Electric vehicle drivers face fines

**BY TYLER KILLETTE**
**STAFF REPORTER**

In the past four months, Kira Barrera has received $120 in parking tickets on campus -- even though she has a $173 commuter parking permit stuck to her windshield.

Barrera, an environmental science graduate student, is one of about six people who regularly drive an electric vehicle to campus and take advantage of the two free charging stations near the Tavern. Though there is no time limit on the chargers, a policy change made in November restricts use to charge completion. Once the meter shows a full charge, Parking Services patrolers are allowed to issue a $30 ticket.

While hybrid cars usually need about two hours to charge, fully electric vehicles, like Barrera’s Nissan Leaf, may need up to six hours. However, the rate of charge varies and can be tough to gauge.

“It’s an estimate,” Barrera said.

So, even when she arrives on campus in the morning and the meter says it will take six hours for her car to charge, it may be done sooner. And she may be subject to a $30 ticket without knowing it.

With an 85-mile range on her vehicle and commute from Clearwater, she needs to use a charging station every time she comes to campus.

Charging an electric vehicle costs about 11 cents an hour, according to Barrera. Though USFSP’s charging stations are free, Barrera’s parking ticket charges are the equivalent of paying for 1,090 hours of energy.

Barrera took her complaint to Bill Benjamin, purchasing manager for USFSP Parking Services, in early January. Over the next two weeks, she received two more parking tickets, the latest on Jan. 22. While the citations were issued for charge completion, neither had a chalk time noting when the vehicle was found fully charged.

Barrera appealed both tickets to Parking Services but received no response.

On Jan. 24, she sent an email to a group of campus employees and students. If the school does not come to campus.

Charging the equivalent of paying for 1,090 hours of energy.

Barrera’s parking ticket charges are the equivalent of paying for 1,090 hours of energy.

By AMANDA STARLING
**STAFF REPORTER**

Ballrooms are set to become conference rooms as Douglas McElhaney, coordinator and retired U.S. foreign ambassador, ushers in activists and diplomats for a three-day discussion of world issues.

The World Affairs Conference, which the Honors Program debuted last spring, worked as a two-day discussion of what global topics impacted St. Petersburg residents. But this year, McElhaney is targeting the youth audience as he sets up panels for student interest.

“On the one hand, many students are interested in what is happening in the world,” McElhaney said. “On the other hand, many students are not interested in the world. We have to find a way to bring them together.”

The World Affairs Conference is a partnership between the Honors Program, the Nelson Poynter II Library, and the Student Government. It is modeled on Carl Kasell’s “Story of the Week,” a public radio program that McElhaney co-hosted for 15 years.

“People who choose to go to college are interested in the world,” McElhaney said.

But at USFSP, there is a lack of knowledge. “I think it’s interesting for students to hear any kind of discussion like this,” McElhaney said. “It won’t be necessarily what you read in newspapers, magazines or manuals.”

Topics for the conference include religion and politics, the state of Africa, the Middle East, politics with Asia, sustainability and LGBT rights. The event brings forward authors, journalists, military diplomats and other professionals with perspectives on global affairs.
By Amanda Starling  
Staff Reporter

Andrew Hart, the supervisor of elections for Student Government, does not just wait for packets to arrive to approve potential candidates. He spends months planning polling locations, organizing election packets and assembling members of deciding bodies in the election.

SG elections are a semester in the making.

In addition to involvement with student government at the University of Florida, Hart, 24, has experience working with a congressman in Capitol Hill. He wanted to become involved on campus in a new city, and SG seemed the best fit.

“I thought student government governs a good avenue to go through, so I applied for one of positions on the Supreme Court,” Hart said. “They found out that (while) working on these student government campaigns, we were under the jurisdiction of intense election codes.”

Because of this background, the court recommended Hart apply for supervisor of elections.

“I was talking about how it’s a very different student government system over [at UF] and sort of how I felt that the codes were very important,” Hart said. “I figured I’d help any way I can.”

He faced the “grilling” of SG senators on the supervisor position in his first days enrolled as a graduate student for Florida studies. He recalls questioning about bias in his position interview.

“Of the things they kept asking me was if I was going to be able to be unbiased,” Hart said. “I told them, ‘Guys, I’m a brand new student, I’ve never been to St. Petersburg before … I don’t know anyone on campus. I don’t know anything about your student government or about the cliques that are in student government … I don’t know that stuff, and I don’t intend to find out.’

Hart organized the fall semester elections for senators and built his Election Rules Commission. Students of different backgrounds, from political science majors to history majors, expressed interest in critical election decision-making. But he needed individuals who were qualified for his needs: no bias.

Hart isn’t daunted by the campaign concerns of spring 2013, when candidates Mark Lombardi-Nelson and Jimmy Richards competed for the student body president seat. His interviews with the court made it clear that SG wanted to keep it in the past.

