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Cat Helps Student Through Everyday Life

By Jonah Hinebaugh
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Sean Ross’ Siamese mix, Ninja, is more than just a friend - she’s his coping mechanism. Diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder and anxiety by his psychiatrist, Ross said he was often teased throughout his life. “Since elementary school, I used to play with my shirt in a way to try and relieve anxiety [because] I had a lot of anxiety as a kid,” Ross said.

“My mother brought me to a psychiatrist to try all sorts of different drugs. In the meantime, kids don’t like other kids that are different, so I got picked on all the time. I wouldn’t say I had the worst childhood, but it definitely wasn’t super pleasant.”

Ross previously lived off campus, then moved on campus to help lessen his anxiety. He got Ninja during the second week of class after Housing and Residence Life approved his campus housing application. “I learned about getting a support animal, so I asked my psychiatrist if it was okay and she said yes,” said Ross.

In order to have a support animal in a dorm, a student must provide proof of a disability given out by a doctor or psychiatrist.

Emotional Support: Sitting outside of Residence Hall One before her daily walk, Ninja relaxes on the picnic tables next to her owner Sean Ross. The blue-eyed Siamese mix helps relieve Ross of his anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder since the beginning of the Fall semester. Prior to getting Ninja Ross relied on a shoestring to release his anxiety.

Veterans Success Center Seeks to Ease Transition to Civilian Life

By Evy Guerra
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Half a year after returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009, Laura Mulrooney enrolled at USF St. Petersburg. Reintegration proved to be difficult. As a commuter student, she needed to adjust to a completely different atmosphere than the warzone she left behind.

That transition, combined with the lack of warm welcome, made it even harder for her. On Tuesday, Oct.18, the Military and Veterans Success Center began a 4-part series called “Talking Service” that opens a dialogue about the transition to civilian life.

The group is open to veterans, family of veterans and civilians who want to discuss their experiences.

Mulrooney said that having a program like this on campus would have made a big difference for her back in 2009. She still struggles to find pride in her title as a veteran. “I have had teachers and students say negative things about the military,” said Mulrooney. “It’s hard because nobody understands what you’ve been through.”

Mulrooney graduated in summer 2016 with her master’s in journalism and media studies. During her last year on campus, her environment completely changed. That year, the USFSP Military and Veterans Success Center opened. The center planned to provide support for veterans on campus.

“I’ve met more friends in the last year at the center than in all my time here since 2009,” she said. “There’s a level of openness we can have here.”

The Veteran Service Office took longer to open because of the low student population, according to Milton White, the assistant director of Veteran Services. “[USF] Tampa has one but we can’t use their services. We had to show that there was a need,” he said.

White said that the center aims to open a dialogue and enhance understanding of what veterans go through after service.

White, who spent 25 years in the Marine Corp., experienced firsthand how difficult life after serving can be. “The structure in a classroom is nothing like the structure of the military,” he said. “You also don’t have that family everyday telling you where to go and what to do.”

The family White referred to are the men and women who served alongside him in the military. Losing the support of his brothers and sisters in the armed forces disconnected White from society.

It wasn’t until he received a VA work study to work in the Financial Aid office in 2010 that he began to reconnect with the students around him. At the financial aid office, White learned about the benefits offered to veterans and how few of them were utilizing these resources due to not knowing that they even existed. He thought that opening a center could help.

While creating the new program, White took a look at many other colleges and the models they used for inspiration.

He said USF Tampa’s location has been a big help throughout the process of getting started, working with him hand in hand.

The “Talking Service” program is a new initiative led by Jamie Molnar. She is the spouse of a veteran, a licensed mental health counselor and works as USFSP’s Human Services Practitioner.

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Florida has a history of determining presidential elections. In 2000, 3.15 million Floridians voted in the presidential election. Of that population, Republicans and Democrats were separated by a margin of 70,000 voters. Only 537 votes determined Republican candidate George W. Bush would become president.

Eight years later, President Barack Obama would take the state by a 2.8 percent margin of victory.

Florida is in the precarious position of being a swing state, which means its voter population is nearly evenly between both major parties. There are 11 swing states total and presidential campaigns often concentrate on them in hopes of pulling what in many ways is the largest determining factor in winning the election.

On top of that, Florida has the largest number of electoral votes of the swing states, with 29, and that number is projected to increase. Steven Schale, a Democratic Party consultant who directed Obama’s 2008 presidential campaign, said Florida’s role will become more important over the next decade.

