WUSF's pledge class grows

Fund-raising drive at 89.7 FM makes history.

Jennifer Baker
Next Contributor

WUSF radio's on-air fund drive raised the targeted $300,000 and ended a record day-and-a-half early. WUSF, the university-sponsored public radio station, has come a long way since first going on the air in 1963. Originally broadcast on a 10-watt transmitter with a reach of two miles or so, the station now broadcasts at 100,000 watts and reaches an area from Crystal River to Venice. A sister station in Fort Myers, WGCU, extends the listening area to Everglades City.

Total listenership is estimated at 275,000. The station has an overall budget of more than $2.4 million, of which only 12 percent comes from state and federal funding, down from close to 100 percent at the station's inception.

WUSF broadcasts National Public Radio news shows, local and state news, and classical music, supplemented by late-night jazz programming. Weekend offerings include the radio shows "Prairie Home Companion" and "Car Talk.

The station describes itself as the second "most listened to station" in the country. WUSF's Membership Director

Please see WUSF page 3.

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Sail team breaks wind

CATCHING THE WIND: USF sailing team members compete in the first regatta hosted by the St. Petersburg campus last September.

USF's varsity sailing team is gaining recognition and ranking.

Marjorie Stephens
Next Staff

As recently as last spring, few had ever heard of the USF Sailing Team. Now the team has a chance at a national ranking.

The team is making waves in the South Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association points series. In the first two regattas of the season, USF beat teams that have competed in the National Championships. That includes beating the University of Florida in the first regatta ever hosted by USF. USF also plans to host the National Championships in the summer of 1999.

Dr. Steve Lang, the sailing team's acting coach for the past three years, is very optimistic about a national ranking this year. He told the St. Petersburg Times, "We clearly have talent, but everyone is sailing together for the first time. We only started practicing together this summer."

He pointed out that the teams USF beat have full-time coaching staffs and practice every day, while USF has Lang as a part-time coach and practices three days a week.

Sailing is the only intercollegiate sport that is coed, Lang said. Winning a regatta depends on skill and strategy. Size and strength are not the only issues because weight can be adjusted — if you have a light person you can put a heavier person with them. It is a very demanding sport physically and mentally. "Strength, balance and physical skills as well as flexibility matter," Lang said.

Comparing sailing to other sports, he said, "How would it be if every time you showed up to play, the field was different, the equipment was different and the weather was extremely different?"

According to Lang, after many attempts were made to start a collegiate sailing team at USF, 1994 proved to be the year it would happen.

Ken Hardy, president of the Tampa Sailing Club, Dawn Service, president of St. Petersburg Sailing, Ashley Scarritt and Scott Norman met with Lang to put together a competitive team. Nine boats were bought and the team went to five regattas. They joined the Intercollegiate Yacht Racing Association and also met with USF St. Petersburg Dean William Helfer, Athletic Director Paul Griffith and Student Affairs Director Steve Ritch to talk about a varsity team.

During the '95-'96 school year the team, under the leadership of Ben Givens, expanded and 10 students went to eight regattas, including slope championships in Charleston and "all points" regattas. The team won the last race of the last regatta of the spring season.

Experienced freshmen were recruited for the first time in 1996, including Jim Cook from Tallahassee who placed second in the Junior Nationals. Jim immediately placed third at the UF Laser Invitational. Jamey Rabbitt won Division-A in two regattas in the spring of 1997.

The team attended regattas, ranked sixth of 22 schools in the South Atlantic and went to the first intercollegiate for USF teams.

During the summer of 1997, Athletic Director Paul Griffith met with Student Government President Diane DeVore to discuss further support for the team. Capital Improvement Trust Fund money was used to complete the boathouse and buy eight additional racing boats. A foundation fund was also set up for the team.

Today the team is made up of "about 15 members," said Lang. Members include Toshi Sakama, who helped coach the Japanese Olympic Sailing Team; Joanna Roncach, who came from Poland to play women's basketball but decided to sail instead, and Scott Gilbert, a junior born and raised in Melbourne, who has been on the team for three years.

For information on the remaining regattas of the season contact Dr. Steve Lang at 553-1572 or e-mail him at lang@bayflash.usf.edu.

Editor's note: At the single-handed championships (one person sailing) hosted by Eckerd College Oct. 23, USF's Toshi Sakama won the last five races of a 13-race rotation and qualified for nationals. Congratulations!
During the past week, I've had plenty of time to ponder. Thanks to bronchitis, I hardly did anything this week. I meekly attended a couple classes and I managed to watch some of the World Series. Yes, it was tough, but I had to do it. While pondering and viewing, I real-
tized there was something terribly wrong with the national pastimes' prize.
America has forgotten about the World Series. The television ratings were the lowest they've ever been. I'm not sure what that means, but I do know less and less people care about baseball. And why not? The only thing we ever hear about is the squabbles be-
tween the owners and players. Even the umpires insist on fighting with owners and players. Baseball games take too long and they start too late. Players move from team to team every year. All of the problems with baseball have dampered America's excitement for the game.

