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Delta Sigma Zeta working toward making Greek life a reality

By Wendy Joan Biddlecombe
Staff Reporter

For the last three months Amanda Dicicco has been living and breathing Delta Sigma Zeta. Along with her “wingwomen,” Olivia Mayer and Giana Stabile, Dicicco has started a group with hopes of becoming a sorority—the first step toward making Greek life at USF St. Petersburg a reality.

Right now DSZ is a “colony,” a regional group with intent to join one of the 26 nationally represented organizations. The process can take one to four years, and requires approval letters from the chancellor, college deans and student advisers. Representatives from the National Panhellenic Conference will eventually come to survey the colony, and determine whether or not the university is ready to house a sorority.

“We’re trying to start this off as positive as we can, with charity,” Dicicco said. “We’re not asking the school for money. We’re not trying to do hazing and different crazy parties. We’re really just trying to better our community and our school, and have a place where our ladies can learn how to be leaders.”

DSZ is planning to volunteer at hospitals and nursing homes, and hopes to do campus events, such as trick or treating in the residence halls, and beach cleanup.

The colony was just an “idea thrown out in the air,” Stabile said. “The three founders worked on a project for Student Life over the summer, and one of their assignments was to survey students to find out what they wanted at USFSP. Camped out on a Sunday afternoon, they heard ideas ranging from jet skis, to toga parties, to campus maps on every corner. See GREEK pg. 2

University disputes article, yet provides few records

By Christopher Guinn
Staff Reporter

Following a story published in The Crow’s Nest on Sept. 4 on the evolution of the student center project, university system officials disputed the accuracy of statements made by a former USF St. Petersburg administrator and the students who helped lobby for the building’s creation.

“President Genshaft wanted this,” said former Student President James Scott, referring to the University Student Center. “She was such a sturdy advocate about this … and as such, she had a lot of sway. The building is exactly what she wanted it to be.”

What she wanted it to be, said Scott and former Student President Jon Ellington, who both lobbied for the building in Tallahassee, was a multipurpose student center that combined housing, dining and a large meeting space. Scott and Ellington said they were told that without the additional revenue from housing and the ballroom, the building could not be constructed.

“At the strong recommendation of President Genshaft,” said former Regional Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Kent Kelso, “we started looking at a multipurpose facility.” Kelso had been hired by the university to help jumpstart the nascent resident student facilities creation.

“President Genshaft wanted this,” said former Regional Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Kent Kelso, “we started looking at a multipurpose facility.” Kelso had been hired by the university to help jumpstart the nascent resident student facilities creation.

SG presented with first USC budget proposal

By Christopher Guinn
Staff Reporter

For the first time since activities fees were more than doubled in 2010 to build and operate the University Student Center, Student Government, the lawful author- ity of those funds, was presented a budget for approval on Sept. 26 that accounts for the building’s revenue.

However, the $1.9 million budget proposal presented by Assistant Director of the University Student Center Dwayne Isacs contained few specifics for SG members. The budget included nearly $580,000 for debt service.

Led by Sen. Christa Hegedus, the student government questioned each expense, line by line, and asked for clarification on perceived inconsistencies.

For example, $270,000 set aside for “contractual services” could be used for audio/visual equipment, elevator service, building inspections and IT support. Isaacs said Hegedus asked if these contracts had already been signed.

“No, Isaacs said, this specific outlay is a best guess with enough built in to account for unforeseen events. “There are some we don’t know until we need them.”

Likewise, Isaacs could not account specifically for the nearly $300,000 set aside for salaries, benefits and wages. All other salaries, benefits and wages for the student life department, including Isaacs’, were allocated in the budget passed by SG at the end of the spring semester.

Senators asked how overlap between residence hall, dining and student center funding would be addressed, and how each portion’s relative costs were determined. See BUDGET, pg. 3.
First steps taken to make Greek life happen

Continued from front page

“uncomfortable” with Greek life, which may bring exclusivity to campus. “I think the more we identify with and take pride in arbitrary labels, the harder it will be for our generation to understand, embrace and appreciate diversity,” Mayer said.

For Dicicco, Mayer and Stable, however, “sisterhood” promotes commitment, strength and service. “The definition of sorority is to better women, to make leaders out of women and show their true potential,” Dicicco said. “We can do a lot of great things in the world, we can start companies, we can start businesses and we want to show these girls that they can do something,” Mayer said. They said Greek house parties often include binge drinking and organizing. There are only in the movies (or frat- ernities), and sorority houses have strict rules about staying out late.

Mayer added she and many stu- dents were placed at St. Petersburg after being deferred from Tampa, and with Greek life, “next year’s freshmen won’t feel left out.” Dicicco agreed, saying USF Tampa “thinks were not the real USF,” and a Greek presence is the one way USFSP can “stand up to Tampa.”

The group plans to improve campus life and the community, many students oppose Greek life at USFSP—at least virtually. The central debate isn’t in the Bush, but in a Facebook group called “Bring GREEK LIFE to USF St. Petersburg.”

