The price of health

USF St. Petersburg students to finally get a local health care facility pg. 3

The house that we built

81 thousand square feet

37 years in the making

21 million dollars

6 stories

UNIVERSITY STUDENT CENTER

The student newspaper at USF St. Petersburg
August 28, 2012 | Volume 47 | issue 01

Perspective:

Moving in, moving on

by WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
Staff Reporter

“Neil Armstrong just died!” the student gasped into his iPhone, running down the University Student Center steps in his brand new, neon kicks.

Move-in day was expected to be something of a disaster, with 650 students given a single day to step into their new lives. Off-campus chaos loomed, with the Republican National Convention descending on Tampa Bay and a storm flooding the streets of Port-au-Prince and heading our way, fast.

By early afternoon, two rows of cars from as far away as New Jersey lined Second Street outside of Residence Hall One. Students, parents and siblings unpacked printers and refrigerators in yet-to-be-opened boxes, lifetime supplies of cotton swabs, garbage bags filled with linens and endless plastic storage bins. Other than the occasional “hurry up’s” and “c’mon’s,” few complained about the heat, the parked-in cars or the line to get into the RHO front door. The worst that happened, according to Brittany Yingling—a volunteer who had been welcoming new students since 7:45 a.m.—was the street being “so completely packed” that students were directed to park in the garage and carry their possessions over by foot. Everyone was friendly, she said. I heard this more than once—a busy day, but a good day.

see USC, pg 3

Local art enthusiasts run gallery and music venue from home pg. 4

see Fresh faces, pg 2

Part 1 of a series

by CHRISTOPHER GUINN
Staff Reporter

With the opening of the University Student Center, students can meet, eat, study and sleep in what is destined to become the center of campus life while taking pride in their sacrifices that turned a 37-year-old dream into a concrete reality.

The opening is especially sweet for the four current and former students who put their reputations, time and coursework on the line to make it happen. A team effort across the entire university system, they all called it, but as these students and graduates walk across the polished concrete floors, they will be first amongst equals—though few remaining know their names or their accomplishments.

“This building was made possible by a tremendous effort throughout the university, especially among the student leaders who worked tirelessly on behalf of their peers,” said USF Trustee Debbie Sembler during the groundbreak- ing in spring 2011. “Student leaders,” the press releases have said and will invariably continue to say—the nameless and faceless idealized do-gooders and go-getters of the student body, props in the pursuit of a vision of what the university is and what it could be, organized and led by the professionals and politicians.

“Neil Armstrong just died!” the student gasped into his iPhone, running down the University Student Center steps in his brand new, neon kicks.

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see USC, pg 3
Move-in day goes smoother than expected

Move-in day 'almost went off without a hitch'

By STEVE SIEGFRIED
Crow's Nest Correspondent

Despite the kickoff party for the Republican National Convention downtown forcing residence hall logisticians to condense move-in weekend into move-in day, the annual exercise in controlled chaos was an unprecedented success, said university staff members.

Throughout the day, waves of students and parents set two hours apart carried luggage and boxes to the residence halls and waited in line for the elevators.

Despite the shorter schedule, things ran smoothly for the students settling in to their new homes. Student Government President Mark Lombardi-Nelson organized his fellow students to help people carry their belongings to their rooms.

“We had about 20 to 25 students’ volunteering for the move-in, said Lombardi-Nelson. "We were scared. With Sunday closed because of the RNC, it was a hectic thought, we thought this day was going to be crazy. But it was perfect. It went off almost without a hitch.”

Hailey Christian, a junior majoring in mass communication, was thankful for the help from the student volunteers. “It was easy because people were there to help.”

The process of moving in was often disorganized and lengthy in previous years. Working to direct traffic and parking outside of Residence Hall One, university employee Jerry Coleman commented on how well things moved this year. “In the past... it was unorganized,” Coleman said. “Now they are a lot more organized. To me this is the best year.”

Organization was the key to keeping things flowing for those moving in to Residence Hall One and the new University Student Center. This year, each student was assigned a specific time to show up to move in.

