Stephanie Goforth for new president

Academic background, individuality sought for new president

By Dylan Hart dhart@mail.usf.edu

The USF Presidential Search Committee stopped at USF St. Petersburg Nov. 15 for one purpose: to hear the input of the school’s faculty.

The committee, which holds regular public meetings while operating the search, plans to select a new president for the USF system by spring 2019. The new president will replace Judy Genshaft, who announced her retirement Sept. 10.

“You’re here today to help us get a sense of what you’re looking for,” said committee member Stephanie Goforth. “This includes personal characteristics, opportunities and challenges for the next decade.”

Will consolidation imperil minority students’ access to USFSP?

By Nancy McCann

Pinellas County Commissioner Ken Welch (left) worries about this fall’s enrollment numbers, but St. Petersburg College President Tonjua Williams says it is too early to draw conclusions.

Academic background, individuality sought for new president

By Anna Bryson annabryson@mail.usf.edu

Citing “harassment and hostile working conditions,” an adjunct Spanish instructor abruptly resigned Nov. 13 with only three weeks left in the semester.

In a disjointed Canvas message to one of her classes, Maria Perez said, “Life is short. I will not spend three weeks left in the semester. Perez’s sudden departure left students in her four classes debating her style and effectiveness as a teacher and the university scrambling to replace her as final exams neared.

“We’re doing all we can to make sure students get all the content they need,” said Joan Reid, chair of the Department of Society, Culture and Language. “Things like this happen and we’re fortunate to be able to finish out the semester.”

Susan Toler, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, declined to comment on Perez’s departure, saying the university does not discuss personnel issues.

Frédéric Levéziel, coordinator of the world languages program, has taken over all four of Perez’s classes.

He and French professor Martine F. Wagner were singled out for criticism in Perez’s Canvas message to one class.

Levéziel did not respond to several emails and phone messages from The Crow’s Nest. Wagner did not respond to two emails.

Will consolidation imperil minority students’ access to USFSP?

By Nancy McCann

He is a third-generation St. Petersburg resident and chair of the Pinellas County Commission with ambitions to run for mayor in 2021.

She was raised by a single mother in the city’s Midtown neighborhood and rose through the ranks to become president of St. Petersburg College last year.

As champions of USF St. Petersburg, both Ken Welch and Tonjua Williams are aware of fears that the pending consolidation of USF’s three campuses might jeopardize one of the St. Petersburg campus’ most distinctive traits. It has long been regarded as a school that embraces students who might not be accepted at larger state universities, especially some minority students.

But Welch and Williams react quite differently to the fact that the number of incoming black students this fall was down by 17, and the total number of undergraduate black students was down by 40.

Welch, a 1985 USF St. Petersburg graduate, is concerned.

In raising the bar for admission this year, he said, the St. Petersburg campus put itself out of reach for potential students who might have eventually thrived here.

“I’m not surprised (by the drop in the number of black students); it’s kind of common sense,” said Welch. “If you are going to raise the bar, some students are going to drop off.”

But Williams, who has a master’s from USF Tampa and a doctorate from Barry University, said it is much too early to draw any conclusions about the dip in black enrollment.

Many minority students with high grade point averages are going elsewhere, she said.

Opinions, page 6
TIS NOT THE SEASON

It seems that Christmas is celebrated earlier and earlier every year, even before Thanksgiving. But no more, says Opinion and Features Editor Dylan Hart. Here’s why he thinks America should slow down on the premature holiday cheer.

FEATURES, page 5
WAITING THE AWARDS

With awards season fast approaching, several movies are in the running for “Best Picture” this year. Crow’s Nest contributor Bryce Lawson offers his recommendations for the top contenders.

ARTS, page 5
HOLIDAYS IN A HANDBASKET

The holidays can be expensive, but Arts and Life Editor Brianna Rodriguez has you covered. Here are three handmade gift ideas that are sure to please without breaking the bank.

OPINIONS, page 6
AWAITING THE AWARDS

With awards season fast approaching, several movies are in the running for “Best Picture” this year. Crow’s Nest contributor Bryce Lawson offers his recommendations for the top contenders.
Kathleen Gibson-Dee, instructor of mathematics and statistics, stressed the particular assets that the St. Petersburg campus possesses.

