ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT, page 4

'TIS THE SEASON FOR CREEPIN’

Local artists filled Studio6526 on Saturday with skulls, masks, jewelry, and more. For the first time, Coralee Damme hosted the Hauntizaar, giving artists the chance to sell their spooky creations.

OPINION, page 6

GREENPEACE EMPLOYEES HAVE US SEEING RED

You’re not the only person tired of being pestered for your hard-earned cash money dollars. Read Brittany Cravatta’s thoughts on our (not so welcome) guests.

THE REPUBLICAN CONUNDRUM

Republican political consultant Adam Goodman recently visited USFSP to talk to students about how Republicans will react to this election season, regardless of who wins the election in November.

Student Government Elections Draw Near, Applications Now Open

By Devin Rodriguez
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Student Government announced changes to the application process for senate in the upcoming election.

Now students won’t need signatures to qualify for the position. Instead, applicants qualify by default.

The decision to streamline the process came after dismal student turnout in the last election. Only 340 students voted in the previous election for 10 senate candidates. All 10 received the votes necessary to qualify for the position.

There are 15 seats in the student senate open for the elections, and students interested in applying can download the official senate candidate packets.

Packets for senate are due on Friday, Oct. 21, by no later than 2 p.m. They should be submitted to the Election Rules Committee in SLC 1500.

Phrasing in the packet still states that students need signatures in order to qualify, but this information is incorrect and has yet to be updated.

Students will be informed if they are accepted as a candidate by 9 p.m. on Oct. 24. Campaigning for votes will begin Tuesday, Oct. 25. Candidates applying must have at least six credit hours as an undergraduate or four credit hours as a graduate, and must maintain at least an overall GPA of 2.0.

Senators in Student Government must attend general assembly meetings held Mondays, and will serve on at least two committees. Meetings normally last about an hour, so students’ time commitment is at least three hours total. The student senate president said that there isn’t one exclusive reason why students haven’t stayed at USFSP.

“We have people who start here and decide to finish in Tampa. We have students that start and then drop out, which is mainly financial,” Tadlock said.

“When people drop out, they disappear from the records and even if they come back to finish it still counts as a departure and counts against you in the numbers.”

In an attempt to keep students, the university has implemented new programs to get students involved on campus.

However, according to Tadlock, these programs and events fail to grab the attention of commuter students.

CONTINUE READING, PAGE 2

University Seeks to Improve 36 Percent Graduation Rate

By Jonah Hinebaugh
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The graduation rate at USF St. Petersburg is just 36 percent, according to a 2014 rating by the U.S. Department of Education. USF Tampa’s graduation rate, at 65.2 percent, is significantly higher.

The national average, determined by the Department of Education, over a six year period for 4-year degree seeking students is 60 percent, placing USFSP at a significant disadvantage.

Graduation rates are one of the primary factors in determining the ranking of colleges by U.S. News & World Report. Graduating high school students ranked it as the fifth most important factor in determining which university they would attend, according to the American Council on Education (ACE). But there is criticism for how graduation rates are calculated for universities across the country.

ACE, in a 2011 report, stated that part-time students, transfer students and students that enroll mid-year are not used to calculate these rates.

In other words, only students who enroll in college as full-time degree seekers and finish their degree at the same institution within a prescribed period of time are counted.

For many higher education institutions, the graduation rate is a number that represents success, and much of the public, policy makers and the media use this seemingly simple tool to evaluate schools.

Dr. Martin Tadlock, the regional vice chairman of academic affairs, said that there isn’t one exclusive reason why students haven’t stayed at USFSP.

“We have people who start here and decide to finish in Tampa. We have students that start and then drop out, which is mainly financial,” Tadlock said.

“When people drop out, they disappear from the records and even if they come back to finish it still counts as a departure and counts against you in the numbers.”