“From what I understand, it [last election] was a series of events where codes weren’t followed and there were different interpretations going on,” Hart said. “We didn’t have enough people on the ERC to review the rules and procedures.”

Without having enough people on the committee to make a decision, they couldn’t move forward, he explained.

The elections process is now smoother, according to Hart. With a full ERC instead of three members and an interim election instead of a midterm election, Hart gave him time as a new student to build a proper commission and set up for a better election.

Statutes and rules are critical to know, and Hart still reviews over them. He spends much of his time reading and analyzing both his graduate coursework and SG statutes in preparation for elections and selecting members of the Election Rules Commission.

“I still go over them,” Hart said. “It’s great if you know the statutes by heart and the rules of procedure and things like that, but it’s always important to go back and look and make sure that you’re interpreting them correctly because we don’t want another catastrophe like what happened a year ago.”

Hart considers all questions from students and the candidates during the qualification period this week. He emphasizes open contact between candidates and the ERC.

“If you have a question, ask it,” Hart said. “I’m a huge person on asking for permission instead of asking for forgiveness. Because when we ask for forgiveness, we find ourselves in a situation like last time.”

Charging policy made in ‘fairness’

Continued from front page

Student leaders, informing them of the issue.

Benjamin replied saying that following his meeting with Barrera, he asked his employees to wait thirty minutes before issuing a citation for charge completion. That was the first Barrera had heard of the policy change, and though she doesn’t doubt its implementation, she said she hasn’t seen evidence of it.

Benjamin told The Crow’s Nest he did not make the charge publicly known. “Really, this was just to accommodate her (Barrera),” he said.

Still, the 30-minute leeway is not a complete solution for Barrera. In her meeting with Benjamin, she offered to create a contact list of all the regular electric vehicle drivers on campus, so Parking Services could contact them when their charges complete.

“Every time I drive to be late to time to drive by every hour to look at my car, I don’t see why it would be an inconvenience,” Barrera said, adding that sending a text to students would be simple for Parking Services workers.

In response, Benjamin explained that with 22 parking lots to monitor (counting each level of the garage separately), parking patrolers do not have the time to contact drivers. University spokesman Tom Scherberger compared the policy to parking at a city-run metered spot. When the parking office doesn’t call you before putting a ticket on your car,” he said.

Initially, there was no time limit placed on use of the charging stations. If a student was to use charge completion was implemented in November in an effort to make the stations “accessible to everyone,” Benjamin said. Along with USF placing signs citing the regulation at each station, Parking Services employees also left notices on the windshields of electric vehicles, which outlined the new policy.

Benjamin said people coming to campus should know how long their cars need to charge and shouldn’t take advantage of the charging stations at USFSP when there are others available in the city. Barrera said she uses the stations at the Dali Museum when the ones on campus are occupied.

Barrera uses an app made specifically for her car that monitors its charge from a distance. Though she can request an update at any time, the app is not programmed to send a notification when the car is fully charged. And even when she requests an update at just the right time, she can’t always leave class or her job at the U.S. Geology Survey (just west of campus), to move her car.

Barrera also takes classes in Tampa, and though there are only two charging stations on campus, they are not monitored by time or charge completion. Instead, drivers use an app that specifically monitors the two chargers and lets them know when the charge is complete on a spot opens up. When the chargers are occupied, drivers have the option of parking in designated holding spaces right next to the charging stations. Benjamin said he has been in contact with the Tampa campus and its policy.

USFSP’s charging stations were funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. Benjamin said they were supplied on the basis there would be no charge for two years, however, the school has had to pay for electricity since installation. Since universities are not authorized to charge for electricity (only electric companies can do that), USFSP cannot charge for use of its stations.

USFSP Parking Services does not receive state funding. Money collected from parking citations is used to pay for maintenance of parking lots, signage, electricity, employee salaries and the bond on the parking garage.

Hart: ERC won’t repeat election mistakes

Wednesday, Feb. 12

Dinner’s up! Join the Harborside Activities Board and Interarsity Christian Fellowship in the USC for dinner and comedy. Share your ideas and solutions. The Open Forum on USFSP Dining Services begins at 5 p.m. in USC Ballroom 3. The goal is for students to discuss Sodexo and work together for a change in food services.

Rewind after the forum with the viewing of Don Jon, a romantic comedy about how media stereotypes of relationships complicate love. The movie begins at 8 p.m. in the USC ballrooms, sponsored by the Sex and Relationships Club and the Harborside Activities Board.

Thursday, Feb. 13

Get covered in foam on Harborwalk. We have no idea what bubbles have to do with love, but it sounds entertaining. The foam appears at 7 p.m., compliments of HAB.

Saturday, Feb. 15

Take me out to Al Lang. And no, we’re not watching the Rowdies or the Rays. The first home game, the history of USFSP club baseball begins at 2 p.m. at Al Lang Stadium. Our opponent: USF Tampa. The first 200 students receive free pizza and USFSP baseball T-shirts.
Is local the new organic?