Even I was not excited about the Series. In the past, I've been known to get obsessed over this fall classic. Even I was not excited about the World Series, managed to watch some of the World Series, and realized there was something terribly wrong with the national pastimes' prize. The World Series was cancelled only three years ago because 700 millionaires and 28 billionaires, thereabouts, couldn't agree on how to divide the billions of dollars in revenue made each year. By cancelling the Series, they elimi-
nated the one constant of 20th century America. Sure, baseball has been head-
ing down the drain for the past 15 or so years, but cancelling the Series may have its death.

How can we care about a game when the people running it are so blatantly greedy? Maybe we can't, but baseball is the same sport it always was. It is the same sport that gave America Babe Ruth, Jackie Robinson, Joe Dimaggio, Mickey Mantle and Ken Griffey Jr.—the White Kids, the Bronx Bombers and the Big Red Machine. So at least maybe there is a chance to get some excitement back. We got to see a game seven — when I was not nearly as sick as I was during the week. In any case, it's still better than soccer.

Woods does good at Poynter

Advancing ethics in journalism is Keith Woods' calling.

Keith Woods may have majored in So-
cial Science, but he also received a de-
gree in the game of pool. For that de-
gree, he studied (and sometimes taught) in Dillard University's pool room. It was there a brag list told Woods about his job attending basketball games throughout Louisiana — getting paid by the Univer-
sity or the Temple University, for some-
ting that seemed more like pleasure and less like work.

Days after the pool room boaster left his position in the Sports Information of-
fice, Woods showed up inquiring about part-time work and got that coveted job as assistant the director. Already having an interest in writing, he additionally ac-
cepted a part-time job with the newspa-
per covering sports. He went on to be-
come an award-winning sportswriter and news reporter and the newspaper's first black city editor.

Little did Woods know serendipity was at work. The two jobs would later con-
verge, coincidently, into a satisfying and rewarding career.

In 1994, after 16 years with the newspa-
per, he joined the Poynter Institute, where excellence in journalism is not only understood, it's the norm. Woods is an associate in ethics, and specializes in covering race and diversity.

Woods doesn't do what he does be-
cause he deeply believes it is one of the most significant contributions the media can make toward improving our society. Woods regards his work as significant because the areas he focuses on affect everyone, either directly or indirectly. He offered the following explanations as reasons for specializing in race and di-
versity. "It's something I'm culturally drawn to... Part of the fabric that consti-
tutes my world includes issues of race and difference. If you don't live in it, you live in it vicariously and accidentally... someone you know got stopped by the police," he explained.

"Also, it's a niche area, a place where there is a need, a void. There aren't a lot of people concentrating in these areas in the media."

Through his teaching, Woods tries to get people to evaluate the way they are doing their jobs, stop them from doing the things that cause harm, and ulti-

mately improve journalism and coverage of people.

The highest level of success for Woods is when a journalist who has attended his seminar gets his new ideas heard in the newsroom and single-handedly instigates change.

However, Woods was sure to point out, he doesn't need that to feel fulfilled. "I don't need maximum success to feel successful," he said.

The issues of diversity and coverage of race in the media are important to soci-
ety as a whole. The relationship is like a chain reaction, Woods said.

"You have to get with the belief that the media plays a role in how people view themselves. And if you assume that amount of power in the hands of the media and work your way back to the idea that better journalism leads to a bet-
ter society," Woods said, then you can understand the relationship.

Journalists have a responsibility to make efforts to improve society because, as Woods put it, journalism essentially boils down to a public service. But this kind of responsibility associated with journalism is not confined to the media in Woods' opinion. He said anyone in any form of public service has the responsibility of making efforts to improve society.

Not only is social responsibility em-
bedded in Woods' specialized areas, closely linked to them is a certain level of moral responsibility. However, moral-
ity can't be legislated in a free press in a
country, Woods acknowledged. But it can be dictated by excellence of craft, he added.

"If it's true that because of our own in-
ability or lack of skill, because of our own fears we are not tackling (under-
standing) the issues of race, ethnicity, gender, and all those other things that in-
dicate 'difference,' then what are the im-
spections for truth, accuracy, fairness, and balanced reporting," which journal-
ism holds as its cornerstone.

"As a greater society, we can opt in and out of conversations — we have that luxury. But when it is your job to report on people who you don't know, it is your responsibility to get it right," Woods said.

"In the larger society, [the issues of di-
versity and race relations] may be an op-
tional issue of morality, but in the media it is an issue of accuracy and is no more optional than studying grammar, news reporting, or photography. It is a skill important to your job."

