

Courts Dormant On Fridays

SOME JUDGES USE DAY TO REVIEW CASES, WIND DOWN



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Familiar Ground Lines Career Path

Some things don't seem to change. Go back to the fall of 1943 in Tampa. The nation was at war and troops were moving in and out of MacDill Field.

If you were to look at the major-league standings as the season came to an end, the two teams at the top were the New York Yankees and the St. Louis Cardinals.

A popular mode of transportation in those long-ago times was the streetcar, although its days were numbered as more people would get their own cars and buses would become more practical.

And, on a fall morning in 1943, Tom McDaniel went to work for the E.M. Scott Construction Co. Some things don't seem to change.

Been There, Done That

MacDill, now called MacDill Air Force Base, is again the center of attention.

Take a look in this morning's sports pages and see where the Yankees and Cardinals are standing.

From the convention center on down Channelside Drive to Ybor City, the government is spending a gazillion bucks to put in streetcar tracks and sometime next year the trolleys will return to the city.

And, down at E.M. Scott General Contractor Inc., out back inside the large open shed near the main office on Madison Street, Tom McDaniel is fiddling with concrete forms and doing the same jobs he has done since that morning back in the fall of 1943.

In an era when it is typical to skip from job to job every year or so in order to "advance" your career, McDaniel hasn't gotten the word.

Not that this was his first job. "I was born in North Florida, twixt Tallahassee and Thomasville [Georgia]. I worked on a plantation working in the fields picking beans and corn and other things until I was 21. It was hard work and if you were like me in those days you didn't have any choices. You did what you were told."

Where The Bus Led

One day McDaniel just upped and got on the bus and came to Tampa where his father was. A few days later he heard about work at E.M. Scott, where they were paying 50 cents an hour to work on projects at Drew Field and MacDill.

"I was making \$6.50 a month working the fields," McDaniel recalls. "I made \$25 my first month and thought I was rich."

He also found a new life. "I got married once but she left me. All she wanted to do was spend money and dance." Now McDaniel lives alone in his house and loves it. "I still have the women coming around," he says, "but at least they finally go home, and I can watch TV."

Today the construction company has moved from its beginnings in Drew Park to its site on Madison just off Channelside Drive.

Edward Michael Scott, who founded the company in 1926, is gone. His two sons, Edward Francis and Robert, took over after that. Edward passed away but Robert is still involved, although now he has three grandsons, Bruce, Greg and Mark Scott, who manage the company.

Already working in the office is great-granddaughter Michelle, who likely will be running the whole operation somewhere down the line.

At least when her turn comes she will have Tom McDaniel around to help her find things.

Some things never change.

Columnist Steve Otto can be reached at (813) 259-7809.



Fuente No longer comes on court on Fridays
Martinez Missed all Fridays in court on April, July, August
Dominguez Says he uses Fridays for overflow
Ober Says records don't reflect her work
Stoddard Says he uses Fridays for hearings
Holt Public defender favors open Fridays

looking for a judge to sign a warrant," said Hillsborough County sheriff's Deputy Ben Garcia. "You walk up and down and knock on their doors,

and you find zip." "You'll find someone "eventually," Garcia said, "if you beat the bushes." Old-timers at the courthouse say

Fridays have traditionally been the day many judges "take it easy."

The judges offer a variety of explanations for their Friday absentee rate.

Some say they are working in their offices signing orders, doing legal research or hearing emergency cases.

Others say they hold court. But they schedule short dockets and are gone by noon.

And some don't show up at all, which is reflected in the courthouse parking lot. On Fridays, it's almost empty. So are hallways and court-

See **JUDGES CALENDARS, Page 9**

Records on civil judges tell little.

Pay For Sex, Get Lesson Instead

MEN WHO PAY PROSTITUTES CAN GO TO CLASS, NOT JAIL



McDaniel Has worked at same job since 1943.

By SEAN LENGELL
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EDITOR'S NOTE: The Tampa Tribune follows the progress of neighborhood activists who call themselves "The Exercise Club" as they battle prostitution along Nebraska Avenue and surrounding streets. Today, a look at the customers, or johns, and new efforts to hold them accountable.

The 50 men barely had time to settle in their seats before Rick Howard stood and challenged their bravado.

"These girls don't like you guys — they think you're the lowest form on earth," said Howard, a West Palm Beach police officer. "They're just doing it for the money, or to feed their drug habit."

Howard's candid words were only the beginning. For 2 1/2 hours, the men faced a barrage of speakers: a homicide detective's terse warning against abuse; a sex therapist's urging them to "think, don't let your penis rule your life;" and a health official explaining the gruesome symptoms of gonorrhea and syphilis.

Welcome to "johns school" — Palm Beach County's newest approach to dealing with the world's oldest profession.

