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Florida International University

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University embraces millennial trend

LESLIE OVALLE
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Now, the Department of Parking and Transportation partnered up with the Office of Sustainability to paint sharrowsthe pavement marking that reminds motorists that the lane is shared with cyclists, around campus and build bike lanes on expanding roads. To someone like Bailly, who bikes 24 miles to and from the University, this is a big help. “Human interaction is a huge part of the adventure [when I’m biking],” he said. “One thing that’s really cool is the wildlife...I’ve encountered iguanas, vultures and marathons on my average day-to-day.” He said he noticed speeding cars and ragged drivers during his average trips to and from the University. Speed limit is not helpful,” said Bailly. “In a car, 25 miles per hour may seem slow, but, when you’re on a bike, the speed limit is a matter of life and death.”

The University has recently implemented a number of policies and strategies to ease cyclers and promote their safety, in response to alternative transportation increase and demand. One of the policies the University has on campus is a 15 MPH speed limit and a five MPH parking garage speed limit.

Developing Leaders

Dr. Jaffus Hardrick, the Vice President of the Division of Human Resources, co-hosts the Educate, Empower, Build Open Forum as part of the Campus Life Leadership Development Series Monday, Nov. 23.

The book presentation is hosted by the Transgender Day of Remembrance, happening on transgender issues, and educate the general public and organizations that help.

Island University students.

The Office of Health Promotion Services also had a table where students dealing with food insecurity among university students, according to Keesee. There are 28,800 FIU students,” said Keesee. “There are 28,800 FIU students dealing with food insecurity at any given moment, according to Keesee. The office of Health Promotion Services collects these data from financial aids applications. “The pantry served 35 students this semester,” said Virgile. “That’s equal to 320 pounds of food given out.”

Farmer said that students who reach out to the food pantry for assistance receive a ratio of 10 pounds of food that’s supposed to last them for a week. “Students must cook the food they receive because the pantry doesn’t serve warm meals.”

Because the display was hosted by the Transgender Day of Remembrance, attendees also had access to representatives from different organizations that help educate the general public on transgender issues, and who also offer services to the transgender community. The food Pantry is located at the Wolfe University Center 307 and it accepts donations throughout the semester.

“Each fork represents 100 students,” said Keesee. “There are 288 forks for a total of 28,800 students.” There are 28,800 FIU students dealing with food insecurity at any given moment, according to Keesee.

When Duany started a photography project in 1992. One of her images, for example, shows a six-year-old boy who brought international attention.

Thais Hernandez said she grew up climbing trees and playing with rocks in Havana, Cuba. “There was no luxury of sitting on a computer for seven hours or watching TV,” said Hernandez, a sculpting and painting double major.

Cynthia Alonso, a photographer and photo editor, exhibits artists, news events and the world’s most colorful culture.” Her book is made up of photographs from contemporary Cuba.

Jorge Duany, director at the University’s Cuban Research Institute, said Alonso’s shows images that are often neglected by foreigners. “What interests me is as an anthropologist are the photographs she documents that are not regularly seen in travel brochures: regular people that are not necessarily posing for the tourist gaze,” said Duany.

For more than 20 years, Alonso’s works have been published by Newsewak, Vanity Fair, Businessweek and TIME. Her works have also been presented in Canada and Latin America.

Alonso’s photographs show a contrast between the folkloric aspect to the country and the foreigner’s perspective of the less luxurious parts of Cuba. She combines the foreigner’s perspective of Cuba into an adaptation of less commonly known places over a passage of time.

Places include the streets of Cuba with automobiles from the 1950s and she shows the contrasts between patina houses; peeling stucco apartments and the Capitol Building, Havana Cathedral and Hotel Nacional.

Alonso also highlights the different use of color palettes in Cuba, like salmon pink, sky blue, apricot and aqua green. The rise of self-employment is also highlighted in the book. Alonso shows the number of vendors ranging from selling t-shirts to artwork. Hernandez said she remembers the struggle of living in Cuba with large families. “A family of six struggles with what an entire household can eat for the rest of the week,” said Hernandez.

