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Car theft stopped in progress

Nicole Stinger
Next Editorial Assistant

As Mike arrived at the entrance of the parking lot, he cut off the lights and stepped out of the vehicle. Peering through the binoculars, he watched the two suspects. One male on a bike was acting as a look-out, while the other male was slipping in and out of the row of cars, searching for an easily accessible vehicle. He found one with an effortless entrance and got inside. Keeping the headlights off, Mike got back into the cruiser and drove closer to the break-in in progress.

The male who had broken inside the vehicle was slipping in and out of the row of cars, trying to escape from being caught. Mike grabbed him and placed him under arrest.

Soon after, he arrested the look-out partner. Both had warrants out for their arrest.

No, this isn’t a scene from “NYFD Blue” or a ride-along video caught on the cameras of “COPS.” This is the USF-St. Petersburg campus, and Officer Mike VanZile is part of the small but highly competent police force. USF-PD. VanZile caught the two men trying to steal a student’s car from the Marine Science Lab parking lot on a recent October night.

A week earlier, VanZile arrested a man for burglary and battery on the campus. Under the leadership of Capt. Robert Siwik, VanZile and eight other officers provide proactive policing 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to the campus, its students, faculty, and staff.

Commenting on criminal incidents occurring on campus, VanZile said, “There isn’t a frequent amount of crime that occurs on this campus. Most of the time, it’s quiet, but when criminal activity does occur, the officers are prepared and ready to respond.”

In both of the criminal episodes that happened in October, VanZile had backup from his fellow officers, Wayne Eberius in the first incident and Bobby Wade in the second.

“There is a lot of experience from the captain down to all of the patrolmen. If the storage room that Notaro reckons, “A hurricane can come through here and the collection won’t be destroyed.”

The library media center initially was housed in a room in the marine science building. From there it moved to a more spacious facility, run by one technician, in the former USF library. Today, the media center is a light and airy, purpose-built facility in the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

With a backdrop of the municipal marina and Salvador Dali Museum, education majors can browse through a wide range of children’s books and teaching aids, while sign language students film each other signing stories in the video production lab. Meanwhile, distance learning students in Palm Harbor or Sarasota can tune into USF courses taught in the media center’s classroom and beamed out simultaneously to the Bay area.

Other facilities include video viewing

Please see Theft on page 2
Features

Preparing for hurricane a good exercise

The lessons learned preparing for Hurricane Georges linger for library staff.

Katie Phillips
Next Contributor

As a resident of Pinellas County, Ed Sanchez had his share of worries as Hurricane Georges entered the Gulf. But apart from sandbagging his own home and securing his belongings, he also had thousands of valuable, electronic resources to protect at work—in USF's Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

Sanchez, electronic information librarian, and his colleagues scrambled to secure the library's expensive and, in some cases, irreplaceable materials and equipment.

Built on the municipal marina, the library has windows on all sides, exposed to hurricane-force winds and projectiles. Inside is electronic and television equipment valued at over $500,000. Add to that about 200,000 volumes and periodicals, many of which would be very difficult, if not impossible to replace. Finally, there is the special collection of rare books, maps and photographs. The oldest book in the collection, a huge, gilt-covered, natural history tome entitled "Historia Animalium" by Konrad Gesner, was printed in 1558.

On the Wednesday before the storm's projected arrival, Laray Gravely, library director, gathered his staff to plan for the emergency. The library would close at 9 p.m. Thursday so the staff could complete the hurricane preparations. But the impending closure brought students out in droves, anxious to finish research or find books or articles to work on over the weekend. It was one of the busiest days of the year in the library. And, as luck would have it, the printer serving the public terminals chose that day to develop a series of problems that frustrated library patrons and kept Sanchez preoccupied for several hours.

"I had a really difficult time," Sanchez said. "We had installed new software for the printer just a few weeks before, and on this particular day, it started to act up. Eventually, Sanchez explained, he got to the point where he just had to let the problem lie.

During Thursday, Sanchez and other library staff backed up data on the staff's personal computers and passed it to the library's main server. From there it was sent to the Tampa campus for safe storage in a vault.

