More murkiness in debated election results

By Tyler Killette
Staff Reporter

As ambiguity regarding the Student Government presidential election process lingers, the SG Supreme Court will attempt to end the confusion in a trial on April 5.

Though the trial is between the Jimmy Richards/Jordan Falucci ticket and the Election Rules Commission, Mark Lombardi-Nelson and Christa Hegedus submitted an amicus curiae — the name for a brief filed with the court by someone who is not a party in the case — for the court’s consideration.

The brief asks the court to dismiss the case based on 12 pages of “evidence.” It references statutes in the SG constitution that say candidates can only appeal points that were assessed to them, not to other parties. This would mean that Richards, who requested the trial, cannot appeal the points assessed to Lombardi-Nelson.

The brief also claims a lack of due process in the election that resulted from the ERC not following its rules of procedure.

The Lombardi-Nelson/Hegedus ticket was assessed points by the ERC for seven violations. The brief attempts to rebut each allegation.

See SG, pg. 2

The inconvenient truth for students with disabilities

By Tyler Killette
Staff Reporter

Few students know the ins and outs of campus better than junior Robert Beasey. Back doors, alternative pathways, hidden ramps — Beasey has found them all. However, his proficiency in campus navigation grew out of necessity. Beasey has cerebral palsy and uses a motorized chair to get around. Automatic doors, wide sidewalks and gentle-sloping ramps are indispensable parts of his daily life. But finding accessibility often means taking roundabout, inconvenient routes.

The Americans with Disabilities Act states that “each facility or part of a facility constructed by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public enterprise shall be designed and constructed in such manner that the facility or part of the facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.”

USF St. Petersburg complies with ADA standards, ensuring that at least part of each facility is accessible for those with disabilities. But accessibility is not synonymous with convenience.

Most USFSP buildings have automatic swinging or sliding doors, including Bayboro Hall, Coquina Hall, Davis Hall, the Science and Technology Building, the University Student Center, the Student Life Center and the Poynter Library. However, some buildings, like the SLC, only have one automatic entrance, while the rest are manual.

Other buildings, like Residence Hall One and the Knight Oceanographic Research Center, have no automatic doors at all. For a student like Beasey, who has full use of his arms, opening manual doors isn’t impossible, just inconvenient. But for others with less mobility, a manual door makes self-sufficiency a challenge.

None of the buildings on campus have automatic doors for restrooms.

ADA doesn’t require doors to be automatic, as long as each doorway is at least 32 inches wide. Automatic swinging doors can be installed for around $350.

Most restrooms on campus have automatic doors, but not all have accessible facilities. For most students, an occupied restroom means one in which each facility is in use. For those in need of accessible restroom stalls, finding a vacancy can be tougher. Restrooms on campus rarely provide more than one accessible facility.

Others provide none at all. Beasey sometimes has to try three or four restrooms before finding an unoccupied stall that accommodates his chair.

When Beasey is at work in the Student Disability Services office in the SLC, a restroom break means a trip to the second floor just to maintain personal privacy. His chair doesn’t fit inside the restroom downstairs — unless he wants to keep the door open.

In the building that houses the Tavern and the Grind, which isn’t technically part of campus, only the women’s restroom provides sufficient space.

See ADA, pg. 3
SG approves $250 scholarship

By Amanda Starling
Staff Reporter

Four $250 scholarships are available for the fall 2013 semester, honoring students who have made significant volunteer contributions to the community.

The scholarships, which are open to all USF St. Petersburg students, were created by Student Government and will be awarded by the USF Financial Aid Committee.

Funds for the first round of scholarships come from the USF Sun Dome Account. The account, which currently holds about $10,000, is based on USFSP’s volunteer efforts at Sun Dome events, such as selling concessions at basketball games. The volunteer hours put in allow money to accrue and be set aside for uses determined by the student. Since the money does not come from activity and service fees, it can be used toward any project.

“It shows that we are more than putting in bronze bulls and sports. It shows that we care about students and academics,” said SG senator Steven Bird, who sponsored the bill to create the scholarships.

SG worked with offices throughout the USF System to establish the scholarship. Student body President Mark Lombardi-Nelson and Regional Vice Chancellor Julie Wong organized the student side while Associate Director of Financial Aid Erin Dunn worked with the financial aid office in Tampa to set up the award account.

The scholarship bill began as an award for outstanding students who displayed financial need and extracurricular involvement through campus organizations. As the bill developed, the requirements shifted in order to meet criteria from the Sun Dome and the Financial Aid office.

After the first round of scholarships are awarded, SG plans to seek of funding from an alternative source so the original eligibility criteria can be used.

