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Fed offers new student grants

by KIM GILBERT
contributing writer

USF St. Petersburg - Few students are aware that the federal government is paying students to enter math/science or foreign language fields deemed critical to U.S. national security.

The program offers two different grants, the Academic Competitiveness Grant and the National Science and Mathematics Access to Degrees (SMART) Grant.

The AC Grant will be awarded to first or second year undergraduate students. First year recipients can be awarded up to $770 per academic year. Eligible recipients can receive up to $1,200 in the second academic year. To qualify for the AC Grant, a student must have completed a "rigorous" course of study in high school.

The SMART grant is awarded to third or fourth year undergraduate students. Recipients can be awarded up to $4,000 per academic year. Students are required to be enrolled in coursework leading to completion of an eligible major. Eligible majors include: computer science, engineering, critical foreign language, life sciences, mathematics, physical sciences, and computer science.

"It was the president's desire to increase the number of students going into science and technology fields. That is the whole purpose behind these grants, it was based on national security," said Campus Director of Financial Aid Erin Dunn.

The two new grants are part of the recent changes to the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 and total $790 million in free money for the 2006-2007 academic year. It is projected to be $1.01 billion by the 2010-2011 academic year.

Students must fill out a FAFSA. Free Application for Federal Student Aid, to determine eligibility for the need-based grants.

Eligible recipients can receive up to $4,000 per academic year. Eligible majors include: computer science, engineering, critical foreign language, life sciences, mathematics, physical sciences, and computer science.

"They're getting quite a bit of free money from the government and it does not have to be repaid," Dunn said. "This was a way for the president to identify talented high school students who were already concentrating in those fields or thinking about going into those fields and giving them an extra incentive."

Eligible recipients can receive up to $1,300 per academic year. Eligible majors include: computer science, engineering, critical foreign language, life sciences, mathematics, physical sciences, and computer science.

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Rigorous programs of study by state can be found on the Department of Education's website: http://usfweb2.usf.edu/finaid/about/ac-smart/state-programs06.html.

For a complete list of fields of study for the National SMART Grants at USF visit http://usfweb2.usf.edu/finaid/gibh aid/smart_majors.htm.

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The Crow's Nest asks:
“What is your reaction to last week’s election results?”

by SCOTT WACHTLER
staff writer

“I had a lot of questions about polls and machines. I heard that some places didn’t have the right equipment, or closed early. That’s important because there were a lot of close races.”
— Laundra Hicks, '32, junior Business Administration major

“I wasn’t surprised. People wanted change. I’m happy that Crist won. I’m a Catholic and he believes in the same things I do.”
— Alex Lansky, '19, sophomore Business Management major

“I’m ecstatic about the results. There is justice in the world! It’s great to see that Rove’s diabolical political machine was finally defeated by reality.”
— Charlie Manter, '19, sophomore Political Science major

“I’m OK with [the results]; I’m glad that Katherine Harris didn’t win, and that we have more democrats in Congress.”
— Hailey Praght, '19, sophomore English Literature major

“I’m happy with the election results. Even though I don’t usually vote republican, Crist seemed more capable to me. I found it hard to get information about the other races. It’s extremely hard to find info about other candidates.”
— Jeri Tamborello, '20, junior English major

“It turned out like I expected, with Crist winning. He seemed like the better candidate. He was popular with the people I spoke with.”
— Allen McNair, freshman Business Management major

“Does this mean I can go home to Crawford and finish clearing brush?”
— A satirization of President George W. Bush

Check here next week for election editorials
Smoking cessation class hopes to teach quitters at USFSP

by ANGEL FOLEY contributing writer

Campus smokers, it's here: a five week crash course to help you stop smoking.

Shannon Cho, the campus Health and Wellness Coordinator, has brought a smoking cessation class to USF St. Petersburg.

The course is free of charge and is held in the Campus Activities Center once a week for about an hour.

Classes are geared toward smokers that want to quit or plan on quitting.

The course offers stress management techniques, educational information on risk factors, and helps with the ability to study.

Participants track smoking habits before being asked to try to stop in the third week.

"The class is done through a curriculum that is proven to work. The Health Department has used this curriculum many times before and have had many people quit on it," Cho said.

The course is funded by a grant through the Pinellas County Department of Health: STEPS to a Healthier Florida.

STEPS is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is aimed at helping people live longer, healthier lives.

This is the first time Cho is teaching this course, and she has high hopes for positive results.

