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By JAY WILKE
Of the Crow's Nest

Over the next several months, various construction projects will bring changes to the USF-St. Petersburg campus, and people who have trouble finding parking won’t get relief.

Some on-campus parking spaces will be lost in the Central Core project. The project will close the part of Second Street that dead-ends into the campus in front of Davis and Bayboro halls. The parking spaces that line the street will be transformed into an open green space with a fountain.

“All of the parking in front of Davis will be gone,” said Roy Clark, USF-St. Petersburg construction coordinator. The campus will be safer for students and faculty members, he said.

The Central Core project will change the face of the campus as it transforms the street into a grassy area and courtyard where students can stretch out and lounge.

“I think that it’s going to make the campus even more gorgeous than it is,” said Deborah Kurelik, USF-St. Petersburg assistant director of public affairs. “It will encourage a lot of socializing for the students.”

The project, scheduled to begin this year, is in the planning stages, and it is unknown how long it will take to complete. There is a possibility that replacement of some underground pipes could complicate a speedy completion. The landscaping, however, should not take more than a couple of months.

Parking spaces lost to the mall have already been replaced with new lots on campus. Still, students who are used to parking on the street may have to buy parking decals and students used to parking in front of Davis Hall may have to walk further.

Regardless, the parking situation still won’t resemble USF-Tampa. “It is much harder to park over there,” Kurelik said.

Other parking will disappear as a result of construction on Third Street South. A streetscape project there will narrow the street to improve safety for pedestrians, at the same time eliminating street parking used by some students and faculty who don’t have decals.

USF-St. Petersburg is a pedestrian campus and the change “reduces traffic hazards to students,” Clark said.

The construction will take place from Fifth Avenue South to 19th Avenue South.

A renovation project also is under way on the north side of the second floor of Davis Hall. The work includes the creation of new state-of-the-art biology and chemistry laboratories.

The new labs will be “meeting a new standard,”
Let's return to rock 'n' roll basics

By JAY WILKE
Staff Writer

Warrant, famous for tasteful little ditties like "Cherry Pie" and "Dry Your Eyes," pranced out on stage like it was 1989. They played with all the heart and enthusiasm as they did when they started. Someone forgot to tell the band that they were no longer the darlings of MTV. There were no pyrotechnics, no confetti, no hairspay, no Jumbotron screen and no white leather jampants, but the music was the same.

High drug prices means death for many

By ANNE-VALERIE KANINDA, M.D.

More than 36 million people are living with HIV or AIDS. Ninety percent are living in developing countries where the high prices of medications are effectively condemning them to death. Without drastic changes to make these drugs more accessible to populations in need, this generation will witness a health crisis of epic proportions.

This is why university students in the United States must demand that the thirty-nine pharmaceutical companies suing the United African government drop their case. If the companies succeed, it could stop people from receiving lifesaving medications, including those most effective against HIV/AIDS in a country where close to 5 million people are already infected -- the highest number for any country in the world.

For more than three years, the pharmaceutical industry has blocked a law signed by Nelson Mandela that would make medicines more affordable to patients. They claim it would infringe on the companies' rights to their voices to this growing chorus of global outrage.

For a start, students can sign the online "Drop the Case!" petition sponsored by the international medical aid agency Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) at www.doctorswithoutborders.org. MSF is asking students to sign the petition and to distribute it as widely as possible. When the case resumes April 15, the electronic signatures will be presented to the pharmaceutical companies and to government.

College students must also demand that the United States government make a clear statement of support for South Africa's right to provide affordable medicine for its people.

Students must not underestimate their power. Not so long ago, students at U.S. universities played a key role in increasing pressure to get South Africa to end its system of apartheid. A nationwide student and faculty outcry forced many prestigious universities to divest their holdings in the country. South Africans survived apartheid. They should not die for lack of access to medicines.

