Bulls of bronze to bring school spirit on campus

By Sophie Erber
Crow's Nest Correspondent

In the interest of school spirit and solidarity with the Tampa campus, Student Government is working toward the purchase of a life-sized bronze bull for between $10,000 and $22,000. University administration has agreed to purchase a second bronze mascot for the campus.

Student Government President Mark Lombardi-Nelson said one of the bulls would be installed “in the middle of Harbor Walk, right on the green, to act as a staple of our university.”

“I’d put every cent of my ‘A&S’ fee behind it,” Lombardi-Nelson said, referring to the Activity and Services fee, the $25.05 credit hour charge collected from all USFSP students. The A&S fees are spent by SG on campus clubs and events, building tradition and campus improvements, such as the University Student Center.

The initial quote SG Vice President Jimmy Richards presented was $22,000 per bull. At the Oct. 17 general assembly meeting, however, Richards said typical statues cost around $60,000 (without a mold).

“Because of the neighborhood, the price tag would still be significantly cheaper than it’s been in the past,” USF Tampa has a number of bull statues on campus, and the student government president said typical statues cost around $60,000 (without a mold).

“When you look at the account we have now, it’s very disable,” said Lombardi-Nelson, referring to the A&S account. “So many students believe that we need to have some kind of representation of the USF brand on campus. We’d feel more connected.”

Several SG members, however, are concerned with a price tag in the tens of thousands.

“When I heard the idea of the bronze bull and how much it would cost, I tried finding alternatives,” said Lombardi-Nelson.

See BULL page 2

‘We’ll take it from here’

Administration claims control of USC dollars

By Christopher Guinn
Staff Reporter

After consulting with the legal counsel, university leaders have reversed their position and now say Student Government does not have budgetary authority over the activity-fee funded University Student Center. Furthermore, any funds left over from the $1.86 million annual budget will be returned to the USC, not to student government, as has been stated several times in the last weeks.

Instead, an advisory panel consisting of four university employees and two student representatives from SG will recommend expenditure decisions for the building, constituting 55 percent of current activity and service fee collection.

“The bottom line is, you do not need to approve the budget,” Interim Regional Chancellor Bill Hogarth told the Senate Executive Committee on Oct. 15. However, “I would still like your input.”

Hogarth apologized for the confusion over authority of the fees. “First we said you did, then we said you didn’t, then we said you did,” he said. The university’s position is based on the Marshall Student Center Enhancement Fee, a special fee for USF Tampa that partially funds the student union on that campus. The $13.80 per credit hour charge dedicated to the bond payment and operations of the USC is “not treated any different than the Marshall Center fee,” Hogarth said.

The Marshall Center fee is set aside for bond payment, renovation and expansion of the Tampa student union. The majority of the money set aside for the USC is to fund operations, salaries and programming.

In Tampa, “All (Marshall Student Center) operations, including payroll, programing and utilities are funded by the Activity and Service,” said Tampa SG Senate President Jeff Gao. “Those fees can only be allocated by SGA per state statutes. Student Government has full oversight on the MSC annual operating budget.”

University leaders had hoped to achieve a fee similar to the Marshall Center fee for USFSP during the 2010 Florida legislative session, but instead received an equalization of fees across all state universities.

The university is reading an implied exemption to the state statute that gives expenditure authority of activity and service fees, currently $25.05 per credit hour, to the student government “to benefit the student body in general.”

“I realize you didn’t get everything you wanted in the building, but it has to be paid for,” Hogarth said. “It’s already been approved by your predecessors.” Hogarth was referring to the student government in 2009 which passed a non-binding resolution supporting a fee increase for this one, yes,” Hogarth said.

Hogarth urged the student representatives to move past the issue, telling them that at least now they don’t have to worry about it. “You asked the right questions,” he said. “I think you’ve been treated fairly.”

The following Wednesday, Jodi Adamchak from the Office of General Counsel told the General Assembly the fee increase was approved for a specific purpose by the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors, and therefore the student government ceded its budgetary authority.

However, SG could refuse to fund the USC as a line-item in next year’s budget, but that action would force the USFSP chancellor to veto
A cure for what ails you in SLC

BY TYLER KILLETTE
Crow's Nest correspondent

USF St. Petersburg students can now receive free medical care at the Wellness Center on campus, including physical examinations, immunizations and chronic illness management.

At its new location in the Student Life Center, formerly the Campus Activities Center, the Wellness Center treats students for illnesses such as colds, flu, strep throat and ear infections. Other services include women’s health, contraceptive counseling and testing for sexually transmitted infections.

This is the first semester that health services have been available to students on the St. Petersburg campus. Students could previously only receive health care on the Tampa campus. While the Wellness Center can treat most minor acute illnesses, students may need to visit the Tampa for conditions that require a specialist, said Dr. Anita Sahgal, the Wellness Center’s director.

The primary medical care provider at the Wellness Center is Nurse Practitioner Amy Brown, who is assisted by Licensed Practical Nurse Bonnie Sandy. There is usually a one to two day wait for appointments with the nurse practitioner; however, the Wellness Center will do its best to accommodate students in need of urgent medical attention, Sahgal said.

