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A decade

It was a calm morning, 10 years ago. The skies across the eastern seaboard were tranquil, and the air was crisp.

Ten years ago, the young men and women who are now freshmen at USF St. Petersburg sat wide-eyed staring at their third-grade teachers, the air smelling of crayons and plastic and glue. They were enjoying those first hopeful weeks of learning, where anything was possible and nothing was hard.

Ten years ago, President George W. Bush sat at the front of a second-grade classroom in Emma E. Booker Elementary School just across the bridge. He told a tale of a goat that ate everything in its path, driving its owners mad. The children, dressed in white shirts and dark pants, listened intently from their chairs.

Ten years ago, a man entered that classroom and whispered words into President Bush’s ear. Ten years ago, we realized the world had changed.

Nineteen men hijacked passengers jets that were filled with people—people flying to meet loved ones, relax on vacation, or to complete work errands. The men flew those people into the hard world, sending it spinning on a course on which it was never meant to spin.

On televisions, radios and the still fledgling Internet—10 years ago—we watched and listened as chunks of concrete, aluminum, steel and flesh tumbled from the sky onto the streets of Manhattan. We witnessed the government’s horror as its own Department of Defense was torn to pieces in our Capitol. We saw a crater open in the soil of Pennsylvania that was between 50 feet wide.

Ten years ago, we watched with sadness as 2,996 of us left 50 feet wide.

Ten years ago, we realized our soul lives in our sperm and the air was crisp.

Two wars have since opened the earth and kept it open. Over 6,000 American soldiers and hundreds of thousands of our children are never meant to spin.

Lecture explores the science of Dalí

By ARIELLE STEVENSON

“Galacaldalacidosribruncleia-cacid” is one of Salvador Dalí’s masterworks hanging at the Dali Museum in St. Petersburg. The title is the longest of all his paintings, something Dalí did intentionally to comment on the shortness of modern art titles at the time.

But the title reveals Dalí’s love and appreciation for science and DNA, said Peter Tush, curator of education at the museum. The museum held a discussion on DNA in Dalí’s paintings on Sept. 8.

“Dalí wanted ideas and felt most artists had become craftsmen,” Tush said. “He felt modern art had played itself out and that ideas were in science.”

Tush said Dalí always loved science, but visual references played a bigger role in his work later on. “I thought he was a fascist creep,” Tush said. “He felt modern existence to Dalí.”

The drooping clocks in “The Persistence of Memory” reference how memory is perpetuated genetically, Tush said.

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“Dalí wanted ideas and felt most artists had become craftsmen,” Tush said. “He felt modern art had played itself out and that ideas were in science.”

The drooping clocks in “The Persistence of Memory” reference how memory is perpetuated genetically, Tush said. USF St. Petersburg Associate Professor of Biology, Debbie Cassill, talked about the inheritance of genetics in her keynote speech at the event.

“Our souls live in our sperm and eggs,” Cassill said. “The male’s soul leaves the body during sex rather than at death. The female’s soul leaves the body at the time of childbirth. The afterlife is exhibited in our children.”

All living organisms’ DNA sequences are formed from four nucleic acids—thymine, adenine, guanine and cytosine.

“Today’s humans and chimpanzees share 98.4 percent of our DNA,” Cassill said. “We are more closely related to chimps than chimps are to gorillas.”

James Watson and Francis Crick discovered the double-helix structure of DNA in 1953. Dalí admired Crick and Watson but the feelings weren’t mutual.

“I thought he was a fascist creep,” Cassill said. USF awarded $11M in research grant

By JENNIFER GLENFIELD

In August, USF was awarded $11 million in a grant for research in the Gulf following the effects of last April’s Deep Water Horizon oil spill. USF’s grant proposal was one of eight awarded money out 77 applicants.

Of the eight winning institutions, three of them are from Florida. The amount of money, to be given over a three year period, totals $112.5 million. Between USF, Florida State, and the University of Miami, Florida institutions received 40 percent of the grant money awarded.

“It’s really great for the state of Florida. It shows the importance we have for oceanographic research in the state,” said Jackie Dixon, dean of the College of Marine Science at USF, and lead investigator of the research project.

Of the other grant recipients, two are in Louisiana, two are in Texas and one is in Mississippi.

The money was awarded though BP’s Gulf Research Institute, which was created to handle BP's $550 million BP promised for funding independent research grants on the aftermath of the spill.

