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Congrats to the **Class of 2013!**



the
**crow's
nest**



Justin Duplain | *The Crow's Nest*

A noisemaker's trajectory

BY RYAN BALLOGG
STAFF REPORTER

The hot and dusty streets of the warehouse district in St. Petersburg fill with an unnatural sound around 3:30 p.m. on a Friday in April.

The noise echoes from one of the miscellaneous industrial buildings along Sixth Avenue South. It's a music recording space on the edge of society, called The Fuzz Factory.

Patrick McBratney is crouched on the floor of the open garage, a twisted snake of pedals spread out

before him on the concrete. He spins a knob — a screech comes through the amplification cabinet next to him. He turns to a different pedal and maneuvers the screech into the sound of a sputtering car engine.

Sweat starting to pour from his face, he places a microphone inside of a metal box — and then drops it. A loop pedal records the resounding clang. He drops the box again and again, and the din grows louder as each clang is added to the mixture, until an offbeat rhythm

develops. He smirks.

"It's highly emotional trajectories of me," McBratney, a USF St. Petersburg junior, said of his music. "You know, getting feelings and s*** out."

It's what some might call a lot of racket. But for those with an adventurous taste in music, there is a symphony in the cacophony.

See NOISE, pg. 4

When the ladle spills, a student invents a new one

BY LAZAR ANDERSON
CROW'S NEST CORRESPONDENT

A USF St. Petersburg student with a stained shirt and a desire to solve problems is reinventing the ladle.

Evan Koteles dreaded soup. While waiting tables in Tampa, each order of soup meant another frustrating attempt at pouring it.

"The angle of the ladle made no sense," he said. "Spills became inevitable."

The eureka moment came all at once, and the Spunnel was conceived.

The Spunnel is essentially a ladle with a sliding trapdoor that drops when the user pulls a trigger on the handle. Rather than pouring liquids, it funnels them into the bowl.

"I enjoy soup," Koteles said. "I have nothing against soup itself, but the way it's transferred, that will get better."

See SPUNNEL, pg. 3

The freshman and the sea

News Briefs

Franklin Alves was voted the new senate president last Wednesday at the Student Government general assembly. Bill Milazzo and Thomas Hamby were also nominated for the position. Alves won by one vote and was also the only nominee to vote for himself. Both Milazzo and Hamby abstained from voting to avoid a conflict of interest.

After receiving his nomination Alves said, "I want us to have more accountability; I want us all to be knowledgeable and dependable. I want us all to know the services we provide, I want us to know who our leadership is ... I want more training and better training. And also to bring back what our core foundation is — we're an organization. Although we're business, it never hurts to have fun. Having fun can be beneficial to us as an organization and how to learn."

Steven Bird was elected the new senate president pro-tempore. He beat Joey Vars in an 11-2 vote.

For chronic procrastinators and those prone to all-nighters (so, every college student ever), the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library has extended its hours for exam week. Monday through Wednesday the library will be open from 8 a.m. to midnight.

USF St. Petersburg 2013 spring graduates will walk the stage at the Mahaffey Theater at 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 5. The Crow's Nest wishes the best of luck to the entire graduating class, but mostly to those on our staff, Ren LaForme, Justin Duplain, Frank Kurtz and Francesca Genovese.

"As we go on, we remember all the times we had together. And as our lives change, from whatever we will still be friends forever" – Vitamin C

BY ERIN MURPHY
CROW'S NEST CORRESPONDENT

Many college students can say they have been on a cruise, but few undergrads have embarked on an out-to-sea journey to conduct scientific research about the ocean. Freshman Tess Rivenbark, an environmental science and policy major, did just that.

Rivenbark spent five days on the research vessel Bellows, which took a crew of scientists from the USF College of Marine Science and the University of Miami to the middle of the Gulf of Mexico.

"The cruise was mainly to collect samples for the study on how the oil spill has affected the gulf, but that was not the only thing that was done," she said. According to the cruise plan, the voyage also aimed to compare oil spill damage between "non-impacted West Florida shelf and impacted North Florida shelf sites."

Rivenbark was the only USFSP student aboard and actively participated in the research.

"I wanted to go on this trip because it was an opportunity to participate in a scientific study, [which is] what I hope to be doing in my career someday," Rivenbark said.

Work included towing "bongos," or plankton nets, to collect samples for biomass analysis and species identification, as well as filtering water samples. The tests measured nutrients in the water and the health of the phytoplankton.



Courtesy of Tess Rivenbark

For some, tasks like these would be daunting, but Rivenbark's interest and experience from high school prepared her.

"I went to a [high] school where we got to go out in the field and do hands on stuff a lot," she said. "It was focused on environmental and marine science. I had a lot of fun and decided that I wanted to become a marine biologist."

Though she had some prior knowledge before the cruise, it was not enough to prepare Rivenbark

for the true chaos of life as a scientist.

"I definitely learned a lot about being a scientist at sea," she said. "For one thing, your sleeping schedule revolves around the stations. We took naps whenever we could between working, [but] only slept for about two hours at a time most of the time."

However, odd hours did have advantages.

"One of the coolest things was [seeing animals] when we were

working stations at night. There were dolphins, flying fish and little red squids."

Rivenbark said the workload of a marine scientist at sea was an unpredictable, positive experience. "I never expected that I would get to do something like this in my freshman year of college, so it was an awesome opportunity."

