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PLACID TOWER.

The tower everyone forgot about.

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Recreation field construction continues



Jennifer Nessler | The Crow's Nest

The fencing on the USF St. Petersburg's recreation field begins to be built. The field, located along Third Street S and between Fifth and Sixth Avenue S, is receiving a professional-level upgrade. By the time construction is completed, the field will be resurfaced and have full-size soccer goals, fresh sod, stadium lights, security fencing and sprayed field markings. Construction is projected to be completed later this month.

Pool scheduled to reopen in April

BY JACK MOSCONE
STAFF REPORTER

The Coquina Waterfront pool, last reported to be finished in mid-March, is now scheduled to reopen in April.

The pool has been inoperative since November 2013 due to issues with the gutter and drainage system. After overcoming funding issues, USF St. Petersburg was able to begin construction in December. The estimated cost of all repairs is approximately \$440,000.

The defective parts underneath the pool have been replaced and contractors are now constructing

a new pool floor. Because the new parts are placed on the old floor, the depth of the deep end will decrease from 11 to 7 feet.

"Construction is moving along on schedule," said Construction Project Manager James Grant. "All demolition is complete -- new main drains and all underground piping have been installed, and a new concrete bottom was poured last Tuesday. The grounding system was also expanded last week to protect all metallic items in and around the pool. New filtration equipment

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Jennifer Nessler | The Crow's Nest

The opening of the USF St. Petersburg pool has been pushed back to April, but construction is on schedule.

Proposed bill would allow guns on Florida university campuses

BY EMILY TINTI
STAFF REPORTER

A bill that would allow Concealed Weapon Permit (CWP) holders to carry firearms on Florida university campuses is making its way through legislation.

Licensed people at least 21 years of age could carry guns anywhere on campus -- classrooms, dining halls and residence halls.

The bill, titled HB 4005, has been approved by the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee, and will be making its way into the

hands of the senate, where it is not expected to be well-received. While it is heavily supported by a number of people, the general public has responded with criticism.

Sarasota Republican Rep. Greg Steube began drafting the bill before the shooting at Florida State University this past November, when a gunman injured two students and a library employee. Widespread concern for campus safety surfaced following the event,

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News Briefs

CORRECTION: In an article written about a new energy monitoring system, The Crow's Nest incorrectly said that the parking garage was paid for with grant money. Only the solar, battery install and kiosk were paid for with grant dollars. A ribbon cutting will be held for the entire system, not just the kiosks.

The kiosks cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000, not including shipping, which was an additional \$8,000, according to Jennifer Winter, USF St. Petersburg's sustainability coordinator.

Ellen Cotton, a Pinellas-based philanthropist, just gave The Kate Tiedemann College of Business a six-figure gift, according to the Tampa Bay Times. Her donation will support a place for student organizations in the new business building, which will break ground this spring. The Ellen Cotton Fund for Student Engagement will support student groups related to business and academics.

Be an ambassador! OK, maybe you can't be an ambassador to a foreign country, but what if you could be an ambassador to USFSP alumni? USFSP Ambassadors, which kicked off its inaugural class in fall 2014, serve to connect current USFSP students with alumni. They work closely with the president's office. And now is your chance to apply to become one. Visit the USFSP Ambassador's page on Pete Sync to fill out an application. The application is due Feb. 13 at noon. So, if you are someone who is disciplined, committed and hard-working, get involved with USFSP Ambassadors.

Want to run for president? What about becoming a senator? Well, here's your chance. Student government election packets are out. They are due to Student Life Center 1300 no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday.

Thursday, Feb. 5

Society has unrealistic beauty standards. At least, that's what ORLAN, a French artist and founder of the Carnal Art movement, thinks. ORLAN uses augmented reality and surgical body modification to make a statement about society's unrealistic standards. And she's coming to USFSP, as a part of a partnership with the Salvador Dali museum and the USFSP Multicultural Activities Council. Come to the University Student Center ballrooms from 6:30-8 p.m. to see her work.

Proposed bill ignites mixed reactions

The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) represents campus police chiefs across the country and recently spoke out about the bill in clear disapproval.

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however, bringing more attention to the bill.

Florida is one of 20 states banning guns on campus, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Seven states currently allow licensed concealed weapons, while the remaining few leave the decision up to individual universities.

USF St. Petersburg student Dani McMahan, junior, shared a link to a tampabay.com news story about the bill on the student-run Facebook group the USFSP Know It All's Guide, prompting an extensive discussion among students. McMahan, having taken the course to obtain a concealed weapon license, does not think its completion makes a student responsible enough to protect others.

"I would feel more unsafe, honestly. I feel like it would be easier for someone to carry out a shooting because it may be easier to get on campus with a gun," she said. "Also, how are police supposed to distinguish between the offender and another student?"

The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)

represents campus police chiefs across the country and recently spoke out about the bill in clear disapproval. Almost 100 percent of university presidents and police chiefs oppose guns being on campus, agreeing with the IACLEA.

University Police Chief David Hendry weighed in on the bill in an interview with The Crow's Nest, voicing several concerns -- one being that guns on campus don't add any value in terms of reducing crime, according to multiple recent studies. In fact, universities are incredibly safe, and crime rates are significantly lower than those of communities as a whole.

Chief Hendry also envisions a new burden that would be placed on law enforcement.

"We receive the call that there's a man with a gun, and we arrive, and there are more people with guns than there are police," he said. "It places us in the middle of trying to figure out who's the good guy and who's the bad guy. In the moments of terror when there's somebody on campus with a gun, it makes it very problematic to sort things out."

Chief Hendry worries about the increased potential for accidental shootings and theft.

"If you have more guns on campus, the likelihood of accidental shootings increases by the mere fact that you have more weapons on campus," he said.

Hendry wants people to understand that the proposed legislation does not draw many boundaries, in on-campus housing for instance. Besides locking doors, there is very little security within dorms, making it easier for somebody's licensed gun to end up in another person's hand.

On the other hand, some students are optimistic about the proposal. Supporters have suggested that if a lawfully armed citizen were present during the FSU shooting, he or she could have stopped the gunman before police came.

