2-23-2014

Crow's Nest : 2014 : 02 : 23

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Students push for commencement venue change

BY KRISTAL BLAIS
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Lorenza Navarro, a 23-year-old psychology major, started an online petition asking USF St. Petersburg to move the graduation commencement to a larger venue, citing Tropicana Field as one possibility. The petition, created on Feb. 13, has gained 341 signatures so far.

Each graduating USFSP student receives five tickets to the ceremony at the Mahaffey Theater. For those with big families, five tickets isn’t enough.

Mahaffey Theater holds 2,030 seats. More than 400 students received degrees last semester, and about 250 students walked at the fall ceremony, including graduates and undergraduates.

Spring ceremonies typically have about 100 more students who walk, according to Yoli Lanuza, the university’s commencement coordinator and executive administration assistant for Academic Affairs.

Many students expressed their extreme disappointment with the graduation venue saying five tickets are not enough to accommodate everyone they want to bring. According to Lanuza, the administration understands the student population is growing, but nothing has been decided yet.

The movement began as a Facebook post on the USFSP Know-It-All’s Guide.

“I think I’ve asked this before, but seriously why isn’t our graduation held at Tropicana Field where students would have the ability to invite their whole family? Can I start a petition for this?” Navarro posted on Feb. 12.

With many students responding, she quickly returned with a link to her petition.

“I remember learning about this issue during my first year on campus. I saw students posting on Facebook, offering to sell their unneeded tickets to the highest bidder. I couldn’t believe it.

Student voice leads debate topics

BY JENNIFER NESSLAR
Staff Reporter

Five candidates, in the most contested USFSP presidential election yet, discussed the role of the student body president at a debate on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

Cody Boyer thinks the president sets a good example. Sophia Constantine said the president should go to administration to advocate for the students. Steven Bird believes the president represents the students for what they want. Taylor Hanson said the president should do what the student body thinks is best for themselves. Thomas Boyd believes the president should serve the students in an efficient and financially responsible way.

The candidates come from different places. Some, such as Constantine, are established leaders with Student Government. Others, like Boyd, have experience with campus communications. Some spend their time playing video games in the Cove. Two teams have no previous SG experience.

The debate questions centered around serving the students. Topics included free printing, library hours, Sodexo, response to student interests and sustainable initiatives.

When asked how she would increase operational hours of the library, Constantine referred to the relationships she and her running mate Franklin Alves have with administration. The morning of the debate, Alves met with library dean Carol Hixson to discuss their idea for a calculator checkout program. She said they would work directly with Hixson to change hours.

Bird then took the podium and rebutted Constantine. “I think the first step throughout opening this channel is actually talking to the students first,” he said, adding it was important to see if there was actually a need before going to the administration.

Hanson said the student-driven Facebook forum, the USFSP Know-It-All’s Guide, influenced him to run. Despite the chaos of the page, students raise good points and are often told to join Senate, he explained.

“I don’t think joining the Senate is the ideal way to have to get your opinion out there,” he said, causing a stir from the section where several SG members were seated.

Boyd thinks SG can do a better job of listening to students. If elected, he said he plans to ask his senators to go out on campus and talk to students for at least an hour per day.

As a transfer student from USF Tampa, Boyer saw how free printing worked at a larger campus. After swapping their IDs, each student was allowed up to 22 pages. After that, each page cost 10 cents. After pausing, he concluded, “We can get you guys free printing.”

Bird doesn’t want to limit free printing to one room. He thinks kiosks for students to swipe their ID all around campus would be helpful.

Regarding Sodexo, USFSP’s contracted food supplier, Constantine believes she and Alves have connections from previously being on staff with them. She pointed to her work in extending the Reef hours during the fall. “If someone can work with them, it is going to be Franklin and myself.”

Hanson had different thoughts on Sodexo from his experience with living in the dorms.

See PRESIDENTIAL, p. 3

SG votes to expand Student Life Center

BY MEGHAN HARUDA
Staff Reporter

A majority vote from the Student Government Senate on Wednesday, Feb. 19, supported a bill that will put the Student Life Center through another period of renovation.

The legislation, proposed by Sophia Constantine, chair of SG legislative affairs, calls for an SLC expansion to provide students with a comprehensive student space -- what was intended for the University Student Center at its conception.

Davis 107, which housed the old Davis Lounge, gave students a space of their own. Last spring, it closed for renovation, reopening as the Student Success Center.

The SLC has a student lounge, equipped with a pool table, arcade games and a piano, but Constantine said her expansion bill, cosponsored by four other Senate members, will create an “effective and open” haunt for students, a true student life building.

