Casino boat prepares for high rollers

By Heath Hooper
Contributing Writer

Its yellow and blue hull peeks from behind the marine science building as though it were some kind of cruise ship for the color-blind. It is the Ocean Jewel of St. Petersburg, and it's about to go out if its way to get St. Petersburg residents seeing green.

The ship will be the largest gambling vessel operating out of Florida. At 450 feet in length, it is 10 feet longer than its closest competitor, the Ambassador II of Cape Canaveral. Its seven decks can accommodate over 2,000 passengers, though with turnover, employees expect to see 8,000 to 10,000 customers per day.

The actual casino covers three decks, is over 500 feet in length, and has all the standard games one would find in Las Vegas casinos, including an entire room dedicated to poker and over 1,000 slot and video poker machines.

The ship will feature a VIP lounge, two bars and a restaurant, along with a number of other amenities. It even features a below-deck jail for those who have a bit too much fun while aboard.

By Irena Milasinovic
Senior Staff Writer

Parking, always a sensitive subject at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, has become more complicated.

Parking meters have arrived on campus.

The weekend before the fall semester started, the city installed parking meters on the west side of First Street South between Fifth and Sixth avenues South, on both sides of Second Street South between Fifth and Sixth avenues South, and on both sides of Sixth Avenue South between First and Third streets South.

Their installation was considered early last year when the university hired a consultant to resolve its short-term parking needs, and the measure was approved by the city council earlier this year.

The Ocean Jewel, a gambling ship expected to sail from the Port of St. Petersburg located next to the university, sped up the installment process, said Phil Oropesa, parking manager for the City of St. Petersburg. The cruise ship is expected to have over 300 employees and anywhere from 500 to 2,000 guests daily.

Oropesa said that if the city hadn't put the meters in by Aug. 23, the first day of classes, students would have had a hard time finding parking spots.

"It would put a strain on the street system," he said. "This way it works well."

The three-hour limit means that drivers can park all day without getting a $17.50 ticket.

Rusty Richmond, the university’s coordinator of parking services, said she was also concerned with the arrival of the meters. "It always a sensitive subject at the university," she said.

Freshman enrollment drops due to USF application quota

USF St. Petersburg is getting more and more crowded, but enrollment numbers for this fall speak otherwise.

By Brittany Fenske
Staff Writer

Over the past three years, student population at USF St. Petersburg has grown steadily. But this year, overall enrollment increased by only 0.5 percent and freshman enrollment dropped by 30 percent.

Frank Hoengarten, USF St. Petersburg's dean of enrollment services, is keeping a positive attitude about the new numbers.

Freshman applications from USF St. Petersburg and USF Tampa are collected at USF Tampa, which stopped accepting applications for incoming freshmen because the university had met its quota.

The problem was that USF St. Petersburg still had numerous openings. USF Tampa determined the university's quota by combining the applications from both campuses, not by determining separate quotas for each campus.

"It wasn't good for us because we wanted more freshmen, but Tampa did what was right for them," Hoengarten said. "The St. Petersburg campus is working on getting more autonomy from Tampa so that we would be in control of our own admissions process."

USF St. Petersburg recruiter Roy Calihan said that was not the only issue that may have affected freshman enrollment. He said the university has become more academically selective.

Although there is no minimum GPA or SAT score that freshman applicants
USF played role in parking meter installation

By Jim Grinaker

University officials approached the City of St. Petersburg about installing parking meters near the campus because meters would force students to buy more parking permits, and would generate revenue for the construction of a parking garage.

But you would never know about USF St. Petersburg's involvement if you read university press releases or the Sept. 5 St. Petersburg Times article about the parking meters.

An Aug. 18 press release said "the City of St. Petersburg will be adding short-term parking meters and changing the parking structure adjacent to campus, effective Aug. 23."

Rusty Richmond, USF St. Petersburg's coordinator of parking services, told the St. Petersburg Times that the school had nothing to do with the decision to install the meters.

If you read those articles, you would think that installing the meters was the city's idea and the poor university was powerless to stop it.

The school's public relations people have sugar-coated this issue so much that it begins to look more like deception. It is an insult to students and in no one's best interest.

