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Further muddling a mystery: Student Government leaders resign

By Devin Rodriguez
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Six months after they mysteriously took leaves of absence, the president and vice president of Student Government have resigned.

Ziya Kardas, who was elected president last spring, did not announce her resignation, which first came up at a Student Government meeting on Jan. 30. A week later, vice president Gina Rotunno also resigned. In an email to the Student Government members, she said she had no interest in becoming president and would no longer be involved in government on the St. Petersburg campus.

Both resignations mean Student Government must now hold a special election for the two posts, but its constitution does not specify how or when the election should be held.

“We will be setting a lot of precedents with this election and we want to set those rules correctly,” said Laraine Ruiz, who as student senate president became acting Student Government president when Kardas went on leave in August.

“We want to close as many loopholes as possible.”

Student Government and its university adviser, Matt Morrin, the director of student life and engagement, never explained why the two leaders took leaves of absence in August.

An email to SG members on Aug. 11 said only that it was “a routine step pursuant through established university practices for reviewing certain university matters.”

The move apparently came after a dispute between Kardas and Rotunno that involved allegations of harassment.

“The university thoroughly investigated the harassment allegations and I was completely cleared,” Kardas told The Crow’s Nest in an email Saturday. He declined to offer further explanation.

Rotunno did not respond to an email from the newspaper, and Morrin again declined to discuss the matter.

The latest news is another blow for Student Government, which has struggled for relevance at a university where the vast majority of students live off campus and show little interest in student politics.

New green science labs to open in summer

By Savannah Gibbs
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Last summer the parking lot at the corner of Fourth Street S and Ninth Avenue was a Greyhound bus station.

Now, it’s a new science lab building that could be available to students as early as May.

The building, unofficially called the “Poynter Warehouse Labs,” is a reconstruction of the previous structure rather than a demolition. The 10,790 square foot structure holds four labs and two prep rooms.

The building will accommodate various science classes.

There’s a lab and a prep room for chemistry, two labs and a prep room for biology, and one multi-purpose lab.

The multi-purpose lab is fitted for both biology and physics studies. It has floor ports for every requirement for physics.

The reconstruction began last July after it was decided there was a need for more labs and there happened to be a nearby empty Greyhound station to adapt. Because it was only a reconstruction, it helped keep the cost down. Where a complete demolition and rebuild would have cost roughly $5.5 million, remodeling the existing structure cost roughly $3.5 million instead.

Ed Lewis, the project coordinator for USFSP Facilities Planning, called the choice to reconstruct rather than rebuild, “pure, ethical, and environmentally responsible.”

“The big focus on making sure this building is to the highest environmental standards. There’s a lot of talk of it getting a LEED Platinum certificate, a first for a USF building.

The LEED rating system offers four certification levels for new construction — Certified, Silver,
The inevitable red hearts, cards and candy flood shelves as early as New Year’s. Grocery and convenience stores fill up with pink and red decorations, attempting to make even the most bitter soul smile.

The holiday has been around for what seems like forever. Really, it’s only been around since the 14th century, but who’s counting? It can be an especially polarizing day — some think it’s sweet and love the chance to celebrate, while others find themselves more on the lonely side and less drawn to the day. Valentine’s Day has always been about romantic celebration but it seems that it’s been changing in recent years. USF St. Petersburg students share diverse viewpoints on the holiday. Stefan Naranjo, a junior psychology major, said that he sees the change in the holiday. “There are definitely some aspects that are more for friends, like with ‘Parks and Rec’ and Galentine’s Day,” Naranjo said.

Galentine’s Day is a holiday from the show “Parks and Recreation.” Amy Poehler’s character created the idea for female friends to spend time together and support each other on Feb. 13. That episode aired in 2010 and has become increasingly popular since. Some USF students read solace in the days leading up to Valentine’s. “If you have a group of friends you can’t be that lonely,” Naranjo said.

Melissa LaQuire is a freshman biochemistry major who agrees that the occasion is about more than romance. “For me, Valentine’s Day is about celebrating relationships in general,” she said. LaQuire will exchange candy with her family and spend time with them on Tuesday. For some, like LaQuire, it is a low key day, but for others such as Jordan Caswell, an environmental science and policy major, there are traditions that come along with it. “My family is really small. It’s just my mom and I are each other’s Valentine’s,” Caswell said. “I do think it is a corporate holiday but it’s still nice.”

