University will provide voter resources

By Dylan Hart
dhart4@mail.usf.edu

The Center for Civic Engagement will partner with the Leadership and Student Organizations office to provide transportation for students going to the polls on Election Day. A van will provide free rides from the Student Life Center to the Coliseum event venue and back every hour Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Students can sign up for the van via PetSync on LSO’s page or in SLC 1700. The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and those waiting in line at 7 p.m. can still vote.

Only students who are registered to vote in downtown St. Petersburg, which includes the USF St. Petersburg campus, will be able to vote at the Coliseum, 535 Fourth Ave. N.

Students who are unsure about their voting precinct can check their voter registration card, which will list their polling place for county elections, or visit votepinellas.com and select “Find Your Precinct.”

The university has pushed to involve students in the election, fighting through both campus apathy and a relatively low election involvement rate among young voters. LSO and CCE hosted an event Oct. 31 to inform students about absentee and early voting, which ended Nov. 4.

LSO coordinator Abigail Bradley stressed the importance of voting in the upcoming election.

>> SEE VOTER on P2

Proposal calls for merger of two USF papers

By Crow’s Nest Staff

The Crow’s Nest, a fixture on the St. Petersburg campus for decades, would be merged with the student newspaper at USF Tampa under recommendations from a subcommittee helping plan the consolidation of the USF system.

If the recommendations are adopted, there would be one newspaper — name to be determined — with a section for each campus. Each section could retain its current name — The Crow’s Nest in St. Petersburg, The Oracle in Tampa — and have its own editors, but the joint operation’s advertising and “paper completion” (a term that is not defined) would be overseen by one university administrative office.

The recommendations also call for exploration of abandoning the print products of the two newspapers in favor of an online publication.

The proposals came as a surprise to editors of The Crow’s Nest, who criticized the plan as short-sighted and unwieldy and urged the subcommittee to reconsider.

Their comments were echoed by former editors of The Crow’s Nest and the journalism faculty in St. Petersburg, which is sending a letter to university administrators opposing the recommendations.

Merging the two papers “would undermine student success and the promise of each campus to retain its unique identity — both of which have been emphasized time and time again as the concept of consolidation has crystalized,” the journalism faculty said.

The recommendations are the work of a subcommittee led by Danielle McDonald, an assistant vice president and dean of students on the Tampa campus, and Dwaine Isaacs, who as director of student life and engagement in St. Petersburg oversees the business side — but not the editorial product — of The Crow’s Nest.

Isaacs, who assumed his position last year, did not consult with Crow’s Nest editors or their adviser before embracing the recommendations. The newspaper learned of them from the editor-in-chief of The Oracle, who said he had been briefed by McDonald.

In an interview on Oct. 30, Isaacs acknowledged that he have consulted Crow’s Nest editors sooner. He stressed that the recommendations are preliminary and that the subcommittee welcomes input from editors.

“All the committee (members are) reviewing these recommendations, taking the back to their different constituents and asking folks to respond to them, review them or provide their own, like I did,” Isaacs said.

A bad idea, say faculty and editors. See opinions, pages 4 and 5

>> SEE MERGER on P4

THE CROW’S NEST
Since 1969

THE CROW’S NEST is the weekly student newspaper at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. All content in the publication is produced by USFSP students. Single copies free.
A redesign plan for the first floor of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library is in the works after Josephine Hall, a longtime patron of the arts and USF St. Petersburg community member, left behind a generous $2 million donation.

Before dying at the age of 98, Hall shared a deep devotion to art, music and culture. In addition to her apartment near Central Park in New York, she also owned a condominium across the street from USF St. Petersburg, where she would frequently visit the library and attend campus events and lectures.

She had a strong relationship with the campus for decades, including attending history, art and psychology classes as a senior citizen auditor for a few years, starting in 1983. Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock announced Hall’s donation Oct. 25 at a campus board meeting.

Hall allocated $1 million to the library specifically, and Tadlock decided the other million would go toward supporting the arts through a new visual arts program in honor of Hall.

“We are honored to receive this generous gift from Ms. Hall and truly appreciate her dedication to the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library and to USF St. Petersburg as an institution,” Tadlock said in a news release. “Her donation allows us to further enhance our incredible library and invest in the arts. This gift will impact the lives of our students far into the future.”

A campus-wide challenge has been issued by Tadlock for the university community to raise a matching $1 million of its own to go toward the library and the development of the new visual arts program.

