Vegetable and plant seeds start to spout in USF SP Garden Club’s garden.

SEEDS SOWN IN BAYBORO GARDEN

Keeley Sheehan
Managing Editor

The USF St. Petersburg Gardening Club began planting in the newly constructed Bayboro Garden behind the Piano Man Building on campus.

The Gardening Club broke ground on the garden on Nov. 15, and completed construction before winter break. The club held its first open gardening session on Fri., Jan. 14.

“Rather than have a ribbon cutting ceremony or anything, we just decided to get to work,” said Christian Coffey, club president.

They used seed packets for many of the vegetables planted, which include instructions and tips for planting the different types of vegetables.

“We don’t have a lot of experience growing the exact varieties that we have,” Coffey said. “We haven’t grown peas before so we decided to go from packets.”

The group planted basil, chives, cucumbers, carrots, red beets and peas, among others.

“We should see some sprouts in the next two weeks, and hopefully some vegetables in the next 60 days,” Coffey said. “We’re going to have planting at least two to three times a year, and we have to water three times a week.”

Members of the Gardening Club attended a conference in Georgia last semester to learn more about maintaining a successful garden. They learned about vegetable families and which types should be grown together, and crop rotation.

“A lot of it was Georgia-specific but we learned some general knowledge that we didn’t know before,” said student Bernadette DiBlasio, who attended the conference. “We kind of fine tuned it.”

“We started a compost bin with advice from the conference,” Coffey said. “It really went a long way. It was a nice, short conference, but it taught us quite a lot, and it really brought the group together.”

Coffey hopes that the garden will produce a good harvest.

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Where to sell your textbooks back

Celebrating a birthday? Check this out.

Success of the Lightning

Insider scoop of the new Dali

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Classifieds

USF students, faculty and staff, submit your FREE classified ads to Nikeya Williams at nswilli6@mail.usf.edu. Ads should be a maximum of 150 characters and include contact information.

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The Crow’s Nest is looking for talented and innovative writers to write for all sections of the paper. If you’re interested in writing for The Crow’s Nest, please contact Nikeya Williams at nswilli6@mail.usf.edu.

Staff meetings are open to anyone interested in being involved with The Crow’s Nest. They are held Mondays at 5 p.m. in the PRW lobby.

Experienced photographer needed immediately to fill The Crow’s Nest staff photographer position. Person must be reliable, available to shoot both on and off campus events, and have a solid understanding of photojournalism practices. This is a paid position. To set up an interview or for more information, please contact the Photo Editor, Aimee Alexander at aralexa2@mail.usf.edu.

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Seeds sown in Bayboro Garden

“Having a great harvest would be totally agreeable to prove ourselves and show that we’re not just some flaky group,” he said. “We’re here to stay and learn, and hopefully teach.”

The group hopes to have students from local elementary schools come to campus and learn about gardening, and also hopes to volunteer at local schools.

“We want to expand the garden and have a green house eventually,” Coffey said. “We feel like this is just as right out of the building. We’d like to get a rain collection barrel to collect our own water,” Coffey said.

Student Rhea Ray also participated in the first area gardening session. She and DiBlassio both got involved with the garden after hearing about the idea from Coffey.

“We supported the idea,” Ray said. “We were going to do a garden in the dorms and we ended up here instead. I feel like this is just as good.”

Student Government approved funding for the Bayboro Garden last year, and the Gardening Club took on the task of managing it. Coffey said that the project is “a little under budget.”

“We saved about $800 on the construction of the project,” he said. “We had already saved about $4,000 by getting outside contributions.”

Students interested in learning about gardening can attend open gardening days, which will usually take place on Fridays and Saturdays for about four hours. Visit www.usfptgardeningclub.com for more information.

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The best place to sell your textbooks?

Brad Richardson
Contributing Writer

With the start of each semester, college students look to find the best way to sell back their unwanted textbooks. The University of South Florida and other sales services help students get rid of those extra books. Many of those buyback services have their pros and cons. Two businesses in particular have become the front-runners on the USF St. Petersburg campus to buy and sell books.

Barnes & Noble is the most popular place to buy and sell books. The main company, Barnes & Noble College Bookstores, Inc., operates with more than 600 college institutions in the country. It has become one of the most popular bookstores where students can find a wide variety of textbooks and study guides.