Caswell and her mother pick their favorite movie of the year before the occasion, and then she even retrieves the mov- ie that will lead the other to their gift. This year they chose M. Night Shyamalan’s “Split,” which premiered in January. For Michael Medade, a junior English major, it’s the time to demonstrate how you’re feeling. He plans on watching “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” later that night, but earlier he’ll give a gift. “It’s good to show someone you’re thinking of them without being lovey dovey, but I still want to take that risk and see that reaction,” Medade said. “I think it’s a risk worth taking.”

Robert Edmiston, a senior in the marine biology department, has never liked Valentine’s Day. His birthday falls on Feb. 13 and has always found it annoying that they are so close together. He also has another problem with the sentiment. “It’s one day that you’re supposed to love everyone, but that really should be everyday,” Edmiston said.

Whether you’re exited about Valentine’s Day or not, you should treat yo’self.

The request centers around USFSP’s support for the Board of Governors Health Initiative. The request centers around increasing the staffing levels of State University System Counseling Centers. Dinner is held at The Governors Club. USFSP students are quick to talk about their day. Gabby Thornton, a senior environmental science and policy major, is thankful for the trip but sees some shortcomings. “I don’t think it’s fair to us to push an agenda without any student input,” she says. She is quick to note that “faculty really value students at our campus” but that it would have been nice to have more open talking points. While the representatives were respectful, they didn’t seem overly interested.

“They cared about us as kids and as students, but not the agenda or the ideas we were pushing. They kept asking the questions about us,” she says. The bus leaves at 8 p.m. I mistakenly get on a bus headed for Tampa before a nice lady steers me in the right direction, Back in my seat I’m joined by Juan Salazar, 21, who is a senior psychology student. “I really love being able to lobby on behalf of our campus,” he says, setting his stuff down. “It was great being able to meet other people and being able to connect all of the campuses and unite them towards one common goal.”

“I don’t think this situation would happen again in the next 10 years, but if it does we need to be prepared,” Gherman said. This process comes at a prob-lematic time for Student Gov- ernment, as the president and chief financial officer will need to begin the process of creating a S&G committee, one of the government’s largest responsi-bilities. Even when elected, the next Student Government pres- ident would get a say in their position for a short time until the next presidential election begins in May.

Applications for the next sen- atory general election should be announced Monday, Feb. 13.
Students perform in honor of Black History Month

Gold and Platinum — that correspond to the number of credits accrued in five green design categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources and indoor environmental quality.

The new roof is highly insulated, as are the walls which are going to be really lab friendly. I think once the labs hold 18 students each.

New Science Labs (Continued from PI)

square feet of space that will likely be turned into offices for the professors teaching in the labs.

The building is expected to be completed and open by March.

By Timothy Fanning

T he USFSP Gospel Choir sang “Wade in the Water,” a popular spiritual, while dancers who performed to “I Feel Good” by James Brown.

New Science Labs:

like pink or light blue. They will cover the four main walls between the classroom doors to activate the space between the hallway and the learning environment.

Gelman and abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Cadin Small, a junior psychology major, who danced in the event said, “My favorite part was preparing for it. We prepared for about a month and learned the dance routine in a couple of days. That was the easy part.”

The showcase featured artistic contributions by The Herd Step, Verse, The Black Student Association and the South Florida All Stars.

The student actors included spoken word artists and dancers who performed pieces meant to illustrate the history and contribution of Blacks in America.

The highlight of the night came from a collaboration stamp from USFSP Herd Step Team and South Florida All Stars to “I Feel Good” by James Brown.

This was the first time in the two years of the Black History Showcase that multiple organizations worked together to perform routines.

“I really liked how all the groups performed together this year,” said Chiana Hamilton, a senior education major. “It made everything flow better.”

Multicultural Affairs hosts a monthly “Real Talk” discussion series where students, faculty and staff join together to discuss diverse topics and issues that affect our society and world view. From 5-6 p.m. on Feb. 14, the issue at hand will be “Me Generation,” a topic that discusses millennial entitlement and how technology affects the world today.

March 1 is the kick off for Women’s History Month hosted by Multicultural Affairs in the MSC Atrium from 12-2 p.m.

Science Labs:

A new science building is near completion. Originally the building was an old Greyhound bus station, but the school has purchased the property and reconstructed it with green energy in mind.

There will also be eight parking spaces equipped with charging stations for hybrid and electric cars on the south ern side of the parking lot closest to the Lynn Pippenger Hall. The rest will be Green parking spaces.