When the public left at 9 p.m., seven staff members arrived to move desktop computers and servers to a secure, windowless room in the center of the second floor. Equipment that could not be moved was covered with plastic sheeting. Rare book stacks were also wrapped in plastic, as were many of the special collection items. Although these items were held in a windowless room, there was still the possibility of a leak in the roof membrane. Meanwhile, physical plant workers were sandbagging the library doors to a height of 3 feet.

"Another big problem was rising water," Gravely said. "We decided the circulating collection was fairly safe on the second floor, but the reference collection on the first floor would just have to take its chances." Other dangers were fire from electrical shorting, glass splinters from window breakage and salt-water corrosion in the wiring channels.

At 11 p.m., Sanchez, Gravely and the team headed for home. Some were evacuating at 6 a.m. the next day. Others were riding out the storm. All had their homes to prepare for Georges' arrival.

"I had a sense of uncertainty all day Thursday," Sanchez said. "I was thinking about my own home and how I could give my family a sense of security, that we were ready. It was a relief to be off work on Friday, and truly a great sense of relief when Hurricane Georges passed us by," Sanchez added. "It was a great exercise for us as a team, and it will be easier next time to know what has to be done."

Greaves was also pleased when the threat was over. The library staff came in at 6:30 a.m. Monday to move and reconnect equipment. By 10 a.m. Monday, the public had access again and the library was nearly back to normal. The printing problem was still there for Sanchez to fix, though.

The library staff is meeting to evaluate the exercise. One possibility they have discussed is to lessen the upheaval in the future would be installing storm shutters. That, however, would be an expensive option for the university.

Ironically, lying on Gravely's desk during the Hurricane Georges' excitement was a brochure advertising a workshop in Tampa. The topic of the workshop? "Hurricane Preparedness and Recovery."
Ethical issues of failing to report violent crimes

Loe L. Helfand
Nest Contributor

Failing to report a violent crime you witnessed probably will earn you public condemnation, but it won't get you expelled from USF or the majority of state universities.

Dr. Stephen Ritch, the director of student affairs at USF-St. Petersburg, said most state universities share a common interpretation of the student code of conduct and that it is rare that action is taken against students for off-campus misconduct.

Ritch has 24 years of experience in student affairs work, including 15 years at USF-St. Petersburg. During that time, he has seen very few changes in the conduct code.

There have been certain cases, he said, where students have been barred from campus, but if there was not a violation of the conduct code and there was not a danger to the student body, rarely was the university involved.

The university's role in students' off-campus behavior became an issue earlier this term when David Cash, a UC-Berkeley sophomore, witnessed his friend, Jerry Strohmeyer, assaulting a 7-year-old girl in a Nevada casino restroom and walked away from the incident.

Shortly afterward, Strohmeyer told Cash that he killed the girl, but Cash did not report the crime to authorities. Cash faced protests for his expulsion and public outrage over his inaction and apparent lack of remorse. But, UC-Berkeley chose not to expel him.

According to transcripts during a July talk show on KLXS-FM, a Los Angeles radio station, Cash said he did not feel sorry for the girl because he did not know her, but that he was sad that he lost a best friend. The notoriety, he said, helped him get dates. He also said he would never be expelled because, "The university officials are behind me, baby."

The university chancellor, Robert M. Berdahl, explained the procedures a university must follow when expelling a student: "As a public institution, the university has due process and procedures that it must follow in cases of dismissal. This student has not been charged with any violation of criminal law or the campus student code that would provide a basis for any such reviews. We cannot set aside due process based upon our outrage over a particular instance."

Dr. Peter French, the director of the USF Ethics Center who holds the Cole Chair in Ethics, said the student codes are "inept and ill-formed" because they don't deal with off-campus misconduct. "This idea that you can compartmentalize your life and be judged morally only on the part that you want to be judged is a moral disease affecting America."

French said, "Moral judgements on their own don't have any causal effect in the world. We can sit here and judge that what he [Cash] did was wrong and we would be absolutely right about that. So what? Morality at the level of evaluation or judgment doesn't have an impact on the world. It's causally important.

