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University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

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A small plane approaching Albert Whitted Airport made an emergency landing last Wednesday on a busy street 1.5 miles southwest of the university. Miraculously, no one was seriously injured. But what if the Cessna 402B had come down a few moments later, when the plane was about to pass over the campus?

Virtually no one The Crow’s Nest interviewed later – university administrators, students, city officials – seemed especially worried about the possibility of a crash on a campus where several buildings lie directly beneath the flight pattern of the airport’s main runway.

Frank Biafora, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for nearly a decade, said there have been at least five fatal accidents involving planes taking off and landing at the small municipal airport since 1987, including a midair collision over Tampa Bay a mile east of Albert Whitted that year that killed both pilots and a passenger.

Four crashes in the last 22 years seem to underscore the potential peril for the USFSP campus and its neighbors, which include two hospitals:

• On April 8, 1995, a Piper Cherokee approaching the airport crashed in a neighborhood a half mile southwest of the campus. It struck the roof of a vacant house at 645 15th Ave. S before crumpling into the side yard. The pilot and his passenger were killed. No one in the neighborhood was injured.

• On Nov. 27, 1996, the pilot of a Lake LA-4 made a mayday call about four miles north of the airport. Moments later, the plane crashed into a church yard, seriously injuring the pilot.

• On Aug. 1, 2012, one man died and another was injured when their Luscombe Silvaire nose-dived into the main runway shortly after taking off. The plane came to rest about 100 feet from the fence at the west end of the runway, just across First Street S from the university.

• On Sept. 15, 2014, a Piper Cherokee apparently ran out of gas while approaching Albert Whitted from the north. It narrowly missed hitting a condominium tower, struck some trees and crashed into Vinoy Park, less than a mile from the airport and the campus. All four people in the plane were injured, two seriously, according to St. Petersburg police. But it could have been much worse, spokeswoman Yolanda Fernandez said.

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“A plane crashed into a house at 645 15th Ave. S with a mayday call. The pilot and his passenger were killed and everyone in the neighborhood was uninjured.”

