Crow's Nest : 1994 : 04 : 13

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.
Fall to be president during fall semester

Special to the Crow's Nest

The Student Government elections, scheduled for March 29-31, were canceled because all the positions were uncontested, according to SG Election Rules Committee chairman Susan Hochberg.

Austin Fall, a senior majoring in political science, will be the SG president for the fall semester.

Lori Beeman, a student government representative this semester, will be vice-president. Debbie Smith will be the treasurer and business major Dan Henrickson will be the secretary.

Representatives for the fall semester include: from the College of Arts & Sciences, Karen Hicks, Michelle Florio, Tom Temeyer, Erik Kirby, Ken Mark, Lyndette Aquirre and Newell Toth; from the College of Education, Mary Favale; and from the College of Business, Michael Fellows, Kathryn Savage and Terry Finestein. All officers and representatives will take office May 1.

There are still 11 representative seats open for the fall student government.

One seat in arts and sciences, five in education and five in business. Interested parties can pick up petitions at the student government office at the Campus Activities Center.

Fall takes over for current student government president Erik Bigalke, who was elected vice president last semester, but became president when elected president Heidi Gladfelter resigned to pursue an internship.
Group offers alternative choice

Julie G. Richardson

USF graduate Steve Tinsky felt uncomfortable with smoky night clubs and sports-oriented bars. His socially-conscious, vegetarian lifestyle was not compatible with those of the chicken-wing, sexist, alcoholic party scene. A need to have fun and socialize with people of common interests prompted him and fellow USF graduate Ed Favara to create OMS (Open Minds Society), a gathering of like-minded people for social activities and networking.

As a USF student, Tinsky majored in engineering and got experience leading an organization as president of Student Government Productions. Like many other college students, he went to parties and bars. Leading a healthy lifestyle did not top his list of priorities.

“I thought I was indestructible,” said Tinsky.

He decided to become a vegan (vegetarian that refrains from meat and dairy) at the age of 28, and did not pursue the same active social life he had during his college years. To Tinsky, OMS would be a chance to have a social life again and to interact with those who have similar interests.

“Tinsky's intention was to involve other organizations. Representatives of Clearwater Vegetarian Society, Ananda Marga spiritual/metaphysical services, and Florida Voices for Animals came to a "Get Acquainted Gathering," allowing new members the opportunity to hookup with organizations they would not have gotten to otherwise.

According to Tinsky, the gathering was a success. "We were really pleased with the turnout — about fifty people came. We found out later that people were getting together on their own.

Members come from various backgrounds — some examples include a Carpenter, Teacher, TV Producer, Certified Veterinarian Technician, Chemist, and Artist. An advertisement in Creative Loafing's Clubs and Organizations section brought in new members that did not know about OMS already from word-of-mouth and participating organizations. People told Tinsky that OMS is 'the politically correct group,' he wants his members to have fun. Anyone who wants to get involved with OMS can contact Tinsky at 516-3409.

Tinsky emphasizes that OMS is not exclusively for fanatics and activists — it gives people a chance to enhance their awareness of humanitarian issues while having fun participating in healthful, pleasurable activities.

FRED O'BRIENS
RESUME SERVICE
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The Crow's Nest's deadline for the final issue of the school year is Wednesday, April 20 at 5 p.m. in the Campus Activities Center
“Grow and Share Propagation Program,” a “Youth Environmental Fair,” refreshments and entertainment.

“Over 800 participants with crafts are expected to attend,” said festival committee member India Williams. The Youth Fair will include coloring sheets (drawing trees), animal tracks (clay molds,) sun prints, tree chips, bark prints (inking pieces of bark and pressing them on paper) and fish prints (painting a frozen fish and blotting it with paper to reproduce the image).

“We need about 32 volunteers each day, to handle the children’s activities,” said Williams. “In the past the children have enjoyed these activities very much.” Other attractions include Mr. Eppy the Clown, The Strolling Minstrel, Doug Scull’s Wildlife Magic Show, The Marine Gang Educational Program with players dressed as sea creatures who will talk with the children about the marine environment, and The Environmental Troubadours who have been featured at Sierra Club International events and do a 45 minute show about the environment.

The Grow and Share Program will offer free pine seedlings and crepe myrtles, nursery exhibits providing valuable information on gardening, recycling, lawn and plant care tips, and free mulch.

The fair is sponsored by the City of St. Petersburg, Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Power Corporation, Great Explorations Hands-On Museum, Patrick Media, Olin Ordinance, St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the St. Petersburg Times.

For a schedule of events or information on how to volunteer call Williams at 892-5688.