“We need a president who realizes that the St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee campuses are a value added to our university,” Gibson said.

Gibson, along with her faculty colleagues, stressed the role of community partnerships with businesses and organizations in St. Petersburg in making the USF St. Petersburg campus identity strong and valuable to students, citing the St. Petersburg Arts Committee and the Downtown District as examples of strong community partnerships.

Magali Michael, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said that adding STEM resources would be an important part of growing the university. The college is the largest of the three on campus.

But with USF St. Petersburg’s separate identity from its neighbors in Tampa and Sarasota-Manatee comes a separate set of challenges.

Registrar Sheri Schwartz, along with other members of the faculty and administration, shared concerns about having the St. Petersburg campus’ voice heard.

“We need someone who will work against this mentality of ‘us versus them,” Schwartz said.

Although university officials were tight-lipped about Perez’s departure, documents in her personnel file show that she was issued a reprimand on Dec. 8, 2017.

The document reads, “This oral reprimand is in response to concerns that were raised by other staff and a student in your class regarding behavior that caused the student to believe they were being discriminated against and/or harassed because of their race.”

The two-page document outlining examples of Perez’s inappropriate behavior was signed by Frank Biafora, then dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Toler.

It noted that “the vast majority” of the anonymous, end-of-semester evaluations by students in her classes were positive and did not allude to the kind of behavior that drew the reprimand.

But excerpts from four critical student evaluations were included in the reprimand.

“one can assume that she was homophobic, transphobic and just overall rude,” said one of the anonymous evaluations, which came in fall 2015. (She) always had something rude to say about the LGBT community and not one day passed that she didn’t say something disrespectful about Caitlyn Jenner. Also, she was very much picked on students and made them feel uncomfortable.’’

Sometimes (she) could be very aggressive and seemed to target certain students over others,” said a student evaluation from fall 2016. “It made going to class after a conflict with the professor that prompted Perez to leave. But I can understand that she probably couldn’t take it anymore,” Ocampo said in an email.

“The crazy part is, we have her old boss, the French professor (Levèziel) taking over the class. Nobody in the class likes him after what we heard professor Perez say about him. I think what she did was kind of awesome, how she stood up to the man and told them what she really felt about him to everyone. Perez has always been dramatic like that.’’

Some students aren’t so sad to see her go. Olivia Hansen, a junior political science major, said she disclosed to Perez that she has dyslexia before the semester started, as she does with all of her new professors. Hansen said that Perez repeatedly made inappropriate comments about dyslexia in front of the class.

“That’s actually dyslexic, so that’s a little offensive,” Hansen said. “She wanted me to leave classes sometimes. She would say, ‘You can go.’ I didn’t go anywhere.’”

Hansen also said that Perez once had a foot injury and acted erratic during classes, saying that her pain medication made her feel like she was “on a rollercoaster.”

“If it was ridiculous,” Hansen said.

Justine Ortiz, a junior political science major, said she switched out of Perez’s class after a conflict with the instructor. She wanted Perez to say she had put the issue “in the hands of her lawyer.”

Ortiz said that she would often speak up against what she called Perez’s racist comments in class, to which Perez would tell her to “calm down.”

“She is completely racist and I think it is hilarious that in her statement, she called her bosses racist and that they’re not Americans,” Ortiz said. “We’d be talking about Japan and she’d be like ‘ching ching ching chong, chong, literally making racist noises when we have an Asian chick in our class.’”

In those emails (to her class), Perez, (said), “I learned so much more about you than you’ve learned in my class.” Because you didn’t teach us anything, you just asked us questions about our personal lives trying to psychoanalyze us.”

The committee will hold two more public meetings at USF Tampa this week.

The Crow’s Nest
CONSOLIDATION, continued from P1

“We need to work on expanding the community’s awareness of everything St. Petersburg has to offer,” said Williams. “I think we (USF St. Petersburg) are the best-kept secret, and it’s time for the secret to come out. We’ll get there.”