USF St. Petersburg lies directly beneath the flight path of the airport’s main runway. Several important buildings on campus, like Davis Hall, can be only two stories high. Every attempt to close or shrink the airport has failed.
SUVs driven by Alphonsine Avenue before rolling into it hit trees and power lines. Lawrence praised the pilot for intersection with 16th Street on 18th Avenue S near the pilot to land his charter plane emergency landing have not expansion of USFSP. the airport property into an and allowed the city to sell the have closed the main runway a compromise plan that would Mayor Rick Baker abandoned with a waterfront park. In November 2003, St. Petersburg City Council by two members of the St. Petersburg Police Chief Anthony Holloway said his could take up to a year to complete, Bergsen said. FOR CONCERN Richard Lesniak, the manager at Albert Whitted, said the airport presents a dangerous to the surrounding area. “If you look statistically at aircraft crashes, they are an extremely rare event,” he said. “I think it’s less than 2,000 crashes a year. When you’re talking less than that, that’s really low. I mean, one accident is one too many but it’s a very low occurrence.” St. Petersburg Police Chief Anthony Holloway said his department doesn’t see a need to be concerned about the safety of the area and the airport. “We look at every incident that happens,” said Holloway. “There are a lot of automobile crashes every year in the city, he said, “so we look at them to see what the pattern is. We’ll be talking to our partners at the airport to see if there is some type of pattern with airplane crashes to see if we can do something to prevent that.” His comments were echoed by two members of the St. Petersburg City Council. Charlie Gerdes, whose district covers west and northwest St. Petersburg, said he knows how low planes fly over the university, but he doesn’t think the airport poses a threat. “If I put myself in the shoes of the students, I can see the planes roaring overhead and seeing the news about planes flying too low, mechanical failures, and the risk of hitting my classroom,” said Gerdes. “That’s a perfectly reasonable question. But I don’t think the risk is reasonable or extraordinary.” Gerdes cited the strong support the airport got in the 2003 referendum, support that his district still seems to share. “In my district, there seems to be a very strong attachment to Albert Whitted. It’s in the city’s fabric,” he said. “If it was a genuine fear or concern of some kind, I think that vote would have been too close to call. Hardly any things change and I would not be surprised that (if) in 15 or 20 years from now we will start talking about what to do with the airport. People may change their minds.” Karl Nurse is the City Council representative for District 6, which covers the university, Albert Whitted and much of campus. Nurse said he lives close to the university and knows firsthand how close the planes fly overhead, but he doesn’t see much change in the future. “We had a referendum ... a decade ago and citizens voted overwhelmingly to keep the airport open, so I couldn’t see it closing anytime soon,” Nurse said. Nurse said he doesn’t think the airport poses a significant danger to the university, but he does acknowledge that a problem could arise. “Inherently, smaller planes piloted by amateur drivers are less likely to be a danger than the larger commercial aircrafts,” he said. The city is studying the possibility of extending the main runway at Albert Whitted a quarter mile to the east. That would mean the planes that take off from campus would be higher and quieter. But neither Nurse nor Gerdes seemed inclined to support that proposal, which would take a decade, cost at least $12.5 million and need to clear a host of environmental hurdles. Nurse said the proposed runway extension would be too costly and the environmental hurdles too high. He said a much smaller expansion – about 300 feet to the east – would be a smarter choice. “With that, I’d think we’d see noticeable improvements,” he said. REACTION ON CAMPUS On campus, where students and faculty have grown accustomed to the sight and sound of planes roaring overhead, some students said they were surprised that a plane had made an emergency landing so close to the university. “That’s awful that it happened. I go to the airport every Sunday to watch the planes come in,” said Sara Veugeler a junior mass communications major. “It’s a satisfying thing to know that into consideration. When I think of school, I think of safety, and school doesn’t have control over air traffic.” But Student Government President David Thompson noted that USFSP has been here since 1965 “and I haven’t heard of any one (crash) directly impacting our campus. I trust our administrators that if we were in danger of a crash that they would address it.” Joe Pack, 48, a history major and peer counselor at the university’s Military and Veterans Success Center, was a military policeman who responded to crash scenes at Air Force bases around the world. Pilots who are about to crash know to hit the street rather than crashing into a building, he said. “We are right in the path of the (main) runway, so there is a concern by having an awareness of the possibility of it (a crash) happening and being prepared to put out small gas fires, we would prevent a lot of people from getting hurt.” “Gas is more dangerous than the plane crash itself because those (small) private planes (at the airport) generally don’t do much damage.” “They’re made of light aluminum,” Pack said. “After a crash, a fuel cell could rupture and leak aviation-rated gasoline. That’s dangerous, but you’re not looking at a massive casualty. We have fire extinguishers all over campus, and as long as we keep faculty and students trained on them, we are good.” Interim Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock, who arrived at the university 15 months ago, said he has not been here “long enough to develop these concerns” about airplane mishaps. “I wasn’t here” when there were earlier incidents, he said. “With these buildings I think a bigger plane would probably slam into Davis Hall and not hurt anybody,” Tadlock said. “They’re built with concrete I mean just look at them, they’re built to withstand mother nature. They’re solid.” "A crisis can come from anywhere, not necessarily just the airport,” Tadlock said, and the university has emergency plans for any crisis. If a crash were to occur on campus, the University Police Department would be the first to respond, and Police Chief David Hendry said his staff is prepared. “From our standpoint as law enforcement, we are prepared for all different kinds of emergencies that occur on campus,” Hendry said. “Being in a downtown setting we can face all different kinds of dangers, but we prepare for eventualities or any kinds of hazards that might confront the campus. That’s our role to prepare and respond.” According to Hendry, his department does not have specific training for airplane crashes, but it would be the first to establish control on the scene. “Hypothetically, if a plane were to head to campus, and there were enough time, this is what would happen. The approaching plane would coordinate with air traffic control,” Hendry said. “Then, police, fire and EMS would immediately be notified. The university would be notified, if needed.” “If an incident were to occur, we would likely know about it before it happened.” Information from the National Transportation Safety Board, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and the Tampa Bay Times was used in this report.
Forum seeks to clarify role of First Amendment at universities

By Antonio D Fazzalari
Contributor

Peter Lake, a professor at Stetson College of Law and an expert in higher education policy, visited campus Wednesday to head a forum concerning the First Amendment, campus protests and free speech.

