St. Pete—the place for young job seekers

The city once called “God’s waiting room” is now a destination for millennials.

A recent study done by credit card company NerdWallet ranked St. Petersburg as the No. 1 city in Florida for “millennial job seekers.” The analysis was done on 93 cities in Florida with a population of at least 20,000, according to NerdWallet’s website. All of the cities that landed in the top 10, however, had populations more than 100,000.

The study took four factors into consideration: number of jobs, salaries, rent and the number of other millennials living there.

NerdWallet’s research concluded that the millennial population, ages 20 to 34, had increased 6 percent in the last five years in St. Petersburg. The city “is home to a thriving economy with the average payroll salary of $47,471, which is $13,500 more than the average across the 93 cities analyzed,” NerdWallet said. The average rent of people residing in St. Petersburg is $924.

Happy to be back

By Emily Wehunt  
Staff Reporter

A familiar face is back on campus.

Dr. Gardiner “Tuck” Tucker, 57, who spent eight months here last spring semester working as interim dean of students and director of housing, has returned to USF St. Petersburg.

This time, Tucker has taken on the position as interim regional associate vice chancellor of student affairs, after the departure of Dr. Julie Wong last month. His first official day on campus was Jan. 26. During an interview with The Crow’s Nest, Tucker said that his previous time spent working here was one of the best professional experiences he has had, and he is happy to be back. Tucker expressed his admiration for the civic engagement he sees in the university and around St. Petersburg.

Continued on p. 3

Top 10 Cities in Florida for Millennials in search of a job

1. St. Petersburg
2. Palm Bay
3. Tampa
4. Jacksonville
5. Miami
6. Gainesville
7. Winter Park
8. Boca Raton
9. Fort Lauderdale
10. Palm Beach Gardens

Information gathered from nerdwallet.com and tampabay.com
Dr. Wong replaced by a familiar face

Gardiner “Tuck” Tucker, the former interim dean of students, is back at USF St. Petersburg as interim regional associate vice chancellor of student affairs.

Continued from p.1

affairs as Wong. He worked under Wong for three years as assistant dean of students at University of Boulder in Colorado. When Wong created the position for dean of student housing here at USFSP, she recruited Tucker to fill it.

“The opportunity came up at the perfect time,” Tucker said. Although he has only been back on campus for two weeks, Tucker has an agenda set for goals he would like to accomplish while he is here. He plans to continue building on the strengths the campus already has, but also to experiment with new ideas. “Student affairs is the key unit for student success,” Tucker said. “When students are engaged [within the campus] they are more likely to do better.”

Tucker is also supportive of the campus strategic plan, which includes the plan to increase the student body to 10,000 students in the next 10 years. “When you increase complexity, you add more resources and support for students that are already here,” Dr. Tucker said. “When you go to 10,000, then we’d have the resources and the resources to serve all students better.”

Dr. Tucker has spent the last 17 years of his life living in Colorado with his wife Marcie Tucker. He received both a bachelor of arts in sociology and environmental studies and a master’s degree in counseling and human development from St. Lawrence University. His doctorate was in college student personnel administration from the University of Maryand College Park.

His main interests outside of work include traveling and staying active with sports, such as soccer and rollerblading. Dr. Tucker has traveled all over the world and says that his favorite destination is India.

Salvaged wood becomes a treasure

By Caitlin Ashworth

“IT’s just amazing. I’ve never heard anything like it,” said musician Scott Perez as he played the first Gibson Les Paul American Rosewood Guitar.

The wood does not belong in the dumpster. It belongs in things like that,” Richardson said about the guitar.

In 2009 and again in 2011 the Gibson Guitar Corporation in Nashville was raided by agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services for ebony and rosewood imported from India in violation of the Lacey Act of 1900, according to Forbes. The century-old law protects endangered species. It was amended in 2008 to include a wider variety of prohibited plants and plant products. The lawsuit was settled in 2012.

Gibson with the rosewood used to make the Gibson Les Paul American Rosewood Guitar. The wood does not belong in the dumpster. It belongs in things like that,” Richardson said about the guitar.

