

10-21-2013

## Crow's Nest : 2013 : 10 : 21

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# Inside the Radley Haunted House

p. 4

**Every day I'm shufflin'**  
International shuffleboard tournament comes to St. Pete  
p. 8

[crowsneststpete.com](http://crowsneststpete.com)

## Credit hour cap costing students

BY AMANDA STARLING  
STAFF REPORTER

State university students who enrolled after the 2009-2010 academic year and exceed more than 10 percent of the required credit hours for their degree will pay an additional 50 percent or more for tuition, as mandated by the 2013 Florida Legislative session.

This means a student pursuing a 120-credit hour degree will have to pay extra if they exceed 132 hours.

The state legislature created the credit hour cap to motivate students to graduate on time or faster. The cap was initially set at 20 percent more than the required credit hours for a degree but has tightened each year since 2009. According to a document provided by the Florida Student Association Board of Directors, "The goal was to reduce the amount of excess credit hours that the state subsidized."

Credit hours are considered excess if they are not necessary to obtain a degree. This may include extra electives, repeat courses or classes made unnecessary by switching majors.

The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability conducts studies of student credit hour usage and estimated costs.

According to a study by the office, state university graduates attempted 861,000 credits in excess in 2007, costing the state \$76 million. The number had increased by 23 percent since the 2002-2003 school year.

Factors that have contributed to excess credit hours, according to the OPPAGA, include changing majors, withdrawal or failure of courses, taking classes for interest that are not required, scheduling conflicts and advising errors.

See SURCHARGES, p. 3

# A life well written

BY THE CROW'S NEST STAFF

Dr. Robert Dardenne, an associate professor of the USF St. Petersburg Journalism and Media Studies program, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Oct. 17. He was 66.

In his 22 years at USFSP, Dardenne taught and inspired many a young journalist.

He served as chair of the department twice during his tenure, most recently for four years before returning to the classroom full time last fall. He planned to retire next year.

A native of Baton Rouge, La., he received his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University, a master's degree from the University of Florida and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. Before teaching, he worked for newspapers in Louisiana, Mexico City, New York and Washington D.C.

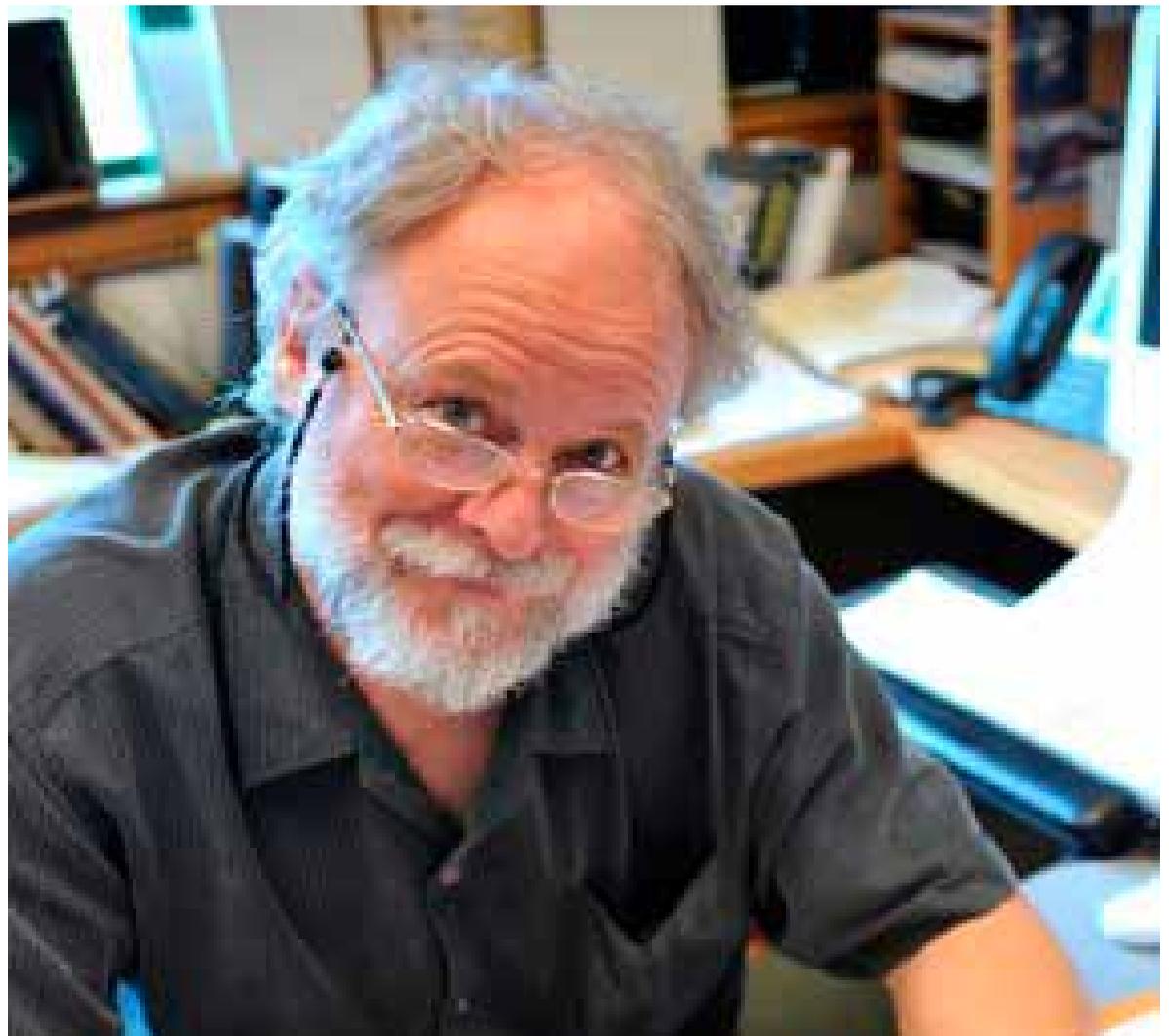
Dardenne co-authored "The Conversation of Journalism" with G. Michael Killenberg, the founding director of the USFSP JMS department. He published many articles regarding topics of similar nature.

Last year, he helped found the USFSP branch of Kappa Tau Alpha, a nationally recognized journalism honor society, with former student Mallory Speir.

Dardenne believed strongly in the idea of community based journalism.

He made lifelong friendships with faculty and staff. He motivated students to join the world of journalism and offered encouragement to others who felt like quitting.

He sat in his office on the second



Courtesy of Sudsy Tshiderer

Robert Dardenne left a lasting impression on students and colleagues, inspiring minds and captivating hearts

floor of Peter Rudy Wallace with the door wide open, often with his feet propped up on his desk.

Popping in to say hello always ended in a long, meandering chat.

His students and colleagues will miss his soft-spokenness, signature laugh and kind, animated eyes. Some might have a recent email from him saved, written in all caps, of course.

To his colleagues, Dardenne was a leader and loyal friend. To his students, he was a role model and someone to confide in.

Friends and former students gathered on the USFSP waterfront Sunday, Oct. 19, for an informal toast in Dardenne's honor. Another memorial will be held in the PRW courtyard at 3 p.m. on Wednesday. The USFSP community is invited to

attend.

Dardenne, Bob D., BD; he will be greatly missed.

For personal stories and good-byes to Dr. Robert Dardenne from friends, colleagues and students, see Pages 6 and 7.

## Two weeks, three acts of bike theft

BY JENNIFER NESSLAR  
STAFF REPORTER

One on-campus robbery, one on-campus theft attempt and one theft near campus have led to two stolen bicycles and weary riders.

According to a news release sent via email from University Police

Services, three men stole a bicycle from the bicycle rack on the north side of the Science and Technology building at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19.

"No weapon was used, and no one was injured in the incident," the report read. University Police could not be reached for comment

on Sunday.

Nicole Heckley, a USFSP student, posted in the Know It All's Guide To Knowing It All!, a student-run Facebook forum, on Oct. 19 at 10:07 p.m., "BE CAREFUL ON CAMPUS AT NIGHT!! 3 guys came up and took my boyfriends bike and tried to get his laptop. This

stuff really happens..."

