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Crow's Nest: 2019: 04: 08

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

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Holi dusts campus with color

By Amy Diaz

Holi Hai, the Festival of Colors, celebrates spring, friendship and equality. USF St. Petersburg’s South Asian Association has brought the celebration from India to the USC lawn for five years. See story, page 8.

Student Government bill to increase transparency moves to final vote

By Amy Diaz

In an attempt to address issues with transparency and outreach, two Student Government members drafted a bill to create a new position in the senate.

There is no funding in the SG budget for the proposed position. Whoever fills it will be a volunteer, or potentially paid, according to the bill. The Secretary of the Senate bill, drafted by senators Naya Payne and Gregory Cote, passed through the Senate bill, drafted by senators Naya Payne and Gregory Cote, passed through the Senate.

The goal for this position is to increase transparency and raise awareness about SG, its meetings and policies. Payne said this bill will be “a big step, but it’s the first step.”

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Paper avoids funding freeze

By Emily Wunderlich

A threat to freeze funding for The Crow’s Nest has ended.

The threat came on March 29, when Student Government President Daniel “Kaeden” Kelso said the newspaper’s registration with the university’s Office of Leadership and Student Organizations had expired. Kelso gave the newspaper until 5 p.m. April 2 to deliver “all proper documents” to LSO to renew its registration — an “arbitrary deadline,” according to Editor-in-Chief Whitney Elfstrom, that the paper met.

The threat came at a curious time, Elfstrom said, as SG was in the process of finalizing the annual budget for campus organizations — a process that has drawn scrutiny and criticism from the newspaper.

Under the proposed budget, The Crow’s Nest stands to lose $12,261, or 23.4 percent of this year’s $52,516 allocation, while SG itself would see its allocation rise by 18.9 percent to $222,205. Kelso has until April 9 to approve the final budget, and then it goes to campus administration for review.

Professors in the Department of Journalism and Digital Communication sounded off against Kelso’s threat a week prior to the April 1 letter addressed to Jacob Diaz, dean of students.

“It’s difficult for us to interpret this as anything other than an attempt to censor a free press,” the professors wrote. Although Diaz has yet to respond to the letter, Regional Chancellor Martin Todtke responded to department chair Mark Walters in an email.

“Thank you, Mark, for your advocacy of the Crow’s Nest,” he wrote. “We are working closely with SGA to be as helpful as possible during a very difficult time.”

>> SEE BILL on P2

>> SEE FREEZE on P2
Bill, continued from P1

Senior Senate Tiffany Porcelli and SG Vice President-elect Hannah Rose Wireless opposed the bill. In a meeting April 2, Porcelli emphasized that she did not think the position would be “as effective as it is intended.” Porcelli stated that the existing paid elected officials should be doing their part to communicate with the student body. “And if we are not doing that, then we should be held accountable, not make another position to do that,” Porcelli said.

Cote, on the other hand, views the position as additional support to what senators should already be doing. “It needs to be a position that is brand new, because the more support the better,” Cote said. “If we can have a volunteer who’s doing this position, then that alleviates the pressure on every other person and makes us a more effective team.”

Freeze, continued from P1

“The SGA leadership is involved in budget adjustments which are important (as you indicate) and ultimately they will make the final decision about their budget, regardless of our input and guidance. “Thank you and all of our faculty and staff who work hard to support future journalists graduating from USF St Petersburg. We truly have outstanding people in what I would call a “signature” program...and we in no way want to see that diminished.”

Correction

The student body president has 10 academic days to approve the appropriations bill, not 10 consecutive days. A story in the April 1 issue of The Crow’s Nest incorrectly reported that the president had until April 5 to approve the final budget. The actual deadline is April 9.
Photographer bridges Native American cultures

By Thomas Iacobucci

The James Museum of Western and Wildlife Art is offering visitors a brief glimpse into the life and work of early 20th century American photographer Edward S. Curtis through a special exhibition titled “The Cultural Connections of Edward S. Curtis.”