Anne-Valerie Kaninda, M.D. is medical advisor for the Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières Access to Essential Medicines Campaign.
Local film maker's award winning documentary bares life with mom

By LORI GRAYSON  Contributing Writer

Growing up with an abusive alcoholic father and a schizophrenic mother, Margie Thorpe needed an outlet. That outlet came several years ago in the form of a 90-minute documentary named after her mother.

The film, "Alma," will be shown April 20 on the USF-St. Petersburg campus.

"The movie's about a dysfunctional family," said Thorpe, 38, a USF-St. Petersburg junior majoring in interdisciplinary social science. "It's about living with a mentally ill mother.

Thorpe remembers the first time her father, James, gave her a hug. She was in her 30s and distraught about the fact that her mother was sleeping with a knife at her side and threatening her father's life with it.

Thorpe also vaguely recalls at age 3 visiting her mother in Milldoville, the site of a state-run mental hospital in Georgia. Alma Thorpe was committed there after she smashed her flat through a window.

Thorpe remembers her mother picking her up from school in the family car wearing a motorcycle helmet. Alma Thorpe claimed that by sheer brainpower she could make the traffic lights change in their favor on the way home from working-class Atlanta neighborhood.

Thorpe co-produced and acted as music director on the film, which took more than four years to complete. She and rock 'n' roll photographer Ruth Leitman raised the money for the film by throwing fundraisers in Atlanta.

"Alma" premiered at the South by Southwest film and music festival in Austin, Texas, in March 1998. It won the Hamptons International Film Festival, was included in the Whitney Museum's honorable Biennial 2000 and was reviewed by the New York Times and the Village Voice. The St. Petersburg Times named it the best documentary of 2000.

A California distributor is set to show the film in select markets around the country.

"At first we're making it available to mental health organizations and abuse organizations so the film can be used as a learning tool," Thorpe said.

Although Thorpe moved out of her parents' house at age 16, she speaks to her mother and father regularly.

"They did give me some positive elements, although accidentally," she said. "I believe my parents did the best they could with the knowledge they had.

"Alma" will be screened April 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the USF/FMRI Joint-Use Auditorium. The movie and the following reception in DAV 130 are free to students and cost $10 for non-students.

MIT announces plans to make courses available to general public through Internet at no charge

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (U-WIRE) -- MIT announced April 4 it intends to make materials for nearly all its courses available through the Internet to the general public - at no charge.

The 10-year project, dubbed the MIT OpenCourseWare (OCW), is a radical new step in Internet policy among institutions of higher learning. For most colleges and universities, course Web sites are currently the extent of their use of the Internet for the dissemination of academic materials. A handful of others are involved in developing the technology for distance learning programs.

MIT's project goes far beyond the scope of most distance learning programs - none of which are offering full courses to the general public without a fee.

The project will feature lecture notes, course outlines, reading lists and assignments for each of MIT's nearly 2,000 courses.

Harvard Provost Harvey V. Fineberg '67 said the University would have to weigh its options carefully before deciding whether to follow MIT's course of action.

"Every university, including Harvard, will need to make decisions about the type, form and extent of information it places on the Internet," he wrote in an e-mail.

The announcement emphasized the enormous impact MIT hopes the initiative will have on would-be students around the world. In addition to inspiring self-study by interested individuals, OCW may help developing nations build their own systems of higher education, starting with the MIT curriculum as a model.

MIT also stressed the potential OCW has to open the dialogue on education by fostering an environment in which curricula can be more easily discussed and compared.

"We see it as a source material that will support education worldwide, including innovations in the process of teaching and learning itself," said MIT President Charles M. Vest in a statement.

The project is not without its critics.

One response to the initiative has been that increasing access to materials offered by MIT courses will decrease the value of an MIT education.

I hear that as a potential concern," said MIT spokesperson Patti Richards, "but this is not meant to replace an MIT education.

Richards pointed out that the experience of being in the classroom, listening to lectures and interacting with one's peers, cannot be duplicated on the Web. Furthermore, MIT will not offer any form of academic credit as part of OCW.

