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Student government elections decided

The voter turnout was an increase from last year, but the campus still lacks strong participation.

By Kristie A. Martinez
Senior Staff Writer

Sarah McDougal has never voted in a Student Government election. Although she’s been a student at USF St. Petersburg for three years, she only recently learned what Student Government does.

McDougal, a psychology major, is one of many students who didn’t vote in last week’s elections, which determined next semester’s Student Government president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary.

Although the number of students who voted increased by 25 percent this semester, only 102 ballots were cast. This equals about 2 percent of the 4,610 students enrolled at the beginning of the semester.

Many blame the nature of the university and the lack of information about Student Government for low voter turnout.

“The culture here is very much just [going] to class and then [getting] out,” McDougal said.

Freshman Kristy Go said she’s on campus only for her classes. She learned about the elections from fliers she saw around the school, but she didn’t know anything about the candidates.

Campus to construct student housing

By Heather Pownall
Staff Writer

You can tell when a class lets out, or when one is about to begin at USF St. Petersburg.

Cars race to the four-way stop. The sound of engines fills the air. The main campus entrance comes alive. Students come and go in rushes, and in cars. USF St. Petersburg has always been a commuter school.

By fall 2006, USF St. Petersburg will open its first on-campus student residence. The building will be north-east of the Campus Activities Center, along Fifth Avenue South, two blocks from downtown’s new Publix shopping.

Campus master plan pushes forward

Construction and parking plans help accommodate the goal of a 10,000-student enrollment.

By Nicole Johnson
Senior Staff Writer

USF St. Petersburg is continuing the process to expand its facilities over the next 10 years. With the increase of student enrollment, the campus expects the earliest construction to begin as early as next month.

The demolition of the Fountain Inn, a former assisted living facility recently acquired by the campus, will begin in December, and is expected to be flattened by January. In its place and in the existing library parking lot, USF plans to construct a student multi-purpose center, dining facility, student government and office space. The campus is in the process of conducting a feasibility study and is hiring a consultant to study the future student multi-purpose center’s size and functions in relation to the campus’ enrollment growth.

Inside This Issue

Now it’s our turn
Crow’s Nest rates and grades campus
Opinion page 2

Popular radio station defunct
Avid listeners are now without alternative rock.
Story page 5

A not-so-traditional campus
Students work full-time and support families, too.
Story page 6
The end of the term is near, which means grades are just around the corner. In similar spirit, the Crow's Nest Editorial Board grades USF St. Petersburg on 13 important campus issues or departments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White has been here too little time to finish anything. The campus should have taken a strong stand on the Albert Whitted Airport issue. Dr. Charles Brown brings a fresh angle to Student Affairs. Next term will define the new administration and Karen White.</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
<td>The creation of the College of Arts &amp; Sciences, Education and Business gives more local control of curriculum and tenure decisions to USF St. Petersburg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It doesn't really bother the campus too much. The sight of day laborers digging ditches really makes you appreciate the value of a college degree.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Most classes are designed for the commuter in mind. However, many high level courses are only available once a year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homecoming week's festivities were great. This year, there have been more activities than ever before for students. Student Life funds many student organizations and keeps a normally dry campus buzzing with activity.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>State legislature/Board of Trustees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are also too &quot;buddy-buddy&quot; with administration. Good job with Safe Team and Homecoming though.</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>They are also too &quot;buddy-buddy&quot; with administration. Good job with Safe Team and Homecoming though.</td>
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<tr>
<td>This will progressively get worse. White gold parking promotes unhealthy segregation, it didn't turn out to be as bad as it sounded. Visitor parking has disappeared because of the new construction.</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The leasing of the Progress Energy building and the purchase of the Fountain Inn was a huge success. Kudos to Ralph Wilcox, the Board of Trustees and everyone else involved.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Expansion/New property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The continuing journalism and new College of Business programs in Midtown St. Petersburg are very important.</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Community Outreach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The sight of day laborers digging ditches really makes you appreciate the value of a college degree.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Convenience/availability of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too many special interest groups still control many legislators and board members. Although, it's good to have state rep. Charlie Justice here as an academic advisor. We admire that the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship is still available.</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>State legislature/Board of Trustees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great sailing team and expanded campus intramural program. However, USF St. Petersburg needs an official basketball team on campus. There are plenty of small schools to play, such as Eckerd, SPC, Hillsborough Community College, etc.</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Sports/athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida's public university tuition costs are much lower than most states. Many students are getting their money's worth at our fine campus. However, there is no end in sight for the consistent yearly increases.</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Tuition costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiring more than 50 new faculty members was impressive. It makes the campus more diverse and better stimulating ideas.</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>New hires of faculty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The final assessment: B There are a lot of great things about USF St. Petersburg. But then again, some things need to improve.