Schale spoke to a class of journalism students on Tuesday, Oct. 18 to discuss the nature of Florida’s political demographics and why the state will play such a large role in the current election.

While Florida is in the South, most people don’t consider it part of the South.

“The number thing we have in common is a weirdly-shaped border,” said Schale. Schale also discussed the most apparent differences are what make it such a divisive battleground state, election after election.

“Of percentage and actual raw vote, we are the closest battleground state in the country,” said Schale. Despite having few similarities amongst residents overall, Schale said that Florida can be divided into five distinct regions. These regions are diverse within themselves but play a significant factor in how presidential candidates campaign. The scale and shape of Florida’s geography also plays a significant factor in its voter makeup.

“If you get in your car in Pensacola, you will get to Indianapolis faster than you’re going to get to Miami,” Schale said. “You’ll get to Chicago faster than you get to Key West.”

North Florida is the first of five regions that Schale discussed. The area is “southern” in its orientation and almost exclusively white and African-American. This part of the state tends to lean Republican and makes up 20 percent of the statewide voter base.

Orlando is home to the youngest media market in the state, likely due to large universities and theme parks that tend to hire young workers, according to Schale.

As of 1980, the area used to be the oldest media market in the state. Now, that title belongs to the Tampa Bay media market. While the highway system in the U.S. expanded, families began to migrate along its course. For example, Tampa Bay is still the stadium. That’s because people that characterize the people that live there. Voters in that area tend to be older and more liberal. Schale says that most are retirees from the northern states.

“If you go to a deli in Palm Beach County and ask the entire restaurant where they’re from, nobody will say Palm Beach County,” Schale said. “They will tell you what street they lived on in Brooklyn.”

The Miami-Dade area could be the most diverse city in the world, Schale said. Incoming Puerto Rican families are heavily influencing the area, whose largest Hispanic population was Cuban. Cuban voters are primarily Republican, the influx of Puerto Rican voters is skewing that area Democratic.

While the Puerto Rican families may have influence, Schale said that Florida’s status as a swing state wouldn’t be compromised until well into the future. Around 15 years he estimated.

Schale also discussed his time with Barack Obama’s campaign back in 2008.

He mentioned that capitalizing on key demographics throughout the five regions of Florida helped Obama’s campaign to take valuable counties, effectively determining the election.

As for the Hillary Clinton campaign, Schale was certain she could have won an election, even after many of the voters supporting Sen. Bernie Sanders’ were left behind.


Though, Schale did acknowledge that Clinton had a problem with younger voters, and said that her platform was “uninspiring.”

“She’s not the cool kid in class. She’s the really smart one, who, when you need the project done, everyone wants to be in her group.” Schale said. “In the end, I think young voters will get there, because the stakes are so high.”

Ross, a junior biology major, was introduced to USFSP’s Student Disability Services when she was a sophomore.

“I got a cat specifically because it wouldn’t be loud in the dorms and all I have to do is feed it, water it and love it,” Ross said.

Ross said the hardest part was acquiring the documentation of disability.

“I was a cat specifically because it wouldn’t be loud in the dorms and all I have to do to is feed it, water it and love it,” Ross said.

Since then, Ninja has helped Ross with her medically-diagnosed anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder, and in return he keeps her fed and purring.

Ross said that having a pet helped regardless if you have a severe disability or not. I know people like just coming up and petting her. I feel like just walking her around helps others with their anxiety as well.”

According to USF Policy 6-033, USF System officials will determine, on a case-by-case basis, and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, whether

such an animal is a reasonable accommodation on campus.

The USF System may require sufficient information and documentation to enable the Student Disability Services (student requests) or Human Resources (employee requests) to establish eligibility for reasonable accommodations and the animal’s qualification as a service or assistance animal under the applicable laws.

Despite this, Ross would someday like to see the school adopt a more inclusive policy with animals on campus.

“At Eckerd College, [students] don’t have to have a disability to have an animal,” Ross said. “It just has to be small and follow certain rules. They’ve been around for a long time and have been pretty successful. Maybe if we could follow their program it would be cooler.”

Eckerd College, a local private university, has welcomed pets on campus since 1973. The campus offers dorms designated for bigger animals like cats and dogs, and even a separate ceremony for animals leaving, or “graduating,” the school.

Ross says that if anyone ever wanted to meet or visit Ninja they should reach out to him on campus.
The album marries Knxwledge’s sample-heavy, soulful beats with .Paak’s seductively raspy voice into an almost 50-minute package with 19 tracks that have a taste of old school soul and funk.