The after-hours nurse hotline is available for those seeking medical care during evenings and weekends. Nurses on call are available to provide medical advice over the phone or to refer students to an urgent care center, Sahgal said. Students can connect to the hotline by calling the Wellness Center’s main phone number.

Since all students pay a health fee with their tuition, there are no co-pays or deductibles for appointments, though charges may apply for additional services like lab tests, Sahgal said. While the Wellness Center accepts most insurance plans, students also have the option to pay on their own or to charge fees to their Oasis accounts, which must be paid by the end of each semester.

Along with its new health services, the Wellness Center continues to offer counseling for individuals, groups and couples. Prevention and education are among the center’s highest priorities, which it accomplishes through alcohol education classes, wellness workshops and a computer-based stress management program, Sahgal said.

From Oct. 29 through Nov. 2, the Wellness Center will be hosting Wellness Week, offering free events and services to students ranging from yoga classes to HIV screenings. Students can get free flu shots without an appointment on Wednesday, Oct. 31, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Harborwalk. Flu shots will also be available in the Wellness Center by appointment as well.

Despite the fact that many people are not yet aware of the Wellness Center’s new services or location, Sahgal says several appointments have been scheduled each day, and the number is increasing.

The Wellness Center is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m. Students can still take advantage of the Wellness Center’s services over breaks, but it does close for holidays. Appointments are available by phone at 727-873-4422 or by visiting the Wellness Center in SLC 2200.

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Building funding a unique situation, says USF lawyer

Continued from front page

the student-approved budget for the purpose of bond payment. It is not clear if operational costs could be included under this interpretation of events.

During the meeting, which at times became testy, Adamchak pointed to a collection of approvals by students and university officials throughout the lobbying and planning process, specifically, a 2009 non-binding resolution passed unanimously by SG and a 2010 fee committee recommendation.

Sen. Brandi Murphy asked about a summer 2010 non-binding resolution absent from the list of approvals. Had it been followed, a vote by two-thirds of the Senate and approval from the regional chancellor and student president would have been required to release the first two years of fees collected during the building’s construction. This resolution was passed after the Florida legislature approved the fee increase. No follow-up action on the resolution was ever taken.

Adamchak and Hogarth said they had never seen the document. However, The Crow’s Nest had provided a copy of the document to the university at the request of Communications Director Tom Scherberger on Sept. 18. Adamchak said the resolution did not change the university’s position. The portion of activity fees for the building is “already allocated by virtue of the request,” she said.

State law allows for the securing of activity fees for the purpose of bond payment up to 5 percent of the previous year’s intake. Adamchak said by way the fee increase was requested, not just bond payments are removed from control of SG, but operations as well.

The Crow’s Nest reported that USFSP had taken control over 70 percent of the amount bondable USF-system-wide while contributing 21 percent. Goff said neither he nor a previous Tampa student government approved such an action. Adamchak said the Board of Governors implicitly approved an increase of this cap.

At current funding levels, no increase would be necessary. UF received an explicit increase to the activity fee bonding limit in 2012 for the purpose of improving its student union. Traditionally, the state courts see explicit exemptions to state law as evidence that other exemptions must be explicit.

Spokesperson for the Board of Governors Kim Wilmath said the board’s facilities manager concurred with USF’s explanation, but the board does not manage or track specific fee expenditures and had no authority to advocate for a specific position.

Adamchak said the structure of the implicit agreement between SG and the university was for the best, since future student governments could choose to default on the bond. However, under state law, this is only possible if the university president also decides not to service the bond.

“What we’re trying to do is protect ourselves from ourselves,” she said.

As the meeting ended she issued a warning to the government, saying other universities have disbanded student governments that could not move beyond difficult issues. The Crow’s Nest was unable to find evidence of this occurring in Florida where student governments and their authority are established by law.

“The Senate’s delay on approving the budget for the USC stemmed from the university’s lack of information or justification for certain expenditures, said Sen. Christa Hegedus.

Will the government fight the decision? “Yes, we will,” Hegedus said.

“It’s to be announced. I don’t know what direction to go, but action will be taken.”

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Napkin math: How much does accountability cost?

By Christopher Gun
Staff Reporter

Twice recently, employees of the university system have asked if students understood the cost of answering questions related to the roughly $1.9 million per year from fees allocated to the University Student Center.

In a meeting about the building’s budget and revenue, USF Chief Financial Officer John Long asked two Crow’s Nest reporters on Sept. 17 if they had contemplated the cost of meeting with three senior USF system financial officers, a USF St. Petersburg administrator and two public relations employees.

Associate General Counsel Jodi Adamchak made a similar statement on Oct. 17 while answering questions during a Student Government General Assembly meeting. With the salaries represented in the meeting, the university could practically build another room for the USC, she said.

With the aid of publicly available salary information, The Crow’s Nest set out to provide a napkin-math answer to their question. First, a list of assumptions:

A standard 2,088-hour work year.

