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SG to increase student participation

By Brittany Fenske
Contributing Writer

Now that the votes for USF St. Petersburg's Student Government election have been counted and the winning officials have been named, the elected officers explain how they will make a difference in Spring 2005.

Incumbent President Tom Piccolo, 21, has been in Student Government for seven semesters. Before he became president, he was treasurer for two semesters and was a representative for four semesters. Piccolo is majoring in economics and history.

One issue concerning Piccolo and other Student Government officers is student voter apathy. Piccolo said making Student Government more visible to students will solve this problem. With only about five percent of the campus voting, Piccolo said there is a lot of work to be done.

"I think candidates running need to actively campaign, meeting students and talking to them about the issues that face the university," he said.

Piccolo said telling students how much power Student Government has will also help.

"I don't think students realize that Student Government is playing a major role in bringing a student center on campus and that Student Government is fighting to make sure that student fees don't get increased exponentially," he said. "If we can show the students that Student Government is a critical part of the campus community, I think interest will start to grow and people will look at student government as the most prominent organization on campus."

Student Government Vice President Mudit Bhatt, 21, was a College of Business representative for four semesters before running for the vice presidential position. He is majoring in management information sciences and is also involved in the MIS Society.

To combat student voter apathy, Bhatt said he aims to bring Student Government meetings to the students.

"I am going to try and set up a bi-weekly e-mail with the Student Government agenda which will educate the students about the issues Student Government deals with. Many students don't have the time to come to actual meetings, and these e-mails are meant to inform them of how Student Government is working to meet the students' needs," Bhatt said.

Secretary Daniel Cole, 21, has been in Student Government for five semesters and is majoring in finance and management.

Cole said he wants to advertise Student Government to students.

Rent-free women's housing coming soon to campus

By Genessa Poth
Staff Writer

USF St. Petersburg currently offers no room and board for its students. Students, therefore, must travel out into the community and fend for themselves when it comes to securing inexpensive, nearby housing. But all of that is about to change.

Construction of the proposed student housing is scheduled to begin in early 2005 and to be completed in two years. The housing will be similar to the living spaces offered by other state universities.
Public understands sophisticated prose

HEATH HOOPER
COLUMNIST

I owe you an apology. My fellow journalists are supposed to translate the rest of us. They're supposed to cut the words they could understand into language the public is sophisticated enough to understand what's going on in the news. News must be accessible in order to do its job properly.

But I don't think accessible necessarily translates into simplistic. I think the public is sophisticated enough to understand what some might deem complicated. Writing above an eighth-grade level is not dumbing it down. Yes, there are complex issues worthy of language above an eighth-grade level, and we must recognize and allow for this.

As journalists, I feel we at times must push our readership to explore certain topics further. If we do not, if we deliver everything in tidy little anecdotes, we reduce complex issues into slogans, in doing so rob the citizenry of intellectual challenge. Maybe I'm going out on limb here, but I don't think going to a dictionary on occasion is really such a terrible thing. As an active public is, by definition, far more engaged than a passive one, writers should work towards pushing their readers to explore and learn. To do any less is a disservice.

Being an informed citizen isn't easy, but it's our job as people living in a democracy. We shouldn't have to be spoon-fed.

Heath Hooper is a graduate student in Journalism and Media Studies. He has a Bachelor's in English literature and philosophy from Mercer University in Macon, Ga, and a Master's in philosophy and cultural analysis from the University of Amsterdam in The Netherlands. He can be reached at hahooper@yahoo.com.

Write simply, not for simpletons

KRISTIE A. MARTINEZ
EDITOR IN CHIEF

People would know so much about the world if information were written in words they could understand.

I'm not talking about translating English for non-English speakers. I'm talking about translating English for any one who is tired of meaningless terms, five-syllable words and jargon.

That's where journalists come in. Journalists are supposed to translate the untranslatable — earnings reports, scientific studies and political speeches — for the rest of us. They're supposed to cut the crap and tell the public what this information means and why it matters.

