1-28-2004

Crow's Nest : 2004 : 01 : 28

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.
Students help presidential candidates in New Hampshire

Professor Judithanne Scourfield McLauchlan’s “Road to the White House” class last week departed sunny St. Petersburg and headed to New Hampshire, home of the first-in-the-nation presidential primary. The 21 students in the class interned on seven of the eight presidential campaigns for the critical days leading up to the election. You can learn more about their internship experiences by reading their daily blogs on USFSP’s Web site at http://www.stpt.usf.edu/whitehouse/. The Crow’s Nest will feature a story about their trip and experiences in its Feb. 11 issue.

USF professor aids Somali refugees’ arrival in Tampa Bay

By Kristie A. Martinez
Senior Staff Writer

Jessica Cabness knows how it feels to be a foreigner in a strange land. She understands how people live in developing countries. And because she’s lived abroad, Cabness wants to help those who are new to America.

Cabness, an assistant professor of social work at USF St. Petersburg, has a desire to help people not only in her professional life, but also in her personal and spiritual life. She heads the Refugee Mentors Ministry at St. Joseph Catholic Church, located in Midtown St. Petersburg. The ministry is sponsoring a family of Somali Bantu refugees who are due to arrive in Tampa Bay before the end of January.

So far, Cabness said the ministry members collected furniture and household items for the family.

USF Tampa goofs
Web site image insults intelligence
Opinion page 2

Peace groups unite
Activists join together in M.L. King parade
Story page 4

News photo gallery
Images from around campus
See page 8

Journalism studies dept. hopes for accreditation soon

By Vanessa Espinar
Staff Writer

The Department of Journalism and Media Studies will become the first USF St. Petersburg academic department to be separately accredited. It began when the state legislature passed a bill in June 2001, which called for the St. Petersburg and Sarasota campuses to become autonomous. At that point talks began with then Vice President Bill Heller, the provost and the heads of the departments both in Tampa and St. Petersburg. They decided that St. Petersburg’s journalism program would separate from the School of Mass Communications on the main campus.

The graduate program separated in Spring 2002, the undergraduate program in Summer 2003. The program must meet 13 standards to receive accreditation, including: quality of the academic program and quality of the facilities. A team from the Accrediting Council on Education in
USF Tampa misses the point with staged image

By Jim Grinaker

In reflecting on this past week, I found it a bit ironic that on one hand we commemorate the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., one of America’s great fighters for civil rights, while only a couple days later we commemorate one of the greatest defeats for civil rights in history, the Supreme Court’s Roe vs. Wade decision.

The work of Dr. King helped ensure that an entire class of people, who had been denied their very personhood as human beings, would finally be able to enjoy their God given rights of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Finally, they would have these rights protected as full citizens under the law.

In 1973, the Supreme Court did the exact opposite of what King did. It chose to strip an entire class of people of their most fundamental right spelled out in the Declaration of Independence, namely the right to life. What the Creator gave the courts took away. By denying that unborn children are human persons, it did exactly what the slave owners did in considering blacks as more property.

The slave owners, Nazis and U.S. Supreme Court all made the same error. Recognition of human personhood was determined by what one could do or where one came from. This contrasts sharply the view of the Declaration of Independence, which views human personhood as something inherent in who we are. We do nothing to achieve it, and no one and no state can deny it. Because they could do less than other people, the Nazis considered the mentally retarded and handicapped as less than fully human and an inconvenient drain on society. Thus they were the first to be killed as part of Hitler’s final solution. They were soon followed by other “non-persons” including Jews, Gypsies and Poles.

The Supreme Court seems to think that because unborn children are not able to do as much as others, they do not deserve to be protected as human persons. Thus today it is legal for a woman who finds herself pregnant to have her unborn child killed.

There is no debate whether or not unborn children are human. Any biology book will state that “human life begins at conception.” All the DNA and everything that makes us human is there. The only debate is in the quality of the life. Apparently this quality is determined by how much one can do.

The Court says that unborn human life is not as valuable as someone already born. But does this inequality really fit with the idea that “All men are created equal?” According to the American ideal, you are fully human or not at all. There is no middle ground. No three-fifths compromise.

If I broke my leg or had a stroke, would I be less human? Although African Americans still face many challenges, at least their fundamental rights are safe. Now there is a whole other group of Americans that have been stripped of their rights who we need to fight for.

This past Thursday thousands of Americans converged on Washington D.C. in the “March for Life.” I have little doubt that if he had lived, King would be there, standing in the front lines of this new civil rights movement fighting to ensure the rights of unborn Americans.