Heckley told the *Crow's Nest* that the three men tried to cut into the lock on her boyfriend's bicycle but were unable to, so they waited.

See BIKE, p.2

## News Briefs

Happy homecoming, Bulls! If you're not too tired after running the Glow Run, here are some homecoming events to check out.

### Tuesday, Oct. 22

Follow the yellow brick road, er, Harborwalk, to the USC ballrooms for the Emerald City Homecoming Ball. Get dressed up and dance from 8 p.m. to midnight. Be sure to arrive by 9 p.m. for the coronation of the duke and duchess.

### Wednesday, Oct. 23

Head out to Harborwalk at noon and take part in the Homecoming Carnival. The Homecoming committee promises carnival games and food. Last year there was cotton candy, so it's worth a visit if only for that fluffy goodness. The annual cardboard boat race will also take place. Yes, you heard us right. There will be floating cardboard. Or, for you pessimists, sinking cardboard.

### Thursday, Oct. 24

You are getting very sleeepy... Oh you're not? Perhaps *The Crow's Nest* hasn't perfected the art of hypnotization, but Roderick Russell may dazzle you more. Russell, a professional hypnotist, mind reader and sword swallower, performs in the USC ballroom at 8 p.m. Just don't go back to your residence hall and attempt his trickery for yourself.

If sword swallowing isn't your thing, stop into Davis 130 from 7-10 p.m. for the Walking Dead Poetry Slam. Come listen to poetry or share your own work. Food will be provided. If zombies don't show up, at least there will be poetry.

### Saturday, Oct. 26

The *Tampa Bay Times* Festival of Reading features authors of national renown from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year's festival includes Raymond Arsenault, co-director of the USFSP Florida Studies Program; Roy Peter Clark, educator and writer at Poynter Institute; Eric Deggans, NPR TV Critic and former *Times* TV Critic; Jeff Klinkenberg, *Times* staff writer and Florida culture writer; Stephanie Hayes, *Times* Staff writer and USF graduate; and Angela Hunt, a nationally known Christian author who resides in Pinellas County.

# New lounge in Poynter library

By MATTHEW THOMAS  
STAFF REPORTER

Two days of construction last week resulted in a new lounge area on the first floor of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Lounge now stands on the first floor.

The Jeanne and Bill Heller Scholars' Lounge is on the south end of the library and is sectioned off by glass. It contains rolling

chairs, couches and tables, as well as a large whiteboard for students to use while studying.

The lounge was funded by a donation from College of Education Dean Bill Heller, who was the dean and executive officer of USF St. Petersburg from 1992 to 2002, and his wife Jeanne Heller, a retired elementary school librarian.

Library dean Carol Hixson is spearheading many planned

redesigns in the library. In a document detailing the different renovations, Hixson mentioned the amount of student interest in more designated quiet areas on the first floor, which is one of the purposes of the new lounge.

Other planned renovations for the library include adding computers from the Bayboro Lab, which closed in May, adding more power outlets and creating more spaces for

both group and individual study.

After the first floor renovations are completed, redesigns will be made to the second and third floors. The renovations will be carried out in increments as funds become available through donations.

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# SG making plans for Coquina

By DANIELLE VON DREELE  
CROW'S NEST CORRESPONDENT

After receiving complaints from students about the poor quality of the Coquina Lounge, Student Government was prompted to re-evaluate the condition of the room.

SG senators passed a bill on Oct. 9 that established a student committee responsible for renovating the Coquina Lounge. Committee members are deliberating how to furnish and revitalize the space and are asking students what they

would like to see.

"We are working to make the lounge a better place, to make it a more conducive environment for students," said Franklin Alves, one of the committee member and SG senate president.

Taylor Adams, chair of the committee, aspires to transform the lounge into a place where students can unwind and mingle.

"My goal for this committee is to make the Coquina Lounge the best place on campus," Adams said.

More comfortable chairs, a gift shop, a chalkboard wall and a ping

pong table are just some ideas for the space. Despite World of Wings' presence in the room, students are permitted to bring in outside food.

After the prices for the renovation are determined, the committee will pass another bill that will finalize the planned changes.

Committee members believe these changes will influence more student clubs to use the lounge.

"If anything, the bill would make it better for clubs in the long run," Alves said. "But it would not have any monetary effects on the clubs and organizations."

The sponsor of the bill, Jozef Gherman, is encouraging students to contribute more ideas on how to revamp the area.

"The committee setup will use direct student input to put together a student lounge by the students, for the students," Gherman said.

Students interested in contributing ideas should contact SG with their suggestions.

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# Sixteen bike thefts since January; not a high number, police say

Continued from front page

When her boyfriend returned from studying at the library and unlocked his bike, they approached him, took the bike and asked him to hand over his backpack.

According to Heckley, one of the men swung at her boyfriend. They didn't see his laptop buried under his lunch bag, so they discarded the backpack on the ground and left campus with the bicycle. The victim declined to comment and asked to remain anonymous.

In an earlier incident, two unidentified individuals cut into a bicycle lock outside of Residence Hall One on Friday, Oct. 11, according to Lt. Reggie Oliver, University Police Services. The individuals moved the white Schwinn bicycle but were scared off by USFSP students. They proceeded to the University Student Center and tried to steal another bicycle but were unable to remove it from the rack. Nothing was stolen.

Oliver said some of the bicycles involved in the attempted theft were abandoned by previous USFSP students.

"Some of those have been there for months," he said, referring to the bicycle rack outside of RHO. One of the bicycles has been there since the rack was installed, he said.

Lena Wray, a USFSP student living in a College Oaks apartment, located directly across from RHO, discovered her bicycle had been stolen on Oct. 17 after 11 p.m. Wray used a \$50 lock to attach the red bicycle to a post on the stairs outside her apartment. She said the thieves broke her lock and left a Kmart bicycle behind.

"The campus police have been more than helpful," Wray said. "They came by and surveyed the area and wrote a report."

Because her bicycle was not registered with University Police Services or the city of St. Petersburg, the police were unable to track it

down. Wray posted on the Know It All's Guide, asking students to look for her "fire engine red" cruiser.

According to Oliver, as of Oct. 16, there have been 15 bicycle thefts on the USFSP campus since January 2013.

"Not a real high number," he said.

Heckley's boyfriend's bicycle increases the total to 16.

Wray's bicycle is not included in the count because the theft occurred off campus.

Oliver encourages students to register their bicycles with University Police Services. The serial number of registered bicycles goes into a city police database, enabling officers to track them down more easily. Students who register with University Police Services receive a free U-lock, the bolt lock Oliver recommends. Other locks can be cut easily.

St. Petersburg law requires bicycles to be licensed, Oliver said. If

a student leaves USFSP riding an unlicensed bicycle, he or she could be fined, or the bicycle could be confiscated by St. Petersburg police. When a bike is registered with University Police Services, it is also licensed by the city.

For improved safety, Oliver encourages students to secure the bicycle frame, not the tire, to the lock. The tire can be easily removed. He also recommends students not bring expensive bicycles with accessories to campus. Expensive bicycles are targeted, and accessories will likely be stolen.

*Student are encouraged to be alert and take safety precautions at all times. University police ask anyone with information about the bike robbery on Oct. 19 to call Lt. John Dye at 727-873-4140.*

news@crowsteststpete.com

# Make Papi Happy

BY TYLER KILLETTE  
STAFF REPORTER

*For his 21st birthday, Mark Lombardi-Nelson always thought he'd throw a party wild enough to "shut down the state." But when the big day was about a week away, the College of Business senior and student body president decided to do something more fulfilling.*

*When he thought about what he really wanted, the answer came easily. It's the same reason he'd been working so hard at USF St. Petersburg for the last three years – he wanted his family to be happy. He saw his birthday as the perfect opportunity to raise money for his father, who is ill.*

It began with a nail.

About seven years ago, Mark Nelson, 57, contracted an infection after stepping on a nail. By the time he sought medical treatment, it had developed into Osteomyelitis, a bacterial infection of the bone. Doctors had to amputate his leg.

He describes it as the day he "went down."