“We were given a libreta, which rations the limitation of needs for survival.” Libreta translates to a notebook.

Alonso also incorporates to her work historical references since she started her project in 1992. One of her images, for example, shows supporters for Elian Gonzalez, a six-year-old boy who brought international attention.

Gonzalez was found clinging to an inner tube off Florida in 1999 after his mother and others drowned trying to reach the United States. He was taken to live with his relatives in Miami, but his father, still in Cuba, demanded his return.

Past Cuban president, Fidel Castro, led marches calling for Gonzalez to be sent back to Cuba until American courts sided with his father. The book also serves as a visual connection for Cuban immigrants who have fled to Miami over the decades.

Some images include pictorials of Che Guevara and Fidel Castro. Guevara was a tactician of guerrilla warfare and a prominent communist figure in the Cuban Revolution between 1956 and 1959.

The book presentation is hosted by the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs and it will take place Saturday, Nov. 28 at Books & Books in Coral Gables.
Florida’s coral reefs and delicate marine environment could become less valuable to pollution from oil spills under an agreement taking shape between the United States and Cuba.

The agreement would clear the way for American companies to provide the latest blowout preventers and other pollution controls to help stave off spills in Cuban waters.

Other factors include if whether the leader has created a fair benefit for the public, such as inventing a coding language or leading a civic initiative to help companies attain capital success and strategic growth.

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The University recently hosted, “Startup Weekend Miami,” which is a three-day event that aims to help student entrepreneurs pitch and develop startup ideas. Students are credited in 54 hours with the help of developers, designers and entrepreneurs to come to the Startup Weekend because we want them to represent like-minded individuals,” said Saif Ishaq, vice president of the Office of Engagement and Entrepreneurship with student media.

The Paris attackers used an online gaming chat function to discuss their plans. To stay in touch, they used a social media app designed to protect Russian citizens from the prying eyes of their secret police. And, after they’d targeted 130 and wounded another.

“Mockingjay Part 2” dips to lowest opening in ‘Hunger Games’ series

and landed far away from the ocean currents to Florida. The breakthrough would ease years of anxiety about oil exploration off the north coast of Cuba and help avoid a giant spill less than 50 miles from Florida Keys.

The film, on 4,175 screens, the gross still fell short of expectations of course, but “Mockingjay’s” average. Those numbers dwarfed police. And, later, after they’d targeted 130 and wounded another.

17.

While the occupation is over, the bias at the liberal arts campus.

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While the occupation is over, the bias at the liberal arts campus.
Art Basel is around the corner and Wynwood was previously a haven for people wanting to see art for free as gallery spaces were open. However, as so many of those gallery spaces gone, Wynwood is now a commodity in the eyes of developers who will shake every last penny out of it. Artists are forced to rethink traditional spaces and create their own. They are taking the streets and creating a stand against the corporate greed. They are losing a lot of visibility while gaining strong art communities that withstand the test of high rent.

In the last few years, Goldman Properties developers have turned Wynwood, formerly known as Little Puerto Rico, from a shady developers have turned Wynwood, formerly known as Little Puerto Rico, from a shady area into a hotbed for the art scene. In the city. However, as more developers swooped in, more artists and residents are swept out. The notion of a starving artist is certainly perpetuated in Wynwood as original galleries are forced to close to welcome in the glitz and glam of new and more hip galleries. As a fine arts major and Miami native, I find it incredibly troubling how insecure art in Wynwood has become. Through tough. I once enjoyed the monthly art walks, nowadays it’s cluttered with a very bourgeois crowd who can afford ridiculous bar tabs and not give a second thought to art hung up in galleries. Every time I feel like I am drowning in a sea of art exhaustion.

I reached out to local Maitejosune Urrechaga, a multidisciplinary artist and half of Pocket Full of Lollipops, a local alternative, for her thoughts on the matter. “I do think Wynwood and some of the areas that have served as safe places for some artist have become obsolete, especially if you are one of the artist that are dependent on that,” said Urrechaga. She explains that she will always create art wherever she will be.