The GRI is controlled by an executive board of 20 members, 10 appointed by BP and two academicians from each Gulf state. The board decides who gets money, how it will be used, and when it will be released. The organization serves to remove the “taint” BP may have seen RESEARCH, page 6.
Duress buttons installed in classrooms

By JOE CASTAGNA Contributing Writer

All USF St. Petersburg campus classrooms now come equipped with duress buttons. Installed in April 2011, the buttons will trigger an immediate police response.

“If there is a major disturbance or emergency in class, instructors can quickly sound a silent alarm by activating the duress button,” said Chief Rene Chenevert, director of University Police Services. “When activated, a message will be sent to police and the closest available officer will respond.”

Environmental emergencies, fires, threats to personal safety, and medical emergencies are all valid conditions that would warrant the activation of the duress button. Professors have been trained to locate the duress alarms, how to activate them and the consequences of doing so.

“This program was implemented for the safety and security of our students, faculty and staff, which USFSP believes is of the utmost importance,” said Ashok Dhingra, regional vice chancellor of Administrative and Financial Services.

Dhingra approved the $20,000 cost of the duress buttons. “To me, $20,000 is not a major expenditure when I compare that with the loss of a life,” Dhingra said.

Some students believe the system may be an ineffective use of funds. “I think $20,000 is a lot of money to spend on such an intricate system,” said student Will Roberts. “I think it is just adding to a culture of fear.”

“I would never say that any amount of money is not big,” Dhingra said. He believes spending $20,000 on safety is wisely spent and appropriate.

Some think the installation of the system may be due to school shootings that have taken place in recent years. I think this is a continuation of the fears associated with the Columbine affair,” said Tony Silvia, professor in the Journalism and Media Studies department. “I hope I never have to use it.”

The upsurge of crime in the area, such as the February 2011 shooting of Officer David S. Crawford, was not a factor in the decision to install the duress buttons, Dhingra said.

“There was no particular event that prompted the decision to install the devices,” Dhingra said. “It is important and proactive for the institution to put in place programs such as this to ensure the safety of our faculty, staff and students.”

Dhingra said although he cannot estimate whether police would arrive prior to saving lives, “any lives that could be saved makes the expenditure worth it to me,” he said.

The duress buttons, like the blue light emergency phones around campus, will play an important role in the overall safety and security systems at USFSP.

“We are always looking for more effective and efficient ways to improve the safety and security of all persons on the campus,” Chenevert said.

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College fair will feature over 80 schools

By ARIELLE STEVENSON News Editor

Since the economy slumped near the end of 2007, college enrollment has spiked. A study of 100 community colleges showed that community college enrollment went from 2 percent to 27 percent during 2008-2009. Enrollment for graduate school programs is up across the board throughout the country.

Finding a school is one of the first steps towards getting a master’s degree or doctorate. USFSP is bringing colleges from across the country together to help students decide. Over 80 public and private universities will be at the Campus Activities Center on Sunday, Sept. 18 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call (727) 873-4562.

news@crowsneststpete.com

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ATTENDING THE COLLEGE FAIR:

Art Institutes
Assumption College
Barry University
Berry College
Bethune-Cookman University
Catawba College
Catholic University of America
Clearwater Christian College
Colgate University
College of Charleston
Davidson College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Everest University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida International University
Florida Southern College
Florida State University
Franklin College Switzerland
George Mason University
Georgia Southern University
High Point University
Jacksonville University
Johnson & Wales University
Jose Maria Vargas University
Juniata College
Keiser University
Lafayette College
LaGrange College
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Louisiana State University
Maryville College
Mercer University
Meredith College
Monroe College
National Aviation Academy
New College of Florida
Northwood University
Nova Southeastern University
Palm Beach Atlantic University
Penn State University
Pfeiffer University
Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections
pTEC - Pinellas Technical Education Centers
Purdue University
Rasmussen College
Regis College
Rutgers University
Sacred Heart University
Saint Leo University
Salem College
Schiller International University
St. Joseph’s College
Stetson University
Sweet Briar College
Syracuse University
Ohio State University
University of Alabama
University of Georgia
University of Mississippi
University of Central Florida
University of Florida
University of Kentucky
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of New Haven
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina
University of Northwestern Ohio
USF Tampa
University of Tennessee
USF Polytechnic
Vanderbilt University
Warner University
Webber International University
Western New England University
Winthrop University
Xavier University
Young Harris College

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www.crowsneststpete.com
Call me John: A community celebrates the life of Dr. John Conlon

By EMILY YOUNG  Contributing Writer

“Somewhere in Heaven, some angelic director is leaping with joy that John has joined his cast,” said Norine Noonan, vice chancellor of USFSP academic affairs. She spoke during the celebration of John Conlon’s life at the St. Petersburg City Theatre on Saturday.