Other critics noted the legal complications that may arise with the distribution of copyrighted materials and intellectual property. But MIT has said the same policies currently followed by its faculty when dealing with these issues will apply to the Web courses as well.

Despite some criticisms, Richards said the response to the initiative has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

"We made the announcement only this morning and already I have received so many e-mails from people all over the world thanking me -- they're really touching -- saying this is the most wonderful news in the world and asking, 'Where can I make a tax-deductible contribution?'" she said.

The response at Harvard has been equally positive. Harvard faculty members have previously expressed interest in using the Internet to disseminate the academic resources Harvard has to offer, and many said they are intrigued by the promise of the MIT program.

"I think it's phenomenal," said McKay Professor of Applied Physics Eric Mazur. "If you look at my own course Web site, I've always insisted on making it available to everyone. I think this is really the way to go. I'm just saddened that we didn't do it before in 1993.

Fineberg would not say whether the Harvard administration would approve of a program like MIT's initiative. Last year, Harvard turned down an offer to join a distance learning alliance among Princeton, Yale, Stanford and Oxford.

"Harvard hasn't decided to jump on the distance learning bandwagon, but clearly MIT hasn't either," Mazur said.

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Festival focus on grassroots projects, eclectic films

PINELLAS PARK -- Community activists and filmmakers will be the center of attention at a local film festival scheduled for Saturday, April 28.

Divided into two programs, FILM manIFEST is a feature length video of the Pinellas Bayshore Greenway Project, presented by the Pinellas Bayshore Greenway Project.

The documentary, "Incident at Oglala" is directed by the Sundance Film Festival in 1989, which is a feature documentary directed by the Sundance Film Festival in 1989.

The evening portion begins with "Killing Time," a 12-minute Italian drama that debuted at the 2001 Sundance Film Festival. The film has no dialogue, but creator Carlo De Rosa heightens the tone through music. To learn more about the movie, visit cobolo.com/KillingTime.

Other highlights include:  
* "Project Omicron," a bizarre sci-fi movie by Jared Whitham of Venice, Fla.,  
* "Hans Off," a silly black-and-white silent short starring two precocious youngsters directed by their older brother, Patrick Andrews of Saginaw, Mich.,  
* "Pre-Dawns Premonition," segments Shan Hoffman of Tampa combined to create a perplexing examination of relationships.

The event concludes with a collage of Super 8 and video footage set to music, courtesy of Kelly Kombit of Tampa.

The festival begins at 7 p.m. and runs until 11 p.m. at Vitalle Bros. Artworks, 6330 45th St. N, #103, Pinellas Park. A $3-$10 donation covers all day admission. Snacks and drinks will be sold.

For more information about this event, sponsored by Vitalle Bros. Artworks, visit geocities.com/FILMManifest or call (727) 895-8095.
Luncheon honors campus ‘stars’

By M.E. BAKER
Editor

Nearly 50 faculty and staff “stars” of USF-St. Petersburg were honored for their service to the university at a March 28 awards luncheon. Hosted by Vice President Bill Heller, the "2000" themed event was held in a darkened Campus Activities Center as colored lights flashed on the ceiling and excerpts from the film "2001: Space Odyssey" were projected on a large screen. Guests ate at tables tagged with names such as ‘Jupiter’ or ‘Sputnik.’ Dessert was “moon pies” and “éclair de lune.”

In remarks to the group, President Judy Genshaft said that in the past year, the St. Petersburg faculty and staff had been “remarkable” in their “fight to keep USF together.”

A bill sponsored by State Sen. Donald Sullivan and State Rep. James Sebesta was “on track in the same form they presented to us,” she added. If approved by the Legislature and Gov. Bush, the bill would provide the St. Petersburg campus with autonomous decision-making ability.

Echoing the theme of the luncheon, Genshaft said “this year we have laid a very strong foundation for the future of USF-St. Petersburg.”