“Josephine Hall is fondly remembered as someone who saw the library as a place that inspires lifelong learning and intellectual transformation,” said Catherine Cardwell, the dean of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, in the release. “Her gift will directly support the student experience at USFSP as well as our commitment to the intellectual and cultural life of our community. Ms. Hall’s generosity will touch the intellectual lives of our students and community for years to come,” she said.

Some of the bigger renovation plans for the first floor of the library will include multiple entries, infrastructure upgrades regarding power and technology, and optimization of outside views and daylighting. Allowing 24/7 access to the library may also be part of the upgrades, a benefit that has been long-awaited by students.

Smaller changes can also be expected, like bigger tables, comfortable furnishings, student storage areas and more study spaces.

“Her gift will directly support the student experience at USFSP as well as our commitment to the intellectual and cultural life of our community. Ms. Hall’s generosity will touch the intellectual lives of our students and community for years to come,” she said.

Some of the bigger renovation plans for the first floor of the library will include multiple entries, infrastructure upgrades regarding power and technology, and optimization of outside views and daylighting.

Allowing 24/7 access to the library may also be part of the upgrades, a benefit that has been long-awaited by students. Smaller changes can also be expected, like bigger tables, comfortable furnishings, student storage areas and more study spaces.

Generous donation leads to library renovation

By Juliet Di Preta
dipretaj@mail.usf.edu

The Nelson Poynter Memorial Library will soon see an updated first floor thanks to a generous donation from Josephine Hall, a longtime campus community member.

The Tampa Bay Times: “All the Times election recommendations in one place”


The Times editorial team suggests how to vote on each candidate and amendment, with explanations provided.

Florida Today: “A voter’s guide to Florida’s 12 amendments on the 2018 election ballot”


Explain each of the amendments, as well as who supports and opposes them.

League of Women Voters: “Pinellas County Election Guide”

https://vote.lwvspa.org/election-guide/

Provides full text of each referendum, explains what a “yes” or “no” vote would mean, and lists supporters and opponents of each item.

Sometimes people miss out on voting due to lack of understanding what’s on the ballot. So, here’s a list of links that break down both the amendments and candidates for office. Remember that if you’re unsure about a certain item, you can leave it blank without abstaining from voting altogether.

• The Tampa Bay Times: “Tampa Bay Times 2018 Florida voter guide: Candidates for governor, Legislature and county office”


Gives a rundown, based on your address, each candidate on the ballot and their stances on various issues.

• The Tampa Bay Times: “All the Times election recommendations in one place”


The Times editorial team suggests how to vote on each candidate and amendment, with explanations provided.

VOTER, continued from P1

Understanding the ballot

By Juliet Di Preta
dipretaj@mail.usf.edu

Sometimes people miss out on voting due to lack of understanding what’s on the ballot. So, here’s a list of links that break down both the amendments and candidates for office. Remember that if you’re unsure about a certain item, you can leave it blank without abstaining from voting altogether.

• The Tampa Bay Times: “Tampa Bay Times 2018 Florida voter guide: Candidates for governor, Legislature and county office”


Gives a rundown, based on your address, each candidate on the ballot and their stances on various issues.

• The Tampa Bay Times: “All the Times election recommendations in one place”


The Times editorial team suggests how to vote on each candidate and amendment, with explanations provided.

• Florida Today: “A voter’s guide to Florida’s 12 amendments on the 2018 election ballot”


Explain each of the amendments, as well as who supports and opposes them.

• League of Women Voters: “Pinellas County Election Guide”

https://vote.lwvspa.org/election-guide/

Provides full text of each referendum, explains what a “yes” or “no” vote would mean, and lists supporters and opponents of each item.
Amanda Shires is coming to Clearwater with a new sound. By Amy Diaz amydiaz@mail.usf.edu

On tour with her new album “To the Sunset,” singer, songwriter and violinista Amanda Shires will perform at The Capitol Theatre in Clearwater Nov. 11, showcasing a new sound. Shires, 36, is known for her folk 5s lyrics that tell a story in a soft, acoustic style.

In 2017, Amanda Shires won the Americana Music Association’s Emerging Artist of The Year award after releasing her album “My Piece of Land.” In January, she made her tour with her new album “To the Sunset,” exploring powerful stories of strength and resilience as her passion shines through her performance. Shires said, “I love Clearwater, I have a lot of love for Florida, and the weather in Clearwater is beautiful.”

