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Behind a plexiglass barrier scuffed from years of birthday parties and recreational hockey games, two U.S. Olympic athletes glide, spin and leap across the fluorescently lit ice.

A crowd of 50 occupies the concrete bleachers overlooking the rink, taking advantage of the opportunity to see Olympians at work without having to travel across the world.

After running through pieces of various routines for the cameras, Felicia Zhang and her partner, Nathan Bartholomay, meet in the center of the ice to take a bow.

As Zhang skates back to her coach, her dark eyes glisten, her ruby-lipped smile ceaseless. Though her 5-foot-tall figure is dainty, her pronounced quads cannot hide under her black spandex pants.

The 20-year-old U.S. Olympic figure skater is also a freshman psychology student at USF St. Petersburg.

Zhang was born in New York and moved to New Jersey when she was eight. After graduating high school in 2011, she moved to Florida to train at the Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex with renowned coaches Jim Peterson and Lyndon Johnston.

Zhang's passion for ice skating developed at a friend's birthday party when she was 7. Thirteen years, and a second place rank at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships later, and she's on her way to the 2014 Winter Olympics.

The pair embarks on Feb. 1, making a pitstop in Munich, Germany, before heading to Sochi, Russia, for the games. Zhang thinks that might be when it finally hits her -- when she steps off the plane into the Olympic village. That's when she might start feeling like an Olympian.

"I've just been doing it for so long," she said.

Even during high school, she became accustomed to dedicating half her day to classes and half to training.

Though she put school on hold this semester, and understandably so, graduating from college will be one of Zhang's main focuses after the Olympics. So far, she's taken a mix of online and night classes. Her favorite course yet was Sociology with Professor Jason Laguna.

When Zhang isn't on the ice, doing cardio work, selling cardigans at the Ellenton outlet mall or working on school, she's sitting at home relaxing -- probably watching the TV show "Friends." She has the show's schedule memorized for TBS and Nick at Nite. As a rare treat, she may go get frozen yogurt with Bartholomay, who she shares an apartment with down the street from the ice complex.

Bartholomay said his partner levels him out. While he tends to be more intense, Zhang is more laid back and easygoing.

After Sochi, and later on in life, Zhang isn't quite sure what the future holds. However, she does know it will involve skating.

"I don't know what I would do if I wasn't on the ice all day," she confessed.

When she and Bartholomay arrive in Sochi, the plan is simple:
A win for campus longboarders

Blake Shay
BY JENNIFER NESSLAR
STAFF REPORTER

Blake Shay commutes to USF St. Petersburg, using his longboard as his primary source of transportation. He works at Starbucks on First Avenue North, which forces him to ride his longboard through downtown, where it is illegal to do so.

In St. Petersburg, riding a skateboard or longboard is prohibited between Fifth Avenue North and Fifth Avenue South, and between 16th Street and the Bay. But St. Petersburg City Councilman Karl Nurse wants this to change.

Nurse’s interest in amending the ordinance is personal. His son, now an adult, enjoys skateboarding. When Nurse received letters from college students in the community requesting the ordinance be changed, he decided to take action.

The ordinance was written because skateboarders downtown were damaging property, Nurse said. He finds flaws in this reasoning.

“It would be like outlawing walking because people are jaywalking,” Nurse said, in an interview with The Crow’s Nest. Jaywalking, he added, is a serious problem in St. Petersburg.

Shay, a member of USFSP’s Longboarding Club, has never been stopped by the police while on his longboard. But, the recent attention given to longboarders in the area makes him nervous he will be ticketed. Tickets for riding skateboards in the prohibited zone cost $93.

Franklin Alves, president of the USFSP Longboarding Club, said no USFSP students in the club have been ticketed.

However, some members not affiliated with the university have been ticketed.

The Longboarding Club often rides together down Beach Drive to Snell Isle. Until they pass Fifth Avenue North, the trip is illegal. During a normal club meeting, 20 to 30 students ride together.

“If we were to get stopped one day, the police would be bank rolling on a lot of money,” Alves said.

Both Alves and Shay agree with the initial implementation of the ordinance.

“The type of skaters that were around then [was] a lot more reckless and fit the vandal type,” Shay said.

Most of the skaters of today are college students who use longboards for transportation, they explained.

Nurse believes the current ordinance sends the wrong message to college students.