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Gibson CEO Henry Juszkiewicz, quoted by CNN, said agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents confiscated about $1 million in Indian ebony as well as guitars and electronic data.

Richardson began salvaging wood after he created a table from the branches of a tree outside his house, to prevent damage from stormy weather. However, he says it is not a “get-rich-quick” type of job. The wood goes through three to five sometimes a ten year cycle to dry and cure.

After hearing about the raid and inventory confiscation, Richardson sent a Cuban mahogany ukulele made by artist Andy Gibson to the Gibson Guitar president. Richardson calls it “the Queen’s wood.”

The craftsmanship and the wood impressed the Gibson president and Viable Lumber began supplying rosewood to the Gibson Guitar Corporation.

Richardson said rosewood’s Chain of Custody is “bullet-proof” as he shows photos the artists hugging the trees before they are salvaged.” Not your typical tree huggers,” he said.

“We got it all documented. It’s as American as you can get,” said Richardson, “American as apple pie.”

The Grind displayed bowls, instruments and artwork made with wood supplied by Viable Lumber and crafted by various artists, including ukuleles made by Andy Gibson. Nick Brown displayed his handcrafted dulcimer. Unique hollow formed wood vessels, made by artistic woodturner John Mascoll, looked as if wood were turn to stone.

“There are so many talented people and it’s made a difference in their life and it’s part of the reason I do it,” Richardson said.

Gardiner “Tuck” Tucker served as USFSP’s interim dean of students and director of housing for eight months last spring. He has returned to campus as its interim regional associate vice chancellor of student affairs.
Judiciary and ethics chair removed

Professionalism is a concern in SG.

BY JACK MOSCONE
STAFF REPORTER

Recent turmoil in the USF St. Petersburg Student Government has led to the dismissal of Carly Chaput from her position as the Judiciary and Ethics Chair.

The results of a vote of confidence during last week’s senate meeting finalized the dismissal. Multiple members at Wednesday’s senate meeting said there is “bad culture” in SG.

“The situation started when I didn’t hold an emergency meeting to review election procedures, which made some members think elections would be halted entirely. That was not the case,” said Chaput.

Additionally, comments made by Chaput via social media upset some SG members, who Chaput said contacted her with unprofessional messages.

“People have been texting and messaging me embarrassing and petty things,” said Chaput. “They attacked my character. It is important to remember that we are not only representing students, we are students ourselves.”

Chaput believes that she followed proper procedures and that personal issues played a large role in her termination.

“There is obviously a maturity gap in SG,” said Senator Joey Catalano. “Members range between 18 and 27, so some have less experience in working at the professional level required for a Student Government.”

Jared Pieniazek, the senate president pro-tempore, also expressed concern about his position.

“I have been asked to do things that step beyond my ethical boundaries,” said Pieniazek. “I’ve also had people come to me and tell me that I am going to be removed from my position.”

At the senate meeting, Pieniazek requested that senators vote on whether or not to remove him from office, and 78 percent of the senators voted to retain him.

Jozef Gherman, the chief financial officer, addressed the communication problems within SG.

“We need to start sitting down and talking with each other when we have problems,” said Gherman.

St. Petersburg a destination for millennials

Continued from p.1

St. Petersburg’s “thriving economy” is greatly influenced by the downtown area, which is full of restaurants, bars, breweries and shops. The city is also home to giant headquarters, such as Raymond James Financial.

Tampa fell close behind St. Petersburg as the top city for millennials, job seekers, landing in third place.

“Thanks in part to the University of South Florida, Tampa has a strong millennial presence that grew seven percent from 2010 to 2013, and now is 24 percent of the population,” said NerdWallet.

Although the unemployment rate is decreasing, the younger generation’s unemployment rate is still relatively high. The unemployment rate of 20 to 34 year olds was 9.3 percent in 2013 according to a report from Bureau of Labor Statistics.