Non-salary benefits are not included.

Staff and student employees fulfilling normal work tasks, such as reporters, elected student representatives and their advisers attending a Senate meeting, are not included.

Individuals’ total time spent on the matter cannot be accurately determined, so this analysis focuses on the two, roughly hour-long meetings.

A novel unit of measurement, the Individual Student’s Contribution, or ISC, is the minimum number of credit hours required for a Bachelors degree, 120, multiplied by the $13.80 per credit hour each student pays for the USC. That is, 1 ISC is equal to $1,656.

Sept. 17 Meeting with Reporters

Attendees: Chief Financial Officer John Long, Treasurer Fell Stubbs, Vice President Nick Trivunovich, Assistant Regional Vice Chancellor Julie Jakway, Public Affairs Manager Lara Wade, Communications Director Tom Scherberger.

Grouped salary: $8,400
Average salary: $40,069
Cost per hour: $402.50
Hours per ISC: 4.11

Oct. 17 General Assembly Meeting

Attendees: Interim Regional Chancellor Bill Hogarth, Assistant Regional Vice Chancellor Julie Jakway, Associate General Counsel Jodi Adamchak, Assistant Director of Administrative Services David Everingham, Manager of Fiscal and Business Administration Cam Ngo.

Grouped salary: $495,376
Average salary: $99,075
Cost per hour: $237.25
Hours per ISC: 6.98

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Q&A: Using the Socratic method to understand USC controversy

By Christopher Gunn
Staff Reporte

The issues surround the new University Student Center touch on finance, law, intent, good faith and the role of activity and service fees. It can all be a little wonky. Here, we’ll try to break it down.

Students supported the creation of the USC, why is there controversy now?

Students originally supported the creation of a student union with a dining hall, health clinic and spaces for student organizations, similar to student unions at other universities, said former student leaders, citing a survey issued prior to 2009. However, during the building planning process in 2009, a floor for student organizations and the health clinic was removed due to cost concerns and housing was added to the building. Student organizations, the health clinic and student services were to stay in the Campus Activities Center, renovated and renamed the Student Life Center.

Now students over the next 30 years will pay roughly $60 million total for the University Student Center; the SLC renovation cost approximately $2.5 million. For the 120 credit hours minimum required for a bachelor's degree, each student will contribute $1,656 to the building through activity and service fees.

What was the reaction from the students then?

The project was stalled for a few months in 2010 as the university sought a bond to pay for the project entirely due to a demand for more housing from Genshaft. Former Regional Vice Chancellor Kent Kelso said the president made the “strong recommendation” to include housing during the planning process.

Surrogates of the university president have claimed she had little to no involvement in the planning of the building. USF lobbyist Mark Walsh said Genshaft’s involvement only extended to providing advice on funding projects due to the law that prevents significant student fees from being used to fund bond payments. Chief Operating Officer Tom Glish said the first move by the student lobbyists and the former USFSP administrator about Genshaft’s involvement were “slanderous” and she had no direct input on the planning of the building.

However, a timeline of events prepared by the university and obtained by The Crow’s Nest show Genshaft making the recommendation to the 2010 legislative session when the fee increase was passed. Yes, there is a law that prevents more than 5 percent of activity and service fees from being bonded, but in 2009, university officials were hoping for a special single-purpose fee similar to the ones that fund the student unions at USF Tampa and FSU. In 2005 and 2006, this type of fee was passed in the Florida legislature for USFSF but was vetoed by Govs. Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist.

The original bill submitted to the Florida House and Senate in 2010 would have created this special fee, but that bill died in committee. Instead, a modification to state statute that allowed low-service universities (like the USF regional campuses) to increase their fees one time to the state average was included in a budget bill. However, this fee increase does not allow for bonding of activity fees beyond the 5 percent.

In short, if Genshaft’s recommendation to include housing was solely due to bonding limitations on student fees, she would have needed to expect the original bill to fail months before it did.

What are activity and service fees?

Activity and service fees, along with health and athletic fees, constitute the “combined fees” or “local fees.” While there are many other fees, these three are lumped together under state law. For example, the total of the three fees cannot exceed 40 percent of tuition per credit hour. Also, these fees cannot be raised by more than 3 percent per year, unless an exception is made by the state government. At the moment, the total is $31.40 per credit hour (plus a $5 flat fee for athletics). USFSF has the highest activity fee in the state, $25.05 per credit hour, as a result of a special exemption won by low-service state universities in 2010. USFSP students were integral in this process.

An important note about activity and service fees: only 5 percent of the prior year’s activity fee collection can be used to pay off bond debt. This is to prevent universi- tities from tying up large amounts of activity fee revenue, which is intended for “campus life” activities and growth, from being long-term building projects. For USF, system-wide activity fee revenue is used to determine this number.

Why was housing added to the project?

USFSF, and the USF system more generally, are seeking to increase the resident student population to improve USFSF’s student-to-faculty ratio. USFSF student leaders, citing a survey issued prior to 2009, were integral in this process.