Residential Life Coordinator Scott Hendershot was in charge of organizing the move-in process.

“Many times for the whole day so we didn’t have a huge rush in the morning,” he said. Hendershot, new to the university, was credited for how well the move-in process went this year.

“A professional at his finest,’ said Lombardi-Nelson.

The only complaints from students were about the wait for elevators. Waiting in line outside of Residence Hall One, freshman Hailey Mcauley said things moved pretty quickly except for the lack of elevators to move her belongings up to her room. “They need more elevators,” she said.

Hendershot pointed to the same problem. “Sometimes the line at the elevator is a problem, he said. “We just don’t have as many elevators as we would like.”

University staff member Don McCarty, taking a load off as the last wave of students, W-Z, trickled in, said he was almost convinced move-in weekend should always be a move-in day.

“Just get it over with,” he said.

news@crowsneststpete.com

For move-in day, Second Street was converted into an unloading zone.
Wellness Center to open Sept. 4th

by CHRISTOPHER GUINN
Staff Reporter

The Wellness Center has a tentative start date of Sept. 4, the culmination of at least a decade of planning toward the creation of a campus clinic, said Counseling, Health and Wellness Director Diane McKinstry.

Even though the campus is neighbors with the downtown hospital district, administrators wanted a place solely for students where fee-subsidized services would be close, cheap and accessible. The center will host an open house during Welcome Week from 9 a.m. till 11 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 30.

Red tape barred the university from building the clinic sooner: space and funding. The first issue was surmounted with legislation that allowed the state’s low-subservience one-time ability to equalize their “combined fees” with the bigger schools with more developed student services. This is the same legislation lobbied for by USF St. Petersburg students that enabled the creation of the University Student Center. Along with building the USC, the doubling of the combined fee led to the renovation of the Student Life Center, formerly the Campus Activities Center, where the Wellness Center resides.

The second issue, funding daily operation, has been a game of catch-up. From 1989 through 2010, the health fee at USFSP was only 60 cents per credit hour, less than half of USF Tampa’s health fee.

Prior to this semester, the fee brought in about $500,000, equipping and furnishing the clinic. The activities and services, health and athletic fees are bundled together as the combined fee, which is limited by a maximum yearly increase. Also, once fees are appropriated, they cannot be re-appropriated, so shifting priorities need to be planned years ahead.

To meet the long-range goal, said Clinic Director Anita Saghal, is to get the fee to $5, and eventually, bringing in a second full-time practitioner. When the clinic opens up on or soon after Sept. 4, it will be staffed by a registered nurse practitioner and a licensed practical nurse. The health director, Dr. John Pirone (D-St. Petersburg), will visit the clinic on a bi-weekly basis. McKinstry and Saghal said.

USFSP put out a request for procurement, an instrument for public institution purchases, and received two bids. USF Health, a quasi-autonomous administrative section within the USF system, was by far the best fit on services, price and experience, Saghal said.

“They provide student health already, so we felt it would be a very good fit … it wouldn’t be as big of a transition for us,” she said.

It is free for students to speak with a health practitioner, but additional services and tests will come with a modest price, “about Medicaid levels,” said McKinstry. The center will also accept nearly any medical insurance and cash payments. Likewise, students can sign up for one of the student health insurance plans through the university system.

While there will be openings in the clinic’s schedule for walk-in students with more severe conditions, most visits will be by-appointment. There is a 24-hour help line available outside of normal operating hours through the center’s main telephone number, (727) 873-4422.

For a complete listing of services, operating hours and other information, visit the Wellness Center’s website at www.usfsp.edu/wellness.

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Emergency notification system installed

by TYLER KILLETTE
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

An outdoor notification system was recently installed on campus to alert the USF St. Petersburg community in the event of a fire, accident, emergency, flooding or other emergency.

“Campus safety is a paramount concern at USFSP and this system will provide an additional layer of notification,” said Communications Director Tom Scherberger. “Of course, we hope they will never have to be used, but they are an added component of our emergency plans.”

