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The Mushroom Coffeehouse Collection of J.M. "Sudsy" Tschiderer : A Collection Guide

Nelson Poynter Memorial Library. Special Collections and University Archives.

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J. M. (Sudsy) Tschiderer

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The Mushroom Coffeehouse Collection of J. M. “Sudsy” Tschiderer

**USF St. Petersburg Archives
Record Group 730, Series 002**



A Collection Guide by
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Introduction to the Collection

The materials in this collection document campus activities and student life at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Compiled by J. M. “Sudsy” Tschiderer—a longtime director of Student Activities—this collection includes organizational and operational records of a popular campus gathering place, the Mushroom Coffeehouse. Also known as Pot-Pourri, this student-initiated facility provided a venue for music, movies, and entertainment during the early and mid-1970s. Sudsy Tschiderer and Patricia J. “Pat” Sciarappa played an instrumental role in establishing this venue in a former U. S. Maritime Service building that sat along Asbury Street South, next to the pool (at the present-day site of the western wall of Coquina Hall). Tschiderer donated these materials to the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library during the summer of 2005 for use in the Fortieth Anniversary Exhibit of the campus.

Preservation Note

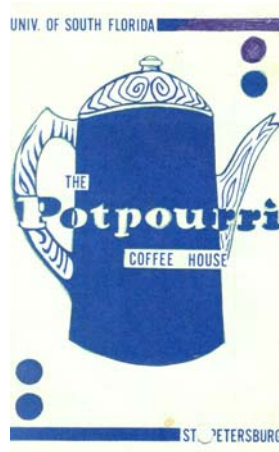
The materials in this collection occupy four folders. While preservation measures may slow the physical deterioration of items, these steps cannot prevent damage from occurring. To prevent further damage to the fragile materials in this collection, avoid exposing them to light for an extended period of time. Please report any tears or other damage so that library staff may take appropriate preservation or conservation measures. Although no restrictions limit access to this collection, library staff will evaluate photocopying or digitization requests on an individual basis to ensure the long-term preservation of this unique collection.

Provenance of the Tschiderer Mushroom Coffeehouse Collection

This collection, created by J. M. “Sudsy” Tschiderer and others associated with the Division of Student Affairs, falls under Record Group 730 (Student Affairs: Activities and Organizations) of the USF St. Petersburg Archives, Special Collections and Archives department, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library.

Scope and Contents

The four folders occupy 0.20 linear feet and offer a portrait of student life at the “Bayboro Campus” during the 1970s.



Folder Index

Folder 1: Organizational Records

Includes memoranda and correspondence between Lester W. Tuttle, Jr. (Campus Dean), Herman J. Brames (Center Administrator), Wayne W. Hoffman (Director of Student Affairs), and others regarding the Army's plan to vacate a 750-square foot building (formerly "G" Building) along Asbury Street, next to the pool. David L. Russell outlined plans for movie showings, folk-rock performances, and other activities of interest to the students at the Bayboro Campus. Also included are USF procurement requests for the sound system, lighting system, and other components.

Folder 2: Operational Records

Contains menus, brochures, fliers, surveys, clippings, and correspondence regarding the Mushroom Coffeehouse and its incarnation as the Potpourri Coffeehouse. This popular gathering place also attracted students from USF Tampa, Eckerd College, and St. Petersburg Junior College. The coffeehouse closed for awhile, but re-opened after a November 1973 student survey showed strong support for weekend gatherings. At a time when St. Petersburg's downtown fell asleep after sundown, the Mushroom Coffeehouse occasionally stayed open until 2:00 a.m on Friday and Saturday nights. J. M. "Sudsy" Tschiderer's elaborate drawings often appeared on promotional materials for the Mushroom. As manager of the coffeehouse, Ron Sicotte spent much of his time in 1972 trying to get the *Oracle*, USF's Tampa-based student newspaper, and WUSF radio to promote events on the St. Petersburg campus.

Folder 3: Operational Records: Mushroom Account, 1972-1973

Receipts and financial records relating to the Mushroom Coffeehouse account (# 92440) for the July 1972-June 1973 fiscal year.

Folder 4: Recreation Complex Management and Maintenance Manual, 1975

Created by Sudsy Tschiderer, this manual outlines procedures and practices for the many areas of Student Activities during the mid-1970s.