Smooth sailing with the Waterfront

Students can sail away on a three-night voyage on USFSP’s Wanderer.

By Jennifer Nesslar
Staff Reporter

For $85, USF St. Petersburg students can experience three days of sunsets, sea breeze and maritime adventure while aboard a 37-foot sailboat.

The opportunity, a part of the USFSP Waterfront’s adventure trip program, only requires students to bring clothes, sleeping bags and their sea legs. No sailing experience is needed.

Andrew Porter, the Waterfront coordinator, leads the trips, which have been held for about seven years under the direction of Zac Oppenheim, assistant director of student life and engagement.

Two trips are scheduled for this semester on Oct. 25 to 27 and Nov. 8 to 10.

On each trip, students will leave Friday afternoon and return Sunday early evening. Porter said the actual departure times will vary depending on the location sailed to and the group participating.

According to Porter, the Waterfront owns three keelboats, in the 30 to 37-foot range. Previous trips only gathered enough interest to fill one boat, the 37-foot Wanderer, which sleeps six comfortably. Seats below the deck convert into beds.

"It’s going to be a really empowering experience," Porter said.

Porter thinks these trips encourage student bonding. For three days, those aboard share close quarters.

"I’d really like to see [the council] as a working group," Reilly said. "It’s going to be a really empowering process for everybody."

Suggestions to prevent loss of goals and histories include creating club handbooks and guides to train newly elected presidents in their roles before each school year.

Hegedus said many clubs remained active during summer 2013, which may have contributed to the increased turnout for 2013-2014. "It was nice to meet some of the other clubs and get ideas on obtaining and retaining more members," said John Veneziano, president of the Fishing Conservationists Club.

Porter says increased communication between Student Government and campus clubs is what SG Vice President Christa Hegedus hopes to achieve through the Council of Club Presidents.

"I plan on strengthening clubs and leaderships throughout the clubs because last year the clubs were pretty weak," Hegedus said. "Annual traditions were struggling to even occur."

Each month, presidents of clubs and organizations meet to discuss events, goals, recruiting and traditions. Collaborations, such as one between the Longboarding Club and Harborside Activities Board, along with marketing strategies, are common topics at meetings.

The Council of Club Presidents has been active for more than three years. The monthly meeting began in 2010 when James Scott was student body president. According to Hegedus, the purpose was to create a "unified, whole idea of the campus from the student perspective."

Activity from previous vice presidents was light, keeping the council sparsely active. When current president Mark Lombardi-Nelson served as a vice president in the 2010-2011 school year, the council only met twice a semester with representatives from seven clubs.

The council did not meet when Jimmy Richards was vice president last year.

The lack of meetings caused inconsistencies in forming traditions and conflicts in event planning, Hegedus said. New goals for the council include supporting individual events and creating an online tool for campus clubs and organizations.

Hegedus has made it a priority to meet with the council monthly to address PPCOs: potentials, problems, concerns and outcomes.

"An issue many clubs and organizations faced was knowledge of their own histories. With little guidance from predecessors, clubs may lose records of formation and goals," Hegedus said. "New goals and ideas at the council’s meetings this semester.

"I’d really like to see [the council] as a working group," Reilly said. "It’s going to be a really empowering process for everybody."

Suggestions to prevent loss of goals and histories include creating club handbooks and guides to train newly elected presidents in their roles before each school year.

Hegedus said many clubs remained active during summer 2013, which may have contributed to the increased turnout for 2013-2014 council meetings.

"It was nice to meet some of the other clubs and get ideas on obtaining and retaining more members," said John Veneziano, president of the Fishing Conservationists Club.
Monday, Oct. 7

Come hear the story of the kids who created the modern skateboard culture and maybe win a free longboard! The Longboard Club will show the movie “Lords of Dogtown,” based on the story of the legendary Z-Boys. There will be free food and prizes, including a longboard. The showing begins at 8 p.m. in the USC Ballroom.

Wednesday, Oct. 16

The second research colloquium of the semester features students who studied in Moldova during spring break 2013 as a part of Dr. Judithanne Scourfield’s course. USFSP graduate student Marissa Wyant will present on “Moldova’s Path to Accession to the European Union.” The event takes place from 12 to 1 p.m. in the Nelson Pointner Memorial Library.

Thursday, Oct. 17

The deans of all three USFSP colleges will gather together at the Salvador Dali Museum for “The Genius Next Door.” This series, held the third Thursday of the every month, features USFSP students and faculty in a “fireside chat.” The event is always free and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-serve basis. The event begins at 6 p.m. in the museum’s theater. The Dali Museum is located at 1 Dali Blvd.

Remember the good old days when your favorite teacher took your class on a field trip to the movies? Time to relive those memories! The Harborside Activities Board is taking a field trip to North Strabah Park for a showing of “The Blues Brothers.” This story of two brothers and their zany, musical adventures is in sync with the story. Activities Board and a bookmark of an effort to unite USFSP students, and that’s why we keep the poster is able to change based on the needs of the students want. Porter is able to organize the field trip. Planning required recruiting volunteers, making arrangements with other campus organizations, securing funding from the county to bus nearly 100 students in from Fairmount and getting the Reef food paid for by the College of Education. Since the funding was not being used for USFSP students, she couldn’t go Student Government to obtain it. “It was our first event ever and I went all out,” Wilson said.

