Sex trafficking targets young, intellectually disabled girls

Professor and students use social media to warn teens of exploitation

By Jessica Jagodzinski
Staff Reporter

In a state that is already notorious as a haven for human trafficking, USFSP professor Joan Reid has documented a disturbing trend: Many of the underage victims are intellectually disabled and “might not even realize they are being assaulted.”

Reid, an assistant professor of criminology, cites a national map compiled by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, which offers information, aid and support to victims.

The map shows human trafficking trends around the country, with red marking the areas with the most cases.

“Florida is bright red,” Reid said.

In her research, Reid studied case files of 100 underage victims in Tampa and Miami and found that 30 percent of them were girls with intellectual disabilities.

Women and girls usually become prostitutes “through force, threat, use of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power and vulnerability,” Reid said.

Intellectually disabled girls are even more threatened, she said, because of their inability to comprehend the extremity of abusive treatment.

“Sometimes they don’t understand what’s happening or have a way to communicate the assault to someone that they trust,” Reid said. “They might not even realize that they’re being assaulted or that what’s happening to them is illegal.”

As part of her victimology class at USFSP, Reid involves criminology students in her research and work with victims, developing prevention materials for girls at risk of being exploited by sex trafficking.

“Together with community partners we are revising and evaluating an online sex trafficking campaign,” Reid said. “The campaign uses social media to educate young people.”

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USFSP student dies after motorcycle crash

By Caitlin Ashworth
Staff Reporter

A 20-year-old student at USF St. Petersburg died last week in a motorcycle accident on an on-ramp to Interstate 275 in north St. Petersburg.

Mason Storm Apple of Tampa, a student since 2013, was going north on the interstate entrance ramp from 118th Avenue North during the late hours of Oct. 14 or early Oct. 15 when he lost control, crashed into a concrete wall and fell onto the shoulder of the roadway below, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

Bridge inspectors discovered his body and the motorcycle around 1:15 p.m. on Oct. 15.

In an email to students and faculty on Friday, Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska said Apple was actively involved in the campus recreation department as part of the boathouse staff and resident DJ.

“Our thoughts and deepest sympathy go out to Mason’s family and friends, and we wish them strength as they cope with this tremendous loss,” she said.

“He was a special guy,” Zac Oppenheim, assistant director of Student Life, said in the email. “Mason was honest and open, always willing to learn something new. He wanted to help, whether it was covering a shift at work or contributing in some other way. He often puts others before himself; he was a true team player.”

Information from the Tampa Bay Times and Tampa Tribune was used in this report.
Police: USF football players fired gunshots to celebrate Syracuse win

By Jeff Odom
The Oracle
USF Tampa

Two football players accused of firing gunshots outside a campus dormitory early Monday morning apparently did it in celebration of the team’s Homecoming victory over Syracuse, USF Police said Friday.

Backup cornerback Lamar Robbins was taken into custody Thursday afternoon after police identified him as a participant in the shooting along with red-shirt freshman offensive lineman Benjamin Knox. Both are alleged to have fired several shots from a 45-caliber handgun shortly before 6 a.m. Saturday that struck the exterior of the HOllo D residence hall, where Knox lives. No one was injured in the incident, but two sizeable holes were put into the side of the building.

Robbins, 22, is charged with discharging a weapon on school property and providing false information to a law-enforcement officer, among other charges related to his involvement during the investigation, a second-degree felony and misdemeanor, respectively. The junior is currently being held on $15,500 bond in Hillsborough County Jail, according to a sheriff’s office report.

Knox, 21, was previously arrested on Sunday and faces felony charges possessing or discharging a firearm on campus and shooting into an occupied dwelling. He was released Monday on $32,500 bond, which was increased from $15,000 after surveillance footage identified him as one of the shooters.

During the initial investigation, police found an empty box of ammunition and an open gun on the inside of Knox’s car, which was parked adjacent to Holly D, inside the Crescent Hill parking garage. They later located Knox and the gun inside his dorm room.

