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St. Petersburg's Central Avenue, one of the top 5 spots to see (inside, page 4) is framed on the east side by Bayboro Harbor.

St. Pete hot spots you can't miss

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The big fall football preview

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Campus life to expand with opening of Residence Hall One

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Playing the parking game: new garage opens, doesn't solve all problems

page 3
Paging garage opens with fanfare and a few complaints

by MEGAN WRITER

Students and faculty gathered Monday, August 14 to celebrate the grand opening of USF St. Petersburg’s seven-story parking garage located on 3rd Street South between 5th Avenue South and 6th Avenue South. The massive structure has 1,150 parking spaces. A Barnes & Noble bookstore and a café on the ground floor are open to the public.

Parking spaces on top two stories of the structure were designated to resident students living in the new dorms, which leaves a total of five new levels for the general student population.

Some resident students are disappointed about the assigned parking.

Errin Mills, housing coordinator for USF St. Petersburg said some students may be unhappy about parking on the uncovered seventh level of the garage since there is no buffer between the rain and the students’ vehicles. However, an uncovered seventh level isn’t the only reason freshmen Maureen McIlroy is upset about the assigned parking.

“It’s a pain to park on the top floors when I have lots of groceries,” McIlroy said. “Sometimes I have to park my car go down the elevator, cross the street, up to my dorm, and back to the garage again to get the rest of them.”

McIlroy felt that after paying $150 for a parking permit she and other residents should have better options. McIlroy moved to St. Petersburg from Orlando and was unaware of the lack of parking spots and the strictly enforced rules.

“It’s not that the garage itself is too far but I don’t like having to be so high up. I’ve noticed the third and fourth floors are usually empty and I think we should be able to park down there too,” Jennifer Wabe, a junior at USF St. Pete felt it was unfair to pay $2500 to reside in the dorms, and then an additional $150 for the permit only to have to park at the very top.

“It should be included in the dormitory fee,” Wabe said. Though not all students have a vehicle and need parking, Wabe felt there should be exceptions made for students who have shelled out thousands of dollars to live in the new dorms. But there are no exceptions. In fact, resident students will be fined if they choose to park anywhere but the top floors assigned to them.

“The resident students will be cited if they park below the sixth floor. They’ll be treated just like everyone else on campus,” said Pete.

Students without proper parking permits will also be cited if they park on any level of the garage. There is a cluster of spots open for public use located near Barnes & Noble but they are metered for one hour maximum parking.

“There is no way students can go to class without being fined if they park in the one-hour meter spots,” Lugo said. “The garage will be closely monitored by Parking Services.”

Lugo pointed out the garage is equipped with security cameras on entrances and exits of the stairwells, and 2 emergency phones on every floor. He said it is very safe and well illuminated at night.

“It’s not that I’m concerned about safety or how far away it is,” McIlroy said, “It’s just that it seems unfair.”

The organisation states on its website: "Accreditation indicates that an institution maintains clearly specified educational objectives that are consistent with its mission and appropriate to the degrees it offers, and that it is successful in achieving its stated objectives."

The process was initiated several years ago by the Florida Legislature to help address the state need to accommodate a growing population.
Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby

**movie review**
by staff writer

**CHRISTINA CASTELLANA**

_Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby_ highlights the trials and eventual triumph of Ricky Bobby (Will Ferrell) America's #1 NASCAR driver. At an early age Ricky Bobby became obsessed with the need for speed. This passion led him to the race track where his love for burning rubber won him first place every time. With success came a trophy wife, twin boys named Walker and Texas Ranger, a mansion and worldwide fame. Ricky Bobby was at the top of his game until a French Formula One racer Jeans Girad (Sacha Baron Cohen) with a howling French accent comes on the scene and challenges Ricky Bobby to a race that threatens his career._

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby was funny and engaging, but it lacked the quality that makes movies memorable. This is fine; summer films don't need an agenda, all they need is enough action, humor and sex to keep people watching the full hour and 44 minutes. Besides, with school starting and the onset of exams, projects and homework who wants a thought-provoking film? This movie does what it was made to do — it gives a bunch of rowdy and boisterous collegians one more chance to enjoy the late days of summer.