Like Williams, university officials caution against drawing any conclusions from this year’s enrollment numbers. Simple assumptions about enrollment should not be made due to the complexity of the admissions process, said Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock, and the bigger picture is that the St. Petersburg campus is “trying to take steps to become more diverse.”

He described USF Tampa as a “majority-minority” campus, where white students make up about 49 percent of the undergraduates this semester.

White students account for about 62 percent of the undergraduates at USF St. Petersburg, according to the USF InfoCenter.

“Diversity is a broad term, not just meaning race,” Tadlock said. “Sixty-eight percent of our students are female. Men are underrepresented.”

Serge Desir, USF St. Petersburg’s director of undergraduate admissions, said that one of the ways to “keep USFSP more accessible to a broader range of students” is to intentionally aim at a lower average GPA and lower average SAT or ACT score for first-time-in-college students admitted in the summer and spring semesters.

For spring 2019, the goal is an average GPA of 3.3 to 3.5, according to Desir. That is considerably lower than the average GPA of 3.8 that was targeted for incoming freshmen in the fall 2018 semester.

In USF St. Petersburg’s practice of rolling admissions, adjustments are made throughout the process: The more students admitted with very high GPAs, the more can be admitted with GPAs in the lower ranges to achieve the desired average.

In January, USF St. Petersburg changed its minimum requirement and stopped accepting students with GPAs under 3.0. Before that, the university would occasionally accept students with GPAs down to 2.7, said Desir.

“There are concerns that students with GPAs under a 3.0 may face greater retention, persistence, and graduation challenges than those with stronger academic performance,” Desir said in an email to The Crow’s Nest.

Williams, a member of the USF Consolidation Task Force subcommittee on student success, has repeatedly emphasized the importance of student access. Summer and spring enrollment for first-time college freshmen is a good option for students who do not meet the requirements and goals for fall enrollment, she said, but it “should not be the only option.”

A new program called Pinellas Access to Higher Education (PATHe) is a collaboration between USF St. Petersburg and SPC that is designed to counsel middle and high school students and their families about college admissions and help ensure that county students continue to have access to the university.

Williams said the program is important for many students who need to focus on their academic performance and understand what is necessary for their college applications.

Williams, who said she was a first-generation college student who lived in poverty, points to herself as an example.

“To get there (college), someone reached out to me to help,” she said. “I am very, very happy that St. Petersburg has Dr. Tadlock and his leadership and vision, which are going far” to provide opportunities for families.

The average high school GPA of new freshmen accepted at the St. Petersburg campus is slowly rising (see charts below).

The average high school GPA of first-time-in-college black students in summer and fall rose from 3.47 in 2014 to 3.63 in 2018, according to information provided by Lauren Haddad Friedman, director of institutional research at the St. Petersburg campus.

For Hispanic students, it rose from 3.63 to 3.73, and for white students, from 3.63 to 3.78.

The average high school GPA of new male freshmen rose from 3.49 to 3.61; for female freshmen, from 3.70 to 3.82. The average high school GPA of all new freshmen at USF St. Petersburg increased from 3.62 in 2014 to 3.76 in 2018.

One of the state premiery metrics that the three campuses combined will soon need to meet requires the USF system each year to have an average weighted GPA of 4.0 or higher for fall semester incoming freshmen. (A weighted average includes points added by high schools to account for more difficult classes, resulting in GPAs that can be above 4.0.)

Although Welch said he thinks Tadlock and Williams “are doing some innovative things to get kids into the loop early, to know what pathways they can take,” he has many questions.

Embracing “higher standards” “raises the question of accessibility for a good, B student,” he said. “Where are good students supposed to pursue a standard education? Is it the state college system? If so, are we applying the necessary resources?”

GPA on the rise

The average GPA for incoming freshmen at USF St. Petersburg — summer and fall — has risen slightly since 2014, with men lagging behind women and black students behind Hispanic and white students. The numbers were provided by Lauren Haddad Friedman, director of institutional research at USF St. Petersburg.

