1-9-2012

Crow's Nest: 2012:01:09

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BoG fumes over Goodman’s removal

Marshall Goodman, Polytechnic regional chancellor
By CHRISTOPHER GUINN
News Editor

A new semester is upon us. Teachers are handing out syllabi and the USFSP bookstore is bustling with students buying their textbooks, cringing at the costs. Harborside Activities Board is planning its traditional “Welcome Week” events to make this dreaded beginning a little more bearable.

Plans are in place to show the movie “Bad Teacher,” a comedy released in 2011 starring Cameron Diaz. Diaz’s role is a junior high school teacher with a bit of a potty mouth. “She doesn’t give an F,” reads the tagline on the movie cover. And by “F”... well, you get the idea.

The movie will show on Jan. 12 at 8 p.m. on the Harborside Lawn, by Chick-Fil-A.

New sexual harassment policy to include sexual assault

By AIMEE ALEXANDER
Managing Editor

In Dec. 2011, USF established a Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Harassment (including Battery) policy. The goal of the policy, according to general counsel documents found online, is to “provide a work and study environment for faculty, staff and students that is free of discrimination and sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment.”

The newest addition to the policy includes sexual battery. The policy encompasses all campuses of the USF System.

Sandra Conway, director of human resources at USFSP, said the new system-wide policy incorporates two previous policies into one and replaces an earlier proposed USFSP sexual battery policy.

Policy 0-0004, which includes students, staff, faculty, employees and administration, is not limited to the USF community only.

“The board has little control over personnel matters, but would have expected that on a decision of this magnitude, the board be consulted. “I believe that President Genshaft did not want to come before the board’s Nov. 9 decision. “What’s your point?” he said.

“Everyone else is wrong?”

Ramil and Genshaft called board members individually the night before that Goodman would be fired. According to Tripp, Genshaft did not inform him that David Touchton, a vocal opponent of Poly independence, was already chosen to lead the Polytechnic temporarily while the university searches for a permanent replacement.

“Touchton, a USF alumnus, is an accountant in Polk County with experience in university and college accounting, but does not have an academic background. Tripp said that Genshaft was...

see POLYTECHNIC, page 2
Report sexual assaults to campus police, officials say

Harassment, continued from front page

Privacy is protected.

The language of the policy outlines the parameters of sexual misconduct, as unwanted sexual advances. This includes requests for conditional sexual favors and “other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature” by an employer, professor or teaching assistant, which could create “an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or educational environment.”

Sexual harassment, including sexual violence, involves unwelcome behavior “of a sexual nature.” Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, making threats that would interfere with employment or educational opportunities, promises of employment or academic gains in exchange for sexual favors, and favoritism based on an existing sexual relationship.

Persistently asking a person for a date “after being told ‘no’” is also included. The university also recognizes inter-departmental consensual relationships and acknowledges the risks involved in unequal “power” levels between student and teacher or employer and employee. Should a relationship end, the university also recognizes the possibility of backlash and that sexual harassment lawsuits could occur.

A USF-wide policy covering consensual relationships (USF System Policy 1-022 - Consensual Relationships) has been created for these types of situations.

The battery, rape and violence clause includes “physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person’s will or where a person is incapable of giving consent.”

Findings on the 2011-2012 Annual Fire and Safety Report indicated there were no forcible sex and/or non-forcible sex/rape incendences reported on campus by the USF Police Department during 2010. Crimes documented by university officials or other law enforcement agencies reported five incidents of forcible sex/rape on public property in the surrounding areas near campus.

The university police suggest taking preventative measures against sexual assault, such as not walking alone at night, maintaining a buddy system, being aware of your surroundings and making your whereabouts known. Police escorts are also available.

Victims of a sexual assault on campus should contact University Police immediately at 727-873-4140.

“If it happens on campus, the USFSP police would conduct the criminal investigation,” said university police Chief Rene Chenevert.

Chenevert also said the police are there to help provide advocacy referrals.

The USFSP Center for Counseling, Health & Wellness provides various counseling and crisis services. For more information, visit www.usfsp.edu/chw/Counseling_Services/CrisisServices.htm.

news@crowsneststpete.com

USF Trustee leading search for new Polytech chancellor

POLYTECH, continued from front page

not collaborating with the Board of Governors and implied that the firing of Goodman over the holidays was intended to blindside the board. “What she’s really said to us is it’s my decision and I don’t care what you think, anyway,” Tripp said.