By Daniel Figueroa IV
Crow's Nest Correspondent

You see it everywhere in supermarkets these days, the exalted “certified organic” label. An assumed promise of healthy and environmentally conscious food fit for a guiltless meal. However, a newly emerged concept now threatens the myths of organic foods — eating locally.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for a product to be labeled as USDA certified organic, it must contain at least 95 percent organic ingredients with the remainder coming from ingredients off of a nationally approved list.

Grocery stores, such as Whole Foods Market, have done much to promote the idea of organic foods as healthier and tasting better while also being better for the environment. However, food writers like Michael Pollan purport these claims are unsubstantiated, and the promotion of organic food at such a level has come at the cost of local suppliers and regional distributors.

In an interview with NPR’s Jon Brooks, Pollan said he felt we were building a “straw man, being that the whole point of organic food is that it’s more nutritious.” Pollan also admitted he, a staunch supporter of the organic movement, tends to “favor local food, whether it’s certified organic or not.”

Pollan isn’t the only modern foodie disillusioned by society’s focus on organic eating.

During an Oct. 2013 cooking demonstration at the Museum of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, chef and cookbook author Pierre Thiam opted to substitute the salmon from one of his recipes with locally sourced grouper because he feels local sourcing is “absolutely” more important than focusing on organic.

“that organic salmon from Alaska wouldn’t be as good as the grouper we had today,” Thiam said. “Organic is important, but it shouldn’t be a religion.”

At its heart, organic food has environmental advantages from not using artificial fertilizers, pesticides or growth hormones. Ideas about its nutritional benefits or made great strides in order to focus on locally sourced ingredients. Greg Baker, chef and owner of Seminole Heights restaurant the Refinery, gets most of his food through the Suncoast Food Alliance, a network of farms within a 100-mile radius of Sarasota. Weekly, he introduces new menus based on what is available from those farmers.

“I would rather have something that was picked today hitting my menu tomorrow that’s nutrient dense, has a low carbon footprint and is ultimately more delicious, and carries actual food value, than worry about, sure, that’s an organic lemon that was picked two weeks ago,” Baker said.

Baker acknowledges that using best management practices — even if you’re using conventional methods of growing — ensures there is not a monoculture, the soil is not depleted and that, in 40 years, they will not have wiped out any useful residual nutrients.

Tampa’s Café Duain has also committed itself to local sourcing, comprising its menu of at least 75 percent sustainable, organic or local foods.

In St. Petersburg, Ben Harris of the Spot Grill recently revamped his entire menu to include fresher and locally sourced ingredients.

Through other efforts, the Art Institute of Tampa’s culinary program is developing workshops on sourcing food locally. Worden Farm in Punta Gorda currently offers workshops on organic gardening in the home and preserving fall harvests throughout the summer months.

With cooler weather here, farmers markets, like the Saturday Morning Market in St. Petersburg where Eve Worden, owner of Worden Farm, offers her harvest to the public every weekend, are a thing of the past.

At the markets, farms like Worden’s offer the advantage of produce that is 100 percent organic as well as locally sourced.

“Everything in my planner is true,” Dang said.

The group hopes to pick up from the last attempt to make a SAA group started last May.

Conference seminar offers student internships

Continued from front page

McElhaney sees student involvement as ways to become informed with global issues and connect with professionals in fields they may consider.

“It provides opportunities in the sense of listening to people like Edward Loo or diplomats that have been in foreign service for a number of years,” McElhaney said.

“They’ll get a real insider’s view of what goes on. Virtually all of the people who spoke last year were very frank and open about their opinions in these things. You don’t get that very often in the political discussion.”

New to the conference is a discussion on the role of a U.S. foreign affairs officer, led by Edward Loo, a resident foreign affairs officer at Florida International University. Loo, a diplomat of 26 years, brings forward stories of representation in East Asia, Europe and Central America.

Loo became involved as a foreign affairs officer after seeing a presentation as a college junior at Duke University. His travels encouraged him to share the potential career path with students.

“It’s been a great opportunity,” Loo said. “I’ve lived so long overseas that I’ve developed a better appreciation for who we are as Americans.”

Loo will present on potential fellowships and internships to college students, ones who can involve internal works in D.C. or travel abroad at embassies.

“The organization is so large and so broad,” Loo said. “I always give as much responsibility as they can take on. It depends on skills, maturity and enthusiasm.”

The special student conference will include a panel of diplomats and bagged lunch on Feb. 14.

The downtown St. Petersburg Public, just blocks from the Saturday Morning Market, offers a package of organic romeoite lettuce (roughly one head) grown and shipped from California for $4.29.

On the same day at the market, Worden was selling her locally grown organic lettuce for $2.50 per head. Worden loves interacting with her community and said she uses the direct connection with her customers to keep her prices down.

Worden doesn’t eat salads in the summer because the produce is not available here.