Woods will be speaking on Race Rela-
tions in America on Nov. 6, in Davis Hall room 130. The event is sponsored by the Association of Black Students, the Omni Cultural Society, and the Anthro-
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polgy Club.
Teaching pipes means teaching tradition

A Scottish bagpipe instructor in Dunedin helps to keep the city's Celtic traditions alive.

Steve McClure
Nest Staff

The average citizen might not relate a small city on the Pinellas Gulf Coast with Scottish bagpipes, but the city of Dunedin has a long tradition of proudly promoting its Scottish heritage.

Dunedin was settled by a Scottish immigrant in the late 1800s. A more recent Scottish immigrant, Alexander Keith, is a bagpipe instructor in Dunedin. Known as Sandy to the bagpipe community, Keith is a city employee responsible for promoting bagpipe events throughout the community, as well as several individual students.

"I've been playing the pipes since I was 11," Keith said in a slight Scottish brogue. A native of Glasgow, Scotland, Keith won the much coveted Scottish Junior Amateur Piping Award in individual competition at age 16. A year later, in 1953, he set out to make his fortune in Canada.

Years later he was recruited by the city of Dunedin, primarily to teach its middle school and high school pupils. Along with the two school bands, the city also has an adult band, many of whom are former school band members. "They brought me down from Hamilton, Ontario in 1981, right after I retired from the police force up there," Keith said. The city had recently lost its piping instructor and wanted to ensure that music students would have the continued opportunity to learn the pipes.

Don退役 had never seen a bagpipe before moving at age nine to Dunedin. Upon entering middle school, she took up the bagpipes. "It became like an obsession with me," Rush said. "All I wanted to do was play my pipes." Rush excelled at piping and in six years had climbed to the adult band. She has also given something back to the hobby that has provided her with so much joy. For the past eight years, she has donated her time to teaching the pipes to Dunedin middle school kids. "I thought it was neat when I was in middle school because I remember there were always adults around volunteering their time to teach us."

A pipe band is generally comprised of five to 10 pipers and three to six drummers. Rob Kennedy is a former Dunedin High School band member, who plays tenor drum for the adult band. "Both of my parents came from Scotland," Kennedy said, "and I wanted to continue to promote my heritage."

The uniforms worn by the Dunedin bagpipe bands help to foster Scottish tradition. All of the bands wear traditional highland dress, including kilts. And while some of the band members would share the age-old secret of what is worn under the kilt, they did say that their kilts were authentic. Each Scottish Clan developed its own tartan check-pattern woven into woolen cloth.

"While many people of Scottish ancestry might toy with the idea of donning a kilt and learning to play the bagpipes, it is not a hobby for the faint-hearted," Keith said. "It's a very difficult instrument to learn," Keith said. Simply called "the pipes" for short, this odd looking woodwind instrument requires a special technique to be played fluently. A difficult aspect of piping is that players must memorize all of their music. Many instruments allow musicians to read from a musical score held on a stand, but not the bagpipes because of their pliability.

``All the practice chanter makes less noise than practicing on the actual pipes. This can help prevent neighbors from calling the police when pupils practice at home. "People either love them or hate them; there is no middle ground," Keith said of the pipes. Actually, few people in Dunedin would be likely to call the police on a piper. Dunedin has always promoted its Scottish heritage and proudly supports its local pipe bands.

The adult bagpipe band has several members who have attended USF while playing for the group. R.J. Fredericks is a music education major on the Tampa campus who plays scree drum with the Dunedin city pipe band. Specializing in percussion at USF, Fredericks appreciates learning the slightly different Scottish technique of drumming. "It's opened my eyes to different styles of drumming, which is important, especially as a future music teacher," Fredericks said.

Under Keith's tutelage the Dunedin pipe bands have become respected worldwide. "We've developed quite a reputation. We've won in the U.S., Canada and Scotland," Keith said. The Dunedin pipe bands can be seen at local civic events and parades throughout the year.

Pinellas County has six pipe bands made up of Scottish and Irish immigrants located throughout the county. Florida hosts several organized Scottish Highland Games, one of which is in Dunedin each April and primarily organized by Keith. The city of Dunedin plans to hold a downtown Celtic New Year's celebration on Dec. 31. Entertainers will include local pipe players, as well as Seven Nations, a Celtic-rock group.

For more information on events involving the bagpipes of Dunedin, call the Dunedin Chamber of Commerce at 733-3497.

WUSF continued from page 1

Evelyn Massaro explains this is based on time-spent-listening calculations done by Arbitron, a national rating company. Most radio stations average one hour listening time, she says. WUSF listeners average seven to nine hours a day.