Such misleading articles don't fool anyone and only foster a culture of mistrust and resentment. It is better to openly acknowledge awkward or embarrassing facts instead of sweeping them under the rug.

This is emblematic of the greater problem of the university's unwillingness to look at both sides of the issue and listen to dissenting voices.

Some of the revenue from the greater number of parking permits sold will go to the building of a new parking garage, and the direct revenue from the meters will go to the city. It seems like it's a win-win situation in the short term. But it will create real hardships for some students on tight budgets.

USF St. Petersburg student Ken Hawe said he parked at Publix in the University Village plaza because he couldn't afford a school parking permit. "I then got towed at $125," Hawe said. "That was one week's pay. Then I just gave up and bought a pass at $112 with money I really didn't have. That was another week's pay. It's like either I buy a parking pass or I buy food. It sucks."

In the long term, it could even be a loss for everyone. By subsidizing free parking to encourage education, the city would probably have gained far more in tax dollars once students went on to higher-paying jobs. Educated citizens also attract better companies to town, which in turn would pay more taxes.

University and city officials said the meters and three-hour time limits are needed to stop Ocean Jewel patrons from parking at USF St. Petersburg all day.

But after figuring in the time it takes to park and walk to class, it's almost impossible for students with three-hour classes to not exceed the limit.

It could also hurt the students' learning experience because rather than thinking about what their professor is saying in class, they'll be thinking about having to rush out and feed the meter.

Pawing this off on the city holds little weight. If the university had not wanted meters, they would not be here. When Bill Heller was still head of USF St. Petersburg, the city pushed to have meters installed but agreed to keep parking meters off campus. Something has changed since then.

I think many university officials who make these decisions can afford gold parking or their own reserved spots. They are losing solidarity with students.

There are two sides of the issue that need to be heard.
Multiple hurricane threats keep campus in state of alert

By Heath Hooper
Contributing Writer

It's been a rough month for Florida residents. Three hurricanes crashed into the state within a month of one another, causing billions in damages and forcing thousands to flee their communities.

But USF St. Petersburg was well-prepared. On Aug. 13, just in time for Hurricane Charley, the school released its Emergency Operation Plan for 2004.

Updated yearly, the plan is a series of guidelines that lay out the procedures for dealing with all foreseeable situations, such as hurricanes, that may arise during the school year.

Abdul Nasser, vice-chairman of administration and finance, said the plan proved its effectiveness through all three of the storms. While school did close for two days during Hurricane Frances, the impact of the storms has been minimal. Charley passed by with no damage recorded, and Frances' impact was mostly cosmetic.

The storms have caused a number of difficulties for USF students.

"I missed a day. I'm not too happy about that," said Kati Nakamoto, a senior psychology major, adding that the storm's impact goes beyond just lost school time. "Lot of cleanup," she said.

"I actually have blisters on my thumbs from the rake," Nakamoto said that though she's been through a number of such storms, "this is the most we've ever been prepared for." For Frances, the school took a number of precautions, including on both Sept. 3 and Sept. 7, giving students a longer Labor Day weekend than usual. Some took advantage of the days off.

Brian Wood, a history major, used the time to get some exercise in. "I was up in the morning, and staff to discuss, debate and celebrate our differences as a multicultural center coordinator Monica White told the crowd that gathered for the center's ribbon cutting ceremony.

"The potential of the center can never be reached without student involvement," he said. "The more diverse the campus, the better the experience for each student."

Taking advantage of the new multicultural center and student space could mean anything from attending a speech by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Nilo Cruz on Sept. 20 during National Hispanic Heritage month to simply studying in the lounge area with other students between classes.

Political science major Shelby Graham is grateful for the new opportunity to study in a place like the Dave Lobby, which she said can be loud and distracting.

Graham likes the intimate setting and smaller scale of the new study area at the Terrace.

Paul Schulz, a junior studying multicultural center aims to nurture campus diversity

By Erin Buchanan
Contributing Writer

The Center for Multicultural Affairs officially opened its doors to students on Sept. 8 and went right to work celebrating diversity at USF St. Petersburg.

