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Budgets bitten by capitol committee

By Aaron Quinn

In November Florida legislators cut millions from the budgets of Florida's universities, including USF's during a special legislative session. Now USF has to cut even more money from its Tampa budget, but will refill budgets of Florida's universities mistakenly made cuts this year and $1.6-million next year, because impatient drivers pay budgets bitten by cars.

According to an updated interpretation of the legislation by interim chancellor William Blackwell and Republican Sen. Don Sullivan, more needed to be done to spare branch campuses from the cuts. Blackwell sent out a memo to USF and five other university presidents effectively ordering a shift of cash. The change means dollars, "said USF St. Petersburg Vice President Bill Heller. "The university did not lose a penny in this process but was merely asked to redistribute budget cuts from the regional campuses back to those campuses consistent with legislative intent."

In effect, Tampa was to take the full impact of the budget cuts except for items specifically earmarked by legislators for the branch campuses, said Herman Brames, associate vice president for administration and finance at USF St. Petersburg.

Since the new interpretation of the budget cuts, USF St. Petersburg has been deemed responsible for about $94,000, Brames said. Brames indicated that the university was prepared for the budget cuts because of the gloomy economic situation that was punctuated by Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"We started thinking about budget cuts in early fall," he said.

The penny pinching began when expansion plans conceived at the beginning of the fiscal year were set aside in anticipation of low funds. Brames said some new university personnel positions were created, but never opened; however, no jobs were lost.

The initial cuts made by the legislature did not improve Florida's tourist industry due to Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"The Florida Merit and Florida Gold Seal Vocational scholarships provide 75 percent tuition and all three give up to $100 in lab fees. The program initially funded fall and spring terms for students taking six credit hours or more, and expanded to cover summer school expenses in 2000.

According to the Bright Futures Web site, fall and spring terms will still be covered in the future.

Financial aid at USF Tampa mailed letters notifying students of the legislative decision in late January, a point too late to apply for scholarships from the university.

\[Please see FUNDING, 8\]

Bright Futures dims as legislature trims

By Kristie Martinez

Outlooks have dimmed for Bright Futures Scholarship recipients with funding not available for summer school this year. The result of a slowed state economy and a special legislative decision last fall, the elimination impacts 354 USF St. Petersburg students and over 30,200 in the state.

"The state budget is based on revenue projections. The trouble is we're not taking in as much money as we thought," said Steve Ritch, director of student affairs. Ritch attributes drops in the tourist industry due to Sept. 11 for the lack of financial support.

Adam Shores, deputy press director of the Florida Department of Education said Bright Futures money was used to offset other education costs, but couldn't specify what these other expenses were.

"Florida legislators could not comment on the decision due to the ongoing legislative session. "I like the Bright Futures program a lot," Ritch said. "But it became a much more costly program than expected."

Please see FUNDING, 8

\[Please see BRIGHT, 8\]

Bright Futures started in 1997, and was funded by the Florida Lottery. Bright Futures pays 75 to 100 percent of college tuition for its recipients. Superior academic achievement during high school and acceptance into designated Florida colleges, universities or vocational schools are required to be considered.

Bright Futures has a three-tiered scholarship program. Its top award, the Florida Academic Scholarship, pays 100 percent tuition at public institutions. The Florida Merit and Florida Gold Seal Vocational scholarships provide 75 percent tuition and all three give up to $100 in lab fees.

\[Please see BRIGHT, 8\]

Inside the Nest

Gubernatorial candidates invited to speak

Student Government and the League of Women Voters are planning a debate among the candidates.

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Airport nearing its final days?

Albert Whitted Airport, located to the west of USF St. Petersburg is again coming under fire for land use.

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Is Jerry Garcia reincarnated through art?

Former band leader Jerry Garcia has his art displayed locally.

\[Page 6\]
Anti-Catholic bias widespread

By Jimmy Grinaker
Staff Photographer

During the Ku Klux Klan's period of prominence and acceptability in United States society, it had three main targets: African Americans, Jewish Americans and Catholic Americans.

While it is generally unacceptable today to attack African or Jewish Americans, Catholics are often the targets of bigoted criticism and ridicule. It is certain abuse scandals in the American Catholic Church are terrible and deeply sadden all church members.

But most experts agree that the number of clergy engaging in abuse is similar in the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths.

Professor Thomas Plante of Santa Clara University, an expert and researcher in abuse, said repeatedly that about 5% of all clergy have a predilection for minors.

So why do stories on TV give lurid details of Catholic abuse cases night after night, while other faiths are practically never featured?

