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Tale of tails: Rats in the library

By Timothy Fanning

W hen Jessica Berringer and her friends saw the rat on the first floor of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, her friends were studying rat anatomy for a biology lab due the next morning. It was Oct. 17, 12:39 a.m. exactly. Berringer, a freshman majoring in biology, had her head buried in her psychology textbook when her friends went quiet. “There is dead a— a rat in the library,” one of them said, pointing toward the Student Technology Center. “I am looking at a rat. We are making eye contact.” Berringer and her other friend spun around. There it was, across the aisle, less than 20 feet away. “At first I didn’t believe him,” Berringer later said. “And then I saw it myself. So I did what any other teenager would do. I got out my phone for a Snapchat and recorded the rat in the library.” Berringer and her friends aren’t the only ones to see rats in the library late at night. Jackson Andrew, an entrepreneur freshman, saw his first rat a week after a friend showed him Berringer’s Snapchat. “I was a little after midnight, and he was walking to the bathroom after finishing math homework. As he stood, he saw the rat scurry past the bathroom. “At first I was pretty scared because one was near me, but honestly, I was more surprised because I didn’t expect to see rats in the library,” Andrew said. Later that night he saw another crawl a pole in the computer lab. Rats in the library have become such a regular occurrence that aides have affectionately called one of them Steve-O.

Although there have been reports of Steve-O and his friends since February, students and staff didn’t notice the problem until Oct. 2, when the library extended its hours until 2 a.m. The rats have likely been in the library for years, and believe it or not, because the hours have been extended, said David Lueck, owner of The Trapper Guy.

No charges in St. Pete’s sewage crisis

By Noel Mullins

St. Petersburg’s sewage spills are a hot topic for environmental leaders on campus. “I’m conflicted, honestly,” said Byron Baugh, sustainable initiatives coordinator for student government. “The fact that information has been withheld from the public is not great, and I think a lot of us are disappointed in Kriseman’s administration for that reason,” Baugh said. “He needs to be more transparent with the public as often as possible. But, for the most part we (student government) support Kriseman’s initiatives in environmentalism.”

Last Friday, Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney Bernie McCabe made the public announcement he would not be pressing any charges against the City of St. Petersburg or any city employees for the sewer spills that began in 2015. The decision came in the midst of a report released last month by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s investigation, which focused on the city’s sewage discharges in 2017-2016. McCabe told the Tampa Bay Times that he wouldn’t be pressing charges because the FWC report that was released last month didn’t identify anyone in particular that was responsible, so no one could be prosecuted.

“There’s a when. There’s a when. There’s no who,” McCabe told the Times, “It would totally be a waste of time and resources to hold the city criminally accountable.”

But wait, it keeps getting better.

More than 15 million gallons of what officials are calling “fully treated wastewater” was injected into underground tanks or injection wells, to try and handle some of the sewage increase after Hurricane Irma. This information was only released to the public earlier two weeks ago.

The system has really needed an upgrade for a long time now, since at least the early to mid-2000s. But, I believe we are in an ‘oh-shit’ situation as to why McCabe didn’t file criminal charges,” said James Ivey, program coordinator for environmental science and policy graduate and undergraduate programs. According to Ivey, replacing old sewer pipes is both costly and time-consuming and might be reason the city postponed the process. He says the problem has been compounded by the growing population density of Pinellas County, and that we each have to acknowledge our accountability in the issue.

>> SEE SEWAGE on P3

Student Government fills senate seats despite poor voter turnout

By Michael Moore Jr.

O f the over 4,000 students enrolled at USF St. Petersburg, 250 of them voted in the most recent Student Government senate elections. That’s a 61.5 percent decrease from the 650 students that turned out in the spring to vote on the senate, president and vice president in addition to having a referendum on the Student Green Energy Fund. Yasits Jordan, an incumbent senator, received the highest number of votes at 152, retaining her senate presidency pro tempore position. The least number of votes cast were for Gregory Cote, who ended up with 46. Students needed to receive a minimum of 25 votes to secure a position in office — all 11 students were successful in their bids for the senate. While 898 votes were tallied this year, the votes stem from 250 submissions collected over a period of two days where students could vote for up to five senators each. Voter turnout has been a consistent problem for Student Government as it has competed for relevance on a largely commuter campus, even after attempts to make the process more streamlined.