Acknowledging the right to protect oneself, Minh Bui, junior, agrees with the bill.

"I just don't want people to think that if guns were on campus, that everybody would be brandishing their weapons and go on a big power trip," he said. "Nobody should ever know you have a firearm on you. It's the cardinal rule when you are a CWP holder."

Police officers are extensively trained, qualified every year and prepared to react in violent

situations. The USFSP university police services also receive additional assistance from St. Petersburg police when necessary. Despite this, some feel this isn't always enough in life-or-death situations.

"I can see that if a situation ever arose where there was an active shooter, that there would be a [CWP] holder nearby if there wasn't a police officer nearby," said Bui. "If there was a officer nearby, CWP holders usually don't get involved and let the police do their job."

With attitudes being so polarized, it is difficult to predict the outcome. Chief Hendry recommends that students, faculty and community members express their opinions to Florida representatives.

"I just don't see more guns on campus as a solution to the problem," Hendry said.

Information gathered from tampabay.com and an interview with Chief of Police David Hendry.

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Pool opening slightly delayed

Continued from p.1

is on order and all activities are on track for an April opening."

After the dust settles, however, there is still the matter of hiring and training staff and lifeguards. Also, USF System and Pinellas County policy standards must be met before the pool reopens, which could delay the opening until as late as June. Nevertheless, the return of the Waterfront pool means that students and members will be able to cool off just in time for summer.

"Recreational swimming will be back on campus, as will swimming programs, including swim school for all ages," said Zac Oppenheim, USFSP's assistant director of Student Life and Engagement. He said the pool will host scuba lessons and sports intramurals, such as water polo and battleship with kayaks.

As a result of the pool's reopening, the Waterfront will hire more staff, including lifeguards and swimming and scuba instructors.

"The pool's reopening is very exciting for us here at the Waterfront," Oppenheim said.

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University speaks about website hack

By JENNIFER NESSLAR
STAFF REPORTER

A group identifying itself as the "Indonesian Cyber Freedom Hackers" hacked USF St. Petersburg's website on Jan 23.

Website administrators disabled the site within minutes, and it was soon restored to normal operations.

The Crow's Nest spoke to Jacob Diaz, the dean of students, and Jessica Blais, director of communications for USFSP's university advancement.

"Cyber security is top of mind for us," Blais said. "As these things occur, we correct them as soon as we possibly can."

Diaz confirmed last week's Crow's Nest report and said the university's website was not specifically

targeted. The hackers use software to search for website vulnerabilities. When they find a vulnerability, they hack into the site.

Blais and Diaz did not know what the vulnerability in usfsp.edu was that caused the hackers to gain access.

Last week, The Crow's Nest spoke to Vincent Lynch, a technical support member at the SSL Store, headquartered in downtown St. Petersburg. Lynch said the vulnerability in the website could be the result of USFSP using an outdated version of Wordpress.

Diaz said the computing office was able to shut the hack down quickly because of their attention to the site.

"Our computing office is always

monitoring your institutional well being," he said.

Diaz expressed concern that news of the hack would cause curious students to visit the hacker's website, incef-team.com, and experience damage to their computers. He discourages students from visiting the website.

But Lynch said it was unlikely the hacker's website had any malicious content on it. Reports from Google's Safe Browsing tool and Sucuri's website malware and security scanner showed that the website has been free of malicious content for the past 90 days.

"It certainly is possible that the hackers could change this at any time," Lynch said. "However, I don't think this is a reasonable assumption to make."

He added that Google and the Chrome browser are good about blocking malicious content from users.

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Self defense classes for men to begin

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RAD teaches practical self-defense tactics, and awareness, avoidance and risk reduction strategies

BY SEAN ESTRADA
CROW'S NEST CONTRIBUTOR

Since 2009, Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) classes for women have been taught at no cost to USF St. Petersburg students, faculty and staff.

Now men will get a chance to participate.

The first male RAD will begin at USFSP in February. The course is similar to the existing women's program, but will emphasize methods to prevent fights when encountering hostile situations. Students are expected to gain an elevated level of confidence and comfort.

The training is easy to learn. RAD teaches practical self-defense tactics, and awareness, avoidance and risk reduction strategies using certified instruction with a free lifetime return-practice policy, according to the USFSP Campus Safety programs website.

"RAD for women is geared towards how to defend yourself against an attacker, while the men's course highlights avoiding conflict and introduces techniques to diffuse a situation in a non-violent way," said Sgt. Walter Ewing, 49, the RAD instructor and coordinator for USFSP.

The men's class provides education to identify and avoid aggressive behavior, reduce aggression and violence, resist and escape aggressive behavior, using hands-on, self-defense skills, according

to the RAD for men webpage. The course is intended to empower students to select the most desirable options when accosted with aggressive behavior.

The safest self-defense technique for men is to diffuse a situation in a nonviolent way. "If men can avoid conflict to begin with, they probably won't get hurt," said Ewing.

But students will be prepared to deal with a situation that escalates and results in physical force.

After taking the RAD class, men are expected to feel stronger and more secure, based on results from questionnaires given at the end of the RAD course for women, which show "the female students have higher self-esteem and feel more empowered and comfortable in their daily lives," said Ewing.

The free course begins with a presentation of methods to resolve difficult situations in an instructional environment in the campus police station's conference room, followed by the physical portion, where students learn self-defense techniques at the USFSP Fitness Center.

Both the men's and women's course includes six, two-hour classes, which will run on Wednesdays from Feb. 4 to March 18, excluding spring break, at the fitness center. Students who sign up are expected to attend all six classes.

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Courtesy of Sean Estrada

Sgt. Walter Ewing leads and coordinates USF St. Petersburg's Rape Aggression Defense courses, which will host the first men's course starting this February.

The men's class will start at **6 p.m.**

The women's class will begin at **8 p.m.**

For more information about the course, contact **Sgt. Walter Ewing** at wewing@usfsp.edu or 727-873-4140.