In an attempt to keep students, the university's...
Donald Trump is a large pill that the Republican Party’s finding difficult to swallow. Amidst controversy over a 2005 video released by the Washington Post, where Trump is captured by a hot mic saying lewd phrases, which seemed to be insulting sexual assault, many Republican politicians are withdrawing their support. House Speaker Paul Ryan said he was sickened by the remarks, according to the New York Times. According to USA Today, 26 percent of Republican governors and members of Congress are refusing to endorse the GOP nominee. This remarkable turn of events is the first of its kind in modern American history, and it seems clear that the Republican Party will need to adapt for the future, whether Trump takes the election or not. Whatever happens, the Republican Party for sure, will never be the same,” said Adam Goodman, the principal director for The Victory Group, a Republican consulting firm. Goodman has consulted with over 300 Republican politicians over 35 years. He’s been named one of the “most influential Floridians” by Time Magazine and has appeared on CNN and FOX News as a political commentator. Goodman spoke to a journalism class on campus Oct. 11 about his work in politics. “We [Republican] need a long conversation amongst ourselves to figure out what we need to do next, because these are the situations that we thought this would play out,” Goodman said. Trump’s voter base cannot be ignored by party leaders, Goodman said. If Trump loses the election, the Republicans will need to address and bring in those disenfranchised voters. To ignore them in the future would split the Republican demographic in half. Post-debate polls have Republican voters Trump up to 83 percent, up from 60 percent the week before, according to the Washington Post. Goodman said that the chances Trump will bring to the Republican Party may help improve things. “Trump, in an unexpected way, will really be helpful getting the Party to a better place moving forward,” Goodman said. “One-by-one, they start to say, whoa, oh no. Two, they will push them to be more moderate, more inclusive than they have been, for survival.” More moderate conservative voices have been washed away by Trump’s rhetoric. Former presidential candidates Jeb Bush and John Kasich ran on a more fundamentally conservative platform, until being ousted from the competition by Trump. Trump explained, doesn’t always act as a Republican. Like Bernie Sanders, who ran as a Democratic candidate but whose platform could be characterized more as of a socialist independent movement, Trump inspires an anti-status quo sentiment. “Both [Trump and Sanders] have huge followings, so how do you explain that?” Goodman asked. “What do you do with followings like that, with movements like that? You create a similar movement, and not through the conventional party structure, which I think would be hard for both sides. If I was younger, I would create a new political party today.” It’s clear that in this election the two third-party candidates are little more than piperdowns, both polling less than 15 percent, disqualifying them from participating in the presidential debates. Goodman wouldn’t hazard to guess which presidential candidate would win. He said that, so far, he hasn’t been able to predict much about this unique election. He said the meteoric rise of Sanders was very interesting, but doesn’t know if Clinton will clinch the election. But, he did have some reassuring words for people afraid of a Trump candidacy. When asked if the country needs to be worried about what critics have called a “political authoritarian,” Goodman said: “No, first we have checks and balances that are very strong in this system. Number two, I think Trump in reality would bring in a bipartisan team. They would not be partisan and it would not be logical to bring a totally partisan team. I think he would enjoy being the frontman and allow the real work to be done by real folks.” On Oct. 12, the Washington Post reported that Republican leaders were returning to Trump, even after accusations of sexual assault and assault reported by the New York Times. Darryl Glenn, a candidate for Colorado’s senate seat said that Trump should step aside after the Post’s video went live. “America cannot have a man who speaks this way about women be the face of our country to the free world,” Glenn said. But after backlash from Trump supporters, Glenn recanted his comment. “Donald Trump did what he absolutely had to,” Glenn told Fox. “I think he reset his campaign.” The Post reported that Marco Rubio, who is running for a Florida senate seat, said that he would continue his support for the candidate, after a few days of silence. “I wish we had a better choice,” Rubio said. “But I do not want Hillary to be our next president. And therefore my position has not changed.” Articles by the L.A. Times, the Washington Post and Tampa Bay Times were used in this report.

Republican Party Faces Shake-Ups Before Election

By Devin Rodriguez

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“WE STARTED THE FIRST-YEAR COMPASS PROGRAM, we’ve got student success classes to help [students] understand how to deal with college life, we have an orientation and we have the more opportunities for students to engage in activities,” Tadlock said. “What people forget is we only have a little over 500 residential students on campus. Everybody else is a commuter or online.”

As of Fall 2016, 62.6 percent of first-year students live on campus at USFSP, compared to USF Tampa, which has 69.7 percent of freshmen living on campus. “When you have 80 percent of your students that are online or commuting, that’s not Tampa. We aren’t USF Tampa or FSU, where the majority of their students are residential,” said Tadlock.