At the turn of the century, Curtis took his cameras and traveled across the western region of the United States to document the rapidly disappearing Native American cultures. With deep respect and admiration for the Native peoples, Curtis captured scenes and portraits of different tribes in their daily life, conveying a sense of humanity that was lost to the public at that time.

Within the special exhibition, there are around 60 photographic prints, as well as sculptures and pieces of pottery from the James collection to supplement the show. The majority of the photographs within the exhibition are photogravures, or prints made from etchings, though there are also silver gelatin prints, cyanotypes, platinum, gold-toned images and three rare gold-toned images on glass, all within the original frames.

“It is such a great record of photography in indigenous communities and of these cultures, as well as stunning works of art,” said Emily Kapes, curator of art at the museum.

Organized by tribe, the exhibit displays Curtis’ work from his time spent with the Apache, Navajo, Sioux, Santa Clara, Flathead, Crow, Tewa Pueblo, Cheyenne and the Hopi. These are just some of the 80 tribes he was embedded with and documented throughout his life.

“Curtis was such a master of composition and of light,” Kapes said. “It really doesn’t look like a photograph.”

Visitors will be able to explore the traditions from the various tribes and learn the early photographic processes Curtis used when producing the thousands of images he took, all while achieving a newfound appreciation for Native American and indigenous cultures. The show will run from April 6 to July 21 at the James Museum Special Exhibition gallery, 150 Central Ave.
Festival brings Good Vibes to St. Petersburg

By Dylan Hart
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Artists and musicians from around St. Petersburg congregated in Williams Park on April 6 for the Good Vibes Only Festival.

Student Government at USF St. Petersburg collaborated with Student Government at St. Petersburg College to host the festival. Between sets, SG president Daniel “Kaeden” Kelso used a plastic canon to shoot T-shirts into the crowd.

The event hosted 11 bands, and was headlined by CeCe Teneal and Soul Kamotion. Additionally, the festival had a virtual reality experience at USF St. Petersburg and was headlined by CeCe Teneal and Soul Kamotion.

Teneal and Soul Kamotion.

Between sets, SG president Daniel “Kaeden” Kelso used a plastic canon to shoot T-shirts into the crowd.

On a stage near the fountain in Williams Park, a crowd gathered, hugging the shade to avoid the Florida heat. The crowd stood transfixed on Lydia Segovia, her teal dress swinging in broad motions as she sang and danced to Mexican folk music. She held long notes and made broad motions with her dress, emphasizing notes and words as they came. As people applauded, she stepped down from the stage and began a dance, grabbing the tip of her dress and swinging with it in coordinated steps.

Segovia was born and raised in St. Petersburg, but she spent much of her childhood in Mexico. “I do authentic Mexican dances,” Segovia said, “I do different styles from different states of Mexico.”

Segovia referred to Jalisco, where Mariachi music originated. Traditional dances from states across Mexico often exist to tell local, regional and national folk tales and captivate audiences, often with bold, colorful costumes and graceful steps.

She has been dancing for over 20 years and relies on her memory to dance. She had a strict instructor on her memory to dance. She frequently pulled back her dress, emphasizing notes made broad motions with her teal dress swinging in the crowd.

As people applauded, she stepped down from the stage and began a dance, grabbing the tip of her dress and swinging with it in coordinated steps.

Segovia says that Mexican music and dance takes heavy inspiration from a variety of international cultures, not only Latin ideas.

“The not a lot of people know this, but we have a lot of German influence in our costumes,” she said, pulling on the puffed-out sleeve of her dress to reference traditional German dresses.

“Mexican dance is a mix of cultures and colors from around the world.”

The rock band with a Prophet

If prancing around on stage in 76-degree heat bothered Julia Powell, she sure didn’t show it.

The singer and guitarist threw herself into their second EP — first with drummer Piasecki — in February.

Songs from “Conversations,” like “Human I Am” and “Satellite,” made up most of their 30-minute.

Powell’s singing voice is surprisingly husky. Reyes’ synths are spacey and 1980s-esque. He said those sounds are made with an eye for visuals.