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C1 and USFSP take it to the bank

BY AMANDA STARLING
STAFF REPORTER

A collaborative effort between C1 Bank and USF St. Petersburg has led to a new system to educate and train local bank employees.

From November 2012 to April 2013, a team of USFSP program developers created software intended to educate C1 Bank management trainee associates on accounting, ethics, finance and other critical banking principles.

Former USF Vice President for Economic Development Rick Baker pushed for a partnership between the two community entities and connected Alison Watkins, associate dean of the College of Business with C1 Bank president Katie Pemble.

"When a bank is new, it's important to put together a training program," Watkins said. "Banks aren't

investing in the trainees anymore."

With the contribution of \$80,000 from the Florida High Tech Corridor Council, C1 Bank and USFSP established a training program catered to the needs of the bank.

The program is split into virtual and in-person classroom settings. Students participate in classroom sessions four days a week in four-hour sessions. Monday sessions allow students to explore management strategy models for the legal department, human resources, conflict resolution and ethics. Presentation skills will be taught at American Stage.

Business professor Gary Patterson developed the course curriculum. Patterson's experience with extensive training programs came while working in the corporate world with banking, financial services and real estate companies.

"I pulled from my corporate background, my industry background and my academic background [for curriculum] that is tailored to meet the needs of C1 Bank," Patterson said. "Information needs to be accurate and ethics needs to be behind the numbers."

Part-time student Daniel Forrester assembled the iBook software, allowing students to open different lectures throughout the 15-week course. Chapters open with a video lecture by Patterson. All of the material for the curriculum is provided within an iPad. Each course chapter provides examples in an intense, case-based environment.

"There is a practical application of finance that they can go over and see payroll versus production," Forrester said. "The whole class is based in three parts on these iBooks. It's a whole set of everything

compiled together with the case studies they need, PowerPoint, narrations, movies, intros."

Nine students are currently enrolled in the course. Part of a three-year agreement, C1 Bank intends to its increase hiring of managerial trainees and class sizes.

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Coffee shop redefines internship

news 3

BY JENNIFER NESSLAR
CROW'S NEST CORRESPONDENT

Most students in USF St. Petersburg's College of Education complete their internship hours in a classroom. But a partnership with Artistas Cafe, a coffee shop that employs adults with autism, let five students fulfill their internships in an alternative setting.

"You would think it is a normal coffee shop," said Michael Glisson, who is considered the "Bean Dean" at Artistas Cafe. "You might even walk away thinking that."

But Artistas Cafe, located inside Tampa's Mercedes-Benz dealership, is far from ordinary. Everyone working on the front line of the cafe has been diagnosed with autism.

Artistas Cafe opened in 2011. According to Harold Heller, the dean of USFSP's College of Education, it was started by Vicky Westra, who has a child with autism.

The name of Artistas Cafe refers to the artistic positions available there, Heller said. Employees are able to create art to decorate the cafe or serve coffee.

When the cafe was opening, board members saw the need for involvement from an educator. A physician on the board contacted Kim Stoddard, a USFSP education professor with a Ph.D. in special education, who joined the board.

As the program progressed the board realized the cafe could provide an alternative internship opportunity for education students at USFSP. Students needed the experience and Artistas Cafe needed help, Stoddard said.

An opportunity was created for both undergraduate and graduate students to intern at the cafe.

Heller said the cafe provides an opportunity for education students to become involved in the "transition" stage, in which students with disabilities transition from high school to becoming independent wage earners. Most other internships only involve the inclusion stage, where students with disabilities are included in the traditional classroom setting.

Artistas Cafe allows students with disabilities to, "develop skills that would make them successful in the work place and in other social setting with other individuals," Heller said.

He hopes the program will get students excited about the transition concept. He wants to see it spread across Tampa Bay and the state.

"There is very limited work available for individuals in the autism spectrum," Stoddard said. "USFSP is the only place offering students this opportunity."

In summer 2012, Amber Sheppard completed her level two

undergraduate internship at the cafe. Sheppard, who is prepared to graduate on May 5, selected the alternative internship setting because of her "strong urge to work with young adults that have autism."

Sheppard's primary responsibility at the cafe was to create an adult assessment guide for employees. She notes that there are many assessments available for students with autism, but few are made for adults. In order to expand, Sheppard said Artistas Cafe must demonstrate its usefulness, which she believes can only be done through assessments.

Sheppard said the work ethic in Artistas Cafe is "phenomenal." She recalls only one incident between a customer and an employee during her internship, when a new employee gave a customer the wrong change. Sheppard wanted to step in and solve the problem, but the front line employees stepped in and resolved it quickly. After the incident, the new employee was discouraged, but Sheppard recalls the other employees rallied around him.

"They are not willing to accept the fact that someone is going to fail," Sheppard said.

Four of the seven employees Sheppard supervised at the cafe were also attending college.

She said Artistas Cafe prepared her for her final internship in the

classroom, which she is one week away from completing. Five of the 18 students in her current classroom have a disability.

"It's a crazy classroom," Sheppard said. She admits sometimes wondering what she was getting herself into, but she enjoys working with her students.

"It's a great feeling when you see their faces light up because they got it," Sheppard said.

She still plans to become a teacher, but her internship has made her much more open to having students with disabilities in her classroom. If she wasn't to teach, she said Artistas Cafe would be the first place she would apply to.