Barnes & Noble offers buybacks to students each semester. Located at 500 3rd Street South, they offer a large amount of audio and reading material that students can use for both class and leisure. They also offer additional supplies such as binders, notebooks and folders embroidered with either the USF or Barnes & Noble insignia.

Most buybacks of books range from $20 to $50. Until exam week, they will not accept any books for buyback unless they have not been opened.

There are many benefits with the Barnes & Noble bookstore being located on campus. While you are buying books you can pick up a box of ice coffee at Starbucks. Also, the bookstore has student employees that can assist students with finding the right book at a reasonable price.

Student Sarah Henry says that when she buys books, they are always nice and willing to help her find the ones she needed. "I being in a course list for my classes and 1 let them point me in the right direction of where everything is," Henry said.

BookHolders is an online selling business that is similar to Amazon. It was founded by a student that wanted to be able to sell his books without being given an amount that was entirely less than what he originally paid for the book. They will buyback your textbooks even if they are not being used for the following semester.

They collect the books from either their on-campus station, their website or at certain stations located throughout Pinellas and Hillsborough County.

BookHolders employee Chris Wilson said that their website is one of the best ways to get compensation for your books and not be "ripped off." "If at any point when you sell the book and if you want the book back before it is sold, you can get it back at no extra cost," Wilson said. "We look at the students' needs, not just ours."

Many other websites such as Amazon and eBay will buy back books, and store them in warehouses the same way that BookHolders does.

Many places will continue to collect used and new books throughout the semester. Differences in compensation will vary according to the availability of the book and how much money the company or store is willing to pay.
Add some style to spring hair

Taylor Gaudens
Contributing Writer

While we Floridians may be able to get another few uses out of our winter hats, spring is around the corner and a lot of new hair accessories are on the map. Take spring’s runway looks to create your own pretty Florida-girl style. You do not have to pay $90 for designer headbands to be trendy, but you can spend a few of your hard-earned dollars on cheap replicas.

But please, put down the “As Seen On TV” accessories, including the Bumpit and EZ Comb (a weird butterfly clip), and check out the best looks for spring.

Bow or barrette? Studs or sparkles? Feathers or flowers? Whatever your look, incorporate any of these accessories into any hairstyle. Wavy, curvy or straight—hair can always be accentuated and most clothing stores have plenty of hair accessories to choose from.

Any neutrals and whites with pops of color are in style this season, so opt for bold colored barrettes sets at the Prada show, or feathers seen at Chanel.

Channel your inner Blair Waldorf and go for a few headbands. Bold headbands with feathers, rhinestones or a lot of embellishments are best for night looks. Stick to skinny headbands for a more subtle effect.

Stretchy headbands are really popular and have many uses. For a cute look, pull your hair in a pooftail, twist it into a bun and secure with bobby pins and hairpins. Slip on the stretchy headband to make a simple bun into a messy updo. Whatever the style, make sure the headband fits your outfit and the occasion.

For a dressy party look, try pinning one side of loose curls back with a sparkly barrette. A lot of runway outfits incorporated bold barrettes in day styles and in some cases, you can make it work for a night look, too.

Dark accessories look great on light hair, and use light accessories on dark hair to draw attention and make the whole style pop. For a subtle look, try dark headbands and barrettes on dark hair, and light headbands and barrettes on light hair. Use some sparkle to make any hair color stand out.

Hair accessories are very in right now and you can take any style from boring to glamorous in seconds. Hair can be your best accessory, so turn up the volume on your style and add some oomph.

E-mail: tgaudens@mail.usf.edu

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MASTERWORKS

Tchaikovsky’s Violin Concerto
Concertmaster Jeffrey Mullan performs Tchaikovsky’s rhapsodic Violin Concerto on this all-Tchaikovsky program featuring his Symphony No. 2, Little Russian, full of rich colors and spirited Ukrainian folk tunes. Stefan Sanderling conducts.