Many of the Fairmount students were familiar with the USFSP campus. Last summer, the “Bridge to Success” program hosted a day camp for Fairmount students, as part of an effort to unite USFSP with the community.

By Tyler Killette

Eleven-year-old Journee wants to be a lawyer when she grows up, and like any six-year-old, she isn’t embarrassed to let everyone know it. She has already planned her future, naming after a “bad bite,” the fifth-graders all agreed the Reef food was better than their school’s. The soda was a special treat.

Before lunch, Fairmount’s fifth-grade classes rotated through four 30-minute activities around campus.

In the Fitness Center, they hula-hooped, jumped rope, star piled, stretched bungee cords and occasionally broke out into hip-hop dance moves.

In the Harbor Hall auditorium, the Broadway Bulls, a recently established improvisation group on campus, read and acted out “The Giving Tree” by Shel Silverstein. After the performance, some of the fifth-graders got a chance to test their improv skills, miming actions that they saw during the performance. Some of the fifth-graders from Fairmount Park Elementary, a Swansea school, were there as well.

Outside on the basketball court, volunteers coordinated dodgeball games with soft foam balls, facing the children against their classmates, their teachers and counselors.

Later, everyone participated in a drum circle on Harborwalk and visited Bess the Book Bus, which gave a book to each Fairmount student. They received another book in their goodie bags that also contained treats from Harborside Food Services.阳台 Book Bus and a bookmark from the Nelson Pointner Memorial Library.

Angela Wilson, president of the Everyone’s Education Club and a College of Education senior, organized the field trip. Planning required recruiting volunteers, making arrangements with other campus organizations, securing funding from the county to bus nearly 100 students in from Fairmount and getting the Reef food paid for by the College of Education. Since the funding was not being used for USFSP students, she couldn’t go Student Government to obtain it. “It was our first event ever and I went all out,” Wilson said.

Many of the Fairmount students were familiar with the USFSP campus. Last summer, the “Bridge to Success” program hosted a day camp for Fairmount students, as part of an effort to unite USFSP with the community.

By Matt Thomas

Students caught using or selling drugs on campus are at risk of losing their financial aid.

If a student continues to accept financial aid after being convicted, they are responsible for paying it back.

The nationally upheld regulation comes from the Aid Elimination Policy under the Higher Education Act.

Types of federal aid include Stafford loans, PLUS loans, Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, ACG grants and federal work-study.

The Federal Student Aid Handbook states a student may regain eligibility the day after the period of ineligibility ends, but only after successfully completing a qualified drug rehabilitation program, or passing two unannounced drug tests given by such a program.

The drug rehabilitation program must be recognized by federal, state or local government.

For more information on the Aid Elimination Penalty and a history of the law, see the editorial on Page 6.
**View from the Nest**

**Marching against Monsanto**

**BY TAYLOR AUSTIN**
**STAFF REPORTER**

Chanting “Hell no, GMO,” a fleet of health concerned consumers gathered outside St. Petersburg City Hall around noon on Saturday, Oct. 12.

They carried signs slathered with words of social distrust, like "DEMONSANTO" and “Save the Earth from Seeds of Satan.”

The Monsanto Company, Inc. is an American-based multinational chemical and agricultural biotechnology corporation, founded in 1901. It’s also what motivated these residents to march.

The genesis of genetically modified organisms did not sprout from Monsanto — that began with the landmark 1979 case Diamond v. Chakrabarty, which resulted in a law stating, "Natural laws, physical phenomenon, abstract ideas or newly discovered materials are not patentable, only a live, artificially-engineered organism is."

Monsanto has since taken this law and ran, patenting more than 11,000 genetically modified "plants" and making it clear it wants to be the only cooks in the business, having absorbed dozens of company buyouts.

The proposed problem with Monsanto is not entirely within its plethora of products that go tested inadequately and end up on our market shelves. Many Americans view it as an “untrustworthy” company.

Part of this distrust comes from “Monsanto’s Revolving Door,” a euphemism for the extreme overlap between people that hold positions in agencies such as the FDA, EPA, USDA, American Cancer Association, U.S. Supreme Court, who also hold positions at Monsanto, either previously or concurrently.

The knowledge that the same people who are approving the consumerism of Monsanto products can also be found on Monsanto’s payroll unnerved many of the people at the march.

“I am concerned that there will be a complete takeover of genetics,” Sam, an Eckerd College student and marcher, said.

Monsanto’s history involves the invention and manufacturing of the herbicidal war chemical Agent Orange, used in Vietnam. It is also responsible for the direct poisoning and pollution of an entire town in Alabama.

From 1921 until 1971, polychlorinated biphenyls were produced and dumped into the ground and waterways of Anniston, Ala. The result: widespread exposure to this poison by the townsfolk, leading to a community-wide development of extreme health issues.