“We have performed, put together and exhibited in several art fairs, happenings and installations here in the Wynwood and surrounding areas,” said Urrechaga’s husband and other half of Pocket Full of Lollipops. “We also reach out to areas of Wynwood that are not in the ‘trendy’ or ‘safe’ art spaces.”

“Give me your grandma’s back yard and I will make what I want with it. I am more about being in the community then making a community. My community extends far beyond the boundaries of Miami,” said Urrechaga, who makes a good point. Local galleries have opened up its homes to the masses with spaces like Palacio De Los Juegos and Suite 206. Suite 206 is the studio apartment of local band The Jellyfish Brothers. It held the legendary annual event known as Art Basel Distraction held on Art Basel weekend. Sonic Youth frontman Thurston Moore even popped in one year. When The Jellyfish Brothers were unable to pay rent, they created a fundraiser and met their goal in a matter of hours because a community was there to hoist them back up when they’d fallen; a community thankful that creative space and comforted and comforted many. Artists are still here and still there for one another, but gentrification has become a widespread endemic in Miami and one wonders what will be the fate of our city.

“Yulisa’s Corner” is a commentary on issues around Miami. Yulisa is a contributing writer for FIUSM. For suggestions, contact her at optieusns@gmail.com.
WOLFSONIAN-FIU HOSTS FREE GUIDED TOURS FOR STUDENTS

Balanced meals promote healthier lifestyles

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 23 out of 50 states here in the United States had an obesity prevalence of over twenty-five percent and 18 out of 50 states had an obesity prevalence of over thirty percent. This means that more than one-fourth of the United States is being reported as obese. It’s 2015 and people are becoming scared. There is an obesity epidemic in this country and those of us who aren’t overweight are freaked to make sure it stays that way.

Those of us who are trying to diminish these high statistics are learning how to make better choices when it comes to choosing what we put in our bodies. According to an article by health.com titled “Top 10 Healthiest Fast Food Places,” Panera Bread made the number one spot.

Although we choose these healthier places to eat, does it mean we are choosing well rounded and balanced meals? We go to these restaurants that have ingredients that are fresh and high in quality, but what we don’t realize is that we aren’t balancing our portions with the amount of exercise that we do daily. America’s problem isn’t that we are choosing the wrong foods; our problem is we don’t know how much is considered too much.

We as Americans have a fast-paced lifestyle. We work and go to school. Some of us even find time to lend a helping hand in our community by volunteering to make this world a better place. However, with all these scheduled daily activities, we may have not scheduled time for exercise. We need to learn how to balance out what we eat with how much we move.

Want to portion out your day better? Consider the following tips:

Want for a run and spent the day working hard in the sun? Go ahead and treat yourself to a larger meal; your body needs to replenish itself after a long day’s work.

Took the day off and spent it watching Netflix in bed? Today you should eat a lighter meal; something to keep hunger away without over consuming or storing that unnecessary amount of fat that your body is clearly using not at the moment.

Spend the day at work and studying at school? Today eat moderately, your body needs fuel to produce brain power. However, don’t over fuel your body because you can flood it.

We should continue to eat at these healthier places. What we need to pay more attention to is how we can eat and keep the weight at bay. Balance is something that we can all easily learn how to do and it will keep away any risk of being obese in the long run. Our generation has the opportunity to change the world for the better. So get up America; live free, eat right and move on.

Reniel R. Nodarse is a member of the Student Dietetic Association. SDA Health is a weekly column written by members of the Association, and published on Wednesdays. For suggestions concerning health topics, email the SDA Health contributors at life@fius.com.

String Quartet performing melody No. 4 By Bach at the Wolfsonian-FIU at During “Free 3rd Friday”

So to answer your question, it is possible to eat a ‘hypersexual’ 3-D extravaganza.