John Conlon, 66, was a renaissance man. He taught literature and theater classes, wrote, directed, and performed in plays; volunteered at the St. Petersburg Sail and Power Squadron; and served for three years as president of the St. Petersburg City Theatre. And yet he always had time for everyone.

At USFSP, John was known for his passion for “Art for All.” He loved the theater. He liked to grade papers in the gardens at the Museum of Fine Arts. Proud of his Irish roots, he held dual-citizenship in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Sometimes he talked in an Irish accent for his students. He had strawberry blonde hair, a beard and a voice that oozed charisma. He asked everyone to call him John.

At home, John liked watching the sea birds in the early mornings with his companion, Margaret Musmon. They held hands when they drove and when they walked together. He taught his children about his Irish heritage. He asked them to call him Da.

Whether in his personal or professional life, what people remember most about John is his concern for other people.

“No matter what, you could go to Dr. Conlon. If you had a problem at school or if you had something you were struggling with personally, he was always there for you,” said Danielle Halpern, who took four of his classes and collaborated on producing “The Vagina Monologues” with him.

Jamie Le’ora Stewart, a former student and colleague, said his mantra was, “How can I help you grow?”

John often started a new semester by asking his class what they wanted to learn. In an honors class on Victorian literature, his students sat in a circle and discussed books like “Pride & Prejudice.” He often asked a question about Victorian fashion, he devoted the next hour to discussing it, said former student Tara McCarty.

“She would take her whole Tuesdays regular hours and encourages students to drop in not only to receive targeted assistance, but also to do homework together,” said Shari Burger, who is now directing the center. “The center is free and accessible, and students can use it to give their classmates feedback or to study in a quiet environment.”

In addition to providing free tutoring services, the center has also been successful in creating a sense of community among its students. Students often arrive early in the mornings to study and stay late in the evenings to socialize. The center has even hosted a few small social events, such as a movie night and a pizza party, to further foster a sense of community among its students.

The success of the center has been recognized by the USFSP administration, and the center has received funding to expand its services. The center is looking to add more tutors and create a larger space to accommodate more students.

The USFSP Academic Success Center is a testament to the importance of academic success and the role that tutoring and support services can play in helping students achieve their goals.

By KEELEY SHEEHAN  Editor-in-Chief

USF President Judy Genshaft gave her fall address Wednesday, Sept. 7, highlighting several USF Tampa partnerships with institutions, the Tampa Bay community, and the other schools in the USF system—USF St. Petersburg, USF Manatee, and USF Polytechnic.

Genshaft briefly touched on the debate around the value of the USF Polytechnic, an independent university. She said the USF Board of Governors would take up the discussion and, along with the legislature, make the decision.

“We will either continue to develop the campus under the USF umbrella, or we will be great neighbors and friends,” Genshaft said. “We want what’s best for the students.”

Genshaft started her address with a focus on the slow economy and the benefit of USF’s public-private partnerships. She said that Burger had revitalized the center and the university is seeing success in helping students through traditional difficult “gatekeeper” courses.

Since arriving at USFSP, one of Burger’s biggest obstacles has been marketing. Prior to this semester, USFSP surveyed students and learned that most didn’t even know the tutoring center existed, let alone that it was available.

“We could do a lot more if we could draw students in,” said Di-ane Elliott, a Spanish language professor. “We have to make an appointment is working for a lot of people.”

To get the word out, Burger and the other instructors approached professors and encouraged them to include information about the Academic Success Center in their syllabus. The center has also placed signs around the campus and printed bookmarks to hand out at new student orientations.

Receiving extra help doesn’t have to get in the way of keeping up with the course instructor, Burger said, whose background is in math education. “It’s an essential part of the learning process.”

When she came to run the center, it was an organizational mess, Burger said. In addition to dropping the heavy lifting herself, she also replaced the computerized sign-in system with pen and paper.

This allowed her to focus on the success of the center, rather than on managing the center. The sign-in sheet has also proven a much more reliable record of services rendered, she said.

“I see myself as a tutoring professional first,” she said. Burger holds a master’s degree in liberal studies and a Ph.D. in mathematics education from the University of Minnesota, where she directed math tutors.