According to Lombardi-Nelson, doctors made the incision on his father's leg too low, which made

According to Lombardi-Nelson, doctors made the incision on his father's leg too low, which made recovery harder. He contracted a Staph infection and then MRSA. Nelson tried to get a settlement for the alleged malpractice, but no lawyers would take the case.

On top of continuous pain from the amputation, Nelson also deals with diabetes, osteoporosis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The osteoporosis recently led to a broken back. The COPD — most likely caused from decades of breathing fumes as the owner of a painting company — requires him to be on oxygen. He has been in and out the hospital for the last seven years.

Lombardi-Nelson recalls multiple instances when he thought his father was near death. The most recent scare was in August. It was the first time his father tried to discuss life insurance.

"There are certain things in life that I know could change me and break me as a person, and losing him is one of them," Lombardi-Nelson said, teary-eyed, in an interview. "I've prepared myself ... I know he's not going to be here forever, but I'm not ready for him to go."

Lombardi-Nelson describes his dad as a pirate. "He has this grizzly beard. That's where I got mine from," he said. "It's also how I know I'm going to go bald."

He remembers the respect his father's colleagues and clients showed him when he owned his painting company. "He could do the job better and faster than anyone else," he said.

He goes home to see his dad in Spring Hill every two to three weeks. The trip takes a little more than an hour on his motorcycle.

One of Lombardi-Nelson's fondest memories of his father is of building and flying model airplanes

with him as a kid. His dad got his pilot's license when he was 15 and always loved flying.

Lombardi-Nelson's high school senior night also sticks out. Springstead High School's class of 2010 marching band members were recognized as they walked across the school's football field, escorted by their parents. His dad put on his prosthetic leg and walked beside him.

The best memories, however, are also the scarcest.

"I've tried to put a lot of my childhood behind me," he said.

One of eight children ranging in

*"There are certain things in life that I know could change me and break me as a person, and losing [my dad] is one of them,"*

age from 6 to 32, Lombardi-Nelson's family has never been "well-off." His parents are separated, but his dad has served as a father figure to all eight children, even to the three who aren't biologically his.

Nelson lives with his girlfriend who takes care of him, but her salary as a tutor combined with his disability compensation is hardly sufficient. They still have to go to a food bank regularly and have reached out to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to make sure the electricity bill is paid.

"In my mind, if he can be taken care of till I graduate, then I can take care of him," Lombardi-Nelson said.

Two weekends ago, he hosted a party with friends and asked guests to make a donation if they could. He raised about \$1000. The number overwhelmed him, but made him realize he had a community of friends willing to help. Knowing he couldn't stop there, he



Courtesy of Mark Lombardi-Nelson

When Springstead High School's class of 2010 marching band members were recognized at the school's senior night, Lombardi-Nelson's dad put on his prosthetic leg and walked beside him.

created a campaign on Indiegogo, a crowdfunding website similar to Kickstarter.

He set the goal for a \$1,000 and set rewards for each donation amount. For \$1, donors get a smile; for \$100 they'll get a photo of the family. Within 24 hours, he reached 75 percent of the goal. Within three days, it was met in full.

Lombardi-Nelson is reaching out to friends on Facebook, but he is only asking people to share the story, not necessarily donate. Though his birthday was on Saturday, Oct. 19, he's not ready to stop.

At time of publication, there are

38 days left in the campaign and \$1,710 has been raised.

Lombardi-Nelson feels the campaign could change not only his father's life but, his perspective on the world, after seeing how many people care about him.

"It'll make him feel like he's not alone," he said.

*The campaign website can be found by searching "Make Papi Happy" on indiegogo.com*

*Donations can be made through Nov. 28.*

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## Surcharges have affected 112 this semester

Continued from front page

According to research conducted by legislative staff, the bill passed by the Florida legislature "requires state universities and community colleges to implement a process for notifying students of excess hour surcharge upon initial enrollment." Notices include recommendations for students and instruction to meet with an academic advisor.

In the fall 2013 semester, 112 students from the University of South Florida system have been charged a total of \$40,815.81 for taking excess credit hours. Many students on track to take more than 10 percent

of their degree required hours have not received notice from the school.

James Scott, a six-year student at USF St. Petersburg, said his extended stint as an undergraduate is the result of hard economic times, and the desire to be involved on campus.

"The state of Florida and their philosophy about education ... is less about enrichment and more about efficiency," Scott said. He expressed that his education has been best gained outside of the classroom.

"You go there (universities) and you don't just take classes; you join

things, you do things, you lead things."

Some students aware of the law plan to seek other ways of obtaining academic credit.

Steven Sewell, a junior majoring in health sciences, falls below the cap's threshold but recognizes his vulnerability.

"Technically, I'm going to need 124 or 125 credits to graduate with my degree, then after that I need 12 more credits that are prerequisites for grad school," Sewell said. He intends to take his graduate school prerequisites at a community college to save money.

"It is definitely going to impact my budget. It's probably going to cause me to take out more student loans in grad school that I'm trying to avoid," said Jenna Stasi, a junior who estimates 142 credit hours in her undergraduate career.

Mark Lombardi-Nelson, student body president and member of the Florida Student Association Board of Directors, plans to address more potential amendments to the bill at upcoming board of trustees and Florida Student Association meetings.

"I think it really targets those who are nontraditional students,

those who are part-time trying to catch up ... if they're going over or they've switched, that's tough," Lombardi-Nelson said.

"The purpose [of college] is to figure out what you want to do and what you want to accomplish, and then move on to achieve it. This is supposed to be a place of learning and development for us as young adults."

news@crowsneststpete.com

# Guide to a haunted weekend

the  
margin

BY ERIN MURPHY  
STAFF REPORTER

We've all been there: at the thrift store, staring at a pile of useless junk, wondering where it came from. Some items stand out as gems you'll never see again (like that life-sized cardboard cutout of Shaquille O'Neal), but most thrift store finds are actually fairly predictable. Here's a list of what you can expect to find each and every time you go adventuring for discount treasures.

**A Julio Iglesias record:** No matter which thrift store you frequent, this item is guaranteed to be hiding amongst the dusty pile of vinyl LPs. Nine times out of 10, it will be his *1100 Bel Air Place* album. Poor Julio. Bless his Latin soul.

**A ceramic cat container:** Is it a cookie jar? A deviation from the ever popular piggy bank? But more importantly, what is it about those creepy, glassy eyes that seem to follow you down the aisle? *Mr. Snuggles is watching.*

**A macrame blanket:** You can't go thrifting without finding a musty old stack of multicolored, well woven blankets that someone heartlessly abandoned. Make grandma proud and buy one or 10.

**An old classical guitar:** A sad little six-string can usually be found in the music section, most commonly with rusted strings and one tuning peg missing. If you can play, or even if you can't, give this lonely instrument a much needed strum. Bonus points if you can find a fiddle!

**A scary plaid shirt:** What on earth has happened to this lumberjack staple that has worn its fabric so? Chances are, you don't want to know. Thrift stores always carry an abundance of plaid button downs. If you can get past the sweat stains and missing buttons, maybe you could knit them into a flannel quilt?

**A 1995 Macintosh monitor:** Before Apple computers came in fun colors and sleek models, they were huge, clunky and horribly grey. If you can get this dinosaur up and running, you might be able to play a hearty game of Minesweeper!

**A 3-foot tall stack of National Geographic magazines:** It seems every trip to the thrift store requires encountering a stack of some nature lover's old volumes. If you're into tranquil photos of wildebeasts and waterfalls, they could make for a cool collage.

BY RYAN BALLOGG  
STAFF REPORTER

On this pre-Halloween weekend, there is a lot going on in St. Petersburg for those with a taste for getting spooked. Here is the *Crow's Nest* paper tour guide of things to do and places to sightsee.

## Haunted spots

**The Vinoy Hotel** - The Vinoy has been around since 1926 and is supposedly haunted by a whole host of ghosts, including invisible musicians and a woman in a white dress on the fifth floor. There is even one room that guests are not permitted to stay in because of reported activity.