Five speakers will broadcast the emergency messages. The locations are the College of Marine Science peninsula, the southeast corner of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, the south side of Parking Lot 17, the Welcome Center and Parking Lot 2.

“The system is activated through a microphone at university police services, where live or pre-recorded messages can be sent out. see Student notification, pg 8

Emergency notification system installed

continued from front page 1

But the work of these students not only contributed to the USC by unifying the student body behind an idea, but also helped change state law that implicitly separated universities into haves and have-nots, at least in terms of funding.

There is Jon Ellington, the consensus builder and peacekeeper, the midpoint between his two higher-strung colleagues. Ellington served as student president and then vice president as he partook in negotiations between Tallahassee and Tampa.

Kris Reben Pressman graduated as the darling of the entrepreneur- ship program and has started or nurtured several civic and commercial projects. He’s a natural pitch man, personable and optimistic, but has little interest in getting bogged down in committee thinking. “He’d be the mayor of St. Pete, one day,” said Olga Bof, Pressman’s fellow board member with the small business support group Keep Saint Petersburg Local.

James Scott is the policy wonk, intense and knowledgeable with “the numbers” as his guide. Since early in his college career he has been a major force in the student political structure. Though he lost a bid for a second presidential term, his opponent, Mark Lombardi-Nelson, is bringing him into the executive branch as chief of staff.

“The last is Sarah Henry, who gets perhaps the least amount of credit, because while her colleagues were travelling between board rooms and the capitol, she was keeping students engaged and the issue alive at home from her pulpfit as senate president. Without her, the students never would have bought into the idea, Ellington said.

“Before we could go to the Pinellas County delegation, there had to be a clear choice of the students,” Ellington said. “You can’t just have the six or seven people in Student Government saying, ‘Alright, this is what students want.’ We had to have the largest response to a survey in the school’s history. … There was overwhelming support for increasing fees.”

By the time the students were included in the idea to create a student center the project had been alive for eight years, since Bill Heller’s term as USFSP’s chief executive. Heller had attempted to purchase and convert the Bayfront Arena, where the Dali now stands, into a student union and conference center. But other civic leaders in the St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership, then St. Petersburg Progress, had foreseen a need for a student center back in 1975 during the campus’ first major expansion.

“It was simply an inevitable destiny. When they decided to build RHO, there was a new vision for the campus, an urban, residential campus.

At first, the plan was for a “big, big, big building,” Ellington said. “Then, three months later, the economic collapsed.”

Two attempts to get state funding had passed through the legislature, but were vetoed by Govs. Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist.

“We knew the only way this could be done is if the students agreed to increase fees to a level that would pay the bond on a student facility,” said former Regional Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Kent Kelso.

Kelso had been hired by the university to supervise the first years of Residence Hall One, and then to make the push for an expansion of student services. Throughout his career, he has overseen almost 20 housing projects, dining halls, recreation centers and an authorizing fees.

“There literally was a moment when we realized it was obvious we (the students) would have to pay for it,” Scott said. “So we needed an approval to raise fees. At the time, the Board of Governors and legislature were locked in a legal battle over who could raise fees.

During the 2010 legislative session, Rep. Darryl Rouson (D-St. Petersburg) and Sen. Dennis Jones (R-St. Petersburg) sponsored identical bills that would allow USFSP to raise its fees. Both bills included in activities and services, health and athletics, beyond the 5 percent yearly limit. Both bills died in committee.

“’There were so many crisis moments, calamities over and over,’” Scott said. “When it was axed out of committee, we were so depressed. Between Helen Levine and Kent (Kelso), they were so calmy and so persistent and we just kept at it, it was a miracle it got thrown back in.”

Helen Levine, the Regional Vice Chancellor of External Affairs, has been alive for eight years, since 1975 during the campus’s first major expansion.

“Then, three months later, the economic collapsed.”

Kelso said. “Helen was dynamite on this whole legislative thing.”

