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Students speak against campus growth

Is USF St. Petersburg’s exponential growth in size and student enrollment all for the best? Students say campus growth is not always good.

By Kristie A. Martinez
Senior Staff Writer

Campus growth has a negative side

USF community reacts to noose found in tree

By Ryan Moehan
The Oracle (U. South Florida)

Students share ‘Road to White House’ experience

USF St. Petersburg students are back from New Hampshire where they aided presidential candidates.

Brandon Keith
Staff Writer

Bush finally has a good idea

Budget calls for 14% tuition aid increase

Story page 4
Does USF St. Pete really want to be like the Univ. of Florida?

By Matt Nelson
Editor in Chief

USF St. Petersburg is fine now. It's much more exciting than when I started in 2000. But something scares me. It's not that student enrollment figures bother me. I welcome more students. I also embrace new buildings and more parking. However, I do have a problem with the notion that this campus is striving to be like the University of Florida.

"It's really a part of our effort to recruit and graduate quality students," said Charles Brown, associate vice president of student affairs. "When you talk to students who attend the University of Florida, one of the main reasons they attend is not only because of offerings in the classroom, but also outside of the classroom."

No offense Dr. Brown, but this is NOT the University of Florida. Many students that go to USF St. Petersburg could have gone to UF. But they didn't. Something lured them to our quiet little campus on the bay. If they wanted frat parties, they would go to USF Tampa. If students want to have awesome "offerings" outside the classroom, they go to a Jannus Landing or Ybor. To say we should model ourselves after UF upsets the delicate balance that our campus stands for. Maybe students want to focus on their studies instead of wild and crazy parties. Maybe moms and dads need a place to go to school. You know, a commuter school that is used just for education, not totally bad. Considering the student enrollment has almost doubled in three years, it says this campus is doing something right. Students come here because it is different.

In October, Brown said, "If two academic programs are excellent, and [one] school has big time football, and an excellent overseas program ... where you do think the student is going to go?"

He is right. Most students would choose that kind of campus, but not all college folks are looking for that. There has to be someplace for students to get the quality small school education you can't find anywhere else for $85 a credit hour. That college is USF St. Petersburg.

Yes, we don't have a football team, or Greek Life or even campus housing. But if we want that just take a little drive over to Tampa. It's great to be at this campus. We have small classes and the pleasant atmosphere but still have the tremendous resources of one of the largest universities in the southeast.

We must not forget we are still part of the University of South Florida. Whether we are in Tampa or St. Petersburg, we still work and learn at a major institution. But should we be anti-growth? Heavens no, but it doesn't mean USF St. Petersburg needs to be like every place else.

"I THINK THERE HAS BEEN AN EXAGGERATION (OF THE THREAT OF TERRORISM)... THEY ARE MISLEADING ALL AMERICANS."

Sen. John Kerry, Jan. 2004

OH, SO NOW WERE THE FIGMENT OF HIS IMMAGINATION....

4/11 VICTIMS

NOW YOU KNOW HOW WE FEEL...

U.S. SOLDIERS K.I.A. IN IRAQ

Letter to the editor

Re: "What would MLK say about the pro-choice agenda?"

(Published Jan. 26).

Dear Editor:

As I read Mr. Grinaker's recent guest editorial, I became progressively more angry. My indignation reached its zenith when I read his comment "It is legal for a woman who finds herself pregnant to have an abortion. This single phrase underscores the inconstancy and hypocrisy of Mr. Grinaker's column. After all, doesn't the phrase "finds herself pregnant" imply that the pregnancy is entirely the woman's fault? And if it is solely the woman's fault, shouldn't it also be the woman's responsibility (and right) to determine how to handle an unplanned pregnancy?"

Apparently, Mr. Grinaker thinks he has the right to speak for all women and for Dr. King. Since Mr. Grinaker is most assuredly not a woman nor is he Dr. King, I think he should stop speaking for them and just concentrate on speaking for himself.