Shires’ seventh song on the album “Take on the Dark” illustrates her message: “Take on the dark. Without letting it take over / Lead with your heart / Don’t look over your shoulder.”

Tickets are still available for her performance Nov. 11 at 8 p.m. at the Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. downtown Clearwater. Prices range from $25 to $35.

THE CROW’S NEST
Consolidation committee strives for unity
By Amy Diaz amydiaz@mail.usf.edu

W ith a consolidated university, everyone will come under a single student government constitution, as well as a unified Activity and Services fee for all students, regardless of their campus. The committee is headed by Dwayne Isaacs, director of student life and engagement and Danielle McDonald, an assistant vice president and dean of students at the Tampa campus.

The committee includes Gary Manka, the adviser for student government at the Tampa campus; Ken Mooney, director of student engagement at the Sarasota-Manatee campus; and Winston Jones, the associate dean of students at the Tampa campus.

The three student body presidents at each campus are on the committee as well: Kaeden Kelso from St. Petersburg, Michael Kleen from Sarasota-Manatee, and Monseer Kheireddine from Tampa.

Their recommendations will be presented to the consolidated subcommittee for student involvement is making. The committee is headed by Amy Diaz, an assistant at USF St. Petersburg, and student life and engagement advisor.

Their recommendations are to have one Student Government constitution for the USF Tampa, Sarasota and St. Petersburg campuses.

The three student body presidents will work with their respective administrative advisory boards to draft the new constitution.

Once the board approves it, it will go to senate, and then it will be voted on by the student body,” Kelso said. “So, at the end of the day, they will decide if they want it or not, and then we will go back and change it until it is approved.”

Each campus will be part of the constitution, its statutes, rules of procedure, and standard operating procedures. The constitution will create the basic organizational structure, but the individual campus procedures will give specific details for each campus.

“All three presidents and student governments want to make sure that each campus maintains a level of autonomy,” Kelso said. “We don’t want to be completely 100 percent the same. It’s the same for us, goes into effect.”

The potential plan outlined in the presentation suggests having the consolidated student body president with campus-specific student body presidents underneath. Kelso said “We are trying to make a way where the access amongst all campuses comes free, so you can access each of the campuses easily as a student organization or club. Kelso said. “After consolidation, we would have one USF. We would all be USF students, so a student from the Sarasota-Manatee campus or the St. Pete campus should be able to utilize resources and organizations in other campuses.”

One challenge listed on the recommendation is that programming is offered at each campus by different entities with different resources. The committee also notes that its recommendations may be impacted by fee distribution.

The committee recommends that the Activity and Service Fees for each campus be adjusted to a rate that is the same for all students, maintaining no less than the current budget for each campus or the overall combined budget for all three campuses.

“We want to find a way that better everybody equally so no one campus will get a better deal than the other,” Kelso said. “We have been working closely with the finance committee to figure out what the (fee) will look like, but currently there are no formal recommendations.”

Asked if there would be a meeting for students to discuss the committee’s recommendations, Kelso said he couldn’t think of one that would “definitely present that to the chair of the committee to possibly have a student forum.”

Those would be wonderful to have,” he said.

The Implementation Committee and Task Force must submit consolidation recommendations to the USF Board of Trustees by Feb. 15. The USF Board of Trustees must adopt an implementation plan and submit it to the Board of Governors by March 15.

Amanda Shires tapped into a new side of herself in her latest album, exploring powerful stories of strength and resilience as a woman and mother.

Shires’ seventh song on the album “Take on the Dark” illustrates her message: “Take on the dark. Without letting it take over / Lead with your heart / Don’t look over your shoulder.”

Tickets are still available for her performance Nov. 11 at 8 p.m. at the Capitol Theatre, 405 Cleveland St. downtown Clearwater. Prices range from $25 to $35.
T

The Department of Journalism and Digital Communication at USF St. Petersburg strongly opposes the merging of The Crow’s Nest with The Oracle.

Merging the publications would undermine student success and the promise of each campus to retain its unique identity—both of which have been emphasized time and time again as the concept of consolidation has crystallized.

The Crow’s Nest is an independent campus newspaper, primarily serving the interests of USF St. Petersburg students. It has been a vital part of the fabric of campus life and an essential element in the department’s instructional mission.

