Professor helps scientists peer into ocean’s past and future

By Indhira Suero Acosta
Crow’s Nest Contributor

Imagine developing a system that helps scientists recreate ocean temperatures from thousands of years ago.

Brad E. Rosenheim, Ph.D., an assistant professor of marine science at USF St. Petersburg, developed “Ramped PyrOx,” a technique to do just this with the method of “clumped isotope thermometry.”

With “isotopic measurements,” scientists are better able to understand past changes in ocean temperature, which has implications for past ocean circulation and, most importantly, the distribution of heat and carbon-dioxide around the planet. This is something that can help scientists predict how things will change in the future.

On Jan. 6-9, the university’s College of Marine Science will host the 5th International Clumped Isotope Workshop. Scientists from all over Europe, Israel, Japan, China, and the United States are expected to attend this event.

USFSP student co-pilots program that pairs wounded birds of prey with veterans

By Emily Tinti
 Staff Reporter

If someone told Kaleigh Hoyt three years ago that she would become an avid bird watcher, she would have responded with, “No, that’s for old people with too much time on their hands.”

But now the USF St. Petersburg senior volunteers at the George C. McGough Nature Park in Largo with Avian Veterans Alliance, a program she co-piloted in the spring.

The AVA seeks to lower stress and anxiety levels for veterans who live with post-traumatic stress disorder by pairing them with disabled birds of prey. It is an addition to an existing program that specializes in caring for wounded raptors like owls, eagles, and hawks.

The AVA’s founder Patrick Bradley, is a Vietnam veteran who was diagnosed with PTSD in 1968. His son also suffered from the disorder after 17 years of service.

When Bradley discovered the calming effect the raptor program had on his son, he was inspired to start the alliance.

“He was a basket case,” Bradley told TBN Weekly. “I said, ‘Look, just grab a bird, go for a walk, try to relax.’ Then another gentleman who found me at the Saturday market knew we were accepting volunteers, and he happened to be an outpatient at a PTSD study at Bay Pines (Medical Center.) My son also was a patient there. So I told him, ‘Just grab a bird and go for a walk.’”

Unlike other PTSD therapies, AVA facilitates a “non-committal” setting where veterans are welcome to watch and handle the birds, or simply go for a walk around the park.

“Birds are holistic biofeedback animals. They react strongly to your emotional or arousal state,” Hoyt, 23, said. “It’s alternative vet care that stems far beyond prescription medication.”

Continued on p. 3
Ocean research Continued from front cover

The college’s research on the effects of the catastrophic Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 has drawn national attention. Geological oceanography doctoral student, Ryan Venturelli decided to come to USFSSP primarily because of Rosenheim’s research.

“I was attracted to the program by some of the research that Dr. Rosenheim described regarding the burgeoning field of clumped isotopes when I contacted him about potential research projects,” said Venturelli.

“I would describe my work in the field of clumped isotopes as fun,” he said. “Don’t get me wrong. The work is complex and challenging, but I’m having a blast learning and immersing myself in this research.”

Cristina Subt, a second-year doctoral student of geological oceanography, has been to Antarctica twice to collect samples for this method. She says this is the only active laboratory worldwide doing this age models for this Antarctic’s marine sediments.

“What I was doing was collecting cores and taking samples from those cores. In Antarctica, the only way that you can get age models is by this method,” Subt said. “This is because traditional dating methods are not possible in Antarctica. The forum is the best stage that you can get from marine sediments, but in that sediment clumps are really weird and most of the time you’re not going to find them at all.”

Information from the USF College of Marine Science website was used in this report.

Dr. Rosenheim is an associate professor of marine science at USF St. Petersburg. He developed the technique “Ramped PyrOx,” to recreate ocean temperatures from thousands of years ago.
Birds of prey
Continued from front cover

The Avian Veteran Alliance offers alternative stress-reduction therapy

In a partnership with theAVA, Bay Pines transports veterans to and from the park twice a week to work with the birds. Bradley also brings the raptors to the center once a month.

