10-10-2011

Crow's Nest : 2011 : 10 : 10

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/crows_nest/347

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University History: Campus Publications at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Crow's Nest by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.
Students at RHO are beginning to express concern with the current room check policies. Students are given 24-hour notice prior to the inspections, Kilsanin said. Page 19 of the University Student Housing Guidebook states: “To ensure that the above guidelines are being followed, residents and University Housing staff will participate in fire, health, and safety inspections each semester with at least 24 hours notice to residents.”

For this specific inspection, Kilsanin said students were given at least a 48-hour notice. “We’ve shared the dates [of the inspections] for the entire semester,” Kilsanin said.

The middle-of-the-night room inspections disrupted some students’ sleep before the Susan G. Komen race at Vinoy Park at around 5 a.m. on Saturday, several students said.

Jimmy Richards, a freshman finance major and RHO resident, believes communication about the room inspections could have been more efficient. Though signs were posted two days in advance, Richards did not know of the event. “Email would be better,” he said. “I would have rather been there, not that I was trying to hide anything.” Richards said, though he said he was not affected by the late-night inspections.

Residents of Residence Hall One are upset about the fire, health and safety inspections that occurred on Saturday, Oct. 1. A student assistant performed the room check with a resident assistant between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m., raising students’ concerns over the time the room inspections were performed. “There were no rules broken last week, in regard to the fire, health and safety inspections that happened. Staff are allowed to go into the rooms,” said Assistant Director of Residence Life and Housing, Heather Kilsanin.

She said that the resident assistants are asked not to go into the rooms by themselves, and a majority of them chose another resident assistant to accompany them during the inspections. “It is OK for the student assistants to be involved in that process as long as there is one RA,” Kilsanin said. “A staff member could include a student assistant. So I don’t believe there were any unauthorized people involved in the inspections.”

Students are given 24-hour notice prior to the inspections, Kilsanin said. Page 19 of the University Student Housing Guidebook states: “To ensure that the above guidelines are being followed, residents and University Housing staff will participate in fire, health, and safety inspections each semester with at least 24 hours notice to residents.”

For this specific inspection, Kilsanin said students were given at least a 48-hour notice. “We’ve shared the dates [of the inspections] for the entire semester,” Kilsanin said.

The middle-of-the-night room inspections disrupted some students’ sleep before the Susan G. Komen race at Vinoy Park at around 5 a.m. on Saturday, several students said.

Jimmy Richards, a freshman finance major and RHO resident, believes communication about the room inspections could have been more efficient. Though signs were posted two days in advance, Richards did not know of the event. “Email would be better,” he said. “I would have rather been there, not that I was trying to hide anything.” Richards said, though he said he was not affected by the late-night inspections.

Students at RHO are beginning to express concern with the current room check policies.
Dead in the water: how to kill your car

By CHRISTOPHER GUINN
Contributing Writer

Driving a car through water is always a risky maneuver, and it may destroy the engine.

Hydrostatic lock, or hydrolock for short, occurs when a hydraulic cylinder attempts to compress a liquid. As every Chemistry 1 student knows, liquids are relatively incompressible—unstoppable force, meet immovable object.

Instead of causing an existential paradox, however, the engine is much more likely to destroy itself, often violently.

A car engine is designed to operate at several thousand RPM and withstand thousands of pounds of pressure at high heat, but in a single loud instant, the precision-constructed components within the engine will twist or shatter when they try to compress even less than two ounces of water.

This is most likely to happen when a car is driven through deep water.

“You push that big [wave] of water and when it gets in the intake, it’s all over,” said Justin Sims, a mechanic at Ice Cold Air on Fourth Street N in St. Petersburg.

In the shop was a bright red Pontiac Solstice, a little two-seat, ground-hugging roadster. To its side, the engine was attached to a stand and flipped upside-down. The mechanics removed the oil pan to show the twisted internal components.

The first point of failure in this case was the connecting rod, the beam that connects the crankshaft to the piston head. In other cases, hydrolock can crack the piston head, destroy the seals in the cylinder and even lodge metal shards into the engine block.