“With our own funded raise money, we will be able to set up this original scholarship criteria that we wanted to set up for that dedicated student that has given back to our community,” Lombardi-Nelson said. “Hopefully we’ll be able to grow the account and grow the amount.”

Once the scholarships are awarded, recipients need to write thank you letters and report on their academic progress.

The application for the Sun Dome scholarship will be available next week. Students may access the application through the USFSP Privately Funded Scholarship site. The deadline to apply is April 12.

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GSA seeks new leadership

By Angelina Bruno
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Despite five years of success at USF St. Petersburg, the Gay Straight Alliance is having troubles with leadership. The structure of the club is beginning to crumble. The president, Nicole Catie, has not officially resigned yet, but plans to.

“I went into spring semester with too many things on my plate and unfortunately GSA is one of the things I neglected,” she said. “I failed to realize how difficult the year would be when I ran for officership.”

Sean Erickson, a long term and highly involved member of GSA, says that things are still being figured out and, “it’s likely that a new set of officers will come in.” This poses the question of what will happen with the current GSA leaders.

Another member of the GSA, Franklin Alves, has a positive attitude about cleaning up the club and setting it back on track, but already has a large time commitment with the USFSP Longboarding Club.

Alves commented on the lack of success of the GSA, saying, “No one showed up for the MLK parade (held on Jan. 21). It was obvious it was on a downward trend.”

In addition to the resignation of its president, GSA recently cancelled a trip to a gay rights conference in Miami, which members had been looking forward to. The club failed to submit a request for Student Government funding in time for the trip.

The fourth annual drag show was almost canceled for the same reason, but Alves said he is going to make it happen. The show will now take place on April 19 and will not be run solely by GSA.

“Once people heard the drag show was not going to occur, people from all over stood up and came together to make sure it would,” Alves said. “In times of need, USFSP Bulls come together.”

GSA, which has existed at the school since 2006 and worldwide since 1998, aims to empower youth activists to fight homophobia and transphobia, according to the official GSA website.

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USF Trustee seat at stake

Continued from front page

The brief says the ERC did not declare this rule until March 1, after campaigning began and materials were purchased. Lombardi-Nelson and Hegedus claim this allegation falls under the law of ex post facto, which states, “an individual cannot be held accountable for rules or laws that were made or approved after an action has already taken place.”

The brief also addresses the points assessed for plagiarism. It states that since plagiarism is a federal offense, jurisdiction should be left to federal courts, not SG.

In response to the Lombardi-Nelson/Hegedusamicia brief, Richards and Iuliucci submitted for a motion in limine—a request that certain evidence not be used in a trial—claiming theamicia brief “defies logic.”

The motion argues that there is more than one way to appeal to the SG Supreme Court, in opposition to what amicis brief suggests.

Richards references a statute in the SG constitution that says any candidate who feels there was a problem with how the election was handled can request a trial.

The motion calls Lombardi-Nelson’s defense against the plagiarism allegation “absurd,” accusing it of being a “blatant attempt to draw attention from the issue at hand.”

The motion goes on to say that the amicus is “a clear and obvious attempt to confuse the court and issues at hand with hearsay, misleading and irrelevant information, confusion of the issues, fallacies, paradoxes, illogical arguments and manipulative obfuscation.”

SG Supreme Court Justice Sean Erickson said the court can only review motions for dismissal of a case that come from the parties involved. Since the Lombardi-Nelson/Hegedus campaign is not a party in the trial, the amicus brief can only be considered during the trial’s deliberation. It cannot serve as a means to dismiss the trial.

In their brief, Lombardi-Nelson and Hegedus say they just want the election decided “regardless of which candidate is selected … because if SG can’t resolve this in time, we forfeit an opportunity students spent years creating.”

This year is the first time a seat on the USF Board of Trustees has been available to the USFSP student body president. The seat on the board of trustees would make USFSP the first regional campus in Florida’s University System to “achieve this level of leadership.”

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Showcase your academic achievement at the 10th annual Undergraduate Research Symposium. The event features innovative research and creative work that USF St. Petersburg from undergraduate student students. Students may submit any form of art or graphic design and perform any original musical compositions.

Proposal applications are available online and may be submitted to Daun Fletcher. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, April 4.

The symposium takes place 11 a.m. on April 11 in the USF Ballroom.

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Do politicians practice retaliation or peace during the exchange of power between rival entities?

Colleen Murphy of the University of Illinois will discuss the shift in political power and its implications in her lecture, “Reconciling the Former Oppressors,” on April 2, at 7 p.m. in Davis 130.

Her discussion will include transitions in South Africa and its implications in her lecture. “Reconciling the Former Oppressors,” on April 2, at 7 p.m. in Davis 130.