“When it comes to the Prophet (the synthesizer), I try to think of sounds that not only sound near futuristic but also... fit the picture of the music,” Reyes said in a Facebook message. “When we write songs, I usually think of it as a video or a still shot of what I can visually think of and then make the sounds that match it.”

He said playing synths also “keeps my hands busy throughout the show.”

Vetnough started out with Powell and Reyes, according to the Bandcamp page for their “Screed” EP. They both played open mics as solo acts around the Tampa Bay area. Reyes produced Powell’s EP “Rice in a Bottle” in 2017 and they later recorded “Screed” as a duo in May 2018. Piasecki, who played bass on both EPs, was added to the band’s lineup after “Screed.”

Powell said the band is prepping to release a new EP at the end of May.
Lydia Segovia blended styles of dance from different states in Mexico and sang traditional folk songs in Spanish.

K Sahagian plays keyboard and sings with student band Speak Easy on the main stage in Williams Park.

The Nomad Art Bus parked in the grass, allowing visitors to paint the exterior walls with messages and colorful images. The bus acts as a mobile art studio during regular operation.

Graphic design major Mary Kate Brittain displayed her art at the festival. She said that her interest in drawing hands in detail came because she used to struggle with drawing them in other art.

Vetnough started out with Julia Powell (left) and Carlos Reyes (right). They both played open mics as solo acts around the Tampa Bay area before starting as a duo.

Julia Powell, a St. Petersburg College student at the Gibbs Campus, is the singer and guitarist of rock band Vetnough. The band will release a new EP at the end of May.

Vetnough started out with Julia Powell (left) and Carlos Reyes (right). They both played open mics as solo acts around the Tampa Bay area before starting as a duo.
April 8, 2019

THE CROW’S NEST

The Crow’s Nest is committed to providing its readers with news relevant to the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and its surrounding community. The Crow’s Nest abides by the highest ethical standards and focuses on stories that help readers make informed decisions on current events and our role in the public’s trust in our news reporting and strive to uphold the highest standards of reporting as defined by the American Society of Professional Journalists. Opinions in this newspaper do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty or student body.

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Letters to The Editor

The Crow’s Nest accepts letters to the editor. All submissions should be no more than 500 words. Writers must include their full name. In addition, USFSP faculty should include their title, department and extension. All letters are subject to editing for clarity and length. Letters can be sent to
welbstrom@mail.usf.edu

with subject title “Letter to the Editor.”

Fat: Nothing to be ashamed of

By Martha Rhine
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Once upon a time, pictures of big women were sometimes pinned on the fridge as a deterrent for over-eating, or they were featured on postcards you’d pick up in a tourist shop on the beach. Photos of women on the beach in teency bikinis, frolicking in the sun, an image to laugh at. A punchline. That was then.

Fast forward to 2019. Now those curvy women in the photos might be featured on their Instagram pages or on Pinterest inspiration boards. No longer props to deter women from eating, they’re motivating women in a new era of body acceptance.

Fat and not afraid to say it. “Fat Babes.”

Mulling the subject of fat meant turning to the person with whom I’d exhausted the subject all my life. My sister, Raquel. “Turns out, we’re not fat,” she told me on the phone. Not if we’re removing stigma from the word.

My sister, size 4, and I, size 8, do not qualify, no matter the width of our hips, the skin that swings under our arms when we wave, or the cellulite on our inner thighs. “We’d be calling ourselves fat and then realized that not only were we incorrect in doing so, but we were being very fatphobic,” Raquel said.

Not surprising, considering the body issues that exist on both sides of our family. On my mother’s side are aunts who don’t eat bread, or aunts who don’t eat much of anything. On my father’s side are cousins always dieting; Atkins, cabbage soup, low-fat and weight-loss pills.

Some time ago, my grandfather asked me if I was pregnant. I wasn’t. Aunts and uncles remarked positively if I looked slimmer. “Don’t eat bread” was same advice, if I didn’t.

Recently I just haven’t felt the same. A search of “fat inspiration” on Pinterest yielded the kinds of results showing me how I could get rid of my fat. Diet guidance, recipes and challenges, recipes and many more tips and tricks on banishing body fat: belly, side, back, armpt.