The university is a "community of scholars," French said, brought together, not only by academics, but also by a sense of values. In the Cash case, he says, there is evidence of very poor character.

"If we have immoral people, we should not invent ourselves as moral beings unless we can in our society," French said. "Why is this a problem? Why are they insisting that he not be thrown out?"

French said he understands that universities are concerned with legal consequences, but he said, "Being moral is a risky business."

Dr. Jay Black, a USF-St. Petersburg professor who holds the Poynter Jamison Chair in Media Ethics, takes a different stand on the issue of expulsion. Black said that even though Cash has to say he is unbelievably offensive, it is not reason enough to expel him. It would be problematic, Black said, for the university to allow only "good, ethical students to remain in school." The function of the university is to help mold ethical students, he said.

Debra King, one of USF's lawyers and a teacher of constitutional law at USF-St. Petersburg, said people might impose some kind of moral obligation to report a crime, but she doubts that "in most places under state law or student code there would be an affirmative obligation."

King said she does not foresee changes in laws to make citizens more responsible.

"Not only does it run counter to our notions of individuality and liberty, but also, when the government passes a law that it effects force some to say certain things about a subject...that is very(seg.)

dogmatically interfering with [his or her] freedom of speech in our legal system."

Currently, Rep. Deborah Tamargo, R-Tampa, is drafting a bill which will make it a first-degree misdemeanor for someone to witness a violent crime and not call authorities. According to the Tampa Tribune, Barbara Cordero approached Tamargo after her son was beaten to death with a baseball bat in front of five teens May 31 at an apartment complex in Tampa. The teens didn't call law enforcement for nearly two hours.

Rep. Tamargo told the Tribune, "It's distressing to know that five young people stood around and felt no moral obligation to do anything. Now this [law] will give them a legal obligation."

Black said, "I am always displeased with the legislation of morality. This particular legislation of morality is particularly egregious because it is likely, unless it's drafted very carefully, to make sinners and felons out of all of us. How do you know whether you're exacerbating a problem by interfering with it? How do you know whether a problem is serious enough to demand involvement?"

Black said that the family and the church should teach a sense of responsibility, but it is not the responsibility of law enforcement. "Emotionalism is no basis for the drafting of legislation and that's what's happening here."

French said, "I certainly support any law that says if you witness a crime, you've got to report it." But, he said, there are situations in which laws .

French said that the students at Berkeley should continue to work toward Cash's expulsion. "He certainly ought to be ostracized by the Berkeley community," French said. "If you just ignore it and go on as if it never happened, then moral- ."

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Priority registration still available at YWCA/USF

USF students have a wonderful opportunity to enroll their children in a high quality, affordable and convenient child development center. Our purpose is twofold: to provide a nurturing and safe environment which meets the physical, social, emotional and cognitive developmental needs of infants and young children; and to be sensitive and responsive to the needs of their families.

We are open from 6:45 a.m. until 6 p.m. with evening childcare available soon. The center offers full-time, part-time and occasional care options and is licensed to care for children two months old to six years old. We also provide breakfast, a hot lunch and nutritious snacks.

Our caring staff is experienced, highly trained and educated. We are a training site for USF interns in the Early Childhood Education program. We provide hands-on experiences for learning with daily opportunities for problem solving, exploration, discovery and decision making. We encourage creative expression and individuality, use positive guidance techniques, and encourage respect for others, the environment and self.

On Nov. 17, we will have an Open House from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Students and their children are invited to visit the center, take a tour, and join us for free pizza and refreshments. Don't miss this special opportunity to see first-hand what we have to offer.

You'll find the center adjacent to the USF-St. Petersburg campus at 429 Sixth Ave. S. 5, on the corner of Sixth Avenue South. Just look for the new red, white and blue building with yellow awnings. If you would like further information, please call me at 827-6357.

The future holds new challenges, probably the greatest being the digitalization project of electronically scanning into a computer original documents, photographs, maps or tapes. There are dangers in such a process, Notaro explained. If documents are improperly handled, the originals can be damaged. There are also complicated copyright issues to resolve before all the resources can be made fully accessible on the Internet. Furthermore, expert staffs, with the right training in handling documents, are needed to carry out the digitization process.