The forum came at a time of rising turbulence as protests continue to mount against “alt-right” speakers on college campuses. (See story page 8)

About 50 students and faculty from USF St. Petersburg attended the forum held in Lynn Pippenger Hall.

“If you have a right to speak, you should also have the correlative right not to speak, and even in some cases to not listen,” he said. “I’ve noticed that I’ve been increasingly living in a society where privacy laws are breaking down.”

Lake sought to clarify the role of the First Amendment on campus while exploring the relationship between privacy, the U.S. Constitution and the pursuit of liberty. He spoke for two hours.

“Essentially arguing, not for the right to free speech so much, but the right to be free from speech — to find some space that’s safe for them to go that isn’t being invaded constantly by advertisers or ideas or thoughts that are disruptive or otherwise unwelcome,” he said.

Lake said that as we lose privacy, intimacy becomes a publicly traded commodity. As such, society is more likely to have people turn to the First Amendment to find protection and relief.

“When free speech wars are game on, a lot of times what we’re fighting over is identities,” Lake said. “Whose identity do you have? What’s your identity? What’s mine?”

“One of the things I notice in this society is there’s a lot of folks that want to take other people’s identities and move them to their own in some way,” he said.

Lake argued that this is what is happening on college campuses around the country, where people are contesting one another’s identities.

Faculty asked the majority of questions, covering a range of topics anywhere from race chanting to cross burning.

Many of the students left in the middle of the forum.

Lake learned a lot about the First Amendment after his uncle got back from World War II. When he asked his uncle how he felt about all the flag burning in the ‘60s, he said that while it made him upset, he couldn’t imagine taking that right away. That’s what he was putting his life on the line for.

But today’s society is rapidly challenging this narrative.

“The First Amendment is always growing and evolving with the society that it’s in, and as we start to work at it, the ideas that we have today that are not typical become the ideas of tomorrow,” said Lake.

Registration for spring rapidly approaching

By Brianna Rodriguez
Contributor

As the end of the semester draws closer, registration for the new semester approaches.

Academic advisers saw over 300 students this week and will continue to take appointments. Registration for spring classes opens Oct. 30.

Academic advising says that students should schedule their advising appointment as soon as possible, regardless of any holds on their account.

“Advisers can also provide students with information about campus resources that may help them get the holds removed,” said Cynthia Collins, director of academic advising.

“Remember, students should register as soon as possible to ensure they are getting their preferred schedule. Courses will close in many majors.”

The College Scheduler is a feature in its second year that allows students to plan out their schedule prior to registration. Students can compare schedules of different class combinations to create a customized schedule.

First time college students with less than 30 credit hours completed must visit with an adviser in order to register for classes. Additionally, students with less than a 2.1 GPA must see an adviser prior to registering for classes.

Students are encouraged to act now to reserve their appointment. If you have problems scheduling an appointment, you can visit the advising office for assistance or call the office at 727 873-4511 and press option four for assistance.

To schedule an appointment, visit Academic Advising website: https://www.usfsp.edu/academic-advising/

University: parking garage attack lawsuit ‘vague and ambiguous’

By Whitney Elfstrom
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The university says that the lawsuit brought by a former student who was sexually assaulted is “vague and ambiguous.”

The woman, called “L.E.” in the suit, sued the university and campus police in June for its negligence in handling a sex-related crime. She said those entities did not “provide adequate security” when a man masturbated behind her in the parking garage elevator.

In the suit, L.E. requested the university admit that she was sexually assaulted. However, the university says it “cannot deny or admit this request.”

The university says that while she was subject to an incident of “lewdness and/or indecent exposure,” she was not sexually assaulted.

Counteracting this, the university says L.E.’s allegations were “redundant and immaterial.”

The university called for the case to be dismissed on the grounds that USF is provided with sovereign immunity as it is a state agency or for L.E. to provide a more definitive statement “setting forth ultimate facts.”

On Oct. 18, students gathered in the USC ballrooms to celebrate Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. Diwali, or Deepavali, is a Sanskrit word meaning “rows of lighted lamps.” It is India’s biggest holiday and is traditionally celebrated with lights, food and dancing. The annual five day festival of lights on campus was hosted by the South Asian Association. Radhika Dang, SAA president, educated students on the significance of the festival by relaying information about Hindu culture. SAA members performed traditional dances while students munched on authentic South Asian foods.
Science Fest and MarineQuest bring zest to campus

By Michael Moore Jr
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Several kids gather around the back of a rescue truck, pulling a piece of tarp. They hoist a manatee out on a stretcher before gently setting it on the ground.