Both players have been suspended indefinitely from all team activities. Police do not believe anyone else was involved.

“USF Athletics is aware that law enforcement’s investigation of an incident that occurred early Sunday morning has led to the arrest of student-athlete Lamar Robbins,” the school said in a statement Friday morning. “Robbins has been immediately suspended from all team activities, as was the student-athlete previously implicated in this incident. They will remain so as we continue to gather more information through the property authorities.

“We cannot state strongly enough our commitment to the values of our institution and that any behavior inconsistent with those will not be tolerated.”

According to USF assistant police chief Daniel, neither Knox nor Robbins have provided authorities with a motive for the shooting. But Daniel said evidence and witness statements point to the gunfire being “celebratory-based.”

“The gunshots were not aimed at each other or the result of some type of conflict,” Daniel said. “We can’t get the suspects to give us any information with regard to the intent behind it. We have to assume it’s just reckless discharge of a firearm on the university campus.”

Robbins was not immediately implicated, but became a person of interest after witnesses placed him in the area at the time of the shooting. Daniel said they have reason to believe that he and Knox shared the same firearm -- a Glock .45 ACP handgun -- after a search warrant served on Robbins’ vehicle and apartment turned up no other weapons.

On Tuesday, USF coach Willie Taggart said he talked to the team after the game about making smart decisions and sent out a follow-up text message to his players later that evening. The Bulls play Connecticut on Saturday at noon.

“It’s life’s little things we deal with,” Taggart said. “You’ve got to make good decisions. There’s consequences to all of your actions that you make and we’ve got a lot of guys doing things right and we’re going to focus on those guys and focus on UConn and getting better.

“We’re going to let authorities take care of the matter and what they decide to do, and we’ll go from there.”

Robbins, a Miami native, has four tackles this season and appeared in four of the Bulls five games. Knox, a former four-star recruit out of DelLand, played in all five.

Sexual Trafficking continued

By Jeffrey Zanker
Staff Reporter

Two football players accused of firing gunshots outside a campus dormitory early Monday morning were arrested after being charged with possessing or discharging a firearm.

One undergraduate psychology student Julia Strauss, Kristen Twigg, Megan Bixler “are assisting with our next research project,” Reid said. “Together with community partners we are revising and evaluating an online sex trafficking prevention campaign.”

The campaign uses social media skills help her effectively work on the project.

“Looking at this anti-trafficking, social media campaign through the eyes of a student provides more authenticity to the campaign message, which will in turn make the campaign more effective with teens.”

Unbenounced, psychology students Joseph A. Bulone about letting S. Lasso knows. Admission is $10 for USFSP faculty, students and alumni using the online promo code “USFSP15.”

Sexual battery case scheduled for trial in January

By Jeffrey Zanker

A former student accused of sexual battery in a USFSP dormitory room in May 2014 is scheduled to stand trial on Jan 19, according to the Pinellas clerk of court’s website.

Darren Lasso, 21, a sophomore biology major, was kicked out of school after his arrest, according to his lawyer, and issued a warning not to trespass on campus.

Lasso’s attorney, Bryant Camarone, said he hopes the case never gets to trial.

“No one wants the trial to happen,” he said. “This is something that cannot go any further.”

Camarone said he is in discussions with prosecutor Carlos Licena and Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Judge Joseph A. Balone about letting Lasso off on probation. As a second-degree felony, sexual battery is punishable by up to 15 years in jail, 15 years’ probation and a $10,000 fine.

“Hopefully, something will change.”
By Jeffrey Zanker

Staff Reporter

To get to campus three times a week, graduate student Shawn Fok takes the Central Avenue Trolley from St. Pete Beach to a hub at Williams Park in downtown St. Petersburg before making a 10-minute walk to school.

“The first time going downtown was a little scary at first since I’m not familiar with the area,” said Fok, 26. “The people hanging out at Williams Park looked frightening to me. But now that I come here more often, it looks less dangerous now.”