.Paak isn’t shying away from displaying just how much he’s able to use the percussive power of his voice. In the song “Lyk Dis,” his vocal melody sharply pops in-and-out syncing with the beat in short bursts.

His lyrics fall back on a familiar theme from “Malibu”: women. Throughout Yes Lawd!, he documents a complex romance he shares with his main lady and chronicles the progress of their relationship in a concept-esque way.

Then he’s not giving her instructions to get ready for a grown night out (“Wngs”) or explaining that she’s his “best one,” he’s checking his ability to be faithful to her (“What More Can I Say”) and laying off the side women while on tour (“Sidepiece”). Eventually, the whirlwind ends with his lady ranting about finding “a new and inventive way to whoop her [his] ass” while .Paak croons “I do love you,” before singing that he loves her but can’t stand her at the same time.

When .Paak’s not feeling the relationship thing, he coolly takes to stealing a lame guy’s girl with his stellar dance moves at a party on “Link Up.”

When he puts women aside, .Paak addresses his own hardships and triumphs such as his rise to acclaim from his old grind of odd jobs, like grocery bagging, by learning to “get bigger” and overcome. Elsewhere, he speaks to the flaky and false people who surround him for the perks of his fame (“H.A.N.”). His songs are peppered with seemingly candid scenes.

And what is an Anderson .Paak project without a mention of cars? This time, he does a classic nod to the classic Oldsmobile Cutlass on “Kutless.”

Producing the album entirely by himself, Knxwledge carefully constructed a soulful time capsule from a list of mainly ’70s soul, funk and jazz songs, from widely acclaimed musician Gil Scott-Heron.

Knxwledge also samples an obscure San Francisco Bay Area group from the ’80s called Heaven Sent and Ecstasy. Knxwledge samples mostly small bits from these songs, like a four-chord guitar phrase from “The Bottle” by Gil Scott-Heron for “Suede,” and loops them endlessly, but for some, borrows whole concepts.

For “Scared Money” and “Another Time,” he lifted the opening phrases unchanged from “(I Could Never Say) It’s Over” by The B.B.& Q. Band and “(I Could Never Say) It’s Over” (I Could Never Say) It’s Over” by Gil Scott-Heron.

The album isn’t too heavy and apathetic. It’s a left turn to the funky old school fare with Knxwledge.

The group uses literature, specifically from a collection titled “Standing Down: From Warrior To Civilian,” to explore their own experiences coming home. Molnar was pleased with how the first session turned out.

“From my perspective, it went well. We read one poem and everyone opened up,” she said.

After a quick vote, the group assigned the reading that they would go over the next week.

“In my experience, I was stressed that this is the best way to aid with reintegartion. I can’t overemphasize the importance of military types reaching out to other military types. It’s the only way,” she said.

Before the session began, Molnar went over a list of rules for the discussion. Some of these were listen actively, speak from your own experience and that the goal is not to agree but to gain a deeper understanding.

The program is hosted by the Veteran Center and focuses on the adjustment back to civilian life, and throughout the meeting, the group members repeated the importance of inclusion, even among their own ranks.

The group is almost a year old, but it is still trying to spread the word to make sure that anyone on campus who could benefit from its services is aware of its existence. The services can help in different ways, but Molnar explained that the main goal is success both in school and their everyday lives.

During its first event “Talking Service” stressed that it is not a therapy session, but a discussion group.

Talking about some of the pressure, Molnar said, should hopefully let attendees participate more easily.

The USFSP Military and Veterans Success Center is located in Terrace 301, next to the Davis building. The next three sessions of “Talking Service” will be held Oct. 25, Nov. 1 and Nov. 8 at 6 p.m.
Colin Stanart didn’t have time to be nervous before his drag performance as Christi Spice. Instead, concentrating, he put on his makeup, heels and wig.

On Oct. 17, the Multicultural Activities Council and Harborside Activities Board hosted Viva la Diva, a drag show that featured student performers, a professional drag queen and LGBTQ trivia.

Eager students packed the USC ballrooms decked out with colored balloons, high heels and free food to celebrate LGBTQ Awareness month, which kicked off on Oct. 15, to watch their friends perform.

Viva la Diva kicked off with a group of six student performers dancing to the “Petty Song,” a cheer from a viral youtube video. Students sang along supporting the dancers. Five of the students performed drag for the first time.

Stanart was the exception.

“I was super stressed because I had to dress all these other guys that had never done drag before and never worn heels,” he said. “All their songs I had to pick out, get their outfits ready and make sure they knew what they were doing. I was not worrying about myself. I was worrying about them.”