Upon closer inspection, the manatee more closely resembles a leather couch with eyes. It was stitched together by a local biologist.

The kids were practicing what it’s like to rescue a manatee.

“Anyone who helped rescue the Manatee gets a lollipop,” says one Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission official after the exercise.

This is MarineQuest 2017, the annual open house of the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. In its 23rd year, it has become home to a plethora of live marine, freshwater and other animal exhibits: To the left there are sharks, rays and spiny lobsters. To the right there are sea stars, snakes and alligators.

Its aim? To inspire, educate and get people excited about science.

“Do you want to know what it’s like to fly into a hurricane?” asks Chris Mehta, 27, a doctorate candidate at USF Tampa in geology.

When he’s not studying, he works for the science, engineering and meteorology department of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Mehta isn’t at MarineQuest. He’s just a few steps away on Harbor Lawn, where the seventh annual St. Petersburg Science Festival is taking place. It is a regional celebration of hands-on science, technology, engineering, art and math. It’s home to over 150 exhibits that stretch all the way to Poynter Park.

Its aim? To inspire, educate and get people excited about science.

MarineQuest and the Science Festival are free events that have been held in conjunction for the past several years.

Hundreds of people flock to the exhibits each year, many of them budding scientists who were inspired to be science-literate by similar events.

“Working for NOAA has been a lifelong dream of mine. I love serving others,” Mehta says, handing out Kermit the frog stickers that say “sky hopper” on them.

He says every day is a new adventure, which sounds cliché, until you hear him describe how they have to direct the nose of the P-3 standard crew airplane down in order to fly directly into the eyewall. When in the eye, it’s calm, which allows them to collect data on things like wind speed and pressure.

He’s at the festival hoping to inspire the next generation of scientists.

Booths from the Florida Aquarium, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Mote Marine Laboratory are there to do the same. The day before, more than 1,200 school children were treated to a sneak peak of the exhibits.

Barrie Wilkie has volunteered at Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium in Sarasota for 20 years. She’s seen a lot of events like these during her time, but was impressed by both the number of people and exhibits.

“There’s a lot of competition here,” she said jokingly.

Wilkie grew up in Aruba, where she says she fell in love with fish and marine life. She spent over 10 years on the floor as a docent, helping give tours and educate the public about ocean conservation. Now, she spends her time educating people at events like these.

“Anytime you can help people understand things better, that’s important,” she said. “You get people watching these shark movies, but if you can touch them and make them fall in love with the animals, that’s special.”

That’s what happened with Domonique Gillen. She’s originally from New Jersey, but her aunt works at Mote Marine. She estimates that she’s visited the aquarium over 50 times. Now she’s a booth at the St. Petersburg Science Festival showing kids “elephant toothpaste,” an exothermic reaction involving hydrogen peroxide, soap, yeast and food coloring.

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I shouldn’t have to do this. I shouldn’t have to be the educated voice on gender for all of you who don’t live in the LGBTQ community, who can’t just open your web browser and Google these things.

I already have to face discrimination just for being who I am, so will you cut the crap?

Most people think that being born with a penis or a vagina is all that is there. But about one in 1,500 people are born with some sort of variation of reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn’t meet typical definitions of male or female sex organs.

This could be something like a child with a penis but XX chromosomes, or a child with a clitoris but no vagina. Previously, these children were forced to have invasive surgeries to “correct” something that isn’t an issue.

Now, it’s more common to let the child make their own choices about gender identity.

Someone’s sex describes the reproductive organs that a doctor would need to know, and unless you are using someone’s sex in a medical or legal sense, there is no need to ask about it. Asking is one of the most invasive things you can do to someone outside the binary.

Gender identity is how someone defines their place on a gender spectrum in a technical term. This is unrelated to sexual orientation or gender expression. Gender identity, like liquid starch, can be incredibly solid to some people and a gooey flexible mess for others. That gooey flexible mess could be defined as genderqueer or genderfluid, where an individual doesn’t feel like they have a fixed gender.