“When I see all that packaged stuff in the store, and it’s all dead, I just can’t,” she said. “I can’t when I’m used to this (her produce). I mean, just look at how vibrant the colors are. That’s nutritious food.”

Ultimately, food isn’t about the label. Worden explained. It’s about understanding priority and the food choices you’re making.

news@crowneststpete.com

Go global: The World Affairs Conference begins on Feb. 13 at 4 p.m. in the University Student Center Ballroom and resumes at 9 a.m. on Feb. 14 and 15.
Love, true love

By Erin Murphy
Staff Reporter

Valentine’s Day is this Friday. “Cue cheering couples and the monotonous booming of the perpetually single.” Whether you’re celebrating the 14th with someone sweet, or just enjoying the sugary delights of cookie dough ice cream, you’re bound to have love on the brain. Here are some lovey-dovey gift ideas that we’d like to see given more often.

Socks. Yes, socks. Show that special someone you care by knitting them a pair of glorious, love-stained socks. You know, so they won’t get cold feet...

A non-traditional bouquet. Flowers are ordinary. Candy and confectionary cornucopias are becoming commonplace. Why not say “I love you” with a basket of bacon?

A handmade card. You seriously can’t go wrong with something handmade, however cheesy. Actually, the more cheese, the better.

A portrait of your face. To be hung over the mantle with care. (This gift idea not to be attempted by the artistically challenged.)

An embroidered hanky. Every proper lady needs a handkerchief embroidered with her lover’s initials. For the Jane Austen in us all.

A cardboard cutout of Jude Law. Really, don’t we all need more of Mr. Law in our lives? Hey Jude.

A rock. Nothing says “We’ll always be together” like an age-old piece of sediment.

Cheese of the Month Club. It’s the gift that keeps on giving... for 12 months, anyway. Sounds like a gouda idea!

A trail of conversation hearts, spelling out your love story, that leads your honey bunny from their home all the way to the very spot where you first met, as fireworks burst in the background, with a heartfelt melody that you wrote just for them being sung overhead by a boy choir in robes, while Morgan Freeman narrates their sure-to-be-a-hit reaction, and all the while the power of your love makes the impossible possible, causing bald men to grow hair, rapidly, and Bryan Searce to get taller. The problem is not putting all of this together, it’s trying to top it next Valentine’s Day.

BSA: discussion serious, turnout low

By Christina Quat
Crow’s Nest Correspondent

Jordan Palavra, president of USF St. Petersburg’s Black Student Association, slouched in his chair at the front of the room. The 19-year-old’s mouth formed a thin, nervous-looking line as he tells the one person in attendance they might be alone for this week’s discussion.

The group’s latest success was a forum about twerking, a popular yet provocative dance move, and the negative appropriations it implicates toward black women. Palavra said it was their biggest turnout yet.

On Jan. 30, however, the topic of the day – interracial couples – garnered less interest.

By 5 p.m., the meeting had not commenced. Two people wandered in, and one left after realizing she was in the wrong room. It was doomed to be a two-way conversation -- until four students entered at 5:15.

“It’s complicated for us,” Palavra explained. “We have to be aware of each other’s reactions. It’s a stereotype.”

By a boy choir in robes, while putting all of this together, it’s love makes the impossible possible, all the while the power of your sure-to-be-a-hit reaction, and by a boy choir in robes, while putting all of this together, it’s love makes the impossible possible, all the while the power of your sure-to-be-a-hit reaction, and by a boy choir in robes, while putting all of this together, it’s love makes the impossible possible, all the while the power of your sure-to-be-a-hit reaction, and by a boy choir in robes, while putting all of this together, it’s love makes the impossible possible, all the while the power of your sure-to-be-a-hit reaction.

“I asked someone recently to come to one of our meetings, and they told me that they don’t identify with black culture,” Palavra said. “It’s complicated.”

Gilmore explained she can’t associate with only one race, because one of her parents is white and the other is black. She said pressures to “choose” or “pick” a single race association would force her to abandon half of her identity.

Since she was a child, Gilmore attended predominantly white schools. She recalls an African-American boy telling her on the school bus she wasn’t black.

“He pointed at my skin, and he said, ‘You aren’t black, you’re like her,’ and he pointed to a white girl. [Mixed children] are forced to see the day -- interracial couples -- garbled less interest.

On Jan. 30, however, the topic of the day – interracial couples – garnered less interest.

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Review: “The Lego Movie”

By Matt Thomas
Staff Reporter

This simple plot sets the stage for many Lego worlds and characters to come together in a movie that feels like the perfect playtime for adults. The film functions as a comedy, action-adventure and family film where audiences get to see Batman, Shaq and Gandalf in the same movie.

To stop the villainous plot of Lord Business, Emmet must unite the Piece of Resistance with the Kragle, the choice weapon of Lord Business. It sounds dumb on paper, but it functions in ways previously unimaginable on screen.

