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The chancellor’s champions

By Lazar Anderson
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

About 20 USF St. Petersburg students traveled to Tallahassee last Tuesday, lobbying the state legislature to reinvest in higher education and appropriate funding for a building to house the College of Business.

Meetings with many state senators and representatives netted positive responses, with four resulting in verbal commitments to a College of Business building.

However, not everyone was ready to support a new building for USFSP. In a meeting with student body president Mark Lombardi-Nelson, Senate President Don Gaetz made it clear there would be some obstacles to overcome.

“I guarantee you that is absolutely not going to happen. Poor! The money is gone,” Gaetz said, opening his hand to pantomime a cheap magic trick. He was referring to Public Education Community Outlay funds, which are a tax on telephones and other utilities. The funds, which are used by schools for construction projects, have been dwindling for years in direct correlation to declining landline use.

The students’ lobbying efforts were part of USF Day, a joint effort with the Tampa and Sarasota campuses. Altogether, roughly 75 students, were the main proponents in creating the petition. Within 72 hours, petitioners acquired about 340 signatures.

“Sitting on the sidelines, hoping that someone else will make the difference, will absolutely not going to happen. Poof!” Lombardi-Nelson said, explaining to fellow committee members with “conviction” — and tears in his eyes — about how Hogarth has “put his heart into being our chancellor.”

In doing so, Lombardi-Nelson felt he expressed the interests of the student body.

“His is by far the best person I have ever worked with in my life,” Lombardi-Nelson said, explaining that while SG sees a lot of “red tape” when trying to make changes on campus, Hogarth has always tried to greet them with “green lights.”

Though Lombardi-Nelson was disappointed with the committee's decision to not include Hogarth in the top three, he commended its fairness. When students approached him looking for a way to reverse the decision with a petition, he saw it as his duty to help draft it.

Sophia Constantine, an SG deputy, along with nine other students, were the main proponents in creating the petition. Within 72 hours, petitioners acquired about 340 signatures.

“The student body embraces him,” Constantine said. “He has a heart. He cares for the students.”

See PETITION, pg. 2

Health services ‘surprised’ by fee increase

By Chelsi Kallis and Tyler Killette
Crow’s Nest Correspondent and Staff Reporter

Students rose to action with a petition in support of Interim Regional Chancellor Bill Hogarth after the Regional Chancellor Search Advisory Committee did not recommend him as a finalist for the permanent position last month.

Mark Lombardi-Nelson, student body president, had a seat on the search committee and helped narrow the pool of 74 candidates.

During airport interviews for the final six, of which Hogarth was included, Lombardi-Nelson spoke to fellow committee members with “conviction” — and tears in his eyes — about how Hogarth has “put his heart into being our chancellor.”

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See WELLNESS, pg. 3

By Mike Hopey
Staff Reporter

When Student Government voted to recommend a $1 increase on the student health fee a couple weeks ago, director of Student Achievement Diane McKinstry was surprised.

Though increasing the health fee had always been McKinstry’s plan, she did not expect SG to recommend such a significant increase so soon.

For SG, the steep increase was a gesture showing its commitment to student health.

McKinstry said that the plan had been to raise the health fee to $6 per credit hour over the course of a three-year span beginning this year. The $1 increase to $4.90 per credit hour is helping to get to $6 a little quicker.

Knowing the increase would have to be gradual, McKinstry requested a raise of just 60 cents when approached by student body president Mark Lombardi-Nelson. SG increased this figure in an emergency general assembly meeting on Feb. 4.

According to McKinstry, increasing the health fee to $6 will help secure a full staff and more services when USF St. Petersburg’s contract runs out with its current provider, Student Health Services through USF Health.

Currently, Student Health Services for USF Tampa provides USFSP with a full-time staffer to manage the front desk.

See WELLNESS, pg. 3
Women have evolving role in terrorism

By Jennifer Nesslar
Crow's Next Correspondent

Americans’ perceptions of terrorism are different from the reality of terrorism. Mia Bloom, a leading woman’s studies and terrorism scholar, expressed this sentiment in her Feb. 18 on-campus lecture, “Bombshell: The Many Faces of Women Terrorists.”