To sign up, contact **Greg Haverlock** at gjh1@mail.usf.edu or 727-873-4202

Registration will be open until **midnight on Feb. 2.**

Student head to the Capitol

BY EMILY WEHUNT
STAFF REPORTER

A bus packed full of USF St. Petersburg students will be departing from campus before dawn on Feb. 11 en route to the Capitol building in Tallahassee.

USFSP will join dozens of students and faculty from both the USF Tampa and Sarasota campuses and will be lobbying in front of the top lawmakers within the state to help fulfill the needs of the universities.

USFSP's main goal at this

year's A Day at the Capitol is to receive more funding for the Kate Tiedemann College of Business, one of the university's top majors. USFSP will be lobbying for \$12.3 million, which will mainly go toward the construction of the new business building, according to Taylor Russell, student body vice president.

Russell believes that this event is a great opportunity for students.

"You are connecting with people you potentially voted for, who are now representing your interests as

students," Russell said. "Now you get the chance to talk to them one on one."

Russell told The Crow's Nest that last year's "Rally in Tally" was quite chaotic and disorganized. She fears that it might have painted USFSP in the wrong light.

This year, SG is working diligently to make sure everything runs smoothly and that all of the attendees are well-informed and ready to rally. A finalized list of accepted students will be compiled by Feb. 3.

A mandatory meeting will take place the following Thursday. It will cover everything from dress code and paperwork to expected conduct and the purpose of the trip.

"This year we want to make sure the students are educated," Russell said.

A misunderstanding about eligible students has been lingering around campus during this year's planning process. Many students seemed to be under the impression that only specific people are allowed to attend, and while SG does prefer that certain students take part, all USFSP students are welcome to apply.

According to Russell, SG wants vocal students who are up-to-date on current issues on campus, as well as club leaders, and political science and business majors.

"We are hoping it's a nice mix," Russell said.

The bus, which holds a total of 54 people, will be leaving campus around 1 a.m. on Feb. 11, and will return late that night.

By the end of the semester, all of the universities should hear back about the decisions made by the lawmakers.

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BY EMILY TINTI
STAFF REPORTER

For many, the month of February brings romance in the form of chocolate, oversized teddy bears, dinner dates and affection. For others, tax refunds are just as important.

Being an adult can be challenging. I mean, you have to do your own grocery shopping and learn how to cook edible food. You have to budget, plan and make phone calls. It's exhausting. It's even more of a balancing act when you add college and work to the mix.

However, there is one time of the year when working college students of all walks of life rejoice at the sight of their well-earned W2 forms.

Of course, actually doing your taxes can be a tedious process. Most of the time, we find inexpensive routes, like TurboTax or maybe we just know a guy. Otherwise, we pay professionals to do all the work.

Then, after minutes (or hours) of detailed examination -- boom. We find out we're getting \$10, \$50, \$100 or sometimes amounts closer to \$1,000 or more in free money.

We all know it's not necessarily free money. Somewhere along the lines, we earned it and it was temporarily withheld from us. But it sure does feel like free money. It's like a little surprise in your bank account; a little "thank you for being such a good adult" gift.

When the deposit appears in our bank statements, get excited, go get something good for lunch, see a movie. The amount may not be a whole lot, but maybe it saved you from what could have been a strict Ramen noodles and fast-food week.

So this month, while you're planning on how to surprise your significant other on Valentine's Day, or devising a plan to woo your future significant other, don't forget to "treat yo'self" as well.

Florida's forgotten tourist tower

BY JOEY VARS
CROW'S NEST CONTRIBUTOR

The Placid Tower is one of Florida's many tourist towers.

The tower is located off U.S. 27 in Lake Placid, a sleepy town known as the "caladium capital of the world," because it contains many elephant ear plants. The tower was built like its counterpart Citrus Tower, but the Citrus Tower is located 90 miles to the north, to capitalize on the massive influx of visitors from Northern states during the winter months.

Built during 1960 by Sebring-based Ridge Builders, the tower opened to the public on Jan. 1, 1960. The structure cost \$350,000, which, due to inflation, translates to \$2.7 million today.

The residents of Lake Placid celebrated the opening of the tower with great fanfare. The Tower View restaurant -- still open to this day -- allowed visitors to grab a meal while visiting, and those who reached the top of the tower were encouraged to phone home on "Florida's highest pay phone."

The tower is the southernmost of three tourist towers built on the Central Florida ridge. When it was open, visitors to the observation deck could see up to 40 miles away.

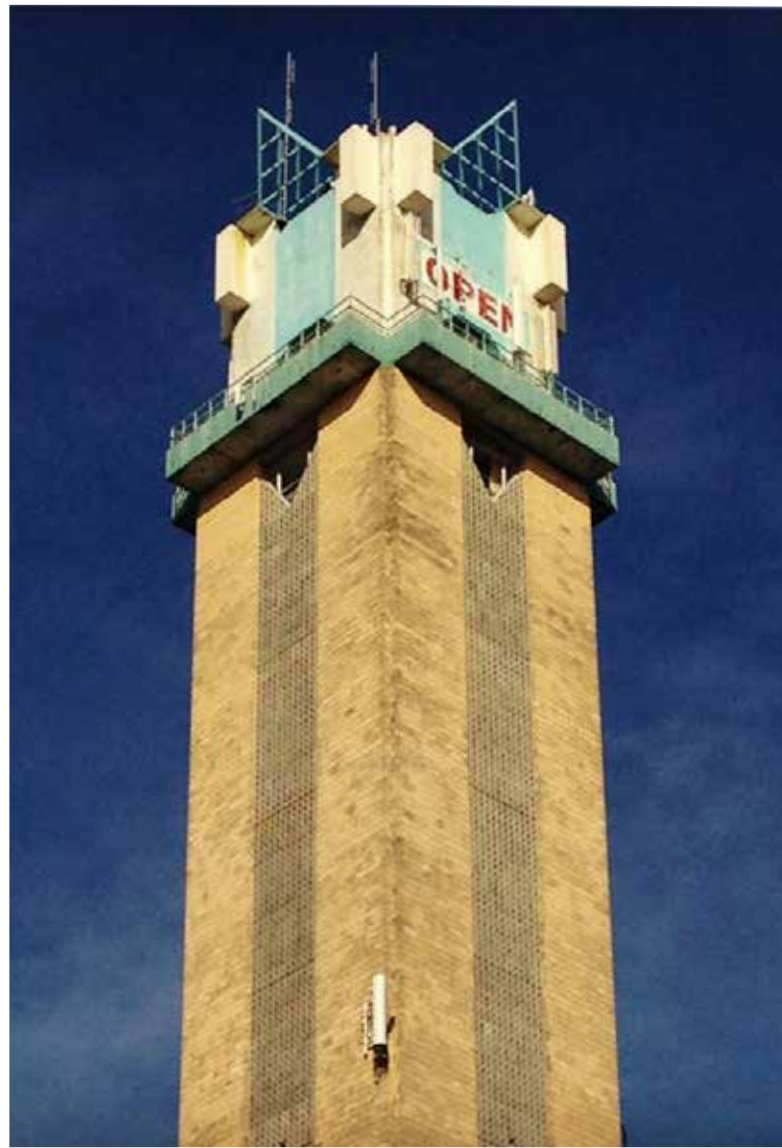
The tower was billed as a real estate agent's dream, as it was "a great way to check out your future neighbor's backyard without the awkward introductions." It also offered spectacular views of the surrounding lakes, caladium fields and countryside.