By the thousands, the people of Anniston began to develop various types of cancer, diabetes, hepatitis, failing respiratory and immune systems, and countless other health problems. Since consuming these chemicals for roughly 60 years, the general health of this community is in shambles.

Monsanto and the state of Alabama attempted to cover up the entire ordeal, and after various class action lawsuits and an eventual $700 million settlement with the people of Anniston, the citizens are still left to deal with contaminated soil and crippling medical expenses.

Monsanto is a threat to American society because its inadequately tested products go onto our shelves. It also has a crippling amount of power over our government due to the people it employs, and the economic leverage it has over many politicians.

Students from Eckerd College stated as a group, “Our generation is the first to be completely exposed to genetically modified products, and we are concerned about the development of humans that will surely come out of that.”

The questions began with, “Wait, what’s in our food?” and now seem to be ending with, “Wait, what else are they not telling us?”

Social awareness is growing within our generation, and exposing corporate giants and their deceit may be the starting point to true progression in America.

I’ll leave you with the knowledge that genetically modified foods are restricted from the cafeterias at Monsanto headquarters.

**Bus to USF game hits temporary roadblock**

**BY JENNIFER NESSLAR**
**STAFF REPORTER**

Last basketball season, a USF St. Petersburg bus to the game was vacant, except for a Student Government representative manning the bus and a Crow’s Nest photographer. On Saturday, Oct. 5, more than 20 students showed up to ride the bus to the football game. This time, a representative from SG failed to show.

Sophia Constantine, chair of the SG legislative affairs, was on campus before the bus left. Because her family was visiting her, she had not planned on going to the game. When she learned no one was there to man the bus, she felt she needed to step up and take responsibility.

“SG is supposed to be a team,” Constantine said.

The SG representative is responsible for assigning students to buses, informing students when to return to the bus and making sure students return to USFSP safely.

When Constantine arrived at the game, she ran around trying to find an ATM to tip the bus driver. Because she was not scheduled to coordinate the bus, she was unprepared.

“It put me in an uncomfortable position,” she said.

Prior to the situation, Constantine was concerned about how the process of assigning an SG representative to man the bus worked. She was advised to send an email to the entire SG governing body addressing her concerns. Then everyone in SG would be able to see the answer.

Before she could send the email, Constantine was involved in a serious car crash and decided to ask the question in SG’s general assembly meeting on Wednesday.

When she raised the question, she was told to ask about it that night at the SG Cornhole Tournament, which was being held in lieu of the weekly meeting.

Because Constantine was required to attend another SG meeting during that time, she never received her answer.

According to Mark Lombardi-Nelson, student body president, members of the executive board typically serve as representatives on the bus. He said he has been the representative for most games.

“In recent games, myself and others have come into personal situations that led to communication about who was available to be the rep on the buses,” he said, noting that this does not happen frequently.

Lombardi-Nelson said that one day prior to the events, SG will begin making a list of SG representatives able to coordinate the buses.

“At the end of the day, it’s all about getting to the game and having a good time,” Constantine said.

**Council of presidents more active this year**

**COUNCIL continued from front page**

Veneziano emphasized a need for better advertising for PeteSync, since it is a valuable tool for organizations.

More than 20 organizations’ members were represented in the council’s September meeting.

“It was very reassuring in my perspective because they are looking for resources,” Hegedus said.

Prior to the event, Hegedus sends out two optional dates for the council to meet. Presidents of every club select the most agreeable date and must send an alternate leader if they cannot attend.

“Another purpose is to give credibility to the presidents of clubs,” Hegedus said. “This gives them the opportunity to feel like true leaders in a club, and important, because they are.”

The next meeting for the Council of Club Presidents is scheduled for early November.
Coffee Shop
A playlist

By Erin Murphy
Staff Reporter

There is something undeniably cozy about a coffeehouse in fall. Even if the only café you visit this semester is the Campus Grind, this playlist is chock-full of songs to create a coffee shop vibe anywhere you go.

"Falling in Love at a Coffee Shop" - Landon Pigg

The heartfelt lyrics and acoustic strings of this adorable coffee shop composition provide the perfect background sound for falling in love over a latte.

"Coffee & Cigarettes" - Augustana

Despite its heavy topic matter, the velvet smooth vocals of lead singer Dan Layus somehow manage to make this track tranquil. Sounds best whilst drinking a warm cup of your favorite brew.

"Reasons to Run" - Shane Anderson

It’s the perfect background music for studying in a cozy corner of the library, or at Starbucks. Florida based singer-songwriter Shane Anderson shows off his poetic prowess with poignant, genuine lyrics. This song from his acoustic album is instantly relaxing and intricately worn.

"The Coffee Song" - Frank Sinatra

If singer-songwriters aren’t your cup of tea, try this racy track dedicatedly to the brew. It’s an upbeat beverage that is coffee. Just don’t take the song’s suggestion of creating coffee ketchup literally – that could cause a latte problems.

"ABC Café / Red & Black" - Les Miserables Soundtrack

If you’ve ever wanted to hear French revolutionaries burst into song in the context of a coffee shop, here’s your chance. "Red & Black" is arguably one of the most moving tracks from the Les Miserables soundtrack. Check out the second song sung in the ABC Café, "Empty Chairs at Empty Tables," for more listening.