It seems most of the media has a desire to destroy the good name of the Catholic Church and create the impression that all priests are pedophiles.

In our local community, the accusations made against Bishop Robert Lynch and Rev. Richard McCormick were the front-page stories in the St. Petersburg Times two days in a row.

But these were just accusations, and there is no concrete evidence either man engaged in any improper activities. The worst of the charges amounted to about 5% of all clergy having a predilection for minors.

The idea of voluntarily giving up sexual relations and a spouse to better serve God is something most of us can't understand. Celibacy can't be "normal." Therefore, abuse is often blamed on celibacy, even though all research shows no connection.

The secular media's only gods are power and wealth, and they will go so far to serve their gods that they allow the good names of innocent men to be ruined.

It is unacceptable to them for an outspoken voice in the world to remind people there is an alternative to our Godless, secular, capitalist society, a higher power to which all will be held accountable.

Letters to the Editor

AAUP uses terrorist tactics to extort USF's president Genshaft

The American Association of University Professors should drop their position that AAUP's unacceptable mob tactics are just a few subtle steps above those of the terrorists.

Barbara A. Ness
USF St. Petersburg Junior, Creative Writing

U.S. Mideast policy challenges reason

The United States support of Israel has always been an egregious violation of the principle of separation of church and state. The very existence of the state of Israel, from its inception has been based "entirely upon a (single) peculiar religious belief of the Jews. Specifically, that "God gave them a particular piece of real estate." I have NEVER seen any such legal instrument conveying any land by God to the Jews. Nor have I seen a deed from God to any one individual or group.

What I do see via, "the light of reason" is a "color of title" which strongly implies a kind of ownership which grants to every living creature a leasehold (as tenants in common") with equal rights and privileges. Including a "right of survivalship" for all their posterity to our common habitat which we call the world.

Daniel P. Quinn
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USF gubernatorial debates likely

By Jelena Ljustina
Contributing Writer

USF St. Petersburg is planning to host two gubernatorial debates in collaboration with the League of Women Voters, Bay News 9 and News Radio 970 WFLA, campus officials said.

The debates are tentatively scheduled for June 13 and Oct. 3 and will most likely be held in the gymnasium of the Campus Activities Center, they said.

Invitations have been sent to all 15 candidates currently running for the office of governor of Florida, said Darryl Paulson, professor of government who is on the planning committee and will be on the moderating panel of both debates. As of now, he said, the committee is waiting for the candidates' responses.

Sadie Tschiderer, USF special events coordinator and member of the planning committee, said she expects the candidates to respond within the next couple of weeks. The turnout should be high, she said, because a debate held at a university is an ideal opportunity for candidates to reach a good cross section of people.

And since the debates will be open to the public, the audience will be highly diverse, she said. "Questions that college students ask will be different than questions that come from senior citizens."

Because of the substantial media coverage, the importance of the debates will extend far beyond the campus, Paulson said. Besides Bay News 9 and News Radio 970 WFLA, a number of other TV stations affiliated with Bay News 9 will sponsor the events by offering extensive coverage, he said. "It's not just a St. Pete debate, it's a state-wide gubernatorial debate."

The debates, Paulson said, will be a great opportunity for all participants to meet the candidates before the election in November. For USF, he said, the debates will be an opportunity to gain more credibility. "We want to showcase the university and the candidates' resolve to win."

The moderating panel of the debates will be set up to meet and greet citizens, he said. "It will be a political-fair kind of atmosphere."

The second debate will take place after the primaries, he said, and with only two candidates left, it will take on a more formal, traditional role. Although the Campus Activities Center is reserved for the final debate as well, the committee might move the event to the Mahaffey Theatre, depending on the costs and available funds, he said.

Either way, the moderating panel of the final debate will include representatives of each of the sponsors, he said.

One of the panels will come from USF's Program for Ethics in Education and Community, she said. About two months ago, PEEC launched with the planning process together with the League of Women Voters, Paulson said.

In the last eight years, USF St. Petersburg has hosted three significant debates, he said. The mayor's debate last spring is the most recent example. In 1996, USF St. Petersburg co-hosted the vice-presidential debate at the Mahaffey Theatre.

Back in 1994, the Republican gubernatorial debate was held at the Campus Activities Center. About 1,000 people attended the event, Paulson said. "It was packed as full as you can possibly get."

Although USF St. Petersburg has a history of hosting political debates, this year's general election debate, the second debate, will be the first to include a USF student on its moderating panel, Paulson said.

Students are the group with the lowest rates of voter registration and political participation, he said, and the only way this trend can be reversed is to get students interested and involved in politics. "And that's extremely tough to do."