Fok’s itinerary is about to change. Stung by charges that they helped turn an historic park into a notorious hangout for drug dealers and the homeless, the city and the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority plan to remove the bus shelters at Williams Park and disperse bus stops over a 16-block area of downtown streets. The change is scheduled to take effect on Feb. 14.

“We want to make a more efficient transportation system,” said St. Petersburg City Council member Karl Nurse. “Our purpose is to make Williams Park more welcoming again since it is the town square. It will bring more activities and people back in the area.”

PSTA plans to locate areas of transit connection by adding bus stops and shelters on other roads downtown.

“Instead of the park being the destination, we want to spread out the buses, so the city becomes the destination,” said Ashlie Handy, the media liaison for the transit authority. She said that the plan is to have the buses going down one street parallel or perpendicular from each other.

“A person can hop off one bus, go around the corner to catch another bus until they get to their destination,” she said. “The goal is to get people to their destination faster and smoother.”

Williams Park is almost as old as the city itself. Named for a co-founder of the city, it fills an entire block bounded by First and Second avenues N and Third and Fourth streets. For decades, the park and its band shell were the site of concerts, political rallies (Richard Nixon stopped by in 1964 and President Gerald Ford in 1976); celebrations and even a love-in in 1967.

The park has been a bus transit hub since the early ’50s. As bus shelters began sprouting along the south boundary of the park, however, the once-beloved block began to lose its luster.

Twenty-one bus routes now converge there, and so do dozens of loiterers, sleepers and – police say – drug dealers.

“It’s hard to tell the difference between the drug dealers, the homeless or those just waiting for their bus,” Handy, 26, said.

A handful of students use the buses for transportation. Other bus riders include freshman Richard Ayala and sophomore Quan Jones, who both take Route 4, which passes the campus on Sixth Avenue.

“I sometimes go to Williams Park to catch Route 14 or the trolley,” said Ayala, 20. “I feel safe walking through there. But according to my friends, there might be stranglers there.”

The grid system is still being planned. PSTA will hold seven public outreach workshops starting on Oct. 24 and ending on Nov. 3. The meetings are open to the public for questions and input on the schedules and routes.

“We want to encourage more ridership by dealing with some issues that people have of this plan,” said Handy.

If the changes are approved, come February Fok and other USFSP riders will get off the bus a lot closer to campus.

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By Emily Tinti

Staff Reporter

If Dr. Dawn Cecil didn’t become a professor, she would probably be working in a prison.

As an undergrad, a criminal justice course sparked Cecil’s interest in prison life, particularly for women, as her professor worked in a women’s prison. She decided to switch her major from international business to criminal justice.

Several years later, with three criminology degrees under her belt, Cecil is now a professor and criminology program coordinator at USF St. Petersburg with an interest in studying media images and crime.

What began as an interest in Martha Stewart’s incarceration became Cecil’s first research project on the topic of prison. After writing several articles, journals and a book chapter, her passion led her to publish the book “Prison Life in Popular Culture: From the Big House to Orange is the New Black,” where she poses the question of why incarceration has so much support in America when there are many problems with the system.

Through extensive research, Cecil believes the growing prison fixation stems from the portrayal of prison in popular culture.

In her book, Cecil explores recurring themes of prison in television shows, film, cartoons, alcohol, music and more. She challenges the way people typically think about prisoners, legislation and alternatives to prison and punishment in general.

“I was very concerned that people could not see the entire picture. Many people seemed incapable of seeing that most prisoners are not that different; that just one or two bad mistakes could end up with a person behind bars,” Cecil said. “I hope it will make people question incarceration as the end all be all. Maybe if people could see (prisoners) as humans, they’ll be more understanding. That’s the idealistic goal.”

The success of TV and film of the early and mid-20th century proved that Americans are quite entertained by prison. The media continually pulls people in with exaggerated images of prison: Excessive violence, over-the-top sexualization and the use of attractive or quirky characters.