Spring Showcase coming soon

The “Spring Showcase” featuring students from the Center for the Arts and International Studies at 16th Street Middle School in St. Petersburg will be presented at noon Wednesday, April 20 in the Campus Activities Center. The students performance includes instrumental music, chorus, dance, drama and the one-act play, “Final Dress Rehearsal,” which won first place in the junior division of the Florida State Thespian Festival in February, sponsored by the USF-St. Petersburg Campus Lecture Series, the Spring Showcase is part of the Bayboro Lyceum series.
Opinions

Which side are you on?

Luis Farrakhan is raising a ruckus throughout the land by talking tough. It's about time. I hope he manages to stay alive. I once asked a black minister why blacks have put up with so much abuse over the centuries without rising up and returning the favor with "extreme prejudice" (borrowing a favorite CIA term). My theory is that any black possessing the skills necessary to organize blacks into a political force has been either murdered or locked up in prison. He was reluctant to agree but did not have an answer.

I suggested that whites would never put up with such abuse. I am happy to hear people like Farrakhan and so many young blacks finally speaking out and demanding the kind of justice white Anglos take as a birthright. I am happy that many blacks realize that government policies are designed to work against them and keep them figurative slaves.

Take the drug laws for instance. It is obvious that no law is ever going to stop drug use. From caffeine and nicotine to marijuana and cocaine, humans like to alter their consciousness. Beer has been around for over five thousand years. Everyone uses something. The only possible reason to keep drug laws as they are is because they serve perverted government policies so well.

I read a column recently by one of the national pundits who said that if it weren't for the ability of urban blacks to make some kind of a living (selling drugs) the country would explode. If drugs were decriminalized they (urban blacks and whites) would have no way to survive but to attack and loot the suburbs.

I'll go one step further. Both sides profit and lose from this mutually parasitic relationship. The dealers have at least some way to survive; the government gets to use the crime statistics generated by drug laws as an excuse to systematically eliminate the rights and freedoms we associate with the Constitution, and to strengthen their police state mentality.

Government officials know that if most blacks (and poor whites) have criminal records of some kind, they will forever be unable to function as productive members of society. They will not be able to run for office, practice law, or hold any position of value. They will forever be reduced to working at some menial job at an unlivable minimum wage, rot in prison or die. In essence, with rare exceptions, they will remain a slave labor force without a chance of improving their lot. They will effectively be barred from participation in the process of governing, leaving all the power and wealth in the hands of a small elite group of vultures.

There is no other reason to keep drugs illegal. Laws never have and never will stop them. The paradox of drug laws defies logic. If drugs were legalized and sold while drugs such as marijuana remain illegal defies logic. If marijuana and other drugs are heinous, how is alcohol different? Alcohol causes more violence and harm than any other drug around today. Ask anyone who has a mean drunk in their family.

Farrakhan and his followers spread the message of a black population that is finally saying ENOUGH. I am celebrating the emergence of this force.

The black holocaust, the Indian holocaust, the Cambodian holocaust, the Jewish holocaust, the Rosenau holocaust and all the other holocausts over the centuries are just as heinous as the Jewish holocaust. It is beyond time to put it all into perspective and care the problem before it explodes right here in the good old USA.

Judging from history there is absolutely no reason to believe that our "leaders" will do anything but make things worse. They are the enemy.

I agree with Nelson Mandela when he says that, "without justice for all there will never be peace." Even black on black violence is only a symptom and by-product of unbearable despair. It will never remain contained. It will spread unless sanity prevails. Racist policies may make some whites rich and happy, but we are losing generations of beautiful, talented people and our souls in the process.

As an American of Sicilian descent living in the South, I have been victimized by the same institutional racism and corruption. I understand first hand the damage it causes to real, feeling human beings. I have to fight the natural desire to strike back at certain local officials with violence on a daily basis. It is only the support of my family and a very dim hope for justice in the future that keeps me going. I cannot imagine the horror of being black in America.

I know what side I'm on. What side are you on?

Editorial

Life imitates life. The budget proceedings and student government meetings are not vastly different from the process that a city, state or federal government goes through in determining which piece of the monetary pie goes to whom. It seems that the outgoing, partially elected, mostly appointed student government and the incoming, all volunteer, non-elected student government members are bickering over the knife to decide who gets to slice up our particular $375,000 pie they like to call the Activities and Services Fee Budget.