"The campus police work with St. Petersburg police officers for traffic violations," said Silviu Mihailescu, a student who attends night classes at USF St. Petersburg. The intersection is a "pain in the butt to cross," Seman said. He suggested installing speed bumps to slow traffic.

"Approximately 50 traffic tickets are issued a year by the campus police," he said. "A campus police officer's primary focus is not traffic violations."

One of the school's main concerns is the area's hazardous traffic conditions, pedestrian characteristics and physical characteristics of the location. The road has to meet at least one or more of the eight warrants in its guidelines.

These warrants demand that an intersection have at least four-hour vehicle volume, peak hours, high pedestrian volume, school crossing zones, crash experience and a roadway network. The city will not install a light if it will slow traffic.

Installation hasn't taken place because it is expensive, said Siwiv. Setting up a traffic light can cost up to $50,000.

In the works is a project for a new USF St. Petersburg campus layout. Under this plan, the intersection will become a one-way street, like Third Street. Also known as the master plan, the scheme involves creating a centralized campus with parking along its borders, a design most universities are adopting.

Tschiderer said.

The only student group involved in the debate planning process so far is Student Government, said Cassandra Hawkins, Student Government vice president and senior majoring in political science. Hawkins' role on the planning committee is to act as a liaison between Student Government and the committee.

Although having the debates on campus will be a great opportunity for Student Government to get exposure, the planning committee is poorly organized and hasn't given Student Government enough information, she said.

The committee asked Student Government to provide refreshments for the debates, she said. After contacting four caterers, she said, the lowest bid for two cookies, one glass of punch per person and two servers was $1,025, and the highest bid was over $2,800.

Student Government rejected the committee's proposal to fund refreshments -- not because of the high price, she said, but because of the lack of organizational information. Student Government has received from the committee to date. She said Student Government will reconsider the proposal once the event's organization is set.

One well-coordinated facet of the event is the voter education portion. As part of the first debate, the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections office will demonstrate the use of the new touch-screen voting machines, the supervisor said.

The goal behind the new voting machine showcase is to educate voters, but also to get as many students as possible to register to vote, Paulson said. Education on voting will help students use an important tool to make good decisions, Tschiderer said. "We're so lucky we have a voice. People have died for the right to vote."
End of the line for Albert Whitted?

By Brad Pennar
Contributing Writer

Speaking of Albert Whitted airport, Mike Killenberg chuckled. The USF journalism professor once had an office on the second floor, west side of Coquina Hall, where he had a way of knowing when a plane was coming in to land.

He'd be with a student chatting or giving academic advice, when suddenly the student's eyes would start to widen. Often his hand would clamp down on the desk, and sometimes he'd shirk back in his chair. Always, the eyes got wider and wider.

At such times the talk usually went like this.

“Plane coming in?”

“Yup.”

“I knew it.”

That's why Killenberg's desk faced the hall, not the high window and its view of incoming planes.

His story illustrates the growing friction between the airport and USF St. Petersburg. Both have plans to grow, and both have supporters who think the best way to do that is get rid of the opposition.

Such people see only two choices, close the airport or make USF expand somewhere else.

At a minimum, the air traffic makes noise that can wreak havoc with students and faculty just trying to converse. Others think the airport next door is an accident waiting to happen.

In a recent letter to the editor, St. Petersburg resident David Briggs called the issue a "classic 'no-brainer'". He said the city should just get rid of the airport, since it "costs taxpayers and benefits a few."

Similarly, in the last election mayoral candidate Omali Yeshitela said the airport is used only by a "small group of well-connected people."

The St. Petersburg Times recently called Whitted a "shaky airport operation that benefits a privileged few." And in a March 1997 editorial the Times said it was unwise to have such an airport near the "bustling campus and the surrounding Bayboro area."

"This newspaper has long supported closing the airport and putting its 117 acres to better, safer public use. The larger, better-equipped St. Petersburg International Airport is better positioned to meet the needs of local pilots... If Albert Whitted must remain open, its use should be limited rather than expanded."

On the other hand, people like Boyd Boyd think it's a matter of "first come, first served." The airport was here first and USF knew that when it came here.

A lieutenant colonel in the Civil Air Patrol, Boyd commands the cadet squadron that meets Monday nights in its revamped double-wide mobile-home headquarters near Gate 6, right next to a host of city sewage treatment tanks.

He thinks the state is spending too much money on "luxurious" college buildings at USF, and said "maybe they need to experience a little adversity too." Boyd served in the Navy in World War II and has been with the St. Petersburg squadron for 27 of its 50 years of operation. Still, if push came to shove the airport could give up part of its western end.