Genshaft responded by defending the decision of the board by saying that changes of this “magnitude” are typically made during the winter and summer academic breaks, in order to begin a semester “clean and clear.”

Goodman was hired following a vote of no confidence in his leadership by the faculty of Polytechnic. “In 35 years, in many different universities, I have never, ever been a part of an organization that had no confidence vote,” Genshaft said. The students, too, have been requesting a change of leadership, she said.

The USF system is dedicated to establishing Polytechnic as a STEM-based institution, Genshaft added, denying accusations that she is trying to stall the independent university. “I said that she did not have any confidence” in Goodman’s ability to lead Polytechnic in the mandated benchmarks for independence.

Ultimately, too, the decision to oust Goodman was up to the university and not the Board of Governors, said Genshaft—a point backed up by Ramil.

Personnel decisions were never a part of former collaborations between the university and the Board of Governors, Ramil said, but “if that’s the definition going forward, then that’s the definition we’ll accept.”

Tripp asked Genshaft and Ramil when to replace Goodman with Touchton happened. Genshaft rejected the question, again asserting that “personnel matters don’t need to come before everyone.”

“This committee shouldn’t be in the hiring and firing business,” said board member Dick Beard. “It’s certainly not our job.”

USF Trustee and Fifth Third Bank Tampa Bay Market President Brian Lamb will be leading the search for Polytechnic’s new permanent chancellor.

In closing the hour-long conference call, Vice Chair Mori Houseini reiterated that the board must be involved in decisions made at Polytechnic, but acknowledged that the board appreciated the way this thing went.

Goodman has been backed by the powerful chair of the Florida Senate budget committee, J.D. Alexander, who has used his position to influence the board’s decision. Leaders in the USF university system have long been opposed to independence, but remained publicly agnostic until the weeks prior to the Nov. 9 vote.

Board member Michael Long, the student representative on the panel, accused Alexander of threatening funding for the university system if it did not vote for independence.

The relationship between Goodman and Genshaft had been further complicated by several hearings, public-ity about spending at Polytechnic, including a $500,000 marketing campaign, $10,000 for life-size Star Wars character models and difficulties in attaining accreditation for the branches new STEM-based programming.

At the Dec. 8 meeting, Board of Trustees meeting, Goodman said Polytechnic raised $450,000 during a charity gala in November. This money will be used to cover the inaugural freshman class of one hundred students’ tuition and fees when combined with their Florida Bright Futures Scholarships. After expenses, the event netted $255,000.

“Thats a huge statement about how strong the community has been behind this project,” Goodman said.

At the same meeting, Trustee Elizabeth Bird, who is also the president of the USF System Faculty Advisory Council, expressed discontent with the split saying that faculty and students were ignored in the process. The faculty representative on the Board of Governors, Richard Yost, voted in favor of independence, despite a poll that indicated an overwhelming majority of faculty members did not approve.

Genshaft did not respond to an email from The Crow’s Nest asking if she expected any retaliation for her decision. Genshaft’s chief of staff, Cindy Visot, responded that only the USF Board of Trustees has the authority to hire or fire a university president.

The 11-member panel, established in 2001, insulates the president from some political pressures. Six of the members are appointed by the governor; the remaining members are appointed by the Board of Governors, which oversees the entire university system. Each trustee serves a seven-year term.

The ability of the trustee system to protect university presidents from political pressures was recently put to the test when Gov. Rick Scott pushed for the suspension of Florida A&M president James Ammons after a student was killed during a hazing. The FAMU trustees voted to retain Ammons.

news@crowsneststpete.com
Get on Board Day, Comedy Night round out Welcome Week

HAB, continued from front page

Better K-12 pipeline needed for STEM

By CHRISTOPHER GUINN
News Editor

Excelling in STEM education will require “redefined and re-imagined” colleges of education, said USF Provost and Executive Vice President Ralph Wilcox at the Dec. 8 Board of Trustees meeting. Increased STEM—short for science, technology, engineering and math—attainment starts in the “problematic” K-12 pipeline, he said. Florida students currently score 18 points lower on the SAT than the national average.