After struggling to fill vacant seats last year, SG made a change to the application process, discontinuing the need for candidates to receive signatures from fellow students in order to qualify. This came after a 340 student turnout that resulted in all 10 senate candidates being granted a seat. Since the embarrassingly low turnout, candidates now qualify for the election by default. Despite the apathy of the student body, Student Government commands considerable responsibilities on campus, including the Activities and Services fee budget, which funds organizations on campus such as the University Student Center, Harborview Activities Board, Waterfront, Campus Recreation and The Crow’s Nest. This year, the A&S fee budget totals to around $3.3 million. While a little more than half of these funds go toward helping the University Student Center, which opened in 2012, the other half is allocated by Student Government, whose own budget is $199,054.
Hearing officer is biased, adjuncts not entitled to union election

By Nancy McCann

Adjuncts from Faculty Forward listen at the Oct. 6 forum with USF President Judy Genshaft.

In its Oct. 27 response, the USF systemaccuses the hearing officer of having a “troubling bias,” presents 17 exceptions to her conclusions, requests further oral arguments, and asserts that the adjuncts’ petition for a union election “should be dismissed.”

Attorneys for the university argue that the union is a “temporary” employees with “no continued expectation of employment” who are “appointed to their positions for the specific purpose of filling unexpected ‘holes’ in the teaching schedule.”

Adjuncts who launched the union campaign in January under the name Faculty Forward disagree with the university’s characterization of their jobs as ephemeral.

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Admitted half the faculty members at USFSF in 2016 were adjuncts. They taught 39 percent of all undergraduate student credit hours and 68 percent of all undergraduate course sections in 2015, according to numbers submitted for faculty’s reappointment to Colleges and Schools.

Adjuncts taught 25 percent of the courses and credit hours in USFSP’s graduate programs in 2015.

Although their employment is not guaranteed, adjuncts make up 44 percent of employees in the USF system – Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee – say they want their significant and often continuing roles rewarded with better pay and improved working conditions.

On average, USFSF adjuncts earned around $8,180 per year by teaching 26 days from Oct. 27 to decide whether the adjuncts can proceed with a union election.

Get the full picture
Read the state hearing officer’s recommendation, as well as the administration’s response at:


SEWAGE, continued from P1

“It’s just as much my fault as everyone else’s, because when I got here when I was younger, I didn’t raise any attention or say hey, we need to address this,” Ivey said.

Ivey seems to think there doesn’t appear to be an easy solution.

“They’re going to have to dig up our streets, they’re going to have to dig up our sidewalks, and they’re going to have to dig up our yards,” Ivey said.

“Most people don’t like the idea of that if they haven’t experienced anything like this before. That’s why I say it’s all our fault. We are short-term thinkers.”

For Brian Pullen, sustainability planner on campus, and the city has been trying to be proactive,” Pullen said.

He points to the addition of a large scale biodigester on the southside of town as being a potential solution.

“I will give the mayor’s office credit in saying the city has been trying to be proactive,” Pullen said.

But not all is lost.

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Ethics Bowl does not qualify for national competition

By Michael Moore Jr michaelmoor@mail.usf.edu

S hould a professor be allowed to wear blackface at a Halloween party in order to teach her students about cultural appropriation? This is a question you might hear at the Southeast Regional Ethics Bowl.

The competition took place at the St. Petersburg College EpiCenter on Nov. 4. It consisted of four preliminary rounds and 20 teams, such as New College of Florida, Eckerd College, University of Florida, Auburn, the United States Naval Academy, and the defending regional champions, Rollins College in Winter Park.

The academic competition pits various teams against one another as they analyze cases and build arguments to justify ethical viewpoints via moral theories such as utilitarianism and virtue ethics.

Among the teams were five contestants representing USF St. Petersburg: Marcus Rubenstein, Ryan Magahan, Mary Adams, Tashi Wangmo and Tabitha Quetant.

The team placed 18 out of 20 teams, ranking up one win and three losses in the process. Rubenstein, a 20-year-old junior studying business, had high hopes going into Saturday’s competition.

“This is by far the best team we’ve had,” Rubenstein said.

In the end it was the United States Naval Academy defeating the University of Tampa in the finals to go undefeated.