Opinions wanted

Do you have an opinion on a topic affecting USF St. Petersburg or the surrounding area? Do you agree or disagree about our opinions? The Crow's Nest is seeking well-written, thoughtful letters to the editor. Letter writers should include their names, position (e.g., student), and phone numbers for verification. Letters may be edited for length or clarity, but otherwise are printed exactly as received. Not all letters may be published.

Please email your letters to: usfcrowsnest@aol.com

The student-sponsored newspaper of USF St. Petersburg. Published every other Wednesday during the semester.

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Local elementary school encourages young journalists

Melrose Elementary's unique journalism program partners with USF St. Petersburg.

By Meredith Yeomans
Neighborhood News Bureau

News flash: Butterscotch, the hamster, was on the loose. Read all about it in the Munsee Messenger, the newspaper at Melrose Elementary School. The kindergarten class made ginger cookies as bait to catch her.

Flash: Boys, listen up. Girls are sick of looking at your polka dot boxers sticking out above your pants. "Seriously, your pants hang to your knees, and you look like penguins when you walk," wrote an editorial writer. "Here's some advice: Pull your pants up!"

Flash: "No Bullying Allowed," a headline declares. It's a story about the anti-bullying committee at Melrose.

This is just a sample of what you can read in the newspaper published three times a year by students at America's only elementary-school magnet program in journalism that involves kids from kindergarten through fifth grade. All 900 students work on the newspaper at Melrose Elementary, located in Midtown St. Petersburg, a section of the city just west and south of the USF St. Petersburg campus.

The program is designed to teach students the joys of reading, writing, community involvement and journalism, said coordinator Cynda Mort, a veteran journalist with 27 years of experience as a reporter and editor at area newspapers. "It would be great if they developed an interest in journalism, but I also hope they learn the love of reading and writing, and learn to become good citizens of their community," she said.

The magnet program at the multicultural, multiracial school has been developed over the past three years, at a time when national surveys continue to show that the journalism profession needs more racial and ethnic diversity. Forty-two percent of the children at Melrose are African-American, 50 percent are white and 8 percent are from other ethnicities.

A Munsee Messenger survey recently revealed that there are 16 different native languages spoken by the students and their families. Program founders hope that some Melrose students may choose to pursue journalism careers. To help in this endeavor, the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at USF St. Petersburg recently agreed to become a partner in the program. Other departments at the USF campus may also become involved by working with the Melrose students.

The John Hopkins Middle School, which is also developing a relationship with Melrose, is currently considering the further development of its journalism program.

See School on page 6

Aveda caters to the nontraditional beauty school student while helping the environment at the same time.

By Katie Wilson
Staff Writer

When Donna Sabata was a second grade girl scout, her mother taped her bangs to her forehead and cut straight across. Today, she is a student at Aveda Cosmetology School in downtown St. Petersburg, and her technique is a bit more advanced.

As an elementary school teacher for years, Sabata always dreamed of being a hair stylist, but her family's opinions of the profession kept her from pursuing the dream. Now in her 50's, she is learning to do what she loves.

Sabata is among many who spent time pursuing a different career before starting at Aveda.

