



Students receive diplomas and congratulations in outdoor ceremony.

## USF-Bayboro holds first graduation exercise

By VERNON SMITH JR.  
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

An overflow crowd on Saturday attended the first graduation ceremony ever at the St. Petersburg campus of the University of South Florida (USF).

With a sunny sky and a sparkling harbor providing a pleasant backdrop, the crowd, estimated at more than 600 persons, flocked onto the lawn behind Bayboro Hall.

"Today we are one. University, campus and community," said Dean John Hinz in his opening remarks to the audience. "Isn't this a beautiful day?"

In past years, the St. Petersburg scholars would trek to Tampa for the annual graduation rites. But university officials said that in recent years, some students and community supporters voiced a desire to have a local campus graduation ceremony.

There were a few glitches in Saturday's ceremony. At first there were not enough chairs to accommodate everyone, and this did not go unnoticed.

"They aren't very well prepared here," said one man who was standing.

The situation was soon alleviated when a truck pulled up with a load of extra chairs, which were handed out to guests.

Aside from the seating problem and the occasional drone of low-flying airplanes

approaching Albert Whitted Airport, the commencement exercises seemed to be a hit with almost everyone.

As soon as the students, wearing black caps and gowns, marched onto the lawn, the cameras that hung from the necks and wrists of many of the guests went into action with a click and whirr. A few people cheered.

But the pomp and circumstance of the morning failed to impress a few little girls in braids and lace-trimmed dresses who amused themselves by playing a game of tag, while their opposites in neckties and short pants threw rocks into the bay.

Cleveland Amory, an author and spokesman for animal rights, gave the commencement address, and "in the part of the speech where I have to tell you what kind of world you're going into," said that these are "tough but exciting times."

He urged the graduates to get involved in causes other than those that promote individual self-gain.

About 170 students received diplomas harborside, although almost 350 students who earned diplomas during the past year were eligible to participate in the graduation exercises.

Graduation exercises for 2,000 students will take place on the Tampa campus today, beginning at 2 p.m. in the Sun Dome.



St. Petersburg Times — FRED VICTORIN

Luth Brisson gives Mary Brisson a hand with gown.

## inside

The war on drugs in South Florida may not be over, but the government has been winning some big battles recently. **Story, 2-B.**

John Schilling's better idea — a robot that he hopes to market one day — got him into some unexpected trouble, and he spent a night in jail. **Story, 4-B.**

Former U.S. Rep. Robert L. F. Sikes, once one of the most powerful members of Congress, is bitter as he recalls events that forced him from office four years ago. **Story, 24-B.**

### In today's City Plus:

- ✓ Bartlett Park's new community center is ready for the summer season.
- ✓ Traffic is big problem, residents say, on a segment of 54th Avenue N.

### Correction, Section B

Lee Stripling of St. Petersburg was admitted to Bayfront Medical Center with multiple injuries following a traffic accident Friday afternoon. The *Times* reported otherwise and misspelled his name in a photo caption Saturday based on incorrect information supplied by an emergency room nurse.



St. Petersburg Times — FRED VICTORIN

**Graduation day** Graduation candidates at the University of South Florida's Bayboro campus march Saturday at the start of the branch's first graduation ceremony. **Story, 3-B.**