The movie is fast paced and averages a joke a minute. Directors Phil Lord and Chris Miller (“Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs,” “21 Jump Street”) specialize in quick humor, puns, countless amounts of references to both movies and real world trends, and jokes that are only understood after a second viewing.

More impressive are the movie’s themes. There’s a subtext about creativity and straying from the beaten path that the movie encourages. Could the filmmakers be taking a shot at Hollywood producers for having their blockbuster follow the same template, or are the filmmakers justifying their own quirksiness?

The animation at work in this movie is a great achievement. The Lego pieces move with stop-motion mannerisms, explosions are done in Lego form, water is small blue Legos and that’s not even half of it. Camera tricks and creative 3D also add to the fun.

There’s a surprise twist or fresh idea waiting at every corner of the movie, and just when it seems the directors might run out of steam, they introduce an entirely different plot element that changes the course of the entire movie in its third act. The movie’s late turn managed to be hilarious, creative and heartwarming all at once.

“The Lego Movie” is pure entertainment for all ages that will be the subject of conversation among peers for the next couple of weeks and endlessly quoted. SPACESHIP!

life@crownestpete.com
With the announcement of the Trader’s Joes grocery store chain coming to St. Petersburg, businesses near Fourth Street N. and 28th Avenue N. were forced to relocate. The Crow’s Nest checked up with Ringside Café, Casita Taqueria and Classy Closet to see how they’re taking the move.

**Back in the ring:** When the news came, he felt his stomach turn. Last September, Greg Pugh, 22-year owner of local restaurant and music venue Ringside Café, was told by a reliable source that the Fourth Street property where his business stood would be sold to make way for a Trader Joes grocery store.

Three weeks later, property owner Chuck Ross confirmed it. “It was like getting a pink slip,” said Pugh, who had such a long history with the building and the Fourth Street community.

In late October, Trader Joes confirmed plans to build a store on the site.

Pugh, originally from California, moved to St. Petersburg with his wife Kelly after arranging to buy Ringside from the first owner, who had just recently turned it into a music venue and restaurant.

When Pugh bought the business, he quickly made changes, reviving the local music venue by the end of the year.

But Pugh said Ringside’s his greatest test yet when he found out Ringside would have to find a new home at the end of last year.

He said that for his regulars, the hardest part of the move was separating Ringside from a building with so much history. Built in 1912, the structure was originally a two-story apartment and then an amateur boxing club — thus the boxing motif that is still a part of the venue today.

Pugh said he was feeling pretty dejected when a local eye surgeon and regular at Ringside came up to him one night and said, “Don’t get down. We need a place like Ringside in St. Pete. And people know that.”

“I said to him, you don’t know how much better I feel now,” Pugh said.

Not long into his search for a new location, the plight of Ringside caught the attention of local business owner Jeff Knight. He invited Pugh and his employees to move Ringside to what was then the newly renovated Club Detroit at 162nd St. N. — right in the heart of downtown.

Jeff greeted us with open arms and presented us with an opportunity that I don’t think we could have come close to anywhere,” Pugh said. “We didn’t have to reinvent the wheel, we just had to bring what we had on Fourth Street to downtown ... and we would be offering the exact same thing in a better environment with better sound and more national acts.”

Pugh said the transition has been an interesting one for him, the employees and the clientele.

**In regards to any blame that has been placed on the property owner:** Pugh said, “You can’t say anything negative. There’s no bad person here. It’s just life.”

The only major change at the new Ringside is the menu. The Club Detroit location did not have a kitchen, so Knight arranged for Ringside to share a kitchen with Calypso, a connected restaurant that he also recently bought.

Pugh said on day one at the new location, they started to see regulars show up, as well as new faces.

The feedback has been great so far. “People do rise to the occasion,” Pugh said. “There’s a whole energy down there that’s not on Fourth Street that’s exciting. It’s a destination.”

“I visited the new Ringside today, I was very impressed with the new digs,” said Steve Holcombe in a comment on Ringside’s Facebook page. “This will become a nice rebranding of what’s become a legendary place for musicians here in the bay area.”

On Saturday, local band Pitbull Toddler played to a full house.

A manikin of the trademark Ringside boxer looked down on the crowd from a ledge below the second floor balcony, the glow of stage lights reflecting in its eyes.

“Bricks and mortar come and go, but the personalities, the music, survive,” Pugh said. — Ryan Ballogg, Staff Reporter

**Boutique owners stay classy:** Janette and Alexandra Ohanian, mother-daughter owners of consignment boutique Classy Closet, were surprised when reporters from the Tampa Bay Times asked for an interview regarding rumors that a Trader Joes would be occupying their location by the end of 2014.

“We were given a letter telling us we had 60 days to relocate,” Janette Ohanian recalled. The letter was not from the City of St. Petersburg, but from landlord Charles Ross, a relative of Ross and former resident of Kenwood.