“We need to do a much better job of educating [and] communci- rating opportunities, and encour- aging more and more young people to follow the path to STEM suc- cess,” he said.

USF is adapting to these chal- lenges through research, engage- ment with the public schools, businesses and organizations; and through the creation of a new Mas- ter of Science in Middle Grades STEM education program at US- FSP, which is slated for implemen- tation in the fall of 2012.

The program, which will be unique in the state university system, is designed to produce math and science teachers of the fifth through ninth “middle grades.” The program plans to equip future teachers with the tools necessary to educate and inspire students toward excellence in STEM degree programs and ul- timately provide the technical and scientific workers state leaders see as the future of the Florida economy.

The USFSP College of Education is primarily focused on elementary education, but this new degree builds on its success in implementing the digitally enhanced mathematics education teaching certificate program, which brings technology into the classroom as an aid to mathematics education in the middle grades.

Improving the quality of universi- ty applicants can also be achieved by working closer with the public school systems and community colleges, re- cruiting students and professors from outside the state and by implementing STEM summer academies for ju- nior and senior high school students, Wilcox said.

The university was also recently awarded two major grants: the He- lios Education Foundation awarded- ed USF $430,000 for a middle school STEM residency program, and $1.2 million from the National Science Foundation to study what makes high school students inter- ested in science and mathematics, and what might drive them away.

“Not only does [STEM] drive our high-demand, high-skilled, highly-paid workforce,” but leads to innovation and research, Wilcox said. The University has a role in the “creation of new knowledge, new technology, that will in turn create new jobs, not just in prepar- ing students to fill jobs,” he added.

In addition to addressing the problems in K-12 education, Wil- cox said the university needs to “expand the array of [science and math] programs, particu- larly in our regional institutions and campuses.”

USF currently offers five bachelor’s STEM degrees and one master’s.

Wilcox said that the challenge of implementing additional STEM programs is investment, which he said Gov. Rick Scott’s latest bud- get fails to address. “As we all rec- ognize, delivery of … high-quality, competitive STEM programs is a very expensive proposition.”

One recommendation from the Board of Governors and state legisla- tors to encourage STEM enrollment is to lower the price of tuition for these fields, Wilcox said. The problem with that scenario, he added, is that these programs would be “doomed to fail- ure” without significant additional support from the state.

The USF system awarded 11,272 degrees in the 2010-11 academic year, with 20 percent of those degrees in STEM fields. In 2009-10, USF awarded 19 percent of the state’s STEM degrees, “a distant second” from the Univer- sity of Florida, Wilcox said.

USF ranked third with 21 per- cent of graduate STEM degrees awarded, behind UF and the Uni- versity of Central Florida. “There is room for improvement,” he said.

STEM STATS

U.S. bachelor’s degrees awarded in science and engineering disciplines, by percentage, 2007:

- Social/behavioral: 50%
- Biology/agriculture: 20%
- Engineering: 14%
- Computer science: 8%
- Physical science: 4%
- Math: 3%

U.S. master’s degrees awarded in science and engineering disciplines, by percentage, 2007:

- Social/behavioral: 41%
- Biology/agriculture: 11%
- Engineering: 26%
- Computer science: 13%
- Physical science: 5%
- Math: 4%

*Accoring to a National Science Foundation report on STEM Educa- tion Data and Trends

The Crow’s Nest is looking for student writers/reporters and photographers to contribute to its weekly spring 2012 issues. If you’re interested in getting involved, come to the weekly staff meetings at 5 p.m. in PRW, right outside room 108. Can’t make the meetings but want to get involved? Email Editor-in-Chief Keeley Shee- han at kmsheehan@mail.usf.edu. No experience necessary. All students from all majors welcome.

JOIN THE CROW’S NEST
In your own backyard: USF alumnus pens Florida outdoors guidebook

By REN LAFORME
Arts Editor

As a state, Florida offers dozens of adventures at drivable distances. The only problem, according to Tampa Bay Times Outdoors Editor Terry Tomalin, is that there are no comprehensive resources to show residents how to explore the nature in their backyards.

That is, until now.