The process of deciding who gets what handout should be a long and involved one, with proponents and opponents alike being summoned before the concerned and all-powerful, yet non-representative student government. The process allows students to make their pitch, to beg for a slice of our particular pie. Sometimes they make great arguments and discussions, debate and bickering, wheeling and dealing, does not guarantee that the right decisions will be made. Sometimes student governments make mistakes. Sometimes they make great decisions. And sometimes they get rained out. Mostly the members just want to contribute and they hope they can help the ball club.

For the great scorekeeper in the sky puts forth the final linescore, it doesn't matter whether you got funded or not, but how you played the game. Think about it.

Guest Column

Peter Angelo

As The Crow's Nest completes its first year as a student newspaper with its next issue, it would like feedback on ways we can improve the newspaper for next year. Since The Crow's Nest, like the campus it serves, is evolving

Please send all suggestions and criticisms — the good, the bad and the ugly — to Peg Log St. Pete, care of The Crow's Nest, Campus Activities Center, USF-St. Petersburg, 140 Seventh Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33701, the United States, the world, the solar system, the universe.

The Crow's Nest began in the form of a newsletter October 30, 1969, as the USFSP Bay Campus Bulletin.

The name was changed to The Crow's Nest in 1970 to reflect the campus' proximity to Bayboro Harbor and those days when crow's nests were a common sight from the classrooms. The Crow's Nest was allocated funds by student government to become a newspaper in the spring of 1993 and printed its first issue August 25, 1993.

Opinion Pieces

All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to write guest columns, letters to the editors and opinion pieces for The Crow's Nest in the effort to engage in a meaningful discourse around campus. All submissions must include the name and nature of the author as well as a phone number for verification purposes.
Walking The Plank

Two minutes can help give voice

Editor:

Today I became involved in student government at the St. Petersburg campus. Believe me, it was quite by accident but recently the tide of events in my life have caused me to do some thinking and now I have a few open questions (and thoughts) to the students that call this campus home. This all started last weekend when, during a rather heated conversation with another student, someone suggested that student government at this campus should be abolished. It was ineffective, was what the person said. Now for some reason I happened to disagree with this person. This voice that had an opinion in my face. Perhaps it is because I feel that as a body, we students have a right to be heard and to be represented. We should have a voice. Perhaps at times it is ineffective, but does it not give students who are interested in politics a 'safe' and academic environment to learn what the political arena is about? And isn't that what this campus is, a 'safe' and academic environment?

To take the thought one step further, Section 1 of Article 1 of the Student Government Constitution says, "The Student Government... shall consist of a unicameral assembly of duly elected and properly appointed member from the student body of said campus." Hmm, elected and appointed, that's very interesting. If student government is ineffective, shouldn't part of the blame also belong then to the students who did or did not vote?

Okay, okay, so we don't all have time to get involved with campus politics. Yes I know, there is the job, the spouse, the offspring, the homework and the somewhat exhausted and half-hearted attempt at a social life. Getting involved, however, is not so time consuming as you think. In fact, it is simple. The next time a total stranger (looking very politically correct of course) asks you what school you are in and then asks you to sign a petition so that they can become your representative, ask them questions, ask them who they are and what they want. Look them in the eye and listen for a few seconds (even if it is 6:08 PM and you are running madly to get to class before the professor notices). Give them two minutes of your time and then bolt for the door if you have to. And if you think they are padding their resumes with the title and don't really care, don't sign the petition. But if they have something to say, they will say it or try to anyway. Well, they should try to (once they realize that you are serious). And who knows, your signature might help in giving them a voice in student government.

Theresa Mattioli
Senior, English

Student encourages involvement

Editor:

My name is Tom Temeyer. I have served on Student Government, in addition to the Budget Committee, for the last semester. Ever since I became a member of SG, I have realized that student apathy is one of, if not the biggest problems facing our campus today. This letter is to plead with students to get involved.

Recently I had the displeasure of seeing how the Student Government Constitution says, "The Student Government... shall consist of a unicameral assembly of duly elected and properly appointed member from the student body of said campus." Hmm, elected and appointed, that's very interesting. Perhaps some of the few of you who are involved in student government are running madly to get to class before the professor notices. Give them two minutes of your time and then bolt for the door if you have to. And if you think they are padding their resumes with the title and don't really care, don't sign the petition. But if they have something to say, they will say it or try to anyway. Well, they should try to (once they realize that you are serious). And who knows, your signature might help in giving them a voice in student government.

Sincerely,

Thomas Temeyer

Letters to Editor Policy

Letters should be addressed to editor of The Crow's Nest and include the author's name, phone number, relationship to the University, and signature. All letters will be verified for their authenticity and The Crow's Nest will not run any anonymous letters. The Crow's Nest reserves the right to edit all letters for length, language and style. Letters should be limited to 150 words or less, but guest opinion pieces and columns are always welcome.