It’s often cheaper to just replace the engine than to try to replace the broken parts, said shop owner Paul Smith. A used motor for the Solstice will cost the owner, or the insurance company, $2,700.

It’s a lesson on “why not to drive your car through two feet of water,” said Jeremy “Doc J” Strait, another mechanic on duty. Some new cars pull air from below; depths as shallow as six inches can cause water to be sucked into the engine.

Cars move forward because they create combustion by combining oxygen, fuel and heat. Air is pulled into the engine through the intake on the front of the car. During the intake cycle of the engine, this air is pulled into the cylinder and mixed with fuel. This mixture is then compressed in the now-closed cylinder, thus increasing pressure and temperature, in accordance with the combined gas law.

The spark plug ignites the mixture, causing combustion. The rapid expansion of gases pushes the piston downward, causes the crankshaft to rotate and ideally, the car to move forward.

If water gets into the air intake, however, the vacuum created during the intake cycle can pull that water into the cylinder, as if sucked through a straw. At that point, two ounces of water might as well be a slab of granite.

Driving through water carries other risks, as well. When brakes get wet, they have a harder time stopping the car, interiors can be flooded, and the car’s electrical systems can short. Water can leak into the wheel bearings, transmission or differential; and water can be sucked into the exhaust pipe, stalling the engine.

life@crowsneststpete.com
Website redesign will cost $2,000

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

happened last time," Greene said.

“Designs take a lot of time,” Pressman said. “The coding doesn’t take much time, so I told them I could spend time doing that if they could provide me with full designs.”

When communication fell through, Greene started searching for another third party designer. She recommended Realizing Media because “they’ve been very good about what they are doing,” and are local USFSP grads, which Greene says was “a big thing for me.” She trusts the company’s promises—“they’re going to be there, it’s in the contract.”

Along with the redesign, the company will provide training videos as tutorials, as the property of SG, so “everything they need to know, they can,” Greene said.

The redesign of the SG website will cost $2,000, adding to the cost of the last site, which was about $4,000.

Pressman’s qualifications for redesigning the website made sense. He has been involved with SG and he’s been a professional freelance graphic designer for about five years.

“I’ve been around for three years so the Student Government side of things, I have the history that I think their whole organization is lacking due to a lack of alumni in that organization right now,” Pressman said. “I pitched that I’d like to help, and they were very happy to have me so far, I’m just doing as much as they want me to do, that I have time for it.

Pressman referred to alumni as students who had been involved in SG for a while, something he said the organization currently lacks.

“Keeping that transition of history is important in a big organization like that—in any organization, really,” he said.

Greene contacted three companies to get a general idea of what things Pressman fell through. She is taking all necessary precautions in order to ensure the contract is correct and that the new designer will follow through, she said.

“I wanted everyone to have their hands on it because of what happened last time,” Greene said.

Greene confirmed the contract with Realizing Media is now being approved by administration.

“It’s taking longer than I wanted to, but it’s worth it,” Greene said.

newscrowsneststpete.com

The Festival of the Genome seeks to present a decade of genome research and its implications through discussion of science, ethics, theology and art.

“As we reflect on what we know about the genetic material of all living things, what we see is much more similarity than difference,” said Noroin Noonan, USFSP regional vice chancellor of Academic Affairs. “What does it mean to be human — when we share 99.5 percent of [genetic material] with the great ape?”

Two of the lectures will focus on art, including one titled “Sequentia,” which provides “an opportunity to come and bring are science together,” Noonan said.

Another lecture by a curator at the Dalí Museum will discuss how Dalí incorporated DNA into many of his works.

“I hope that students take the opportunity to come if they want to learn more about the human genome, DNA, genetics, molecular biology and their place in the world,” Noonan said.

The lectures begin Oct. 20 and will start with receptions at 6 p.m.

```
news@crowsneststpete.com
```

URBAN STUDENTS

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```

```
NEWS@crowsneststpete.com
```

```
flexible design
```
Saint Petersburg Preservation presents October Music and Movies at Straub Park on Thursday nights throughout the month of October. The free event gives residents of the area a change of pace from their normal day-to-day activities with local music starting at 6p.m. followed by a classic film under the stars.

