SG President warns "no shows"

Lori Holland
Assistant Editor

Newly elected Student Government president, Erin Dunn, wasted no time getting down to business.

She told St. Petersburg student government representatives to show up for meetings, or face the consequences.

It was a message Dunn felt had to be delivered. Student government has faced low attendance in the past, which has hampered the organization's ability to operate at peak efficiency.

Since representatives are paid $75 dollars each term, Dunn said, certain responsibilities accompany the paycheck. Dunn said she expected representatives to attend meetings, come prepared and to get involved in student government committees.

"This is a special responsibility that every student who signed your petition bestowed upon you," Dunn said. And she added, "Any representative with more than two unexcused absences will not receive their compensation."

Christian Poepel, vice president of student government, said Dunn is merely enforcing the bylaws of student government by requiring attendance.

According to the bylaws, "Members who are found to have been unjustifiably absent for three or more meetings shall be required to resign their office for the reason that they have failed to maintain the representation of their constituents."

Last semester this bylaw was not enforced and student government representative attendance was poor.

Dunn said, "Part of the problem last semester was the lack of participation by some representatives." Dunn said the predicament was obvious because five sets of minutes were not approved last semester due to lack of a quorum (one-half of the total student government members plus one).

Attendance is even more vital, Dunn said, when representatives vote on constitutional amendments and revisions because a two-thirds majority of all members—not just attending members—is required for passage.

Last semester, a constitutional revision granting SPJC students representation in student government was tabled due to low attendance. Student government voted 10-1 in favor of that revision, but it failed because a two-thirds majority—12 votes—were necessary for the amendment to pass.

Any amendment that fails during the term of office cannot be voted on again within that term. However, with the beginning of the new term, SPJC representation can and probably will be revisited by student government.

Election rules revisions were also neglected last term, said Dunn, due to poor attendance.

Student government is currently forming a constitutional revision committee that will oversee these issues and others.

Dunn said she also wants feedback from the students at USF St. Petersburg and she hopes they will contact her about issues that concern them, including campus improvements.

The main priority this term, she said, is to keep student government organized so that all members will have a voice. "I really am going to be a stickler about this," she said.

Dunn said she doesn't foresee problems with representative participation and is eager for student government to move forward on issues pertinent to the entire campus.

Wordsmith, you may get that new direction your writing craves.

Others, like Sarasota-based writer Jerry Swartz, criticize the short workshop approach. Swartz says the FSWC appeals to "people who are looking for the magic formula—when is this (success) going to happen to me?"

But for at least one successful writer, "it" happened to him right there. Lary Crews, who recently moved from Florida to California, claims that "the FSWC is responsible for every good thing that happened to me right there."

Jenny Baker
Next Contributor

The upcoming Florida Suncoast Writers' Conference will offer literature lovers and published authors alike the chance to rub elbows with some literary giants as John Updike, William Styron and P.D. James have spoken at past conferences. And this year's line-up should not disappoint.

Award-winning author Joyce Carol Oates, whose credits include more than 25 novels, in addition to short stories, poetry and plays, will deliver the keynote address Thursday afternoon and lead a workshop Friday morning.

But a chance to see Joyce Carol Oates is not the only reason to attend the FSWC. Other prominent writers scheduled to attend include United States Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, scheduled to deliver the dinner address Friday night; PEN-USA Award for Nonfiction recipient Al Young; Pulitzer-prize-winning journalist Tom French and more.

Literary agents and publishing experts will also be on the scene.

Past participants give the FSWC high marks for both organization and diversity of topics, including literary fiction, genre fiction, poetry, playwriting, screenwriting, non-fiction, and "getting published." It's also a chance to learn about local organizations for writers.

Like John Taylor, editor of the Tampa Writers Alliance annual anthology, you may get that new direction your writing craves.
Learn at the Campus Activities Center of the USF St. Petersburg Department, says she expects this year's event to draw 450 people.

The cost of registration is $153. Late registration costs $150, and a place is not guaranteed.

Thursday evening's panel discussion is free and open to the public thanks to funding by Florida humanities council. Entitled "Can Literature Matter?", the discussion will feature Dona Gioia, Al Young, Kurt Brown and Susan Balle, and will take place from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. on Feb. 4 at the Campus Activities Center of the USF St. Petersburg campus. Call (813) 997-2403 to register.