“Everyday Adventures: A Florida Outdoors Guide” is a how-to book for future Florida outdoorsmen. Tomalin shares in the ins and outs of camping on beaches, hunting for alligators and kayaking through Florida’s winding swamps and marshes, among other things.

“When I started this job I didn’t know how to do a lot of the stuff that I write about, and I really wished at the time that somebody had a book out that could get people started,” Tomalin said. “I tried to mix a lot of that in there so it would not only give you a destination but it would sort of be a primer on how to start your own adventure.”

The book contains everything a good guidebook should—where the best bike paths are, what kind of fish can be caught in certain areas of the Gulf, how to successfully swim with a manatee—but it also has a more personal touch. In one section, Tomalin describes how to pull off the perfect ghost story, recounting his father’s own technique.

“Blessed with a booming baritone voice and eyebrows that could Iow the nearest stranger’s campsite.” It’s details like this that elevate “Everyday Adventures” above the realm of similar guidebooks, and into something much more readable. The book has tips for adventurers of all experience levels, from children to Bear Grylls wannabes.

“That’s what is so great about Florida and the outdoors,” Tomalin said. “You can have a trip where you take nine kindergarteners camping or you can do something like... I paddled an outrigger canoe from Florida to the Bahamas in open ocean crossing, which is very technical, very difficult, very arduous. You can start out by learning the little things.”

Tomalin’s own adventures began shortly after graduating from the University of South Florida, when he left for Europe with nothing but a backpack and a dream. He worked at the St. Petersburg Times for five years after he got back, but quit to taste adventure once again, this time in New Zealand and Australia.

“Everything starts with a dream,” Tomalin said. “Even if you have 10 dreams and only one of them comes true, you’re still better off having that one dream come true than having no dreams at all.”

Tomalin hopes to share his dreams with USF students. He’s working with the school on a program called Everyday Adventures in order to get more students outdoors that would include leadership-building jaunts, Saturday hikes and canoe trips down the Hillsborough River. He’s also working on a follow-up to his book.

On Jan. 8, Tomalin hosted the Tampa Bay Frogman Swim, a 5K open water swim and Navy SEAL Foundation fundraiser across Tampa Bay. The event started in 1996 when Tomalin decided to help a 17-year-old St. Petersburg Catholic High School senior prepare for the SEALs by swimming in cold water.

Just like “Everyday Adventures,” the Frogman began due to Tomalin’s insistence on being prepared.

“It’s easy to just go out there and blunder your way through the outdoors—and believe me, I’ve done my share of blundering—but it’s also great to have a guidebook so you can avoid the common pitfalls.”

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TRAVEL TALE

I sailed a catamaran to Fort Jefferson 75 miles off Key West. I caught a bad winter storm where the boat almost sank. I had to go into the water and fix the engine. I knew at that time there probably is a 50/50 chance about whether or not I would survive. So it taught me a lot of lessons about being prepared and about self-confidence, about knowing that if you’re going to do something, prepare. Prepare yourself physically, prepare yourself mentally, prepare yourself with the right gear. Jon Krakauer’s book ‘Into the Wild’ is an example of how not to do it. I always plan for the worst and hope for the best.”
The best of what you missed in 2011

By REN LAFORME
Arts Editor

Over 800 films, 100,000 albums and hundreds of television shows were released in 2011. Most people caught the flicks and sitcoms that hoarded all the hype—like Kanye West and Jay-Z’s “Watch the Throne” and Harry Potter’s last act on the silver screen. But a few worthy movies, albums and television programs fell through the sifter that pours out of Los Angeles every year. For whatever reason, the following bunk that pours out of Los Angeles every year. For whatever reason, the following.Pool into the river of unacknowledged television programs fell through the sifter that pours out of Los Angeles every year. For whatever reason, the following

Superhero movies tend to be multi-million dollar fairy tales about people who are unquestionably good incapacitating people who are unquestionably bad. “SUPER” is more about what would actually happen if a man like Bruce Wayne—or, more accurately, Dwight Schrute—dowed a mask and carried out vigilante justice. Rainn Wilson (“The Office,” “Few Options”) is one part lovable and two parts twisted as he swings a wrench to dent the heads of drug dealers, child molesters and people who cut in line. As the Crimson Bolt, Wilson proves that heroes don’t have to be sane to make the world a better place. It’s a little screwy, but watching Wilson take a beating to “It Hurts Too Much” by Eric Carmen makes this one worth a watch.