Terrorists use our false stereotypes to their advantage, Bloom said. She explained that terrorist organizations use “gender stereotypes” against their targets, as women are often perceived as “peacemakers” while men are considered “war makers.” These stereotypes encourage terrorist groups to involve women in their work.

“Terrorism is constantly evolving; the kinds of terrorism we see changes over time,” Bloom said, adding that women’s role in terrorism evolves as well.

Bloom noted that terrorist organizations use women to do all kinds of tasks — something she said no group is innocent of doing.

Islamic terrorist organizations, such as the Taliban, use Islamic women as suicide bombers because they are less likely to be searched at checkpoints, Bloom said. These women wear long robes that are ideal for hiding weapons and can make them appear pregnant.

Stereotypes allow these women to pass through undetected. Terrorist organizations also use stereotypes of the opposition to convince others to join their cause, Bloom said.

“Sexual humiliation of women by occupational forces has become the rallying cry [for terrorist organizations],” she said, explaining that jihadists who sexually abuse women often accuse American soldiers of raping them, giving women a choice: die as a result of the Islamic honor code or become a suicide bomber.

Bloom encountered an opposing stereotype when publishing her book, “Bombshell.” North American publishers wanted a picture of a veiled woman on the front cover, demonstrating the view that terrorists are Islamic.

Bloom, however, wanted a picture of a blonde-haired, blue-eyed Barbie doll strapped with bombs. She believed the Barbie demonstrated that terrorists come from many places, not just the Islamic culture. She said jihadist terrorists would use women like this because they defy stereotypes, adding that jihadists often target converts to use as suicide bombers.

Fearing a Barbie doll would attract young American girls, the publishers and Bloom agreed on a blood-splattered cover instead.

Bloom feels she has a responsibility. Beyond her work at Penn State, where she is an associate professor of international studies and women’s studies, she believes there is a greater story to be told.

“People are involved in terrorism for many reasons,” she said.

If that message gets out, she believes people will begin to understand the terrorist mindset and will be able to take action against it.

College of Business eyes globe

By Tyler Killette
Staff Reporter

The global business program at USF St. Petersburg is undergoing major reconstruction with ambitions of becoming the “best in the state,” according to business professor Hermant Merchant.

Merchant wants students to understand the importance of international business, which accounts for 20 percent of Florida’s economy. He said South Florida alone has more than 1,200 multinational companies.

“I believe the world is globally exposed whether they’re aware of it or not,” Merchant said, explaining that so much as shopping at a local Wal-Mart is an international transacrion.

The College of Business is working to create a “holistic program” that produces, “well-trained individuals who can go out and make a difference in the world of international business,” Merchant said.

The vision is for students to graduate as planned, Merchant expects the only job competition facing global business graduates will be from their own class mates. He admits the plan is ambitious but feels the genuine interest coming from faculty and students will make it not only feasible but successful.

The revamped program will be 24 credit hours consisting of core courses, electives and a study abroad trip. While the core courses are all in within the College of Business, elective courses span over multiple disciplines. About 30 elective choices are currently offered and more are coming.

All students will take an overview course that focuses on a different aspect of global business each week, which is as broad as European culture or specific as expatriate management. This course will help students streamline their course load to reflect their specific interest.

To enroll in the global business major, one must be admitted to the College of Business; however, the major is interdisciplinary.

The process for minor in global business has been cumbersome for non-business students thus far but restructuring will simplify the process.

While students can enroll in the program now, it’s fine-tuning may not be complete until spring 2014 — though Merchant hopes to see it ready by this fall.

There will be a global business information session for the on Feb. 26 from 12 to 4 p.m. in the University Student Center where College of Business representatives will distribute brochures and answer questions about the program.

All aboard the bloodmobile

By Matthew Thomas
Crow’s Next Correspondent

“I don’t like needles” or “I’m afraid to give blood” are two of the most common reasons people do not donate blood, according to the American Red Cross.

OneBlood Inc., which brings bloodmobiles to campus every month, gives students a chance to overcome their fears while donating to a valuable cause. The next chance to donate is Thursday, Feb. 28.

According to OneBlood Inc., more than 4.5 million patients need blood transfusions each year in the United States and Canada. Nine out of 10 people who live to age 70 will require a blood transfusion or a blood component transfusion at least once.