Sophomore psychology major Sadrandre Jackson works as an orientation leader, a Compass peer coach and tour guide. He thinks these programs serve to benefit first-year students. “Our orientation sessions are quite amazing, and serve a purpose of introducing students to campus life and resources,” Jackson said. “The diversity skits are my favorite part because they give students a taste of potential real life situations that can happen during college. Our orientation sessions really do give students a holistic experience of what our university has to offer,” said Jackson.

Jackson thinks Compass is also beneficial for first-year students to have as many resources available to them. “Compass has two main focuses: peer coaching and programming,” Jackson said. “I think the program does a great job of using these two facets as components to engage first-year students, which can ultimately influence a student’s decision to stay at USFSP. Compass plays a huge role in giving first-year students a solid foundation, which students can build upon while maximizing the resources that the hard workers of Compass provide.”

Jackson believes the university hasn’t had enough time to see what works for the students compared to FSU, which has a 76.1 percent graduation rate. “I think we have to take into account how long each university has been established, and how each student body views opportunities. FSU is one of the oldest institutions in the State University System of Florida, while USFSP is about 50 years old,” Jackson said. “They’ve had more of an opportunity to see what works best for students which is reflected in their graduation rates, and although we have come a long way, we have a long way to go,” said Jackson. “Nevertheless, I can totally see our graduation rate growing in the future.”

In an e-mail, Tadlock mentioned a proposed Master of Science in Conservation Biology. The program is designed for students interested in pursuing careers in conservation research, doctoral entry, and management of natural resources, with a special focus in southwest Florida. “When you start a new degree program, the program is directly connected to career opportunities that exist and we have to justify it on that basis to get it approved. So if there’s a huge demand for people graduating from that degree program, it makes it more important for that student to complete,” Tadlock said.

Articles by the L.A. Times, the Washington Post and Tampa Bay Times were used in this report.

Don’t miss the next issue of THE CROW’S NEST! Be sure to subscribe to the print edition or our online newsletter. For more information, visit www.fsufamily.com.

A Fresh Welcome: Sophomore Sadrandre Jackson holds up a personalized paddle during an orientation session over summer so the future students are a part of his group can find him. There were three orientation sessions for first year students starting in the fall.

Even with the new programs the university has put into effect, they are still looking for areas to improve. “We are doing a study, that we commissioned, that is going to be in progress very soon to find out all the different reasons students leave to see if we are missing something,” Tadlock said.
Charlie Justice Fights Political Outsider For Seat On County Commission Board

By Devin Rodriguez
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Four members of the Pinellas County Commission were up for re-election this year. But only one drew an opponent.

Charlie Justice, a Democrat who served 16 years in the legislature before election to the commission four years ago, takes pride in his record as an elected official.

But his opponent, Republican businessman Mike Mikurak, calls him a “career politician” who has not served his constituents well.

Mikurak says Justice and the commission have not done enough to stimulate small business. And he sharply criticizes the commission for a controversial 2013 vote to block a luxury condominium project in Safety Harbor.

The county commissioners unanimously voted to block the Richman Group of Florida’s plan to build the complex against the advice of their county attorney. Richman sued the county for $16.5 million; Justice expects the county to win an appeal against the lawsuit, but the outcome is unclear.

“It’s an issue Justice’s opponent touts as bad business. But Justice said he doesn’t regret sticking with the residents who opposed the change.

“I will have no problem sleeping tonight knowing that we stood up for the people of Safety Harbor. They didn’t want that apartment complex,” Justice said.

Justice, 48, is a long-time St. Petersburg resident and a graduate of USF St. Petersburg. He graduated from Boca Ciega High School and earned an associate degree at St. Petersburg College. He received a bachelor’s at USF and his master’s at USFSP.

Justice began working for USF-SP as a special assistant to Bill Heller where he oversaw grants and connected students to the community, he said. As USFSP grew, Justice took on an advising role for incoming freshmen and undergraduate students. He said in that role he learned a lot about the state laws that impacted student education.

Justice used that knowledge to run for the House of Representatives. He pursued a seat in Tallahassee because he wanted to be more involved and have direct input over decisions that affected his community. He became a state senator to be closer to decision making.

It wasn’t all success. Being a Democrat in an overwhelmingly Republican Legislature leads to political friction.

