

## What kind of Voodoo do you do?

by **BEN FRY**  
contributing writer

It is almost finals week once again and students all over the USF St. Petersburg campus are preparing. Most students are studying, some students are praying, and a few even have more unorthodox tricks up their sleeves: they are hoping a little luck will help them get better grades on those fearsome final tests.

"I have a lucky pencil," said junior accounting major Crystal Collyer as she produced a pink and clear mechanical pencil.

Collyer said that she uses her lucky pencil to take all of her tests, including finals. Collyer added that she does not necessarily think the pencil is responsible when she gets good grades, but that it does have a mental effect on her.

"I like this pencil," she said. "It makes me feel comfortable."

**OldSuperstitions.com** lists things on their "good luck superstitions" page that people can do to hopefully bring themselves good luck. According to the Web site, students who need a little extra luck could try sneezing three times before breakfast, putting on a dress inside out, sleeping while facing south or on un-ironed sheets, walking in the rain, carrying an acorn, or the old standbys of good luck: knocking on wood or crossing fingers.

If a student manages to find a four leaf clover, it is possible they will not even need to study for finals (don't believe that).

"I sit in the same spot" for finals, said Ginger Sadek, a junior bio-medical sciences major.

Sadek said she tries to sit in the same seat for finals that she sits in during the rest of the semester, which can be harder on the day of a final.

"Everyone shows up for finals," explained her friend, sophomore Jennifer Stosh, who is also a bio-medical sciences major. Stosh said she does not have any lucky tricks to help her on her finals, but "I need one, though," she said.

Psychology major LeAnne Selman has a lucky ritual that is more grounded in science than most lucky charms.

"I exercise," Selman said. "It kind of frees your thoughts."

Selman said as she hurried to class to take a minor quiz that she likes to exercise the night before or the morning of a test. She said she did not have time to exercise before this particular quiz, and she didn't say what she thought her chances were in the absence of exercise.

If students decide not to do anything to boost their luck on final exams, they would be wise to avoid certain things that, according to **OldSuperstitions.com**, could bring them bad luck. They should not put a shirt on inside-out, put a hat on a bed, break a mirror (unless they bury the shattered mirror outside in moonlight), spill salt, break a plate, mend a garment while wearing it, pass anyone on a staircase, or leave new shoes on a table, as well as many other unlucky actions.

And not all students have lucky rituals to help with their finals. Junior economics major Ed Foster makes a pretty good argument for a having a lucky charm.

"I don't do anything different," Foster said. "That's probably why I'm just an average student."

Maybe Foster should try walking in the rain with an acorn in his pocket and his fingers crossed, while he knocks on wood.

## King of Swing visits USFSP for workshop kickoff

by **SANDRA ESTENGER**  
staff writer

Frankie Manning visited USF St. Petersburg April 20 to share his life experiences about his successful and famed career as a swing dancer. Admired for his impressive footwork and musical ear, Manning is credited for changing the Lindy-Hop as swing dancers know it today by inventing the first air-step—a dance move in which one of the partners is thrown into the air by the other.

Born in Jacksonville, Fla., Manning moved to Harlem, N.Y., with his mother when he was just 3 years old. Growing up during the Great Depression, Manning was surrounded by live music all over the city.

"Every place I'd go, every way I'd go, there was music around," Manning said. "There was a dance hall on almost every corner in Harlem."

As a young boy, Manning experienced his first close encounter with dancing at a party held at his mother's house.

"You learn to dance by watching people and creating your own step," Manning said.

During his lecture Friday night, Manning recalled the most popular ballroom in Harlem during his adolescence.

"The Savoy Ballroom was the biggest, the best, and the [club] that was open the most," he said. "It was open seven nights a week. I

think I was there eight nights a week."

After dancing at the Savoy Ballroom for many years as an amateur, Herbert White witnessed Manning's talent and asked him to join a professional performance group called the Whitey's Lindy Hoppers.

In 1935, as the top dancers from the Savoy Ballroom joined forces, Manning became the chief choreographer and created the first ensemble Lindy Hop routines.