“We really need an all-encompassing student space … We want to have the spaces that the USC didn’t have that we were expecting,” Constantine said.

… In a story published in fall 2012 titled “USC bait and switch,” The Crow’s Nest reported that the campus master plan was changed by the Board of Trustees in 2009. The USC would be combined with a future housing expansion, and the student services portion of the new building would be mixed.

Kent Kelso, the former regional vice chancellor of student affairs, said removing student services and organizations from the student center was an economic reality. He said the university would be turning away students without housing and could not manage an influx of new resident students without an expansion of services, dining and health specifically.

So, the activity and service fee-funded building manifested. According to the article, “a University Student Center fundamentally different than the student union [students] had agreed to support.”

Constantine said the 26-member Senate was unanimous in its decision.

SG’s budget for the 2013-14 academic year was determined on June 25, 2013, and $100,000 was dedicated to the SLC expansion during that time.

Out of the $1.2 million available to be spent, Constantine’s bill secured a maximum of $500,000 for the SLC, which includes the $100,000 initially set aside.

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News Briefs

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Thinking about what to do when you graduate? The 2014 Job & Internship Fair, hosted by the Career Center, can assist you in your job hunt. Bring your student ID or an official resume with USF listed as your education. Professional dress required. Don't have anything to wear? Visit the Career Center during its Career Now hours (Monday through Thursday, noon to 5 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. to noon) and borrow an outfit from the Career Closet. The fair takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the University Student Center Ballroom.

Thursday, Feb. 27

Do you think your art work is worthy of a place in the Cove, the student lounge in the USC? If so, submit your art by 5 p.m. Bring hard copies of your art to the front of the USC, and submit all digital work to Dustin Pankow at dpankow@usfsp.edu. Physical submissions must be vertical, 24 inches wide and 36 inches high. Digital submissions must have a resolution of 330 ppi. The USC will cover printing and framing costs of the winners.

Join the Harborside Activities Board for a showing of “The Butler,” the story of a White House butler, Eugene Allen, who served there for 30 years. During his time in the White House, Allen witnessed social change throughout eight presidencies. The movie chronicles how this social change affected American society, and in turn, Allen’s family. The show begins at 8 p.m. in the USC ballroom.

Ready to strut your stuff? Housing and Residential Life is seeking models and other volunteers for its Second Annual Benefit-A-Bull Fashion Show. If interested, you must attend a meeting on Monday, Feb. 24, at 1 p.m., or Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m. The fashion show will be held Thursday, April 3. In its first year last spring, proceeds benefited CASA, a local organization working to end domestic violence and aid survivors.

Design students 1st in foreign exchange

By Matt Thomas
Staff Reporter

During her first day in Belgium, Carmela Zabala, a senior honors student in the graphic design program, waited outside a train station. The person coming to pick her up was running late, and she was surrounded by non-English speakers.

Months before, she and senior Maria Cuahutle were selected to participate in the first-ever student exchange program at USF St. Petersburg. The exchange was between the USFSP graphic design program and the École Supérieure des Arts Saint-Luc de Liège art school in Belgium.

Planning began in 2011, when Erika Greenberg-Schneider, a USFSP visiting graphic design instructor, spoke at an event in Liège, Belgium. Greenberg-Schneider saw a professor she knew and asked if the arts school was interested in forming a student exchange program with USF.

With support from the College of Arts and Sciences, Greenberg-Schneider planned everything. USFSP sent two students to Belgium last semester and brought one student, Laurent Baarslag, overseas this semester. It took years to finalize.

As a student, Zabala said the balance plans were "up in the air." Cuahutle first heard about the proposed trip during her freshman year. When it came up again, five students showed interest. Conflicting priorities caused three students to cancel their applications, leaving Zabala and Cuahutle as the remaining candidates. Last spring, the students showcased their portfolios and wrote essays expressing their interest. Then, they traveled to Belgium for the fall semester.

Zabala found the person she was waiting for after 20 minutes. Initially, she froze on her French, though she speaks the language. She and Cuahutle experienced culture shock during the first couple of months. Zabala had a rough time communicating her thoughts as well as she would have liked to.

Cuahutle was better at understanding French than speaking it. This made understanding certain homework assignments difficult. "There was a very big communication barrier for the first month because conversational French is a lot different from what you learn in class," Zabala said.

Cuahutle and Zabala stayed in different houses and connected with their hosts. They both enjoyed the independent lifestyle Belgium encouraged, which allowed them to visit other cities and countries. The transportation system allowed them to travel inexpensively. Both made use of a 10-trip pass that cost 50 euros, which translates to less than $70.