“She acknowledged the sale won’t be an easy band-aid to peel off,” she said. “It’s bittersweet [for him] to see Ringside go. He met his wife there ... He even fought to save the oak trees on the property.” — Raven Rayne Martinez, Crow’s Nest Correspondent
Hooking up: destructive or different?

If you’ve ever had a casual sexual experience with someone, taking part in what our moms’ therapists are now calling “hookup culture” you’re at risk of never finding love. This is according to Towson University English professor Andrew Reiner, who believes hooking up all the time leads to the inability to express intimacy.

In a piece for the New York Times, Reiner cites a report by the National Marriage Project, which found that, on average, women are waiting until they’re 27 to get married, while men are waiting until 29. The report said people are beginning to view marriage as a “cornerstone” on their lives rather than a “cornerstone.”

Reiner does not argue against the decision to establish oneself in a career before getting hitched, but warns that those who engage in emotionless sex, may have trouble expressing emotion when the time is right. He cites author Donna Freitas who, claims millennials are the “first generation ever that will have trouble expressing emotion.”

Young people are not expressing emotions because they don’t know how to express the proper emotions. We need to teach our young people to express the proper emotions.

Hookup culture can be destructive, but there’s more to it than what Reiner describes. Young people are no longer emotional, they’re not growing up in the way we date.

Reiner claims millennials are the first generation ever that will need to be taught how to love. The 20- and 30-somethings of today -- of the most liberated and open-minded generation ever -- are the ones who don’t know how to express an emotion as uninhibited as love. Not our grandparents who got married at 18 to hide an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, or our parents who got to hold hands on the front porch a few times before tying the knot, or anyone else in our families who married for money, prestige or the approval of society.

It’s us. We’re the ones who are incapable of love. Our generation, which has more decision-making power over our own futures than any other before us, is the one that needs help. If you haven’t caught the tone yet, boy that is ironic.

Reiner’s solution is education. Not sex education (we get enough of that in middle school gym class), but education on how to feel. Because, apparently, that’s teachable.

He suggests colleges offer classes about love on topics such as the biology of intimacy, the multicultural history of courtship and the psychology and sociology of vulnerability. USF St. Petersburg offers a class that is something similar in its course “Sex in Today’s World.” The class is an introduction to the firestorm with a series of poignant reminders, including the actual purpose of the Statue of Liberty and that, indeed, “America the Beautiful” was penned by a historically lesbian writer, Katharine Lee Bates.

Rejected and low self-esteem, lack of power about our own futures, fear of being shamed? If so, why are half of our parents and grandparents divorced?

Hookup culture does have potentially negative implications, but it also opens doors for our generation. We’re not restricted to experiencing sex within the confines of an intimate relationship. We can engage without being in love, and doing so isn’t going to hinder our abilities to find love in the future. Our tactics have flaws, but in looking back at previous generations, we’re doing it better than anyone else (and having more fun).

The beauty in Coke’s commercial

It starts with a child’s voice. Then, alternately children sing the words most Americans have memorized: “America, the Beautiful.” It’s uttered in multiple languages and glorious scenery flash before a viewer.

In one minute, Coca-Cola exposed the world to the beauty and horror of a nation at war with itself.

Activists clapped at the acceptance of mixed races, cultures and sexual preferences. Conservatives condemned the notion of a nation that does not speak English.

Wasn’t the first language in America a native dialect?

English, if we are to be literal, was founded and is spoken in England. The thoughts of American and #c***ecoke echo a series of individuals who have lost touch with their history lessons.

So these are the people my history teacher in high school rolled his eyes and stomped his feet at.

The English were not the first to conquer America. In fact, it was the Spanish. Christopher Columbus represented the Spanish Empire in 1492. Hernan Cortes would seize the modern area known as Mexico. The Dutch would arrive later to seize parts of Canada, and the English were the last to buy into the whole colonization of America game.

Why is it that our vocal majority of anti-Coke ranters exactly loathe the notion of a language aside from English? Don’t they realize that, in fact, their portion of the population is on the decline?

The Pew Research Center indicates more than 37 million Spanish speakers in the United States.

Throwback

Feb. 14, 278— Emperor Claudius II of Rome orders St. Valentine to be beheaded. The emperor put a ban on marriages and engagements, believing men weren’t willing to join the military because of their attachment to their wives and children. St. Valentine defied the emperor by continuing to perform marriages in secret.

Though the exact origins of St. Valentine are unclear, it is said that he wrote a letter to his friend, signing it “From your Valentine.” Valentine was named a saint after his death.
The truth ‘evolves’

By Chelsea Tatham
Staff Columnist

The debate between Bill Nye and Ken Ham last week reinforced my views. While Ham, founder of the Creation Museum in Kentucky, cited mainly the Bible as a source of historical evidence, Nye, the Science Guy, presented facts and statistics almost impossible to discount.