For now, much of Notaro's original vision for the center has been realized. "I knew when I came here in 1985 there was tremendous growth potential on this campus," he said. "USF was buying 22 acres of land and the St. Pete campus was destined to grow. The university gave me a free hand in designing this center."

Lanny Greaves, Poynter Library director, acknowledges the achievements of the library media center. "In the late '60s and early '70s non-book media were seen as entertainment rather than research resources," he said. "But, since then, media resources have come to take an equal seat with print media and are a very important part of our total collection."

Greaves added, "Our media collection has a very high profile in this library and it's highly prized. Its reputation has grown, not by our advertising it, but by word of mouth."

SG leaders consider SPJC student representation

Bridget Corkery
Next Contributor

A proposal to give St. Petersburg Junior College students representation in student government on the USF-St. Petersburg campus failed because not enough student government voting members were present for a vote recently.

SG Vice President Joyce Rizzo said there are basically two opposing views on the issue. One argument is that SPJC students have voting rights on the SPJC campus and to give them voting rights at USF would be dual representation. Another view is that the SPJC students are members of this campus and need to get involved and understand the issues on the USF campus.

Although both sides were, and are still, being discussed, the vote of USF student government representatives was 10-1 in favor of SPJC representation on this campus. The proposal didn't pass, however, because of "vague constitutional provisions," said Dr. Stephen Ritch, director of student affairs.

The constitution says that two-thirds of 18 eligible voting members—a total of 12—is required to amend the constitution. Because only 11 were present to vote, there was no opportunity for the amendment to pass.

The members of student government are reviewing the constitution to find some clarity within the technicalities of the provisions. Rizzo said the student government is also addressing the section of the constitution that says the same amendment can't be voted on in the same year. This will need some constitutional revision.

Christian Poeppel, the secretary of student government, and Rizzo agree that although the process is lengthy, it is very important to implement the correct bureaucratic procedure.

Rizzo said representatives hope to table the issue until a meeting calls for another discussion about the vote.

Ritch believes that along with informative ideas, representation will also provide SPJC students a formal voice through student government to the faculty of USF. "The goal of the partnership is to create a four-year university experience, and to make anyone feel second class would go against the commitment," he said.

Rizzo echoed his sentiment. "USF has been very good to me and to provide any- thing less for SPJC students might make them feel alienated," she said.

Laura Sandburg, a sophomore at SPJC, believes the USF students have been very responsive and understanding of their request.

Rizzo said student government's goal is to mend all the problems and resolve the issue by the end of the semester. Student government elections are this week and they would like to be prepared for the new student government representatives, as well as the new SPJC students, she said.
Project Thrust offers academic assistance

Patrick Burns
Next Contributor

A plaque that greets visitors to USF-St. Petersburg's Project Thrust office describes three categories of students. There are students who make things happen. There are those who watch things happen. And there are those who wonder what happened.

Wayne Wilson, the adviser for Project Thrust, has encountered all three types, but he's most focused on those who might fall by the wayside without help and encouragement.

Project Thrust, a university-wide retention program, assists undergraduate students with the difficult task of balancing life and school responsibilities, making it realistic for them to complete a baccalaureate degree.

Wilson describes the program this way: "It's like the nail that keeps the picture hanging on the wall."

Project Thrust advisers provide immediate and long-term academic assistance to all majors within four undergraduate colleges.

The program was organized in response to a legislative mandate calling for all undergraduate students, minority students, and students admitted by "exception," to take advantage of services offered by the school.

"Without this program in place, some students wouldn't be able to attend college because outside pressures often sidetrack students," Wilson said. "We are here to encourage and retain students long enough for them to complete the baccalaureate program and reach individual goals that often seem unobtainable to them."

This semester, freshmen students were able to register for classes on the St. Petersburg campus. "The needs of the students are changing, therefore we as faculty and advisers must change to meet the current needs of our student body," McKinstry said.