"If interest keeps up, I'll try to run it once a semester since it's only five weeks long," she said.

On Oct. 30, a 28-year-old white male dorm resident was arrested in Residence Hall One and charged with arson.

This isn't the first time the suspect was arrested in the residence hall. Pinellas County criminal records indicate he was arrested Sept. 21 on a misdemeanor domestic violence charge.

According to county records, along with the current arson felony charge, the suspect's arrest history includes two felony counts of sexual battery and two counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. The oldest charge is a 2002 arrest for driving under the influence.

According to the police report obtained from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, the most recent incident happened after the suspect and a friend, who was not a USF St. Petersburg student, were asked to leave a party in Residence Hall One because they were heavily intoxicated.

The police report mentions that a physical altercation took place between the suspect and two female students, but currently there are no formal charges on file.

Once he was kicked out of the party, the suspect was escorted back to his room by other partygoers.

His roommate, Calvin Colquitt, 30, said the suspect and his friend were drunk and loud. Colquitt said he has had problems with the suspect in the past. On this occasion, Colquitt added that he asked them to keep the noise down. When they did not remain quiet, Colquitt told them to leave.

According to the police report, the suspect returned to the party where he was denied reentry.

Witnesses watched the suspect through the door's peephole and said that he appeared to be angry before he left. Soon afterward, witnesses said, they smelled smoke and found that the bulletin board outside the door was on fire.

No one else was seen in the hallway, and the fire was extinguished by the witnesses. The fire caused $450 in damage to the door and the bulletin board.

Steve Neilson is the interim regional vice chancellor for student affairs and lives on the first floor of the dorm. Neilson said that he was notified about the Oct. 30 incident early Monday morning when the police arrived.

Because of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act he was not able to disclose information about the suspect's prior campus disciplinary record.

"I can tell you, though . . . if we have a student living in the residence hall, or on campus, frankly, who is a threat to the safety and welfare of faculty or students . . . we will take steps to remove that person," Neilson said.

If you've been in the grassy area between the Bayboro Cafe, Davis Hall and the waterfront, you've seen it.

You might have even sat on it, or leaned up against it.

What you probably do not know is that the column and the earth mound situated between two resting columns, is a piece of modern art that has gone ignored on campus for more than a while.

If you weren't aware of this free standing art piece, it's not entirely your fault. The plaque identifying it is partially covered by a bush outside Bayboro Hall.

According to the plaque, the artist's name is Robert Thiele and the piece is called "Untitled 12:16-1990 Concrete Sculpture based on 12 measures formulas."

The sculpture was purchased in 1989 with funds provided by Florida's Art in State Buildings program.

Art instructor, Erika Schneider, had her class outside in the grass. Many of her students were sitting near Thiele's work and none of them were aware of its significance.

What the heck is it?

by SCOTT WACHTLER staff writer

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DORM ARREST

September incident, the USF St. Petersburg Public Safety internet also includes this Weekly Activity report for the week of 9/25/06:

...at 2:57AM (Sept. 21) a white male USF stu-
dent and a NON-USF female became involved in an altercation at [Residence Hall One]. [Both sub-
jects sustained minor injuries and were subse-
quently arrested.]

Citing privacy law, Howard declined to go into
details about the suspect's school disciplinary
record, but stated that if sufficient cause existed
to believe that a student had violated the Student
Code of Conduct, he will initiate an investigation.

If the investigation uncovers significant issues,
the student is then told of the potential charges
and in the event of either having Howard
decide on the adjudication or having a hearing to
see if he or she will be held responsible.

"Regardless of the situation, we still have to go
through due process," Howard said.

In situations like the one in the dorm, where
someone puts lives in danger, Howard said, the
school’s policy is to remove that person from the
dorm and then notify the person of due process procedures. In the meantime, that
person is subject to a provisional suspension.

A week after the Oct. 30 event, some dorm resi-
dents were still unaware of what really took place.

"I'm quite scared," said Damonica Masterson, 21.

Masterson saw the afternoon once the police
came, and says that she has not heard any official
details.

"I think they should have told us what hap-
pened," Masterson said.

Britney Tottle, 18, also says that the situation
is scary, and when she told her parents about it, they
told her to lock her door.

"Before this happened, I used to leave my door
open," Tottle said.

Tottle went on to say that there are many
rumors going around the dorm about the suspect
and his prior criminal record.

"We heard that he tried to beat up girls before," Tottle
did.