Ham claimed evolution and natural laws are “man’s ideas” of the origins of the Earth and claimed the Bible as a literal source of history, which was never written by men thousands of years ago. The words of God, possibly yes, but still recorded by men.

What angered me more than Ham’s claims of the Bible as literal history was his discussion of students being taught immoral ways of thinking in school. I could listen and understand his reasoning behind a belief in creationism, but when he started talking about marriage as being “designed for a man and a woman” and the immorality of abortion, I wanted to turn off the TV.

Thank goodness Nye stepped in with his adorably bowtie reasur- ing all of the twenty-something religious people still believe in science and even evolution, and kangaaroos explain everything. Nye claimed if kangaroos were on the ark, we would have found their bones between the Middle East (the supposed landing area of the ark) and Australia.

Some scientific data gathered

I grew up watching this man make learning look cool. Yet during the debate, it was hard to watch someone so intelligent, someone so intent on seeking out answers, someone who felt familiar, simply miss the truth.

Nye didn’t even have an answer for the biggest argument posed against evolutionary theory -- where did the atoms that created the Big Bang come from, anyway? He admitted his own lack of knowledge drove him to continue the search for truth, through scientific investigation.

Creation is a viable model of origins in today’s modern scientific era! You bet.

Chelsea Tatham is a senior majoring in mass communications and the managing editor. She can be reached at chelsa1@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @chelsa911

A case for creation

By Erin Murphy
Staff Columnist

"Is creation a viable model of origins in today’s modern scientific era?"

In a debate last week, Ken Ham, an Aussie and the CEO of Answers in Genesis, defended the Biblical view of the world’s origins, while Bill Nye (the Science Guy!) spoke of science.

Ham, a born-again Christian, stressed early on in the debate that science is an essential part of our lives. To illustrate his point, Ham cited many Christian scientists who had contributed extraordinarily to the field, such as Dr. Raymond Damadian, who invented the MRI Scanner.

What Ham did combat were the connotations and the vague nature of the word “science” used today. He spent a portion of his

presentation defining the word in terms of “observational science” and “historical science.”

The difference between the two terms is that one concerns the evidence we see in front of us now (observational science), and the other relates to the events that actually occurred in the past (historical science).

Ham used these definitions to explain how evolution is merely a guess at how we were made. And often, evidence is misinterpreted.

Science is vital to understanding how we came to be here and to re- search for truth, through scientific investigation.

Whether we are atheists or Christians or scientists, all of us put our faith somewhere. And those who back the evolutionary theory are not more “religious” than Christians.

I remember watching Nye’s silly science videos back in eighth grade.

I don’t really care what either side thinks about me.

So the next time this debate happens, I know I’ll have the exact same reaction. But beyond that, I’ll wonder why we’re devoting so much time and energy into debating a topic there will likely never be a definitive answer to. Until some- one can give me an answer to that question, my response to things like this will remain the same.

Erin Murphy is a sophomore majoring in mass communications and the assistant arts and life editor. She can be reached at erinmur- phy@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @sassybear.

Indifference and the origin of Earth

By Sam Ouimet
Staff Columnist

Last Tuesday, an evolutionist and a creationist got together to talk about how they disagree on how the universe came into existence.

Haven’t we done this before?

Despite how tired this particular debate is, the meeting was watched by more than three million people and received a great deal of media attention. Bill Nye, the quirky scien- tist that ’90s kids grew up watching on PBS, engaged in a formal debate with Ken Ham, a young-Earth creation- ist and evangelist. The debate streamed live on YouTube for the public to watch, comment on, tweet about, etc.

However, all I could think to myself was, “Who cares?”

I am religious. Catholic, to be exact. I attended a private Southern Baptist school from preschool through 12th grade, and was taught a literal interpretation of the Book of Genesis. The only thing I was ever taught about evolution is that it is wrong, and I will be the first one to admit that I am willfully igno- rant on the subject.

Because, for me, faith is not dic- tated by science. For Ham, that earth is 5,000 or six billion years old.

Despite all its faults, Catholicism is fairly progressive in certain areas. It is the only Christian denomina- tion that reconciles science with faith, with Pope John Paul II recog- nizing that there is no conflict between evolution and the doctrine of faith. But there are plenty of Christians who accept evolution as a fact while maintaining their faith. And, much to my surprise, this was a point Nye made during his presentation.

Though I did not watch the entire debate, I watched enough to see both sides make a consider- able case. As an objective observer, I think Nye was far more convinc- ing. It is difficult for me to listen to someone whose answer cannot be expanded upon. For Ham, the answer was consistently, “It says so in the Bible.” How are you going to convince people your point of view is correct when your primary evi- dence comes from a book they don’t believe has any scientific value?

“Don’t. You won’t. Ham didn’t.”

But I suppose neither Nye nor Ham were trying to convince someone like me. My mind is fix- ed on the far more spiritual side of religion; my soul and my per- sonal relationship with God are the most important aspects of faith to me. The age of the Earth is near the bottom of the list, coming in between, “I wonder if I’ll get to chill with lions in Heaven” and “Why didn’t God want people to eat shrimp back in the day?”