The average high school GPA of incoming freshmen at USF St. Petersburg changed its first-time-in-college freshmen fall from 3.47 in 2014 to 3.76 in 2018. The average high school GPA of new male freshmen rose from 3.49 to 3.61; for female freshmen, from 3.70 to 3.82. The average high school GPA of all new freshmen at USF St. Petersburg increased from 3.62 in 2014 to 3.76 in 2018.

One of the state premiery metrics that the three campuses combined will soon need to meet requires the USF system each year to have an average weighted GPA of 4.0 or higher for fall semester incoming freshmen. (A weighted average includes points added by high schools to account for more difficult classes, resulting in GPAs that can be above 4.0.)

Although Welch said he thinks Tadlock and Williams “are doing some innovative things to get kids into the loop early, to know what pathways they can take,” he has many questions.

Embracing “higher standards” “raises the question of accessibility for a good, B student,” he said. “Where are good students supposed to pursue a standard education? Is it the state college system? If so, are we applying the necessary resources?”

Decline in number of black students

USF St. Petersburg officials caution that it is too early to draw conclusions, but statistics from the USF InfoCenter show that the number of black, first-time-in-college students this fall declined by 17 and the total number of black undergraduates declined by 40. The total number of all first-time-in-college students and all undergraduate students also declined.
Small businesses shine at indie flea market

By Amy Diaz

What do you get when Small Business Saturday and Black Crow Coffee Co.’s third birthday fall on the same day? A pop-up indie flea market.

With the holidays fast approaching, St. Petians took to the brick roads of Old Northeast to do their shopping locally.

“I’m shopping for my brother,” said market-goer Chelsea Rogers. “He bought me something local from New York last year so I’m trying to do that for him this year.”

“I’m trying to see if they have something cool, crafted or something like that,” said Bethany Klink, another shopper. “I like to get my shopping locally.” Rogers co-owns the art business 9lamps, with her partner of four years, Deepa. The two are based in St. Petersburg and sell at markets in Tampa and Sarasota. They can be found on Instagram at @9lamps. Some vendors are relatively new to the indie market scene. Becca Morelli started her upcycled clothing business Dirty Denim within the last year. “I’ve actually been upcycling most of my life,” Morelli said. “I’ve been thrifting since I can remember and neither does anybody else,” Bradford said. “I always try to use different materials to sew, all different, so I don’t get bored and neither does anybody else.” Bradford said.

Lauralie Bradford sells her handmade jewelry at indie markets, farmers markets and music festivals around the country.

She started selling her creations to her friends through Facebook as a senior in high school. She had an Etsy shop in college before she dropped out and eventually decided to make jewelry full time.

At the end of each necklace chain are vibrant stones, gooses, pressed flower petals, or shrunken animal skulls. Every summer, Bradford travels north to gather materials.

“Some stones are from Colorado, North Carolina, some are directly sourced from Brazil,” Bradford said. “My butterfly wings come from sanctuaries around the U.S., so instead of being thrown out, they’re recycled and sold to artists like me. I also buy deer antler in bulk by the pound from a guy in Montana who sells it out of his garage.”

No two pieces in her collection are alike.

“I get bored very quickly so I try to make everything different, so I don’t get bored and neither does anybody else.” Bradford said.

Her jewelry can be found on Instagram at @shopthegenesis, or at her website, https://shopthegenesis.com/.

If you’re a regular local indie market-goer, you’ve probably seen the painted collages of famous musicians, writers and artists.

“I’ve been painting my whole life, but as far as making tribute collages, I’ve been doing that for about three years,” said artist Marcus Rogers. His jewelry weighs you down,” reads the quote alongside a painting of Toni Morrison.

Rogers co-owns the art business, 9lamps, with his partner of four years, Deepa. The two are based in St. Petersburg and sell at markets in Tampa and Sarasota. They can be found on Instagram at @9lamps.

Some vendors are relatively new to the indie market scene. Becca Morelli started her upcycled clothing business Dirty Denim within the last year.

“I’ve actually been upcycling most of my life,” Morelli said. “I’ve been thrifting since I can remember and neither does anybody else,” Bradford said. “I always try to use different materials to sew, all different, so I don’t get bored and neither does anybody else.” Bradford said.