Krista Reiner  Editor

Story of Tuskegee in one man's art

There's a quiet, unsung art gallery north on Gandy, just over the bridge. A large, handmade billboard stands at attention proudly declaring one man's mission of preserving pieces of American history. John Silva, a St. Petersburg resident, has spent the last decade depicting the portraits of Tuskegee American military heroes often overlooked until the recent past.

Many of these men and women accomplished more than military valor; they achieved their goals despite insurmountable racial discrimination and overwhelming odds.

Silva's subjects are the men and women of color, who served in the once-segregated United States Armed Forces prior to World War II. Of the walls of the gallery, mixed in with Hispanic Medal of Honor recipients, stand the portraits of men and women who made up the all-black, 332nd fighter group known as Tuskegee Airmen.

A veteran himself, Silva joined the Air Force in 1947. As a Mexican-American from Pueblo, Colo., he did not directly suffer the prejudice of the black soldiers, but he remembers the conditions of his own segregated base in San Antonio, Texas. "There were 'tarp-paper shacks' housing the black units, Silva remembers, "and 'whites-only' facilities."

The armed forces would continue to segregate black and white enlisted personnel until 1948. Many historians look toward the Tuskegee Airmen as the group that finally shattered the misconceptions that blacks were unfit for military service.

Before their success, military officials viewed blacks as having limited capacities making them unsuitable for combat situations. Ironically, many of the first Tuskegee pilots were graduates from prestigious universities. With the help of prominent African-Americans in the NAACP and a group of vocal black newpaper editors, in 1940 the Army Air Corps established the first all-black fighter squadron that would be known historically as the Tuskegee Experience.

The first black training class at Tuskegee was made up thirteen men. Less than a year later, in March of 1942, the five men who survived the training became the first African-American pilots in the Army Air Corps. These men laid the foundation for the nearly 1,000 men who would complete their training at Tuskegee by the end of W.W.II.

As the 99th Fighter Squadron, these early graduates of the military's "experiment" went on to create a standard of success formerly unachieved by black military officers, and virtually unmatched by any other Air Force group. The black pilots, in their recognizable red-tailed planes, completed 1,578 escort missions and never lost a bomber to enemy fire.

"Where most people had to give 100 percent, they had to give 100 percent," Silva says in explaining his choice of 99th Squadron as portrait subjects. And aside from just military experience, Silva wanted to share the knowledge he has gathered about the post-war accomplishments of these first Tuskegee men as military personnel and as civilians. After their military service, many went on to earn multiple successes, including the appointment of America's first black Four Star General, the late General Daniel "Chappie" James. Lynn Homan, co-author of Images of America: the Tuskegee Airmen, notes that the Tuskegee Airmen were not just the famed pilots, but also the support service personnel totaling over ten thousand in all.

Homan says, currently, there are about 24 Tuskegee Airmen living in Florida. Silva was surprised to learn of the number of veterans who settled in the Tampa Bay area. He went on to paint the portraits of many and as a result, has had the opportunity to hear their stories firsthand. "What continues to inspire me is the weight of experience these men carry." Silva says thoughtfully fingeriing his eyepiece. "They're walking heroes, but not too many people know about them."

Retired Major Alvin Downing is one local hero immortalized by Silva. Major Downing, a current St. Petersburg resident and local jazz musician was teaching music at Gibbs High School after receiving a master's degree in music from New York's prestigious University and UCLA, when he was drafted into the Army Air Corps in 1942.

While Downing was not trained as a pilot due to asthma, the military recognized him for his musical talents on the piano and his leadership potential. After attending Officers' Candidate School in Miami, Downing eventually became Commander of the 613th Army Band at Tuskegee Army Air Field. He established "Operation Enjoyment," a talent show competition between the squadrons.

Downing recalls his role in the Armed Forces with pride. The 613th Army Band was used to keep up the morale of the Tuskegee trainees. With the harsh, segregated conditions Downing's job was harder than others in comparable positions. It was a role Downing took seriously.

"It was our one responsibility as a unit (the troops') morale," Downing says. The Air Force, impressed by the success of Downing's efforts, went on to recognize the shows as a standing unit, renaming the project "Operation Happiness."