“We say we want to be a city that embraces young people,” he said.

The ordinance communicates the opposite message.

At the St. Petersburg City Council meeting on Thursday, the council voted 8-0 to send the ordinance change to the public services committee, a group of four to five council members who will review the change.

Nurse anticipates opposition to come from those resistant to change. He realizes the ordinance change may result in St. Petersburg business owners’ property damage.

“Inertia is always your enemy,” he said.

Take a stand: Nurse said the best way USFSP students can make a change in the ordinance is to contact the St. Petersburg City Council. To share your opinions, call the Council at 727-893-7171 or email council@stpete.org.

news@crowsneststpete.com

Reader response: guns on campus

Editor’s note: The previous issue of the Crow’s Nest featured a story on a USF weapon policy change that allows students to store unloaded guns in their cars while on campus. The change was prompted by a lawsuit between Florida Carry and another state school. Now, the activist group is pushing to store guns in dorms to make you feel more or less safe while on campus? Should students be allowed to keep guns in their dorms?

Here’s what you thought:

Less safe. And no. They should NOT be allowed to have guns in dorms. This must be a sick joke. -- Angeline Bruno

As someone who used to live on campus and was an RA, I would not feel comfortable with residents being allowed to keep guns in campus housing. There really is not much reason to have a weapon in campus housing because we already have many security precautions in place in order to protect the residents from any harm. -- Andrea Inman

I agree with students being able to have guns in their vehicle. If a student chooses to do so, they need to do it properly and follow the guidelines and laws and be responsible about it. But I don’t think guns should be allowed in dorms. If I was still living in the dorms, I don’t think I would feel as safe or comfortable. -- Nikki Leahy

Having the ability to keep a firearm in my car is a step in the correct direction; One that in my opinion shouldn’t have even had to be fought for. Keeping it on my person will be a whole different debate though. -- Michael Novich

Why shouldn’t they allow people to have guns in their dorm? Not only for protection reasons but for transit students who like to have some recreational fun while having a safe place to store their firearms. I am also for cwp (concealed weapon permit) carry as well. -- Peter Rose

I would never feel safe if people were allowed to have guns in their dorms. Stupid idea. -- Lexi Wingate

I’m fine with a concealed weapon in a person’s vehicle, but in the dorm is too much. There is enough security in the dorms & students can become extremely emotionally charged. I think the vehicle should be the limit. -- Nina Shand

The probability of a drive by shooting by a USF student just rose by a bunch of percent. I hope nobody has road rage in the small parking garage. -- Connor Gumm

What makes a campus a magical place where guns somehow are worse than .01” outside of an imaginary boundary? -- Robb Allen

Guns don’t belong on a college campus. Period. -- Michael McClelland

*Note: Not all respondents are USFSP students.

Join the conversation: The Crow’s Nest is always looking for feedback on any story we publish. Email comments/complaints/suggestions to usfcrowsnest@gmail.com, leave us a message on Facebook or tweet us @usfcrowsnest. Maybe you’ll end up seeing your name in the next issue.

news@crowsneststpete.com
Reef defends itself against complaints

By Amanda Starling
Staff Reporter

"So I just went to the Reef and they charged me $12 for three pieces of watermelon and $50 for a case of water," Kyle Gudin wrote on the USFSP Know It All’s Guide on Facebook. "Don't you think this is kinda cool?"

Spring 2014 ushered in another semester of groans from students living on campus who purchase the mandatory meal plan. Gudin’s thread received 38 likes and 30 comments, nearly all condemning the cafeteria system in place since fall 2012.

But do the claims line up with the price boards for meals on campus?

- Fruit served out of wood crates cost $1.50 per piece. The average sandwich costs $6.
- Students claim a particular brand of chips is sold for around $8 at the Reef, when it can be found for half that price in stores.
- The main problem comes when students attempt to purchase individually priced items in "bulk" portions.

According to Sodexo manager Louis Duran, items purchased in bulk, however, create a "rise in price" since the Reef functions restaurant-style and not as a store.

"We're not a wholesale location. This is a restaurant, mainly," Duran said. "We're retail-style. We're not able to sell items in bulk at a retail price like a wholesale store could."