— Grinaker, a political science major, is the Crow’s Nest’s chief photographer and is president of Lux Mundi, USFSP’s Catholic student organization.
between the lines
By Lisa Z. Matzner

When the St. Petersburg Times published its first same-sex wedding announcement on Jan. 4, many people believed it would start an influx of similar declarations. However, since then no other gay or lesbian couples have had wedding announcements published. Letters sent to the editor were published later that week with mixed responses, some giving kudos and others spewing homophobic rhetoric.

The argument against gay marriages often includes some bit that the sanctity of marriage would be violated. This is the same "sanctity" that allowed Britney Spears and Kevin Federline a 55 hour marriage in Las Vegas; news which clogged our airways for days. This trivializing of the institution of marriage is not physical. If what we want to settle social controversies? Does the legally recognized union of two people in love need to be banned in a document founded on equality?

It seems reminiscent of Nazi Germany, where Hitler's men not only slaughtered millions of Jews, but also killed homosexuals. The Holocaust Museum has a large display of men and women in the concentration camps with pink triangles sewed onto their uniforms, to mark them as gay, to mark them for death.

While we, as a civilized society, do not condone the murder of individuals based on sexual orientation, hate crimes do exist. These hate crimes are perpetuated by socially accepting discrimination and reinforcing prejudices through our laws. Many states do not recognize the viciousness of hate crimes in their penal codes.

You do not have to "love thy neighbor," or refrain from "judging others." These are Christian beliefs, and while Christians, we still have freedom of religion in this great country. Churches would not have to perform same-sexed marriages if it becomes legal because we have separation of church and state. These foundations of the U.S. Constitution were written to ensure individual freedom.

Legal marriage grants a couple over 1,400 different rights they are not privy to as unmarried couples. These are the rights that gay and lesbian couples are fighting to have. Basic hospital visitation, automatic inheritance of shared property and the right to adopt others unwanted children abandoned to the foster care system, are just some of those rights denied to an unmarried couple.

There was a time in the United States' not so distant past when interracial marriages were illegal. The same arguments used against gay rights were used then to maintain the status quo. Of course, now intelligence and time has taught us that inter-racial marriages have not destroyed the sanctity of marriage, but rather helped to create a more tolerant society when it comes to race. Regardless of one person's beliefs about the freedom of others to express their love.

If the thought of homosexuals getting married bothers you, when it becomes legal, because it eventually will, just don't marry one!

President Bush, why Mars?

Bush is once again trying to bolster American patriotism. This time by

See Matzner on page 6

Letter to the editor

RE: Followers of Islam shed light on a misunderstood religion (published Jan. 14)

Dear Editor,

I would like to congratulate you for such a comprehensive coverage of the panel discussion on "Islam Unveiled," but wish to clarify a point your reporter seemed to have missed. As a matter of fact, Tunisia and Morocco didn't undergo any type of violence during the recent Algerian Civil War. What happened was that the media made people believe that the whole North African zone was unsafe, which was not true. The image the European media gave of Islam and Moslems was proved inaccurate when the same media provided the counter argument towards the end of the 1990s.

Jamel Jemni
Fulbright Scholar
USF St. Petersburg
Peace groups join parade to celebrate King's birthday

By Lara Stewart

"This is the main!" exclaimed Cass, a member of the anti-war organization Women in Black, as local artist and activist Mauricio Vasquez emerged from his car.

Vasquez painted the banner that St. Pete for Peace, Women in Black, Pax Christi Tampa Bay and other peace organizations carried in the 19th Annual Drum Major for Justice Parade in St. Petersburg on Monday, Jan. 19. It depicted Martin Luther King Jr. holding a dove and reads "Still dreaming for peace."

Nearly 30 area activists from over a half-dozen organizations met at North Shore Park to paint signs, share food and decorate the two vehicles that would serve as their floats in the parade. The event honored the 75th birthday of the slain civil rights leader.

Many participants, like Diane Cardin-Kamleiter, were there to represent more than one organization. Her list included six.

"There is ease of movement between groups," said Chris Ernesto, a St. Pete for Peace organizer. He said that most recognize the need for flexibility within progressive causes. "No one says, 'I have a problem because you are a Democrat and I'm a Green.' The people who are willing to volunteer their time do not have that mentality."

The air was festive as balloons were inflated and attached to the vehicles and people who had met before at other events chatted and caught up with one another. Food and drink were shared, including bread and cake from Tampa's Missionary Baptist Church , who attends the parade every year, deemed this year 's parade, "lovely...gets better and better every year, drawing us closer and closer."

Many spectators cheered and flashed peace signs, shouting back sentiments such as "Peace in America," and "Dr. King was a prince of peace."