In 1972, the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. was formed by representatives for the men and women of Tuskegee. With chapters throughout major cities in the U.S., this non-political, non-military, non-profit organization was designed to promote research in aviation and grant scholarships to American youths (of any race or gender) interested in aviation careers.

The Daniel (Chappie) James Jr. chapter serves the members of Central Florida. John Silva was granted honorary membership two years ago in recognition of his artistic contribution to the history of the Tuskegee Airmen. Silva has donated many portraits of the Tuskegee heroes to museums around the country and has permanent displays at the Georgia Museum of Aviation: the Tuskegee Airmen Museum at Tuskegee University, and at the black aviation exhibit in the Smithsonian.

Silva says he's grateful to have had "the opportunity to illustrate in portrait form that these guys did a tremendous job. These are the real role models."

Silva is currently organizing a national day of observance for Medal of Honor recipients and the Tuskegee Airmen. Hosted by the St. Petersburg FWFD, the event will be held on March 25, with veteran medal winners and Tuskegee airmen in attendance for the ceremony.

The program "is designed to honor those who deserve to be honored." The event will be open to the public, and Silva's portraits will be on display. For more information, contact James Silva at (813) 399-3883 or the Chappie James chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. in Miami.
Patrolling a familiar beat

Laura Willis
Next Contributor

A few years ago Brian McHenry roamed the campus with an armful of books. Today it's his beat. McHenry joined the university police this past summer, after being chosen from more than 60 applicants. Sgt. Alan Hebdon was involved in the hiring process.

"We hit the nail on the head when we hired Brian," said Hebdon. "He is everything you would want in a police officer. He is willing to get involved and do a good job."

"I hear comments like 'fuzz', 'pig', 'Five-O', and 'Donut,'" said McHenry. "I don't think many people realize the educational training that goes into this job. They see you as a person who arrests someone."

Among his qualifications is his familiarity with USF's St. Petersburg campus. Hebdon said McHenry received his bachelor's degree in psychology from USF and attended classes at the St. Petersburg campus.

Before coming to the St. Petersburg area in 1991, McHenry served in the Army. "My family did not give me financial support," said McHenry. "So I went into the military with the GI Bill."

McHenry spent over four years in the service and accumulated enough funds to pay for his college tuition and police training.

McHenry came to USF after spending over six years as head of security at Stetson University. While at Stetson, McHenry not only held a full-time job, he attended the police academy in Bradenton five nights a week.

"You need to have a lot of family support when you're going through training. My wife was totally against it at first, because of the danger," said McHenry. "But she is grateful he works at the university, where the chances of danger are slimmer, McHenry said."

On the campus, McHenry's friendliness has made an impression.

"He is concerned about the students and knows his job," said Karen O'Brian, supervisor of parking services, which shares offices with the university police. McHenry starts his patrol with a campus perimeter check.

"I need to know if any roads are closed or vehicles are broken down (and) anything I should be cognizant of during my tour," said McHenry.

As he performs the perimeter check, McHenry remembers himself as a student, a father and now as a police officer.

Laughing, he recalls once locking his keys in his car and had to call the university police to get him out. "I was in uniform and there I was calling them to let me in my car. It was embarrassing," said McHenry.

McHenry is officially part of the past, present and future of the St. Petersburg campus where you may see him from time to time. He'll be pleased if you say hello.

Dedicated readers bring news to the blind

Jooyeon Lee
Next Contributor

Catherine Reid is as anticipated as a cup of coffee and the morning newspaper. Indeed, for her listeners, she is the newspaper.

Reid, who is 76, has read to the blind for nearly 20 years through WUSF's Radio Reading Service. Every Monday, she reads USA Today live from noon to 1 p.m. Reid was one of the first readers for the service. Today, she is one of 150 volunteers.

Reid arrives at the WUSF Radio studio 30 minutes early to make sure she is familiar with the day's issues. She and her partner for 13 years, Mary Cundiff, sit at a table covered with cream colored carpet to absorb sounds such as the clanking of her coffee mug. They discuss what articles each of them will read.

Wearing a university sweatshirt and khaki pants, Reid looked like every one of the college-broadcasting announcers. She always carries her glasses, even though she does not wear them all the time. She may not speak as vividly and quickly as some of the 20-year-old disc jockeys, but to her listeners she sounds familiar, someone whom they can trust. Reid speaks very slowly and carefully, thinking about how her listeners will hear her. She reads the news exactly as it is printed, with one exception: Her Alabama accent adds a pinch of Southern grace.