"Shane," starring Alan Ladd and Jack Palance, is the essential American Western movie. It will be shown on Oct. 13 after Tampa Bay's Hot Rod Hornets perform an energetic array of songs inspired by Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis.

Oct. 20 will feature the Clearwater Bluegrass Review followed by the classic film "Key Largo," starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. The plot deals with a man and a gangster challenging each other before a hurricane approaches.

The last film on Oct. 27, "Bettlejuice," featuring Alec Baldwin and Geena Davis, is the perfect choice to wrap up the series right before Halloween. Daniel O'Ryan will provide the entertainment before the show.

It is recommended that you bring a chair with some blankets to stay cozy throughout the evening. Snacks such as kettle corn will be available at the event, but it couldn't hurt to bring something from home. Other than that you're all set to escape reality for a few hours by the water.

Downtown park to feature movie nights in October

By AMANDA PRETULAC
Arts Editor

Saint Petersburg Preservation presents October Music and Movies at Straub Park on Thursday nights throughout the month of October. The free event gives residents of the area a change of pace from their normal day-to-day activities with local music starting at 6p.m. followed by a classic film under the stars. "Shane," starring Alan Ladd and Jack Palance, is the essential American Western movie. It will be shown on Oct. 13 after Tampa Bay's Hot Rod Hornets perform an energetic array of songs inspired by Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis.

Oct. 20 will feature the Clearwater Bluegrass Review followed by the classic film "Key Largo," starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. The plot deals with a man and a gangster challenging each other before a hurricane approaches.

The last film on Oct. 27, "Bettlejuice," featuring Alec Baldwin and Geena Davis, is the perfect choice to wrap up the series right before Halloween. Daniel O'Ryan will provide the entertainment before the show.

It is recommended that you bring a chair with some blankets to stay cozy throughout the evening. Snacks such as kettle corn will be available at the event, but it couldn't hurt to bring something from home. Other than that you're all set to escape reality for a few hours by the water.

"Where the belly rules the mind!"

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

Bayboro Cafe & Catering

FREE PARKING!

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

ADVERTISE WITH US!

Reach out to students of USF St. Petersburg with an ad in The Crow’s Nest. For more information about print and online advertising options, please email advertising@crowsneststpete.com
Student shares struggles to inspire

By KEELEY SHEEHAN
Editor-in-Chief

As people pass him on the sidewalk, James Scott, SG senator, nods and says a quick hello. He asks them what they are doing and tells them to have a good day. He’s a little more relaxed than he sometimes appears when he’s on campus, speaking at a General Assembly Senate meeting or leading the SG Judiciary & Ethics Committee. No longer content to hide the fact that he is gay—as he has been doing all his life—the environmental science & policy major decided it was time to be open about who he is.

Oct. 11 is National Coming Out Day, founded in 1988 by psychologists Robert Eichberg and Jean O’Leary, an openly gay political leader. The Human Rights Campaign now leads the day of awareness, which aims to spread messages of equality.

Scott was motivated to tell his story because he thinks it could serve as inspiration to other students in his shoes, to show that they are not alone. He is prepared to take on a dream he has believed them,” Cobett said. “I don’t want to be a crusader for gay rights, I want to be a crusader for all the things justice related.”

He wants to fight against a lot of things, he said—the death of the middle class, the exploitation of gay citizens, and people’s differences in general, society still has a long way to go. “Some people really believe there is something perverse or sinister about gay people,” he said, adding that in politics, all sides should be able to disagree while respecting each other. “How can you truly make peace with someone who you think their existence is an abomination?”

Scott knows he was different, as a boy growing up in a conservative community, coming to terms with who he is has taught him to have faith in himself. He is has taught him to have faith in himself.

Freshman becomes business owner with new boutique

By AMANDA STARLING
Contributing Writer

Tucked away from the bustle of Fourth Street traffic is Everything Under the Sun.