As the director of the Mathematics Resource Center at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., the number of students served increased from 1,750 to over 10,000 in a year. She seeks to replicate this success at USFSP.

Part of rebuilding the Academic Success Center was by turning inward, Burger said. The center no longer provides GRE and GMAT tutoring for non-USFSP students. GRE test services is provided through tuition and fees, and that money should be used to help USFSP students, she said.

“We need to help our students first,” she said.

The center has also been seeking to provide testing services. Its LSAT testing center, which was previously a satellite office in the office of the dean of students, is now open on the St. Petersburg campus. The center has also expanded its LSAT testing center, which was previously a satellite office in the office of the dean of students, to help students in need.

“We have to be global in our thinking,” Genshaft said. “We need to think about how to serve our student population best.”

USF Regional Chancellor Margaret Sullivan defended the center during the Student Government meeting on Sept. 7 and encouraged students to put aside preconceptions about the service. She said that Burger had revitalized the center and the university is seeing success in helping students through traditional difficult “gatekeeper” courses.

News & Observer
With posh restaurants located six blocks from campus, there is no excuse not to hit up happy hour with friends. The fancy atmosphere makes dining much more special than half off appetizers at Applebee’s. Check out these deals at upscale downtown St. Petersburg restaurants.

Café Alma
260 1st Ave. S, #100
727-502-5002
www.cafealma.com

At this charming European café, indulge in the daily 2-for-1 drink deal, along with half priced tapas from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays guarantee the best deal, featuring happy hour from 4:30 p.m. until close with half priced tapas and wine by the glass.

The mayor of Café Alma on FourSquare receives a free draft beer. Couples can enjoy date night without breaking the bank by participating in the cafe’s “Relationship Stimulus Program,” which offers deals to couples on Friday and Saturday nights. After your first experience, take Café Alma’s survey, located at the bottom of its website, and receive a coupon for $5 off on your next visit.

Cassis American Brasserie
170 Beach Drive NE
727-827-2927
www.cassisab.com

Dive into the Spanish atmosphere with tapas and sangria. Dining areas include the upstairs dining room, outside overlooking Central Avenue or downstairs at the flamenco bar. With 50 percent off featured tapas and cocktails, the sizzling summer menu (through Sept. 30) you will leave with a full stomach.

Drink and tapas happy hour specials are Tuesday through Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., including $3 wine, $3 sangria, $3 domestic beers and a half price selected tapas menu. For a mid-week outing, try $4 Tapas Tuesdays, which include $4 sangria and $6 mojitos.

Red Mesa Cantina
128 3rd St. S
727-896-8226
www.redmesacantina.com

This hip Mexican restaurant has comfortable outdoor courtyard seating and an upscale dining room, and both keep the party going. Happy hour is 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Drink specials include half off margaritas and sangria, $3 off house wines and $1 off domestic beer.

Z Grille
104 2nd St. S
727-822-9600
www.zgrille.net

Z. Grille’s happy hour is from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Drink specials include $1 off all premium cocktails, $3 classic house margaritas, $4 classic house mojitos, $1 off all draft and bottled beers, and $2 off glasses of house wine. Order an awesome happy hour dinner at the bar, with choices ranging from $6 fries, $5 for two Dr. Pepper ribs, chicken tacos and more. Or walk about five blocks from school for lunch and enjoy a $7 blue plate, the daily special.

Photo courtesy of Café Alma
Salmon Carpaccio is one of the popular tapas available half off during happy hour and all night on Tuesdays at Café Alma.

By AMANDA PRETULAC and TAYLOR GAUDENS
Arts and Life Editors

Dining on a dime

This French comfort food restaurant and bakery has happy hour from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. Specials include $2.50 for select house wine, domestic beers and wells, with complimentary hors d’oeuvres. You’ll have a great time indoors or outdoors with pleasant inside dining and covered, outside dining on Beach Drive.

Ceviche Tapas Bar and Restaurant
10 Beach Drive
727-209-2302
www.cevichetapas.com

Dine into the Spanish atmosphere with tapas and sangria. Dining areas include the upstairs dining room, outside overlooking Central Avenue or downstairs at the flamenco bar. With 50 percent off featured tapas and cocktails, the sizzling summer menu (through Sept. 30) you will leave with a full stomach.