Luci Dahl
Student
Super Bowl nudity stunt isn't surprising

Let me begin by stating I did not watch the Super Bowl. I did not see "the breast incident." In case you've been in stuck in an isolation chamber, I am making reference to the moment during the half time show when pop diva Janet Jackson had a crucial portion of her costume pulled off by co-singer Justin Timberlake which resulted in her breast being exposed. The media frenzy afterward blamed the tastelessness of MTV, who produced the half time show. MTV and CBS are both owned by media giant Viacom. The local papers published commentary for a couple of days, including concerned parents worried about how to handle the issue with their children.

Yet, no one asked, "Why are people so shocked to see a woman exposed on television, and at a sporting event at that?" St. Petersburg Times media critic, Eric Deggans, comes close to the real issue when he wrote that the occurrence "...seemed weirdly exploitive and unnecessarily explicit."

First, we must ask why this incident was "weird." We see half naked women used to promote sports all the time. In fact, male dominated sports such as football and wrestling exemplify what our society considers masculine. This ideal masculinity is often coupled with an overtly sexualized female counterpart, the cheerleader. The camera zooming in on her cleavage as she bounces with excitement, cheering on the men, does not shock anyone. To see a man at a sporting event with a sign requesting to view 'your @#*$' is not uncommon (but it is annoying). We see female sexuality exploited everyday in advertising...

hyper-sexualized women are used to sell everything from beer to bathroom products.

So, how does what happened at half time differ from what we have grown accustomed to seeing? This is the "unnecessarily explicit" aspect of the promotional stunt gone awry. The physical act of Timberlake ripping away Jackson's top is what made the incident so shocking, so "weirdly exploitive."

Would the public reaction be the same if she exposed herself? We except exploitation if it appears the woman is willing, but are shocked if a man directly exploits her. Our society tends to ignore male privilege that reduces females to sexual objects consistently, and we are uncomfortable when forced to look directly at the act of exploitation. We tolerate the concept of objectifying females, but particular incidents humanize the experience and only then enraged us.

We have all heard the arguments for reducing women to nothing but sex objects. She, the model, cheerleader, dancer, prostitute, chooses to get into this line of work. She wants to do it. She gets paid well for it. However, when women still make only 75-cents to every dollar men earn, for equal work, does she have equal choices? When females are socialized to believe our appearance is more important than our intellect, is the playing field really equal? (Just page through any teen magazine aimed at females if you doubt this last remark).

Perhaps the better question would be ... why aren't we always outraged when we see women exploited?

Warning: Reading the Crow's Nest could be habit forming.
Tenet defends Iraq intelligence

By Drew Johnson-Skinner
The Hoya (Georgetown U.)

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON - Director of Central Intelligence, George Tenet, returned to Georgetown Thursday to publicly defend the intelligence used to justify the Iraq War.

In a speech in Gaston Hall, Tenet said that his agency never claimed that Saddam Hussein possessed an "imminent threat," one of the Bush administration's main arguments for going to war in March 2003.

Instead, he said the CIA's National Intelligence Estimate, delivered to the White House in October 2002, "painted an objective assessment for our policymakers of a brutal dictator who was continuing to build weapons of mass destruction that could harm our nation and its allies, and who has lied about his weapons programs and his intentions before.

Tenet used his rare public appearance to refute David Kay, a former U.S. weapons inspector in Iraq, who criticized the CIA's Iraqi intelligence at a Senate committee hearing last week.

Repeatedly insisting that still more information on Iraq's weapons was needed, Tenet said that the CIA's pre-war claim that Hussein had illicit missile programs had been proven "on target."

On biological and chemical weapons, Tenet said that while the 2002 report asserted Hussein possessed both, today "we have not found the weapons we expected."

Tenet insisted that the "search must continue," saying more time is needed to find the truth.

"Remember, finding things in Iraq is always very tough," he said.