Live music from a steel drum player, cultural decorations and lots of food helped kick off the grand opening, which included the unveiling of rooms for the center. A noon expected recreation on the Terrace, a structure of portables east of Davis Hall.

"This center is a resource for all students, faculty and staff to discuss, debate and celebrate our differences as a community," multicultural center coordinator Monica White told the crowd that gathered for the center's ribbon cutting ceremony.

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Paul Schulz, a junior studying multicultural center aims to nurture campus diversity

By David Donald
Contributing Writer

Having problems solving an equation from college algebra class? Can't seem to hit the right key while playing the piano? You might want to give yourself a break and sleep on it.

A team of psychobiology researchers from the University of Wisconsin is unraveling the mysteries of sleep, according to an article in Nature magazine.

They believe that during slow-wave sleep — the period of sleep when you're sleeping the deepest, the most restorative — the brain strengthens memories associated with the learning process.

Researchers connected 256 electrodes to the heads of volunteers to measure their brain activity before, during and after sleep. Volunteers played a number game twice that had a hidden shortcut, known only to researchers.

Volunteers were given time to sleep between each game. As the volunteers fell asleep after playing the first game, slow-wave activity increased in the portion of the brain where learning takes place, strengthening the new connections between nerve cells. Volunteers recognized the shortcut more quickly on the second game.

Give sleep a chance and you'll wake up with the ability to play a Bach sonata to perfection or solve an algebraic equation you once thought impossible to figure out.

Multicultural center aims to nurture campus diversity

By David Donald
Contributing Writer

The word "recycle" might bring to mind plastic bottles and aluminum cans, but at USF St. Petersburg, everything from fluorescent lights to old computers is salvaged for re-use.

At the center, despite the decision to remain open, some precautions were taken. According to Holly Kickl, regional

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USF practices unconventional recycling

By David Donald
Contributing Writer

The word "recycle" might bring to mind plastic bottles and aluminum cans, but at USF St. Petersburg, everything from fluorescent lights to old computers is salvaged for re-use.

USF, like other businesses and institutions, is mandated by the state to recycle. Ronald Bugg, director of physical plant services at USF St. Petersburg, is responsible for maintenance and recycling on campus for USF students.

The campus collects all kinds of recyclables, including fluorescent tubes, keys, cardboard and paper. Paper is one of the hardest things to get rid of, Bugg said.

Toward the waterfront, measures were also taken to secure the university's boats, while marine science students were encouraged to pack up their labs by the Painted Tinies this year, just in case Ivan changed track.

This year's hurricane season opened with Charley, which hit Punta Gorda on Aug. 13, bruising the Fort Myers area with 145 mph winds and 10-foot waves. A fast-moving system, the Category 4 storm sped across the state in a matter of hours, hitting Orlando with gusts of over 100 mph, and has been responsible for 13 deaths. Hot on the heels of Charley came Hurricane Frances, a slower Category 3 hurricane that came ashore between

See Hurricanes on page 4

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See Hurricanes on page 4
Hurricanes. from page 3

Palm Beach and Fort Pierce on Sept. 4. Roughly the size of Texas, the storm had maximum sustained winds at landfall of 105 mph.

Taking over 25 hours to make it across the peninsula, Frances then moved over the gulf and turned north, making a second landfall in St. Marks, 20 miles south of Tallahassee, on Labor Day. The storm left seven dead and more than six million Floridians without power.

And then came Ivan. Rising at times to a Category 5, Ivan has so far been the most powerful storm of the season. It roared across the Caribbean, slamming into Grenada, Jamaica, and the southern tip of Cuba as it made its way into the Gulf. Ivan came ashore near Gulf Shores, Ala., Sept. 15, sending high winds and tornados all across the gulf coast. It went on to cause 28 deaths and over $10 billion in damage as of Sept. 16.

The last major storm to hit Florida was Hurricane Andrew, which smashed onto shore just south of Miami on Aug. 24, 1992, with peak gusts of 164 mph. It was the most destructive hurricane ever to hit the United States, causing 23 deaths and over $25.5 billion worth of damage in Florida alone.

Florida has not been hit by three hurricanes in a single season in quite some time. The closest thing to the current rash of bad weather happened in 1964, when hurricanes Cleo and Dora and Tropical Storm One battered the state.