The veterans usually start with screen owls because they're small and not apt to hurt their handlers. Hoyt said "graduation" is handling a bald eagle.

"Can you imagine? A veteran and a bald eagle," she said.

Birds are the focus of the program, but Hoyt said veterans are free to wander the park as they please, citing a stress-free environment.

"It's about helping them get back to nature, back to civilian life. From being inpatients to outpatients. They get good exposure to nature that is very non-threatening.

"I love birds. They're inherently non-threatening.

Although Hoyt has always had a passion for animals—from training dolphins, to working at a wolf preservation in Tallahassee—she originally "hated birds.

"One day my supervisor was sitting there with a bald eagle and I was like, that's cool. Within a week I was hooked."

Hoyt will graduate with what she considers some of the best experiences, and said she hopes to join USF's neuroanthropology program.

Mongolia is at the top of Hoyt's travel wish list, where she dreams of conducting fieldwork and studying the origins of falconry and golden eagles.

"I love birds. They're inherently non-threatening compared to being in a jungle overseas."

Kings Street Food Counter – a new spin on an old concept

Artisan grilled cheese and gourmet hot dogs are the names of the game at Kings Street Food Counter. The new St. Petersburg eatery is the brainchild of local restaurateur Stephen Schrutt, 37, who is also the owner of The Avenue, a restaurant known for its unique burger experience.

Kings, which opened in October at 937 Central Ave., offers breakfast all day, hand-crafted milkshakes and poutine—in addition to the popular hot dogs and grilled cheese sandwiches.

The restaurant concept was developed in fall 2014 by Schrutt and chef Ryan Kelly. Also head chef at The Avenue, Kelly worked closely with Schrutt to create Kings' contemporary, yet traditional menu.

"We're working collaboratively to tailor the menu to our customers and what we're evolving into," said Kings General Manager, Pete Boland.

According to Boland, though the restaurant's renovation was pretty substantial, one feature dating back to the diner's 1960s decor was left untouched.

"The only thing that remains is the mint green tile floor, which inspired the color scheme for the restaurant," he said.

The mint green walls adorned with "retro" font and pop art and traditional lunch counter give the space a classic, diner-style atmosphere.

Only a few blocks from Tropicana Field, Schrutt hopes to make Kings the go-to pre and post-game spot for Rays fans.

"Being close to the field, we really want to be the place baseball fans stop for a hot dog and a beer before and after the game," Boland said.

The space also includes a beer garden, which was a major selling point for Schrutt, who wanted to create a fun, outdoor atmosphere for guests to socialize. The area features a bar, televisions, benches and communal tables.

Schrutt and Boland are entertaining the idea of hosting a monthly 'yappy hour' in the outdoor space, which will allow customers to bring their dogs along. The duo has also considered a monthly pet adoption event to coincide with yappy hour, but nothing is set in stone just yet. A majority of the bar's tap handles bare the names of local breweries, such as Green Bench, Cigar City, 3 Daughters and Cycle, to name a few. This is no coincidence, as Schrutt is a major fan of the "locally owned" feel that St. Petersburg.

In addition, Schrutt hopes to open his newest eatery, Proper, in early 2016. Located next door to The Avenue, the spot will offer craft cocktails and authentic southern barbecue in a high-end atmosphere.

According to Boland, Schrutt also sees the possibility of opening a second Kings location within the next few years.

For now, they are working to collaborate with other local businesses and breweries, reach out to the community and make Kings a must-visit St. Petersburg destination.

Kings Street Food Counter, in addition to their trademark grilled cheese and hot dogs, offers breakfast, milkshakes and poutine.

USFSP Entrepreneur student starts a monthly subscription box business - inspired by St. Pete

By Caitlin Ashworth

Two months ago, USF St. Petersburg junior Jamie Doerschuck started her own business.

It's called BurgBox—a monthly subscription that mails Tampa and St. Petersburg-made items.