Watch students strut for a cause at the first annual Benefit-A-Bull Fashion Show. Starting at 7:30 p.m. on April 3, students will walk the runway adorning pieces from local boutiques. Clothing donations for CASA, a shelter for victims of domestic violence, can be made in bins located at the USC information desk and in the Student Services office in Residence Hall One.

Collection bins will also be available the night of the show.

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Do you know someone who should be doing this column? Send suggestions to us at news@crowsneststpete.com
Manatee in cold water

By Ryan Ballogg
Staff Reporter

In the early morning on March 27, a group of USF St. Petersburg students standing near the sea wall spotted three manatees in Bayboro Harbor. The smallest one seemed to be struggling.

The sighting was reported to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the manatee rescue team was immediately dispatched.

The small manatee turned out to be a calf, estimated to be one month old, suffering from cold stress, according to Kevin Baxter, spokesperson for the FWC. It had been surfacing frequently for air and lesions were appearing on its skin.

The strip of beach on the harbor grew crowded with concerned onlookers just as the rescue workers arrived on the scene. They attempted to net all three manatees, but they were only able to bring in the calf and the medium-sized adolescent. The calf’s mother eluded them.

After they determined the adolescent was healthy, they released it, but the calf was taken to Lowry Park Zoo for emergency care.

FWC workers and several volunteers filled a kiddie pool with seawater and carried it to the truck, submerging the calf to keep it moist until it arrived at the zoo. It was still in critical condition on Friday, according to Rachel Nelson, the zoo’s director of public relations. However, she says it is in expert care and is expected to recover with time.

“The rehab is basically all in their hands,” Baxter said. “We do come back into to play to coordinate a release if the rehab is successful down the road. That’s the goal anytime we rescue a manatee.”

Besides Lowry Park, FWC has many partner organizations that manage marine mammal rehabilitation throughout the state, including Sea World and the Miami Seaquarium.

Florida manatees, a subspecies of West Indian manatees, are endangered, so wildlife authorities are on extra-high alert regarding their safety. According to a preliminary mortality report, 409 have died already this year in Florida — more than in the last two years combined. Nineteen of the deaths are known to have been human-caused, and another 25 were from cold stress. Baxter had some advice for people interested in protecting manatees in the future.

“The big thing is just to be aware when you’re out and about,” he said. “There are a variety of situations. In this case this particular one was surfacing to breathe very frequently, much more so than is normal for a manatee. It could be that a manatee is lifting to one side in the water; basically just not behaving like typically a manatee would behave.”

If you see a manatee in distress the most direct way to help is to call the FWC’s wildlife alert hotline at 888-404-3922.

The unit that responded on Wednesday handles rescues and mortality responses statewide. They are based out of the FWC’s marine mammal pathology lab near Eckerd College.

Beasey can navigate this ramp if he puts his chair on its lowest speed setting, but he prefers to use the alternative ramp of Parking Lot 2, which is ADA compatible, to enter the Science and Technology Building.

Students who need an elevator to get to second-floor classes have the option of Davis Hall or Bayboro Hall. Motion-detecting sliding doors at the entrance of Bayboro make for easy elevator access, but a problematic automatic door in Davis reduces convenience.

According to Beasey, the button that activates the door that opens into the elevator’s lobby doesn’t always work. He said he has seen people turn off the switch that operates the door on multiple occasions but does not know the purpose of doing so. Even when the button is functioning properly, the 3-foot distance between it and the entrance makes it difficult to get inside before the doors begins closing.

Though the Davis elevator puts him closer to his classrooms, Beasey prefers to use the one in Bayboro. While accessible routes around campus are not too hard to find, there is rarely more than one accessible pathway to any particular spot. If people are obstructing a sidewalk, Beasey has to ask them if he can get by. It’s not as simple as just taking the steps or cutting through the bushes, like it would be for other students. Sometimes, when no one is paying attention to him, Beasey uses the horn on his chair. But the intimidating beeping sound it makes is more likely to be perceived as a cell phone ringing than a horn honking.

Most students, however, act courteously towards Beasey. Though he doesn’t rely on others to open doors for him, he often finds people doing it anyway.

Beasey spends a lot of his time in the library doing homework. In the horseshoe of computer desks, only one is designed to accommodate motorized chairs. Fortunately, Beasey’s chair is low enough that it fits at any desk.

Students in need of a device called JAWS that magnifies textbooks can use the one located in southwest corner of the library. The school’s only other device like this is kept in the Student Disability Services office.

In between work and class, Beasey sometimes likes to sit near the waterfront. The four tables outside Davis Hall offer a nice view, but only one provides space for his chair.

Beasey uses a van service through the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority to make the commute from his home near Palm Harbor. The trip costs him $4 each way, if he wanted to go to the Tampa campus, he said he’d have to pay $65 each way, since transportation to another county is considered private transit.

