Crow's Nest : 2012 : 10 : 08

University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

Follow this and additional works at: https://digital.usfsp.edu/crows_nest

Recommended Citation
https://digital.usfsp.edu/crows_nest/649

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University History: Campus Publications at Digital USFSP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Crow's Nest by an authorized administrator of Digital USFSP.
Professor calls
voter suppression
“partisan warfare”

By Ryan Ballogg
Staff Reporter

“The history of political enfranchisement is not a story of unmitigated expansion,” said Seth C. McKee during a lecture on voter suppression in the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library on Oct. 3. The small crowd present in the corner of Nelson Poynter Memorial Library listened attentively as he attempted to debunk a concept of modern political education.

“Voter rights have come a long way, but they can also go backwards,” said McKee, who believes the country is in one of those moments.

McKee explained that throughout history, the voting franchise had grown and sometimes shrunk based on partisan advantage. The electorate was first restricted to land-owning, Caucasian males and gradually expanded over time. Expansion of written freedoms didn’t always equate to realistic ones.

Black males were technically allowed to vote after the Civil War, but by 1910, less than 10 percent were registered due to poll taxes, literacy tests, a ban on blacks from the Democratic Party in the South and other restrictive measures. McKee said these types of regressions continued throughout the “Progressive Era” of 1900 to 1920. Women were enfranchised in this time frame, but for the most part they voted the same as their husbands for the next several decades.

In 1930 through 1960, little progress was made with voter rights, McKee said. The coalition got its support from a volatile mix of northerners and southerners.

See McKee on page 2.

Romney hosts victory rally in St. Petersburg

Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney spoke Friday night to a crowd of about 6,000 at Pier Park (Romney not pictured).

By Wendy Joan Biddlecombe
Staff Reporter

Anyone want a free sign? the man on the bike announces to the waiting crowd along Bay Shore Drive Friday waiting with bated breath to see the man they hope will be the next president of the United States.

I don’t think you’ll find anyone here, a man said politely in response to the “Abort OBAMA Mid Term” message hand-written on fluorescent poster paper. We’re all pretty much a pro-life crowd.

The event, billed as a “victory rally,” was held two days after the first presidential debate in Denver. Many agree Romney appeared more confident and comfortable than President Obama.

If you are not yet registered to vote, it may not be too late! See these websites, or scan the QR code with your smartphone to get more info.
Leadership director has important work to do

By Mary Lazaris
Crow's Nest Contributor

Charlie Justice, assistant director of leadership at USF St. Petersburg, is running for the District 3 Pinellas County Commissioner seat in the Nov. 6 general election.

Seven commissioners represent the seven districts of Pinellas County. District 3 includes downtown St. Petersburg.

If elected, the St. Petersburg native would work with fellow commissioners to improve the local government. Per the Florida Constitution, county commissioners govern all unincorporated areas of the county they serve, adopt local laws and approve the county's budget. Justice has goals to improve education, small businesses and care of senior citizens.

Justice, a Democrat, is running against Republican incumbent Nancy Bostock. No stranger to Florida politics, Justice has served in the Florida Legislature as representative and senator.

“I want to provide a voice for Pinellas on many of the issues we are being faced with. We need more thoughtful decision-makers,” Justice said. With a campaign slogan of “Important Work to Do,” Justice hopes to do just that for Pinellas County.

At USFSP, Justice heads the leadership development program, and advises the Student Government. He has helped students transition into campus leaders through the certified leaders program he created, which encourages students to become ethical and effective leaders.

“It’s about the quality, not the quantity of what I do,” said Justice, explaining he hopes to inspire leaders on campus and throughout Pinellas County.

McKee critical of Republican strategy

Continued from page 1

Enfranchising blacks would have angered the South enough to make them leave the Democratic Party. In 1964, it did.

“If it was a pivotal election, Lyndon B. Johnson pushes for the Civil Rights Act. One of the biggest political fights in history ensues. African Americans moved in voting behavior and partisanship to Democrat,” McKee said.

Meanwhile, Caucasians in the south began voting Republican for the presidential race and for anti-civil rights Democrats locally. Additionally, women started voting more Democratic from the Reagan election onwards, creating a gender gap. McKee called these party shifts a “critical realignment” that hasn’t changed much to this day.

“When you fast forward to modern politics, it’s never been so distinct. The parties have sorted themselves so clearly demographically. There’s no real majority in American politics.”

McKee discussed the 2000 election, which Bush won with only a few hundred votes. Then in 2008, Obama maxed out a huge constituency made of primarily youth, minorities and women to secure his victory. Despite this broad support group, the race was still close.