In her book, Cecil explains that because people believe these

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USFSP alum tracks and explores local haunts

A look at St. Pete’s supernatural side

By Caitlin Ashworth
Staff Reporter

Rumor has it that St. Petersburg is scattered with Native American burial mounds, spirits lurking in downtown’s Vinoy Renaissance Resort, and that old Greenwood Cemetery is haunted by the ghost of Beulah Acklin.

But one of the city’s most popular lore? The ghost of beat author Jack Kerouac, who has been known to haunt Haslam’s book store on 2025 Central Ave.

Founder of the local paranormal group S.P.I.R.I.T.S. and USF St. Petersburg alumni, Brandy Stark, conducted an investigation on Haslam’s paranormal activity. She captured a light fog image with her black and white film camera.

According to Stark, “A ghost is a natural entity that has died, crossed the supernatural barrier, and returned to the natural world as a supernatural being.”

It is theorized, that when a ghost manifests, energy is emitted and, according to Stark, sometimes cause temperature fluctuations.

Stark uses qualitative data such as sight, smell and feel to record “supposed” hauntings and phenomena. She recommends using a high speed (400) black and white film camera and an electromagnetic field (EMF) meter to track paranormal activity.

Stark also said personal accounts, feelings and dreams are important to document. She suggests keeping a journal and researching the history of an area where a presence is felt.

During her time at USFSP, Stark wrote stories for the Crow’s Nest in October 1999 on the campus haunted lore: The ghost of Nelson Poynter and the haunting of the William’s house.

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Prison in Pop Culture
continued

Life incarcerated: Sensationalized by media, not what it seems

stories to be true, the media plays a significant role in formulating the public’s opinions on prisoners, even if they’re distorted. And when Cecil visited prisons in Iowa, Missouri, Florida—even Russia—none, she said, were exactly the way it’s shown on the screen. Cecil said the stories told are only about 10 percent of what actually happens.

“Early on I did a lot of research on the show ‘Lockup.’ The original formula showed such a one-sided view of prisoners—they are violent and there is nothing we can do to help them. And people love the show,” Cecil said.

Right now, there are about 2.3 million prisoners during what Cecil called an ‘imprisonment binge.’ In 1972, there were just 500,000.

The world of entertainment places the focus on alternative imagery, such as the show ‘Orange is the New Black.’

The show depicts prisoners as unique human beings with lives outside of prison, and illustrates characters in a way that makes them relatable, opposed to feared or misunderstood. According to Cecil, the show also educates viewers on the criminal justice system, often showing that incarceration is not always the best action against crime.

Cecil said she believes mental health and drug abuse treatment are sometimes the best routes to take when dealing with criminals. She explained how prison overpopulation and mistreatment is a result of a flawed system; one in which too many people are locked up for nonviolent crimes, such as low-level drug offenses, and there’s little to no rehabilitation for people who need it.

A portion of her book is dedicated to describing the media’s depiction of women. She said guards tend to victimize them and perpetuate the age-old stereotype of the emotional, uncooperative female, often sending them to solitary confinement for absurd reasons.

“People do not realize that 95 percent of the prison population will be released, and that we as society have some responsibility to create a system that, at the very least, does not set people up to fail,” she said. “Ultimately, it is up to the individual, but without the tools we cannot expect people to do well.”

Cecil understands the complicated task of illustrating the reality of prison, but feels that once people realize the truth, changes will occur.

“I was actually getting my hair done one day and someone was talking about ‘Orange is the New Black.’ She was wondering if all of that is really true, and I thought, ‘Oh good! I wrote the book for a reason.’”

Getting Wilde with zombies

BY: DEVIN RODRIGUEZ
CROW’S NEST CONTRIBUTOR

How does one find love in the aristocratic circles of London that are plagued by the undead?

An old play with a new twist seeks to answer that question. The freeFall Theatre Company is currently running a production called “The Importance of Being Earnest with Zombies” until Nov. 1.

The zombies, or ambulators as they are called in the play, act as a point of tension. Much like the popular television show The Walking Dead, the zombies are not the focus, but rather a reminder of the impending danger that surrounds the story.

