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Regulations for life

- Guest lecturer explores ethical questions related to artificial reproduction

**BY EMMA SYLVESTER**
**STAFF WRITER**

On Friday, January 27, David Archard, the first Cole Scholar in Residence at USF St. Petersburg, addressed the ethical questions and dilemmas surrounding artificial reproduction in a lecture titled "Regulating Artificial Reproduction." The talk was free and open to the public.

Archard is a professor of philosophy and public policy and the director of the Institute of Environment, Philosophy and Public Policy at the University of Lancaster, United Kingdom.

Significant to his lecture, Archard is a member of the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority, which is in charge of regulating and inspecting all UK clinics that provide fertilization or the storage of eggs, sperm or embryos. Archard is the only moral philosopher on the Authority.

The Authority, which has been in existence since August 1991, licenses all fertility clinics and monitors all research conducted on embryos.

Archard told the audience he would guide them through the most interesting issues related to artificial reproduction and introduce them "to the puzzles and problems there are surrounding artificial reproduction."

"My intention is to provoke and puzzle and interest, and very occasionally shock," Archard said.

He noted some of the reasons people may opt for artificial reproduction: some are physically unable to have children, some cannot because of marital status, and others cannot due to sexual preference.

Archard also explored the ethical reasons for regulating who should be allowed to use artificial reproduction, citing abusive parents and the need to maintain a certain standard of living for the child.

"Is it wrong to allow a child to be born whose life will fall below a threshold of minimal decency?" asked Archard. That question raised the interesting ethical quandary of comparing existence to non-existence.

Later, Archard discussed parents who conceive a child - known as a "savior baby" - so that he or she will be a match to an already living sibling that is terminally ill. The savior baby's tissues and organs are there to be used.

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**Coming off its best season ever, the women's sailing team seems poised for an outstanding spring.**

**STORY PAGE 6**

Your thoughts count: Campus subcommittee prepares to gauge students' thoughts on diversity.

**STORY PAGE 2**

**Future Plans**

With the department on solid footing, Silvia said his primary goal is to increase the number of students in the program while maintaining its quality.

"My vision for the department is growth with quality," he said, adding that the university's commitment to developing a national reputation for research and teaching complements that of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

**JOURNALISM DIRECTOR**

Tony Silvia, plans to bring convergence to the already forward-thinking department.

**STORY PAGE 5**

**Growth ... with quality**

- New journalism director outlines his vision for its future

**BY ANTHONY SALVEGGI**
**EDITOR**

His office looks remarkably neat, which makes sense considering the semester is just two weeks old. Photos of his son and daughter proudly rest on an otherwise empty bookshelf, and everything in the room - especially the desk and the two chairs positioned in front of it - seems arranged to reflect geometric perfection.

From behind that desk, Tony Silvia presides as the new director of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies - only the second to ever hold that position. He replaces the retiring Mike Killenberg, who founded the department and has led its development for the past 17 years.

Well before Silvia arrived at his present position, he already had connections with the department, having used Professor Jay Black's book on ethics and Killenberg's text on public affairs reporting while teaching at the University of Rhode Island.

Silvia praised the research of the faculty for "writing things that matter," and singled out journalism ethics professors Black and Den Elliott for writing papers that have broad appeal.

He also said that department faculty members done well keeping up with developments in journalism, which he described as one of the most evolving fields of study. "They are conversant with the trends and the change," Silvia said. "That's not true everywhere."

Silvia has authored two journalism books and has another slated for an Emmy Award nomination for excellence in journalism.

"I liked what I heard about what that faculty member wanted," Silvia said, commenting on their desire to delve further into media convergence.

"It impressed me that this place was really forward-thinking," he added. With regard to the hot topic issues of today in journalism - including web publishing and convergence - Silvia noted, "This place was doing it 10 years ago, when most people weren't even talking about it."

**Tony Silvia's Accomplishments**

- Received three Emmy Award nominations for excellent in journalism.
- Won an Associated Press Award for outstanding documentary, "Terror Shock."
- Won a CNN Faculty Fellowship in 1996 - only one of three awarded annually.

**THERE'S A PLACE WHERE THE EMPTY BOOKCASE MEETS THE EMPTY DESK.**

The savior baby's tissues and organs are there to be used.
SEAS environmental initiative takes shape

BY EMMA SILVESTER
STAFF WRITER

At a recent meeting of the Student Environmental Awareness Society, it was announced that the Harbor Day Initiative and Recycling program will be fully developed and started this semester.