Zabala realized her semester trip, which cost roughly $4,000, costs less than it would have to live in Residence Hall One with the cheapest housing and meal plan options.

She and Cuahutle agreed the graphic design program in Belgium was quite different than the USFSP program. While USFSP’s is digitally focused, with more skills being taught at once, Saint-Luc’s takes a more lax approach focused on fundamental skills, theories and ethics.

This semester Baarslag is in St. Petersburg staying with students in the graphic design program.

"The first week was very intense because I had to do a lot of paperwork for the exchange program. At the beginning, it wasn’t very easy because I had to get my bearings for the class and the system of teaching," Baarslag said, adding that his classmates and Greenberg-Schneider made the transition into a different culture easier.

Greenberg-Schneider said she was happy to send two strong students over to Belgium and thinks Baarslag is perfect here. She is willing to do it again for anyone in the graphic design program.

USFSP-Mahaffey relationship is strong

Continued from front page

"I knew immediately that five tickets wouldn’t be enough when my boyfriend’s family and friends who are in the same situation, or will be in a few semesters, realized this issue affected a huge percentage of our student body."

"I also knew that my family, my boyfriend’s family and friends who are in the same situation, or will be in a few semesters, realized this issue affected a huge percentage of our student body," Malec said.

Angela Blockburger, 25, also a psychology major graduating this year, experienced her own conflict involving attending graduation ceremonies at either venue. She and Cuahutle agreed the Mahaffey could be considered the largest venue in the closest proximity to campus, and the nicest. The Mahaffey could be considered the largest venue in the closest proximity to campus, and the nicest.

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Green energy on table at next election

By Amanda Starling
Staff Reporter

The table at the Student Green Energy Fund committee is filled with faculty, staff and students. Each member can have a bi-monthly meeting leaves with a task: research a new sustainability concept. It’s all in preparation for the next generation of SGEF student committee members.

“We’re the people who take the students’ ideas and empower them with the funding and our ability to cut through red tape,” said Michael Leggett, chair of SGEF. “If a student has an idea that makes the campus more sustainable, we give them funding and have them present to us.”

SGEF is up for a vote with the upcoming student body elections, which will determine if the $1 per credit hour tuition-based fees will continue being collected for the fund. Students will have the option to vote in favor of or against the fee on the same ballot as the Student Government presidential and senatorial elections.

Since fall 2011, SGEF has laid the foundation for a new generation of committee members and student input.

The committee hears sustainable projects proposed by students and implements according to the amount of money accrued each semester. Since the start of 2011, SGEF has collected more than $300,000 in student green fees.

A student green energy fund exists at a few other Florida universities, such as the University of Florida and New College of Florida. A small group of students pushed the concept of a green fund to the Board of Trustees, who also approved, and then to the Board of Governors for the state. Other universities, such as Florida State, have failed to maintain a green fund. Local private colleges, including Eckerd College and the University of Tampa, have sought meetings with USFSP’s SGEF to get information about its success.

“We really went beyond what would normally be pushed in order for the committee to stay effective long term,” said Daniel McGarigal, senior media officer. “It makes the university unique and it allows the students to make a big impact with some of their tuition dollars. You don’t usually have the opportunity to make things different, make a change, learn a process.”

According to Leggett, communication with the facilities department and faculty secures the committee’s ability to get things done. Leggett asked facilities what the school could do to be more sustainable and coordinated projects to match. When the Board of Governors approved SGEF, Leggett made a presentation in front of USFSP administration, which secured a consistent flow of information between the committee and the regional chancellor.

“The leadership team backed us 100 percent,” Leggett said.

The money accumulated by SGEF cannot be touched by any other university entity and does not roll over to reserves or other accounts, unlike other university fees.

SGEF collaborates with students to develop and present project ideas before the committee. Proposals are collected in the middle of each semester, primarily from students. The presenter must perform research with contractors, prove how the idea promotes sustainability and share the idea in front of the committee. When ideas don’t make it through the committee vote, members of the committee mentor the presenters to strengthen their ideas.

“If others say ‘no,’ I tell students to stand by and that I’ll take care of it. If we approve your project, we’re going to make that happen,” Leggett said.

Projects over the past three years include solar-powered electronic device charging stations, energy efficient cardio equipment in the Fitness Center, a Chevrolet hybrid truck for the Waterfront, water bottle refilling stations, outdoor recycling bins and placing LED lights throughout the parking garage. Before graduating, senior committee members want to ensure incoming members have accomplishments.

“We’re trying to finish setting that foundation,” said Leggett. The committee meets twice a month, establishing tasks and building relationships with green clubs and organizations on campus, such as the Student Environmental Awareness Society and the Gardening Club.