Leila Davis, an adjunct professor, has coached the Ethics Bowl team for the last three years. She teaches a class called Practical Ethics that serves as a gateway to prepare students for Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl. Before coming to USF St. Petersburg, she was the coach for Ethics Bowl and debate team at St. Petersburg High School, where she won a national championship in 2013.

Jared Morgenstein was a member of that championship team – now he serves as an unofficial assistant coach, helping students prepare for competition.

On top of the life skills that the competition teaches students, such as the ability to think critically, public speaking and listening to opposing viewpoints, Davis cites students having fun as one of the best aspects of the game.

Some of the discussions at practice are just hilarious,” Davis says.

Due to the enthusiasm displayed by this year’s LIBRARY, continued from P1

The rats seen in Nelson Poynter Library have primarily been seen on the first floor by the Student Technology Center and the employee break room.

“Rats are nocturnal and since the building is open during the prime times the rats are awake and out, you’ll see them until they get used to the human activity,” said Lueck. Lueck said rats aren’t likely to attack students, but cautioned that they can eat away at buildings and infrastructure, and spread disease.

Bacteria such as E. Coli and salmonella can hitch a ride on the furry pests, according to The Washington Post. However, Lueck said that the disease will typically only spread in hospitals and restaurants.

In 2000 alone, urban rats caused $19 billion worth of economic damage nationwide, according to The New Republic, including the costs incurred when they destroy parts of buildings.

“We are working with facilities to get control of the door,” said Catherine Cardwell, head of the library. “Facilities started two weeks ago and have been working very diligently to solve the problem.”

Kevin Berringer, the custodian superintendent who is heading the rat removal project, did not return requests for comment.

Although Cardwell did not comment on the specific measures USF St. Petersburg Facilities Services has already made progress. But getting rid of a rat infestation is not an easy task.

“Rats are going inside for warmth and a place that protects them from predators. Once they’re inside, if they find food, they utilize it.”

According to library policy, drinks with secure lids, meals in secured containers, and snacks packaged or bagged appropriately are permitted on all floors. Cardwell noted the library, would not change its policy.

Another library aide said the sticky traps have helped, and she has seen the rats less frequently since they started taking out the trash more often at night.

“It’s a dynamic natural environment outside these doors. Students can help by putting things in the garbage cans,” Cardwell said.

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Due to the enthusiasm displayed by this year’s team, they went ahead and started a Herdfunder drive to sponsor a potential trip to the national tournament in Chicago, which is set to take place on March 4. The fundraiser, which ended earlier in the week, raised $8,700 of their $10,000 goal, with $3000 coming via David and Lisa Hood of Northwest Mutual.

Since the team did not qualify for nationals, they will use the funds to compete in the International Business Ethics Case competition in Boston in April.

The Ethics Bowl team is sponsored by USF St. Petersburg’s Bishop Center for Ethical Leadership. Practices are on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Fridays from around 3:30 to 6.

Rubenstein said she works at the library, said requested anonymity because she requested anonymity because she works at the library, said they were told to be careful of glue traps near the lounge door, where “some critters chewed up the rug while trying to claw their way under the door.” Lueck said.

That’s because rats breed like rabbits, he said.

Two rats in an ideal environment can turn into 482 million rats over a period of three years, if left alone, according to The New Republic.

Lueck said black rats, more commonly known as fruit rats, are the most common in St. Petersburg. Black rats like to be around salt and fresh water, but can live anywhere inland if they like the environment.

“Black rats like humans and live anywhere where there is human activity for the resources of interest,” Lueck said.

Rats are going inside for shelter, getting in through the roof or down below. They want somewhere dry and warm, a place that protects them from predators. Once they’re inside, if they find food, they utilize it.

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“It’s a dynamic natural environment outside these doors. Students can help by putting things in the garbage cans,” Cardwell said.

“Whenever students have a concern, they should alert library personnel immediately,” she said. “We take student safety very seriously and the extended hours make for a pleasant experience for a lot of people on campus, and we are trying to solve the problems as soon as they come to our attention.”

With finals approaching, Cardwell expects the extended library hours will be even busier.

Berringer said the rats won’t deter her from coming back to the library.

“It was gross but I went back to the library that next day. If I need somewhere to study, I need somewhere to study. The rat was minding its own business,” she said.

Adjects from Faculty Forward listen at the Oct. 6 forum with USF President Judy Genshaft.

Students prepare for competition.