Muddying information understandable isn't dumbing it down. Yes, there are complex issues worthy of language above an eighth-grade reading level. We can't reduce chemistry to the study of Bunsen burners and test tubes, but you can communicate complicated ideas clearly and simply.

I want the journalist who wrote the Nov. 17 Ascribe Newswire story, "Chemist breaks 50-year-old barrier to better electron representation in molecular computations" to tell me what the heck he's talking about.

Here's his attempt to clarify the issue:

"The key to understanding whether or not a particular chemical reaction will occur depends on a detailed statistical description of the electrons' positions in the molecules involved."

No. The key to understanding is writing in words people use every day. I'm advocating simple language, not simplistic ideas. Simple: adj. not elaborately complicated or ornate. Simplistic: adj. characterized by excessive simplification.

I know there are sophisticated readers out there who can handle big words. But it's not a matter of being sophisticated. What's being advocated (adj.: not naive; worldly-wise; appealing to cultivated tastes) is it's a matter of having the time and patience to deal with a pompous writer's B.S., and I don't have either.

Even if I have worldly wisdom, I don't gain anything when a politician says he'll "minimize the latent effects of monetary voidage negatively affecting liabilities at this point in time." But if a journalist can tell me the politician's going to pay off debts, I'll be much wiser about the world.

Kristie A. Martinez is an undergraduate student in Journalism and Media Studies. She can be reached at USFCrow'sNest@aol.com.
Evaluations rate teachers' academic performance

By Irena Milasinovic
Senior Staff Writer

Students can review the scores for professors in the USF Student Assessment of Instruction, a book available on three-hour loan at Poynter Memorial Library.

When the forms for Fall 2004 are returned to USF St. Petersburg on Jan. 7, student assistants will type students' comments from the teacher evaluation forms.

The deans of the colleges at USF St. Petersburg will then read the evaluations. A committee that conducts professors' annual reviews, as well as a separate committee devoted to tenure and promotion, will read the forms before they are given to the teachers.

Students can review the scores for professors at all four USF campuses. The forms are compiled in the USF Student Assessment of Instruction, a book available on three-hour loan at Poynter Memorial Library.

The book lists the scores students gave teachers in the eight categories on the evaluation forms, but does not include students' comments.

Lin Jane McNiel, a USF St. Petersburg journalism student, said she likes that teacher evaluations are available in the library.

"Before I take a class, I like to know what previous students in the course think of the teacher," she said.

Some professors say there are problems with the evaluation forms.

Brianne Reck, a USF St. Petersburg education professor, said the evaluations don't tell teachers what the students base their ratings on. Reck also said she isn't sure the forms ask the right questions.

She said she uses her own additional evaluation forms that ask students which assignments were most valuable and what helped them learn best during the semester.

Reck said she has seen assistant professors and untenured faculty at other colleges require less of students "to ensure that they get high marks since these undefined scores are used to make decisions about their employment."

"The evaluations are not meant to be a popularity contest," Reck said.

She said another problem with the evaluation forms is that professors don't get the forms back until the next semester has begun.

"I received my summer course evaluation materials in October," Reck said.

Reck also said students don't believe their professors understand the purpose of the evaluations.

But USF St. Petersburg student Muhammad Bashir, 20, said his professors don't tell students what the forms are used for or how important they are. He said his teachers tell their classes to just fill out the forms.

Science seeks cure for obesity

It's inevitable -- as we grow older we're bound to put on some pounds.

Exercise seems to be the safest way to lose weight. But some of us just don't feel like exercising regularly. For people with heart or other health problems, even a walk to the car can be difficult.

Scientists are now turning to genetics to solve weight loss problems.

More than a decade ago, Ronald M. Evans of the Salk Institute for Biological studies in La Jolla, Calif., discovered a protein called PPAR-delta. In his experiments with PPAR-delta, he showed that manipulating the protein in mice sped up their metabolism and helped them burn fat faster.