Genshaft assisted Heller in presenting the awards. Five persons received “Excellence in Service Awards,” and $250 checks: Jerome Dennies, physical plant; Renee Hoffman, advising; Mary Poe, nursing; Wes Shaw, police, and Patricia Stone, counseling center.

Kim Lersch received the USF Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award for 1999-2000. The following received pins for years of service:
- 25 years: Jacqueline Jackson, Eugene Olson, Bob Siwik
- 20 years: Robert Archambault, Ray Arsenault, Anthony Greco, Mary Ann Harrell, Joseph Torres
- 15 years: Joe Donnelly, Margaret Hewitt, Gerald Notaro, Richard Schmid, Ron Bugg
- 10 years: Sheri Beaudreau, Barbara Frye, Mark Luther, Diane McKinnity, Letta Ramsay, Kathy Seastream, Kenneth Shaw, Kim Stoddard, Howard Vail, Jennifer Clarke, Louis Green, Donna Knudsen, David Naar, Wes Shaw
- 5 years: Jennifer Baker, Rosanne Blass, Tracy Cleatsmier, Susan Fernandez, David Fries, Marti Garrett, Teresa Greely, Lucy Guerra, Karlyn Jaap, Joseph Keolesian, Larry Langebrake, Zhongping Lee, Doug Maczic, Gary Mitchum, James Mulholland, Debora Rice, Johan Schijf, Suzanne Struthers, Keith White, Wesneng Yao, Jennifer Cannizzaro, Nadina Piehl, David Russell

Great Strides honors plan participants

USF-St. Petersburg Wellness Services honored participants in the Great Strides program in an April 4 ceremony at the Coquina pool.

Participants in the program had committed to certain goals for personal development. Wellness Services provided motivation and support. This was the tenth year for the program.

Participants in this year’s program were awarded prizes in a random drawing. Prizes were provided by local vendors.

Poynter library joins national awareness campaign

To kick off National Library Week, the Poynter Library is joining libraries across the country in a national public awareness effort called The Campaign for America’s Libraries.

Sponsored by the American Library Association, the multi-year campaign is designed to remind the public that today’s libraries are dynamic, modern community centers for learning, information, and entertainment.

The campaign intends to increase awareness about the vibrancy and real value of today’s libraries. The public effort is a response to research that shows that while libraries are popular, they are often taken for granted.

Research also indicated that white libraries are rooted in nearly every community, in schools, campuses and businesses across the country, they are often not visible. The campaign is designed to showcase public, school, academic and special libraries nationwide.

"Libraries are a part of the American dream," said Kathy Arsenault, interim library director. "They offer opportunities for education and self-help. But they are also changing and dynamic places, on the forefront of the information age.

Poynter’s National Library Week exhibit highlights the history of libraries and librarians, familiarizes the visitor with the library and information science profession, and provides a brief overview of some of Poynter’s resources and not-to-hidden treasures buried in special collections on the third floor.

Arsenault said, “Libraries are truly unique. In person and online. Where else can you have access to nearly everything in print and on the Web and have the personal assistance of a librarian to help you find what you are looking for?”

She added that librarians are experts in navigating through the clutter of information that’s out there. "Librarians are really the ultimate search engine at your library. If you need to find something, just ask."

April 11 – 24, 2001
The fireplace serves both a large front room and an intimate sitting room, with a bay window.

Cobwebs and dust can't camouflage the ornate details of a fireplace mantel. The fireplace serves both a large front room and an intimate sitting room.

A "W" in the center of an elaborate spindled sunburst tops a doorway, still proudly declaring the name of the house's original inhabitants.

By Lori Grayson
Contributing Writer

An important facet of St. Petersburg history sits on the USF-St. Petersburg campus.

The future site of faculty offices and public-use spaces, the John C. Williams house is considered a city landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The house is undergoing physical restoration, but it is the personal history of it that is significant, said Sudsy Tschiderer, assistant director of special events.