The play was originally created by Oscar Wilde, and was first performed in 1895. Utilizing satire, the production’s purpose originally sought to undermine the importance of aristocracy and marriage. It would become the climax of Wilde’s career, but shortly after the play’s production, Wilde was sent to prison. It was the last work he would ever produce as he was forced to live out the rest of his life in exile.

Today’s production has been adapted by Eric Davis, who is known for mixing up timeless classics. In the past, Davis has written a version of Shakespeare’s “The Tempest” performed as a one man show, and set “Into the Woods” in a psychiatry office.

It is difficult to improve a satirical play that has proved timeless, and sadly Davis’ additions are apparent. Yet, he does succeed in crafting a pleasingly fun and trivial experience, much like Wilde did in the original production. There is just something special about fitting an old play with conventions of modern society.

“Look at it through a modern lens and ing and satirizing when it originally came to look at the things this play was critiquing. Much like the popular television show The Walking Dead, the zombies are not the focus, but rather a reminder of the impending danger that surrounds the story.

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Tales of a college foodie: How to avoid dining out like an A-hole

By Angelina Bruno

So, fortunately or unfortunately, I work in food service to pay rent. I’m a waitress, and I sling food and drinks for up to 10 hours with no break to people who are sometimes great and sometimes awful.

As a food lover, I get it. You want good food, and you want good service. That’s given.

But, as a server, I know that my customers think, say and do outrageous things sometimes...and it drives me insane.

So I wrote up a little trick list on how to eat out without looking like a total jerk.

Don’t ask me for one item every single time I bring one to you. In case you had zero clue, you are not the only table I am waiting on. (SHOCKING, I know.) That being said, when you ask me for more napkins, and you know you might need some ketchup, and another glass of wine, tell me then. Don’t tell me ketchup, and then when I bring that to you, oh napkins, and then when I bring that to you, oh wine.

Guess what? You now get to wine about the fact your drink is going to take forever. I’m out of time to make another trip right away without neglecting others.

Don’t be rude to me when your food comes out of the kitchen wrong, especially when I’m trying to get it fixed and more than generous with an apology.

I am not the chef. I am not the cook. I am the server. The most I do with food at work is put a piece of bread in a basket, or sauce in a cup. Therefore, if your food comes wrong and your steak is rare instead of medium rare, and you get potatoes instead of rice, please don’t yell at me. It’s probably not my fault. Yes, I could ring it in wrong, but don’t jump to conclusions and offend the person trying to help you.

Don’t have a hissy fit at the door when we can’t get you the exact, specific, on the water, in a booth, near the fan, with your favorite-server-table you request. Yes, I see that open table right there, but guess what else I see? The 20 people on the wait list that I’m holding in my hand as I tell you for the fifth time that yes, we are on a 45 minute wait, and yes it will be longer for outside seating, and no, I cannot get you in faster and no you cannot, CANNOT have that table right there. My best advice: make a reservation. Bingo.

Tell me ahead of time if you are splitting checks. If you come in with your 15 girlfriends, and plan to all get separate checks, tell me in the beginning.

As a rule, splitting checks gives me splitting headaches.

My least favorite thing to hear is “Um, excuse me, why are our checks taking so long?” Ha! Maybe because I have to figure out if Janie had the bruschetta or if it was the girl in the pink on the end with the rosé, or the woman with the blue sweater who changed seats 10 times.

Pre-warn the server if you’re going to need things split, or better yet, bring cash and do it yourself.

Don’t give me a hundred dollar bill for a thirty dollar burger.

Servers don’t have a cash register to pull out change. I carry around a certain amount of ones, fives and each day to make change. When you give me a ridiculous amount to pay for a meal, I now have to run around the restaurant screaming “Does anyone have change for 100! Also, I hate this guy.” It takes me longer, it takes you longer – and usually – all so you can try to impress your date. Just don’t do it.

Don’t come in later than 30 minutes before close.