The fund drives have come a long way as well. Connie McDonnell, long-time promotion director for WUSF, remembers the first fund drive 18 years ago. At that time on-air fund drives were almost unheard of. McDonnell, armed only with samples from those other stations that had done drives, got the go-ahead for an on-air drive from the station manager. That first drive netted $6,000.

With the exception of the "premiers" — thank you gifts for patrons pledging certain amounts — were absent from the early drives. In fact, a Sarasota restaurant owner, who called to offer dinner for two to anyone making a pledge in the following hour, set the premium standard. The offer took McDonnell by surprise. She had to get approval from the station manager and the station's lawyers before accepting. When the offer was aired, the phones rang off the hook — "like Christmas," McDonnell says.

Early fund drives were stilted compared to today's drives. Fund raisers repeated prerecorded messages again and again. Now radio announcers and station employees casually share announcements and personal commentary with listeners while greatest-hit classical selections round the program. The momentum builds as the drive approaches its target. WUSF is one of the few stations in the country, according to McDonnell, to cut off the fund drive when the goal is reached. She says the practice builds excitement and nets the same amount as a longer drive.

Public radio fund-raising gained importance in the 1980s when President Ronald Reagan cut federal funding for public radio and made public funds dependant on locally-raised money. Even in today's terms, though, WUSF is successful at fund-raising. Most public stations, Massaro says, receive between 25 and 40 percent public funding. At 12 percent, WUSF is well under the norm. But as a large station, WUSF pays top dollar for NPR programming and receives less from federal funding formulas, Massaro says.

"Car Talk," a popular call-in show featuring two brothers doling out advice on auto mechanics and social trends, costs the station a whopping $37,000 yearly. NPR dues for news programming are set at $427,000. In contrast, the total cost for in-house produced classical music programming is $37,000.

Whatever the cost, the station has come up with a winning formula. Station members' contributions cover 37 percent of the budget. Local businesses underwrite almost 20 percent, and the rest comes from a normal fund established last year.

This fall's fund drive set a new record when the "$1,000,000 drive" was named. At 6:30 Friday night, Sept. 26, a day-and-a-half earlier than scheduled. In all, more than 2,700 listeners pledged their support for the radio station. That number includes listeners in the WUSF listening area. Many contributors were first-time donors to the station: 733 for WUSF and 233 for WOCI. At 6:30 p.m. Friday, the traditional finale of WUSF fund drives, Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony," signaled the successful completion of the drive. Announcer Russell Gant initiated the spirit-building tradition several years ago. Beethoven's "Ninth" is too long to be played during regular programming, Massaro explains; playing the piece at the culmination of the fund drive is the staff's gift to listeners.

Crow's Nest
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882-9055
I have a friend who thinks I’m really smart because I go to college. She’s taken some college courses herself, but she still has this idea that people who go through four (and usually many more) years of higher education must be brilliant.

Well, she might be right or wrong, depending on the person. But what she hasn’t quite grasped, and what I’ve tried to explain, is that actually going to classes and doing the work isn’t hard. Oh sure, you’re expected to read a lot, think a lot, take tests, and, well, learn. But that’s really the easy part. The hard part is deciding what to do once you finish college.

I’m in my second year of graduate school and still don’t know. I’ve weighed it down, of course, but I’m still a bit torn. How could this happen? Shouldn’t I already be on a career track?

College is supposed to prepare you for your career, but unless your chosen major is something like accounting or teaching, you really receive precious little actual job-specific training. My undergraduate degree was in economics, chosen because I did well in my first couple of economics courses and I was under the mistaken impression that a degree was the important thing, not the major. The fallacy of that thinking was readily apparent as soon as I went job-hunting.

Because there are so many people out there with degrees looking for jobs, you have to find ways to distinguish yourself and your particular set of skills from all of the others. And with my generic degree, I wasn’t distinguished.

Seeing as how the degree was of little use (unless I wanted to continue in school and become an economist, which I didn’t), I worked a few different jobs while I pondered what it was really likely to do. I finally came up with an answer, although I still have to decide between a couple of different paths.

I very much admire people who know what they want the life from an early age, or even those who discover it early in college.

There are others like me, I suspect many, many others. Some are working on a second bachelor’s or second master’s degree. Some are changing careers mid-life. Some are changing careers for the second time mid-life. All of us are still searching. Sometimes I wonder if it’s such a hard choice because it means your future happiness or despair. What else has such an enormous impact on your life, besides marriage?

I’ve come up with a plan. Maybe not a plan so much as a way of thinking. For all of you who are in this same boat, give this a try.

First, decide what you like to do. Write it down. Write it all down. It doesn’t matter if the list is long. The longer the better, actually.

Now, go through that list and mark the things that are conceivable careers (you may like playing football, but be honest about your chances of playing in the NFL). Be realistic; but don’t judge a particular career by the amount of money you’ll make unless money is the main thing that will make you happy. The key is to identify careers that you will enjoy doing day in and day out, over the years.