**Jannus Live (formerly Jannus Landing)** - A deceased security guard supposedly still keeps watch over the venue. Get too overheated or tired during a show, and he'll walk you out into the fresh air. But turn your back on him for a moment and he's gone!

**The Williams House** - This other on-campus location is supposedly haunted by Sarah Williams, wife to original owner John C. Williams. Rumor has it she continues the dance recitals she had while she was alive, and moves things off of people's desks overnight.

**Nelson Poynter Library** - Rumor has it that the ghost of Nelson Poynter himself still likes to take an occasional ride between the floors of his namesake building. It also serves as a good excuse when the elevator is acting up. Tests here by SPIRITS of St. Petersburg, a paranormal research group, didn't find any conclusive evidence of a haunting.



Ryan Ballogg/The Crow's Nest

Elevator in the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library



The Williams House

Ryan Ballogg/The Crow's Nest

**The Skyway Bridge** - Numerous suicides and the Skyway tragedy of 1980 (34 people died) have made this bridge a supposed hotspot for paranormal activity. Stories range from a hitchhiking ghost girl to a phantom bus that re-enacts going over the side.

**Old Northeast** - No official reports on this one, but just take a walk through this neighborhood at night, and you'll get the heebie jeebies. We spotted five black cats, and some cool Halloween decorations.

**Haslam's Bookstore** - As if books aren't creepy enough, this store is supposedly haunted by the ghost of beatnik Jack Kerouac. His books mysteriously move from bottom shelves to eye-level ones overnight, and employees have also reported floating books.

**Detroit Hotel** - The Detroit is probably one of the most famous purportedly haunted places in St. Petersburg. The story goes that the former owner was in love with a sea captain, but when he betrayed her on his travels she boarded up his picture and left town. Now a woman in a red dress will sometimes appear and disappear before guests at the bar in the lobby.

## Attractions

**The Radley Haunted House**  
(see story on page 5)

**Ale and the Witch Third annual Pumpkinfest** - The Witch will offer more than 10 pumpkin

**Dark Arts: Creep St. Pete Local** - A fundraising event put on by Keep St. Pete Local that will feature



The Vinoy Hotel

Ryan Ballogg/The Crow's Nest

beers for your taste bud bliss. If you bring a carved pumpkin between 5 and 8 p.m., you will receive a \$10 gift card. All of the jack-o-lanterns will be illuminated at 8 and placed around the courtyard. There will be live music from 3 p.m. to midnight. (111 Second Ave. NE, Saturday, Oct. 26)

**Hellview Cemetery Haunted House** - This free attraction has been run by local horror enthusiast Mark Muncy since 1996. This year's theme is "Hell Hath No Fury," and it's filled with scary ladies. (510 49 Ave. N., Oct. 25-27 and 31 from 7 to 10 p.m.)

the work of over 60 artists and live performance art pieces. Costumes are encouraged and food trucks will be present. (Station Numberthree, 2701 5th Ave. S., Saturday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m., \$10 entry.)

**Blow your own glass pumpkin** - Any day now through Nov. 8 at the Morean Arts Center, you can pay \$75 to work with a master blower and create a pumpkin or paperweight. If you just want to watch some glass blowing, check out GLASStoberfest on Saturday at 7 p.m. Beverages will be provided by The Ale and the Witch. (719 Central Ave, glass blowing package available through Nov. 8)

# A chillingly elaborate local haunt

BY RYAN BALLOGG  
STAFF REPORTER

There's nothing to fear but fear itself ... and maybe, family curses.

St. Petersburg resident Cody Meacham is weaving an elaborate story about the fictional, cursed Radley family, which centers around a haunted house in his parents' front yard every October. The tale enters its sixth chapter this year, and it keeps getting weirder.

The story: A team of paranormal investigators discovers the ruins of a burned orphanage next to an old schoolhouse and attempts to piece together what happened there. In the basement of the schoolhouse, they find the remains of eight children and one middle-aged woman, who turns out to be Agnes Woodrow Radley, the matron of the orphanage. The team is haunted by a female spirit and at a loss as to why the orphanage burned, so now they are asking the public to walk through and help them figure it out.

Meacham picks a different Radley family member to be the focus of his house each year. Two years ago, the theme hinged on an inherited camera that reanimated corpses — Meacham called it the most movie-worthy of any of his storylines so far. Followers of the Radley Haunted House Facebook

page were updated with the storyline for this year in early August. Since then, frequent posts have kept the anticipation building.

Meacham, 25, is a set designer at the Home Shopping Network and creates all of the scenery and props for the houses himself. This involves months of searching for materials, and months of labor. Local artist Frank Strunk, who works with metal, loved the project so much he created a gramophone for this year's house and a wrought iron gate last year. Besides that, everything is handmade by Meacham.

Walking into the attraction is like walking into another world. That's because when it comes to horror, Meacham is a big fan of letting environment tell the story. His inspirations include Guillermo del Toro's "Pan's Labyrinth," the classic Universal horror film and the Haunted Mansion ride at Walt Disney World.

"I like realism with a touch of fantasy," Meacham said.

This year's house features walls lined with eerie photographs and images, and lots of dilapidated furniture (including creepy miniature children's beds). The charred orphanage walls look authentic, and antique dolls and decorations complete the trip to another era.

The fire, the story goes, broke out on Halloween night of 1933.

About a dozen of Meacham's friends portray the characters in the story with elaborate costumes that are more haunting than horrifying.

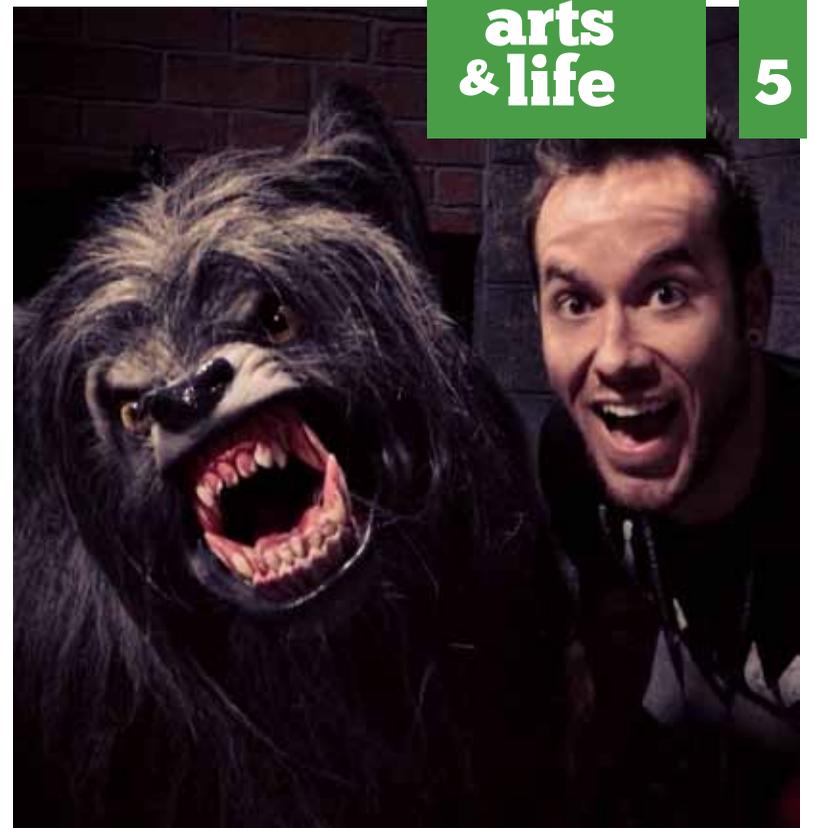
Meacham also mixes his own audio track each year to fit the mood of the story. He says his favorite part of the process is doing the distress painting on scenic pieces, making them look aged and ruined.

"You have to be fully dedicated to something like this," Meacham said.

Outside of the house, a documentary about the paranormal investigations at the orphanage is projected for those waiting to enter. Meacham's neighbors volunteer to help run the entrance and manage the large and excited crowds that show up on a nightly basis.

Meacham said he created his first house in 2007 because his neighborhood never got many trick-or-treaters. The project has gotten bigger and more elaborate every time since then, and now thousands visit the street each year. Meacham's concept has even received praise from Mike Aiello, one of the head directors at Universal's Halloween Horror Nights.