Located inside the former Hotel Betty Ann, the retail shop has opened its doors in business.

Eighteen-year-old Kyleigh Cobett was prepared to take on a dream that initially surprised her: owning a salon/boutique.

“If someone had told me a year ago that I would be opening my own salon/boutique, I wouldn’t have believed them,” Cobett said.

With savings from her paid internship, the USF St. Petersburg freshman business major used her work experience with Raymond James and Achieva Credit Union to pave the way to her dreams.

By early July, she was ready to settle into her prime location. By mid-July, she was ordering shoes, accessories, dresses, shirts and bags to stock up her boutique.

“I realized I wanted to start a business and this was something I wanted to be. It’s not too mainstream and it has the perfect feel of everything,” Cobett said.

The hair salon Cobett currently occupies the space and is about to fulfill its lease. Cobett formed an agreement to share the space with the salon. The two business owners settled which rooms to use and how to benefit from the connection. An open floor plan with 1930’s style architecture allows for smaller salon rooms and space to display clothing.

Cobett created her business this past summer with little hesitation. “If you have a mindset for it and you know where you need to be and when you need to be there, anyone can establish it,” Cobett said. “If you don’t come at it with focus and determination, you just come at it with a ‘Hey, I’ll just try it’ attitude and you won’t amount to the same success as if you had really applied yourself.”

In the future, Cobett would like to expand her store, and eventually occupy the entire building. She visualizes a larger area for the salon and a wider inventory of clothing.

Cobett wants to inspire her generation to reach its goals. She wants that goal to be broader than “I have to go to school for the rest of my life to be something,” she said.

Everything Under the Sun is located at 406 11th Ave. N in St. Petersburg.

life@crowsneststpete.com
November challenges writers with word count

BY SARAH LAFFIN
Contributing Writer

If you have a passion for writing, now is the time to prepare for National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo. NaNoWriMo is an annual challenge that lasts throughout the month of November.

The goal is to complete a novel with a minimum of 50,000 words. To put it in perspective, participants have to write an average of over 1,500 words a day for a full 30 days. The challenge requires dedication, as well as a good amount of self-motivation, as well as perhaps some sleep deprivation.

In 1999, 21 people participated during NaNoWriMo’s first year. As word got out, participation grew exponentially, and last year, over 200,000 wannabe novelists challenged themselves to write novels. Over 30,000 accomplished the goal word count by the deadline at 11:59 p.m. on the last day of November.

Why torment yourself with this excess of writing? Some find that if pressured, caffeinated, and sleep deprived enough, they can find a sort of creativity they’ve never seen before in themselves. Editing and wasting time does not belong here — this is the ultimate brain marathon.

The challenge is all about the word count, the website says. “Because of the limited writing window, the only thing that matters is word output. It’s all about quantity, not quality. This approach forces you to lower your expectations, take risks, and write quickly and efficiently,” according to the NaNoWriMo website.

Once you sign up for an account on the website, you can find your region by clicking the “NaNo Near You” tab (there is a section for St. Petersburg, Fla.), and check out the forums to see when other nearby novelists will be meeting to hang out or write together.

art@crownsneststpete.com

No official policy on room check times

INSPECTIONS, continued from front page

night room checks.

Travis Brewer, a freshman business major and RHO resident, was aware of the inspection date. “I knew they were coming, just not at 12:30 at night,” Brewer said.

T.J. Ewin, Student Government attorney general, questions checking the rooms while residents are absent.

“I think they should leave a note saying they were there,” he said.

At USF Tampa, room inspections are performed once a semester and at the resident assistant’s discretion. The residents are given notification of a two-week window when inspections will occur, but “they don’t know when it will happen,” said Alex Belton of USF Tampa residence halls.

RHO has fire, safety and health inspections about once per month, Kilsanin said.

“As a resident, I am really upset, taken aback and offended. You expect you’ll be respected,” Ewin said.