Now you’ve got some deciding to do. I’ve found an effective way to do this is to list what each career provides that would make you happy (if you like writing, travel and soccer, for instance, an excellent choice would be a career that allows you to write and travel, or write about soccer, or travel to soccer games, etc.), and the one that provides the most is the best choice. Don’t worry about the problems inherent in a certain career; they’ll have obstacles and problems. The trick is to find work you will enjoy enough to outweigh the bad spots.

I’ve applied this process to my own career decision process, and it narrowed down my search to about three possibilities. Luckily there is some overlapping, so now I just have to make that final choice.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I was very disappointed in the Oct. 15-21, 1997 edition of The Crow’s Nest. Almost a full page was applied to the USF Bull’s Homecoming game, and only one sentence was donated to the new YWCA Child Development Center.

This child development center will have a tremendous impact on the students, staff and faculty of USF as well as on the community of St. Petersburg. This center will, among other things, provide day care services at reduced rates for those in financial need. As Diana Devore said when she addressed the crowd at the dedication ceremony, “If this center was already built, I could have dropped [my son] off today, without any worries, to a safe place where he could play and learn.”

The homecoming game is a “big deal,” but only to those students who attend the Tampa campus. The ceremonies that will take place on the field during half-time only include those students, faculty and staff that attend the Tampa campus. The other three campuses were not invited to participate in this event. When I contacted the director of the homecoming festivities, I was told “we do not have time for you on the field.” We were also denied a bus to take St. Petersburg students to the games, including the homecoming game, and the ability to sell tickets at our Campus Activities Center.

The football team is being funded by all of the students through the athletic fees that each student pays, regardless of their home campus. Under the direction of Gary Schmeichel, Student Government vice president, and his fee recovery committee, USF St. Petersburg has tried to get funding for our sail team, but has only been met with opposition. Currently the USF sail team has ranked No. 2 in the nation with competitors such as PSU and University of Florida.

Currently, USF is considering funding a band for the football team with a start-up cost of over $500,000 and an annual maintenance cost of over $225,000. The sail team has asked for only $50,000 and so far has been denied this amount.

With such an important asset to our school being built, why was too much space given to an event with which we were not allowed to be included?

—M. Patricia Wilson

Editor’s Note: A story on USF St. Petersburg’s current construction projects is in progress and will feature the YWCA’s Child Development Center.
The bug will "byte" in 2000

Businesses beware; but USF should be safe from the Millennium Bug

Teresa Staltery
Nest Staff

It's Jan. 8, 2000, and Susie Student is attempting to register and pay for her first class at USF. The automatic voice on the phone tells her that there has been a slight problem with the registration process, and to compound her problems, her Visa card is unacceptable. Suddenly, the security and fire systems in her dorm room sound the chime of the Millennium Bug has begun.

The year 2000 problem is one that could affect all of us, whether or not we own a home computer. Experts tell us that if this Millennium Bug is not fixed when the year 2000 arrives, our financial records will be inaccurate, our telephone system will be unreliable, our flights will be cancelled without warning.

From the 1960s through the 1980s we used calendar years. There were 10 digit formats: MM.DD.YY, MM.DD.YYYY for several reasons. First, it was convenient and required a minimum of keystrokes to be effective. Second, 20 years ago, the cost of computer memory was expensive and limited. Finally, there was not a great deal of concern as to what potential problems may arise 20 to 30 years in the future.

The six-digit year format is part of the problem. A computer will most likely interpret the six-digit entry of 00 for the year 2000 in the year 1900. Thus, any program that involves date comparisons, arithmetic functions, scheduling, forecasting and statistical analysis stands a good chance of rendering useless information.

Unfortunately, fixing the year 2000 problem is neither easy nor inexpensive. More than 2,000 computer languages exist, 500 of which are used regularly. Large system programs contain millions of lines of programming code. To fix these lines of code is labor-intensive. Each line must be individually examined and possibly altered.

ALCOHOL: CHOICES & CONSEQUENCES

Diane McKinstry
Counseling and Career Center

Over the last 10 years, as colleges across the country have examined the prevalence of substance use on their campuses, the pattern that consistently emerged indicated that alcohol use far outstripped the use of any other intoxicant.

Campuses campus problems, it seems, reflect how alcohol is used in our overall society. At home and in business or social functions, we all are faced with decisions about using alcohol.

Examining alcohol use as a "rite of passage" on America's college campuses, The Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, found that:

- 95 percent of violent crime on campus is alcohol related.
- 90 percent of all reported campus rapes occur when alcohol is being used by either the assailant, the victim, or both.
- Alcohol is implicated in more than 40 percent of all academic problems and 25 percent of all dropouts.
- At least 20 percent of college students abandon safe sex practices when drunk that they usually use when sober.