In his latest study with colleagues from Seoul National University in Korea, he has genetically engineered mice to produce extra PPAR-delta in their muscles.

The study appeared in the October issue of PLOS Biology. After putting mice on a high-fat, high-calorie diet for 13 weeks, the mice gained only a third of the weight that the unmodified mice did. The genetically-engineered mice were inactive, lazy eaters but had a high resistance to obesity.

Evans also gave normal mice a drug called GW501516, which activates the PPAR-delta directly. The drug caused many of the same changes that occurred in the genetically-manipulated mice.

Could this be the next miracle pill for obesity? We'll have to wait and see. The Pharmaceutical Company GlaxoSmithKline is now testing GW501516 in human patients who are obese and diabetic to help improve their cholesterol levels.

The company said it plans to test the effects of the drug on endurance and weight.

Robots aid psychology department with animal behavior research

By David Donald
Staff Writer

The lizards and squirrels at USF St. Petersburg might be scratching their heads when they see the new animals on campus.

This semester, six USF St. Petersburg undergraduate psychology students studied animal behavior in a new behavioral robotics course taught by psychology professor Sarah Partan.

On Wednesday, Dec. 1, the students will test the two robots they built, a lizard and a squirrel, at a Behavioral Robotics Symposium in front of Davis Lobby on the waterfront side. They plan to observe and record the interactions between the robots and the real squirrels and lizards on campus.

"We want to understand as much as we can about animal behavior," Partan said. "Using robots as a tool to help us figure out what the signals mean will help us to understand more about the [real] animal."

The students videotaped real squirrels and lizards and used the footage to study the animals' movements and signals.

"In the video analysis of squirrels, we found that when they're not moving and jumping, they communicate with their tails," said Black Lanford, one of the students who studied squirrel behavior.

The squirrel robot was programmed to perform a particular function, such as an up-and-down tail flick that usually signals anger.

The lizard robot, which is attached to a motor, displays an aggressive territorial behavior -- it bobs its head.

"The lizard head bob is fighting words for them," said Susan Mulloy, a student who worked on the lizard robot.

To help them learn the basics of building robots, the six students first worked with beginners' kits that focused on skills such as soldering circuits.

Nichole Cavanaugh, a student who worked on the lizard robot, said her confidence increased after constructing a beginners' kit of a robotic monkey that climbed across a rope hand over hand.

The class was funded by a $5,000 innovative teaching grant from the Center for Excellence in Teaching at USF Tampa.

Partan said she hopes the robotics course will become a permanent class at USF St. Petersburg.

"I think it's a great venue for students to learn to put together ideas, not only in psychology, engineering, and technology but ... [to get] undergraduates involved in hands-on research."
Students prepare for the holiday season

USF St. Petersburg students say Christmas and the holiday season came too early, but they're looking forward to spending their cash.

By Brittany Fenske
Staff Writer

Money is often an issue for college students, from student loans to credit card payments, but when it comes to shopping for the holidays, that doesn't seem to stop them.

Students are finding ways to work around the extra cost that the holidays bring into their lives. From working overtime to putting money aside, it seems like most students are preparing for the holiday craze.

"I am waiting on getting my security check back from my old apartment before I can go shopping," said Sarah Babcock, a 22-year-old creative writing major at USF St. Petersburg.

Stacy Bartlett, a 21-year-old business management major, said she is going to work overtime so she can shop for her family. However, she said she is not one to go out on those crazy shopping days and start spending money.

"Shopping is a must on the day after Thanksgiving," said Emily Melnick, a 20-year-old criminology major at USF St. Petersburg. "I've been saving and putting money aside."

Amy Coventry, a 21-year-old USF St. Petersburg student said she will be going shopping the day after Thanksgiving as well. "Wal-Mart and Target always have the best sales," she said.

Not everyone is excited about shopping, though.

Garrett Huberta, an 18-year-old USF St. Petersburg student, said he is not looking forward to the holiday craze. "I am waiting on getting my security check back from my old apartment before I can go shopping," said Sarah Babcock, a 22-year-old creative writing major at USF St. Petersburg.

ike Nguyen, a 34-year-old finance major at USF St. Petersburg.