"There's room for everybody," he said, even if that meant extending the east-west runway further into Tampa Bay.

"Of course the environmentalists won't like that idea, but they can't always have their way," he added.

Of Whitted's two runways, the one running "east-west" seems to be the problem for USF St. Petersburg.

Runways are named by compass heading. The north-south runway is 18-36, for 180 degrees (due south) and 360 degrees (due north). The east-west runway is 6-24, for 60 degrees (due east is 90) and 240 degrees (due west is 270). So for USF St. Petersburg, the problem seems to be runway "24."

At an airport like Whitted, pilots are told which runway to use according to wind direction. A plane taking off into the wind gets off the ground sooner, and a landing plane needs less space to get back on the ground.

With the wind from the east, airplanes landing at Whitted swoop low over campus. With the wind from the west, planes take off directly over Davis Hall. That creates the near-continuous noise that, for some students, is the biggest problem.

Education major Colleen Kelly-Rogers said campus buildings are insulated enough so in class she can't hear the planes, but outside it's different. "Outside you can't hear yourself think" when a plane flies over.

She can hear Bayflight helicopters no matter where she is, inside or out. And she's less concerned about a plane crashing than a helicopter. "Those things go straight down," Kelly-Rogers said.

Bobby Koonce and Cassandra Hawkins echoed those concerns in a recent Times letter to the editor. The local USF student government president and secretary said classroom instruction is regularly disrupted by air traffic. Every time a plane passes overhead, "conversation ceases. These are not just minor interruptions; they are a daily hindrance to campus life."

They added that aside from noise and limiting campus expansion, such air traffic poses a threat to campus safety. "Can we really afford to wait to address this concern until after the campus is the victim of a crash?"

In response, airport supporters claim flying is 22 times safer than driving and say the most dangerous part of any flight is the drive to and from the airport. They add that at a minimum, every two years each licensed pilot must take and pass a flight review and be examined and certified by a flight physician.

They also point out that in 2001 the National Air Transportation Association named Albert Whitted one of the nation's "100 most needed" public-use airports.

Before Sept. 11, the airport was undergoing a $7.6-million renovation with plans for 50 new hangars, a new terminal at the northwest corner, and extending runway 24-62 out into Tampa Bay. Now the uncertainty seems to be whether the airport will survive.

"Please see AIRPORT. 5"

Daycare Information Update

Do You Have Children
In Licensed Daycare?

If so, you can apply for the Student Government Child Care Subsidy Program each semester you are enrolled at USF St. Petersburg through the Financial Aid Office, Bay 105. Pick up applications for full details at the Financial Aid Office or you can call 553-1128 for general information.
Costa Rica beckons language students

By Lisa Kenny Contributing Writer

The USF study abroad program gives students an opportunity to join over 330 million Spanish speakers worldwide and learn the language in an authentic environment.

As part of an ongoing effort to encourage students to learn a foreign language, the university offers two programs to study Spanish in Costa Rica.

The most popular option has been the Summer Intensive Language Course, a six-week program focusing on beginning and intermediate Spanish, said professor Yani Angulo-Cano. Students may use these courses to meet the foreign language requirement, as well as the nine-hour beginning Spanish but still wish to participate in a summer program focusing on beginning and intermediate Spanish, said professor Yani Angulo-Cano.

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Returning home, Whitted designed and built a seaplane he harbored in the Vinoy Basin. He gave sightseeing tours and flying lessons, often without charge. In 1923, he died in a crash at age 30, in the plane he'd designed and built. Six years later the airport was completed and named for him.

Some critics may say Whitted's dying in a crash supports the claim an airport is an accident waiting to happen. And according to Times files, since 1993 there were some seven mishaps with aircraft taking off or landing at the airport.

In 1993, a plane stalled taking off from runway 36 and went into the bay 500 yards east of the Pier. The pilot and a passenger were unharmed. In 1995 a plane crashed into a vacant house a mile west of the airport.

In June 1996 a pilot died when he tried to land on runway 18 but went into 10 feet of water 100 yards from the Pier. In November a seaplane crashed between two church buildings near 49th Street, but no one was hurt.

In 1997 a six-foot pole came loose from an Air Force banner-towing plane and landed in a yard on 17th Ave. SE, after take-off from runway 24. Again, no one was injured.

In one week in November 1997, two planes slid off runway 18-36 and into the bay. One pilot tried to land in a heavy rain and 35 m.p.h. winds, and the other was taking off when the engine lost power. Neither pilot was hurt.