Neilson said that there were talks about having a
meeting with the dorm residents about this situa-
tion. No such meetings had occurred by the time
this issue went to press.

Neilson suggested that anyone having personal
or emotional problems in dealing with the
situation should set an appointment with the USF
Counseling Center at (727) 873-4422.

The suspect is currently being held in the
Pinellas County Jail on an initial $50,000 bond.

> Staff writer Chris Wagaj provided information
and assisted in writing of this article.

er was not surprised to hear that the
art was part of an art installation.
neiether was I, said Schneider.

He said that he was familiar with
it and that this piece was certainly his
because it's a fabulous conceptual landmark to
the landscape," he said.

He looked at the piece from the view of
the trees and felt that the trees were probably
the whole scope of the art work.

"It seems to flow and draw you to the
trees, but they need to chop away some
of the branches so you can see the whole picture,"
said Schneider.

as a studio in Miami and in New York.

"and in Brooklyn, New York studio confirmed
she is not in its original state.

"He was around or four or five years ago and it
ran," Tottle said.

Six Italian Cypress trees were placed
that intended to bring the viewer into
the piece. The large vertical col-
umn served as the culmination of
moving through the work.

Thiele said that
the piece came
out of his work
with totemic
structures,
and there are 20 to 30 examples of this
period of his work throughout
Miami.

Thiele no
longer does fre-
estanding sculp-
tures. His new
work does wall installations. To see examples of his other
weeks, all one has to do is Google his name.

Thiele says that his intention with the piece, like
all of his art, is to evoke a feeling within the viewer.

Now that you know what it is, next time you
pass -- give it a look. You're sure to feel something.
BIG EAST BASKETBALL

Pitt: team to beat in Big East basketball

by CHRIS WAGAR
staff writer

Last year saw the Big East evolve into the Bigger East with the conference switching 16 teams. Last season eight of the teams received NCAA Tournament bids. Pitt,, Connecticut and Villanova were ranked among the top ten teams in the country. The conference was primed for a deep tournament run. On so it seemed.

Upsets were the underlying theme of the tournament; most notably, George Mason's shocking upset of UConn left the Big East without a Final Four representative. This year the conference will look to rebound from its poor tournament showing and maybe bring home a national title.

With pre-season top 25 picks in Syracuse, Pittsburgh, and Connecticut, and more sure to come throughout the season such as Georgetown, the Big East looks as tough as ever. Here is a quick look at each Big East squad in predicted order of finish:

1. Pittsburgh Panthers: Well, the coaches have them as the No. 1 team in the conference and so do I. The Panthers have arguably the best rebounder in the league, and possibly the country, in Aaron Gray. But the loss of Carl Krauser to graduation will hurt. Pitt will have their weapons though, and should go very deep into the NCAA Tournament.

2. Georgetown Hoyas: After the Hoyas' tournament run last year, it appears that a swagger has returned to Patrick Ewing's alma matter. The Hoyas have three key players returning and have a guy named Patrick Ewing Jr. It should be another strong year for this up and coming team.

3. Marquette Golden Eagles: Marquette is returning all three guards from last year's team, and their defense is top notch. This team was a surprise last year, and can be a surprise this year. A weak non-conference schedule won't hurt matters either. So don't be surprised to see the Eagles soaring into the big dance come March.

4. Connecticut Huskies: It's hard to imagine UConn not finishing in the top three in the conference. But with the loss of most of last year's talent, it could easily become a reality. This could be one of Jim Calhoun's best coaching jobs if the Huskies can win the Big East.

5. Louisville Cardinals: Rick Pitino teams are teams you don't want to underestimate. Some players, though, are still recovering from injuries, and that could spell trouble. This team will again rely on their young guns and that didn't work out very well last year. An NCAA berth would be a great success this year.

6. DePaul Blue Demons: This is where things begin to get a bit hard for me. Actually, putting the Orange seventh was tough too. I went with experience over youth and, but probably won't do much else.

7. Seton Hall Pirates: Last year the Pirates made the NCAA Tournament. But they lost their top two players. The Pirates are a few years away from returning to the Big Dance.

8. Rutgers Scarlet Knights: Just like with DePaul, this team returns four starters. But their playmaker, Quincy Douby, left for the NBA and their coach is in his first year. Don't expect much from Rutgers this year.

9. Virginia Mountaineers: It's hard to believe West Virginia could finish this low. But they lost four starters including fan favorite, Kevin Pittsnogle. Enough said.