“You spend more of your time stopping the bad stuff than you do creating the good,” Justice said.

The economic recession in 2008 led to massive spending cuts to government programs and aid, tightening partisan politics.

After a single term in the state Senate, Justice left to challenge longtime incumbent C.W. Bill Young for a Congressional seat in 2010 but lost.

Justice then took a position with a leadership program, where he focused on connecting students with the St. Petersburg community. Through extracurricular activities and volunteer programs, he urged students to get involved.

During his two years with the program, he met Allison Nall, an alumna of the leadership program. Nall is now Justice’s campaign assistant. She said she admired Justice’s concentration on community outreach.

“With Charlie, it feels more community-based than about politics. For me, it’s clear that his loyalty is to his constituency,” Nall said.

This is the first campaign Nall has worked for, and the experience has her excited for the future. Nall, 26, graduated in 2012 with a bachelor’s in environmental studies and a master’s in environmental policy. She met Justice while working for a leadership program focused on connecting students to the St. Petersburg community.

Through extracurricular activities and volunteer programs, she said she learned a lot about the community and has a lot of grassroots support, they know he’s placed a lot of time and passion into his relationship with the community.

“With Charlie, it feels more community-based than about politics. For me, it’s clear that his loyalty is to his constituency,” Nall said.

This will be the second term as county commissioner for Justice. When he first ran, Justice considered the county plagued with infighting with a large partisan divide. After his election, Justice voted to restore fluoride to the county’s water system, which had been removed in 2011 by the previous commissioners. Restoring fluoride was a move that increased public health, Justice said.

During a debate at St. Petersburg College’s Seminole campus on Oct. 15, Justice said that one of his biggest achievements as commissioner was establishing a contract between Emergency Medical Services and 18 firefighter providers.

“We brought consensus to an important issue: Who arrives when you call 911,” Justice said.

Justice played a role in a contract settlement after a decades-long dispute over funding to emergen

cy medical services. Voted on in 2014, the three-year contract was unanimously approved by the St. Petersburg City Council and County Commission.

At the debate, Mikurak said that the people of Pinellas County deserve to be treated like customers instead of taxpayers, that they should be given the most benefits for the lowest cost.

The Republican candidate moved to St. Petersburg 16 years ago and serves on a number of county boards, including the board of directors for the BayCare Health System and the Juvenile Welfare Board.

Justice held a fundraiser in the St. Petersburg downtown restaurant Bella Brava on Sept. 28, where he announced that he received support from the city’s fire department. At the event, Justice repeated one of his staple campaign slogans.

“This area is my past,” Justice said. “It’s my present, where I live with my wife and two beautiful daughters. And hopefully, it will be their future, but the only way to make that happen is to work together.”

Moving forward, if elected, Justice wants to continue his efforts in Lealman, an unincorporated area in Pinellas County. He played a large role in designating Lealman a community redevelopment area, which opens it to tax revenue funding opportunities.

Justice recently finished with a farm share project in Lealman, where he and a number of volunteers passed out fresh vegetables, beans and grains to people living in that area.

“It’s virtually a food desert in Lealman,” Justice said. “We have a lot of work to do in that area, right now it’s highly impoverished, and I won’t stop until that needle moves much higher.”

“With Charlie, it feels more community-based than about politics. For me, it’s clear that his loyalty is to his constituency,” Nall said.

Mike Mikurak (right) a Republican businessman running against Justice, is speaking to Bill Jonson (left) Vice Mayor of Clearwater. Mikurak said Justice is a “career politician” and taxpayers deserve the best benefit for the lowest cost.
New Halloween Event Features Local Artists

By Nicole Carroll
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With a showcase of raven, skulls and monsters, Coralette Damme’s Hauntizaar is a Halloween enthusiast’s heaven. For the first time, Damme hosted Hauntizaar at Studio@620 on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Studio@620 is a gallery that focuses on showcasing local art. The studio holds events throughout the year, including: plays, exhibitions and craft fairs.

Damme organized another event called Holizaar, a winter holiday art fair that she created, for the past nine years.

This year, she decided to host an event for Halloween, her favorite holiday. Damme also mixed in a bit of Day of the Dead flair.

“I thought, ‘Why don’t I just make my own party?’” Damme said.