What role did USF President Judy Genshaft play in the planning process?

The student leaders and lobbyists, in particular James Scott and Jon Ellington, said they had little to no involvement in the planning of the building. USF lobbyist Mark Walsh said Genshaft’s involvement only extended to providing advice on funding projects due to the law that prevents significant student fees from being used to fund bond payments. Chief Operating Officer Tom Glish said the first move by the student lobbyists and the former USFSP administrator about Genshaft’s involvement were “slanderous” and she had no direct input on the planning of the building.

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In short, if Genshaft’s recommendation to include housing was solely due to bonding limitations on student fees, she would have needed to expect the original bill to fail months before it did.

What are activities fees subsidizing housing?

Yes. The building was funded using an $18.8 million, 30-year bond through a federal stimulus program called “Build America Bonds.” These debt instruments were created for the purpose of constructing “shovel-ready” civic infrastructure projects. However, the bond could not be used for retail construction, such as the area now occupied by Sodexo. It was determined that the USF 6,000 sq. ft. used by the food service provider would cost $2.8 million. It was funded with the first two years of the $13.80 per credit hour fee increase.

Despite paying cash for a little over one-sixth of the “student center” portion of the building, activity fee revenue is obligated to pay the debt consistent with the total area of the student center portion—43 percent. By repaying the debt obligation, the student activity fees would pay approximately $519,000 per year, rather than the $579,000 currently expected.

There is also the question of relative utility costs, one-time capital purchases, maintenance contacts and staffing. An in-depth look at the proposed operational costs compared to other Florida university student centers will be included in a future issue of The Crow’s Nest.

What are the conclusions of Student Government?

Right now, they are two-fold: student-led change on campus. USFSP attorneys have claimed the context of the 2010 fee increase constitutes a partial exemption to the state law that assigns authority over those fees to the student government. If the university maintains its current position, students will control 45 percent of the approximately $3.5 million in activity and service fees expected this year.

The second issue, which is being driven by the elements within USC focused on environmental and sustainability, is that the housing portion of the building is being subsidized by the student center portion. The building has one meter per utility, rather than a meter per section. Instead, costs are divided by square footage, meaning the ballroom is paying for the same amount for electricity, water and sewer as an equivalent area in the student housing portion.

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Bronze not only option

Continued from front page

said SG Senator Anthony Patterson. “And ones that better embody our campus.”

Patterson is looking into “chia bulls,” saying the topiaries can be shaped into almost anything. “I’ve seen giraffes and elephants, even when I was a kid at zoos. I realized that maybe we could do that here.”

Patterson isn’t the only one with an eco-friendly idea for a bull statue.

“Originally, I ad the idea to implement a ‘Recyclabull’ about two years ago,” said SG Senate President Brian Bauroth, a junior at USFSP. “I think it would be more of a landmark than having a bronze bull, and I think the Recyclabull would show our sustainable side a little more.”

“Every school should own who they are,” said Adrienne Bradshaw, a graduate student. “It’s necessary to brand our university, to have something that distinguishes us from the downtown area.”

Bradshaw said the bronze bull would be great for photo taking purposes after events, such as graduation ceremonies.

“I’m neutral,” said student Matthew Marcelcin, who is in his second year at USFSP. “If it was there, that would be nice. But the fact that it’s not already there, I don’t really care. I do think it would help a little bit with morale though.”

Student Kelly Rosas agrees. She thinks it’s “a great way to show our school pride, which has been kind of lacking here in the past few years.”

For freshman John Hertzer, the bull might help boost what he sees as a lack of support in USF’s sports teams.

“On game day, you wouldn’t even know there’s a football game on this campus,” said Herter, adding he’d like to see a bull outside of the USC.

“I don’t have to cut the grass, so I’m fine with it.”

Student Government plans to vote on the bill to allocate money for the bull purchase in the next general assembly meeting on Oct. 24, 2 p.m. in the University Student Center ballroom.
Green Living

Did you know that the disposable cups used by most coffee vendors are usually not accepted by recycling companies? The layer of polyethylene that coats the inside of the cups must be separated from the paper, and the size of the cups often causes them to get mixed in with the wrong recyclable goods. However, a simple cure exists—bringing your own cup. Almost all coffee vendors will fill your mug or thermos for no additional charge. Many stores—including Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts and Einstein Brothers Bagels—even offer a discount for doing so.

Remembering, celebrating Evan Lyle

**By Wendy Joan Biddlecombe**

*Staff Writer*

A life is measured, not by stress and the daily grind, but the good times. Cheering for the Rays as they take on Toronto at the Trop. Checking out the cute girls at the pool. An ill-fated driving lesson. Playing catch in the twilight.

Last Friday, the family and friends of Evan Lyle gathered behind the USC to share stories and light candles in his memory. Lyle passed away in his sleep on June 26, 2012. Kickball was one of Lyle’s favorite sports to play, and a game followed the memorial—a tradition his friends hope will happen every year.

There were tears, but there were even more smiles. “Evan’s smile is what gave him away,” said Catherine Rudniski, a friend and classmate.