In 2010, Republicans became the majority in Congress, and following the takeover, restrictive voting legislation was passed in many of the 50 states, prominently voter identification laws. McKee described it as a Republican maneuver to get back the majority by limiting the minority.

“This is partisan warfare, it’s not about protecting integrity,” said McKee.

In Florida, measures were even more restrictive. On May 19, 2011, Rick Scott signed House Bill 1355, an omnibus bill restricting voting. It reduced early voting from 14 days to eight and eliminated early voting on the Sunday immediately prior to Election Day—records from past elections show that this has consistently been the day that the most African Americans voted. The bill additionally made provisions for the reduction of early voting hours, and restricted operations of third party voter registration operations that primarily target African Americans and Latinos. McKee had his theories about why these specific measures were passed.

“The Florida electorate is becoming more racially diverse, and the Republican Party is unable to grow its minority support,” McKee said. “The bill works to restrict that minority. Meanwhile, the most common method of voting for those with socio-economic wealth remains intact.”

“The most likely candidate for fraud is absentee ballots. They haven’t been touched. It doesn’t seem to really be about fraud,” McKee said. “It’s about raising the cost.”

McKee made sure to point out that it wasn’t a case of saints versus sinners. The Democratic Party might do the same thing if roles were reversed.

“There is no clear majority, so parties fight bitterly for the next cycle,” he said.

Overall, McKee thinks that these measures will hurt the Republican Party in the long run.

“Demographics just don’t favor them,” he said. “This sort of suppression is actually increasing the Democratic majority.”

Correction:
In an article published Oct. 1, John Long’s position was incorrectly reported. He is the chief operating officer of the USF system.
Freedom movement promotes solidarity, not charity

By Tyler Killette
Crow's Nest Correspondent

Fighting for reparations, self-determination and economic empowerment for African people is the Uhuru Solidarity Movement, an international campaign for allies of African liberation.

On Oct. 11, the Uhuru Solidarity Movement will be hosting “Day in Solidarity with African People” as part of a national series of events to show how Caucasians can see the future through the eyes of the oppressed. Speakers at the event will include Omali Yeshiela, founder of the Uhuru Solidarity Movement, and Penny Hess, chair of the African People’s Solidarity Committee. The event will be held at Studio@620, 620 First Ave. S., at 6:30 p.m.

The cornerstone of the movement is reparations for African people, said Jesse Nevel, chair of Uhuru’s St. Petersburg branch. Nevel, 22, said he became inspired by the consistency and longevity of the Uhuru Movement after seeing Yeshiela speak at USF St. Petersburg three years ago. He explains that being in solidarity with the African people is not matter of well wishing but of actually sharing the same fate and “putting money where your mouth is.”

Uhuru works under the leadership of colonized people and runs according to the agenda of the African People’s Socialist Party. Its relationship with African people is not considered a charity, Nevel said, explaining that the movement is not donating resources to African people but rather giving back what is rightfully theirs.

Africans have the skills they need but cannot put them to use without control of their own resources, said Johann Bedingfield, Uhuru’s National Chair of Information and Education. Bedingfield Id, 31, believes it the responsibility of Caucasians to give back what they owe to the African community in order to help them gain freedom and, ultimately, to achieve freedom for all humanity.

Africa holds more of the world’s natural resources than any other region yet remains poorer than all other continents except Antarctica in terms in per capita GDP, according to the National Bank. Nevel said so many of the resources we use have been stolen from the African people.

“If they had control over their own resources, we would be the ones asking for charity,” Nevel said. Ohuru puts reparations in action through African-led programs such as Black Star Industries, which works towards a self-sustaining African economy, and Burning Spear Media, the independent media of the African working class.

Locally, Uhuru is urging the City of St. Petersburg to adopt Oct. 11 as a day of recognition for solidarity with African people. It also participates in the Saturday morning market on First Street Southeast with the Uhuru Breakfast Café. Those looking to become involved with Uhuru are encouraged “join the pledge” at apcuhuru.org and subscribe to its blog, uhurusolidarity.wordpress.com.

Uhuru also welcomes students to attend meetings on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pete Community Acupuncture, 14 18th St. S.

Bulls searching for a place in Florida football

By Samantha Quinette
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

College football at the beginning of the 20th century was very different from what it has evolved to today. The most successful college football teams in Florida struggled for many years before achieving national recognition. Why, then, has more pressure been put on the South Florida Bulls to be better than the Big Three programs were in the beginnings of their existence?