Jan 28 - 30

Ragtime James Pops
The Great American Songbook
Celebrate an evening of everybody’s favorite songs about love, hope and dreams come true with hits by Johnny Mercer, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, Jerome Kern, Richard Rodgers, Irving Berlin and more... all with Broadway stars Teri Dale Hansen and Destan Owens. Andrew Lane conducts.
Feb 11 & 12

MASTERWORKS

Gershwin’s Concerto in F
Lauded by the San Francisco Chronicle as simply “breathtaking,” Stewart Goodyear plays Gershwin’s high-energy and blues-laced Concerto in F. On a program with Osvaldo Golijov’s Sidereus and Dvorak’s Symphony No. 8 with its sparkling Bohemian-inspired melodies, Stefan Sanderling conducts.
Feb 18 & 20

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Student Tickets Only $10

Students, teachers and education staff can purchase $10 tickets with a valid school ID. Limit two tickets per concert. Some restrictions apply. Tickets may be purchased in advance through TheFloridaOrchestra Ticket Center. Call 727.892.3331.

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Amanda Petruccic
Entertainment Editor

As if you don't already look forward to your birthday enough, there are a few extra perks to brighten up your big day. Many chain restaurants offer a complimentary meal or dessert, usually after joining their e-mail list or birthday club online. Shopaholics are also in luck because many retail stores give out free products or discounts, not only on your birthday, but also for the whole month. Here are a few places you'll have to visit on your special day.

Free Caffeine Fix
Coffee can be your best friend throughout the day. Many chains, like Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts, offer a free birthday drink after joining and also one on your birthday. Starbucks requires you to sign up for the My Starbucks Rewards Card to earn a free beverage. Dunkin' Donuts has a club called DD Perks that rewards you with a free medium drink after joining and also once on your birthday.

Free Meal
Breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so make sure you take advantage of the birthday offers from Denny's and IHOP. Enjoy a Grand Slam at Denny's or a free meal at IHOP after joining their Pan-Restoration online.

Take a break from your studies and enjoy free subs at Firehouse Subs as long as you show proof that it's your birthday, or at Jersey Mike's after joining their e-mail club.

If you're not craving a sub, Ruby Tuesday and Red Robin offer free burgers.

Moes Southwest Grill gives you a free birthday burrito when you sign up for Moes eWorld.

BD's Mongolian Grill provides you with special offers once you join Club Mongoo.

Free Products and Samples
Sephora is the perfect place to stock up on beauty products, and if you join their rewards card program you will receive a free designer sample on your birthday. Aveda has amazing natural hair care products and once you sign up for their e-mail list, they will provide you with a free gift on your birthday. Victoria's Secret sends you a $10 off discount before your birthday if you're on their e-mail list.

Free Sweet Treat
If you have a sweet tooth on your birthday, drive over to Baskin-Robbins where you'll receive a free 2.5-ounce scoop on your day after joining their birthday club online.

Gold Stone Creamery has a birthday club as well, where you'll receive a special treat on your birthday.

Applebees, Outback Steakhouse, the Cheesecake Factory, P.F. Chang's, Seasons 52, Romano's Macaroni Grill, and Chili's all provide a free sundae or dessert on your birthday, but there is a catch. You must survive an off-key birthday chant with half the working staff in order to get to the dessert. If that isn't a problem, grab a spoon and you're home free.

The Cackling Hen:
Don't hold it against Britney

Robbie Crowley
Campus & Beyond Editor

Hello 2011. It's a new year and time for more cackles from this hen. A new year always offers the prospect for fresh starts and resolutions for an improved self. Then after a week, we realize it is the prime winter month of January. It's cold, the days are short, and Sarah Palin is still making a public fool of herself.

No need to fret. Although your new workout plan may have gone out the door by Jan. 3 and you have excess holiday chocolates you must eat before they go bad, at least a few hearty bally lasagna can count as an ab workout, right? And thankfully 2011 has brought us what we've all been waiting for: a new song from Britney Spears.

Although indie music fans, feminists and straight men are probably turning the page right now (or at least scoffing), Britney's new single, "Hold It Against Me," is almost inescapable. Although Ms. Spears is the subject of frequent criticism (she can't sing, she doesn't dress right, she has kids with K-Fed, her weave's falling out, etc.), America apparently still has a passion for Britney -- even if it's not always a healthy one.