10. South Florida Bulls: Not much to say here. Overmatched and a few years away from the Big East Tournament.

> Chris Wagar is a journalism major in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at USF St. Petersburg. Chris can be reached at wagars31@hotmail.com.

9. Villanova Wildcats: The 'cats lose three key players from last year's tournament team, but they still have Curtis Sumpter and Mike Nardi. The four-guard lineup was fun to watch last year. A change in style will take time to make used to.

10. Providence Friars: The Friars return a lot of players from a fairly bad team. They could get better, but they need to improve across the board.

11. Florida State Seminoles: The Seminoles have a guy named Robert 

12. Cincinnati Bearcats: Not a good year for Cinci fans. They will steal a few games here and there, and probably won't do much else.

13. Georgetown Hoyas: Last year the Hoyas' tournament run was primed for a deep tournament run. The team received a No. 9 in the nation.

14. Rutgers Scarlet Knights: Just like with DePaul, this team returns four starters. But their playmaker, Quincy Douby, left for the NBA and their coach is in his first year. Don't expect much from Rutgers this year.

15. West Virginia Mountaineers: It's hard to believe West Virginia could finish this low. But they lost four starters including fan favorite, Kevin Pittsnogle. Enough said.

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Buccaneers' midseason rundown

BY BRYAN W. WHITE
assistant editor

My Bucs preview story measures up to their counterparts at the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to contend with the Panthers for the division title. My prediction has not panned out, judging from the standings at the midway point of the NFL season.

The Bucs finished the first half at 2-4, in last place in the NFC South and showing no hint that an eight-game winning streak is on the menu for the second half of the season.

The excuses are readily available. I wrote that an injury to Simms' blu-ch playc. Simms was placed on the Injured Reserve list during the week prior to the Bucs eighth game of the regular season, ducy for the after appearing in just three games. My other primary key to the season was the offensive line. Rookie Derrius Joseph failed to begin the season as the starter because of a knee injury. Starting left tackle Kenyatta Walker injured his knee and underwent season-ending surgery. Starting left guard Dan Buenning has struggled with an ankle injury, leading to his replacement in the lineup by last year's starting right guard, Sean Mahan. The failure to establish continuity on the offensive line has certainly hampered the Bucs' offense, though the reserves have played reason-ably well.

Yes, the excuses are there for the taking, but they don't give an accurate picture of the 2006 Buccaneers.

The defense has struggled. The defensive line has failed to put consistent pressure on opposing quarterbacks, which has at times exposed a secondary weakened by an injury to starting cornerback Brian Kelly (Kelly was placed on IR in late October). Safety Jermaine Phillips and Will Allen have not been played to expectations. Those developments suggest that the loss of defensive line coach Rod Martindell and defensive back coach Mike Tomlin has impact­ed reasonably well, but not well enough to fulfill the promise of his first start in New Orleans and not well enough to allow the Bucs to compete for a playoff spot.

The defense depended on a strong running game to keep pressure off of Gradykowski. The formula worked well enough to earn the Bucs wins against Cincinnati and Philadelphia — both at home — but consecutive games against the New York Giants and the New Orleans showed that the Bucs cannot always depend on the running game to pick up first downs. Gradkowski hasn't made plays consistently enough, as the Bucs failed to register a first down in the first quarter of either game. The design of the Buccaneer offense frequently calls for the quarterback to change from a running play to a passing play when the defense tips off a commit­ment to stop the run. Gradkowski simply hasn't delivered often enough in those situations.

The second-half schedule begins brutally for the Buccaneers, as the team plays three games during a 11-day stretch starting with a Monday night game in Carolina and ending with a Thanksgiving Day game against the Cowboys. If the team can escape that stretch without additional injuries, the Bucs can expect to be in five wins on the season and about three big wins to fill in. In order to return to playoff con­test next season: defensive tackle, safety, and quarterback.