The holiday season does not include only Christmas and Thankgiving. Students of other cultures and backgrounds celebrate the season with a focus on the community as a whole.

Muhammad Bashir is of the Muslim faith and compares what he celebrates to Christmas by saying, "Christmas is more family oriented, and Ramadan is more community oriented."

Ramadan is a one-month celebration from Oct. 15 through Nov. 12, where the followers fast during the day. A festival happened on Nov. 13 at a park in St. Petersburg where Bashir and members of his community celebrated Eid. Eid is when everyone in the community tries to give 10 percent of their salary to the people who need it most in the community. The collection is divided for adults' gifts and children's gifts that are given out at this celebration, but a large portion of it goes to the neediest families in the community. "We [the community] come together every year and get a budget, and with that we buy presents for everyone," Bashir said.

He says he doesn't worry about money during the holiday season because each person gives what he can. Bashir said he enjoys seeing all the lights that are out during the holidays and said that he always wishes people happy holidays.

Many students agree that Christmas continues to come earlier and earlier each year. Some said they enjoy it while others seem to be more annoyed.

"Christmas is slowly taking over the other holidays," Babcock said. First Thanksgiving, this year Halloween, soon Labor Day. Next thing you know we really will have Christmas in July," Bartlett said people should focus on Christmas after Thanksgiving. "I don't want people to forget about Thanksgiving," she said.

Melnick works at a grocery store that is already preparing for Christmas. "But it is all fun," she said. "It is the best time of the year."
Students mail holiday spirit to troops overseas

By Irena Milasinovic
Senior Staff Writer

It lets them know that we still remember them during holiday season and we still support them and thank them,” — Daniel Cole, USF St. Petersburg Student Government secretary

USF St. Petersburg students mail holiday spirit to overseas. They are sorted and redistributed to men and women in the military. Some feel like enough, but it’s the only phrase I know to express gratitude. You are more appreciated than I think you know, but I just wanted to encourage you in what you are doing and keep pressing on, even through the hardest of times.

It’s all part of USF St. Petersburg’s Friends of Our Troops military mail campaign, an annual effort to send cards to more than 1,000 military bases, units and hospitals across the U.S. and around the world.

Holiday cards are mailed to the military mail campaign office in North Carolina, where they are sorted and recombined into more than 1,000 packages. The holiday cards are sent to the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard in the United States and overseas, where the mail is distributed to men and women in uniform.

“It lets them know that we still remember them during holiday season and we still support them and thank them,” said Daniel Cole, USF St. Petersburg Student Government secretary.

Anthropology Club chairperson Debra Wilcox said that regardless of what people feel about the war, “our hearts and our thoughts are with our troops. Those who cannot serve in the military can show our gratitude and support by sending holiday cards,” she said.

Cole, who has been in charge of the Military Mail campaign on the campus for the past two years, collaborates with Barry McDowell, coordinator for volunteer services, and student clubs to get the holiday cards filled and sent to troops. USF St. Petersburg spent $250 from Student Government special project money to purchase the holiday cards. Cole said that it’s a good opportunity for students at USF St. Petersburg to work together on a project and support military personnel.

About 960 holiday cards were filled this year. “It was one of the most rewarding projects I have been involved with,” said Jennifer Fraser, former adviser for the Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association, which initially started the campaign at USF St. Petersburg in 1997. Fraser, who is an adviser for Campus Crusade for Christ, said each year men and women in uniform send thank you letters for the cards. “They said that it felt so good to know there were people back home who cared,” Fraser said.

While leaving school, students can just look at the USF/All Children’s Hospital Research Institute to see another work of art that is commonly known as the “Band-Aid.” This piece was dedicated in April of 2002 by Raymond James, All Children’s Hospital, USF and the Florida’s Art in State Building Programs said Sudsy Tschiderer.