At the age of 17, Stanart’s friend called him over asking if she could do his makeup as a drag queen. After she did, they went to Hamburger Mary’s, a restaurant that puts on drag performances.

That day, a compliment from a drag queen sparked his interest in competing. He began practicing, even though he couldn’t compete until he turned 18. Stanart had never worn heels. Now he wears them in his room, in the campus gym and anywhere else he feels like practicing. He is an amateur drag queen.

This summer, Stanart performed for the first time.

“I got top three of performers. I was super proud of myself,” he said. “After that first performance, I was like, ‘I don’t even care how bad it was, I feel ecstatic.’ I wanted to go out again.”

Juno Mars also finished as a top three performer. Stanart refers to her as his “drag mom” because of all the advice and help she’s given him. Mars has been doing drag for eight years now. She also performed at Viva la Diva and hosted a panel discussion to answer questions for anyone in the audience.

Students asked about the most difficult aspects of drag, how to deal with haters and where Juno Mars gets her inspiration from. Her inspiration comes from her grandmother who danced in ballets.

“The haters make you better,” Mars said. “If anybody has anything negative to say I take it and make myself better.”

This isn’t drag to Mars, she explained that to her it’s art. The energy ran high while Mars performed, but students seemed just as excited while she talked to the audience. The crowd shouted compliments throughout the night.

When one student asked Mars what advice she could give to students who were afraid to be themselves, she switched from a lighthearted tone to a much more serious one.

“Take a long look in the mirror. Look at all the flaws and the good things. If you see a flaw, it’s beauty. If you can’t love yourself, how the hell are you going to love someone else?”

After Mars’ panel, Stanart performed again because one of the other student performers dropped out. Besides the stress of having to choose a new outfit and songs on such short notice, Stanart didn’t hesitate further to go on stage.

“I love the performing. Everybody is so amazed by the hard work you put into it. To have it pay off and people cheering you on, and seeing the smiles on everybody’s faces... It’s absolutely exhilarating for me.”

By Evy Guerra
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At Campus Drag Show, Students Put Their Best Heel Forward
Review: Hamburger Mary’s, Good Food And Great For Community

By Alyssa Coburn
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St. Petersburg has a new, yet unexpected resource for the LGBTQ community. In August, Hamburger Mary’s opened on Tyrone Boulevard. The restaurant features kitschy decor, a club-like atmosphere, tasty burgers, a full service bar and drag queen entertainment. But it also acts as a sanctuary for the transgender community.

According to show director Alexis Mateo, the queens are frequently approached by individuals struggling with or questioning their gender identity. Mateo is the only male drag queen on staff; all of the other queens are transgender women.

The queens provide one-on-one communication and openly answer questions individuals may have. The restaurant managers are also prepared to refer people to counselors and support groups.

Mateo explained that panicked mothers of transgender children frequently come into restaurant asking for help. The queens have seen children as young as 7 years old who identify as transgender. This hasn’t shocked any of the transgender queens; they felt the same way when they approached you.

"I remember back in the day when I moved to Tampa, transgender living was not like this. It wasn’t until Hamburger Mary’s opened that I can tell you, like freely, the whole transgender community opened up," said Mateo.

Hamburger Mary’s supports the transgender community in more ways than one. According to Mateo, all of the transgender queens previously struggled with getting a job. Some turned to drugs, while others resorted to prostitution.

"I remember back in the day when I moved to Tampa, transgender living was not like this. It wasn’t until Hamburger Mary’s opened that I can tell you, like freely, the whole transgender community opened up," said Mateo.

Hamburger Mary’s also provides charity work to support the community around them. The St. Petersburg location features charity bingo Monday through Wednesday at 7 p.m.

According to general manager Michael Wilson, the Tampa Bay area locations have raised around 2 million dollars for local charities since 2009. Wilson says the St. Petersburg location has already become a no judgment zone for the LGBTQ community. "We’re a safe haven," said Wilson.

While this is an invaluable asset to the LGBTQ community, Hamburger Mary’s is still all about fun, food, and entertainment for all. The restaurant is hard to miss with its bright purple exterior and inside is just as vibrant, with multi-colored walls plastered with knick-knacks and pictures. The wait staff is friendly and engaging. Even with a full house, the customer service remained top notch.

Tasty half-pound burgers are served with an array of unique toppings. For example, "The Mac Daddy" is covered in homemade mac and cheese and Mary’s house sauce. The burgers are made from Angus ground beef but can be swapped for a turkey breast patty for no extra cost.