Since last year, the johns — men arrested and charged with offering money for sex — have been given a choice in Palm Beach County: plead not guilty and fight their case in court; or plead guilty, pay a fine and attend a half-day seminar about the consequences of their actions.

Johns schools are among the latest trends in combating street-level prostitution, as law enforcement and judicial systems across America increasingly target the customers, as well as the sellers.

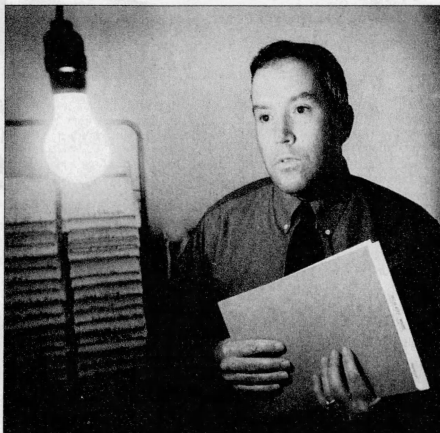
See **FIGHTING PROSTITUTION, Page 8**
Program focuses on reform, not shame.



A man charged with soliciting another to commit prostitution on Nebraska Avenue sits handcuffed in a police vehicle.

TAKING IT TO THE STREET

An Occasional Series



Tribune photos by CAROL CLEERE

Dan Kane, executive director of Tampa Crossroads, is organizing Tampa's first johns school. Kane said the school will emphasize responsibility.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Since the "john" ordinance went into effect in October 1997, Tampa police officers have been allowed to impound cars used to commit prostitution and fine owners \$500 each. Here is how some of the money was spent:

- Oct. 1, 1997 to Sept. 30, 1998
- Motorcycle leases — \$21,000
- Hearing officer account (an independent lawyer who hears challenges to seizure of vehicles) — \$179,000
- Air service lights for helicopters — \$100,000
- Internal affairs transcribing — \$9,550
- Oct. 1, 1998 to Sept. 30, 1999
- Furniture for districts and headquarters — \$179,000
- Police Athletic League and motorcycle work — \$24,000
- Oct. 1, 1999 to Sept. 30, 2000
- Motorcycle leases — \$45,000
- Motorcycle boots, jackets and helmets — \$5,200
- Cycle gear, emerging lights — \$28,840
- Dive team, dock lease — \$12,000
- Transportation services and internal affairs transcribing — \$10,000
- Police Athletic League — \$15,000
- Neighborhood Watch — \$2,500
- Gun buyback program — \$5,000

TRICKY STORMS

The meandering track of Hurricane Roxanne in 1995 shows how fickle storms in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea can be.



Source: National Hurricane Center

Storms Brew In October's Caldron

WARM WATER CREATES SEASONAL MONSTERS

By NEIL JOHNSON
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TAMPA — About now, the Caribbean Sea is warming the formula, preparing for its late-season role as a fine nursery for hurricanes.

Although the Atlantic can and likely will generate storms until the end of hurricane season Nov. 30, attention in October shifts to the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean.

"The very western Caribbean is an

incubator, not just for hurricanes, but some really bad late-season hurricanes," said Hugh Willoughby, director of the Hurricane Research Division in Miami.

Since 1990, the Caribbean and Gulf have spawned two Category 3 hurricanes, three Category 4 hurricanes, and one Category 5 storm in late September through early November periods.

Those are in addition to at least nine tropical storms or hurricanes.

In 1944, a hurricane formed west of Jamaica on Oct. 12, growing to a Category 3 storm with winds of 120 mph. About a week later, it lost strength and

hit south of Tampa with 75 mph winds, killing 18 people.

"We've come to realize some memorable storms came out of that area," Willoughby said.

Like an incubator, the Caribbean is warm — essential for developing storms.

All summer, trade winds from the east push warm water against the coastline of Central America. Willoughby said. That warm water moves

See **BREWING STORMS, Page 6**
Winds whip smaller storms to frenzy.

RELATED STORY: Metro, Page 6: Iris reaches hurricane strength.

FIGHTING PROSTITUTION

Continued From Page 1

"The real perpetrator is the john," said Norma Hotaling, a former prostitute who helped organize a johns school in San Francisco. "If they were not in your community walking around or driving around, you wouldn't have these girls walking the streets."

Program Emphasizes Responsibility

The nonprofit agency Tampa Crossroads, in conjunction with the Hillsborough County State Attorney's Office, will debut the city's first johns school Wednesday.

"Dan Kane, executive director of Tampa Crossroads, said he developed the program after hearing complaints from several central Tampa residents about hookers along Nebraska Avenue.

"The group, called itself 'The Exercise Club,' routinely patrols Nebraska Avenue late at night with pet dogs and police escorts to drive off prostitutes.

"The program's curriculum will emphasize taking greater responsibility for one's actions, Kane said. It also will teach that prostitution isn't a victimless crime.