The money Meacham raises from donations at the entrance goes



Courtesy of Cody Meacham

Cody Meacham is a huge fan of Halloween Horror Nights at Universal Studios. Here, he is pictured with one of the animatronic werewolves from the "American Werewolf in London" exhibit, based off the 1981 horror film.

back into the next year's house, but he said he still usually goes into debt building them. In the future, he said he hopes to obtain a bigger space where he can put on a professional and free-standing attraction. Ultimately, he hopes to work on a design team at a theme park like Universal Studios.

The Radley Haunted House is located at 3900 19 St. N. and is open 8 p.m. to midnight, every Thursday through Sunday through Halloween. The recommended donation is \$4.

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## Review

# Ghost Tours of Historic Haunted St. Petersburg

BY RYAN BALLOGG  
STAFF REPORTER

If you have an evening to spare and some comfortable walking shoes, the St. Petersburg ghost tour is well worth your time.

I showed up at the Hooker Tea Company where the tour meets an hour early to order a pot of tea with some friends. We were worried we wouldn't be able to spot the tour guides — but fortunately, one of them was wearing a cape.

The group of people who showed up for the tour (about 30 doomed souls, mostly families) was divided between the two tour guides, and we set off in different directions.

Our guide, Tracy Ferguson, was lively from the start, and kept the narration quick and interesting.

The first stop was a sidewalk vantage of the Vinoy Hotel. The story about the possible murder of the wife of Gene Elliot, former manager of the Vinoy, was easily the most gruesome story we heard. Elliot and his wife were in the midst of a nasty divorce proceeding when she showed up dead at the bottom of their back porch stairs one morning. The maid who witnessed her "fall" conveniently moved to Europe days after. (Likely story.) Now, Ferguson said many believe that Elliot's wife is the lady in white who haunts the fifth floor of the hotel.

As the tour continued we took less traveled roads and heard about lesser known stories, from women being attacked by invisible hands at the Indigo Hotel to a good-hearted ghost at the Blocker House that may have prevented a tour guide from getting hit by a truck in a crosswalk. (The ghost's voice, picked up on detection equipment belonging to paranormal investigators who took the tour previously, allegedly said, "Beware, mattress." Guess what was on the back of the truck?)

There were no sightings or voices on our tour, but a few people captured orbs in their digital camera photos. I didn't get anything unusual on my Nikon, but I haven't blown them up for closer inspection yet. Maybe I'm afraid to.

all doing on the corner. So if you like being in on secrets, you will enjoy one of these tours.

Overall, the tour is well-suited for those who enjoy the paranormal and for those who just enjoy a good bit of history.

My favorite stop was the Ponce de Leon Hotel and Ceviche Restaurant. We learned that the space was once a morgue for grizzled soldiers during World War II. Be careful what you eat off of.

Learn more at [ghosttour.net/stpetersburg](http://ghosttour.net/stpetersburg), tickets cost \$13-15

life@crowsneststpete.com

# Italian Bakery Cafe

Hiring immediately. Training for serious applicants interested in the fine art of European hospitality and cuisine. Opening on Baywalk Saint Petersburg. Close to USF. This premier European ristorante business is now expanding to the United States and will have many opportunities for promotion available to reliable people interested in building a future with this fast growing company.

**Currently filling multiple positions for waitstaff, barstaff, managerial, and kitchen. If you are interested email IBCUSA@outlook.com for an application. Within 48 hours of receiving your application you will be contacted.**

# Saying goodbye

## the crow's nest

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

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Mission Statement: *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 issues. We take seriously the public's trust in our news reporting and strive to uphold the highest standards of reporting as defined by the Society of Professional Journalists.

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Bob Dardenne was the first person I met when interviewing for the department director's job in 2005. He was to take me to dinner the night I got in. Bob pulled up in an old Honda (Civic, I believe), windows rolled down, despite the scorching Florida heat. The car was dinged, scratched, discolored and, he explained, the air conditioning hadn't worked for years. I'll always remember his first words, spoken with no apology or bitterness. "This is what nearly 20 years here gets you," he smiled.

We headed to dinner at an upscale restaurant, and that's where I got to know the true measure of the man. When the server asked if we wanted a drink, Bob quickly answered, "at least one." The interrogation began. "You drink, don't you?" Not the first question I expected. I assured him I did. "Thank Christ," he drawled. Referring to one of my competitors for the job, he added that "the guy last night didn't and it nearly killed me. I had to drink three or four good bottles of wine all by myself." Then there was this reassurance: "I like you already."

That was Bob Dardenne, the man I would come to affectionately call "Bayou Bob," the man who over many more good bottles of wine and finely stirred Manhattans, became my closest friend and colleague. I would joke with and about Bob (it was reciprocal, as most of our students know), but also we would argue, sometimes so vehemently that it made others around us uncomfortable. In the aftermath, neither of us could remember the dispute, who "won" or "lost" (seldom was there a clear victor) or understand why others still focused on the spectacle. We just loved testing each other, our idea, and beliefs. More often than not, we were already on common ground. Even when we weren't, we somehow found it. Credit for that goes to one of the most genuine, kind, and intellectually honest men I have ever known. There was only one occasion on which I found him to be completely wrong.

As the last few days have proven, Bob, 20 years teaching and inspiring students gets you a whole lot more than you told me back then. That old car carried you hundreds of thousands of miles, but the love of your students took you the rest of the way. -- **Tony Silvia, Department of Journalism and Media Studies**

After my first day of graduate school I went home and told my boyfriend that I had "The Dude" from "The Big Lebowski" as a professor.

Time would prove Bob Dardenne infinitely cooler, wiser and important to me.

As much as he taught me about journalism, he taught me more about life and what I wanted to be like when I grew up.

Dardenne could talk to anyone about anything and make them feel comfortable. I don't know if this was natural talent, or perfected over years of being a reporter, but I suspect it was a mix of the two.

Long before I asked Dardenne to chair my thesis, he discovered I liked my bourbon neat, and we'd start drinking Manhattans around St. Pete.

He knew someone everywhere I went with him, whom he was genuinely pleased to see.

We'd drink, swap stories and usually forget to talk about anything academic.

I'm a newspaper reporter now, too, and I was in the newsroom on Friday when the bad news came. I went out back and cried, because I had been meaning to make plans to catch up with him, just about everyday for the past two weeks. I cried because if I would have emailed or called him, I would have been able to talk to him one

last time.

I have so many things I still need to ask him about.

**My three favorite Dardenne memories:**

- *Any time I walked by his office.* His door would always be open, and he'd be working with his feet up. He'd say he had things to do but would always tell me to sit down, and would spend as much time with me as I needed. Talk always veered off topic toward the end.

- *Media theory, fall 2011, sometime in October.* Dardenne brought in a Halloween costume ad and talked for at least an hour on the implications of "cutie pirate" and other degrading costumes for little girls.

- After he sliced my thesis to shreds a few days before it was due, then vociferously defended any criticism my other committee members had during the defense. -- **Wendy Joan Biddlecombe, JMS graduate class of 2012, Reporter at Hernando Today/Tampa Tribune**

Farewell Dr. Dardenne.

Something about that statement is too stiff. It is not a simple goodbye rather farewell carries a heavier weight of finality with a strange twist of formality to it. All of us have a Dr. Dardenne story.

In May 2010, Dr. Dardenne changed my life forever. I remember his office very distinctly; it was full of books and stacks upon stacks of papers. He was in the middle of grading a final paper when I poked my head in to ask a few questions about the program.

He gestured me into his office, leaned back in his chair and asked why in the world did I want to be a USFSP journalist student. His laughter echoed off of his office walls when I told him I went to school in Mississippi. His witty, dry humor caught me off guard. It would become something I loved about him. It was that day in that conversation with Dr. Dardenne that sealed my commitment to USFSP.

I graduated in the spring of 2012. I moved to Mississippi for graduate school. Within six months, I took on a full-time position in social media at that university. I attribute getting the job to the skills I gained from the USFSP journalism program. I am forever thankful.