Chicken breasts and vegetarian black bean patties can be substituted for an additional charge. With two exceptions, the burgers generally cost $11.25 and come with one regular side. The portions are generous and should leave most customers satisfied.

Hamburger Mary’s also offers a performance every day of the week. Those looking for more adult-oriented entertainment may enjoy the dirty drag queen bingo on Mondays. Tuesdays are generally more family friendly with classic drag queen bingo, and Wednesdays are the most popular with trailer park drag queen bingo.

Thursdays through Sundays, the restaurant presents a variety of performances at various times. Specific themes and times can be found on their Facebook page and website.

Hamburger Mary’s may not be the place for those looking to catch up with old friends. Once the music starts, it’s difficult to hold a conversation. The music is played at a club-like level and customers themselves tend to be a bit on the rowdy side. It’s not unusual to see suburban moms go wild when Britney Spears is playing.

Hamburger Mary’s encourages the audience to enjoy themselves and participate in the Mary’s experience. Before the performances begin, waiters come by and ask if guests need dollar bills to tip the queens. Don’t hesitate to stuff cash into their bras or waistbands when they approach you.

"This is not Olive Garden, you can act like that here," said drag queen Alicia Markstone.

Hamburger Mary’s motto is "an open-air bar and grille for open-minded people." The restaurant managers are also prepared to refer people to counselors and support groups.

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Don’t Be Fooled, Vote No on Amendment 1

By Michael Moore
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There is a measure on the ballot tomorrow that meant to dece–

while it is easy to get caught up in the presidential election, there are other important decisions to make this upcoming election. The one such decision is Amendment 1.

The amendment in question concerns solar energy. It seeks to establish a state constitutional right for Floridians to own or lease solar equipment.

If that doesn’t sound fishy to you, it should. The law, as it is currently enforced, already allows for that. If you are in favor of solar power or an advocate of other alternative energy sources, voting no on something called “Rights of Electricity Consumers Regarding Solar Energy Choice” could be counterintuitive. That is not by accident. It is by design.

Think Consumers for Smart Solar sounds environmentally friendly? Think again. This is the name of the utility-backed group that is promoting the initiative. Utility-backed? Yep, that’s right. Amendment 1 is funded by energy monopolies such as Florida Power & Light, Duke Energy, Tampa Electric Co. and Gulf Power. According to the Tampa Bay Times, the utility companies have collectively spent nearly $21 million thus far in order to push the amendment through, confusing voters along the way. But why would electric companies get behind a solar initiative?

The truth of the matter is this: this amendment is going to penalize those looking to install solar equipment. The energy companies see that their business model is quickly becoming outdated. They recognize the dynamic processes involved in the continual evolution of energy distribution and worry that they will become obsolete, like the Blockbusters or the Pony Expresses of the world.

They intentionally crafted an amendment to mislead people into buying back into the system under the guise of pro-solar.

Recently, this was all but confirmed when leaked audio from a panel at the State Energy/Environmental Leadership Summit surfaced.

In the audio, Sal Nuzzo, a vice president of the James Madison Institute and consultant for many of the state’s largest utility companies, referred to the amendment as “a little bit of political jujitsu” as well as “an incredibly savvy maneuver” that would “completely negate anything that [proponents of solar] would try to do either legislatively or constitutionally down the road.”

And the truth comes out. Not only is the amendment inherently sneaky, but in addition is the fact that it was put out during the same election year that saw the passage of Amendment 4 in August, a true pro-solar initiative. Thankfully they didn’t end up landing on the same ballot. The good solar amendment has already gone and passed. All that’s left is the force.

Still don’t believe me? Let’s examine the language used in the initiative.

Amendment 1 states that it “establishes a right under Florida’s law to own or lease solar equipment installed on their property to generate electricity for their own use.” “For their own use.” Let that sink in for a moment. This amendment is going to prevent the sales of cheaper, excess electricity that was generated off the grid. In other words, you won’t actually own the solar energy that is produced by your own equipment.

Many opponents of the amendment also suggest that legislation resulting from this amendment is likely to result in surcharges for solar customers in order to connect to the power grid. More obstacles to prevent the free growth of solar. More safeguards to keep the monopolies in business.

Amendment 1 is a cheap, vulgar attempt at tricking the public. But education is empowerment. If we know what it is that we’re voting on, we can’t win.

Vote no on Amendment 1 this November. I am.