According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, the increase in hurricane activity is due to warmer than normal sea-surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic. Computer modeling indicates that hurricane severity is directly related to ocean temperatures, as storms tend to be more serious when sea-surface temperatures are warmer.

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Hurricane Frances tests new police chief

By Megan Writer

Only days after René Chenevert became police chief of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, he faced the challenge of preparing for an approaching hurricane.

Frances, the second hurricane to menace Florida in a two-week period in August, was barreling toward the Gulf Coast.

Chenevert, who moved to Florida from Ann Arbor, Mich., had experienced his share of chaos. A former Detroit police officer, Chenevert was on duty during the major blackout in August 2003, which affected the Great Lakes area as well as other cities in the Eastern United States and Canada.

But he didn't deal with the 70 mph winds and colossal waves Frances carried with her. Only days after becoming chief, he prepared for his first encounter with the powerful storm.

After learning that Frances was likely to hit the St. Petersburg area, the chief learned about safety regulations by meeting regularly with USF St. Petersburg administration and the Emergency Operations Center, a state organization that monitors natural disasters and provides information to the media, law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics.

Chenevert's top priorities were to keep people safe and secure campus facilities. Not all university officers were mobilized as Frances swept across campus, but Chenevert made sure they could be easily reached if conditions worsened.

"Their experience with Charley the week before helped a great deal. I give the other officers a lot of credit for that," Chenevert said.

Chenevert, which approached the coast of Florida just nine days before Frances became chief, proved to be a false alarm for the St. Petersburg area, as it turned abruptly before reaching Pinellas County.

But it gave the other officers an opportunity to brush up on the proper procedures and make sure the campus was secure in case a hurricane should hit.

Frances never strengthened beyond a Category 1 hurricane. The storm caused a few power outages on campus but for the most part, only scattered broken tree branches and leaves along the streets and sidewalks. No one on campus was injured and there was only minor damages cause by strong gusts of wind.

"Things went smoothly," Chenevert said of the experience. "We took the appropriate precautions and played it safe."

If a hurricane hits again, Chenevert said the most important thing to do is "monitor activities and above all keep the campus a safe and secure place."

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While environmentalists may view this as spin this into a debate on global warming, scientists aren't so sure. According to National Geographic many scientists believe that the Atlantic temperatures swing back and forth in a pendulum-like pattern on a 30 to 41 year basis. In defense of their argument, scientists look to past patterns pointing out that from 1920 to 1990, hurricanes hit the United States, with from 1960 to 1999, there were 57 hits.

With Tropical Storm Jeanne buildling over the Atlantic, this hurricane season, which officially ends Nov. 30, look to be one of the most active seasons on record.

Recycling, from page 3

Campus recycling has even extended to building materials.

"When we tore down the Fountains Inn, all the concrete was recycled for other projects," Bugg said. "It's pretty neat. For years people had been dumping it in landfills and now people are recycling it."

The Fountains Inn was an antique living facility that stood on the corner of Third Street South and Sixth Avenue South across the street from the U.S. Post Office. The building was demolished in August 2003, producing 140 tons of concrete and asphalt that were recycled into a gravel parking lot.

Although USF St. Petersburg recycles many unconventional items there is no campus-wide program for recycling aluminum cans and plastic bottles, Bugg said.

Freshman Jonathan Heers says he doesn't think about recycling drink containers.

"It's just easier to throw it away," he said. Heers said his family has never recycled at home.

But Jim Schnur, a librarian at Poynter Memorial Library, has been a dedicated recycler for 25 years.

Schnur said his family developed an instinctual habit of recycling.

The library does well with recycling cardboard and newspaper, Schnur said. It also saves book boxes that are used to ship books and materials to and from USF Tampa.

"Recycling is an act that responsible citizens do," Schnur said. "I would hope as USF goes to a residential situation that the student government would take a more active role in recycling."

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UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG

SEPTEMBER 22, 2004
Senior Staff Writer

Entertainment Reviews

Garden State

If you've already based your opinion of newcomer Zach Braff on his goofy role in NBC's hit comedy "Scrubs," prepare yourself to be surprised.

