing Writer

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and the Harborside Activities Board will host the event “Love Shouldn’t Hurt” on Wed., Oct. 5 from noon to 4 p.m.

The event coordinators seek to raise awareness and offer information about services available to students who are victims of domestic violence with “Sometimes people get caught up in a very unhealthy relationship that can lead to physical violence, but also control and manipulation that leads to a whole other level of violence,” said Leila Duru, a psychologist at the wellness center. “It’s important to spread awareness and let people know that if they ever find themselves in that sort of situation there are resources to help them.”

The Domestic Violence Awareness Project started Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and defines domestic violence as “a pattern of coercive controlling behavior that one partner exerts over another,” according to the organization’s website.

Abusive partners may use different tactics—like physical, sexual, emotional, or financial—to try and maintain control over their partner.

The USFSP Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness offers many services to students, like counseling and support to help victims cope with past or current abusive relationships. A victim advocate is also available to provide information, community referrals, and crisis response to all USFSP students who may be victims of crime, domestic or otherwise.

Awareness for Domestic Violence is represented by the color purple—an homage to the movie “The Color Purple,” which deals with domestic violence.

“We will be handing out purple ribbons and water bottles to those who support domestic violence awareness at the event,” said Rebecca Rader, director of special events for HAB.

Rader said that many students, especially incoming freshmen, are unaware of the services available to them.

“I know what is like to not be able to find help and how lonely it can be,” Rader said. “We want to let students know that someone is here to help you and that you are not alone.”

There will also be a booth run by I Know My Plan, Inc., an organization that provides personal safety strategies and self-defense classes.

“Ninety percent of self-defense is risk reduction and 10 percent is physical resistance,” said Wendy Vazquez, president of I Know My Plan, Inc. “First we go over risk reduction strategies and progress to hands-on physical training.”

The training helps people learn how to stay out of harms way and defend themselves if they are in a violent situation.

“The best thing you can do when you find yourself in a violent situation is to fight back and turn your fear into aggression and have the attitude that how dare he hurt me,” Vazquez said.

The organization will offer training called Rape Aggression Defense for students at the beginning of November.

news@crowsneststpete.com

Questions?

USFSP Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness
117 Bayboro Hall
(727) 873-4422
USFSP Victim Advocate: (727) 612-2861
www.usfsp.edu/cchw

Domestic Violence Awareness Month
www.dvam.vawnet.org
I Know My Plan, Inc. www.iknowmyplan.com
The R.A.D. System www.rad-systems.com

“Where the belly rules the mind!”

- Waterfront Dining
- Craft Beer • Organic Wine
- Live Music Sat. & Sun.

Bayboro Cafe & Catering

Free Parking!

1110 3rd St. South, St. Petersburg -- 727.388.5881

Viewsers paying more attention to newscasters’ personalities

WILLIAMS, continued from front page

identity issues like race and ethnicity,” Williams writes, “the Right uses it on issues of piety and patriotism.”

This “with us or against us” mentality has further polarized Americans into their respective parties, Williams said.

“Today, we are in an environment where it would not describe as broadcasting … but more narrowcasting,” he said.

Williams said people go to websites and blogs that support their taste.

He believes this constrains the opportunity for honest debate.

“What you get is people reaffirming pre-existing attitudes and opinions,” he said. He believes people are merely looking for information that validates their thinking.

Because conversation is held among people of like minds, Williams said it creates an unwillingness to listen to other points of view. When he was younger and watched anchorman Walter Cronkite report the news, he said he never considered Cronkite’s political affiliation.

Now, Williams said, a newscaster’s personality and lifestyle become more of an issue when they report the news. He said people want to hear the news from people who think like them.

“They invest trust in personalities that they have come to know and then rely on to help them interpret the news,” Williams said.

USFSP senior Samantha Ford, who attended the event, agreed that she prefers to know newscaster’s political affiliations. “News is so slanted, you want to know who’s giving it,” Ford said.

Williams was open to discussing his dismissal from NPR, where he worked as a news analyst for 10 years. He said that NPR took his comments on “The O’Reilly Factor” out of context, and he was stunned when he was informed of his dismissal. He writes about the event in his book’s first chapter, “I Said What I Meant.”

After moderator Stephen Buckley interviewed Williams, the floor was open to questions from attendees, in keeping with the event’s title of a “community conversation.” A microphone was passed around, and Williams took questions from audience members.

A reception followed, and Williams stayed to meet and greet those in attendance and sign books.
editorial

Congrats to USFSP for debut on Best Colleges Report

The school must now focus on ways to improve.

No. 36.

For USF St. Petersburg, the number marks a milestone. It is the number at which the school made its debut in the U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Colleges report.

The rankings are highly influential—a one-rank improvement on the list leads to a 0.9 percent increase in applications, one study showed. Millions of parents and high school seniors have used the report to choose a college since it was created in 1983, and U.S. News & World Report claims to sell 50 percent more magazines and earn 20 times as many website page views when the rankings are released.