If you’re feeling a little bored with all the superhero movies, sequels that should have never been made and overall unoriginality coming out of Hollywood these days, you can find solace and experience something different with “Love,” the new film by Argentine filmmaker Gaspar Noé.

This boundary pushing director has divided critics as well as movie fans with “Love,” the new film by Argentine filmmaker Gaspar Noé. The story does start to meander in the second half of the film and the constant explicit content may leave the audience feeling exhausted, but at the same time Noé embraces the technology and provides a much more personal and intimate use of it.

Noé’s already eclectic filmography. You may leave this film feeling disgusted, or you may walk out of the film feeling invigorated, but you will feel something. After all, this is the goal of a director like Gaspar Noé; to get people thinking and talking about everyday subject matter that most of the time gets pushed to the side and ignored. Going against the norm and further evolving the art of film making are all staples of Noe’s films and I guarantee whatever he does next will continue to surprise, confuse, and astound us.

Gaspar Noe’s “Love” in 3D, rated R, is now playing through Dec. 9 at Miami Beach Cinematheque. For ticket information go to www.mbcinema.com

For suggestions and comments, email life@fius.com.

Luis Cuevas performs freestyle modern dance alongside Caroline Buse on the Viola.
FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra presents TANTRA

Ricardo Chavez  Contributing Writer
lifefiusm.com

Florida International University’s guitar orchestra, directed by Mesut Ozgen, performed TANTRA on Friday, Nov. 20. The musical pieces orchestrated during the show were quite varied. One piece by the name of “Mountain Mission,” purveyed a modern and contemporary style. Another piece, known as “Alma,” epitomized the classic Latin tunes that one may easily distinguish.

The art on the walls surrounding the room filled up with a young crowd looking for more than just a good deal on beers. They were enjoying the incredible talent and the art on the walls surrounding them. The musician performs alongside Caroline Buse on the Viola. The acts were made up of Caroline Buse performing Bach’s Selections from Suite No 2, alongside Luis Alberto Cuevas freestyling contemporary dance to Buse’s viola recital.

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Kyle Busch becomes new NASCAR champion

FOOTBALL

Panthers end the season with crushing defeat

JACOB SPIWAK
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There were many ways FIU’s season finale could’ve gone. Very few of them would have resulted in FIU upsetting the historically favored Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers, but anything is possible, so FIU fans and players were optimistic nonetheless. Unfortunately for the Panthers, the Hilltoppers were in the midst of the most worst, most depressing wave imaginable for the Panthers.

After getting embarrassed by Marshall University 52-0 just a week prior, the Panthers’ loss margin actually increased against WKU, FIU (5-7, 3-5) got demolished by the Hilltoppers (9-2, 7-0) in a 63-7 blowout. This game was over before it started, as WKU came out firing and FIU’s underwhelming performance against Marshall clearly carried over into this one.

Not only did the Panthers lose, but much was expected by just about everyone who predicted the outcome of the game. But the overall atmosphere made the whole afternoon that much worse; hardly any fans in the stands, pouring rain that resulted in three lightning delays (and the game being called five minutes early), and the list continues on to go.

Right from the start, WKU was the better team. On their second play from scrimmage, the Hilltoppers aggressively called for a flea flicker, which resulted

in a 73-yard touchdown pass from Brandon Doughty to Taywan Taylor since absolutely nobody on the FIU defense or coaching staff could’ve expected these types of trick plays that I’ve wanted to see from FIU all season long, but instead they stuck with their same conservative playbook on both sides of the ball.

The FIU defense had no answer for the talented and aggressive Hilltoppers, as WKU put up 21 points in the first quarter and 35 in the first half. As well as WKU played on offense, FIU’s offensive corps played about as poorly as one could fathom. Their only score came from an Alex Gardner rushing touchdown in garbage time and committing three turnovers with only 186 yards of total offense pretty much tells the story.

Despite coming off one of the best seasons FIU has ever seen at the quarterback position (aside from FIU’s poor performances against Marshall and WKU), sophomore Alex McGough was visibly upset after the game. He discussed how he needs to improve individually first and foremost in order to help the team win games.