After interning at the cafe, one USFSP graduate was offered a position at the cafe, Glisson said. The graduate accepted the job.

According to Glisson, Artistas Cafe is getting ready to open its second location at Jabil Headquarters in St. Petersburg. Glisson plans for USFSP interns to serve at every Artistas location.

Stoddard said the partnership is in "early stages" and Artistas Cafe and the College of Education are working on more opportunities for students in the master's program.

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University signs sustainability pledge

BY AMANDA STARLING
STAFF REPORTER

In commemoration of Earth Day, Interim Regional Chancellor Bill Hogarth signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment on April 22.

More than 660 institutions nationwide have signed the agreement, which pledges a transition to a more "green" university. USF Tampa adopted a climate action plan in 2010 and intends to reach neutrality by 2070.

"It gives us the tools that we need, a forum to put our goals on, and it gives us a deadline to reach campus carbon neutrality," said Lauren Reilly, the director of Student Government Sustainable Initiatives.

According to the website for the Climate Commitment, institutions agree to complete an emissions inventory, set a target date within two years for becoming climate neutral, take immediate steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, integrate sustainability into the curriculum and make everything publicly available.

The SG Department of Sustainable Initiatives sought to guarantee the program at USFSP. The Clean Energy Resources Conservation Commission and the Student Green Energy Fund, along with other groups, helped push for the signing of the Climate Commitment. With the final meeting of the semester, the department began outlining their plan to follow through. The first steps will include selection of an implementation liaison and media relations liaison.

Critical to the implementation of the program is the formation of a Climate Commitment committee. The committee will help with work, tests for emissions and communication with other groups to be involved. After first two months, the formation of the campus plan for carbon neutrality must be made. Within the first year, the campus must undergo a greenhouse gas inventory.

"There's already a lot of people who are ready to hit the ground and start working," Reilly said. "We want to get more students involved."

The implementation date is Jan. 15, 2014. The first Climate Commitment meeting will be at 2 p.m. on May 8. The location is to be announced.

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Spunnel is 'no more pour revolution'

Continued from front page

The senior entrepreneurship major has dubbed his product the beginning of the "no more pour revolution."

The idea has received some early traction, recently winning first place at the South Eastern Entrepreneurship Conference. However, early attempts at revolution were not as successful.

After some mentoring from USFSP's entrepreneurship professors, he took the idea to SEEC in 2012. He entered the Spunnel in the annual pitch competition with hopes of winning the top prize — \$2,000 in seed funding. Koteles put together a pitch, a raw prototype, rehearsed, and gave it his best shot. He lost. He won third place but it didn't come with any significant funding.

"Losing the first time around was extremely motivating," Koteles said. After a year of working on the idea, he returned to SEEC. This time, he had a functional prototype, and a list of restaurant owners and employees who had said they would buy the product.

"My biggest objective needed to be showing progress," he said.

Koteles brought one more thing to win over the judges, his guitar. A musician since childhood, he decided to open his pitch with a short song. It all worked and he won.

Koteles has been singing and playing guitar for over a decade. He teamed up with his older brother, Ian, as part of the band 10th Concession. They're currently semifinalists on the reality show, The Next Great Family Band, which airs on the NBC owned Cozi TV.

"It was amazing to come from the music business where it seems like no one is very willing to help you out and then enter the entrepreneurship community at USF St. Pete where everyone is geared towards helping each other out and connecting people," Koteles said about his transition from music to entrepreneurship. "Life got much less disappointing."

Koteles said spending the \$2,000 cash prize from the SEEC was "too easy." He flew himself

and co-founder/engineer Steve Blomberg out to the International Home Show in Chicago to learn how home goods products are sold to all kinds of vendors; from mom and pop shops, all the way up to Walmart. They used the remainder of the money to conduct a patent search.

He plans to start with small vendors, and show as much traction and sales as possible to attract a national retailer. He's even willing to go as small as knocking on restaurant doors for individual sales. He has list of local restaurants that he's already convinced to buy his product.

Though the "no more pour revolution" will be staying local for now, Koteles said he has big dreams for it.

"To put the market in perspective I ask you to ask yourself, is there a kitchen in my house right now?"



Courtesy of Lazar Anderson

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Noise: 'I think it will reach people'



Ryan Ballogg/The Crow's Nest

Continued from front page

The music is part of a sound movement described as "noise." Varieties include experimental noise, harsh noise and harsh noise wall. McBratney, 23, performs under the moniker Lovebrd, which he describes as new surrealist noise. He doesn't confine himself to one subgenre.

"A lot of people stick with one style, and try to establish a recognizable sound. But I'm always changing," he said. "My newest tape is harsh noise wall, but I do all different stuff. From field recording stuff to synth stuff, keyboards, sometimes bass."

He has been making noise for six years.

Besides performing and recording his own music, McBratney also runs a music label called Lava Church. Through it, he produces and promotes musicians who make DIY music. Everything is released on cassette tapes.

He started the project shortly after moving to Florida from Colonia, N.J.

"When I moved to Florida I didn't know anybody, I was alone a lot," he said.

In 2010, he played at Bloodfest, a Tampa noise festival, with a friend from San Diego.

"It was cool, but people weren't very personable. It left a sour taste in my mouth. I pretty much felt rejected, and that's when I started

started the label.

