FIU, Fairgrounds dispute continues

By SAM SMITH
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A meeting regarding a possible new location for the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition Inc. was discussed at a Homestead Council meeting Wednesday, Dec. 16, according to WSVN.

FIU has been looking to expand its MMC campus into the Tamiami Park Fairgrounds, on the condition that the institution finds a replacement venue to host the fixture, which moved adjacent to FIU in 1972. FIU must also reimburse the fair for its infrastructural investment at its current location.

The new location discussed at the meeting is one Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, senior vice president of External Relations, discussed as among the most feasible back in 2013 — a county-owned agricultural property next to the Homestead Air Reserve Base.

This venue was previously rejected by the fair due to its potential to reduce attendance by 20 percent, according to Robert Hohenstein, FIU’s vice president and chief executive officer of the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition, Inc.

The Miami-Dade County Commission must now vote whether to accept FIU’s proposal to move the fair to Homestead. According to the Miami Herald, a recent memo from Mayor Carlos Gimenez was sent out Tuesday, Dec. 29 and hinted that the dispute between FIU and the Youth Fair may have to be settled in court.

In the memo, Gimenez mentioned that FIU had “refused to provide a protection agreement for the county should the Youth Fair pursue damages under the 90-year lease for the Tamiami site.

In an interview with the Miami Herald, cultural chief Michael Spring, the Gimenez aide who is tasked with mediating the resolution between the Fair and FIU, said, “There has to be some protection for the county if there is a move to relocate the fair and the fair doesn’t want to leave.”

FIU’s lawyer says that because the university is a tax-funded school, FIU is unable to pledge future revenues to indemnification agreement due to the fact that elected leaders in Tallahassee have the final call on the amount of money FIU is allotted any given budget year.

Richard Perez, a Holland and Knight attorney representing FIU, explained to the Herald that the school is “...not in a legal position to indemnify [the fair].”

“It’s not that we’ve said we won’t give it to them. It’s that we’ve said we can’t give it to them,” said Perez.

There has to be some protection for the county if there is a move to relocate the fair and the fair doesn’t want to leave.

— Michael Spring
Cultural Chief
City of Miami

Student suffers car crash, community unites to help

By CINDY RAYS
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Monday, Dec. 21, 2015, Andrea Mirabal, an anthropology major and former Miss FIU 2014, was Christmas shopping near campus when she was involved in a minor fender bender. Mirabal got out of her vehicle to inspect the damage when a third car hit the rear of the second vehicle leaving Mirabal pinned between the two cars.

Mirabal’s legs suffered multiple fractures and she was rushed to the Trauma Center at Kendall Regional Hospital where doctors performed a four hour surgery on the day of the crash, and a second surgery Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2015.

Mirabal’s loved ones started a GoFundMe page to help pay for her surgeries and financially help with the healing process. According to updates on the page, Mirabal’s previous surgeries have realigned her tibia bone in her left leg and the leg is now symmetrical with the right leg.

Her final surgery was scheduled for Monday, Jan. 11. The surgery will consist of a skin graft performed by a plastic surgeon. After the surgery, Mirabal is planned to be discharged from the hospital and moved to a rehabilitation hospital.

As of January 11, the FIU community and Mirabal’s loved ones have raised over 14,500 dollars.

Mirabal is expected to undergo months of physical therapy but her family, friends and the entire FIU community remain hopeful on her recovery.

University’s new hoverboard policy announced

By ERICA SANTIAGO
News Director
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Monday, Jan. 11, FIU External Relations sent out an email to the university community detailing rules and regulations pertaining to hoverboards on university property.

The email states that hoverboards are covered by the university regulation, FIU-115. According to external relations, this same regulation also relates to “skateboards, longboards, scooters, skates and similar devices.”

The FIU-115 prohibits the use of hoverboards inside any university building. Hoverboards, along with other devices mentioned in the FIU-115, may only be used on university sidewalks and crosswalks.

For the time being, hoverboards cannot be charged anywhere on FIU property.

According to the email, the storage and use of hoverboards is explicitly banned in residence halls and university apartments. External Relations warns that those harboring hoverboards in campus housing must remove the hoverboards immediately, otherwise they are in violation of Housing and Residential Life policy.