“I didn’t do enough to win the game,” McGough said. “Simple as that. When I turn the ball over three times, you’re not going to win a game against a good team like [WKU]. I have to focus on myself, get better and (turn) the ball over less.”

It was as clear as day how disappointed the players were after the game, especially the seniors who had played their final game at FIU. Cornerback Richard Leonard and defensive end Michael Wakefield each used phrases such as “not doing what they needed to do as a team” to sum up the end of their final season.

Head coach Ron Turner shared the feelings of his seniors and spoke about how disappointed he is that those guys won’t be able to partake in postseason play.

“I feel bad for the seniors,” Turner said. “We had a chance to go out and win one of the last two and go to a bowl game, and we didn’t get it done. They bought into everything we asked them to do, and provided good leadership, and I’m very disappointed in how the season ended.”

So what’s next for FIU football? First and foremost this team needs to take some time off and get healthy. Turner continued to bring up how many injuries the Panthers had to deal with in 2015 and with a lot of young players ready to shine FIU should be fine moving forward. However, that won’t make this loss any easier to take now that the long offseason is underway than the Panthers would’ve wanted.

NASCAR

Kyle Busch becomes new NASCAR champion

The series came to Homestead to crown a new champion and to say goodbye to a racing icon.

A quartet of Jeff Gordon, Martin Truex, Jr, Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch all entered Homestead with the championship in sight.

Under NASCAR’s new “Chase” system, each racer entered the final race even in points.

Therefore, whoever finished the best of the four would be crowned champion.

Each racer had a story to tell, with Truex’s most prominent story being that the Ford EcoBoost 400 at Homestead was Gordon’s final race.

Busch won the race over second-place Harvick. Gordon finished sixth in place and Truex finished third in the elimination round.

Since Busch beat the other three “Chase” contenders, he is the 2015 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion.

Gordon, who made his NASCAR Sprint Cup series debut in 1992, announced his retirement back in January 2015. A win at Martinsville Speedway during the “Eliminator” round of the “Chase” saw the four-time champion automatically qualify for the final round of the “Chase.”

Harvick was looking to be the first defending series champion repeat, with Jimmie Johnson entering the 2015 championship despite missing the first 11 races of the season because of a fractured leg.

A string of wins during the summer helped propel Busch into the top 30 in points, a benchmark NASCAR set for Busch to be eligible for the “Chase.” Busch sought Toyota’s first NASCAR title and successfully cleared the frontstretch of the track of spectators around 2 p.m.

Busch looked to win the championship despite missing the first 11 races of the season because of a fractured leg.

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Busch pulled away from Harvick, who lined up second, on the restart and cruised to the finish, securing his first NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship and the first championship for Toyota, Busch’s manufacturer.

Instead of celebrating a new champion with cheers, several NASCAR fans let out a collective groan. Some fans pointed out that Busch missed close to a third of the season and shouldn’t be called champion because he missed so many races.

In my opinion, I believe that Busch earned his championship through his dominance throughout the remainder of the race.

He dropped back outside of the top 10 during the middle of the race and clawed his way back to sixth, where he would finish.

Like Gordon, Truax fought his way to the championship of the race. At one point, Truax got up to third place, but fell back several laps later.

A respectable 12th-place finish for a single-car team that struggled to make the top 10 last year.

With 11 laps remaining, debris on the frontstretch brought out the final caution flag of the day. This group up the field for one final green-flag run.

Defensive lineman Madison Kubat brings down Western Kentucky University Hilltopper Kylen Towner Saturday, Nov. 21 at the Ocean Bank Field.

Elliott, the son of 1988 Winston Cup Series champion, Bill Elliott, has dominated the Xfinity Series, securing the 2014 Xfinity Series championship along the way. Elliott has a lot of expectations to live up to since he’s replacing Gordon.

