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Aspiring journalist made the most of life

On Friday, February 19 Aaron Moe, Managing Editor of the Crow’s Nest and a graduate student in the department of Journalism and Media Studies, died from Pneumonia.

Born on February 16, 1986 in Buffalo NY, Aaron played basketball and football in high school and junior college. He graduated from SUNY Buffalo in 2009 with a degree in Communications. He began graduate studies at USF St. Petersburg in the fall of 2009.

Aaron always had a positive attitude and a sweet spirit. On his Facebook page he wrote “God loves me, so it’s only right that I share some of that love with you!” He had a strong desire to be a great student and, to become a great journalist.

Dr. Antone Silvia, professor in Journalism and Media Studies said, “[Aaron] made us think, he made us care, but he also made us laugh.”

He is survived by his mother Karen Moe and two siblings, Ericka and Izaiah. He leaves behind a host of loving family, friends, professors and colleagues. A memorial service will be held on Monday, February 22 at 6 p.m. at the Poynter Library Corner.

Executive meeting a factor in Treasurer’s resignation

By Sadie Hewitt
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Before former treasurer John Osborne resigned at a Senate meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 13, a meeting took place the Monday prior involving President Jon Ellington and Vice President Reuben Pressman. Osborne said the meeting was a main factor in his decision to resign.

Osborne believes the meeting was an executive response to an email he sent out expressing his disapproval for the $16,000 Student Government wanted to allocate towards new paid positions, formerly known as Bill 10-002, removed from the Senate floor by Vice Chancellor Margaret Sullivan. According to Ellington, the paid positions did not total more than $10,500.

“They just went through what they wanted to do and they told me,” Osborne said, “they demanded that I not express my dissent for the plan.”

Osborne describing the meeting as somewhat hostile.

According to Ellington, “We were not unhappy about his disapproval, however, what myself and Reuben were unhappy with was the unprofessional manner in which John decided to voice his opinions.”

An email from Ellington said, “At no time did the talk become a screaming match.” The email was sent from Ellington’s email address and signed with his name, however Pressman said it was a joint response.

The former student body constitution stated the Office of the Treasury was a separate entity. It did not directly operate under the president and was responsible for budget allocations on behalf of the Budget Committee.

Despite the treasurer’s constitutional autonomy, “Ellington and Pressman said they were going to do it anyway, that they were going to spend the money,” Osborne rebukes.

At the meeting, Osborne said according to the two top SG officials the constitution says SG members must support the president’s vision. Osborne feels they were using the constitution to get him to agree with the $16,000 allocation.

“That’s not why I was elected. My job was to make sure funds were spent correctly,” Osborne said. Neither Pressman nor Ellington commented on the allegations.

Upon research of the former student body constitution, there is no article or subsection requiring SG members to serve the President’s vision.

However, it was found in the old Constitution that “the Senate shall represent the interests of their respective colleges.”

The former constitution is also clear when it details “SG shall represent the interests and concerns of students to the larger university community…” SG members strive to fulfill this with their support of the debate team tournament funding and the Student Environmental Awareness Society’s plan to renovate the Harborside beach area.

The text of the former constitution, the one allegedly read to Osborne at the meeting, also includes the oath SG members must recite as they take office:

“I do solemnly affirm that I will faithfully execute the office of of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Student Body Constitution of the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.”

The constitution does say all SG members should collaborate and try to work together and elected Senate members must maintain a 2.0 GPA at all times. It does not say members are to support the president unquestioningly.

Osborne says the Jan. 11 meeting was one of the main reasons he resigned as treasurer. “It isn’t what they wanted to do, it was how they were doing it. It got to the point where I just didn’t want to be involved with them.”
Controversial Super Bowl ad is a fumble

By Lenay Ruhl
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If you watch college football, you know who Tim Tebow is. He is the quarterback for the Gators and known for the bible verses on his face during each game. His name was mentioned a lot these past weeks as his family fought to have their story publicized as a commercial during this year's Super Bowl.

Their story advocates the pro-life side of the abortion debate. The commercial had people from all different sides of politics fighting. Although the commercial served its purpose in getting the public's attention, it did not prove its point advocating pro-life.

The commercial was sponsored by Focus on the Family, a Christian values group. It was known the commercial would promote pro-life. After weeks of arguing airing the controversial commercial aired on Super Bowl Sunday. The best part about this commercial is how much talk it stimulated before it aired, making it the "perfect advocacy ad", according to columnist David Gibson.