From student to campus police officer

BY CLARENCE FORD
CROW’S NEST CONTRIBUTOR

Erika Hasson, who was beginning her studies at USF St. Petersburg in 2003, now wears a badge for the campus police department.

At 29, Hasson is one of two women out of the 14 officers employed here.

“We do more community policing here at USFSP’s campus, where we interact with students and staff far more than a large department could,” said Hasson.

Midway through her studies, Hasson switched her major from education to criminology and obtained an internship with the St. Petersburg Police Department in her senior year.

She soon discovered an affinity for police work. At the end of her internship, she was accepted to the Southeastern Public Safety Institute Law Enforcement Academy.

During her academy training, she met fellow cadet and future husband Leonard Hasson, who is currently a St. Petersburg Police officer and Navy reservist.

Hasson was one of four female cadets who graduated from the academy.

After graduation from the police academy, she was assigned to patrol USFSP’s campus. She eventually applied for a position with USFSP campus police and, while on her honeymoon in March 2013, she was hired. In addition to routine police work, Police Chief David Hendry assigned Hasson to work on policy and accreditation for professional standards.

Her husband was deployed to Kuwait in 2011, and they were engaged upon his return in December 2011. They were married in February 2013 and have one child, Emily, who was born Sept. 16, 2014.

They also has a soft spot for animals. Hasson has an 8-year-old Australian Shepherd mix named Bella, who is a rescue from the SPCA. Mr. Hasson has a corn snake, which had to earn Erika’s approval.

Community policing is a style of policing that emphasizes collaboration between police and the community they serve.

Erika enjoys the confidence of supervisors and co-workers alike, and loves police work.

“Erika genuinely loves working in law enforcement, truly believes in her work and earns the respect of every officer and citizen with which she meets,” said Mr. Hasson. “She inspires me on a daily basis to be the best officer I can.”
Drunken debauchery is just one of the highlights of Gasparilla, or maybe it’s become the purpose. Somehow, over the years, this one of the largest pirate festivals has turned into Tampa’s Mardi Gras.

This year was my first Gasparilla, and there are only two things I was told about Gasparilla before going: Get Drunk. Get Beads.

What’s the point of these beads? You just want them, a lot of them. But the beads are short lived and lose their purpose quickly after the festival.

I didn’t understand it, but I got caught up. I ended up trading three beads—blue, gold and green to be exact, for one that had black skulls.

Besides getting beads, people were getting drunk. The treasure chests of Gasparilla consist of coolers and cases of beer. And we had a lot of treasure.

Someone stole our 24 pack of Bud Light while we waving our hands around in hopes of catching the shiny plastic.

288 ounces of golden Guinness, filtered through a Clydesdale, had vanished.

José Gaspar would be proud.

My friend was heated. He turned his back on the real loot and some scallywag took advantage.

What would Gaspar, the man that terrorized the Gulf, do in sight of unattended alcohol?

We are celebrating the pirate festival. Gasparilla has turned into the "holiday spirit?"

"Someone stole our cooler, so we stole this chair," said some guy carrying a metal chair.

"Fools," Gaspar said, but his words could not escape Davy Jones’ Locker.

If you go:
Hideaway Café is located at 1756 Central Ave. in downtown St. Pete.

Hours: 5 p.m.-2 a.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays
The Robin Zander Band performs on Feb. 15. Show starts at 7 p.m. with a $30 cover charge.

By Caitlin Ashworth
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By Phil Lavery
Crow’s Nest Contributor
If you like lounging on a leather couch with a glass of wine, while live blues, folk or singer-songwriter music fills the air, Hideaway Café could become your favorite spot.

Hideaway Café is a live music, beer and wine bar with class. Unlike many bars or clubs, the dim lights have a romantic glow. As the music begins, stress drops and only pleasantries are exchanged.

Owner John Kelly, 44, said that Hideaway Café should appeal to students interested in authentic art.

“It’s an opportunity to take in art in its truest form,” said Kelly, a musician who has owned Hideaway Café for six years. “Our clientele knows to respect the musicians. The vibe here is nothing but respect for the bands.”

