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Survivors speak through art

Michael Keeney, 38, created his artwork, "Shattered Innocence," from broken pieces of glass that he collected. He said each piece and color represents people or feelings in his path toward healing.

'To respect the privacy of the artists, names have not been disclosed.'

Michael Keeney didn't want to talk about what happened to him. He wanted to talk about his art—a three-dimensional piece, the shards of colorful stained glass layered on a framed mirror called "Shattered Innocence."

"It is about this art and this exhibit," he said. Keeney, 38, is a surrivor of sexual abuse who shared his story and experience through art for "Survivors Speak: Windows into Healing art exhibit."

Family Service Centers, Inc. Rape Crisis Program in Clearwater and Florida Craftsmen, an arts association in St. Petersburg, hold the fourth annual "Survivors Speak" art exhibit to honor artists and Sexual Assault Awareness Day on April 7. About 75 survivors of sexual assault exhibited their artwork in Poynter Memorial Library at USF St. Petersburg to raise awareness of sexual abuse. More than 100 people attended the exhibit's opening.

Survivors were asked to think about what their lives were like since the abuse, what has helped them heal and how they have changed because of their experiences. Family Service Centers, Inc. informed the survivors about the exhibit in February, and close to 100 chose to participate. The exhibit allows survivors to share the pain of their experience through art while helping the community, said Karen Harteinnac, director of exhibitions at Florida Craftsmen. "It is a tribute, an honor to see all of these people," she said.

"I think that being here at USF St. Petersburg is an incredible opportunity to reach out to those who didn't find their voice yet," Harteinnac said. "Many people close up and don't talk about their experience of sexual violence, but there are places to go." She said that the exhibit is also good opportunity for students to become inspired and go into different fields, including social work, art therapy and counseling.

"Art speaks to us on a different level," said Lisa Signorelli, supervisor of sexual assault services for Family Service Centers, Inc.

Signorelli said that she is proud and respectful of the artists who participated. "It takes so much courage to speak out about surviving sexual abuse," she said.

"The artwork either gets returned to the artist or is used for other events and presentations. The youngest artist this year was about four or five years old, while the oldest was in his 60s," Signorelli said that sexual abuse survivors recover when they learn that their past is only a part of who they are.

"You are in recovery when it's part of your story, not your whole story," said Signorelli.

For artists such as Keeney, part of that recovery requires acceptance. Using a combination of stained and blown glass, Keeney said that each piece of glass and color in his artwork correlates to different moments in his life. Red represents pain, green means a new beginning, blue signifies his wife, and clear glass conveys an ability to look at oneself.

Keeney's best friend—who was represented by the color purple in his piece—was the first person he told about the abuse.

"I could always talk to him," Keeney said. "He always listened."

Keeney, a hair stylist, plans to put this art piece in his St. Petersburg salon.

"It is part of my life that is over, said Keeney. "Those moments aren't happening anymore. They already happened."

Irena Milasinovic
Features Editor

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Photographer reveals hidden treasures of Florida

Photographs faded on and off the screen: Waves gracing the shore with a setting sun in the background. A distant peninsula with a dozen palm trees underneath an aurora sky. A panther dose enough where you could count his whiskers. Photographs by Jim Stull.

Although it's becoming harder to find these places, Moran said he will avoid taking a picture if he feels it wouldn't depict the true environment. "I look for areas without billboards or clear cut logging," Moran said.

Instead of the state's trees, flowers, birds and reptiles, Moran creates his own scenes. He said he paints his own pictures. "I choose content by looking at the landscape," he said. "I tell a story, I make you want to see what I'm seeing." Moran said.

Moran said he imagines what Florida looked like 400 years ago, before the influx of people. That is what he searches for when he takes his pictures. "The beaches and theme parks are places I avoid. I want to see the real Florida," Moran said.

Moran often compared his work to the animals and environment that he's been capturing on film for the past few decades. "Just like when the species are displaced by development, I also have learned to adapt," Moran said.

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In the blogosphere, to each his own truth

By Wendy Owen

In the April 8 issue of The Crow's Nest, guest columnist Heath Hooper expressed his dismay with an online media culture that essentially allows each person to choose his or her own truth. I have to agree with him, because I've seen a lot of evidence to support this perception.