And though the group plans to improve campus life and the community, many students oppose Greek life at USFSP—at least virtually. The central debate isn’t in the Bush, but in a Facebook group called “Bring GREEK LIFE to USF St. Petersburg.”

Supporters say fra- ternities and sororities will increase enrollment, and create a “true” college experience as the campus moves away from a commuter school image. Critics say Greek life would divide the close-knit com- munity, and expressed concern over binge drinking and organiza- tion dues to participate.

“Thanks,” posted student Nicole Cat, “Now that I’m a senior I see what great opportunities I’ve had at our beautiful, accept- ing school. USFSP is a unique niche in the realm of higher edu- cation where, literally, everyone is accepted.”

Christian Haas wrote he’s

U.S. election deadline fast approaching

Oct. 9 is the last day to register to vote in the Nov. 6 general elec- tion. In addition to the presidential vote, Floridians will vote on 11 pro- posed constitutional amendments on issues including abortion, health care and property tax limitations.

As of Sept. 30, Pinellas county had 223,747 registered Republicans, 228,362 registered Democrats and 162,710 voters registered to another party or no party affiliation.

Pinellas county residents can register to vote on the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections website. Students registered in other counties or states can request an absentee ballot from their home board of elections.

Voter suppression talk this week

Political science profes- sor Seth McKee will give a lec- ture, “Democracy Under Siege: An Assessment of Contemporary Voter Suppression,” on Oct. 3 at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library at 2 p.m.

The talk is free and open to the public.

SG resolves controversial grant request funding

The Crow’s Nest published a story last week about the Student Government Senate freezing a $3,000 Anthropology Club grant request to attend a prestigious San Francisco conference.

Anthropology Club President Emily Gorman said the club would send seniors planning to pursue graduate studies in the field; SG Attorney General Paul Jones said this exclusivity violated SG statutes for use of Activity and Service fees.

SG unfroze the account on Sept. 26. Jones said the club “agreed to open the process for all students.”

Creative writers wanted for inaugural story competition

Test your creative mettle against fellow students in a calculated bout of wordplay. Writers of the best two entries will receive a prize and have their work published in the paper. Here are the guidelines:

• 400-500 words
• The story must include: a cem- etery, a location in St. Petersburg, a pumpkin, a homeless person, a monster and a prank.
• Inappropriate content will be revised for publication.

Stories should be submitted to arts@crowsneststpete.com by Saturday, Oct. 20 at 11:59 p.m.

Weekly events help students plan for life after USFSP

After a survey showed more than half the students polled had never used their services, USF St. Petersburg’s Career Center is adding new events, increasing availability and becoming more visible on campus.

The online survey was conducted last spring and revealed that of the 303 students who responded, 58 percent had never been to the Career Center. Only 76 percent said they knew the university had a Career Center and only 52 percent knew where it was located.

“We want students to see us,” said Career Center Director Barbra Higel, explaining that while many students may not be ready to use the center just yet, it is important that they are made aware of its services and know where to find them.

Higel said many students wait until their junior or senior year to use the Career Center’s services, noting the importance of gaining practical experience before gradu- ation. The Career Center wants to connect with students sooner to begin developing a plan to do more than just earn a degree.

Along with extending office hours, the Career Center has added two new programs in which stu- dents can receive out-of-office career assistance.

Students looking for quick answers can visit the Career Cove information table in the University Student Center every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Along with help from career assistants, the Career Cove provides students with information from a differ- ent local employer each week and updated job postings from Recruit- a-Bull—the online database for off-campus internship and employ- ment opportunities.

Every Thursday evening stu- dents can participate in talks with Career Center staff and local employers. Discussions often include résumé writing, recruiting practices and procedures, career fair preparation and internships.

Companies such as Northwestern Mutual and Universal Health Care will discuss what they look for in employees and provide tips on becoming more marketable to employers, Higel said. Students can also work with programs such as INROADS and The Washington Center to get internships. Career Talk Thursdays are held 5 to 6 p.m. in the Science and Technology building, room 114.

Students who are looking for more personalized information can do so through Career Now, the Career Center’s walk-in service for job search assistance. Career coun- selors and assistants are available to speak with students in the Career Center office, Terrace 200, on varying hours throughout the week.

Tips on finding jobs, writing resumes and preparing for career fairs can be found on the Career Center’s blog, theblazerusfsp.wordpress.com.

By Tyler Killette
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Career Center counselor hours:
Monday: 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday: 9 a.m. to noon and 2 to 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 2 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Friday: 9 a.m. to noon
Tampa SG did not consent to expenditures

Continued from front page

In exchange for the $13.80 per credit hour fee, students received a $2.9 million renovation of the Campus Activities Center, now Student Life Center, to house the clinic and student organizations.

But the students’ financial obligation to the USC, over half of activities fees collected, remained. Eventually Scott, as the student president, sent a memo to the administration calling for a return to the plan originally supported by students. “It was never understood among students that the new student center would actually become the ‘food court and ballroom center,’” he wrote.

“I think the students got quite a bargain,” said Assistant Registrar Vice Chancellor of Finance Julie Jakway. “The students at the time chose this decision, and for the campus, it appears to be a relatively good one.”