My rating: 2.5 stars

> Christina is a journalism major in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at USF St. Petersburg. Christina can be reached by e-mail at christinacast@aol.com.

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From Coney Island to the Central Ave...

5 St. Pete hot spots to check out

by CHRISTINA CASTELLANA
staff writer

Like most coastal cities, St. Petersburg is known for its beaches. Students hailing from northern states can take refuge in the creamy sands and crisp-up beneath the steaming Florida sun; but before you dedicate all your free time to sunbathing, why not hit some other "hot spots" that St. Petersburg has to offer.

Salvador Dali Museum
1000 3rd St S,
St Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 823-3767
www.salvadordalimuseum.org

Practically in USFSP's backyard, the museum showcases the famous works of surrealist Salvador Dali. With USFSP IDs in hand, students can submerge themselves in Dali's topsy-turvy world for free. For those of you who are die-hard Dali fans you won't be disappointed. The extensive selection of paintings and photographs on display capture the heart of his life's work.

Coney Island Grill
250 Dr ML King Jr St N
St Petersburg, FL 33705
(727) 822-4493

This neighborhood dive has been serving chilidogs, hamburgers and other American fare since 1926. The diner's longevity proves the food is good, the service is fast and friendly and the price is right. For $5.00 one can get a soda pop and two chilidogs loaded with sauerkraut, onions, ground beef, mustard & ketchup — you can't pass up a deal like that! Only five minutes from campus by car students, faculty and staff can enjoy a satisfying and quick no frills lunch.
Weedon Island Preserve
1800 Weedon Drive NE
St Petersburg, FL 33702
(727) 453-6500

If you love the water or enjoy walking through the woods, this preserve allows nature lovers to wander and explore from dawn till dusk. The preserve has 6,600 feet of ADA accessible boardwalk and plenty of picnic spots. There are also numerous paddling trails so you can bring a kayak or rent one from USFSP’s waterfront and drift through the awesome wooded caverns.

Central Avenue is a smorgasbord of unique local shops and eateries. Weedon Island Preserve hosts a vast collection of Florida Native American artifacts. The Preserve’s website, www.weedonisland.org features a virtual tour of the artifact exhibit.

Start your trek at 4th Street and Central Avenue and you wind find a variety of shops. From antique stores to hole-in-the-wall music shops, there may be something for everyone down this historic St. Petersburg street. If you get hungry along the way there are plenty of restaurants and small eateries along the strip.
One game in November will decide Big East title

by DEAN MULLINS
editor-in-chief

Six Big East teams will play for bowl bids this year. But the conference championship will be decided on November 2 when the West Virginia Mountaineers travel to Louisville to crack helmets with the Cardinals. The only real competition West Virginia and Louisville face in the Big East this year is each other. Fans of Cincinnati and Syracuse will find looking forward to basketball season before their respective football teams begin conference play. USF, Pittsburgh, Rutgers and Connecticut all could play their way into bowl games, but won't compete for the title.

USF made a run at the title last year before losing their final two regular season games against UConn and West Virginia. They will make no such run this year.

Last year, the South Florida Bulls ranked 17th in the nation defensively, but lost key starters up front and in the secondary. They still boast one of the best linebacking corps in the country led by Sr. Stephen Nicholas.

The defense will have to be as good as last season for USF to reach their second bowl game. The offense simply will not be able to replace the production of running back Andre Hall, who has taken his talent to the NFL. Six of the team's top seven receivers from last year are returning; getting them the ball is a problem.

Quarterback Carlton White and running back Andre Hall averaged 4.7 yards on 141 attempts last year. A healthy UConn has a chance to duplicate their 8-4 record of 2004.

It will not matter to the rest of the Big East if Cincinnati and Syracuse are healthy or not. They simply do not have the horses to run with the others in the conference.

The Bearcats of UC are returning 19 starters which will be enough to beat Eastern Kentucky, Akron and Syracuse, but not others. Syracuse head coach Greg Robinson is beginning to rebuild a program that may be the only wireless team in the top six conferences this year.

Both Louisville and West Virginia have a chance to go without a loss. Possibly, they are the only obstacle standing in the way of each other. If the Cardinals can get past Miami at home on September 16, they could run the table. Louisville looks to be the only real test on West Virginia's schedule.