Although the Internet offers a wealth of viewpoints and facts on many issues, like-minded perspectives are easily and usually grouped together. A common trait of blogs - online journals featuring entries by the blog authors - is that they link to a laundry list of other blogs. And more, if not all, of those links lead to resources that share virtually the same political values. Blogs are also inundated with advertisements that appeal to these tastes. Even Technorati.com, which tracks thousands of blogs and thousands of conversations between blogs, has a section where it groups political commentaries under "liberal," "conservative" and "uncategorized" headings. I think such labeling serves a useful purpose for those inclined to monitor Web conversations. But it does suggest the power of the Internet to facilitate mental stagnation.

Why bother to engage one's mind by seeking alternative points of view when the ones that make you feel safe and secure are so easily accessible?

I don't believe this is a new phenomenon we can simply blame on technology. The printed press has long catered to readers with particular ideologies, thus giving individual publica-
tions a sellable brand and a port of harbor for those unsatisfied with the reports of other media outlets. But the Internet isn't a brick-and-mortar enterprise limited to an abundance of capital, it's accessible to all of us. And for that reason, ideological segmentation and compartmentalization is quite evident.

But things may not be as bad as they seem - at least not yet. The overwhelming majority of blogs have, at most, a handful of regular readers. According to a company that created a widely used Web logging software, less than 100 blogs have a daily readership of over 100,000.

I think the mainstream media should incorporate Web logs more fully into their online presence, but they must avoid this tendency toward groupthink and focus instead on the speed with which information can be published and on allowing multiple viewpoints to illuminate a story.

Sometimes newspapers send more than one reporter to cover a particular story. Now imagine if those papers also sent a blogger who could blog live from the scene, providing detailed observations that usually don't appear in news articles. If readers were signed up with the news sites to receive e-mail alerts about breaking news, they could add commentary and questions to the blog, perhaps offering insight that would enhance the overall coverage of the story in real time. The conventional reporter's story and the blogger's observations from the scene could ideally be published separately online side by side, while the print version of the news story could include a sidebar pointing readers to the Web address for the blog content.

Many newspapers across the nation have experimented with the blog format to varying degrees of success. If they can find ways to work the blog into their news coverage and emphasize a commitment to well-rounded coverage and reader participation, perhaps newspaper editors will begin to gain back the trust and credibility they appear to have lost.

Anthony J. Salveggia is a pre-law student at SUNY College at New Paltz. He can be reached at anthonyjs@gmail.com
behind the floor-length white robe and pastoral staff stood a man born of flesh and blood, like all others. Yet there was something different about him, something very real and very sacred. Perhaps it was that he spoke eight different languages, or that he traveled to 129 countries including Israel and Cuba, or that following his chosen path was wrapped in controversy, in both its beauty and its ugliness.

"He was a very influential spiritual leader in our country and impacted the lives of many people. It appeared to me that he dedicated his life to serving the world and trying to represent the body of Christ, the church, in a way that made a difference," said Clark Edwards, senior pastor for the First United Methodist Church of St. Petersburg at 212 Third St. N.

On Oct. 16, 1978, at the age of 58, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland was elected pope. Wojtyla took on the name of his predecessor, becoming John Paul II, the first non-Italian pope since the age of the Renaissance. In his 26-year reign as pope, John Paul traveled 773,520 miles, gave more than 3,288 speeches and appointed more than 230 cardinals. At 8:37 p.m. (2:37 p.m. EDT) on April 2, the pope passed away. Thousands gathered in Rome, on the brick street of St. Peter's square outside the pope's Vatican apartment during his last moments.

Senior Roddy Benton, the president of Campus Crusade for Christ at USF St. Petersburg, said he admired the pope for his courage and strong faith in Jesus Christ. "Pope John Paul II was an unquestionably great man and was probably the most influential voice for peace and morality in our time," Benton said. "He was convinced that Christ can set us free from these issues that we are truly helpless against if we try to take care of things ourselves. He was respected by men and women from every conceivable background across the world." Edwards believes that the pope was a prophet.

After Pope John Paul II died on April 2, St. Mary Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church began to display various paintings of His Holiness, and held a memorial mass for the pope on the evening of April 7. The church is located at 515 Fourth St. S near USF St. Petersburg.

The world says goodbye

"Pope John Paul II was an unquestionably great man and was probably the most influential voice for peace and morality in our time."