His room was checked when he was not there. He feels the resident assistants are “doing the checks to catch the residents doing [bad] things,” he said. Ewin believes the time of the room checks was “completely inappropriate.”

As far as time of day inspection restrictions, Kilsanin said there is no specified time. “They can decide on a time together.”

There is no set policy on that,” Kilsanin said.

There is concern about whether the student assistant who performed the room inspection with the resident assistant was approved or not.

Brewer and Ewin filed a verbal complaint with Ashley Glence, the graduate assistant in residence life and housing, on Oct. 5.

“All I know is that we talked to Ashley. She said she would relay it to Heather,” Brewer said.

He said nothing resulted from approaching Glence. Brewer was not aware of the procedure to file a formal complaint.

As for the late-night room checks, “nothing unauthorized happened,” Kilsanin said. “There has been no official complaint made.”

She did not learn of the verbal complaint until the morning of Oct. 6.

“I could ask any resident why they would file an official complaint and they wouldn’t know,” Brewer said.

Kilsanin said the student is notified of what to do once the complaint has been brought to their attention verbally.

“They are told that when they come to us, the staff knows to let them know they need to send an email,” she said. “If I don’t have it in documentation, I don’t have it in writing, it’s hard for me to move forward with that.”

news@crownsneststpete.com

Bike safety also part of the discussion

BIKES, continued from page 2

and it’s covered,” he said.

Westmark realizes the hesitations students might have when considering commuting via bike to school — getting hot and sweaty, trying to find roads with bike paths and the difficulty in hauling books around all day.

Murphy rides her bike because “it cuts down on gas,” she said. “I enjoy being outdoors, it’s exercise. I don’t see it as an impossible way of travel.”

She deals with the discomfort of riding in the hot weather in the most effective way she can. She changes when she arrives at school, and brings her makeup bag.

“I have to take a bird bath,” she said. Westmark is also inconvenienced by lugging around his books.

“If I have to run to Publix, I check out a study room in the library and leave my stuff here,” he said.

Ideally, both would like to have lockers at the university.

“I think a lot of it has to do with getting the word out and getting people jazzed about [riding bikes]. I don’t think people give it a second thought,” Murphy said.

Westmark agrees and said that a lot of people aren’t aware of the ease of commuting via bike.

Westmark and Eli would like to help people with their bikes. From choosing the correct bike for the right distances to helping with maintenance, they are willing to do it all.

Eli is currently working with the city to form a bike co-op at the St. Petersburg Shuffle Board Courts on Friday nights. His goal is to help educate people to become better, safer cyclists.

He would also like to offer a stand on campus with tools for bike maintenance, like USF Tampa. “It’d be a great resource for students,” Eli said.

Westmark believes that sometimes riding a bike is about “putting yourself out there.”

life@crownsneststpete.com

Candidate for 2012 Republican Party nomination holds book signing at Tyrone Barnes & Noble

BY DAWN-MARIE PARKER
Contributing Writer

Cheers of “Herman! Herman! Herman!” and applause filled the air of the Tyrone Boulevard Barnes & Noble as Herman Cain, one of the candidates for the 2012 Republican nomination, entered the bookstore.

Cain was in town on Oct. 5 to promote his book “This is Herman Cain: My Journey to the White House.” Armed with complete security detail and a confident smile, he waved to the boisterous crowd.

Some people left the bookstore in frustration because he was only there to sign books. Others waited patiently to snap his picture and shake hands.

Cain has a working class background. His father worked three jobs and his mother was a domestic worker. Cain graduated from Morehouse College with a degree in mathematics in 1967.

One of Cain’s main ideas is called the 999 plan. “We must get the government off our backs, out of our pockets and out of our way in order to return to prosperity,” he says on his campaign website. Cain’s 999 plan would involve the business flat tax, individual flat tax and national sales tax being 9 percent to help economic growth, according to his website.