The answer is not a clear one. For as long as most college football fans in Florida can remember, it’s always been about that Big Three: the Florida Gators, the Miami Hurricanes and Florida State Seminoles. Since 1997, USF football fans have dreamed of turning the Big Three into the Big Four.

USF’s football program has been around for only a fraction of the other schools. The University of Florida established its football team earlier than any other Florida college in 1906. Miami’s program was founded in 1926, and Florida State played its first season of football in 1947. What is particularly noteworthy is the fact that it took each of those programs over 45 years to win a national championship.

One reason for the pressure on the program is because USF football holds itself to a higher standard. Shortly after the program was established, the Bulls were quick to leave the lower ranks of college football and enter the competitive bowl-eligible Conference USA, before joining the Big East.

It could also be because The University of South Florida is consistently one of the largest universities in the United States in terms of undergraduate enrollment. More students attending the university means there are more eventual alumni to donate money to help the growth of its athletic programs. Naturally, the thought then becomes that USF should have plenty of funds with which to build a quality football program.

The Gators, Hurricanes and Seminoles have been building up rivalries against one another for more than 50 years. Those teams and their fan bases are not going to let the Big Three become the Big Four without USF paying its dues first. The only way for the Bulls to prove they’re worthy is to continue playing, and beating, those teams.

The Bulls’ most recent matchup against a Big Three team, Florida State, ended in a loss that was closer than the 30-17 final score. USF will get another shot at a prominent Florida football program, the Miami Hurricanes, later this season.

For the Bulls, these match-ups are crucial. They give them the opportunity to state their case to the world of college football. That is an opportunity they must seize if they hope to transform the Big Three into the Big Four anytime soon.

news@crowsneststpete.com

Scott advises the senate to “follow the money trail”

By Wendy Joan Biddlecombe
Staff Reporter

Former Student Government President James Scott stopped by the general assembly meeting Wednesday to discuss the lack of a past agreement by SG to pay for the University Student Center operating budget.

The total USC budget for the 2012-2013 year is $1.9 million, which includes $985,870 in total expenses, $579,329 in debt services, $50,000 in renewals and $250,000 of required reserves.

“There was no understanding SG would foot the bill on operating costs,” said Scott, who lobbied and worked closely with the USF St. Petersburg administration to open the newest building on campus. The financial agreement was made in 2008, and Scott said the idea was for the USC to self-sustain and not depend on SG money for operations, such as $188,000 in employee salaries, more than $56,000 in overhead costs, as well as portable whiteboards, special lighting, phones, postage and more in the current budget the USPSG administration asked SG to approve.

Assistant Director of Student Affairs Dwayne Isaacs presented the USC budget breakdown during the Sept. 26 general assembly meeting. Isaacs told senators to think about the budget in terms of the bills associated with their apartment or home, but was unsure of budget overlap, such as if the power meters for the USC were separate from the USC residential tower, and if the water used by the dining hall also falls under the USC budget.

Scott said this conversation about spending should have happened years ago, and the “huge amount of money was never agreed on.”

Instead of being skeptical of the administration’s motives, Scott advised senators to “follow the money trail” and get their “hands dirty” by understanding how student revenue is allocated. Scott said it in the best interest of students to pay down the USC sooner rather than later to reduce interest.

“The university does not break laws,” said Scott in response to a student letter read at the meeting that suggested the university broke Florida Statutes by spending Activities & Service Fees on a building that did not include student services. “Don’t question the integrity of the university. Remember to have good faith ... they have the right intentions at heart.”

news@crowsneststpete.com
By air and by sea
The storied history of the Coast Guard base adjacent to campus

By Joey Vars
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Just across Bayboro Harbor, large Coast Guard ships are often moored to the wharf. Low-flying airplanes seem to skim the tops of campus on their final approach to Albert-Whitted Municipal Airport. But the Coast Guard presence in St. Petersburg used to be much bigger, once playing a key role in the development and expansion of the airport.

The Coast Guard established a base on the south side of Bayboro Harbor in 1929 that housed 16 cutters, or small- to medium-sized boats. An air station was built on the north side of the harbor with funds from the Public Works Administration when the Coast Guard began using planes. The station was built from 1933 to 1935 using the existing Albert-Whitted Airport.

The first officers reported for duty in 1934, and lived in the Connecticut Hotel on 4th Street South until the barracks were completed in 1935. The support services for the planes were completed first. The first planes were a Douglas RD-4 dolphin, named Mizar, and two Grumman “Duck” JF-2 amphibians. These were single-engine seaplanes that cost over $45,000 in 1935 dollars.