"It's a little part of the Saturday Morning Market — in a box, delivered to your front door," Doerschuck said.

Each BurgBox is a surprise and will contain five to six local items such as CDs, prints, artisanal food products, apparel as well as a few smaller extras. Doerschuck also plans to include “local lore” in each box—a short story about the Bay area.

The products in BurgBox are valued at $60 to $70. Doerschuck sells each package for $40 and five percent will go to charity. BurgBox can be purchased one time or as a monthly subscription that can be canceled anytime.

Doerschuck is planning to send out her first BurgBox on Dec. 19.

"It's like Christmas every month," she said.

Prior to her new business venture, Doerschuck studied music at the University of Bern in Switzerland. Doerschuck said her education abroad was a good experience, but the program did not suit her.

She recently transferred to USFSP about a year ago and changed her major to entrepreneur ship in spring 2015.

Although she now enjoys the world of business, her passion for the arts did not fade away.

"There's something magic that art can do," Doerschuck said.

Upon moving to St. Petersburg, Doerschuck noticed the talent in the area was often overlooked and sees her business as a way to "bring up the arts."

"All of these dorms should be decorated with local art," she said, confused as to why anyone would choose Target instead.

Along with coursework, Doerschuck has spent numerous hours working on her new business—figuring out the website, logo and finances. For some extra cash, she creates whiteboard animation videos that are used by businesses to teach employees.

Doerschuck frequents local markets in search of items for her upcoming boxes and also to promote her business and make connections.

Although the startup business costs don't reflect the work involved, Doerschuck said her new venture is a "labor of love" and a learning experience.

"This is my community and I want to give back."

For more information, visit www.burgbox.com

Local restaurateur behind the Avenue brings a new-age diner to St. Petersburg

By Sean LeRoux

Dec. 7 - Dec. 13, 2015 | Volume 50 | Issue 15

www.burgbox.com

Kings Street Food Counter – a new spin on an old concept

Local restaurateur behind the Avenue brings a new-age diner to St. Petersburg

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The tattoo taboo in the professional world
Has the world finally accepted inked-individuals in the workplace, or will the generation be doomed to a jobless future?

By Moriah Parrish
Crow’s Nest Contributor

Solania Joseph’s tattoo is small and simple, a tiny black cross splashed across the outer edge of her wrist. Unnoticeable, perhaps, but not to everyone.

“Do you think you’ve ever been denied a job because of your tattoo?” I asked.

“Oh, no. It’s not that big. Well, wait, I didn’t get the job at Delta. I was interviewing, and I had long sleeves on. When I made a gesture with my hand, my sleeve fell down a bit, and the interviewer saw it.”

She was applying to be a flight attendant.

I was on a mission to figure out where college students stand on the rapidly evolving issue of tattoos and the workplace – and to see if the rest of the world had caught up with the heavily-inked generation.

Cassy Boettcher is a pastor’s wife, mother of three children with a colorful and very permanent half sleeve.

Including the tattoos on her arm, she has seven in multiple places on her body. The pastor? Thirteen.

Both having served in the military, she said their ink has never held them back. The only hesitation Uncle Sam had was over the meaning of the religious-themed cross and nails adorning the small of her back.

“They were worried it could be gang-related,” Boettcher said.

After assurances it was not, all was well.

USF St. Petersburg student Tinson Nhon is constantly sketching, and has considered becoming a tattoo artist, though he doesn’t have any himself.

“I’m okay with piercings, but I really don’t like the idea of something so permanent on my skin,” he said.

I asked USFSP professor Dr. Barbara Jolley if she had any tattoos.

“No, absolutely not. But I am also afraid of needles,” Jolly said.

“You know, back in my day, tattoos were associated with a more criminal element.”

She said she has noticed an increasing number of students getting tattoos over the past several years.

“I think there is a difference, though, between having some and being covered in them.”