Harbor Day Initiative is a community campaign initiated by the USFSM faculty, students, and administration, to clean up Bayboro Harbor, promote awareness of environmental issues, and educate the community about the importance of preventing litter and pollution.

Bayboro Harbor is the endpoint of a very large storm water drainage system that encompasses much of St. Petersburg. The Harbor then becomes the collection point of trapped pollution and litter.

SEAS President Dani Cutler said the future goals for the Harbor Day Initiative include developing "a long term plan with the community to address coastal pollution issues, including outreach and education.

SEAS members also discussed using Florida-friendly landscape design to plant native plants on campus. This design would eliminate the need for pesticides and herbicides.

Cutler said that plants native to Florida can still be very beautiful and provide an attractive landscape.

The organization plans to hold a Harbor Day Celebration in the early spring.

Faculty gets involved

Tom and Melanie Whitmore, faculty with Environmental Science, Policy and Geography at USF St. Petersburg, attended the meeting to discuss the upcoming workshops of turtle conservationist George L. Heinrich, owner and operator of the Heinrich Ecological Services. Heinrich will be participating in Royd Hill Nature Park's Spring Weekend Turtle Workshops, which will be held March 4 and 5, and April 1, 2, 29 and 30.

The Whitmores hoped that SEAS would sponsor a seminar on campus that would be hosted by Heinrich in mid-February. That seminar would then ideally attract attendees to the Royd Hill workshops.

It's possible that if enough students show interest in the workshops, they could be turned into a Special Topics Course during the summer worth three credits. The proposed course would include lectures, field trips, and possibly other speakers.

The idea was well received by the SEAS members and will be brought before student government to see if adequate funding can be provided.

BAYBORO HARBOR ON CAMPUS - Sunlight spills off the water in this view of Bayboro Harbor as seen from the bridge between Bayboro and Davis Islands. SEAS is working to clean up all areas of the harbor.

SEAS plans to use its involvement in the Harbor Day Initiative, campus recycling program, and Florida-friendly landscape design to join the Campus Ecology program, which is comprised of universities that promote sustainable practices on campus and is a part of the National Wildlife Federation.

"It is a great recognition for our campus," Cutler said.

To join, the group must show: its short- and long-term conservation goals; its plans to engage the support of the campus; how it will educate and engage the community; and how it intends to address global climate change.

SEAS already has started receiving support. Community members have sent e-mails offering their help, and the group has worked with many community organizations, such as Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Inc., and plans to work with more in the future, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Campus Ecology program

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Fitting in: committee researches campus diversity

BY JUSTIN LOWERY
STAFF WRITER

A campus group that has been charged with exploring issues related to inclusion and diversity is getting set to distribute a survey to students that will gauge their impressions of those issues at USF St. Petersburg.

The Subcommittee on Inclusion is one of nine that were formed last year by the Strategic Planning Committee to review the status of the campus as it relates to their particular area of focus. Other subcommittees look at fiscal enhancement, student enrollment and technology support.

The Strategic Planning Committee met in fall 2005 to help further the educational objectives set forth by the University. The committee decided to revise existing strategic directions into five strategic goals that include community enhancement, improved student life, distinctive research and graduate programs, distinctive undergraduate programs and a committee to research inclusion on campus.

Jaye Anne Terry, director of Community Outreach and Diversity Initiatives with the College of Business, was appointed chair of the Subcommittee on Inclusion to help the tackle the definitions of diversity and inclusion, to see if a problem with inclusion exists on campus and to compare USF St. Petersburg with other campuses around the country.

"We want to know the perceptions on campus about diversity and inclusion," said Terry.

The subcommittee is a working group that has 15 members, which include faculty, staff and students from across campus. The group meets about once a month at various locations around campus, including the College of Business and the College of Arts & Sciences. The subcommittee will also meet with college councils, student governments, and the community the University serves in order to get a broad base of view.

The most prominent issues that have been discussed at the meetings have been defining inclusion and diversity and whether or not it is a problem on campus.

During the meetings, one student member said she was offended by statements both her instructors and fellow students made in class. Another student said he felt odd on campus because of his ethnicity.

In the next issue of The Crew's Nest, the Subcommittee on Inclusion will distribute a survey asking students whether they feel USF St. Petersburg has a commitment to diversity, whether or not they feel the campus is welcoming and inclusive and if they see themselves as representing diversity. The survey will also be available online at Blackboard and will be distributed around campus.

