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Author and WWII veteran Steve Raymond, 90, autographs a copy of the book he co-authored with Michael Pride. The book was a personal memoir of Raymond’s three-and-a-half year struggle for survival in Japanese prison camps.

Fourteenth annual Festival of Reading brings authors, readers to USF St. Petersburg

Red tide on the rise

This NBA season’s headlines

American Stage actors Stephen Malandro, 23 (right), and Michael Thorne, 25 (left), performed as Harold the dog and Chester the cat from Deborah and James Howe’s “Bunnicula.” The company performed this as part of its 20th annual American Stage School Tour to encourage children’s interest in the arts.

Martina Navratilova, both tennis professional and fitness author, spoke to a packed audience in the Campus Activities Center about her life and new book “Shape Your Self.” Navratilova, 50, closed her competitive tennis career after winning her 18th Grand Slam title for the 2006 US Open.
Red Time < Red tide is in the air and affecting Bay area people, animals and business

by CAITLIN KULECI
contribution writer

Just weeks after scientists reported new outbreaks of red tide in the Tampa Bay area, a controversy over the toxic algae also reappeared at a College of Marine Science meeting in September, but the blooms are more scattered and less intense than they were last year. The worst outbreaks are focused to the south of Pinellas County, near Sarasota.

Despite the reports, people still walk up and down the beaches, where the air smells of salt water and sea breeze instead of rotting fish and decaying seaweed. Drum circles and live concerts still take place each week in the sand. Beaches and bars every night.

“Red tide affects people too. Sneezing, scratching, coughing,” said Cynthia Heil, senior researcher with the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. The debate over red tide continued this week.

The return of red tide to Tampa Bay was first reported by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in September, but the blooms are more scattered and less intense than they were last year.

The debate over red tide continued this month at the Community Science and Environmental Policy Brown Bag Discussion sponsored by USF St. Petersburg and the research agencies located around Bayboro Harbor. More than 60 people packed into a conference room at the College of Marine Science in order to discuss the causes and effects of red tide.

Every available seat was occupied by scientists, students and community members. Some sat on the floor.

Two leading marine scientists spoke for a short period of time before fielding questions from the audience for 45 minutes. Larry Brand, a marine biologist at the University of Miami, has gained a following among environmental activists as his ideas began to receive favorable press. He believes the larger amounts of nutrients that leak into the Gulf of Mexico contribute directly to the increasing severity of red tide.

Brand points at the rapid growth of Florida’s coastal populations as the culprit. He believes the influx of new residents, combined with the loss of natural water filtration systems through the destruction of wetlands, leads to the increasing severity of red tides.

He cited increased levels of nitrates in the Peace River and in groundwater supplies as evidence. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, such nitrates are used in fertilizers.

“I can’t think of any natural source that would generate this,” Brand said.

While Brand does not dispute the existence of earlier red tides, he says that human activity aggravates the problem.

“It’s a matter of frequency and abundance,” he said.

Cynthia Heil, senior researcher with the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, disagrees with Brand. She said the research remains too inconsistent to allow definitive statements about red tide, calling the current database a “statistical nightmare.”

The database contains information culled from over 70 studies, some of which were not focused on red tide, Heil said.

She also reminded the audience that little was known about red tide, and that any attempts at mitigation might cause more harm than good.

“It’s an organism that evolved in this environment and is very suited to this environment,” Heil said. “We don’t know what function it serves.”

In a September article written by the "St. Petersburg Times," Terry Tomalin, Heil advanced one possible theory: that red tide was the watery equivalent of a “forest fire,” a naturally occurring phenomenon that periodically cleans out an ecosystem to make way for younger, healthier creatures.

She noted that shrimp and crab populations generally improve in the year after a serious red tide.

Despite the controversy, Brand’s theory that nutrient runoff worsens red tides has caught hold among many Floridians. The Sierra Club and the Sarasota Green Party are two groups who cite his research in their campaigns to bring attention to issues of coastal pollution and nutrient runoff.

“One of the public questions now – what is the role of coastal nutrient sources in red tide?” Heil said. “It’s something that is currently being investigated.”

She noted that the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute had just received a multimillion dollar federal grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency to study the possible links please see red tide, page 8

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Walk-Ins Welcome!
Persistence

by BRYAN W. WHITE
assistant editor

Ideally, the press in a Western-style democracy serves to inform voters. This idea looks great on paper. If only it made its way into the paper more often.

During the Vietnam War, for example, the press received justifiable criticism for accepting government statements too uncritically. The release of the "Pentagon Papers" exposed many government statements as lies. During that era, the press enjoyed a renaissance of its role as watchdog of the government and a slow realization of its power to influence government policy.