Project Thrust recently employed a mathematics tutor, but the trend on campus is to find students who have mastered skills in specific disciplines and are willing to share their proficiency with others.

These services are offered at a minimal cost to the student. Fees are set by the individual tutor, and range from $8 to $15 per hour. If a student is unable to afford the fee, McKinstry said she attempts to arrange through faculty and advisers.

Programs that help prepare the student for specialized tests are also available. The mathematics tutor, for example, helps with portions of the CLAST and GRE.

For further assistance, please contact Wayne Wilson or his staff at 553-1108.

Tropicana concessions pay off for USF clubs

Dana Sanchez
Next Contributor

Students, professor and friends of USF earned $10,286 working as cashiers, cooks and clean-up crew members at Tropicana Field concession stands during the Devil Rays' inaugural season. Volunteers and members of 39 USF clubs and organizations from the Bayboro and Tampa campuses individually worked about six hours per game.

Dr. Diane McKinstry, director of student affairs, said the first year was the "assumption" that student groups would help out. "We may require groups of six to nine people rather than 18 next year," Struthers said. And there are those who wonder what happened. Besides volunteers not showing up, other factors undercut the amount of money USF earned. If Volume Services decided there were not enough people to work the stand, they brought in their own staff and charged USF $10 per person per game, Struthers said. That, and food or money shortages, contributed to USF earning less than the projected $100,000.

"We have overestimated," Correa said of the projection.

"We may require groups of six to nine people rather than 18 next year," Struthers said, stressing that any changes are in the planning stage and nothing is definite yet.

"If a club shows up and works [with less than 18 people], why shouldn't they get everything [of the 8.2 percent]?" Dr. Debra Perkins, director of student affairs, said. In a meeting held Oct. 23, club representatives discussed issues concerning compensation for volunteering at Tropicana Field.

"Ritch said we expected the amount to be $7,200. USF had $10,000. My expectation is that clubs are going to be happy with the formula for compensating them," Struthers said.

"Ultimately, I'll have to make the final decision," Ritch said. Before reviewing and making final decisions, Ritch said he wants to hear suggestions from others.

Approximately $2,500 of the total earned by clubs and organizations was raised at Al Lang Stadium during spring training.

Volunteers get unique experience in Peace Corps

Laura Willis
Next Contributor

Mark Perkins can speak to students about the Peace Corps with authority and conviction because he's lived the life.

Perkins, regional recruiter for the Peace Corps in South Florida and Puerto Rico, recently shared his personal experience with about 50 students of the Latin American Student Association (LASA).

Jose Beltran, president of LASA, invited Perkins to the USF campus. "We watched a video of Peace Corps volunteers that showed how the people of countries like Ecuador and Mongolia live," said Beltran. Beltran, an international student from Ecuador, enjoyed meeting Perkins, who had spent time in that country.

Beltran said a couple of LASA members are gathering information about the Peace Corps and beginning the application process.

Perkins regularly travels to colleges and universities to provide information about the Peace Corps and answer questions about the three-step application process that finally brings volunteers to their destinations. "The South Florida region is good for recruits. There is a lot of response," Perkins said.

Perkins' Peace Corps assignment was in the Dominican Republic. He joined the Peace Corps in 1986, working in wells and water tanks. Perkins received his undergraduate degree in mass communications but had some experience in construction.

Before working "side by side with the locals," Perkins learned how to communitiicate with them. "I knew nothing about the Hispanic culture before going to the Dominican Republic," he said.

"Language is first and foremost in the training process," Perkins said. There are only 3-4 students in each class. If required, tutors work one-on-one with new recruits to learn the language. "Volunteers live with host families so they must learn the language. If you want food, you have to learn how to ask for it," he said.

"Host country training helps volunteers get up speed with cultural standards and expectations," Perkins said. On assignment, Peace Corps members speak the language, eat the food, and work with the locals to better their lives, he said, and volunteers are able to bond with the community because of the close relationship they have with the people.

"It is a unique experience," Perkins said. "Regardless of the outcome, you walk away with a very powerful change in your life."
Bayboro nursing program welcomes graduate students

Sharon Milian
Next Contributor

The Bayboro nursing program is no longer just for undergraduates.