At 270 feet high, the tower, made up of roughly 90,000 blocks imported from a mine in Texas, was the tallest concrete-block structure in the world at the time of its opening. It was designed by A. Wyatt Howell of Lakeland, who designed many Central Florida civic structures.

However, the tower's popularity never matched up to that of its more popular counterparts farther up the highway, the Bok Tower in Lake Wales and the Citrus Tower in Clermont. The Bok Tower, built in 1929, was intended as a peaceful sanctuary for contemplation, while the Citrus Tower was closer to a large-population center.

In the late 1960s, the tower's name was changed to "The Happiness Tower" in order to lure visitors. They branded the tower as providing visitors a state of bliss when looking out from the top. Simultaneously, the tower was also known as "The Tower of Peace," further adding to the tourist's confusion. However, ticket sales declined and ultimately the tower was closed in 1982 when its owner refused to pay the IRS taxes on the property.

The tower reopened in 1986, but still faced the same attendance issues that plagued it from the onset. A handful of owners, however, managed to keep the tower and accompanying restaurant open until the early 2000s. A testament to its lack of popularity both statewide and locally, no one has been



Courtesy of Joey Vars

The Placid Tower, located in Lake Placid, is a forgotten piece of Florida tourism. Despite the lettering on the side of the tower, it is no longer open to visitors.

able to pinpoint when exactly the structure closed.

The city briefly considered reopening the tower in conjunction with the current property owner back in 2008, using the Citrus Tower as a model. But that plan dissipated by the end of the year.

Today, the tower sits closed in an abandoned plaza just east of U.S. 27. Drivers approaching the town on

the highway can see the tower miles in the distance and know that they are about to arrive in Lake Placid. Contrary to what is painted in big red letters on the north and south sides of the tower's top, the Placid Tower is not open to the public anymore.

life@crowsneststpete.com

Review: Book of Mormon

BY DUNCAN RODMAN
CROW'S NEST CONTRIBUTOR

The Book of Mormon arrived in Tampa last week, and the Bay area refused to shut the door in its face.

The infamous and critically acclaimed Broadway show -- brought to you by the creators of South Park, Trey Parker and Matt Stone -- was enthusiastically received by patrons of the Straz Theater in Tampa.

The Book of Mormon has gained a reputation for the exodus of more pious audience members during intermission, but the seats remained filled to near capacity for the entirety of the play -- and for good reason.

The play ignites with the quintessential South Park flare when the

voices of Parker and Stone make a brief cameo as Mormon the Nephite and Jesus.

The stage scenery was beautiful. Parker and Stone seamlessly transport you from Salt Lake City to Uganda, and even Orlando, which happens to be part of the protagonist's hellish nightmare. The stage crew demonstrated the speed and professionalism indicative of Broadway. The rapid transition of the elegant, multi-layered set left me awestruck.

The music is catchy and profane in a way that is reminiscent of the movie South Park: Bigger Longer, and Uncut. As the crowd exited the theater, patrons could be heard humming and singing to the tune "Hasa diga Eebowai!" a phrase too

offensive to be translated in this article.

The characters were lovable. Elder Price, the morally upright and eager young Mormon missionary played by David Larsen, led the show with his superb vocals and high energy on stage.

The crowd's favorite character was without a doubt Elder Cunningham, played by Cody Jamison Strand. He played the goofy sidekick who nearly drew the audience to tears -- of laughter -- with his knowledge and presentation of Mormon scripture, or lack thereof. After promising hope to the terrorized Ugandan tribe, the adorable black sheep of the Mormon missionaries supplements his lack of biblical knowledge with references to Star Wars and The Lord of the Rings, and it is surprisingly compelling.

Even the malevolent Ugandan General, whose full name is too

vulgar to be written in this publication, ended the play with the good graces of the audience.

At face value, the subject matter seems vulgar, tasteless and highly offensive. The play makes jokes about AIDS, fornicating with infants and animals, maggots in one poor soul's scrotum, and it even depicts baptism as a sexual experience.

The message that Parker and Stone blatantly convey is that religion is ridiculous and should not be taken literally. On the same token, however, the overarching moral of the Book of Mormon is that no matter how dubious religion may be, it still has the power to help people accomplish a whole lot of good.

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Fred Fleming's legacy lives on

arts & life

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Mark Wolfenbarger | The Crow's Nest

Cassie and Fred Fleming came out of retirement in 2009 to open Fred Fleming's Champions' BBQ. Today, Cassie and her son Joe continue to run the business.

BY PHIL LAVERY
Crow's Nest Contributor

Fred Fleming, once a home builder in Naples, Fla., decided that his true love was food -- barbecue to be exact.