Unfortunately, the real display by the press for its watchdog role fails to guarantee accuracy. Sometimes the media fall down on the job and spread bad information. Sometimes a dubious notion gets repeated as a matter of fact so often that it passes for conventional wisdom. Once such case consists of the perception that the Bush administration actively sought to directly responsible in some way for the 9/11 attacks.

I first traced the popularization of this belief to noted linguist and political commentator Noam Chomsky. Chomsky assisted in publicizing the idea, saying in an interview with Michael Albert, "The drumbeat for war began in September 2002, and the government-media propaganda campaign achieved a spectacular success. Very quickly, the majority of the population came to believe that Iraq posed an imminent threat to US security, even that Iraq was involved in 9/11 (up from 3 percent after 9/11) and was planning new attacks." (April 15, 2003, published in Zmag).

On April 2, 2005, interview with V. K. Ramashankar, Chomsky said "about 50 percent of the population now believes that Iraq was responsible for the attack on the World Trade Centre. This has happened since Sept. 2002. In fact, after the September 11 attack, the figure was about 3 percent. Government-media propaganda has managed to raise that to about 50 percent." An increase from 3 percent to over 50 percent sounds significant. What was Chomsky's source for the data?

I e-mailed Professor Chomsky with that question over the summer. He replied that it would be impossible for him to identify his source at this point, though I included in my message a snippet from a 2001 Worthin Worldwide poll that included a match for his 3 percent figure — for the percentage of respondents identifying who "is more responsible for the recent terrorist attacks on the New York World Trade Center and the Pentagon (Sept. 11, 2001)?"

The follow-up question in the same poll asked what was "most responsible" for the attacks. Twenty-seven percent answered Iraq or Saddam Hussein. The poll data were collected prior to Sept. 17, 2001.

The follow-up question, however, did not receive mention in a story by Linda Feldman and published in the "Christian Science Monitor." Chomsky seems to have used Feldman's story as his source for the 3 percent figure, as the March 14, 2003 story reads "Polling data show that right after Sept. 11, 2001, when Americans were asked open-ended questions about who was behind the attacks, only 3 percent mentioned Iraq or Hussein. But by January of this year, attitudes had been transformed."

That's not long before Chomsky started making similar claims in the his widely-recorded public statements. "The Washington Post" did a more responsible version of the story. In Sept. 2003, Dana Milbank and Claudia Drake collaborated on a story that noted "[o]n Sept. 13, 2001, a Time/CNN poll found that 79 percent suspected Hussein's involvement — even though the administration had not made a connection."

Unaccountably, the "Christian Science Monitor" story failed to account for that poll data while mishandling the Worthin Worldwide survey data. A research paper by Scott L. Althauser (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) and Devon M. Largio, titled "When Osama Became Saddam: Origins and Consequences of the Change in Americans' Public Enemy #1" and published in 2004, evaluated the survey data and came to essentially the same conclusion as the Milbank-Drake story in "The Washington Post." According to Althauser and Largio, "misätaken beliefs about Hussein's culpability were less a product of the Bush administration's public relations campaign than of the 9/11 attacks themselves. Moreover, the apparently high levels of public misperception are in part an artifact of the wording and format of poll questions put to the American public."

Yet the misperception presented in the earlier "Christian Science Monitor" piece continues to color the thinking of average Americans, sometimes encouraged by casual mention in daily papers.

Witness an AP story by Christy Lemire that appeared in the "Vancouve Columbia": "Professing himself to be 'a old school,' Sezler says he was raised to believe what the president of the United States says. So he believed President Bush when he said Saddam Hussein was responsible for Sept. 11."

"...please see persisten:e, page 8"
The Crow's Nest 11/07/06

The Times Festival of Reading celebrates the literary community.

Award-winning humorist and author Andy Borowitz spoke about his book "The Republican Playbook." The book, which was released in October, is political satire of information that Borowitz had "stolen from the White House."

Those attending the St. Petersburg Festival of Reading were offered the assistance of a free shuttle to take them to their cars. The shuttle, which traveled from south of the USF campus up to Central Avenue, was a free service that was provided for the Festival participants.

by CASEY FELDKAMP
staff photographer

Saturday mornings are typically quiet at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. On Saturday Oct 28, the bustle of the Fourteenth Annual St. Petersburg Times Festival of Reading broke the silence.

The festival, begun in 1993, is focused on encouraging children and adults alike to read. This year's event featured more than 60 authors including Arianna Huffington, Martina Navratilova, and Lynn Sherr.

