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Connections to the past

By SABRINA ALDRIDGE
Contributing Writer

The Rev. Dr. Ronald Cole-Turner spoke at the fourth Festival of the Human in the Genome event “Finding the Human in the Genome.” Cole-Turner is a professor of theology and ethics at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Cole-Turner led discussions about ethical issues in science and the coexistence of science and religion. He talked about human beings’ origin through earlier human-like species such as the Neanderthals and their probable cousin the Denisovans, found in modern day Russia.

“The human genome hints at a new vision of humanity where science actually deconstructs religious ideas,” Cole-Turner said.

The ethical issue he discussed is putting human cells into non-human species like mice. He wonders if it would cause “humanized mice” and if humans deliberately blur ethical lines by “putting human cells into mice.”

Cole-Turner addressed the human blueprint.

“DNA isn’t the whole story—it’s DNA, microbes and what you had for lunch that makes us who we are,” he said.

Neanderthals were a subspecies that existed at the same time as early modern humans, but became extinct. Scientists disagree about the human blueprint.

In Wisconsin last year, there was a deal against collective bargaining. People occupied the state capital. In Florida, activists decided to create a coalition in the state. The first chapter began in Tallahassee. The AFL-CIO [American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations] is starting a young worker program, raising them in the labor movement and teaching them why it’s important. We are students and recent grads so we hope we can take a shot at doing that. We want to be the young worker program in Florida.

BOCA RATON, Fla.—USF Polytechnic will continue to develop within the USF system until it fulfills a list of criteria and is granted independence after review, the Board of Governors decided Nov. 9.

The decision provided for a transition period while Polytechnic achieves nine standards set forth in the resolution, including independent accreditation, growth to 1,244 full-time equivalent students and the completion of primary buildings.

Once the criteria have been met, a process that could take up to a decade, the Board of Governors, the independent body that governs the state university system, will readdress independence.

The debate over splitting from the USF system was defined by two competing visions. The pro-USF system view argued that the Lakeland branch of USF, renamed Polytechnic three years ago, benefits from the buying power, administrative costs, name recognition and accreditation of the USF system. The proponents of independence argued that future STEM-based programming could not flourish within USF and were seeking a hard deadline for independence.

“We are not a barrier, whatsoever,” said USF President Judy Genshaft of the system’s role in developing the campus. Polytechnic had been granted academic autonomy and USF is dedicated to Polytechnic as a center for STEM education, she said. There have been “growing pains, but not barriers.”

Critical of the leadership at Polytechnic, Genshaft said that 14 new degree programs had been approved by the system, but “with all that talk, not one degree program has materialized.”

USF leadership had been publicly agnostic toward Polytechnic independence until only a few days prior to the vote, when it released a critique of the proposed growth plan that would attempt to rapidly transform the small regional university into a specialized institution based on STEM: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

“Free from outside influence, see POLYTECHNIC, page 4

USFSP alum starts Fight Back Florida chapter in St. Pete

By ARIELLE STEVENSON
News Editor

Tyler Crawford graduated from USF St. Petersburg in spring 2011 with his bachelor’s degree in English and history. He celebrated his 23rd birthday on Mon., Nov. 7. Monday was also the day he received his first student loan bill for $80. Now he is a state organizer for the local chapter of Fight Back Florida, an organization that seeks to help students and recent grads lobby against tuition hikes and strengthen labor unions.

How did Fight Back Florida start?

In Wisconsin last year, there was a deal against collective bargaining. People occupied the state capital. In Florida, activists decided to create a coalition in the state. The first chapter began in Tallahassee. The AFL-CIO [American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations] is starting a young worker program, raising them in the labor movement and teaching them why it’s important. We are students and recent grads so we hope we can take a shot at doing that. We want to be the young worker program in Florida.
Peace Corps vets share travel stories

By JANE McGINIS
Contributing Writer

Students interested in the Peace Corps got a chance to talk to volunteers and recruiter Katie Roders, who addressed the basics of the organization and shared her experiences working in Soviet Russia.

The Peace Corps is a federally funded volunteer organization that works with community development, health, education and other programs in developing countries. Rather than posting behind a table set with pamphlets, chairs were pulled into a circle for casual conversation led by Roders.