Transgender describes someone who does not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth. Nonbinary describes someone who doesn’t identify with the preconceived notions of gender, male or female, and finds themselves somewhere between the two “defined” genders. Agender describes someone who doesn’t identify with any gender.

There are many more gender identities than listed here. All are valid and worth exploring. If you find yourself reevaluating what your gender actually means to you, or if you care to learn about other gender identities, I strongly recommend you research it.

Gender expression also doesn’t have to align with any singular notion of gender identity. I dress very femininely, often wear makeup and have relatively long hair. But I’m non-binary.

I have no intentions to transition with hormones or surgery, and I don’t wish I was a man. I simply don’t feel like a woman or a man.

I’m just a person — a person who was in Girl Scouts, who uses tampons, who has a vagina, but a person who is not female.

A person who uses the singular they pronoun, despite the comments like “it just doesn’t work grammatically” that discredit my entire existence every time.

I’m not asking for a lot from you. Just respect the pronouns someone asks you to use and take a second to understand if it’s a straight person coming out, just putting one’s true self out there. It takes courage to, one, explain to the public while knowing it could lead to discrimination.

I know I have privilege as a white person who passes as a female, and must acknowledge that trans people, especially trans women of color, deal with more discrimination than I ever will.

Trans people are murdered and assaulted at a much higher rate than anyone else in the United States. People outside the gender binary often have little to no legal protection against job and housing discrimination.

So let’s take one stressor off their lives, and if you consider yourself an LGBTQ ally, respect the choices that we choose outside the traditional gender binary make.

THE CROW’S NEST
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Opinion

THE CROW’S NEST

Opinion

By Sav Gibbs
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You’re not green if you consume animal products

By Sav Gibbs
Creative Director

Although agriculture in general includes producing both plants and animals for food, for raising livestock to produce meat, milk and eggs or other animal products are actually used for animal agriculture.

A substantial portion of the grain grown in the U.S. is fed to livestock, contributing to the significant pollution caused by the agriculture industry. For example, 39.1 percent of corn grown in 2015 was used to feed livestock, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.

However, switching to grass fed livestock is even more land intensive than growing grain to feed them. The USDA says a 1,200 pound cow needs 1.8 acres of grass growth. Where there can also produce 9,800 pounds of corn. If you do the math, one is clearly more efficient than the other.

But if we fed the grain used for raising livestock to grass fed instead of conventional, we could effectively end world hunger. Showing compassion for the animals and the environment would also mean showing compassion for our fellow humans.

But those cows, pigs and chickens would all run wild if we didn’t eat them, right?

Wouldn’t that cause a farm-pocalypse? No, it wouldn’t, because these animals only exist in large numbers because humans facilitate their reproduction.

Let’s talk water. How many times were you scolded for letting the water run while brushing your teeth as a kid? Turns out, that’s not even comparable to ordering a burger.

It takes 1,800 gallons of water to produce one pound of U.S. beef, according to The Water Footprint Network. Many plants could be watered with 1,800 gallons. So what about the idea of sustainable seafood? Unfortunately, that’s not the reality.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations says that 52 percent of fish stocks are fully exploited and 17 percent are overexploited. If this continues, we will run out of seafood by 2048.

I could number dump all day, but I encourage you to do research on your own. The facts are there. Major organizations are getting on board with finally identifying animal agriculture as one of the drivers of climate change. Identifying is just step one, though, step two is making changes in your life if you really care about the state of our environment — and that can be tough.

Transitioning to a plant-based diet is difficult, I’ll be the first to admit it. You have to unlearn the eating habits you’ve been conditioned to have your entire life. However, it can be done. Taking small steps is OK, and there is a world of support and resources out there to help take on the incredible evolution of plant-based meat, dairy and eggs.

Don’t get discouraged, and remember that almost every plant-based eater has spoken the words: “I could never go vegan.” But then they did.

Sav Gibbs wants people who don’t live in the LGBTQ community to understand that alternative gender identities are valid and deserve to be respected.
Review: The Keepers is a must see documentary

By Sara M. McDonald

The Keepers is a must-see Netflix original true-crime documentary which exposes a long history of sexual and emotional abuse in the 1960s at the hands of an ordained priest.

Unlike the ever popular “Making a Murderer,” another true-crime Netflix favorite, “The Keepers” seeks to give a voice to the victims and not to the criminal.