Braff stars in the film "Garden State," in which he also takes writing and directing credit.

The film is about Andrew Largeman (Braff), a struggling Los Angeles actor who returns home to New Jersey for his mother's funeral after nine years away.

Thrown back into his previous life, Andrew is faced with mending relationships with his father and friends.

To his surprise, he ends up finding love.

The unconventional love interest between Braff and Portman's characters is a breath of fresh air among the scores of unrealistic and overplayed Hollywood love stories.

Although the film's romance is underplayed, the movie definitely finds its niche among romantic comedies.

The depth and beauty found in Braff's writing and directing are enough to keep the audience's attention. But when combined with stellar performances by both Braff and co-star Natalie Portman, who plays Sam, the audience can't help but be fully involved in the film.

Portman simply shines in her role as the down-to-earth, quickly girl next door. If you didn't have a thing for her before, you will after Garden State.

Likewise, Braff is sure to make a few girls weak in the knees.

"Garden State" is a must-see. Be sure to check out the killer soundtrack as well.

Grade: 

Cellular

"Cellular" can be described only as fun and energetic. It jumps into the action almost before you've warmed your seat, but director David R. Ellis ("Final Destination 2") does a good job of keeping the momentum created by such an abrupt beginning.

The plot begins when a man named Greer (Jason Statham) and his gang kidnap Jessica Martin (Kim Basinger) from her home. They lock her in an attic and smash the only phone in the room.

Somehow, Jessica manages to click phone wires together until she randomly calls Ryan (Chris Evans), a goof-off twenty-something, who assumes the call is bogus at first. After realizing the call is real, Ryan sets out to find Jessica and rescue her endangered family.

The film's pace makes it an exciting film. The tension is good, but none of the humor is laugh-out-loud funny.

The ending could have been a little more stimulating, but overall the film is entertaining.

Grade: 

Grade Scale:

Entertaining

Enjoyable

Bearable

Flop

White plans to promote diversity by developing activities and workshops based on student ideas, national events and school curriculum.

Diversity on campus is not a new issue for USF St. Petersburg. Last fall, the Crow's Nest reported that the school had 9 to 12 percent more white students than Florida State University and the University of Florida. In the fall of 2003, about 80 percent of students enrolled at USF St. Petersburg were white.

Picollo, student government president, said that this year the university saw a sizable increase in enrollment of Hispanics, "but one year does not make a trend," he said.

USF St. Petersburg hired White in February specifically to help develop and run the Multicultural Affairs Center, which White has made her labor of love for the past eight months.

White is honored to be a part of the history of the center and is glad it has arrived at a time of growth for USF St. Petersburg.

She encourages student organizations that are diversity driven, as well as those that would like to include diversity issues in their own programming to contact the Multicultural Affairs Center and take advantage of its resources.

"Everyone should come by the center and see what we're about," White said. "We're excited to be here."

Garbage along bay trashes campus beauty

By Genessa Poth

USF St. Petersburg students returned to school Sept. 8 after Hurricane Frances and found a blanket of litter and debris covering Bayboro Harbor and the campus shoreline. The storm water draining into the harbor is often polluted, causing garbage to pile up along the sea wall and on the beach.

After weeks of heavy rain, Hurricane Frances did little to help the already-saturated peninsula of Pinellas County, causing floods and higher water levels, storm water management officials said.

The aftermath of Hurricane Frances didn't take the university maintenance crew by surprise.

"Every time it storms, we know that we have to go out there and rake up the trash," said Byron Thoburn, who works for USF St. Petersburg's maintenance crew.

"Sometimes if we aren't paying attention, somebody will mention it."

"Our goal is to use a tractor to clean up the mess."

Tim Cook, the campus dockmaster, has also noticed the constant flow of trash into the harbor.

"You'll notice that it's only after a really heavy rain that it gets really disgusting," Cook said. "There's nothing you can really do about it because the next time it rains it's just going to come right back again."

After a heavy summer rain, storm water carries with it pollutants such as rubber, fertilizers, oil and gasoline. The storm water flows through ditches, canals and an underground pipeline structure spanning about 250 miles and is later discharged into Tampa Bay and Lake Maggorie.