Roders, 27, got her degree in women’s studies at USF, but knew only “hello” in Russian before setting out for a 27-month stint in Kazakhstan, a country formerly under Soviet rule. She discussed the fundamentals of the Peace Corps: the long application process of nine months to a year, the federally-funded living stipend, adjusting to food (Roders broke an eight-year vegetarian diet while abroad) and living with a host family for nearly a year.

The Peace Corps requires a minimum of two years of volunteer work overseas. That doesn’t include a three-month training process covering language, technical training and cultural integration classes. After that, volunteers begin their work and assimilate themselves into the community.

“They want people willing to go anywhere,” Roders said, advising hopefuls to be flexible and focused on volunteer work rather than the whereabouts.

The Peace Corps currently works in 77 countries, with over 40 percent serving in Africa. Students’ degrees often qualify them into a specific program, Roders said, who was assigned at a Community Development Center in Karaganda with a focus on HIV/AIDS because of her employment and volunteer background in public health.

USFSP assistant professor Joseph Dorsey, former Peace Corps volunteer, met with Roders before a formal introduction in Davis Hall.

Dorsey, who teaches environmental policy, served on the Ivory Coast after finishing his undergraduate degree. Like Roders, he was a Peace Corps recruiter during his tenure in graduate school.

He described the Peace Corps as very transformative for an individual. “You never come back quite the same person,” Dorsey said.

Dorsey graduated from Howard University in Washington, D.C., a historically black college. The university collectively boasts African-American pride, he said, but when he got to Africa he had a sort of identity crisis. Dorsey, who is black, was received differently than he expected. The Africans viewed him as solely American.

“You become a strange-looking white man,” he said.

Dorsey’s bachelor’s degree was in nutrition, which became his focus while volunteering in Africa.

“I studied nutrition at a college level, but I’d never seen malnutrition,” Dorsey said in Davis Hall to a room of students.

He recalled his first days working in Africa, and the time he mistook a severely malnourished child for a burn victim.

Malnourishment takes different forms, from a swollen belly to lacerated skin caused by severe edema. Edema can occur where there is a protein deficiency in the patient’s blood.

When Dorsey got back to America, informal encounters with starving children from African villages were hard for him to stomach.

“They weren’t just pictures on a screen anymore,” he said. He could still remember the smell and feel of the suffering.

Adjusting to life after the Peace Corps is a bit difficult, both Roders and Dorsey said.

“When I got back from Peace Corps I had a plan, like a super plan. And it didn’t work out,” Roders said, who returned to the U.S. with aim to attend an Ivy League school for her master’s degree. She changed plans because of the cost of student loans that would be racked up without benefits for her volunteer work.

As of April 2011, a stipend of $7,425 is given to volunteers who served 27 months when they return to the United States. The allowance is to aid volunteers for readjustment back home.

“If I had a stipend, I could still go to graduate school after serving abroad, and worked as a Peace Corps recruiter at the University of Michigan,” Roders said.

As a Peace Corps volunteer, Dorsey attended graduate school after serving abroad, and worked as a Peace Corps recruiter at the University of Michigan. He considered going abroad as the birthplace of the Peace Corps, after President John F. Kennedy visited in 1960 and famously challenged students to commit time to serve society abroad.

Roders said after the Peace Corps, volunteers want hit the ground running, but they will need time to calm down.

Now Roders is working towards her master’s degree in public health at USF, while putting in 20 hours a week as the university’s Peace Corps ambassador.

She credits her flexibility and openness to “just go with it” to her experience in the Peace Corps, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.
Public records generate financial hurdle for The Crow’s Nest

By KEELEY SHEEHAN and TAYLOR GAUDENS
Editor-in-Chief and Life Editor

After an initial estimate ranging from $240 to $500 USF St. Petersburg officials estimated it would cost $552 to complete a public records request for documents about Residence Hall One. The request was submitted following a Saturday, Oct. 1 room check between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. performed by a student assistant and resident assistant that raised some students’ concerns. Students questioned the time of the check and whether everyone performing the task was authorized to do so.

Heather Klsisan, assistant director of Residence Life and Housing, told The Crow’s Nest after the incident that student assistants are allowed to be a part of the room check process if they are accompanied by an RA. Students were given a 48-hour notice of the check, Klsisan said. The University Student Housing Guidebook requires at least 24-hours notice.

On Oct. 5, The Crow’s Nest submitted a public records request to Kay-lynnne Taylor, director of USFSP between the same dates from the original request, and stated “if the request exceeds the reasonable amount of $20, please provide an itemized list of documents you are intending to provide.”