Regarding Genshaft’s involvement with the building, the statements made by Scott, Ellington and Kelso were “opinion, not fact” said Vice President of Finance John Long.

“To say the president influenced the decision (to remove student services) is inaccurate and slanderous,” Long said. “Whoever is making that comment is insinuating all kinds of things with no factual statement behind it other than innuendo.”

Long dismissed that the students and administrator that made the remarks were intimately involved with the project. “I’m sure for every interview you have there is a counter interview,” he said.

USF system lobbyist Mark Walsh said Genshaft’s only involvement with the building was to make sure it received adequate funding. Without the additional revenue, the 30-year, $18 million bond could not be adequately funded, he said, due to a 5 percent cap on allowable debt service by activity fees.

However, the decision to remove student services and the resulting change to the campus master plan was made prior to the 2010 legislative session, when USF system lobbyists, with the assistance of the students, won the right to raise local fees—the combined totals of activities, health and athletics fees—to the statewide average.

The majority was added to the activities and service fee, increasing it from $10.40 to $24.80 per credit hour, to facilitate the construction of the student center. In 2010, the student government passed a non-binding resolution to set aside $13.80 per credit hour of the fee to pay debt and operational costs of the building.

But the legislative victory fell short of the students’ and administration’s desire for a specific, statutorily-defined use for the fee increase. The original bill submitted jointly to the Florida House of Representatives and Senate by Rep. Darryl Rouson and Sen. Dennis Jones would have superseded an existing law that caps the amount of activities fees that can be used for debt service at 5 percent of the prior year’s intake.

At USF Tampa, the Marshall Student Center is primarily funded by student fees. “The university changed the plan in late 2009, prior to knowing how this building is built,” Isaacs said.

Regarding the clarification from the campus facilities department, at one point he said the dining hall and attached kitchen and serving area were part of the student center, which is counter to explanations provided to The Crow’s Nest by university officials that the serving and kitchen area operated by private contractor Sodexo are fiscally separate from the rest of the student center.

A second page of the budget providing the same cost breakdown for the residence hall and dining portion of the building was not presented at the meeting.

“We were doing our best on what those numbers would look like,” Isaacs said, comparing the building’s budget to paying a home mortgage and maintenance. “This will fluctuate and change.”

A more accurate budget would be available after three years of operation based on the average of actual expenditures, said Regional Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Noreen Noonan, who answered questions from the gallery. “All of these (budget items) have been estimated by professionals.”

Former SG leader Christian Haas asked from the gallery why three budget items, “other capital outlay,” “overhead and renewal/repayment,” over $150,000 in allocations, sounded identical in purpose.

Another $68,000 was proposed for “other expenses.”

“I want to make sure the students have access to (activities) fees,” he said. “It’s just an observation. Just be aware.”

Any fund balances will be added to the activities fee reserves, said Assistant Vice Chancellor of Finance Julie Jakway. “It’s all your money.”

At the request of Lombardi-Nelson, the university will provide a line-item budget, Jakway said. The Crow’s Nest requested the same documents under state open records laws on Sept. 17 but has not received them or other financial documents pertaining to bond payment and operations of the building.

Accurate budget could take three years

Continued from front page

Student President Mark Lombardi-Nelson wanted clarification on how the three areas of the building were defined and Lauren Reilly, a member of the executive branch, asked if each portion of the building had separate utility meters, but said he would get clarification from the campus facilities

news
crowneststpete.com

Honors College provides rigorous classes, promotes critical thinking

BY MARY LAZARIS
Crow's Nest Correspondent

The Honors College is one of the lesser-known fragments that make up the intellectual community at USF St. Petersburg.

“I like being in a class of really motivated students working with some of the best professors,” said Chris Carpenter, an Honors College sophomore studying entrepreneurship. Carpenter believes his time in the program has been well spent, and he has taken many honors classes, including marine science and the history of Vietnam.

The Honors College offers both a four-year and a two-year rigorous program. Students take honors level courses, and are required to maintain a GPA of 3.3 while in the program. They are required to complete an honors thesis during their final year in the program. The thesis emphasizes critical thinking and independent study, and each student is assigned a faculty adviser from the Honors College.

New to the program, Teri Deardorff is excited for the next three years and what they will bring.

“I thought the Honors College would be a great distinction to have and I love the small class sizes,” Deardorff said.

Honors College students receive multiple benefits for their rigorous study, including priority registration and research opportunities. Beyond the academic requirements, students develop a constant support group, networking opportunities and an edge when it comes to getting into graduate school.

The Honors College was founded in 1993, and is directed by Thomas Smith.

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Classifieds
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Help Wanted
Caregiver for elderly woman on weekends

Contact: Crawl Hall
727-398-5891
Physicist predicts 2090 crash

By JOEY VARS
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

One of the world’s leading physicists spoke Sept. 26 at the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa as part of USF Tampa’s College of Arts and Sciences Frontier Forum. Michio Kaku is co-founder of the string field theory, and is a professor of theoretical physics at the City University of New York.