"We want everybody to participate in the survey," Terry said. "We want everybody to help us. All the voices are important.

With the results, the subcommittee will submit a preliminary report on March 1 to the Strategic Planning Committee that will help to address any problems that are discovered.

One-minute news

BY ANTHONY SALVEGGI
EDITOR

Graduate apps due this week -- Friday, February 3, is the last day to turn in graduate applications for the spring semester.

SACS team visits USF St. Pete -- Representatives from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools will be on campus from February 7 to February 9 for a site visit. The 10-member team will decide whether to recommend accreditation for USF St. Petersburg.

Harborside Live -- Live music will once again be held on the Harborside Lawn, Wednesday, February 8, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Harborside Activities Board at 553-4199.

Bayboro Fiction Contest needs submissions -- The 20th Annual Bayboro Fiction Contest, which is sponsored by the Society for the Advancement of Poetry, is accepting short story entries from USF St. Petersburg students. Previously unpublished stories of 2,000 words or fewer must be received by April 7, 2006 to be eligible for the competition. First prize is $250, second prize is $150 and third prize is $100. For more information and the contest entry form, visit www.nelson.usf.edu/sapl/contest.

USF Ambassadors seeking members -- USF Ambassadors is seeking new members as part of its annual recruitment.

The group serves the University by attending high-secret events and networking with alumni, donors and friends of USF. Applicants must have at least a 2.7 GPA, 12 credits hour earned, and not be graduating until next spring at the earliest. Applications can be picked up from Kate Giglio, alumni affairs coordinator, in the Williams House. Applications are due February 17.

Book due dates extended -- Faculty who check out books from the Nelson Poynter Library during the fall and spring semester now have 180 days from the time they are checked out to return them. This new policy, which is consistent with changes made on the Tampa campus, does not affect interlibrary loan, juvenile books or media items.
Have we broken your heart yet?

- Life may be short, but in the world of journalism, tragedy sells.

The saying goes in news media circles, "If it bleeds, it leads." A callo­
ary to that could be, "If it’s sad, we’re so glad."

When Indianapolis Colts head coach Tony Dungy lost his son James to an apparent suicide in December, a longtime columnist for the St. Peter­
burg Times wrote an article that tried to hang Dungy’s misery on a wall for all to look at, if we were a profoundly heartbroken pieces of artwork we all required to gaze upon and appreci­
ate.

The piece was a morbid meditation on the finality of death and its linger­
ing effects on the loved ones of the departed.

“There are a million empty questions to be asked of a silent heaven, and none of them offers any relief,” the columnist wrote.

That line was just one of many that employed bluntness at the expense of respect and good taste to turn a terri­
ble episode in Dungy’s life into fodder for a story on the front page of the sports section.

With graceless and insensitive attempts at artistic parallelism, Dungy was cast as a ghost among the living.

"Man of perspective, Dungy: How is a man supposed to regain that when a loss is so overwhelming?"

"Man of direction, Dungy: But where does he go from here?"

"Man of resilience, Dungy: At a time such as this, with grief such as this, he will need to be."

Missing from the article was any indication that the author knew Dungy’s inner struggles first hand. This is no surprise. We regularly read newspaper accounts in which reporters pretend to know their subjects’ states of mind. Watch any press conference with the losing coach or player of a team and count the number of times reporters ask their loaded questions, each of which presumes to know what was going inside his or her head.

Dungy was remarkably composed when he appeared before the press at his son’s funeral. He did not appear to be a man so distraught that he had lost all his faith in God — in fact, Dungy spoke with conviction that James was in a better place.

Some may consider faith a state of mind that individuals must will them­
selves into in order to overcome the anxiety life brings them. This may be a comforting notion for those who conceive of belief in a higher power as superstition (and I’m not criticizing those who feel that way), but for those who have what they call faith, it is not

the result of choice. Faith is no more a choice than any other act of our own being that we would consider essential.

The noted sports columnist, however, did make a choice. He presumed to convey Dungy’s subjective experience. Never mind that Dungy composed himself before the media as he always has — love, reserved, the epitome of serenity. In the face of media histrionics over his son’s death, Dungy’s faith guided him through what could have been unbearable time in his life. The distance between the Dungy portrayed in the article, and the one we witnessed on television was considerable.