> Bryan W. White is a journalism major in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at USF, St. Petersburg. Bryan can be reached at bwhite1@tampabay.r.com.
King Crossword

ACROSS
1 Half a 1960s quartet
2 Skilled player
3 Eastern potentate
4 "...in the Wind"
5 Superb in quality
6 "Unforgettable" duo
7 "Unforgettable" duo
8 "I - Camera"
9 Putaway
10 Tiny Tim's flower
11 Work the muscles
12 Insignificant one
13 "I-" tattooed word
14 illumination measure
15 Avian penthouse
16 Superior in quality
17 "-in the Wind"
18 "-in the Wind"
19 "in the Wind"
20 Eastern potentate
21 Greek vowel
22 Anderson's "High--"
23 Fairway start
24 Take as one's own
25 Unaccompanied
26 Haunt one's mind
27 Step
28 As cross as
29 Man with all the answers?
30 One side of the Ural Mts.
31 Penguin's adversary
32 Carter's veep
33 "I-" Camera
34 Kans. neighbor
35 "If You Knew-"
36 Block
37 A few
38 Michaelmas daisy
39 Coastline
40 "Flying Down --"
41 Chart
42 U.N. goal
43 "there?"
44 Chart
45 Thick chunk
46 Fermi's unit
47 Realty sign
48 "Eureka!"
49 "- there?"
50 Actor Cariou
51 Hallucinogen letters
52 Spoon-bender Geller
53 Conned
54 "Unforgettable" duo
55 Witte Buscaglia
56 Copper head?
57 Tend texts

DOWN
1 Harper Valley grp.
2 Shock partner
3 Sheet material
4 Carreras rendition
5 Exhausted
6 Magic charm
7 Manage somehow
8 North Sea feeder
9 Crockett's last stand
10 Tiny Tim's flower
11 Work the muscles
12 Insignificant one
13 "I-" tattooed word
14 illumination measure
15 Avian penthouse
16 Superior in quality
17 "-in the Wind"
18 "-in the Wind"
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31 Penguin's adversary
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34 Kans. neighbor
35 "If You Knew-"
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37 A few
38 Michaelmas daisy
39 Coastline
40 "Flying Down --"
41 Chart
42 U.N. goal
43 "there?"
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54 "Unforgettable" duo
55 Witte Buscaglia
56 Copper head?
57 Tend texts

Weekly Sudoku

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

Difficulty this week: ** Moderate ** ** Challenging ** ** HOO BOY! **

Want the answers for the crossword puzzle & sudoku?
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Results: We make 'em happen.
Want a challenge? Try getting around campus in a wheelchair.

by BRUCE KITCHENS
staff writer

Student Disability Services conducted the "Wheelchair Challenge" on Nov. 8 and I accepted the challenge.

The challenge: Navigate around campus in a wheelchair.

Apparently my chair was a shopping cart in a past life. It pulled to the right and sounded like it was making popcorn.

I sat down in my chair and our small group rolled off toward the first stop: the Bayboro Caf. The door has a button to automatically open it. I was thinking this wasn't too bad when the door closed on me.

Our goal was to get a fountain drink and I had worked up quite a thirst during my five minutes in the chair. There was just barely enough room to squeeze my chair through the doorway and I hit the wall. I backed up and rolled into the wall again. At that point, I cheated and used my feet, but I got through.

Getting a diet soda and paying for it wasn't too difficult. The problem was my wheelchair did not have a cup holder. I pulled next to the garbage can and chugged my beverage.

Refreshed, it was time for an elevator ride to the second floor of Coquina Hall. More than one trip was required since the lift only held two chairs at a time.

The elevator turned out to be a breeze compared to getting into COQ 231. I had to pull the door open while getting the chair out of the way so it could open. I wedged the chair between the door and the frame then pushed my way in the room and right into a desk. I lifted up my wheels with the wall and squeezed my way to the front of the empty classroom to have enough room to turn around.

Next stop: the restroom. This restroom did not have a button to open the door so once again it was tricky to get the door open far enough to jam the chair in.

Our guide Johann Bedingfield went to the handicapped stall. There was not enough room to get his chair in the stall and close the door.

Next we went to the library. Getting a book off the top shelf was a stretch. Fellow participant, Chris Keimig, an 18-year-old business major, pulled a book from the lower shelf and used it to knock a book off of the top shelf.

We stopped by the restrooms which were spacious and easy to navigate.

The group was gone an hour and we didn't even make it to one of the scheduled stops. "It was a lot harder than I thought. Classrooms are hard to get into without automatic doors and having to ask for help getting books off the library shelf makes things difficult," Keimig said.

Fellow student and participant Matthew Brown echoed Keimig's thoughts.

"The bathrooms are horrible except for the library. The accessibility is not that good," Brown said.

Barry McDowell, Coordinator of Student Disability Services, is working to improve accessibility.

"The older facilities could be better but the newer ones are pretty good. We make some improvements each year," McDowell said.