As an agnostic, I am religious. Catholic, to be exact. I attended a private Southern Baptist school from preschool through 12th grade, and was taught a literal interpretation of the Book of Genesis. The only thing I was ever taught about evolution is that it is wrong, and I will be the first one to admit that I am willfully igno- rant on the subject.

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Samantha Ouimette is a junior majoring in mass communications and the community correspon- dant. She can be reached at oui- mette@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @ samanthahtsports.
By Mike Hopey
Staff Reporter

Willie Taggart was hired in early Dec. 2017. That gave him only a couple months to assemble his recruiting class. A year later, Taggart has had an entire season to recruit players and the extra time seems to have paid off. South Florida’s 2014 recruiting class, which was signed last Wednesday, was one of the best in the American Athletic Conference. But when Taggart was hired to replace Skip Holtz he made recruiting players from the talent-rich Tampa Bay area one of his top goals. In year two, 11 of the 28 recruits who sent USF letters of intent were from the Tampa Bay area, six of the recruits are from Hillsborough County. Three players were signed from Taggart’s native Manatee County. Overall the Bulls had the 40th best recruiting class, according to ESPN. USF was the highest ranked AAC school in the rankings. The next closest school in the rankings is Central Florida 12 spots behind at 52. Defending AAC champion Cincinnati is at 22 spots, and last Wednesday, six were rated four stars with the other 22 being three stars. In addition to rating and ranking the players by position, ESPN also ranks the top 300 players in a given year regardless of position. The Bulls were able to sign one from the ESPN Top 300, wide receiver Ryshone Johnson from Fort Myers. Area recruits for the Bulls included OL Josh Black from Brandon and DE Rayshawn Blakeway from Nature Coast, Tajee Fullwood from Tampa Bay Tech, OLB Jwan Brown from Jefferson, CB Mazzi Wilkins from Plant and CB Devin Abraham from East Lake. The 22nd Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia are underway. The Tampa Bay Lightning will be well represented at the games. Players from the Tampa Bay Lightning will represent their countries at the games. UF St. Petersburg will have a representative in Sochi with Felicia Zhang competing in the pairs figure skating. Zhang will compete beginning on Tuesday with the Short Program and finishing on Wednesday with the Free skate (or Long Program). Both events will be live on NBC Channel 8 in the Bay area. Tuesday will begin at 10 a.m. and Wednesday’s competition will begin at 10:45. Viewers unable to watch the event live will be able to tune into NBC’s primetime coverage which will replay the event without giving anything away. Bolts’ captain Martin St. Louis was originally a snub from the Canadian hockey team. But with the Lightning’s Steven Stamkos unable to participate because of his broken leg suffered on Nov. 11, St. Louis will make another appearance. Don’t expect St. Louis to replace Stamkos and play the same role that will most likely be Chicago’s Patrick Sharp, but St. Louis is still a dynamic player who can play a big role for the Canadians. Canada will play in Group B with Norway, Austria and Finland. Here is Canada’s preliminary schedule: Thursday, Feb. 13 vs. Norway, noon Friday, Feb. 14 vs. Austria, noon Sunday, Feb. 16 vs. Finland, noon Lighting rookies Radko Gudas and Ondrej Palat will suit up for the Czech Republic in Sochi. Palat scored twice for the Bolts in their last game before the Olympic break. Palat has the chance to boost a Czech offensive that features NHL legend Jaromir Jagr and Boston’s David Krejci. Gudas is third in the NHL in penalty minutes will add some physicality to a weak Czech defense core that boasts five NHL players. The Czechs aren’t expected to medal coming out of Group C. Here is the Czech Republic’s schedule: Wednesday, Feb. 12 vs. Sweden, noon Friday, Feb. 14 vs. Latvia, 3 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15 vs. Switzerland, noon Lightning veteran defenseman Brian O’Neill will make his third appearance at the Olympics for Finland. In 2010, the Finns took home bronze and won silver in 2006. Salo will be a Top-4 defenseman in the tournament. His fellow defenseman will be aided by having Boston’s Tuukka Rask, one of the best goalies in the world, in goal. Finland is expected to make it out of Group B but not medal, but that’s what analysts say every time about Finland. Here is Finland’s schedule: Thursday, Feb. 13 vs. Austria, 3 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14 vs. Norway, noon Sunday, Feb. 16 vs. Canada, noon Forward Richard Panik will suit up for Slovakia in Sochi. In 39 games this season for the Bolts, Panik has 2 goals and 9 assists. Slovakia will play in a tough Group A with the United States, host Russia and Sweden. Here’s the Slovakia schedule: Thursday, Feb. 13 vs. United States, 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15 vs. Slovenia, 3 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 16 vs. Russia, 7:30 a.m.