"Second Chances" - Gregory Alan Isakov

Besides possessing one of the best monikers in the universe, Gregory Alan Isakov offers an upbeat look at life with a casual, folksy feel. "Second Chances" sounds like how a pumpkin spice latte tastes.

"Coffee" - Copeland

This song’s slow pace mimics the lazy stroll of someone striding into his or her favorite coffee shop after a long day. Just don’t listen to it too late at night or you will be slowly lulled into a decaffeinated slumber by its simplistic, café vibes.

"Thought I Heard You Screaming" - Benjamin Booker

This song’s depressing themes dissolve in its swampy banjo and smoky vocals like raw sugar in a steaming hot brew. The occasionalacky local Booker can be found playing gritty rock ‘n’ blues numbers with drummer Max Norton in venues all over town.

Eating animals: lifestyle choice or murder?

An online cultural studies and pop arts class through USF Tampa participated in a webinar with internationally acclaimed author Jonathan Safran Foer.

By Meaghan Habuda
Staff Reporter

According to Jonathan Safran Foer, humans would make water undrinkable, eliminate fish from the ocean, destroy topsoil and fashion useless antibiotics, unless, somewhere along the way, they stop craving the Chicken McNugget.

In his first of eight webinar sessions with Farm Forward, a nonprofit that advocates against factory farming to change the way people cultivate and consume food, Foer, author of “Everything is Illuminated” and “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close,” led a discussion on what eating animals, the topic and title of his 2009 book, is really about.

Students from USF, Broward College on the East Coast, Philadelphia’s Central High School and beyond — even a university in Germany — greeted one another. Though all enrolled in different courses, they entered the chat around 10 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 10, for a similar purpose.

Conversations about food, according to Foer, tend to create divisions that isolate people, deterring them from engaging in thoughtful dialogue. However, since food involves culture, shapes our identities, frames the way we perceive the world and more, our journeys with food are arguably endless. And Foer agrees the journey isn’t finished.

The question of whether meat is murder wasn’t what he sought to answer through his book. In fact, Foer used more than 300 pages to argue against the notion. No matter how much this concern vexes people, he said he doesn’t consider it to be the imperative question because “we live in the world of factory farming.”

Instead, having shifted to and fro between vegetarian, vegan and meat-eating lifestyles while growing up, he asked, and continues to ask: Do we want to support an industry that’s more disastrous to the Earth than many other contributors to environmental problems?

He said most people view themselves as some sort of environmentalist, that they believe our elected officials should restructure plans in order to preserve natural resources. In "Eating Animals," Foer furthered this idea, noting that 96 percent of Americans think animals deserve legal protection, and 76 percent care about animal welfare over low meat prices.

So what’s stopping these people from seizing a diet that’s vegan or vegetarian?

"It’s a set persona," he said.

The terms leave no room for intermediacy, and he explained that neither would become approachable when structured this way.

When the webinar’s Q-and-A portion opened, Central High School student Christine MacArthur asked, “Would there be vegans or vegetarians if factory farming didn’t exist?”

Foer said people embrace vegetarianism for a number of reasons, and there will always be those who feel using animals for human benefit is wrong. But since everyone has a different perspective, it’s not fair to simplify beliefs.

"Everyone draws a line somewhere," he said. "Starting to recognize where they are, and drawing them yourself, is a great thing."
Local studio to fund Gen Y’s creative dreams

Herald Staff

The answer is always yes. It’s that simple.

That is the phrase that has come to represent what playwright, actor and theater director Bob Devin Jones has done for St. Petersburg in the last 17 years.

Jones has lived and traveled across the United States, accomplished many artistic feats and received an assortment of accolades. For all that, he prefers to stay focused on the place and challenges at hand.

Most mornings, he frequents the original Kahwa coffee shop on Second Street North, his over-flowing planner spread on the table before him. A majority of the papers concern events at the Studio@620 — a community arts space and non-profit organization he founded with his neighbor, Dave Ellis, in 2004. Ellis retired in 2010, leaving Jones with a lot to do.

Under Jones’ direction, the philosophy of the studio has been to never turn down an artist’s idea. If it is humanly possible for the studio to provide what a group or artist needs, the answer is to their proposal is “yes.”

As Jones looks anxiously over his notes at Kahwa, a gray-haired patron entering the shop smiles when he sees him. They exchange a few words in French, and the man waves goodbye. Jones swears he only dabbles in foreign language. Before he leaves the shop, another four people recognize him and stop to talk.

“It’s a typical outing,” he said, laughing.

On the way back to the studio in a black stick-shift Jeep, he flips the dial between country and classical music.

“I enjoy classical music the most when I’m writing,” Jones said.

His writings include more than 10 plays on a range of topics, though most of them deal with social justice and civil rights in one form or another.

The one he talks about the most is “Uncle Bends: A Home-Cooked Negro Narrative.” The one-person play, based on the history of several of his ancestors, has been performed in Ireland, New York and St. Petersburg. In it, Jones portrays several characters who lived through slavery and segregation, cooking for the audience as he talks. The name is both a reference to “Uncle Ben’s Cabin” and the resiliency of African slaves and their descendants.