“We’re all growing with all of the other environmental groups on campus,” Leggett said.

The buzz over SGEF and a recommendation from the SG director of sustainable initiatives brought Alyssa Winston to the committee.

“The best part of SGEF to me is definitely that it is mostly student run and driven,” Winston said. “It is amazing that so much money, and so many big decisions are left up to the students, who know what other students actually do want.”

Winston is a part of the next generation of SGEF committee members. She envisions more students aware of their ability to get involved in projects and sees the incentives of their involvement.

“SGEF gives students the opportunity to lead the community,” Leggett said. “We really have the opportunity to rewrite the identity of USF St. Pete.”

Want to stay green? The Student Green Energy Fund is up for re-vote to renew its three-year cycle. The vote for SGEF is on the same ballot as the Student Government elections, which takes place Feb. 24 at 8 a.m. through Feb. 27 at 5 p.m.

Students in favor of larger lounge space

In the bill, it notes that USFSP Director of Facilities Services John Leggett recognized there are “major facility improvements that must be addressed to assure basic operations of the SLC.” To clarify, The Crow’s Nest contacted Dickson and Student Body President Mark Lombardi-Nelson, who worked with Constantine to create the expansion bill, but did not hear back.

The bill will fund the new student lounge, which involves expanding the outside rotunda of the SLC to become enclosed, equipment for the lounge based off SGS collection of student feedback and a design that updates the existing lounge. However, the expansion is not limited to these changes.

Constantine said spaces already established in the SLC have potential to grow, and the current lounge area could be renovated in many ways.

“It could become Multicultural Affairs’ entire center,” she said. “It could become a 24-hour quiet study room or nap room.”

How the space will be renovated depends on the input the ad hoc committee, temporarily formed to collaborate with the building designer, gathers from students.

Composed of two resident students, two commuters and two SG members, the committee and designer will obtain ideas and specifics on what students want incorporated into the SLC.

Before the bill passed, Constantine said she was garnering responses from students. She said they were in favor of a lounge space and showed interest in a community kitchen. The kitchen, for example, would cater to everyone: commuters, those with extra time in between classes and students living in the SLC who do not have access to a kitchen.

“The ad hoc committee will be assembled by Lombardi-Nelson and Franklin Alves, the Senate president. Constantine said the two will market committee participation to students, allowing them to speak up if they wish to get involved.

The committee ensures the $1,000,000, which is comprised of activity and service fees, will reflect what students envision for the SLC, according to Constantine. She said one way this project is different from the USC is that the process of gathering student opinion will be more facilitated.

Once the ad hoc committee emerges, it will meet with the designer and build plans until the end of the semester. Construction on the SLC will happen over the summer and is expected to be completed by the beginning of fall. Set to end by mid-March, the construction along Sixth Avenue S. should not interfere with the expansion.

Presidential voting takes place this week

“We pretty much all hate it,” he said. He said he wants to make clear push against them.

In the vice president debate, Alex Burch, Boyd’s running partner, discussed Sodexo when talking about his platform.

“Yes. Sodexo sucks. We’re sorry,” she said. Acknowledging the university’s five-year contract with Sodexo, she said it wasn’t going away. She hopes to involve more organic and local food on campus.

Vice president candidates bounced ideas for SG communication with PeteSync, goals for the vice president seat and improve-ments for student life. Calculator checkouts, improving the com-muter experience and usage of Facebook were discussed among candidates as new ideas for the student body.

“We’re here for you guys, and we want you guys to have a successful time at USF St. Petersburg,” said Alves, in his closing statement.

At the end of the debate, Gonzales turned to Tift. “I just wanted to say, kudos to you.” She turned to the crowd. “They’re not a part of Student Government. They’re just a part of the crowd. They want to be here. They want to have a voice.”

Like Tift and Hanson, Boyd and Burch also lack SG experience. But Boyd told The Crow’s Nest he thought the debate was “mashing.”

“Our main goal was to dispel any rumors that we were a joke campaign,” he said.

“We’re not just running around with dinosaurs,” Burch added.

VOTE! Student body election polls are open now through Feb. 27. Vote on Orgsync.com or in the USC Regatta Room.
Local musician John Gold talks new album

BY ANGELINA BRUNO  CROW'S NEXT CORRESPONDENT

John Gold, a local musician from Land O' Lakes, recently released his fifth album, Arthur Unknown. The album was written during a two-year period, then recorded, mixed, matched and self-produced in Gold's home. He labels his genre as experimental, but it could be called indie-folk. The Crow's Nest spoke with Gold recently about his musical endeavors.