Steep travel fees discourage Beasey from attending USF social and athletic events in Tampa. Though USFSP has begun renting buses to take students to Tampa, arrangements for students with disabilities have not been made. Beasey and Disability Services are working with the school to change this.

Beasey is also working with Frank Biafore, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, to put together an event for Disability Awareness Month in October. The event will showcase acts related to dealing with disabilities, including a play Beasey wrote about growing up with cerebral palsy.

Disability Services works to support students with special needs. Qualifying disabilities include physical or mental impairments that limit one or more major life activities, such as walking, standing, seeing, hearing, sitting, breathing, learning or taking care of oneself.

Services include providing note-takers, granting permission to record lectures, providing sign language interpreters, allowing extra time on tests and providing distraction-free learning environments. A full list of services can be found at usfsp.edu/disability/services.htm.

Students needing special assistance or arrangements on campus can register through the SDS office by calling 727-873-4990.

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The Mahaffey Theater
400 1st Street South

The Mahaffey Theater first opened in spring 1965 and served as the Bayfront Center entertainment complex. Between 1987 and 1988 it was remodeled and renamed the Mahaffey Theater for the Performing Arts, after the family that was active in contributing to the funding campaign. It has since been re-occupied and is now part of the Progress Energy Center for the Arts with the Center Plaza Waterfront Park and the Salvador Dali Museum. The 2,031-seat theater offers European box-style seating and an elegant ballroom. The Mahaffey hosts top-quality concerts, orchestral acts, comedic acts and more.  
-Haley Christian

Russia – 2 p.m., Wednesday.
Over 200 radioactive wolves that had been living in the ruins of Chernobyl, unknown to scientists were disturbed by a magnitude-3 earthquake. They set out across the countryside, disturbing wildlife and devouring the livestock of several farmers.

Scientists tracking the pack’s movements discovered something strange. Several rabbits left in the wake of the wolves had survived the migration with wounds that should have killed them. However, they displayed extreme symptoms of rabies, and were emitting high levels of radiation.

One scientist was bit and was immediately transported to a hospital where he was placed in a quarantined unit. He is suffering from a high fever and tremors, and doctors don’t know when he will be fit for human contact again.

Meanwhile, the other scientists, closer on the tail of the wolves, discovered piles of mutilated rabbits, these apparently dead. They were horrified when the bloody corpses started twitching and seemed to revive.

“We’re not calling them zombies, but this isn’t a natural phenomenon,” said Anton Tesla, one of the scientists. “It appears to be a genetic mutation of some kind.”

The wolves were eventually hunted down and killed by authorities, but several of the rabbits were captured and shipped back to labs for testing. In a horrible twist of events, one of the contaminated rabbits was mixed up with a healthy rabbit at the lab, and shipped to the United States.

It arrived in Kalamazoo, Mich., where it was to be featured in an Easter festivity. When they unboxed it at a city park, chaos ensued. The rabbit ripped apart several decorations, popped several balloons and bit one child before escaping into the trees.

It was later spotted nestled amongst a truck bed full of sheep headed for a petting zoo in north Florida. The rabbit’s whereabouts are currently unknown.

Sightings of the rabbit should be reported immediately to 1-800-APRIL-FOOLS.  

The Palladium Theater
253 Fifth Ave North

The Palladium Theater towers like a sentry at the edge of the Old Northeast neighborhood in St. Petersburg. The Romanesque Revival style structure was built in 1925 as Christian Science Church. Services were held there for many years, until a financial crunch forced the church to close and move elsewhere.

In 1998, a group of local leaders formed a non-profit and purchased the church and named it The Palladium, turning into a community venue where people came to watch shows of all kinds. Around $300,000 was spent on alterations, and as much of the original structure was preserved as possible. In 2007, finances again became an issue, and the building was handed over to St. Petersburg College, which has maintained it since.

SPC has continued the tradition of hosting theatrical shows and concerts, while also using the building to teach students the concepts of theater. Since the college took over operations, the college has put on several musicals, plays and a live show with Billy Joel. They have also started an internship program for all ages, where students learn how productions take place in a theater setting. Another room hosts a nightclub, and can be rented for private parties before shows.  
-Emily Claypool

The complete St. Petersburg venue guide

Vinoy Park
701 Bayshore Drive Northeast

Vinoy Park is located on the waterfront and is home to many festival style concerts. It is home to St. Petersburg’s annual goings-on. Ribfest is a three-day festival with activities for families and endless piles of ribs. A Taste of Pinellas is also a three-day event that offers samples of food from the best restaurants of the bay area. Both events offer live music. The Vans Warped Tour also makes a stop at the park every summer.  
-Haley Christian
Jannus Live
200 1st Avenue North