Reid watches news programs very carefully, especially on Sunday and Monday mornings to familiarize herself with current issues. When she comes across a foreign name, she repeats it until she feels confident that she will not stumble over it on the air.

The WUSF Radio Reading Service broadcasts are heard by more than 12,000 listeners 24 hours a day in Tampa, Sarasota and Lakeland, according to Brad Stager, operations manager at WUSF.

Reid said until a friend introduced her to the service, she had never thought of donating money.

Reid has loved English literature since she was a child and remembers standing up to read in class.

"Words fascinate me," she said. Local Lions Clubs support the service and deliver specially tuned radios to applicants free of charge. The service survives from donations, and there is still a waiting list for the radios. Anyone interested in donating money can call the station at (813) 974-4890.

USF visitor, Andre Roundtree lets his fingers do his walking through the virtual campus. Check out the new kiosk in Bayboro Hall.

Academic facts a finger tip away

A Virtual Student Center was installed two weeks ago in the lobby of Bayboro Hall. The touch sensitive screen allows students to surf from one web page to another accessing pertinent information with the touch of a finger.

On the USF web page students can access admissions information and find out about campus life and various academic programs.

Through the On-line Student Information System (OASIS), students can access catalogs, schedules, financial aid sources and application deadlines. Students can register for classes and check out their grades. In the near future, students will be able to apply for admissions directly through the kiosk.

Through the business services web page students will be able to make copies of the pages (25 cents a page). Some sending and receiving faxes will be possible, making communication with the Tampa campus much easier.

The kiosk will assist students with a variety of functions that were previously only handled through the admissions office.
A moment captured on campus...

A gallery worth a closer look

Brandy Stark
Nest Contributor

Appearances can be deceiving. I was reminded of this simple truth by the SoHo South Art Gallery & Frame Shop. Allow me to explain. I am an artist and a member of the Professional Association of Visual Artists (PAVA). They are the folks who put on the Cool Art Show every summer at the CAC. Recently, I was invited to bring a few pieces of my art to a members-only art show being held at a gallery I'd never heard of before. Being curious, I drove by the building and discovered what seemed to be a small gallery in a building that housed other small galleries. I wondered how all of the members of PAVA were going to display their art in such a place.

A few days later I showed up statues in tow. When I walked through the door I immediately stopped, jaw agape. Breathing in the bohemian atmosphere, I gazed inside a paraiel world. It seemed physically impossible that the small gallery I saw from the outside was this spacious and colorful on the inside. The ceilings seemed to cap the heavens themselves as they perched atop walls painted a warm shade of peach. From corner to corner paintings and large sculptures served to illuminate the rooms with a bright display of artistic integrity. What looked like small, independent galleries from the street, was actually a connection that formed one large gallery, adding to the sheer size of the gallery in which I now stood. I felt a little silly having doubted the power of PAVA to house its own art show.

After a tour, I decided I must let the outside world know about this hidden wonder.

The owner, Marylyn Lowe, told me that the Soho South Art Gallery promotes local artists and art shows of all mediums. Lowe does not limit the type of art displayed "as long as it's good."

"The Soho Gallery is impressive. Lowe is an astute woman who exudes hospitality. Her gallery offers a nice assortment of artistic styles and mediums, and it's conveniently located next door to Haslam's Bookstore, so patrons can walk from one building to the other with ease.

"Those interested in seeing the PAVA art show and other eclectic art can visit the SoHo South Gallery Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information call (727) 822-2280."

Exercise myths unraveled

Many of us decide to make a renewed commitment to exercise as the New Year begins. So what's in store for us? Of course, we'll be flooded with exercise programs, but being a few common misconceptions about exercise with us to the gym. I'd like to take this opportunity to share some of these myths so you can be better informed about how to get to the new you.

**Myth 1:** I'm exercising until I'm blue in the face, but I'm just not losing the weight. I must be doing something wrong.

While it is certainly true that you burn more calories aerobically (walking at a fast pace, jogging, rowing, etc.) than you burn fat calories, the fact is muscle tissue weights more than fat. As you're burning off stored body fat for energy, you're also building those muscles. You should shoot for having a greater percentage of your weight be lean muscle mass, rather than fat. The less fat you have, the more it will burn calories even at rest, than inactive fat tissue.