Career Center Director Lesa Shouse had many astute things to say about tattoos in the workplace. “Tattoos are becoming more acceptable than they probably were 20 years ago, but are not overall acceptable by all employers. It is not necessarily more acceptable based on industry but is actually based on employer preference,” Shouse said.

“Although tattoos do not reflect skills, sometimes employers make assumptions about people with tattoos. They may not consciously discriminate based on a tattoo, but subconsciously could have an aversion to your tattoo and therefore your interview.”

She said she has hired student with tattoos, but if the ink is visible, the content would certainly play a factor in the decision to hire.

Shouse recommends careful consideration to those who may be thinking about getting a tattoo.

“Ask your current supervisor if it will affect your position, and ask someone in a position you aspire to (attain) how it could affect your job search process.”

If you take the plunge and decide to get inked, don’t do yourself the disservice of mentioning it in an interview.

“If the employer has an issue or tattoo policy they will bring it up and discuss it with you,” Shouse said.

Like so many societal movements in the 21st century, the tattoo culture stands on a generational and ideological gap between traditional and contemporary standards.
St. Pete events to get you in the holiday spirit

BY BETH HEISEL
Crow's Nest Contributor

Ready for the holidays but your budget’s tight? That’s no reason to stay at home.

Winter break is nearly here, and with it, lights in windows and (hopefully) a chill in the air. Whether you’re observing a religious holiday or just thankful for a break from homework, chances are you’re celebrating something as the year winds down. They say there’s no place like home for the holidays, but before you leave, there are plenty of ways to get festive right here in the Bay area without breaking the bank.

Here are seven events to put you in the holiday mood.

CHANUKAH IN “THE BURG”
Dec. 7
South Straub Park // 5:30 p.m.

For its 13th annual Chanukah celebration, the Chabad Jewish Center of Greater St. Petersburg will be celebrating the Festival of Lights downtown with an eight-foot “candy land” menorah and live entertainment. There will be free latkes, raffles and crafts, along with concessions for food and refreshments.

HOLIDAY SIZZLE
Fridays and Saturdays in December
Sundial // Various times

Take in a variety of holiday-themed entertainment at Sundial throughout December. Highlights include the Sundial Style Fashion Show on Dec. 13 from 7-8 p.m. and a “Baroque-style” holiday performance by The Florida Orchestra on Dec. 19 at 11 a.m.

SANTA AND ICE SKATING IN NORTH STRAUB PARK
Dec. 9 – 13, 17 – 23
North Straub Park // 6 - 9 p.m.

For those with kids or younger siblings, Santa will be in the park for free visits. Skating on the simulated ice rink is $5 for 30 minute sessions. Also, be sure to check out the decorations and light displays in North and South Straub Parks, which will be up throughout December.

THE OAKDALE CHRISTMAS HOUSE
Now – Jan. 3
2719 Oakdale Street S. // 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

With approximately half a million lights and television appearances on NBC’s Today Show and HGTV’s All Our Christmas, this display certainly takes Christmas to another level. Head down to Oakdale Street – a little over a mile south of campus – to see the spectacle for yourself.

HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS AND PARADE ON COREY AVENUE
Dec. 13
St. Pete Beach // 4 p.m.

Enjoy a family-friendly event in the tropics at St. Pete Beach’s Christmas parade.

Starting at 4 p.m., the parade will head south to Corey Avenue from Gulf Blvd at Blind Pass, and then east to Boca Ciega.

The Hometown Christmas event will follow directly after the parade along the event’s route and will feature train rides, carolers and crafts.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTS RIDE
Dec. 27
1205 Fourth St. N. // 5 p.m.

For the more active, take a nighttime group bike ride into Old Northeast to enjoy the historic neighborhood’s holiday lights and decorations.

A friendly reminder during the frenzy of finals

BY SAMANTHA PUTTERMAN
Staff Reporter

We all know the tips and tricks of finals week. Get enough sleep, eat enough food, get enough exercise – basically, just survive.