The organization says if the number of Americans who give blood increases by just 1 percent, blood shortages would disappear for the foreseeable future. Those who give blood regularly are also at a lower risk of heart attack and stroke.

During each visit to the school, bloodmobiles will sit by the corner of Second Street South and Sixth Avenue North right outside of the Student Life Center from 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Students ready to donate will get on the bus, show their student ID or driver’s license (first time donors must have their driver’s license) and fill out a questionnaire that makes sure it is safe for them to donate. Hemoglobin levels will be checked through a finger prick test to make sure students are eligible to donate. If all is well, they’ll be shown a comfortable seat from which to donate. Eating a substantial meal and drinking plenty of fluids before donating is highly advised.

“It’s a fun and minimally pain ful experience,” said Anthony Patterson, a student who frequently donates blood.

He and Jennifer Four, a nurse practitioner, agree that giving blood is a fun experience that allows one to meet different people. Both encourage more people to donate.

“I have given blood more times than I can count,” said sophomore Sydney Meloche.

News Briefs

Spring general elections place presidential and vice presidential candidates Jimmy Richards and Jordan Jaluci against incumbent Mark Fanni, Morgan Nelson and Christa Hegedus, along with 17 senator-hopefuls.

Voting begins March 4 and ends on the 7.

Also on the ballot will be an amendment to change the election schedule. Whereas voting now begins the Monday after spring break, Student Government has proposed an amendment to start the voting nine days prior to spring break.

This change will allow more time for officers to train before assuming their new positions. It would also give the elected student body president the opportunity to compete for a seat on the Board of Trustees, which would increase recognition for the campus.

The vice presidential debate will take place Monday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. in the University Student Center ballroom. The presidential debate will be Wednesday, Feb. 27 in the USC Reel at 7 p.m.

Students can post questions for candidates during via Twitter with #DEBATE-A-BULL.

Student Government voted to amend Title 8 last week, resulting in big changes for club operations.

Clubs can now request up $5,000 in travel expenses per year — up from $3,000. Expenses below $5,000 will require a simple majority vote from SG while expenses exceeding $5,000 will need a supermajority vote.

Requests for SG to fund catering for club events (which can now bring in food from anywhere, not just Sodexo) must be submitted five days in advance, as opposed to the previously required 10 days.

Corrections

Ryan Matthew Cohn was misidentified as Brian Zaccoone in the article “Malekriy from a ‘decomposing body’” in the Feb. 18 edition of The Crow’s Nest. Cohn also did not attend art school with Nicole Morris. In “Under the heat lamp” from the same issue, Andrea Inman, a junior, was indentified as a sophomore. She also did not attempt to use her credentials, as the article stated, but she did receive an email that said it would not work unless she paid her bill.

News Briefs

February 25, 2013 | Volume 47 | Issue 23

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crowsneststpete.com
The day’s final meeting with Senate President Gaetz was a higher-ups only affair, consisting of USF President Judy Genshaft, the student body presidents of the Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee campuses, football coach Willie Taggart, softball coach Ken Erickson and Rocky the Bull.

USF Tampa’s student body president, Brian Goff, covered four of the five initiatives on everyone’s agenda, asking Gaetz to support reinvesting in higher education — particularly the $300 million that was recently slashed from USF’s funding. He also proposed Gaetz invest in the USF Heart Institute, in-state tuition for veterans, and $118 million in USF’s online education program.

“When Goff finished, Lombardi-Nelson spoke up.

“I wouldn’t be doing my job as USFSP’s student body president if I didn’t tell you about our need for a College of Business building,” he said.

But before he could elaborate, Gaetz made his response and his opinion clear.

Despite the lack of support for a new building from Gaetz, the day was viewed as a success by student participants.

“It went well. We planted the seed that there is a need for a USFSP College of Business building. That idea will eventually grow into a building,” said Andrew Defrataes, Student Government’s director of marketing.

Jon Ellington, former student body president and current business graduate student shared that enthusiasm.

“We had positive responses, several commitments and constructive feedback on how to move forward,” Ellington said. “Some people gave us news we didn’t want to hear and that’s OK. It will help us sharpen our saw and be more committed to how we bring projects through.”