If you come in 10 minutes before closing time and sit there an hour afterward, just know that I hate you, and you’re a terrible excuse for a person.

An entire crew of people are now working an extra hour (added onto their already 10 hours, which is a 100 percent on their feet) thanks to your need for a grilled salmon at 10:58 p.m.

Finally: tip me.

I owe the host and bartenders a percentage of my sales. I get paid less than $6 an hour.

If I treat you well and then you don’t tip me, that’s unfair. I now have to pay for you to eat out of my own wallet. And that stinks a fat one.

Angelina Bruno, a senior majoring in journalism and media studies, is the arts and life editor. She can be reached at abruno3@mail.usf.edu

Reggae band to play free show at Jannus Live

By Gary Mena

Crow’s Nest Contributor

From South Bay county in Los Angeles, Calif. to St. Petersburg, Fortunate Youth will be performing a free concert on Sunday, Oct. 25 at Jannus Live for their “Don’t Think Twice” fall tour.

The band’s genre “South Bay” reggae, is a style inspired by California beach culture and the unique backgrounds of the band members.

The band was formed in 2009 when two bands collaborated and later merged into one.

The connection was made between the brothers Jered and Corey Draskovich who brought the two styles together.

“We were switching around between drummers for a few years,” the band said. “But when we found Jordan [Rosenthal] that’s when the band became solid.”

The artists decided to make St. Petersburg a stop on the fall tour because of their love for the Florida beach vibe. “We loved Florida because of the inspiring nature and the people we’ve met,” the band said.

Fortunate Youth’s sound was also influenced by some of their favorite artists such as Bob Marley, SOJA, Tribal Seeds, and The Green.

They mentioned the positive energy exchanged between people through music is what keeps them going. “We just like to give back and make people happy,” they said.

The members stressed that even though there are daily obstacles that come with being on tour such as bus problems and sickness, it’s important to remain positive.

The musicians’ long-term goals include remaining humble and staying true to the music.
Violence and the media: Who is the enemy?

By Indhira Suero Acosta
Contributor

Apathy. One of the worst things that define this generation of human beings. Without a doubt, we live in an era of every man for himself. We simply don’t care or pay attention to what happens to others, as long as it doesn’t happen to us.

The media reports alarming news every day, sensationalizing information in a way that we have become accustomed to. It’s time to stop and think: Where is this taking us?

According to writer Anne Marais, the lack of concern or interest to change things leads us down dark and destructive path. She said that few with the courage to speak out are becoming a minority amid the masses who simply don’t have the energy or time to concern themselves.

In a time where individualism reigns, it is easy to overlook the situation. We often think “that can’t happen to me,” as if we are immune to disaster and tragedy.

The problem with this point of view: while we go about our daily lives and ignore the warnings, the world is slowly dying with only a few people trying to prevent it.

To work for peace is to uproot millions of men and women the opportunity to practice killing day and night in their hearts, is to plant millions of seeds of violence, anger, frustration, and fear that will be passed on for generations to come.

Words like shooting, war and killing have become part of our daily vocabulary. Violence is invading our lives subconsciously. What is in store for our children and grandchildren?

USFSP opens additional housing option

Will the cramped rooms be worth the discount?

By Julia Marcuzzo
Staff Reporter

How would it sound to have an additional $784 in your pocket? That’s what the Housing and Residence Life department offers students in the University Student Center if they agree to take in a third roommate for Spring 2016.

Or, for those not living in the USC, they could transfer into a dorm open to having a third roommate and also get the option to pay only $3,000. Both options allow USF St. Petersburg to accommodate additional students with the large demand.

The moment I received the email from Scott Hendershot, housing assignments and operations coordinator, explaining this new opportunity, my roommate and I discussed the option and agreed to opt out.

As a USC resident, though, I can vouch that the dorm’s design would make it less than adequate for three people to live comfortably.

Adding a third bed, whether it be another single twin or replacing one of the current beds with a bunk, would make an uncomfortable cluster without any space for extra seating or even two sets of the regular dorm furniture.