It’s funny how this hectic time gets us so stressed and disoriented that most of the “tips” offered tend to remind us how to complete basic tasks like eating and sleeping. Nevertheless, every time I read a list or post with these reminders, well, it actually reminds me.

I mean, half of us have no idea what time it is, let alone what day it is. Still, somehow, some way, finals week will come to a close. The semester will be over and we will all be playing in the snow – ahem, sand – in no time. I know that sounds like a far-off utopian paradise right about now, but it isn’t a mirage.

Don’t give up. We’ve all come this far to get it done, and we didn’t work our tails off this entire time just to call it quits in the 11th hour.

Be the Bulls I know we all are, and charge into those pesky tests with full force.

And then, take a nap.

P.S. Also, I’ve heard that listening to classical music, chewing gum and something about strong scents can help us retain information, or something like that.
ISIS evokes fear in Western society, creating a stereotype for the Muslim community

By Rim Shuman
Crow’s Next Contributor

It was Nov. 12, 2015. My mother sat at the kitchen counter, in a frantic hurry to get my aunt on the phone. She lives in Lebanon.

We received a message that there was a double-suicide bombing in our homeland of Beirut, Lebanon, just hours before.

The innocent lives were taken – ISIS – there was no way around it.

We’ve all seen videos of the barbaric creatures dressed in black and, ironically, making statements that wrongly reflect the real message of Islam.

In one video, an ISIS militant can be seen gloating over a kill he had just made. Holding the dead man’s identity card to the camera, he asked someone where the man was from.

When the militant found out that his innocent victim was a Shia Muslim, he was overjoyed and started shouting, “He is a Shia! Praise to Allah, the Lord of the Universe, I killed him! I killed a Shia!”

My stomach folded in knots, I could feel my face becoming warm. I didn’t help but cry until I became nauseous...dearthly afraid of what was to come. It was Nov. 13, 2015. Just one day had passed, and ISIS carried out another attack. This time it was in Paris. 130 lives were lost.

I thought to myself, here we go again.

Right when I started to feel like Islam was at peace with Western civilization, ISIS took it away. It reminded me of 9/11, when I was afraid to tell my classmates that I was Muslim. To avoid any threats or discrimination, my father didn’t let my mother take us out on her own.

And after the Lebanon and Paris attacks, threats poured in. The Sheikh of the St. Petersburg and Tampa Mosque advised us to start using the buddy-system. All the mosque’s weekly programs were canceled until further notice. My family and I sat in the living room, mourning over the deaths in Paris, Lebanon, Iraq and Palestine.

We received another threat to the mosque. This time, much greater than before.

The man left a voicemail, stating, “I have a militia that’s going to come down to your Islamic Society in Pinellas County and fire bomb you...shoot whoever’s there, right in the head.”

As Prophet Muhammad once said, “The hour will come when leaders are oppressors. A time will come when the hypocrites will live secretly among you, and the faithful will try to live their religion in secret among others.”

Rim Shuman is a senior majoring in journalism and media studies. She can be reached at rshuman@mail.usf.edu

“Islamophobia” – a fairly new word to hit headlines

By Noora Khalil
Crow’s Next Contributor


I can just walk away from it – it’s a reality that I am condemned to face every day. I realize that many strangers will look at me and immediately think of the words “oppression,” “foreign” or sometimes, even the t-word (terrorist).

But I’m so much more than an inaccurate façade. Just as a little reminder: I am still the same American student I described above, and there are millions of other people just like me.

However, I’ve recently discovered that my choice to exercise my First Amendment right to practice a religion that best suits my lifestyle, as well as wearing a hijab, ironically makes me "un-American." I’m apparently un-American because society decided to
USFSP goes tobacco free
New rules, new game

By Julia Marcuzzo
Staff Reporter

You may or may not have noticed one of the university’s latest updates when you log into MyUSF: “Starting January 4, 2016 TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS.”

I remember looking at this puzzled: Isn’t the school already tobacco free?