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Hand-crafted Mimosas and Bloody Mary drinks are only $3 during Saturday and Sunday brunch at Red Mesa Cantina.
The faculty in the Languages, Literature & Writing department is launching a new creative writing program in January. The program, composed of fifteen credit hours, will be open to students working on their bachelor’s degree or anyone in the community looking to work on their poetry. Students will have to take Creative Writing, CRW3031, and two sections of Advanced Creative Writing, which will revolve by genre and medium, said Thom-as Hallock, associate professor of English.

“The other credits must be in courses at the 3000 level or above in literature or writing,” said Hallock. Upon completion of the course students will be awarded a certificate, differing from a minor, which is only recognized on students’ transcripts.

“O ur program offers a particu larly strong opportunity for working with the community, getting to know writers who are out there in the world,” Hallock said. “We are excited about the programs ability to interface with the community.”

Students can complete an English minor with a focus in either literature or professional writing at USF St. Petersburg, but with the creative writing program, students will take away “a hands-on understanding of how to shape their ideas into art and how the written world today is alive, and has been alive for a very, very long time,” Hallock said.

Not only will this program be significant to students’ studies, it will also be another feature to add to a resume to stand out for future employers upon graduation.

“We want the program to grow. We want to demonstrate to the university that this is a program that is here to stay, before we grow,” Hallock said.

The program is in the early stag-es, but will offer students an opportu-nity to explore their creativity.

“The response from students and from the community show that the demand for this kind of program is strong,” Hallock said. “I am confident that it will be embraced.”

By AMANDA PRETULAC
Arts Editor

USFSP will offer creative writing certificate
Much different world 10 years ago

DECADE, continued from front page

of Iraqi and Afghan citizens rests alongside those lost on that September morning, 10 years ago.

Words and names like body scanners, Sharia, DHS, Guantanamo Bay, nationalism, Saddam Hussein, waterboarding, PATRIOT, jihadi, wiretapping, Rev. Terry Jones, TSA, Word Trade Center mosque, Osama bin Laden and liberty have faded in and out as hot topics in the American lexicon, and touched the lives of those who have never been within 1,000 miles of Manhattan.

And perhaps most symbolically, in the past 10 years the World Trade Center site has transformed from a pile of rubble to a tremendous hole, and finally, to the beginning of a new beacon of glass and steel in the New York skyline.

The world was much different, 10 years ago. What will it look like 10 years from now?

USF working with 14 other institutions

RESEARCH, continued from front page

On its funding, Dixon said, and the third party ensures BP has no control on the institutions, their research, or their findings.

USF is the lead agency in the project, working with 14 other institutions. The research will focus on two main themes: understanding the processes that control and move oil and natural gas released by the spill, and the impacts of the oil spill on key species and the ecosystems in the Gulf.

The grant will continue USF’s research on the oil in the Gulf, which began in 2010 directly after the spill. In the following summer USF hit national headlines when the university’s research vessel, the Weatherbird II, found a giant undersea plume of oil, confirming the oil was not degrading. In the same summer, prominent researchers from USF’s College of Marine Science housed on St. Petersburg’s campus were featured on PBS’s news hour.

In addition to the brief national attention the university received for its research, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching classified USF in the top tier of research universities, a classification achieved by 2.2 percent of universities.

review

The secret life of the American construction worker

“Multipurpose Student Center Live Webcam”

Airdate: all day, everyday

Channel: www.usfsp.edu/aboutus/construction.htm

Starring: Rowe Architects Inc. and Creative Contractors

Directed by: no one—reality TV as it should be

By TAYLOR GAUDENS

Live Editor

A new fall semester means new fall shows. While waiting for the networks’ latest creations or for old favorites to return in a few weeks, viewers check out the drama that unfolds daily at the Multipurpose Student Center construction site.

Visitors to the university’s website can glimpse the 180-degree view via a live 24-hour webcam. With a full-color, rotating camera, the hard working men putting up the new building are on display for the whole world to see.

Hard hats, denim and heavy duty work boots are visible on a sunny weekday at the USFSP construction site via the webcam on the university’s website. The construction workers, who continue picking their nails and digging out their wedgies like no one is watching. But at 7:30 pm on the university’s own cam is now the class distraction.

Let’s set the stage: The only visible landmark is All Children’s Hospital. The view of the former basketball and volleyball courts, now the dumpster area, is like a deserted town, waiting to be inhabited. Wait until the camera pans to the right, and the skeleton of the Multipurpose Student Center comes into view.