Only this was far from Ellington’s first rodeo in Tallahassee. He made the trip to the capitol building at least a half dozen times when lobbying for the University Student Center.

As select students from the College of Business prepare thank you letters, SG will begin planning its own trip to lobby for a new building.

While Gaetz and others may stand in their way, members of SG who were on the trip have embraced the challenge, even adopting a special greeting — a fist bump followed by a quick opening of the hand, as both parties say “pool.”

The greeting serves as a motivational reminder of the challenges they plan to work on in their future lobbying efforts.

“We’re going to follow up with local representatives and get ready to go back,” Lombardi-Nelson said. “We need to make them believe.”

Hogarth: Petition is ‘flattering’

SG also drafted a resolution to formally endorse Hogarth as chancellor but retracted it in fairness to the other candidates, who would be visiting campus the next week. The resolution is now back up for discussion.

“It’s flattering. It means a lot to have the students’ support,” Hogarth said. Despite his disappointment at not being recommended as a finalist, he said he will continue to work on the needs of the campus.

Christina Johnson, who signed the petition, believes it is worth the fight.

“I’ve talked with [Hogarth] personally a few times and he really has the school’s best interest at heart, especially the academics,” she said.

“He has some awesome plans for the future if reinstated. He’s done an awesome job so far, so why kick him out?”

But not all students are willing to support their current chancellor.

“I am perturbed by his past as the chairman of the International Whaling Commission, especially now that our campus will have a fish tank which, in essence, arrests the freedom of whatever marine life goes into it — a fish tank in which he played a major role in getting,” said Andrew Kramer, a junior.

On Feb. 8, Lombardi-Nelson presented the petition to Judy Genshaft, USF’s president. Genshaft told him the students’ voice is critical in the decision for chancellor but it is not the only voice being taken into consideration. The views of faculty, administration and the community as well as whether Genshaft believes she and the candidate can work well together are all components.

Press coverage also became an issue, Lombardi-Nelson said. Not wanting candidates to be greeted with headlines about students petitioning to keep them away, SG agreed to back down for a while.

As rumors fly and Genshaft评议s her decision, SG is losing time to pass its resolution to endorse Hogarth. Lombardi-Nelson said discussion of how to move forward should take place over the next week.

But whether the petition and resolution (if passed) influence Genshaft’s decision, Lombardi-Nelson is satisfied in knowing that Hogarth will still have 10 to 12 pages of signatures saying, “we love you,” from the students.

There is still no deadline for Genshaft’s decision, but it’s rumored that the new chancellor will take over in June or July.
the margin

Guest written by Kait E. Katt

Hello, college students. As I sit here, perched in front of the keyboard, I am thinking of your futures. I imagine that some of you will graduate and get a place of your own sometime soon, or at least move into a parent’s empty garage. Remember that any abode is not complete without a furry companion.

But what kind of companion, you ask? I have provided some advice below.

Why cats are better than dogs

The joys of feline friendship:
- Cats are intellectually superior to all mortal beings. Just ask the Egyptians. They have extra senses, and dabble in philosophy and ichthyology (the study of fish).
- Cats clean themselves. Who has time to wash a dog and a car?
- Smaller bodies mean fewer fleas. Most cats will grant you the privilege of removing the ones that do get there.
- No funeral expenses. Don’t worry about a thing when you give up the ghost; any good cat will ceremoniously devour and dispose of you.
- The sale of catnip is very lucrative. You need someone who knows the good stuff when they smell it.
- Nasty rodents in the attic? They are the least of your problems.
- Cats enjoy watching musicals.
- Nuisance rabbits in the garden? No funeral expenses. Don’t worry about a thing when you give up the ghost; any good cat will ceremoniously devour and dispose of you.

By Amanda Starling

Crow's Nest Correspondent

Lined up in front of a wall of mirrors, sophomores Eloy Martinez and Kathleen Matos demonstrate a spiral and a “Rocky.” Behind them, 12 students mimic the salsa steps, eyes focused on the instructors’ feet.

Vocal guides without music come first, allowing them to practice the choreography. Then music is added.

“Find that spot that repeats,” Martinez said to the class. “There is always an instrument that repeats, whether bass or a trumpet.”