Dr. Dardenne embodied and defined the journalism program at USFSP. He was a tough professor and brutally honest in grading papers. He was one of the best and will be sorely missed.

Goodbye Dr. Dardenne.

-- **Summerly Brown, JMS undergraduate class of 2012**

Bob Dardenne taught us to be concise, yet thorough. With that lesson in mind, the best thing I can say is this: He is missed. -- **Nathanael Kurant MA, Journalism and Media Studies**

It's rare to have an instructor with as much experience and investment in his students as Dr. Bob Dardenne.

He sat with an open office door and beckoned a curious student journalist to discuss her future. It was coincidental that I met Bob so soon in my career and it was his talent that made me spill my dreams to a stranger. He took an interest in my experiences and motivated me to continue to work hard with the writing opportunities I had piled on my plate. I wanted to know as much about journalism as Dardenne did.

Within an hour, I was on my way to taking courses beyond my anticipated starting year.

Within a year, I knew more about foreign correspondence, reaching out to sources,

befriending entertainers and exploring journalism beyond textbooks and initial encounters. Every class he would throw around the names of various influential writers that he wanted us to know. I read every single one.

Dardenne's influence isn't over at the Journalism and Media Studies program. He was a leader in experiential education, from the conception of Neighborhood News Bureau to his guidance for covering entertainment news in his summer course. Dardenne predicted the advent of social media and its influence on this generation, particularly for journalism.

Many will know Dardenne as a brilliant writer, innovative department head and amusing professor. I'll never forget the Dardenne who patted me on the shoulder and said, "Keep up the good work, Starling." -- **Amanda Starling, JMS undergraduate student**

Yesterday morning, it was just another photograph sitting in a blue bin that anchors cobwebs in my dusty basement here in Boston. Yesterday evening, after the call came, this picture – overexposed, off-centered, and slightly out of focus – became one of my most cherished possessions. I stop occasionally in the writing of this post to touch it, as if somehow Bob can feel my gratitude, wipe my tears (as he's often done), and hear my prayers for him, for Barb, for Bobby (now Rob).

Are you there, Bob? Can you feel how much we all loved you? I can't do this unless I'm talking directly to you. I'm really mad that you're not here, and I'm trying hard to find peace in the fact that you were sleeping. But it's not happening, and this is just all wrong. I know I'm not alone in the devastation I feel. The world just became one shade dimmer, far less sweet, and even harder to understand – because I can't share it with you. You were a friend and a hero and a compass to so many, and you will always be those things and more to me.

I heard the gut-punching news yesterday from good ol' Chris – a friend who knew how many beers we shared at the Tavern as you tried to help me grapple with everything from Media Theory to relationships to career, who knew I used to babysit Rob, who knew that this news would make it harder for me to breathe.

The photo was taken on the night of my graduation party at my sister's place on Coquina Key in 1998. Your sunglasses hang from your neck by a hot pink (magenta?) strap (what were you thinking when you bought that?!), and you are spinning me around in order to point me in the right direction, so I could hit the piñata hanging from the fruit tree. It's a perfect photograph because it says it all. Since that evening, Bob, you have continued to point me in the right direction on so many fronts that had nothing to do with journalism, and I will forever cherish you – my professor, my mentor, my friend. -- **Kristen Kusek, former student in JMS graduate program**

As his former master's advisee in the first cohort of graduate students at Bayboro, I have stayed in touch with Bob, most recently seeking his counsel in March over whether to take a job in Georgia this year. (Typically against his advice, I did, and he never knew it.) In the 21 years I knew Bob, he never changed except to grow wiser and more in love with Barbara and Rob. Bob and I tussled intellectually for two decades but mostly agreed philosophically about journalism and news. His inaugural theory course in 1992, full of Marxist readings that influenced his thinking, informs my scholarship today. Bob's reach was

unfathomable. It has been a joy amid the sadness this weekend to read comments from his students, current and former, who claim him as their own, as they should since he made every one of us feel valued and as if our ideas mattered. Bob belonged to all of us, and now to the ages. -- **Rick Kenney, Ph.D. (USF St. Petersburg, MA, 1994)**

I didn't know you very long, and I only had one class taught by you. But you still had such an impact on me. I really just want to say thank you. Thank you for taking your entertainment reporting class to a Rays game, an outdoor play and a concert downtown. Thank you for letting a few of us grab some drinks before enduring that concert full of teenagers. Thank you for telling me your wine was just adult grape juice. Thank you for telling Meaghan and I about the delicious diner in Seminole Heights. Thank you for sending your email responses in all capital letters, making me think you were yelling at me.

Thank you for calling us all by our last names. I loved hearing "Good job, Tatham." Thank you for all the inspiring things you did with the journalism department. Thank you for everything you taught your students and me. -- **Chelsea Tatham, JMS undergraduate student**

I'm grateful Dr. Dardenne and I got to exchange our usual squinty-eyed, hero versus villain-type looks to each other one last time before a lecture he gave in September. During the talk, he was as thoughtful as ever, articulating the shifting definitions of privacy, of citizen journalism, and more importantly, describing how Facebook is like an octopus. The ease with which he spoke mirrored how a discussion in his classroom might unfold. I smiled.

Meeting Dardenne, and continuing to learn from him and about him, will be among the many memories I carry with me after graduation. I can still hear his voice, his suggestions about music, beverages and greasy spoon hole-in-the-walls.

Dardenne taught my first reporting course at USF St. Petersburg.

I couldn't have asked for a better way to learn in love with journalism. -- **Meaghan Habuda, JMS undergraduate student**

I owe a good portion of where I am today to Dr. Dardenne. He was the first to respond to my inquiry about applying to USF St. Petersburg, and he repeatedly helped me through the application process (something I'm guessing he might have regretted when I convinced him to do an independent study with me on Marshall McLuhan.) After graduation, I took his advice and went to work in community newspapers. Now I'm about to finish up my own Ph.D. in journalism, and I can only hope to inspire in my students the passion for reporting that Dr. Dardenne helped spark in me. We'll miss you, Dr. D. -- **Heath Hooper, USFSP JMS Graduate**

The last time we spoke, you reminded me that the staff page on the *Crow's Nest* website was not updated, and Ren was still listed as editor-in-chief. Boy, do I wish that were true after the editorial decisions I had to make today. Nothing we run in this paper will suffice as a worthy tribute. But know that if it were not for your instruction and inspiration, majority of the current *Crow's Nest* staff would have never made it to this newsroom. I know I wouldn't have. I'll fix the website tomorrow. -- **Killette**

I remember first meeting Bob and Mike,

and really getting to know them and their love and advocacy for community news during the seemingly eternal summertime enjoyed by those of us wise enough to hang around the Tavern on Friday afternoons back during the early 1990s.

Together they made quite the pair. A charismatic, dynamic, hilarious pair. It was some good times had by all, indeed.

I remember then Bobby, now Rob, running up and down Bayboro in a white onesie with the seat unsnapped. Giggling and drooling, emerging from his father's tiny yet, even then, perpetually on the brink of overflowing office.

I remember Friday nights at the Tavern. Cigars and nips from brown sack wrapped libations. And the conversations. The laughter. The unabashed scholarship of friends.

Mike and Bob. At the Tav. I learned more about journalism from those two on those Fridays. It was a beautiful thing. Poynter spilled into our independent bookstore; so did the staff at the *Times*. Guitars and tropical breezes. And discussions.

I find myself digging through boxes hoping to find messages. There are several. I rejoice and my heart breaks. It is devastating, and I am so thankful for it. I realize that for the last 20 plus years, my life has been filled with the wit and wisdom of my friend. Sometimes it's about journalism. Mostly it's about character. Always, there is storytelling. Bob taught me many things. Among them, the value of time, of giving it and sharing it, of being willing and open and kind.

He taught you whatever you needed to know and did so in such a way that you ended up thinking it was your idea to begin with. His door was always open. He judged no one. He challenged us all.