It also brought to attention local writers, such as Eliot Kleinberg, Rosalie Peck and Steve Raymond.

Authors gathered with fans in various locations throughout the USF St. Petersburg campus and neighboring Poynter Institute. The authors discussed their books and literary inspirations before answering questions from the audience. Afterward, they posed for photographs and signed copies of their books.

The free event featured book readings and face painting activities for children, along with performances by the American Stage Company and various musical performers.

Author Jeff Shaara spoke about his work and read a two-page excerpt from his new book "The Rising Tide," the first in a World War II trilogy and will be released in November.
Alinea Huffington, a nationally syndicated columnist and author of eleven books, spoke out about recent book "On Becoming Fearless: Advice for Women." Above, Huffington autographed a copy of her new book for a fan on Saturday morning.

Authors Rique Johnson (left), Tia Brookes McKinney (center), and Zane (right) were part of a panel discussion regarding self-publishing.

See more photos online at www.usfspetecrowsnest.com
The real scoop on the NBA season

by CHRIS WAGAR
staff writer

Most NBA preview stories go deep into what is going to happen over the next nine months; who is going to do what, who is going to rise, fall off, and which team is going to come out in June with the championship.

But inside every 82-game season, there are the headlines that sportswriters wish they could tell you about. These are the headlines that this is that story.

Eastern Conference:
Miami Heat: Pat Riley loses hair gel and South Beach is shocked to find out Riley has Ben Wallace type afros. Yes, the Bullets.

Pacers: Wanted, potential felons with weapons charges who can defend and hit an NBA three. Ron Artest need not apply: By stor­ies, Wallace shaves head. A win for the posting of a deal.

Chicago Bulls: Is going to happen over the next nine months; who is going to do what, who is going to rise, fall off, and which team is going to come out in June with the championship.

Washington Wizards: Check out AI's new tattoos.

Golden State Warriors: Supporting more criminals around the NBA.

Charlotte Bobcats: Adam Morrison's mustache. Nicest hair in the NBA.


Boston Celtics: Larry Bird denies ever playing for the Celtics.

Atlanta Hawks: You remember Dominique Wilkins, don't you, don't you?

Phoenix Suns: What is up with Steve Nash's hair?

San Antonio Spurs: How does a French guy date Eva Longoria? Well we know why.

Utah Jazz: Apparently Mormons like their basketball. I wonder if polygamists do too.

Houston Rockets: Come see the Great Wall of China right here in Houston.

Los Angeles Clippers: I swear we don't suck anymore.

Los Angeles Lakers: Come see Jack Nicholson.

Sacramento Kings: Come watch us play and maybe Ron Artest will fight you too.

Denver Nuggets: We have Carmelo Anthony and somebody else, I think.

Golden State Warriors: Playing more white guys than anybody else.

New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets: Where do we play again?

New Jersey Nets: Come watch us play and fight you too.

Western Conference:
Dallas Mavericks: For the last time his name is not Dirk Diggler, it is Dirk Nowitzki.

Phoenix Suns: What is up with Steve Nash's hair?

San Antonio Spurs: How does a French guy date Eva Longoria? Well we know why.

Utah Jazz: Apparently Mormons like their basketball. I wonder if polygamists do too.

Houston Rockets: Come see the Great Wall of China right here in Houston.

Los Angeles Clippers: I swear we don't suck anymore.

Los Angeles Lakers: Come see Jack Nicholson.

Sacramento Kings: Come watch us play and maybe Ron Artest will fight you too.

Denver Nuggets: We have Carmelo Anthony and somebody else, I think.

Golden State Warriors: Supporting more criminals around the NBA.

Oh and just in case you are wondering: San Antonio Spurs over the Cleveland Cavaliers in the NBA Finals.

Chris Wagar is a journalism major in the St. Petersburg Times. He can be reached at wagar21@hotmail.com.
King Crossword

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Weekly Sudoku

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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Results. We make 'em happen.
Musician brings excitement to nightlife in St. Petersburg

by SANDRA ESTENGER

Diners at Applebee's on 4th Street North in St. Petersburg may get more than just a delicious dinner. Every Wednesday night from 10:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., Russ Anderson, a professional singer from Glasgow, Scotland, provides live entertainment as he sings and plays the keyboard.

Just 26 years old, Anderson has found musical success as he has traveled from his hometown to the United States. His career began in Scotland where he played in a Virgin Records showcase band and in stage musicals. After leaving the band, Anderson decided to pursue a solo career in the United States in May 2003.