"We'd like to utilize the house as a way for people to put their footprint in the evolution of the house and St. Petersburg," Tschiderer said. "When the house is finished, we hope to have more history projects, term papers and theses dedicated to this historic district of the university. We want it to be a mini-museum."

In 1890, when Williams built his wife, Sarah, the Queen Anne-style mansion at Fifth Avenue South and Fourth Street, the house was widely known as one of the first real showplaces of Florida. It featured a carved staircase, gingerbread trim, shaped wooden shingles, a cupola, carved doorways and interior etchings.

Sarah Williams took an active role in the construction. She spent thousands of dollars on interior decorations.

The story of the Williamses and their impact on St. Petersburg begins in 1817, when John Williams was born in Detroit. He was the son of Maj. Gen. John R. Williams, one of the wealthiest and pioneer residents of that city. The younger John never became a soldier but was a member of the Brady Guards, a uniformed company of Detroit young men. After settling in St. Petersburg, he received the complimentary title of "general."

Williams came to Florida in 1875 because he suffered from asthma, and his physician ordered him to seek a milder climate. Williams and his family visited Lake Okeechobee, Key West, Punta Rassa, Tampa and Clearwater before settling in Point Pinellas, the early name of St. Petersburg.

In 1890, when Williams built his wife, Sarah, the Queen Anne-style mansion at Fifth Avenue South and Fourth Street, the house was widely known as one of the first real showplaces of Florida.

Williams bought about 1,600 acres in Point Pinellas and attempted to farm there. He returned north when the venture was unsuccessful. Back in Detroit, he divorced his wife and married Sarah Judge, formerly Sarah Craven. They returned to Florida and built a house in Hyde Park. In 1887, Williams signed an agreement with the Orange Belt Railway to build a road through his property on the Pinellas peninsula.

When the yellow fever epidemic erupted in Tampa in the fall of 1887, the Williamses came to the peninsula and made plans for laying out a new town. The house they began building in 1890 turned out to be a mansion that by all accounts was considered one of the grandest in St. Petersburg.

The Williams home became part of the Manhattan Hotel in 1905. One postcard touted the hotel as, "Steam heated. Informal. Homelike. Five blocks from center of city. Large grounds and porches. Free parking. Open all year. Reasonable rates."

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The home remained a part of the hotel until 1995 when it was moved across town to its current site, across from the Campus Activities Center and next to the new Florida Center for Teachers. The private property was donated to the state and then given to USF-St. Petersburg.

Renovations for the house were made possible through historic preservation grants awarded to the university. One grant did not cover all the expenses, but a second enabled the installation of contemporary plumbing, the addition of a new kitchen and conversions for wheelchair accessibility.

USF architect Jim Grant expects that another $100,000 to $125,000 is needed to finish the renovations. The work includes the addition of handrails and installation of carpet upstairs.

"To get it occupied, the house needs to be painted and the woodwork needs to be refinished," Grant said. "The courtyard needs to be landscaped because it is intended for public-use space such as wedding receptions, group and campus activities."

The role of the St. Petersburg campus in the USF system also will determine when the house can be used and for what.

"We don't know exactly where we're going because of the current status of USF," Tschiderer said. "People are waiting to see what the future of USF-St. Pete is. We'll see."

The first floor of the renovated Williams house will be utilized as meeting rooms, conference rooms and public-use spaces. The second floor will be designated as faculty offices, although for which faculty remains unclear.

"That decision will be made later this summer, probably in August," said Associate Dean Winston T. Bridges Jr.

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Arcosanti sets 2001 student workshop schedule

CORDES JUNCTION, Ariz. (PRNewswire) — Paolo Soleri, internationally acclaimed architect, urban planner, philosopher and artist, and the Cosanti Foundation have announced a series of workshops for students interested in architecture, ecology, art, philosophy and urban issues.

All workshops are held at Arcosanti, the prototype urban alternative that Soleri is building in the desert north of Phoenix. Arcosanti is a demonstration project intended to show how people live harmoniously with the natural world. Started in 1970, it is located on 10 acres of a 4,000-acre preserve of land 65 miles north of Phoenix.