Although "Hold It Against Me" is a dance-pop track, it still follows the tropes of Britney's past songs and it's not a bad thing. Gentle dance-pop beats, mid-tempo beats and a catchy melody make up the perfect Britney Spears single. If you were in high school, you probably sang along at both your prom and at the mall.

"Hold It Against Me" is the first single off Ms. Spears' 2011 album, "Framed," which was released on Jan. 18. Although many fans were looking forward to the album, they were not pleased with its lack of originality and the tracks that made it to the top of the charts.

"Hold It Against Me" is still a decent album, but don't hold it against Britney for allegedly ripping off their "79 country hit, "If I Said You Had a Beautiful Body." Can an eye roll from this lil' clucker.

Yes, there is a very similar lyric in Britney's song. Compare Britney's "If I Said I Want your body, would you hold it against me?" to Britney's "If I said you had a beautiful body, would you hold it against me?" However, let's end the comparison right there.

Sure, Bellamy's, out of the millions of song lyrics and musical inspirations out there, I doubt Britney or her producers sought to adventurously copy a 30-year-old, slow-tempo country song. And Lorde knows her music video will not draw any inspiration from their cowboy hats and chaps.

If we're going to split hairs about ripping off lyrics and originality, let's bring up the Black Eyed Peas' new jam, "The Time (Dirty Bit)," into the conversation. I'd prefer another "My Humps" to this cheap re-make of "The Time of My Life." And what if it is a dirty bit, anyway? Try again, Peas.

Let's say hypothetically that Britney Spears purposely took that line from the Bellamy Brothers. She sat in her California home, searching her entire music collection for inspiration for her next big hit. She found nothing in the millions of songs, so she turned to her dad's dusty record collection.

There, in the midst of thousands of records, she finds the Bellamy Brothers and the subject of frequent criticism (she can't sing, she doesn't dress right, she has kids with K-Fed, her weave's falling out, etc.), America apparently still has a passion for Britney even if it's not always a healthy one.

Get the latest news and updates from The Crow's Nest!
Eleven under $10

Here are 11 quality restaurants around St. Petersburg that will leave your taste-buds tingling without leaving your wallet or purse empty.

Meghan Hoodhood
Contribution Writer

Money gets a little tight at the beginning of each semester while we wait for the student loan checks to arrive. We've exhausted our limits in the Burg discount at Burrito Boarder, bonds out our butterknife carving at Jimmy John's, and finished way too many bread bowls at Panera Bread. Other options are still out there, though.

Downtown St. Petersburg can be pricey, and there are plenty of places around town to eat cheap without ending up at a drive-thru. Just because we are college students on a budget doesn't mean that we have to mine out on good quality food. Stick to the drink specials at Applebee's and late-night McFlurries at McDonald's, but take the time to stop at these nicely decorated, reasonably priced, sit-down to-go restaurants.

Breakfast:
Places for a good start.

Skyway Jack has a seat-yourself, fast-service, homey-breakfast restaurant environment. Order the cinnamon sugar French toast here and you get four full slices, lightly battered in egg with powdered sugar on top for $4. Add strawberries or peaches with a nice glass of OJ and you've got enough energy to last you through calculus. Skyway Jack is located on US19 past 22nd Avenue South, about ten minutes from campus.

Bayou Coffee and Tea is a very traditional—yet surprisingly tiny—gem located at 689 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N. Try the breakfast sandwich with bickory-smoked bacon, sautéed spinach, a fried egg and white cheese on Cuban bread for $7. Drink some Kahlua coffee with your breakfast for a warm and comforting combination.

Frog Pond is located on St. Pete Beach and although it is a little farther than the other restaurants, it is a must-see kind of place. Don't let the frogs on the wall distract you; the steak Benedict is $7.75.

Emilio's serves breakfast and lunch with prices mostly under $10. Located at 477 Central Ave, this bistro setting is cozy and relaxing. Order the berry parfait with mixed berries lightly sweetened, layered with homemade granola, Greek yogurt and raw honey for $4.99.

Lunch:
Places in-between classes.

Dockside Dave's, also located on St. Pete Beach, has the best fresh fish in the area. Try the catch of the day or the grouper sandwich for $9.

El Cap on Fourth Street is famous for its World Champ Burger. The restaurant is a little more laid back, and the food is tasty and cheap. It's only $4.25 for the burger, add fries for $3.25.