It was the perfect ad; most people already knew what it was about before even seeing it. The commercial did not mention the words abortion or pro-life once. If you did not know about the commercial ahead of time, you would not have even known the message it was putting across. The hype the commercial generated got the public talking. Despite the constant debates on the issue, the commercial did not change minds on abortion.

In this sense the commercial did not serve its purpose in promoting pro-life. People argued for weeks because they expected a strong message offending those who are pro-choice. The commercial consisting of Pam Tebow talking about her concern for her son, and then Tim playfully tackling her, did not reflect upon the abortion issue at all. After all the controversy it caused, most expected a lot more from the commercial, especially at the high cost of Super Bowl commercials, which average about $3 million, CBS reported.

For $3 million dollars one would think that the commercial would be extravagant, not the solid white back ground and vague message that left viewers sitting in front of their televisions thinking, "That's what all this fuss was about?" Unless you took the time to actually go to the Focus on the Family Web site afterwards and read up on the Tim Tebow story, you would not be at all persuaded towards pro-life. In Focus on the Family's defense, they claim on their Web site that 30 seconds was not enough time allotted to tell the story in its entirety. Perhaps the main focus was advertising Focus on the Family, and not necessarily promoting pro-life.

This commercial stimulated conversation, but in the end was a fumble on promoting pro-life. It did not make it as far as everyone thought it would. Maybe next time they should try a different play.
There is no debating their success

By Aaron Moe
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Fresh on the heels of victory, the USF St. Petersburg debate team have done it again.

Sophomore political science major Greg Almeida and sophomore environmental studies and history major David Trigaux, president of the debate team, were awarded first place overall at the University of Miami tournament, which took place Jan. 29-31.

"My first tournament ever and the night before, David was teaching me basic terminology and procedures and we just go into it and we end[ed] up winning the whole thing." Almeida said.

Trigaux established the team in 2008. The former St. Petersburg High School debater secured sponsorship from a USF St. Petersburg professor and parent of two former classmates.

The group not only shares enthusiasm for debate, they also share living space and the occasional meal or two.

Almeida and Trigaux are roommates. "We're all really good friends," Trigaux said.

The 30-member team is a diverse bunch with one thing in common: debate. "We like it, we want to debate. We want to talk about these issues," Almeida said.

The team is divided into two branches: members able to travel and compete nationally and members unable to travel but function as coaches, judges or logistical support.

"Everyone on our team has won individual awards," Trigaux said. "And I think it's safe to say, that in the state of Florida, we are the best team."

When asked what makes their team stand out, Almeida and Trigaux agree that it is lack of funding.

"Funding is incredibly difficult to find," Trigaux said. "As a club, we are somewhat dependent on Student Government and now that a new treasurer has been appointed, they're actually willing to fund us, which is kind of nice. But previously, we have been struggling to get more money for the tournaments."

Trigaux said they are the only team he knows of with out-of-pocket expenses. Other schools have budgets for their teams. "Most teams have a van driven by their faculty people or they fly all the time," Almeida said. Depending on teammate availability and funding, Trigaux said they've never taken more than seven members to an event.

However, what the team lacks in funding, they more than make up for in their convictions. Almeida feels the team's capacity for philosophical and critical thinking, rather than memorizing evidence, plays a considerable role in their success.

"It's a competitive advantage we have," Trigaux said, "we just have to be smarter instead of fight them page per page in research."

"The beauty of debate," Trigaux said, "is that besides the speech times, there are no real rules...only 'norms.' If you have a logical progression and can explain it better than the other people, you win."

Last year, the team took home eight awards in their first four tournaments including novice debater of the year and coach of the year. "The accomplishments of the USF St. Petersburg debate team are outstanding. They have performed at an extraordinary level, often competing against very experienced teams," said Margaret Sullivan, USF St. Petersburg Chancellor.

"I think we have a winning record against everyone in our district except Georgia State," Trigaux said. "The only team we have a losing record against is Liberty. They are the best school in the country." According to Trigaux one of Liberty's debate coaches served as John McCain's presidential debate coach.

Up next for the team is the Georgia State University Regionals Feb. 26 through 28. "The future is very bright," Almeida said. "We are growing."
By Amy Blanton
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On Tuesday, Feb. 9, Creative Clay opened Word Up! a new exhibit, which features works of art in different art forms.

Creative Clay, started in 1995 by Grace-Anne Alfiero and Danielle Rottenberg, is a non-profit corporation in Pinellas County that provides a place for people to experience all forms of art.

When Alfiero and Rottenberg started the program, they offered transportation to individuals that signed up to be in the Creative Clay program.

"The funding source started when developmental centers were being closed," said Andrews, an employee of Creative Clay.