Martinez and Matos instruct salsa students through the basics as a warm-up. Matos calls out dance moves to perform and Martinez acts as a physical guide, adjusting arms and dancing alongside. With practice, the awkward steps of a student develop into shaking hips and fluid movements.

Martinez and Matos are seasoned dancers. Martinez danced for six years and studied at the Hot Spot Dance Studio in Miami. Matos has danced for four years and studied with Salsa Caliente Studio. Pushed by friends to teach, Martinez and Matos began to form classes with the Fit-4-Life program.

The pair hopes to teach summer sessions to classes of 30.

“People get a chance to make new friends while learning a craft from a different culture,” Matos said.

Salsa dancing originates from Afro-Cuban styling. The tropical, energetic style relies heavily on partner dancing. However, a popular, social style is “salsa suelta,” a form of line dancing.

“We get to learn moves to use when we social dance, which is just dancing without being told what to do,” said freshman Kaitlin Coulter.

After three practice routines, the partners switch off. Girls smile and greet the boys. Boys step at their feet as the music starts.

“Give some tension to let them know you are there,” Martinez said. “The boys adjust their pistol grip hand motion and gently push their partners to turn. The number one rule of salsa is that it is always the guy’s fault.”

“You guys make it look so easy,” Coulter said.

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Waterless car wash founder gives back

By Mike Hopey
Staff Reporter

What started as a class project has become part of a long-term life plan for senior Nick Price. The project, conceived in September and launched in January, is a waterless car cleaning service called City Sleekers.

The idea behind City Sleekers is that cleaners go to the customer. They ride out on custom Citizen foldable bikes and clean cars with a special chemical that bonds itself to the dirt and grime to be wiped clean. Unlike similar services that can cost over $70, they don’t use a drop of water.

“We’re here to help the environment,” Price said. “Make money, yeah, but it’s not the most important thing.”

In early February, Price placed third in a pitch contest at an entrepreneurship conference at the University of Tampa. He was nervous about the presentation because he only had a few days to prepare.

“They grilled us,” he said.

Price’s efforts to be green don’t stop at the waterless cleaning. City Sleekers’ cleaners ride bikes to cut down on pollution. Parts of the company’s profits are going to building water wells in foreign countries. Even the microfiber towels used to wipe off the cars fit into Price’s long-term plan to give back to the community — he plans to have them recycled into blankets and socks.

“It’s not just washing cars,” he said. “It’s an opportunity to give back to the world.”

Price sees turning his used microfiber towels into other products — something like TOMS Shoes, the company that gives a free pair of shoes to a child in Africa for every pair they sell in stores.

After an initial $20,000 investment from Price and his former business partner, City Sleekers has hired six people, and another 10 are interested in employment.

Price says a competitor has tried to find out the company’s cleaning solution so he can create his own version of City Sleekers. Price is in the process of trademarking the name and concept.

In the short term, Price is hoping to add “more and more” locations for their $25 per wash service. City Sleekers and Price have a presence at a lot of markets and golf courses. In the long term, Price wants to make City Sleekers even more central to his life.

“[It’s] more important than a degree,” he said. “It would validate me as a business person.”

life@crowsneststpete.com

Eat your fruits and vegetables

a playlist

“An apple, a carrot, a sweet potato. An orange, some broccoli, a green tomato. Vegetables and fruits taste better than newts.” — Somebody who was not Dr. Seuss. Feeling sad and saggy? You might just need a metabolic rush. Put away the pizza for a day and pick up something more natural. If you need some extra help making the healthy stuff digestible, here are some songs to enjoy while you chomp away.

Rotten Apple
Alice in Chains
If front man Layne Stanley had stuck to fruit and avoided heroin, he might have still been around to work on the band’s newest album, “The Devil Put Dinosaurs Here.”

(put the lime in the) Coconut
By Harry Nilsson
Don’t actually chomp on one of these unless you have steel incisors. Instead, crack one open with a hammer and see how the lime works out. That is, as long as you feel comfortable murdering one of Wilson’s cousins. If innuendo doesn’t bother you, don’t worry. This is one of the few fruit songs that is actually about fruit.

