Dr. Kent Kelso, vice chancellor of students affairs, proposed a 64 cent increase in student fees for this fall.

James Spight, Senate President of Student Government said, "raising fees is way overdue." USF St. Petersburg is only allowed to raise activity and service fees "so much at a time."

USF Tampa pushes their fees because they have a health center, the Marshall Center and a "12 or 13 million dollar budget," Scott said. But USF St. Petersburg has "very little fees in comparison to Tampa...otherwise we'd have a full blown health center."

USF St. Petersburg students pay for a health fee, Julie Jakway, regional assistant vice chancellor for Financial Services said students pay a 60 cent health fee. The fees are not listed on the controller's office Web site. Jakway said the health fee cannot be found on the Web Site or OASIS because it is integrated in the "base charge per credit hour."

"We don't pay for that," Jakway said. "In addition to the health fee, students pay for an athletic fee and an activities and service fee.

"We don't have a lot of fees because we have some of the cheapest tuition in the country," Scott said. But the university charges activity and service fees to fund a "part of the college experience."

When it comes to giving back to the student, Student Government allocates funds from the activities and service fee budget to an array of student organizations.

The Waterfront gets the most funding while the SAFE team gets the least.

"We are considering cutting SAFE teams this year and budget cuts across because we are low on money," Scott said.

Student Government obtains the third-most funding from student fees. Scott said he believes student government went over budget. "We had to dip in our reserve account to cover our butts last year because our expenditures were too high," Scott said.

The activities and service fee budget request summary for the 2008-2009 year lists budget amounts by departmental request, the Senate recommendations for each department and the total percent change.

Harborside Activities Board took the most cut by the Senate in their budget request. They requested a total $130,312 and the Senate recommended a 96 percent change to $66,406.

Since the budgets are remade every year, Scott said "you can never ultimately say who's going to benefit...Everything that A and S (activities and service) fees go towards ultimately is for the greater good of the student body."
USF St. Petersburg's plans to build a student union have been “in the works” for a long time according to Student Government and Dr. Kent Kelso, regional vice chancellor for student affairs. The national economic downturn paired with the national loss of university staff and adjunct faculty exemplifies that this is a budget-cut year for school systems across the country. Many students already struggle with higher fees, tuition, and living costs at the same time jobs have become less available. The university requiring students to pay even more in fees for a building most of them will never use is scandalous.

Building the student union presents a major problem for students and the reasoning focuses directly on the chancellor for student affairs. The national economic downturn paired with the national loss of university staff are two separate accounts. The Capital Investment Trust Funds (CITF), set up to pay for building construction specifically, according to this bill. Roughly $18.2 million has yet to be raised. Besides the CITF account and student fees it is still unclear as to where the rest of the money will come from to pay for the building.

However, if the fees are added and you are an undergraduate student and the rate is determined by the committee to be $13 per credit hour and you are taking 15 credit hours, you will be paying $195 to just pay for the student union building in fall 2009. For 18 credit hours, your tab is $234.

The only guideline that the committee must abide by according to Student Government is “the total of the activity and service, health, athletic and student union support fees that a student is required to pay to register for a course at USF St. Petersburg cannot exceed a cap of 40 percent of tuition.”

The student union building is a part of USF St. Petersburg’s, “master plan,” which includes two additional residence halls, more food service, and student gathering and meeting space.

A university’s main purpose to educate students. Cutting the number of faculty, adjunct or tenured, is reducing the quality of education of USF St. Petersburg students. A student union building in a time when the economy is in shambles is not a necessity. A student union building would be welcomed at the university—but not under these conditions.

**THE CROW’S NEST**

*POP CULTURE GRID*

by Ashley Jones

We asked...

How many times do you check your email a day?

- 4-5
- 5
- 3

How much time do you spend online?

- 8 hours
- 3-4 hours
- 4 hours
- 4 hours
- 2 hours

Radio or iPod?

- Neither
- Radio
- iPod
- iPod

Main source of news?

- MSNBC, web and CNBC
- NPR
- TV
- TV
- Internet

Best place to study?