So in 1993, Fred decided to open a new barbecue restaurant on the 4400 block of Fourth St. N in St. Petersburg. Unsure of how it would turn out, Fred and his wife, Cassie, became anxious.

Over the next eight years he opened eight stores, all of them local. Fred had built the business using home recipes, hands-on management and a whole lot of love.

Then, in 2001, he and Cassie sold their locations, hoping to retire early and enjoy the Fla. sun. All of these stores eventually went out of business, lacking the original recipes and management.

Fred began to grow tired of the slow, mundane life of retirement. In 2009, he opted to re-open his restaurant right across the street from their original location. The restaurant at the original location is now Lucky B's Bar & Grill. The Flemings now had to deal with new competition over the barbecue lovers of St. Pete.

The new Fleming's, now called Champions' BBQ, opened in 2010 and consequently helped put two other barbecue restaurants out of business.

"We helped change Luckie B's business plan from a barbecue place into a Bar & Grill," said Cassie's son, Joe, who is always

chatting with customers and brings the small, family atmosphere that they love.

Fred died two years ago, leaving Cassie to continue the family's legacy. Cassie works around 65 hours a week; she's the glue that holds Champions' BBQ together.

Ian, a full-time employee, does a bit of everything and has been with the Fleming's since 2010 when they re-opened.

Together, Joe, Cassie and Ian continue to pour that extra bit of lovin' into the food, which attracts the repeat business they rely on.

"Business is getting better. It's always busy in here," said Cassie.

The lunch rush is no small matter; the tables inside are often full.

When asked what they are best known for, both Cassie and Ian exclaimed,

"The ribs and the smoked corned beef!"

The sides are also delicious. Green beans, macaroni and cheese, and baked beans are just a few of the choices here. Both lunch and dinner plates come with two sides.

Between 1993 and 2001, Fleming's has won more than 100 awards in barbecue competitions across the U.S. and Canada, winning "Best Ribs in America" twice.

They've also won awards for best sauce.

Anyone who loves slow-cooked meat will approve. For starters, they have very lean pork and beef.

"All of our meat comes from the finest cows and pigs of the American Midwest," Cassie said.

But perhaps we'll never know how long they cook their meat.

"We don't discuss family secrets here," Cassie said.

Great barbecue isn't complete without great sauce, however, and customers will have five to choose from: hot, mustard, honey barbecue, regular and vinegar. My favorite is the honey barbecue, but Cassie quickly scolded me: "Oh honey, you've got to try either hot or mustard, they're the best."

I couldn't argue with her, but after trying all five, I secretly still choose the honey barbecue.

The combination of great food and a relaxed atmosphere make Fleming's a place that any fan of barbecue is sure to love. They even serve a signature light lager called Companions, which Budweiser makes just for them.

You don't have to come into the store. Food Now (www.foodnow.com) will deliver a rack of ribs upon request.

The meat is extremely lean. The beer is local. But what really makes this a special place are the people that put it all together. With a little love, even barbecue can become better.

life@crowsneststpete.com

If you go:

Champions' BBQ is at 4400 Fourth St. N.



Dinner plates are under \$12
Lunch plates or sandwiches are under \$8.
Both include two sides.

Hours:
Sunday: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.
Friday-Saturday: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Monday: Closed

The student newspaper at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
JENNIFER NESSLAR

MANAGING DIRECTOR
MARK WOLFENBARGER

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Editorial

Snapchat holds the future of the news

This week, the future of the news became a little clearer.

On Tuesday, the mobile-based social media giant Snapchat announced the launch of its Discover feature. Partnering with 11 media groups including CNN, ESPN, Yahoo! News and National Geographic, Snapchat uses Discover to deliver news packages.

It's brilliant.

We'll admit it: We felt a little sadness when we heard the news. Does this mean our future as journalists will consist of producing content for an application that every American teenager can't pull themselves away from? Maybe. But after some introspection, we're going to stop complaining.

News content is finally coming to

a platform where people are again. Too many American newspapers are losing readers. Simply posting links to stories on the news outlet's social media account doesn't even seem like enough anymore.

But now there's news on Snapchat, and it actually uses long-standing news organizations to do what they do best.

The Discover feature gives you the option to click on one of the 10 media groups to view their content. Most outlets divide the sections into about six stories, each with a colorful introduction that sums up what the following story is going to be about. CNN plays funky music and graphics accompanying a sentence-long description. Yahoo! News has Katie Couric narrate.

The stories come in a variety of different platforms. Sometimes they are in the form of a video, but most of the time they are written stories. Being in the business of the written word, we're happy to see that it isn't about to die.

Some things are going to take some getting used to. CNN seems to be taking its role of engaging with the audience seriously by being, well, rather unserious. On Thursday, CNN interviewed Rand Paul, and this was actually a historic interview. It was the first Snapchat interview with a U.S. lawmaker.

While the interview discussed serious topics—drones and Ron Paul's run for the U.S. presidency in 2016—it seemed almost flippant. Paul played along.

"Drones should only be used according to the Constitution, but if they fly over my house, they better beware 'cause I've got a shotgun," he joked in the introduction.

The journalist also asked questions in a flippant manner, as if she hoped to make a joke. It's the first time we've seen an outlet that

purports to deliver serious news be light-hearted. But maybe that's what it will take to reach Snapchat enthusiasts.

Most of the content was gripping. CNN provided a tightly written story on the Russian spy suspects caught by the FBI in New York. National Geographic gave a stunning video of how a jaguar attacks its prey—a crocodile. Food Network offered a recipe for buffalo cauliflower with blue cheese sauce. There are even channels that allow you to keep up with the latest celebrity gossip. The future of the media has arrived, folks.

There are still issues to address. Today's news stories will disappear after 24 hours. It's unclear how they will be archived. That makes research difficult for future generations.