Taylor said in an Oct. 10 email that the request would require Information Technology to do a word search, and that IT would prepare a cost and time estimate for the search. Later that evening, The Crow’s Nest clarified the request to include records about “Residential Life and Housing that mention Residence Hall One or RHO, for the same dates.” Taylor replied the same evening and said she would forward the message to the IT department in order to get a time estimate for the project.

Following no communication between the paper staff and RHO, The Crow’s Nest submitted another request on Monday, Oct. 31. The publication then requested access to the documents if the amount were to exceed $20.

Around noon on Thursday, Nov. 3, Taylor wrote the “IT time cost is estimated in a range between $240 and $480.” Taylor said in the email she would “calculate the cost of labor, IT costs, etc.” and would reply to The Crow’s Nest by the next evening.

On the evening of Friday, Nov. 4, Taylor emailed the public records charge document.

On Tuesday, Nov. 8, The Crow’s Nest submitted a follow-up request addressing the cost. The publication asked for an itemized list of charges detailing the $552 estimate, and access to the documents to allow for the staff to make its own copies.

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, just before 9 a.m., Taylor replied with the explanation of the request via email. The IT labor cost includes four hours of work per each computer at the rate of $60 per hour. “The Residential Education and Housing team identified at least three computers, but I provided you a total for only two computers to help save your funds,” Taylor said in the email.

Of granting access for The Crow’s Nest to make its own copies, Taylor said in the email, “duplication must be handled by the professional Student Services personnel to meet FERPA guidelines given there may be student records involved.”

FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, is the 1974 federal law set in place to protect students’ right to access and have control over the disclosure of private information found in educational records.

The Crow’s Nest has not yet responded to the $552 fee. The university publication does not have the liquid assets to pay the charges. The Crow’s Nest budget is funded through an allocation of Activities and Services fees, and advertising. The Crow’s Nest budget as of April 2011 may be found by searching for ‘2011-2012 SG_BUDGET2’ in Google Docs.

On the morning of Monday, Nov. 7, Matthew Morrin, director of Student Life & Engagement, expressed his concern in an email to The Crow’s Nest due to the cost of the request. Public records costs have not been accounted for in the paper’s budget. Morrin requested the Media Board—a panel of school administrators and USFSP Department of Journalism & Media Studies professors that oversee campus media—to meet to discuss how the publication would handle public records costs.

life@crowneststpete.com

Want to Join The Crow’s Nest? Come to staff meetings, Mondays at 5 p.m. outside PRW 108.
Student rep on board said Sen. J.D. Alexander was ‘leveling his power in the legislature’

POLYTECHNIC, ‘continued from front page’

we will continue our work,” Genshaft said, hinting toward the political influences behind the push for independence.

Polytechnic Regional Chancellor Marshall Goodman focused his address on the soundness of the university’s development plan that had been recently criticized by the USF board of trustees. Among the criticisms was that Polytechnic had no plan for continued, sustainable funding after five years.

“The next five years is when we have the clearest vision,” Goodman said. With growth of 111 percent in eight years, which he called “conservative growth,” and increased tuition, “our bottom line only gets better.”

Polytechnic requires independence because “it’s tough when you have 40,000 to 50,000 students),” he said. Goodman also said that with cloud computing and other cost-saving measures, Polytechnic could manage administrative functions cheaper than through the USF system.

The campus has not been supported under the “stewardship” of the USF system, said Sen. J.D. Alexander, using air quotes for emphasis. “After I got elected I wanted to change that reality.”

“It has been tortuous at every step of the way to get programs implemented,” he said. “I hear the discussion that they do a good job, but I just don’t believe it.”

Alexander, as chair of the Senate budget committee, has been the most powerful supporter of an independent university in his district. He has been vocal in his willingness to use his position as chair of the Senate budget committee to force the issue.

Sen. Don Gaetz, another supporter for an independent Polytechnic, said Alexander had “done the heavy lifting, carried the heavy decisions” during his tenure in state government, and has done more for education than any other elected official.

Gaetz criticized the current condition of higher education in Florida. “The system is not producing quality workers in the polytech areas,” he said, and 60 percent of the growth jobs in the next decade are technology-related.