The coach for Ethics Bowl and the member of that championship national championship in 2013.

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Trump-Russia charges leaves political science leader stunned

By Emily Wunderlich
Contributor

The independent investigation into Trump-Russia collusion made its biggest move to date last week, charging three former campaign officials with crimes. President Trump’s former campaign chairman Paul Manafort and his former business partner Rick Gates have been charged with 12 counts of financial crimes. These revelations left USF St. Petersburg’s Political Science Coordinator Thomas Smith stunned.

“If you put this in historical context, this is enormous,” Smith said. “Somebody who was leading the campaign for a President (has) a long pattern of criminal and corrupt behavior going back at least a decade.”

Smith holds a doctorate in foreign affairs and specializes in human rights. In addition to teaching political science, he himself is the honors program director. Smith shared his thoughts on how indictments unearth more problematic questions than solutions.

“It’s amazing to me that President Trump would even have chosen (Manafort) to be a campaign manager,” he said. Manafort served as then-President-elect Donald Trump’s campaign chair in the 2016 election. Gates helped run Trump’s inauguration.

Manafort and Gates used offshore accounts to hide $75 million in income they did not report to the government. Both were charged with money laundering and tax fraud.

Thomas Smith is USFSP’s political science coordinator

Mueller has kept it very close to the vest and is building a case in a methodical way.”

Trump again took to Twitter to downplay Papadopoulos’ role as a volunteer in the campaign.

“Politically, it would be very difficult for him to fire Mueller. He can do it, but it would look like cover-up. It would look like he’s got much more to hide,” Smith said.

Another alternative would be to pardon Manafort, Gates, Papadopoulos and any others involved. “I think this whole notion of the pardon is really interesting,” Smith said.

“The President under the Constitution can only pardon people for federal crimes. But in Manafort’s case and in Gates’ case, these financial crimes are also state crimes.”

“Even if (they) are pardoned, I think the states will then step up and continue to apply pressure on them.”

Instead, former campaign adviser Roger J. Stone suggested he deflect the blow back on Hillary Clinton by

university’s largest donation to date. During that time, he secured the university’s largest donation while securing grants that doubled scholarship funds for scholarly and creative activity.

Nelson holds a doctorate in Latin American Studies from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Yalof received his doctorate in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University. He is the department head of Political Science at the University of Connecticut.

While overseeing the fifth largest department in the university’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which has 36 faculty members, 550 majors, and 60 doctoral students, Yalof focused on cultivating relationships with department alumni and developing curriculum goals.

Michael earned her doctorate in English at Emory University. She serves as associate dean of the College and Graduate School of Liberal Arts at Duquesne University.

In his role, he oversees 12 departments, 22 undergraduate majors, 2,000 students and 170 full-time faculty members.

At USF St. Petersburg College of Arts and Sciences is home to 14 undergraduate majors, 13 minors and eight graduate programs, making it the largest college on campus.

In May, Biafora ran for president of St. Petersburg College after William Law was set to retire. Biafora was one of five finalists, losing to Tonjua Williams, a longtime SPC employee. His lack of community college experience was a concern for the college’s trustees, even though Biafora shadowed former president Law during a fellowship.

The new dean will “play a pivotal role in fostering an innovative, supportive and inclusive environment that embraces excellence in teaching, research and service,” in his role, he oversees 12 departments, 22 undergraduate majors, 2,000 students and 170 full-time faculty members.

President (has) a long pattern of criminal and corrupt behavior going back at least a decade.”

Robert Mueller, named special counsel in May, oversees the investigation into links and or cooperation between the Russian government and the campaign of President Donald Trump.

In general, I think it sets a new bar; campaigns are going to have to be careful about who they’re hiring, where they’re getting their money, how they’re spending their money.”

Information from the New York Times was used in this report.
‘Turn Out the Lights’ raises the indie music bar

By Alex Eubanks
Contributor

Ever since her debut album “Sprained Ankle,” Julien Baker has quickly risen to the top of the indie rock scene and has become a rare crossover hit that landed with both fans, critics and fellow musicians alike.

While she has been interviewed and has received high praise by indie publications, like Under the Radar, her praises have been sung just as high by high by Pitchfork and the Rolling Stone as well as her most devoted fans.

She has a strong fan base among contemporaries like emo pioneers Brand New, who covered one of her songs live; and Paramore, who had Baker open for them in Montana this year.