**Myth 2:** "Lax Valentine's Day, all I got were lovely bundles. I'm going to do sit-ups so I can lose fat around my stomach!" While it might be nice to think that you can simply work on one area of your body, there's simply no such thing as "spot" reducing. As you lose body fat, you lose it proportionally from your entire body. But you can get good results from your exercises, such as sit-ups, do tone the muscles beneath the fat body in the area you target.

**Myth 3:** I can't do weight training. My goal isn't to look like a bodybuilder. People who look all "muscle-bound" do so because they want to look that way. They get that look by lifting a lot of weight with plenty of repetition, but you can really strengthen and tone your muscles simply by doing weight training in moderation.

**Myth 4:** If only I could get myself out of bed earlier... The morning is the best time to exercise. If you like exercising in the morning, do it then. The truth is, it makes no difference what time of day you exercise. But, if you exercise too close to your bedtime, you may have trouble falling asleep.

**Myth 5:** Exercise machines will do more for you than free weights. Not so. How effective each depends on how well you use them.

**Myth 6:** Exercising turns fat into muscle. The truth is, no type of exercise can turn you into another type. It just looks that way. What really happens is exercise requires more energy, so your body goes to you by burning fat. At the same time, the exercising is improving your muscle tone. So instead of having weak, flabby muscles covered by a thick layer of squishy fat, you get strong, supple muscles covered with a thin layer of fat.

**Myth 7:** Exercise can be dangerous. Most people who exercise, don't get injured. If someone does get injured, it's usually by not exercising enough. It takes too much or just the point of pain. If you gradually increase the intensity and duration of your exercise program, you'll have a much less chance of getting hurt.

**Myth 8:** "No pain, no gain." That's exactly how to get the injuries of Myth 7. The slogan sounds good, but the results aren't. When your body is in pain, it's trying to tell you something: Stop. Don't exercise to the point where you have serious discomfort or are feeling to do move.

**Myth 9:** I've been sweating like a nut. I need to put extra salt back into my diet. The average man would have to lose one and a half gallons of perspiration in a day to lose what salt he consumes in the food he eats. That's a chunk. Hardly anyone perspires that much, so skip the salt pills and the Caesar salad.

**Myth 10:** I want to increase my muscles and lose the fat. If you're not eating nutritious, low fat foods, then you'll need to lose the fat nine before you can build the muscle you desire. Eating nutritious, low fat foods helps you lose the fat nine before you can build the muscle you desire.

To find out more about these myths, call (727) 822-2280.
Preven: An option for the morning after

Bridget Corkery and John Ellis
Nest Contributors

Perhaps the condom broke.
Or maybe one wasn’t available. But
the morning after, there are birth control options.

The option of emergency contraception has been known for decades and has been offered legally at many health clinics and emergency rooms, including USF’s Student Health Services.

But using birth control pills as emergency contraception could not be advertised and many women did not know that they had an option to hope and pray.

But that has changed. Earlier this year, the FDA approved the Preven Emergency Contraceptive Kit.

The kit, available only by prescription, contains four pills, a pregnancy test and instructions. Two pills are taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex and the other two are taken 12 hours later. It is about 75 percent effective in preventing pregnancy.

The kits are available at Planned Parenthood clinics and many pharmacies and cost about $20. The kit does not include new drugs, but it does open new doors.

Every year, there are an estimated 3 million unplanned pregnancies and 800,000 abortions in the United States. Emergency contraception is seen as a way to help decrease those numbers.

USF’s Student Health Services has offered emergency contraception for years. Dr. Maria Anderson said the staff prescribes the use of high-dosage birth control pills in cases where patients have had unprotected sex and are not already on the pill.

“We had a high rate of success (preventing pregnancies),” Anderson said.

Normally, students are required to have a pap smear, breast exam and pelvic exam prior to having the pill prescribed.

Dr. Anderson said that for emergency contraception those tests aren’t necessary since the woman will not be on the medication for an extended period of time.

The package of high-dosage pills that Student Health Services sells costs $5. Dr. Anderson said that personnel at the clinic were re-evaluating the cost.

Both the pills offered by USF and the Preven kit prevent pregnancy by delaying or preventing ovulation and are not considered a form of abortion.

