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Conference canceled due to Ebola fears

BY NANCY MCCANN
CROW’S NEST CONTRIBUTOR

International concern about the spread of Ebola has reached the USF St. Petersburg, which canceled the visit of 14 African journalists two weeks before their scheduled arrival.

The journalists, including two from countries that have been hit hard by the deadly virus, were coming for a five-day stay as part of the U.S. State Department’s Edward R. Murrow Program.

The university called off the visit Friday because of concerns about transmission of the virus, “which has proved fatal for more than 50 percent of the people who have been infected,” Han Reichgelt, the regional vice-chancellor for academic affairs, said in a letter to faculty, staff and students in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies (see full letter, page 3).

Two of the journalists who were scheduled to arrive on Oct. 31 are from Sierra Leone and Liberia, where Ebola is continuing to spread. The other journalists are from countries throughout Africa, including Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Republic of South Sudan, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

In an email to journalism faculty, Deni Elliott, chair of USF St. Petersburg’s Journalism and Media Studies Department, said that the decision to cancel the program was not easy.

“It may be that some folks think that the decision to cancel the program was over-reaction. It may be that some folks are relieved that they won’t be interacting with visitors who are from a region where the Ebola outbreaks are not contained or from countries that share borders with affected countries,” Elliott wrote.

USF St. Petersburg, which has hosted African journalists for the last four years, was to be one of seven universities around the country to welcome delegations that come to examine journalistic practices and principles in the United States.

“We hope that we will be able to welcome the Edward R. Murrow visiting journalists back to USFSP and St. Petersburg next year,” Reichgelt wrote.

Since it began in 2006, the Edward R. Murrow Program has brought more than 1,100 foreign journalists to the United States.

Each year, about 100 journalists gather in Washington for initial sessions, then fan out in smaller groups to journalism schools around the country for seminars and field activities.

This year the program, a public-private partnership between the U.S. State Department and seven universities, is scheduled for Oct. 27-Nov. 14.

The now-canceled visit to USFSP comes at a time of much anxiety in the U.S. Responding to polls and congressional criticism, President Barack Obama last week appointed an Ebola czar to oversee and coordinate information at the federal level.

USFSP is not the only school to cancel visitors from Africa. A similar situation occurred at the University of Georgia in Athens when FrontPageAfrica Newsroom Editor Wade C.L. Williams, Liberian Journalist of the Year in 2013, was told at the last minute that her invitation to lecture at the university was rescinded. Williams was scheduled to give the McGill Lecture on Wednesday, according to an article in FrontPageAfrica.

“Despite my disappointment, I am not angry with the University of Georgia. They felt they could not wear the barrage of criticism that would be directed at them if they allowed a Liberian journalist who covers Ebola on their campus and on a U.S. soil,” Williams is quoted as saying. The article goes on to say that Williams partially blames misinformation in the U.S. press for causing paranoia at the university.

In another part of the country, Syracuse University “disinvited” Michel du Cille of The Washington Post, who was recently in Liberia covering the Ebola epidemic, according to an article in The Washington Post. The Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist was scheduled to participate in a journalism workshop this past weekend.

Continued on p. 2

Space in Harbor Hall concerns professors

BY EMILY WEHUNT
STAFF REPORTER

Combining facilities in Harbor Hall has been a challenge for faculty.

Harbor Hall, previously the Salvador Dali Museum, became the new home to the Department of Verbal and Visual Arts in 2011. The plan for the building was to create a space for the merged programs of English and graphic design.

Professors were hoping for a single location where all of their students could come to learn, study and meet with their instructors.

“We really are itching to have some classroom space put in the building,” said Thomas Hallock, the Chair of Verbal and Visual Arts.

Instead, many students are still commuting back and forth between the Davis building, where a majority of the English classes are still located. Usable space for English courses within Harbor Hall is limited to the writing lab on the first floor.

All of the graphic design classes are held in Harbor Hall, but according to Hallock, as the program continues to grow the classes are beginning to overflow into the hallway.

After USF St. Petersburg took over the museum, it was renovated to encompass three classrooms and 25 small office spaces for teachers in the department. There are also two large rooms -- the community and gallery rooms -- inside the building. Combined, the two rooms comprise more than 8,000 square-feet.

However, these two rooms are still being used mainly as rental space by the Department of Student Services. Student Services was using the space during the construction and renovations of the University Student Center. Professors were under the impression that when the USC construction was complete, these rooms would be converted into classrooms and student workspaces.

Professors within the department believe these rooms would have a better impact on the program.