- Items cannot be purchased in bulk for wholesale from food providers, like Coca-Cola, and produce providers. Because they cannot purchase items in a way that is cost-efficient to a wholesale buyer, they can only sell items at individual prices. With its own contracts, it’s an effort made by Sodexo to ensure quality foods.
- "They're exploiting their contract and we have to pay for it," commented Nicholas Patides on a Know It All’s Guide post by Caitlin Greene. "It's bogus, a legal form of extortion."

Instead of relying on sandwiches and pizza, the meal plans have expanded to offer chicken pesto sandwiches, fresher fruit and ice cream, aside from the expansion of World of Wings and the Coral Café. Duran estimated an average meal cost of $7 to $8.

For students who can’t leave campus or may not be able to afford expensive dinners, the Reef has extended offers for seafood nights, steak dinners and exclusive ethnic food nights. But for these higher quality meals, Duran admits they come with a higher price.

"We've tried to step up the quality of our offerings," Duran said. "Yes, some stuff has been higher in price, but it's the only way to do it. If we continue to sell burgers and fries, it's not going to work. Students are not going to be satisfied."

Sodexo fact checker

Complaints about Sodexo endlessly circulate through social media and word of mouth. Many are warranted, but others are exaggerations and mere rumors. Here, we attempt to deliver the truth behind the claims.

Claim 1: A student purchased a box of tea for $5 at Publix but paid $50 for the same box at the Reef. Isn’t this outrageous?

The Crow’s Nest: Though the cost is high, it matches up with how much Sodexo charges per cup of tea. Since the Reef sells items à la carte -- at retail prices, not wholesale -- each tea bag is technically worth one brewed cup of tea. We’re not saying you should buy a $50 box of tea, but there is logic behind the price on Sodexo’s end.

Claim 2: Hours in the Reef and World of Wings aren’t going to change to accommodate students.

The Crow’s Nest: Student Body President Mark Lombardi-Nelson negotiated hours for the Coral Cafe and closing time for the Reef. The Coral Cafe may open as early as 7:30 a.m. to serve breakfast options. The Reef’s closing hours are to be determined.

Claim 3: The Reef doesn’t offer options for vegan and vegetarian eaters.

The Crow’s Nest: The Reef is now certified by PETA as a grade “B” facility, capable of serving any student with a specialized diet upon request.

Claim 4: What happens to all of our ideas? No one listens.

The Crow’s Nest: According to Lombardi-Nelson, the vice chancellor of finance is interested in holding a student input forum for students and Sodexo to interface issues and solutions with campus meal plans.

Zhang will make Olympic rink her home

Continued from front page

"Take in the experience, learn from it and just have a blast." After all, the Olympics is "just another competition, another routine we have to do … another jump we have to land," she said.

And even if she doesn't land the jump, even they make five mistakes -- or a hundred mistakes -- that's OK, because they made it to the Olympics, Zhang explained.

The pair will also keep Peterson's coaching motto in mind -- "Keep it frosty."

In addition to competing, Zhang and Bartholomay are excited to meet the 13 other skaters on the U.S. Olympic team. They already talk to each other daily in a group chat, through which they often playfully remind one another, "Hey, remember that time we all made it to the Olympics together?"

Just as they do at every competition, Zhang and Bartholomay will try to make the Sochi rink their home. Though, with hundreds of people coming to watch them practice each day, applauding them for simply stepping on the ice, even the Ellenton rink has begun to feel foreign. Being recognized in public, waiting in line at Starbucks, or, for Zhang, working at J. Crew, and being asked for photos and autographs is "weird."

"I'm just as surprised as they are," Zhang said of the fans who approach her.

But the feeling of instant celebrity is also "kinda cool," the pair agreed.

"It's really cool knowing there's so much support … it's a special feeling," Zhang said, assuring she's yet to develop any stalkers.

Zhang's father will accompany her to Sochi while her mother and 18-year-old brother watch from home in New Jersey. While Mom was usually the one taking her to skating competitions, helping her with hair and makeup, now it's Dad's chance to cheer from the sidelines.

Zhang is also looking forward to the opening ceremonies and, just like any 20-year-old girl might be, a chance to meet dreamy, redhead snowboarder Shaun White.