Tenet said that in reviewing the 2002 Estimate, "it would have been very difficult" for the CIA to reach any conclusion other than what was reported to the president.

Tenet, who has served as CIA director under Presidents Bill Clinton (SBP '68) and George W. Bush, said he was open to reviews of his agency's work in Iraq. He said he recently established a group of former-CIA analysts to evaluate the 2002 report and called for an internal investigation last year.

Tenet said he would also welcome a White House intelligence review commission.

After saying the CIA's record on Iraqi intelligence gathering after UN weapons inspectors left in 1998 was "mixed," Tenet admitted his agency "did not have enough of [its] own human intelligence."

But, he said, "A blanket indictment of our human intelligence around the world is dead wrong."

As evidence, he disclosed previously secret CIA achievements, saying that "a CIA spy led us to Khalid Sheik Muhammad," the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Tenet also said the CIA was responsible for locating Khalid al-Nashiri, the alleged leader of the attack on the USS Cole in 2000, and Riduan Isamuddin (also known as Zawahiri), who Tenet called "the chief terrorist in South Asia."

Tenet credited the CIA with prior knowledge of Libya's and Iran's nuclear weapons development plans. He said it was CIA information that "allowed our diplomats to confront the North Korean regime" on its weapons of mass destruction programs.

"So when you hear pundits say that we have no human intelligence capability, they don't know what they're talking about," Tenet said.

In a question-and-answer session that followed his speech, a student asked Tenet how much influence a rumored conservative intelligence group at the Pentagon had on President Bush's decisions.

"I can tell you with certainty that the president of the United States gets his intelligence from one person and one community - me," Tenet said. "He has told me firmly and directly he wanted it straight and he wanted it honest and he never wanted the facts shaded and that's what we do every day," Tenet said he meets with the president six days each week.

Bush wants more aid for college freshmen

By Eric Beidel
The Collegiate Times (Virginia Tech)

(U-WIRE) President Bush is calling for an increase in the amount of federal aid available to college freshmen, while sophomores, juniors and seniors will not receive any additional support, according to his 2005 budget request given to Congress Monday.

Bush’s plan would raise the amount of federal money freshmen can borrow from $2,664 to $3,000 a year. The sophomore maximum will remain at $3,500 and the junior and senior maximums at $5,500. The maximum Pell Grant will remain at $4,050 for the third consecutive year.

The total amount of federal aid a student can receive in his or her four years of college will also remain steady at $23,000. "We welcome the propos­al," said Barry Simmons, director of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Financial Aid. "We don’t see any downside to it. The levels needed to be increased for a while."

Freshmen will see more aid for the first time since 1986, while sophomores, juniors and seniors have not seen an increase since 1992. "The president’s budget is a big disappointment," said Larry Zaglaniczny, director of congressional relations for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

NASFAA is part of the Coalition for Better Student Loans, a lobby group who is proposing a plan that would increase the overall federal loan limit to $30,000, leaving freshmen a limit of $4,000 and sophomores $6,000. "[Bush’s proposal] is sad. Students have educational costs equivalent throughout their four years in college, not to mention the greater need their first year," Zaglaniczny said.

While the majority of federal aid levels will not increase according to Bush's budget, tuition increases on a yearly basis, which is disheartening, Zaglaniczny said.

"The fact that tuition is increasing but not student aid worries us a great deal," he said.

Alternative loans are also becoming more visible with each year. These are commercial loans given to students by banks who are looking to profit, Simmons said. Bush’s budget will reserve $3 billion for unspecified futher student benefits, which could pos­sibly go to additional loan limit increas­es, according the U.S. Education Department.

"Higher loan limits is one of many options to be considered as part of our discussions with Congress on how to respond to the $3 billion we reserved in the budget for student benefits," said Sally Stroup, assistant secretary for post-second­ary education.
Student government: It's not your usual political scene

With candidates still fighting for every vote to win the Democratic presidential nomination, I am suddenly reminded of how congenial our Student Government is here at USF St. Petersburg.