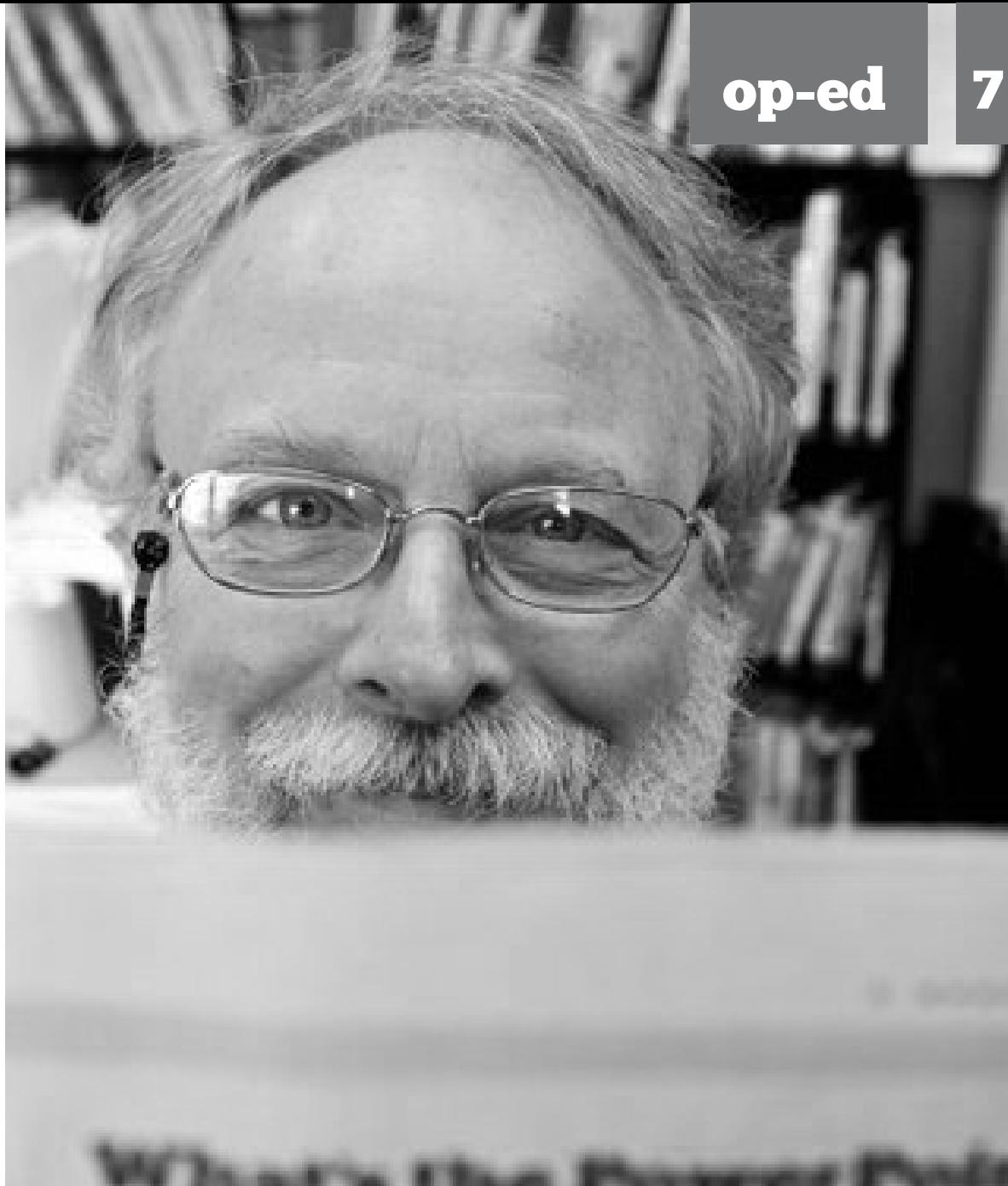
He changed, in some profound and positive way, every life he touched. He was both a teacher and a journalist in the consummate sense. Just a great human.

My heart is with Barb and Rob. As are so very many.

Rob, kid, your dad loved you and was so very very proud of you; and Barb, I always admire his sweet affection for you, and his awe of your talents. Makes me smile to know I saw, sometimes daily, how much he loved you both.

I am who I am today, as a writer and photographer and person, largely due to Bob Dardenne's influence. I know I am far from alone in this regard.

I laugh and I cry and I drink wine and remember my friend. My irreplaceable, remarkable, amazing friend. And I am so thankful for every moment I had in his presence and energy; and terribly sad for knowing he is gone. -- **Therese Hounsell**



I met Dardenne for the first time at the Tavern. He had a glass of wine in his hand, and he was laughing.

This is the image that will always come to mind when I picture him.

That day he complimented me on my beard (I always admired his) and asked how the older kids on the newspaper staff were treating me. He said something to the effect that I had fallen in with good company.

During the half of a semester that I was fortunate enough to be in one of his classes, I learned from one of the best about good writing and good thinking. I always secretly thought of him as the Dumbledore of the journalism department. He certainly imparted enough wisdom in the short time that I knew him to justify such a comparison.

In the first Harry Potter book, which Dardenne told our class he never finished, Dumbledore says: "After all, to the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure."

Dardenne, I hope it finds you well. -- **Ryan Ballogg**

Two weeks ago, I first saw Bob teach. We had attended countless meetings together. I had watched him give talks and host events. But, on this occasion, he was visiting senior seminar to cover the history of journalism. And I had my first chance to see him in the classroom.

I found myself caught up in the moment, taking notes alongside my students, marveling at how issues we think are unique to our time also challenged our predecessors.

Bob's enthusiasm was palpable, and it was clear he did what all great teachers do: He got

students excited about learning.

When I came to USFSP two years ago as a new faculty member learning the ropes, I often sought Bob's counsel.

He was a constant source of insight and support. Bob understood the profession and the institution. But he also understood the people. He knew whom to talk to and how to make things happen.

As a founding member of the department and a scholar focused on theory and history, it might be tempting to conclude Bob was strictly analog when it came to technology.

Not true. He had a deep appreciation for how digital tools are shaping journalism and, ever the optimist, saw all the good that could come from using technology to create and consume the news.

But he also recognized the value of skills that extend across platforms. And he saw the potential of journalism -- whatever the medium -- to be an instrument of social justice.

Bob cared so deeply about his work, his profession, and, especially, his students. He didn't just show up. He worked to make things better.

Above all, he treated everyone with respect and dignity, always looking for ways to lift them up.

I learned so much from Bob. It was a privilege to be his colleague. And a blessing to see him teach, if only just once.

I'll miss him terribly, and my heartfelt condolences go out to his family. We have lost a great man. -- **Casey Frechette**

**8 sports**

**This week in USF football**



**Date:** Oct. 25  
**Time:** noon  
**Location:** Raymond James Stadium  
**Radio:** 98.7 The Fan

**This week in history**

**Oct. 20, 1950:** the Los Angeles Rams scored a then NFL record 70 points in their 70-27 win over the Baltimore Colts. The record stood for 16 years when the Washington scored 72 points in a win over the N.Y. Giants on Nov. 27, 1966.