Around lunchtime is when the real fun starts. All the workers line up for their meals around noon. They take a minute to rest in the shade and reflect on the day thus far. A group of four men gather, ages ranging from about 30 to 40. They periodically interrupt each other’s daydreams by calling out to a girl walking by. But these aren’t the cookie cutter construction workers found on any old TV sitcom.

First, there is the hard worker. He’s out in the sun, all day, every day. He wears jeans and a long sleeve shirt to protect himself. The sun is Florida. He is the one in the white polo. He knows what he is doing, and that is why he has the authority to point around and tell the others what to do.

The crane controller has the ultimate cool job. He controls the rate at which large objects are moved and essentially dominates the entire construction site. Sometimes the power gets to his head. The other construction workers envy him.

And finally, the slacker. You can see him poke his head out of the shade every once in a while, but really, it is only to go to the port-a-potty, or trip to the dumpster for the appearance of work.

When the heat gets to the workers toward the end of the day, sometimes they like to take dance breaks at the top of the construction site, with choppies, uncoordinated movements. It’s almost daring for them to perform at such heights. But these construction workers are people, not machines. Two men, both in hard hats, one in an orange vest and another a white polo shirt, walk side-by-side talking about Tampa’s loss of a great sports hero, Lee Roy Selmon.

It’s apparent from the expressions on their faces that the workers long to be inside in the air conditioning. Some enjoy the hands-on work, but no one likes working outside during the summer months in the Florida heat. They talk about the anticipation of winter in hopes it will bring more than holiday cheer.

Hopefully the drama will continue when construction on the Campus Activities Center starts. Get a taste of the live webcam and check out www.usfsp.edu/aboutus/construction.htm.

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Dalí thought genetics meant immortality

DALÍ, continued from front page

“Watson was cutting cardboard shapes and moving puzzle pieces around trying to figure out how they fit,” Cassill said. “It came together spontaneously and Watson built the double-helix structure and Crick verified that the math worked.”

“A structure this pretty just had to exist,” Watson said after the discovery.

Dalí believed Crick and Watson’s discovery proved cosmic existence, though Watson thought it did just the opposite. Cassill agrees with Dalí and says that genetics are our immortality.

“Dalí was right,” Cassill said. “Through DNA we do have proof of God.”

Cassill’s talk is part of an ongoing series held on the second Thursday of the month, focusing on Dalí scientifically. The next talk is Thursday, Oct. 13 at 6 p.m.

Topics will include paranoia, death and sexual practices in Dalí’s paintings. Cassill hinted that the next session could focus on masturbation and Dalí. The series is free to all and takes place in the downstairs theatre. Ticks to the Dalí Museum are free to USFSP students everyday with a student ID.

news@crownestspete.com
editorial

New act seeks to decrease sexual violence on college campuses

Certain aspects may cause more harm than good

One in four women in college will be sexually assaulted. One in eight will be raped.

College campuses are supposed to be havens of academia and learning, but the statistics present a troubling reality. A freshman’s first year is the most likely time for him or her to be sexually assaulted. Only 5 percent of college women who are raped report the incident.

Something needs to change.

A new act presented in the Senate seeks to improve safety on campuses and decrease sexual violence. The Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act, or SaVe, requires colleges and universities to include all incidents of alleged sexual violence in their annual crime reports and to create and distribute policies that outline sexual violence prevention programs and procedures for dealing with instances of sexual violence. While aspects of the bill would likely improve the sexual violence status quo on campuses, others are troubling.

The SaVe Act functions on the principle that all accounts of sexual victimization are true and accurate. As such, it requires schools to use the lowest possible standard of proof in disciplinary hearings. If a school thinks there is as small as a 50.001 percent chance that the person accused of sexual violence is guilty, the accused needs to be disciplined. That means even if there is a reasonable doubt the accused is not guilty, he or she will face disciplinary action if the school feels he or she is likely more guilty than not.

Perhaps more worrying, students found guilty could be expelled and face criminal and civil liability without the protections that a criminal defendant usually receives, including representation.

The bill also makes schools provide prevention and awareness programs for all new students and employees, which would include rules on matters that tend to be highly subjective, such as the “elements of a healthy relationship.” Additionally, individual schools would have to define consent as it relates to sexual activity, and students would be required to abide by those rules every time they were in a sexual scenario. They might, for instance, have to ask for consent using specific language every time they moved to a new level of sexual activity.

School officials do not belong in a student’s bedroom.

The SaVe Act, while well intended, creates more problems than solutions. Congress must rethink the act to create new legislation that decreases campus sexual violence without attacking personal liberties.