Other pieces of high hanger art are the wooden easels that are used in the Art Institute to see photos of Bayboro Hall. The walls are bare and have a somewhat institutional look. If you take a closer look, students might discover the many different pieces of hidden art the university has to offer.

In many cases, all students have to do is look up to see art at the university. In Poynter Memorial Library are the hanging “atrium” arches, which were bought through state funding, said Karen White, USF St. Petersburg’s regional chancellor.

CONFERENCE HELD AS TRIBUTE TO LOCAL POLITICIAN

By Heath Hooper
Staff Writer

When first elected in 1954, Cramer served as the first Republican member of Congress from Florida since Reconstruction. Affectionately known as “Mr. Republican,” Cramer served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 16 years.

“If it wasn’t for Bill Cramer, there wouldn’t be the Pinellas Republican Party or the Florida Republican Party that you see today,” said Darryl Paulson, a USF St. Petersburg government professor. He added that Cramer’s legacy must be seen as twofold, in terms of both party building and his work in public policy.

Cramer’s work in Congress was responsible for a number of important changes in Florida. It was due to his influence that the Florida House of Representatives passed a law that required all new buildings to have public art.

“Art is a real success story for the city of St. Petersburg,” said William Cramer Jr., the son of the late congressman.

DECK the WALLS

USF St. Petersburg is a beautiful campus on the outside. But the barren classroom walls tell another story.

By Wendy Owen
Staff Writer

While leaving school, students can just look at the USF/All Children’s Hospital Research Institute to see another work of art that is commonly known as the “Band-Aid.” This piece was dedicated in April of 2002 by Raymond James, All Children’s Hospital, USF and the Florida’s Art in State Building Programs said Sudsy Tschiderer, USF St. Petersburg’s university relations and special events coordinator.

Other pieces of high hanger art are the wooden easels that are used in the Art Institute to see photos of Bayboro Hall.
USF St. Petersburg professor helps parents cope with autistic children

By Genessa Poth
Senior Staff Writer

For many parents, coping strategies such as taking a deep breath or counting to ten help ease the tension of child-rearing. But for parents with autistic children, it's not that simple.

Dean and professor V. Mark Durand, who recently received the largest grant in USF St. Petersburg history, is helping these troubled parents successfully manage their children's behavior.

"These families are under extreme distress on a daily basis," said Durand, who teaches autism and abnormal psychology courses at USF St. Petersburg. "They are more likely to be isolated from friends and family and the parents are more likely to experience divorce."

This five-year grant, issued by the U.S. Department of Education's Innovations in Research program, will allow Durand to research a new program called Optimism Training. This training, conceived by University of Pennsylvania psychologist Martin Seligman, works not only with the child, but also with the whole family. Durand's research will help families who have children with significant behavior problems.

"We are targeting a large group of families who have 'given up' on their ability to work with their children. These families do not benefit from traditional parent training because they will drop out over time. By adding an optimism training component we find that they stay in treatment and feel better about themselves as parents."

— V. Mark Durand, professor and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

To date, USF St. Petersburg has received almost $2.5 million in research funding. Durand's $892,622 grant represents a big chunk of that sum.

"I think this is an important event for the campus. Receiving a significant grant from the federal government means that peers from around the country respect and value your work," Durand said.

"This gives USF St. Petersburg significant visibility outside of the region for the very important research being conducted here."

Durand hopes his research will encourage parents of autistic children to hang in there. "Our previous work suggests that we can significantly improve their quality of life," Durand said. "This work is the first step to a completely new approach for this field — working with families to try to prevent behavior problems from developing in the first place."
**ENTERTAINMENT**

**National Treasure**

"National Treasure" is the kind of adventure that every child dreams of and every adult wishes they could embark on. John Turtletaub's newest film is a wonderful blend of action, history and suspense.

The film tells the tale of Benjamin Franklin Gates (Nicolas Cage) and his quest to fulfill his family's legend to find a historical treasure hidden by the United States' Founding Fathers. Gates finds a series of clues that were left behind by several people who signed the Declaration of Independence, which incidentally doubles as a treasure map.