Courtney Thomas, a medical assistant at National Women’s Health Center in Clearwater, said the biggest problem with the kit is that most women don’t know that it is available.

“I had no idea that there was any kind of morning after pill in the United States. I thought they were only sold in Europe.”

The kit can be purchased in advance and stored for up to 18 months. That way, women whose primary birth-control method fails can have the kit on hand in an emergency situation.

Karen Hilsinger, 29, of St. Petersburg, said the marketing of the kit is a step in the right direction.

“I’ve been lucky,” Hilsinger said. “I’ve never gotten pregnant. But there have been times I would have used morning-after contraception if it had been available. Unfortunately, a lot of girls use abortion as contraception. Hopefully, this will put an end to it.”

Those who disagree with the use of morning after contraception believe it interferes with nature. Laura McDonald, a USF student and pro-life advocate, said, “I personally would not use Preven, but I do believe it is a better option than that which is available.”

Others of Preven believe young people will engage in unprotected sex more often knowing that the kit is available. Some women disagreed. They said they would choose a more effective method of birth control if they intended on being sexually active.

“They can buy it in case something happens if they are already our patient,” a representative for Planned Parenthood said.

A new patient at a Planned Parenthood clinic would need to either have an exam at the clinic or have their medical history reviewed by clinic personnel in order to be able to buy the kit. A representative said exams are usually less than $50.

Are you in the midst of an identity crisis?

Brian Marks
Production Manager

Identity theft are two words that should make you nervous. Every day, Americans are bombarded with direct mail pieces. Old credit card statements and other bills have personal information on them that can be used against you. An estimated $40 billion will be lost to identity theft in 1999.

The sad reality is that, even if the perpetrator is caught, the victim is often left repairing their credit for months or even years.

The theft of an identity originates when a criminal obtains personal information about you and creates “new” credit accounts in your name. Unfortunately, most criminals are smart enough to give false addresses.

The first clue of trouble occurs when you start getting harassed by credit bureaus after a few months of not paying “your bills.” This is just the beginning of a potentially never ending financial problem that you had the unfortunate chance of being the selected contestant and winner.

If you’re like me, you probably haven’t quite a few credit cards, and receive applications in the mail at least once a month or more. All of those pre-approved credit applications, which you have thrown away, have everything needed for some easy money. Sadly, all that’s required for a criminal to make up a fake ID with your personal information and present that ID at their favorite department store for one of “their” new cards.

Once they figure they’ll get caught, they will eventually have to stop using the card; your left holding the bag of problems, trying to explain that you never spent $800 at Dillard’s on the 25th of January.

I don’t mean to make matters seem worse, but in our open and information-laden society, a lot of your personal information is available to anyone that takes the time to visit a courthouse or use a telephone. For only a $1.95 a minute, there is a phone number that can be called and your phone number, addresses, banking information, social security number and mortgage information can be accessed. Fortunately, the Federal Communications Commission is currently focusing on making some security corrections.

Once you have discovered that you are a victim of fraud, contacting the police isn’t the end. The collection agencies, creditors and banks are not only helpful or willing to lend a helping hand. The amount of time that it takes to dig yourself out of this hole can be tremendous, even though it’s finally over, you can’t be sure. Take the time to visit www.privacyrights.org and find out some important information about this topic.

Wheneve you can, obtain a free credit report on yourself to see what companies have requested information about you. Often, you have thousands of dollars of unwarranted debt before you even know your identity has been robbed. This is why it’s very important that you do everything you reasonably can to prevent this from happening to you and your family.

How to Prevent Identity Theft

1. Purchase a crosscut shredder and shred all junk mail credit offers, member ships to clubs and loan offers.
2. Remove your birth data, address, phone number and social security number from your checks.
3. Always shield the keypad when punching in your PIN number or other per sonal passwords.
4. Don’t use the ATM’s located in the mall or a very busy public area unless you have a choice. While they seem like a better place to avoid robbery, they provide lots of close contact and eyes to see your actions.
5. Write to: Mail Preference Service (Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735), and request to receive less junk mail.
6. Don’t leave personal information visible in your car.
7. Never leave your mail unattended, or to be picked up by someone you don’t really know. (Just because she’s your best friend’s girlfriend, doesn’t mean she’s trustworthy.)
8. Don’t forget that whenever you request one catalog, that list of names you have just been added to is often sold to other companies.
9. Pay with more cash and use less checks and credit cards. (Try to use your credit card over the phone as little as possible)
10. Be more aware of what is around you and how you handle your personal expenses.
Politically Incoherent

A spiritual moment with President Clinton...