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Arab spring meets American fall

Youth should use power, creativity to rethink, remake

The Arab Spring is the 21st Century’s defining moment thus far. Not even Sept. 11 will have as much of a global impact as the revolutions blanketing the Sahara. Thousands of protesters have died at the hands of unrelenting leaders. Dozens of governments are struggling to hold on against their citizenry. Imagine if 10 million people walked out of Washington, D.C., demanding an updated constitution and not leaving until top officials resign.

The revolution bug is spreading pollen all over Europe, Africa and Asia. However, the winds of change have remained isolated on the other side of the Atlantic. But why?

Let’s rewind two years.

Newly inaugurated President Obama addressed the Muslim world at Cairo University in 2009. He promoted democracy from within and less than two years later, the leader of that nation was ousted by the populace.

His exact words were: “I want to particularly say this to young people of every faith, in every country—you, more than anyone, have the ability to remake this world.”

Months prior, Americans heard the word “change” and expected the Chosen One to provide it, but the Arab world digested the words literally and took change into their own hands.

Groups of educated youth hit the streets in an effort to change society. They used Twitter and Facebook to organize and spread messages to the world. Though the government tried to shut off the Internet, information was too resilient. The Internet’s coming-of-age party is officially underway.

Social media sites—created in the United States—coupled with an historic speech by the president of the United States stirred an entire region to revolt. Yet the citizens of America, where these ideas and technologies emerged, remain unmotivated.

So, what’s the difference between the Arab nations and ours? Sadly, unwavering apathy.

The income distribution is wider than it’s ever been. Indebted students are realizing the insufficiency of education if employers refuse to hire. Corporations are pulling in record profits at the expense of lower-paid workers and a stagnant unemployment base. Even Warren Buffet has expressed disgust at how the tax system rewards him for amassing billions.

Florida’s governor has the lowest approval rating of any in the nation. Few would deem his policies “youth-friendly.” Suicide rates among troops are at their highest. The planet is melting. Throw in over 75 years of constant military struggle and the youth have more than enough reason to desire reformation.

Yet, students are distracted by reality television, drunken themed-parties, and frivolous shopping sprees. We’re a generation obsessed with glowing screens, mediated to be unconsciously passive, waiting for the world to change instead of doing it ourselves. Consumerism has succeeded in rendering our generation disenchanted.

Whether voting at the ballot box or with hard-earned cash, our “voice” is a muffled cry compared to activism that once bettered our nation.

The U.S. boasts the oldest, unchanged government in the world, but the worn engine is stalling.

Lawmakers have spent two centuries maneuvering the political structure into a jumbled mess of stagnation. At some point, an inevitable tune-up must take place.

Though often stuck in a star-spangled daze, we’re a more mindful generation than any before us. And with every great transformation, the youth are bestowed the power and creativity to remake the world.

So if not our generation, whose?

The Internet infrastructure is there, but enthusiasm and initiation are currently lacking. However, if anyone wants to load a charter bus and head to D.C., with a pit stop at the governor’s mansion to invest in the democratic process and give ancient America a youthful burst of energy, we’ll provide the journalists.

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quotes and notes

Quote of the week

“We’re a better university because of Lee Roy Selmon.”

—USF President Judy Genshaw, on the death of Selmon at age 56. See pg. 8 for more information.

Throwback

Nineteen years ago, on Sept. 12, Marc Carol Jeremiah became the first African-American woman in space, and three years ago, writer David Foster Wallace died. 

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 language that is offensive or libelous in nature. Anonymous letters to the editor will not be accepted for publication.

Email your submissions to editorials@crowsneststpete.com.

By TAYLOR GAUDENS

Life Editor

In this computer-dominated era, it seems that humans treat other humans as computers. But unlike computers, humans have feelings and our time is precious.

Daily interactions with one another have become more abrupt and our patience has worn thin. But can we really expect people to be like computers, and offer instant satisfaction?

With family and friends aside, what about strangers? It seems as if we interact more with strangers than acquaintances these days. These strangers are also affected by our shortcomings and our inability to tolerate one another. Sometimes we speak before we act, spitting our thoughts out to the world before processing them. And that’s a problem.

Make an effort to consider how others’ time is important. Emails and phone calls take no longer than the time it takes to reheat your leftovers. This can be done simultaneously and you won’t waste any time doing so. Communication is the key to making the world work, so why not embrace it and communicate effectively?