More than 200 people attended Damme’s first Hauntizaar, making it a success in her book.

Damme allowed other local artists to apply for a booth at the Hauntizaar through a website and she hand-picked the artists she wanted to participate.

Throughout the year, Damme’s art aesthetic is inspired by Halloween. Her moniker, The Crafty Hag, and her art is inspired by Halloween as well.

Her signature crafts are collages of spooky cartoons. Best friend duo Sami Denny and Andrea Capitano run Sugar Lagoon together. Denny started Sugar Lagoon five years ago, creating crafts based on anime characters.

When Capitano joined her friend five years ago, she brought a different flavor to Sugar Lagoon. Capitano has always been into the darker side of things. Capitano and Denny thought that their creepy craft approach could reach a broader audience.

Sugar Lagoon Nightfall is the dark-inspired branch of Sugar Lagoon. There are items like shadow boxes, shrines, soaps and jewelry. All of the pieces are one of a kind.

Damme said that after seeing the impressive turnout, she’s excited for next year’s event.

“Since this event has been so successful, it seems like there is enough interest to do it again,” Damme said.

Wellness Week Teaches Students Importance of Self-Care

By Evy Guerra
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Midterms, research papers and late night studying make it hard to put a priority on your health as a college student.

Hanah Morris, a senior majoring in psychology, knows all too well the effects that stress can have on the body.

“As we’re approaching adulthood, we don’t really think about our eating habits, if we’ve exercised lately and checking in with our mental and emotional wellbeing can be put on the back burner,” she said.

Morris decided to change her lifestyle after noticing herself fall into a pattern of unhealthy decisions.

She switched her habits and joined P.E.E.R.S., which stands for Providing Education, Empowerment, Resources & Support, to help others do the same.

“I wanted to give back to our student body,” Morris said. “I wanted to show that you can be a college student who develops healthy habits.”

P.E.E.R.S. is a student organization that focuses on providing educational health issues. It also works with the Wellness Center to put on Wellness Week.

“Every semester we host Wellness Week to remind students about the importance of taking care of their overall health and well-being,” said Victoria Beltran, who joined the Wellness Center in 2013 as the health educator.

Morris said that learning how to handle the stress changes everything.

“When we’re put under extreme amounts of stress, it makes the biggest difference when we know how to deal with it in a healthy way,” she said.

Wellness Week is usually planned around the midterm schedule and this year it begins on Monday, Oct. 17. Another Wellness Week will take place in the spring semester, right before spring break.

“We plan it to coincide with a time in the semester where stress can be high,” said Beltran.

Throughout the events and week, students can expect to get to know the Wellness Center and their staff.

Beltran said she hopes students will feel a bit of relief this week.

“Students should take this as a renewed priority of self-care and knowledge of local and on-campus resources that can help them with their health, wellness needs and goals,” she said.

The week is aimed toward all students.

“They also meet local community and resource communities that can help all meet their health and wellness needs, since many of our students are commuters,” Beltran said.

Wellness Week will also include the Domestic Violence Awareness Month event on Thursday, Oct. 20 to honor survivors.

“We also host the Clothesline Project with CASA. It’s the most powerful and moving event of the week,” Beltran said. “There will also be free food and massages.”

P.E.E.R.S. volunteers for every Clothesline Project with CASA.

The student organization will host an alcohol free tailgate for the USF vs. Temple football game.

Stress is the number one health concern students face. Beltran said it has been that way for years. Wellness Week will educate students on how to handle it in a healthier way.

“The methods for stress prevention and management aren’t anything new, but for them to work, students have to use the resources we offer and practice these methods on their own in order to effectively prevent negative stress and manage stress when it does occur,” she said.

Beltran emphasized that students need to take care of themselves.

“Health issues don’t randomly happen when you get older. In fact, almost all health concerns can be traced back to habits and health practices you do now,” Beltran said.

Beltran advises students to visit their health professional and ask any questions they might have.

The Wellness Center at SLC 2200 offers appointment scheduling for students. Walk-ins are allowed in emergency situations.
Review: Local Bar Makes Anticipated Return

By Michael Moore Jr.
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Don’t let the construction fool you: the Independent is back and open for business.

While Green Bench Brewing Co. celebrated its three-year anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 8, the Independent opened its doors at 1049 Central Ave. for the first time since 2012.