Kaku appears frequently on science- and physics-related television and radio programs, and is regarded as the man who will “unify” Einstein’s theory of relativity to a much broader “theory of everything.”

Kaku’s lecture focused on the state of the world in the next 100 years, revolutionized by scientific breakthroughs currently in process.

The computer will be “everywhere and nowhere”—every object will have computer technology, therefore rendering conventional laptops and desktops obsolete. “Smart bathrooms” will take vital signs and nowhere—even the human body—their entire genetic sequence—on a CD.

He also spoke cryptically, saying that if science and technology are ignored as often as they are, mankind will face economic hardships and unemployment resulting from the business of scariness is so real that guests aren’t even allowed to dress in costume. From a haunted house tied to AMC’s wildly popular zombie show “The Walking Dead” to ones inspired by show business characters like Alice Cooper, the event is well worth the money ($41 in advance or $46 at the gate).

“This segment of the ongoing lecture series, which fuses Salvador Dalí’s work with the inspiration he received from science, is titled “Dali, Illusion, and Cognitive Psychology” and will be presented by Holly White of Eckerd College’s Psychology department. This is a monthly event at the Dali Museum with each lecture focusing on a different topic explored in Dali’s world-renowned art. Admission is free for students.

Howl-O-Scream – Every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in October at 7:30 p.m.

Howl-O-Scream is in its unlucky 13th year, and Busch Gardens is pulling out all the stops to make sure that this year is the scariest in the event’s history with themes such as “Ultimate Gambling: Condemned”, “Nightshade Toy Factory: Mutation”, “Zombie Mortuary”, and the effectively titled “Alone…”. Tickets are cheapest at Publix at $44.99 plus tax.

Happy Hour Halloween Pub Crawl – Friday, Oct. 26 at 5 p.m.

With the massive popularity the living dead have acquired over the past couple of years, what better way is there to celebrate Halloween than to bar hop with thousands of costumed zombies, mummies and ghosts in search of their next drink? The crawl begins in front of Darty Nelly’s Irish Pub. The cost depends on how much you wish to spend on your costume and drinks.

SPIFFS Folk Fair – Nov. 1-3 at Vinoy Park

A three-day celebration of ethnic diversity worth the cost of admission this year’s theme is “Music Around the World.”

Art Arbor Family Festival – Saturday, Nov. 3–Sunday, Nov. 4 at 8 a.m.

Boyd Hill Nature Park – 1101 Country Club Way South

With the beginning of November comes the beautiful winter weather only Florida can provide, and the Art Arbor Family Festival provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. Activities include wildlife shows, arts and crafts, free tours of the park’s grounds and a 5K Raccoon Run & Fun Walk exploring all Boyd Hill has to offer. The

Boktoberfest – Saturday, Oct. 20th at 10 a.m.

Come out and celebrate the start of the fall gardening season at one of Central Florida’s most unique Oktoberfest celebrations in Lake Wales. This free event, which includes a plant sale, a biergarten, and various family activities for children of all ages, will provide a refreshing escape from the hustle and bustle of downtown St. Petersburg and into an environment that embraces the beauty of nature.

A more traditional Oktoberfest will take place in St. Petersburg’s Grand Central District from 5 to 9 p.m.

The Crow’s Nest guide to....

The fall season brings with it cooler weather and an awakening of sorts in the bay area. From the first of October through the winter holidays, the calendar is overflowing with events diverse enough to satisfy any interest. Here is the finest of the crop for the harvest season.

By SAMANTHA OUMETTE
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Halloween Horror Nights – O.c.t. 5-7, 12-14, 18-21, 25-28, 31 at 7 p.m.

Halloween Horror Nights effectively fuses Universal’s typical Hollywood theme with extraordinary horror, where the business of scariness is so real that guests aren’t even allowed to dress in costume. From a haunted house tied to AMC’s wildly popular zombie show “The Walking Dead” to ones inspired by show business characters like Alice Cooper, the event is well worth the money ($41 in advance or $46 at the gate).

ZooBoo – O.c.t. 5-7, 11-14, 18-21, 25-28 at 7 p.m.

Lowry Park Zoo

This slightly friendlier event offers a milder atmosphere, good for those who aren’t looking to have nightmares for months. Haunted houses and trails are offered for the older zoo-goers and “boo houses” and seasonal lights for the younger ones. In addition to the special Halloween events, included in the ticket price are unlimited zoo rides in the dark. General admission is $17 for adults and $14 for children.

Central Ave.

St. Petersburg Preservation presents the opportunity for city residents both new and old to gain a greater appreciation for their surroundings, from information about the civic heroes who transformed the now thriving waterfront to stories about St. Pete’s beaches and baseball. The tour begins in front of Central Café & Organics and is free of charge, though $5 donations are appreciated.

Sunshine City Antiques Show – Oct. 18-21 at the Coliseum

See what can be found in the exhibitions of 100 different antique specialists at the largest antique show in the Tampa Bay area.

SPCA Pet Walk – Saturday, Oct. 20 at 8:30 a.m.