The Mountaineers, ranked 45 in the preseason Associated Press poll, have one of the most potent offenses in the country. Quarterback Patrick White and running back Steve Slaton combined to rush for 2,080 yards in 2005. They will only be better running behind what may be the best offensive line in the country. White only threw 114 passes in the spread-option offense last year but completed 65 of those for 828 yards. If he doubles that production this year, this offense could be unstoppable. The defense finished 15th in the country last year but lost four of five starters in the secondary.

Louisville, #13 in the AP poll, had a weak secondary last year but returns all four starters for 2006. The loss of Brandon Nickugari anchor was big, but not measured. His former defensive front seven mates will more than hold their own.

The Cardinals' defense is largely overlooked due to their potent offense. Quarterback Brian Bedrom and running back Michael Bush anchored an offense that averaged 35.3 points per game at home last year. Bedrom missed the final two games of last season and still threw for 2,885 yards and 19 TDs, and was named the Big East offensive player of the year. Bush, a legitimate Heisman Trophy candidate, led the nation in scoring in 2005 by averaging 14.4 ppG on 23 rushing TDs. Throw in 6'6" wide receiver Mario Cristiata, and Louisville has the ingredients for one of the most potent offensive brevities in the country.

Last year, the Cardinals scored 44 points through three overtimes and lost to the Mountaineers by two. This year, the game is in Louisville and that will be the difference. Mark your calendars now: Thursday, November 2. Louisville will lose West Virginia in another shootout on their way to claiming the Big East championship.

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Can't get enough sports? Head to www.usfsfpetercrowsnest.com in the coming weeks and you'll find more sports coverage.

'Cuz there's no such thing as too much sports.

QB depth and O-Line keys to Bucs season

by BRYAN W. WHITE
assistant editor

The New Orleans Saints added can't-miss rookie running back Reggie Bush. The Atlanta Falcons added Pro Bowl defensive end John Abraham. The Panthers added star wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson. Each of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' division opponents improved during the off-season with high-profile acquisitions.

The Buccaneers continued to implement a strategy borrowed from the New England Patriots, collectors of three Super Bowl trophies over the past five years. Instead of chasing big-name free agents, the Bucs retain key players and sign free agents who fit the team's philosophy. Free agent linebacker Jamie Winborn, signed away by the Jacksonville Jaguars, exemplified that approach this year. Ideally, this strategy enables the team to establish superior teamwork and gain an advantage even if other teams have more raw talent.

The Bucs emphasized the acquisition of offensive line talent. The offensive line received abundant criticism over the last three years, so the Bucs drafted two offensive linemen in the early rounds as well as signing a guard and a tackle in free agency. Rookie Darin Joseph and Jeremy Trueblood both have a chance to earn starting jobs this year.

Can the Buccaneers repeat as NFC South champions in 2006? Possibly, though the Carolina Panthers rated as the fashionable preseason pick to win the division; many experts have predicted a Super Bowl appearance in addition to a division crown for the Bucs' bitterest divisional rival.

The Bucs, however, return 21 of 22 starters from the team that won the division title last year. The team has addressed depth issues on the defensive side of the ball through the draft and free agency, and the competition for jobs on the offensive line should translate into improved blocking for second-year running back Carnell "Cadillac" Williams. While the younger players may display weaknesses in pass blocking, a more effective running game should assist the passing game by setting up the opposing defense for play-action passes. Play-action pass plays mimic running plays, relying on deception to give the quarterback a better chance to find an open receiver.

The quarterback position is the key to the Bucs' success in the coming year. The team allowed former starter Brian Greise to depart, assuming third-year pro Chris Simms as the starter. Simms' play last year impressed fans with his potential as he led the Bucs to the playoffs after Green's season-ending injury in 2005. However, the Bucs lack depth behind Simms, especially after backup Luke McCown suffered a knee injury during practice that may cause him to miss the entire season. The Bucs will probably begin the season with former 49er Tim Rattay as the number two quarterback behind Simms, with late-round draft pick Bruce Gradkowski earning the third-string job. If Simms misses more than a couple of games due to injury, the Bucs miss the playoffs.