A major search and rescue operation took place shortly after the base was commissioned. The Labor Day hurricane of 1935 devastated the Florida Keys. Air Station St. Petersburg joined forces with other Coast Guard air stations to participate in the rescue operations. During prohibition years, flights were flown to bust illegal alcohol shipments in the gulf.

The airplanes were jury-rigged with depth charges during the World War II to aid in the search and destruction of German U-boats. However, since Coast Guard duties are primarily defensive, such modifications were not very efficacious. Near the end of the war, more efficacious alterations to the air fleet were made, but by that time the submarine threat had passed.

Changing technologies during the war meant the entire air fleet of Air Station St. Petersburg needed to be replaced. The station was outfitted with brand new PBY-5A Catalinas and Martin MBM Mariners. There was a significant increase in commercial and recreational air and sea transport during the 1950s, so many of these planes were replaced by autogiros and much larger aircraft. From 1945 to 1970, Air Station St Pete went through over six different ent types of aerial vehicles, each larger and more efficient than the last.

However, in 1976, the “latest and greatest” developments of aviation resulted in the massive HC-130 airplane, which brought some bad news for the air station. The HC-130 required much larger runway than the Albert-Whitted Airport could provide, prompting the coast Guard to relocate Air Station St Pete’s detachment six miles to the north—to the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport.

However, just because the airplanes left the air station in St. Petersburg did not mean its services were no longer needed. The cutter base on the southern side of the harbor moved into the vacated structures of the air base, with industrial facilities to the south, and administrative, personnel, and mechanical facilities to the north.

As of 2012, Sector St. Petersburg is one of the largest commands of the U.S. Coast Guard, with over 370 nautical miles under its jurisdiction, and the 12th largest U.S. port. Sector St. Petersburg worked in conjunction with the U.S. Geological Survey and USF St. Petersburg during recovery, investigation and cleanup of 2010’s Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, and aids in the search and recovery of stranded mariners all along the west coast of Florida.

life@crowsneststpete.com
Folk art and philanthropy
Local festival raises money for art initiatives

By Lazar Anderson
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Creative Clay’s annual Folk Fest took place last weekend at Albert-Whitted Park, drawing crowds in the hundreds for food, drink, art and music. The festival is one of the largest fundraisers thrown by Creative Clay, a local not-for-profit that seeks to make art accessible to everyone. Their programs work with the disabled, hospitalized and those that would otherwise have a difficult time making and displaying art.

There was no required admission for the event, though donations were accepted in many of the vendor’s tents and by the front gate. It was a chance for the community to chip in while having a good time.

“We’re trying to keep Folk Fest free,” said Charlie Bachman, the community arts director and volunteer coordinator for Creative Clay.

Attendees floated between a variety of food trucks, two beer gardens (the standard Anheuser-Busch Bud Light Truck was rivaled by St. Petersburg’s The Ale and the Witch, serving several American craft beers) and a number of vendors selling their own folk art and other merchandise. About two dozen organizations sponsored the event, many of which set up under big white tents for people to visit and get free stuff.

And of course, there was music. Over a dozen folk bands took the stage over the weekend. Some fuse the term folk music with varieties of country and bluegrass, but the modern folk music scene has a sound quite different from those—one personified by bands like Mumford and Sons and Of Monsters and Men. The festival was headlined by Applebutter Express, a group that is no stranger to music festivals. They have played stages as small as the local Blueberry Patch, and as large as Bonnaroo.

The bands played for free, contributing to the atmosphere of philanthropy. Non-perishable food was collected at the gate to benefit the St. Petersburg Free Clinic. Pet Pal Animal Shelter was on hand to create awareness for their no-kill, not-for-profit shelter.

At one moment, the grasses in front of the stage were overrun by a herd of zombies. The band on stage began playing Michael Jackson’s “Thriller,” and the well-choreographed zombies started dancing. It was a promotion for Thrill St. Pete, an annual Halloween event at the Pier with a number of activities, headlined by a large group of volunteers performing the Thriller dance. Thrill St. Pete recently announced Creative Clay as their 2012 charity, meaning all proceeds from their event will go to Creative Clay.

Some of the artists of Creative Clay were on hand, making and selling art. Creative Clay’s booth exemplified what the organization is capable of doing, “empowering adults with disabilities to express themselves with art,” as Bachman put it.

A few of the pieces at their booth were recognizable from a recent exhibition at USF St. Petersburg’s The Grind, which hosted a fundraiser last week to help support Creative Clay.

“We love what they do, their mission, and thought it would be amazing fun,” Pressman said of the event. “The show was awesome. Over 75 paintings by their artists, all over the walls. They were incredibly supportive of every idea for the show including chalking hopscotch inside.”