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The new roof is highly insulated, as are the walls which are going to be really lab friendly. I think once the labs hold 18 students each.

The chemistry classroom has been updated, added to and expanded. “It looked [like] a dump, rather flakes of snow. There was a lot of complex equipment we worked with and it was fun to adapt the space to work properly. I think once the students get into the chemistry labs, they are going to be really impressed. It’s a neat set up,” said Chris Brown, one of DPR’s construction superintendents.

There will also be eight parking spaces equipped with charging stations for hybrid and electric cars on the southern side of the parking lot near the north building entrance.

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The beer overall was aesthetic found within wheat malt, result of the high protein content. Despite the hazy, soda-like perked with grapefruit juice. orange soda and pure, untamed murky orange liquid.

The album begins with an intro called “Dopamine Lit.” The track sounds like a mix between a shrill Chicago rap beat and Beyoncé’s “Formation.” It begins with a non-sense string of popular words that other rappers love to use, which seemingly sets the tone for a total in-check style album that Lupe has executed so well in the past. It doesn’t.

The next three tracks, “NGL,” “Promise” and “Made in the U.S.A.”, diverge from the smoking style of “Dopamine Lit.” Instead, they all sound like heart-taught attempts at the trap music he was just poking fun at.

Lupe returns to his signature narrative-telling track with “Jump,” albeit a sci-fi one. The song details an encounter with a female gangbanger who enlists Lupe’s help to write raps and become a star. Somehow the two wind up abducted by aliens in space. Despite the spacey plot, it’s one of

The interlude is somehow the best song on the record, as long as you can stand the squeaky, auto-tuned voice of Simon Sayz. The track, titled “High,” is the only time Lupe’s lyrical excellence truly shines as he raps about his passion for his mother.

Lupe’s lyrical excellence truly shines as he raps about his passion for his mother. The album’s kicker is a song devoted to the importance of loving your mother, “More Than My Heart.” Lupe runs through a ton of reasons to love your mama no matter what, but it’s not catchy and doesn’t mesh with the rest of the album. Overall, the album lacks clarity and focus. His excuse for all of this is that, as an artist, he doesn’t have to be a hipster or some sort of beer connoisseur to enjoy this brew. If you like grapefruit juice or are into citrusy drinks at all, then this is the beer for you. Realistically, you don’t have to be a hipster or some sort of beer connoisseur to enjoy this brew. If you like grapefruit juice or are into citrusy drinks at all, then this is the beer for you.
Review: “Come & Gone,” but not forgotten

By Whitney Elfstrom
welfstrom@mail.usf.edu

The moment Calvin M. Thompson fell to the ground in a fit of convulsion, I knew that “Jo Turner’s Ballad” was going to be one of the most powerful moments of the entire production. Patrons sat on the edge of their seats as they hung on to every word in the tenth and final installment of the August Wilson Century Cycles Series.

Set in 1911 Pittsburgh, “Jo Turner’s Come and Gone” by August Wilson follows the lives of Seth and Bertha Holl, played by Kim Sullivan and Fanni Green respectively. They are an African-American couple who run a boarding house. From the moment Sullivan and Green appear on stage, their chemistry is electrifying. Their witty conversation and empowering reality that finding love in one’s own neighborhood was promised to show him that a person’s journey is not that simple.

Trenton’s story revolves around his character’s journey to heartbreak and sorrow. During the final scene of the play Bertha realizes Mattie’s struggle with the loss of her boyfriend and friend, and she in turn helps the woman through the wonders of the world.

(Al)“You need in the world is love and laughter.” Bertha said, “That’s all anybody needs. To have love in one hand and laughter in the other.”

The Crow’s Nest rates plays between one and five stars, with five stars being the highest possible score.

The play is threaded with little moments of hope where characters are encouraged to become their own person, even if that means leaving behind everything they once knew.

Calvin M. Thompson is enchanting in his portrayal of Earl Loomis. From the moment he walks on stage his presence is marked by a darkness and heartbreak that radiates into the viewer’s heart. Thompson manages to balance his cold and hard manner with his sensitive and overpowering love for his daughter, Zonia Loomis, played by Bianca Rivera-iron. The stories portrayed throughout the play convey that a person’s journey is not a straight line from point A to point B, but rather one filled with complex moments that shape who a person is.