It’s not hard to understand why “Troll Hunter” failed to obtain much box office success in the U.S. It is a subtitled movie filmed with a handheld camera, starring unknown actors. The movie’s premise is about a Scandinavian myth that most Americans know nothing about. But none of that matters the author’s no-holds-barred narration and world travels are peppered in profanity and sautéed with a fat man wearing medieval armor is swatted by a troll hiding under a bridge, a公元 by the time they find their car overturned and their tires eaten. And by the time the characters find their car overturned and their tires eaten. And by the time

Smooth track that takes on Internet haters and closed-minded program directors and explicitly reminds other rappers where they were when E-40 began his career.

Psychedelic rock has seen something of a resurgence in the 2010s through bands like MGMT and Grace Potter and the Nocturnals. Los Angeles-based Dengue Fever threw some Cambodian pop music into the mix and created a whole new sound. Imagine a scenario where the Beach Boys hung out with Col. Kurtz in the jungle during the Vietnam War and you won’t be far off. In last year’s “Cannibal Courtship,” lead singer Chhonn Nimol is all smiles as she sings in both English and Khmer. Listening to upbeat tunes like “Family Business,” it’s hard not to smile back. Until last year, the only thing worth watching on the Travel Channel was Anthony Bourdain’s “No Reservations.” The chef and author’s no-holds-barred narration and world travels are peppered in profanity and sautéed in wit, making every hour of his show a gourmet experience on a menu of otherwise bland programming. The channel took a step to fix that menu by giving Bourdain a second show, “The Layover,” in which the celebrity chef shows viewers the cream of any given city in 48 hours. Bon appétit!

One of the best shows on television is a period piece set in the first half of the 20th century in which nicely dressed rich men worry about the future of their patriarchal society. Don Draper, eat your heart out, because America was introduced to BBC’s “Downton Abbey” in 2011. The British drama begins with the sinking of the Titanic and depicts the fall of the aristocracy and the rise of the first World War. More importantly, it shows how these events change one charming British family and the caretakers and servants. 

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USFSP plans MLK parade march

By LENAY RUHL
Life Editor

On Jan. 16, the largest Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade in the Southeastern United States will march 2.5 miles through St. Petersburg, starting at Tropicana Field and ending at Vinoy Park. The parade typically attracts around 100,000 spectators with over 125 marching bands and floats. The parade starts at 11 a.m. and is scheduled until 2 p.m.

The university will remain closed that day and USFSP students will participate in the parade. For seven years, USFSP has participated in the parade with people walking, driving golf carts and cars featuring the campus CEO, administrators, faculty, staff, students and family members. Participants are encouraged to wear green, gold and white to represent the university.

In addition to the parade, several events have been planned by Gulf of St. Petersburg B.L.A.C.K. (Black Legacy in America Celebrating King). Gospel recording artist Derek Smith will perform on Jan. 13 at a banquet at the Marriott on Rosedale at 7 p.m. The banquet honors the late Pinellas County School Board member Lewis " Lew " Williams, remembered as a "legitimate educator and Civil Rights activist." Williams was responsible for getting all 12 of the Pinellas County School bands to participate in the very first St. Petersburg MLK Parade 27 years ago. Williams died on Dec. 3, 2011 in St. Petersburg. Tickets for the banquet are $40 per person.

On Jan. 15 the Annual National MLK, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Battle of the Bands and Drum Line Extravaganza will be held at Tropicana Field at 4 p.m. Tickets purchased in advance are $10 and $12 the day of the event. Tickets can be purchases at local churches in St. Petersburg. For more information on the Battle of the Bands and the Jan. 13 banquet, visit www.mlkparade.org.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day was signed into effect by Ronald Reagan in 1983 and is observed the third Monday of every January in honor of his birthday, which was Jan. 15.

USFSP students interested in marching in the parade should contact Michelle Kerr, USFSP Student Government director of university and community relations, by email at mkerr@usf.edu and plan to arrive at the Tropicana Field parking lot by 9 a.m. the day of the parade.

life@crowsneststpete.com

The “time to grind” playlist

That’s right, everyone. It’s time to prove to dad you’re not a fool. Getting back into the grind can be tough, especially after a month of binging on cookies, and... other things. Dust off your laptop, fire up Spotify and let these tunes get you in the mood for some good fashion- ioned learning.