-USF St. Petersburg senior Roddy Benton

Opinion

By Genessa Poth

The pope's death recalled to mind for me our current state of affairs: the War in Iraq, the den-ve genocide being ignored in Darfur, the rampant degradation of our environment by our corporate-run administration and the consumerism "bigger is better" philosophy permeating our country.

His passing really got me thinking about the future and the possibilities awaiting us there. I envisioned the pope and thought to myself what he would think about these things if he were still with us, what he would encourage us to do to resolve our differences in the name of peace. It then occurred to me that perhaps a larger than life funeral was not the best way to pay homage to such a leader. Maybe honor ought to evoke a ceremony greater than that, one that extended to not just Rome, but to every river, plain and mountain, to all people.

I believe we must re-evaluate our priorities and step up to be counted. The general population, especially in the United States, has become far too comfortable to keep the laws of the land in check. We must open our eyes and ask ourselves, "What if that were my sister, my brother, my child?" The time has come. We must take the reins of destiny in hand now or risk the possibility of being too out of reach in later years.

May Pope John Paul II's life work stand as a testament to all that good will is alive and well and that one person can, in fact, make a world of difference.

See PAGE 5
Senior Gina Proulx had big plans for her graduation commencement ceremony. She intended to invite over 20 of her family and friends. But because of the limited distribution of tickets, only four people will be attending her graduation.

Like all 418 students who applied for graduation this spring, Proulx, 39, is entitled to receive five tickets for her family and friends to attend the commencement ceremony in Mahaffey Theatre. Tickets are being distributed in the Campus Activities Center until April 15. Any extra tickets will be distributed from April 16 to April 23.

Sitting at graduation and knowing that there are several key people unable to attend will hurt, said Proulx, who has one extra ticket because most of her family members would be coming as couples.

Proulx said that she would have paid to get two extra seats for her guests. "I wish I'd have been given the option," she said. But she realized there's not much she can do about it if Mahaffey Theatre is being used to its capacity with the current distribution system. The downtown venue, located at 400 First St. S., has a seating capacity of 2,000.

Graduation and administrative services coordinator Joneen Maczis said that the school has to plan for about 2,000 getting tickets, she may be able to give them to others who have one extra ticket because most of the students who request additional tickets do get them.

For other students, like political science major Craig Larkin, the limited ticket availability forces graduates to prioritize their guest list.

"It makes for some difficult decisions and some awkward moments when you have to tell people to save their money and stay home because you can't guarantee that they will be able to attend the ceremony," Larkin said. Larkin, 39, expects his mother, his wife and two children, and two friends to attend, putting him in need of an additional ticket.

Maczis said that chances of getting extra tickets have been good in the past. "Not all students even need their initial five tickets," she said. "So we ask all students that if they don't need all five to not take them all." If students find that they do not need all of the tickets, they should still bring them to Mahaffey in case there are other students who may still need the tickets for friends and family members, Maczis said.

Irena Milasinovic
Features Editor

April Slazas
Contributing Writer

When Lalania Seeders experienced problems trying to get her mobility device out of a classroom on campus last semester, she was given a cause to action.

As a result of her struggle, the USF St. Petersburg student came up with the idea for the Mobility Awareness Challenge, in which non-physically challenged students and staff members could learn for themselves the difficulty of getting around campus in scooters, wheelchairs and power chairs.

The first event was held in October 2004 for one week. At that time there were only two physically-disabled students attending classes on campus; now there are eight. That number is expected to rise based on the new expansion projects on campus, said Seeders, who is also a student assistant for SDS.

"There is a lack of accessibility on this campus," Seeders said. Even when she moves desks inconveniently placed in the aisle of one of her classrooms in order to make enough room for her power chair to get through, but her efforts have effectuated changes on campus.

The struggle to deal with obstacles can also take a psychological toll on the physically-challenged.

"It's embarrassing and humiliating," said Barry McDowell, coordinator of volunteer and student disability services.

Because of the October event, automatic door openers and grab bars were installed in the handicap stalls in the Piano Man Building. The university is also working to install American Disabilities Act-approved door handles on bathroom doors.

Currently, the only two restrooms fully accessible to wheelchair bound students are located in Davis Hall and the library.

For Seeders, enabling the physically-challenged to get around campus is a worthy cause.