Continued on p. 2
African journalists conference canceled

Continued from p. 1

What do participants in the Edward R. Murrow Program gain?
- Understanding of U.S. society, policymaking process and government
- Knowledge of specific subjects discussed during the program, including human rights, religious/ethnic diversity, fighting corruption, and women in society
- Knowledge of current trends in the media profession, including alternative media and new technologies
- Desire to consult a much wider variety of sources, especially nongovernmental sources, the internet, and international media in their own reporting
- Networking with fellow journalists from the United States and around the world
- Visiting American cities to gain an understanding of media coverage in state politics
- From U.S. Department of State: United States Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs website
  http://eca.state.gov/highlight/edward-r-murrow-program-journalists

Some Highlights of the 2014 Cancelled Murrow Program

October 31—November 4

Friday: Tour of WUSF radio in Tampa, sessions on digital democracy and multimedia
Monday: Telling the Science Story with Blue Ocean Film Festival at Poynter
Visit Neighborhood News Bureau at USFSP
Lunch at Chef's Café Creme in Midtown with John Hopkins Middle School Journalists
Dinner and panel discussion on African and African-American Journeys in Journalism
Tuesday: USFSP Professor Ray Arenal on Voting in America
Visit four USFSP classes: Coral Biology and Reef Ecology, International Management, Language and Culture, Cultural Anthropology
Visit Pinellas County Voter Canvassing Board meeting

Arts department wants more classrooms

Continued from p. 1

if the space was converted to fit the needs of the students.
Visiting art professor Erika Greenberg-Schneider recalls being denied access to the community room last spring for her senior students’ end of the year art show -- a graduation requirement -- because the room had been rented out for a yoga class.
“I stopped by to see how many people were there,” Schneider said.
“There were only three people in the class.”
The university says they have been working on transforming the building to allow for more space, but it has been a very slow process, according to Hallock. Professors have continued to work with the campus development and hope to eventually receive assistance through state funding.
Other than the lack of space at Harbor Hall, security has been another concern. The walk to Harbor Hall is through Poynter Park, a public park located off Third Street S. Although new lights were installed in the park back in 2012, it is still a relatively dark walk along the harbor at night.
With Salvation Army located behind Harbor Hall and the building also being on the outskirts of campus, some students don’t feel safe walking alone at night. But according to university police services, students can request to be escorted to and from the building by an official.
The building remains locked when classes aren’t in session. Graphic design students have a swipe card to access the building, but English students do not. Hallock says he has been working since March to get them a card and no progress has been made.
“It’s been a very difficult battle to fight on behalf of my students,” said Hallock.
Robots, experiments at Science Festival

By Randy Carlson
Crow’s Nest Contributor

A crowd in Davis Hall waited eagerly as the robots prepared for combat.

A robot with a gigantic rotating blade opposes a robot with two wheels and two metal horns. It takes several minutes, but the horned robot is destroyed. A pile of metal, plastic and electrical components is all that is left.

The capacity crowd cheers before heading on to the next event.

USF St. Petersburg hosted the St. Petersburg Science Festival along the Bayboro waterfront on Oct. 17-18. The festival is held in partnership with the Fish and Wildlife Commission’s event, MarineQuest.

The combined event featured animals, art and crafts, robotics, boat tours, experiments, marine touch tanks and hundreds of other events.

Bryan Gallo, of the USF Robotics Interest Group, said he has been working with the robot wars for three years.

“These robots are actually pretty simple,” Gallo said, adding that they use a lot of spare hobby parts from remote-controlled cars and aircraft. The competition has 12 teams, and the robot makers start young.

At the science festival, the youngest competitor was 15. Some of the events that Gallo has attended have featured children as young as seven years old as competitors.

Other exhibits featured anatomy and wildlife.

Nick May, a USFSP student volunteer, poked at a life-sized skeleton covered in small notes. His partner in the anatomy exhibit, Sydney Meloche, assisted in teaching students about anatomy. Not sure of the right name for the jawbone? May and Meloche quizzed to see if anyone knew the answer: mandible.

“It is fun when the children are up and the parents get involved because we have a common name and the actual anatomical name, and the parents don’t know either,” Meloche said.

The first day of the festival, Oct. 17, was reserved for schools to take their students through the exhibits, and the second day is open for the general public. Aside from robots and anatomy, guests could learn about marine life.

An inflatable right whale on the ground took over Poynter Park. Erin Fougeres from NOAA Fisheries taught elementary and middle school students about the whale. The situation the right whale is in looks grim, with only around 500 remaining.

“The issue that we are trying to explain to the children is what behaviors we need to do to prevent the whale from colliding with boats,” Fougeres said.

The two most major threats to the whale are ship strikes and fishing gear mishaps. Fougeres teaches what the children can do to protect right whales. According to Fougeres, right whales have Florida and Georgia as the only known calving grounds, so sharing information on them is important.

“I really liked the fish exhibits over at the Fish and Wildlife Marine Quest,” David Sebastian said, who was brought his family to the event.