“Our workshops provide outstanding opportunities for students interested in ecology, architecture, urban planning or the arts to experience an alternative to suburban sprawl,” says Mary Hoadley, Arcosanti site coordinator. “Students study and talk with Paolo, and get hands-on experience working in the prototype arcology.”

Arcology is a term coined by Soleri to describe the concept of architecture and ecology working together to produce new urban habitats.

Cost for the 5-week program is $900. Five week workshops are scheduled to begin May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2, October 7 and November 4. Attendees live in the “camp” near the Agua Fria River, a 5-minute walk from the main buildings.

The first week is an overview of Arcosanti, an opportunity to meet other participants, check in, and plan your week. The second week includes three days of workshops and three days of project work.

FREE ROOM AND BOARD is available to Arcosanti students only. The workshops are not residencies and students are expected to live off-campus.

Space is limited to 25 students and workshops are being filled on a first come, first served basis.

Potential workshop participants should plan to arrive on Sunday, May 5, 1996 for orientation and the start of the workshops.

The Arcosanti workshops are open to anyone 18 years and older. Although not an accredited institution, students have received college credit for attending these programs.

For more information, contact Mary Hoadley at the Arcosanti office at 520-632-7115. Applications are due May 1, 1996.

Contact: Mary Hoadley
Arcosanti Foundation
Corde Juncion, Arizona
520-632-7115

SPRAWL

Music has been left by the wayside of rock 'n' roll history. This music was the soundtrack of my youth. I blamed it at parties. When I was depressed about girls or family problems, the music always brought me back to life. Some of my finest high school memories involve cramming 12 of us into a little Toyota and driving around bellowing out Stid Row's "I'm in Love" at the top of our lungs.

To me, hair metal is nothing but substance. Kurt Cobain is dead. It is time to get back to the rock 'n' roll basics. Let's bring back the era of big hair, big fun, big parties and big guitars. New bands like Buckcherry are carrying the banner of "sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll" into the future.

Guns N' Roses will be returning to the music scene in May after several years of seclusion. The future is looking bright for real rock 'n' roll.

Jani Lane pointed out to the crowd that Warrant would be returning in June to the Ice Palace with Poison, for one, will be there.

Some people may call it dated. Some may call it cheese or fluff. Some may call it dinosaur rock or hair metal. I just call it "rock 'n' roll."

CONSTRUCT

Clark said. Each station will have a data wing and will be computer-connected. Three weeks' worth of classes in Davis had to be relocated due to the construction.

The labs are being installed as a result of the campus recently expanded mission to include lower-level students and to offer new programs in environmental science and policy.

The renovation is on schedule and expected to be completed sometime in June. Classes will be held in the new laboratories starting in the fall.

Three areas in the marine science department also are being renovated, and the locker rooms by the swimming pool are being refurbished and renovated.

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Editor-In-Chief of the Crow's Nest for the 2001-2002 school year.

Available to a graduate or undergraduate student

Commitment: 20 hours per week

Requirements: Graduate student 3.0 GPA and enrollment Undergraduate 2.5 GPA and enrollment

Compensation: Graduate student 1/2 time graduate assistant Undergraduate hourly pay rate

Letters of application should be addressed to the Student Publications Board and sent:

attn: Nancy Coscia
Crow's Nest Advisor, CAC 138
140 Seventh Ave. S.
St. Petersburg FL 33701
or e-mailed to ncoscia@bayflash.spt.usf.edu

For more information, call 553-1180.
Creationism movement grows as science choice

WASHINGTON (U-WIRE) – More than three quarters of a century after the Scopes Monkey Trial in Dayton, Tenn., the issue of evolution versus creationism is coursing its head through American school boards and classrooms. The American Institute of Biological Sciences held a town meeting recently, bringing together biology teachers from across the country to discuss the current debate in many of our schools over the teaching of evolution.