Creative Clay received government assistance to fund the program. "The money that went to institutional care came into the community as a home and community based funding source, which is called [a] Medicaid waiver," said Andrews.

Medicaid waivers are for people who have developmental disabilities such as mental retardation, Spina Bifida, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, and any other developmental disabilities.

"It brings money into the community to provide services for people that were institutionalized, such as physical therapy, speech therapy, and other things that were needed," Andrews said. "It was also so that people with developmental disabilities could live back in the community."

Although Creative Clay’s Medicaid funding has started to shrink, they are gathering funds from different venues.

“For people who come to us who have no funding, we have been very fortunate to receive money from the State Legislature Budget, which has been cut out at this point," Andrews said. "We have also had places such as the City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County and the Arts Council provide us with money so that we can have scholarships available."

Creative Clay has other programs such as Transitions, which works with high school students who do not function well in social environments and Art Links, which brings in professional artists to work with the member artists once a week.

“Our artwork is done by people of all levels of disabilities and aptitudes,” said Andrews. “Some of our member artists have had their artwork collected.”

When a piece of artwork sells, the artist gets 50 percent of the profit and the other half goes back to Creative Clay to purchase art supplies.

Jodi Bikoff, the gallery curator, has been working with Creative Clay for three years. “The exhibition has pieces of art that has the use of words in it,” Bikoff said. “The reason behind the exhibit was that the artists, at the time, were using words in their paintings.”

The Word Up! exhibit will be on display until March 31. Creative Clay is located at 1124 Central Avenue in St. Petersburg. For exhibit hours you can visit their Web site www.creativeclay.org.

Art exhibit provides new experience

By Aimee Alexander
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Every time you sit down to do your homework, there is always something better to do. Friends are calling. American Idol is on. That high-scoring Gran Turismo record you broke last night is just waiting for a rematch. Every time you sit down to do your homework, there is always something better to do.

Doing homework can be overwhelming, and sometimes it can be a complete waste of time. "If you have a lot of work to do and you procrastinate, you will end up wasting a lot of time," said Dr. Anita Saghal, Clinical Director of USF St. Petersburg’s Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness.

Saghal believes the freedom many first-time college students experience can sometimes overwhelm them. “Students might have unrealistic expectations,” Saghal said. “They strive for perfection, don’t ask for help, and try to do everything themselves.”

This urgency to get things done, she explains, actually increases stress and becomes counterproductive. “A lot of students don’t realize there are tools to help with time management,” Saghal said. “Even a few small changes can make a big impact.”

Saghal has a few suggestions to help students jump-start their time management skills:

1. Tackle that list. Make a list of all the things that need to be done, then prioritize and set realistic goals.
2. Schedule. Schedule. Schedule. Take a look at your week ahead and plan out how you want to spend your time. Make room for work, school, and leisure time, and leave some flexibility for last-minute tasks. A calendar or daily planner can help provide structure.

Nobody’s perfect. Be kind to yourself and forgive yourself. It’s okay if you can’t do it all. Saghal recommends students learn time management skills early on because waiting makes them harder to implement.

“You may not have a problem with it now, but if it does become a problem in the future, you will have the skills to manage it,” she said.

So, next time you spontaneously decide to log onto Facebook, ask yourself where it ranks on your priority list.

USF St. Pete offers time management advice

By Aimee Alexander
Staff Writer
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Every time you sit down to do your homework, there is always something better to do. Friends are calling. American Idol is on. That high-scoring Gran Turismo record you broke last night is just waiting for a rematch. Every time you sit down to do your homework, there is always something better to do.

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So, next time you spontaneously decide to log onto Facebook, ask yourself where it ranks on your priority list.
By Andrew Silverstein
Staff Writer

Alkaline Trio has a musical history every bright-eyed kid with a brand new guitar can only dream of. From days of dropping out of college to play lead, dirty punk for the hometown kids in McHenry, Illinois; to signing with a major record label and now touring the world.

Alkaline Trio has managed to transcend the division between the underground and mainstream and remain virtually unscathed. Their newest album, This Addiction, attempts to take the sonic time machine back and tap into the primal, punk rock roots of their earliest years.

Decisions like these are always risky endeavors for bands with a scarlet letter in punk circles. At the end, it just feels like a disingenuous, forced apology.

This Addiction really tries to make amends with their early fans and punk purists. In the earliest years, this album attracted a whole new crop of listeners. They would have had a hard time reaching without their support of their major label, Epic Records.