The open-air courtyard opened in the 1980s, hosting punk concerts under its original name, Jannus Landing. The venue closed in 2009 for renovations. New features were added, including bathrooms and a remodeled bar. They also added private rooms that can be rented out for parties, a balcony where people can view concerts, a resurfaced and leveled floor and other safety features. It re-opened in March 2010 with a new name and a whole new style. Jannus Live can now fit up to 2,000 people for rain-or-shine concerts and DJ shows.
-Haley Christian

The State Theatre
687 Central Avenue

The State Theatre, or “State” as locals call it, has been a St. Petersburg staple for generations. Much like its cousin Jannus Live is the centerpiece of the 200 Block, State is the less glamorous heart of the 600. Originally constructed in 1924, the building housed two banks and an electric refrigeration company before it was remodeled into a movie theater 15 years later. It was renovated into a concert venue when the theater closed. Like the Emerald Bar just down the street (est. 1950) State has a nostalgic griminess. The black walls, high ceilings and seemingly never open upstairs balcony have been the setting for countless shows from just about every genre that doesn’t involve a conductor. The 700-person venue usually has a cheap cover, and just like the prices at the full liquor bar.

The stage is the best part — the lack of barrier means concertgoers can expect an intimate, personal experience just feet away from the band. Mosh pits are likely to form for larger acts, and the crowd is usually good about picking up anyone who falls.

The only real drawback, apart from the ‘don’t touch anything’ bathroom, is that the loudness of the music is inescapable. Attendees who place themselves by the speakers can expect to leave with a slight ringing in their ears.
-Lazar Anderson
Recognize these federal holidays

College students, many of whom seem hell bent on getting less “bang for their buck,” like to complain about federal holidays around this time of year. “Good Friday and Easter are major religious events and should be spent with family,” they argue, often seeking time away from school.

Unlike the United Kingdom, which recognizes Good Friday in all of its member countries and Easter Monday in all but Scotland, the United States federal government does not recognize the days related to Easter as public holidays. All German federal states recognize both holidays.

Twelve states in the U.S., including Florida, recognize Good Friday as a holiday. However, many do not close schools or universities. The financial market and stock market close on Good Friday, but the postal service and federally regulated banks remain open.

In reality, Good Friday and Easter Monday are two of many important holidays that go unrecognized by the federal government. The following is a list of religious and secular holidays deserving of some recognition in the United States.

Holi is the Hindu festival of colors. Many Americans will recognize Holi as a day where Hindus throw vividly colored powder at each other and light massive bonfires. The 16-day festival is actually a celebration of the salvation of Prahlada, who proved his devotion to the god Vishnu by sitting on the lap of a demon a burning pyre. The demon was burned, but Prahlada survived. Holi was celebrated on March 27 this year.

Many Americans see “Boxing Day (Canada)” on their calendars, but few know its purpose. The holiday is celebrated in countries part of the British Commonwealth. It grew out of the Middle Ages tradition of servants receiving gifts from their superiors and employers on the day after Christmas. In England, many servants were given the day off to visit their families, and were given boxes containing gifts, bonuses and leftover food to share. Still, the origin of the word “boxing” as it pertains to the holiday is debated.

Few holidays can claim to be as interesting as Honen Matsuri, celebrated on March 15 in Komaki, Japan. In this fertility celebration, Shinto priests play musical instruments while participants consume all-you-can-drink sake and... carve a 620-pound wooden phallicus to carry to a nearby shrine. The phallus is furiously spun around as it travels toward the shrine, and parade participants shower the crowd with tiny rice cakes. Souvenir-sized phalluses are also popular.

Hadaka Matsuri, or “naked festivals,” are held in dozens of places throughout Japan every year. Many take place in the summer, but some occur in the winter. Participants are not usually naked — instead wearing small, white loincloths.

People who live in various locations in Galicia, Spain gather together on the first Saturday, Sunday and Monday in July for Rapa das Bestas. Young horses are gathered into enclosures called curros where their manes are cut for the first time and they are branded. As with any good holiday, food and music is involved, ensuring a good time for participants and onlookers, but less so for the horses.

Perhaps the strangest holiday in the world takes place in Gloucestershire, England, where thousands of choose-lovers gather to participate in the annual Cooper’s Hill Cheese-Rolling and Wake. A 7- to 9-pound round of Double Gloucester cheese is rolled down a steep, grassy hill. As competitors race down to be the first person to pass the finish line, thereby “catching” the cheese, some reach 70 miles per hour. As expected, many are hurt. The winner is expected to climb the hill without a shirt and place the cheese back on its ceremonial pedestal.