In the eleventh hour, the text of the original, failed bills was universalized, granting the same, one-time fee equalization across the entire university system.

The second last step was to get the approval of Gov. Crist.

“We ran into that guy four or five times. Strategically, yes, but unstrategically, too,” Ellington said.

When the students and Kelso bumped into Crist outside a bathroom in Tallahassee, they made their pitch.

“We bent his ear as fast as we could,” Kelso said. The group also had a home-field advantage, as Crist, a St. Petersburg resident, kept an office in Bayboro Hall.

Ultimately, Crist signed the one-time fee increase into statute, giving the students and administration the opportunity to build their campus center.

“The beauty of this change is not lost on the student lobbyists or administration.

“Not only were we successful,” Kelso said, “but the state of Florida agreed to do it for all Florida universities. It provided a benefit to every public university student in the state of Florida.”

“There are probably buildings and programs all around the state because of our last ditch effort,” Scott said.

“Nothing would have happened if the student leaders hadn’t stepped up and done their due diligence,” Kelso said. “In my 23 years in higher education, that’s probably the most inspiring thing I’ve seen students do.”

news@crownestspetecom
Film fest will peer into the morgue

By Ryan Ballogg, Staff Reporter

Studio@620 is showing two movies that play on the morbid and mysterious nature of the morgue on Tuesday, Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. as part of the Tampa Bay International Film Festival.

“My Time Will Come,” a 90-minute Ecuadorian film directed by Victor Arregui, tells the tale of a lonely morgue director who winds up involved in a murder case. Following this will be "Knock Knock (Who's Dead?)," a film from Birundi directed by Grâce Nzeyiman. It is a comic story about a man who tries to make money by gathering dead subjects for the morgue.

The showing is part of an effort to raise money for a full-scale film festival next year. All of the $8 for general admission ($5 for students) will go toward funding the project.

The films chosen were selected from the Global Film Initiative’s catalog of movies. The Initiative, a group that funds international film making and promotes the establishment of International Film Festivals around the world, hopes to promote cross-cultural exchange and understanding through exposure to foreign films.

The group offers $10,000 grants to about 10 filmmakers each year, building up a catalog of movies from which venues can then select. It supports filmmakers in many areas that would not otherwise be able to produce works or buy equipment, nurturing new film industries and film culture.

The Venture Compound on Central Avenue is challenging the conventional art gallery

By Jane McInnis, Staff Reporter

The Venture Compound, a non-traditional performance space in St. Petersburg’s Warehouse Arts District, is radiating sound waves in the underground scene.

The living space, which doubles as a show space and triples as an art gallery, has hosted shows since December 2011, with six scheduled for September so far.

“It’s not a bar. We’re not having music so that people come in and buy beer. We’re having music to make money by gathering dead subjects for the morgue,” said Jesse Vance, co-founder and co-creator of the venue.

Non-traditional and “do it yourself” show spaces draw artists and audiences who are grounded on an unapologetically independent ethos.

“One of us are creating spaces that foster community and don’t operate solely on selling alcohol or acquiring assets for already quite comfortable, rich men,” said Neil Campau, founder for DoDIY.org.

Vance, 27, along with venue co-creator and roommate Traye McEnany, 28, found the warehouse after they were kicked out of their apartment near St. Petersburg College. The building has two bedrooms, one bathroom, a living area and a tiled kitchen, with a wide-open warehouse and fenced-in yard.

Vance already has experience booking shows, mostly avant-garde electronic music, at Fubar, Cafe Bohemia and others on Central Avenue. It wasn’t until after signing the lease on the warehouse space that the roommates realized they could easily put on shows in their home.

“We had no idea. We moved in here blind as a bat,” McEnany said. The Venture Compound, located south of Central Avenue on the corner of 27th Street, is in a hybrid-industrial zone. Artists can live, run a business and have an art gallery out of their space in the district.

“We have no noise ordinances. Ever,” Vance said. “We could have a show right now. We could have a show at 5 in the morning.”