Apparently, USF revised the regulations. Now, “smoking and use of tobacco products will not be allowed in any indoor or outdoor area, including parking garages, grounds, sidewalks or recreational areas. This policy also includes the use of e-cigarettes,” according to the announcement.

Two parts of this statement raise an issue in my mind. First, the word ‘sidewalks’ really jumped out from the text. When speaking strictly about the sidewalks in between class buildings, this is understandable. However, if the school is also referring to sidewalks adjacent to the road, then I believe they are overstepping their bounds.

These particular sidewalks are public property. Last I checked, this is why groups like Greenpeace enjoy the freedom of speaking there, so what authority does the university have in telling someone they can’t smoke?

The other issue I have with the university’s update is that they plan to ban the use of e-cigarettes. I can understand why cigarettes bother people: they don’t like the smell nor the health threats of secondhand smoke.

In public, I’ve received dirty looks countless times after lighting a cigarette. On the contrary, not once have I experienced a negative response when whipping out my e-cigarette. If anything, it’s been a friendly conversation starter.

Millions of dollars have been spent on anti-smoking campaigns because the thousands of chemicals are not only harmful to your own body, but also to those around you inhaling secondhand smoke. However, this is not a potential threat when it comes to vapor. According to a study conducted by the University of Southern California, “Scientists studying secondhand smoke from e-cigarettes discovered an overall 10-fold decrease in exposure to harmful particles, with close-to-zero exposure to carcinogens.”

The vapor brand I use, Velvet Cloud, only contains Kosher USP vegetable glycerin, water, natural flavoring and American-made nicotine.

I cannot testify that every person who vapes uses quality brands made in the U.S., but I am confident there is little to no concern of health damaging repercussions with vapor like those associated with inhaling secondhand cigarette smoke.

Everyone has a different way to deal with the stress of college, some students smoke. Is it healthy? Of course not! And most, if not every smoker knows that. Those who are trying to quit smoking and the continuous intake of thousands of chemicals by using vapor box mods or e-cigarettes should not be scrutinized.

Over the past few months, I have seen cigarette butts just about everywhere on campus. Since the school is tobacco free, there aren’t any sort of ashtrays available for proper disposal. In a perfect scenario, having a designated smoking area would prove more beneficial than a campuswide ban.

However, since this appears to be a USF systemwide policy, changing the rules on our particular campus may be nearly impossible.

At the same time, though, I think the university should be more considerate of those trying to have a healthier lifestyle by switching to a safer alternative to cigarettes.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Want to comment on a story or a campus issue? Get it off your chest with a letter to the editor. The Crow’s Nest welcomes letters from students, faculty and staff. Send your letter to Ann21@mail.usf.edu.

Letters, which may be edited for length, clarity and taste, must include the writer’s name and telephone number (though the number will not be published).
I went to a Donald Trump rally

A face-to-face encounter with the unconventional, yet conservative candidate

By Duncan Rodman

I went to a Donald Trump rally. And it was exactly what I expected.

I didn’t go as a reporter. I didn’t have a press pass. I didn’t get any special seats. I went as a guy with a DSLR camera and tickets to see Donald J. Trump.

For this, I received the full Trump fan experience.

There were protesters. There were vendors selling cheap, unlicensed Trump gear. There were grumpy old men. There were sweet old ladies. There were angry old ladies. There were a lot of police. There was awkwardly epic music which exalted Trump to some sort of godlike status. There was even an elephant.

All of this though, sadly, I expected.

What I didn’t expect was how normal and sane the crowd of supporters appeared to be.

But then I started listening.

Walking to the back of the mile-long line to see Trump, a young woman said, “I would rather have a racist, fascist Nazi than...”

Neither my camera nor my ears caught the rest of that sentence. I can only imagine what those next words were going to be.

A young lady in her 20s yelled at the protesters from behind the human shield of the Sarasota PD, “F—! You! I’m Hispanic and I support Trump!”