Herald Loomis must find a way to exist in the world where his heart has been ripped out and his song has been stolen. Jeremy Furlow, originally a southern man, must come to terms with the prejudices that follow young black men in society regardless of location. Bynum Walker lives each day in search of a mysterious man who uses his relationship with women to justify her existence.

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The play is threaded with little moments of hope where characters are encouraged to become their own person, even if that means leaving behind everything they once knew.
If you hate success, follow your passion
and easy fulfillment in life, so long as they take that first step. It forces you into a headspace of grand story arc, and you’re the protagonist whose bold risks lead to a happily ever after. To make it all that much worse, we’re often fed this farce in our gullible, misguided diets. The problem doesn’t come with what is being said, but instead the truth behind the lie. The largest tarantula species can grow to a foot long, and how important it is to follow your passion. The former likely stuck with me due to a crumbling arachnophobia, but I actively chose to hold on to the latter. To a kid with a borderline obsessive interest in dance and music, being told that passion and a little elbow grease is all it takes for success is incredibly reassuring. From where that wannabe dancer/musician sits now, hindsight reveals two things. Spiders are still terrifying, and following your passion is altogether terrible advice. That’s not to say that following your passion isn’t a tempting path. The little germ of advice draws for it’s recipient a vivid fantasy of cheap and easy success. So how do you respond? Practice.

By Luke Cross
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Crazy.

Crazy. Whenever there’s an outrageous party, a bizarre movie in theaters or some strange coincidence, this is the word people use to express their feelings. This seemingly innocuous word is never censored on television and is used daily by people all the time. It is used for a multitude of reasons, from describing one’s hectic class schedule to bragging about the number of tequila shots they took the other night. The term “crazy” originated in the late 16th century and was defined as “diseased or sickly.” Soon, “crazy” was associated with those who had mental illnesses and the word became a slur for them as if the treatment of the mentally ill wasn’t bad enough throughout history. Crude attempts to “treat” mental illness date back to early as 5000 B.C. People back then believed that mental illness was the result of supernatural phenomena, including but not limited to demonic possession. In one of the treatments, called “trephining,” a hole was chipped into the skull using primitive stone instruments so that evil spirit could leave the body. Many other methods were used to “heal” the mentally ill, such as exorcisms, innaculations, prayer abstinence, threats, bribery or punishment. The treatment of mentally ill women was often worse than it was for men. The cause of “hysteria” in women was often described to be a “wandering uterus.” In order to lure the uterus back to its original position, healers in Ancient Greece and Egypt utilized vaginal fumigation, where water mixed with herbs was boiled in a vessel with a long tube protruding from it, and the steam was pumped into the vagina to cure their “craziness.” Though the treatment of the mentally ill wasn’t as bad in the 21st century as it has been in years past, sentiments from those eras are echoed in the use of the word “crazy” to describe mentally ill people, especially women. Let’s face it: Women are called crazy far more often than men. The word today is typically reserved for women’s behavior, usually when they’re upset about something men don’t want them to be upset about. It’s used to describe ex-girlfriends everywhere, regardless of whether they were mentally ill. It’s used to describe female romantic partners when they are being “irrational,” “wrong” or “insane.” It’s used to describe Taylor Swift every time she releases a new album.

By Summer Muhar
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Ask yourself. Who are you calling “crazy?”

The Crow's Nest is committed to providing its readers with news relevant to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and its surrounding community. The Crow's Nest adheres to the highest ethical standards and focuses on stories that help readers make informed decisions on current issues. We are a student-run newspaper, and our student reporters do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or student body.

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The Crow’s Nest accepts letters to the editor. All submissions should be no more than 250 words. Writers must include their full name. In addition, USF faculty should include their title, department and extension. All letters are subject to editing for clarity and length.

COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

OPINION

COURTESY OF CREATIVE COMMONS

Headache: Trephining (pictured above) was used when someone was behaving abnormally. The hole created was supposed to release the evil spirit in their head.
The Crows Nest accepts letters to the editor. All submissions should be no more than 250 words. Writers must include their full name. In addition, USF faculty should include their title, department and extension. All letters are subject to editing for clarity and length. Letters can be sent to drodriguez7@mail.usf.edu with subject title “letter to the editor.”

We’d Love to Hear from You

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Instructions: Cut these out and glue them on to index cards to give to your Valentine!

We Beelong together

I love you from my head tomatoes

Our Love is So Right!

I only have Eyes for you

We’re a perfect match

You light up my life

You make me horny

I find you quite a-peeling