While Vance has booked shows over the year, high volumes of artists from as far as Los Angeles have reached out to bring shows to The Venture Compound. McEnany explains that the ability to rent out the space brings in a wider variety of music. Punk, electronic, math rock, performance art and even MCs have performed under the lights at the compound. All genres are welcome.


Vance and McEnany recently made a room in their home an art gallery, which features one show a month.

The Compound’s art director, Bradley Kokay, 34, is interested in showcasing art from anyone, skilled or unskilled. He said some of the most interesting art is from people who aren’t trained or don’t consider themselves "artists."

With this open-door policy, there are two standards: No art will be displayed that’s already been displayed at a show in St. Petersburg, and all art pieces for sale must have modest prices.

Modest means about $50, so all gallery visitors, “normal people and college students,” can take part in buying art specific to their tastes.

Kokay, Vance and McEnany have all adopted this method from seeing art pieces around town they liked, but were unable to afford.

“The problem with a lot of that...
‘So long, sweet summer’
A playlist

As summer draws to its sweltering conclusion, you may find yourself wondering, “Where did the time go? It seems like just yesterday I was making spelunking plans, brewing hot lemonade and chewing on discarded watermelon rinds.” No? Well, our visions of an ideal summer may differ, but we can find commonality in the music that spanned the break and served as a soundtrack to our sunlit escapades. So here are the good, the bad and the dreadfully awful songs of summer 2012.

Live and Die
by The Avett Brothers

This touching track from the folk/bluegrass roots duo is a shining monument to what country music could have been. That must be why it was chosen for a recent GAP commercial. If it goes over well, they may soon be featuring a line of flannel shirts...

Tearz for Animals
by CocoRosie

Surely one of the more serious ballads to come from the artsy freak folk sisters, it is only improved by Antony Hegarty’s melancholic vocal layering. The chorus is likely to linger in your head for a few hours, if not days, after listening.

Call me Maybe
by Carly Rae Jepsen

Hey this just hit me, and it might be crazy, but I saw Batman, like five times maybe! Many of us doled out the coin to see Batman's final hoorah more than once this summer, but that was nothing compared to the amount of times we all heard this song.

Today’s Supernatural
by Animal Collective

No summer is complete without some psychedelic meanderings. However, be careful that this hippity-hoppity number doesn’t have you falling down rabbit holes. This may be the angriest song the Animal Collective has yet unleashed, with the line “sometimes you gotta go get mad” serving as the song’s crescendo. If mingling with local hipsters doesn’t make you mad, pick up a copy their album Centipede Hz out on Sept. 4.

What Makes You Beautiful
by One Direction

Among the things that don’t make one beautiful are lack of musical taste, lack of lyrical ability and public butchering of classic Beatles songs. Though it might get you a spot in the closing ceremonies of the Olympics.

Too Close
by Alex Clare

Just when you think a quality song has finally made it onto the mainstream radio, the dubstep-backed chorus erupts. Oh well. Let’s see if Clare regrets that one in a few years. In all seriousness though, having he conjures up manage to blend the spirit of long-gone ragtime and blues days with a very new edge. The album’s soulful progression rattles right along like a cart of old bones, for a collection of tracks that range from his White Stripes days to a new and ghostlier Jack. Get shakin’.

I’m Shakin’
by Jack White

Listening to Jack White’s new album, “Blunderbuss,” leaves you with the oft-earlier impression that Mr. White is a very old soul. Sounds he conjures up manage to blend the spirit of long-gone ragtime and blues days with a very new edge. The album’s soulful progression rattles right along like a cart of old bones, for a collection of tracks that range from his White Stripes days to a new and ghostlier Jack. Get shakin’.

art is it’s geared toward a very specific audience … but that very specific audience is … broke,” McEnany said.

A painting of Richard Nixon covered the wall. A paint brush was hung on the ceiling. A painting of Towle’s 180 paintings, so some other subjects. Towle, a local artist who faithfully captured artworks by the late Norman McEnany said.