This policy is effective immediately, though any official changes to the policy will be adopted by the Board of Trustees at a future meeting.

FIU’s Department of Environmental Health & Safety will be conducting a review of best practices concerning hoverboards. The review will take into consideration the results of investigations conducted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and certification currently being completed by the Underwriters Laboratories.

Students can contact EH&S Director Yenny Diaz at 305-348-7882 for more information concerning the policy.
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Abe offers apology, payment to South Korean ‘comfort women’

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a landmark apology to South Korean “comfort women” coerced into Japanese military brothels before and during World War II, with his government agreeing to provide $8.3 million to a fund for compensating victims. The governments of Japan and South Korea agreed that this would be a final “irreversible” solution to an issue that has dogged bilateral ties for decades. Abe’s message was delivered by Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida at a press conference in Seoul after a meeting with South Korean counterpart Yun Byung Se.

Joaoquin “El Chapo” Guzman apprehended in Mexico

Security agents Friday recaptured notorious drug kingpin Joaoquin “El Chapo” Guzman, six months after his second prison escape, thrusting Mexico again into a debate over whether it can ensure him behind bars. Mexican marines located Guzman in Los Mochis, a coastal city in northwest Sinaloa state, the region that is a cradle of his crime group’s global narcotics empire. Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto sounded triumphant in his announcement of Guzman’s arrest on Twitter: “Mission Accomplished. We got him. I want to inform Mexicans that Joaoquin Guzman Loera has been detained.” Guzman faces indictments in at least seven U.S. jurisdictions. The most recent case accuses his criminal gang of smuggling 465 tons of cocaine into the United States between 1999 and 2014.

Indian court rejects more jail time for man convicted as a minor in 2012 gang rape

A day after a man convicted as a minor in a brutal 2012 gang rape and murder in New Delhi was released from detention, India’s Supreme Court on Monday rejected appeals to extend his sentence in a case that has sparked a passionate debate over juvenile justice. The man, who was shy of his 18th birthday when convicted, was released Sunday after completing a three-year term in a reform home. A maximum sentence allowed under Indian law. On Monday, India’s highest court dismissed a petition filed by the Delhi Commission of Women, a government body, arguing that the man should be returned to custody. The court ruled that despite the emotions surrounding the case, which prompted international outrage and reforms that have expedited prosecutions of rape cases, it had no legal grounds to extend the man’s sentence.

University unveils revamped GC pit

President Mark B. Rosenberg, Student Government Association President Alexis Colayong and Student Affairs Vice President Larry Lunsford cut the ribbon on the renovated Graham Center Pit, which features a large screen and speakers, Monday, Jan. 11.

ERICA SANTIAGO
News Director
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Monday, Jan. 11, the revamped GC pit was finally unveiled to FIU students.

The ribbon cutting event included a live DJ to show off the pit’s new speakers and Campus Life was also there to provide food and refreshments.

The newly refurbished pit has been updated to include blue and gold stage lighting, a large flat screen mounted into the wooden panels behind the pit and the ability to plug music into the GC sound system.

The updated sound system will allow for pit events and other broadcasts to be heard throughout the building.

For safety measures, the floor of the pit has been raised to make the pit more shallow in depth. It is to keep it pit, especially those carrying equipment, from tripping into the pit. President Mark B. Rosenberg, who was present at the unveiling of the pit, expressed that the GC pit has served as the “epicenter” of FIU since the university’s earliest days.

Rosenberg expressed that the pit will not only be used to broadcast FIU events, but world events as well. Events like the World Cup, presidential debates, news broadcasts and more, will be showcased on the pit’s big screen.

Rosenberg has expressed it is important for the pit to be gradually modernized to heighten the quality of events. The renovations took about two months to complete, having started back in November 2015.

L-CAVE brings Shakespeare’s London to FIU students

SARAH MEDINA
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As part of the programming for the arrival of the First Folio at FIU in February, a full immersion experience of Shakespeare’s London will open on the Engineering Campus.

The project will use the University’s Computer Augmented Virtual Environment technology, which will allow students to experience London c.1590. The project is lead by English graduate student David Frisch. In an interview with FIUSM, Frisch explains how engineering will enhance the experience of Shakespeare’s London.