With such an off-the-wall plot, "National Treasure" had a good chance of being a national disaster. But the film was very well balanced.

There was enough history to make the plot somewhat believable, and enough imagination to make the film fun. Lots of twists and turns keep film fans on their toes. The audience knows that each clue that Gates and his companions follow could be the final piece to the puzzle, which makes suspense one of the film's main attractions.

Nicolas Cage fits this role extremely well. His natural enthusiasm and likeable demeanor keep the audience from grabbing their pitchforks when he decides to steal the Declaration of Independence (to protect it from the bad treasure hunters, of course). A less charming actor may not have been able to steal one of the most important documents in American history and have the audience cheering him on.

Of course, there were a few slow points, but what film doesn't have those? The rest of the film picked up the slack and made the six bucks worth it.

*Rated: PG | Runtime: 100 min.*

*Grade:* 

**Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason**

Rule number one and two when it comes to sequels: don't make the same mistakes, especially if the first film was charming and pleasant. Its surprises and laugh-out-loud moments kept it from the chick-flick graveyard and made it appealing to everyone—even the guys.

The new Bridget Jones takes all those fun, charming aspects of the first film, then reuses and overuses them until the audience is bored. The film comes out more like the next episode in a new television series than a sequel.

Jones' tenacious character and the in-laws are sometimes extreme, the group's true message can be found in its sloopy, political in the song, "Brother, not drunk at the shows fighting each other."

But the group's true message can be found in its song: "Singing Out for Liberty and Beer Since 2000."

Lead singer Travis Yancey, 22, Austin Parisi, 19, and Gary Stockton, 18, are also members of the band. They said groups like The Politic0rs and Metallica, Misfits and GWAR influenced their musical style.

"As a band, we try and write really fast, violent music that you can have fun to," said Cullen. Nation of Suspects will release a record coming on the American Defense label. The group performed at the State Theater in St. Petersburg in October, and in January, the band will perform in Chapel Hill, N.C., and in Louisiana.

*Grade:*

**Nation of Suspects**

**BAND REVIEW • BY WENDY OWEN**

High-energy hard rock meets politics

Some punk and hard-rock bands sing about the dark side and societal oppression. The St. Petersburg band Nation of Suspects uses its voice to communicate its political ideals. And while these ideas are sometimes extreme, the band members stay true to their beliefs and convey them in their music.

USF St. Petersburg political science major Jim Cullen, 23, is a guitar player for Nation of Suspects, whose song list includes in-your-face titles like "Liberal Can Die."

"We feel a real need for our band," Cullen said. "We are a counter to the left-wing punks."

But bassist Mika Tobing, 22, said the band isn't militant.

"We don't come off as preachy, just a lot of fun," said Tobing, a St. Petersburg College student.

The band's lyrical messages go beyond political in the song, "Brother to Brother," which says, "We need to stand tall, brother to brother, not drunk at the shows fighting each other."

But the group's true message can be found in its song: "Singing Out for Liberty and Beer Since 2000."

Lead singer Travis Yancey, 22, Austin Parisi, 19, and Gary Stockton, 18, are also members of the band. They said groups like Metallica, Misfits and GWAR influenced their musical style.

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**HAPPENINGS**

**Friday, Dec. 3**

*Student Leadership Banquet*

*When: 6 p.m.*

*Where: Orange Blossom Ballroom*

*Info: Special event for student leaders, organizations and their advisers.*

**Friday, Dec. 10**

*Student Leadership Banquet*

*When: 6 p.m.*

*Where: Orange Blossom Ballroom*

*Info: Special event for student leaders, organizations and their advisers.*

In the first Bridget Jones flick, Renee Zellweger played a slightly overweight 30-somethings who sought a better existence and yearned for true love. The first film was charming and pleasant. Its surprises and laugh-out-loud moments kept it from the chick-flick graveyard and made it appealing to everyone—even the guys.