Appointments are important. Doctors, dentists, and your hairdresser can all give you an appointment to see you one on one. You’re taking someone’s time and having them do something for you. Paying for the service or appointment, you are letting the provider know that they are worth your time, not the other way around. Simply not showing up to an appointment is pretty much a slap in the face.

Appreciate others’ time and you will probably be happier. Not that you should be happy-go-lucky every minute of the day, but smiles and our patience has worn thin. Other people have become more abrupt instead of living in the moment.

There are times when we can no longer tolerate the general population, and we focus on what’s next instead of living in the moment. Life can become increasingly worse with stress induced sickness and relationship issues.

The solution seems simple. Just stop and disconnect from technology for five minutes. Be in the moment physically and mentally. And when it comes down to it, stick to the golden rule and treat others the way you want to be treated. Maybe the world will be a better place.

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USF trounces Ball State, 37-7

By TOM CHANG Contributing Writer

The USF Bulls defeated the Ball State Cardinals 37-7 Saturday night in front of a raucous home crowd at Raymond James Stadium. The game started similarly to last week’s against Notre Dame when the Bulls recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff return and went 17 yards for a touchdown. The Bulls did not look back as they poured it on the Cardinals for 30 additional points in a performance that would have made Lee Roy Selmon proud. Players wore Selmon’s No. 63 on the back of their helmets in dedication of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Hall of Famer and former USF athletic director who died on Sept. 4.

The shutout broke late in the fourth quarter as the Bulls State’s Jawhan Edwards ran for 13 yards for the team’s lone touchdown. The stifling defense held Ball State to 217 overall yards while the Bulls produced 519 (372 passing and 147 rushing). Quarterback B.J. Daniels threw for 108 of them, while the combined efforts of Darrell Scott and Demetrius Murray ran for 130 yards on 25 carries and two touchdowns. Murray ran for 130 yards on 25 carries for 2 touchdowns.

USF President Judy Genshaft announced on Sept. 9 USF Tampa’s Athletic Center will be renamed after Lee Roy Selmon, the NFL Hall of Famer and former USF athletic director, who died on Sept. 4.

The first draft pick in Tampa Bay Buccaneers franchise history, Selmon served as USF’s athletic director from 2001 to 2004. He is credited with bringing the football program to the university.

The USF Board of Trustees unanimously approved Genshaft’s request to rename the Athletic Center. Genshaft made the announcement at Selmon’s memorial service at Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz.

“[Selmon] was more than just a returner. On the field of play, but in life,” Genshaft said. “Lee Roy Selman was a man of dignity and humility. Genshaft said. “[His legacy] lives in his colleagues who are reminded the great measure of us as human beings is not what we achieve for ourselves, but what we do for others, Genshaft said.

USF renames athletic center for Selmon

By TOM CHANG Contributing Writer

Fantasy Football: Back-up player edition

By HANNAH ULM Contributing Writer

Although the first game of the season is just one of many, it can cause you to second-guess those fantasy players you planned to start on Sunday. I’ve always been a big supporter of the “go with your gut” method, but sometimes it’s smart to change things up. Thursday’s season opener reminded us of one thing: big name players don’t always make the most impact.

I drafted Darren Sproles the past two years in a bench spot. He became a personal favorite (to the point where I hated Ryan Matthews simply for joining San Diego) and I felt like I betrayed him by not drafting him this year.

But my bench spots were reduced from seven to five and I felt like I just didn’t have the room, despite thinking he’d have more opportunities in New Orleans. Well, if Thursday’s game was any indication, I was right about that. And I hated myself for ignoring that thought during my draft. The minute I saw No. 43 on the field I had to make sure to pick up Sproles off the free agency.

I don’t recommend making a split-second player decision the way I did; football should be a game played with your head, not your heart. But if you really have faith in a player, don’t ignore that based on stats or a depth chart. I know 100 percent that if I had drafted Sproles he would have been on my bench this week. And he might be next week.

But I feel relieved to have him and on Thursday he showed that he is more than just a returner. On the Saints depth chart Sproles is listed as the third RB. Between rushing and receiving yards (not including returns) he had more yards than the first and second RBs combined on Thursday.

Although it is logical to use the first-string players, assuming they will see the most action, you can’t underestimate the players who have the ability to exceed expectations. If you dig a little deeper, you might find that player who unexpectedly Petty puts up 20 points next week. Or it could be Sproles again, confirming that sometimes it’s OK to play with your heart.