Barley Hodges, 26, graduated from Auburn University with a degree in Health Administration. Jillian Saunders, 24, spent five years at Florida State University and earned her bachelor's degree in marketing. Paul Billiteri, 26, worked in legal services, and 22-year-old Megan Lewis was a ballet dancer.

"A lot of people here have degrees, were in the middle of getting a degree, or actually quit a full-blown career," Hodges said.

Over 40 percent of the 32 people in the program have degrees, defying the common misconception that testing, which means evaluating the hands-on skills and techniques they have learned. They have weekly written tests, book reports and swatch tests to practice with chemical processes. At the end of nine months, they take a written state exam.

"Our grading system is very strict," lead educator Jennifer Sharp said. "Anything less than an 80 percent is a fail."

"The amount of knowledge you gain in a short amount of time is my favorite thing about the school," said Megan Lewis, a full-scholarship student. "It shows you how many limits you can really push. It's inspiring in all aspects of life."

Beyond an education in cosmetology, Aveda teaches and represents ethical standards as well.

"Every student is taught how to be a philanthropist to society, to be Earth friendly and environmentally conscious," Romano said.

And they truly stand by this way of life.

Last spring students provided free haircuts at the USF Wellness Fair, and donations were accepted and donated to environmental causes. Last week each student donated $5 to the Leukemia Society. Recycling bins hold a prominent position in the main hallway and every tree that is cut down to make Aveda's caramel-colored cabinets is replaced with a seed for a new tree. Romano's office desk is made of crushed sunflower seeds.

"Aveda's dedication to our Earth and to our society is what Lewis appreciates the most about the institute," Romano said.

The cheap salon services may be what neighboring students in cosmetology school do it because they can't make it anywhere else.

Aveda admissions coordinator Michelle Romano makes sure that's not the case.

"We don't want people in here who use us as a last resort because they couldn't hack it in college," Romano said. "We need the best of the best. People who are passionate about this (cosmetology) and want to make it their career."

The education of the Aveda institute is serious and challenging. The tuition isn't cheap either. The 36-week program costs $10,700, plus supplies and equipment.

The program has four phases, and students spend several days at the end of each phase doing practical
New Safe Team helps students, promotes security

By Vanessa Espinar
Staff Writer

Students and faculty no longer have to feel insecure about walking to their cars after their night classes. They can now get a ride from the Safe Team.

The project began its services Oct. 20. Two golf carts give rides to people to parking lots or classes. The Safe Team has six employees and one volunteer. Student government members also volunteer. Safe Team gives rides to an average of 50 people every night from Monday through Thursday.

Safe Team is the creation of student government vice president Kara Wilson. She said that she felt concerned about walking to her car after her night class. "I figured if I had these concerns, other people did too," she said. Last spring, during a committee meeting that discussed parking issues, the idea was given to the administration and Safe Team was given $15,000 to get the project off the ground and $5,000 each year for maintenance. Student government pays for the rest of the expenses such as employees' salaries.

The money comes from part of this year's new transportation tuition fee. A portion of fee's $2.25 per every credit hour goes to the Safe Team. One of them, Ken Hawe, a sophomore majoring in engineering said he enjoys his job. "It is a really fun job. It is good to be amongst the people," he said. Hawe took leave from his service learning class, but he also does it because "I am helping students out," he said.

Nguyen, Hawe and Wilson all agree that the students' response to the program has been a positive. "I have not had negative feedback from the students," Wilson said.

In addition to giving rides, Safe Team also helps out students when they are locked out of their car, or their car is being towed. They wait with the students until help arrives, something USF police used to do and now they can be relieved of that role at night. "It allows them to use their time for other things," Wilson said.

Students, faculty and staff may call 553-4SAF to request a ride from the Safe Team during the hours of operation.

Safe Team driver Erik Stephens transports student Mike Colucci after class. The new team is devoted to safely transporting students and staff to their cars during night time hours.

