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War on terrorism sparks similar horror, differing opinions

While everyone in America felt overwhelmed and horrified by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, it's up to Americans to work together, show compassion to others and be tolerant of differences, a panel of experts seemed to agree on Nov. 20.

The group of nine men, from State Sen. Victor Crist and USF professors Darrell Fasching and Steven Johnston to Tampa Tribune executive editor Gil Thelen and Imam Zia of the Tampa Bay area's Islamic Society, gathered for "USF Speaks Out: A Night to Unite" at the Special Events Center. About 130 students and faculty attended.

USF Mass Communications Professor Scott Liu and 12 of his students organized the event, where liberal to conservative opinions were voiced about the terrorism war now being waged in Afghanistan.

"It's hard to push those ugly views of (Sept. 11) out of our minds, but we have to show the world that we'll go on ... and we are strong," Crist said.

In the short term, the war's objective is to "get the al-Qaeda," said John Horgan, who retired as first secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Japan. "The war is not on or against Afghanistan. It's in Afghanistan. It's not our foreign policy (that is the problem), it's us. The problem is the management of fanaticism."

Johnston, who teaches political theory at USF criticized the way President George W. Bush reacted to the economic slump after Sept. 11. "President Bush suggests we go shopping, and October becomes a big sales month. The zero-percent financing (on new cars) probably helped." Those who speak out against or disagree with the war, such as Barbara Lee in Congress and Bill Maher of "Politically Incorrect," are often forced to apologize, Johnston said.

Bush has created a coalition of countries, including Russia and China, that are against terrorism, noted Marco Rimannelli, who teaches European affairs, international security and U.S. foreign policy at USF and St. Leo University. "Up until now, countries did not collaborate against terrorism. This is the main change since Sept. 11."

While the U.S. and Russia have often disagreed about missile defense, the Balkans and other issues, Russia has decided that terrorism is a key issue, Rimannelli said. "It serves their interests (to join the coalition). If you can't defeat them, join them."

On the homefront, the anthrax attacks in the mail have killed four people, said Tampa Postmaster General Rich Rome. While the Tampa post office has spent a lot of money trying to keep its employees safe and letting the public what to do with suspicious mail, Rome said that only four pieces of mail, out of the 35 billion delivered in the U.S. since Sept. 11, were confirmed as containing anthrax.

The person or people responsible for the attacks hasn't been caught yet, "but there's no doubt in my mind that we will catch that person," Rome said. "Keep those cards and letters coming. We will not give in to fear and terrorism. And yes, Virginia, we will be answering those Santa Claus letters." Muslims as a whole are blamed for the attacks, but the Koran (the Islamic version of the Bible) does not teach killing, according to Zia, director of the local Islamic Society. In that book, if someone "kills one soul, it's as if he kills all of humanity; and if he saves one soul, he saves all," Zia said. The Koran also tells people to treat each other equally, regardless of race or gender. "One day you will appear before God and answer for your deeds. Part of the reason for a disrespect toward human life is a lack of compassion. Tolerance is (needed)."

by Lisa Cunningham
Your guide to all that's happening on campus—sporting events, lectures, seminars, workshops, arts events and more—for faculty, staff and their families. Send items for the calendar to Lisa Cunningham at lcunning@helios.acomp.usf.edu.

Monday 12/3

Computer courses for seniors: SeniorNet will offer several computer and typing courses, beginning today and running through Dec. 13. The three-hour courses cost from $20 to $40. For times and dates, call Ara Rogers at ext. 4-5263.

Tuesday 12/4

Child’s play: The USF Collaborative For Children, Families and Communities involves the whole USF community to its Fifth Anniversary Celebration from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in USF Theatre 1 on the Tampa campus. Children involved in the facul- ty’s “Music Peace Project” will perform. This project is a part- nership between the USF School of Music, the USF Pre-College and Community Outreach Program and the University of Western Cape’s Law department in South Africa. The project tar- gets at-risk children liv- ing in close proximity to both universities, in low-income areas with high crime rates. Refreshments will be served. To reserve a seat, call Yvonne Johnson at ext. 4-6130.

Catch a flick: The Foreign Film Series will screen “All About My Mother” at 7 tonight in the Phyllis P. Marshall Center, Room 229. Admission, sodas, coffee and popcorn are free. For details, call ext. 4-5464.

Wednesday 12/5

Children’s needs: Nationally known scholars such as Linda and Cheryl Brown of the Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision and others will address the critical educational needs of urban children during LASER’s first Urban Research Conference today through Dec. 7 at the Tampa campus’Embassy Suites hotel. The conference’s theme is “Culturally Responsive Research to Practice—47 Years after the Brown Decision.” Urban Children are Still Waiting,” LASER, or Linking Academic Scholars to Educational Resources, is a federally funded proj- ect directed by USF Education Professor Brenda Townsend. Registration is required; space is lim- ited. For more infor- mation, call Anthony E. Sims at ext. 4-3195, or send an e-mail to him at asims@tem- pest.coedu.usf.edu.