But writing a story about one man’s severe acceptance of his son’s passing doesn’t have the kick that journalists rely upon as their stock in trade. It was necessary to ratchet up the dramatic tension for the reader: Will Dungy get through this? How much will it take out of him? All that was missing was a final line requesting us to “Stay tuned and find out.”

Anthony Salveggi is a graduate student in the journalism program at USF St. Petersburg. He can be reached at usfcrowsnest@yahoo.com.
Rooms with a view

BY SHAWN GEARHART
STAFF WRITER

Charles Brown, vice chancellor of Student Affairs, does a hard hat and walks onto the construction site of the new residence hall with a smile from ear to ear. He is meeting with John Dickson, associate director of Facilities Planning & Construction, and John Berlin, superintendent for Elkins Constructors, Inc. They are taking a tour of Residence Hall One, which makes the dream of student housing a reality on the campus of USF St. Petersburg.

The three men enter the building from the back, a side many people haven't yet had the opportunity to see. They make their way through a maze of metal framework, stopping to point out where the rooms for students will be and various meeting facilities. Exiting at the front of the building, they climb onto a back hoist, a metal-caged elevator used on construction sites.

Reaching the seventh floor, they climb a flight of stairs to take in the view from the roof. “You can see the Skyway Bridge,” Berlin said. “I love pointing that out.” A few minutes is spent on the roof looking over the bay before heading back to the seventh floor to see the progress being made on the suites.

Walking down the west wing, one can see the rooms beginning to take shape. There is a fresh coat of beige paint on the walls. Some of the units on this floor are close to being finished. Dickson points out that the suite they are in will be the most common in the building. The suite he speaks of will house four people, each with their own room. It will also have a kitchen and a common living area. The suites will have at least two bathrooms, and all of the rooms will be furnished.

The men spend an hour walking through the building. It is in various stages of construction, but Berlin assures everyone that the project will be finished in early May.

Brown is excited about the project. He has been a part of resident building projects on other campuses, but this is different. “This campus has never had student housing. Brown said that while USF St. Petersburg has been known as a commuter campus, the residence hall and the new parking garage are going to help change that idea.

The progress comes with a price tag. Bonds were issued in the amount of $33 million to fund the construction of the new facilities. Those bonds will mature in 30 years and have a variable interest rate. Between rents from the hall and parking fees from the garage, Brown doesn’t anticipate any problem about financing.

“If we don’t have full occupancy, we have other ideas about generating revenue,” Brown said. These ideas include possibly renting to professors, and leasing space to groups who want to hold camps on the campus.

Brown said there is a big campaign in the local area to get the word out about housing on campus. Local high school counselors and new applicants to the university have been given information about the residence hall. The vast majority of the 354 beds thus far remain open for those interested in applying.

To help fill up the facility, Student Affairs has also sent out 100 applications to students already enrolled at USF St. Petersburg.

For the 2006-2007 academic year, there is also a financial incentive for living in Residence Hall One. As part of the campus’ 40 Years of Excellence celebration, scholarships will be awarded to students living in the hall. In order to be considered for the $500 Student Academic, Integrity, and Leadership Scholarship, students must agree to live on campus, register for six or more credit hours, and maintain good academic standing.

The suites range in price from $4,494 for the double bedroom units, to $5,562 for the four single bedroom units, to $6,067 for the single bedroom units per academic year. All utilities and maintenance fees are included in the fees. The hall will be closed between semesters and the summer; but residents will be able to stay on for additional fees that are based on the monthly average during the academic year.

Security and safety are also a big concern for the new residence hall. Each floor will have a resident assistant. The assistants can help residents get accustomed to university life, and help direct them to services on campus.

Access to Residence Hall One will be restricted to residents, guests of residents and staff. Each student that lives at the hall will be issued an access card. A card has to be used to gain access to the building. USF St. Petersburg Police will have an office on the first floor.

The parking garage is expected to be completed prior to the residence hall. People living in student housing will have to apply for a parking permit, like other students at the university. There are plans for a Barnes & Noble bookstow, and new offices for USF St. Petersburg Police will occupy the first floor of the garage. Fees for parking are not expected to increase for the upcoming 2006-2007 school year.

— Detailed information on the SAI scholarship can be found at http://www.stp.edu/lead/scholarships/
Putting a spell on campus

Mentalist Alain Nu enchanted his audience with an array of spellbinding demonstrations.