Q: The L-CAVE is a very new system, under works since last year. Is this the first major project the English Department has undertaken using this system?

Yes, and not only is this the first major project for the English department in the L-CAVE, but it’s also our first major Digital Humanities project. With the growing trend in digital humanities, a project like this is an important milestone in our department.

As well, this project is also a first of its kind in regards to the interdisciplinary nature of the experience. We have architechtuale students doing the 3D Modeling and computer science students programming and testing the area of Bankside and The Globe. We also have students from theater doing voice acting and a student from fine arts who is helping with the character design.

Q: How much time has been necessary to complete such an experience?

So far, I’ve been working on the project since August and we’re still going strong into January. We’ve hit some bumps in the road, but my team is fantastic and we’ve been able to overcome all the obstacles that we came across.

Q: What is your favorite part of Shakespeare’s London?

My favorite part is the stylized approach we took to creating the experience. While the buildings and the environment are 3D modeled, the characters that populate the area are 2D figures. We cropped and animated portraits and crowd scenes from works of Early Modern Art to populate the city. So while the participant is walking in a 3D rendered environment, they are interacting with pieces of art from the time period that we’ve brought to life.

For the full story, visit fiusm.com.
Quentin Tarantino puts the magic back in movies

As I write this, the news that Quentin Tarantino is working on a new film, currently titled “Hateful Eight,” has been confirmed by Variety. This is not the first time that Tarantino has talked about this project, but it is the first time that an actual script has been written. This film is set to be released in theaters on Christmas Day in 2016.

I have long been a fan of Tarantino’s work, particularly his films from the late 1990s and early 2000s. His films are known for their dark humor, violent content, and allusions to other films. “Pulp Fiction” is perhaps his most well-known film, and it is widely regarded as one of the best films ever made.

Tarantino is known for his ability to create unique and memorable characters. He has said that he wants to create characters that are “unlike any other character in cinema.” He is also known for his extensive use of film references and allusions. He often uses film references to create a sense of nostalgia and to subtly refer to other films.

In “The Hateful Eight,” Tarantino is expected to take on the role of director and writer. He has also stated that he is interested in exploring the concept of revenge. This film is expected to be a true Tarantino film, with all the usual elements that fans have come to expect.

Tarantino’s films are always highly anticipated, and this film is no exception. Fans of Tarantino’s work are eagerly waiting for the release of this film, and it is sure to be a hit with audiences.

As we wait for the release of “The Hateful Eight,” we can only speculate about what we can expect from this film. One thing is for sure, however, and that is that Tarantino will undoubtedly deliver a film that is both entertaining and thought-provoking. After all, he is the master of the genre, and he is sure to impress once again.

University holds health insurance marketplace

Quentin Tarantino has tried to reignite this nostalgic roadshow viewing flame with the release of his new film “The Hateful Eight.” It was released on Christmas day in only 100 theaters across America. These were roadshow events complete with illustrated programs, a 10-minute overture and an intermission—all things that are unheard of in today’s modern movie-watching culture.

Quentin Tarantino has often talked about his love for classic cinema and his desire to bring back the roadshow experience. He has said that he wants to create a film that is not only entertaining, but also a film that is a true experience for the audience.

As you can see, Quentin Tarantino is a true master of his craft. He is a filmmaker who understands the power of film and how it can transport us to another time and place. He is a filmmaker who is not afraid to take risks and push the boundaries of what is possible.

We can only imagine what he has in store for us with “The Hateful Eight.” But one thing is for sure, and that is that this film is sure to be a classic. We can’t wait to see what Tarantino has to offer next. Sound the trumpets, for this is the beginning of a new era in cinema.

University holds health insurance marketplace

Downtown Disney makes a comeback

As with anything in life, sometimes a brand new look can make something fresh and exciting again. Walt Disney World has come to perfect this idea within the past five years: giving its Magic Kingdom park a next generation magical makeover, releasing the much anticipated “Pandora—the World of Avatar” in Animal Kingdom this coming year and already preparing a Star Wars takeover for Hollywood Studios, a new name for MCM Studios.

Recently, Downtown Disney has received a similar overhaul, albeit much larger scale, treatment. Gone is the 90s hip nightlife culture that defined Downtown Disney since its third rebranding; now we enter the shopping district’s new image. Disney Springs was announced in March of 2013, confirming many with the new name. Is it a spa resort? Seriously, what’s going on here?