Snapchat has become something of value now. Smart phone users, we recommend you download it, if only to check out the Discover feature.

editor@crowsneststpete.com



Photo of the week

Emily Wehunt | The Crow's Nest

Get up before dawn

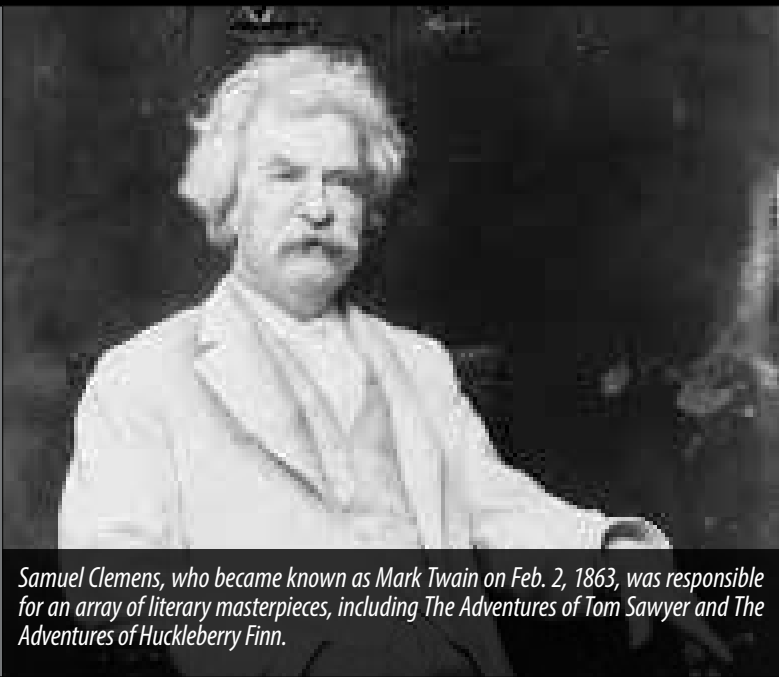
The sun peeks through the trees at Northshore park on Wednesday morning. The St. Petersburg area offers beautiful sunrises, as the Bay faces toward the east.

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.

THROWBACK

On Feb. 2, 1863, a little-known author named Samuel Clemens became Mark Twain for the first time.

Clemens, then a writer for the Virginia City Territorial Enterprise newspaper, was in Carson City, Nev., covering the meetings of the territorial legislature. On Feb. 2, 1863, using the name Mark Twain, Clemens mailed an article to the Enterprise and it was published on March 3, 1863. Clemens' new moniker was on its way to becoming one of the most recognizable names in the history of literature.



Samuel Clemens, who became known as Mark Twain on Feb. 2, 1863, was responsible for an array of literary masterpieces, including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Open letter to mass communications majors

BY ANDREW CAPLAN
STAFF COLUMNIST



Journalism is not what it once was. It's a fact. Journalism is no longer based solely on facts and hard news. Whether it's how we report or what we report, it has changed with time.

The rise of technology has changed the way many people gather information, and journalism has had to adjust. But with many of the same principles held to such a high regard, it has left some USF St. Petersburg journalism majors with a false dream of doing what they want quickly and being successful, leaving just one question in their minds, "Why am I majoring in mass communications?"

There was a time when newspapers were the main source of information. Then came the radio, where people no longer had to read, but the newspaper industry was still booming. Television came soon after, but because it was rather new, it allowed people to still hold the local newspaper with the freedom of selecting matters that appealed to them. Flash forward decades later, and we all have cell phones and laptops. The ease-of-access

has been steadily increasing and now, within seconds, people can seek the information they want.

With the expectation of instant information upon request, journalism has had to expand past newspapers. People must not only report, but get the inside scoop, write it (accurately), live-tweet it, get a picture, fact check it, and meet deadlines and post it before a competitor posts it on their news organization's site. Hence, the major title "mass communications."

While up-to-the-minute news stays flowing in, errors are bound to happen. It is one reason why journalism has gradually swayed from conventional to contextual writing, which can mean less facts and more opinion.

The people already know what happened; most do not care for your late review, for which even I am guilty of occasionally writing. They need an interpretation or explanation of why it happened. Which has also, unfortunately, allowed a lot of bias and non-expert opinions to flood into the journalism field. It also allows many uneducated/unemployed bloggers to hit the scene from the comfort of their couch. With the help of

an ever-expanding internet, they can gain access to readers with the click of a button.

And to the untrained eye, many readers will mistake these blogs and articles as real news/reports. The click-whores will continue their ways because it gains attention, not thinking that they are breaking many of the rules journalism was founded upon.

People these days just want to spew out their opinion on their favorite celebrity couples and rant about what clothes are out of style and call it journalism. Although many students on campus believe that the mass communications major is pointless because it is focused on journalism, they are missing the big picture.

It is labeled mass communications because it provides opportunities to learn more than just writing; it teaches skills that you will need to know in the field in order to be successful.

If you are expecting to be respected in your field, you need to be professional. You need to know the basics -- the do's and don'ts of journalism, the techniques of photography, how to fact check or investigate, the different structures and styles of writing, why social media is important, how to

avoid being socially awkward and the different interviewing techniques -- regardless of what you want to cover post graduation. You will be more likely to land a job with these skills. And although it may be outside of your desired topic choice, it will set you up with more experience and years in the field to be qualified enough for your dream job.

Once those skills have been mastered, you can venture off and try to be creative and original, covering topics such as "what Kim Kardashian wore to go jogging," and tell me why it's just as important as the price of tea in China. It will be much more organic, instead of forced.

Journalism is not dead, nor will it be in the near future despite popular belief. Stop focusing on the declining newspaper industry. There's a whole world of opportunities out there. It is just how we report the "happening" that has changed. So, sit back, enjoy the lectures your professors have worked hard to present, and try to take some constructive criticism and do what they ask. After all, they are the ones who have been in the field for decades -- not you.

Andrew Caplan, a senior majoring in mass communications, is the sports editor. He can be reached at andrewcaplan@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @CappyMIA.

Dark side of Dublin

CAITLIN ASHWORTH
STAFF COLUMNIST



Dublin was more of a circus than a city. It was lit up by an array of carnies. Tourists from around the globe came to Dublin to experience Ireland while freaks, musicians and magicians filled Grafton Street.