For the first time, graduate courses are being offered in St. Petersburg as well as Sarasota this year.

Dr. Charlene Long, the director of the nursing department at Bayboro, teaches several courses on this campus, including some evening courses. She also acts as the adviser of the Bayboro program. Long said there are 10 graduate nursing students this year at Bayboro and more expected in January 1999.

It is not easy to qualify, however. "First of all," Long explained, "to get in, the students have to have a 3.0 average and a 1,000 on the GRE (graduate record exam). The requirements are 55 credit hours total, and of those, there are core courses that they take, a group of specialty courses which they are going to be practicing, and the clinical, where they work with a preceptor. The clinical is more advanced."

Students choose from among six specialties: adult health, oncology (cancer), gerontology, psychiatric nursing, pediatrics and family practice. There are plans to add a nurse anesthetist area, Long said.

At this point, graduate students on the St. Petersburg campus are just taking the core courses. The specialty areas are taught in Tampa, Long said.

Linda Beson, clinical coordinator at the Tampa campus, said that there are two groups used as preceptors: faculty members who work with students on campus and doctors and nurse practitioners in the community.

Some are USF faculty members who work alongside the students in a clinical or lab setting.

"The largest percentage of students work directly with preceptors in the community," Beson said.

Graduate nurses are allowed to perform duties that bachelor of science nurses are not. For instance, graduate nurses training in family practice would be allowed to perform routine physicals, make diagnoses, and prescribe treatment and follow-up care. Beson said this is done in conjunction with the physician who may be working with a nurse practitioner.

"The graduate program prepares the student for the nursing practical. They work in an expanded role where they actually provide primary care for the client," Beson said.

Long said that all of the graduate students at Bayboro are working (most full time as registered nurses) and usually attend classes in the evenings. The majority of the students are female.

The graduate program at Bayboro was born of the Tampa campus' efforts to meet the requirements of students.

"There was a great need," Long said. "We have a new dean and she has set the program so that we can have it in both campuses."
Peace Corps steps up recruitment efforts

Laura Willis
Nest Contributor

The Peace Corps is stepping up efforts to recruit volunteers and hopes to find many of them on college campuses.

Earlier in the year, President Clinton announced an initiative to increase participants in the Peace Corps by 50 percent, with 10,000 volunteers serving overseas by the year 2000.

Artisom Osborne, a representative of the Peace Corps press office in Washington, D.C., is excited about the changes in the organization. "It is a wonderful time right now for the Peace Corps because it is reaching and enlisting a new generation of volunteers," she said. "These new volunteers will be spending New Year's Eve of the new millennium in a Third World country. They may be in a farm in Ecuador or a business center in the Ukraine."

Osborne described the experience this way: "The world is changing and the Peace Corps is a people to people project. Teach them and they teach you. It's a win-win situation."

Osborne said returning Peace Corps volunteers talk to local organizations and work with career centers on college campuses. At a recent Networking Fair at the USF Sundome, a Peace Corps representative was on site to provide information on how to enroll new volunteers.

The Peace Corps website describes some of the criteria for enrollees (www.peacecorps.gov). The application process requires a written essay, Recommendation letter, interview and medical exam.

Osborne said plans are to add a more powerful search engine to the website and keep the site "live."

At the USF-St. Petersburg campus, Amy Hopkins, assistant director for the Counseling and Career Center, reiterated the new developments within the Peace Corps.

"Volunteerism, both international and domestic, has been a 'pet' project of the Clintons," Hopkins said. Hopkins receives recruiting information from the Peace Corps regional recruiting office in Atlanta. Hopkins said those seeking recruitment information should visit the Counseling and Career Resource Library in Davis 112.
Sisterhood of Beth Shalom will be sponsoring a Holiday Boutique on Sunday, November 22nd from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Congregation Beth Shalom, 1325 South Belcher Rd., Clearwater. Delicious deli food will also be sold.

Are you a daredevil? Get your thrills working for The Crow's Nest!

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