But typing in “fat babe” into Pinterest gave me different results. Here I was shown photos of curvy women wearing stylish clothes and looking fresh and starting boldly into the camera. There are quotes and tattoos, cutey illustrations and magazine articles featuring celebrities in the movement. I think fat ladies are seizing the moment.

Model Tess Holliday, who

recently had an issue of "Cosmopolitan" in which she featured her curves.

The Marathon will continue

By Bryce Lawson
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For years now, the West Coast has been looking for a gangster rap superstar to stand alongside Kendrick Lamar on top of the predominantly Southern Trap-dominated hip-hop world.

With his Grammy-nominated “Victory Lap” album, it was clear that Nipsey Hussle was going to be that next big star from the West, bringing classic G-Funk rap vibes with modern lyrics discussing how to build your business and tales of his past street life.

His life was tragically cut short. Months after he was shot multiple times in front of his Clothing store in Los Angeles.

Nipsey, whose birth name is Ermias Joseph Asghedom, gained praise early by taking a different approach when it came to his music distribution. He famously sold his "Crenshaw" mixtape for $100 each while also releasing it on streaming services for free.

This allowed him to create a bond with fans, proving that if fans really want an artist, they will be willing to pay for music at a time when it’s so disposable and oversaturated.

This allows artists to make their own money on an independent level, rather than signing away their art and music away to a record label. Rapper Jay-Z was one of the first people to highlight Nipsey for his business knowledge.

His collaborations with rival gang rappers, like YG and Jay Rock, showed that, in fact, one-time enemies can come together and set their differences aside, no matter what gang they claim.

With all of his music from "The Marathon" series of mixtapes to "Victory Lap," Nipsey’s growth as an artist throughout the years, improved his skills to become one of the West Coast’s best.

The last real gangster rapper superstar the West has had is The Game, and before that, the East Coast vs. West Coast rivalry put the Left Coast in shambles after the death of the legendary Tupac.

It is sad that when people who are not tuned into hip-hop hear about Nipsey’s death, many will think it’s just another gangster rapper who got shot. He was more than that.

The day he was shot, he had a 20-20-20 game in honor of the NBA’s 20/20/20 game, a game the Los Angeles native himself, even if it all got so out of control. I see old pictures on Facebook that depress me. A bad outfit, a funny look, or a critical comment can bring my whole day down.

In those fragile moments, I’m inspired by the women who live on their own terms. Their confidence is infectious, and their beauty is undeniable.

SNL’s Aidy Bryant stars in the Hulu series “Shrill” as Annie, a mid-twentieth writer for an alt-weekly on a bumpy journey to self-love.

One memorable episode of "Shrill" has fans buzzing. In Episode 4, titled “Pool,” Annie attends a fat babies pool party. All around her, fat women shamelessly flaunt their bodies as they swim, dance, post and eat. Annie walks around awed but hesitant, slow to shed the jeans and blouse she wore to the pool.

It’s a curious scene, really. The fat girl feels shy about showing some skin at the pool, only this time, the pool is filled with people celebrating the fact that she can and will.

That’s the true story: Confidence is intermittent. Some days I’m on; some days I’m off. One moment I celebrate my curves, flaunt all that my mama gave me, and another I wonder how it all got so out of control. I see old pictures on Facebook that depress me. A bad outfit, a funny look, or a critical comment can bring my whole day down.

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Consider, if I didn’t.

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Letter to the Editor: SG president should veto budget

By Timothy Fanning
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Let's talk about what Student Body President Daniel "Kaeden" Kelso, Ysatis Jordan, the student body vice president, and their cronies did.

Jordan championed Student Government’s general assembly to approve a budget that benefited no one. Well, that’s not true. Her friends in Student Government got a pretty sweet deal.

I’m talking about over $70,000 in salaries. I’m talking about $3,000 for a banquet and a retreat for Student Government members. I’m talking $2,000 for a senate "discretionary fund." For everyone else? Goodbye, Campus Movie Fest. See ya around, Stompeta, our wonderful Student Government Fitness Center budget? Let’s pump aluminum cans. Homecoming? Hope ya like celery sticks and an iPhone. DJ? These popular events and organizations lost a combined $38,418. Ouch.