Cheer on a Bull: The 2014 Winter Olympics begin on Feb. 7. Figure skating pairs compete on Wednesday, Feb. 12. Tune in to NBC to watch and visit nbcolympics.com for a full schedule of the games.
Bypassing the chain

By Ryan Ballogg

Staff Reporter

According to a recent Yahoo news article (the unquestioned pinnacle of all good journalism), the casual dining industry is not in good shape and hasn’t been for years, with most of the chain restaurants losing customers and just barely staying afloat. Here’s a list of some things that just might be keeping the younger crowd from going back to Chili’s, Applebee’s, Olive Garden and the like.

-- Most people’s idea of a good time isn’t being waited on by a bunch of people that went to their grade school. That is why Olive Garden inevitably happens if you visit your local “Restaurant X.” Unless of course, said waiter was a jerk to you, in which case you should make your order as complicated and frustrating as possible.

-- The alcohol selection consists of stuff your parents drink, stuff your grandparents drink and mixed drinks, possibly from a not very alcoholfriendly bar called “Sam’s.”

-- The wrap selection is non-existent. “When did you last have a wrap?”

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Love hating/hate loving Warhol

Review

By Raven Martinez

Crowsnest Correspondent

The Dalí Museum is hosting a reputable collection of pop art straight off the self-proclaimed “superficial” man of metropolitan muses himself, Andy Warhol. The Dalí is known for its large collection of pop art works and is one of the few museums in the world to own large printouts of the famous Campbell’s Soup Cans. Warhol is most known for being a part of the pop art movement, which is a large movement in the art world that was popular in the 1960s and 1970s. It focused on everyday objects and popular culture, and Warhol was a key figure in this movement.

The exhibit at the Dalí Museum features several of Warhol’s works, including his famous Pop Art pieces. The exhibit includes Warhol’s famous Campbell’s Soup Cans, which were created in the 1960s. The Cans are made up of different colors and designs, and are often seen as a symbol of the pop art movement. Other pieces on display include Warhol’s Brillo Boxes and his silk-screen prints of Marilyn Monroe and Elvis Presley. These pieces are all part of the permanent collection at the Dalí Museum.

The exhibit is open to the public and is free of charge. Visitors are encouraged to explore the different pieces and learn about the history of the pop art movement. The Dalí Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm, and on Sundays from 11am to 5pm. Admission is free for children under 12, and adults can purchase a ticket for $20. The museum is also offering a special discount for students and seniors.

The exhibit is a great opportunity to see some of Warhol’s most iconic works, and to learn more about the pop art movement. Visitors can learn about Warhol’s life and career, as well as his influence on the art world. The Dalí Museum is a great place to learn more about pop art and its impact on the art world.

Erika Greenberg-Schneider scored a diplomatic win for recognizing the culture of Warhol’s art in the French Consul. Greenberg-Schneider had the honor of being the first female printer to be recognized by the French Consul for her work in the art world. She was chosen for this honor because of her dedication to the art of printmaking and her commitment to preserving it.

Greenberg-Schneider spent years developing the graphic design program at USFSP. In her time as an intern for the program, she developed curriculums to test the passage of her students and brought forward a concentration in illustration.

“Part of our job is to develop culture to be able to be someone unique in the marketplace, because the competition is rough,” Greenberg-Schneider said.

“She showed me things about the art of printmaking,” Barslaag said. “Every day I learn new techniques with her.”

Though software and hardware have joined the pallet in the art industry, Greenberg-Schneider said she sees desires for thoughtfulness and handmade printing and revival. She has printed several books with her husband, artist Dominique Labuahve, using digital techniques taught by her own students.

“Everyone wants something that looks like it’s made by hand, even if it is made on a computer,” Greenberg-Schneider said.

Instruction for the graphic design program involves education in the technical aspect of physical and digital work to form what Greenberg-Schneider calls a marriage of digital and analog.

Greenberg-Schneider wakes every morning to an espresso and dyes her hair with a much sharper shade of red. Her days are spent fluffing about her graphic studio Blou Acier, which also functions as her home in Tampa. There she has three original printers, some machines dating back to the late 1980s, that press the works of surrealist Roberto Matta and other internationally recognized artists.

“There’s this lack of culture in Tampa,” said Kristine Richardson, a graduate of USF and a student of Greenberg-Schneider. “Here in the shop, it’s like stepping into Europe.”

“I’m teaching not to separate from creative life,” Greenberg-Schneider said. “You reach a certain level of recognition where you want to give back. I want to give back what I do know.”