The myth of the spaghetti tree was born 56 years ago when the BBC aired a 3-minute hoax broadcast on current affairs show “Panorama.” It explained how a family in Switzerland gathered spaghetti from a tree in their backyard. Britons, who generally did not eat much Italian food at the time, were duped, and phoned the BBC asking where they could buy spaghetti trees of their own.

“April 1. This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other three hundred and sixty-four.”

- Mark Twain, or at least commonly attributed to him.
USF forever

BY FRANK KURTZ

Staff Columnist

There is something that gets whispered in the hallways and can openly be discussed around campus. No one is talking about the fact that there is a food dining hall of the University Revenue Building — I am talking about independence.

There are some who round these parts that think that it would be in the best interest of campus to sever ties with Fowler Avenue and the University of South Florida. I am diametrically opposed to USF Polytechnic by becoming an independent university within the State University System of Florida.

What would be the benefit? With Florida Polytechnic there are now 12 universities within the SUSF, all of which compete for resources (funding) from the legislature or research funding.

Why would we want to become the 13th and the youngest? We would have no alumni, friends, in the legislature.

Because we do not like Tampa?

Granted there are sometimes there is an extra step to get things approved from Tampa, but I happen to like the main campus and being a branch of USF.

I spent five years on the main campus getting two bachelor’s degrees before coming to this side of the bay to pursue my master’s degree. All of the perks of being a USF student are open to us USFSPers as well.

We get free tickets to football, basketball and baseball games. There is more parking and we can park in some spots at the main campus, as well.

If you find yourself over at the main campus, there is an opportunity to walk into the new Marshall Center and get your free 40 pages of black-and-white printing. The library is open 24 hours a day during most weeks of the semester.

The massive amount of students on that campus means there are countless food options; unlike here where the Tavern at Bayboro (which is great) and the University Revenue Building (not so much) are the only places on campus to satisfy your grumbling stomach.

If we were to leave the USF System, all of the volumes in the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library would have to be returned to the main campus. So would the desks and chairs and computers — all of which have the “Property of USF” sticker on them.

The debt service on the University Revenue Building would have to be negotiated with Fowler Avenue; and if we students thought that we were paying a lot of cash for that wait until we are paying for new books, furniture and computers on top of the nicest dormitory in the Southeast.

It would also be awkward having the Marine Science College, which is a part of USF and not USFSP, being next door.

What about the bronze bull we just paid $10,000 for?

Unlike most folks on this campus I do not see a difference between USF, USFSP and USF Sarasota-Manatee.

During my tenure at USF I have taken a class on all four of the campuses that make up the USF System. We are all part of the same university.

At one point USF stretched from the heart of Polk County with USF Lakeland, later USF Polytechnic, down the Gulf Coast to Fort Myers where the USF Fort Myers campus was located. That campus left the system and became Florida Gulf Coast University. You may have heard a lot about them lately.

Now the USF System is down to three campuses around Tampa Bay and spanning four counties. We should maintain this regional presence and maybe expand north to Pasco and Hernando Counties in the future, not continue to sever campuses off.

Go Bulls!

Frank is pursuing a master’s degree in Florida Studies and the distribution manager. He can be reached at fkurtz@mail.usf.edu

My money where your mouth is

BY TYLER KILLETTE

Staff Columnist

On a recent Wednesday night, I was walking out of Walmart, hands full of groceries, I felt myself being looked over by two gentlemen posted up next to a cigarette receptacle.

One of them made a comment about physique, and asked, “You got a hundred or something?”

This was far from the first time I’d been asked for money after being hit on.

It seems the less fortunate men of St. Petersburg feel the need to pay me a compliment — or what they think is a compliment — before asking me to spare a few bucks. If I have something less than a $10 in my wallet, I usually fork it over. But $100? That was a bit steep.

I told him I didn’t have any cash (I really didn’t) and kept walking without so much as turning my head in his direction.

Then I heard him say, “What? I have a job.”

I kept walking but felt confused. If he had a job then why did he ask for money? Then I realized my mistake. He hadn’t said hundred, he’d said husband.

Crippling guilt.

I’d just accused a man of being homeless when all he was trying to do was ask me out. Sure, his approach could have used some refining, but I shouldn’t have taken lack of class for lack of work ethic.

I was now faced with a dilemma. Do I go back and explain myself or go home feeling like a snob? Despite the desolation of the dark Walmart parking lot and the lack of pepper spray in my bag, I decided on the former.

I knew if I approached him he’d probably think I was inquiring on his offer, but I’d find a way around that.

I drove up in front of where he was standing and rolled down my window.

“Hi. Um, I just wanted to apologize because I realized you asked if I had a husband, but I thought you said hundred, so I thought you were asking for cash and that’s why I said I didn’t have any.”