But, the main headline of 2016 is this: What will post-Gordon NASCAR look like? Gordon had a big following throughout his career. Some fans, like myself, have grown up with Gordon and don’t know how NASCAR was before Gordon arrived.

If NASCAR can attract as many viewers without Gordon, I believe that the season is a success on its own.

For now, the man NASCAR fans call “Rowdy” is the champion and new faces will soon shine down on Daytona International Speedway in Feb.

Until then, several drivers need a new team to work for, including Clint Bowyer, whose former team, Michael Waltrip Racing, shut down after the final race of the 2015 season.

Bowyer’s free agency, the new rules package and Elliott’s debut all headline the 2015 offseason will be the first NASCAR offseason without Gordon since 1992.
Panthers fall in first round of C-USA tourney

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The Florida International University women’s volleyball team ended its season Friday, Nov. 20, losing to the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners in the first round of the Conference USA Tournament in San Antonio, Texas.

After winning the first set, the Panthers dropped the final three as the Roadrunners proved to be too much. The set scores were 25-21, 22-25, 20-25 and 19-25.

In the first set, the team took advantage of its stellar hitting percentage. The Panthers hit .452 and were able to spread the ball around to their hitters. Junior middle blocker, Katie Hogan, and sophomore middle blocker, Jennifer Ene, contributed with four kills each.

UTSA defeated the Panthers in the second set to tie the match. Throughout the set, the team held a five-point lead, but saw it slip away after committing three costly service errors towards the end of the set.

In the third set, the Panthers struggled to hit the ball, finishing with a hitting percentage of .407. The Roadrunners used a late run to take the set and a 2-1 lead.

In the final set, the Panthers found themselves up 7-2 early, but UTSA outscored them 23-12 down the stretch to take the match. The Roadrunners advance to the semi-final round and will face off against the sixth seed, University of Southern Mississippi.

Overall, the Panthers finished with a hitting percentage of .205, with 57 kills and 26 errors. The team only recorded seven blocks, compared to UTSA’s 12. Going into the match, FIU led the conference in blocks.

Although they lost, the Panthers had a healthy dose from their hitters. Hogan finished with 17 kills, Ene with 15 kills, senior outside hitter, Lucia Castro and sophomore outside hitter, Tia Clay, both with nine kills. Freshman setter, Katie Friesen, collected 30 assists and sophomore libero, Adriana McLamb, led the way defensively with 17 digs.

The Roadrunners posted similar stats, finishing with a hitting percentage of .252, with 54 kills and 19 errors. As a team, UTSA tallied six aces and gained several points off their 12 blocks.

Freshman setter, Amanda Gonzales, led the way for the Roadrunners. Gonzales distributed the ball evenly finishing with a match-high 44 assists. Three players posted double-figure kills, including junior outside hitter, Kasey Kiefier, who finished with a match-high 18 kills.

In a season that saw many ups and downs, the Panthers more than doubled their win total from a year ago when they finished with only seven wins. This improvement merits recognition and the team will try to improve on its success next season.

Western Kentucky outplay Panthers in season finale

PETE'S PICKS

Things never went right for the Panthers on Senior Day as they were demolished 63-7 by Conference USA leader Western Kentucky University on Saturday, Nov. 21.

The Hilltoppers not only snapped FIU’s home game winning streak, they eliminated the Panthers only shot at being bowl eligible.

FIU finished their season 5-7 (3-5 in C-USA) and gave a total of 115 total points in two games.

Despite Ocean Bank Field turning into a ocean river bed because it rained heavily the entire game, WKU wasn’t phased at all.

On the second play of the series, their starting quarterback Brandon Doughtey ran a flea flicker that turned into a 73 yard bomb for a touchdown to his primary target Taywan Taylor.

That touchdown pass alone was basically the turning point of the game, and it was only the first quarter. Doughtey finished the game 16-21 for 224 yards and three touchdowns.

“I thought we had a good week, came out with a lot of energy,” said Head Coach Ron Turner.

“It seemed like when they threw the flea-flicker left touchdown on the first drive, it was like putting a pin in a balloon. That deflated us a bit. We’ve got to bounce back from that.”