He proposed that tuition costs for individual degrees be “launched” to economic realities. Only 35 percent of psychology, the most common degree awarded, and only 30 percent of political science degree earners are employed, he said, compared to 75 percent for engineering, and at a higher pay rate.

Gaetz also reminded the panel that while Alexander was term-limited, he was all but confirmed as the next Senate president.

As if to address the political “gun behind the door,” board member Michael Long, the elected student representative on the panel, said politics was affecting the board’s decision. He called Alexander out specifically and spoke of a personal meeting between himself and the senator where the senator threatened to cut funding himself and the senator where the university has not been considered.

“The apparatus necessary to run the university has not been constructed,” he wrote, and the student base “leveling his power in the legislature” to intimidate the board.

Board member Norman Tripp called Alexander a “champion” for Polytechnic, and said that it would be impossible to remove politics from the equation. Every member of the board was either a political appointment or elected in a political process, he said.

“This document is a piece of crap,” said board member John Temple, referring to the over-500 page growth plan proposed by Polytechnic. Temple said his 22 years of experience in large-scale community development as the CEO of Temple Development Company gave him no confidence in the plan.

The architect chosen to build the new campus has a reputation for being “over budget on every project he’s done” and the proposed costs are “out of control,” Temple said. “The state has no money. We can’t even fix our roofs.”

“The economy will stay weak. If we get money, it will come from other universities,” he said. “The legislature is going around us and running this university. This thing is all screwed up.”

Sen. Mike Fasano wrote a letter to the board that said the state had a $2 billion shortfall to deal with, first, before creating a 12th state university. “This is not the time to authorize a new university anywhere in the state of Florida,” he wrote.

The apparatus necessary to run the university has not been constructed, he wrote, and the student base does not exist. “I believe this is being done for all the wrong reasons.”

In another letter of support for the USF system, Sen. Paula Dockery wrote that students, faculty and residents of Polk County are not supportive of the split, and that politics were behind the independence movement. “Please make your decisions based on merits,” she wrote to the board.

Also in attendance at the meeting were nearly 40 USF students wearing matching green game-day T-shirts with “United as one” written on the front. The students were bused from Tampa with money provided by an anonymous former USF trustee.

The following information was distributed to students on the Nov. 9 bus trip to Florida Atlantic University for the Board of Governors meeting. It is part of a document from the Tampa Student Government entitled “Trip to Board of Governors Meeting Highlights.” For more information on distributed materials visit www.crowsneststpete.com.

“The Division of Student Affairs supports your right to express your solidarity in a message to the Board Governors from the students. We are proud that you have decided to actively engage with your University and the Board of Governors. We have been working with Student Government, the advisors at the other USF campuses and the administration at Florida Atlantic University to ensure a safe and productive time.

A couple things for you to know and remember:

• You will be able to be in the room where the BOG meeting is occurring provided the capacity is not reached. The capacity of the room is 250. FAU police will be monitoring the space of the meeting.

• There is an overflow room designated to watch the meeting on TV screens should they go above capacity.

• Demonstrations, protests, or speaking assemblies can occur at the designated space which is the grassy lawn area in front of the FAU Stadium near Parking Lot 11. FAU has a University Policy on Public Forums. We have copied and pasted sections of this policy to the back of this document. Please read carefully and abide by their policies.

• Please remember that you represent USF at all times on this trip. Any conduct violations can be adjudicated by FAU police and/or USF Tampa Office of Rights and Responsibilities.

• The media is obviously interested in this gathering and may ask you to provide statements. You are free to talk to them as you wish or can direct them to the designated SG officers who can be spokesman for the group.

• SG has sponsored and coordinated this trip and as an invited guest you should follow the intent and guidelines that they provide. You should stay with the group and follow all directions that Student Government is provided. Your Student Government contact is Lindsay Lewis. There are also two professional staff members accompanying you on this trip – Gary Manka, Director of SGATO, and Danielle McDonald, Associate Dean for Students. Please utilize them if you are need of advisement.”

news@crowsneststpete.com
Most students go to college to earn a degree and then enter the professional world with newfound knowledge and skills. But the current economic status isn’t conducive to a lot of new professionals entering the workforce. Many students will begin the daunting task of looking for a job prior to graduating.

Some students are pushing through the struggle. Unpaid internships, independent studies, volunteer work and being active club members in the USFSP community are all ways students are trying to bridge the gap between the academic world and the professional world.