To see work published by Greenberg-Schneider, visit crowsnest.com.
USFSP student opens up shop that makes scents

BY ERIN MURPHY
STAFF REPORTER

Upon entering Shannon’s Web, the candle and home decor shop owned by USF St. Petersburg senior Shannon Kelly, one is instantly awash in an aroma of candle-scented goodness.

“I like warm smelling stuff,” said Kelly, a mass communications major who cites the store’s Bourbon Maple Sugar candle as her favorite. “Candles are my core thing.”

Yet opening up a scented shop was not always a dream of Kelly’s. Instead, she worked with College Hunks Hauling Junk, Swan Creek Candle Company and as a sales and marketing assistant for the alternative weekly newspaper Creative Loafing.

“I loved all those places, and I learned so much, but why not market myself?” she said. “I decided I wanted to be my own boss.”

So, Kelly, 23, quit her full-time job and set out to open shop.

“The idea came to me in August,” she said. “The doors were open the week of Christmas. The sign went up about a couple weeks later.”

Shannon’s Web, at 2454 Central Avenue in the Grand Central District, is comfy-cozy-country, with a vibe not unlike a downtown, indie version of Bath & Body Works.

In the shop’s back corner, a gilded mirror rests above a little white sink, which Kelly hopes to turn into a testing station so customers can try out her skin care products in-store.

Her shop sells items mainly from independent companies, with local vendors ranging from the Tampa-based jewelry maker Julie Meloche, to a Georgian purveyor of pepper jelly.

“It’s fueling the local economy,” she said. “I’m trying to keep it affordable.”

Yet, despite the abundance of candles and home decor items (ceramic swans and wreaths included), the store, which Kelly describes as “a surf shop meets a Cracker Barrel,” is for all to enjoy.

“I didn’t want it to be girly,” she said. “I didn’t want to be gender defined.”

This neutrality is evidenced both in the store’s color palette -- the walls are both blue and “greige” (a hybrid color combo of grey and beige) -- as well as in the plush seating area, wedged behind the back corner of the shop.

“We have a ‘man cave’ where a comfy couch and TV can be found, hosting custom fishing rods, men’s bath and body products and masculine-scented candles,” said Kelly. “I’m calling them ‘manlies.’

This “everyone’s welcome” vibe also extends to the store’s physical location, and is part of what drew Kelly to Central Avenue.

“I was back and forth between the 600 block, but I’ve always liked the Grand Central District,” she said.

“I love the community, the hipsters, the LGBT, the young families in Kenwood. At some of the places downtown, I feel like you get sized up. I want everyone to feel comfortable. For the most part, you have the cupcake places, the antiques across the street. It’s more of the mature crowd.”

Still, the ability to appeal to a range of audiences is one reason Kelly decided to create a store in the first place.

“Part of the inspiration of opening the shop came from working for Swan Creek Candle’s outlet store in Leesburg, Fla.,” she said. “A little boy and his dad came in completely lost while shopping for mom. After asking a few questions, I helped arrange a huge gift basket for her. The little boy walked out beaming, so proud he helped put together something so special.”

While the Swan Creek candles and other fragrances can be purchased pre-packaged, another option exists for those who want candles on their own terms.

In the center of the store is a candle and gift bar where customers can customize their own gift baskets and scents. Shannon’s Web pours tea lights, and can custom pour and refill jars for customers. “Someone [can] bring in grandma’s mug that they fill,” she said.

This personal touch is part of Kelly’s mission.

“There’s cute home decor out there, but it’s all mass produced,” she said. “I want to keep it U.S. based and made, not something from China.”

She sells items from “local artists. Each [product] is handmade, unique. It’s not something spewed out on a conveyor belt. It takes time.”

While Kelly herself makes some small jewelry items for the store, most of the products that line the shelves are made by friends, family and fellow creators.

“My mom made this table,” said Kelly, pointing to a display. “In opening this, I was trying to help out my boyfriend and mom, and [asking] what can I do to help everyone out?”

After playing around with store names -- she eschewed both Sun Shade (“Everything in Florida is Sunrise”) and A Place for Him and Her (“Like, you’re going to find some body massage oils in here”) -- Kelly settled on the concept of a collection of items she enjoyed.

“(Shannon’s Web) shows everything I like.”

Her inspiration stems from a range of places.

“I was inspired by Cracker Barrel and the Villages back home,” said Kelly, who hails from Leesburg.