The Crow's Nest: How long did it take you to create Arthur Unknown?
JG: It's divided into two halves, and they are recorded one year apart. The first half is detailing one life that I lived and in between it a bunch of reality-changing events happened, and I started to refind myself into the person I am today.

CN: What is this album about?
JG: I hit rock bottom. I started to come up, and I started to align myself with more positive ways of thinking. From one side to the other, it's the journey of me being this one individual, who I would consider to be a very evil person, into quite a better person.

This album is me trying to demonstrate the death of one thing to allow the birth of another, letting go of certain things to allow room for other things to grow.

CN: What is the title, Arthur Unknown, in reference to?
JG: It's in reference to Arthur, which is the Germanic name for the bear, the great bear. Urs Major and Urs Minor is invisible to the naked eye, and that's called the Great Mystery, therefore the "unknown.

The [acronym] AU, is the chemical symbol for Gold, which is my last name.

CN: Did you play all the instruments on the album or were there other musicians?
JG: I told some of my friends to tell me about their most life changing experiences and some of those made it onto the album. So, other than people narrating and one drum part, I performed all of the instruments on the album. I recorded it, mixed, matched and produced it myself and at my house.

CN: What has been the response to this album?
JG: I went out on a four-month tour, and I talked to [people] about what was going on in their lives, what aids them. I've had people tell me directly that conversing with them has helped them see the world in a different way, so I think that's the real response to this album.

CN: What did you learn on your recent nationwide tour?
JG: I learned that I love myself a lot more than I thought I did. It was a great opportunity for me to live by my own set of rules. I became a lot more fearless.

CN: What are your inspirations?
JG: My main inspiration is the King James Version of the Bible and the Greek and Hebrew transcriptions. I think that as far as moral constructs, it is second to none. Other than that I'm really inspired by people. People who want better things for their lives, people who have literally been at the bottom and decided to make themselves better over time.

CN: What instruments do you play?
JG: Guitar, bass, banjo, piano, ukulele, drums. Anything I can get my hands on really.

CN: Would you rather play in smaller or larger venues?
JG: I'd rather play in larger venues, not that I can get booked at them yet.

CN: When did you write your first song?
JG: The first song I wrote was when I was 7 or 8 years old, and it was when I was taking piano lessons, and it was kind of an idea for a film soundtrack. I was into really campy horror movies and I still am. Then I ended up putting it in a song called "Drumroll Please," the melody from it, when I was 18.

CN: When was your first performance?
JG: The first time I ever performed was at a birthday party. I heard someone perform with just an acoustic guitar, and I thought to myself, "Well why didn't I think of that?" I never thought of being a single performer. It was almost like culture shock for me. I asked the person if I could play after them, and I had a whole set written I had just never performed. It was awesome luck. Actually it was more than luck. It was totally meant for me to play that night.

CN: What is performing like for you?
JG: Playing music for me is like speaking to individual people. When I play I really feed off individuals, not the group as a whole, but one person or another, and that helps me to determine how to play. It's almost an accelerant for it.

CN: How do you deal with rejection in a musical, professional sense?
JG: I've written a record label every day for the past three months, and I've only gotten one response from Canine Records. They wrote me back and said they didn't want me . . . I don't deal with it. I just understand that what I am is what I am.

I'm not surprised that people don't generally understand my music because, in a sense, I'm writing a lot about things that people don't typically go through, until at which time they do go through it. My newest record is less relatable than my other albums.

CN: Is there anything else you think people need to know?
JG: Just be you. Just live your life and don't try to live so that other people will see how good you're doing. And if you ever see anyone who needs your help, reach down and give them help. It's a matter of doing what's right.

Local musician John Gold talks new album
Review: Antonio Adolfo at Jazz Fest

By Ryan Ballogg
Staff Reporter

The thing about jazz: As the crowd filed in for the headline event of the St. Petersburg Jazz Festival on Saturday night, more heads were gray than not. The room was full, but not packed.

In his opening words, David Manson, the director and founder of the festival, said, "It's a sign of the times. A lot of people don't have the interest in sitting and concentrating on something like jazz anymore. But I think there will always be a niche of people who keep coming back."

The size or age of the crowd did not diminish the excitement of what happened next, however. Renowned Brazilian pianist Antonio Adolfo strolled out, alone at first, sat down and played an enthralling solo piece on the piano. As his fingers pressed out the last chord of the song, the audience members greeted him like their long-lost love from Rio de Janeiro.