Panthers’ offense never had an answer until later in the fourth quarter when starting running back Doughtey scored a rushing touchdown. The sophomore finished the game with 9 carries for 44 yards and one touchdown.

He also led the game in receptions with 10 catches for 41 yards.

Starting QB Alex McGough struggled on offense as he finished the game 17-30 for 95 yards and two interceptions. One of the interceptions resulted to a 92 yard touchdown by WKU’s cornerback Wonderful Terry.

“I’ve got to play better as an individual” McGough said. “As the quarterback plays better, the team plays better and we score some points. We just got to put some drives together. We didn’t put any drives together in the last two games. That’s my fault. I will take the heat for that.”

Because of a 30 minute lightning delay, the game finished early with five minutes left in the fourth quarter. FIU will miss another bowl game for the fourth straight season.

Quarterback Alex McGough and Offensive Linebacker Chris Miller regroup in the rain on Nov. 21 inside the FIU Football Stadium, where the FIU Panthers lost with a score of 63-7.
LGBTQA talks about transgender issues

Alina Tello-Cordon, who works for the Switchboard of Miami as a LGBTQ Therapist/Care Coordinator, presents at the “Understanding the T” event held at Wolfie University Center room 155 Thursday, Nov. 19.

KAYLA JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

“Understanding the T” was an event held to honor members of the trans community, one that has been largely ignored. This discussion is a part of our University’s goal to bring about social awareness.

This discussion was held last Thursday, Nov. 19 in WUC 155 and organized by Mario Lara, a graduate assistant in charge of the LGBTQA initiative at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Guest speakers included Alina Tello-Cordon and Campbell Alexander. The open forum presented by Cordon allowed students and faculty members to start a dialogue addressing the misconceptions held in society about trans people.

“It’s great to actually have a conversation with someone and have them see that we’re just regular people,” said Alexander, who is on the Board of Directors for the Aqua Women’s Foundation, a community partner of our University.

“Unfortunately, there is a lot of stigma against the letter ‘T.’ I am trying to take away that stigma,” said Alexander. The debate covered the difference between gender identity and gender expression. However, participants were also informed that members of the trans community are disproportionately affected by unemployment, homelessness, risky sexual behavior, dropping out of school, anxiety/depression and PTSD’s more than any other group in LGBTQ.

“The best thing is to ask questions about how a trans person prefers to be addressed instead of making harmful assumptions,” said Cordon, who works with the Switchboard of Miami as a LGBTQ Therapist/ Care Coordinator and Alexander.

“We want to create a safe space for people to communicate about these issues.”

She emphasized that trans men and women should be addressed with their pronouns. For example, a trans male should be referred to as “him” if that is what makes them comfortable and that people should avoid transphobic or invalidating language and use gender inclusive language. This includes terms like “it” and “he/she.”

Cordon makes it clear that being trans is not the issue.

“Trans is not synonymous with a mental health issue,” said Cordon. “Psychological problems are a societal treatment of trans people.”

Gender policing also has a big impact on the trans community. They are forced to perform based on how society views their gender.

“Gender policing is the imposition or enforcement of normative expressions,” said Cordon.

“The fact that you don’t conform or adhere to just one stereotype of gender or one sense of self,” said Marcelino. “It allows you to relate to many different kinds of people. It also helps you to be more sensitive to the needs of others.”

“Understanding the T” ended with a testimony from Campbell Alexander, who wants to establish a level of comfort and openness concerning a topic that people may tend to shy away from.

In December 2014, the Human Rights Ordinance added gender and expression to be protected so that trans people cannot be denied public services.

Cordon and Alexander are hopeful about the future of the trans community.

“It’s a real issue,” said Alexander. “We are not just some fabrication. Having this opportunity and being given that audience means the world to me.”

Should we be pricing ecosystem services?

In the world we live in today, the value of everything is measured in dollars. This seems to be very easy when talking about goods or products, but what about when you’re talking about nature?