Their profits were made off pure amusement. Typical street performers juggled knives while riding a unicycle. Some amazed the crowd as they breathed fire. Bands always played at night and gathered large crowds. The streets created their own economy.

Human statues were painted from head to toe in black, wearing a solid black suit with a disturbing caricature mask. They stayed still as stone for tedious amounts of time. It must be sweat dripping work. I imagine their muscles urging for movement, but they were tight and tense. They stared out at the tourists walking by, but did not acknowledge their presence. It was as if their souls had ascended from their body and left nothing but an empty vessel.

One man was missing half of his arm and held up his pan flute with the nub and blew a tranquil tune. He probably got half of his money for sympathy and the other half from talent. There was one man with a set-up of a leprechaun body. Tourists laughed hysterically as they poked their head-on top and took photographs of themselves as "leprechauns".

All of the bars in the Temple Bar District lured foreigners in with their "Traditional Irish Music." After seeing the same act twice, I was over the show Dublin was putting on. Every day had the same routine. I felt like I

was the only one catching on. Maybe it was my red hair and Irish blood that sensed the artificial world Dublin portrayed for their thriving tourism industry.

I met Gary at Doyle's Pub, the most "local" pub I could find. He was pale with short blond hair and accentuated his light brow bone with a spiked piercing. He had a baby face. It was smooth, without a single hair on his chin. He said he was Irish, but was always told he looked Polish.

Gary told me about a club that the locals go to. I couldn't say no to an opportunity to get out of the tourist traps.

He talked a mile a minute and walked fast. His accent was thick and he had been drinking. It was pure Irish rambling, with a "Jaysus" here and there.

"Fuckin legend man. This man's a fucking legend," Gary said amid his rambling while patting my friend Aaron on the back.

He paused occasionally to take a long drag from his store-bought cigarette, holding each breath for a moment to savor each puff before exhaling.

"Jaysus! This man's a FUCKING legend!" We nodded our heads and laughed along, pretending to understand what he was saying.

Once in the local club, I ordered a Jameson and ginger before searching for the bathroom. I walked down the narrow stairwell to the basement of the club.

In the bathroom's bright light, I noticed the eerie imperfections. It looked as if it were filled with dirty sex and even dirtier drugs. At that moment I came to the realization that I was in a different country. A sharp chill raced up my spine.

We left the club after I finished my drink. Gary took us on the scenic route and gave



Caitlin Ashworth | The Crow's Nest

The Temple Bar was one of many places Caitlin visited in Dublin.

us the tour of the dark side of Dublin. He pointed out a broken rubberband in a dark corner that was used to shoot up heroin. He rambled on about "fucking junkies" and their constant begging for money while pointing out where junkies linger.

Gary stopped and pointed at a building. "That bank was fucking robbed," he said and then pointed to another building, "That bank was robbed and that Starbucks," he turned and pointed to the Starbucks, "That used to be a bank there and that was robbed as well."

He rambled some more before taking a drag from his cigarette.

"All that shit," he waved his arms in a circle toward the city, "is to distract you from this."

I remembered the statues I saw during a tour of Dublin. They were dedicated to the lives that were lost and the suffering encountered during the Great Famine. The motionless figures seemed to slink down the streets of Dublin. Their bodies were frail with hollow cheeks, but life was in their eyes. With their

bony hands they held their excessive tax to the British, bags of food. One struggled behind. His knees bent together while a lifeless body was draped over his shoulders and a dog struggled behind as its rib cage poked through its fur. Their baggy clothes hung as if their bodies were a wire hanger. The haunting statues were an endless reminder that the past was real.

Dublin was haunted by a terror far more alive. Irish people filled with greed instead of gratitude. They chose this life and this demise, despite the metal ghosts that remind them of the deadly starvation and the dark world—where a starving man would not accept a bowl of hot soup, if that meant professing his loyalty to England. The ghosts of today walk the streets each day, begging for a hit.

Caitlin Ashworth, a senior majoring in mass communications, is the assistant arts & life editor. She can be reached at cashworth1@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @kate_ashworth.

USFSP Baseball Club Spring Schedule (Home Games Only)

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	FIELD
Feb. 7	FSU	4 p.m.	Campbell *
Feb. 8	FSU	1 p.m.	Huggins
Feb. 14	USF	12 p.m.	Huggins *
Feb. 15	USF	7 p.m.	Campbell
March 8	NC State	4 p.m.	Campbell *
March 14	Clemson	4 p.m.	Campbell *
March 15	Clemson	1 p.m.	Huggins
March 21	Stetson	4 p.m.	Campbell *
March 22	Stetson	1 p.m.	Huggins
March 28	Miami	4 p.m.	Campbell *
March 29	Miami	1 p.m.	Huggins
March 31	SEU	7 p.m.	Campbell
April 21	IMG	7 p.m.	Campbell

*= Double header

Women’s Basketball AAC Standings

TEAM	CONF	OVERALL
Connecticut	9-0	19-1
South Florida	8-1	17-4
Temple	6-2	10-11
Tulane	7-3	16-5
Tulsa	6-4	11-10
Memphis	5-5	11-10
East Carolina	5-6	14-8
UCF	3-7	7-14
Cincinnati	3-7	6-15
Houston	1-9	6-15
SMU	0-9	4-16

USF Men’s Basketball Schedule

Feb. 4	vs. TEM	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	@ CINCY	8 p.m.
Feb. 11	@ UCF	7 p.m.
Feb. 14	vs. MEM	12 p.m.
Feb. 17	vs. HOU	7 p.m.
Feb. 21	@ ECU	11 a.m.
March 1	@ HOU	3 p.m.
March 4	vs. UCF	7 p.m.
March 7	vs. TULN	4 p.m.

USF Women’s Basketball Schedule

Feb. 3	vs UCF	7 p.m.
Feb. 7	vs CIN	7 p.m.
Feb. 10	@ SMU	8 p.m.
Feb. 15	@ ECU	2 p.m.
Feb. 18	vs TLSA	7 p.m.
Feb. 22	vs TEM	12 p.m.
Feb. 24	@ CIN	7 p.m.
Feb. 28	@UCF	4 p.m.
March 2	vs #2 UCONN	7 p.m.