Wilson has been a driver herself, and she said she enjoyed talking to people, and that it is a good way to find out what is going on. Wilson said the Safe Team is a way to keep "another set of eyes on campus." Her goal is to "keep this amazing record of no incidents on campus," she said. "It is a proactive thing to do."

Paul Nguyen, a sophomore majoring in architecture, volunteers for the Safe Team, he does it as part of a service learning class, but he also does it because "I am helping students out," he said.

Nguyen, Hawe and Wilson all agree that the students' response to the program has been a positive. "I have not had negative feedback from the students," Wilson said.

Students, faculty and staff may call 553-4SAF to request a ride from the Safe Team during the hours of operation.

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG
NOVEMBER 26, 2003
Radio station changes format, loses avid listeners

By Jason Merritt
Staff Writer

Clear Channel recently changed the format of the popular Star 95.7 and turned the station into 97.5 The Beat. What used to be a main alternative rock station in the area is now spinning hip-hop and R&B.

The sudden move, which occurred with almost no warning, has left avid Star listeners with a void on their radio dial. Most complain that they have no other station in the area that caters to the style of music that Star did.

Shortly after the format changed, Star 95.7 sent out an e-mail apologizing for the sudden switch. They suggested several other stations that play similar music, such as Mix 100.7 and 93.3 FLZ, both owned by Clear Channel. However, no station appears to play similar music but are not owned by Clear Channel.

Michael Gerardo, a junior at USF St. Petersburg, isn't happy with the change. "I think the new station sucks," he said. We already had a hip-hop station, (Wild 98.7), why would we need another one?

Why another hip-hop station? The answer may actually be that the format change was the only station of its kind that we had, and they got rid of it," she said. "Now it's hard to find [the music] that you want to hear."

In a medium (radio) that has been struggling recently to keep advertisers attention, there is little room for mistakes. In the long run, the format change of 95.7 may cost Clear Channel a large demographic of listeners and a large amount of money. Or perhaps they will change another station's format to match that of Star. In that case, this may just be the beginning.

Ask the CCC Swami

By the Counseling and Career Center Staff

Dear Swami, My friend just told me she was HIV positive. I didn't believe her at first, she doesn't look sick and I figured it couldn't be true since she is only 19. But it is true. I know it sounds silly, but now I am afraid I am going to catch it if I hang out with her. I really want to be a good friend, but I don't know what to do.

Signed, Fearful Friend

Dear Fearful,

I am sorry to hear about your friend. This must really be a tough time for her and for you. I can understand your initial disbelief, but the truth is HIV infection is rapidly increasing among young adults. In fact, AIDS is the sixth leading cause of death among 19 to 24-year-olds. You are not the only one who believes that someone has to look "sick" in order to have HIV. This is why many people think unprotected sex is okay if the person is nice or looks healthy. This isn't true. The only definite way to know if you or someone else is infected is to be tested. I know you are scared, but you don't have to worry. You can only contract HIV from having infected blood or bodily fluids enter your body. In other words, by having unprotected sex or sharing needles or syringes with an infected person, or getting infected blood, semen or vaginal secretions into an open wound or sore, you cannot contract the virus by hugging out with your friend. In fact, Planned Parenthood states on their website that "HIV is not transmitted by simple casual contact such as kissing, sharing your glasses, or hugging."

With the AIDS epidemic being so great, many people are fearful, but there are some things you can do to be a good friend. First of all, be supportive. Your friend is probably feeling scared in addition to many different emotions, and will need her friends now more than ever. Second of all, get the facts. Check out www.stp.usf.edu/studentdev/CCC for links to information on HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Also, attend the World AIDS Day event on Dec. 2 on the Harborside lawn. If you or your friend need more help, stop by or call the Counseling and Career Center.

You too can get your questions answered by the CCC Swami. Please email your questions to kmckay@stpt.usf.edu or drop them off at the CCC office.

For more information on the CCC, please call (727) 553-4422 or stop by the Center - BAY 119. All services provided by the CCC are CONFIDENTIAL and FREE to USF students and staff.