Harborside Activities Board and a handful of other organizations also took substantial budget cuts before leaders could say, "Wait, let’s talk!"

Sorry, gang. Enrollment is down, Student Government has communication problems, and budget season always stings.

But did you hear what happened to The Crow’s Nest? Strap in, because it’s like something out of a telenovela.

Student Government whacked the campus newspaper’s budget again. No surprise there, because The Crow’s Nest is often on the chopping block, typically because Student Government officials don’t like to be written about. However, this time, those cuts seem purposeful and personal. First, let’s run the numbers.

The Crow’s Nest saw the most cuts. It’d lose three paid positions and a healthy reduction in salaries overall. The entire photography budget is gone. The newspaper also loses four weeks’ worth of print copies. The total loss is an expected $12,291, or more than 23 percent. That’s a huge hit for a staff of 12, who work more than 40 hours a week for peanuts.

The adviser, Rob Hooker, a retired Tampa Bay Times editor who is a crucial resource for editors when big or delicate stories hit, was also struck with a substantive reduction in pay. I could go on.

It sounds to me like someone knew where to put the knife.

Enter Jeffrey Waitkevich, deputy chief of staff and close friend of Kelso.

Last spring, Waitkevich was the newspaper’s news editor with an eye on the top editor position. Waitkevich later switched majors and left the paper. Last fall, he found himself in Kelso’s administration, where he played a key role in budget recommendations.

I won’t be getting it from Kelso either. He declined to comment. Jordan said she was uncomfortable speaking to me over the phone. I emailed her a list of 13 questions.

I never heard back.

Here’s what is clear: Both the vice president and president do not like student reporters.

Kelso’s lack of transparency has been troubling since the beginning. He’s enacted erroneous policies, where he played a key role in budget recommendations for The Crow’s Nest and Campus Recreation, organizations he had previously worked for.

Before Waitkevich left the paper, he rarely visited the newsroom. He was rude with staff members and insubordinate toward his former bosses. He left bitter and angry.

Crow’s Nest staff told me that Student Government officials relieved heavily on Waitkevich’s recommendations — foregoing meetings with the newspaper’s editors. But we’ll never know the full picture.

This brings to me Waitkevich declined to comment after I asked about his role in the budget recommendations.

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Here’s what is clear: Both the vice president and president do not like student reporters.

Kelso’s lack of transparency has been troubling since the beginning. He’s enacted erroneous policies, where

members of Student Government must first go through its communications department before talking to the press. That’s only during business hours, however. Kelso ignores phone calls, text messages and emails.

He’ll walk away when addressed in person.

It’s also apparent after Kelso threatened to “freezer” the newspaper’s funding because it did not file the proper paperwork — a requirement that four former editors tell me wasn’t necessary during their tenure a few years back. No student body president had enforced in recent memory, David Thompson, Kelso’s predecessor, told me.

Student Government, even before my time, has haphazardly treated the budget process. It’s often marked by grudges, secrecy and confusion. Friends and personal gain are often put before common sense. But we have a chance to fix that.

Kelso has before him the opportunity to veto the budget April 9. Let’s hope he does the right thing.

Timothy Fanning was managing editor of The Crow’s Nest in fall 2017.

What to do this week: April 8-14

By Bryce Lawson
Contributor

MONDAY

Short and Sweet Theatre Week kicks off with Improv Night with Hawk & Wayne at The Edge from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., and then again from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. This is a free event.

The Chihuly Collection, 729 Central Ave., will host a new exhibit “Perspectives in Glass: A Science In Optics.” The exhibit will showcase various approaches to glass art, from blown glass work to cast glass. Admission for students is only $12.95, and the collection is open from noon to 5 p.m.