Lauralie Bradford used butterfly wings from sanctuaries in the first necklaces she ever made. Seven years later, they are still one of her signature pieces.
Homemade holiday gifts on a budget

By Brianna Rodriguez
bRodriguez@mail.usf.edu

The holidays are filled with cheer, cocoa and gift giving. But, as a college student, gift-giving can be difficult on a budget. All of the following gifts are under $5, can be made at home and are appropriate for any age.

Peppermint Salt Scrub

It isn’t easy to make a homemade gift for anyone. The peppermint essential oil in this scrub not only smell good, but also help relax the muscles after a workout or a long day of work.

Ingredients:
- 1 cup epsom salt
- 1 3 oz jar of coconut oil
- 30 drops of peppermint oil
- 2 small jars

Pour coconut oil in a bowl and place in the microwave for increments of 30 seconds until melted. Then slowly add in the epsom salt. After they are mixed together, add in the peppermint oil. For a stronger scent, add in a few extra drops and combine. Then evenly separate into each jar.

For this scrub, I bought the jar and the container of coconut oil at the dollar store. The epsom salt and peppermint oil were purchased at Walmart.

Homemade essential oil candles

Who doesn’t love a good-smelling candle? These homemade candles are a great way to impress your neighbors and family.

Ingredients:
- 1 unscented candle (you can reuse the wick) or candle wax and wicks
- 20 drops of essential oil of choice
- 2 small candle holders
- 1 paper plate or bowl
- Knife

Scissors

Shave off candle wax from the unscented candle and place on a microwavable plate or bowl. Microwave the wax in 30-second increments until it becomes a liquid. Prepare the candle holders with the wick using the scissors. Then, slowly pour some of the wax into one of the the candle holders, along with a few drops of oil. Alternate the wax and the oil until most of the holder is full. Do the same for the second holder.

I bought the candle and essential oil at Walmart. The candle holders were purchased at the dollar store.

Cookie gifts

There are few times when gifting food can go wrong, especially if it involves chocolate. There are two ways to tackle the traditional chocolate chip cookie. If you enjoy baking, I highly recommend the Minimalist Baker Healthy Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies. If you don’t have time or don’t enjoy baking, the premade cookie dough of your choice works just as well.

Ingredients:
- 1 dozen cookies of choice
- 1 package of gift boxes

This gift is simply the cookie of your choice presented in gift boxes. Follow the cookie recipe directions. Once cooked, place a few cookies in each box until all cookies are separated evenly. I bought the gift boxes, which have five per package, at the dollar store and a dozen cookies at the grocery store.

Award season movie roundup 2018

By Bryce Lawson
Contributor

With the 2018 movie season coming to a close, it’s that time of year again to decide which film will receive the coveted golden statue. After being met with criticism, the Academy decided to get rid of its proposed “Most Popular Film” category. Therefore, there can only be one true “Best Picture” winner this year.

These are my picks for the films that will compete for numerous awards this season.

1. “The Favourite,” directed by Yorgos Lanthimos, has been getting the most buzz surrounding the awards race. Mostly known for his dark comedic style, Lanthimos is bringing his take on the costume period drama with his newest female-led film. The film stars Olivia Colman as Queen Anne of Great Britain, with Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz playing two cousins in a behind-the-scenes political battle to determine which one will be the Queen’s favorites. The film is scheduled to release in December, with some early screenings this weekend.

2. “Roma” brings past “Best Director” winner Alfonso Cuaron back into awards contention with his newest Netflix-produced film. There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the film due to it being a Netflix exclusive. In order to meet Academy rules, the film will be shown at a few theaters to be in “Best Picture” contention.

The film has already won the Golden Lion at the Venice International Film Festival. Last year’s “Best Director” and “Best Picture” winner Guillermo Del Torro already called the film “One of my top five movies of all time.” The Spanish language semi-biographical film is set in Mexico City during the 1970s, dealing with the life of a middle-class family and their live-in housekeeper.

The film is scheduled to be available on Netflix starting Dec. 14.