Friday 12/7

Where’s my cheese? The Organization Dev- elopment and Training Office will offer the workshop “Who Moved My Cheese?” from 9 a.m. to noon in the Student Services building. The class is based on Spencer Johnson’s bestseller about change. Cost is $25. For more infor- mation, visit the Web site usfsweb.usf.edu/ odt/registration.htm.

Laarn software: USF's Division of Pro- fessional and Work- force Development will offer computer applica- tions and Internet train- ing programs, including MS Office 2000, “Using the Web with MS Office,” “MS Front- Page 2000—Introduction,” “MS FrontPage 2000—Advanced” and “Adobe Acrobat: Putting Documents Online” during one-day sessions until Dec. 19. The fee is $150 per class. For times and dates, call ext. 4-2403, ext. 4817.

Rock for the kids: Canadian rockers Nickelback will perform their Top 10 hit “How You Remind Me” during 98 Rock’s Nutcracker Ball, starting at 7 p.m. at the Sun Dome. Salisbury and Default will open the show. Cost is $5.98 plus service charge. All proceeds will go to the Children’s Home Inc. of Tampa Bay, a home for children seeking foster and adoptive parents. For ticket information, call ext. 4-3002.

Saturday 12/8

Live at the Met: Saturday radio broad- casts from the Metro- politan Opera in New York City will open with Richard Wagner’s “Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg” at noon on WUSF-FM 88.7. The series will continue through April 21. Strauss’ “Arabella” will be aired at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 15. Verdi’s “La Traviata” will be fea- tured at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 22. Humperdinck’s “Hansel und Gretel” will air on Dec. 29.

Hot rivosity: The women’s basketball team will take on the University of Florida at 2 p.m. at the Sun Dome. For ticket infor- mation, call ext. 4-3002.

Monday 12/10

Happy Hanukkah Explaining the Festival of Lights: “What Is Chanukah?” explores the history behind the food, games, the gifts of Chanukah (also written Hanukkah) and the “Festival of Lights” at St. Petersburg’s Sci- ence Center, 7701 22nd Ave., North St. Petersburg. For more information, contact Joe Thomas at (813) 654-1855, or send an e-mail to rjd@l.net.

Tuesday 12/11

Senate meeting: The USFS Senate will meet from 9 a.m. to noon in the Commwu- nication and Informa- tion Sciences building, Room 1044, on the Tampa campus. Regional campus meetings will take place at the same time at USF Sarasota/Manatee in PMA 217; USF Lake- land, Academic Center, Room 1270; and USF St. Petersburg, Davis Hall, Room 240. For details, call Yvonne Eisenhart at ext. 4-8380.

Young, old converse: USF’s Institute on Aging, The Tampa Tribune and the Learn- ing in Retirement Insti- tute will host “Voices of Uncertainty: An Intergenerational Ex- change” from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Col- lege of Public Health auditorium. Gil Thelen, senior vice president and executive editor of the Tribune, will moderate. The event is free, but those coming from off-campus will pay $2 to park. For details, call ext. 4-5263.

Archaeology lecture: Ryan Wheeler of the Bureau of Archaeology Research and editor of The Florida Anthropol- o gist, will discuss “In- vestigations of the Mi- ami Circle by the State of Florida” at 7 p.m. at the Tampa campus’Embassy Suites hotel.

Tuesday 12/12

Buying a computer? USF’s SeniorNet pro- gram will offer the free seminar “How to Buy a Computer” from 9 a.m. to noon at the USF College of Public Health, Room 2003. Reservations are required. For details, call ext. 4-8422.

Which social style are you? The Organization Development and Training office will con- duct the workshop “Social Styles,” in which participants will analyze their communication styles, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Student Services building. Cost is $25. For details, go to the Web site usfsweb.usf.edu/ odt/registration.htm.

Friday 12/14

Parenting course: Author Stephen Bavelok will discuss “Developing and Nurturing Parenting Skills and Adaptive Families” from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Tampa campus’Embassy Suites hotel. Bavelok is president of Family Development Resources, Inc., and executive director of The Family Nurturing Center, Inc. For more information, see the USF Banyan Family Center's Web site: famhl.usf.edu/cf/fam/ banyan/index.htm. Is this sexual harassment? Camille Blake of USF’s Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity will lead a workshop on “Sexual Harassment” from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Student Services build- ing. For more informa- tion, visit the Web site usfsweb.usf.edu/ odt/ registration.htm.

Forum

December 3, 2001 - January 6, 2002