Shannon’s Web. “Everything old, country, vintage … my mom was always that way.”

Her family is not only an inspiration for the store’s aesthetic but is also the team that has helped launch Shannon’s Web.

“My ’employees’ are friends and family helping me get this place off the ground: Allie Farnsworth and Debbie James.”

Kelly also has an intern, Austin Johnson, who is a senior in the graphic design program at USFSP. “He’s done my grand opening flyer and signage in the store,” she said.

Kelly is also a student at USFSP, running Shannon’s Web while finishing up her course-work online.

“I decided to take a store and take my last two classes at the same time,” she said. This doubled up process, which Kelly wouldn’t recommend to anyone, may prove stressful, but at least she’ll have somewhere to relax.

“I wanted [the store] to be neutral and calming. People aren’t mad when they’re buying candles. They’re just happy to be here.”

The Grand Opening: The grand opening of Shannon’s Web is set for Feb. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. The store will provide cocktails, snacks and a ribbon cutting, as well as live acoustic entertainment by Jason Neil and Kyle Chason. For more about Shannon’s Web, visit the store’s Facebook page at facebook.com/shannonswebstpete.
### Editorial

**Swipe here, save a life**

In the age of the iPhone, there’s an app for everything. That’s not even hyperbole — there is literally an app for just about everything you can imagine. And if it isn’t in the app store yet, it’s being developed.

Sure, social media, unhealthy addiction games, restaurant catalogs and anything that allows you to more conveniently view baby animals make sense. Instagram and Candy Crush have become commonplace. Some may argue that apps like these induce iPhone separation anxiety, but that’s a discussion for another day.

Today, we’re talking about abortion. Yes, within this editorial focused on electronic applications downloadable for your phone, tablet, etc., we are talking about the expulsion of human fetuses from the uterus.

How do these two things fit together? Well, thanks to a bunch of anti-abortion techies, there is now an app for that — an app for abortion.

The abortion-activist app, OnLife for Life, tracks women seeking abortions in the United States and asks its users for their prayers. To date, the app claims responsibility for saving 1,448 babies.

The main page of Online for Life shows a feed displaying updates for every person who contacts a Pregnancy Resource Center and is “considering an abortion.” The updates seem to come only from big cities, so who knows where the information is actually coming from. This information, not surprisingly, is not conveniently available.

After scrolling down the page a bit, one update reads: “Someone considering an abortion in Tampa, Florida just contacted a PRC.”

App users merely have to swipe their finger over the update to reveal an orange banner that says “Prayed!” Wow, who knew saving babies was so easy!

In exploring the app (of course we downloaded it … for research) we accidentally swiped a bit too frivolously over a few updates. Hopefully this does not skew the app’s numbers in terms of how many abortions it actually prevents.

Once users have “prayed” for the poor souls who have contacted a PRC (which doesn’t actually mean they’re considering an abortion, by the way) they are asked to invite friends to pray as well, via Facebook, Twitter or good ol’ fashioned email.

Oh, what a wonderful digital world we live in! By merely swiping our fingers over a cell phone screen, we can save lives! Not even Jesus can do that. (Well, maybe he can; the Bible hasn’t been updated since the iPhone was created.)

In a sidebar, the app shows updates of women who have decided to keep growing their fetuses or who have kept their appointments (you know, for an abortion). One updates reads, “Woman in California keeps her baby, check out the photo!”

First of all, those are two separate sentences, so there should be a period after the word baby (yes, proper punctuation is on the same caliber of importance to us writers as abortion). But even more perplexing, the photo of the said “saved baby” is clearly a stock photo of a blue-eyed blonde-haired baby model who is way too cute to actually exist in real life. The woman who kept her baby in Oklahoma apparently had its identical twin. So, not only does Online for Life save babies, it makes them beautiful. Ah, so many miracles!

Technology is truly good!

OK, just to get things straight, this editorial is not downplaying the power of prayer, nor is it presenting a biased view on abortion. To each their own, do what you do, have your baby, don’t have your baby, blah, blah, blah, it’s cool either way. But an abortion app? Seriously?

Isn’t the app itself sort of feeding into what’s wrong with modern Christianity? The fact that people think they’ve changed someone’s life — even saved a life — just because they swiped their finger across a screen is an actual travesty.