"Originally I just wanted to do it for my friends, and keep it smaller. But it really took off," he said. "Now I'm trying to rein it back in."

McBratney still only works with artists he has a personal connection with, but his range has expanded. What he intended as a project that would focus on Florida musicians

"A lot of people stick with one style, and try to establish a recognizable sound. But I'm always changing"

thinking about starting Lava Church. I wouldn't say it was totally out of spite, but it kind of was," he said.

He went to Goodwill and got a dual cassette deck for recording. A friend from New Jersey mailed him a bunch of tapes. And then he

has now incorporated more than 20 artists from all over the world. He dubs the tapes and makes artwork for them from home.

"Everybody I've released for I still talk to, and everyone's been happy with the releases," he said.

Oddly enough, the noise artists

of St. Petersburg were some of the last ones he met. A South Carolina artist he was friends with put him in contact with Sluggisha, an old school noise blog based out of Florida, and from there he was able to meet some local musicians.

Up until this point, he has made tape batches of varying sizes, and then made all of the releases available for download online.

"Now I'm changing the whole aesthetic and philosophy though," he said. "I'm going to start making 25 tapes for each batch, and then as they're ordered I'll make more."

He is toying with the idea of making CDs and downloads available upon request, partly because he thinks listening to a collection of music as it was recorded is important. Cassettes provide that physical outlet and offer an alternative to vinyl, which is costly to produce.

This summer, McBratney will go on his first ever tour, with fellow DIY artists Harmoos and Tender Cruncher. They have set up shows in cities throughout the South and the Northeast. Some will be house shows, while others will be at alternative venues similar to St. Petersburg's Venture Compound, which he plays often.

McBratney said he likes to play shows in people's homes when possible. "That's where the energy is."

He hopes to do much more than just perform. McBratney, technically a junior, is switching his major to anthropology, and he wants to combine his academic and artistic pursuits on the tour. He will create an archive of all the performances, and film a documentary about DIY music culture. He wants to know whether people feel like they are truly part of one big culture, connected through music and the Internet.

To ensure that the project is successful, he is trying to raise \$500 for the tour through Indiegogo. So far he has raised \$322.

"Some people I know don't like

crowdsourcing, and I respect that," he said. "But I really think people are getting a big bang for their buck out of this, and it could benefit them. I want to expose people to cool music that they would never hear otherwise."

Next year, he wants to try to get academic funding from the school to do an extensive research project on DIY music culture.

"I think that it will reach people. I'm going to submit to 'This American Life' even," he said.

Playing, recording and studying music culture are what he wants to do with his future. Eventually, he would like to bring more exposure to the St. Petersburg music scene, which he feels has been great to him. He feels that USF St. Petersburg could be more involved, too.

"I started at USF Tampa, and it was too big, every class was huge. USF St. Pete is smaller and a better environment and I'd like to bring the community into what's going on outside of it. I've seen one person from school at a show. I didn't expect to see her there, but she really liked the music. People might not know that they will like it," he said.

"I love Florida. It doesn't get as much credit as it deserves. When it comes time for me to plant my roots, I think it will be here."

Lava Church is online at lava-church.com. Learn more about Lovebrd and the tour at facebook.com/lovebrd.



Courtesy of Patrick McBratney

life@crowstestpete.com

Playlist: The hearty hymns of movie humor

These days, it's rare to hear a character break into an original song in a movie not made by Disney. The only genre that seems to provide any these days are R-rated comedies. So here are a collection of original songs that are as funny as they are vulgar. "Yo ho, yo ho, a pervert's life for me."

"Stu's Song"

Written by Todd Phillips and Ed Helms
Performed by Ed Helms

I've never really considered what tigers dreamed of, but Ed Helms' character Stu in "The Hangover" had an answer for me and four years later I can still recite it.

"Ring 'Round"

Written by Inara George, Greg Kurstin
Performed by Rose Byrne

People enjoy sex in different ways and the character Jackie Q from "Get Him to the Greek" had no issue putting her's out there in lyrical form. Her preferred style tends to result in people having a hard time sitting down the next day.

"Thunder Buddies"

Written by Alec Sulkin, 'Wellesley Wild' and Seth MacFarlane
Performed by Mark Wahlberg and Seth MacFarlane

This vulgar song is the result of a child and an anthropomorphic teddy bear never truly outgrowing their fear of thunder in "Ted".

"Kyle's Mom's a B****"

Written by Trey Parker
Performed by Trey Parker and Marc Shaiman

Kyle's mom actually managed to piss off Cartman well enough to get him to forget his hatred of other races and allow Chinese, French, Dutch and African kids to sing along

with him as he called her a b**** in "South Park: Bigger Longer & Uncut."

"Walk Hard"

Written by Marshall Crenshaw, John C. Reilly, Judd Apatow and Jake Kasdan
Performed by John C. Reilly

Through his many ups and downs, hits and flops "Walk Hard" was the one song Dewey Cox could always rely on in the aptly titled "Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story."

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Editorial

The school it is a-changin'

This time four years from now we may all be strangers to this campus.