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Tuesday Times Roundtable returns

LESLIE OVALLE
Asst. Entertainment Director
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Tuesday Times Roundtable, the weekly discussions centered around various New York Times articles, began in 2009 and have continued every fall and spring semester since then without fail. Tuesday Times Roundtable will be kicking off the semester on Thursday, Sept. 19 in GC 150, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. - its regular time and place. Students (Tuesday Times Roundtable) are not lecturers, everyone is encouraged to participate," said Eric Feldman, coordinator for the office of Global Learning Initiatives. Vickie Feldman, a librarian at FIU specializing in government documents, will be leading the first roundtable of the year. She will be talking about how the costly housing market will impact South Florida graduates. The topic seems fit to begin the semester, especially considering South Florida’s housing market is continuously ranking among the least affordable in the country. In September it was reported by the SunSentinel that Palm Beach and Broward counties ranked in the 35 least affordable housing markets nationwide, with buyers needing to spend around 50 percent of their income on housing, utilities and commuting. Miami-Dade County did not fall short on the list, ranking third overall behind both San Francisco and Los Angeles. In Miami-Dade buyers need to spend 69.2 percent of their income on housing and commuting expenses. “On a personal note, I am a relatively recent graduate and I am at the point where I am hoping to have a house instead of renting,” said Feldman, “I am definitely looking to get something out of the discussion.” These Tuesday Times Roundtable events can also be valued as points towards the “Excellence in Global Learning Medallion.” The medallion requires students to participate in global co-curricular activities, a research project, complete four global learning classes, create an portfolio and have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA at the time of graduation. According to Feldman, as soon as someone is interested in the medallion they can sign up on the University’s global learning website. Tuesday Times Roundtables happen weekly, at the same time and place. Free lunch is offered, along with occasional prizes and an interactive discussion with a professionals and insightful peers. Feldman recommends arriving early, as “some of them get rather packed, so sometimes the food is gone before everyone arrives.”

Details and a schedule of topics can be found on the global learning website.

Underdeveloped health a unique American problem

SOUTH FLORIDA UNIVERSITY

My transition from Italy to the United States began about three years ago, when I came to this country to study nutrition and play for the FIU tennis team. I began to wonder how such a developed, innovative and educationally advanced country is still so behind in solving health-related problems such as obesity, malnourishment and consumers. Coming from another country that is internationally famous for its cuisine, I have a completely different cultural perspective than the one I have observed in Americans. I ask, “why are all these personal health related issues still so prominent in the U.S.? And what is America doing wrong?”

For starters, family-sized and supersized food options, which are common to Americans, are not common overseas. The immense availability of products in supermarkets and of fast food restaurants such as Starbucks and McDonald’s right around the corner is also something very common in America’s culture. In Italy we are not used to seeing so much food availability. After all, Italy has 512 McDonald’s distributed throughout the entire country, compared to 986 McDonald’s distributed in Florida alone!

Here, in America, we see a constant bombardment of unhealthy food advertisements, which is something very common in America’s culture. America’s relationship with food is also unique in that it lacks meaning. In America, everything needs to be fast and ready to eat. In Italy, home cooking is part of the daily routine where lunch and dinner are moments to connect with family or friends, have fun and give your mind a break from the day’s monotony. There is no rush in Italy. For example, when I walk by the food court in the Graham Center, I frequently see people eating and studying at the same time, or biting a sandwich while texting or sending emails. Americans are so busy doing countless of other things that they don’t even pay attention to what or how much they are eating.

This way of eating leaves them vulnerable to distraction or falling into food temptations when they dine out– and let’s be honest, they do that a lot!

It is important to consider that the portions served in restaurants here are huge compared to Italy. With this, Americans tend to make the incorrect assumption that the quantity on the plate is the appropriate amount to eat.

In Italy and other parts of the world a “passeggiata”, which means a little walk after eating, is very common. And here lies a key problem: Italians eat less and walk more, while Americans eat more and walk less. Ultimately, small changes can sometimes be the best changes.

Starting giving more meaning to your meal and take small walks after, giving yourself time to bond with your company and unwind. Stop assuming that what’s on your plate is normal or right.