CROW'S NEXT, Vol. 34 No. 7
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG
As a commuter school, USF St. Petersburg has students who juggle not only a full-load of classes, but family and work, too.

By Jamie Drozdowski
Staff Writer

Class schedules, endless readings, reports, research papers and finals are the challenges the traditional college student faces. However, the non-traditional student deals with all the stresses of the traditional student, but also works in family and full-time work, and also sits in college classrooms with students sometimes much younger.

USF St. Petersburg has always been a school for nontraditional students, but started accepting freshmen and sophomores in 1996. "USF wanted to bring a community, college feel to the campus," said Todd Williams, an admissions registration officer at USF. "Although the definition of "nontraditional" is always changing, USF has defined these students as "middle-aged students who went back to college, pursue a different career or needed to attend college later in life after raising families."

"Although we now have several hundred freshmen and sophomores on campus who represent the tradition of age of student," said John Vassel, coordinator of student recruitment, "the students resemble the nontraditional student of the past in terms of responsibility outside of pursuing their degree."

USF's four campuses - Tampa, St. Petersburg, Lakeland and Sarasota - total about 40,000 students. Of these students, 4,600 are St. Petersburg based and most are considered nontraditional by the university's definition.

USF St. Petersburg schedules many of its classes in the evenings to accommodate its large nontraditional student population, which works its daily schedules around family and employer.

Karen Steen, a married journalism graduate student, has a daughter who recently began college. She always had to put her daughter's activities first without trying to jeopardize her own schoolwork. The most challenging issue that Steen faced was time. "It's always a time factor," she said. "You have to have your kids pulling for you. When you come home, work, they have to get everyone on your team.

Carol Walsh, assistant principal, said, "We've made it a point - and I think others have also - to have what we call a staff writer, who is an excellent writer, Devlin said. "She's blossoming in the journalism program," Devlin said. "She wants to do more."

The main goal, Walsh said, is not for each student to learn everything there is to know about the newspaper, but it is to get him or her to read.

So far, the program seems to be reaching that goal. Walsh noted that the students are holding on to their newspaper and taking them home to read instead of leaving them in their desks or throwing them down.

"I have yet to find a newspaper on the floor," she said. By the way, they did find Butterwrench. The ginger cookies worked.

Meredith Yeomans is a reporter for the Neighborhood News Bureau, a program of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at USF St. Petersburg.
Someday, some students won’t have to drive to campus. And, the crosswalks at the busy intersection of Sixth Avenue South and Second Street will come alive, too.

More students will ride bikes, skateboards and skates. Students will walk together in groups and hang out before and after class. More students will be randomly selected Wednesday, Dec. 10, to provide student housing.

The report suggested first setting up student housing at nearby apartment buildings. Then, in the second and third phases, the report recommended building new residential buildings at two different sites on campus.

The buildings would include a mix of two and four-bedroom suites that would cost $1,700-$2,200 per semester. The first would be built by fall 2004; the second by fall 2006.

But that plan has been modified since its final draft on March 29, 2002. Director of student affairs Cedric Howard, who is currently in charge of the housing plan, said the university was unable to make any arrangement with rental-property owners, which affects the other phases of the project.

Now the school wants the 2002 housing study updated to reflect recent growth, and to insure the plans are still consistent with the school’s master plan, Howard said.

Administrators are already looking for a consultant who will conduct a feasibility study for a different structure: a multipurpose facility that could house a variety of student services, such as a student union, student meal services, or student health services.

"As an arm of the multipurpose feasibility study, a consultant will also bring the old housing study up-to-date and make any adjustments that need to be made," Howard said. "We’re not looking at housing in isolation."

The new consultants, who will be hired by Dec. 15, will assess current student demand for housing. They will also determine the types of housing units the school should build, and which student services could be located in a residential building.

Administrators expect the report to be finished by April 15. Soon after, a plan will be presented to the University Board of Trustees in Tampa for final approval.

"Then, we’ll have all the information we need to move forward and make plans for construction," Howard said.