Because alcohol use is so prevalent in our society, it is important to give careful consideration to the role alcohol will play in your life. You can make conscious choices if you have accurate information and take the time to assess your attitudes and drinking behavior.

Alcohol is a drug which, like other sedatives, is a central nervous system depressant. The impact of alcohol varies from person to person depending on how fast and how much is consumed, what has been eaten, weight, tolerance, personality, mood and the situation in which drinking occurs. Even in moderate amounts, alcohol reduces physical coordination and motor skills, impairs judgment and thinking, impairs memory and concentration, impairs reaction time, impairs muscle coordination, slows reflexes, and increases the person's likelihood of being injured in accidents.

Alcohol consumption is commonly linked to an increased rate of students being on campus. Because alcohol use is so prevalent, it is impossible to avoid alcohol use on college campuses. However, you may be able to avoid alcohol use on college campuses. You may be able to avoid alcohol use on college campuses. You may be able to avoid alcohol use on college campuses.

Here is a short self-assessment developed by Boost Alcohol Consciousness. Concerning the Health of University Students (BACCHUS) to help you analyze your attitudes and behavior about your drinking habits.

Have you experienced any of the following emotions and behaviors after a decision to drink?

1. Being physically ill
2. Poor concentration or attention
3. Legal problems
4. Blackouts
5. Violence
6. Dangerous sexual situations
7. Violent problems
8. Self-criticism
9. Making promises to avoid drinking too much in the future and then getting drunk anyway?

If you answered "yes" to three or more of these questions, or if your answer to any of the questions concerns you, you may be using alcohol in ways that are harmful. If you think that your drinking may be contributing to problems in your life, you can get help on campus.

For information or counseling, contact USF St. Petersburg's Counseling & Career Center at 553-1129, or UF Tampa's Center for Addiction and Substance Abuse at 974-2677.

Sources and Resources:

Boost Alcohol Consciousness, 1997.


Rethinking the Roles of Peerage: Alcohol Abuse at America's College and University Campuses, Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, Columbia University, 1992.


The life and ghosts of a city

An essay on baseball and loneliness.

David Rodrigues
Special to the Nest

I grew up in a small city in Florida that has a reputation as God’s waiting room, a place of old folks and green benches that used to be lined with tens-of-thousands of people, but is now lined with ghosts and an occasional pigeon. A deep emptiness remains in this city – a thought of what used to be, but what now isn’t. This is the story of a city that only holds on to one last wish for prosperity and new life.

I can remember growing up in St. Petersburg. Fla., within a prosperous downtown packed full of elderly people searching for their youth again. They came from everywhere to see the St. Louis Cardinals win a game of spring training baseball, while enjoying the warm Florida sunshine at old Al Lang Stadium. As a child, I used to spend all day there watching the game and then afterwards share an ice cold soda with the players. I looked really out-of-place there in the stands among all those old-timers, but I was touched by the same kind of youthful and magical feeling as they were. The game they called baseball stirred memories of youth inside all who attended, while the very old waited to be called to a plate from which they would never again return. Every year, a hundred more old-timers would die and a hundred more would become too ill to come back to St. Petersburg to see the team they loved, in the place they lived. I soon grew lonely without them, as the only friends I knew became the ghosts on our green benches.

Hopes to bring back the past quickly spread through all elderly hearts, as the city began a fight for a major league domed stadium to be built in the heart of downtown. The city even hung a dollar bill high at the dome’s front gate to represent the first investment in the city’s new and brighter future. I can remember walking down to the site just three blocks from home where this great structure was going to be built. All I could see around me was an open field of green grass, a spiritual ground of roots surrounded by twelve huge columns of stone. All I felt was that inside would be where heroes such as the great Ozzie Smith would hit a home run into the upper deck. It was truly the “Field of Dreams” where my ancient friends went to get their Major League Baseball Team. I can remember sitting on my grandfather’s bedside to hear him say the words, “God give us the team, not for me, but for the future.” Those were the last words he said before he too became one of the ghosts on our green benches. An emptiness could be found in all elderly hearts after him, for after he died, so too did a part of our baseball quest we could never resurrect.

The Great Giants of San Francisco were denied the right to relocate to my city by baseball’s Executive Council. The vote was nearly 10 to 1 against our unfortunate town. Our only supporter was a local resident by the name of Fred Kuhlmann, the chairman of the St. Louis Cardinals.