Ride the bus free with your ID

By Emily Tinti
Staff Reporter

Your university ID now allows you and any other USF St. Petersburg students, faculty and staff to have free and unlimited access to any Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority bus or trolley. Simply show your ID to the driver and you can board.

With the partnership between USFSP and PSTA, more than 6,000 people are eligible for free rides.

The university now pays a flat rate that encompasses the cost of transportation students would be paying if they rode buses and trolleys throughout the school year. A general fare costs $2, while a reduced price, applied toward students with a PSTA Issued Adult Student Photo ID, costs $1.25.

The program, called U-PASS, is also in place for St. Petersburg College students and employees at the city of St. Petersburg, according to PSTA’s website.

On Oct. 15, county officials and PSTA executives joined students and staff to formally announce the new U-PASS partnership with USFSP.

Ken Welch, a Pinellas county commissioner and chairman of PSTA, began by recognizing and thanking all officials involved in the project for bringing their goals to fruition.

“USF is about opportunity and preparing our students for success,” said Welch. “PSTA has a complementarity role in physically connecting our citizens with opportunities throughout the community by connecting them to educational opportunities; connecting them to health care opportunities; connecting them to employment opportunities.”

The success of this program can already be measured by last month’s ridership -- more than 46,000 trips were made using the U-PASS in September alone, according to PSTA.

“I’m one of those broke college kids,” said senior Brandi Murphy. “Being a local commuter, it means a lot to me to know I have another option. Providing access to ride public transit, especially when they’re more fuel-efficient, is a huge notch in our belt for sustainability.”

Brad Miller, CEO for PSTA, noted at the press conference that the program would be convenient for students who need to travel, or for those who just want to grab lunch downtown. It could also save some students up to $10,000 -- as opposed to owning a car of their own, which would make it harder to save money -- and contribute to the sustainability goals of the university.

“The PSTA agreement is a step in the right direction for us,” said Jennifer Winter, the sustainability coordinator of USFSP. “The gas usage is much less and therefore, the greenhouse gas output is also less.”

According to Winter, an increase in students’ access to public transit will benefit the university when conducting its greenhouse gas inventory for the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment, a pledge signed by USFSP to address global warming.

Greenlight Pinellas would improve the greenhouse gas output is also less.”

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Stolen dissertation, hardworking grandfather inspire professor

**By Clarence Ford**

**Crow’s Nest Contributor**

On a late night 80 years ago, David Himmelfarb Sr. was riding the train home with his prized doctoral dissertation tucked in a bag beside him. He succumbed to his fatigue and dozed off. He awoke to find a thief had stolen the dissertation. He had worked tirelessly for years organizing material, revising his ideas and editing, but now he was staring at a terrifying empty space instead of the crown of his labors.

Studies mean a great deal to every generation of the Himmelfarb family. David Himmelfarb, an anthropology professor at USF St. Petersburg, has dedicated his doctoral dissertation to his grandfather and mentor David Himmelfarb Sr., who lost his dissertation to theft 80 years earlier.

“The writing of a dissertation requires more than tarrying labor, which is taxing enough; it also demands a part of the soul. It was his life-long dream,” Himmelfarb said.

Grandfather Himmelfarb loved learning. He was a scientist, engineer, master rope-maker and tireless tinkerer who began playing the violin at 80 years old. Grandfather, son and grandson Professor Himmelfarb would practice the violin together. To compensate for arthritis and tremors in his right hand, Grandfather Himmelfarb created a homemade handle made of paper clips, rubber and superglue.

My grandfather had a great influence on me,” said Himmelfarb. My grandfather, who was named after his grandfather. “When I was an adolescent he would amble down every morning and awake me at 5 a.m. to tutor me in Latin.”

Though Professor Himmelfarb did not consider himself academically gifted, his grandfather inspired him to love learning. While attending Roxbury Latin High School in Boston, he decided to become an anthropologist. He went on to Cornell University where he acquired his bachelor’s degree. Upon being accepted into a scholastic program for environmental anthropologists, he transferred to the University of Georgia as a graduate student.

While pursuing his Ph.D, Professor Himmelfarb traveled extensively. He completed an internship in biological reserves in Ecuador, lived in Fiji and Vietnam, and performed ethnographic research in Samoa on social change and deforestation. Because of his interest in conflicts between governments’ national park efforts and indigenous peoples, he chose Mount Elgon in Uganda as the doctoral research site.

“It was serendipitous that I chose Uganda, because it just so happened that it had a lot of national parks from which I could choose to conduct my research,” said professor Himmelfarb. It was his research at Mount Elgon, an extinct volcano that rises 10,000 feet above the plains on the Uganda-Kenya border, that his dissertation was based on.