If you removed a forest, how much would it cost to replicate the services that forest does for the people who live in and around it? If we removed all of nature, how much would it cost for us to do the things nature does for us? Some say without ecosystem services, humans would pay the ultimate price and perish.

Ecosystem services are services done by the environment which provide benefits for humans. As a community of living and non-living things ecosystem can, and usually does, provide multiple services.

For example, a forest provides timber, shelter, food and recreational opportunities among other benefits. Each one of these services is worth something because people are willing to pay for its preservation or else we’d have to make new ones for those services.

Add up how much each service costs and it will give you how much the forest is worth. Although I do believe that nature has a right to exist in its own way without any benefit to humans, it is a great way to put a dollar sign where others don’t see a tangible value.

The market economy that dominates today’s society strictly sees things in a cost-benefit struggle. They take nature as being a free service that we can use at our will.

But now that we’ve caused large impacts on nature and must pay the price for it, we understand how valuable they have a value. And if legislation only cares about dollar signs, then it’s a great way to show how valuable nature can be to the rest of us. Nature is beneficial to all of us. To some people, it is a place to live, to others it’s a place of spiritual or emotional refuge and to others it may be a nuisance.

Unfortunately, not many people care about intrinsic value. In a capitalist society where we are meant to think of what is best for the individual, where the economy runs on an idea of producing and consuming, the power of the dollar is overriding.

So how do you place a value on a view or a feeling? Indeed we do because you will always pay more for a room in a hotel with an ocean view. But this value can be different between two people, therefore we need we need something more concrete for everyone to understand. And that is where ecosystem services come into play.

It helps us put a concrete value on what nature does for us. If you combine all the ecosystem services provided by nature ($33 trillion), the sum would equal more than the world GDP ($25 trillion).

Nature is truly invaluable for without it we wouldn’t be able to exist. And although ecosystem services are of innumerable value to nature and only continues the current market paradigm we are in, it also helps show its current worth.

Ecosystem services benefit both humans and nature more than harms it. That is why I support placing a pricing ecosystem services.

Put a ribbon on it

Gardening giveaways and students will be provided with lunch as the event.

The event is expected to have at least 200 student participants, just as many as they did last year, according to Lara. Last year, a quilt was fashioned from smaller pieces of cloth, each symbolizing someone who has died from AIDS related causes, with the help of the student participants.

This year, the quilt will be put up on display for students to observe, but as for the student participants, the event is going to challenge students to think about the theme of the event and what it means to them.

“This year we are pushing for the theme ‘Put a Ribbon on it.’ It tells people that HIV is an infection that hasn’t gone away and is still a problem today,” said Lara. “It means to wear condoms, raise awareness about AIDS and to try and prevent more people from getting it.”

“I believe that this is a good event because it’s reaching out to the community and helping raise awareness, express feelings of sympathy and explaining how it’s okay to have AIDS,” said Sebastian Llamas, sophomore in mechanical engineering. “The fact that this is a good event is beneficial to the community in the sense that it is providing reassurance to people who don’t have the infection and awareness to those who might.”

World AIDS Day is a nationally recognized day that commemorates and raises awareness about the AIDS syndrome caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Each year, FIU hosts an event on Tuesday, December 1, to raise awareness about AIDS in the community and last year happened to grab the attention of Local 10 News.

The event this year at FIU/BBC, coordinated by Multicultural Programs and Services and LGBTQA, will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 1 in Panther Square from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“We are going to have a resource fair where there will be booths talking about services they provide such as Health Services as well as free HIV testing for students,” said Mario Lara, graduate student for Higher Education and graduate assistant at BBC for LGBTQA.

In addition, Lara informed that there will also be entertainment, a keynote speaker, giveaways and free food.

“There is going to be a student performer as well as a Keynote presentation by Dr. Mary Jo Tepko, a professor at FIU who has been funded by the National Institute of Health since 2009, in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre and there will be t-shirt and bag giveaways and students will be provided with lunch as the event.”