- RHO lounge
- Library
- Library
- My room
- My room

**CONTRIBUTE TO THE CN**

If you have an item you'd like to submit for consideration, send it (as a .rtf or .doc) to www.usfcrowsnest@yahoo.com

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Emma Lee Schmidt
Assistant Editor

Week of February 23rd, 2009
Debate team wins big in Miami

Kaeli Conforti
Staff Writer

USF St. Petersburg’s debate team picked up several awards at their latest tournament at the University of Miami, competing against teams from the host school, University of Wisconsin, Vanderbilt University and Wisconsin Oshkosh University before the end of the weekend.

The six students, broken up into three teams of two for the competitions, left early in the morning on Friday, Jan. 30 to make the nearly five-hour drive to Miami, where the tournament was held until Sunday, Feb. 1.

“We had a really good time and did very well,” said Brittany Smith, junior mass communications major. “Every one of our teams brought home an award, so in a sense I guess we’re all award winning debaters now.”

Smith, who teamed up with Alex Card, freshman business major, was given an award for fourth place.

The team of David Trigaux, junior political science major and Erik Brazil, freshman, computer science major, came in third place in the tournament after achieving a victory of 4-2 compared to the other teams.

Trigaux and Brazil managed to beat two different teams from the University of Miami, as well as a team from Wisconsin University and one from Vanderbilt University’s two competing teams. Winning four competitions, the two students were able to move on to the finals, where they defeated Southern Methodist University before losing to a different team from Vanderbilt University.

“We’re very happy with our success,” Trigaux said. "We got six awards in three tournaments so far. For a new team, that’s great.”

Robert Forman, junior economics major, was awarded fifth place. Matt O’Brien, junior political science major and Forman’s partner, talked about his experience during the tournament. “It’s always an enjoyable trip – learning about the intricacies of arguments. Every team managed to win something. We’ve done very well.”

Their next challenge will be a tournament hosted by the American Debate Association at Appalachian State University in March.

According to Trigaux, the group is also in the process of fielding four teams for the upcoming SEC Regional Qualifier for nationals, which will be held at Georgia State University later this year.

“I think we’re going to do really well,” Trigaux said, describing how the group tried out a new case during the Miami tournament. “It’s a learning experience. We’re getting better.”

Forman said the group wants to host a high school debate tournament at the USF St. Petersburg campus, which would serve as both a way to raise money and gain more members.

Trigaux said it would be beneficial to the group - and our campus - if the debate team hosts a major college tournament. They hope to host one on campus in early April that will feature competitions with students from the University of Miami, the University of Florida, Florida State University and other local colleges, as well as those in neighboring states.

For this tournament, the group aims to bring seven teams to compete; it will be more accessible and cost less money for students from USF St. Petersburg who wish to participate.

“I hope that the university will realize the academic value in having a debate team and decide to acknowledge our need for support, both institutionally and financially,” Smith said.

The Debate Team meets in room 108 of Davis Hall on Friday from 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Do you have a friend who goes to sleep at 2, 3 or even 4 a.m., snores, wakes up, drinks coffee and drags his or her self throughout the day? Sleep is precious to the human brain and the body's biological clock, but often it is taken for granted. The quality and quantity of sleep are important to our physical and mental functions during the day. Wake up on time...the normal sleeping pattern and first, determine a normal sleep schedule. If you do not fall into the sleep-disorder category but still find yourself tossing and turning or counting sheep at night, consider a few tips from the National Health, Lung, and Blood Institute on how to have a healthy sleep.

First, determine a normal sleep schedule. Everyone's schedules vary but try to fall asleep and wake up at the same time every day. Adults should sleep for seven to eight hours; teenagers and younger children should sleep nine hours; pre-schoolers 10 to 12 hours and babies luckily get 16 to 18 hours. Second, do not exercise five or six hours before bed. Visit the gym earlier in the day so you can relax by reading or listening to music before falling asleep. Third, if your schedule allows for power naps, be sure to take them. "Power nap" means short; an hour is sufficient. An article from the National Institute of Mental Health Web site says "siesta, a midday snooze, reverses information overload." Power naps refresh learned, mentally-engaging tasks. Coffee and alcohol drinkers, smokers, late-night-eaters and medication-takers beware. Caffeine reportedly takes eight hours to wear-off and too much alcohol keeps you from deep stages of sleep. Avoid smoking before sleeping because nicotine is a stimulant. Do not eat or drink too late because you may face indigestion problems and a trip to the bathroom in the middle of the night. Over-the-counter cold medications might help you sleep some nights, but they can eventually disrupt normal sleeping habits.