What is it?

All truth is subjective

Look a woman!

Cupid’s arrow hits the mark

Sharon Milian
Next Contributor

Since the beginning of the written word, man has attempted to define love. It is the subject of songs, poems, novels, and movies. It influences our actions, our very lives. The real thing is said to be all encompassing, everlasting, joyous.

Love is first a potent physical thing. The hormones are at work, of course. Studies have shown that most people believe in love at first sight, that men fall in love more easily than women do, but that women tend to seek longer relationships. One cannot, however, dismiss the reaction that comes with Cupid’s arrow. The rapid heartbeat, the toe-curling, the sudden desire to skip for joy; the uncontrollable urge to touch, to hold, to cherish, to love, cannot be scoffed at by anyone who has experienced it. The mental connection is so strong that it spans the globe, so that the two become as one, and can easily read each other’s thoughts.

The kind of love I am describing is not easily found. In fact, it finds you. Other kinds of love are also enduring, such as a mother’s love for her children. Unfortunately, love and marriage doesn’t always go together, as our high divorce rate shows. Sometimes love appears while you are in a relationship with someone else. Many lives have been ruined by such circumstances, and love must stand the test. The best advice, then, is to follow your heart; for true love, as they say, conquers all.

Public sees beyond “moral blind spot”

Mike Henry
Next Contributor

The hand-wringing and moralizing out of the Washington columnists and media and the public reaction is reaching truly epic proportions. One political pundit after another is wondering aloud how the American people can remain loyal to such a treacherous lowlife as Bill Clinton. Somehow the pundits - who really should be a little more sophisticated in their reasoning - assume that people who don’t want Clinton tarred, feathered and ridden back to Little Rock on a rail consider him a fine fellow who is an innocent victim of political enemies.

The word “loyalty” keeps arising. Webster’s dictionary offers this definition for loyalty: “faithful to the prince or sovereign to whom one is subject, answering in allegiance.” To me, that definition doesn’t fit the mindset of many of the people who oppose Clinton’s removal. Sure, there are party leaders and sycophants aptly who might meet the dictionary definition of loyalty to Clinton, but try finding anyone who will say publicly that Clinton’s carrying on with an intern young enough to be his daughter and everything that followed are anything but ill-advised and beneath the dignity of the office. I’m thinking more in terms of the “regular” people I meet and work with everyday.

In my unscientific samplings, I find that most people are sick of the scandal and want it put aside so we can move on to more important issues. That’s hardly a ringing endorsement of Clinton’s removal. In fact, it suggests to me that there’s a problem with the questions being asked in opinion polls and the interpretation of the results.

We keep hearing that Clinton’s job approval ratings are sky high and going higher. The pundits conclude the people supporting Clinton would trust him alone after one term of what may have been the most morally uprightness administration of our lifetime. Why? Because they wanted someone who could get things done. Ronald Reagan’s regime was far from morally perfect, but his supporters could reasonably argue that presiding over the collapse of the Soviet Union and a huge defense buildup were more than offset the Iran-Contra scandal.

The root of Iran-Contra was that Reagan deliberately used that well-known Marine Corps hero Oliver North to bypass laws so that Contra guerrillas in Nicaragua could get money from illegal arms sales to Iran. Remember, that was a time when Iran was an enemy state, whose leaders kept calling the United States the “Great Satan.” Considering that those weapons transactions didn’t fit the mindset of many of the people I meet and work with everyday. What we have, I think, is an electorate that doesn’t trust and may not really like Clinton, but still doesn’t like the idea of throwing him out before his term is over.

It’s an electorate that understands our system of government far better than many of our elected leaders and media superstars. The fact remains, Clinton won two elections. It’s an electorate that also seems far more willing to accept the fact that democracy means sometimes you are with the “ins” and sometimes with the “outs.” Clinton’s opponents, however, seem to be trying to overthrow the results of the last election. Democracy sometimes requires everyone to be, if not a good loser, at least an accepting one.