The paper serves as a stand-alone learning lab for students who rely on The Crow’s Nest as a venue to report and publish. They receive professional recognition for their stories and gain valuable experience, while adding content to the portfolios they are required to produce while they are graduates.

In many instances, Crow’s Nest writers, editors and designers have gone on to internships that have led to paid positions at the Tampa Bay Times, Bradenton Herald, Creative Loafing and numerous other local and regional media outlets.

Maintaining The Crow’s Nest as a separate product will ensure editors have the freedom to make it into the paper and what goes online. It will keep coverage local, focused on our distinct campus.

Collaboration between the papers is, perhaps, a good idea. But that can be explored in ways other than a merger, which presents far more risk than reward.

This is a letter that the faculty of the Department of Journalism and Digital Communication at USF St. Petersburg is sending to administrators on both campuses.

In a statement, Crow’s Nest editor-in-chief Deni Elliott and adviser Rob Hooker criticized the proposal and the way it was sprung on the staff.

“The Crow’s Nest has been serving the St. Petersburg campus since its modest beginnings as a mimeographed publication in 1969,” they said.

“In passing the consolidation plan, the Legislature stressed that each campus in the USF system—St. Petersburg, Tampa and Sarasota-Manatee—would retain its unique identity, with its own leadership and special characteristics.

“While scholars and journalists have written extensively about the process, the public has had almost no say in the subcommittee’s deliberations,” Isaacs said.

Now that he knows the editors and adviser at The Crow’s Nest oppose the plan, Isaacs said, he will forward their thoughts to the subcommittee and personally oppose any merger.

The oracles of USF voices voiced concerns of student life administrators and the student government presidents at the three campuses of the USF system. Isaacs said subcommittee members are exploring ways to unify the three campuses and encourage more collaboration across the system. That is the direction we were thinking of: How can we unify the newspapers in a sense of “they’re all working collaboratively?” Isaacs said.

“If we’re going to unify all the student papers, then let’s not leave the student publications out of that.”

Among the issues that are under study are students’ access to course credits and service fees—which vary from campus to campus—and how three student governments should be organized.

The proposal to merge the St. Petersburg and Tampa newspapers arose because, in the subcommittee’s deliberations, Isaacs said.

Now that he knows the editors and adviser at The Crow’s Nest oppose the plan, Isaacs said, he will forward their thoughts to the subcommittee and personally oppose any merger.

At a campus forum on Oct. 3, Regional Chancellor Martin Massey-Matlock said he was unfamiliar with the recommendations to merge the papers, and he declined to comment on them.

Although the St. Petersburg campus was a satellite of the much larger Tampa campus for many years, the two campuses have always had separate newspapers.

The Oracle was founded in 1966, a year after the Tampa campus opened. Its print edition, which has a circulation of 6,000, is published two days a week, with an online edition that is updated regularly.

The Crow’s Nest traces its history to 1969, four years after the first students began classes in St. Petersburg. The Bay Campus Bulletin was a mimeographed product that served the tiny branch campus on 11.8 acres jutting out into Bayboro Harbor.

The modest paper was renamed The Crow’s Nest in 1970 and adopted a newspaper format in 1992, according to campus historian James Anthony Schnur.

The Crow’s Nest prints 800 copies each week, with frequent updates on its website.

The paper’s annual budget of $35,572 covers the cost of paper, printing and salaries for a staff of 12 plus Hooker, the adviser. Hooker, a part-time adjunct instructor and former editor at the Tampa Bay Times, makes suggestions and conducts a weekly critique of the paper, but the student editors make the final decisions.

The distance would impact the involvement of St. Petersburg students. Some students do not have a car. Some have a tight work schedule. Some have children.

While reporters and photographers can work remotely, the top editors would need to travel to both campuses.

The subcommittee recommendations don’t address a key question: Who would make the final decisions on what stories and photos go on the front page?

If the editor-in-chief is based in Tampa and is not well versed on the ins and outs of the St. Petersburg campus, St. Petersburg readers might be shortchanged. The same thing could happen to Tampa readers if the editor-in-chief is based in St. Petersburg.

To embrace student media unification system should promote the addition of multiple student publications, sparking creativity and competition, rather than combine the two papers for efficiency purposes.

Or better yet, you could purchase an advertisement in The Crow’s Nest, and maybe one day it can become a truly independent student newspaper.