Lost The Receipt, Don’t Return Your Pets

By Indhira Suero Acosta
negatiocomcoco.com

You might think that returning the car to the dealership or that you’ve done enough by taking care of the animal while it was young, but, actually, I don’t think it’s fair just to put them down. That’s not cool or useful anymore, without finding a solution or another owner.

In today’s world, there’s a non-explicit rule that tells people to get rid of everything, and this doesn’t only include pets in shelters. From grandparents that die and buy them medicines and other things to make your pet feel better.

“Simba” is old. He no longer jumps as high as he did. He’s also fat and suffers from kidney disease. So one day, you take him back to the shelter and get a new cat.

Does this sound awful? It’s what some people do, according to the staff of a shelter I went to with one of my friends.

In this practice, even when this practice could seem “wrong” before our eyes, it’s part of our “throwaway culture.”

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You might think that returning the car to the dealership or that you’ve done enough by taking care of the animal while it was young, but, actually, I don’t think it’s fair just to put them down. That’s not cool or useful anymore, without finding a solution or another owner.

In today’s world, there’s a non-explicit rule that tells people to get rid of everything, and this doesn’t only include pets in shelters. From grandparents that die and buy them medicines and other things to make your pet feel better.

“Simba” is old. He no longer jumps as high as he did. He’s also fat and suffers from kidney disease. So one day, you take him back to the shelter and get a new cat.

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We'd Love to Hear from You

The Crow's Nest accepts letters to the editor. All submissions should be no more than 250 words. Writers must include their full name. In addition, USF faculty should include their title, department and extension. All letters are subject to editing for clarity and length. Letters can be sent to drodriguez7@mail.usf.edu with subject title “letter to the editor.”
Halloween Screams Sound From Fear Factory

By Devin Rodriguez
drodriguez7@mail.usf.edu

On Friday, the Student Life Center will transform into the Fear Factory, a haunted house of epic proportions.

From room to room, students will be served spooky themes of ghouls, ghosts and other ghastly creations. Doors open at 8 p.m., but the screams won’t stop until nearly midnight.

Harborside Activities Board (HAB) recruited over 60 volunteers from 15 different clubs and organizations to design the rooms. They will decorate offices throughout the SLC in various themes, offices include Student Government, HAB, Multicultural Affairs and the Crow’s Nest.

Anthony Greggo, the director of special events for HAB, said that this year the board is trying to up the scare factor.

“The haunted house has been a HAB event for many years, but this one is going to take it one step farther,” said Greggo. “We want to make it bigger than anyone ever imagined it in the past.”

The previous haunted houses have not received as much support. Greggo estimates that maybe 20 to 25 volunteers signed up at last year’s event. He said that volunteers are still wanted as actors and set designers for Friday.

A lot of the students latched onto the idea, Greggo said. And with the extra support, the team could put on something unique.

“This won’t be a child-friendly haunted house,” Greggo said. “We took a lot of inspiration and wanted to make it feel like Halloween Horror Nights.”

The Compass program, which provides support to incoming freshman, was instrumental in building up the Halloween tradition, according to Greggo.

This will be the last year that Greggo, a senior in biomedical science, will participate as the director of special events, and he wanted to kick off the final holiday season with a bang.

“We wanted to not only impress the student body, but show the faculty and administration what we are capable of putting together,” said Greggo.

For college students, Halloween may be less about candy and walking neighborhoods, but their continued imagination shines through by finding other ways to celebrate the holiday.

Groups participating in the haunted house are designing individual rooms, and each group received a budget of $300 to get started.

Greggo hinted that there would be students crafting a room centered on the occult and one based on the horror classic, “The Exorcist.”

Summer Muhar is a freshman marketing major. She has enlisted two other students to participate in the Career Center office upstairs.

She said her theme was a bit easier because the room doesn’t have a clear exit or entrance, but she can set up a scene through the window.

“We’ve only needed to use around $50 to make our theme work,” Muhar said.

Muhar said that she’s never been to the theme park Halloween events like Howl-O-Scream or Halloween Horror Nights, but the smaller haunted houses like Hellview Cemetery have inspired her to work on this event.

Muhar is also excited for other students to experience it.

“There are so many different themes throughout the SLC, it’s really something for everyone,” Muhar said.

Halloween is Muhar’s favorite holiday. It’s the one she looks forward to the most because it makes her feel young again, now that she’s a freshman in college.

“If my favorite holiday because it’s the one day of the year you can be something you’re not,” Muhar said.

If students are interested in joining a team, they can contact Anthony Greggo via email at agreggo@mail.usf.edu.

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