"It's much better to be able to do things for ourselves," Seeders said.
DELEGATION from Page 2

The six diplomats were Nori Harimori, deeply steeped in Kofu’s history; Sri Yuliana, member of local parliament in the province of South Sumatra; Apriani Hikmat Nasution, member of Commission C of local parliament in the province of North Sumatra; Henry Sutowi, Rini Widijastuti, head of Ministry of Education; Maria Effendi, head of local parliament; Mochtar, member of the house of representatives in the Republic of Indonesia.

InformMe

PHOTOGRAPHER from Page 2

light. Just as the photographs connected those in attendance with Mariner’s appreciation of Florida’s landscape, some of his photos have had a great impact on those who view them.

One particular picture depicted eight palm trees and a rainbow. A group of eight siblings that saw the photo explained to Moran that they had been in that same location when a loved one had died and they had all seen the same rainbow.

Moran told a similar story about an oak tree photographed before and after the hurricanes from this past September. The first photo showed the massive tree in the middle of a field. Moran’s second photo showed a tree that appeared to be in the middle of a lake or pond, but still standing.

A woman with a son who struggled with schizophrenia felt an emotional bond with the picture and instantly related the strength of the tree with the condition of her son. She explained to her son that no matter the circumstances, the love of the family was like the strength of the tree both could survive. She purchased a copy of the photo for her son’s new apartment.

“Sometimes we need just get up and set down what we are doing and accept our gifts,” Moran said.

Those in attendance agreed and often voiced their amazement with the photographs. Chen Wang, a Hillsborough Community College student, came to the exhibit because he is familiar with Moran’s work and hopes someday to be a photographer.

“I love to take photography of landscapes,” Wang said. “I am going to transfer to the University of Florida and plan on taking the same track as John did.”

For others, like lifetime Floridian Robert Durden, Moran’s photos evoke nostalgia.

“I went to Clearwater Beach a few weeks ago and I was quite surprised,” Durden said. “Now, when you there, you can’t even see the beach.”

POPE from Page 4

ular figure because of his involvement in societal issues. After following John Paul II to Cuba several years ago, Edwards witnessed firsthand the impression the pope left on impoverished and oppressed Cubans.

“His social concerns about the poor and poverty, the issues that make an impact on our society are not to be overlooked because they make a difference in the lives of people,” Edwards said. “I think the pope attempted to use all of his resources and influence in the best way and was well received around the world. There was a great response from the people of Cuba about the impact he had made having been there.”

Ironically, although Pope John Paul II was known for being a traditionalist, he often worked alongside young people and figuredheads of popular culture.

In the late ’70s, he invited musicians like U2’s lead singer Bono to promote the Drop the Debt campaign, an attempt to get wealthy nations like the United States to cancel the debts owed by poor developing nations by the year 2000. Pope John Paul II also invited Bob Dylan to perform for him at a church congress in Bologna.

However, it hasn’t been easy for the pope in his dealings with Hollywood. Some pop stars clashed with the conservative ways of the pope. The pope condemned singer Madonna’s 1989 hit single, “Like a Prayer,” which featured scenes of necrosis and burning crosses thought to be mocking Catholics. And while singing on “Saturday Night Live” in 1982, Irish pop-singer Sinéad O’Connor shocked the world when she ripped a picture of the pope in the middle of a performance.

Recently, the pope’s views were linked to more controversy with the erosion of the Terri Schiavo case.

Professor Keith White, who teaches Reading the Bible as Literature, saw a connection.

“He was struck by the similarity between the pope’s dying and Terri Schiavo’s parents’ desire to keep their daughter alive,” White said. “I believe the Schiavo case is like the pope’s view of the church’s role in society.”

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“I went to Clearwater Beach a few weeks ago and I was quite surprised,” Durden said. “Now, when you there, you can’t even see the beach.”

Regardless of whatever debate may have surrounded the pope, his death evoked a wave of warmth from people of all races and creeds.

On the morning of April 4, Pope John Paul II was laid to rest. The funeral attracted millions of people to St. Peter’s Square including presidents, prime ministers and kings from around the world: President Bush, former President George H. Bush, and former President Bill Clinton led the U.S. delegation. The pope was buried in the grotto below St. Peter’s Basilica, where the popes of past days, including the first pope St. Peter, have been laid to rest for centuries.