Obviously, the app works on an honors system of sorts (Did you spend at least 30 seconds asking the Good Lord Baby Jesus to save all his baby friends? OK, add this one to our list of saviors!), but if someone is so lazy that they downloaded an app to fight abortion, just as they would pick a restaurant for dinner tonight, do you really think they’re praying? Do you really think they care that much? And is it OK that we’re letting young people believe this is activism?

Online for Life is simply another way for our already self-entitled generation to feel good about themselves without having to lift a finger. Well, technically they do have to lift one finger, but not very high.

editor@crowsneststpete.com

### Labor Day

**By Kati Lacker**

**Mission Statement:** The Crow’s Nest is committed to providing its readers with news relevant to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and its surrounding community. The Crow’s Nest abides by the highest ethical standards and focuses on stories that help readers make informed decisions on current issues. We take seriously the public’s trust in our news by the highest ethical standards and reporting and strive to uphold the highest standards of reporting as defined by the Society of Professional Journalists. The views expressed — both written and graphic — in the opinion section of The Crow’s Nest do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board.

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Oh, what a wonderful digital world we live in! By merely swiping our fingers over a cell phone screen, we can save lives! Not even Jesus can do that. (Well, maybe he can; the Bible hasn’t been updated since the iPhone was created.)

In a sidebar, the app shows updates of women who have decided to keep growing their fetuses or who have kept their appointments (you know, for an abortion). One updates reads, “Woman in California keeps her baby, check out the photo!”

First of all, those are two separate sentences, so there should be a period after the word baby (yes, proper punctuation is on the same caliber of importance to us writers as abortion). But even more perplexing, the photo of the said “saved baby” is clearly a stock photo of a blue-eyed blonde-haired baby model who is way too cute to actually exist in real life. The woman who kept her baby in Oklahoma apparently had its identical twin. So, not only does Online for Life save babies, it makes them beautiful. Ah, so many miracles!

Technology is truly good!

OK, just to get things straight, this editorial is not downplaying the power of prayer, nor is it presenting a biased view on abortion. To each their own, do what you do, have your baby, don’t have your baby, blah, blah, blah, it’s cool either way. But an abortion app? Seriously?

Isn’t the app itself sort of feeding into what’s wrong with modern Christianity? The fact that people think they’ve changed someone’s life — even saved a life — just because they swiped their finger across a screen is an actual travesty.

Obviously, the app works on an honors system of sorts (Did you spend at least 30 seconds asking the Good Lord Baby Jesus to save all his baby friends? OK, add this one to our list of saviors!), but if someone is so lazy that they downloaded an app to fight abortion, just as they would pick a restaurant for dinner tonight, do you really think they’re praying? Do you really think they care that much? And is it OK that we’re letting young people believe this is activism?

Online for Life is simply another way for our already self-entitled generation to feel good about themselves without having to lift a finger. Well, technically they do have to lift one finger, but not very high.

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### Throwback

Jan. 29, 1845

“The Raven,” Edgar Allen Poe’s famous poem, is published in the New York Evening Mirror. Poe’s morbid writing filled with heinous crimes and maddening guilt reflected his own dark, tumultuous life. Poe, orphaned at age 3, self-published a collection of poems in 1827, edited a series of literary journals and was fired from many positions because of his excessive drinking problem.

“For we cannot help agreeing that no living human being / Ever yet was blest with seeing bird above his chamber door — / Bird or beast upon the sculptured bust above his chamber door. / With such name as ‘Nevermore.’”
A small person in a black gown doing his best Macaulay Culkin impression, front and center on a board-wall, an orange sunset backdrop complementing the water and an ominous couple walking in the background behind said small person. It’s one of the most famous modernist paintings. I’m talking about Edward Munch’s “The Scream.”

I feel like I’m supposed to like this painting. Sort of how if I were to say anything negative about the first two “Godfather” movies, I’d be written off as someone with terrible taste.

“The Scream” is a good painting. I don’t exactly get it entirely, but it’s good.

Paintings just aren’t my forte. I’m not saying that as an excuse, just providing some context as to why my interpretation of “The Scream” will differ greatly from the analysis most people would expect to hear.

Today I observed painting that I always knew existed but never particularly paid any mind to, until I had to for an assignment this week. Even with a twisted arm, I can only scratch the surface of what Munch was going for.