"It is no longer the deep South and the Bible belt – now it is Michigan and it's Pennsylvania," said Dr. Eugene C. Scott, director of the National Center for Science Education, an organization that works to support the teaching of evolution. "There is an aggressive anti-evolutionary move out there, it is from the grass-roots level, and now we are seeing it from the top down."

The event, sponsored by the NCSE featured a panel of speakers, each of whom had dealt with the evolution versus creationism controversy first hand. Dr. Andrew Petro, head of the NCSE and Brian Williamson, a high school biology teacher from Kansas, joined her. They spoke on the current state of affairs in the creationism debate and took questions from an audience of teachers representing nearly all of the 50 states.

Despite a 1968 Supreme Court ruling making way for the teaching of evolution in the nation's classrooms, the debate continues. At the state and local level, where the curriculums of most high schools are decided, evolution is a hot topic.

Scott said that since January of this year, the center has fought for the teaching of evolution in five states.

"That is more states in the past two months than in the past five years," Scott said.

The argument before educators today is the decision of teaching evolution as a suspect science, highlighting its theoretical credentials and public support:

The recent revival of the public debate on the creation of life is due to a new wave of mostly Christian scholars like Michael Behe, Dr. Ken Miller and Phillip Johnson, who have found an audience through their combination of academic credentials and public support.

Creation science has many forms and is highlighted in numerous books as a possible alternative to evolution.

In the recent book "Darwin's Black Box," Behe argues for creationism in a radical new way. His theory is that some components of living organisms, such as bacteria flagellum, are so complex that their presence could not result of an evolution historical progression, but rather "best explained as the result of deliberate intelligent design."

Scott argued that such assaults against evolution are dangerous. "We should teach about religion in schools and we should teach about creationism," she said. "But the proper place for these topics is in a comparative religious classroom, not the biology classroom."

A 1999 Scientific American survey revealed that only 10 percent of the members of the National Academy of Sciences believed in God. In contrast, Gallup polls showed that 90 percent of Americans believe in a higher power.

Though the scientific community as a whole dismisses ideas like intelligent design, the nation's schools sometimes consider the arguments.

Last month, the Arkansas House of Representatives came six votes away from passing a bill that would prevent state funding for textbooks that described evolution as "fact." A change to the Pennsylvania curriculum has been proposed that would allow the teaching of material that contradicts the theory of evolution.

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Study: Students graduating college with high level of debt

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. (U-WIRE) – Higher education doesn't come cheap, but most students graduating with debt over a recent three-year period, the number of students graduating with debt over $20,000 nearly doubled. In the last decade, the amount of money borrowed in pounds the problem, the PIRG said.

According to the report, about eight out of 10 students underestimate their debts. In a survey of more than 1,000 students, PIRG found that 78 percent underestimate the long-term cost of their loans and graduate with $4,846 more debt than expected.

Students who have high levels of debt are already vulnerable to problems repaying their loans, the PIRG said.

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Activists claim state aids sprawl

By CHRIS CURRY
Of the Crow's Nest

The speaker was a substitute, but the concern of the environmental activists in the audience remained the same.

Twenty members of the Sierra Club and other environmental activists filled the first two rows of the room when Thomas Beck of the Florida Department of Community Affairs spoke at the Campus Activities Center on April 2.

They were determined to voice their beliefs that urban sprawl is destroying Florida's resources and that state government is contributing to the problem by weakening regulations on development and giving too much authority to local communities.

Beck, the head of the division of community planning, was a last-minute replacement for department secretary Steve Seibert. One audience member walked out when it was announced that Seibert would not attend.

The lecture was part of the continuing USF-St. Petersburg program "Ethical Issues in Florida's Future."

Beck's department, which reviews growth and redevelopment plans submitted by cities and counties around the state, provided technical support for Gov. Jeb Bush's recent Commission on Growth Management.