Hideaway also serves as a recording studio with film production for local bands.

The Hideaway Café offers a place to eat, drink and take in music from a variety of bands.

Review: Hideaway Café

Another reason for students to visit is the “second drink free” or 50 percent off pizza specials on Tuesday nights. All that’s required is a USF ID card. “Roots Tuesday Series” features a younger vibrant crowd with R&B and blues music. Different types of bands are featured Tuesday through Sunday, while Wednesday is dedicated to blues.

TC Car & the Bolsta Blues is an up tempo band that plays every other Wednesday. Betty Ford plays Thursday nights, which turns into open mic night after Betty’s set is over. Fridays and Saturdays are reserved for folk bands and singer-songwriters.

The bartenders are always laid back and easygoing. Phillip Stevens, 22, is the bar manager/house engineer. He said that he loves his job because “I love the music, man!”

Customers seem to agree that Hideaway Café stands out.

“I feel comfortable in here. It’s got a relaxing and romantic feel to it. It’s just a different aura from other places,” said Jasmina Janjic, 34, a regular at Hideaway Café.

Hideaway Café is usually closed on Sundays, but their doors will be open on Feb. 15 when Robin Zander, lead singer and rhythm guitarist of classic rock band Cheap Trick, comes to town.

The show starts at 7 p.m. and will carry a $30 cover charge, an exception to Hideaway Café’s typical free entry. There is also a $100 VIP soundcheck-party ticket available, giving ticket holders access to the venue at 3 p.m.

Hideaway Café is open Tuesdays through Saturdays unless they book a Sunday show. They open at 5 p.m. and close around 2 a.m. depending on how busy it is. The food is good and simple. Turkey sandwiches, pizza and salads are the most popular items.

The drinks are average price, ranging from $3-$9. A wine lover can choose from the Candoni cabernets, including the J Lohr 7 merlot, four chardonnays and four pinot noir.

Hideaway Café is a must for anyone over 21 who can appreciate the fine taste of a classy establishment with character.
By Cory Santero
Crow's Nest Contributor

ORLAN, a cutting-edge, French artist has used the human body and contemporary technology to create bizarre images, which express her feminist and anti-conformist ideals.

ORLAN came to USF St. Petersburg to hold a lecture about her life and art on Thursday, February 5h.

This event was sponsored by the Multicultural Affairs Council and the Dali museum. The event marks another milestone in moves to sustain a growing relationship between USFSP and the Dali Museum.

ORLAN’s art is concerned with blurring the boundaries of reality and fiction. Carnal art, the form that ORLAN has adopted, can be described as baroque, grotesque and obscene. The art lies between the creation and destruction of an image; it revels in the parody of normalcy and perception.

The evening began with Dali Museum curator William Jeffer interpreting for ORLAN, who spoke French to the audience. On the screen behind Jeffer, 3-D bodies transformed into different shapes.

ORLAN said that her art began with a concept: find the best means to spend your time the best way. In the beginning of her career, ORLAN was interested in sculpting and photography; both have their limitations, but they are each able to tell a story. The sculpture is bound to its body and the picture its frame.

As technology has developed, ORLAN has used it on her quest to create characters that help her to learn about herself. This desire led her to surgical augmentation and later 3-D imaging to alter the appearance of her image in a shocking manner.

Early in her life, ORLAN recognized that the body exists on the essence of continual change. From one moment to the next, the body tells a new story. This essence rose from the non-essence of slow but certain decay.

With the recognition of her body in constant change, ORLAN recognized society’s impossible standards imposed upon her and her natural disposition as a woman. ORLAN saw great irony to this end and chose to implement her body as an artistic marvel in any way that she could.

Much of ORLAN’s work is controversial, challenging contemporary views in sometimes shockingly blunt ways.

In her “Kiss of the Artist” exhibition, she created a coin slot machine and would kiss anyone who placed money inside. In her early career, she often went to public places with cut-out images of her body altered in an obscure manner, in order to make people aware of women’s plight against social expectation.