Studying in the library or working in the office all day? Try not to stay indoors for too long because our bodies need the right amount of sunlight exposure for sleep regulation. About 30 minutes in the sun is sufficient. Poor sleeping habits affect mental performance, mood and health. Restful sleep is needed to clear thoughts and quick reactions. Drowsy people get irritated, which often leads to relationship problems and bad behavior. Not only are people more likely to be depressed, but their long-term health is in jeopardy.

Heart disease and high blood pressure can loom in the future. Hormones are released during sleep which repair tissues and cells, keeping you from getting sick and helping to get over a cold. Find the most comforting way to fall asleep. This means get rid of anything distracting such as lights and noises. Sleep masks make a great sleeping tool, but do not buy a mask with Velcro straps to avoid pulling your hair from it. Go to sleep with a clear conscience; avoid arguments before sleep time.

The soft, huming sounds fans make plus the cool air it creates will make you comfortable and snug under the covers. If all else fails and you cannot fall asleep, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine recommends that you get out of bed and do something until you get sleepy.

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**Umdabu dancers bring South Africa to campus**

**Kaeli Conforti**  
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 12 p.m., the four members of the Umdabu South African Dance Company made their way to the stage, beginning an impressive and exhilarating afternoon of traditional South African song, dance and history.

The program started with the singing of the African National Anthem, which translated into English as "God Bless Africa." The group performed their first set of songs. The dancers wore navy blue and hunter green button down jumpsuits and white and yellow miner's helmets as they described the miserable fate of those forced to work in the mines of Johannesburg, South Africa.

The dancers marched in a single line, performing a step dance they originated when the miners took solace in mocking their lot. They said originated when the miners took solace in mocking their lot South Africa, telling the crowd of over 40 people about the nine provinces of the country and the fact that South Africa has 11 official languages.

"Each city in South Africa has its own unique culture," Xulu said.

For the next dance number, the performers dressed in traditional Zulu costumes, consisting of a cheetah skin headband with a large black ostrich feather, colorful beaded necklaces, a cowhide covering around the waist and sheepskin bands that covered the shins, upper arms and wrists of the dancers.

Xulu led the rest of the group in a few songs, accompanied by the other three performers on the drums. Most of the songs were inspired by the happiness and spirit of togetherness shared by the people.

"This was performed to call all the villagers to come celebrate all their blessings," Xulu said.

During one song, Xulu invited the audience to sing along, chanting "Bayete-Zulu-Bayete," while Xulu added more lyrics and harmony as the song continued.

As the drum beats grew faster, the audience became more excited, often clapping along to the beat and singing along with the performers.

"Give us some more energy," said Xulu, encouraging the crowd as the performers started to stamp their feet, clap and whistle increasingly during their dance. Xulu taught the audience a few greetings in the Zulu language, including how to say "hello" to one person, as well as a group of people and how to ask how the other person is doing and the appropriate responses.

Suddenly, Xulu jumped up for the microphone saying, "At this point, we're all going to dance."

Given the opportunity to join in the dancing, the audience grew even more excited, with hardly anyone left sitting in their seats. Those in attendance were shown a few basic moves, which they were encouraged to practice during the following song.

At the end of the performance, the dancers received a standing ovation from the audience. "It was educational," said Aisha Rodriguez, freshman undeclared major. "They didn't just put on a performance, but they took time to teach us about their culture."

"This is definitely something I can do to stay thin and have fun," Leobahn Clayton, freshman psychology major, said, referring to the gorgeous dance moves the audience members learned. "This was one of the programs I wish could have been longer."

Camilla Vasquez, a linguistics professor from USF Tampa, was amazed at the level of talent she witnessed during the performance. "I was really impressed they were such good musicians, singers and dancers," she said. "It was also fun when they were teaching us how to say things in Zulu."

Ruben Vasquez, St. Petersburg resident, enjoyed the performance as well. "It was great, very exciting, fun and lively," he said. "They got everybody to get up and move."

After the performance, Xulu stayed behind to chat with people in the audience. He described how he had been taught the songs and dances of his traditional Zulu culture at a very young age and has been performing like this all his life. The Umdabu South African Dance Company, however, did not perform together until 1986.

Xulu explained the many differences between the 11 Zulu tribes in South Africa, ranging from the types of dances they perform and the seven different dialects they speak, to the significance of the traditional dress that differs from tribe to tribe. Even the color of the beads around their necks differs depending on which tribe a person belongs to.