Staubb Park – Beach Drive and Fifth Avenue NE

It’s no secret that animals provide a unique kind of love to us humans, and students who reside the dorms and are pet-less now have the chance to experience that affection and help animals in need. The 22nd annual 3K walk along the St. Pete waterfront includes a “best dressed pet” contest, a “doggie fun zone” and a pancake breakfast for the price of $25 which will benefit the SPCA Tampa Bay.

By Boyd Hill Nature Park – 1101 Country Club Way South

With the beginning of November comes the beautiful winter weather only Florida can provide, and the Art Arbor Family Festival provides the perfect opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. Activities include wildlife shows, arts and crafts, free tours of the park’s grounds and a 5K Raccoon Run & Fun Walk exploring all Boyd Hill has to offer. The
to fall in Florida

It’s fall?

A playlist

If you haven’t looked at a calendar, you probably didn’t notice that summer has said so long and fall arrived last weekend, whispering a quiet hello. Here in Florida, where the trees are evergreen and the weather is always hot, any native will tell you that a slight breeze is enough to constitute autumn. Though Mother Nature has disenfranchised those of us in this part of the globe, it’s still nice to imagine what it would be like to experience seasonal change. Here’s to another equinox.

Grimm’s mischievous lyrics and sometimes creepy vocal layering make her music a good accompaniment for a season associated with witches. The last name is genuine—she’s a descendent of the famed fairytale brothers.

Autumn

Bomboer Bicycle Club

Bombay Bicycle Club makes music good for bicycle riding in the cooler weather. The truly brave will attempt to air guitar at the same time.

Harvest

Opeth

Opeth decided early on that they did not want to be pinned to one genre, so they took the full metal, half folk route. The result? Dynamic progressive metal with interludes of acoustic sorcery.

Zorbing

Stornoway

“Conkers shining on the ground, the air is cooler,” the song opens. Conkers, or horse-chestnuts, fall around the beginning of October in the United Kingdom, where they are part of a traditional children’s game.

Dead Leaves and the Dirty Ground

Punch Brothers

This acoustic quintet led by mandolin virtuoso Chris Thile has been dubbed “genreless”. Though they play the instruments of a traditional bluegrass band, countless other strains of music are apparent in their sound. This song, originally by the White Stripes, get’s turned on its head.

Behold a New Traveler

The Corner

While this song’s instruction to shave your hands into the beehive might not be best taken literally, taking a chance on a fine fall day can always yield unexpected fruits.

The Road is Paved with Leaves

Larkin Grimm

September

Earth, Wind and Fire

This song never gets old. Neither does wondering how they could possibly sing so high.

Autumn Beds

Modest Mouse

Isaac Brock’s lisp’y wispy vocals hover above soft banjo rolls that sound like leaves spiraling down from the trees.

Autumn’s Child

Captain Beefheart

A meandering ballad that is a strange as the artist’s name suggests.

Last Leaf

Tom Waits

Whether he’s mocking the blues or not, you can’t deny the pitiful charm of this song as Tom Waits mourns being the last leaf on the tree.

The event is free, with small additional fees presented at some activities.

Ribfest – Friday, Nov. 9-Sunday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m.

This three-day annual cook-out event features delicious award-winning ribs cooked by some of the best barbeque teams from across the country, as well as some of the country’s most popular music acts. This year’s Ribfest will feature an immense amount of food, a classic car, truck and motorcycle show, and award-winning artists Jonny Lang, Hearn, and Montgomery Gentry. Entrance to the event is $16 in advance or $20 at the gate.

97X Next Big Thing – Saturday, Dec. 1 at 10 a.m.

Tampa Bay’s popular rock alternative station 97X is putting on this yearly music showcase in St. Petersburg’s Vinoy Park, for the first time after previously being held at the amphitheatre in Tampa. The day-long event will feature bands such as Rise Against, Bush, Silversun Pickups, Fun., Of Monsters and Men, Grouplove, Paper Tongues and more. Tickets to the event are $45 in advance and $60 the day of the show.

Wiz Khalifa – Sunday, Dec. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

The Sun Dome continues its lineup of high-profile rap concerts with the addition of Wiz Khalifa, one of the rap world’s biggest up-and-comers, to the schedule. Khalifa has already accrued much popularity in popular music, with hit singles such as “Black and Yellow”, “No Sleep”, “Fly Solo”, “Roll Up”, and his latest hit “Work Hard, Play Hard”. Tickets to the show range from $29.50 to $39.50.

Tampa Bay Times Turkey Trot – Thursday, Nov. 22 at 7 a.m.

It’s almost that time of year again. Time to gobble up some tasty poultry, give thanks for our loved ones and… run 5,000 meters in the wee hours of the morning. This will be the 34th annual Tampa Bay Times Turkey Trot, but the tradition has been around for much longer. Buffalo, N.Y. has held an annual Thanksgiving footrace every year since 1896. Proceeds from our race will benefit local charities including the West Florida Y Runners Club Scholarship Programs, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Pinellas County and the Children’s Heart Foundation.