For the subject matter, this is usually the opposite way to handle the situation. Sexual and emotional abuse is so commonly thought of as a taboo subject that Hollywood tries to avoid it altogether. In an intriguing move, Netflix dared to tackle it.

“The Keepers” is a seven-part series that follows the stories of former students now in their sixties who are seeking justice for the wrongdoings they have endured. Sister Cesnick, the series’ primary focus, was a young woman who disappeared while running errands in November 1969. The following year her body was found with her skull broken. Her murder was never solved, but there are theories.

Sister Cesnick worked at Archbishop Keough School, where the students adored and trusted her—so much so that they wanted justice and truth about what happened to Sister Cesnick and why.

The students trusted her. Did they trust her with a secret? Their secret? Did Father Maskell have something to do with her murder as a result? The documentary is raw and heart-wrenching. There are terrifying stories of abuse but extraordinary moments of courage.

This documentary comes at a time when our community and culture needs to understand the dangerous and life changing outcomes of emotional and sexual abuse. It comes at a time when we are still trying to grasp the importance of coming forward and fighting for justice and what is right.

We, as a community, could learn a lot from this group of brave women, especially as Betsy DeVos is reeling at the Obama era guidelines of Title IX and the metoo movement in the wake of Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein’s abuse scandal.

There has never been a better time to stay educated and to teach the facts that come from not protecting students and not believing victims.

This documentary was expertly and beautifully executed. It is a must see for anyone who is remotely interested in changing the future by dismantling rape culture.

Let’s learn from their past and hope that these women can find the peace and answers they deserve.

Letter to the editor:

Criticism of last week’s front page layout and design

By Samantha Fiore

I am emailing you regarding the front page of The Crow’s Nest from Oct. 16. As a student on this campus, I think the placement of this headline paired with a picture of the Homecoming King and Queen was insensitive and poorly planned out.

First, let me make clear who the Homecoming King and Queen are. Sadandré and Shani are two highly regarded student leaders here at USF St. Petersburg. They are tour guides, orientation leaders, Compass First Year Experience peer coaches, academically successful and are making a huge impact on hundreds of students here at USF St. Petersburg, they should be celebrated and used as an example of the types of students we have representing us on this campus. They are what USFSP embodies.

Rather than using your platform to make this an opportunity to highlight some of the amazing students we have here at this campus, you chose to focus on an event that didn’t go as planned and succeed and become the best version of themselves because of what this campus can offer, you chose a headline that says more than what meets the eye. It reminds us of a dark time on our campus that impacted our peers. This is not a copy of The Crow’s Nest that Dré and Shani want to keep as a memory to show their grandchildren one day. Don’t you want your hard work to be remembered that way?

I think The Crow’s Nest has an amazing opportunity to increase the overall spirit and happiness on our campus. So many amazing things happen here. Our students are transparent and intentionnal, diverse and talented. They should be celebrated as examples of that it means to be a Bull at USFSP.

While it is important to talk about the bad news, the good news is that we have used Volume 49 Issue 7 of The Crow’s Nest as something that would be cherished by so many students forever.
A protester escorted a white nationalist outside Richard Spencer’s talk: ‘He just smiled and called me a racist slur’

By Jonah Hinebaugh
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Editor’s note: Members of the “alt-right” frequently don’t search for or publish private or identifying information about a particular individual on the Internet, typically with malicious intent. In order to avoid this, the student interviewed in this story asked to go under the pseudonym Baghat Singh to protect his identity.

In a small parking lot at the University of Florida, hundreds of protesters circled a single man with swastikas printed on his white T-shirt.

Tension rose as the man continued to spew racial slurs at minorities in the crowd. Some of the protesters tried to reason with him. Some tried to engage him in debate, but none of that worked.

The police stood silently, on the sidelines, unwilling to step in. Protesters began to shove him. He smirked, trying his best to stand tall amid the hundreds of people, who were now yelling and spitting on him.

Eventually, tensions rose so high that someone punched him, hard, busting his lip. As he left, the crowd trailed behind. Helping to escort the man out of the protest zone was Baghat Singh, a senior political science major at UF.