Strawberry Fields Forever
By The Beatles
Who knew that strawberries were psychedelic? In the late ’60s when rumors of Paul McCartney’s death were going around, people thought they could make out John Lennon saying “I buried Paul” at the end of the song. Turns out he was just talking about more fruit — he actually said “cranberry sauce.” Anyway, back to strawberries. For a sampling of Florida’s finest, check out the Florida Strawberry Festival in Plant City, Feb. 28 through March 3.

I Heard it Through the Grapevine
By Marvin Gaye
Some accuse R&B of being whiny, but if anything this song is only wine-y. Bad puns aside, this tune only gets better with age.

Hollaback Girl (Banananas)
Gwen Stefani
Ever heard fruits referred to as brain food? Well, this song should make you a little smarter. You will learn what an awful song sounds like, and how to spell bananas. (That’s B-A-N-A-N-A-S.)

Choppin’ Broccoli
By Dana Carvey
Dana Carvey performed this comical song as part of his tryout for Saturday Night Live in 1986. Obviously, he made it. Another example of how vegetables can work wonders.

Hot Potato
By The Kinks
Memorable lines: “La, la, la, la, la, potatoe.” The Kinks wrote this song about how simplicity is beautiful. Maybe potatoes aren’t so pretty, but your tongue won’t know the difference. If this version doesn’t strike your fancy, give the similarly titled number by The Wiggles a listen.
Editorial

Greek life at UCF highlights issues

They say you can judge a man’s character by the company he keeps. If that’s true, the brothers and sisters of the University of Central Florida’s fraternities and sororities might want to find some new friends.

UCF’s Sigma Chi fraternity was suspended in early February after allegations of hazing and underage drinking. A photograph posted to Facebook showed three young men, at least one of whom appeared to be close to vomiting, in front of a table of alcoholic beverages. A caption read: “forcing a pledge to chug while two others puke in misery.”

Sigma Chi is the same fraternity where 18-year-old freshman Ann Hefferin was drinking on the night she died during the fall semester of 2011. The fraternity and Hefferin’s sorority, Delta Delta Delta, were both put on probation after the incident and could not hold any events with alcohol, though that probation ended before this month’s suspension.

A leaked internal document from UCF’s administration labeled Sigma Chi as “partiers” and “meatheads” and listed a number of other knocks against the fraternity since 2007. UCF administration took a step further in mid-February and suspended all Greek life campus-wide after it was announced that six organizations were under investigation for alcohol abuse and three more for hazing.

“The University of Central Florida has halted Greek Life social, new member education and initiation activities in order to work with fraternity and sorority chapters on comprehensively addressing alcohol and hazing issues,” read a press release on the university’s website.

Internal UCF documents said Alpha Epsilon Pi chartered a bus where there was “forced consumption of alcohol by new members.” Alpha Tau Omega is also under investigation for hazing.

Under the suspension, fraternities and sororities cannot hold social activities, new member education activities or initiations. They can hold business meetings and continue philanthropic efforts.

“Many Greek chapters and students exhibit model behavior and set high standards for success in the classroom and as campus and community leaders,” the release said. “However, recent events have demonstrated that our Greek community needs a culture change when it comes to the use and abuse of alcohol as well as hazing.”

Greek life has been a topic of debate at USF St. Petersburg, where at least one social sorority, Delta Sigma Zeta, is currently in the “colony” stage. The process to become a full chapter can take several years and requires approval from the chancellor and others.

The group has focused on charity and leadership, and members have denounced the hard-drinking and hazing stereotypes perpetuated by the Greek life organizations at UCF and other schools.

Whether USFSP will become a school with a rich Greek culture is unclear. But one thing is for sure: fraternities and sororities need to stay vigilant to prevent the kinds of incidents that give them their stereotypes.

Quotes & Notes

George Clarence Moran, better known as Bugs Moran, invented the drive-by shooting. Moran came to power as a gangster in Chicago by bootlegging during Prohibition. A long-time rival of Al Capone, Moran nearly succeeded in killing him on more than one occasion — leading Capone to retaliate with a slaughter that became known as the Saint Valentine’s Day massacre. Moran died of lung cancer at the age of 65 on Feb. 25, 1937 while incarcerated in Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary for robbing a bank in Ohio.

“I have spent the best years of my life giving people the lighter pleasures, helping them have a good time, and all I get is abuse, the existence of a hunted man.”