Caitlin Ashworth, who was news editor and managing editor of The Crow’s Nest in 2015-2016, interned at the Sarasota Herald-Tribune and Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch before becoming a reporter at the Daily Hampshire Gazette in Northampton, Massachusetts. She now teaches English to elementary school students in Surat Thani, Thailand.

Caitlin Ashworth, who was journalism faculty:

When Regional Chancellor Sophia Wisniewska was ousted last fall for the way she handled the ouster and is allocated each year by the

Richard (Va.) Times-Dispatch before becoming a reporter at the

COURTESY OF DENI ELLIOTT

Deni Elliott is the journalism faculty: It would undermine student success.

By Caitlin Ashworth

On November 5, 2018

The Crow’s Nest

Merger, continued from P1

In a statement, Crow’s Nest editor-in-chief Deni Elliott and adviser Rob Hooker criticized the proposal and the way it was sprung on the staff.

“The Crow’s Nest has been serving the St. Petersburg campus since its modest beginnings as a mimeographed publication in 1969,” they said.

“In passing the consolidation plan, the Legislature stressed that each campus in the USF system—St. Petersburg, Tampa and Sarasota-Manatee—would retain its unique identity, with its own leadership and special characteristics.

“A campus of nearly 5,000 students needs its own newspaper, not some lumpy casserole jointly cooked up in secret,” they said.

“The Crow’s Nest traces its history to 1969, four years after the first students began classes in St. Petersburg. The Bay Campus Bulletin was a mimeographed product that served the tiny branch campus on 11.8 acres jutting out into Bayboro Harbor.

The modest paper was renamed The Crow’s Nest in 1970 and adopted a newspaper format in 1992, according to campus historian James Anthony Schnur.

The Crow’s Nest prints 800 copies each week, with frequent updates on its website.

The paper’s annual budget of $35,572 covers the cost of paper, printing and salaries for a staff of 12 plus Hooker, the adviser. Hooker, a part-time adjunct instructor and former editor at the Tampa Bay Times, makes suggestions and conducts a weekly critique of the paper, but the student editors make the final decisions.

The Oracle was founded in 1966, a year after the Tampa campus opened. Its print edition, which has a circulation of 6,000, is published two days a week, with an online edition that is updated regularly.

The Crow’s Nest traces its history to 1969, four years after the first students began classes in St. Petersburg. The Bay Campus Bulletin was a mimeographed product that served the tiny branch campus on 11.8 acres jutting out into Bayboro Harbor.

The modest paper was renamed The Crow’s Nest in 1970 and adopted a newspaper format in 1992, according to campus historian James Anthony Schnur.

The Crow’s Nest prints 800 copies each week, with frequent updates on its website.

The paper’s annual budget of $35,572 covers the cost of paper, printing and salaries for a staff of 12 plus Hooker, the adviser. Hooker, a part-time adjunct instructor and former editor at the Tampa Bay Times, makes suggestions and conducts a weekly critique of the paper, but the student editors make the final decisions.

By Caitlin Ashworth

Since the merger’s proposal was announced last fall, the editors and adviser have faced daunting challenges.

The Crow’s Nest is bordered by a harbor, an airport and downtown leaving little room to grow, either horizontally or vertically. There’s limited dormitory space and no affordable housing close to campus.

The harbor is burdened by trash, the intersection where editors worked to keep it clean by organizing the installation of trash collecting devices.

There are some of the concerns for the St. Petersburg campus that just aren’t relevant to Tampa students.

Not only are the campuses different, but they are also 35 miles apart with Tampa Bay in between.

The distance would impact the involvement of St. Petersburg students. Some students do not have a car. Some have a tight work schedule. Some have children.

While reporters and photographers can work remotely, the top editors would need to travel to both campuses.

The subcommittee recommendations don’t address a key question: Who would make the final decisions on what stories and photos go on the front page?

If the editor-in-chief is based in Tampa and is not well versed on the ins and outs of the St. Petersburg campus, St. Petersburg readers might be shortchanged. The same thing could happen to Tampa readers if the editor-in-chief is based in St. Petersburg.

To embrace student media unification system should promote the addition of multiple student publications, sparking creativity and competition, rather than combine the two papers for efficiency purposes.

Or better yet, you could purchase an advertisement in The Crow’s Nest, and maybe one day it can become a truly independent student newspaper.