For some students, the goal of establishing themselves in the workforce requires steadfast dedication. But sometimes something has to give. Emelia McNally, senior elementary education and exceptional student education major, is nervous about starting her teaching career in Florida.

“You kind of want to start where you want to be located for a while,” McNally said.

Although she loves St. Petersburg, she knows it will be difficult to find a job at an elementary school. She is considering teaching in the Northeast or the West Coast because teachers are paid “much better,” she said.

Lack of teaching experience and a master’s degree are problems that McNally foresees. She said she has been advised to work for a few years to gain experience before beginning a master’s degree in education. But “some states require a master’s degree to teach in public schools,” she said.

When McNally looks to her near future, she is willing to relocate, but only because it is “unrealistic” to raise a family on a Florida teacher’s salary.

McNally is passionate about education and loves working with children. “I’ve always liked school. I was always willing to help with tutoring,” she said.

Bright Futures scholarship cutbacks have forced students to reach deeper into the country’s loan pockets. McNally agrees with the changes becoming need-based to help students from low-income families have the opportunity for higher education. But she feels the state needs to educate people about receiving funds from Bright Futures.

Allison Nall, senior environmental science major, is passionate about conservation and leadership. Nall is the student assistant for leadership development and programming. She lives her passion and plans events for the Lead Learn Serve program and helps create and inspire more leaders on campus.

She has been working with Charlie Justice, assistant director of leadership, for two-and-a-half years and helps plan the Leaderspeak events and leadership retreats.

“I like seeing people take in things and being successful and learning about themselves,” she said.

Nall believes getting a job after college is all about connections. “It is something you have to do,” she said. Knowing the right people, and initiating conversations will only benefit the job search, Nall said.

Her passion is leadership. And though she faces her own academic struggles, she works overtime to get the grade. Looking ahead toward her future also keeps her motivated. “If you want to reach your goals, you have to jump through the hoops,” she said.

Nall’s perspective on the un-promising economy is proactive. She knows what she needs to do, how she needs to do it and when it needs to be done. The most important factor about entering the job market is “knowing what the employer wants,” she said. “Put yourself out there and just do it. Get yourself connected to something.”
Treason is in season

By JANE MCINNIS

Recently, the St. Petersburg Times announced it would be changing its name to the Tampa Bay Times. And I’m surprised I have not heard any complaints about this bad business decision from those who occupy the City of Saint Petersburg.

Yes, this is a bad decision because Saint Petersburg has been competing for businesses with Tampa for many years. But now that Saint Pete is losing the name of its major newspaper to Tampa, surely some visitors will get the impression that this med-sized city does not even have its own newspaper. And perception means a lot when trying to attract more businesses to locate within any city.

The St. Petersburg Times reportedly rationalized its name change is due three-fourths of its readers now being outside the city of Saint Pete. Although many large newspapers also have the majority of their readers outside of the city where they are based, most of them have been wise enough not to offend their “home-boys” who have provided the foundational support for them to become a newspaper known and desired beyond city limits.

Therefore, since treason is now in season in Saint Pete, don’t be surprised if those who are here to occupy Saint Pete will now only buy the Tampa Tribune rather than a wannabe Tampa newspaper that used to represent Saint Petersburg in name and in image!

Vince Carthane
Author of “Aimed At America”

Clear is beautiful

By CHRISTOPHER GUINN
Contributing Writer

“Transparency in government” is a phrase tossed around on the campaign trail and at meet-the-elected official pancake breakfasts, but once in power, former proponents of openness lose their taste for it.

When you read an article about a declaration of public policy and the quote is attributed to a “high ranking official” or “top presidential aide,” this usually means the announcement was made during what is called a background briefing, where no names are allowed. This allows officials to make statements without ever having to own them. It also shifts power toward government and away from the people surrogated by the press, by allowing the government to test the water of public opinion.

If things don’t work out, it’s as if it was never said at all, because who do you hold accountable? President Bush was accused of over-using background briefings, so much that it was hindering the public’s ability to hold politicians accountable, but President Obama has only continued the trend. Few ever step back from the safety of secrecy. It’s a culture of CYA.

When a political action committee runs a hateful political ad without having to disclose author-ship, it allows candidates to hold out their pristine white gloves and pretend they had nothing to do with that brutish business. They’re more than willing to take the jump in the polls, however.