“Specific audience … but that very specific audience is it’s geared toward a very specific audience.” That’s gonna be our thing.

Affordable art,” Kokay said. “That's gonna be our thing.

Get political with the RNC on campus

The Republican National Convention may have flinched as Isaac barreled across the Caribbean, but three related on-campus events will continue as scheduled.

Michael Grunwald, a senior correspondent for Time Magazine, will discuss his new book, “The New New Deal: The Hidden Story of Change in the Obama Era” on Tuesday, Aug. 28, at 5 p.m.

Grunwald has won several awards for journalism, including the George Polk Award for national reporting, the Wroth Bingham Award for investigative reporting and the Society of Environmental Journalists award for reporting he completed about the Everglades.

In his latest book, “The New Deal,” Grunwald examines the $800 billion stimulus bill passed by the Obama Administration and makes a case for the bill preventing a depression.

American for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist will speak on the American political process Wednesday, Aug. 28, from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Norquist is a lobbyist, conservative activist and member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is perhaps most famous for his strong promotion of the “Taxpayer Protection Pledge,” a pledge signed by a majority of Republican congressional candidates opposing increases in tax rates for individuals and businesses.

Celebrate the final night of the RNC with a watch party and audience discussion moderated by Judithanne Scourfield McLauchlan, Ph.D. Politicians, elected officials and international press members are expected to attend the event, which will be held from 7 to 9 p.m.

Scourfield-McLauchlan is an associate professor of political science at USF St. Petersburg. She recently wrote “Congressional Participation as Amicus Curiae before the Supreme Court,” which examines Congress’s attempts to sway Supreme Court decisions.

All three events will take place in the Harbor Hall Gallery, 1000 3rd Street South, and are free of charge and open to the public.

Staff Reports

The Venture Compound offers performance space for local musical artists.

The gallery walls couldn't hold all of Towle's 180 paintings, so some were hung on the ceiling. A painting of Richard Nixon covered the window unit.

The plan was to sell Towle’s paintings for donation prices and give all proceeds to help Towle’s widow, Margaret, pay for medical costs.

In less than a month, half of the paintings were sold, raising over $300.

“That’s gonna be our thing. Affordable art,” Kokay said. “That was one thing we saw when we put on this Norman Towle show. It was kinda like a feeding frenzy.”

Inclusion of spectators is key to building excitement at an art show, Kokay explained. All art shows coincide with music shows, giving guests a wider range of things to do, and allowing younger spectators to avoid the “awkward” vibes they sometimes get at gallery showings.

Shows typically have a $5 cover, all BYOB, and fend-for-yourself parking.

The next show includes experimental and electronic music, including Andre Obin from Boston, as well as bands from Vero Beach and St. Petersburg.

arts@crownestpete.com
Tune in, turn off, walk it out

Humans have been active pedestrians for centuries—why stop now?

The first humans walked out of the cradle of civilization somewhere in Africa about 60,000 years ago. They walked to Europe and Asia. They walked across long-gone land bridges of ice and sand to reach tiny Pacific islands and the Americas.

They walked and ran to catch prey, walked to exotic civilizations to trade goods, and walked from the centers of vast empires to the outer reaches to wage wars.

Then they stopped walking.

With the largest incoming freshman class to date and a record number of resident students this semester, USF St. Petersburg is quickly turning from its roots as a “drive-to-U” as students make St. Petersburg their home.

The influx of students comes with an efflux of parking spaces. To avoid screaming into dashboards this semester, it might be a good time to leave the cars at home and—making like our pedestrian ancestors—actively commute to school.

Active commutes include walking, as well as biking, skating and any other non-automotive means of transportation. Environmental, physical and mental benefits of walking and biking are typically clear to many.

“Strange as it seems, though, modern man appears determined to walk as little as possible,” the Harvard Medical School reported in a 2009 health publication.

The journal reported that elevators, escalators and moving-walkways only deepen the dread of walking.