This rank is a great accomplishment for a school that has only been independently accredited since 2006. So said Regional Chancellor Margaret Sullivan in a press release shortly after the rankings were released. She and other administrators welcomed the opportunity to inform prospective students, and praised the school’s urban waterfront location, small-campus feel and level of civic engagement.

But those things don’t matter to America’s Best Colleges readers. According to the same study that found the uptick in applicants after a rank increase, most readers pay attention only to a school’s academic life section—vital underlying information. This means that if USFSP really wants to see the benefits of the report, it must improve its rank.

It must become a better school. USFSP is certainly in a healthier position than it was after the school’s first year. Associate vice Chancellors and Schools placed it on probation in 2008—its debut ranking is a testament to that. But it has a long way to go if it wants to compete with schools like Virginia’s James Madison University, which ranks No. 2 among public universities in the south. JMU is admittently a much older school, but a simple comparison on the two makes clear areas where USFSP can improve.

A school’s student-faculty ratio and its class sizes account for a major part of the academic life section of the report. A lower student-faculty ratio and smaller class sizes mean a professor has more time to offer one-on-one interactions with students, which the report looks upon favorably. USFSP’s ratio, compared to 18:1, and offers a higher percentage of small class sizes. JMU could also use the USFSP’s:: to increase class sizes and decrease the amount of tenured teachers, meaning the university may continue to lose points in this section in the future.

The academic life section of the report also examines the school’s 4-year graduation rate. USFSP’s is not available on the U.S. News & World Report site. JMU also offers more campus amenities—most notably, health services, a women’s center and a job placement service. USFSP is slated to gain a health center with on-staff nurses upon completion of the new multipurpose student center next year. The university has said it hopes to offer examination rooms, a diagnostic lab, prescriptions, birth control and women’s services, but no formal contracts are in place, and student health fees currently over cover a small amount of the money needed to run them. In the meantime, students must travel to the USF Tampa campus for health needs and often need to pay an additional fee to access them.

USFSP also lags behind other schools on the subject of student life. While it provides many clubs and activities through Student Government and the Harborside Activity Board, it offers no college athletics of its own—participating instead in USF Tampa’s NCAA I sports—and offers minimal family opportunities, which hurts its student life ranking.

With Residence Hall One being the only on-campus housing option, USFSP delivers limited choices to students in search of single-room dorms or apartments. USFSP’s respectable debut ranking is worth celebrating. But it’s also worth reflecting upon.

No. 36 is good, but there are better numbers. Though budget cuts should keep in mind only one number as they guide the school into the future.

No. 1.

editorial

College students at high risk for STIs

Proper contraceptive use can prevent disease and pregnancies

World Contraception Day might have come and gone on Sept. 26, but it’s never too late to think about sexual health.

Between midterms, textbooks, parties and tuition costs, college students have enough to worry about. A baby or a painful disease is the last thing on their minds.

Between midterms, textbooks, parties and tuition costs, college students have enough to worry about. A baby or a painful disease is the last thing on their minds.

Some people choose not to use contraceptives because they say they decrease sensitivity, or they decrease the risk of getting pregnant and, depending on the type of contraceptive, may also decrease the likelihood of contracting a sexually transmitted infection.

There are some student who are at high risk for STIs.

One out of every four of your peers has a sexually transmitted infection.

It could even be you. Eighty percent of people who have an STI are not aware of it. More than half of participants in one study among college students thought they could tell if a person has an STI just by looking at them. But going to a clinic or a Planned Parenthood location for a test is often the only way to discover an STI. It is always better to be safe than sorry, especially when there is a risk of unknowingly spreading an infection to one or multiple partners.

Young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are four times more likely than the total population to have chlamydia, four times more likely to have gonorrhea and two times more likely to have syphilis.

And only 54 percent of students regularly use condoms during intercourse.

Condom use is the only contraceptive that can prevent both pregnancy and disease. But condoms fail 14.2 percent of the time on average use, and many students choose not to use them if one partner is on another contraceptive. Only 60 percent of women in one survey said they knew how to use a condom correctly, while 87 percent of men said they did. Shockingly, 60 percent of college women surveyed said they would sex even if their partner refused to wear a condom.

Relying solely on oral contraceptives will not prevent an STI.

Early college-aged women also reported the highest rate of contraceptive failure during the first year of use, at 26 percent, and later college-aged women ranked second, at 18 percent.

Using more than one form of birth control, such as condoms and oral contraceptives, is one of the safest ways to enjoy sex. The condom will help to prevent STIs, while the pill can prevent a pregnancy should the condom fail.

Perhaps the strongest offense against unplanned pregnancies and STIs is education. Know the statistics, know how to use contraceptives properly and know your sexual health status. And remember, staying safe does not mean missing fun.

We want to hear from you.

The Crow’s Nest will accept and publish, in print or online, letters to the editor at the discretion of the editor in chief.