Simply Delicious, located on Ninth Avenue and 21st Street, is known for its ridiculously overstuffed sandwiches. Try the Cuban sandwich and you'll have plenty left over for only $9.

Dinner:
Places to sit and enjoy.

Three Birds Restaurant and Tavern has Shepherd's Pie for $7. It's an English pie with a mixture of ground beef, vegetables and homemade mashed potatoes served with a side. Add Shock Top Draft for $3.

Red Mesa Cantina on Third Street South is considered one of the better, more expensive restaurants downtown, but it has cheaper options for a lighter appetite. Try ordering the Duck and Ahi Tuna Tacos for $4 each. The decorations and romantic set-up make this restaurant worth the extra dollars.

Ciccio's has delicious California cuisine—try any of the bowls or stir fry dishes. The Hot Sweet has sliced chicken, roasted peppers, pineapple, hot sweet sauce and stir-fry veggies for $7.70.

Hiro's Sushi Bar is one of late-night restaurants that is entertaining and cheap after 10 p.m. Thursday Kawasaki nights are always a good time, with half-off sushi and rolls. Try the Mexican Roll and Crab Ragoon, but don't go there in a hurry; there's usually a wait.

E-mail: mhoadhoo@mail.usf.edu

Movie Review:
"No Strings Attached"

Girls just want to have fun

Kesley Sheehan
Managing Editor

Natalie Portman has been giving a lot of interviews in the past few weeks at her 2010 film “Black Swan" prepares to descend upon the Oscar podium in February. In several of these interviews, she talks about her latest venture into producing. She and partner Anashe Saricovitz have started a production company, Handsome Charlie Films, to make more fun, women-centered movies.

For the magazine's January issue, she told Vogue, "We're very into female comedies; there just aren't enough. We're trying to go for that guy-movie tone, like Judd Apatow's movies, the more herpes and处于 women—who are generally not allowed to be beautiful and funny, and certainly not vampires.

Her latest foray into the world of raunchy rom-coms, "No Strings Attached," doesn't quite achieve these goals, but it's a decent start.

Emma (Portman) and Adam (Ashton Kutcher, "Killers") meet at camp when they're 14. He awkwardly propositions her while trying not to cry, and thus the beginning credits roll. They meet twice more—once at a party 10 years after camp, where she invites him to a "stupid thing" for the next day (a family function for which he shows up ill-at-ease), and once more five years after that, at a farmer's market in California, where, conveniently, they and all their families and friends now live.

Adam is a low-level assistant on a teen TV show; Emma is a doctor. But it all doesn't really begin until six months or so after that when Adam discovers that his dear old (emphasis on "old") divorced dad (Kevin Kline, "The Craigslist Killer") is shacking up with Adam's ex-girlfriend (Ophelia Lovibond, "London Boulevard"). After getting mad and drunk, he finds himself naked in Emma's apartment, spilling his guts to her and her roommates.

He's sad, hung-over and already just a little bit in love with her. She's working 80 hours a week and looking to get laid on a regular basis without the horror of all those relationship shenanigans. They enter into a friends-with-benefits agreement and establish ground rules, each declaring that they definitely, absolutely won't fall in love with the other. A nice montage of them having sex on every available surface accompanies the laying of these ground rules, and from there the plot pretty much rolls out exactly as you'd expect.

"No Strings Attached" doesn't explore any new rom-com frontiers. Where Jason Segel gifted us with full-frontal male in 2008's "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," Kutcher awkwardly clasches a towel in front of himself while Emma's roommates uncover him at his coffee mug, and applaud him for having such a well-chiselled abs.

But the movie does have enough little moments of the "oh, and you'll miss them" variety to keep the whole thing from going stale. Emma's younger sister, Katie (Olivia Thirlby, "What Goes Up") is getting married, but is nowhere to be seen at her own rehearsal dinner. Emma sees Katie off by herself on the patio. In another movie, this would be the point at which Katie confesses with tears in her eyes that she just can't imagine walking down the aisle without her dearly departed father. Emma would put aside all her hang-ups about monogamy and give Katie an impromptu speech about the virtue of love.