USFSP Baseball Club teams up with Voices of Hope for Aphasia

The baseball club will be holding a charity event for Voices of Hope for Aphasia at the Tavern Feb. 6. There will be specials on drinks and food, as well as giveaways. On Feb. 7 the team will be taking on FSU at 4 p.m. at Campbell Field for their home opener.

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Legendary coach believes in Bulls

ANDREW CAPLAN
STAFF REPORTER

The USF men’s basketball program is heading in the right direction, or at least Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown thinks so.

Brown is the only coach in basketball history to win a championship in the NCAA (University of Kansas, 1988) and in the NBA (Detroit Pistons, 2004).

Following Southern Methodist University’s 63-52 victory over the Bulls on Jan. 28, Brown had some words of encouragement for his opponents, who are on a seven-game losing streak.

“One, I know how good this program is going to be,” Brown said. “And nothing against the coaching staff before, I have a lot of respect for those guys, but you know, Orlando (Antigua) is good people. He deserves this opportunity. This, to me, is a sleeping giant.”

“The giant,” however, has been asleep since the 2011-2012 season. That year, the Bulls went 22-14 and qualified for the NCAA tournament as the No. 12 seed. It was their last winning season to date.

“There’s ample material here,” Brown said. “I think they can recruit on a national level because Orlando’s done that before and he’ll

have a lot of people that will help him.”

Antigua was an assistant head coach at the University of Kentucky before accepting the head coaching position with the Bulls. He studied under John Calipari at UK, where the Wildcats had the No. 1 recruiting class four times and the No. 2 class two times, reaching the championship game twice.

“I think he’ll get it done,” Brown said. “I really do.”

Antigua is in the first year of his five-year contract with the Bulls. Adding nine new players to the roster, the program is building from the ground up.

“I appreciate Coach saying that,” Antigua said. “He’s obviously someone I look up to. He’s a Hall of Fame coach, he’s won at everywhere. Just to have an opportunity for our team to compete against his in a great conference is something that is exciting.

The legendary coach went on explaining how the Bulls’ entire coaching staff is admirable, not just the head coach.

Joining Antigua from UK was former NBA player Rod Strickland, who had an administrative role on Calipari’s staff.

“Rod’s one of the smartest



Courtesy of SMU Athletics

Larry Brown is the only coach in history to win a NCAA championship (1988) and NBA championship (2004).

players I’ve ever been around,” Brown said. “Kids kind of gravitate toward Rod. I just hope he does well because he’s paid his dues.”

Brown went on to explain how coaches, such as Antigua, can have the chips stacked against them the way recruiting is set up -- the rich get richer -- compared to the way

the NBA is set up, where the worst teams can grab the top players.

To see how this sleeping giants turns out is yet to be seen. With just nine games left on the schedule, the Bulls are 7-15 overall, 1-8 in conference play.

sports@crowsneststpete.com

Opinion: The Media v. Marshawn Lynch

ANDREW CAPLAN
STAFF COLUMNIST

“I’m thankful.” ... “I’m just here, so I won’t get fined.” ... “Thanks for asking.”

These are the wise words of Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch.

His repetitive utterances during interviews have struck a chord with fans and analysts all throughout America.

And although Lynch’s skills with the pigskin are a big reason why the Seahawks are headed back to the Super Bowl, he has gained more attention for his lack of cooperation with media members.

As I watched Lynch’s interviews on multiple websites and major news channels, I came to the conclusion that maybe the media should just leave him alone at this point. No?

As my deep-felt opinion dawned on me, I reflected back to the times I was in the Buccaneers’, Ravens’ and Saints’ locker rooms, conducting post-game interviews. There is

no privacy in those locker rooms. You have free range to ask and talk to any player you please, with the understanding that you stay professional.

And it seems to me, somehow, that in the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl, that connection and understanding has been lost on those seeking answers from Lynch.

In no way am I condoning his actions or his behavior toward the media. I completely understand the NFL’s policy for postgame interviews and press conferences and I understand the reasoning for implementing fines.

Many of these reporters need to turn in four to six articles daily, so gaining information from various players is needed for the possibility of different angles on stories.

But as I watched Lynch respond with “I’m just here, so I won’t get fined,” 29 times on Media Day last week, it wasn’t funny anymore. What’s meant to be a fun and enjoyable day for most, showed a lack of respect for a player by the media.

As he abided by NFL policy -- he showed up, talked and was technically available to the media -- people continued asking questions, knowing the response. Now, for the first five questions, I get it. Maybe he would give in. But he didn’t, and 24 more times reporters asked him questions knowing the response.

Why? Why continue to ask, knowing you are egging him on?

Despite this player’s pompous behavior, the media members should have been professional and sought answers elsewhere, instead of turning every Lynch interview into a circus.

You do not need the star running back for quotes when writing a story about that athlete. You just don’t. It’s nice and makes the article better, but it’s possible to work around that.

At USF, head coach Willie Taggart has a “no freshman” rule for the media. He does not like the idea of young kids being swarmed by media members for whatever reason.

As freshman RB Marlon Mack broke a school record and tied the conference record for 275 yards in

a game, most of the stories focused on him. But how many quoted him for their story?

None.

Instead, reporters sought answers from other members of the team, such as the head coach and quarterback.

It’s doable. And the story can still be great; just go elsewhere.

I’m sure if there were two or three reporters around him asking questions, Lynch would open up more, as he has in various commercials and in previous interviews. But that’s not how the rules are set up. But just because the rules permit something, doesn’t mean you should exploit it.

Some reporters should just remember that it’s human nature to not want to talk at times, especially after a loss or poor performance. They should take that into consideration, instead of seeking a show.

Andrew Caplan, a senior majoring in mass communications, is the sports editor. He can be reached at andrewcaplan@mail.usf.edu or on Twitter @CappyMIA.

sports@crowsneststpete.com