The bar is largely credited with kicking off the craft beer craze in the area. When it originally opened downtown in April 2005, where the Cask and Ale now stands, St. Petersburg was devoid of the numerous bars and breweries that are now essential to the heart and soul of the city’s booming beer culture.

To say that the Independent was ahead of the curve would be an understatement.

The bar shut its doors in 2012. Veronica Danko, one of the original owners, has been focused on her Tampa location for the past few years.

But nostalgia is in style and quality isn’t soon forgotten. The Indy, as it is affectionately known by its regulars, is now back by popular demand.

“I missed having it here and people kept asking me to bring it back,” Danko said.

After a period of wondering whether or not the Indy still had a place among the ever-evolving craft beer landscape of today’s St. Pete, Danko eventually decided to give it a go.

“We try to create a place where people can come and feel at home. A place where everything is approachable and is a neighborhood comfort,” Danko explained.

Danko set Oct. 1 as the date for a soft opening due to Zwanze Day, an annual celebration held by the Belgian brewery Brasserie Cantillon, which sees them brew a small batch of experimental beer and release it at select locations.

Danko made sure to include customers from the Indy’s beginning days in the opening celebration, inviting them to get the first look at the new location.

“There is no plan to add food to the menu at this location. Private beer tastings are available for small groups. In addition to beer, the bar also serves wine.

The Tampa location will remain open. While Danko is spending time at that location, Dan Schmidt, who worked with the original St. Pete Indy, and Ryan Fouché, will run day-to-day operations.

The Tampa location will remain open. While Danko is spending time at that location, Dan Schmidt, who worked with the original St. Pete Indy, and Ryan Fouché, will run day-to-day operations.

Artisan Ales or Last Snow by one of Florida’s favorite breweries, Funky Buddha.

Still, if your taste in beer is of the international variety, you can’t pick a better spot in St. Pete than the Independent. This is where many of its regulars are in the mood for something a bit more common, but also stellar, a Flanders red ale, or perhaps Weihenstephaner Hefeweizen. If you are in the mood for something a bit more common, but also stellar, a St. Bernardus Abt 12 might be just the thing.

The staff is equally impressive. The Indy has a feel that is all its own. But dim lighting, tasteful music and an unmistakable ambiance aren’t all that the bar offers.

The Independent touts itself as St. Pete’s “Original World Class Beer Hall.”

It lives up to the moniker.

With 25 rotating taps which feature an assortment of local, national and international beers, there is something for everybody. The beers available range from easy-to-find to nearly impossible to locate.

If you are thinking locally and want a taste that you already know you love, maybe a Copperhead Night Swim Porter or 4 Bars of Bitterness from Angry Chair will do.

Want something a bit harder to find, but still not so exotic? On the right night you might stumble upon heavily-sought-after national treasures such as Bomb! by Prairie Artisan Ales or Last Snow by one of Florida’s favorite breweries.

“Every day I run into people that I haven’t seen in years and they’re so happy. As an owner, that’s just so rewarding. It’s been like a family reunion,” she said.

Pouring Pints: Richard Simmons, 30, started working for Independent three months ago. He is the wine director for the bar and Jug & Bottle Dept., a premier bottle shop in Tampa.

“Pouring Pints: Richard Simmons, 30, started working for Independent three months ago. He is the wine director for the bar and Jug & Bottle Dept., a premier bottle shop in Tampa.”

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Pouring Pints: Richard Simmons, 30, started working for Independent three months ago. He is the wine director for the bar and Jug & Bottle Dept., a premier bottle shop in Tampa. Simmons, pictured, is pouring a Hofbrau Dunkel, a dark German Lager from Munich.

Pouring Pints: Richard Simmons, 30, started working for Independent three months ago. He is the wine director for the bar and Jug & Bottle Dept., a premier bottle shop in Tampa. Simmons, pictured, is pouring a Hofbrau Dunkel, a dark German Lager from Munich.

While bottle selection is currently limited, it will be increasing significantly in the coming months.

If you are thinking locally and want a taste that you already know you love, maybe a Copperhead Night Swim Porter or 4 Bars of Bitterness from Angry Chair will do.