I Bet You Look Good on the Dance Floor – Arctic Monkeys

Everyone knows the feeling—locking eyes with the hot girl or guy in class and wondering what they look like... on the dance floor! This song will prime you to get out of class and dance to electro-pop like a rockstar. It’s the best-case scenario—walking into class on the first day and finding your teacher is a total knockout. You’d hope that most college students know their 1-2-3s and ABCs by now. But in a world where one of the best performers of all time can watch his music career crash and burn before he meets his tragic end, anything is possible.

Hot For Teacher – Van Halen

If they were people, “Hot for Teacher” would be the cocky guy who doesn’t get the hint after he flirts with a girl and gets a curtsy. Watch out, teacher. This no-holds-barred song. Just thinking what they look like… on a girl or guy in class and wondering—locking eyes with the hot guy who doesn’t get the hint after he flirts with a girl and gets a curtsy. Watch out, teacher.

Wake Up – Arcade Fire

College used to be about exploring, realizing that not every-thing we once believed is true and coming to terms with what we choose to believe. “Wake Up” is a combination of those feelings, compressed and translated into music.

For Hot Teacher – Van Halen

What kind of list would this be without this song? It’s the best-case scenario—walking into class on the first day and finding your teacher is a total knockout. It probably won’t happen, but we can’t help but dream.

Teacher’s Pet – Doris Day

If they were people, “Teacher’s Pet” would be the cocky guy who doesn’t get the hint after he flirts with a girl and gets no response. “Teacher’s Pet” would be the charmer, the one who steals hearts with a wink and a curtsey. Watch out, teach.

Another Brick in the Wall – Pink Floyd

Hey, teacher, leave us kids alone (and don’t assign us 10-page research papers over spring break)!

ABC – Jackson 5

You’d hope that most college students know their 1-2-3s and ABCs by now. But in a world where one of the best performers of all time can watch his music career crash and burn before he meets his tragic end, anything is possible.

Dance of the Knights – Prokofiev

Big exam coming up? Give this classical masterwork a spin and you’ll feel like you’re about to beat down Lord Voldemort himself.

13 – Big Star

Interactions with the opposite sex in college aren’t all hook-ups and one night stands. Once in a while, two people just who fit together find each other. And sometimes, that college romance turns into something lasting.

Donald Trump – Mac Miller

College used to be about expanding the mind and deepening the heart. But let’s be honest, most of us are here so we can eventually make bank. Miller’s ode to the almighty dollar and the status that comes with it reminds us of our endgame.

By JANE MCINNIS

Interns Wanted

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The Student Green Energy Fund (SGEF) is projected to accrue $116,000 this year. Students will be able to submit proposals to the committee, which is made up of students and faculty, to increase the university’s energy efficiency and fund renewable energy projects. The first committee meeting is this Wednesday, Jan. 11, and there are many great ideas on how to allocate the funds. Some ideas are doing energy audits on the buildings, efficient lighting, and solar panels.

Students voted to have the SGEF last semester. For each credit hour, $1 goes toward the fund. We are fortunate to have the ability to better our campus through student lead initiatives. Only two other schools in Florida have SGEF, USF Tampa and New College. Many other students at other Florida universities are trying hard to implement it on their campus too, such as FIU, FAMU, FSU, UF, UWF and more.

Florida is not the only state that wants SGEF on their campus. At the beginning of November, I attended the 7th Annual Southeast Student Renewable Energy Conference in Asheville, North Carolina. Over 400 students from Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana attended. At the conference, there was a thorough training session for students to discuss SGEF. It was really inspiring to see how many students were working to have SGEF on their campus.

Being that USFSP is one of the first schools in the southeast to receive SGEF, I learned that many of the students from other schools in different states are familiar with USF.

They were excited and curious to know more about what kind of ideas students are discussing in order to reduce energy waste and encourage renewable energy use on our campuses.

This fund being available is a great opportunity for students to learn and be creative by submitting proposals to the university to lower its carbon footprint, save energy, and use renewable energy. I am excited about the future of our university and the greening projects that will be taken on.