I can't imagine what our meetings would be like if representatives were coerced into yielding matches by their opponents, who sit across the table and scoff at every word spoken. I would hate to see our President Kara Wilson, driven by her desire to win the next election, give an overzealous speech in which she temporarily loses control and yelps like an animal.

We don't have to deal with these kinds of problems. In Student Government here at USF St. Petersburg, rather than hashing out issues at a table with twenty people we'd like nothing to do with, we are able to discuss matters with eagerness, concern, and consideration.

Each member is sure to speak their mind, but never forgets the friendly environment that we have worked so hard to create.

When students have a concern about the campus or want to find out what is going on within the university, they should always find a member of Student Government to answer their questions. That's our job, to be the voice of the students.

Of course, if you've never been to a Student Government meeting you might not know who these representatives are.

Student Government is made up of an Executive Board consisting of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary, as well as various representatives who speak for their respective college. In order to make it easier to find one of these people, we have prepared a list of the members and the colleges that they represent.

I encourage you to ask these people questions you may have about the campus or activities that Student Government is organizing. If they don't know, they'll know who to find to get an answer.

There are still open positions in the College of Marine Science, College of Education and undeclared students as well. If you're interested contact the Student Government office in CAC 127, or by phone at (727)553-4147.

BBQ

Just a reminder that Student Government is hosting a Barbeque on the lawn outside of Davis Hall on Feb. 11 from 11-2 p.m. Representatives from Student Government will be there to answer any questions.

It's our University! Take action to make sure it stays that way.

Road, from page 1

The internships only lasted ten days, but Professor Scourfield McLauchlan began planning for this course soon after she arrived at USF St. Petersburg in July.

"It was my dream to be able to put together a class like this when I returned to academia," she said.

I drafted a syllabus and made the necessary travel arrangements, like accommodations and transportation. There was a great deal of paperwork to gain approval for this course, to set up the students' internship placements, and to administer the course fee.

This program was the first of its kind administered from the St. Petersburg campus, and Professor Scourfield McLauchlan said she received a tremendous amount of support from administration.

"CEO/VP Karen White, Dean Mark Durand and Professor Darryl Paulson were all extremely helpful in making this class possible, not only in assisting with the 'bureaucrat­ ic red tape' but also in providing financial support for the program as well," Scourfield McLauchlan said.

Because students received three hours of credit, the internship was beneficial for their academic career.

"I probably wouldn't care too much if [USFSPI] had a functional student life area. I'm just more of a commuter. I come in, do my classes, and go home," Angela Hibbard, Senior Economics major

"More study room, a game room or anything that benefits students and makes it a little easier for them to be on campus than off campus." Sam Dowels, Junior Business administration

"They were going to build a student lounge in the terrace, but it didn't go through. I would like to see that finished, if possible. They were going to have a billiards table, some video games, and a lounge area for students. Now they have a [lounge] in Davis lobby, but it's not as good as the one they were going to make. I'd like to have some place where I could hang out, and have a snack." Mudit Bhatt, Junior ISM major

"More food services, or more of a central dining area where you can get more of a selection than what's here. And somewhere you could go to hang out, because once the dorms come in, students are going to want somewhere for the students to come and hang out and feel like this is their campus and not away from their campus to find home." Ruben Anchundia, Senior Business management

"A place to study would be nice and a place where colleagues could get together and have functions, because once you get into your major, you don't normally see other people." Natasha Schnitker, PhD candidate Marine science
Ask the CCC Swami
By the Counseling and Career Center Staff

Dear Swami,
I'm desperate to find a good job and know that the upcoming Career Expo is a great place to connect with employers. In fact, I have a friend who got a job offer on the spot at last year's Expo. So tell me, what can I do to make the most of the upcoming Career Expo and land a sweet job?
Signed,
Working it

Dear Working it,
To make the most of Career Expo there are certain things you should do before, during, and after the event to make it successful. Before the event: 1) finalize your resume, proofread, have it critiqued, and make laser-quality copies on nice resume paper. Two resume critique days will be held on Monday, February 16, and Tuesday, February 17 from 11-1 p.m. in the Davis Lobby. 2) Review what employers will be attending the IEPO and research those organizations you are most interested in and prepare some questions you want to ask them. 3) Prepare to wear business professional clothes and get to the event as early as you can.