When a former trustee of USF spends over $2,000 to ship over 30 students across the state to Boca Raton for a political cause, that powerful and connected person is divorcing themselves from the consequences of their political ac- tion. That is not only politically expedient, but also cowardly.

Had the students really caused a “ruckus” as state university offi-cials seemed to fear they would, the students would have been the ones to face the consequences, not the benefactor.

All levels of the university hierarchy, from the board of trustees to members of the Tampa student government, have tasked themselves with protecting this individual from public and student scrutiny.

It’s OK, however, for students to take the hit of an unexsued ab-sence for a political stance that, if not explicitly, was implicitly and enthusiastically supported by the administration of the university. The students weren’t a voice, they were a prop—there’s little room for nuanced personal opinion in a silent protest.

The donor provided money and a message; the students provided their reputations. They have a right to know whose flag flys behind them.

cguiinn@mail.usf.edu

Five active chapters in Florida, three new ones starting up

FIGHT BACK, continued from front page

What inspired you to get involved with Fight Back Florida?

My zero-point was graduation. The economic issues really hit me in their most concrete form. I had a bunch of debt and no solid job opportunities other than part-time work at minimum wage. I started to realize it was not just a personal problem; that lots of people around me were going through the same thing.

Who does Fight Back Florida represent? What are your goals?

First, we want to introduce non-activists to activism. We want to help student activists transition to community activism. Second, we want to offer resources, education and infrastructure to non-unions who want to learn how to union- ize. Third, we want to post jobs for unemployed students coming out of school. Specifically, we want to post jobs that would lead to a unionized position. Fi-
Penn State incident provides powerful parable about doing what’s right

Life offers lessons almost everywhere you turn, if you have the grace to accept them.

Last week’s headlines were dominated by the Jerry Sandusky child sexual abuse scandal and the madness that unraveled on the streets surrounding Pennsylvania State University and in the minds of those involved.

Sandusky, a former Penn State football assistant coach, was arrested in early November and charged with 40 counts of molesting eight young boys over a 15-year period.

Sandusky retired from his job as an assistant coach in 1999, but his close friendship with the distinguished head coach Joe Paterno allowed him continued access to Penn State’s athletic facilities.

According to a grand jury investigation, a janitor saw Sandusky performing oral sex on a boy between 11 and 13 years old in the showers, but no further action was taken at that time. Later, Paterno would contend that McQueary was not specific about what he had seen—saying only that he heard Sandusky had “behaved inappropriately”—and was not aware of the severity of the incident.

Sandusky continued working at a summer camp he had started in 1977, where he likely assaulted several more boys until he left the organization in 2010 as allegations of sexual abuse became public.

When this information was released by the grand jury last week, Paterno offered to retire at the end of the season over his failure to report the crime. The Penn State Board of Trustees rejected Paterno’s resignation offer, opting instead to fire him immediately.

Penn State President Graham Spanier was also forced to resign for a statement he issued at the beginning of the scandal, in which he offered unconditional support to two other employees who did not report the incidents, and for failing to express any concern for Sandusky’s victims.

In response, several hundred student protestors turned over news vans and led riots across Penn State. But Paterno was wrong to not report his friend’s “inappropriate behavior.” A man regarded as a hero by many was blinded by his friendship, and eight young boys paid for his ignorance.

Victim 1 was a hero. He stood up and overcame the shame that many sexual assault victims feel. He told his mother what Sandusky had allegedly done to him when he was 11 or 12. His courage to stand up against the behemoth Ivy League school spurred the grand jury investigation, and may have ultimately helped the seven other young men involved achieve some sense of closure. His actions might have unleashed the ire of the nation against Penn State in the short term, but the school will be better because of it.

Also heroes were the estimated 10,000 Penn State students who rejected the pro-Paterno riots of their counterparts and held a candlelight vigil for the young men impacted by his ignorance.

Their willingness to forsake a man whose name was synonymous with Penn State for 45 years because of his failure to do what was right is inspirational, and provides hope for the future of the country.

What did Penn State football fans learn? Though pride and loyalty are blinding, it is important to acknowledge that everything is fallible. Heroes can be wrong, unlikely voices can be right, and dissent is necessary to topple those who deceive us.

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Quotes and Notes

The minute it dips below 70, you see everyone turn into deep Antarctic explorers. Sandals are replaced by fuzzy boots; T-shirts by jackets and knit sweaters. If it isn’t cold, we like to at least look like it.