He understood what I was trying to say but chose to use his face time with me to tell me about himself instead of accepting my apology.

Sticking his head halfway through my window, he explained that he liked long-term relationships and told me how his most recent one lasted for 13 years.

Instead of telling him that I was in first grade 13 years ago, I told him I hoped he’d find someone to have another long-term relationship with soon. When he asked for my number I realized I should have something that was more, so I told him I had a boyfriend (a giant fib).

Even though it made me feel terrible, I suppose I didn’t criticize myself too harshly for my mistake. When living, working and going to school in downtown St. Petersburg, being approached for money becomes part of the routine.

If I had a dollar for every time I’ve been called beautiful, baby, honey, sweetheart or — my personal favorite — mama, before being heckled for cash, I’d have enough to buy a meal for every home-less person in Williams Park.

I’ve learned to associate these pet names with being asked for money. I’m not being insensitive or melodramatic, it really happens that often.

I have no problem handing over the $3 I would have spent on an unneeded caffeinated beverage from time to time, but the pet names are just unnecessary.

So to avoid making similar embarrassing mistakes in the future, I’ll make sure that the people calling me mama as I walk out of CVS or put gas in my car are actually asking me for money, and not for my number.

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Taking the right side

BY AMANDA STARLING

Staff Columnist

Objectivity is a critical word in the mind of a young journalism student. We must tell the news without any ulterior motives or thoughts. Your opinion is yours and it is to interfere with the presentation of news.

Social network sites and campaign bumper stickers are considered unprofessional for journalists. Any indication of political or social affiliation is frowned upon.

When the Human Rights Campaign launched the iconic equal sign to be used to support marriage equality, the symbol became prolific throughout the Web. Nisha Chittal for the Poynter Institute explored the use of the symbol by professional journalists.

For many, it depended on if they were covering the movement or how they viewed it.

Objectivity is not difficult when writing for a publication. An article on the school board’s decision to cut the budget for after-school programs is not filled with personal anecdotes from its author. A thought-output editorial with outrage on these budget cuts or my cousin’s inability to marry her girlfriend can make my frustration.

But I can’t change my Facebook profile picture. As a student journalist, the only opinions that seem appropriate to share publicly are my opinions on journalism. My thoughts on abortion, the economy, the environment, marriage equality, and war are no place for Twitter or Blogspot. There’s no “COEXIST” or “Save the Polar Bears” bumper sticker clinging to the rear of my Mazda.

In Chittal’s article, Alexander Howard of O’Reilly Media shared a critical thought with Poynter:

“There are a number of social issues that may have had ‘sides’ in past public discourse but have now become viewpoints that few journalists would find tenable to support today. How many journalists were able to remain neutral or objective in their coverage of slavery in the 1860s? Women’s suffrage in the early 20th century? Civil rights in the mid-20th century? Sex trafficking, so-called ‘honore rape’ or the impression of child soldiers in the present?”

Millenials like myself grew up in a world with improved tolerance from previous generations. Social issues and movements come to a boil for many young people at the conclusion of childhood. For 20 years, these controversies hardly impacted me. But as my eyes and ears open to the turmoil of the “real world”, it becomes difficult to ignore the issues that have plagued youth of every generation.

To become a writer, I must put aside my thoughts to tell the stories of characters in these moments of decision, of history.

Amanda is a sophomore majoring in mass communications.

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The Tampa Bay Rowdies will start the 2013 season with a target on their backs. As defending champions of the North American Soccer League, every team measures themselves against the defending champs.

Last Thursday, the Rowdies held their annual Media Day in preparation of Saturday’s 1-4 Derby second leg match at Al Lang Stadium against Orlando City, which they lost 3-2, and their NASL season opener on April 6 at Al Lang against the Carolina RailHawks.

“The Rowdies defeated Minnesota on Oct. 27 to win the NASL Soccer Bowl. Playing so late into the season last year the Rowdies had a shorter pre-season than usual teams. Making it even shorter was their participation in the Disney Pro Soccer Classic at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney World. “Ideally, in a perfect world, it would have been nice to come back a little bit later,” said head coach Ricky Hill.

The Rowdies began the pre-season with losses to Major League Soccer sides D.C. United, Montreal Impact and Sporting Kansas City. The pre-season continued with two losses to Orlando.

Tampa Bay’s pre-season has also included matches against college teams like USF and University of Tampa. The slow start to the pre-season aside, Hill thinks the team’s nucleus will prove to be valuable.

“I love the chemistry,” Hill said. “People are now beginning to understand their role... All that cohesive work is starting to come together.”