During Career Expo: 1) take the initiative to approach employers, shake their hand, introduce yourself, smile, listen and indicate your interest in their organization, 2) highlight your skills and abilities to them, give them a copy of your resume, 3) be sure not to interrupt someone else who is speaking with an employer, 4) collect business cards (especially of those organizations you are most interested in), 5) make notes of names and any other information that you learned about that company.

After Career Expo: 1) write thank you notes to the employers you spoke with and reiterate your interest in those organizations you felt a good match with, 2) follow-up to find out what the next steps are and how you might get in for an interview.

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- Network with employers, faculty, students, and staff
- Find out information on a variety of occupations and career paths

A list of attending organizations will be available on Feb. 16 from BAY 119.

For more information, contact the Counseling & Career Center at 553-4129, BAY 119.

If you have a disability and need to request a reasonable accommodation, call 553-4162 no less than five working days prior to this event.

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Black Emphasis Month — make him feel unsafe.

"I don't want to jump the gun and say that it's something it's not, but the implication that it gives off — hanging a noose on a tree — is scary within itself. That's not even an image I want in my head," Dollar said.

Freshman Theresa Layton, who also lives in the complex, said she thinks the situation is difficult because of its sensitivity yet.

"It's scary within itself. That's not even an image I want in my head," she said. "I'm not really scared," she said. "It's just somebody being stupid and playing some dumb prank."

Nixon said Thursday that the situation is difficult because of its sensitivity and that he and other administrators are working to help find the person or persons responsible.

Khan accompanied Nixon, Henry and several other administrators at the meetings Thursday. It's important to him that something positive comes out of the situation, because, he said, "You can't fight hate with hate."

"To say there's no problem, that's obviously not the case," Khan said. "They hung this during the day, what happens at night? What if students walk by?"

But spokesman for UP Mike Klingebiel said what took place last Friday, even if police were present while the rope was being hung, might not constitute a crime. There's a fine line between free speech and a hate crime. It all depends upon context, he said.

"The circumstances would dictate the response," he said. "Right now, with the facts that we have that I'm privy to, it's a rope in a tree."

In the past, Klingebiel said UP has responded to racially defamatory graffiti. In most cases, those responsible are charged with vandalism, and if the vandalism is identified as a hate crime, a judge will normally take that into consideration when issuing a sentence.

Vandalism against the MLK bust, for instance, was not considered a hate crime since it was directed at an object, not a person.

But Dollar says both the noose and the MLK bust incidents indicate to him a much larger problem at USF. He says USF is branded as a diverse university, and it is, but most of the minority groups don't interact with each other. This, he says, promotes ignorance and leads to racially charged incidents.

And, he says, as it now appears to be becoming a trend, students must have high expectations of the administration that something will be done to facilitate a safer environment for campus minorities.

"Your students feeling comfortable here and feeling safe here should be a top priority, especially if you want to raise my tuition and my housing rates and give President Genshaft raises," he said. "You still have people walking around here not feeling safe, and they're transferring."

Dollar said BSU is requesting that Genshaft and other administrators meet again with his group next week to update them on any developments or courses of action the university plans to

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nice and small."

Charles Brown, associate vice president for student affairs at USF St. Petersburg, said campus growth is necessary if the school is to become more appealing to students.

"It's really a part of our effort to recruit and graduate quality students," Brown said. "When you talk to students who attend the University of Florida, one of the main reasons they attend is not only because of offerings in the classroom, but also outside of the classroom."