I personally refuse to sweat my butt off in a scarf and knit beanie in the middle of a sunny day.

The decorations for the holidays also seem to come out earlier and earlier. The minute Halloween was over, stores pushed their leftover merchandise into discount carts and began putting out Christmas décor. They urged us to at least wait until after Thanksgiving. Now it looks like most stores are beginning to spread the Christmas spending spirit as early as November 1st.

Starbucks is no exception, already offering up many of their peppermint and gingerbread lattes for the thirsty holiday consumers.

No snow? No problem. Beginning in December, Straub Park gets transformed into St. Petersburg’s very own winter wonderland. No winter is complete without a Santa Parade. Afterward, head over to the park for fake snow, fake ice for ice-skating, a petting zoo and a Jingle Bell boat parade.

Living in Florida all my life, I’ve grown sick and tired of Floridians trying to create the ideal white Christmas.

I think it’s time to take a stand and celebrate the holidays Florida style. Take a bike ride along the water during a cool day, grab a nice warm carafe of sake and sit outside for a change, enjoy a day of fishing without the sweat or take a camping trip and actually enjoy the warm fire.

Florida has so much to offer during the holidays, it’s time to start taking advantage of it.

Photo Editor

By DANIEL MUTTER

“Children are all we have to uphold the law. There are then the obligations we all have to do what is right.”

The opening lines to the front-page editorial printed by the Patriot-News, about Penn State football coach Joe Paterno’s failure to report the sexual abuse of a young boy to the police.
USF ends losing streak, routs Syracuse, 37-17

By TOM CHANG

USF snapped a four-game losing streak and won its first Big East conference game against Syracuse 37-17 on Nov. 11 at the Carrier Dome.

Bulls quarterback B.J. Daniels accounted for 371 of the 490 total yards completing 23 of 24 passes for 254 yards, ran for 117 total yards completing 23 of 24 receiving Andre Davis and Victor Marc combined for six catches for 106 yards.

The Bulls never trailed the Orange, jumping ahead 17-7 after a 10-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Ryan Nassib to Alec Lemon in a 5-play, 52-yard drive with 5:40 left in the half to make it 10-7. After a 15-yard personal foul penalty on quarterback who is a great athlete. I'm sure inter-

The biggest surprise was how relatively clean the game was with the only turnover belonging to a Marc fumble after he caught a 33-yard pass in the third quarter with 6:40 left to play. The Bulls were penalized 10 times for 84 yards while Syracuse was penalized seven times for 86 yards.

The Bulls will come back home to play against interstate rival Miami Hurricanes on Nov. 19 at Raymond James Stadium.

Fantasy football: Real life edition

By HANNAH ULM

Contributing Writer

The Penn State scandal is a terrible real-life illustration of the point I tried to make in last week’s column: off-field drama can impact on-field playing. I don’t know if it will affect NFL players, but it clearly was a presence in the Nebraska-Penn State game on Saturday afternoon.

Prior to the game, both teams met in the middle of the field to kneel and pray. It was a show of sportsmanship that reminds us that ultimately football is just a game. Those who play it will push aside rivalries and rank-

Sixteen journalists from several African countries visited USFSP from Nov. 3 to Nov. 7 as part of the Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists. The journalists, students and faculty participated in several workshops about topics like gossip and news, reporting with cellphones, and the business of journalism. Here, two of the visiting journalists attend a reception outside the Snell House on Nov. 7, before the group flew to New York City for the last part of its trip.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Nov. 16
Open Mic Night with Six with Country
Davis Hall
9 p.m. to midnight Hosted by the Harbor-side Activities Board. Students interested in performing should email Aaruya Mooney at amooney@mail.usf.edu.

Thursday, Nov. 17
Gazelle Lab Dem Day
Mahaffey Theater
Free admission Doors open at 9 a.m. Student pitches begin at 1 p.m.

United States!

Wednesday, Nov. 30
Cresset Holiday Social
3rd Floor of Cresset Center, 220 Mahaffey Theater Annex

Saturday, Dec. 3
Spring Calendar Retreat
Seeking student input for the Spring calendar.
Interdisciplinary Center, room 116
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 11
Newspaper Holiday Bash
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Interdisciplinary Center, room 116

For more information, contact Editor-in-Chief Keesee Sheehan at kmsheehan@mail.usf.edu or visit our website at crowsneststpete.com.