"Every tribe has a different story to tell," Xulu said. "I am very blessed to be alive and be able to tell the story."

Xulu expressed the need for people of all walks of life to learn from the mistakes made in the past and use them to build a greater future.

"There is no more room for blame," Xulu said. "Now we must do this together."
New clubs bring opportunity

Sara Palmer
Staff Writer

Students have a chance to get valuable hands-on experience with two new clubs starting on campus.

Interested in pursuing a graduate degree in veterinary sciences? Join the new Pre-Veterinary organization. Stacey Thomas, environmental science policy major has been the driving force behind the organization.

When Thomas realized that the university did not offer curriculum specific for students interested in pre-veterinary classes, she came up with the idea of a club that could help provide the guidance and resources necessary to pursue a veterinary medicine degree.

"Getting into vet school is harder than human medicine," said Thomas, who hopes the club will offer students opportunities for hands on experience and internships.

"This club has very real potential to put USF St. Petersburg on the map," Thomas said.

She hopes the club will be able to attend the National Symposium on Veterinary Medicine, "Getting On," in Feb. 27, the club has very real potential to put USF St. Petersburg in the limelight of veterinary medicine," said Thomas, who hopes the club will offer students opportunities for hands on experience and internships.

"That's welcome opportunity for the students and faculty involved in the club. She has encountered a wide variety of students interested in the club. She has encountered a wide variety of diverse experience with two news clubs starting on campus.

While Bull Horn is still in the development phase, Manuel Carrasco, journalism and media studies graduate student, has many ideas about content and student participation.

"I hope to see sports, movies, video games, politics and local news. Basically anything," Carrasco said.

The club hopes to create podcasting kits so that students can travel and record events or interviews on location.

Carrasco was excited about the opportunity to work on this project with adviser Deb Wolfe and other students.

Carrasco hopes that once the Bull Horn site is up and running, it can be linked to the Student Life Web site on the USF St. Petersburg main web page.

"It will give students a voice in a way that has never been provided by the campus before," he said.

The radio station is open to anyone and the membership will not be restricted. "It will give everyone a chance to talk," Carrasco said.

Wolfe thinks that Bull Horn Radio will be a great opportunity for the students and faculty involved in the club. She has encountered a wide variety of students interested in the multitudes of different topics.

"That's what good mass communication is all about - diversity and good story telling," Wolfe said.

Both clubs are open to all students and welcome new members.
Catherine Ciavaralla, a judge who placed criminal justice professionals in detention centers and punished juveniles for minor infractions, has been charged with racketeering.

The charges stem from a scheme that Ciavaralla, along with another judge, Joseph D. Conahan, are accused of creating, in order to generate income for themselves.

According to court documents, Ciavaralla and Conahan would place juveniles in detention centers, where they would be assigned to work for the judges.

The judges would then charge the juveniles for their time in detention, and the money would be split between the judges.

The scheme was discovered when Ciavaralla was arrested for wire fraud and money laundering.

The charges include racketeering, wire fraud, money laundering, and conspiracy to defraud.

If convicted, the judges could face up to 20 years in prison.

The charges were brought by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Scranton, Pennsylvania.
USF lands best recruiting class

Peter Pupello  
Staff Writer

Gainesville has run dry. Between head coach Urban Meyer hoisting the Gators' second national championship trophy in three years, the return of Tim Tebow and departure of Percy Harvin all in the last month and a half, the fluctuation of emotions has rendered the University of Florida exhausted. Not just in the supply of celebratory alcoholic beverages, but in school spirit and future resources.

Just now is the jubilation from January's BCS National Title Game beginning to wane. The success that made the Gator Nation the paradigm of collegiate athletic achievement has, although slightly, begun to have term effects. Analyst Jamie Newberg, with free Subway sandwiches and speed by signing defensive back Ricardo Dixon and 12 more to bolster the offense already in place. Ricardo Dixon and

Paul Rudd  
Seann William Scott  
Christopher Mintz-Plasse

Role Models

all events paid for with your student service and activity fees.

Harborside Lawn
Thursday, Feb. 26th
8:00 pm
Come out and enjoy dinner and a movie.
Role Models will be shown with free Subway sandwiches cookies, chips, and drinks. Bring blankets, chairs, or anything else to be comfortable.