October Movies in the Park – Tuesdays, Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 Straub Park – B each Drive and Fifth Avenue NE

Spend those cool(ish) fall nights watching movies under the stars in North Straub Park. The free event will feature, in order, “American President”, “The Big Sleep”, “The Legend of Baggar Vance”, and “Ghostbusters”. Bring a blanket or a small folding chair.

Spirits of St. Petersburg talk on “Haunted St. Pete” – Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m.

American Baptist Church – 2812 Eight Street North

Professor Brandy B. Stark of the Crescent Heights Neighborhood Association and SPIRITS of St. Petersburg will be giving a casual presentation on various haunted places in the city. Later in the month (Oct. 18) she will also be speaking more formally on the paranormal at the Tarpon Springs SPC campus. The event is free. Additional questions should be directed to Professor Stark at (727)821-5759.

The Centennial Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition – Beginning Saturday, Oct. 6 at 10 a.m.

Mahaffey Theater

In memoriam of the 100th anniversary of the Titanic’s sinking, this exhibit will fill the Mahaffey Theater’s second floor with numerous galleries of artifacts that help to more intimately tell the stories of the victims as well as fully immerse visitors into the experience. The exhibition runs from Oct. 6 through March 3, 2013, with advance ticket prices at $19.12 and discounts available for students.

The fall season brings with it cooler weather and an awakening of sorts in the bay area. From the first of October to the middle of December events diverse enough to satisfy any interest. Here is...
Editorial

In defense of the civic spirit

SG is asking the right questions about the University Student Center

At a time when polls show American trust in government is approaching an all-time low, a group of USF St. Petersburg students has stepped forward and made a case for a brighter future.

Student Government senators displayed a spirited civics lesson and an exhibition of government accountability when University administration asked them to approve a budget for the University Student Center at a general assembly meeting on Sept. 26. The presented budget—funded primarily through a $13.80 per credit hour fee all students pay as part of required Activities and Service Fees—is full of non-specific lines such as $270,000 for “contractual services” and $68,000 for “other expenses.” Other fees, such as “maintenance,” “renewal/replacement,” and “other capital outlay” appear largely redundant.

Details from administration were scarce. When budgeting, for instance, the building is split between the student center, dining services and the residence hall. Student fees are used to pay utilities in the student center portion, but are they also used for the residence hall and dining center, which housing fees and Sodexo should respectively be paying? A USC representative said he thought the building only had one electricity meter, but he wasn’t sure.

After almost 45 minutes of half-fulfilled explanations, and many vigorous questions and concerns from SG, the senators could conclude on only one thing.

“We need to know more.”

And rightly so. At $13.80, the student fees used specifically as revenue for the building account for over half of all A&S fees, which, at $25.05, are the highest in the state. The near $1.9 million in student fees used to fund the building amounts to over a half million dollars more than the combined budgets of all other departments and organizations funded by A&S fees, which include Campus Recreation, the co-ed sailing team, The Crow’s Nest, the debate team, Harborside Activities Board, USFSP Leadership Programs, Multicultural Affairs, SG, Student Life and the Waterfront.

And all of that money goes to pay for a “student center” that largely fails to live up to its own name. The student leaders who agreed to use A&S fees to fund the building in 2009-10 did so under the belief it would include areas for student organizations and a wellness center. However, they found certain concessions were necessary during the lobbying process to get it built. Many of those plans were dropped, instead replaced with spaces useful for administrative coffer-building, like the ballroom and student housing.

Instead, the majority of the old plans were pushed across the street to the old Campus Activities Center, soon to be renamed the Student Life Center after a $2.9 million university-funded renovation. Are USF St. Petersburg’s paying customers getting their money’s worth? A student who takes a minimal 124 credits will pay almost $1,750 toward the USC over four years. But with the school’s graduation rate hovering around 25 percent (according to U.S. News standings), and many students taking out interest-accruing student loans, the cost is much higher. It’s a wonder they haven’t stepped up and demanded details like Student Government did in last week’s meeting.

Members of SG have made mistakes in the past regarding the USC, but their aggressive defense of money students can’t afford to lose is a major step in the right direction.
Out of bounds

BY FRANK KURTZ Staff Columnist

Judging by what Facebook was telling me, the conclusion of the most recent installment of Monday Night Football, which is no longer on network television and is on cable (don’t get me started), was marred in controversy.

So what?

Referees are humans, and humans make mistakes. I’d contend that the first few weeks of the season was a must-see television because you had no idea what was going to happen. I can’t tell you exactly what happened, but simply: there was a bad call.

A few days later, the No-Fun League and Referee’s Union came to an agreement. Commissioner Goodell’s press conference was seen live on CNBC, Faux News Channel, CNN, ESPN, ESPN News, and we no longer get MSNBC in RHO, but I reckon it was on there as well. It was front-page news in the Thursday’s Tampa Bay Times, USA Today, New York Times and in The Oracle.

Was it really that slow of a news day?