THE CROW'S NEST PROVIDES THE FORUM. NOW YOU PROVIDE THE VOICE.

Write a letter to the editor or a guest editorial and let your ideas go forth unto this campus of ours.
Students interview mayor

David Fischer sees role change from weak mayor to strong after last election

By Jacque Bishop

St. Petersburg mayor David Fischer loves his city and loves his job. He doesn't exactly love the media, but he's learned better than to say so.

On the first anniversary of his re-election recently, Fischer talked to a group of journalism students at USF-Bayborro about the past, the future and the press.

"I'm not quotable. Can't tell a joke..." said Fischer with his best unassuming smile. "But I'm working on my metaphors. They [the press] like that."

He noted proudly that the New York Times had quoted comments he made at a recent crime summit of Florida cities.

"I thought that was pretty good," he said grinning. But the mayor has learned to be careful of what comes out of his mouth. On the subject of T.V. reporters he said, "If it's really embarrassing to you, they're all over it."

Mayor Fischer spoke informally to the class of 14 graduate students, saying that relaxed speeches suit his style best.

"I don't have a press agent. I don't have a speech writer," he said. "I found that I had a better feel for the city [than they did], its aches and pains and aspirations. Generally, I use notes just to get me started, and then I'm fine from there."

Fischer is a congenial man whose style is reminiscent of an affable, sunburnt Lawton Chiles. His demeanor somehow reflects both down-home humor and old money: he knows his sports teams, smiles often, and his answers are unafaillingly upbeat. It would not be easy to ask Fischer hard questions.

And, at that least, no one did.

The mayor gave a capsule history of St. Petersburg's politics and government. The operative word for the city manager-style system he inherited, said Fischer, was "gridlock."

Public discontent was peaking in 1993, he explained, fueled by anger at Bay Plaza's failed development efforts, the lack of a baseball team, and an 8.8 mil tax rate necessitated in part by the expense of an empty stadium.

Fischer invoked the name of his former nemesis, Ernest "Cur" Curtisinger, briefly and without rancor.

Curtsinger, appointed St. Petersburg's chief of police in 1990, was fired in February of 1992 for alleged racism and failure to cooperate with leaders both in and outside his department. He challenged Fischer as a candidate for mayor in March 1993.

But Fischer indicated that Curtsinger was just the catalyst for public discontent that was already simmering. "The Curtsinger thing," he said, "just touched it off. That did it."

The 1993 election turned out to be a double-barreled victory for Fischer. Citizens' petitions with more than 16,000 signatures landed an

Sea FISCHER, page 7

Non-political manner and accessibility characterize St. Petersburg's leader

Julie G. Richardson

We tend to think of mayors as lofty figures pontificating from a podium, reading prepared statements and kissing babies on their way to a chauffeur-driven limo. St. Petersburg mayor David Fischer blows this stereotype out of the water.

Fischer drives his own car, doesn't give prepared speeches and tells the press his plans in a simple straightforward manner that is not usually characteristic of politicians. "Nobody guides me," said Fischer at an informal press conference of USF students. "Basically, I have an easy time with the press."

Fischer admitted to some pet peeves. He resents the media's tendency to take one statement and blow it out of proportion. "One council member who was a little disgruntled at some of the things I was doing said, 'Ah, he's 'Mayor Mush',"' recollected Fischer. "That stuck with me all through the campaign, so I was determined that if I ever got a chance again, that I would not be 'Mayor Mush' in that person's eyes and I've been crushing that person ever since."

Fischer's accessibility also extends to the citizens of St. Petersburg. He has ridden his bicycle through neighborhoods, talking with people about violence and graffiti. When Fischer took office, he pledged to put the needs of the city's neighborhoods first above the big-budget projects of Bay Plaza and the ThunderDome.

"If baseball comes, that's fine. We need it, but we're not going to be baseball oriented," said Fischer. "If Bay Plaza comes, that's fine, but we're not going to chase and pursue bay plaza."

Fischer kept his pledge to neighborhoods by conducting a survey that reached all the city's neighborhoods. The survey targeted areas by postal codes, reaching people within a group of as little as three hundred homes. "They're mad and I'm not going to go back there this fall with the answers from the survey and ask how many people submitted answers and have two out of 100 raise their hand in that room," said Fischer. "I want all to say they had an opportunity to give me what they thought."