Adolfo, whose songs have been recorded by the likes of Stevie Wonder, introduced himself and recalled the switch without warning. He said they had only practiced the extremely complex number of songs by staple jazz artists, some Brazilian and some American. In between numbers, Adolfo elaborated on the history of the songs in a rich accent, pointing out the styles the songs were in, as well as which ones would be appropriate for dancing or for summer festivals.

Laughter showed up in the lines on his face as he teased melodies out of the keys and challenged the band to follow him; to get quiet together; to crescendo; and then to turn off the switch without warning. After thoroughly testing his stage companions all night, through incomprehensible time signatures and a few brilliant solos, he deemed them "pretty good," with a broad grin, and led the audience in a round of applause for them. He said they had only practiced on flute, tenor and soprano saxophone joined him. All were younger than Adolfo, and two even looked to be in there twenties. At the beckoning of Adolfo's tapping foot, they jumped, and were off.

The band swanned through a number of songs by staple jazz artists together once, earlier that day. "But that's the great thing about jazz," he said. "It's different every time."

What was really an hour and a half performance passed by for what seemed like 30 minutes. There were other, more modern forms of music being performed in St. Petersburg that night. But it is not likely any of them offered the same level of improvisation, the same level of musicianship, or the same interaction – the passing of the musical torch from the old dinosaurs to the young lizards.

And the fact that jazz music is there for those who want it, and for those who don't yet know they want it, is a good sign for the culture of St. Petersburg.

Plans for the future: This was the sixth annual St. Petersburg Jazz Festival, and the second year it took place in multiple venues across the city, including the Palladium, the Studio@620 and the St. Petersburg College Music Center.

Manson, who is also a professor at SPC’s Music Industry Recording Arts program, said that he hopes to cultivate a local audience for jazz music in the coming years, including a lot more young people.

"I think a lot of it is about the venue. We had a lot of younger people come out when we had a show at Art Pool last year."

Next year, Manson plans to cater the festival to different generations, offering some shows at more social venues that allow people to interact and move around -- and others at traditional indoor venues, where "the acoustics are near perfect," according to Manson.

Manson, a jazz musician himself, plays trombone in several local musical groups, most notably Ol' Som Do Jazz. "We need to cultivate the audience, and not just do things to please ourselves as musicians," Manson said.

According to Manson, that means proving preconceptions about jazz wrong – like that it is too cerebral or simply boring.

"When I’m booking I look for stuff that’s edgy and original. Types of music that people won’t hear other places," Manson said.

Manson also heads the local nonprofit EMIT, which promotes jazz and international music in the Bay area.

"There seems to be this weird stigma that if you’re from here, you’re nobody," Manson said. "But we have a lot of fine jazz musicians in the area."

Manson said he was pleased with the festival this year and the increasing number of sponsors. He is already working toward making it bigger and better next year.

However the festival changes, Manson said one thing will always be the same.

"We’re gonna stay true to jazz," he said.

Until next year’s festival, check out EMITeries.com and stpete-jazzfest.com to keep tabs on local jazz performances.

arts@crownestspete.com
Imagine sitting in your office speaking to a co-worker about the week’s agenda. You glance up from your computer and a cloud of white mist has suddenly engulfi the co-worker’s face. A hint of passion fruit lingers in the air.

Your co-worker’s e-cigarette emissions may not be harmful to you, but does that make it OK for them to whip out their vape pen in the middle of a conversation?

For now, use of e-cigarettes in public indoor spaces is legal in Florida. But with the trend of banning vaping to designated smoking areas is rising across the country, it may not be legal for long.

Last month, New York City banned e-cigarette use in public indoor spaces, including restaurants, bars, theaters, sports arenas and private office buildings. The act was made as an amendment to the city’s 1995 Smoke-Free Air Act, which regulates smoking in public spaces. Under it, e-cigarettes will also be prohibited in many public open spaces, such as parks, beaches and pedestrian plazas, according to the British Medical Journal. The ban comes just weeks after New York City became the first major city to ban smoking in all public spaces.

The NBC story also quotes a San Francisco General Hospital doctor and nicotine expert who said, “They still have some toxins and there are still some concerns, but most likely, e-cigarettes are far less toxic compared to the first ones that came out 10 years ago.”

I have to say that more recent products are much cleaner so analyses of products nowadays show much lower level of contaminants,” Benowitz told NBC. “They are far less toxic compared to the first ones that came out 10 years ago.”

“It seems that some do,” Segal said. “I think there is a lack of awareness about the risks associated with smoking, especially among young people.”

E-cigarettes are now being sold in many different flavors, including fruit, chocolate, and even tobacco. Some people believe that they are a safer alternative to traditional cigarettes, while others believe that they are just as harmful.