“They would bend and bend under adversity, but they would not break,” Jones said.

Back at the studio, he walks up the creaky stairs to his office on the second floor. The room is full to the brim with memories. A black and white photograph of his parents in elegant clothing hangs directly over his desk. Posters for past productions of his plays line the walls, and a bookshelf is full of his literary inspirations.

Prominent among the works are several books by James Baldwin, a black writer who motivated Jones in his life’s work.

“He said something like ‘the best thing a man can do for the movement is to do what he does best,’” Jones said. “I wasn’t a great marcher or organizer, but I did care a great deal about social issues. So I wrote.”

Jones was the first in his family to go to college, though he didn’t find school all that fulfilling. He attended Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. During his second year there, he participated in a study abroad program that enabled him to enhance his craft on the stages of London. The day of his graduation he flew to Chicago for a Shakespeare festival. A play that never was for Jones said, “It wasn’t particularly challenging and it didn’t capture my attention.”

In St. Petersburg, he has had the chance to learn by doing, and help to build a new piece of community in the process.

“Bob is the best at what he does,” said Aliza Fonzalan-Randle, president of the executive committee at the Studio@620.

“Bob has seen and done a lot, and he’s really a cornerstone of the community,” said Ray Arsenault, civil rights historian and John Hope Franklin Professor of Southern History at USF St. Petersburg.

Arsenault’s release party for his Pulitzer Prize-nominated book, “Freedoom Riders,” was held at the studio.

Over the last few years, the studio has expanded its programming a great deal, including more events linked with USFSP. Among recent programs were an honors thesis presentation by USFSP student Karleigh Chase in the form of a play, and the “Big Kids Art Show,” in which students of the graphic design department morphed elementary school drawings into advanced works of art. Former USFSP student Hunter Payne helped paint the new mural adorning the side of the studio.

Jones is particularly excited about an $80,000 Doris Duke Charitable Foundation grant the studio was awarded over the summer. The studio was one of 10 organizations selected out of 249 that applied nationwide, thanks to Sharon Scott, an actor, writer and singer who works closely with 620.

With the grant, they have created an arts program called Project GenYes! targeted at generation Y — including students at USFSP. The program will be half virtual and half in-person. It is intended for theater, dance and jazz artists, but Jones says they will consider applications from artists of any medium.

For example, a writer could write a play, or a filmmaker could make a documentary, Jones said.

“We want to take native talent to a professional level,” Jones said.

“But the exploration is as important as what we find out at the end.”

The applicants will be narrowed to a group of 12 for further interviewing, and then to a final six, who will participate in the program. Those chosen will receive $1,000 and three performances of their finished project at The Studio@620. They will work one-on-one with experts in their craft, among them Scott and Jones. The eligible age range is 18 to 32.

“It’s for the younger than Jesus, older than Justin Bieber crowd,” Jones said.

The performances will be in the fall of next year, after months of work and collaboration. The hard deadline for applications was Oct. 15, but the studio is extending it to Nov. 1. Until then, Jones is trying to get one person to register every day.

Jones said he wants to be even more proactive in reaching out to the community through the studio than he’s been so far — and keep spreading the “yes.”

The application for Project GenYes! is online at studio620.org.

arts@crowsneststpete.com
Drug penalties pose war on higher ed

By Kati Lacker

It’s question 23 on the FAFSA application.

“Have you been convicted for the possession or sale of illegal drugs for an offense that occurred while you were receiving federal student aid?”

Unless you drive a Rolls Royce to campus, or have access to a well-endowed trust fund, the answer better be no.

Last month, USF students received an email reminder that a conviction for the possession or sale of illegal drugs would lead to the loss of their financial aid (addressed on Page 3).

“The nationally enforced regulation comes from the Higher Education Act under the Aid Elimination Penalty clause, which essentially says, “It’s OK to do drugs, as long as you’re rich.”

The intention of the clause may be to reduce drug use among college students, but the approach does not support a war on drugs — this is a war on access to higher education.

The Higher Education Act has seen a few changes over the years in regard to punishment for drug crime violations. So, first, a little history:

The act was originally authored by President Lyndon Johnson, in 1965, “to strengthen the educational resources of our colleges and universities and to provide financial assistance for students in post-secondary and higher education.”

“This is the reason we have access to scholarships and low-interest loans (an issue for another time) from the federal government today.

In 1965, the act said nothing about drugs.

However, in 1998, a republican congressman named Mark Souder proposed an amendment to the Higher Education Act that has now barred more than 200,000 students from receiving federal financial aid.

The Aid Elimination Penalty prevented students convicted of drug crimes, at any point in their lives, from receiving federal financial aid.

According to Students for Sensible Drug Policy, a grassroots campaign against the Aid Elimination Penalty, Souder’s vision was “slipped into the 257-page HEA reauthorization bill without debate or a recorded vote” and “many members of Congress and financial aid administrators were unaware of [the] change.”