Creative Clay is open to working with students again.

“We’re always open to volunteers,” Bachman said. Their offices and studio are located at 1124 Central Ave. arts@crowsneststpete.com

October 8, 2012 | Volume 47 | Issue 07

Club fosters community around sex

By Daniel Figueroa
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Armed with a diverse history of romantic and sexual experiences, two USF St. Petersburg students lead an unapologetic forum with topics ranging from where to take a date, to whether or not you enjoy it when a partner grows during intercourse.

Christa Hegedus, a 19-year-old sophomore, and Dan McGarigal, a 25-year-old senior, were unhappy with what they saw as a societal aversion to talking about intimate concerns when they started the Sex and Relationships Club in January 2012.

“Every human being has something in common: food, air, and sex,” Hegedus said. “It’s a necessity. We are here to reproduce as well as eat and breathe.”

This outlook is evident in the diversity of the club, where many are sexually experienced, some have had multiple partners, some just one and many have had none at all. Despite their level of experience, these students gather to talk through the aforementioned desires and seek understanding. Students come to share, as well as learn.

When it comes down to it, many club members say an open forum with strangers is the most comfortable way to communicate.

“Sometimes you can’t talk to your friends about [sex] because they are too close to you or they know who you’re dating and are going to judge you,” said Deanna Eary, a freshman psychology major.

Hegedus and McGarigal emphasize deferred judgment through communication. The ability to communicate openly in such an environment is a key to the success of the club.

“What I love about [the club] is it’s like Dr. Sue’s Sex talk but with kids my own age and people who understand what I am going through,” said Kelly Roberson, a junior majoring in environmental science and policy.

Roberson described a particularly touching and personal moment during a meeting that prompted her to rise and embrace Hegedus out of solidarity.

“I felt like at that moment of freaking out, and this is a real life person that I know, that I have conversations with and it happens to her too,” she said.

Hegedus and McGarigal seem unafraid to divulge their own stories whether they are embarrassing or prudish. They set a tone for meetings that allows their fellow students to feel protected and safe when discussing such delicate issues.

“We create a small community, a family.” McGarigal said.

And they know exactly what they want to accomplish every week.

“Take away that people are here for you. Take away happiness, take away pleasure, and take away fun,” Hegedus said.

The Sex and Relationships Club meets Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in Ballroom No. 1 in the University Student Center.

life@crowsneststpete.com

Folk fest attendees dance to the music.
Pressman. The organization hangs in swing in public places for free, and partnered with Creative Clay to create the Swings Exhibit, which featured hand painted swings from Creative Clay artists.

“We love what they do, their mission, and thought it would be amazing fun,” Pressman said of the event. “The show was awesome. Over 75 paintings by their artists, all over the walls. They were incredibly supportive of every idea for the show including chalking hopscotch inside.”

Creative Clay is open to working with students again.

“We’re always open to volunteers,” Bachman said. Their offices and studio are located at 1124 Central Ave. arts@crowsneststpete.com

October 8, 2012 | Volume 47 | Issue 07
Editorial

A brief LGBT history lesson

In 1994, a high-school history teacher in Missouri was baffled by the lack of gay and lesbian history found in textbooks. He founded LGBT history month for the month of October, dedicated to observing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history.


In keeping with the observance of LGBT history, here’s a history lesson that pre-dates the 20th century that merits recognition.

Sappho of Lesbos

From the Greek island of Lesbos, Sappho was lyric poet who wrote love poems to both men and women in 6 B.C. The term “lesbian” comes from her homeland. There are fewer historical documentations of female homosexuality than male homosexuality, but female-loving females found their rights in the Code of Hammurabi in 1772 B.C. “Salikrum,” literally meaning “daughter-man,” were permitted under Babylonian law to marry other women and inherit property.

From molly houses to gay bars

In 18th century England, taverns, coffin houses or private rooms were a meeting place for the underground gay community. The term “molly” was slang for effeminate, sometimes homosexual males. “Molly houses” were a social part of the huddled community, welcoming gay men and cross dressers to meet and be themselves out of the public eye.

Margaret Clap, called “Mother Clap,” ran a popular molly house in London from 1724 to 1726. It was not, by any means, a brothel. It was a private residence and coffin house that had no name. Rictor Norton, an American writer of literary and cultural history, referred to Mother Clap as the first “fag hag” to be documented in British history.

Norton’s research points that Clap kept the molly house for social pleasure more than profit, and she had a close friendship with the men that frequented her residence.