Lauren Reilly
Student
lreilly@mail.usf.edu

letter to the editor

Student Green Energy Fund is a great opportunity for USFSP

Bulls hoops: January basketball home games

Ready to throw on your Bulls attire and get out to support the spring sports teams? Starting this week, there are quite a few home basketball games lined up this semester to keep fans involved.

For more information on games and to receive student tickets, visit www.gousfbulls.com.

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Pinellas Park reconsiders fluoride in water
In small amounts, chemical is useful for preventing tooth decay

The Pinellas Park City Council is considering putting fluoride back into its water. The Pinellas County Commission voted to stop putting fluoride in the water of most cities in Pinellas County, though the vote did not affect St. Petersburg, Gulfport, Dunedin and Belleair.

Critics against fluoridation range from arguments that it’s a waste of money, that it’s a government overstep and that fluoride is a toxin and causes health risks. But according to the U.S. Center for Disease Control, fluoridation is one of the “10 greatest public health advancements of the 20th Century.”

In considering going back to fluoridated water, Pinellas Park is showing its concern for its residents, particularly children from poorer families that do not receive adequate dental care. And its about more than just a shiny smile—left untreated, tooth decay can cause tooth loss and infections.

While adding fluoride to drinking water does not have unanimous support from dentists, most agree that it is useful and an effective way to fight tooth decay, particularly in poorer communities where residents don’t have access to—or can’t afford—comprehensive dental care.

Fluoridation in the U.S. began in the 1940s. Now two-thirds of American adults and 80% of the population nationwide receive fluoride through their drinking water.

Low concentrations of fluoride in water have been shown to decrease the rate of tooth enamel decay, and while it won’t prevent cavities, studies show that it affects the rate at which cavities develop, slowing down the process. Fluoride only has an effect when it’s actually in the mouth, and doesn’t have an affect once swallowed.

The massive loop at the end of the Wave would feature rooms filled with fantastical activities. The Wave contains a rock-climbing wall, an ice rink, a wave room and, somewhat oddly, “a shallow pool complete with all ages of children incased in life-sized inflatable balls!” The top of the structure has room for an oval observational deck.

While the Wave screams for attention, the Lens is subtly impressive. The straight approach of past piers is eliminated in favor of two crossing paths. One hugs the water, while the other provides a view of the pier and the city. They meet at the end of the pier, shaped like the outline of a giant eyeball, with observational decks and water access.

Where both other designs simply eliminate the old pier in a slight against St. Petersburg’s history, the Lens remembers. Pylons from the existing pier would be preserved and turned into a man-made reef—a home for aquatic wildlife visible to all pier visitors. Retail and restaurant space in the Lens is limited, but design firm Michael Maltzan makes up for that by erecting smaller buildings at the base of the pier, as well as a mid-sized amphitheater facing the bay.

West 8’s People’s Pier is as much for the local flora and fauna as it is for the people. The firm would eliminate much of the park at the base of the pier and replace it with a wildlife refuge. Visitors could navigate the mangrove coast and sea grass meadows on kayaks, while larger boats would be rerouted to preserve the sanctuary.

The pier structure would be dome-shaped and surrounded by sand. Retail and restaurants would be housed on the second level, while the upper level would serve as a circular navigation deck. West 8 envisages the lowest level becoming part of the beach.

The other option, no longer viable because of a binding vote from the city council, would be to renovate the pilings below the current pier and retain the rest of the structure. This idea is popular among residents, but for a city that has struggled to break the idea that it is a destination for retirement, preserving a visibly old structure makes no sense.

Out of the three designs, Maltzan’s Lens gives the city’s most prominent structure the facelift it needs. It remembers the history of the city, without being defined by it. The plans for the pier structure itself and the park at the base of the pier hold tremendous promise, and could prove to be a catalyst for tourism, as well as a friendly destination for locals.

The Lens is the pier St. Petersburg needs.

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Quotes and notes

Note of the week

It is in fact part of the function of education to help us escape, not from our own time—for we are bound by that—but from the intellectual and emotional limitations of our time.

—T.S. Eliot

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opinion

What's in a name?