Since the greatest risk seems to be runway 6-24, options short of closing the airport entirely include extending that runway into Tampa Bay, as Boyd suggested. Another alternative is closing 6-24 entirely, leaving Whitted with only runway 18-36.

One problem with that approach is taking off and landing "crosswind." A pilot landing on runway 36 with a strong wind from the west would have to adjust for getting blown to the right. Depending on the wind's speed, one technique would involve the pilot's facing the plane north-west as it traveled clockwise down the runway. Then just before the wheels hit the pavement, he'd quickly turn the plane due north to avoid being flipped over.

In the meantime, the controversy continues on whether to close the field or to keep it open, possibly as a "living aviation museum."

Another option is to keep runway 6-24 but limit it to emergency use only. He said a number of noise abatement procedures have yet to be tried, including the kind of concrete barricades that time 2-295.

He ended by saying that with the right approach, "We can have a nice thriving airport here," along with a thriving university campus.
ABROAD, from 5

Angulo-Cano said.

Program fees are broken down into three payments. For each package, $250 is due at the time of enrollment in the program. The remaining balance is divided into two payments due before departure. In order to receive USF credit for the courses, students must gain approval from Warren Hampton, academic director. Graduate credit is also available to those that qualify, Hampton said.

While there are no limitations on the number of students that may participate in the program, classes usually have 25 to 30 students, Angulo-Cano said.

USF does require that at least 12 students be enrolled in the program for it to be executed. If enrollment requirements are not met, the study abroad office will provide a full refund to students. However, the initial $250 deposit will become non-refundable should students have to cancel their trip. No refund will be given after the program starts.

Study abroad is also open to non-degree seeking students. Parents interested in traveling and learning a foreign language have gone with students, Angulo-Cano said. Out-of-state tuition fees may apply.

Students will need a valid passport when traveling to Costa Rica. The current fee for a U.S. passport is $60. For an additional fee, passports may be expedited; however, they typically take six weeks to arrive via standard mail.

All trips are offered once a year in May. Additional information is available through the Study Abroad & Exchange Offices located at CPR 468 at USF Tampa.

A docent at Central Fine Arts admires Jerry Garcia's "Humiliation at the Animal Party" with Mark Hippert, the artwork's new owner.

Some of the displays at Central Fine Arts Gallery, located at 531 Central Avenue. Among its exhibits are works by Jerry Garcia, formerly of the Grateful Dead.

By Leilani Polk
Contributing Writer

While Jerry Garcia is known primarily for his psychedelic audio artistry as guitarist, singer and songwriter for the Grateful Dead, his visuals are pretty groovy, too.

An art exhibit featuring Garcia's art and works by photographer Baron Wolman opened March 25 at Central Fine Arts Gallery, 531 Central Ave. in St. Petersburg.

Sponsored in part by Thänder 103.5 and sponsored by Garcia's estate, the display included 35 prints, hand-signed prints and Estate Collector's limited edition prints, as well as duplicates of some of these pieces. Five Original Jerry Garcia Works were featured, and one of these, titled "Drummers," will be sold. The gallery also offered licensed Garcia merchandise.

Garcia produced over 500 pieces of artwork before his death in 1995.

"His artwork and music mirror each other in their improvisational style," said Phil Bardi, digital artist and Garcia enthusiast. "They both reflect a feeling of inspiration and spontaneity."

A reception with Baron Wolman, who worked as Rolling Stone magazine's first chief photographer in the late 60s, followed the gallery opening. Wolman is well known for capturing many of the era's greatest musicians on film.

Wolman's work included classic photographs of Janis Joplin, Johnny Cash, Jim Morrison, Joni Mitchell, Jimi Hendrix, Frank Zappa, George Harrison, B.B. King, Tina Turner and Bob Dylan.

Photographs of Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead were also featured. A brand new piece, called a "giclee," was made from one of Wolman's notorious photographs of Garcia.

Wolman no longer photographs musicians, as he feels that modern music is chaotic, and it's sometimes hard to understand the artist's meaning," he said.

But Wolman is interested in seeing how the war in Afghanistan will affect the making and writing of music today.

Central Fine Arts Gallery representative Karen Haraminac said that photographs by Wolman not available in the gallery can be ordered in a range of formats and styles.

"You have many options with Barry's work. You can order a picture you see here, framed or unframed, and even choose what type of print is used," she said.

The exhibit runs through Wednesday, April 24. Admission is free to the public, and private viewings by appointment are encouraged.

The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Extended evening hours are offered from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month.

For more information, contact the gallery at (727) 822-2787.

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