By Christina Castellana

Student Writer

When we think of mentalists who blow our minds with their telepathic tricks and unbelievable stunts, we often think of people who are dressed in black and possess a strange and mysterious air. But what happens when a mentalist is an average guy with no mysterious airs and performs in blue jeans and hoodie? What happens is Alain Nu.

On Friday, Nu came to the USFSt. Petersburg campus to wow students with his talent. In a room of about 30 people, he impressed everyone with his down-to-earth personality and humor, and left the mystery to his stellar tricks.

Nu stood on the small stage in Davis 130 with only two chairs and a small pedestal as props. He started his repertoire of magic with the usual card tricks in which he guessed the correct number and suit of a card chosen by an audience member. Every trick that followed became more impressive and showed his mastery of the art.

With two silver coins pressed over his eyelids and adhered to his face with thickly layered duct tape, Nu guessed every digit of the serial number on a $1 bill just by feeling it with his hand.

He then demonstrated a hypnotism test with two young women from the audience who were chosen not by Nu, but by other audience members. He had them sit in the chairs on stage and then asked them to close their eyes. After going through a few moments of "getting them in the zone" by having them visualize certain images in order to fully relax and be in the moment, he commenced with the test by touching only one of the women with two finger taps and one brush of a feather.

When he asked the them if they felt his finger taps and the feather, both raised their hands, and both reported that they felt the taps and feather the same number of times. Nu said, "You can't read someone's mind, but you can sometimes feel what someone is feeling."

Nu trumped the hypnotism test with a bit of psychokinesis. He held a regular stainless steel spoon between his thumb and forefinger and began waving his free hand beneath it. Right before everyone's eyes, the spoon began to bend and collapse on itself.

Nu ended the hour-long show with an inspiring trick that left everyone in the audience cheering. From the stage and with his eyes closed, he threw a crumpled up piece of paper into the audience. A young woman ended up with the paper, which Nu had her place on the chair next to her seat. Nu asked her to tell him of a place she would like to visit in the future. At first she said Norway, but when asked if she wanted to change the destination, she said Australia. He then asked her to write down the age at which she would like to visit Australia on a piece of paper, and he would guess the number and write it on his notepad. When Nu had her tell the audience what age she had written down, she said, "25." Nu turned his large notepad toward the audience to show a grid of numbers, which, no matter what direction (across, down, diagonally or quadrants) was used, totaled 25. Then he told her to open up the piece of crumpled paper. There, written in large bold letters, was "Australia." With that, Nu closed the show with "May the force be with you," and left the audience wanting more.

Alain Nu

ABOUT

To find out more about the mentalist, check out his Web site at www.nu-magic.com

His television specials that aired on TLC (The Learning Channel) in spring 2005 will be sold on DVD — visit his site for more information.

The Harborside Activities Board made this performance possible. Check USFStP billboards around campus for a listing of upcoming Harborside events. If interested in joining the team, contact Jennifer Quinn-Taylor at (727) 873-4181.

Regulations

Tony Silva

As he discussed plans to develop the program, Silva was particularly enthusiastic about the Neighborhood News Bureau, in which students gain experience gathering and reporting the news to the local community.

"Neighborhood News Bureau to me is the nexus of convergence," Silva said. The bureau recently acquired its first official home at the James R. Sandzelius Neighborhood Family Center, located at 2335 22nd Ave. S.

Silva called it a "one of a kind physical location in an urban neighborhood," which will allow students to produce reports on an "undercovered community." He added that it will also allow each of the faculty to bring their expertise to what students do at the bureau. In keeping with his extensive background in television news reporting, Silva talked about having students produce a news broadcast from the Sandzelius Center.

"It impressed me that his plate was really forward-thinking," Silva said. "I see students there becoming multi-task, cross-platform people," Silva said. "I see the Neighborhood News Bureau as being the best of all worlds producing these people."

Silva said he wants to instill critical thinking skills in students, to turn them from "decision takers to decision makers" and create leaders in the field of journalism who understand "why you do it and how you can do it better."

Prior to coming to USFStP, Silva was a professor of communication studies at the University of Rhode Island, where he also served as director of public relations studies. From 1998 to 2001, he served as acting chair of the URI department of journalism.

Before he turned his focus to the academic side of his field, Silva was a reporter for many years at a number of television stations in Rhode Island.