A member of the original Tampa Bay Rowdies, head coach Ricky Hill directs his players during practice at Rowdies Media Day.

In a league that sees teams almost completely rebuild after each season, the Rowdies have managed to return a strong nucleus of players.

“It’s important we kept that family base,” said Rowdies captain Sanfilippo. “We know what we do on the field. On the field we work for each other.”

Tampa Bay boasts a strong defense with many key players returning from last season. Captain Frankie Sanfilippo returns for his third season with the team. Also returning is fan favorite Takuya Yamada.

Up front, the Rowdies bring back goal-scorers Luke Mulholland and Mike Ambersley. Carl Cort is back for his first full season in the NASL, but injuries plagued him during the pre-season.

In 2013 as a tall striker who could be an offensive threat. Walker played the last two seasons with the 2012 NASL runner-up Minnesota Stars FC. For Minnesota, the Jamaican national from San Diego, Calif. scored eight goals in 40 appearances. He spent his rookie season of 2011 playing as a sub late in games.

Bulgarian forward Georgi Hristov joined the Rowdies on March 8 in a game against USF. Hristov has played in the top leagues in Bulgaria, Poland and Israel.

One of the many challenges for the Rowdies this season will be replacing goalkeeper Jeff Attinella. After the 2012 season, Attinella signed with Major League Soccer club Real Salt Lake. Attinella was a NASL Best XI in the Rowdies’ championship season.

The Clearwater native and USF alumni had a 1.07 goal against average in his second full season with the club.

The early favorite to replace Attinella is 23-year-old Andrew Fontein. Fontein was the backup last season for the Rowdies and didn’t see much action. Hill says that Fontein and Diego Restrepo, who signed with the team on March 20, will have to earn their time.

Even without the experience of starting, Hills says that he thinks Fontein can handle it. He adds that Attinella was thrown in without much experience and rose to the occasion. He hopes for the same with Fontein.

“All the things that are important, Andrew has to grasp very quickly,” Hill said. “You can’t overstate how important a goalkeeper is for a side.”

Personnel changes are only part of the off season. The 2012-13 off-season saw several changes to the Rowdies home at Al Lang Stadium and the NASL itself.

The Puerto Rico Islanders are not participating this season. They will be the only team from last season that will not play this season. Minnesota has changed its name from Minnesota Stars F.C. to Minnesota United F.C.

The league is also adding a team in New York. The Cosmos are named after the legendary team that signed an aging Pelé in the 1970s. The addition of the Cosmos is generating controversy heading into the 2013 season.

The season the will be split into two halves, a spring and a fall season. The winner of each season will advance play for the Soccer Bowl. It could be a slightly easier path to a repeat championship, but there will be more emphasis on the regular season games.

As the season was approaching, officials in New York said that they could not secure the financial stability of the team by the April start of the season. The league responded by splitting the season into the 12-game spring season and the 14-game fall season. The Cosmos will begin play in the fall.

“I don’t envision us doing anything differently than we did last year,” Hill said. “It’s important for us to maintain our consistency.”

However the season is divided fans in St. Petersburg can expect an improved fan experience at Al Lang Stadium. Signage around the park has been changed to match the Rowdies’ colors and style. The field itself has changed too. The pitch now sits north to south.

St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster was in attendance on Media Day. He said that the city was proud to have the team and that Al Lang will begin a slow transformation to a facility more suitable for soccer. He also indicated that the Rowdies will be the only tenants to use the stadium during their season, a privilege they hadn’t had since their formation in 2010.

A member of the original Tampa Bay Rowdies, head coach Ricky Hill directs his players during practice at Rowdies Media Day.

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BY MIKE HOPEY

Rowdies core looks to repeat

The Tampa Bay Rowdies fell to the Orlando City Lions on Saturday night at Al Lang Stadium, dropping the second leg of the 1-4 Derby. The 3-2 loss gave Orlando City central Florida bragging rights, defeating Tampa Bay 6-4 on aggregate. The mat was the Rowdies’ end of the pre-season portion of the Rowdies’ schedule. They will open the regular season at home this Saturday against the Carolina RailHawks.

“You want to escape the despair and turmoil and your mind goes to dark places. I’m happy today, and I’m glad they were just ideas and I didn’t act on any of them. The cost was great in asking me not to speak candidly or be able to be open about myself in complete manner.”

Former San Francisco 49ers offensive tackle Kwame Harris said on his experience as a closeted homosexual player in the NFL. Harris was publicly outed by a disgruntled former boyfriend prior to the 49ers recent Super Bowl appearance, and his outing prompted current 49ers cornerback Chris Culliver to make homophobic comments. Harris says that he hopes his coming forward about his sexual orientation will let current players who are going through the same situation know that they aren’t alone.