Her art is intertwined with her life philosophies.

“The body is political, therefore the personal is political,” she said. ORLAN’s body is more to her than just a means to maneuver. It is a connection to humanity at large.

“My life is married with my work,” she said.

After the slideshow concluded, the conversation changed hands from William Jeffer to Sarah Wilson, an art historian and professor at the Courtauld Institute of Art, who talked about what inspired her to become an artist.

“Your mother was preparing your trouser, so that you spend the rest of your days sewing and knitting,” she said, referring to the social expectation of women during her time.

The talk shifted toward the courage behind controversial art.

ORLAN said that artists should “do what ought to be done without fear of consequence.”

A former student of ORLAN’s was pressured by an Islamist group that wanted her to censor her work for an upcoming feminist exhibition. The group was successful due to the government’s inability to defend the young artist’s rights.

This event exemplifies how offensive art can be a necessary but dangerous expression.

ORLAN said that she worries about artists censoring themselves due to fear. The greatest foreseeable tragedy to ORLAN, a woman dedicated to capturing her body in its purest state, is an artist’s unrealized vision.

French artist ORLAN uses the human body as the vehicle for her controversial art. On Feb. 5, she held a lecture at USFSP to talk about her life and work.

ORLAN said that much of her earlier work wouldn’t be possible in today’s social climate, especially her work in surgical rooms. She said the idea was to test medical codes, an effort to dehumanize herself. Many laws would prevent that type of spectacle.

“The spectacle” pervades her work as the individual and technology unite to manipulate reality.

ARTIST TELLS STORIES WITH BIZARRE IMAGES, BODY

A gathering of future veterinarians

By Emily Tinti
Staff Reporter

In the fall of 2014, animal lovers and future veterinarians united and formed the Pre-Veterinary Society of USF St. Petersburg.

The Pre-Vet Society’s goal is to prepare members and those involved for the professional world, while teaching students about the wide field of veterinary medicine, an area many students are unfamiliar with.

President Bethany Porcelli, senior and president of the Pre-Vet Society, spent her summer promoting the society through classroom presentations and announcements on the Facebook, “Know it All’s Guide.” Their faculty advisor Norine Noonan spread the word as well and, soon enough, Bethany had a following.

“I hope the Pre-Vet Society can become a resource to assist USFSP students to get into a graduate school, and that as a pre-professional society, we can help USFSP students develop their skills and continue to have a positive impact in our community,” said Porcelli.

Last September, the pre-vet students attended Dr. Jane Goodall’s lecture at the USF Sundome, and were able to meet her and have a book signed. Porcelli, inspired by the concept of Dr. Goodall’s Roots and Shoots program, has since created a Pinellas County after school program for high school students. The idea is centered on protecting local endangered species.

“This has developed into a subcategory of Pre-Veterinary Society and is allowing our members to make a difference in the community and inspire our youth,” said Porcelli.

As a brand new group on campus, the Pre-Vet Society has plenty of growth and experience to anticipate.

In March, they will travel to Ohio to attend the national American Pre-Veterinary Medical Association Symposium. The pre-vet students will have opportunities to immerse themselves in the field of veterinary science, from working in labs to sitting in on professional and pre-professional lectures. This trip will be one of the first steps toward representing USFSP on a national level.

Haley Goshert, junior and vice president, is eager to see the Pre-Vet Society take off and eventually become “firmly rooted” once she and Bethany graduate.

“My favorite part about this club is being around people that have the same aspirations, questions, and fears as you,” she said. “We all know how hard becoming a vet is, but we’re here for each other.”

The pre-veterinary society had a table at “Woofstock,” an event to fundraise through the Humane Society of Tampa Bay. They got the booth after making a $50 donation.

ARTS & LIFE

5
Editorial

You can get more scholarships than you think

Scholarships are plentiful, but too many students settle for debt.