After operating for two years, the house was raided by police constables, arresting 40. History records show that English courts in the 18th century had the option of two sentences for convicted felons: they were either turned loose or hanged.

As with the history of violence against homosexuals, five of the arrested were hanged, and Clap, among other punishments, was forced to stand in public sight clapped in a pillory.

The mob treated her so viciously in the pillory that The London and Weekly Journal reported her fainting and convulsing into fits. No other documentation of Clap after her time at the pillory was recorded.

First gay-rights activist

Karl Heinrich Ulrichs was dismissed from his work as a legal adviser for the district court of Hildesheim in the Kingdom of Hanover in Germany because of his sexual preference in 1857.

In 1862, he came out to his family and friends.

The term “homosexual” wasn’t publicly named or identified until 1869.

Ulrichs used “Urning” to describe what he called the third sex—someone with “a female psyche in a male body.”

Ulrichs took the term from Plato’s Symposium text written 385-380 B.C., where Plato describes the goddess of love being born from Uranos, the god in the sky in which “the female has no part.”

Ulrichs self-published books about homosexual nature and rights, originally published under the pseudonym “Numa Numantius.” Later, he decided to publish under his real name.

He completed 12 booklets, collectively known as “Researches on the Riddle of love between Men.”

Ulrichs spoke out publicly urging the repeal of anti-homosexual laws at the Congress of German Jurists in Munich in 1867. He was shunted down.

Here is an excerpt from Ulrichs, “Arazen: a Call to Free the Nature of the Uning from the Penal Law,” published in 1870:

“The Uning, too, is a person. He, too, therefore, has inalienable rights. His sexual orientation is a right established by nature. Legislators have no right to veto nature; no right to persecute nature in the course of its work; no right to torture living creatures who are subject to those drives nature gave them.”

Mission Statement: The Crow’s Nest is committed to providing its readers with news relevant to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and its surrounding community. The Crow’s Nest abides by the highest ethical standards and focuses on stories that help readers make informed decisions on current issues. We take seriously the public’s trust in our news reporting and strive to uphold the highest standards of reporting as defined by the Society of Professional Journalists.

The views expressed—both written and graphic—are that of the opinion section of The Crow’s Nest. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board. Submit letters to the editor to crownesteditor@gmail.com. The Crow’s Nest reserves the right to edit these pieces for style and length. If a letter is not meant for publication, please mark it as such. All submissions must include the author’s name, daytime phone number, and email address. The Crow’s Nest is provided free by the Activities & Services Fee, and advertising. The Crow’s Nest neither endorses nor takes responsibility for any claims made by our advertisers. Limit five issues per student. For additional copies, contact the editor-in-chief.

The Crow’s Nest office is located at:
Coquina Hall 101
University of South Florida
St. Petersburg
140 Seventh Ave. S.,
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Press run: 1,000
Copyright 2012 St. Petersburg, FL

The Crow’s Nest is printed by:
Web Offset Printing
12198 44th Street North
Clearwater, Florida 33762

Join us at our weekly staff meetings during the fall semester. Mondays at 5 p.m. in the Ocean Room at the USC.

Facebook: The Crow’s Nest at USF St. Petersburg
Twitter: @USFcrownest
Email: crowsnest@sp相干

by guest cartoonist Elizabeth Malley
Higher education and the logistic calculus

By Christopher Gunn
Staff Columnist

While reporting on the history and funding of the University Student Center I have often asked decision-makers and stakeholders if “good for the university” means the same as “good for students.”

Before the Student Body became the majority contributor to universities’ education and general revenue, this distinction was mostly unnecessary. University students 18 years ago contributed about a quarter of the cost to provide them with an education, a deal by anyone’s standards.

The university implicitly provided something with economic value to the majority of students: a ticket to the middle class. Where the 25 percent from students went wasn’t a big deal, in comparison.

But the discussion on higher education has changed since then, with political and academic leaders framing college degrees as personal investments rather than a public good. There are now winners and losers in higher education as a four year degree has become a necessity in the arms race for higher and higher academic achievement.

Have you heard “a bachelor’s degree is the new high school diploma?”

Instead of making a case for broad education and critical thinking, universities are now collaborators in the false notion that nothing like four years of intense, expensive, work is the only way to prepare a student for a tedi, meaningful career. They ignore that over half of new graduates either don’t find work within the first year, or don’t find work that requires a college degree. Meanwhile, the debts have to be paid, a burden even successfull graduates are carrying throughout their earning years.

The answer goes: what did you expect to do with a degree in art history? Or anthropology?

Or psychology? Or journalism? Or the hard sciences? Or with an MBA?