I strongly believe that it begins with each individual, taking small steps in improving your daily routine can drastically improve the health of America.

SDA Health is a weekly column written by members of the Student Dietician Association. The column focuses on healthy eating and living. For more commentary or to suggest a topic, email life@fiusm.com.

Leslie Ovalle is a student at FIU

Thursday, Dec. 24, 2015 in preparation for Disney Springs, previously Downtown Disney.

Quentin Tarantino puts the magic back in movies

Downtown Disney makeover finalized in 2016

THROWBACK THEATER

MOVIES

Downtown Disney makeover finalized in 2016

Downtown Disney, which is lined with 5

From bowling to shopping and
decorates for all the
seasons and holidays just like the
park fees, Disney Springs may be

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Thursday, Dec. 24, 2015 in preparation for Disney Springs, previously Downtown Disney.
Panthers’ success over break brings hope

DAVID DRUCKER
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While most FIU students spent their winter vacation huddled up at home, the men’s basketball team was hard at work on Lime Court and on the road. From the end of the fall semester to the beginning of spring, the Panthers compiled a 4-3 record, redeeming some of their early season troubles as they fought their way back to .500 (8-8, 2-1 in Conference USA). During this stretch, the Panthers saw a five-game winning streak end and a four-game winning come to life.

The holiday season started with a rough patch for the Panthers. On Monday, Dec. 14, FIU traveled to Jacksonville to face off against the University of North Florida. The Oceanside had been the Panthers’ defense shooting 41 percent from three and 75 percent from the free throw line in a 94-72 rout. UNF only turned the ball over on four occasions compared to the Panthers’ eleven.

Next up on FIU’s three-game road trip was a battle against the Northern Illinois University Huskies on Saturday, Dec. 19 that stretched into a second overtime. Senior center Adrian Diaz got himself into foul trouble early in this contest, scoring just seven points in 17 minutes. He did manage with 5:29 left in the second half. Stepping up in his place, however, was junior guard Donte McGill; the transfer student dropped 23 points on 8-15 shooting, including 4-5 from three point range. In a game that saw a total of 15 lead changes, FIU found themselves down 78-75 with five seconds left when senior center Jonny McAlister hit a three. FIU’s defense was able to settle down and focus, they can make huge scoring runs. With 4:12 left in the first half, they threw together a 19-0 run to put them up 45-25. FIU’s defense held on to get the victory in their first match when they host Louisiana Tech.

In what was their signature win of the four-game winning streak, the Panthers shocked Western Kentucky University on Thursday, Jan. 7 when they created a last-minute comeback to defeat the Wildcats 75-72.

The Florida Panthers’ franchise-record winning streak hasn’t been a complete picture of dominance.

Some recent wins were on the ugly side.

Coming off four wins in which they won despite being significantly outshot, the Panthers were eager to get back on their A game Sunday in their final visit to Rexall Place, one of the many virtuoso performances by the Wayne Gretzky-era Oilers.

Instead the Panthers had to scratch and claw to extend their streak to 12 games in a contentious 2-1 victory. It was also their sixth consecutive road win, another franchise record.

In a feisty game that featured three fights, two of them involving Edmonton’s Matt Hendricks, and several shaving matches, the Panthers showed more fight than artistry against the game Oilers.

Once again goaltending saved the day for Florida with back-up Al Montoya turning away 24 shots, many of them sensational, to improve to 7-1-1. Montoya was at his best in the second period when the Oilers kept the Panthers bottled up and out-shot them 14-2 in a lopsided but scoreless 20 minutes that ended with Florida clinging to a precarious 2-1 lead. Edmonton had a 25-14 advantage for the game.

A double-minor for high-sticking on Jonathan Huberdeau late in the period carried over to the third. They killed it off with Montoya denying Teddy Purcell, who was set up with a crossing pass, just before it expired. For the second game in a row the Panthers scored on their first two shots. Unlike at Ottawa when it took them 12 minutes to do so, the first came 3:22 in when Joel Armia stole the puck from Darnell Nurse at the Florida blue line and skated free on a breakaway.

As he began to make a move on Cam Talbot, Jagr lost control of the puck but it fluttered through the goalie’s legs for his 15th goal of the season. His 736th moved him within four goals of Brent Hall for third on the career list.