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Disclaimer: Crow’s Nest staff is not eligible. Students must be registered in at least one class at USF St. Petersburg. All entries must be in by Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 9 p.m. A winner will be randomly selected Wednesday, Dec. 10.

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Caricaturist Lars-Erik Robinson sketches Autumn Bauers at USF St. Petersburg’s Fall Fest. Young children ate cotton-candy, rode ponies, created spin art and won prizes. The event was sponsored by Student Life.

Election from page 1

"(In) high school, everyone knew who was in Student Government because when Homecoming came around, almost everyone was involved," Go said.

"In high school you have the newspaper or the TV station (to tell you about the candidates). You know at least what they look like."

Paul Nguyen, a USF St. Petersburg sophomore, spends a lot of time on campus but still knew little about the people running for Student Government positions.

"If you know some of the people personally, but they’ve never talked about any politics or about what they’re going to do," said Nguyen, who works in the Campus Activities Center, where Student Government holds its meetings. "I’m in the CAC for at least 60 hours a week, and I never hear any of them talk about it."

Students might not vote because they don’t receive a lot of information about the candidates, said Nicole Johnson, a USF St. Petersburg political science professor.

"I saw a few signs here and there, but not really a lot," said Johnson, who teaches a course on political behavior, public opinion and elections. "As a student candidate, you really have to make a strong, concerted effort to get information out there."

Johnson said that many students may have classes in only one or two buildings, and may not see advertisements for the elections.

"If the information is not readily available for students, then certainly it would be difficult to know when the elections take place and who’s running for office," she said.

Johnson also said that information could be communicated in different ways, such as on candidate websites in e-mail messages to the student body.

"To some extent, you have to be pretty savvy about how you go about campaigning," Johnson said.

Most of the candidates who ran for Student Government office did not do any campaigning until the elections began on Monday, Nov. 17, because their candidate application forms were not approved until Friday, Nov. 14. Some candidates posted fliers with their names and the office they were running for on them.

Student Chris Talley doesn’t think fliers are enough to inform people about Student Government elections and candidates.

"Let’s face it, it’s the 21st century," he said. "You can’t really rely on paper communications. I don’t think adding another 10 feet of bulletin boards is going to help."

Talley suggested creating a virtual forum for students, such as an independent USF St. Petersburg website containing Student Government information. He also said that if meetings were held in Davis Lobby, students would learn more about what Student Government does.

"It’s nice to have a building called the Campus Activities Center, but if nobody goes there, what’s the point?" Talley said.

Students also may not participate in elections because they don’t know what Student Government does.

Student Government vice president Kara Wilson said the governing body’s most important role is “being a voice for the students. If there are issues on campus, if students are frustrated about different issues, we can be their voice.”

Student Government communicates with USF St. Petersburg’s administrators to get student issues resolved.

“We’re able to cut through a lot of the layers on the campus and get our problems addressed really quickly, whereas the typical student may not know how to do that or may not feel empowered enough to,” Wilson said.

Student Government decides how to spend a certain amount of students’ tuition called activity and service (A & S) fees. These fees help support student organizations, the waterfront and the Campus Activities Center, said Nancy Coscia, director of student life. Student Government also organizes Homecoming events and other campus events like barbecues.

Sophomore Ken Hawe said many students don’t realize that a portion of student tuition pays for student activities.

“If people realized how much they were giving, they’d be more inclined to take back,” Hawe said. “People would become more inclined to get involved in their campus community.”

Aveda from page 3

USF students appreciate most. After 300 hours of schooling, students in their black uniforms and perfectly styled hair hit the “student salon” floor and cut hair for $11, highlight for $35, and color hair from $30 to $55. Surrounding professional salons, like Lou Michael’s Salon at the Hilton, charge more than double those prices, said Aveda officials.

Until a real-life model shows up, students practice on mannequin heads with human hair. Braiding, up-do’s, color and cuts, the students create and design as if it were art, all to the constant hum of blow dryers in the background.