Professor Donny Smoak links USF St. Petersburg's trash problem to the design of the harbor. Garbage and debris become trapped in the harbor's corners because of the 90-degree angles formed by the sea wall.

Although the collection of garbage in one area is an eyesore, Smoak said, the good news is that it's far easier to clean up if it's concentrated in one part of the harbor.

Photo by Gina Elliott Proulx

Storm water sweeps litter into Bayboro Harbor, where sea walls trap the trash.

"He'd better have a good tractor," Cook said. "I'm not sure if Tim can handle all the heavy equipment, but it's certainly going to help."

Professor Kevin A. O'Brien, director of the college of Liberal Arts and Sciences, said the problem is one that could be taken on by the Activities and New Initiatives Council.

"This is a really big issue," O'Brien said. "We should be doing something about it."

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"You can't say no to Zero Gravity on the Bayboro campus."

Professor A.W. White, director of the Multicultural Affairs Center, said that the university should develop a program focused on diversity.

"There are so many great initiatives on campus already."

Photo by Gina Elliott Proulx

"Braff stars in the film "Garden State," in which he also takes writing and directing credit."
Student returns to coach USF sailing team

By Anthony Salvaggi
Contributing Writer

For some people, work is a daily grind. But Garth Reynolds loves what he does for a living as coach of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg's co-ed sailing team.

Reynolds, 25, officially became the new coach of the team Sept. 3.

Nancy Coscia, director of student life at USF St. Petersburg, said she hired Reynolds because "he's very enthusiastic, has quality experience, and is familiar with the program."

Reynolds said he has been involved in sailing for as long as he can remember.

"I started sailing while cruising with my family on the Great Lakes," he said. "I sailed for USF for my final three years of college sailing eligibility, so I have deep roots in this program."

Reynolds, who is also a student at USF Tampa, said juggling the two responsibilities should not be too hard.

"I sailed in college for four years, so the time management skills are there for me," he said.

Before joining the USF team, Reynolds was the Optimist Green Fleet coach for the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, coaching children from 8 to 13 years old.

The USF St. Petersburg sailing team is a member of the South Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Association (SAISA), one of seven districts that make up the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association of North America (ICSA).

The team of 30 undergraduate students is almost evenly divided between men and women. Reynolds is confident that the team will perform well this season and will be competitive at the national level.

"We have some good new talent that will push our returning sailors to improve their game," he said.

Reynolds' day usually includes making travel plans for the team, and figuring out which sailors to send to a particular event.

"In a weekend, we may send three to four teams to different events. Normally, a women's team and a co-ed team each go up north. Then we have a local regatta in our own district," he said.

Reynolds then develops a daily practice plan and concludes his workday with afternoon practice from 3 p.m. until dark.

Garbage, from page 5

The highly-concentrated streams of trash have many St. Petersburg visitors wondering if residents just don't care.

Tony Cantu, 21, of Hardee County was staying in St. Petersburg while his daughter underwent treatment at All Children's Hospital earlier this month. During his downtime, he came to Bayboro Harbor to lend his head to the clouds for a while and fish.

"The first day I came out here, I saw all the trash and it surprised me because the fish and game commission is right across the bay. It's disappointing that they haven't done something to clean it up," Cantu said. "Everywhere you look, you see trash floating in the water."

Scott Willis, outreach director for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said that most of the fish in Bayboro Harbor are adult fish using the basin as a temporary feeding area.

"The reality is that there is little habitat available in Bayboro Harbor. The seawall area and perhaps dock structures provide some habitat area but there are no sea grasses or shoreline plants and no day-to-day currents in this area. Thus, there would be few species of young fish that would settle and grow in this area," Willis said.

Al though the oils and metals that come in off of the roads are often more harmful to the environment than the visible trash.

"People are careless and environmentally unfriendly," sophomore Jared Szal said. "I've seen candy wrappers, sandwich bags, soda cans, and cigarette butts. This is part of nature — God-made, not man-made. People should be more aware."

Last spring, the Fabrications II art class divided into groups and chose sites on campus to display works of art that would communicate a message to their fellow students.