No plans to add food to the menu at this location. Private beer tastings are available for small groups. In addition to beer, the bar also serves wine.

The Tampa location will remain open. While Danko is spending time at that location, Dan Schmidt, who worked with the original St. Pete Indy, and Ryan Fouché, will run day-to-day operations.

There are a lot of great breweries and bars in town, but one thing is clear: there will always be room for the Independent.
The Crow's Nest

The Crow's Nest is committed to providing its readers with news relevant to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and its surrounding community. The Crow's Nest abides by the highest ethical standards and focuses on stories that help readers make informed decisions on current issues. We rely on letters to the editor for reporting and strive to uphold the highest standards of journalism. Opinions in this newspaper do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or student body.

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More than Makeup

Nikki Sawyer says that people who shame others for wearing makeup may not understand why women would wear it or its significance. “Makeup is my art. I might not paint the best pictures or sculpture to perfection, but my face is my canvas.”

Makeup Shaming

By Nikki Sawyer

Junior Journalism and Media Studies Major

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In Issue 6, the Crow’s Nest published a well-written opinion piece discussing Alicia Keys and her decision to not wear makeup, as well as why some women choose to do the same. While I respect and understand that point of view, let’s discuss the other side.

Women are under enormous aesthetic pressure. Whether it comes from the media’s unrealistic expectations, family, friends, ourselves, or whoever, I agree that the pressure is there.

But consider this - some of us wear makeup because we enjoy it. Some of us love smoking our eyes out, contouring until our hands ache and splurging at Sephora. That’s completely fine. That’s our business, no one else’s.

I don’t wing my liner and highlight my face to the point where I’m essentially glowing to impress anyone. I don’t apply false eyelashes or liquid lipstick because I want people to think better of me. I do it for myself, my enjoyment, self-expression and to unleash creativity. And hey, if it makes me feel a little better, so be it. Self-love is important.

I, like others, do these things because it’s fun. Makeup is my art. I might paint the best pictures or sculpture to perfection, but my face is my canvas.

My self-confidence has nothing to do with my decision to wear makeup. Sometimes I wake up late and just do my eyebrows. Sometimes I don’t wear makeup for a month. In the past, my makeup however I’m feeling that day.

I’m not going to let anyone make me feel worse because I may or may not have beauty products on my skin.

We are still ourselves when we wear makeup. It’s not a facade. My education, life experiences and everything else about me is still in tact regardless of how my face looks.

Not every makeup-free woman does so because of religious reasons or because their skin might be ultra sensitive and can’t handle it. Think about it - we brace the world with “painted” faces. Do you ever realize how much criticism that comes from? People criticize how our eyelash is blend-ed, whether our foundation matches, or if our eyeliner is smeared, and more.

At that point, it isn’t just a judgment on how we look, it’s a judgment on our artistic skills and abilities, sometimes that some people take more seriously and more to heart.

If not wearing makeup makes you feel stronger, that’s nice, but my makeup doesn’t make me feel weak.

Of course there is the advantage of being able to cover up dark circles, or hide a zit. But it’s not something to complain over or make someone feel bad about. That doesn’t even give anyone the right to act like a pushy jerk and imply that I have deep-seated self-esteem issues. Loving makeup and art does not equate to shallowness, insecurity or conformity. My beauty routine just differs from yours. Different doesn’t mean bad and no one’s better.

As women, we should work together instead of tearing each other down. Women supporting women is important, especially in our current times. Loving makeup and art does not mean that you are not contributions. Our artistic skills and abilities are not shallow or bad and no one’s better.

Greenpeace Seeks Saviors, Needs to Peace Out

By Brittany Cravatta

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Since fall last year, I’ve noticed something strange occurring on campus.

Every week, there are people wearing green T-shirts standing on the corner of University Way and Sixth Avenue S holding students as they pass by.

They work for Greenpeace, a non-governmental environmental organization that aims to “ensure the ability of the Earth to nurture life in all of its diversity.”

Greenpeace has many strong beliefs on environmental issues such as deforestation, overfishing, anti-nuclear issues, climate change and commercial whaling.

They peacefully protest to the public and raise money to help with their causes. However, some of their beliefs are a little extreme and stir some controversy.

These environmental activists strategically stalk the same areas on the USF St. Petersburg campus, stopping students to attempt to convince them to donate money. Normally, they stand in front of the parking garage to grab commuters or in front of the SLC.