The SSDP was successful in getting Congress to scale back the law in 2006, amending it so people who acquired drug charges before attending college, and receiving aid, would be still be eligible. Only those who were convicted while attending college and receiving federal aid would be penalized.

In 2008, Congress became more lenient in allowing students with drug convictions to regain access to aid. Previously, students had to complete a government-approved treatment program, which were often more expensive than tuition. With the amendment, students have to pass two unannounced drug tests administered by a government-approved program but do not actually have to complete the program.

The law has not been amended since 2008, but the entire Higher Education Act is up for review and reauthorization at the end of this year.

As it stands today, the Aid Elimination Penalty revokes aid only if one is convicted of the sale or possession of drugs while already receiving aid. Congress has made monumental strides in terms of leniency when it comes to this law. But it still lacks common sense.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 99 percent of new USF students were receiving federal financial aid from 2010 to 2011, turning the Aid Elimination Penalty into yet another plight of the lower and middle class majority.

The middle class kid who gets caught smoking weed in his dorm, with a small stash in pocket, is at risk of losing out on higher education. However, the student selling ecstasy at a party to compliment his unlimited credit card access from Mother and Father, is not.

Students who are not dependent on financial aid for school do not face the same degree of punishment for drug convictions as those who are dependent on aid. For the former, it’s a mark on their record; a speedbump. But for those in need of a little help, it could be dead end.

It is understandable that the country would not want to fund the education of a convicted drug felon. However, the current system for punishment is completely biased. The consequences for using and selling drugs should affect everyone equally. The solution must be universal.
Reflections on bringing recycling to USFSP

BY SOPHIA CONSTANTINE

Raised in Dallas with more than 10 million people, finding a recycling bin on the street was practically impossible. I was the last person I ever suspected to propose a sustainable initiative to the Student Green Energy Fund SGEF. I came to USF St. Petersburg a year ago and dived right into various clubs and organizations, many of which I could hardly relate to or knew little about. But I’ve found that to be the beauty of college; an environment that’s all about the opportunity to try new things and explore your interests, and SGEF helped me do just that.

Soon after I started school at USFSP, I met a student, Lauren Reilly, who would inspire me and serve as my guide as I ventured to take on campus sustainability and implement an outdoor recycling program. Then, Lauren was the Student Government Director of Sustainability and took under her wing to serve as my mentor while I worked on this SGEF proposal. When she first challenged me with the task, I agreed with no doubt in my mind. “Piece of cake,” I thought. Although it is one of my proudest accomplishments on our campus, it wasn’t always a cake walk.

When I started at square one, and looked at the amount of research and time that was required for a SGEF project, it was absolutely overwhelming. It made me wonder if I was the right person; I had absolutely no knowledge about recycling. Lauren and so many others who shared a passion for sustainability made sure I knew I was never alone, and help was always available. Though I was scared, I saw it as an opportunity to learn, an opportunity to push myself and grow and most importantly, an opportunity to help people and make a difference.

As scary as the project seemed at first, I learned it’s not about the stress, the pressure to be successful. Or even the sleepless nights and all-nighters it took to meet the deadline. It’s about the stress that trickled down my face when the bins arrived. It’s about the students that use them every single day. It’s about the lives we can change. It’s about the sustainability of USFSP and our beautiful Earth.

I believed in the positive impact recycling would bring to our campus, and because I’ve found so many others who believe the same thing, we stand as one; a united front. We are individuals, but more importantly, we are a team. In the words of Aaron Wasserman, a fellow student who shares a passion for sustainability, “These bins make me proud to be a Bull.”

Although I’m a city girl, I share the same beliefs as many farmers. We should put into the Earth what we take out of it, so the generations after us may also enjoy its beauty. The bins were a small memento of this effort to strive for the betterment of our future. So I ask every one who reads this to remember that we do not inherit the world from our ancestors, we are simply borrowing it from our children.

SGEF is now taking Fall 2013 proposals, and the deadline is Oct. 28th. Proposal forms can be found at usfsp.edu/sgef. Email meleggett@mail.usf.edu for more information.

Sophia is a sophomore majoring in mass communications. She can be reached at sconstantine@mail.usf.edu

The SLC echo ... echo ... echo

BY MATT THOMAS

I have a cool job. I interact with students who I like everyday. I like most of my co-workers. I hear about campus happenings that I would otherwise miss. I have Fridays off. Having an on-campus job comes with the perks of working within my class schedule. It only takes me two to five minutes to walk from class to work, and vice versa. My friends like to stop by every now and then. It’s nice of them, even if they can’t take the hint to leave after two minutes. I like my job. There’s just one slight problem: I hate working in the Student Life Center.

Let’s take it back about three years. The SLC was known as the Campus Activities Center, which had a gymnasium and offices tucked away in the back, and to my knowledge, that was about it. The CAC has since been remodeled into the SLC, which made it more visually appealing and definitely more useful to students. But here’s the thing, voices carry like in a gym. That’s a trait the SLC didn’t lose in the remodel. So now I’m in a building filled with many different voices that carry all around the first floor. I feel like I’m the only person that notices.