Her sophomore album “Turn Out the Lights” was released Oct. 27 with very high expectations from both fans and legendary Matador Records, which recently signed her, and it’s safe to say she surpassed all expectations.

The opening track is an extremely well layered instrumental that flows seamlessly into “Appointments,” the lead single of the album. “Appointments” and the following track “Turn Out the Lights,” are powerful emotional ballads.

“Appointments” takes the listener on a trail of Baker fighting with a partner who begs her to get help. While coming to terms with their failing relationship and preparing to cope with the loss of it. “Turn Out the Lights” depicts Baker’s isolation, feelings of being lost and facing her demons as she spends her night alone.

The fifth track “Sour Breath,” is one of the darkest songs on the album. Baker explains the struggle she tackles when she becomes trapped in a one-sided relationship. Where she faces an alcoholic who pays little mind to the demons Baker is trying to fight off.

With the lyrics “I know you do better when you’re by yourself free from the weight of my dirt-poor self” and “Kiss me goodnight with your sour breath, breaks on my face like a wave of emptiness, every time I talk just taste regret, you’re everything I want and I’m all you dread” it’s impossible not to feel the emotional gut punch as she relaunches her emotion into her music.

Baker keeps this up into the sixth and seventh tracks as she attempts to deal with her issues through isolation and reflection and allowing her faith to guide her. At the start of the eighth track Baker begins changing the tone of the album and moves toward self-repair instead of self-pity.

“Happy to Be Here,” heartbreaking lays out the ideal person she wishes to become and the average life she wishes to live. Despite her wishful thinking, she soon turns back to her true self as she sings “I miss you the way I miss nicotine, if it makes me feel better how bad can it be” as she begins to try and refocus on the person she loves.

Toward the end of “Happy to Be Here” Baker takes an extremely dark approach to lighten the mood—something only she could pull off. She details going to an AA meeting on April Fool’s Day and being unhappy by the events. She doesn’t want to be there until she finally brings herself to accept that it’s time to take control of her life.

“Hurt Less” follows a similar structure with Baker beginning the song at another low point and then slowly beginning to work through her thoughts by talking to someone close to her to break herself out of isolation.

She notes in the beginning of the song that she never wore a seatbelt because she simply didn’t care, but later in the song she sings that she started wearing her seatbelt again because she’s found someone she loves. Baker doesn’t want her new partner to worry about her anymore. This moment is arguably one of the most moving moments on the album.

The final two tracks are cathartic as Baker focuses on coming to terms with her demons and starting to accept their existence by incorporating them into her life.

In “Claws on Your Back” Baker explains her battle with self harm before her acknowledging that she’s come to terms with her demons. She sings “I’m better off learning how to be living with demons I’ve mistaken for saints. If you keep it between us I think they’re the same” which is an extremely powerful line.

When comparing “Turn Off the Lights” to “Sprained Ankle” it’s easy to notice the improved production. The minimalist instrumentals on Baker’s debut album are traded for background vocals and a more sophisticated, layered tracks.

While these changes might be a little jarring at first, they become a welcomed feature as the album continues. The beats become more and more tailored to her artistry, amplifying her talent. Baker improves lyrically on her sophomore album as she becomes more detailed and creative. “Turn Out the Lights” is arguably one of the albums of the year that should be a must-listen for any music fan.
Mumble rap is abstract expressionism for hip hop

By Jonah Hinebaugh
Stephensons Journalism and Digital Communication major

What do Young Thug and Mark Rothko have in common? Both went against norm in their respective mediums to help construct something new and beautiful.

Art has evolved throughout history, and that’s a fact. All you have to do is look back at how renaissance, rococo and neoclassicism evolved.

So why don’t we equate the same idea to rap? New periods of art usually come as a reaction to previous periods and rap mimics this idea, but on a much shorter time line.

What draws these movements of “mumble rap” and abstract expressionism together is the focus of emotions and raw feelings rather than telling a life story and controlling the beat that realism movement focused on. Both abstract expressionism and “mumble rap” movements draw similar critiques, such as not having a clear message in the work or not showcasing the adequate skill.

Although I am not entirely convinced that new styles of music should be associated with previous art forms, I can see the connection between them.