I know not the only one who is sick of this. The first time that I was stopped by a Greenpeace advocate, a young woman mentioned saving endangered manatees.

From what she was telling me, it sounded nice. I would love to help make a difference, I was even willing to volunteer.

I simply told her that I respected what they were doing, but I didn’t have the money to donate every month. The following day, I saw the advocates again, and this time a young guy tried to give me the same rehearsed speech.

I had to tell him that someone else had already given me the information that I needed to know about manatees and that I wasn’t able to donate. This continued happening on a daily basis, and it got to the point where I felt like I was being harassed and solicited for money.

It comes to a point where when ever I see Greenpeace advocates on the same corner and I try to think of ways to avoid them, I pretend that I am talking on the phone or that I am late for class.

Why is Greenpeace trying to promote their organization on a college campus? Do they think students can’t make a difference for the environment, one would think they’d welcome your volunteer offer for with open arms.

Instead, they turn me down because I can’t afford to make monthly donations to them. Just because I don’t have the money to “help” the environment doesn’t mean that I care about our planet.

I personally feel violated by these people making it appear to solicit money. I know Greenpeace is just an organization looking for donations, but there are other ways to promote besides standing outside for hours and harassing people for money.

If they are looking for people to contribute to their beliefs and causes, I suggest that a college campus is not the best place to do it.

Exhausting Environmentalists: People from Greenpeace during the Anti-EPR demonstration in Tokyo. Greenpeace is a non-governmental organization who tries to protect the environment. Its employees have been lousing the campus for funding sign-ups.

Opinion

Greenpeace Seeks Saviors, Needs to Peace Out

Greenpeace is looking for peo ple to help with their cause, they’re not targeting the correct audience. They should target people who have more money to give and share the same beliefs their ideolo gies.

Greenpeace shouldn’t focus heavily on donations instead of actually taking action. If they really wanted to make a difference for the environment, one would think they’d welcome your volunteer offer for with open arms. Instead, they turn me down because I can’t afford to make monthly donations.

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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.”

PLease Recycle
Chihuly Exhibit Moves To Central

By Ryan Callihan
ryancallihan@mail.usf.edu

Dale Chihuly’s picture hangs at the entrance of his reassembled collection inside a new building off Central Avenue. Greeting attendees with a smile, an eye patch and two watches, the visionary who pioneered blown glass as fine art invites viewers to marvel at his life’s work.

On Saturday, Oct. 15, the Chihuly Collection reopened at 720 Central Ave., right next to the Morean Arts Center. The Morean Arts Center owns the Chihuly Collection. Andy Schlauch, the executive director of the Chihuly Collection, explained that Chihuly’s work is featured in more than 200 museums, but St. Petersburg is home to one of the only dedicated exhibitions.

“Here, we’re just dedicated to one artist,” said Schlauch. “The previous exhibit location closed on Aug. 1 to move the installations to the new building. To install Chihuly’s complex works of art, the Morean Art Center enlisted an art installation company called Denny Park Fine Arts. The company worked closely with Chihuly to understand the process.

Chihuly’s larger works, such as “Ruby Red Icicle Chandelier” and “Tumbleweeds,” are made with a stainless steel armature and wire. The pieces must be put together one by one, but they aren’t numbered. Instead, they’re labeled “top,” “middle” and “bottom.” “It looks different every time it’s installed. That’s part of Chihuly’s aesthetic,” said Schlauch. “He likes it to be malleable.”

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The increased area gives visitors more room to digest the larger works of art. Construction on the Collection’s new home is not yet completed. In January, the Morean Arts Center hopes to open a 4,200 square foot enclosed event space outside.

“Lost Marbles: Dale Chihuly’s collection of blown glass sculptures has moved from the 400 Beach Drive block to 720 Central Ave. The exhibit reopened on Oct. 15 and is now much closer to The Morean Arts Center. Pictured is Chihuly’s “Float Boat” installation. Below, from left to right, are Chihuly’s work the “Fiori di Como,” the “Sapphire Neon Tumbleweed” and “Persians” glowing against a wall. The artwork is breathtaking and varied throughout.”

“Devlin Rodriguez | The Crow’s Nest

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