Some students may not care about the added difficulties that would come along with bringing a third roommate into the picture, including a tight shower schedule and having to somehow avoid waking someone up if there are varying sleeping schedules.

No matter how tempting it sounds to get money back, the comfort factor prevents me from wanting to take the university up on their new deal.

With the amount of students desperate for housing, I’m sure this won’t be the only option that opens up.

Julia Marcuzzo, a junior majoring in journalism and media studies, is the assistant arts and life editor. She can be reached at marcuzzo@mail.usf.edu

Crossword

Edited By Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis
By Gareth Bain

ACROSS
1 Hockey star 18 Time out
2 Hill-building insect 19 Decorate, as a Christmas tree
3 Decorate, as a Christmas tree 20 Post office patron
4 Decorate, as a Christmas tree 21 15 Potted plant
5 Potted plant 22 Sharpen
6 Christmas tree 23 Ancient region ruled by Athens
7 Post office patron 24 Indefinite number
8 Ancient region ruled by Athens 25 Be overtly sweet
9 Sharpen 26 36 “Glee” cheerleading coach
10 Ancient region ruled by Athens 27 Marching band member
11 36 “Glee” cheerleading coach 28 Black, in poetry
12 Marching band member 29 T threatened
13 “Glee” cheerleading coach 30 Section of town, for short.
14 Ditto 31 T threatened
15 Section of town, for short. 32 Not well
16 Ditto 33 Notes
17 Section of town, for short. 34 Indefinite number
18 Section of town, for short. 35 Earthquake aftershock
19 Section of town, for short. 36 Shay
20 Section of town, for short. 37 Chief Nurse god
down, in poetry 38 41 Bull uniform color
31 T threatened 39 Dixieland 40 Top shelf
32 Not well 41 - the Pooch
down, in poetry 42 Fill in, setting, for most teens
33 Chief Nurse god 43 Skull, - the Pooch
34 Indefinite number 44 B ake
35 Earthquake aftershock 45 “For a wine
36 Shay 46 Basic lessons
37 Dixieland 47 “For a wine
38 41 Bull uniform color 48 Desktop computer
40 Top shelf 49 Telephone
41 - the Pooch 50 “For a wine
42 Fill in, setting, for most teens 51 Telephone
43 Skull, - the Pooch 52 Desktop computer
44 B ake 53 Telephone

50 “For a wine
41 Bull uniform color 54 Telephone
43 Skull, - the Pooch 55 Telephone
44 B ake 56 Telephone
45 "For a wine
50 “For a wine

Columns: 10 Across, 15 Across, 20 Across, 25 Across

Rows: 1 Down, 5 Down, 10 Down, 15 Down, 20 Down, 25 Down

In the USC residence hall, two students share a dorm room, but a new proposal from the university gives the option to add a third roommate at a reduced cost.
Pumpkins, costumes, candy, haunted houses – what’s not to like about Halloween? But there’s another Halloween aspect that can’t be forgotten: movies. We can watch most Halloween flicks all year round – and let’s not kid ourselves, many of us do – but there’s just something about curling up with your favorite on-screen witches, skeletons and ghosts during this most spooky time of year.

This list won’t give you nightmares, in part because I’m a baby, but mainly because a true horror movie list would take up the entire newspaper. So no.

Thus, without further ado, here is a list of some must-see, strictly Halloween-themed films.

**Must-see Halloween flics**

**By Samantha Putterman**  
**Staff Reporter**

**1991**

- The Addams Family

There was no way I was forgetting the most creepy, kooky, mysterious, spooky, and altogether ooky family in a Halloween movie roundup. Obviously.

It isn’t hard to argue that the Addams’ have a macabre lifestyle – their servant is a detached hand named “Thing” – for one. But their all-black-everything style doesn’t mean the family ran out of cash, on the contrary, they have loads of it. But, unfortunately, their stack of dough makes them easy targets.