The statistics on college debt are grim. In 2013, 69 percent of college seniors graduated with debt, averaging $28,400 per senior, according to the Project on Student Debt. If that doesn’t make you wince, you’ve probably lost touch with reality. Many seniors will make less than that their first year out of college.

College can be expensive, and many students can’t pay that much out of pocket. But students give up too easily. Applying for loans and working full time isn’t the only way to pay for school.

Scholarships are essential to affording your college education. Before you roll your eyes and say you’ve tried that and it didn’t work, keep reading.

Most students readily admit that Florida Bright Futures barely pays their bills, and we would agree. The standards for Bright Futures become stricter every year, and the dollar amount paid to students becomes less and less. Students spend so much time being depressed over Bright Futures that they don’t realize they need to think bigger.

Scholarship opportunities are literally everywhere. A lot of them aren’t worth your time, but you have a better chance than you think.

Here’s where to look:

**USF and Foundation Scholarships.** These scholarships are a huge secret around USF, and they’re not even intended to be. Philanthropists and organizations across the Tampa Bay area pour money into the USF system, so students like you can afford your college tuition.

The application process is relatively simple. A quick Google search on “USF Foundation scholarships” will yield the scholarship application wizard, called STARS Online. You must fill out basic information about yourself, complete your FAFSA, answer a couple of questions and write a brief essay. The database hosts numerous scholarships, several of which you will be eligible for, no matter who you are. Some scholarships require additional materials, such as an extra essay, but filling out the basic application will put you in the running for many of the scholarships.

Sure, it helps if your financial situation isn’t great, if you are the first in your family to go to college or if your GPA is a 4.0. But you can still get a few great scholarships without meeting any of these categories.

For returning students, the deadline to apply is April 15. But don’t wait that long. Many of the individual scholarships have earlier deadlines -- some as soon as early February.

**Your local bank.** If you bank with a small bank or local credit union, your bank might invest in education. Check to see if they offer any scholarships. If they do, the pool of students applying is likely small. You might have a better chance of standing out. Banks also tend to favor community service, so if you’ve done a lot of work in the community, a bank scholarship may just be coming your way.

**Local museums.** Find a museum with a subject area you are interested in. Chances are, they may offer a scholarship for people like you.

Sometimes you just have to look and apply. Stay away from national scholarships, because the pool of candidates will likely be large. You’ll have to stand out or just get extremely lucky to win.

Don’t buy the lie that you’ll never win a scholarship. Many of your peers go to college for free because they were diligent in applying for scholarships.

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By Phil Lavery

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**Club volleyball in action**

Lucas Santos bumps a volleyball over the net, successfully scoring a point for his team. The new volleyball club on campus gathered to play on Saturday afternoon. The club hopes to follow in the footsteps of the club baseball and compete with other university volleyball clubs. The club also hopes to be an outlet for any student who wants to play pick-up volleyball games.

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

A war against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria is going to happen. The sooner the U.S. enters, the less damage it will experience.

By Phil Lavery
Contributing Columnist

As ISIS continues their ground offensive in Iraq and Syria despite U.S. drone strikes, the time has come to wonder when, rather than if, we will launch a ground assault in that region. The American people are fed up with war. After 13 years, the idea of another war in Iraq and probably Syria seems overwhelming for the majority. Even still, as the U.S. waits, we must access our military and political options, as our task of cleaning up the mess we left behind in Iraq isn’t shrinking or going away.

The power vacuum and instability we created in the region has led to the rise of rogue state Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. ISIS has grown from a little monster to a military power, one that obviously can sustain losses from our airstrikes and attain ground by somewhat conventional military tactics. With Mosul, Iraq’s second largest city, already in its hands, ISIS’ territory stretches across much of Syria and western Iraq, becoming the latest playground for any up-and-coming terrorist with a rocket-launcher.

The ground war against ISIS will likely begin sooner than later, but if it doesn’t happen within the next six months, it’ll begin shortly after the next election. Militarily speaking, the longer we wait the harder the war will be. As we lick our wounds suffered from previous wars, ISIS has grown from the ashes unchecked.