The 2012-2013 academic year at USF St. Petersburg was marked by transitions, and there are no signs of slowing down. The biggest news stories of the year were all tales of change:

Regional Chancellor Margaret Sullivan suddenly resigned over the summer after the faculty senate decided to not support her re-hiring when her contract expired in summer 2013. Bill Hogarth was brought in from the Florida Institute of Oceanography as interim chancellor. He quickly built a rapport with students through popular moves like locating grant money for the currently unfinished fish tank in the University Student Center and securing early funding for furniture for the renovated Student Life Center.

When the list of regional chancellor candidates was whittled down to three and Hogarth was not among them, students drafted a petition to demand that he stay and got hundreds of signatures.

Eventually, late in the spring

semester, USF Chancellor Judy Genshaft hired Sophia Wisniewska for the position. The 61-year-old Wisniewska (pronounced "wis-NEW-skuh") will leave the regional Penn State campus at Brandywine for USFSP this summer. She will earn \$265,000 annually to lead USFSP as it further transitions from a commuter campus to one more attuned to the needs of residential students.

The University Student Center opened its doors just before classes started. *The Crow's Nest* began a conversation about the peculiar way it was funded until its managing editor and editor-in-chief were invited to meet with senior USF officials in Tampa. The ramifications from the series of articles released about the topic have yet to be fully realized.

Meanwhile, hundreds of students moved into the dormitories above the second floor. Most agreed the bedrooms there were nicer than the slightly older ones in RHO, but fewer found the food in the Reef to be agreeable.

Concerns about food quality led

to a quality control board of sorts featuring students and staff members. Improvements have been noted, but many students continue to seek ways out of the mandatory meal plans for those living on campus. Sodexo, the food services provider for the cafeteria, has sought other opportunities. A wingery in the former Coquina Club and a coffee shop in the USC have been considered.

Student Government will see Mark Lombardi-Nelson remain as its head next year. He will begin his second year at an organization much different than his first. This year it grew up, bared its teeth and began questioning some of the decisions USFSP administration has pushed on it in previous years. SG senators pushed to make sure the students they represent have gotten their money's worth.

SG elections were contested, and then some — the presidential results were in limbo for a month after voting ended while allegations of misconduct were investigated.

Further changes are coming to academia. The university is pushing

the state legislature for funding for the proposed College of Business building. For the first time, business students and professors would be united under one roof, instead of spread all over campus. It's a problem that students in the new Digital Journalism and Design master's program don't have to worry about — the first fully online program at USFSP has accepted dozens of students and continues to grow.

So what will the university look like after this fall's freshmen have graduated?

Philosophers have debated about the ship of Theseus since ancient times. If a broken wooden ship is restored by slowly replacing all of its parts, is it still the same ship? Even without any of its original parts?

It's a question students, faculty and alumni will be forced to consider as USF St. Petersburg continues to change. And they will remember this as the year our little school on the bay grew up.

Editorial Cartoon

No Idea

a series by Elizabeth Malley

SELLING BACK BOOKS AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER ALWAYS FEELS LIKE BEING ON AN EPISODE OF "PAWN STARS."



Quotes & Notes

Graduation regalia were once required wear for college students all year long. Inspired by European styles and practices, Princeton and Columbia Universities required students to wear gowns starting in the mid-1700s. After the Civil War, the practice had largely died, and gowns were only required at graduations and special events. The American Council on Education maintains a code of best practices, including rules for colors and other adornments.

"Dreams are the touchstones of our characters."
- Henry David Thoreau, "Walden"

"Decide what to be and go be it."
- The Avett Brothers, "Head Full Of Doubt, Road Full Of Promise"

It's time to make a move

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7

BY MATTHEW THOMAS
GUEST COLUMNIST

Whether it's the girl you spent the whole semester sitting next to but were too afraid to talk to, or the guy you had to admire from a distance in lab because of assigned seating, or even that special teacher you convinced yourself was always looking at you when speaking to class, time is running out to tell that person how you feel.

Finals week is the only thing keeping that person from exiting your life forever, so you should probably say something. I should clarify that example with the teacher only applies to graduating students.

A lot can change over the

summer. They could transfer, drop out of school, meet a significant other, or in the case of the teacher, get another job — all without knowing how you felt about them. And if they do return, they probably won't even remember who you are since you never talked to them in the first place. Approaching them at that point might just be creepy.

You don't want that to happen.

Put on whatever outfit makes you feel like you could accomplish anything in.

Do something new with your hair so it might attract some attention.

Throw a fist full of Altoids in your mouth and take a leap of faith.

Now the question remains: how do you go about it? You could give

them a note before or after class (if you're a shy one). You could make a huge display of affection during class by distracting everyone taking a final (for those of you that are showmen). You could even offer to help your crush cheat on the final (and risk expulsion).

As a last resort, you might want to consider simply asking the person out on date. Try to finish your final before they do (but don't actually rush — you don't want to risk an "A" on a maybe) and time it so two can leave class at the same time. Strike up a conversation about how easy or hard the final was.

Get comfortable making conversation, take a deep breath and make your move.

"Iron Man 3" comes out this

weekend. Ask if they want to see it with you — who doesn't want to see that? If your crush doesn't want to see "Iron Man 3" then you're probably better off without them. Just get your date to meet you in the theater and let Tony Stark take care of the rest.

By the way, don't actually throw a fist full of Altoids into your mouth. One or two should suffice. Good luck!

Matthew Thomas is a junior studying mass communications.