I went to my late grandfather’s Mass empty, not only crying for him, but also crying for the rest of the city’s unfortunate people. After Mass, I took a walk alone onto downtown’s empty streets. Through the glare of the early morning sun, I could hear a comforting voice telling me, “It’s alright.” Then I saw a gentle elderly man with a newspaper in his hand walking toward me all alone in this empty shell of a city. “My gosh, son, how did you know me?” he said. And I replied that he was the single vote on the Executive Council in our favor. I thanked Mr. Kuhlmann for his support and asked him why he voted for us. He said with sadness in his eyes, “I knew your grandfather well through reading his last wish for baseball in the St. Petersburg Times. You can quote me on the fact that some day soon, your Field of Dreams will become the Field of Reality.”

That day I learned more about life than any other, for those that see the ghosts of the Field of Dreams are the only ones who could realize what a baseball team really means. It is all and everything that my small city could be.

With the coming of the Devil Rays, the glory and magic of major league baseball is reborn, filling St. Petersburg with renewed purpose and place. Today, a younger crowd cheers, “hooray, hooray!” My grandfather and the ghosts sit amongst the rejuvenated crowd next to me at old Al Lang. We feel the crowd’s spirit and wish it would stay. We rush to the newer stadium, complete its decoration, and begin to pray and pray, that the Glory and Magic of Major League Baseball would begin again today.

To: Dean H. William Heller; Thank you.
ANTHROPOLOGY CLUB
Meetings are every other Tuesday beginning Oct 7 from 5 - 5:30 p.m. in COQ 200.

ASSOCIATION OF BLACK STUDENTS
Meets in the SLC on 4th and Thursday of each month in DAV 138, 5 p.m. Call Karinika Burton at 866-4003 or 553-1108 for more information.

BAPTIST STUDENT MINISTRIES
Come join us Monday nights at 7 p.m., for a woman's bible study that will give you encouragement through a hectic week and come Thursdays at noon for a time of fellowship and study of God's Word. If questions call Linda at 376-5508.

CROW'S NEST
Always looking for contributions. Meetings are Tuesdays at 5 p.m., CAC clubroom. Visit our office in CAC128, or call 553-3113 for more information.

MARINE SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Hear the first Thursday of each month in the conference room of the MSL. Socials are held each Friday at 5 p.m. Call Terri Silho at 553-3923 for more info.

OMNI CULTURAL SOCIETY
Meetings are every other Tuesday beginning Sept 29 at 5 - 5:50 p.m. in COQ 200.

SCUBA CLUB
Meetings are the first Friday of each month in Marine Science lounge at 4 p.m. For more info call Jennifer at 829-5377.

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS
Now accepting new members for 97 - '98. Meetings each month. Call for this month's time & location. Join us this semester for speakers, workshops and more. Call 553-3113 for info.

SPORTS CLUB
New club on campus! Join us to start a great new tradition. Call Dave at 894-2759 for more info.

STUDENT ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS ORGANIZATION
Meetings are Wednesdays at noon and 5:15 p.m. in DAV 130, unless otherwise noted. Call Laura Hoffman at 821-2874 for more info.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD
Plug into SAB! Help plan how your activities fees are spent on campus. Meetings are every other Monday, 4 p.m., CAC 131. New members are always welcome.

STUDENT COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
Next meeting Tuesday, Nov. 4, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in DAV 108.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT
Earn a stipend while participating in campus decisions — applications are now being accepted for college representatives. Meetings are Wednesday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Visit the SG offices in the CAC or call 553-9144.

services
INTERESTED IN STUDY ABROAD?
Visit foreign countries while earning course credit. Financial aid available. Call 553-3113 for more information, or the Overseas Study office at 974-4043.

TUPPERWARE
Tupperware brand products are guaranteed for the life of the product. Call Consultant Nadine Henderson Price, 813/821-8616, for full line and monthly catalogs. Ask for information on how to start your own successful full or part-time business.

AFFINITY PHOTOGRAPHY
Weddings, portraits and location work available. Also environmental portraiture, birthdays, anniversaries and parties. Discounts given to students. Professional quality work at reasonable prices. Free estimates. Call 553-9007.

for sale
1983 TOYOTA CRESSIDA
Low miles, new brakes, exhaust, timing belt and water pump; excellent mechanical condition. Needs minor body work. $2,800 OBO. Call 553-3113, leave message.

1986 MAZDA 626 FOR SALE
2 door, standard transaxle, new tires, alternator, oil pump, air conditioning. Must sell. $1,800 OBO. 864-9420, leave message.

U2 CONCERT TICKETS
Eight tickets and one parking pass for the Friday, Nov 14 concert in Miami. Joe Robbie Stadium, $62 each, $15 parking pass. E-mail Ralph Dunne: dunne@suntan.eng.usf.edu.

roommates
NEED ROOMMATE
Clear, non-smoker wanted to share new home, all amenities. Call 527-3278.

employment
JOBS • JOBS • JOBS
Positions are listed in the Counseling & Career Center's Resource Library, DAV 112.

for rent
APARTMENT FOR RENT
Clean 2 bedroom, 1 bath, nice neighborhood from Pinellas Square Mall. New paint, carpet, CHA. $425/mo. For more info call Phoebe at 553-0901.