Michael Shaffe, the Project STING RAY coordinator, remembered the “coveted Evan smile,” and admired Lyle for his “default”—letting his “best side show.”

Jon Ellington, Lyle’s community mentor, said Evan “lifted up the people around him.” Ellington’s favorite memory was giving Lyle a driving lesson near Demen’s Landing. “That night, we owned the roads of St. Pete,” Ellington said—even if Lyle stepped on the accelerator instead of the brakes at a stop sign.

Lyle’s mother, Laurie Lyle, expressed gratitude for Project 10 STING RAY, which Evan had just completed. Project 10 STING RAY offers students with cognitive disabilities the chance to take college courses and experience independent living while learning real-world skills. Lyle said that because of the program, her son got the chance to be a “normal kid on campus.”

“Thank you for helping him,” Laurie said.

news@crowsneststpete.com
FWC acquaints visitors with aquatic neighbors

By Samantha Ouimet
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Admirers of Florida’s waters and of all the diverse life that lives within them might splash, splash and squawk for joy this weekend at MarineQuest 2012.

The 18th annual open house, presented free of charge by the FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, will be held at USF St. Petersburg in conjunction with the St. Petersburg Science Festival. It will feature hands-on experiences with marine life as well as informative presentations concerning oceanographic news vital to Floridians.

From the commonly-feared shark and ray to the familiar sea star and spiny lobster, visitors at MarineQuest can handle each of these animals as they swim around in their respective “touch tanks” and learn more about them firsthand, rather than by sitting in a classroom or through watching television.

In addition to the many tangible events at MarineQuest, there will be presentations on aspects of the ocean and its wildlife that are important to those living in an environment connected to the water. Florida’s top researchers will be relating to visitors how red tide is harmful to fish and humans, the endangerment of manatees due to human activity and tips on interacting with animals in the wild.

The oceans, rivers, and lakes that engulf Florida are powerful and fragile, and the presence of humans which has recently expanded via industrialization of coastlines and pollution of waters has had a significant impact on all aspects of its marine world.

 MarineQuest offers a one-day quality education in all of these concerns, with visitors will walk away with a better appreciation and more knowledge of how to care for the environment in which they live. With more than 30 visiting organizations and 5,000 people in attendance at last year’s open house, this annual event is extremely popular in Tampa Bay and is continuing to grow.

The free open house will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 100 8th Ave. SE, in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission areas labeled with the number “2” on USFSP’s campus map. Presentations will be held throughout the day in the Karen A. Steidinger Auditorium located on the first floor of the FWC Institute’s main building, and interactive activities will be held in a number of tents along Bayboro Harbor. Further information is available at myfwc.com/research.

Getting your fall pumpkin fix

By Kayla Currier
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Walk through the campus of USF St. Petersburg and you’ll see a myriad of fall-inspired trends. With the summer season fading away, students are trading jewel-toned pants with colder-weather apparel, catching up on fashion trends and elements of fall. With the technical start of fall, seasonal trends are starting to simmer.

As early as the first week of September, two weeks before the technical start of fall, seasonal drinks and food begin beckoning to consumers. Starbucks and Dunkin’ Donuts seem to be offering pumpkin-flavored everything this time of year, but many students are getting their seasonal fix on campus at the Barnes & Noble Starbucks, The Campus Grind and The Tavern at Bayboro.

The Barnes & Noble Starbucks is now offering a variety of seasonal drinks and pastries, including the infamous pumpkin spice latte. Other seasonal options offered include flavored mochas like salted caramel, hot apple spice and white peppermint. It is also selling Cheesecake Factory pumpkin cupcakes and marble mocha muffins, as well as Godiva’s seasonal pumpkins and cookies. All of these treats are available at the pumpkin spice latte, in addition to other fall-inspired drinks.

Starbucks isn’t the only campus location serving up delicious seasonal trends. The Campus Grind is currently selling many fall-inspired beverages and baked goods and is offering weekly holiday specials throughout the remainder of the semester. Some of the goodies available are their personal take on the pumpkin spice latte, in addition to offering a lighter and spicier alternative. They are also offering a seasonal menu that includes local drafts from the Tampa Bay area.

The Tavern kicked off the fall season with Southern Tier’s Pumking on tap and, in response to student popularity, is now offering multiple seasonal alcoholic beverages, including local drafts from the Tampa Bay area. One of the seasonal beers is a Wild and Wild Warthog Weizen, which both have appeared on draft and are available in local craft beer.

As one week melts into the next and the semester rapidly dwindles away, you may find yourself fading fast, tuckered out, or fraying around the edges. A nervous breakdown lurks. But wait! Your mind is still salvageable. Take a few moments out to relax and find your center of peace before returning to the grind this week. Here are some songs to aid in the healing.

Woods
By Bon Iver

A meditative round of the words “I’m up in the woods, I’m down on my mind. I’m building a still, to hold back time.” Justin Vernon, the bearded man behind the music of Bon Iver, is probably the only person to successfully apply auto-tune to his voice. This is probably because he actually had a good voice to begin with.