Let's bring back the time before Facebook

BY JENNIFER JONES
GUEST COLUMNIST

My best friend from high school had a baby last month. I didn't even know that she was pregnant. Out of touch? No. I'm not on Facebook.

A social media outlet that I've avoided like the plague has wormed its way into my day-to-day against my best efforts.

Friends are angry that I never showed up to their party last weekend. Family members are hurt that I missed their latest reunion. Campus events may as well be conducted by secret societies unless someone scrawls it on the sidewalk in chalk. Discounts at restaurants and department stores are only available to those who "like" them on — you guessed it — Facebook.

Facebook calculated that more than a billion people around the world actively use the site each month. The United States Census Bureau estimates the total world population is well over 7 billion. How does the usage of a website by approximately 14 percent of the world's population cause such a change in the way people communicate?

Many people don't talk to each other about the important occasions in their life anymore. They've posted it with 20 tagged photos on their Facebook page and sent it out into cyberspace for the masses to scroll past as they skim over the day's updates.

But the emotion of the moment is lost. If your friend "likes" your news, is that really the same as sharing the story with them over coffee? An "LOL" is not the same as sharing a laugh face-to-face or giggling your way through a phone call.

I miss the paper invitations from days gone by, and the Saturday afternoon phone call between friends to catch up on the week's gossip. The stack of photographs of your vacation, still warm from the photo lab, is a distant memory. Hands had to be contorted into just the right claw to grip photos from the edges. Friends don't let friends leave smudges. And if a picture surfaced of you passed out in a Perkins booth after a long night of drinking — or so I've been told — it could be torn into oblivion, not tagged by everyone you know on Facebook.

Let's get back to that phone call. Or, gasp, visit one another just to talk. Throw a party and mail the invitations to your friends. Yes, the paper kind (of invitations, not friends). Take a photo of the moment and have it printed.

Remember how things were before Facebook.

The windbag's last breaths

BY FRANK KURTZ
STAFF COLUMNIST

The St. Petersburg campus of the University of South Florida is at a major crossroads. What does the future hold?

Do we want to continue to grow to 10,000 or even 15,000 students? Or are we satisfied at our current student population (which, depending on whose numbers you use to determine what a student is, is between 4,500 and 6,000)? If expansion is in the cards, do we want to attract freshmen, or do we want to attract upperclassman and students pursuing their master's degrees? Will another residence hall be constructed? How long until the dorms in the University Revenue Building get turned into offices?

These are all questions that the folks in Bayboro Hall need to be asking, discussing and answering in the near future. We're not going to have a new regional chancellor until July, and I'm sure that she'll have her own vision for USFSP.

As the resident campus windbag I have my own thoughts on what this campus should do.

First, and most importantly, we must remain part of the University of South Florida System and not look to become an independent university within the State University System of Florida.

Second, *anybody* that had anything to do with the construction of the University Revenue Building should be the subject a legislative and gubernatorial investigation, and for good measure a Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigation. Those people should then be tried for possible grand theft. The increased fees, which

were wrongfully used for construction and operation of the University Revenue Building, should be returned to the students that paid them.

Thirdly, the university should acquire, from the city of St. Petersburg, the rest of Second Street from Sixth Avenue South to Fifth Avenue South, and Sixth Avenue from First to Third Streets. This will allow students to move about campus in a way that does not resemble a human version of Frogger. At the very least construct a walkway over Sixth Avenue South from the second floor of the parking deck to the University Revenue Building.

Fourthly, there should be more parking on campus. This can be achieved by constructing a new parking deck, expanding the current one and by relaxing the rules when it comes to parking passes. After 4 p.m. anybody that has a USF parking decal should be able to park anywhere on campus without fear of getting an orange envelope.

If residential students continue to pay more for parking than commuter students, the red stickers should be assigned the second and third levels of the parking deck, with the fourth level serving as a mixed zone with the green stickers. How can Parking Services justify having the folks that spend the most time on campus make a 1.2-mile round trip from bottom to top back to the bottom? It is unjust. Also what is up with allowing green stickers to park in *our* parking zone while us red stickers cannot park in theirs?

Fifthly, there should be more options for meal plans at the University Revenue Building. An "unlimited" meal plan truly should

be unlimited, not limited to three squares a day. There should be alternative plans for students who would only like 10 or five meals a week.

Sodexo should work to include the Tavern at Bayboro into its "sharkbites" program. (And by the way, what is up with that name? We are the Bulls, not the Bullsharks, no matter what certain people would like.) If "sharkbites" were allowed this year at the Tavern, I could've used them to purchase five and a half pitchers of Genesee Cream Ale, instead of not buying any frozen yogurt.

I also challenge anybody to have a burger at the University Revenue Building and then have one at the Tavern. I would wager than 11 out of 10 people would choose the Tav, which has bacon at all meals, in less than a heartbeat. If anybody said the URB had a better burger, then you are on some bad meth. (Point of clarification: all meth is bad.)

Sixthly, USF should combine all police departments. Fewer chiefs and a less duplicated bureaucracy would save money. This would also be beneficial because if an officer were needed on this campus, one would simply have to travel across the bay, instead of having a shorted staff on this side.

Seventhly, the Tavern at Bayboro should have more parking spots, or its non-student patrons shouldn't be penalized for there being no parking. This would be a good faith gesture by the university.