Letters to be published must meet general standards for accuracy of facts and must not contain language that is offensive or libelous in nature. Anonymous letters to the editor will not be accepted for publication.

Email your submissions to editorials@crowsneststpete.com.

quote and notes

Quote of the week

“All I want for Christmas is a seahorse.” — Socialite and reality show star Kim Kardashian, via Twitter, on her longstanding holiday desires.

Throwback

On Oct. 3, 16 years ago, O.J. Simpson was acquitted of the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, and eight years ago, Roy Stern of Siegfried & Roy was mauled by a performing white tiger, canceling the show until 2009.

We want to hear from you.

The Crow’s Nest will accept and publish, in print or online, letters to the editor at the discretion of the editor in chief.

Letters to be published must meet general standards for accuracy of facts and must not contain language that is offensive or libelous in nature. Anonymous letters to the editor will not be accepted for publication.

Email your submissions to editorials@crowsneststpete.com.
By TOM CHANG  
Contributing Writer

After setting record offensive records against the likes of Ball State and UTEP, No. 16 USF (4-1) found themselves on the other end of a drubbing, losing to Pittsburgh (3-2) 44-17 at Heinz Field on Thursday, Sept. 29.

Pittsburgh running back Ray Graham ran over the USF defense for 226 yards from 26 carries and two touchdowns. He also caught four passes for 42 yards. Quarterback Tino Sunseri threw for 216 yards, completing 22 passes out of 33 and throwing for a score. He would also run one in running for 35 yards from 12 carries.

After an even first half when the score ended up a close 20-17 Panthers lead, they took advantage of an exhausted Bulls defense allowing for 24 unanswered points from coach Todd Graham’s “high octane” offense.

Both the offense and defense were mismatched in the second half. The final time of possession for the Bulls was 23:50 while the Panthers kept the ball for 35:44. The Panthers defense was relentless in smothering USF quarterback B. J. Daniels and the offense with constant pressure and blitzes shutting them out in the second half.

Daniels threw for 224 yards, completing 17 out of 36 passes. He also ran for 43 yards out of 14 carries and ran for a score. Running back Demetris Murray carried the ball for 67 yards from 10 carries and a score. His counterpart Darrell Scott did far much better carrying only two more times and for 8 more yards and no scores. Receiver Sterling Griffin caught five balls for 124 yards.

An early Panther fumble from receiver Darius Patton resulted in USF’s first score, but from there, the Panthers kept pouring on the scoring only having to punt twice. The Panthers forced two key fumbles from Scott and Griffin ending any hopes of a response from the Bulls offense in the fourth quarter.

The loss marks the fourth in a row against the Panthers. The Bulls mark their first loss of the season and within the Big East conference. The Bulls will attempt to regain their momentum against another conference opponent, traveling to Connecticut to face the Huskies.

Students watch Bulls at St. Pete party

By TAYLOR GAUDENS  
Life Editor

The SociaBulls celebrated its 2,000 Facebook fans milestone with a Bulls football game watch party at Jannus Live for the USF vs. Pitt game on Sept. 29.

Officials at Jannus set up a large screen for students and partygoers to watch the first conference game of the season. USFSP students played cornhole, and listened to live music and the ESPN broadcast of the football game.

Despite technical difficulties at the beginning of the watch party, attendees cheered in the Bulls in the school spirited atmosphere.

Students play a friendly game of cornhole while they wait for the game to start.

Fantasy football: Ego edition

By HANNAH ULM  
Contributing Writer

As fantasy owners, we consider many different aspects before deciding who to sit and who to start. We look at injuries, opposing defenses, teammates who might take opportunities away from our men and countless other things.

For an individual player, we might think about his talent, how often he gets the ball and his ability to make a big play.

But I think there is one component we sometimes overlook: spite.

Football is a sport designed to inflate egos. We cheer for the hardest hits and the craftiest runners. We love the fights that break out and the trash talk between rivals. Heck, sometimes I expect to see a WR turn around and stick out his tongue at the safety he just outran. So with all that testosterone pumping, how is a player to react when his team gets crushed? Oh yeah, mercilessly.

Let’s look at a few examples from the first few weeks of this season.

The Pittsburgh Steelers shocked fans with their embarrassing 35-7 loss to the Baltimore Ravens in week one. Week two had opposite results for both teams—the Steelers came back with a 24-0 win against the Seattle Seahawks and the Ravens got me kicked out of my work’s football pool with a disgusting 26-13 loss to the Tennessee Titans.

It’s undeniable that the Steelers have not played like the team that made the Super Bowl last year. But in week two they looked better. And yes, they were playing the Seahawks, so that has to be acknowledged. But I think they had an added spark caused by the embarrassment and spite left over from the week before.

So keep spite in mind. Think of the egotistical highs and lows you go through during your winning (and losing) fantasy seasons. Then imagine that being broadcast to millions of fans that could turn on you after one bad game. Which reminds me—Joe Flacco, what little relationship we had before is now over.