A banker six months out of an MBA program told me his life wasn’t what he expected it to be. He wanted to build companies that built things, not sit in the glass storefront of a retail bank verifying I still have the same phone number. He was considering returning to school for a technology degree. He thought business had been a safe bet, but so many people hate pulling the West Coast Champion full of snowbirds from New York City. The nostalgic traveler in me sighs as I hear the whistle whine as the 4-6-2 pulls out of the station and I continue southbound. Walking three blocks along with wind that shows no sign of letting up, I change my course to the east and walk down Second Avenue North.

Here I am, footprint over what was the “Million Dollar Pier,” which opened Thanksgiving Day 1926. The Mediterranean Revival-style building that was originally at the end of the Pier was demolished in 1967 and the inverted pyramid that we all know and love opened in January of 1973.

Glancing to the right, you can see a plaque commemorating the world’s first regularly scheduled flight, between St. Petersburg and Tampa. The first departed across the bay on Jan. 1, 1914.

I’m standing at the end of the Pier now, looking to the east—I can hear traffic start to pick up behind me and the sky is becoming a faint black. It’s set to get lighter in an hour and half or so when that big orange-red-yellow ball of gasses pops over the horizon.

I trace my route back as the city stirs and I contemplate my night walk. I glance up at the red Hilton “H”; built in 1973 a part of the Hilton family of hotels. Hilton pulled out in 1979. During the early 80’s this building was the Bayfront Concourse and home to the Suncoast Playboy Club from 1981 until 1983.

Serge would approve. Coleman would think I was lacking in his department. Another time, good sir. There are not as many lights on in RHO, and maybe your arm or leg has woken up.

By Robert Beasey
Guest Columnist

Hello, my name is Robert Beasey and I would like to open up my world and share information about students with disabilities here at USF St. Petersburg.

You have probably seen me around, especially if you frequent The Grind. I was born with cerebral palsy, a physical injury to the brain caused by a lack of oxygen to the brain at birth.

I graduated from St. Petersburg College with an associate degree and have attended USFSP since 2009. I am pursuing a bachelors degree in Interdisciplinary Social Science.

Cerebral palsy afflicts the motor skills. In my case, doctors told my parents that there was nothing wrong with me at first. Finally, my parents took me to a sixth doctor who diagnosed me with cerebral palsy. He gave my parents two options: they could admit me to a mental hospital thinking I would end up in a vegetative state, or they could raise me and raise me. Fortunately, they chose the latter.

With three sisters and one brother, I am the youngest sibling. However, my siblings never treated me any differently than anyone else. My sister, who graduated from USF, is the one who encouraged me to pursue my degree. For that I will be forever grateful.

Among my challenges on campus is the lack of automatic, push-button doors on many entrances (or ones that just don’t work). I do have a key, but the bathroom stalls are totally inaccessible or are difficult to maneuver in, including the ones in the new University Student Center.

In some cases, people’s attitudes are condescending or patronizing—some people see that you are physically disabled and assume you are mentally disabled. Our minds work the same as our peers!

I have a part-time job in the Student Disability Services office and I hope that other students with a disability support me in my work and be inspired to tackle the workforce as well.

Remember, a disability is just a difference and, we all need to focus on our common hopes and strengths.

The SDS office supports the acaademc efforts of students by providing accommodations and ensuring in the classroom and outside. If you need accommodations, register for services in Terrace 200 (all information stays confidential). Medical documentation is necessary.
The best day of baseball

By Mike Hopey
Staff Columnist

The only thing more boring than a baseball game is a meaningless baseball game. At the end of the baseball season that is all fans usually get. Divisions and wild card spots are all locked up. The best teams have clinched their homemade advantage weeks prior. But this year was different. It’s not hyperbole; last Wednesday was the best day of baseball, maybe, ever.

It started with Texas and Oakland, tied for the AL West crown and playing each other. The winner got rest and the loser had to host the AL Wild Card game. Later that night, Baltimore and New York had the AL East on the line in their games. It was a drama filled night. One that makes you want to sit at a bar and shut out everything else around you.

Following baseball doesn’t allow for an opportunity to see much of other teams. Fans only have time to watch a game a day and when they play every day there aren’t many opportunities to see other teams. Even if another game directly afflicts your favorite team, there’s no rush to tune in to other games in the dog days of summer. After all, baseball is a marathon.

The immediacy of the moment is the reason we sit in front of the TV and watch every second of the NFL playoffs. It’s the same reason baseball sevens stand out in our memories. With all due respect to the baseball purists, the baseball regular season is just mind numbing.