That commission, which has been maligned by environmentalists, concluded in its February report that the best way to create a more business-friendly climate is to fund growth management.

Beck said,

"You've got to hand it to him," he said of Bush. "I've worked under four governors, two Democratic governors and two Republican governors, and this governor has shown more leadership than any previous governor I've worked under."

During a question-and-answer session, audience members were more skeptical about the governor's dedication to limiting growth and protecting the environment.

"He (Beck) is a cheerleader for the governor because the governor's his boss," said Beth Connor of the Sierra Club. "But you know what, we're his boss. We're Jeb's bos."

Connor said she was "furious" about Bush's ongoing downsizing of the department and proposed elimination of the state's role in overseeing local communities' growth plans.

Another speaker was Sharon Kleitsch of Tomorrow Matters, a Hillsborough county group that involves citizens in regional planning.

"Hold hearings until they hear what they want to hear," she said. Residents need to get involved and strike a balance between natural resources and business and residential development.

Koonce elected SG president as voting participation grows

Bobby Koonce easily defeated challenger James Armburst to win election as the next student government president.

In voting conducted March 26-29, Koonce defeated Armburst by a vote of 135 to 30. Koonce is the current student government secretary.

Three other offices were filled in uncontested races. Margaret Burrow, a representative from the College of Education, was elected vice president with 151 votes. Cassandra Hawkins, who is serving as a representative from the College of Arts and Sciences, received 151 votes for secretary. Carlos Gomez was elected treasurer with 153 votes. He is currently a representative from the College of Business.

The student government will serve from May 1 through Dec. 31.

Voting in the election continued a trend of increasing participation in USF-St. Petersburg student government elections. Some 160 students voted in this spring's election, up from 156 in the fall and 44 in spring of 2000. Outgoing President Clayton Timman, who is completing his third term, said he believed voting was up because "we've been doing our jobs. Student government is getting recognized on campus."

Campus election participation rates have fluctuated over the years, said Dr. Stephen Ritch, director of student affairs.

"The factors, from what I have seen, most associated with increases are the level of competition and the existence of 'hot' issues. I am aware that there was competition this time and that some of the rhetoric associated with it was contentious."

Ritch added that "last semester, a student worked very hard to inspire students to participate. I think that the factors of issues and competition will continue to impact the voting rate."

Tieman said participation in future elections could be enhanced by instituting mandatory debates for all candidates, even in uncontested races, and by encouraging more students to run for positions on the governing board.

The election committee was comprised of Ritch; Nancy Coscia, assistant director of student activities; and student Jacqueline Wexler.

Koonce is the current student government secretary, in his second term. Koonce's platform includes having voting days and giving too much authority to local ordinances intended to beautify communities.

Political science professor Darryl Paulson, who introduced Beck, said the outspoken audience, with a few members shouting comments from their seats, was no surprise.

To: Campus Community

From: Physical Plant, USF St. Petersburg

Jerome Dennis, an employee in the Physical Plant department, has had a very unfortunate incident happen this past weekend. On Saturday, April 7, his home caught fire and burned completely. There were 10 people in residence and everyone got out safely. However, they are in great need of assistance. Any donation in the form of money, clothes, furniture, stereos or linens would be appreciated.

A bank account will be set up at First Union, USF branch, in order to accept monetary donations.

For information on clothes sizes or coordinating donations, please call Susie at 3-1842 or Greta at 3-1135.

Jerome and his family are very grateful for our support.

Incidentally, Jerome was a recipient of an Outstanding Service Award at the USF luncheon on March 28. He is a cheerful and industrious worker most deserving of the support of his campus family.

Thank you.

Harborside Productions and the Student Accounting and Business Organization (SABO) Present

USF Earth Day 2001
April 18, 2001
11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Davis Lobby and Harborside

Coming Events
Luau, April 20, 2001
5-9 p.m. COQ Pool
Tickets available at the CAC

For more information, call 853-1589

Crown's Nest April 11 - 24, 2001