"I had to go my own way," Anderson said. Upon his arrival, Anderson worked to spread his name and his music during his first six months and began singing in night clubs and bars. During one of his nightly performances, the owner of an Applebee's franchise approached Anderson and offered him a job singing at his restaurant.

Offering appetizers at half price and two-for-one drinks, Applebee's draws big crowds on Wednesday nights as diners eat and stay to hear Anderson sing.

"It's become a really popular weekly event for people," Anderson said.

Anderson sings modern pop music with a blend of classic oldies. His most recent performance included songs made popular by Garth DeBlanco, Michael Buble and the Steve Miller Band. Anderson says he sometimes sings the songs better than the artists; he proudly added.

"I love singing," Anderson said. Anderson also performs at Applebee's on McMenonn Booth Road. Tommy Duff's Irish Aviation Pub in Clearwater's Island Estates, Tropik Tiki Deck, and South Beach Sports Grill all in Clearwater Beach locations.

With plans of moving to L.A. in the future, Anderson is enjoying his work in St. Petersburg for the present, and his fans quite possibly enjoy it even more.

"He's very good!" Anderson is currently signed with a Seattle-based record label Rev Music Group where he is recording his debut album, "Good Evening," at MSR Studios Inc., expected to be released in the summer of 2008.

He has recently appeared on Tampa Bay's Mix 100.5's "The Nanny and Mike Morning Show," 101.5's "The Point," and NBC's "The Today Show." "I think people like me so much because they can tell I like what I do," Anderson said, "I quickly realized that in Florida musicians do not enjoy what they do." The Applebee's crowd enjoys what Anderson does. They cheer, applaud, and some even buy the singer drinks to show appreciation for his music.

"It's not Scottish it's crap," said Kyle Shargin, a big fan of Anderson and a student at USF St. Petersburg. "He's our hero," shouted another fan sitting at the bar during Anderson's performance.

As the night goes on Anderson caters to his listeners, accepting song requests and conversing with the audience in between numbers. "I love singing," Anderson said. Anderson also performs at Applebee's on McMenonn Booth Road. Tommy Duff's Irish Aviation Pub in Clearwater's Island Estates. Tropik Tiki Deck, and South Beach Sports Grill all in Clearwater Beach locations.

With plans of moving to L.A. in the future, Anderson is enjoying his work in St. Petersburg for the present, and his fans quite possibly enjoy it even more.

"We're trying to build a market in the University of Texas of the Permian Basin where, for seven years, she was the dean of the business school. USF St. Petersburg's faculty and student bodies double the size of her former colleges."

"It brings new and different challenges," Franklin said, "but I think as an experienced administrator, I'll bring those skills I used at UT Permian Basin to the table - even in a larger environment."

And USF St. Petersburg will need Franklin's skills. In the fall of 2003 the College of Business seek a maintenance review from the premier accreditation body for business schools worldwide, The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Normally, USF St. Petersburg's accreditation with the AACSB was through the Tampa campus. Now that USF St. Petersburg is separately accredited, the St. Petersburg campus will conduct the review.

Besides dealing with the AACSB at other schools, Franklin did the initial AACSB accreditation at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin while she served as dean.

"We did [the initial accreditation] at Permian Basin in a four year period when it is traditionally a five year period ... yeah, we were overachievers!" she proudly added.

The AACSB is Franklin's immediate goal, but there are others she would like to deal with at the College of Business as well. She wants to create a strategy plan that will get feedback from the faculty, the students, the business and civic community to get input on where the College of Business needs to go in the future.

The other goal is more physical. The College of Business is currently leasing the building it shares with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. The school administration is currently looking to secure the building for a longer period of time, but eventually, they will need to think about the possibility of a new building.

Franklin plans to continue the community programs it already has in place. She admits that she is not sure what direction the college is going with community programs, and also says that she doesn't think that they do a good enough job promoting what they already do.

Some of the programs already in place include the work the college does in the fall with The Service Core of Retired Executives. SCORE is set up to offer help and advice to small businesses in the area. Faculty members also give lectures at the event. Another community outreach program happens around tax time: the college's accounting students work in area Wal-mart offering tax filing help.

In an interview for another Crow's Nest story, Hill said that his decision to leave was due to the lack of high-level support he received in trying to build USF St. Petersburg into a nationally recognized business school.

Franklin says she has not seen this as an issue. She's had to deal with these types of things in the University of Texas system as well and is used to coordinating with other schools in a system.

For now, Franklin's husband, Kenny, and son, Tanner, remain in Texas. Tanner will be going away to college soon so Franklin feels that separation will be good practice for when that happens. Eventually she said her husband will be looking for a house in the area. Franklin's husband and son plan on visiting her for Homecoming.