“If the Segway 'walking' machine ever catches on, walking will suffer yet another setback,” it reads.

In 2011, the Federal Department of Transportation reported on commuting trends and conditions of Transportation reported on the American College of Sports Medicine.

“Studies comparing the experiences of commuting by bicycle and car report that cyclists find their mode of transport at least as flexible and convenient as those who use cars, with lower stress, greater feelings of freedom, relaxation and excitement,’’ it reads.

Dealing with parking meters or the parking garage weekday mornings can be stressful and time-consuming. Instead of spending time and energy hounding a parking space or digging for parking meter change, a stroll or ride to class can benefit students in the classroom and throughout the day with increased circulation and focus.

Students perform in the classroom better when they’re physically active during the day, according to research conducted by the American College of Sports Medicine.

Walking also helps digestion, mental stress, depression and reduces cardiac disease risk factors.

For those in St. Petersburg—where hot and humid is flat and, in many places, beautiful—who want to track their walks, 12 average city blocks count as one mile.

For those whose commute is too long, there are other ways to increase walking time. The Harvard report suggests parking further from destinations and enjoying the walk.

Now, too, is a good time to take advantage of the stairwell in the University Student Center, which has an almost 360 degree view over one of the most beautiful parts of St. Petersburg.

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Millenism by Jane McInnis

(Some of the) Actual prohibited items in St. Pete’s RNC event zone:

- Light bulbs
- Ceramics
- Locks
- Metal-tipped umbrellas

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In 2011, the Federal Department of Transportation reported on commuting trends and conditions in Florida. Its report was based on a survey of 100,820 households and 7,417 people living in college residential halls and other group living quarters.

Results showed nearly 80 percent of commuters drive alone in Florida; only 2.8 percent were active commuters.

Starting an active commute could be a benefit, said the New Economics Foundation, a British think-tank working in areas of community, democracy and economics in a 2011 report.

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Now, too, is a good time to take advantage of the stairwell in the University Student Center, which has an almost 360 degree view over one of the most beautiful parts of St. Petersburg.
Frank's declassified college survival guide

by FRANK KURTZ Staff Columnist

Welcome to headquarters. I am not sure how you found this place, but now that you have I have some important information that will not be found in your orientation packets. This ain't gonna be your typical advice column—what one would read in countless campus gazettes from coast to coast across this fine country. What follows is more along the lines of what your older brother or a friend's sister who was a year or two ahead of you on the cross country team might pass along now that you are ready to head off into the brave new world.

First and foremost, you will not recognize the person you become after the four or five or six years it will take you to earn your bachelors degree. Regardless of what your parents and administrators might say, college is more than making grades; it is a time for personal growth that is perfectly situated in one's life cycle. Be prepared to make mistakes, and be prepared to learn from them.

Secondly, visit your friends from senior high school who chose to attend other institutions of higher education. Visit them often and be sure that they visit you here at USFSP. These voyages will be among the most rewarding of college memories. This is especially true if your actions start a virtual fraternity war at The Swamp that results in bonus points, or driving down Bruce B. Downs Boulevard with a sheet of plywood on top of a Mazda. Piggybacking on number two, go to an away football and basketball game decked out in South Florida apparel. But don't be an obnoxious fool—nobody likes those folks. We play Miami at Joe Robbie Stadium and at the new arena at UCF this year during the football and basketball seasons, respectively. Make the road trips and take the back roads.

Thirdly, knock a few back at The Tavern at Bayboro and then go for a walk through the stacks at the library. There is a lot of information that you do not know out there. Fourth. Cops are not the enemy. Don't put yourself in a position to have a negative encounter with Florida's Finest. Fifthly, your professors hold office hours for a reason. If you do not understand a subject matter, swing by and ask. It makes things tremendously easier later in the semester.

Sixthly. You are now in college. You are young. You have nothing else better to do (except maybe schoolwork, but that's what Sundays are for, right?) Wrap the tool. When you drink, be safe about it.