But Katie is not sad. She's just got the munchies. She tells Emma that one of the bridesmaids had pot and she's starting, as she indelicately shovels a bowl of strawberries and cut melon into her mouth. Nothing goes together like pot and party dressies.

The real treat of the movie is sitting through it, wondering where you've seen the middle-aged doctor around whom Emma makes a fool of herself, then going home to IMDb, and finding out that it's Cary Elwes—Wendy from "The Princess Bride," who ended down a hill screaming "as you wish!" and fought off abnormally large rodents.

"No Strings Attached" isn't going to win any awards for groundbreaking plot or character development, but there are certainly worse things to do on a Saturday night than spend it in bed with Kutcher and Portman.

E-mail: kmsheehan@mail.usf.edu

Released: Jan. 21
Directed by Ivan Reitman
Written by Elizabeth Meriwether
Running time: 106 min.
Rated: R
Students weigh in on Lightning’s success

Greg Lindberg
Sports Editor

Dock and cover. Find a roof and stay under it. Lightning strikes see everywhere.

The Tampa Bay Lightning has enjoyed one of its best seasons thus far in several years. Many students at USF St. Petersburg have taken notice and are excited about the recent success.

"I think the Lightning have exceeded expectations," said Jordan Guall, a resident assistant in Residence Hall One. Guall believes new GM Steve Yzerman is a major reason for the turnaround and points to the recent trade for veteran goalie Dwayne Roloson and the off-season acquisition of forward Dominic Moore.

"Roloson will provide stability in net since the other goalies haven't fired too well this season," he said. "Moore is one of those hard-working guys every team needs. He kills penalties and gets to the front of the net. He's a great two-way forward."

New head coach Guy Boucher has also played a large part in the team's winning ways, Guall said.

"His style of coaching is a perfect fit for the type of players the Lightning have — young and hard-working," he said.

Jamie Kennedy, a 21-year-old journalism major, has been a huge Lightning fan for years. Kennedy is enthusiastic about what she has seen from the team.

"Hockey has become exciting again in Tampa," she said.

In Kennedy's eyes, Vinny Lecavalier is finally becoming his old self again, Alighting injuries and trade rumors had affected his play prior to this season. She also raved about Steven Stamkos and thinks he has been "the face of the NHL" for much of the season.

Kennedy also likes winger Sean Bergenheim and defensemen Pavel Kubina, who were both brought in last summer. She thinks Bergenheim plays "a solid but quiet game" and that Kubina, a member of the Lightning's Stanley Cup team, is "just meant to be here."

In addition to its play on the ice, Kennedy feels the team has shown more class than previous teams.

"After every home win, they salute the fans at center ice," she said.

Lauren Burg, a 2009 graduate of USFSP, is currently an editing intern for the Bleacher Report sports website. An avid Lightning fan, she believes the team looks as good as it has in a long time.

Burg, 26, says the offense is stocked with goal scorers and the defense has improved. So if they keep their play at a high level the rest of the season, "it's safe to say that at this point in the season, the Lightning is a legit Stanley Cup contender," he said.

E-mail: glindber@mail.usf.edu
Diary of a Dali intern

Brittany Long
Contributing Writer

"Infanta, Infanta."

I am repeating this in my head as I run. I look down at my heels and give myself a silent pat on the back for making such a good shoe choice for the night. I am also looking down because I am running, in heels, on carpet. I am prone to imagining events before they happen and in this sequence I see my heels snagging on the carpet, my body flying through the air, only to land sprawled out on the rough terrain.

"Infanta," I repeat.

This is the first time since beginning at the Dali Museum that I have felt like a frastic intern. My goal as the moment is to make it to the computer to type up a name card for a very important event, for a very important (and forgotten) person, on a program I have never used. And with all my infinite computer knowledge, I still do not know how to make the squiggly line over the "n". (It's ALT 164 in case you're ever in need of the elusive squiggly-lined "n").

The event is Banquete, a dinner with La Infanta Cristina—the Princess of Spain. It was one of the four opening events for the new Dali Museum that I worked and attended.

When I was first interviewed for the position, I was told that my tasks would be stressful, that if I didn’t have tough skin I wouldn’t make it.

"We won’t call you by your first name until you’ve worked here a week because no one really lasts longer than that," they told me.