“David loves teaching,” said Jessie Fly, Himmelfarb’s wife, who is also an anthropologist. Professor Himmelfarb currently teaches at USFSP, Eckerd College and Hillsborough Community College in Tampa. A fierce advocate and friend to people and animals, he and Fly adopted two cats, George and Theo, who replaced a cat that ran away.

“We adopted both cats because we didn’t want to split them up because they had been raised together,” he said.

Even though Grandfather Himmelfarb’s dissertation was stolen, he benefited from the poetic justice of having his name memorialized on the dissertation of his grandson, professor David Himmelfarb Sr.

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Localicious brings food and community together

**By Caitlin Ashworth**

**Crow’s Nest Contributor**


Keep Saint Petersburg Local, a nonprofit organization, “works to build a thriving local economy and a unique community.” During the LOCALICIOUS week, presented by Rollin’ Oats – local restaurants featured local ingredients.

Localicious kicked off with a St. Petersburg community potluck on Oct. 12 at the Pinellas Pioneer Settlement. Guests brought dishes made with local ingredients. Gypsy Wind, a local band that describes themselves as “acoustic, swing, jazz and newgrass,” performed at the General Store. Pathfinder Outdoor Education led a tree climb.

For froth and bubbles, Localicious went to St. Pete Brewing Company on Tuesday, Oct. 14. Sweet Divas Chocolates offered each person one piece of their chocolate-covered Applewood smoked gourmet bacon. The shop then sold their custom stout beer floats with Tropiccool ice cream.

On Thursday, Oct. 16 was the Local Meltdown at NOVA 535. Nine amateur chefs competed in A Grilled Cheese/Mac-n-Cheese/Anything with Cheese Throwdown. Guests purchased a tasting ticket to attend the event, which allowed guests to judge and vote on the cheesy creations. LoungeCat performed old school blues, New Orleans jazz, swing, ska, standards, Motown and Latin.

Guests took a tour of the Grand Central District on Friday, Oct. 17. On The Grand Treats & Tunes Trolley Hop guests rode the Looper Trolley while Justin Vilardi of Paint the Town Red performed. The trolley stopped at local restaurants with local music and treats at each stop. Gourmet doughnuts were provided by The Hole Donuts and cupcakes by It’s Icing on the Cake. Tropiccool had icy gourmet popsicles, sorbet and gelato.


Information gathered from http://keepsaintpetersburglocal.org/

Stolen dissertation, hardworking grandfather inspire professor

David Himmelfarb was inspired to complete his doctoral dissertation by his grandfather, David Himmelfarb Sr.
Creole restaurant to open on 22nd Street S

By Nancy McCann
Crow’s Nest Contributor

Elihu and Carolyn Brayboy are putting the final touches on a new Creole restaurant — scheduled to open Nov. 1 — on St. Petersburg’s historic 22nd Street S. But it is just as important for them to welcome people to the neighborhood and share its history.

“I’m Mr. B and this is Mrs. B.” Elihu Brayboy likes to say when introducing himself and his wife. The Brayboys, both 65, are investing $800,000 to buy and restore four buildings along the street, which was known as The Deuces when it was the main street of black St. Petersburg during decades of segregation and discrimination.

The restaurant is at the intersection of 22nd Street and Ninth Avenue S, a five-minute drive from the University of South Florida St. Petersburg campus.

The Brayboys are proud that the entryway and open-style kitchen of their Chef’s Creole Café used to be Sidney Harden’s grocery store, serving black customers from 1942 until 1992.

“It breaks my heart when people see an old building and think they’re seeing just an old building,” said Mr. B. “Harden’s grocery was a cultural market with things like chitterlings, rabbit and possum. We feel so blessed to be saving this building. This building meant a lot to a lot of people.”

Chitterlings and possum are not on the menu of the new restaurant, which will feature red beans and rice with andouille sausage, three Creole gumboos, jambalaya and other Louisiana favorites at a price range of $9.99 to $15.99.

“The chief” in the restaurant’s name refers to Elihu Brayboy’s late mother, Mary Brayboy Jones, whose specialty was the Creole cooking of her native Louisiana. She got her nickname from her take-charge personality. Some of the dishes on the menu will be prepared from her recipes.

“Chief was raised around great cooking by her mother and other relatives,” said Brayboy. “After she moved to St. Petersburg … she ran a small catering business serving famous entertainers and their crews who came to town.”

The Brayboys’ restaurant is two blocks south of Sylvía’s — a soul food restaurant that opened last year in a restored building where Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and Count Basie performed during a time of evident segregation — and seven blocks south of 3 Daughters Brewing, a popular night spot.

Memories of the people who lived, worked, survived and thrived in segregated black neighborhoods are important to the Brayboys. They want people to know that amid the tough conditions of segregation, there were many positive experiences.