For example, throughout the mid-to-late 2000s and early 2010s, rappers focused on complex rhyme schemes to tell a story. Usually, talking about the struggle of growing up in inner-city neighborhoods and eventually making it out. Rap has long documented these stories and the tribulations rappers have faced. This paved the way for well-known artists like Kendrick Lamar, J. Cole and Eminem to come into the spotlight and flourish within the hip-hop community. Soundcloud has provided smaller artists with a platform to showcase their music to the public since 2007. This platform is highly saturated with young artists, but until recently it was almost impossible for independent artists to hit the mainstream music scene.

So what is “mumble rap”? It doesn’t mean it couldn’t be done.

In 2013, Chance The Rapper released his acclaimed album “Acid Rap” on Soundcloud. Just four years later, Chance cinched three Grammy awards for his own movements. He released his album “Coloring Book” after the academy relaxed their eligibility rules for work released on what’s known as “mixtapes.”

The melding of underground rap and the mainstream music industry is what has allowed artists like Young Thug to flourish. Beginning around late 2015, artists like Lil Uzi Vert, Young Thug and Lil Yachty, among others, began getting millions of plays on Soundcloud and being recognized as a new generation of hip-hop artists.

Of course, harsh criticism followed suit by fans of more traditional-rap artists that associate rap was being devalued by these young artists and their style. They labeled the style as “mumble rap,” a derogatory stab at the perceived incoherence of the lyrics.

Despite the critics, artists who flourished in this new medium grew exponentially and by 2016, “mumble rap” had taken over. XXL magazine’s freshman class is a project meant to highlight up-and-coming artists believed to be the future of hip-hop.

The appeal to emotions is what is so important, and “mumble rap” captures that the same way legendary artists like Rothko and Pollock did.

It’s raw, it’s deconstructed and it isn’t empty.
Review: Marvel's latest Thor installment is a masterpiece

By Jeffrey Waitkevich

Thor: Ragnarok, Marvel’s third and most recent installment of the film series, released Nov. 3. The film successfully mixes the fun, light-hearted feel of “Guardians of the Galaxy” with two Avengers to make arguably their best movie yet. Similar to “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2,” Thor’s third solo film opens with a fight between the god of thunder and a hellish-looking demon named Surtur, who is prophesized to destroy Asgard. The battle is coupled with Led Zeppelin’s classic “Immigrant Song.”

The 1970s hit, along with Thor’s playful banter, combine to set the tone that exists throughout Thor’s coming of age, as the hammerless god of thunder.

After defeating Surtur in the opening scene, Thor finds Loki, who is in search of his father Odin. Meanwhile, the real Odin is living in Norway. Once the brothers locate Odin, he tells them of their sister Hela (Cate Blanchett), the goddess of death, who is on a mission to destroy Asgard.

Thor also loses his long, luscious locks, trading them in for a more complete character. His feel for a bronze age of comics with his wit and snappy comebacks.

Thor’s action scenes receive a complete remodel as well. Gone are the days of landing in a combat — instead, welcome to Thor showing off his super strength and lightning control. Once again, this skill feels like a superior version of Thor. As cool as the flying hammer was, it was starting to grow old as Thor entered his fifth movie in the MCU.

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The latest installment of Marvel’s Thor, released Nov. 3, shows the hero losing his iconic hammer, as well as his luscious locks, but gaining a truer, more complete identity.

By Lis Casanova

MONDAY

We’re all in college to learn a thing, right? If so, head on over to the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library and listen to Kun Shi, the director of USF’s College of Arts and Science Institute. The talk, named Understanding the diversity of Chinese culture, will be held from 11 a.m. to noon and it’s importance cannot be overstated.

Many times, China’s culture is presented as a whole, though lively. But the reason that it’s so lively is because of the diversity of the nation. The Chinese leave as a more cultured individual.

TUESDAY

In case you didn’t know yet, it’s Native American Heritage month. Now more than ever, it’s time to honor their people, culture and history. Stories around the fire aims to do this. The evening will combine the silver and American oral traditions, plus, offer games and instructions on how to make your own dreamcatchers. Swing by Harbor Walk circle from 7 to 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Probably the most important aspect of college, besides gaining a degree, networking. And, it’s really not as difficult to do as it seems. For example, you might want to go to the Life Leaders Luncheon to meet and mingle with other students, staff and faculty. This event will take place in the University Student Center ballrooms from noon to 1:30 p.m. Bring your resume, pitch your ideas and make those connections! RSVP to attend.