Brown also said that construction of new academic buildings is needed for the increasing number of students and teachers.

"I don't think we're going to destroy the ambience of the campus," he said, "but we need to be competitive. We want to be a college of first choice for students." USF St. Petersburg was freshman Helen Phillips' first choice.

"I knew I wanted to come here," said Phillips, 18. "The main reason I like it is because it's small. It kind of feels homey."

Like other students, Phillips said she likes the smaller class sizes offered on campus.

"I don't want the class sizes to be much bigger," she said. "I like being able to talk to the teacher and not have the teacher say, 'What's your name again? It makes me more comfortable. If I need help I don't have to worry, I can get it." Phillips said she wants to complete her degree at USF St. Petersburg. But many of the life sciences courses required for pre-med are offered only at USF Tampa, she said.

"The biggest problem is it doesn't supply a lot of my classes for me to stay here the entire time," Phillips said. Lipschutz also wishes more classes were offered at USF St. Petersburg.

"They could offer more classes at different times because the selection is limited," she said. "If you want to do your four-year degree, you run into problems if they only offer (courses) one semester."

But is it possible to offer more classes without increasing the student population? Gary A. Olson, USF St. Petersburg's chief academic officer, said that even if the student body grows to 10,000, most classes would remain small.

"The fact that we hired 51 new faculty (members) on top of the ones that we had already shows you that we're trying to keep that ratio right," Olson said.

He added that the increase in students would not happen overnight.

"We're not growing willy-nilly," he said. "We're not taking anyone and everyone who applies. We're being more and more selective."

Depending on the type of class and the subject being taught, Olson said some classes would be larger than others to subsidize seminar-style classes with 9 or 10 students in them.

Olson also said that a school with 8,000 to 10,000 students is an ideal-size institution.

"It still gives you a sense of belonging to a community, but it's large enough to give you the benefits of a university," he said.

Those benefits include such things as student health services and a student union with hangout space and study areas.

"Don't think for a moment we're going to be like USF Tampa," Olson said. "We're not going there. We're going to be a small to medium-size university. That's the best of both worlds."

Brown, associate vice president of student affairs, said that although some students may be opposed to campus growth, change is inevitable.

"I might not want to leave 21 years of age," Brown said, "but guess what — it happened. Any institution that's going to be competitive has to change and has to evolve." Although USF St. Petersburg student O'Brien doesn't want to see USF St. Pete turn into another huge university, she said she realizes that change is necessary in small increments.

"But if you want to go to a big party school, go to USF Tampa," she said.

Governor Dean even mentioned the USF students in a speech. Locally, the class was featured in the St. Petersburg Times, WTSP Channel 10, as well as on the Associated Press news wire.

"I was interviewed by a Japanese newspaper. I don't remember the name," laughed Michena Georges, who interned with Sen. Joe Lieberman.

"It's amazing how much we were on TV," said Coates. "It became so it wasn't even that big of deal."

The group of Dean interns spent a day on the Dean Campaign Tour Bus traveling around the state to places Dean was scheduled to speak.

"That was the best," said Teresa Przetocki, a Dean intern. "I loved riding around on the 'rock star' bus. We would go to an event and get the crowd pumped up for Dean, then get on the bus and watch him on TV.

Because interns attended many campaign events, they witnessed firsthand how the events are reported in the national media.

"I think the media totally slanted Dean's 'scream' in Iowa," said Przetocki. "Like Dean's people in New Hampshire, the people on the Iowa campaign worked their butts off, and he tried to pump them up, and the media turned it into something bad."

Governor Dean has passion, not an anger problem.

Some interns thought that the media was unfair in campaign coverage.

"Politics is very much manipulated by the media," said Capellan. "The media are very sensationalistic and news hungry. The candidates weren't given equal television coverage.

On Primary Day, interns were at campaign headquarters around 5:30 a.m. to arrange rides to the polls, make final phone calls and make a final door-to-door "Get-out-the-vote" effort.