Caitlin Ashworth, who was news editor and managing editor of The Crow’s Nest in 2015-2016, interned at the Sarasota Herald-Tribune and Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch before becoming a reporter at the Daily Hampshire Gazette in Northampton, Massachusetts. She now teaches English to elementary school students in Surat Thani, Thailand.

The freedom helped trigger growth in St. Petersburg’s numbers, prestige and swagger, and the Legislature’s abrupt decision last spring to rescind the separate accreditation and consolidate the three USF campuses into one landed like a bomb in St. Petersburg.

A 17-member task force was created to help plan for the new composition, which takes effect on July 1, 2020, but much of the planning is going on behind the scenes—in an array of committees, subcommittees and work groups like the one recommending a merger of the two student newspapers.

Some senior faculty on the St. Petersburg campus and their allies in Pinellas County government worried last fall that St. Petersburg would squash St. Petersburg in the new composition, and it did.

As consolidation decisions loom, there are increasing grumbles that the warning was ignored.

The Tampa Bay Times has criticized the pro-Tampa tilt of recommendations from an appointed subcommittee of the University of South Florida president’s campus consolidation meeting on Oct. 18 the president and CEO of the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce voiced concerns about the pace and increasing uncertainty of the deliberations.

By Caitlin Ashworth

The distance would impact the involvement of St. Petersburg students. Some students do not have a car. Some have a tight work schedule. Some have children.

While reporters and photographers can work remotely, the top editors would need to travel to both campuses.

The subcommittee recommendations don’t address a key question: Who would make the final decisions on what stories and photos go on the front page?

If the editor-in-chief is based in Tampa and is not well versed on the ins and outs of the St. Petersburg campus, St. Petersburg readers might be shortchanged. The same thing could happen to Tampa readers if the editor-in-chief is based in St. Petersburg.

To embrace student media unification system should promote the addition of multiple student publications, sparking creativity and competition, rather than combine the two papers for efficiency purposes.

Or better yet, you could purchase an advertisement in The Crow’s Nest, and maybe one day it can become a truly independent student newspaper.
Crows Nest Editors: ‘It sounds like a recipe for chaos’

Michael Moore: ‘Don’t mess with history, tradition’

November 5, 2018

In a letter to the Sarasota Herald-Tribune, Whitney Elfstrom, Crow’s Nest editor-in-chief, expresses concern about the proposed merger of the Crow’s Nest and The Oracle. Elfstrom notes that the Crow’s Nest has a distinctive identity and that combining the two papers would be1 unwieldy. She also notes that the two papers have different priorities and that the proposed merger would be difficult to manage. Elfstrom concludes that the merger would not be in the best interest of the students.

Danielle McDonald, an assistant vice president and dean of students at USF St. Petersburg, has also expressed concerns about the proposed merger. McDonald notes that the two papers have different audiences and that combining them would be difficult. She also notes that the proposed merger would be expensive and that the university should consider other options.

The consolidation subcommittee for student involvement has put together recommendations for the unification of student organizations from student government to student publications. However, Elfstrom and McDonald argue that the merger would not be in the best interest of the students.

The consolidation subcommittee for student involvement has put together recommendations for the unification of student organizations from student government to student publications. However, Elfstrom and McDonald argue that the merger would not be in the best interest of the students.

The consolidation subcommittee for student involvement has put together recommendations for the unification of student organizations from student government to student publications. However, Elfstrom and McDonald argue that the merger would not be in the best interest of the students.

The consolidation subcommittee for student involvement has put together recommendations for the unification of student organizations from student government to student publications. However, Elfstrom and McDonald argue that the merger would not be in the best interest of the students.

The consolidation subcommittee for student involvement has put together recommendations for the unification of student organizations from student government to student publications. However, Elfstrom and McDonald argue that the merger would not be in the best interest of the students.
By James Bennett III
Junior Journalism and Digital Communications major
jameisbennett@mail.usf.edu

Il Peep was already dead when I finally decided to check him out. It took nearly a year after the rapper’s accidental overdose on fentanyl-laced Xanax for me to tune in to what he had to offer. His crooning fusion of emo and rap immediately enchanced me as I played “Come Over When You’re Sober, Pt. 1” on repeat for seven hours straight. Suddenly, I seemed unable to go more than 24 hours without listening to him and was readily defending the late rapper’s honor against my roommate’s claims that Lil Peep’s bastardized genre had no place among my roommate’s esteemed “real hip-hop”—whatever that is.