TUESDAY

The Imagine Museum, 1901 Central Ave., hosts The ArtHeart Connection yoga event every Tuesday. It gives you a chance to disconnect from the outside world and get in touch with your inner core. The class costs $10 and runs from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Punky’s Bar and Grill, 3063 Central Ave., will host a Bingo Charity Night for Friends of Biggie Brunch for $2 at 7 p.m. Help a good cause and enjoy some great food and drinks.

WEDNESDAY

Get ready for “Avengers: Endgame” with some trivia at 3 Daughters Brewing, 222 22nd St. S., from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. This is a free event, but one person from each team must register at eventbrite.com to hold a spot.

THURSDAY

Chris Crawford and Anthony R. Smith will perform “Hello,” an immersive experience, at 6:15 p.m. at The Campus Grind. This is a free event and part of Short and Sweet Theatre Week.

Students from USF Tampa School of Theatre and Dance will perform “Cabaret” at 4:30 and 5:30 p.m. at The Edge. This free event is the final installment of Short and Sweet Theatre week, so be sure to come out and support.

Vicki Daignault will direct “She Speaks,” staged readings performed by Eugenie Bondurant, Stephanie Roberts, Mimi Rice and Vanessa Rendon at The Edge. This free event is part of Short and Sweet Theatre week and starts at 5:15 p.m.

Byron on Tap will bring a sunshine-fueled rock sound to The Ale and the Witch, 111 Second Ave. NE, from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. This is a free event, but food and drinks will be available to purchase.

FRIDAY

Fight Eight, a four-piece rock band from Athens, Georgia, will perform with PINKY DOODLE POODLE, a high-energy Japanese rock band from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at The Bends, 919 First Ave. N. This is a no-cover event.

Tropic Blvd will bring a sunshine-fueled rock sound to The Ale and the Witch, 111 Second Ave. NE, from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. This is a free event, but food and drinks will be available to purchase.

SATURDAY

In honor of Record Store Day 2019, Planet Retro, 226 Dr. M.L.K. Jr. St., will have fun deals and exclusive Record Store Day items on sale from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. This is a free event with food and records available to purchase.

The Hideaway Cafe, 1756 Central Ave., will host its 10-year Celebration with “X Fest” from 2 to 10 p.m. The free event will feature live performances from bands like Ella Jet & Future Soul and Betty Fox.

SUNDAY

The Hawthorne Bottle Shoppe, 2927 Central Ave., will host Biggie Brunch Ready To Brunch in honor of The Notorious B.I.G. from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brunch and Champagne will be served with Biggie-inspired cocktails. A ticket for one is $30.
Throwing color into the wind

Saturated indigo, yellow, magenta and imperial red powder fogged the University Student Center’s lawn – along with students, Cheryl the Bull and, sometimes, innocent bystanders like me. “Don’t try to eat it,” said Celina Dorie, a member USF St. Petersburg’s South Asian Association, who put on the event. She thinks it’s the messiest and most fun event held on campus, even going so far as to tell participants how to wash their clothes – cold water soak, washing machine, pray it doesn’t stay.

Around a dozen students risked their clothes and bodies throwing over $600 worth of colorful powder on each other, in the air and sprinkling Cheryl, the drab bull, on the edge of the lawn. The organization has put on this festival of color since 2014. This year was no different, as it threw a belated celebration of love and the end of winter, which was March 20.

The group focuses on highlighting South Asian culture by bringing students together and sharing traditions with them. In addition to Holi Hai, it puts on Diwali, the festival of lights, in the fall. Stripped to its basics, the celebration highlights the triumph of light over darkness in spiritual, emotional and metaphysical aspects.

I apologize to readers and attendees for not getting names. My camera and I feared the powder that’s notorious for sticking around a bit too long.

One part blue, a half cup of green, and a pinch of magenta creates a recipe for this student that turned into an abstract masterpiece. R.I.P. Mark Rothko and Jackson Pollock.

Multiple high-speed pursuits took place during Holi Hai. There’s nothing like a cardio workout with a cloud of vibrant colors awaiting you.

What better way to spice up your Instagram than a wholesome group pic in the aftermath of Holi Hai?

Oh, Cheryl, how I wish you always looked alive instead like a Medusa-esque statue.