“The Brayboys grew up and dated as teenagers in the neighborhood — now called Midtown — that developed along 22nd Street S. They remember their community as a place where people were deeply connected, pulled together and treasured their close, personal ties.

Now the Brayboys are working to preserve some of the original architecture and structures along the rest of the street.

“We purchased our first building on the 22nd Street S corridor in 2008,” said Mr. B. “In six years, we have not had a single incident . . . no break-ins, robberies, vandalism or graffiti.”

In addition to their new restaurant, they have opened an art gallery, a consignment store and an ice cream parlor. Their daughter, Ramona Reio, owns a hair salon and their son-in-law, Daman Reio, owns a fitness center in one of their buildings. The Brayboys are happy with the neighborhood.

For 50 years, the building was home to Sidney Harden’s grocery, a cultural icon of the black community during the days of segregation.

Review: Zoo Boo brings tamer thrills

By Marla Cooper
Crow’s Nest Contributor

Long lines, excessive admission price and overbearing scare tactics at some amusement park Halloween attractions can take the fun out of the experience. ZooBoo at Lowry Park Zoo offers a more low-key atmosphere.

The event is decorated with a lot of bright lights and an overlay of fog: simple, yet festive. There aren’t any movie endorsements or scare tactics at some amusement park tactics for major events like Howl-O-Scream and Halloween Horror Nights.

There are six haunted houses that are rated based on “scare factor” by skulls. One skull indicates the house is for kids, while seven skulls is “scary to the extreme.” Three houses received a seven skull rating. The quality and fun of these houses pleasantly surprised me.

The event begins at 7 p.m., but the houses don’t open until the sun is completely down. That made it all the creepier; the houses are all outside and pitch black. I couldn’t see what was about to scare me, which was the best part.

The scariest house was Wake the Dead. As the ground rumbles, an animated skull tells a frightening tale. Because it was so dark, it was hard to see the next passageway to walk through, and then there were skull creatures popping out at these areas. Automated skulls also jumped in and out of holes. This made me jump. The typical zombie-like figures try to get you, but there are more fake elements than real people trying to scare you. I don’t like when people try to get in my face, so this was perfect for me.

Another interesting house was French Quarter Phantoms 3D. It has a skull rating of three skulls, “spooktacular.” But for me, that’s seven skulls for creativity. For an extra dimension, 3D glasses were provided, and the creepy, colorful house jumped out at me the whole time. The abandoned house felt like an early 1900s New Orleans style scene. Old jewelry and mannequins popped out, and the house ends with a creepy young girl with pigtailed waving goodbye: something I hadn’t seen before.

The only downside is that all of the animal exhibits are closed besides Stingray Bay and the Flying Fox Bat House. I did happen to see a tapir chasing a goose. I would have liked to have seen some spooky animals at night.

The event is family friendly with a unique twist. There are carnival games, treats and even some ghoulish alcoholic drinks for those of age. I enjoyed the Werewolf drink myself. It consisted of rum, pineapple juice and blackberry schnapps in a tall pilsner glass for $9; refills were $5, which is not a bad deal. The Voodoo drink contains vodka, cranberry juice and peach schnapps with the same price tag.

Maybe it’s a family night, or maybe you can’t handle being scared too much, but ZooBoo is a creative, inexpensive and less frightening alternative to celebrate the Halloween season.

If you go:

Tickets can be purchased online at www.lowryparkzoo.com/zoobo. The event map can be downloaded here, and information about the houses are attached.

Admission: $18 for adults, but check Groupon and LivingSocial deals for discounts.

Dates: The event continues Oct. 23-26, 30-31, and Nov. 1. Event times are 7-11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 7-10 p.m. on Sundays and Thursdays.
Overreacting to ice cream

The name for flavor of Ben & Jerry’s causes misdirected anger

The latest American overreaction is over ice cream, of all things. Anti-hazing activists complained to ice cream company Ben & Jerry’s because of the name of their chocolate and hazelnut concoction “Hazed & Confused.”

The name had nothing to do with risky behavior of college students, Ben & Jerry’s spokesman Sean Greenwood told Bloomberg News. The outcry stems from concern over hazing, a serious problem in American universities. College organizations, fraternities, sororities and sports teams can require students to engage in dangerous activities in order to be initiated into their group. Common types of hazing include forcing students to consume alcohol, do humiliating activities, not sleep or perform sex acts, according to insidehazing.com.

Five percent of college students admit to be hazed, but nine out of 10 students who have experienced it do not consider it to be hazing, according to insidehazing.com. Hazing is illegal, according to lawyers.com. So hazing is a serious problem, and the upset at Ben & Jerry’s does come from a family who has experienced pain from it. Tampa residents Lianne and Brian Kowiak were affected personally after their son Harrison Kowiak died of head injury. The injury occurred Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, NC., where Harrison was participating in a hazing activity. The ice cream flavor was on the market for six months before the Kowiaks said anything, according to Bloomberg News.