Through his choreography, Manning made alterations to the Lindy Hop that forever changed the style of swing dance. In addition to creating the first air-step, Manning also was the first to begin dancing at a sharp angle to the ground instead of the upright position that was most commonly danced.

"He can be credited for swing dancing as we know it today," said James Norman, a swing dance instructor of 11 years who brought Manning to USF St. Petersburg.

Norman and his wife, Arlene, have brought Manning to the Tampa Bay area four times since 1999 to teach workshops and lessons to people eager to learn how to swing dance. Norman and Arlene opened a dance studio called Right Step in 1995 and both now teach swing in seven locations in the Tampa Bay area.

Norman met Manning for the first time in 1998 when he traveled to Boston to attend a

summer camp where Manning was teaching dance lessons.

"I wanted to meet him and take class with him," Norman said.

During his lecture at USF St. Petersburg, Manning spoke about his experiences during his career as a swing dancer. Now 92, his stories and life experiences are those that can be matched by very few.

Manning received a Tony Award for best choreography for the Broadway Show *Black 'n' Blue* in 1989. He also received a National Heritage Fellowship in 2000 and a National Endowment for the Arts Grant for choreography in 1994 and 1995. Throughout his career, Manning had the opportunity to work with and meet Louis Armstrong, Leroy Jones, and George "Shorty" Snowden.

"He's appeared in all major daily magazines in the United States," Norman said. "He's been in *GQ*, *Maxim*, *Time*, and *Life*—just to name a few."

Manning has earned the title "Ambassador of Lindy Hop" and continues to teach swing lessons and give lectures to admiring swing dancers. Following his talk at USF St. Petersburg, Manning held an autograph signing and sold instructional dance videos.

"[Swing dancing] is the most fun you can have standing up in public," Norman said.

## Bright Futures Scholarship, show us the money!

by **KAELI CONFORTI**  
contributing writer

Planning on studying in the sun this summer? Chances are you will have to pay your own way.

While it is common knowledge that students attending any public university in Florida are required to enroll in nine credit hours during the summer, few had any idea that their Florida Bright Futures Scholarships would not cover this term.

"If you don't have the money to pay during the school year, you're not going to be able to pay over the summer," said Emily Hopper, a theatre arts freshman.

"It's ridiculous. Just because it's in the summer doesn't mean it's not real class," said

freshman Michael McAuliffe. "Anything that covers classes during the school year should cover classes in the summer, too."

During summer 2002, a \$14.9 million budget cut was made to the Bright Futures Program, which eliminated funding for the summer term. Bright Futures previously covered all semesters.

And yet a possible solution to this problem may be in the works. Senator Evelyn Lynn, based in Volusia County, has been leading the charge for a new bill that would allow Bright Futures to cover the mandatory summer courses. The bill, which cleared its first

Senate committee, must be heard by another before it is passed on to the full Florida Senate. If the bill passes, it would go into effect

July 2007.

Supporters of the bill claim that it could save the state money and ease the overcrowding of universities during the fall and spring semesters. However, since the proposed bill would incur an additional \$50 million to the state's already strained budget, students should not get their hopes up.

Erin Dunn, campus director of Financial Aid at USF St. Petersburg, says students have been inquiring about this bill. Some even delayed applying for summer courses, assuming the bill would be passed for this summer.

But students should err on the side of caution, as summer funding for Bright Futures is not available at this time.

There are other options for students still planning to take courses over the summer. Students can apply for Federal Stafford loans. Federal Work Study programs and Florida Pell Grants may also be available depending on individual circumstances.

Still, the chance to have summer classes covered by Bright Futures would be beneficial to many students who are already breaking the bank to attend college.

"It's unfair to expect us to be able to pay for nine hours," said Hopper. "We need financial aid for a reason, not just for the fun of it"

### Bright Futures 101

> The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program was created in 1997 by the Florida Legislature

> Florida residents may only apply for the scholarship during their last year in high school, by high school graduation

> The Florida Academic Scholars Award covers 100% of public university tuition plus a \$600 annual education allowance and requires a 3.0 GPA for renewal

> The Florida Medallion Scholars Award covers 75% of public university tuition and requires a 2.75 GPA for renewal

For more information about the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, visit the Web site at <http://www.firn.edu/doi/brfutures/>.

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