What stands out right away is how the variations of orange and blue complement one another. It was pointed out to me that the majority of movies purposely set orange and teal opposite to each other, so it’s something I’ve been more conscious of. Regardless of that, it’s still a sunset, and a pretty one at that.

My first guess was that “The Scream” is a surrealist painting, but further research proved it was done by an expressionist artist. Dumbing it down to the simplest definition of expressionism, the central figure is making an expression; a strong one.

The painting is about fear, that much I’m certain of. Until I noticed the direction his eyes were going. I would’ve assumed the main figure was a small child left behind by his parents, who are walking away. Once that theory went out the window, I honestly gave up trying to interpret it for myself.

Overall, it’s an interesting painting. I’ve seen it so many times both as a parody and as imagery to be admired. It’s weird to finally analyze it. There’s definitely something there, but I can’t help feeling like I’m still missing something. I almost feel guilty. Maybe my eyes will be more open when I examine this again in a couple of years.

Until then, when I’m not trying to impersonate an art critic, I can honestly say it looks like a little boy on a drug trip that went horribly wrong.
Rough week for Bulls b-ball

BY MIKE HOPEY
STAFF REPORTER

They knew it was going to be one of the hardest weeks of the season. But that changed nothing for the South Florida Bulls in their 20-plus point losses to Louisville and Memphis last week.

Last Wednesday’s 86-47 loss to Louisville was the worst of the season for the Bulls. The Cardinals shot 53 percent from the field, including 12 of 23 from behind the three-point line. Louisville also forced the Bulls to make 23 turnovers.

For their part, the Bulls shot only 36 percent from the field and only hit one three-point shot.

“This will certainly go down as a game I want to forget as fast as possible,” said coach Stan Heath after the loss. “They dictated and did whatever they wanted to do. We didn’t have any answers.”

Sunday’s road loss to Memphis wasn’t much of an improvement for the Bulls. USF only shot 34 percent from the field on their way to an 80-58 loss.

Particularly interesting is that in both losses last week the Bulls only real struggles came from shooting the ball and defending. Defense has been a pillar of the team’s success in the past, but in seven conference games, the Bulls have allowed their opponents to score more than 70 points six times. Five of those games have been losses. The lone win was an 82-75 victory at Temple on Jan. 9.

Turning around their conference season will be a difficult task in the weeks ahead. The Bulls will play Cincinnati, UConn twice and Louisville on the road. Cincinnati, who beat the Bulls 61-54 on Jan. 18, are undefeated in the American Athletic Conference entering the week.

However, the schedule ahead isn’t an impossible gauntlet. A four-game stretch in early February sees the Bulls playing rival Central Florida twice and Rutgers at the Sun Dome. UCF and Rutgers both have sub-.500 records in the AAC and sit right above the Bulls in the standings.

February is a short month, and the season doesn’t extend into March for very long. Any improvements on the Bulls 37 percent field goal shooting, ranked 207th worst in the nation, need to be made now.

AD search to cost $100K

BY MIKE HOPEY
STAFF REPORTER

The search to replace Athletic Director Doug Wooldred is going to cost USF a sizeable chunk of money in the amount of $100,000.

The Tampa Bay Times originally reported, after a public records request was fulfilled, that the school is going to pay the $100,000 to Eastman & Beaudine Inc. to conduct the search. USF was charged a $33,333.33 retainer fee.

The six-figure fee is standard for high profile searches in NCAA Division I sports.

USF managed to save money on the agreement. Eastman & Beaudine usually charges 25 percent of the salary of the candidate in addition to bonuses and expenses. USF and the search firm have said the new athletic director will earn close to $500,000.

The president of the search firm, Bob Beaudine, is a close friend of candidate Rob Higgins. Higgins, a USF alumnus, currently serves as the head of the Tampa Bay Sports Commission. The TBSC sponsors and markets various sporting events around the region. They were responsible for helping being the NCAA Frozen Four men’s ice hockey championships to Tampa in 2012.

Higgins has not commented publicly regarding the AD vacancy or his interest in the position. Eastman & Beaudine Inc. has been in business for nearly half a century. In the past, the company has been hired by Major League Baseball and it’s member clubs along with the PGA Tour. Eastman & Beaudine have placed high profile college football coaches like Hugh Freeze at Ole Miss and Art Briles at Baylor. The company is based in Plano, Texas.

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