Brother Paul Morrison, of St. John's Missionary Baptist Church , who attends the parade every year, deemed this year's parade, "lovely...gets better and better every year, drawing us closer and closer."

Children along the parade route shouted out for beads, but also happily accepted leaflets. Many spectators cheered and flashed peace signs, shouting back sentiments such as "Peace in America," and "Dr. King was a prince of peace."

Anti-war parade participants pass through a crowd of onlookers.

"Dr. King was a prince of peace."

Peace group activists carry a sign depicting Dr. Martin Luther King. Members of Pax Christi Tampa Bay, Women in Black and St. Pete for Peace worked together to prepare and walk the parade.
USF St. Pete students need more hang-out space

By Jason Merritt

It is no secret that students on this campus have a limited space to call their own. There are a few places that students tend to congregate; Davis Lobby, the Campus Activities Center, the Tavern and even the Bayboro Café. But these provide limited activities to pass the time between classes.

Student Government has done its best to make some of these areas more student friendly. Last years refurbishing of Davis Lobby seemed to be a success in the eyes of most students.

"Thanks for the TY," is what I hear most of the time.

But students shouldn’t have to rely on existing lounges to provide a place to hang out. This campus needs space created specifically for student use.

Student Government was requesting more student space for a number of years, and now it looks like our effort has finally paid off.

Last September a new student union was set to open in the Terrace building located on the east side of Davis Hall. Unfortunately, due to problems with renting video games and other furniture, the project has been delayed. While Student Government is working to get the Terrace open as soon as possible, a larger, more elaborate student union is in the works.

It’s still in the beginning stages, but this new union has potential to be a great addition to the campus. It will be built on the site currently occupied by the Fountain Inn, which is in the process of being demolished.

This new union is being planned out by Student Affairs, who have so far, only been able to gather limited suggestions from students on what should be included in the union.

"Better you!

Do you want three pool tables instead of two? Or would you rather have no pool tables and a hot tub?"

On Jan. 29 and 30 Student Affairs will be holding a focus group in Terrace room 300 to pry suggestions from students about the needs and wants for the new union. This is your opportunity to not only make a difference in the campus, but also in the quality of your college experience and all future USF St. Petersburg students.

"The focus groups will be broken up into four segments to accommodate different schedules. On Jan. 29, there will be a session from 10-2 p.m. and a session from 4-5 p.m. On Jan. 30, the first session is from 9-11 a.m. and the second session will follow immediately from 10:15-11:15.

I hope that you will take this opportunity to get involved in the planning of our campus. We’ve got a lot of growing to do in the next several years and it is important for students to be a part of that process.

BBQ!

In other Student Government news, we will be hosting a barbeque on the Harborcide lawn outside Davis Hall on Feb. 11 from 11 a.m. to 2. Come on out and eat a burger for free!

Student Government officers and representatives will be at the barbeque answering any questions or issues you might have about the campus. We want to make sure that we are working in the best interest for all students, so your input is always welcome.

To contact Student Government go to CAC room 127 or call us at (727) 553-4147.

It’s our University! Take action to make sure it stays that way.

9-1-1 call gets faster response, medical attention than trip to ER

By Ashley Enger

Daily Utah Chronicle (U. Utah)

(U-WIRE) If you are experiencing chest pain, the latest research indicates you should call 9-1-1 instead of driving to the hospital yourself.

On average, private transportation resulted in faster arrival to an emergency department compared with transportation by ambulance, but the ambulance ride resulted in faster medical treatment, according to a study done by researchers from the University of Utah medical school.

"People experiencing chest pain often do not consider that life-saving measures can be initiated as soon as EMS [emergency medical services] arrives. Also, EMS personnel can warn hospital personnel about a person’s symptoms, shortening the time needed to diagnose and provide necessary treatment once the patient arrives at the hospital," said Clay Mann, principal investigator and a researcher at the Intermountain Injury Control Research Center.

About 1.2 million Americans experience acute myocardial infarction, or heart attack, every year. More than half of them do not receive appropriate medical care.

Medications that break clots that block arteries during a heart attack can reduce deaths significantly if given within an hour of the onset of symptoms.

EMS allows for quick delivery of this medicine. Only 50 to 60 percent of persons suffering chest pain choose to call 9-1-1 because most patients think driving directly to the hospital is quicker than EMS transportation.

"People who utilize private transportation to get to the emergency department faster may actually be delaying treatment," Mann said.

Counseling and career center increases visibility, outreach

Theresa Sterling

Staff Writer

Dr. Katherine McKay would like to see her appointment book full.