On leaving the Ocean State behind, Silva said he misses his family most of all.

His son Corey is a junior at Seton Hall, while his daughter Casey, 25, graduated from Seton Hall Law School and is an attorney in Boston.

Silva currently has a townhouse in Dedham, while his wife Regina, who serves as the chair of the English department at a Catholic high school in Massachusetts, still lives at their home in Little Compton, R.I., a town near Newport. Silva said they plan to keep that residence.
PREPARING FOR THE WATERS —
Senior Ashley Reynolds prepares her sail boat for practice. Reynolds has sailed most of her life and has sailed with USF for four years.

THE course ahead

* Women's sailing team poised to equal or better last year's successful run, must also deal with need to replace fleet and recruit more sailors

BY ANTHONY SALVEGGI
EDITOR

As it enters the spring season, the USF women's varsity sailing team and coach Allison Jolly face a number of daunting tasks, not the least of which is equaling last year's best-ever national ranking.

When the final fall ranking came out, USF became one of six schools to have both their coed and women's teams ranked in the top 10 at the end of the season. The coed team finished at number 10, while the women's squad was ranked sixth.

"It's a function of so much of our team being seniors," Jolly explained. "On whether the team can improve on last season's result, Jolly answered matter-of-factly, "It depends on how we do at nationals."

This year's ICSCA Women's North Americans will be held in late May at the College of Charleston, which is also the site of the district finals. The South Atlantic Intercollegiate Association, USF's district, will send its top two teams to Charleston to compete against 17 other schools.

One of the dilemmas Jolly faces is getting her roster up to the minimum needed to satisfy Title IX requirements. With 16 members on the team, Jolly needs two more sailors and encourages female students to try out. Paige Bailey, the number-one-ranked single-handed women's sailor in the world, is not on the team's roster this year as there are no single-handed races on the schedule. While losing such an accomplished sailor might seem devastating to the team's chances to repeat last year's result, Jolly explained that single-handed races don't factor into the rankings.

One reason for the difficulty in keeping a full roster may be the requirements upon varsity team members, who must carry 12 credit hours. That can be hard to expect of students on what is still a commuter campus.

"I'm hoping when the residence hall opens up we'll get less of a commuter student," Jolly said.

Though one might think a university in a state surrounded on three sides by water would have no problem getting people interested in joining the team, Jolly said Florida's best sailors usually end up going to schools in the Northeastern part of the country.

"Typically, if they're from Florida, they want out," Jolly said.

As a head from her need to recruit more team members, Jolly said her biggest task for the spring is to raise money for a new fleet of boats. The 12 current vessels are five years old, which Jolly said is at the limit of their expected lifespan. Four of the boats have started to develop cracks along various seams, which allow water to enter the tanks when it splashes over the side.

"When we're out all day, we might drain a gallon or two [from the tanks];' Jolly said.

Having water in the tanks slows the boats down, something that visiting schools aren't fond of dealing with during a race.

Jolly added that getting new boats is essential if the team wants to host site for regattas in the future. This spring, five races will be held at USF. But that may not be the case next year if there aren't upgrades.

"To be honest, I don't think we could [host races] next spring without a new fleet," she said.

Jolly estimated that it will cost about $75,000 to replace the entire fleet. She's hoping to find a series of local sponsors who will purchase a boat for $6,200 for naming rights.

Jolly said that once the fleet is replaced, the seven recreational boats can be sold, and the current fleet can be used for the campus' Learn to Sail program.

"We want the fleet used," Jolly said.

"Our payback is to promote sailing." — Those interested in joining the team should contact Allison Jolly at [email protected] .

— More information about sailing can be found at www.collegesailing.org.

Battered Boats

THEY HAVE BEEN BETTER DAYS — Four of the sailing team's flying junior sailboats have begun to develop cracks along the team in their interiors. Water that splashes over the sides of the boats get into the hull, slowing them down. Coach Allison Jolly is hoping to find local sponsors to replace the fleet.

Brokeback Mountain — from page 7

Cinematography is top-notch, but it's Heath Ledger and Gyllenhaal who really deserve most of the credit for their acting and commitment to their characters.

While watching their performances, I was reminded of Will Smith's debut film role in "Six Degrees of Separation," where he played a homosexual grifter pretending to be the son of actor Sidney Poitier. His performance was a lot of well-deserved attention, although it was unfortunate that he didn't feel comfortable enough to go through with a scripted on-screen kiss. (The camera pans away as Smith's character goes in for the smooch.) Even Smith has said in later interviews that he felt his decision took away from his performance. Ledger and Gyllenhaal don't shy away from who their characters are and it shows in their performances.