WATERFRONT RENTALS
The Lighthouse Retreat for rent: waterfront, off-campus college community on Boca Ciega Bay, pool, beach volleyball, dock; $400/mo. One bedroom bungalows; $600/mo. 2 bedroom houses; $250/mo. efficiencies. Call 328-8326 for more info.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT
Two miles from USF St. Pete campus. Efficiency $250/mth. one bedroom; $325/mth. All unburished, gas incl., pet allowed, mgmt. on site. Call 827-4334 for more info.

ROOM FOR RENT
Shore Acres area, female only. Pool home on canal, cable, kitchen priv., washer/dryer, on bus line. $100/wk. for all. Call Rebecca at 373-8020.

announcements
OUTSIDE THEATER BY THE BAY
Bring a blanket and munchies then snuggle up on the lawn, harborside, with one of SAB's Fall outside movies. Nov. 6; Apollo 13.

PLAN FOR A GOOD LAUGH
Join SAB for Tavern on the Green's Comedy Hour; 3 to 6 p.m. Oct. 30, Nov. 20 (amateur night).

DISCOUNTED TICKETS
Busch Gardens, AMC Movie Theaters, Florida International Museum and Florida Aquarium tickets are available at the CAC at a discount to the USF community.

GREYHOUND PROTECTION LEAGUE
Approx. 30,000 young, healthy greyhounds are killed annually because they fail to turn a profit. Find out what you can do to put an end to this shameful "sport." Call 784-5229.

GREPREPARATION COURSES
USF's Lifelong Learning Division is accepting registration for GRE prep courses on the St. Pete campus. GRE math skills review 8 a.m. - noon, Saturdays Oct. 25 - Dec. 6. GRE verbal skills review 1 - 5 p.m., Saturdays Oct. 25 - Dec. 6. Each course $190. Call 974-2403 for more info.

USF RECREATION RENTALS
Sailboats, windsurfers and camping equipment are available. Fees are minimal. Reservations taken by phone or stop by the recreation office at COQ 107. Please call 553-1597 for more information.

clubs/organizations
it all begins with Crow's NEST classifieds
to place an ad
Send your ad to writing to The Crow's Nest office at least one week before press date. All classified ads are payable in advance. Credits should be made payable to the University of South Florida. Personal checks should include a $3.50 service number on the check.
rates
Classified ads are free for USF students, staff and faculty. Other single issue rate is $1.00 for 50 words or less, additional words are 10 cents each. Refunds will not be issued after ad and payment are received.
25th Hour Bayboro Brunch
Oct. 26, 1997
This inaugural fundraiser asked guests to spend the "25th hour" of the day at USF... and generated proceeds to benefit scholarships at USF St. Pete.

AND WONDERFUL FOOD TOO: A large crowd gathered on the main floor of Nelson Poynter Library during the "Brunch Amongst the Books."

USF DIGNITARIES: USF President Betty Castor, USF Dean William HeUer and Dr. Peter Betzer, chairman of the marine science department, were on hand.

MIXING AND MINGLING: St. Petersburg Mayor David Fischer attended the festivities.

briefs

Spooky places
Tour an eerie village on a moonlit night as you are guided through a spine-tingling adventure at "Fright Fest," a trail at the Renaissance Festival Village filled with shocking scenes and frightening fun. A palm reader, tarot card reader, psychic and face painter will be on hand, and there will be more than 20 craft shops to see. You can also take an old-fashioned hayride for a small fee.

The Renaissance Village will also host "Boo Bash" for young children featuring story telling, games, contests and Halloween crafts.

The events will be open from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Oct. 30 and Oct. 31. Admission is $7.95 for adults, $3.95 for children and those free for those under 4 years old. For information, call the Festival office at 813-586-5423.

Aruffo on Mt. Kilimanjaro
Professor Henry Aruffo, adjunct professor of geography at USF, will present a lecture and slide presentation on his recent trip to Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa, on Nov. 19 at noon in Davis Hall, room 130. Mt. Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain on the African continent, at 19,340 feet above sea level. The successful mountain-climb preceded a safari to the Ngorogoro Crater and a visit to Kenya to study the culture of the Samburu and Meru tribes.

Professor Aruffo is probably best known on campus for his yearly spring break trips to Tahiti and Moorea with students. His slides and lectures about his adventures, whether it is mountain climbing adventures in Africa, diving with giant stingrays in Tahiti, canoeing up the Amazon River or sailing solo across the Atlantic Ocean, will entertain and educate all that attend.

Submit information in writing to The Crow's Nest, Campus Activities Center, Room 128.

campus map