The Kurds have been left alone, fighting against the mostly radical Sunni operation that is ISIS. Meanwhile the U.S. as a whole has looked the other way, as we no longer desire to police the world. This indecision has led to an unstable Iraq, which in turn negates any goal our leaders thought they had accomplished when President Obama declared the end of the war. An economically and politically unstable Iraq translates into an unstable Mesopotamia for our capitalist interest and gives a new home to a large number of terrorists for training.

Simply put, our leaders will not allow the situation to boil over any more than it already has. They’re simply buying time via airstrikes to check the problem until they’re able to ensure the American public that war is necessary. This will be done via a mass-propaganda campaign. Once they have a majority of the public clamoring for war against ISIS, the ground assault will quickly follow. There are economic short-term benefits to war, but feeding our military industrial complex isn’t the gain. The war will largely be preventative as to destroy ISIS before it gains any more power or legitimacy as a radical Islamic state. If we don’t overcome the threat, ISIS will continue to grow. It has already become a semi-legitimate state.

The situation at hand is different than the previous Iraq War, as the support from Muslim countries surrounding ISIS territory will be strong. Jordan wants a serious offensive but is waiting for Western support. Jordan’s king is blood thirsty for revenge for the pilot who was captured and burned alive. Turkey is likely to help because ISIS borders their sovereign state.

The recent Paris attacks have Western Europe on edge, as European Muslim extremists travel to fight with ISIS then come back trained for terror. The more blood that is spilled in Europe, the more support we will see from Europe to join any coalition led by the U.S. and our allies.

Don’t get me wrong; I’m all for “knowledge is power” and I don’t think ignorance is bliss. We should all be aware of what’s going on in the world, the goodness and corruption.

But sometimes — and right now I’m one of those times — we need a break from the gloom.

I don’t know what to do with my proposal, and maybe the idea already exists out there somewhere. If so, I think it needs some serious consideration. We will be influencing progress.

The power vacuum and instability we created in the region has led to the rise of rogue state Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. ISIS has grown from a little monster to a military power, one that obviously can sustain losses from our airstrikes and attain ground by somewhat conventional military tactics. With Mosul, Iraq’s second largest city, already in its hands, ISIS’ territory stretches across much of Syria and western Iraq, becoming the latest playground for any up-and-coming terrorist with a rocket-launcher.

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The Kurds have been left alone, fighting against the mostly radical Sunni operation that is ISIS. Meanwhile the U.S. as a whole has looked the other way, as we no longer desire to police the world. This indecision has led to an unstable Iraq, which in turn negates any goal our leaders thought they had accomplished when President Obama declared the end of the war. An economically and politically unstable Iraq translates into an unstable Mesopotamia for our capitalist interest and gives a new home to a large number of terrorists for training.

Simply put, our leaders will not allow the situation to boil over any more than it already has. They’re simply buying time via airstrikes to check the problem until they’re able to ensure the American public that war is necessary. This will be done via a mass-propaganda campaign. Once they have a majority of the public clamoring for war against ISIS, the ground assault will quickly follow. There are economic short-term benefits to war, but feeding our military industrial complex isn’t the gain. The war will largely be preventative as to destroy ISIS before it gains any more power or legitimacy as a radical Islamic state. If we don’t overcome the threat, ISIS will continue to grow. It has already become a semi-legitimate state.

The situation at hand is different than the previous Iraq War, as the support from Muslim countries surrounding ISIS territory will be strong. Jordan wants a serious offensive but is waiting for Western support. Jordan’s king is blood thirsty for revenge for the pilot who was captured and burned alive. Turkey is likely to help because ISIS borders their sovereign state.

The recent Paris attacks have Western Europe on edge, as European Muslim extremists travel to fight with ISIS then come back trained for terror. The more blood that is spilled in Europe, the more support we will see from Europe to join any coalition led by the U.S. and our allies.

Don’t get me wrong; I’m all for “knowledge is power” and I don’t think ignorance is bliss. We should all be aware of what’s going on in the world, the goodness and corruption. It allows us to think deeper and formulate opinions on current and important topics. This generation of young adults should be especially conscious and concerned. We will be influencing progress.