I enjoyed "Brokeback Mountain" and feel it can be used to help bring about understanding and tolerance among people who have never thought about these issues before. This is a serious movie that manages to take the well-worn theme of forbidden love—a mainstay of chick movies—and place it in the context of a gay love affair. Like groundbreaking movies before it, such as "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," "Philadelphia" and last year's "Million Dollar Baby," let's hope that this movie really does make people think — and not just because 'they' tell us to.

— Scott Wachtler is an undergraduate student in the journalism program at USF St. Petersburg.
I'm straight.

New Movies opening in theatres Friday, Feb. 3:

**Coming Soon**

BY SCOTT WACHTLER

By contributing writer

BY FORGET

Doom

•

Just Like Heaven

Elizabethtown

Lampoon's Adam & Eve

Brokeback Mountain

Calls

At its core, "Brokeback Mountain" is a good film about forbidden love that may bring about greater tolerance.

A few weeks ago my wife asked me if I wanted to go to the Tampa Theatre to see "Brokeback Mountain." How about that for a lead? Not only did I open with the who, what and where, I shyly inserted my hetero-sexuality into the mix. Where - I'm safe to review the movie now.

I haven't been living in a cave for the last few months. I knew what the movie was about and I'm secure enough not to be afraid of seeing a little one-on-one male action - if it's done tastefully, of course. Rest assured, Ang Lee's "Brokeback Mountain" is done far more tastefully and is far more rewarding than his "Hulk" adaptation, but let's be real - this isn't the first gay movie ever made and Hollywood is exactly going out on a ledge as much as the hype would have you believe.

One of the reasons for all the attention this movie is getting is due to the fact that it takes the iconic cowboy persona and turns it upside down. Every bit of pre-publicity hype has dangled this hook in our faces. Most critics have swallowed the bait and swam with it. Without seeing the movie, it's easy to think that they're using gay cowboys as the gimmick, an easy way to allow everyone - straight and gay - to be moved. If you don't think so, imagine if they had made this movie more stereotypical. Let's say that the story was about a forbidden love between two gay hairdressers. They probably would have cast Nathan Lane along with that annoying guy (take your pick) from Will and Grace, and they would have made it into a comedy. Had they done that, they would have possibly courted some of the straight audience along with the gay audience that doesn't mind silly stereotypes a la "The Birdcage."

Had Hollywood gone that route, they would have failed to gain the type of street cred that they love getting from movies like this. Hollywood has had enough of the glut of straight in thinking that it's being broad-minded. When in actuality, I suspect they knew that this was a good opportunity to reach an untapped market.

Hollywood is now deep in the heart of awards show self-love and they're busy patting themselves on the back for being so brave. But I have to say that, although I liked this movie much more than I thought I would, there are still elements that make it safe bet.

From "Casablanca" to "Dirty Dancing" and even in Lee's own "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," the theme of forbidden love has been used to death. So, no, I can't quite jump on the Hollywood-deserves-credit bandwagon when it seems all they've done is find a new medium to tell the same story.

My problem isn't with the movie at all. I guess my criticisms lie more with the way we've force-fed movie marketing campaigns, and how reviewers are falling all over themselves to show the world how tolerant and politically correct they are. The only review that I've seen that isn't par for the course is the Today Show's Gene Shalit.

For his opinion, Shalit got a wag of the finger from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation for saying that he felt that Jake Gyllenhaal's character, Jack, Twist, was a sexual predator. However wrong Shalit's analysis may be, it is his job to give his opinion. I fail to see how what he said was damaging to anything other than his analytical skills. Having GLAAD shame Shalit into issuing an apology is wrong. By saying that Shalit - or any reviewer - is not allowed to call Jack a sexual predator, it's as if they're saying that it's impossible for there to be a gay character who is a sexual predator.

The screenplay, written by Larry McMurtry - no stranger to the western genre was adapted from an Annie Proulx short story. Proulx and McMurtry belong to the small stable of writers who believe that less is more and that style weeks very effectively here. Lee's direction is good, but seems to playing the role of melodrama a few more times than is needed. The

**Forget the hype 'they' feed you and just watch the movie.**

**STEP AFRIKA!!**

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