"That's the excuse — that's what they'll tell you," he said. "But the reality is it's a choice. ... You can't pick and choose what laws to follow."

Tampa's johns school will be similar to the 1 1/2-year-old program in Palm Beach — Florida's first.

"Like most johns schools, the Palm Beach program stresses the legal, health and even moral risks of paying for sex.

The program — called Prostitution Impact Prevention Education — is run by volunteers. A host of public and private agencies are involved, including U.S. Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office, law enforcement, county judges and health officials.

"Representatives from these and other agencies donate time speaking at PIPE classes, offered bi-monthly at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.



Tribune photo by CAROL CLEERE

Cpl. Steve McDonald, a member of the anticrime squad, puts handcuffs on a man accused of offering an undercover officer, left, \$300 for sexual favors. Police use a mobile command post off Nebraska to process offenders.

Participants avoid jail time, instead receiving a suspended 60-day sentence. They must pay court costs, which exceed \$100, and \$50 for the class.

They also must undergo blood tests for HIV, hepatitis and sexually transmitted diseases.

And in several Palm Beach County communities, johns' cars are impounded upon arrest, retrievable after paying a fine of up to \$500.

"When they set out for their three minutes of pleasure, they were figuring on [paying] only 10 or 20 bucks," said Gail Levine, a West Palm Beach volunteer who runs the program.

Levine, a longtime community activist, organized the program after noticing convicted prostitutes routinely were incarcerated for days, but their clients rarely served jail time. Often the charges were dropped.

After researching the San Francisco johns school, Levine persuaded local leaders to give it a try.

"Everybody recognized we had a very big problem," she said, "and everybody was extremely motivated to assist me."

Typically, men who hire prostitutes aren't aware of the health risks, she said. And many of those arrested in Palm Beach County are recent immigrants from Central America, where health education is lacking.

"They really don't realize how these women are infected and can spread communicable diseases," Levine said.

Offenders Get Second Chance

In Tampa, Kane said his program is modeled loosely after the one in Palm Beach.

The program will be incorporated into the state attorney's office's Misdemeanor Intervention Program, which offers first-time offenders a second chance.

Criminal charges are withheld for those who attend MIP classes and counseling. Classes last several weeks.

Tampa Crossroads, a 24-year-old agency that offers treatment and counseling for people recently released from jail or prison, will run and staff the program, called Johns Awareness Diversion Education.

Unlike other johns schools, typically one-day affairs, the JADE program will be one

night a week for six weeks. Classes will be rehabilitative, not punitive, Kane said.

"We're trying to stay away from a scared-straight approach," he said. "It doesn't work for kids, and it certainly won't work for adults."

Past attempts at deterring prostitution often have discredited convicted johns. Tampa's public access channel, for example, televises the names and photographs of convicted johns. Other cities publish the names in local newspapers.

"Before, we tried to embarrass them," said Sandra Spoto, an assistant state attorney. "By this [johns school] program, we hope to change the cycle of repeated behavior and change the cycle of repeated risks."

Agnes Mercurio, who coordinates a johns school in San Francisco, says men aren't as responsive to counseling when guilt is used.

"Shame just promotes the need to act out sexually," said Mercurio, a former prostitute. "I really make it known that I'm not there to shame them and that they need to communicate. ... This is a more holistic attitude than just calling them lousy people."

Repeat Offenses Are Minimal

Johns schools have opened throughout the United States and Canada since 1995, when San Francisco began a highly touted program. Programs in Toronto, Buffalo, N.Y.; Nashville, Tenn.; and Las Vegas have used San Francisco as a model.

Of the nearly 4,000 men treated in San Francisco's First Offender Prostitution Program, less than 4 percent have been rearrested for soliciting a prostitute, program organizers said.

Five hundred men have gone through the Palm Beach program without a rearrest, officials there said.

And only three of 644 who attended a Buffalo johns school have been rearrested, records show.

Despite their popularity, it's unclear whether johns schools deter prostitution.

Little research has been done. And recidivism rates for first-time convicted johns typically are low anyway. "Empirically can we prove that it works? I don't know," said Michael Dmracich of the Erie County District Attorney's Office in Buffalo.

Schools Have Critics

Some judges and public defenders nationally have criticized johns schools, saying they are too lenient.

The Tampa Police Department also isn't sold on it. Assistant City Attorney Kirby Rainsberger said the concept doesn't fit with the department's policies.

"I think our program accomplished the same thing with far less overhead," he said.

Rainsberger said the department's policy of impounding the cars of johns upon arrest — at a cost \$500 plus towing charges — is more effective.

"What other states are doing is copying us," he said. "As far as I know, Tampa has the most comprehensive anti-prostitution program available."

Convincing offenders the programs are worthwhile also can be challenging.