Despite a tough schedule which includes playing three games during an 11-day stretch in November, expect the Bucs to qualify for the playoffs and contend with the powerful Carolina Panthers for the division title.

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Campus gets first resident students

by SCOTT WACHTLER
staff writer

It would be a good idea to take a look at the new USF dorms now because they are never going to look this pristine again.

The week before classes started was a busy one for USF St. Petersburg's first on-campus dormitory residence. A dedication ceremony that took place on Tuesday was attended by almost every local media outlet along with over 200 local dignitaries including Florida Congressman C.W. "Bill" Young, City of St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker, USF President Judy Genshaft and Regional Chancellor Dr. Karen A. White.

By Wednesday it was all about moving in. A section of 2nd Street South was closed off to allow the new residents easier access. Resident assistants and other university personnel were on hand to help new residents cart their belongings to their new home and give a quick tour.

Overstuffed cars and fully-loaded trucks, piled high with computers, clothes and stereo equipment waited to be unloaded into brand new dorm rooms as parents, relatives and friends said good-bye to the first USF St. Petersburg students to call Residence Hall One their home.

Emma Howard, resident assistant for the 4th floor, said that the first day of moving-in seemed to be going smoothly. "I'm just really very excited to be meeting all the new people," she said.

While Residence Hall One is co-ed, the suites are not. These different room configurations are offered: four bedrooms for four students, two bedrooms for four students and two bedrooms for two students. All configurations come fully furnished with a lavatory and include telephone, cable television and high-speed internet connections.

For now, six of the building's seven floors will be occupied. Julie Booth, university relations coordinator, said that the residence hall has a capacity for 354 students. Currently, there are about 225 registered students living in the hall and others on the way.

The residence hall will house students from all over Florida, six other states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The mean SAT score of all the residents is 1100, and the average GPA is a 3.5. In addition, two national merit scholars will also call Residence Hall One their home.

One of the new students living in the building is freshman Emily Guida. Guida comes from New Port Richey and will be majoring in Criminology. "I wanted live in the dorms, but not to get away from my parents. I like my family. I just want to see what it's like to live on my own," Guida said.

Sophomore business major, Mike Pilcher, also likes his family, but he is eager to put some distance between himself and his former Oldsmar home. "I have 20 cousins and four aunts, and they bled less than 20 minutes from me," Pilcher said.

Carol Black, Pilcher's grandmother, who was helping him move in, added, "We'll miss him... he helps out the family a lot. I'm sure he'll be back to help. That's the kind person he is.

The approximately 225 students registered to live in Residence Hall One moved in the week before classes started. The Resident Assistants and university faculty and staff were on hand to help students get their belongings to their rooms.

Among those cutting the ribbon for the opening of Residence Hall One were from left to right: Campus Board Chair Delilee Nye, Congressman C.W. "Bill" Young, Campus Board Chair Renee Law, USF President Judy Genshaft, Regional Chancellor Karen A. White, Student Government President Meghan Willoughby, new Residence Hall One resident Heather Willis, Resident Assistant Jessica Dwyer, and Resident Assistant Karen Dreger.

Residence Hall One opened its doors to its first residents this fall semester.

The Crow's Nest asks:
"How do you think that the USF Bulls are going to finish the season?"

by SCOTT WACHTLER
staff writer

"I have no idea. I haven't been following them too much. Hopefully well!"

> Kyle Stang, 21, senior International Business major

"I think they'll place third in the Big East. They'll definitely make it to a bowl game."

> Sean Harts, 19, sophomore Business major

"They're going to do GREAT! They're at their best now. Everybody's looking forward to the tailgate parties."

> Freda King, Assistant to director of student affairs

"...with a winning record. It looks like we have some good prospects this year."

> Steve Lasseter, 20, senior Electrical Engineering major (Campa campus)

"I think they're going to finish over 500. They'll make it back to a bowl game."

> Bryan Kummer, 23, senior Business major

"I have no clue."

> Nigel Dawson, 18, freshman, Liberal Arts major

"WE'RE GANNA WIN!"

> Lauren Williamson, 18, sophomore Geogy major

* Source: www.scottw.ustfus/feature