Another supporter, a middle-aged man, responded to the anti-Trump protesters. “Maybe if you got a job, then maybe you’d see the other side!” he said.

Farther down the line, a middle-aged woman complained about the indifference of public breastfeeding for several minutes after a “Free the Nipple” chant.

This is Donald Trump’s base.

Some rally patrons were just there to have a good time, though.

“We should have brought those beers, man,” one young male said to his friend as he stood by the fence watching Trump’s obnoxiously eccentric helicopter land outside of Robarts Arena.

Another young man was accused by a Trump supporter of being an “undercover liberal.” He proudly boasted his tongue-in-cheek, sacrosanct sign which boasted a divine Donald in a white robe, standing above worshipers and a bald eagle, summoning fighter jets and firing President Obama.

“BIGGER THAN JESUS,” the sign read.

Some people were just shamelessly trying to make a buck. A vendor strolled back and forth past the tremendous line, selling hideous, unlicensed Trump T-shirts that were supposedly “handmade by soldiers in Afghanistan.”

Another man was peddling “Make America Great Again” hats with the promise that Donald himself would sign everyone’s, and that he only had ONE left.

“Does he really sign everybody’s hats?” an elderly woman asked frantically.

“Yes m’am. He goes up and down the line at every one of these events, signing everyone’s hats,” the vendor said.

The arena filled to capacity, but the Trump campaign was prepared with giant speakers so the crowd outside could hear his Trump stump.

“Marco Rubio can’t even keep his seat warm in the Senate!” Trump said.

“She (Hillary Clinton) should be in jail!” Trump said.

Making news, he defended himself from the recent accusation that he mocked a New York Times reporter’s disability (with hand gestures) at his campaign stop in South Carolina.

“I was talking about groveling,” he said. “A reporter is groveling because he took back the statement that he wrote 14 years ago.”

He talked a lot about his frighteningly simplistic understanding of foreign policy.

His plan is to “bomb the oil and then take it.” Then, he would use the profits of said acquired oil to give to the families of 9/11 victims, and deceased and wounded veterans.

He blamed our current generals in the Middle East, accusing them of weakness. He made over-simplified, popular statements like “We need General MacArthur! We need General Patton!”

He explained that nowadays, war is simply “a matter of buttons.”

He joked about the politically correct culture. He berated Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton.

“I’m a good Christian, belief system will be peaceful. Trump said on multiple occasions. I don’t think “bigly” is a word, but Donald Trump is making it a word.

This was exactly the Donald Trump rally that I had expected.

When Trump made his ostentatious departure over the crowd with his Trumpcopter that sunny afternoon, a bewildered gentleman in the crowd yelled “that is so cool.”

And he wasn’t being sarcastic. These people think of Donald Trump as their political savior. The enthusiasm is real. They are just as sincere and fired up as Bernie Sanders supporters—if not more.

And they are ready to vote next year.

Duncan Rodman is a senior majoring in mass communications. He can be reached at duncanrodman@mail.usf.edu

Islamophobia

Islam does not promote violence or female oppression. Islam does not promote vio-

This concept, and my eventual discovery of my love for giving back, ultimately led me to create CharitaBull, an organization that gives students a chance to give back to the community.

CharitaBull

CharitaBull is an Cars submarines and communities, separated families and unfairly tarnished the public image of Islam.

These radicals are using Islam as a facade — something to “justify” their actions and further their political agenda.

That being said, people still turn to me when tragedies like the Paris attacks take place, as if I’m somehow responsible.

The actions of a sick group of people do not define me, nor my religion. And I shouldn’t have to explain that.

Likewise, when mass shootings occur in schools, churches and movie theaters, I don’t expect anyone to have to justify or defend Christianity, Atheism or any other belief system.

But really, why should they be expected to carry that obligation? The actions of the minority are not representative of the majority.

Ultimately, it comes down to this – If you are a violent person, your belief system will be violent. If you are a peaceful person, your belief system will be peaceful.

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