Eighthly, the university should partner with more downtown businesses, including the Tavern at Bayboro, to provide students with more discounts so they do not have to eat the slop Sodexo likes to call food in the University Revenue

Building.

Ninthly, the dorms in RHO should have laundry facilities on every floor, not just the odd ones. I remember a time when this was the case. Sure they may not have been as "green" as the current ones, but being a student I would rather pay fewer quarters to do laundry.

Tenthly, if another dormitory is constructed, it should have kitchens. Also, students living in dorms with kitchens should not have to purchase a meal plan. I can cook dinner at midnight in my dorm, when the University Revenue Building is closed.

These are some suggestions for the university to consider as my time here is coming to an end. No longer will they have a watchdog student from the Bush and Crist administrations to tell tales of how it used to be.

Students, do not take anything sitting down. If there is something that you do not like on this campus, change it; this is your university and administration is here to serve you not the other way around. Their six-figure salaries do not exist without you (and your money). The eternal struggle continues with another generation of students. Continue to pressure Bayboro to fund the University Revenue Building some other way, and demand your money back; us students got hornswoogled in that deal.

Go Bulls!

Frank is pursuing a master's degree in Florida Studies and the distribution manager. He can be reached at fkurtz@mail.usf.edu

BRIEFS

In-state foes Fort Lauderdale and the Tampa Bay Rowdies renewed their rivalry on Saturday with the Rowdies winning 2-1.

Luke Mullholland scored his third goal of the season in the first half. Alex Dixon added the game winner in the 78th minute as the Rowdies took all three points on the road and moved into a three-way tie atop the league standings.

The Rowdies return home on Saturday to host FC Edmonton.

The Tampa Bay Storm went on the road to dreary Spokane, Wash. and shocked the Shock with a 70-62 win.

Adrian McPherson continued to dominate the AFL ground game adding three more rushing touchdowns to his league-leading total. He also added seven (just seven?) touchdown passes.

The Storm are back on the east coast on Saturday against division rival New Orleans. Saturday is Star Wars Night. Get it? May the 4th be with you.

The Tampa Bay Lightning's season came to a merciful end on Saturday with a 5-2 loss to the league-worst Florida Panthers.

Martin St. Louis did manage to get to 61 points making him the oldest winner of Art Ross Trophy, most points in a season. The Lightning will enter Monday's draft lottery with a 14 percent chance of jumping to the No. 1 overall.

Here is hoping that Stevie Y can redeem himself come June's draft. Probably not though.

Buccaneer fans were left asking why Glennon on Friday night. The Bucs took NC State quarterback Mike Glennon with the 11th pick of the third round, 73 overall. The move might be a motivation for Josh Freeman who enters his last year under contract.

A summer look at Sun Coast sports

The boys of summer are back. Summertime means baseball, and Pinellas County is the best place for America's Pastime. Whether it's the big leagues, rookie ball or even a soccer team, the diamonds of the Sun Coast are ready to go. The Crow's Nest has compiled all the information a fan will need to find the best ticket in town. Take a ride up the Gulf Coast to Dunedin or double dip in downtown St. Petersburg with a Rays and Rowdies game. So cut this out, hang it up and see a game.

Tampa Bay Rays – Tropicana Field (1 Tropicana Dr, St Petersburg, FL 33705) (1)

Major League Baseball team of the AL Eastern Division

Stadium Capacity: 40,473

Tickets start at \$10

Postgame Concert Series: Kenny Loggins (May 11), Martina McBride (June 8), Carly Rae Jepsen (July 14), Victoria Justice (Aug. 18).

Ted Williams Museum and Hitters Hall of Fame – located within Tropicana Field, this unique ballpark museum provides a glimpse into the lives of some of the most celebrated athletes to ever play the game of baseball.

Tampa Bay boasts the only touch tank in a professional sports venue, and it is free for the public to visit during home games. The tank holds 30 cownose rays that are free to be touched and fed by visitors.

Clearwater Threshers – Bright House Field (601 N Old Coachman Rd, Clearwater, FL 33765) (2)

Class A Advanced affiliate of Major League Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies

Stadium Capacity: 8,500 (7,000 fixed seats)

Tickets range from \$5 to \$9.50
Firework display after each Saturday home game

Promotion: Feeding Frenzy - A \$12 ticket allows access to an All-You-Can-Eat menu throughout the game on select dates (May 13, June 10, June 17, July 15, July 22, July 29,

Aug. 26)

Frenchy's Tiki Pavilion: located beyond the left field wall, this first-come, first-serve seating section for those 21 or older offers game day drink specials along with a great view

Dunedin Blue Jays – Florida Auto Exchange Stadium (373 Douglas Ave, Dunedin FL 34698) (3)

Class A Advance affiliate of Major League Baseball's Toronto Blue Jays

Stadium Capacity: 5,509 individual seats

Tickets are \$7

Other special events include: Beer Fest & Fireworks (May 4), 1929 Throwback Night (July 20), Superhero Night (July 25), and BBQ Night (Aug. 15).