By AIMEE ALEXANDER

Managing Editor

Like USF, I have a name that confuses people. When friends or family unfamiliar with the Bay area ask me where I attended college, and I say the University of South Florida, they assume south Florida. They usually respond, “Oh, in Miami.”

The same confusion sets in when people first meet me and introductions are made. “Hi, my name is Aimee.” I almost always get the same two reactions: A. Blank stare followed by “Huh?” or B. “Oh, you mean Amy?”

Now the City of St. Petersburg knows. You know, the kind of name one dreads being called out on the first day of a new semester. Roll call usually involves the professor fumbling with my name during attendance and me doing damage control. Damage control means correcting the professor, which I actually feel pretty bad about because who wants to tell their professors they’re wrong? Unless I have had the professor before, it’s basically been the same scenario since my first day of kindergarten.

Over the years I have grown to love my name. Because the uniqueness of my name, but there was an extended period in my life where I just wanted to be a Jane, Heather, or Nicole. Life seemed pretty easy for them. Straightforward, no confusion, and no slowing down the roll call with explanations about how they spell their names and why.

The game doesn’t end at school. It follows me around like an orphan dog. Reservations, phone interviews, appointments, interviews, the list is endless.

Then there is Starbucks.

“Hi, what’s your name?” usually slows down the coffee line so I just make something up, like Jane, which can be problematic when my pseudonym is called and I forget.

My name has had a few anxious moments thinking about my upcoming graduation, wondering if my name will be pronounced correctly. Friends who had already gradua-
ted told me you’re given a card to phonetically write out your name.

“Thank God, if they called Amy, I would just sit there, waiting patiently. Who wants to correct the USF administrators on stage in a packed theater, anyway?”

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Glimpse of an iconic landmark

By AIMEE ALEXANDER
Managing Editor

As the city of St. Petersburg anticipates the upcoming announcement of the winning Pier design, there is still time to visit the colorful inverted pyramid that has become a landmark attraction for locals and tourists alike. The current design was created by St. Petersburg architect William B. Harvard Sr., founder of Harvard Jolly Architecture, in 1973.

In dire need of repair, the city voted in 2010 to build a new structure in its place. But this is not the first time the Pier has experienced a rebirth. The Pier has actually endured five transformations since it was first constructed in 1889. From private funding to public voting to hurricane destruction, the Pier has managed to reincarnate itself time and time again. Although the architecture has changed, the Pier’s iconic status remains steadfast.

Construction is slated for 2013-2014.

By AIMEE ALEXANDER
Managing Editor

When it comes to NPR programming, “The Sound of Young America” (which recently changed its name to “Bullseye”) is the best show you’ve never heard of. With only 25 public radio stations broadcasting it in the entire U.S., and none in Florida, it’s no wonder this show is a relative unknown. Every week, Jesse Thorn, a plucky young San Francisco native, loads a shotgun of pop culture gems and fires them through his born-for-radio voice. Thorn chooses his own guests and only bothers with the best of the best. At least two of the recommendations on this list originated from his show.

Floridians and all others not lucky enough to hear the show through their radios can tune in at maximumfun.org.

2011, continued from page 5

Vants in their employ. Episodes are available free on PBS.org and on Netflix. Season two airs in the U.S. starting Jan. 8.

Is Portland, Ore. actually as weird as it’s portrayed in IFC’s “Portlandia”? Does it matter? Fred Armisen (“Saturday Night Live”, “Easy A”), for once, is delightfully funny as every hipster/hippie/locavore/feminist stereotype combined in this underappreciated sketch comedy. Watch for some very unexpected, high-profile cameos.

Louis CK is a comedian that needs no introduction. Bar- ring lowest common denominator clowns like Jeff Dunham and Daniel Tosh, CK is at the top of the heap of American funnymen. That’s why this recommendation isn’t for CK himself, rather for his latest special, “Live at the Beacon Theater”, which was only released online. Rather than give Comedy Central a giant cut of his earnings or charge viewers upwards of $20, CK released the special on his website for a measly $5. CK is depending on his fans to legally purchase the special, and is donating a good portion of the money to charity. If all goes well (and it looks like it should, he made over $1 million by year’s end), this underappreciated method of trustful distribution could revolutionize the industry.

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More of what you missed in 2011