Seventhly, read your student newspaper, The Crow's Nest, weekly. Be sure to have a good time over these next few years. Try to learn something both from the books, from life and about yourself.

fkurtz@mail.usf.edu

Lessons from shepherds

by REN LAFORME Staff Columnist

Learning a new word can expand a person's vocabulary, opening a crack in a curtain against a midday sun. Some words do more than that. They cast open the curtains of the mind. Timshel is an ancient Hebrew word whose meaning has vexed translators since it appeared alongside Cain and Abel in the original text of Genesis. It is changed to “thou wilt” in some versions of the Bible. In others, it is “thou do.” The great American writer John Steinbeck used the correct translation of “timshel” as a major symbol in “East of Eden.” The novel he considered his magnum opus. “Thou mayest.”

Unlike the word “shalt,” which infers a command, and “do,” which obviates choice, “mayest” allows for the ability of free will. In the Bible story, God does not order Cain to conquer sin, nor does he promise him that he will. The word “timshel,” when translated as “thou mayest,” blesses Cain with the ability to choose whether to conquer sin.

Lee, a Chinese servant in “East of Eden,” phrases it best: “[If] Thou God has blessed for their faithful entreaties to Him] and everybody else (presumably those that can't be bothered to worship God or who through a lack of hard work, or by a lack of faith, or having the wrong faith, are not worthy).”

The elites, then, do not have to care about everyone else because they are not worth caring about. Furthermore, and this is where the propaganda really gets piled high and deep, these elites will have you believe that if you work hard and know God, you, too, can become one of them, and who wouldn't want that? Thus, the medieval power of religious dictatorship is with us again because the fear of being a non-elitist, and never being able to achieve elite status, is a powerful and ever present fear.

Finding God in gold medals

by BOB FAY Guest Columnist

The new Olympic champion, still breathing hard after winning her race, was asked by the television interviewer, “How does it feel to be Olympic champion?” Just ask Cory Hebert. He got “You drink, be safe about it.

The manifest destiny of the elite is to turn our democracy into some kind of theocracy, all while claiming fealty to the Constitution they hope to usurp. Eventually, the citizens of this country are going to have to wake up, smell the “In God we trust” roses, and save our democracy. How about instead of having a belief system where God likes certain people better than others we place our emphasis on “E Pluribus, Unum,” letting the people of the world know that Americans consider all humans to be equal and worthy of respect.

Let's stop honoring and admiring the elites and dismissing everyone else. Furthermore, let's remove any and all religious zealotry and elitism and keep any manifestations of religious hegemony resulting from them out of the laws that govern us all, while spurring politicians who use such devices to solicit votes. We can turn away religious elitism at the polling booth and keep religion out of government. By so doing, we can begin to stop clouding the minds of Olympians and Grammy winners and anyone else who thinks that God somehow likes them better than most everyone else.

Otherwise, there is little hope for the democracy that is the United States of America.

Bob Fay is an adjunct professor of mathematics.
Fought law, law won

A small American alligator was discovered in the shade behind Davis Hall by student Andrea Inman on Friday, August 24, who promptly called police services. After a brief encounter with four baton-wielding officers, the reptile was apprehended in a garbage can. It was later released into a freshwater canal.

Christopher Guinn, The Crow's Nest

Messages can also be sent out from a remote location via cell phone if necessary.

The state of Florida financed the outdoor emergency notification system. A committee of five USFSP employees purchased the system through an official invitation to negotiate process, Scherberger said.

USFSP Police Chief Rene Chenevert, who led the project, said the system will ensure campus safety by allowing authorities to quickly reach out to students.

The university already has multiple systems in place to notify its students during an emergency, including email notifications, bulletins posted to the homepage of the website and mass-distributed campus phone messages, Scherberger said.

Also in place is the MoBull Messenger text message alert system. Subscribers receive text message alerts with information pertaining to emergencies or dangerous situations on or near campus. Those not signed up can do so in their NetID account services, under the emergency notification settings.

news@crowsneststpete.com

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