Daily promotions include: Movie Night on Tuesdays (free movie ticket if the Jays win), Dollar Dog Night on Wednesdays (hot dogs for one dollar), and Thirsty Thursday (\$2 beer and sodas)

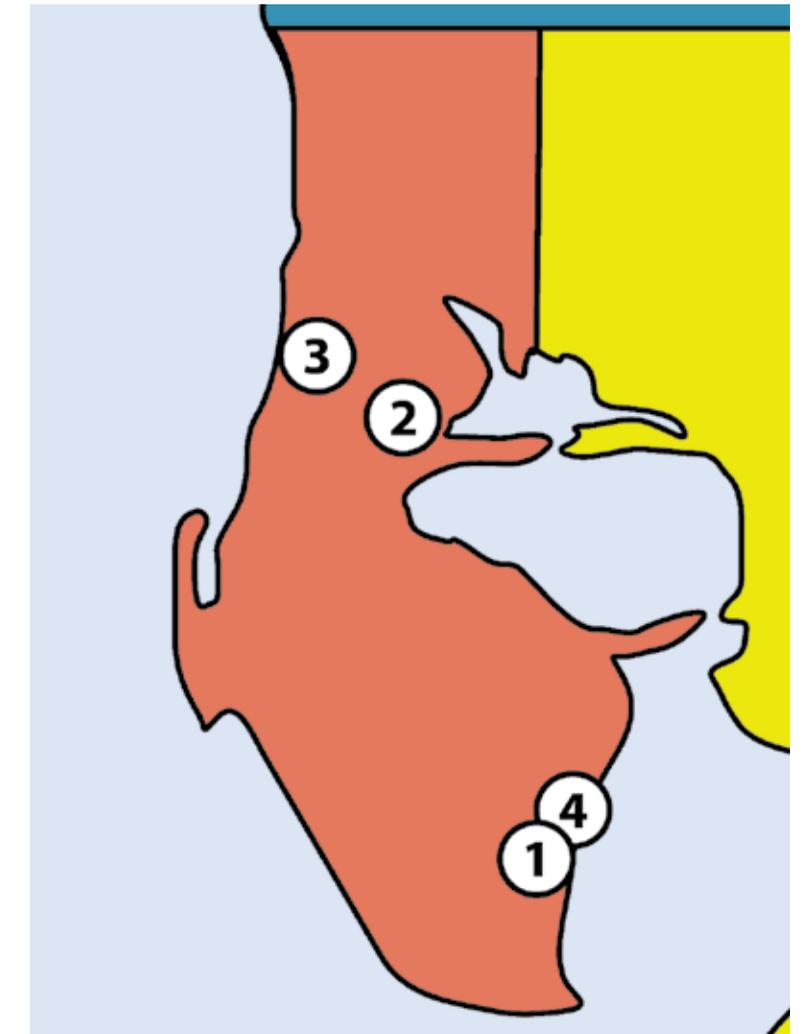
Tampa Bay Rowdies – Al Lang Stadium (180 2nd Ave SE, St Petersburg, FL 33701) (4)

Reigning champions of the North American Soccer League

Stadium Capacity: 7,227

Tickets range from \$16 to \$50

Special: Dollar Nights - \$1 hot dogs on Aug. 24 versus FC Edmonton, \$1 beer on July 4 versus the Fort Lauderdale Strikers and Sept. 7 versus the Carolina



RailHawks.

Autographs are available from players on the field after each home game

Promotion: "Four Pack" – Four tickets and four meal vouchers

(half-off a hotdog and half-off a soft drink) as well as a Rowdies' spirit card for \$68. The group offer is available for the May 4, June 15, Sept. 21, and Oct. 19 matches.

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Don't waste your time on the draft

BY MIKE HOPEY
STAFF COLUMNIST

Three days, seven rounds and no NFL fans are any closer to having any idea of how their favorite teams will do in September. But the NFL has everyone thoroughly convinced that the draft is must-watch television.

Well it's not.

At it's core the NFL draft is what it used to be — a bunch of fat guys, who think it is OK to ask a young man if he is gay, sitting in a hotel ballroom. There wasn't the grand Radio Music City Hall as a backdrop, there was no primetime, and there was no drama. The NFL draft wasn't must watch. It was just guys picking from a list in a specific order. There is nothing exciting about that.

But over the years, in their effort to consume the nation's attention 12 months out of the year, the NFL has packaged the event as high drama. Tune in because the fate of young men and franchises hang in the balance.

But they don't. All the kids who matter, the ones picked in the early rounds are all set. And thinking that a draft is a guarantee to turn a struggling franchise around is just a stupid jerk. The Buffalo Bills have had low picks for years and what's it gotten them? Jack.

The guy's in Washington aren't geniuses for drafting Robert Griffin III. A houseplant could have picked him, which is to say that it takes no brain. But every RGIII means there are a hundred JaMarcus Russells.

It is someone's job to tell someone that a player has good potential,

that they can really perform for a team. But they are wrong so much. In fact, they are wrong way more than they are right.

Would you pay a stockbroker who gave good advice 10 percent of the time?

But the NFL has you by the wallet. Forty-six hours of coverage over three days tells you that this is important, but it isn't.

"But what about seeing the talent our team will bring to camp?"

Is that worth three hours of your life? We live in a culture of now, now, now and the one thing that we want to wait for is the freaking NFL draft. You could spend all that time doing something else. Find the draft picks on Twitter. They will probably link to highlights and bios, too.

Do you know what it is like to sit

for three hours to watch the New England Patriots trade out of the first round? It's awful.

What the NFL draft boils down to is it's a nothing event to satisfy the unending hunger for football. But it's just crap.

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