“I love his no-nonsense approach, and I hope that because of this we’ll get our jobs back,” said Erica Boreggs, who attended the signing. “That’s what people go to college for.”

art@crownsneststpete.com
editorial

Parking meters upped to a dollar an hour

Buying a parking pass is cheapest option for most students

One quarter. Twenty-five cents. In 1868, hungry restaurant-goers could trade one for a full meal of meat and a pint of cold beer or cider. The same amount could buy a 12 oz. box of Kellogg’s Corn Flakes in 1966. As soon ago as the ’80s, children meekly handed 25 cents to cashiers to pay for Hershey Bars. What’s a quarter worth now? About 15 minutes on Central Avenue, it seems. As of Oct. 1, metered parking in the City of St. Petersburg, costs $1 per hour, up from the previous rate of 75 cents. Officials expect the increase to net the city an additional $313,000 per year, to go toward downtown parking programs and garages. The money will also be used to balance the city’s general fund, which pays for services like police and firefighting. The increase is partially due to Mayor Bill Foster and the St. Petersburg City Council’s decision to decrease property taxes for yet another year, according to The St. Petersburg Times. Downtown parking costs have doubled in just over a year. With a population of almost 245,000 people, St. Petersburg is the 76th largest city in the United States. Jersey City, N.J., the 75th largest city in the country, also boasts a downtown district with prominent parking sets. Just last year, Jersey City also raised its metered parking rate, from 50 cents per hour to 75 cents per hour—the first increase in 20 years. Other cities of similar sizes: Chula Vista, Calif. (77th largest, 25 to 50 cents per hour), Greensboro, N.C. (69th largest, 50 cents per hour), and Wichita, Kan. (49th largest, 50 cents per hour). Large cities such as New York and Los Angeles charge up to $3 per hour in certain areas. St. Petersburg city crews have been working since the beginning of the month to manually change all of the parking meters in the city, including the ones around campus. But what’s a measly quarter to a bunch of kids who already pay thousands of dollars for an education? Students who choose to use the meters instead of purchasing a pass to park in the garage might be paying more with the increase, depending on the amount of time they spend on campus per semester. Students who take 15 credit hours per semester paid about $11.75 per week under the old rates, or about $176 per semester. Under the new rates, they would pay $225. Using parking meters for 12 credit hours used to cost about $135—upped to $180 with the increase. However, many students who use parking meters go so set aside funds. One three-credit hour class might cost approximately $34 under old rates, two would cost $68, and three about $101. With the 25 cent increase, they will pay $45, $90 and $135, respectively. A parking pass is $80 per semester. Under the new rates, only students who take one three-credit hour class per semester will save money by using metered parking. For all other students, a university parking pass is the cheapest option. Of course, the fine for an expired meter—at $25—is a lot more than a quarter.

editorial

A blast from the past

Facebook’s new Timeline feature raises privacy concerns

Those semi-conspiratorial all-caps messages from mom sprawled all over your news feed might not be as crazy as they seem. Facebook is once again warring with its users over privacy issues—and this time it may actually have taken a step too close to Big Brother’s domination. At the center of the issue is the new Facebook Timeline. It’s a “digital scrapbook” that puts most of the information a user has ever posted on Facebook in one place. All posts, dates, pictures, comments, videos, notes and anything else a user once decided to post appear on a timeline at the side of the user’s profile page. Clicking on a year and a month brings up all posts in that time frame. “Our job is to make a profile the best way to share everything you want and the best way to express who you are,” said CEO Mark Zuckerberg at the recent developer conference in September. But Timeline might share some things you don’t want.

Many of Facebook’s users signed up in high school or at the beginning of college, back when being media-savvy meant knowing the difference between Nickelodeon and Cartoon Network. The site was restricted at first to college students, and then high school students. Then 800 million people joined. Aunts, uncles, moms, dads—even grandmothers and grandfathers signed up for Facebook accounts. A new Facebook feature would back-track users’ public profiles somewhere along the way, searching for a reason not to hire them. And suddenly it mattered what you said online. So people changed the way they used Facebook. They dropped the foul language and untagged inappropriate posts from the past stay in the past, only accessible to those who took the time to slowly click back through months of posts to find the person you used to be. But Facebook Timeline brings those things back to within two clicks. It’s rolling out to all users this week, whether they want it or not. And that’s not the only change to hit the ‘book in the last month. The ticker, which everyone has by now, displays what friends are doing on Facebook in real time. Everyone has seen what it shows—so-and-so is now friends with you-know-who, John Smith changed his profile picture, etc. But few know that it also has the ability to spy on users.