Baby’s Arms
By Kurt Vile

Vile is a long-haired folk artist who uses guitar ambience in unison with his deep, dream-like voice to create a soft but vivid sound. He has a tendency to slur his words, though he’s not drunk. Time may just be moving a little slower for him. See if it works for you, too.

Built to Last
By Six Gallery

Six Gallery only released one album in their short existence as a band, but it is an enthralling piece of work from beginning to end. Two guitarists and a bassist relentlessly finger tap their instruments, an oscillation of sound that creates the sensation of flying through stars. Their music falls into the genre of math rock, implying complex time signatures and rhythms.

The Loop
By Mimicking Birds

Mimicking Birds began as Nate Lacy playing songs to himself in his Oregon basement. Then Isaac Brock of Modest Mouse discovered the musician and signed him to his record label, Glacial Pace. A drummer and electric guitar player were added to the mix for good measure. They then released their first self-titled album, a chilling collection of acoustic-based melodies.

Elephants
By Warpaint

Warpaint is an all-girl art rock group from California. Their first release was mastered by John Frusciante of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, as he was dating the lead singer at the time. Peppers aside, their music is quite trance-inducing.

Upward Over the Mountain
By Iron and Wine

Samuel Beam’s soft strumming is always relaxing, so much in fact, that it might put you to sleep. Just make sure you don’t listen to him while you’re driving.

Glow
By Kaki King

This is an album, not a song, because it would be a shame to listen to only one of these tracks. Kaki King’s newest instrumental guitar compilation sees (or rather hears) her at the height of her art. Some of the deepest and moodiest pieces she has written are present here, as well as some of the liveliest. She experiments with orchestral sounds on some songs, and features a bagpipe player on a Celtic tune. Overall, the album is a great medium through which to focus your energies.
Gripping less effective than actually talking to someone

From pacemakers to landing on other planets, from deep-sea exploration to tiny bonds that hold atoms together, science continues to astound, amazed and sometimes just plain gross out those who pay attention.

Take the latest medical breakthrough, already saving the lives of dozens of patients willing to brave their own gag reflexes to test it.

The treatment: poop transplants. For real.

Those who suffer from dangerous Clostridium difficile bacteria infections don’t have much of a choice. Such an infection can cause acute diarrhea—bad enough to kill even those in developed nations, where diarrhea is often more of an annoyance than a threat. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention links the bacteria to 14,000 deaths in the U.S. annually.

Researchers have found C. difficile to be difficult to treat in the past because antibiotics do not work for some sufferers. Overuse of antibiotics also kills other, beneficial bacteria in the colon, allowing C. difficile to thrive. In serious circumstances, doctors are forced to remove entire infected parts of the colon. Fecal transplants, however, negate the use for dangerous surgeries by “borrowing” stool from the colons of healthy people. The stool is mixed with warm water and pushed into the sufferer’s colon through a tube, providing a vessel for healthy bacteria to reestablish itself.

In an article for MyHealthNewsDaily, researcher Dr. Mayur Rameshi said patients are usually too eager to rid themselves of their symptoms to worry about the “ick factor” of undergoing a fecal transplant. “When I tell them about this treatment, they say, ‘wow, that makes sense, go ahead and do it,’” he said.

The cure rate, with this treatment, is near 100 percent.

Science often takes ab eating when its means are more objectionable than the benefits of its possible ends. Stem cell research—another method used to treat certain bowel-related conditions, among many other things—has been met with widespread controversy due to the destruction of human embryos. Not all stem cells are obtained from human embryos, such as adult stem cells and amniotic stem cells, but the treatment is still met with derision by some.

The moral of this story?

Something that seems to smell bad at first might be worth another whiff.
A civics lesson from behind enemy lines in state capital

BY FRANK KURTZ Staff Col umnist

I’m currently in Tallahassee, the capital city of the great state of Florida. I’m doing some sightseeing, checking out my future office space (after you walk through security turn to the left at the Five Flags of Florida statue and it’s the office that says “Governor”) and researching for one of my three papers that I’m writing by day. I’m getting an updated taste of ‘Nole life (last time I was here was back in 2009 for the South Florida game) and night-walking capital style once the sun goes down.

The Florida State University campus is huge, so it took me over 20 minutes to walk from the west side to the east to meet up with my sister at some bar that was dominated by fraternity dude-bros, most of which were decked in tuxedos, pink ties, and boat shoes, which in my opinion, couldn’t hold a candle to my shirt and tie combination.

In the heart of campus there is a student union building, there is the student newspaper, student organizations, student meeting places, student services, a variety of places students can eat, a post office (not a mail room) and a Chilis. Get this: you can’t drink at Doak Campbell stadium during a football game, but you can get liquored up on whiskey and water before your Florida Politics class.