"What's this suppose to do — scare us?" said a man sitting in the back row at the Palm Beach school in August. "Take [our] money and tell us they hope they never see us again."

But supporters say the programs are cost-effective and relatively simple.

"You get the cooperation of the prosecutors and the judges and the district attorney's office and you're off," Dmracich said.

Many programs are run by volunteers or nonprofit groups. Program fees, usually between \$40 and \$100, help subsidize the cost.

The Palm Beach program costs nothing, Levine said. So the \$50 class fee is divided among participating agencies.

And johns schools never promised to eradicate prostitution, supporters say — only to educate men about the associated risks.

"It is just such a complicated issue that you have to attack it from every angle you can," Dmracich said. "And you can't leave out the johns."

Reporter Sean Lenglak can be reached at (813) 259-7145.

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ZONING AGENDA

The following are rezonings and land-use change requests the Hillsborough County Commission will review beginning at 9 a.m. Tuesday on the second floor of the County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. All have the approval or conditional approval of appropriate zoning officials and boards, except where noted.

G. Spicola, Keith Brickleymer, Riverview and Serena Herlong requests. For information, call (813) 276-2058.

Apollo Beach

Terrabrock Apollo Beach wants to modify the zoning of its 40 1/2-acre Harbor Bay project on the west side of U.S. 41 and north of 19th Avenue Northeast to expand the area of its town center, add a right turn onto U.S. 41, expand recreational use and designate additional conservation areas. PRS 01-1259 NOPC 01-1154.

Keystone

A.G. Spicola wants to rezone 90 acres at the southwest corner of Gunn Highway and Tarpon Springs Road to build a 29,000-square-foot Publix grocery store, 11,000 square feet of neighborhood commercial space, an unspecified number of homes on minimum 5-acre lots, 16 homes at quarter-acre lot development standards and a church. A county zoning hearing master, county planners and the local planning commission oppose it as incompatible with the surrounding area. RZ 01-0051.

Rhea Law wants to rezone 49 acres at the northern end of Bellamy Road, north of Ehrlich Road, to build 91 homes. RZ 01-0957.

Gibsonton

Cargill Fertilizer wants to modify its Development of Regional Impact at its Riverview facility west of U.S. 41 and between Riverview Drive and the Alafia River to increase the production of phosphoric acid to 1.2 million tons per year; set limits for the use of sulfur, ammonia and water; approve shipment of liquid sulfur by truck to the company's Barlow plant; and set the project's built-out date at Dec. 31, 2037. NOPC 01-0985.

Lithia

Newland Communities wants to modify the zoning of its 4.385-acre FishHawk Ranch development east of Boyette Road, south of FishHawk Boulevard and west of Lithia Rivercrest Road, to transfer 10,000 square feet of commercial use into an area set aside for office use at the intersection of FishHawk and Lithia Rivercrest, exchange approved church use on 9 acres on FishHawk for commercial use and exchange apartment use for approved retail use within one tract. No additional development rights would be created. PRS 01-0417 and NOPC 01-0495.

New Tampa

Keith Brickleymer wants to modify the zoning of 8 acres within the Cross Creek

mixed-use project on the south side of Cross Creek Boulevard, northeast of Brookton Drive, to increase office space from 14,500 square feet to 90,000 square feet. NOPC 01-0577.

Plant City

Commissioners will consider whether to convert Plant City's annexation of 16 acres between Maki Road and the James L. Redman Parkway, south of West Alexander Street. County staff members are recommending they don't reject the annexation.

Riverview

Keith Brickleymer wants to modify the zoning of 86 acres on the northwest corner of Boyette Road and McMullen Road to eliminate residential access to Boyette and cross access to the commercial property to the west. County planners oppose it, saying the change would negatively affect the Boyette/McMullen intersection. PRS 01-1368.

Thonotosassa

Serene Herlong wants to rezone one-fourth of an acre on the south side of Ohio Avenue, about 100 feet west of Deerfoot Place, for a mobile home. The local planning commission opposes it, saying it isn't large enough to conform to the development standards of the zoning classification Herlong is requesting. RZ 01-1190.

Compiled by Tom Brennan, who can be reached at (813) 657-4528 or tbrennan@tampatrib.com

Church Group Charged In Death Of Girl

DAYTONA BEACH — A church corporation and one of its day care workers have been charged with felonies for the death of a toddler left in a hot van this summer.

Police said Zaniyah Hinson, 2, was left in a locked van at the Abundant Life Academy of Learning day care center Aug. 10.

"The state attorney's office filed the manslaughter charge Friday after Abundant Life Ministries, which owns the day care center.

"The corporation's being held accountable for a series of reckless acts," Assistant State Attorney Phillip Havens said.

If the church is found guilty, the Rev. Marcus Triplett could face up to 30 years in prison.

Day care worker Gail Beemer, 40, was arrested and charged with felony neglect. *The Associated Press*