The Washington Post recently launched a news application on Facebook that allows users to read articles straight from their news feeds. Clicking through to a music player, a news article or a book share this information with Facebook, which instantly publishes it on your profile. Several parties, including the Electronic Privacy Information Center, are investigating Facebook’s sharing policies, and one man is suing the social network over privacy issues. The best way to avoid these concerns is not to use Facebook, but that’s hardly an option. Instead, know what you’re sharing, refrain from posting anything potentially harmful, and maybe, just maybe, listen to your mother’s rant on privacy. She may, maybe, just maybe, listen to your quote yourself.

quotesandnotes

Quote of the week

“[Y]ou can’t connect the dots looking forward, you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something—your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life.” —Steve Jobs, at a 2005 speech at Stanford University

Throwback

The dates of Oct. 5, 1582 through Oct. 14, 1582 never occurred in the Gregorian calendar. In the United Kingdom, "Winnie-the-Pooh" was first published 85 years ago this week. Tigger did not make his first appearance until the second book, "The House at Pooh Corner," two years later.

We want to hear from you.

The Crow’s Nest will accept and publish, in print or online, letters to the editor at the discretion of the editor in chief. Letters to be published must meet general standards for accuracy of facts and must not contain libelous or obscene language. Anonymous letters to the editor will not be accepted for publication.

Email your submissions to editorials@crowsneststpete.com.

opinion

column

No, I don’t really want to buy your book

By ARIELLE STEVENSON

News Editor

I am tired of buying my professor’s books. The combination of often-bad cover art and spending additional money on a professor’s book against your own will is futile. I understand our school is a working university and professors are expected to publish. Sometimes it isn’t so bad and I really enjoy the book. But more often than not it’s like being asked if their dress makes them look fat. In my home office, there are two shelves of former professor’s books. Some are great. Others cost a ton, read as smoothly as a brick race and are worthless after the class is over. It’s awkward and it’s filling up my bookshelves.

Inside the USFSP Campus Barnes & Noble is an entire shelf of books dedicated to published university professors. I genuinely think this is a cool thing. While many teachers profess so much knowledge about another writer’s text, our guys are slugging it out and doing it for themselves.

But is liberal arts education should seek to teach critical thinking skills, making students buy your book can be a bad idea overall. We aren’t all total idofs and maybe your book doesn’t really give us up like you hoped it would. A word to the wise, don’t refer to my as the third person. It doesn’t translate well and we aren’t that formal at USFSP.

Being that I am on the eve of graduating (tedious I don’t get in trouble for this column) I feel like I can finally say what so many whisper in hushed tones. I don’t really want to buy your book just because I sit in your class when really don’t know you. Hell, I have to buy your books before we’ve ever met. It’s kind of like meeting the parents on the first date—awkward and potentially costly.

It’s such an obvious ego boost too; we are paying them to teach us and we have to buy their book. A double whammy for sure. And with everything from tuition, parking and fees going up, I’m too broke to buy all the books you didn’t sell. Now, if it is a good book, which I’ll admit is subjective, I want to buy it. I want to support you as an educator who writes good books.

There are only a handful of books assigned by the authors that have really benefited my education. As much as it did their book accounts, I’m all for buying books. But please professors, assign your written words as a last resort and give a good reason so it doesn’t sting. Believe me, when I refer to your book in the third person, I feel like I can finally say what so many whisper in hushed tones. I don’t really want to buy your book just because I sit in your class when really don’t know you. Hell, I have to buy your books before we’ve ever met. It’s kind of like meeting the parents on the first date—awkward and potentially costly.