The College of Cardinals will meet on April 18 to start the selection process of the new pope.
**Student art show a success**

**Movie Review**

By Wendy Owen

How to make a blockbuster action movie:

Take equal parts Clooney, Pitt and Damon. Add a dash of Roberts, a pinch of Garcia and put in the Steven Soderbergh mixer. Blend well.

While the original rat pack version starring Sammy Davis Jr., Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra was hard to follow up, this updated version of "Ocean's Eleven" managed to capture the old school feeling very well.

The plot focuses on Danny Ocean (played by George Clooney) and his plan to steal over $150 million from the impenetrable vault of the Bellagio casino in Las Vegas. Upon getting sprung from jail, Ocean begins to assemble a crack team of specialists (eleven in all, hence the title) to carry out his audacious plan. As the movie progresses, it becomes clear that Ocean also wants to win back his ex-wife from the casino's steely owner (Andy Garcia).

**Art Review**

By Genessa Path

The student art exhibit, "Nudes to Nonobjective," being held at Salt Creek Artworks until April 14, started off with a bang. The April 8 opening reception at the gallery, located 1600 Fourth St. S., attracted about 200 people and featured art pieces from 21 students demonstrating various skill levels, styles and media. Curator Lance Rodgers selected the pieces from professor Lucy Karl's drawing class and beginning and intermediate painting classes.

Student Debbie Terhune's series of paintings proves to be one of the show's many highlights. Her untitled painting catches the viewer's eye, featuring a carnivalesque palette with jellyfish shaped blobs of bright color vacillating in wave-like motion throughout the canvas. Sharp black lines that appear to resemble flames interrupt the looser, colorful forms. The contrast between buoyant, circular balloons of color and bold, dark angular lines makes for a lively composition that jumps out at the viewer.

Terhune's "Standing Nude," the profile of a man with a cane walking through an array of colorful shapes and patterns, as well as her "Standing Nude," a nude man with a cane standing in front of a lime green background, also evoke applause.

Student Anhney Gorman has three paintings on display, all with somewhat dark subject matter. Her large oil painting entitled "The Flight of Jill" features a bluish-gray sitting nude that is somewhat gargoyle-like. The face of the figure is quite serene and looks off to the right of the canvas. Although the figure looks completely human, the figure's ears are elongated and pointed like that of a sprite or elf. The background is composed of dark bluish-blackish hues with shades of reddish-violet light seeping out here and there. Student Katie Killary's self-portrait in pen and ink captures the viewer with the face's dead-on solemn expression. Her eyes seem to be in direct confrontation with the audience. The portrait, a headshot, utilizes a combination of an x-pattern and a parallel line stitch to create the outline as well as the features of the figure. Student Thanh Seybold's drawing of her cat, entitled "Earle Grey," is unlike any other on display. The cat was sketched in charcoal and later brought to life by way of an eraser technique. It's as if one can see the cat purring, breathing and getting ready to pounce. The eraser technique creates a sense of motion. The effect is brilliant.

The exhibition is worth visiting. Although many of the works are unfinished sketches and studies, there are some truly dynamic works that deserve to be seen.
Fitness center specialist Jim Stull (far right) and various Campus Activities Center employees struggle to move the leg press workout machine into the CAC Core on March 29. The group had to empty the fitness center of all the exercise equipment so new rubber flooring could be installed. It took over an hour to move the leg press alone. "I think we're going to get professionals to do the job next time," Stull said.

Junior Katherine Manis points out the age of one of the antique books for sale at the annual book sale to benefit Poynter Memorial Library. The sale was held Friday, April 8 in room 130 of Davis Hall, and was sponsored by the Society for the Advancement of Poynter Library. This group encourages communication between the library and the students, faculty, and citizens who use it. The society also improves the library's resources and services, and allows people from the community to check out library materials.

Left: Sophomore Katie Killary, 18, studies the skeleton figure in her intermediate drawing class on April 6. The students were required to draw the skeleton with chalk and charcoal.

Below: Junior Ben Hurlbut, 21, studies the skeleton figure in his intermediate drawing class on April 6. The students were required to draw the skeleton with chalk and charcoal.

"To be honest, he didn't concern me. I didn't know much about him."
Doug Borgman, 23

"From what I've heard he was a great man, but now he's gone. He'll be hard to replace."
Laura Sites, 19, sophomore

"I thought he was a good guy. He was involved religiously and politically."
Matt Lowery, 20, sophomore