In an effort to create awareness about the effects of pollution, senior Merrit Fink decided to place postcards with pictures of dead sea life around the campus.

"We wanted people to realize their role and responsibility in improving environmental conditions," Fink said.

On Saturday, Oct. 23, the Keep Pinellas Beautiful Beach Cleanup will be held in the Tierra Verde bridge beach areas. Volunteers will record the amount and types of debris collected for use by The Ocean Conservancy. For more information or to volunteer, contact Barry McDowell at (727) 498-000 or at mcldowell@usp.tampa.usf.edu.

Warning: Reading the Crow's Nest could be habit-forming.

Those wishing to attend a regatta hosted by USF can find this season's schedule by visiting the sailing team's homepage at www.spt.usf.edu/sailingteam/index.html, then clicking on Regatta Schedule. The Pier in downtown St. Petersburg offers a vantage point for those wishing to watch the races.
Jewel, from page 1

As currently planned, the boat will leave port each morning at 8 a.m. and good neighbor in downtown Petersburg. Jewel's location next to campus?

The campus is also holding two open tours of the area so students can have more parking spots available, she said.

Richard said the meters are expected to force more students and staff members to buy parking permits, and others to seek alternative options.

USF St. Petersburg has 1,271 parking spaces on campus lots. Richmond said that the campus sold a total of 3,293 parking permits last year and 2,677 parking permits this year.

The meters cost 25 cents an hour, and a chance to talk to financial aid, academic and career counselors.

USF's special catamaran will ferry and now the campus recruiters, John Kickletter, the regional associate vice-chancellor for university relations, echoed this sentiment.

"USF always tries to be a great neighborhood. Right now, we're taking a wait-and-see approach on how it could affect the campus," Kickletter said. "But USF certainly supports area businesses."

Some effects are already making themselves known. The city has blamed its recent decision to put parking meters around campus in part on these efforts.

According to the St. Petersburg Times, city officials felt that employees and customers of the floating casino could try to take advantage of the free parking. By charging for the spots, the city thought it would be more likely that spaces would remain empty for students.

Cruises were originally scheduled to begin in March of 2003, but investors were forced to pull out of the venture for financial reasons. Since then, complications due to everything from the war in Iraq to the recent slew of bad weather have delayed the opening of the casino.

Stamp for the ship has been ongoing since early June, and investors now hope to have the ship up and running by early October.

SOUND OFF: Do you support the Ocean Jewel's location next to campus?

I don't gamble. If I had lots of money I might. Money's tight for students as it is.

Jennifer Wicknor,
Elementary Education '06

I like it. It's better than driving all the way to Tampa to go to the Hard Rock Casino.

Alex Hoyt,
Undecided

I think it's great. My sister applied for a job there. If it supplies more jobs, I'm all for it.

Lindsey Flynn,
Environmental Science Policy '05

I don't gamble, but I'd recommend it to my friends that do. I want to keep what money I have.

Emily Ekstrand,
Education '06

"I'm not a gambler, but I'm not against it.

Monique Baughman,
Environmental Science Policy '05

Enrollment, from page 1

must have to be accepted into USF, the standards used to evaluate incoming freshmen are getting higher, Hohengarten said.

More changes are in store for the future enrollment process at USF St. Petersburg.

The two campus recruiters, John Vassel and Callihan, are marketing the school's waterfront location.

"Petersburg is not just any school," Callihan said. "It's a known name, a known brand."
Above: Jen Raffaele and Daniel Cole, student government secretary, shoot hoops at Campus Showcase. School clubs and organizations welcomed students and attracted new members at the Sept. 1 event.

Sailing team member Grant Lockhart steers his vessel through busy traffic.

Announcement

Do you attend USF St. Petersburg and also moonlight as a bass player? Are you an English professor and a closet drummer? If you perform live or lay your music down on wax, then the Crow’s Nest wants to interview you and your band.

Latin, jazz, acid rock, country, big band, rap, funk, punk or classical — we want to hear about them all! This is a great opportunity to create a bigger fan base within your community and your school.

Interested? E-mail Wendy Owen at WICSWendy@Netscape.net for more information.

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