It’s such an obvious ego boost too; we are paying them to teach us and we have to buy their book. A double whammy for sure. And with everything from tuition, parking and fees going up, I’m too broke to buy all the books you didn’t sell. Now, if it is a good book, which I’ll admit is subjective, I want to buy it. I want to support you as an educator who writes good books.

I’ve hand-picked a handful of books assigned by the authors that have really benefited my education.
Clearing the air
Red Bull’s Flugtag competition comes to Tampa

BY COLIN O’HARA
Advertising Representative

Orville and Wilbur Wright succeeded as the first humans in flight, on Dec. 17, 1903. The participants of Saturday’s Red Bull Flugtag competition in downtown Tampa apparently didn’t get that memo.

The Flugtag took over the Tampa Convention Center on Tampa Bay and drew hundreds of spectators to the whimsical flight competition.

Flugtag—German for “flight day” or “air show”—is an event where participants attempt to fly homemade, human-powered aircraft off of a pier into the water. The teams and flights are judged on the categories of creativity, showmanship and distance flown.

The rules include restrictions that a flying machine cannot be more than 30 feet wide or over 450 pounds including the pilot. Nearly 40 teams spent up to five months completing their “aircraft” and prepping them for “flight.”

The aircraft are launched off of a 30-foot tall runway that juts out into Seddon Channel next to the Tampa Convention Center.

The four-hour long Red Bull commercial started at 12:30 p.m. with opening ceremonies. The national anthem was performed by Bradenton’s own rock band, We the Kings, and was followed by the Red Bull air force making an aerial entrance. The judges were announced and included local celebrities, former Tampa Bay Bucanneer Ryan Nece, the youngest LPGA winner, Lexi Thompson, 93.3 MJ Morning Show host MJ, former NFL cheerleader and Playboy Playmate Jaime Edmonson and X-games gold medalist in motocross, Tarah Gieger.

High winds wreaked havoc on several flight teams as gusts reached over 30 mph.

“The wind just tore up our wings,” said Publix’s “Where Shopping is a Pleasure” team member, J.R. Lorello. “The wings are made of a Mylar-type material and it’s ruined. We are just going to take the wings off and push the cart off the runway. It will fly just as well.”

St. Petersburg’s own Stay Classy Tampa Bay team had their own concerns about the wind. Their theme was based on the movie “Anchor Man.” The team dressed as news anchors and attempted to ride on a giant mustache that detaches from a replica of the lead character Ron Burgundy’s face.

“Wind is going to be a big factor, but we are pushing off [the runway] balls to the walls,” said pilot Adam Hopkins. “We’re going to ride this thing farther than any mustache before. It will be the longest mustache ride ever.”

“We can’t change anything,” teammate Kelly Weatherby said. “It’s all fiberglass and nothing can be changed.”

The first flight took off at 1 p.m. Some crowd favorites included last year’s people’s choice award winners, Team Big Stuff. The team’s theme featured Marty McFly’s time traveling Delorean, complete with working gull-wing doors and costumes. The team reenacted the scene where Marty is chased by angry Libyans in a blue Volkswagen bus. The team failed to get their flying machine up to 88 mph like in the movie, but their theatrics gained them a perfect score in the creativity and showmanship categories.

Another crowd pleaser was another St. Petersburg team and reigning Flugtag Tampa Bay 2008 champions, Willy Wonka’s Amazing Flugtag Adventure, were the winners of Flugtag Tampa Bay 2011. They flew their flying machine 50 feet. The team bio claims that their flying machine is “93 percent inspiration, 6 percent imagination, 4 percent evaporation, and 2 percent butterscotch ripple.” The team members—Kevin Riley, Dave West and Christopher Elmore—flew their machine the farthest of the day, reached the 50-foot mark with ease.

The entertainment continued with even more outrageous “flying” machines such as a giant pink bra, a stapler, a cell phone that sprouted wings when it was ready for take-off and a giant guitar.

Winners of the event were awarded a meet and greet with Red Bull Air Race World Champion Kirby Chambliss at his Flying Crown Ranch in Arizona.

life@crowsneststpete.com