3. “Widows” is director Steve McQueen’s follow-up to his 2013 “Best Picture” winner “12 Years A Slave.” In this heist film, a group of women are forced to take matters into their own hands. They attempt a heist in order to pay off a crime boss to make up for their husbands.

This female-led film, starring Viola Davis and Michelle Rodriguez, is Steve McQueen’s most widely released film to date, showing audiences what he can do in the crime genre. “Widows” is now playing in theaters.

Those are my picks for the must-see movies this award season. I think “The Favourite” is going to win big, especially in the acting categories, but with all of the buzz it is getting, “Roma” might swoop in and be Netflix’s first “Best Picture” winner.

With awards season right around the corner, these are the must-see movies for the rest of 2018.
Pass the turkey, hold the Bublé

By Dylan Hart
Junior journalism and digital communications major
dhart@mail.usf.edu

W e’re finally approaching December. Congratulations, everyone. You survived another November with Christmas being shoved into your face at every opportunity.

Despite my “bah humbug” nature on this matter, I am hardly a Grinch or a Scrooge. In fact, Christmas is one of my favorite holidays. You would be shocked at the amount of good music that is released for the season outside of the traditional Christmas pop genre.

But that’s precisely why starting the Christmas season so early is a real shame. It makes the period, which already adopts all of December, feel less genuine when people start celebrating at the start of November.

My main issue with the early start is that it feels like people are being forced to buy into a massive marketing scheme. America is no stranger to consumerism.

It’s understandable that companies want to profit as much as possible; that’s the nature of capitalism — Black Friday exists expressly for that reason.

But I don’t believe that’s any reason to give into the marketing push. We have a unique opportunity, as consumers, to say that November is not the Christmas season.

Realistically, we can’t expect the public to forego deals on game consoles and plasma TVs — after all, people are willing to risk their lives every year for some good deals on expensive products.

But we can push, at least a bit, to keep Thanksgiving as its own holiday. Families aren’t usually running off to theaters to catch the latest turkey-centered film, but you don’t get a lot of movies made for Labor Day or Arbor Day either.

Although I’m excited for the upcoming holiday, I am a bit less excited after having Mariah Carey’s “All I Want For Christmas Is You” every single Christmas season.

At least, though, Bublé’s discography drilled into my head in every store and every commercial for the last couple of weeks.

We may have to acknowledge that the holidays, in our society, are at least partially a way for corporations to get richer.

It’s possible that some people really do want the season to begin early. I’m not arguing against individual cheer. I just wish advertising wouldn’t beat the death of Christmas horse (reindeer?) so early and so violently.

I hope that you and your family have a great holiday this year. Next year, though, maybe you can join me in the “Christmas before Thanksgiving” resistance.

Give unusual holiday films a chance

By Salvador Castillo
Freshman criminology major
castillost@mail.usf.edu

It’s that time of year when we grab our family and friends to huddle around the TV and watch the standard arrangement of festive movies. From “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” to “It’s A Wonderful Life,” holiday movies are a staple of the season.

However, there are holiday movies that often go forgotten because they’re unconventional.

From horror flicks to movies that challenge the opposite meaning of the holiday, these are great choices when you want to spice up your yearly movie queue.

First off, Thanksgiving. It’s hard to find movies about Thanksgiving aside from “A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving,” so unconventional movies are even more rare. The film, “The Ice Storm” follows two dysfunctional families who engage in all kinds of excess.

And while most movies in this vein often play it for comedic purposes, this film explores how excess can either break a family or unite it. It also doesn’t hurt that it has performances from Elijah Wood, Tobey Maguire, Kate Holmes and Christina Ricci.

Next, Christmas. While “Die Hard” may come to mind first, there’s another movie that many don’t think about: “Silent Night, Deadly Night.”

It may seem counterintuitive to watch a horror movie for Christmas, but the film’s focus on a serial killer, who dresses up as Santa Claus and punishes those he deems naughty, more than qualifies. While the movie has a ‘80s roots, the film still makes for quality entertainment today. Just pay no mind to the sequel.

Following Christmas is New Year’s Eve, and “Poseidon,” a remake of 1972’s “The Poseidon Adventure,” is the movie of choice.