While the Kowiaks have a reason to be upset, it just seems that their actions are typical of our American culture. We deal with serious issues, but we decide to pick our battles over things like ice cream flavors. The ice cream name debate may have been a greater concern if it actually had something to do with hazing. The name is a playful interpretation of “dazed and confused,” the pop culture phrase made famous through a Led Zeppelin song and a comedy from 1993, according to Greenwood. The hazelnut flavor played nicely into the word “hazed,” we think. Rather than walking into a grocery store and getting upset over what we think an ice cream brand is trying to say, we should be active in a cause we care about. Let’s be active in organizations working to stop hazing, rather than complaining to an ice cream company that is against hazing anyway.

This isn’t to say that the Kowiaks’ actions were uncalled for. No, we should complain if we think companies are blatantly naming their products with poor taste. This doesn’t mean that the company should be legally required to change the name. It just means that we can use our freedom of speech to express how we feel. And then the company can have the freedom to change the name as they wish. We just don’t think Ben & Jerry’s product endorses hazing in any way.

We should say one thing: the Kowiaks did advance the conversation of hazing by expressing their anger. Now everyone who reads this editorial knows a little more about hazing.

Jennifer Nesslar | The Crow’s Nest

Groundbreaking day

The university celebrates groundbreaking on the new building for the Kate Tiedemann College of Business on Oct. 14, even in the rain. The USF Marching Band came to perform. Many university and community leaders participated in the groundbreaking, including St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman, Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska, USF System President Judy Genshaft and Student Body President Cody Boyer.

Submit a picture with a caption for photo of the week to jnesslar@mail.usf.edu by Friday at 5 p.m. The best photo submission will run next week.

Jennifer Nesslar | The Crow’s Nest

Throwback


Garnerin’s descent was 3,200 feet. The idea was conceived by the late Leonardo da Vinci, who envisioned the first parachute in his writings. His vision, unlike predecessors, involved slowing descent to land from an altitude with air resistance. He completed his first parachute in 1797 with a canopy design 23 feet in diameter.

Like any prototype experiment, Garnerin forgot to include an air vent at the top, which resulted in his “oscillated wildly” descent. He landed uninjured about a half mile from the balloon’s takeoff site. His wife, Jeanne-Genevieve, later became the first parachute. For exhibition, Garnerin made leapt from 8,000 feet in 1802, a success. He later died in 1823 in a balloon accident while attempting to test another parachute.

Andre-Jacques Garnerin created the first successful parachute prototype in 1797.
If only I logged out of Facebook

By Jennifer Nesslar
Staff Columnist

An important rule of life: If you’re going to use social media, be sure to log out when you’re done. I learned this the hard way on Friday evening.

When I first got a Facebook account in 10th grade, I was careful to log out every time I walked away from my computer. But as editor-in-chief of The Crow’s Nest, I constantly have people contacting me using social media. I try to keep my email open in my browser, and Facebook stays open most of the time too, just so I don’t miss anything.

I’ve never worried about being hacked before. Facebook is open on my personal laptop, and I generally don’t let others use it. I also love my friends, and never thought they would have any inclination of embarrassing me on social media.

Ha.

I think a wise person once said: “Good friends will pick you up when you’re down, but best friends will push you back down and laugh.”

I guess some people (i.e., me) just have to learn by experience. A group of some of my closest friends came over on Friday night to watch a movie. We decided to hook my laptop to a larger TV in the residence hall lounge. When my tech-savvy friend and I went to get my laptop out of my room, I ended up locking my keys inside my room.

While I had to deal with my lock-out, I handed my friend the laptop so he could set up the movie. He, with the help of my other “wonderful” friends, posted to my Facebook timeline. It was something to the effect of “Baaaaaaa, I’m a sheep. Baaaaaa.”

Classy, I know.

The worst part is, I actually do have a good sheep impression. So when I came into the office on Sunday and told the staff my story, someone said, “Oh, you got hacked? I thought you meant to post that.”

Thanks, friends. I guess they know me a little too well.

I think in this day of social media, most of us have a similar story. I’m just thankful I was targeted by my close friends and not a stranger. In high school, I visited an Apple store with my friend, and she logged into Facebook on a computer in the store. We left without logging out.

The ending was not pretty, nor is it publishable in a newspaper.

So, as we navigate this new era of our lives being online, we’re going to have to learn how to log out. Or face the consequences.

Or just laugh and enjoy our friends’ antics, regardless of whether we appreciate them or not.

But hey, we’ve been doing that since before social media.

Jennifer Nesslar, a senior majoring in mass communications, is the editor-in-chief. She can be reached at jnesslar@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @jnesslar.

A breathalyzer on your phone

By Emily Tinti
Staff Columnist

“They’re an app for that.”