Imagine you’re taking a test in a Davis Hall classroom. The classroom itself is silent, but the classroom next door isn’t. Not to mention, you can hear other students in the hallway walking by. So of course you’re sitting next to a wall right by the door. It’s mildly annoying at first, but your frustration just builds. Now imagine that frustration building for at least a dozen hours every week since January. I would compare working in the SLC to that. It’s what I like to call the SLC echo. A familiar occurrence: two students are walking in different directions, they make eye contact, they recognize each other and start to talk. This happens right outside the office I work in, right in my line of sight. It can be a 30-second catch up, it can be a conversation lasting two minutes, but it can also be a 30-minute conversation that makes me wonder why these two individuals just hadn’t gotten a room.

The building’s furniture layout also screams “sit anywhere and socialize!” From where I sit, that is the worst thing anyone could do. I’ve witnessed therapy and venting sessions. I’ve learned to distinguish between the two. I listened to someone explain what the term “jailbait” means. I’ve heard guys unsuccessfully hit on girls. I’ve heard poor attempts at hitting on girls miraculously work. I even saw a person jump in the air and clap their feet together cheering out of excitement three times in a row. Who does that? It was like watching “Looney Toons.”

There then’s the piano in the student lounge, that stupid piano that students love to play the exact same songs on everyday. Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believin’,” the main theme song of “The Office” and Cee-lo Green’s “Forget You.” I’ve heard it all.

I’ll acknowledge that my complaint is a selfish one. I’m not going to act like it isn’t. People deal with worse things on an hourly basis; it’s the very definition of a first world problem. There’s no reason anyone can’t walk and talk around the SLC building. I just wish people were more considerate of their surroundings.

Matt is a senior majoring in mass communications and the entertainment critic. He can be reached at matthew87@mail.usf.edu

What they expect out of you

BY AMANDA STARRLING

Get internships. Publish your writing. Start a blog. Use your Twitter handle. Keep your Facebook profile clean. Start a LinkedIn to make connections.

College is no longer about getting As and impressing a couple professors. It isn’t enough to ace Calculus or perfect your organization skills. You have to work and perfect your image.

Image doesn’t mean your physical appearance but what you can offer an employer at a quick glance. When the hiring manager at a company looks at your résumé, it’s not going to help much if you were a member of a chess club in high school or know how to weave baskets underwater. Instead, you have to supplement with extra experiences outside the classroom.

Each night, the most studious of us cram up to six hours after a 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. job and night classes. We fit field trips, internships and extra curriculars between. We fit field trips, internships and extra curriculars between. We fit field trips, internships and extra curriculars between. We fit field trips, internships and extra curriculars between. We fit field trips, internships and extra curriculars between. We fit field trips, internships and extra curriculars between.

Each day, before I start my day, I review what I need to do. I do this not only to be prepared for the day, but to make sure I am meeting the expectations of my employer. Sometimes I ask myself if I am trying to do too much at once, but I know we can change. It’s about the sustainability of USFSP and our beautiful Earth.

The clock ticks, and we must have these completed by the time we graduate. It’s competitive to earn a career position, or even an entry-level position for your planned career, right out of college. According to the Economic Policy Institute, 9.4 percent of college graduates were unemployed, and 19.1 percent were underemployed, or working part time instead of full time, in 2012. But employment achievement is not impossible.

Each day, before I start my day, I ask myself one question: How am I improving my chances of doing what I want to after college? If I can successfully answer that, I’ve kept a clean Internet presence, wrote all the words my mind could produce and kept kind relationships with people who count, then the workload isn’t so bad.

Amanda is a junior majoring in mass communications and the news editor. She can be reached at astarling@mail.usf.edu

op-ed 7

October 14, 2013 | Volume 48 | Issue 08
Service academies playing for now

By Mike Hopey
Staff Reporter

On a recent road trip to see the Tampa Bay Rowdies play, Ralph’s Mob members were harassed by New York Cosmos fans. When the members of the Rowdies’ independent supporter group voiced their concerns to the league office, the response from commissioner Bill Peterson was, “Go watch another league.”

According to Charlie Cole, a member of Ralph’s Mob, on the group’s trip to see the Rowdies play the Cosmos on Sept. 29, several fans of the Cosmos entered their section, attempted to steal banners and personal belongings and tried to start fights.

Cole added that a minor scuffle happened between a Rowdies supporter and a Cosmos supporter in another section.

“Despite knowing a large number of away fans would be at the game, and knowing that there has been trouble with theft and hooliganism in the past when there has been large numbers of away fans, the New York Cosmos failed to provide any security whatsoever for the visiting fan section,” Cole wrote in a message to the Crew’s Nest.

No arrests were made after the incident. It was only after repeated attempts to contact the league and get an answer that Ralph’s Mob sent a message to the commissioner on Twitter through a private account.

And that’s when Peterson’s response came.

The tweet, which was later deleted, was sent on Oct. 3 from the Peterson’s official account. The league had no comment on the matter.

“This is an internal matter that the league will not be discussing with media, as is the league policy for such incidents,” Michael Preston, the director of public relations for the North American Soccer League, wrote in an email.

The Borough Boys had no comment on a trip to see the Rowdies play the Atlanta Silverbacks. Like the incident in New York, no arrests were made.