For us, those who framed our Constitution rejected a parliamentary system that allows the majority to run wild until the pendulum swings the other way. There are still battles minority parties can win under our system without overthrowing a president. That’s a lesson the American people seem to understand far better than the political bigwigs and pundits who keep wringing their hands over the “moral blind spot” the people have over Clinton. Maybe it’s a not a blind spot at all. Maybe it’s a level of sophistication far greater than anyone in Washington wants to admit.
Currents

ON CAMPUS

Feb. 2 Film: Mask of Zorro 4 p.m. DAV 130.
Feb. 2 COC Meeting 4:15 p.m. CAC 133.
Feb. 2 Time Management Workshop 5-6 p.m. DAV 112 or call 553-1129.
Feb. 3 Effective Communication Workshop Noon-1 p.m. DAV 112 or call 553-1129 for info.
Feb. 4 Bayboro Campus Blood Drive 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Feb. 4 Florida Suncoast Writers conference. Free lecture "Can Literature Matter?" 5:45-6:45 p.m. in CAC.
Feb. 4-6 Florida Suncoast Writers Conference, Davis Hall, Registration required, call 813-893-9140 for details.
Feb. 5 Effective Notetaking Workshop DAV 112 or call 553-1129 for reservations.
Feb. 6 1st Points Regatta with USF Sailing Team. 9 a.m. at USF waterfront.
Feb. 8 Lecture: "The Idea of Florida: A Living Natural History Museum" 6-30 p.m. in CAC. Call 553-3458 for more info.
Feb. 10 Ethics Center Lecture: "Light Rail: Solution or Problem?" Speaker Gary L. Bresch. Noon-1:30 p.m. Call 553-3172 for reservations.
Feb. 10 Stress Management Workshop Noon-1:00 p.m. DAV 112. For info call 553-1129.
Feb. 11 Resume Writing Workshop for reservations go to DAV 112 or call 553-1129.
Feb. 12 Orientation to on-campus recruiting; find out about job vacancy listings on-line at the Counseling and Career Center. DAV 112. 553-1129 for info.

OFF CAMPUS

Feb. 6-7 Volunteers needed to act as witnesses for Trial Competition Regionals. 8:30-5:00 p.m. at the Federal Courthouse in downtown Tampa. Contact Lynn Hanshaw from Stetson University at 525-5749 for more information.


First Friday of each month, Oct.-May. Get Down Town Music Series. Local bands. 5-9 p.m. In the QUARTER, Central Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Streets. FREE.

Mark Your Calendars!

Easter Fest is March 20th

Review: The Thin Red Line

Jason Lines
Next Contributor

Leaving some movies, thoughts race through your mind. You ponder the plot, the actor’s depiction of their characters, the cinematography. But occasionally, you stand, walk to the exit, get into your car and drive home. Speechless, legs shaky, a piece of your soul touched.

Terrence Malick’s depiction of the autobiographical novel by James Jones walks the thin line between imagination and reality, between humanity and inhumanity, and between peace and war. A beautifully shot film, Malick focuses on the relationship between beauty and hell. The men of Charlie Company each struggle to hold on to some semblance of self in the midst of chaos. Several stories are woven together with artistry and care, developing relationships and emotional ties amongst the soldiers and the audience.

The focus of the film, though hazy at times, isdrawing transcends the war itself, and leaves you with an almost surreal vision of the relationship between life and death, between beauty and hell.

Position Available

Television Production (PT)/Educational Outreach is accepting applications. For Information:

Call 974-9276 or 974-8457
Sports and Entertainment

Pick-up players offer score on NBA, Jordan

Akira Hibino
Nest Contributor

If anyone would care about the delayed NBA season or Michael Jordan’s retirement, it had to be these guys. Every Monday through Thursday they risk sprained ankles and split lips battling out afternoon pick-up games in the CAC.

Basketball buff Ken Lamar, a St. Petersburg Junior College student majoring in physical therapy, said because of the retirement of Michael Jordan teams other than the Chicago Bulls will have more possibility to “attain their goals of winning the championship. Chicago dominated,” he said. “That’s the way it was.” The Bulls won six championships in the 90s.

The absence of, many critics called, the greatest basketball player ever, might also affect the attendance of the games. Jordan left the NBA with six championships and five MVPs.

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Sports

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