In the end, it just feels like a disingenuous, forced apology. The first track, This Addiction, blasts us with upbeat drums and fast power chords eerily reminiscent of their first full-length, Goddamnit. For any early fan it is a near-heartwarming moment; like the part in a high school movie after the dorky kid becomes popular, loses his way, and realizes how true and wonderful his original, dorky friends were.

The chorus hits and eliminates all traces of warm, nostalgic fuzziness. It feels like a scoop of vanilla ice cream on a spinach salad; ridiculously out of place.

Similar descriptions can be used for a noticeable portion of singer Matt Skibba's vocal delivery on the album. In previous releases he would tackle high notes with an air of confidence and fervor. His vocal expression did not just compliment the mood of the songs, it made them.

Now it slightly detracts, which is weird because this is some of Alkaline Trio's most sincere and emotional material to date. You would expect some of that passion to shine through in the delivery, but in pivotal moments, Skibba's lyrical content and delivery feel detached from one another. Consequently, songs like Pins and Vinegar and Delinقتions suffer.

Dan Adriano, Alkaline Trio's bassist and occasional singer, takes the helm for three songs on the album and Off the Map might even be the best track on the album.

While these songs are great, there are just some befuddling moments on the album that can't be ignored. The overly cheesy and unnecessary synthesizer on Eating Me Alive seriously diminishes the sincerity of the whole "going punk again" thing for Alkaline Trio.

The Trio's trumpet solo in the song Lead Poisoning is not quite as painful but still feels a little misplaced, especially when they are attempting to recapture the sound of their earlier records, where I am pretty sure, there wasn't a trumpet in sight.

Overall, Alkaline Trio makes a noble effort.
An evening with Lisa Ling

By Amy Blanton
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On Thursday, Feb. 11, Lisa Ling spoke at the event "To Life Shining Light On A Better World" held at the Malahay Theater, where she shared her experiences as a journalist.

The event was organized by the Florida Holocaust Museum. The Board Chair of the Florida Holocaust Museum, Marty Borell, stated that the museum's mission is to "create a hate free Tampa Bay community." Borell quoted Helen Keller saying, "All the world is full of suffering. It is also full of overcoming."

Gayle Sierens, Co-anchor for WFLA-TV News Channel 8, introduced Lisa Ling as the keynote speaker of the event. Sierens said that because of what Lisa has accomplished with her career thus far, she is considered a journalist and a human rights activist.

Sierens said that "every good journalist follows the Code of Ethics by giving a voice to the voiceless, hold the powerful accountable, be fair, ethical, [and] show integrity. Lisa Ling is clearly all of these things."

Sierens believes Ling's work reveals truths and injustices, and wonders what motivates her to do this. "It comes from witnessing the worst and dreaming of the best," Ling responded.

Lisa Ling was born in Sacramento, CA. She has been in the television business for more than 20 years. Her first job was as a reporter for a middle and high school journalism program called Channel 1 News. Ling stated that one of her colleagues at the station was Anderson Cooper, who now works with CNN.

Ling's first job as an adult journalist was as an U.S. correspondent in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, where she covered their civil war.

Ling said that one image that stays in her mind about this assignment was seeing young boys who looked no older than 10 years old carrying bazookas.

Since returning from Afghanistan, Ling was a co-host on the ABC Daytime talk show, The View. She co-anchored for three and a half years, however, after the Sep. 11 attacks, Ling decided to go back into the field as a journalist.

Her producer told her that she should try to get a job with National Geographic. "It is the preeminent authority on the natural world and cultural storms. They never really dug too deeply on current and social issues, so they took a risk by hiring me," Ling said.

Ling traveled to China to report on the One Child Policy for National Geographic. The Chinese government allowed Ling's camera crew to accompany an American couple to adopt a Chinese baby girl.

She closed by telling those in attendance that it is their responsibility to go out and change the social conditions that they see, because like Oprah Winfrey told her, "Now that you know, you can't pretend that you don't".

Fitness center makes room for new editions

By Robbie Crowley
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USF St. Petersburg seems like a new and improved place with the recent completion of the Harborswalk project. With master plans of campus-wide improvements in development, students can expect to see more innovations on campus in the near future.

The next area of improvement on campus will soon come to the fitness center. Student Government recently passed a bill approving $75,000 to spend on upgrades and renovations to the exercise facility.

The current equipment available is adequate, but it could be improved. Updating existing machines to newer ones, as well as adding more machines, can make the environment more motivating for students to work out and take advantage of this free service provided by the school.

Marty Dempsey, the intramural and fitness coordinator at USF St. Petersburg, commented more specifically on what the money will likely bring to the fitness center.