“People started pushing (the Nazi) and the crowd started moving, I was right beside him. I was talking to him like ‘Cmon dude I don’t agree with you, don’t you have to like me, but I don’t want you to get hurt. I want you to leave please.’ He just smiled and called me a racist slur,” Singh said.

Singh said the man showed up, walked through the crowd, and called people “n—ers, sand—ers, towheads and racist slurs in Hebrew.

“He was saying propaganda and trying to pick a fight. Some people tried to reason with him, but these people don’t know what they’re dealing with. This man is coming from a standpoint of fabricated history,” Singh said.

On Thursday, a crowd 2,500 of protesters gathered outside the Curtis M. Phillips Center at the University of Florida to protest a speech by white supremacist leader Richard Spencer, the president of the National Policy Institute (NPI).

Leading up to the event, the university spent close to $600,000 on security measures, and Alachua County was placed under a state of emergency by the Curtis Phillips Center.

“His words were the catalyst for a giant outburst of rage from a group of white supremacists,” said a reporter for the Bay Times.

“I think we sent a message loud and clear that Nazis are not welcome at our university,” Singh said.

Spencer has advocated for a white ethnostate and legal access to abortion because he believes it would decrease the amount of black and Hispanic people. He opposes same-sex marriage, wanting to return to more traditional roles, according to an interview with The Washington Post.

UF initially turned down Spencer’s application to speak in mid-August over what it deemed concerns about violence, not over Spencer’s rhetoric. When Spencer hired lawyers and threatened to sue UF, the university said it would try to accommodate him for a later date.

“For people ignoring the Nazis, you just don’t give a fascist a platform,” Singh said. “I don’t think they should be allowed to walk around and spread their hatred, endanger people and I’m appalled the state hasn’t called them a terrorist yet.”

“When someone comes up and says we deserve to die, (it’s like) we are not even human to them. Love trumps hate, but when you’re dealing with a fascist, they’re not there to engage in conversation with you. There’s no discourse.

“Protesters were denied water, food and access to the bathrooms located on the east side of the UF recreation center. The university also locked the doors to the bathroom and shut off the water fountains.

Singh was tired of the messages Fuchs and others tried to send by urging everyone to stay home.

He said that the protestors goal from the beginning was to come together in solidarity to peacefully use their right to free speech.

“Protesters were denied water, food and access to the bathrooms located on the east side of the UF recreation center.”

“Fascists” ideas and hate are not welcome here,” Singh said. “We are totally disappointed by the so-called ‘anti-fascist’ ideas that are spreading is hateful propaganda and being complicit only harms the marginalized groups that Spencer disagrees with.

Florida congressman Ted Yoho released a statement Monday Oct. 16 equating all the protestor groups to “anti- Fascist” saying they’re all violent.

Yoho called the NPI a misleadingly named hate group and “anti-Fascist” a group comprised of Fascists and anarchists and Marxists that advocate for violence and chaos. Yoho said that “anti-Fascist” was calling on their members to come and protest suggesting the whole crowd of protesters would be comprised of violent people.

Singh disagrees and thinks Yoho’s comments on the protests were off-base.

“We wanted a Boston. In Charlottesville, they had the tiki marches, people got hurt and it empowered them. In Boston, 300 (white supremacists) faced about 8,000 protesters. They got scared, they ran away and as an effect, 33 white supremacist speeches and rallies got canceled all over the U.S. That was our target.”

Singh said that what Spencer spreads is hateful propaganda and being complicit only harms the marginalized groups that Spencer disagrees with.

Over the years the world has watched extremists rise to power. In 1922 there was Benito Mussolini, in 1933 there was Adolf Hitler and in 1939 there was Francisco Franco.

“One common factor throughout these things: People ignore them. You need to do something about it, you need to actively come in. People just don’t give a fascist a platform,” Singh said. He was excited with the lack of violence and the turnout of veterans, students and faculty of the university among others, claiming it to be a win for every group.

“White supremacists are hateful toward.

“I think we sent a message loud and clear that Nazism is not welcome at our university. Sometimes you have to organize and get people together, whatever it takes to protect the people that have been exploited,” Singh said.

“Thank that was the beauty of it. I’m proud to say what happened in Gainesville was everyone showing up, sending a message that with all of us united there is power in numbers.”

Information from the Tampa Bay Times was used in this report.