-Al Capone, as quoted in the 1936 self-help book “How To Win Friends and Influence People.”
Music for the sake of music

By Erin Murphy
Guest Columnist

A few weeks ago I was mindlessly browsing the racks of clothing at Forever 21 when it happened. A Nicki Minaj song screeched through the air, and I instantly turned the corner to the nearest mirror to try on some of the more highly coveted items. I was not the only one; a young girl with her brother in tow was also standing casually in front of the mirrors by the changing rooms, staring at various outfits and checking out the latest trends. As I studied the clothes, I found myself wondering why I was so hooked on this particular type of music. Was it the catchy beat, the upbeat lyrics, or the fact that it brought me closer to the music's target audience? Regardless, I was definitely inspired to purchase some of the items on display, and I left the store with a bag full of new clothes.

The music industry has always been a source of inspiration for me, and it seems that many others feel the same way. When I was growing up, pop music was a huge part of my life. I remember my mother would play music constantly on the radio, and I would always try to copy the same tunes that she enjoyed. Over the years, I have discovered that music can be a powerful tool for connecting people, and I believe that it has the potential to bring us closer together.

However, I also know that music can be a source of conflict. In recent years, pop music has become less focused on personal attachment and more focused on personal success. The music industry has become a business, and the artists are expected to produce music that will sell. This has led to a decline in the quality of some of the music being produced, and I believe that it has had a negative impact on the overall quality of music today.

I think that we need to take a step back and remember why we listen to music in the first place. Music is a powerful tool for expressing our emotions, and it can be used to connect us with others. In an increasingly connected world, we need to focus on the positive aspects of music and how it can bring us together. Let's not be afraid of the music industry, but instead let's work to make it a more nurturing environment for all artists.

By Shannon Kelly
Guest Columnist

Don’t take my kindness for weakness... or me hitting you on the sidewalk.

One thing that has always cracked me up is people’s legible fear of one another. We’ve all been conditioned to “not talk to strangers”, “stay away from the guy in the creepy van,” but I am astonished by how many people actually fear human interaction.

I honestly start laughing every time I smile at a fellow young person on the sidewalk only to see them nervously look down at their phone or ipod. The sidewalk is only a couple feet wide; you obviously see me. Why not be friendly and give me that acknowledging head nod?

Same thing goes with dating and friendships — can’t I “like” a picture or invite someone out without it meaning I want to get married? I find it hilarious seeing a Facebook friend in public acting like he or she doesn’t know me. People are either completely oblivious to social conduct or the pack of wolves they were raised by neglected to teach them any manners.

Unfortunately, I feel I’m also even guilty of society’s warped influence. I now have to question every text I send to the opposite sex, debate if I should wait to have them contact me first and completely over analyze all interactions. Understanding that everything I say can be taken six different ways, I have to carefully construct my thoughts into coherent communication.

After scrutinizing over what to say and how to say it, I’m too often faced with the unavoidable lack of response. It doesn’t help that there’s eight billion ways to keep in touch in 2013 - facebooking, tweeting, instgramming, emailing, texting, calling, and everything in between.

However, the individuals that are known for doing this are constantly gloated to their phones. So, being fed excuses as to why someone couldn’t follow through is a bit disheartening.

You could have contacted me on one of these many platforms and told me what’s up.

There is a happy balance found in maintaining one’s privacy and sanity without leaving people hanging. An easy “I don’t know” or “let me get back to you” will suffice. So as a P.S.A., don’t be a jerk to strangers on the sidewalk, and especially don’t take for granted people you consider “friends.”

Shannon Kelly is a senior majoring in mass communications.

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A wide look at USF Athletics

By Frank Kurtz
Staff Columnist

We are now halfway through the spring season, and it has been a tough academic year for two of the three revenue sports for the South Florida Bulls. These sports are football, men’s basketball and baseball, commonly referred to as “The Big Three.”

The football squad finished with a dismal three and nine record with wins that included Syracuse and third-ranked Louisville before stealing a game series. We dropped the first two games against Rutgers and then Florida Gulf Coast University for a Tuesday night showdown.

In April we face Stetson home and away; host Pittsburgh, Central Florida and Alcorn State University. We travel to UConn and on the 23rd to the University of Florida. The Bulls host St. John’s University and Bethune Cookman to round out April.