News needs more optimism

“We need a safe haven to learn about advancements in science and how everyday people overcome great obstacles. We need to hear about how the smallest monkey in the world gets toothbrush massages on the daily.”

By Emily Tinti
Staff Columnist

Global news is generally frustrating, unsettling and a huge disappointment for mankind. I know that statement is highly contemptuous and negative, but hear me out: It’s just the general media.

Nearly all news stations are talking about wanted dangerous criminals in the very state you live in and religion-based violence in our planet’s most sacred lands. It’s all guns, lethal bullying, Monsanto, politics and terrorism. Facebook’s trending topics section is pretty troubling: “Schiller Park woman poisoned her two kids with laced apple juice” was trending one Friday night. Alongside it, new Hollywood couples and Robot Chicken.

Some people gravitate toward the Hollywood gossip and pop culture references more so than political debates and economics. It’s an escape. But it’s sad to see this sort of combination each time I log into Facebook, and it is rare to see multiple encouraging news stories at once.

I declare that there should be one designated news channel for everybody to tune into when they want to hear good news. It should be broadcasted everywhere – online, social media, television, and radio. I want puppies heavily involved in this production. Puppies and kittens, scientific discoveries, returning soldiers surprising their children, upcoming beatboxers and street artists, and lots of success stories.

Don’t get me wrong; I’m all for “knowledge is power” and I don’t think ignorance is bliss. We should all be aware of what’s going on in the world, the goodness and corruption. It allows us to think deeper and formulate opinions on current and important topics. This generation of young adults should be especially conscious and concerned. We will be influencing progress.

But sometimes — and right now I’m one of those times — we need a break from the gloom.
Baseball returns with a bang

On Feb. 21 the Tampa Bay Rays will be hosting its annual Fan Fest event at Tropicana Field. The event will feature activities and games for all ages, player autograph sessions and a charity yard sale. Admission and parking for the event are free. For more details visit TampaBayRays.MLB.com.

Andrew Caplan
Staff Reporter

Following the clink from his bat, Dominick DiPasquale’s teammates lined up to slap five after he rounded the bases and returned to home plate.

“Jody Odom Jr. picked up the win in Game 1 for the Bulls.”

The USFSP baseball club and dancers gather for their team photo following their 3-2 win over FSU.

Leadoff hitter Cully Wilson steps up to the plate in hopes of reaching first base.

Pitcher Jody Odom Jr. picked up the win in Game 1 for the Bulls.

Odom relieved Rubin in the fifth inning. Allowing only two hits for the rest of the game, Odom helped the Bulls close out the game with a victory.

“We came back, we persevered,” Berger said. “Jody Odom, lights out as always.”

Because their roster is depleted compared to the prior season, the team made pitching changes prior to the first game due to having to play three games in two days.

In Game 2, senior pitcher Jason Smith was the first of three to pitch for the Bulls as they lost 3-1, failing to carry the momentum late into the day.

Rubin returned as catcher, allowing Hand to have a productive role as a hitter and relief pitcher.

Hand reached base safely in the third inning.

Although he reached first base on his next at bat, DiPasquale’s home run was the most significant hit of the day. Rubin returned as catcher, switching to pitcher for the Bulls as they lost 3-1, failing to carry the momentum late into the day.

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The USFSP baseball club defeated Florida State University 3-2 Saturday afternoon, thanks to DiPasquale’s home-run blast in the fourth inning.

Although he reached first base on his next at bat, DiPasquale’s home run was the most significant hit of the day, just in front of senior Jordan Rubin, the team’s usual catcher before.

Judy Wilson and Jeremy Berger each reached first base safely and had a stolen base, which put the base runners in scoring position prior to Odom’s go-ahead hit.

“I think we just got a pretty good [12 times] hit. I don’t know what Jody Herman says but I think he’s something. So, I’m proud of everyone.”

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February 28 Hurricane TBA TBA

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