Baseball needs this kind of excitement. The game sits firmly in third in our national scope. The NFL and NBA do better on television and those leagues are growing in popularity while MLB’s numbers are shrinking.

Keep it up, baseball. Someday you could take back the mantle of National Pastime.

Follow The Crow’s Nest sports page on Twitter at @crowsnestsports

Turnovers, interceptions cost Bulls another game

By Samantha Ouimet
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

USF football’s troubles continued last weekend against the Temple Owls, where the Bulls extended their losing streak to four games and moved to 0-2 in Big East conference play. The Owls pulled away late in the back-and-forth affair in Philadelphia to win 37-28.

The way in which the loss played out was all too familiar to the Bulls, who are no strangers to close losses that should never have happened. The match-up against Temple was supposed to provide redemption for a team that has struggled in the vast majority of its games, but there was none to be found by the time the clock struck zero.

Turnovers once again played a key role in the Bulls’ loss. USF fumbled the ball three times, two of which were recovered by the Owls and quickly turned into scoring opportunities. Senior quarterback B.J. Daniels also continued to battle his propensity for throwing interceptions at pivotal moments in the game, having a pass picked off by Temple defensive back Chris Hutton on the first play of a potential comeback drive.

Perhaps the most disturbing trend that the Bulls continued in this game is the one that sees them constantly having to come from behind to try and earn a win, especially against teams that they have little business losing to in the first place.

The Bulls knew they were lucky to get a last-minute victory against Nevada earlier in the season. They also realized clawing their way back at the end of games wasn’t something they could continue to do and expect to be successful.

Yet here the Bulls are with another loss on the season in spite of the last-minute heroics that have followed the team from game-to-game. USF must now take this off-week opportunity to evaluate the many issues the program is currently facing. The turnovers, the lack of third down conversions, and the frivolous penalties cannot continue if this season is to be turned around.

The Bulls are now 2-4 with six games left on the schedule. If the team wants to avoid missing a bowl game for a second straight season, they need to win at least four more games. That’s easier said than done for USF, as the road does not get any easier with five of six remaining games against Big East opponents.

If anyone understands the magnitude of the remaining games, it is Coach Skip Holtz, who is on the hot seat with a 1-5-6 record through three seasons with the Bulls.

“We’re all hurting a little bit,” Holtz said in a post-game press conference. “When I say all, I mean the players, the coaches, the fan base, the alumni, the administration… We’re going to keep plugging, we’re going to keep working at it. It’s the only way I know how to try to get it straight.”

Big East Notebook

Big East play is finally here. Every team in the league except for Louisville, who was idle, and Cincinnati played a conference game this week.

The biggest story out of the conference is that three of the eight teams are ranked in the top 25. Louisville is is ranked 18th in the AP poll. Rutgers is 20th and Cincinnati joins the poll coming in at number 22.

Last week also marked the return of the Temple Owls to conference play. The Owls were voted out of the conference in 2004 before joining this season as a football-only member of the conference.

Conference play continues next week when Louisville visits Pittsburgh, UConn hosts Temple, and the Syracuse Orange travel to Rutgers. Cincinnati will play another non-conference game against Fordham; the Bearcats have another non-conference opponent before finishing the season with six straight Big East games. The Bulls have the week off ahead of their key game in Louisville.

Here are the notables from this past week in the Big East:

Syracuse 14 Pitt 13
The Orange jumped to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter on Friday night and held on for the big conference win. Syracuse snapped an eight-game losing streak against FBS teams with the win. The Pitt Panthers fell to 0-2 in the Big East. Their very good rushing attack was held to only 27 yards.

Rutgers 19 UConn 3
Scarlet Knights’ running back Jawan Jamison rushed for 110 yards in the win. Jamison has rushed for over 100 yards in every Rutgers game this season, all wins. Quarterback Gary Nova pitched a touchdown for the Knights.

The Huskies’ signal caller, Chandler Whitmer, threw four interceptions in the loss.

Cincinnati 52 Miami (OH) 14
The Bearcats roll over the Red Hawks from the Mid-Atlantic Conference for an easy win. The Bearcats had 429 total yards on offense, 272 of those on the ground. They also rushed for four touchdowns. Munchie Legaux passed for two more touchdowns. Miami quarterback Zac Dysert threw for over 300 yards and a pair of touchdowns. The Red Hawks rushers only managed 59 yards in the loss.

Cincinnati stays undefeated at 4-0 Big East.

USF St. Petersburg’s dragon boat team practices on Sept. 30. USFSP competed against 16 other teams from as far away as The Villages on Oct. 6. A team from Eckerd College took first place.