It was a duet with XXXTentacion, “Falling Down,” that put me on to his music. I routinely listened to X before he was shot and killed earlier this year, and I was thrilled to have some new content to consume. Unfortunately, I have since formed the opinion that “Falling Down” should have never been released. In life, Lil Peep spoke out against XXXTentacion for his abusive conduct and spent his resources trying to get XXXTentacion removed from his playlists. It is unclear whether or not X was aware of Lil Peep’s criticisms, but he was certainly a fan of Lil Peep and held the song in high regard, stating in the song, “If I had known he was so cool, I would have #***4 with him sooner.”

The duet was put together, in part, by iLoveMakonnen, a fellow musician who was a friend of Lil Peep’s. In an interview with XXL Magazine, Makonnen explained that the track was the product of a rainy day spent in a London hotel. He and Lil Peep were hanging out together when Lil Peep’s manager called and asked what they were up to. When the producer was informed that the rapper was sitting and watching the rain, he instructed them to write a song about it. The two rappers recorded as if they were up to something,

Around that time, XXXTentacion heard a sample of the song and eagerly recorded his own verse. X followed Peep into the afterlife before he could hear the finished product, but his mother reached out to Lil Peep’s entourage and explained that her son had been very protective of the song before the project in his death in June.

Despite the song’s partially heartfelt origins and its endorsement from his mother, it still seemed like a desperate cash grab trying to suck as much of a profit from the dead artists as their clout would allow.

When done respectfully, music released posthumously can undergo a transformative process, transcending the musician’s need to maintain their appearance and financial responsibilities, while giving their audience some closure. For example, the album “Pearl” by Janus Joplin took extreme care to respect the artist’s integrity. “Meditations Before the Storm,” the last song Lil Peep recorded three days before her death, was left a cappella because Joplin hadn’t recorded the song with her band.

But while traveling out of the country, the question of safety becomes pertinent. Safety concerns are common among students traveling internationally. Usually the information given at the orientations is altered based on where students are traveling, the number of students they are bringing and what is involved in the program. Both meetings are usually two separate sessions. Faculty are also required to attend a standard orientation. Usually the information given at the orientations is altered based on where students are traveling, the number of students they are bringing and what is involved in the program.

“All faculty who lead study abroad programs in the USF system go on two types of trainings prior to departure for their respective programs,” he said.

During the trainings, faculty learn how to deal with student issues abroad, how to access USF resources when necessary, and how to manage expectations for students. Both meetings are usually two separate sessions. Faculty are also required to attend a standard orientation. Usually the information given at the orientations is altered based on where students are traveling, the number of students they are bringing and what is involved in the program. Both meetings are usually two separate sessions. Faculty are also required to attend a standard orientation. Usually the information given at the orientations is altered based on where students are traveling, the number of students they are bringing and what is involved in the program.

In the fall, the Education Abroad Fair will take place to inform and educate students with an interest in studying abroad. The fair is held in the University Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in The Reef. If you have any additional safety concerns, Kenny can be reached at kenny.morgan@mail.usf.edu or (727)-873-4270.

Kenny’s office is constantly monitoring events and seeing what other universities and colleges are doing after the Paris attacks in 2015. There was a scheduled program to go to Paris, and the GRAC saw on its network that no other college institution or university had canceled the trip, so it followed suit and continued on with the program.

The committee tracks students throughout the trip and notifies them and faculty leaders if anything harmful is taking place.

For more information about a semester abroad, the Education Abroad Fair will take place on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in The Reef. If you have any additional safety concerns, Kenny can be reached at kenny.morgan@mail.usf.edu or (727)-873-4270.

The Crow’s Nest accepts letters to the editor. All submissions should be no more than 500 words. Writers must include a valid USF e-mail. In addition, USF faculty should include their title, department and contact information. All letters are subject to editing for clarity and length. Letters can be sent to wellstrom@mail.usf.edu with subject title “Letter to the Editor.”

The Crow’s Nest is committed to providing a reader- and writer-friendly environment in the University of South Florida’s St. Petersberg 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 ensure students make informed decisions on cur
By Dinorah Prevost
dprevost1@mail.usf.edu

When Canadian singer Jessie Reyez hit the stage at the Orpheum on Saturday, she played her second show on tour, which brought her back to Florida, her second home.