And though the e-cigarettes use a heating mechanism to vaporize a flavored nicotine solution, as opposed to burning tobacco, some people believe that they are still harmful to one’s health.

San Francisco General Hospital doctor Neal Benowitz, a nicotine expert quoted in a study by NBC, said that the latest generation of e-cigarettes are far less toxic compared to the first ones that came out 10 years ago.

“I have to say that more recent products are much cleaner so analyses of products nowadays show much lower level of contaminants,” Benowitz told NBC. “They still have some toxins and there are still some concerns, but most likely, e-cigarettes are far less toxic compared to the first ones that came out 10 years ago.”

“Incognito Panda”

By Kati Lacker

Feb. 27, 1827, marked the beginning of New Orleans’ Mardi Gras celebrations when costumed students danced through the streets. French settlers originally brought the celebration to New Orleans at the end of the 17th century, but Spanish governors of the province later banned it.

Students inspired by their trip to France masked themselves in jester outfits and brought Fat Tuesday celebrations to New Orleans. The first large, well-organized Mardi Gras parade was in 1857 with floats tossing coins, toys and the now famous strands of beads.
Stop tappin’ your phones and save lives

By Erin Murphy
Staff Columnist

About a week ago, I was sitting in Starbucks, people-watching, when I saw a couple on what must have been a date. The pair was snuggled up on a coffee-colored couch, bodies angled toward each other, clearly an item. The only problem was, they weren’t talking. They were communicating, though – just not with each other.

Both the man and the woman had their faces only inches away from their smart phones, scrolling through newsfeeds and sending texts. As this unfortunate example proves, our generation has spawned an entire legion of Obsessive Cell Phone Checkers. While our mobile devices give us access to a wealth of important information (like those crucial updates on Justin Bieber’s latest hen-party-gate), rarely do we let go of them. So not only do we seem to, at least sometimes, use technology for the wrong reasons (Flappy Bird, anyone?), but our constant use of cellphone communication actually detaches us from one another.

Case in point: Just last week, I saw a girl and a guy talking casually about a school assignment, that’s when the girl’s phone buzzed. A nanosecond later, she snatched it, checking a text in the middle of her friend’s sentence.

What’s sad is not only that the girl ignored her pal, but that she didn’t even hesitate. She had to grab her phone; it was her natural reaction. The impulse to fiddle with mobile technology is irresistible.

Enter UNICEF. UNICEF, the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund, has introduced the Tap Project, a cause that aims to provide for those in need and get you off your phone. Excellent!

Here’s how it works: For every 10 minutes you’re not tweeting or texting or tapping your cell phone, UNICEF’s sponsors “will fund one day of clean water for a child in need,” according to the Tap Project website.

That means that by putting your phone down, not only are you becoming less of a notification-checking zombie, but you’re actually helping people who are in desperate need. A much better use for your iPhone than Instagramming your breakfast, I think.

The money that the organization collects from users not touching their phones, while logged onto the UNICEF Tap Project app, will go toward supplying clean water for kids worldwide.

The UNICEF site states that there are 768 million people without clean water to drink, as well as 2.5 billion that don’t have properly sanitized water, which can lead to death and disease.

We live a relatively cushy life here in the states if you think about it. We’re blessed with air conditioning, freedom and the ability to pursue education. We enjoy technology. We have clean water. These things can’t be taken for granted.

People, please put your phones down.

We all need water to survive. We don’t need cell phones.

Erin Murphy is a sophomore majoring in mass communications and assistant arts and life editor. She can be reached at erinmurphy@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @sassyerbear.

Being a young black man in America

By Corey Givens Jr.
Guest Columnist

This past weekend Black America wept as the Michael Dunn Trial verdict was read. A mistrial or a mistake? That is the question I ask myself. As a young black man living in America, I weep.

I weep not because I am a minority living in a Caucasian-dominated society. I weep because hundreds of young black men are dying yearly due to gun violence. But I weep because of the cruel injustice of the judicial system in America. Each and every one of us living in a society where violence and hatred rule our neighborhoods should be weeping.

I do not fault the ruthless man who shot 17-year-old Jordan Davis. I place the blame on the judicial system; for Dunn must be judged by a higher calling. The crime he has committed is clear as day; he gunned down a child.

With a flurry of mixed emotions luring throughout this great land, I cannot help but look at myself in the mirror and wonder: am I, a young black male, safe in my own community? Is it a crime for me to play the music I choose, however loud I choose to play it? Or do I place my life in harm’s way by making this decision? I choose to live.

However, I do not choose to be a prisoner in the society I live in.

We have been taught to hate, but not to love. We have fostered intolerance, but shut our doors to tolerance.