Gomez Addams, the head of the household, reveals to the family’s trusted, yet crooked accountant, that he hasn’t spoken to his brother Fester in many years. In attempt to gain entry and break into the family’s vault, the accountant devises a scheme with his loan shark that poses the shark’s son as long-lost Fester. Although the fake Fester looks identical to the real one, he finds it difficult to adapt to the outside world, which to him, is insufferable.

All those bright colors and laughter? Yuck.

**1974**

- Young Frankenstein

So this is the only one that sort of...kind of strays from the Halloweenish point of view. But it has Gene Wilder and it’s brilliant.

Young Frankenstein, a parody of Frankenstein and Bride of Frankenstein, introduces Frederick Frankenstein (as he likes the name to be pronounced in the beginning), the grandson of the famous mad scientist. Though he doesn’t want to be associated with the crazed scientist at first, Frederick, played by Wilder, eventually caves after inheriting his estate and decides to continue his grandfather’s experiments.

But in the process of building a new creature, Frederick accidentally uses an “abnormal” brain instead of the “genius” brain that was intended. Chaos ensues as the monster escapes on several occasions and develops a romantic affair.

I won’t go any further for those who haven’t seen it - which is just plain crazy.

Go home and watch it now….

**1988**

- Beetlejuice

Adam and Barbara Maitland are the typical, picture-perfect couple – except the part about them being dead.

After a deadly car crash, the couple is told they have to remain in their house for no less than 150 years. It’s not much of a problem until an obnoxious family moves in that they can’t stand. After the not-so-spooky couple fails to scare the family away, they call in backup – a freelance “bio-exorcist” named Beetlejuice. As fate would have it, Beetlejuice, played by Michael Keaton, stalls the job when he reveals he has a lot more in mind than just helping.

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice.... Beetlejuice!

**1993**

- Hocus Pocus

In the year 1693, three sisters Sarah, Winifred and Mary were executed in Salem, Massachusetts, for practicing dark witchcraft. But 300 years later, the Sanderson sisters, played by Sarah Jessica Parker, Bette Midler and Kathy Najimy, are back after they are accidentally resurrected by Max, the new-kid-in-town who doesn’t – ahem, didn’t – believe in witches.

The witches only have one night to gain eternal youth before turning back to dust – this time forever. The ingredient? A child’s life.

Max, along with his younger sister Dani and love interest Allison, do everything they can to stop them.

The witches fly on vacuum cleaners for brooms and well, Bette Midler is in it, making Hocus Pocus one hauntingly over-the-top comedy you don’t want to miss.

**1993**

- The Nightmare Before Christmas

Halloween is just not Halloween, or Christmas for that matter, without The Nightmare Before Christmas. Jack Skellington, the terrifying pumpkin king, is the most popular guy in Halloween Town. Halloween is clearly important to the townpeople who prepare for the holiday 364 days a year.

But the undead pumpkin king gets awfully tired of the same old thing and in his slump stumbles across Christmas Town. Jack, in dire need of some change, decides to take over the holiday and kidnap Santa. But he really doesn’t get the Christmas concept as his version includes, shall we say alternative gifts, and a skeletal group of reindeer.

If you’re like me and just want the two holidays to somehow mash-up in one glorious spectacle, look no further.

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**Paranormal St. Pete continued**

“Well, there are many rumors about the house,” longtime university employee J.M. “Sudsy” Tschiderer told Stark. “One of them being the spirit of a woman in a dancing gown. She is supposed to be the spirit of the mother of a former owner.”

According to Stark, the sudden death of Nelson Poynter, a stroke just hours after a groundbreaking event on campus in 1978, and strange behavior of an old elevator in Bayboro Hall during 1999, was enough evidence for some to believe that Poynter’s ghost lurked about.

Stark is now a humanities professor at St. Petersburg College. She conducts investigations with S.P.I.R.I.T.S. as a community service, often by homeowner request.

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**S.P.I.R.I.T.S. of Season Ghost Tour**  
**Patty’s and Friends**

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Oct. 24 from 7-9 p.m.