I sit down at the chain water-hole and crack open the Florida Flambeau—FSU’s having a show-down with a possible resurgence of the Florida lawn care. Everyone to this revelation last Saturday, “Oh, you been working on a football I sure as hell better say yes. The Florida Bills were in their heyday—four consecutive Super Bowl appearances were just over the horizon—and the city was frenzied. Red, white and blue zubaz pants covered thousands of legs and crew neck sweatshirts emblazoned with cartoonish helmets flew off the racks of the Bon-Ton.

For a moment in the early ‘90s, the city of Buffalo forgot it was still in decline. Then the Bills lost. Then they lost again, and again, and again. I think that’s when something broke in Buffalo. Whatever sort of regional sanity we still had a grasp on after losing our industry to outsourcing in the mid-1900s was shattered. In short, we all went nuts. My youth was defined by a city that elevated sports stars to regional savors. Pray to the altars of Jim Kelly, Thurman Thomas, Doug Flutie, Drew Bledsoe and Terrell Owens and we might wake up to find our population hadn’t halved since 1960 and our manufacturing jobs never cratered.

This belief is unspoken, irrational and, most of all, sad. So am I crazing for buying into it?

Reading an old magazine article about LeBron James leaving Cleveland recently left me fire up. The Whore of Akron. How could he do that? That city needed him. What else do they have?

Cleveland is Buffalo. Detroit is Buffalo. We’ll all figure out a way to reinvent ourselves sooner or later.

But in the meantime, we’ll keep clinging to our sports stars. It’s all we know.

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Sports make a lousy surrogate for city respect

BY REN LAFORME Staff Col umnist

I come from a land of snow and steel, a place whose culture is consumed by fried poultry by outsiders, and a place where football teams are elevated to symbols of regional loyalty.

I come from Buffalo, N.Y.

Being born to a small town near Buffalo in the late 1980s meant one thing—when Hank Williams Jr. asked if I was ready for some football I was sure as hell better say yes. The Buffalo Bills were in their heyday—four consecutive Super Bowl appearances were just over the horizon—and the city was frenzied. Red, white and blue zubaz pants covered thousands of legs and crew neck sweatshirts emblazoned with cartoonish helmets flew off the racks of the Bon-Ton.

For a moment in the early ‘90s, the city of Buffalo forgot it was still in decline. Then the Bills lost. Then they lost again, and again, and again. I think that’s when something broke in Buffalo. Whatever sort of regional sanity we still had a grasp on after losing our industry to outsourcing in the mid-1900s was shattered. In short, we all went nuts. My youth was defined by a city that elevated sports stars to regional savors. Pray to the altars of Jim Kelly, Thurman Thomas, Doug Flutie, Drew Bledsoe and Terrell Owens and we might wake up to find our population hadn’t halved since 1960 and our manufacturing jobs never cratered.

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Figuring Florida out with help of some fourth graders

BY JANE McINNIS Staff Col umnist

This year, the ‘Cities and the Environment’ resource institute shared a study revolving around urban students’ almost nonexistent schooling about local plants and insects.

But before students can get educated about their own backyards, their teachers have to.

The study sent 13 New York City public school teachers and five undergrad teaching assistants 50 miles north to a forest. It was a five-day workshop spent identifying flora and fauna with hopes to educate the teachers so they could educate their students.

“When teachers are unable to recognize the plants and animals in their own surroundings, threats to the environment and biodiversity will inevitably remain an abstraction to students,” the report reads.

A teacher’s response to the experience was included in the report, saying, “I’ve always been plagued by not being able to identify anything around me.”

I felt a crunching relation to this quote. While I earned to identify a stegosaurus from a brontosaurus in elementary school, I still don’t know the names of trees I grew up with. I might be able to name them. What about my house are called (or am I crazy)?

I found a booklet a 4th grader at Sunshine School 4th Grader Roberta Lamb’s booklet on Florida. Science (not a science space that is, a science education space) is belief is unspoken, irrational and, most of all, sad. So am I crazy for buying into it?

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Bulls can’t hold late lead; lose 27-25 in Louisville

By Samanta Ouimette
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

The South Florida Bulls came into their game against the No. 16 Louisville Cardinals well rested and ready to play, aware of their underdog status. USF took the lead late but would ultimately fall short 27-25 in Louisville, Ky.

Quarterback B.J. Daniels improved over his struggles the past few weeks. He threw for 189 yards and three touchdowns. Daniels couldn’t afford a wasted drive against the Big East’s top team, which walked in on Saturday averaging 32.4 points a game.

Cardinals QB Teddy Bridgewater displayed why he has earned the second best quarterback rating in the Big East by passing for 256 yards and pair of touchdowns.

The potent rushing attack of Senorise Perry and Jeremy Wright were held to just 56 total yards by the USF defense but both rushed for touchdowns in the first half. On the strength of those scores the Cardinals took a 14-3 lead into halftime.

At the start of the second half USF held Louisville to a three-and-out and tacked on a quick seven points. Daniels connected with Andre Davis for the first of his two scores on the afternoon.

Only up four points, the Cardinals responded quickly with a 21-yard touchdown to a wide-open Damien Copeland. The Cardinals were still ahead 21-10 and stopped inches short of the end zone.