We are the only ones who can put an end to the crime that has battered our country immensely. We have been taught to hate, but not to love. We have fostered intolerance, but shut our doors to tolerance. We have neglected peace, and chosen violence.

The time has come – to end gun violence in our homes, in our communities and in our schools. The time has come – to stand up for what is right and speak out against what is wrong. The time has come – to hear the voices of young black men like myself saying “No longer will I be a statistic.” This is not a time to fight hatred with hatred. This is not a time to cast blame on a man who was acting on cruel intent. For he knew not what he was doing.

If we are to ever be the society that Lincoln, King and Kennedy dreamed of, now is the time to act.

I am a young black man in America and I say enough is enough.

Corey Givens is a senior majoring in mass communications. He can be reached at corey.givensjr@ yahoo.com.
Rowdies begin preseason

The Tampa Bay Rowdies will begin their 2014 preseason schedule on Sunday, March 1 against the defending AAC champions, the USF Bulls, at Corbett Soccer Stadium on Campus. The Rowdies will also play the University of Tampa, St. Leo and FGCU prior to their April 12 opener at Al Lang against FC Edmonton.

New league wants Tampa

The All 11 Football League wants to make Tampa a franchise location. The league, where all 11 players on offense can catch a pass, will play an exhibition on May 17 at Raymond James Stadium to showcase the league will be debut in 2015. The game will be broadcast on ESPN 2.

Back to work

Olympic break is over and the Lightning get back to the NHL grind on Thursday night in Nashville. Captain Martin St. Louis won gold in Sochi and defen - seman Sami Salo won Bronze.

USFSP Baseball

Upcoming Schedule
March 8
USFSP vs. Brampton (CAN), 1
March 9
USFSP vs. Ontario (CAN), 1
March 10
USFSP vs. Ontario (CAN), 4
All games played at Walter Fuller field.

Men’s Basketball

Weekly Schedule
Feb. 26
USF vs. UConn, 7 (CBSS)
March 1
USF at Rutgers, noon (ESPNews)
Last Week’s Results
Feb. 18
Louisville 80, USF 54

Conference Standings

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Women’s Basketball

Weekly Schedule
Feb. 25
USF vs. Memphis, 7
March 1
USF vs. SMU, 7
Last Week’s Results
Feb. 19
USF 62, Cincinnati 43
Feb. 22
USF 72, Temple 69

Conference Standings

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A new look for the Buccaneers is a chance for fans to help fatten the Glazer’s bottom line

BY MIKE HOPEY
Staff Reporter

The helmet is brighter and the flag is bigger. The red pops more, the skull is meaner and pretty soon it will be plastered on hats, T-shirts and jerseys that will all be for sale.

Thursday night the Tampa Bay Buccaneers introduced their new helmet with an updated logo design. Hall-of-Famer Warren Sapp and current Buccaneers defensive tackle introduced the helmet live on the NFL Network.

The new black helmet features a chrome facemask, the first in the National Football League, and has the new Bucs logo displayed more prominently on the helmet.

“Oh, you absolutely need more bling in your life,” Sapp said. “I love this helmet.”

“This is an exciting day for the entire Buccaneers organization as we begin the process of introducing our new look by revealing an enhanced logo and new helmet design,” said Buccaneers Co-Chairman Edward Glazer.

“The logo is much larger and portrays a more intimidating presence, while the chrome facemask is the first used by an NFL team. This is the first alteration to our logo and helmet since the previous redesign 17 years ago, and we believe it sets the stage for our transition into this new, exciting era of Buccaneers football.”

Intimidation on the field and identity in the community are important aspects for the logo update but the $2.1 billion the league made in 2010 from merchandise revenue was an equally big factor. Overall, the league earns more than $9 billion annually.

New T-shirts, hats, jerseys, sweatshirts, dog accessories, home goods, stuffed animals, stationary and golf equipment will all feature the new logo. The most common attire at NFL stadiums, jerseys, sell for more than $134 on NFL.com.

A public unveiling of a new jersey on March 5 will follow the logo and helmet update. Team officials said the colors of red, pewter and black will not change.

The Buccaneers new helmet, which was introduced on Feb. 20 by Hall of Fame inductee Warren Sapp, features a larger logo and one-of-a-kind chrome facemask. The logo has been altered to be sharper and make the skull look meaner.

By Mike Hopey

How do you feel about the Buccaneers new logo and helmet? Let The Crow’s Nest know by writing on our Facebook page, sending us an email at sports@crowsneststpete.com or tweeting us @CNSportsPage. Best responses could end up in the next issue.