I love sports as much as and probably more than the next guy. Where I choose to work is evident of that: Tropicana Field, Raymond James Stadium, Al Lang Field and Bright House Networks Stadium. I’m also writing this while wearing a Jack Kemp jersey—if you don’t know who Jack Kemp is ask your dad—and I’m listening to Gene Dekerhoff calling the Buc’s game on WDAE.

With that said, let’s be honest: sports are the men’s version of “Keeping up with the Kardashians.”

Now, look around campus. Administration has some funny numbers when it comes to the new University Revenue Building. Or, administration is asking Student Government to legitimize the budget with said numbers. Or, voting for yours truly for Homecoming King.

Look at the city: the Pier’s days are numbered, and a lot of the community disagrees over the $50 million set to build a new one.

Look at Pinellas County, which no longer puts fluoride in our water (at least the City of St. Petersburg still does).

Take another step back and look at our state: our incumbent senior senator of 12 years, Bill Nelson, is facing a legitimate challenger.

Our governor cut over a billion dollars for education from his first budget only to increase education spending by less than a billion dollars, goes on a “listening tour” and suddenly he is the “Education Governor.” Please. There are non-citizens on the voter roll. We continue to lose precious acres of pristine Florida to development every day. Counties are reducing impact fees forcing those who already live in an area to pay for its growth with spend billions on beach renourishment.

Three Florida Supreme Court Justices are under attack from the Florida Republican Party in their retention elections, because two of them were nominated by the late Governor “Walkin’” Lawton Chiles and a joint appointee of Governor Chiles and his successor Jeb Bush.

Then look at the USA: A sitting president is running for re-election, Congress is as deadlocked as it was during the build up to the War Between the States or during the Civil Rights standoffs.

Earth: Russia is apparently our number one geopolitical foe, the Chinese continue to manipulate currency, and it looks like either Iran is going to decimate Israel or Israel is going to strike first. But let’s focus instead on the Duchess of Cambridge’s topless photographs published in the French press.

As I said earlier, I’m a sports fan and we got some great entertainment coming up: the SEC regular season, ACC’S NC LS, Midnight Madness, The World’s Series, the Breeders Cup will be held at Santa Anita this year (even though there won’t be a rematch of I’ll Have Another and Union Rags In The Classic), the Bowl Season, Big East and ACC basketball, Super Bowl, and the Winter Classic if there is a resolution of between the NHL and the NHLPA.

But sports are just sports. They are distractions from everyday life. When distractions start mattering in real life, especially in something as trivial as replacement refs (it’s not like the Black Sox Scandal of 1919), society needs to check itself and take a civics class.

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Awash in sea of pink

BY DENI ELLIOTT Guest Columnist

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the time when grocery stores are awash in pink and people all over America run, walk, climb, and in controversy.

Researchers recently announced a major breakthrough in breast cancer treatment, which is potentially good news for a few of the 290,000 American women and men who are diagnosed with the disease each year. The new treatment will help out only those diagnosed with a relatively rare type of breast cancer and it won’t be available for two to five years.

In the meantime, 40,000 Americans will continue to die from breast cancer every year. It’s even more depressing to realize the number of deaths from breast cancer hasn’t changed statistically in 50 years, despite all of the new chemotherapies and radiation offerings applauded and added to the treatment arsenal in that time.

Breast cancer has no “five year cure.” It can come back 10, 20, even 30 years after initial diagnosis and treatment. More people are being diagnosed with breast cancer than ever before and at a younger age. In 1962, one in 20 American women could expect to be diagnosed with breast cancer. In 2012, chances are one in eight that a woman will have breast cancer in her lifetime.

Consumers can eat for the cure by buying pink-packaged products, clean up for the cure by buying pink-wrapped paper towel, dress for the cure in tops that proclaim love for one’s ta-tas, and even complete classwork for the cure by buying paper in pinked plastic and working on pink-colored laptops. The timely announcement of the new treatment breakthrough energizes people to show their pink pride as it is natural to want to hop on what looks like a successful bandwagon.

But, I think that it is important to know where that wagon is heading.

The first problem with Breast Cancer Awareness Month is that corporations that paint their products pink may contribute little or no profits to the cause. While consumers assume that some of their purchase price is going toward services or research, many pink-washed products do nothing but support “awareness.” Duh. Is there anyone who doesn’t know that breast cancer is a problem? We’re aware, thank you. Other corporations provide only pennies from each sale to support research or services.

The second problem is that the pink bandwagon promotes treatment and gives next to nothing for prevention. Creating new breast cancer treatments is good for corporate profits, good for pharmaceutical companies stockholders, and, as a woman living with breast cancer, I have to admit that it is good for me.

But, ultimately, what is best for the community is for research to focus on figuring out how to prevent the disease. An email in support of organizations that lobby for research into the role that environmental factors play in causing breast cancer will do far more to create a future free of breast cancer than buying into the myth of pink corporate profits, good for pharmaceutical companies stockholders, and, as a woman living with breast cancer, I have to admit that it is good for me.

And, to reiterate, there is still no cure.

Deni Elliott is the department chair of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at USFSP. She also holds the Eleanor Poynter Jamison Chair in Media Ethics and Press Policy.