A psychologist and director of student development at the Career and Counseling Center at USFSP, McKay says her office has quieted a bit since it moved from Davis Hall last year.

Tucked into a breezeway in the southwest corner of Bayboro Hall near the Foyer Library is the center’s new digs. McKay expects that to change soon.

The revamped Web site and literature showcase images of Florida’s famous sunsets and sunrises along with the menu of client services. Hours at the center now accommodate both day and evening students.

The center also began a series of focus groups in recent weeks. These weekly meetings focus on issues such as depression, eating disorders, coping skills and stress management. They are an effective, meaningful means to reach students while minimizing the anxiety and stigma associated with seeking mental health services, says McKay.

The licensed staff brings varied experiences to counseling services at the center. McKay comes from the Department of Veteran’s Affairs, where she worked with veterans who suffered sexual or combat trauma. Before that, she directed a rape crisis center in New York and counseled adolescents who suffered abuse. Her research focuses on violence and sexual support systems of trauma victims.

Dr. Perry Kaly, the other staff psychologist at the center, deals with diverse issues as well. He counsels on the food-emotion dynamic: binge eating, anorexia, obesity management, depression and substance abuse.

He has done extensive work in sports psychology, working with the USF sailing team, women’s soccer and softball teams and cyclists in Gainesville.

"It’s all performance enhancement," he says, whether discussing issues of food, athletics, test anxiety, relationships, depression or abuse.

"There are," he says, "more students now at universities struggling with serious mental issues, which is a good sign." Historically, Kaly says, if these individuals reached the post-secondary level, they would “wash out” in the first semester: "Now they make it." This is a positive comment on the availability of counseling services in the community.

See Counseling on page 7

Opinions wanted

Do you have an opinion on a topic affecting USF St. Petersburg or the surrounding area? Do you agree or disagree with our opinions? The Crow’s Nest is seeking well-written, thoughtful letters to the editor. Letter writers should include their names, position (e.g. student), and phone numbers for verification. Letters may be edited for length or clarity, but otherwise are printed exactly as received. Not all letters may be published. Please email your letters to ufscrownest@spfd.edu.
Professor.

Professor Mike Killenberg, journalism program director. "It's the journalism community's most valued seal of approval."

One of the first steps to becoming accredited is to produce a report in which questions about every aspect of the program are answered. "The team is coming in to see first hand whether what we described exists," Killenberg said. "They are particularly interested in what students have to say and how students feel about the education they are getting." Accreditation is voluntary. According to USF's School of Mass Communications' website: "Only 25 percent of the 450 journalism and mass communications programs in the United States are accredited by ACEJMC." Killenberg said not being accredited does not affect the value of a degree. "Accreditation is a choice a program makes to test itself, to determine by outside review what kind of quality education the program is providing," he said. "Any program that strives to be excellent should seek accreditation."

Having an accredited program will be beneficial. "For students knowing that a program is accredited helps them when they apply for graduate schools or jobs. It provides legitimacy to their education," said Mark Durand, the college of arts & science dean. "For the university it signals the strength and maturity of the program."

Kristie Martinez, journalism student and member of the department's accreditation committee, agrees that it will be good for students. "Accreditation will give it recognition as a quality journalism school," she said. "It will definitely be a good thing for students, it is going to give the students more credibility."

The journalism program has grown over the past few years. "Our projections are to maintain enrollment of 50 graduate and 125 undergraduate students," Killenberg said. "I expect enrollment to increase regardless of accreditation." Durand said accreditation may help increase enrollment. "Enrollment usually does go up because some students will only apply and enter programs that are accredited," he said. After the accreditation team has completed their tasks, they will draft a preliminary report, which should indicate the results. The report is then reviewed by the program to see if there is any need for clarification. Then it goes to an accreditation committee and then to the accreditation council. The results should be finalized by late April or early May. "We are excited about the prospect, very pleased with the application the program provided," Durand said. "I fully expect that they will be accredited."

USF BULLS BASKETBALL

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Mon., 2/9 TCU 7 p.m.

Fri., 2/13 Southern Miss 7 p.m.
www.gusfbulls.com

Matzner, from page 3

announcing his new initiative to build a permanent lunar base and send astronauts from there to Mars. Both the St. Petersburg Times and the Tampa Tribune used the story as their lead on Thursday, Jan. 15. While our space program does have merit, the timing of this announcement, just before the Democratic primaries, appears to be a $12-billion dollar "look—something shiny" distraction tactic by the current administration.