**Help wanted**

The Crow's Nest sports section is looking for a talented sports columnist. Interested? Email sports editor Mike Hopey at [hopey@mail.usf.edu](mailto:hopey@mail.usf.edu)

**USF Sailing Results**

**Navy Fall**

Hosted by Navy

Regatta featured four divisions

	TOTAL
1. Georgetown	545
2. College of Charleston	554
3. St. Mary's College (Md.)	604
4. Harvard	605
5. Stanford	609
6. Brown	611
7. Tufts	633
8. Navy	741
9. Fordham	768
10. Old Dominion	786
11. Vermont	842
12. MIT	893
13. Hobart	900
<b>14. USF</b>	<b>903</b>
15. Cornell	919
16. Eckerd	987
17. Wisconsin	1021
18. Michigan	1235
19. Virginia	1306
20. Washington College	1317

**SAISA South Points-6**

Hosted by Eckerd

Regatta featured two divisions

	TOTAL
1. Eckerd 1	40
2. Jacksonville 1	43
3. Eckerd 2*	65
<b>4. USF 1*</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>5. USF 2</b>	<b>70</b>
6. Jacksonville 2	83
7. Rollins	96
<b>8. USF 3</b>	<b>113</b>
9. Miami	116
10. Embry-Riddle	123
11. Florida Gulf Coast	145
12. Eckerd 3	158
13. New College*	159
14. Florida	186

\* - Tiebreaker was number of high-place finishes

**Upcoming schedule**

- Oct 26-27** SAISA Match Race at Charleston
- Oct 26-27** Hoyt at Brown
- Oct 26-27** Stu Nelson Womens at Conn. College
- Nov 2-3** SAISA Fall Championships at Charleston
- Nov 2-3** Freshmen Championships at Tufts
- Nov 9-10** SAISA/MAISA at Charleston
- Nov 8-10** ICSA Singlehanded Nationals at Brown

**American Conference Standings**

	CONF.			OVERALL			
	W-L	PF	PA	W-L	PF	PA	STRK
Houston	2-0	22	13	5-1	245	142	L1
UCF	2-0	62	52	5-1	197	118	W2
<b>USF</b>	<b>2-0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2-4</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>W2</b>
Louisville	2-1	89	55	6-1	281	82	L1
Cincinnati	2-1	99	62	5-2	238	123	W2
Rutgers	1-1	65	76	4-2	210	162	L1
SMU	1-1	86	84	2-4	170	245	W1
UConn	0-2	26	54	0-6	98	184	L6
Memphis	0-3	61	83	1-5	121	135	L3
Temple	0-3	40	90	1-6	132	188	W1

**St. Pete Shuffleboard Club hosts world tournament**

By TYLER KILLETTE  
 STAFF REPORTER

One hundred and fifty of the world's greatest shuffleboard players will take to the courts of the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club this week.

The last time St. Petersburg hosted the International Shuffleboard Association Championship was in 1983, when the United States, Canada and Japan were the only competing countries. This year, representatives from 15 countries will play.

Established in 1924, the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club, at 59 Mirror Lake Drive N., is the oldest, longest-running and largest shuffleboard court in the world, with 46 courts

In honor of the tournament, the city of St. Petersburg has declared Oct. 21 to 25 International Shuffleboard Week.

The tournament is free for spectators throughout the week and will be followed by a free after party on

Friday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m, featuring live music from two local bands and art by a slew of a local talent.

To prepare for the event, the club repainted its courts and the city chipped in to do some maintenance. Christine Page, the club's president, said the courts are in better shape than they have been in years. She hopes hosting the championship will bring more local and district tournaments to the club.

According to Page, all the modern rules of the game were established at the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club in the 1920s. The club met its heyday in the 1940s and '50s, when peak membership reached about 8,000 members. Numbers aren't nearly as high today, but participation is substantial.

Every Friday night, weather permitting, the club invites the public to shuffle, socialize and enjoy live music at St. Pete Shuffle, a free, all ages event.

"It's really the most well-rounded

thing, in terms of age and community involvement, to do on a Friday," she said.

"We have been working very hard to make it a game for all ages," Page said, explaining how the club attracts everyone from seniors and families with children to young professionals and college students.

Use of the courts and entry to events, with the exception of Friday nights and this week's tournament, require a membership, which can be purchased at [stpeteshuffle.com](http://stpeteshuffle.com) for \$20 a year. The rate will go up to \$30 after the first of the year.

Anyone purchasing a one-year membership will receive a free sticker, and anyone purchasing a two-year membership will get a T-shirt.

A schedule of tournament events can be found on [stpeteshuffle.com](http://stpeteshuffle.com).

[sports@crowsneststpete.com](mailto:sports@crowsneststpete.com)

**Media Scrum**

By MIKE HOPEY  
 STAFF COLUMNIST

When Colorado Avalanche forward Cody McLeod checked Detroit Red Wings defenseman Niklas Kronwall from behind at full speed, the Avalanche play-by-play announcer Mike Haynes screamed across the airwaves.

"He's crushed. Oh, what a hit by McLeod."

While Kronwall lay motionless on the ice, Haynes continued.

"Well, I'll tell you what. You talk about getting a little taste of your own medicine."

As Detroit's medical staff tended to Kronwall, preparing to take him off the ice on a stretcher with his neck stabilized, Haynes went on.

"Kronwall has made a living in this league with big hits like that and he just got crunched there."

Haynes gloated as an opposing player lay on the ice not because he is a terrible person, or had some problem with Kronwall. Haynes emphatically declared that Kronwall "got a little taste of his own medicine" because Haynes is a "homer."

Homers are sports fans who think their team can never do wrong. They think, above all else, their team is the most important thing in the universe. There is no reasoning with a homer. It's always

the other guys' fault.

Fans can be homers. A broadcaster should not.

It's not that broadcasters shouldn't support the team they cover. The team employs them and a favorable tilt towards the home team is useful for bringing viewers into the nightly broadcasts.

But the slippery slope of "homerism" ends where Haynes was the other night, when Cody McLeod checked Niklas Kronwall. What Haynes showed was not stupidity, but an unwavering belief that anything Colorado Avalanche is good.

It's embarrassing for a team when a broadcaster behaves like this. Teams hope their broadcasters have the good sense to recognize the gravity of a situation like the one in Colorado. Teams expect their broadcasters not to taunt a player as he lay motionless on the ice, his career hanging in the balance.

Local broadcasts are not that local anymore. Every professional league has an app that allows fans to jump around from game to game, tuning into to the local broadcast. The leagues will pick up the local feed of a game for a live look-in.

Will people use the NHL's Gamecenter Live app to tune into an Avalanche game now that they know the broadcaster is going to be

Media Scrum is The Crow's Nest monthly column on sports media.

an obnoxious honk? Given a choice between the Avalanche feed of the game or the other team's, I will probably pick the latter.

Here in the Tampa Bay area, the Tampa Bay Lightning employ a homer in their TV analyst, Bobby "Chief" Taylor. Listening to Taylor sounds like the Lightning have never been guilty of a penalty. The Lightning organization likes this quality in Taylor. They think their fans need a cheerleader in the broadcast booth.

The premium should be on a broadcaster's ability to give insight into the game. Fans can't learn anything from long-winded diatribes about unfair officiating.

What really happens when broadcasters are told not to hold back on their biases is that the game becomes unlistenable.

Broadcasters have a tremendous opportunity to benefit a team's fan base. A smarter fan is a better fan. Teams need to stop putting the onus on a broadcaster being a fan and more to be a professional.

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**Roundup**

**UCF wins with last minute TD**

By MIKE HOPEY  
 STAFF REPORTER

Central Florida's Blake Bortles connected on a game-winning touchdown pass with 23 seconds left to give the Golden Knights the upset win over then eighth-ranked Louisville on Friday night.

UCF scored 24 straight points to take a fourth quarter lead. But the Knights gave the lead back with three minutes remaining. Running back Dominique Brown scored his second touchdown for the Cardinals to give them the temporary lead.

Louisville's Teddy Bridgewater outdueled Bortles in the loss. Bridgewater passed for 341 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Bortles threw for 250 yards with two touchdowns and an interception.

The Cardinals' top rusher Senorise Perry was held to only 18 yards rushing on eight carries. Brown picked up the slack rushing for 88 yards in the loss.

The loss was the Cardinals' first of the season. Louisville will visit Tampa next week to play the Bulls at Raymond James Stadium. The game will start at noon.

SMU survived to a 19-point surge by Memphis to hang on for a 34-29 victory.

Quarterback Garrett Gilbert and running back Traylon Shead lead the way for the Mustangs with two touchdowns each.

Cincinnati blew out UConn for their second straight win since their upset loss to USF.

The Bearcats' Brendon Kay threw four touchdowns and zero interceptions on the way to the rout. For UConn, freshman quarterback Tim Boyle was held without a touchdown and was intercepted three times.

The Huskies remain winless on the season as they fall to 0-6.

Two American Athletic Conference teams had non-conference games over the weekend.

Temple finally got into the win column with a 33-14 win over Army in Philadelphia on Saturday.

Houston lost a shootout to BYU at home. The Cougars held a 40-34 lead heading into the fourth quarter, but BYU scored 13 points in the final frame to take the 47-46 win.