Breathometer surfaced recently and has been relatively well-received. By connecting the device through the headphone port of your smartphone and launching the application, we’re told you can instantly know just how drunk you are.

The app displays interactive instructions as to when to blow into an add-on accessory, which allegedly serves as a mock breathalyzer used by police officers. Depending on the breath alcohol level, the app will relay messages like “Looks like you’re good to go” and “You’re likely displaying signs of impairment. Be cautious!” Once the numbers hit a certain point, a “get home safe” button appears. This leads you to a couple of options: call an Uber driver, call a cab or call a friend to take you home. There’s also a “stay nearby” option that allows you to search for local dining and hotels.

The app even estimates when you should be “back to zero,” which is essentially when the alcohol in your system fully metabolizes.

An invention like this is pretty savvy at a glance, but when you really consider how useful it could be, it starts sounds like one of those revolutionary ideas. Young adults generally like technology, young adults of age generally like to drink. If these people use the device or ignore it: a la convictions, the number of impaired drivers on the road could potentially be reduced. The Breathometer app consistently reminds users to never drink and drive, and to avoid doing certain things if intoxication levels are too high.

A few low-key experiments have resulted in unsupportive evidence of the device’s accuracy. One test showed the difference between a police officer’s breathalyzer data and mobile breathalyzer data. The numbers were all over the board. At first, this was kind of disappointing, because it’s marketed in such a way that makes it seem ground-breaking. However, companies that manufacture these kinds of products insist that the only reason it may not be completely accurate is because the individual is blowing into the device incorrectly.

I do also think drunk people have a somewhat harder time using a cellphone than somebody who hasn’t had anything to drink — and if they can’t navigate the app, then what good does it do?

These faults aside, I think it’s pretty incredible that we are capable of such technology. If everybody who bought Breathometer was given a clear tutorial instructing them how to use it, the invention would serve its purpose and truly make drinking safer.

Plus, using an app like this would help people to maintain healthier drinking habits by getting people to regulate their alcohol intake — maybe even reevaluate their lives it turns out their “Activity” portion of the app is full of elevated numbers.


Religious tolerance a good sign

By Amanda Starling
Staff Columnist

Religion and sexuality. These two essences of human nature have conflicted for centuries, as people attempt to define what is culturally and socially acceptable for communities, and most often, congregations.

At the Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Petersburg, a man found his place where his two passions could meet: his passion for Christianity and his self, his sexuality.

Rev. Paul Gibson was welcomed into a congregation that cared more about his preaching and his ability to work with his flock more than his sexuality. Some members of the church left, a Tampa Bay Times article wrote, but many more had joined.

It’s almost refreshing to see religion be what we are told it is. I stepped away from religion in high school, after attending a Lutheran school for eight years. I didn’t understand how a religious group could instruct peace and love and acceptance while condemning the beliefs of other religious groups or sexualities. Gender was strict and so were the rules that kept us away from the fire and brimstone. Divorce? Another taboo, unless the parents were remarried.

Divorce? Another taboo, unless the parents were remarried. Why could merely existing, being human, being alive. That’s the society we live in: we ask our phone to do stuff for us.

But did you ever think your phone could tell you how hung over you’d be the next morning? “There’s an app for that.”

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To think that we could hurt each other with this gospel love was painful to me. I didn’t want to be a part of that world where Christians feared Muslims. I didn’t want to watch as loved ones had to grapple with not only becoming the people they never realized they were, but fought with their families. Friends were stigmatized for being gay, and all because God said it was a sin. We’re taught to love one another, but that’s not even close to what’s practiced.

Why is being a person a sin? Why could merely existing, being yourself, be so horrendous that families disown their children? How could you love a god more than you love your family? I’m agnostic. This means that I acknowledge that there is some sort of deity or entity that created life, but I’m just not sure if it was Allah or Jesus or Vishnu or anyone in specific. I can’t claim belief or disbelief in god. I can’t be certain of a god, but I can be certain that I love people.

I embraced this thought pattern after reading about centuries of civilizations slaughtering each other over religion and families killing their children because they are transgender.

For someone like me, religion shouldn’t strip us of our humanity. It should bring us closer to one another, closer to a mutual understanding of what it means to exist. To exist is beautiful. Blood and pain mark that image, to the point in which we forget we are slaughtering our brothers and torturing our daughters. We do these things so often in the name of a god.

What kind of god would want us to hurt each other like this?

I don’t love a specific god. I love my asexual, bi-romantic cousin. I love my gay pastor is loved by his congregation, that makes religion seems safe again. Maybe love can fill congregations and streets outside the walls of religious institutions, too.

