

Sunshiny thesis



Andrew Ehrhardt, a French major, takes full advantage of the warm weather by using his old fashioned typewriter to work on his thesis paper Saturday.

SUZANNE STANBROOKE/emerald

Bomb threat immobilizes University of South Florida

■ **SECURITY:** A letter sent to the student newspaper has been turned over to the FBI for investigation

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Villa Songbandith just wanted to study with a friend for an accounting exam at the University of South Florida.

With the university virtually shut down because of a bomb threat, she had to flash her ID just to get on campus, and then let police search her book bag to get into the library.

"It's kind of creepy. At first, I was like, 'Let's just go somewhere else,'" Songbandith said. "But it's OK now. It's quiet."

Security was increased after the student newspaper, the *Oracle*, received an anonymous letter March 25 threatening to bomb a university building, kill a white, female professor and set off a fake detonator in a crowd on April 29. The statement was signed "The One, the Leader of the War Purgers."

No one had heard of the group, which claimed ties both to neo-Nazis and two Palestinian terrorist groups. One professor described the threats as "gobbledy-gook."

But just to be safe, final exams were moved up a week so most

of the 28,000 students were off campus. No mail or packages were accepted. No visitors were allowed — only students and staff with photo IDs.

Only about 1,000 people were on the 1,700-acre campus, compared with about 30,000 students and staff on a normal day.

"I don't like the feeling that we could be intimidated as a university," said university President Betty Castor. "But if we had ignored it, we would have been severely criticized. We had to address it."

The date of the threatened attack was 10 days after the first anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing.

In October, a former part-time professor at the university, Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, surfaced in Syria as the new leader of the Palestinian terrorist group Islamic Jihad, just months after leaving on sabbatical.

In an interview published in Beirut this month, Shallah promised new suicide bombings against Israel.

Affidavits unsealed this month in an unrelated investigation indicate federal agents believe an Islamic think-tank once connected with the school and run by another professor was a front to bring terrorists into the country.

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Workshop: Designs invite student cultural interaction

■ **Continued from Page 1**

the cultural perspective of white, able-bodied males, said workshop participant Dan Hunter.

Hunter, who is in a wheelchair, said buildings are not designed for wheelchair access. In addition, their angular shape reflects Western culture. People from other cultures where different shapes and color schemes are emphasized might feel as though they are not wanted in the buildings here, he said.

Most buildings have visual and spatial cues that indicate to minorities that they don't belong there, Hunter said.

Some students used the pioneer mother and father to show how they think dominant culture emphasizes the male perspective, Jones said. Because the pioneer father is in a prominent place and the pioneer mother is in a more secluded location Jones said the pioneer father is more spatially dominant. To bring more attention to the pioneer mother, students hung wind chimes on her. The pioneer father, on the other hand, was shrouded with plastic wrap in an attempt to reverse their roles, he said.

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