What’s St. Petersburg without markets — I mean, still pretty cool but you get what I mean. Anyway, with that in mind, here’s another market, and this one’s for the night owls. St. Pete moonlight market on 48 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. S will stretch from 7 to 11 p.m. and will be stocked with assortments of your favorite artisan knick-knacks.

THURSDAY

Me too — you’ve seen the hashtag. Maybe, you even posted your own. If so, the St. Pete Women’s Collective wants to give you a safe space. Me too: An evening of support and solidarity for survivors will be held at Black Crow Coffee from 6:30 to 9 p.m. The event is open for all women, trans and non-binary individuals to honor, respect and stand in solidarity with survivors of sexual assault. Take part in Zine making, collaging, painting, writing or whatever outlet you choose.

FRIDAY

If your comeback during an argument has ever been to correct your counterparts spelling or grammar, then this event is for you. Wordier’s adult spelling bee is a fundraiser for Wordier Than Thou, a nonprofit dedicated to spreading awareness of the arts and to hosting open mics of storytelling and poetry. Enter your team is $100, which is not too steep when you divvy up your sharpest friends (to the Leaner Rooster at 8 p.m. and get wordy (and spell-y). All proceeds will go to the nonprofit’s literary art programs.

SATURDAY

Whether you’re a veteran, or a friend of a veteran, you know how important it is to honor Veterans Day. And, if you’re trying to seize the day, The Dalí’s Veterans Day Observance is the place for you. Feel free to add a wish to the tree or to write letters to service members. Visitors are encouraged to pre-purchase drinks from Cafe Gala, which will be given to service members. Admission to the museum will be complimentary for veterans or active members with ID, plus one guest each.

Don’t forget! The 25th annual Tampa Bay Times festival of Authors ends at noon, but who cares! You’re enjoying the classics.
Suwannee Hulaween once again met my wild expectations, holding its No. 1 spot on my list of Florida’s best music festivals. In a magical cypress and oak forest, along the Suwannee River, were a few precious days of pure ecstasy. 20,000 people united Oct. 27 to 29 under the power of music, creating an environment of love, with no inhibitions.

The jam band, who hosted the festival, The String Cheese Incident, played all four nights and absolutely killed it, as always. On Saturday night, I experienced my favorite set of the festival from Disco Biscuits, a band I’d never seen before. I boogie-woogied my soul right out of my body.

With a sound dubbed as “trance-fusion,” this jam band’s goal was to create the wildest music imaginable. Their sound is so danceable that you will find yourself dancing like a fool, your body taken over by dance moves you didn’t know existed. Their set was mostly instrumental, with the exception of a few lyrical pieces.

Their songs were unpredictable — they would hop into a classical piece or break into a jazz frenzy right in the middle of an extended rock jam. I actually injured my leg from dancing so hard at this set. I have no regrets. Other honorable mentions were jam band Perpetual Groove, producer RL Grime, rapper Vince Staples and reggae artist Damian Marley.

Another standout set from Saturday was Paris-based producer FKJ. A friend once described his sound to me as “elevator music to heaven,” a pinpoint-accurate statement. His slow, heavenly grooves were a certain crowd pleaser. With a sound dubbed as “trance-fusion,” this jam band’s goal was to create the wildest music imaginable. Their sound is so danceable that you will find yourself dancing like a fool, your body taken over by dance moves you didn’t know existed. Their set was mostly instrumental, with the exception of a few lyrical pieces.

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On Sunday, EDM band Keys N Krates played at the same time as Portugal. The Man. I managed to headbang for thirty minutes at their set, and then sprinted over to Portugal. The Man. I thankfully caught their latest hit, “Feel It Still,” and a classic PTM song, “Modern Jesus” from their 2013 album, “Evil Friends.” After those sets, Space Jesus played — an insane experience. He dropped his latest song “Sofa Surfing” only two days prior. If you haven’t heard that song yet, do yourself a favor and bump that right now. The crowd got down, wild and weird.

Later in the night, headliner GRiZ played his funky jams and the good times rolled. This year’s festival was another one for the books. They say that one weekend at the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park will change your life, and I’m here to tell you it’s true. Every artist that Hulaween selects, both musical and visual, spreads a message of love and equality.