Last weekend when Ralph’s Mob made the trip to Fort Lauderdale for the Rowdies-Strikers match, the group hung banners mocking the commissioner and his declaration. The supporter groups of the Strikers also joined in on the protest.

Roundup

Service academies playing for now

By Mike Hopey
Staff Reporter

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced on Thursday that the Air Force Academy, the Naval Academy and the United States Military Academy would play their football games for the remainder of the season regardless of what happens with the government shutdown.

The three schools are able to continue playing football because their football programs are not paid for by federal money. The Air Force, Navy and Army programs are all supported with outside funding.

Hagel indicated the situation concerning athletics at service academies would be re-evaluated later in the month if the shutdown continues.

At that point there will also be a discussion on whether or not the annual Army-Navy football game will be played in December. The last time the rivalry game was not played was in 1928 and 1929 when the schools could not agree on eligibility requirements for players.

This past weekend all three schools were in action. Air Force lost to San Diego St. 27-20 on Thursday night. Navy lost to Duke 35-7 in Cameron, N.C., and Army doubled-up Eastern Michigan at home, beating the Eagles 50-25.

No. 8 Louisville stayed perfect and became bowl eligible with a 24-10 victory over the Rutgers Scarlet Knights on Thursday night. Louisville’s Teddy Bridgewater threw for 310 yards in the win. He also added two passing touchdowns and one interception. Bridgewater also had one of the Cardinals two fumbles when he fumbled the ball inside the Rutgers’ 10-yard line.

For Rutgers, quarterback Gary Nova threw four interceptions as the Rutgers offense was held to only 240 yards.

The meeting was the last between the two schools before they both leave the American Athletic Conference next season.

Cincinnati bounced back from its upsetting loss to USF last week with a 38-20 over the winless Temple Owls on Friday night.

Bearcats quarterback Brendon Kay threw for 270 yards and connected with wide receiver Anthony McClung on two touchdown passes. Kay also added a rushing touchdown.

As a team, the Bearcats rushed for 205 yards and three touchdowns. Tion Green was the team’s leading rusher with 91 yards and two touchdowns.

The loss drops the Owls to 0-6. Temple would need to win its remaining six games to become eligible for a postseason bowl game.

The Houston Cougars stayed unbeaten by beating the Memphis Tigers 25-15 despite being outgained 349-247. The Cougars got two rushing touchdowns from Kenneth Farrow in the win.

Memphis failed to score a touchdown relying on five field goals from kicker Jack Elliott. His long was 50 yards. The Tigers also fumbled four times, losing all four fumbles.

Peterson was named the new commissioner of the NASL on Nov. 27, 2012. He replaced the league’s original commissioner David Downs. Prior to working for the NASL, Peterson was the senior vice president AEG Sports and the managing director of the Home Depot Center, now known as the StubHub Center in Carson, Calif.

With AEG Sports, he oversaw the management of Major League Soccer clubs and the development of soccer-specific stadiums.

Hooliganism has historically been a problem in soccer with its height in the 1970s in Great Britain. Through efforts by FIFA, the international governing body for soccer, and domestic organizations, soccer matches are safer.

Top performers

South Florida

Passing

ATT Cmp YDS TD INT
B. Ewell 28 8 106 0 0
Rushing

CAR YDS AVG TD LG
D. Tice 11 69 6.3 0 27
Receiving

REC YDS AVG TD LG
M. Pierre 2 28 14.0 0 16
Passing

ATT Cmp YDS TD INT
T. Boyle 43 15 149 0 0
Rushing

CAR YDS AVG TD LG
L. McCombs 20 164 8.2 1 52
Receiving

REC YDS AVG TD LG
G. Davis 6 30 5.0 0 24
American Conf. Standings

CONF OVERALL
W-L-F PA WL-FA PA-WL PA-FA STER
Louisville 2-0 6-0-0 1-0 66 46 40
Boston 2-2 6-0-0 5-0 109 95 75
USF 2-0 3-0 0-0 54 91 82
UCF 1-0 2-0 0-0 119 83 61
Cincinnati 1-1 5-0 0-0 107 87 76
Rutgers 1-0 5-0 0-0 110 62 63
SMU 0-1 5-1 0-1 126 116 116
UCF 0-1 10 0-0 82 143 63
Memphis 0-2 7-1 0-2 91 101 12
Temple 0-3 9-0 0-3 99 174 66

USF Sailing Results

SAISA Fall Women's Championship

Hosted by Navy
Regatta featured three divisions

TST
1. Yale 289
2. Charleston 276
3. Navy 396
4. Stanford 440
5. Hobart 441
6. Brown 450
7. St. Mary’s 460
8. Old Dominion 461
9. USF 464
10. Georgetown 490
11. MIT 509
12. Fordham 520
13. Eckerd 578
14. Cornell 589
15. Northeastern 615
16. Wisconsin 691
17. George Washington 709
18. Miami 742
19. Northeastern 615

Need to know stat of the week

That’s the number of goals Boston Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask has allowed in each of his four starts this season. His 1.00 GAA is tied for league lead.