Known for her outspoken lyrics about relationships, the Toronto-born Reyez lived in Fort Lauderdale for two years. Originally from Colombia, her family’s 2012 move to South Florida was years in the making. They emigrated from Toronto, where they lived before their American visas were approved.

“My dad’s been wanting to come here since I was born, and it took 16 years to get approved to come to Florida and live here,” Reyez said.

She remembers four things about living in Fort Lauderdale.

“The warmth, the culture, the food, the beach,” she said.

After high school, Reyez, 27, worked a series of odd jobs in Canada and Fort Lauderdale. She was a cashier at Pizza Pizza, a Canadian pizza chain, and a bartender at Bongos, a Cuban chain restaurant, among other jobs.

“The time that I spent at Bongos working behind the bar, it was actually it because I was working with friends... that I now have forever,” she said.

In her early 20s at the time, she was also trying to get her music career off the ground. Her turning point came when she heard about the Remix Project, a creative arts program in Toronto for low-income youth, through a contact on Facebook.

“I asked my bar manager and explained what it was. I explained that it was a shot in the dark because you have to audition. So I begged him for the weekend off. He said ‘alright’ and I found a $50 flight on Spirit Airlines — 25 bucks there and 25 bucks back.”

Her flight only took her to New York, so a friend picked her up and drove her to the audition.

She made it into the program, saved up her money and left Florida in 2014.

Two years later, she released “Figures,” her first major hit. It’s racked up more than 50 million streams to date on Spotify. She’s since collaborated with rappers Eminem, Chance the Rapper and DJ Calvin Harris.

Last month, she released her second EP, “Being Human in Public.”

Reyez said her gritty lyrics and raw vocals on songs like “Figures” and “Gatekeeper” are from experience.

“I think it’s something embedded in me because I dealt with people close to me... lying to me and that just crushed me in the past. And so I feel like it hurt me enough to motivate me to be honest in every situation. I wanna show people how I wanna be treated.”

Coming back to Florida still has significance for Reyez.

“It’s really cool to be able to see home in more places than one. I have these beautiful memories and I have family that’s still here. When I come here, it’s like my second home,” she said.

Information from Interview Magazine and Exclaim! was used in this report.

What to do this week: Nov. 5-11

By Bryce Lawson
Contributor

TUESDAY
Looking to study overseas? An Education Abroad Fair will be held in the USC at 10 a.m., giving students the opportunity to learn more and apply for the various study abroad opportunities.

A Diwali Celebration will be held in the USC Ballrooms at 7 p.m. Diwali, which means “row of lamps,” is a Hindu festival of lights celebration. It symbolises a spiritual victory of light overcoming darkness.

WEDNESDAY
As Diversity week continues, a Living Library event will be held at 6 p.m. in the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. The idea of a Living Library is to overcome the idea of prejudice and discrimination by conversing with new people.

After Election Day Tuesday, a St. Pete Democrats meeting will be held at Pinellas Ale Works, 1962 First Ave. S, from 7 to 8 p.m. The event is free, with food and drinks available for purchase.

THURSDAY
End Diversity Week right with Brunch and Bring It in SLC 1400 starting at 11 a.m. The event includes free breakfast and a talk with anthropology researcher Kaniqua Robinson.

Looking for a chance to check out what food and art St. Petersburg vendors have to offer? The Night Market St. Pete will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. next to 3 Daughters Brewing, 222 22nd St. S.

FRIDAY
A celebration unveiling the new digital archives of The Weekly Challenger will be held at the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library from 1 to 3 p.m. The Weekly Challenger is a paper dedicated to bringing news to the African-American communities in Tampa Bay.

Eat great food and support a great cause with the 3 Daughters Food Truck Rally from 5 to 11 p.m. The Food Truck Rally will benefit Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that helps people in need to build or improve their home.

SATURDAY
End the week on an artsy note with the Surrealists in St. Pete Art Show at the Hyatt. The event is free but food, drinks, and art will be available for purchase. The art show will be held from 6 p.m. to midnight at the Hyatt Place, 25 Second St. N.

SUNDAY
In honor of Veterans Day, the Dali Museum will honor our country’s veterans with complimentary admissions all day for veterans and active duty military, plus one guest each. The Dali is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tickets are free for USF St. Petersburg students.
Did you know **Midterms** are more important than Presidential elections?

**VOTE**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

Problems voting? Call the Election Protection Hotline at (866) OUR-VOTE • (866) 687-8683

VOTE.ORG