On May Day we host Stetson, travel to Notre Dame, Seaton Hall, and one game against Florida Gulf Coast. We host Rutgers to end the regular season; followed by the Big East Tournament which runs from May 22 to 26.

If we have a solid season, play well in the Big East Tournament, there is a possibility that the Bulls can make it to the College World Series. If that happens to be the case, I’ll have a seventh post-season shirt, one for each year of attending this university system, to add to my collection of five bowl games and one NCAA tournament bracket shirt.

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The low GPA of USF football

South Florida's football team had 21 student-athletes named to the 2012 Big East All-Academic Team. That number was the second lowest in the conference, ahead of only the University of Connecticut.

To qualify for that honor, an athlete must have a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.0 over a two-semester span.

Of the players who made the All-Academic team, 11 of the 21 selected were walk-ons, meaning they are non-scholarship players. The players who are the most heavily recruited are the ones having the hardest time in the classroom.

“Our expectations are based on proven academic success in high school,” said Ralph Wilcox, provost and executive vice president for the University of South Florida System.

“Not just grade-point averages, but students who are way above the national average, but it’s still not good enough for us.”

The academic scores of USF student-athletes are improving. The number of student-athletes on the Big East All-Academic Team has increased over the past several seasons. Eight players were named in 2008, followed by 13 in 2009, 16 in 2010, and 17 in 2011.

There is a lot of importance for football players to succeed academically. Only around 7 percent of eligible NCAA Division I players get drafted into the National Football League, and the number that actually makes a professional team’s roster and maintains a career is much smaller.

“We made some shifts in the university to, if you will, really regain our rightful oversight of academic progress of student-athletes at the University of South Florida,” Wilcox said. “(Graduation rates) are way above the national average, but it’s still not good enough for us.”

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The ‘N’ in NASCAR stands for nepotism

NASCAR is a sport that remains completely foreign to me. I don’t understand the rules, the strategy or the draw. It’s a noisy affair. Sweaty masses huddled together in the warm summer sun don’t interest me at all.

The ‘N’ in NASCAR stands for nepotism in the history of sports? His dad was a great one. I know that much. Over his 27-year career Senior won the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship seven times. He had 76 career wins and finished in the top 10 in 428 of the 676 races he competed in.

The man truly earned his nickname, “The intimidator.”

By comparison, Dale Jr. has won just 19 races in the first 17 years of his career. Before his 2012 win at the Quicken Loans 400 in Michigan, he had gone 143 races without a first place finish. The best junior has ever finished in the Sprint Cup is third back in 2003.

There is no doubt that he benefitted from his father’s success. Maybe it was easier for him to be signed to a racing team. In fact, it was really easy — his father owned the team he started his career with.

When Dale Sr. tragically passed in 2001 at the Daytona 500 his son was faced with the humongous task of being the logical choice to fill the void left by his father — they do have the same name. But he was ill prepared for the task. No matter how you look at it, Dale Jr. is not as good as his father.

Fame is the recognition that comes with achievement and celebrity is the recognition from just being known. Dale Jr. is a celebrity, worshipped for nothing more than being his father’s son.

Mike Hopey is a graduate student pursuing a master’s degree in journalism and media studies and the managing editor.

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Justin something-or-other

By SAMANTHA OUMETTE

“LOL @Brock18 plays 5 years, gets ST award & @USFAthletics @USFSports can’t even spell name right @USFinsiderbilin.”

Amy Phillips couldn’t help but tweet when Justin Brockhaus Kann, the punter on USF’s special teams unit for five years, found his name had been butchered when he received his award for Special Teams Player of the Year. The USF cheerleader put a picture of the mistake on Twitter.

Various media outlets have had trouble spelling the punter’s name. On USF’s roster, his name is listed with a hyphen despite not having one. Yahoo Sports referred to him as Justin Brockhaus-Kann in a video. Syracuse’s student paper, the Daily Orange, identified him as Justin Kann-Brockhaus after the two teams met last season in Tampa.

Brockhaus Kann said two people from USF’s athletic department reached out to apologize for the mishap. The word “perseverance” was also recently misspelled on the Lee Roy Selmon Award given to tight end Evan Landi.