The new Bridget Jones takes all those fun, charming aspects of the first film, then reuses and overuses them until the audience is bored. The film comes out more like the next episode in a new television series than a sequel.

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*Grade:*

**Grade Scale:**

- Flap
- Bearable
- Enjoyable
- Entertaining
- Must-see

Wendy Owen will continue her band reviews in the spring. Please contact her at WICSWendy@Netscape.net for an interview.
SG, from page 1

elections in the classroom.

"Maybe we could talk to each of the deans on our campus to maybe have the professors mention the election in their classes," he said.

"We will try and publicize our Student Government events better so that all will know what Student Government is doing," he said. "We have been getting the word out there and we will continue to work on it."

Treasurer Chris Koenig, 19, has been a member of Student Government for three semesters. He is majoring in finance.

Koenig said the Student Government election that ran from Nov. 15 to Nov. 18 encouraged students to join the organization.

"After the election, people turned in membership packets immediately and were very interested," he said.

Gym, from page 1

The committee was slated to finish the bid document for the new equipment by mid-November, but had not chosen a fitness equipment manufacturer as of Nov. 26.

University and fitness center officials said they expect portions of the renovation to begin in December.

Stull also wrote a three-page report showing that fitness center sign-ins increased from 14,480 in 2001 and 2002 to 20,000 in 2003 and 2004. The report also said the future creation of residence halls and the projected student enrollment increase at USF St. Petersburg were additional reasons for the upgrade.

Stull estimated the project will cost about $15,000,000, which is in line with the $15,000,000 budget that Student Government authorized.

The money was taken from a mandatory activity and service fee that's deducted from student tuition. The fee is $9.16 per credit hour.

Student John Hornbeck, who uses the fitness center regularly, is looking forward to the new audio system.

"One thing I really enjoy is the music," he said. Hornbeck said the existing workout equipment isn't bad, but that he'd like to see a free-weight bench in the fitness center.

Chad Edmisten, an employee of the College of Marine Science who works out twice a day at the fitness center, said he's all for new equipment.

Edmisten said the current equipment limits what he can do.

"I gear my workout toward what's here," he said.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Crown's Nest contributing writer Anthony Salvaggi works as a student assistant at the USF St. Petersburg fitness center.

Housing, from page 1

ies, except that USF St. Petersburg will also have a rent-free women's wing.

The Education Foundation of the Florida Business and Professional Women's Club (BPW) is currently working with USF St. Petersburg Regional Chancellor Karen White and the USF Foundation to create the women's scholars hip housing.

The proposed area, paid for by BPW, would allow 12 to 16 women who demonstrate both high financial need and high scholastic aptitude to live on campus, paying only for utilities and food.

"It is the mission of the Education Foundation to provide affordable housing for women so they may continue their education and break the barriers that would otherwise keep them from attaining their goals in life," said Christine Weigle, president of the Education Foundation.

In 1965, the women of BPW Florida started thinking of ways to promote women in the work place. They came to the realiza tion that women would never be corporate leaders without a better education.

"Women make 72 cents on the dollar that men make," Weigle said. "Compound that with higher debt from the start of their professional career and you build walls that should not be there."

While studying this problem, BPW found one common thread. Housing costs were keeping women out of college.

"Women start their careers with more debt than their male counterpart," Weigle said.

So far, this non-profit organization has built women's housing on the campuses of Florida State University, the University of Central Florida and Florida Atlantic University.

The three current scholarship houses are built as a separate house with a kitchen, one dining room, one community room and separate bedrooms and bathrooms.

The women take turns preparing meals, shopping for food and cleaning the house. Residents make their own house rules, in addition to the University rules and charge

My parents would not be able to pay for me and my brother, one year younger than myself, to attend at the same time," Weigle said. Her father thought that her brother should have the money to go to college.

"It was my thought that I was going to get a college education no matter what. I had lots of college loans, as did my sisters. Why should women have the money to go to college?"

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