Down 21-10 and stopped inches from pay dirt, the Bulls could have folded. Daniels, however, did the opposite. He connected with Sean Price to make the score 21-18. Then with 3:09 left in the ball game Davis caught his second touchdown to put the bulls up 25-21.

Then the clock struck 12. Louisville drove 75 yards and took the lead back on an 11-yard touchdown from Bridgewater to Eli Rogers. The Bulls would block the extra point but a game-ending interception by Daniels ended any chance at second last victory.

There is something to be said about an unranked team that holds its own against a BCS-ranked opponent. Though at the end of the day all that is remembered is that the Bulls lost. The story will remain the same after this close loss to a talented Louisville team.

USF will have to win at least four of the five remaining games left on the schedule if the team expects to qualify for a bowl game. The Bulls will try to right the ship on Saturday against Syracuse, but it is becoming increasingly clear that there will be no easy wins for this squad.

Making the best out of this disappointing season will require hard work and, perhaps most importantly, a change in the disenchanted mindset currently held by this frustrated team.

Memories from a National Championship

By Mike Hopey
Staff Columnist

I’ve lived in Florida for just about a year. In that time my girlfriend and I have built our home one piece of Swedish furniture at a time, except for one thing. We are completely devoid of bookshelves. Naturally, most of my stuff is still in plastic containers.

The other day I was rummaging through those things looking for something. It was obviously very important because I can instantly recall what it was. Whatever it was didn’t matter anymore when I picked up a little black puck buried in the unbeatens, and Rutgers jumped over Louisville in the standings and national spotlight.

Syracuse 40 UConn 10 The Orange got 251 passing yards and two touchdowns from Ryan Nassib, who also threw zero interceptions for only the second time this season. The Connecticut Huskies rushed for -6 yards as a team in the blowout loss.

Rutgers 35 Temple 10 Temple held a 10-0 halftime lead but the Rutgers Scarlet Knights stormed back with 35 unanswered points in the second half. Running back Jawan Jamison rushed for 114 yards and had another 81 yards, plus a touchdown.

The song they played on goals had a convenient break for the whole crowd to yell about Boston College and how much they sucked.

In the third period, when the band felt the team needed it most, they would start playing “Iron Man” by Black Sabbath. This prompted a large and hairy fan, not a student mind you, to take his shirt off and stomp down the aisle. All the while Sasquatch flashed on the yellow and black video screens. I like those memories. I don’t know if I’d venture to say they are the happiest of my life, but damn are they good. That little puck is special. That fact may dip in and out of my mind but since I was nine, that puck has never been more than 10 feet away from where I sleep.

I may be dating myself here but since I found it and started writing about it, that 1995 National Champs commemorative puck has sat on my coffee table. The other day I read a rough draft of this column to my girlfriend. She has since moved the puck to a spot in our apartment where we can always see it. I like to look at it and smile. It’s comforting to have it there—a memento worth treasuring down to my core.

I remember driving with my girlfriend. She has since moved on. I reread a rough draft of this column to my girlfriend. She has since moved the puck to a spot in our apartment where we can always see it. I like to look at it and smile. It’s comforting to have it there—a memento worth taking with you.

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Week 8 in the Big East provided some minor surprises. The Syracuse Orange managed to put up 40 points, Cincinnati fell from the unbeaten, and Rutgers jumped over Louisville in the standings and national spotlight.

Syracuse 40 UConn 10 The Orange led a 10-0 halftime lead but the Rutgers Scarlet Knights stormed back with 35 unanswered points in the second half. Running back Jawan Jamison rushed for 114 yards and had another 81 yards, plus a touchdown.

Rutgers 35 Temple 10 Temple held a 10-0 halftime lead but the Rutgers Scarlet Knights stormed back with 35 unanswered points in the second half. Running back Jawan Jamison rushed for 114 yards and had another 81 yards, plus a touchdown.

Toledo 29 Cincinnati 23 Cincinnati falls from the unbeaten ranks and out of the Top 25. The Bearcats had 478 yards of total offense but only lead Toledo for seven seconds in the third quarter. Munchie Legaux threw for a touchdown and rushed for another but also threw two interceptions in the loss.

Big East Standings (as of Oct. 21)

Pitt 20 Buffalo 6 The Buffaloes outgained the Pitt Panthers but couldn’t turn those yards into points. Kevin Harper kicked two field goals in the first quarter.

Rushel Strell and Ryan Graham both rushed for touchdowns in the win.

Cincinnati 20 Temple 10 Cincinnati falls from the unbeaten ranks and out of the Top 25. The Bearcats had 478 yards of total offense but only lead Toledo for seven seconds in the third quarter. Munchie Legaux threw for a touchdown and rushed for another but also threw two interceptions in the loss.

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USF 2-5 (0-3)

Cincinnati 5-1 (1-0)

Temple 3-3 (2-1)

Syracuse 3-4 (2-1)

Pitt 3-4 (0-3)

UConn 3-5 (0-3)

USF 2-5 (0-3)