It follows a group of tourists, aboard the SS Poseidon during a New Year’s Eve celebration, who have to make it out of the ship after it capsizes. It may not have the more common settings of quiet suburbs or sprawling cities, but it’s still an uplifting story about strangers caring for each other through hard times.

After New Year’s Eve comes Valentine’s Day. And yeah, most people stick to their run-of-the-mill rom-com, but that’s doing movies like “My Bloody Valentine” and “Harold and Maude” a huge disservice.

“My Bloody Valentine” follows a group of miners in the town of Valentine Bluffs, Canada, after their celebrations are interrupted by local urban legend Harry Warden, who kills anybody who tries to get “funky” in the mines where he was trapped during a previous Valentine’s Day celebration.

And while “Harold and Maude” follows the more traditional beats of a Valentine’s Day film, the key difference lies with the eponymous couple: Harold is a 18-year-old obsessed with staging fake suicides, and Maude is a 79-year-old (you read that right, there’s a 61 year age gap) who leads an incredibly eccentric lifestyle. Darkly funny and slightly bizarre, it’s a very sweet movie exploring relationships.

“My Bloody Valentine” and “Harold and Maude” are both great holiday movies that push the boundaries of what’s acceptable this time of year.

The Fourth of July, the Fourth of July, the Fourth of July.

“Independence Day” follows a group of scientists who discover an alien ship in the outer atmosphere.

They plan to take out the ship along with its pilot, and end the threat to all of humanity. It’s one of the greatest holiday films because it applies to all holidays.

Give these unconventional holiday films a chance, and enjoy them on a nice December evening.
Bulls end season on losing streak

By Alec Arroyo
Contributor

USF was unable to play spoiler at home against No. 9 UCF, losing 38-10 on Friday night. The game was overshadowed, however, by a gruesome injury to USF's junior star quarterback, McKenzie Milton, with 11:17 left in the second quarter. Milton was scrambling to his right and was tackled at the 25-yard line, but couldn’t get up due to a severely dislocated knee.

The injury took place on the USF sideline, and both teams surrounded Milton, holding their breath. Milton was carted off the field and taken to Tampa General Hospital, where he successfully underwent surgery, according to reports. Despite losing Milton, UCF was able to continue to roll as they extended their win streak to 24 games, dating back to last season.

The Bulls were without their starting quarterback, Blake Barnett, due to an ankle injury he suffered the week before in their 27-17 loss against Temple. USF decided to start their redshirted sophomore Chris Oladokun in his place.

The USF offense was having a hard time moving the ball through the air as a combination of Oladokun and third-string quarterback Brett Kean combined for 113 yards passing on the day.

The Bulls were looking to end their regular season on a high note by beating the rival Knights, but instead, the team continued their lengthy losing streak – the longest of head coach Charlie Strong’s USF tenure.

USF’s season has been one of extreme highs and lows. After starting the season 7-0, the Bulls have now lost five straight games, putting their record at 7-5 to end the regular season.

The Bulls are bowl-eligible, but they are likely looking at a second-tier bowl game against a team outside of the Power Five conferences – likely a Conference USA or Sunbelt opponent.

Despite losing two straight games to UCF, the Bulls still hold the all-time lead in the War on I-4 series, 6-4.
Merry and bright: Where you can find holiday lights

By Martha Rhine
martharhine@mail.usf.edu

If you go:
Florida Botanical Gardens

Holiday Lights in the Gardens
November 23 - December 30
5:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Suggested donation $5 for ages 13 and over.
12520 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33774

Christmas lights are reflected in a small pond.

A big Christmas tree decked in white lights draws visitors to the wedding garden at the Florida Botanical Gardens in Largo.

Palm fronds take on an otherworldly look in the glow of neon lights.

Florida themes like flamingos and dolphins are popular garden decorations.

The many palm trees throughout the garden are wrapped in multi-colored lights.

The main bridge leading in and out of the gardens glows with lights from a distance.

Artistic light displays adorn the entrance to a tropical garden.

Small touches adorn corners throughout the garden.

Visitors enter and exit the gardens on the main bridge.