"First off, we are adding a new strength line featuring bench presses, racks and plate-loaded machines," Dempsey said. "Second, we are replacing many of the cardio pieces that we currently have with newer, updated versions." Dempsey also stated that students' concerns for necessary improvements helped prompt the bill and make student government aware of the issue.

"Students expressed the need to add space to the current fitness area. There are currently no free weight benches, squat racks or plate-loaded machines. Most fitness facilities generally feature," he said. "The cardio equipment is also starting to break down, and parts are becoming more and more expensive to keep replacing."

Given that the campus consists of about 4,000 students, expansions and improvements seem necessary to accommodate students' needs. Dempsey is also aware of this need, and he believes the forthcoming changes will benefit both the current student body and future students.

He thinks that adding more cardio machines - as well as the addition of about 800 square feet for free weights - should help accommodate our growing student population.

With the bill passed for these improvements to our fitness center, we hopefully will see the changes soon, but a firm date to begin the renovations has not yet been set. Once the new equipment is approved, it will be ordered and installed as soon as possible.

These improvements can help promote a more active and healthy lifestyle on our campus.
1. LANGUAGE: In old England, what was the profession of someone known as a baxter?

2. TELEVISION: In what country was "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek born?

3. MEDICAL: What is the medical name for "the bends"?

4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of animal would be described as "lupine"?

5. MUSIC: How many members are in the Mormon Tabernacle Choir?

6. GEOGRAPHY: The Mystic River flows through which U.S. state?

7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What would a vexillologist study?

8. COMICS: In the comic strip "Peanuts," where was Snoopy born?

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★ Moderate ★ ★ ★★ Challenging**

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.

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**THE CROW’S NEST • 7**
By Greg Lindberg
Section Editor
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Just over 34 miles separate the USF Tampa and St. Petersburg campuses. But despite the distance, we are all considered members of the Bulls community. But how much support of school athletics is there at USF St. Petersburg?

According to an online survey conducted by Student Government last semester, about 57 percent of the 673 respondents indicated that they attend USF home football games often each year. Only 26 percent, however, said that they attend at least one other USF sporting event each semester, such as a basketball or baseball game.

Brian Akins, the residence hall coordinator, said he sees “plenty of support” from students who live on campus. Akins estimates that about half of the students in the residence hall attend football games.

Akins said that in the fall of 2008, the school had a bus to take students directly to the games at Raymond James Stadium.

“For the first game, we had a full bus,” he said, adding that buses for one or two other games had between 15 and 25 students. But he said SG made the decision to cancel the bus this past season.

“They decided to go in a different direction,” he said. “It’s not cheap so they used that money towards other things. I would love for them to bring it back.”

Jon Ellington, the President, said that he is working on plans to find a cheaper alternative for students to attend games. He said the bus previously used cost $600 to rent for each game. He hopes to secure a smaller bus or van for games next fall.

Ellington is also working with USF St. Petersburg Vice Chancellor Kent Kelso to bring the Bulls baseball team to nearby Al Lang Field this season. USF is already scheduled to play two games in St. Petersburg as part of the Big Ten Big East Challenge, but Ellington and Kelso are hoping the local ballpark will host even more action. The first game vs. Ohio State will be held at Al Lang Field located at 180 2nd Ave. SE, on Friday, Feb. 26 at 4 p.m., while the other contest will take place at the Naimoli Complex located at 7901 30th Ave N, on Sunday, Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. vs. Michigan.

While some events have been spread out to other areas, the university is trying to find ways to bring more students to the sporting events in Tampa. Courtney Pratt, the student marketing coordinator for USF athletics, hosted a forum on Feb. 10 to find out what draws students from satellite campuses to athletic events. She said several ideas were discussed and that attracting students is “still a work in progress.”

“We want to have a unified student section,” she said, noting that students at all campuses have expressed interest in wearing gameday t-shirts at home games to feel more connected as supporters of the athletic teams.

According to Pratt, men’s soccer and basketball events are the most popular sports students attend besides football games. She also said each campus has its own designated football game every season. For example, there is a USF St. Petersburg home game every year to recognize the campus and its students.

Ellington hopes students will come out for the upcoming baseball games and will continue to support the Bulls on every field and court.

“I think it’s a great way for students to take a break, go show support for our school and have a good time,” he said.

Support USF Baseball Team in local St. Pete:

Friday, Feb. 26 at 4 p.m.
USF vs. Ohio State
Al Lang Field
Progress Energy Park
180 2nd Ave. SE

Sunday, Feb. 28 at 1 p.m.
USF vs. Michigan
Naimoli Complex
7901 30th Ave N