St. Petersburg residents who do not speak to Fischer in person get answers through the Mayor's Action Service at 893-7111. The service was discontinued in the eighties, but reinitiated by Fischer last year, so people can call one number to get information.

Having just served one year in office, Fischer will give St. Petersburg its first "State of the City" address in April. Fischer's speech will differ from the famous governor and presidential speeches in that he won't write it ahead of time or use teleprompters. He will simply state, in his own words, the progress he has made in reforming the city's neighborhoods - the issue that has been the center of his focus this past year.

Information from the St. Petersburg Times was used in this report.
Student Business Association

The Student Business Association’s next meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 19 in the Campus Activities Center. Nationsbank special loan officer John Brenner will speak about loan processing. Refreshments will be provided and officer elections will be held.

Campus Women’s Collective

The Campus Women’s Collective will elect officers from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, April 20 in the Campus Activities Center club room.

Student Government

The next Student Government meeting will be held at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 20 in the Campus Activities Center. The campus community is welcome at the meeting. For more information contact 893-9144.

Imperial Order of Bovine Sojourners

This new club has been formed as a travel and history club and they plan to take monthly trips around Florida and the world. For membership information, call the Recreation Office at 893-9597.

Sailing Club

A USF-Bayboro Sailing Club meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. April 22 in the Bayboro Cafe. Food and refreshments will be served. For information call 893-9597.

Legalis Society

The Legalis Society will have its final meeting of Spring 1994 at 5 p.m. April 13 in Davis 215. All members are encouraged to attend for discussion of plans for the upcoming summer and fall semesters. Refreshments will be served.

Tiki Bar at the beach offers casual setting

By Michele Murray

Jon Spears, 20, loves going to work. Work for Spears involves popping beer tops, and sitting at the beach. Smiling, Spears said, “I get to wear my bathing suit, and I’m off after sunset on the days that I work. What more could a struggling college student ask for?”

Spears is one of three bartenders employed at the Undertow bar located at Long Key Resort on St. Pete Beach. On a Saturday afternoon, the Undertow is packed mainly with tanned college students unwinding from a week of classes, papers and exams.

Turning off of Gulf Boulevard, the lane to the Undertow is paved with red bricks. The bar, structured to resemble a tiki hut, serves from a week of classes, college students unwinding

Rising from a lounge chair, Lori Fisher, 21, an Eckerd College student, firmly grasped the finished Labatt’s beer at the neck and glanced over its handle. “I came home and read the paper about Undertow. I had to try it,” she said, rinsed the saltwater from his mouth, and I’m off after sunset because what other bar can I go to where all the girls will be wearing bikinis?”

He sees the neighborhood associations as the key to making lasting improvements. “I told people,” he said, “we’re gonna turn this city around. Whether it’s landscaping (a pet project of Fischer’s), policing, or bringing a projected 800 homes up to code this year, “I make the neighborhoods match us. Buy into the projects, then they defend it with their life.”

If you paid for the phenomena, your theory goes, you’re not going to stand by and watch someone trample them. The same theory applies in reverse to routing prostitutes and drug dealers: “It worked because the neighbors were there with their camcorders, looking into the dealers in the eye and telling them ‘Get outta here’,” said Fischer. His figures show crime down 10.4 per cent overall in St. Petersburg since last year, and 25 percent since 1989.

He calls these statistics “almost scary, because we don’t really know why it is.” He is happy, though, to share the credit.

When it comes to the future, Dave Fischer is bullish on St. Petersburg. The city was listed as a possible site for the 1996 Republican National Convention, a prestigious and lucrative prospect. But examining the figures showed that it would cost $50,000 just to make a presentation to the selection committee and another $10 million to host the event. Fischer’s decision: we’ll take a bye until maybe the year 2000.

A more appealing prospect to art lovers and Democrats will be the “Treasures of the Czar” exhibit, coming from Russia—with love and cash potential to the old Maas Brothers building in 1995.

The mayor traveled to Russia to negotiate the deal and tells enthusiastically of the treasures he saw there.

“Was amazed at this very old culture, and at how little I knew about it,” he said. “I came home and read everything I could put my hands on about Russia. It’s fascinating.”

The old Maas Brothers store, abandoned shrine of St.Petersburg shoppers, will be transformed in Fischer’s words, “into a butterfly from a caterpillar.”

He hopes the same will be true for his whole city.

And he really has been working on his metaphors.

Deadline for next issue is April 20
The Peace Corps will present an information table and video/slide show about Peace Corps service opportunities at USF on April 23 at 7 p.m. in the Mahaffey Theater at the Bayfront Center.