Bush is quoted as saying "We do not know where this journey will end, yet we know this: Human beings are headed into the cosmos..." Well, maybe Mr. President, we should not just jump into our overpriced vehicles and go joy riding. Perhaps the responsible thing to do, though admittedly less fun, is to stay home and take care of our children and our aging parents. Bush is acting like the ultimate deadbeat dad. When it comes to limited monies and resources we should have an idea of where our journey will take us. Does one even need to point out the human and monetary cost America has already paid for Bush's visionless invasion of Iraq?

The Tribune accompanied their article with a street beat question; "Should we go?" One 12-year-old respondent said about how cool it would be if we do find a Martian society. Others stated that we should find out if there really is life on Mars. Uhuh, does the ideas of children with all their high tech toys and available information, believing in Marinas both or anyone else? This says volumes about our current junior high science classes. Such as, they are painfully under funded and inadequate.

These Somali Bantu children were born in the refugee camp in Dadaab, Kenya, near the Somali border. The Bantus — brought to Somalia from Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania by Arab slave traders two centuries ago — fled the country's civil war after Muhammad Siad Barre's government collapsed in 1991.

Special to the Crow's Nest

and have been looking for a home in St. Petersburg for them. The refugee ministry will provide transportation and food and for the Bantu family. They will also visit the Bantu family every day for six to eight weeks to help them settle into their new home and to help them learn English.

"The transition is going to be huge for them," Cabness said. "They're going to require instruction in almost every aspect of U.S. life, everything from using a microwave to using a can opener."

The Somali Bantu are unlike other refugee populations that have resettled in the Tampa Bay area. They have had little to no exposure to modern, urban life. The Somali Bantu children are not living a normal life of going to school, and there is likely to be a high levels of malnutrition among the Bantus, she said.

The Bantus also are different from other refugees because they do not have a written language. "It's a real concern that the Somali Bantu refugees may be pretenders," Cabness said. "They may not have the basic elements of composition in their own language."

But the lack of a written language will not keep Somali Bantu children from learning English, said Roberta Chamberlain, who teaches third through fifth graders the Mandarin and Spanish Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) program at Melrose Elementary School in St. Petersburg.

"It's just like children coming to kindergarten and learning to read and write for the first time," Chamberlain said. "If they're in kindergarten or first grade, they won't have any problems."

But the older people are, the harder it is for them to learn a new language, Chamberlain said.

According to a U.S. Department of State report, the Somali Bantus are receiving literacy training in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps in Kenya.

Cabness said she became the coordinator of the Refugee Mentors Ministry because of her experiences with living in foreign countries. When she was in college, Cabness traveled to Africa, so she knows the conditions that people live in developing countries. I know what it's like to be a foreigner in a strange land.

Cabness said she took over the ministry mostly because of the conditions that people live in developing countries. I know what it's like to be a foreigner in a strange land.

"The issue of immigration resonates with me," she said. "I've lived abroad... and have been to South Africa, so I know the conditions that people live in developing countries."

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"I've lived abroad... and have been to South Africa, so I know the conditions that people live in developing countries.
before individuals reach a university campus, and on individuals’ willingness to seek those services, he says.

Counseling sessions serve students and staff directly, but USF instructors who notice a distressed student can also find support at the center. Because instructors see students weekly, sometimes daily, they may be the first to witness alarming behaviors or attitudes. A professor could be the one to facilitate early resolution of a student’s problem.

McKay stresses the advantages of using the counseling center’s psychological services even at non-critical times. Students and staff should visit not only when they are struggling with something or in fear of failing, she says.

"Counseling," she says, "can be a useful step in the development of a lifestyle that is productive. Student development means finding a way of being that enhances your overall existence. It means developing a way of being that brings some passion and fulfillment to your life," whether it involves relationships, academics, job-hunting, starting a business or any other area.
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Workers began demolishing the Fountain Inn this week. A temporary parking lot will be built to take the former retirement home's place.

Chihuly College Night

Students with their current ID may see the Chihuly Across Florida glass exhibit for a discount. On Friday, Feb. 6 from 6-9 p.m., students may experience the magical world of Dale Chihuly for only $5. As a bonus, free snacks and beverages will be served.

A night out is rarely this cheap and you have the opportunity to see magnificent creations of art.

Photos by Matt Nelson & Jim Grinaker

Left: Education Professor Sonia Helton and her husband greet supporters in the Williams House on Jan. 23. Helton is retiring after 32 years of service to USF.

Right: Johanna Xenobia (front) and Cate Almon demonstrate belly dancing at USFSP's Campus Showcase.

8 UNIVERSnY OF SOUTH FLORIDA ST. PETERSBURG JANUARY 28, 2004