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Students look at future for renewable energy

BY LAUREN REILLY Guest Columnist

Scientists all over the world are looking at ways to harness renewable energy from ocean waves and plants, and the military is even trying to power a jet by using chicken fat.

At USF St. Petersburg, we’re lucky enough to have a group called the Green Energy Living Systems, or GELS. Founded by student Thien Back Huynh, and with Dr. Joseph Dorsey and Dr. Leon Hardy as the advisors, the program empowers students to take on their own projects and harness energy and see if it could work on a bigger scale.

Last semester as I was leaving my biology lab, I saw Dr. Hardy and a few students using a currency reading instrument and construct something around a blade of grass. It struck me as a little odd. What could a single blade of grass do? I decided to go in and say hello.

They were trying to create electricity from the microbials in soil. To my surprise, it actually worked. They were able to conduct half a volt of energy from soil!

GELS meets Friday afternoons and provides project ideas for students who are interested in researching and creating systems that produce renewable energy. Huynh is currently looking for someone who will pick up a project that has already received grant money, and takes place at Clam Bayou House, which is near USFSP.

Students will be putting working technologies into a minia
ture model house built by green architect Sean Williams. They will be working with wiring circuits, hammering/screwing fixtures and embedding piezoelectricity and peltier devices.

Williams has worked on several buildings in the St. Petersburg area, including the new Dali and the Interdisciplinary Science building at the Tampa campus.

It’s a truly inspiring endeavor to have our own USFSP students working on their own renewable energy projects. The world needs clean renewable energy and groups like GELS are getting us one step closer to that goal.

If you are interested in working on this project (or any project), and have an email, contact me at lreilly@mail.usf.edu or Leonhardy@mail.usf.edu.

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Bulls drop to ‘Noles after early lead

By MIKE HOPEY
Staff Reporter

The South Florida Bulls stormed out of the gate looking like they could compete with the No. 4 ranked Florida State Seminoles. USF grabbed an early lead but the FSU defense held them to only one first down in the second and third quarters in route to a 30-17 win.

The Bulls’ defense had their best game of the season. USF made big plays and managed to get off the field on third down—something they had not been able to do consistently.

On the other side of the ball the Bulls only managed 268 yards of total offense. Senior quarterback B.J. Daniels was the standout player for the offense. He went 17-for-33 for 143 yards in the air. Daniels also rushed for 80 yards and two touchdowns.

Defensive linemen for the Bulls were able to get pressure on quarterback E.J. Manuel. USF was able to make tackles for loss at key times and didn’t give FSU easy third downs. In the end, the Bulls held the Seminoles to 5-for-15 on third down conversions.

On the first possession of the second half the USF defense forced a three and out and Tashon Whitehurst blocked the kick giving the ball to the Bulls on the Seminoles’ 8-yard line. Daniels then ran the ball three straight times. On third down he scored an easy touchdown on a quarterback bootleg to make the game 13-10.

At the start of the contest USF wasted no time marching down the field, successfully running the ball inside on the Seminoles’ defense. They had to settle on a 32-yard field goal from Maikon Bonani to take the early 3-0 lead.

USF drove inside the Florida State 40-yard line on their first three possessions but only walked away with a field goal. The first quarter was their best opportunity to put points on the board.

Florida State only trailed for a few minutes in the first quarter. The Seminoles took the kickoff to the USF 37 yard line and Rashad Greene scored with a 10-yard touchdown run.

Florida State put the game out of reach with a touchdown pass to tight end Kevin Haplea. It was Haplea’s first touchdown as a Seminole after transferring penalty-free from Penn State in the wake of NCAA sanctions.

The Bulls refused to go quietly into the night, though. Daniels marched the Bulls down the field connecting on a 37-yard pass to Derrick Hopkins and then ran it in himself for his second touchdown.

The 20-point deficit proved to be too much. The Bulls had an opportunity late to put points up but the offense tried running the ball taking precious time off the clock. Daniels was then forced into a fourth down situation and his pass sailed way out of bounds.

Head coach Skip Holtz was proud of his team’s efforts. He felt that if they played with the intensity they had against Florida State they could win a lot more football games. The first goal, he said, is carrying over the positives from this loss to next week’s game against Temple.

The Temple Owls had weeks five and six off after losing to Penn State two weeks ago. Like the Bulls, they also play inside an NFL stadium. The matchup will be the first Big East game for the Owls in almost 10 years and their first ever meeting with the Bulls.

Temple was forced out of the conference in 2004 after years of poor results. The school almost dropped football entirely. But they hired Al Golden to be their new head coach in 2006 and things began to turn around.

The Temple resurgence continued through a Mid-Atlantic Conference eastern division title in 2009 and a 2011 win over Wyoming in the New Mexico Bowl. The win was only their second bowl win ever.

The Owls are young, but have managed to put up points thus far this season—averaging 27 per game. Their passing offense is one of the most ineffective in the country but their rushing offense averages over 150 yards a game.

The Bulls will have their hands full with the Owls as they will look to end their three-game losing streak.