I laughed at first because I figured I’d be working on social media projects for the Dali, such as blogging or Facebook. How thick of a skin would I need when I most likely would be in my own little bubble, typing away about how fabulous the Family Fun Days are? They even had me write up a little blurbs about an upcoming event to test my skills.

But to my surprise, I was plucked into the Development Department. I still get to see my writing abilities, but for a side of an art museum, you need to step to think about.

As you gazed at Dali’s "Portrait Of My Dead Brother" in the old Dali building in Poynter Park, you probably weren’t thinking, "I hope their donors offer up large sums of money so that they can get better lighting." Your thoughts were more likely along the lines of, "Wow, those tiny black spots morph into space, I had no idea."

But unfortunately you also probably didn’t realize that the two cherries in the picture are two different shades (a symbolic meaning you will have to look up yourself). This is because the lighting really was horrible. That’s where my department comes in with their behind-the-scenes scheming. As a non-profit organization, the Dali relies on support from the community to continue to run and operate—so flick on the lights each day so you don’t have to hold the light from your cell phone up to a painting, to analyze one of Dali's masterpieces.

Keeping the lights on is not an easy task. With “the economy how it is” (a popular phrase), asking for a hefty donation to create a necessary picture is two different shades of gray. As a non-profit organization, the Dali relies on support from the community to continue to run and operate—so flick on the lights each day so you don’t have to hold the light from your cell phone up to a painting, to analyze one of Dali’s masterpieces.

But to my surprise, I was plucked into the Development Department. I still get to see my writing abilities, but for a side of an art museum, you need to step to think about.

As you gazed at Dali’s "Portrait Of My Dead Brother" in the old Dali building in Poynter Park, you probably weren’t thinking, "I hope their donors offer up large sums of money so that they can get better lighting." Your thoughts were more likely along the lines of, "Wow, those tiny black spots morph into space, I had no idea."

But unfortunately you also probably didn’t realize that the two cherries in the picture are two different shades (a symbolic meaning you will have to look up yourself). This is because the lighting really was horrible. That’s where my department comes in with their behind-the-scenes scheming. As a non-profit organization, the Dali relies on support from the community to continue to run and operate—so flick on the lights each day so you don’t have to hold the light from your cell phone up to a painting, to analyze one of Dali’s masterpieces.

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My job consists of writing letters to potential donors, writing letters to thank those donors, making sure those donors’ names are on the list for events like the dinner with La Infanta Cristina, inviting them to other events, editing and re-editing.

One thing I have learned while running the business side is how important art truly is to a community and the commitment of those who give their time and their donations, who saw the same vision for the new Dali Museum as of equal importance to giving to any other foundation. The donations helped construct a necessary building that will house the works of an artistic genius, whose paintings continually allow those who look upon them to broaden their minds. It opens the eyes of those haven’t, and satisfies the palette of those who do strive for symbolism and a twist to reality—constantly making you think and re-think, look and then look again.

I spent a good month in the new building before I got to marvel at the architectural masterpiece from the galleries rather than the office. The walls are modern and white. The stairs are a spiraling gray concrete giant and as I proceeded around the area I felt a certain coldness. I imagine Dali wasn’t much for emotions, maybe even emotionally detached. However does it contrast with the paintings and drawings. They stand out against the Neutral, leaving the emotional symbolism to be the only warmth in the room, drawing you in. The new array of paintings displayed shows you a new side to Dali’s talents and leaves room for a surplus of pondering.

As I stood gazing over "Portrait Of My Dead Brother" for the first time in the new building, the lighting was positioned just so that I noticed a raven in the painting for the first time. It was surreal.

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The new Dali Museum, designed by renowned architect Yann Weymouth, opened Jan. 12, 2011.

Check out the new Dali Museum at One Dali Boulevard
Open: Mon., Tues., Wed.: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Thurs.: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Fri., Sat.: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sun.: Noon to 5:30 p.m.

Tickets:
Free to USF Students
Adults: $2
Seniors 65+, Military, Police and Firefighters: $10
Children 13-18, and students 18+ with ID: $15
Children 6 to 12: $7
Children 5 and younger: Free
After 5 p.m. on Thursday: $10

Visit www.salvadorodalimuseum.org
for more information.

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