Amanda Starling, a senior majoring in mass communications, is the managing editor. She can be reached at astarling@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @astarlingaj.
USF Football
The Bulls are hitting the road for their next two games (Tulsa and Cincinnati) before returning home Nov. 1 against Houston for Veterans and Military Appreciation Day. The first 5,000 people in attendance will receive a Rocky the Bull hat.

BY ANDREW CAPLAN

Marvin Kloss is the starting kicker for the USF Bulls football team. In 2013, Kloss accounted for 42 percent of the Bulls’ scoring—up to 69 points.

By Andrew Caplan
Staff Reporter

He can bench more than 400 pounds, and he’s a kicker. His name is Marvin Kloss.

Born in Germany, Kloss immigrated to the United States at eight years old, and learned to speak English after arriving. His father, Thomas Kloss, was a professional soccer player overseas before moving to Naples, Fla.

Kloss gained national attention from scouts after making a 57-yard field goal while at Barron Collier High School in Naples. He was ranked as the No. 3 kicker in the nation according to Kohl’s Kicking and No. 7 according to ESPN.com. Kloss was perfect in his senior year at Barron Collier making all eight of his field goal attempts and all 51 of his points after touchdown (PAT) kicks.

Recruited by former Head Coach Skip Holtz, Kloss chose the Bulls over the Florida Gators. Kloss joined the team in 2010 and was redshirted. That very year, Kloss watched the Gators win the Meineke Car Care Bowl against Clemson 31-26. It was the last bowl appearance to date from the Bulls.

Fast forward a few years later to 2013 and Kloss found himself responsible for 42 percent of the team’s total points on a year where the Bulls won two games. He scored 69 points. Second on the team was running back Marcus Shaw with 18.

That same year, Kloss was one of three finalists for the Lou Groza Award, which is given annually to the nation’s top placekicker in college football. Kloss led the nation with the most field goals made (11) from 40 yards or further. He finished the season 18-for-23 on field goal attempts and made all 15 PATs attempted.

“It’s a great individual achievement, but at the same time, I wouldn’t have been able to do it without my teammates,” Kloss said. “It takes a lot more than just a kicker to make a field goal.”

Kloss credits the offensive line—men who take the hits to protect him when kicking, and his holder, junior Mattias Ciabatti, who also is the team’s punter.

Kloss was one of three to earn the team captain title by his teammates at the start of the 2014 season. Now a senior, he finds himself near the top of the list for most points scored on the team again. He has 44 points (9-for-11 on field goals, 17-for-17 PATs), second only to freshman RB Marlon Mack’s 48 points (8 touchdows).

Kloss has come a long way from once having to deal with kicker stereotypes. He admitted he once tried playing safety but learned to embrace his role as a kicker.

“Theres a saying amongst the kickers ‘You’re either gonna be the hero or you’re gonna be the zero’, so there’s really no in between,” Kloss said. “If a receiver drops the ball in a game, he has a couple more opportunities to make up for it, it’s not really a big deal. A kicker misses a field goal and it’s ‘Whoa! He missed the field goal’. You better pray you get another one or that one wasn’t important.” That part of being a kicker. You only get so many opportunities.”

But Kloss wasn’t always a kid dreaming of playing football like many. He originally wanted to follow in his father’s footsteps.

“I didn’t really watch too much football growing up, I’m a soccer guy,” Kloss said.

“If I wasn’t playing football I’d probably be a normal college student here, living the college lifestyle or I would’ve continued my dream playing soccer, because I was playing soccer right before football started,” Kloss said. “I kind of dropped one for the other.”

Like many athletes, Kloss has dreams of becoming a professional football player in the NFL, but doesn’t have a preferred team, just an environment.

USF Men’s Basketball
First year head coach Orlando Antigua and his basketball team will play a preseason exhibition Nov. 8 at the USF Sundome against IU-Pennsylvania before opening the season at home against Flagler College on Nov. 14.

Award-winning kicker hopes for wins

By Andrew Caplan
Staff Reporter

Senior wide receiver Andre Davis caught six passes from quarterback Mike White for 184 yards and three touchdowns, including an 85-yard pass which was the winning score of the game. The play was the Bulls longest touchdown play of the season.

The three touchdown receptions is a career high for a single game for Davis. He is now one reception away from becoming the Bulls all-time receptions leader after breaking the reception yards record against East Carolina.

QB Mike White finished 17-for-26 passing for 272 yards. White threw his first three-touchdown game of the season.

Freshman running back Marlon Mack ran the ball 19 times for 130 yards and two touchdowns. Mack also caught two passes for 24 yards.

Senior kicker Marvin Kloss scored eight points (1-for-1 field goals, 5-for-5 extra points). The Bulls defense forced another turnover, giving them 14 on the year.

The Bulls are now tied with the second best conference record at 2-1. The Bulls will play again Friday night against Cincinnati (2-3) at 7 p.m. on ESPNZ.

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