The Oilers thought they had the equalizer four minutes later on a nifty play by their top scorer Taylor Hall. But the Panthers’ successfully challenged that Purcell was offside before he made the pass to Hall, and the goal came off the board.

Panthers defeneman and Edmonton native Alex Petrovic celebrated his first NHL game in his hometown by fighting Hendricks late in the second period. Petrovic, who is about 45 family and friends at the game, got the best of it, getting in a couple shots before taking Hendricks down.

Early in that third period it was Logan Shaw engaging Hendricks after the Oilers forward administered a hard hit on Aaron Ekblad who was behind the Panthers net, knocking his helmet off. Ekblad went to the locker room to get checked out but returned to the game.

The Panthers rang in the new year in the best way possible: a 76-59 win over their conference rival, Florida Atlantic University. Diaz took over in the second half, scoring 20 of his 23 at a time when he is usually susceptible to being removed because of foul trouble.

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Campbell disrespected

BARRY JACKSON
Miami Herald
TNS Staff

Heat president Pat Riley gave his coaching staff six natural power-rotation players this season with quality résumés, albeit a brief one in Hassan Whiteside’s case.

But though Amár’s tenure has played out more recently, coach Erik Spoelstra overall has said the spark of his behalf that job being in limbo is similar to the disruption and destruction that is left in the wake of Saban’s decision to leave on a dime. Campbell has his own livelihood to focus on, as well as his family’s.

While my first question when learning that the Dolphins had made the decision not to keep Campbell on as head coach in Miami was “What do they want?” But I am looking at this from a viewer’s standpoint and not an owner who has to make money. So, I gave them the benefit of the doubt that economically, new Heat Coach Adam Gase is the better choice.

But, recently there have been reports that the Dolphins never even considered keeping Campbell. Seven other candidates were considered, including Stanford Coach David Shaw, former Tampa Bay Coach Jon Gruden, Tampa Bay Offensive Coordinator Dirk Koetter and New England Defensive coordinator Matt Patricia.

After all the Saban bashing that has, and will continue in Miami, how can someone who is passionate about the sport and dedicated to success be integral to their improvement not have a secure future, all because he stepped up and filled a void that no one else wanted to?

Miami needs to take a long hard look in the mirror and realize that their decisions place them along the lines on the same level as Saban. Both Saban and the Dolphins care about the bottom line - this decision will bring the biggest checks and most wins.

Additional reporting by TNS Staff.

Cayla’s Corner is a weekly column offering commentary on various sport’s topics. To send comments or suggestions, email Cayla at cayla.bush@fusum.com.

Heat falls flat in loss to Jazz

BARRY JACKSON
Miami Herald
TNS Staff

The loss prevented the Heat from moving nine games above .500 for the first time and also dropped Miami into second place in the Southeast Division.

He missed the final 6:08 of the third quarter with a strained left shoulder, an injury that required him to go to the locker-room. Wade said he still doesn’t know what the exact injury is. “It’s something that happened without a reason.”

Asked if in defense he: “There were a few things moving, I did my best, I wasn’t able to come back in.”

He said he will see Friday, at Denver, where the Heat traditionally struggles.

The second-half shooting told much of the story. Utah shot 21 for 36 after halftime, Miami 14 for 46.

As soon as Dragic left, Utah took its first lead of the season, at 53-51. The Heat trailed by one when Wade left to the locker-room with his shoulder injury. After a brief turnaround, Spoelstra threw his clipboard to the floor.

The Jazz then went on a run before the Heat closed to within 72-68 after three, Wade was still in the game, shooting shots, not only Hayward, but others. Joe Ingles’ two 3s pushed Utah’s lead to 82-71.

“Hayward was in a great rhythm, put us back on the truck quite a bit,” Bosh said.

Spoelstra: “They kept on scoring in bundles. [Hayward] was a saby scorer, off drivers, off movement, off quick pick and roll.”

Johnson said having the arthroscopic surgery during the season has “crossed my mind” but he declined to unilaterally, saying the condition has improved, and needs to do a test when it flares up.

He said recovery time for surgery is two weeks. “It’s gotten a lot better,” he said, expressing optimism he would play Monday at Golden State.

Johnson missed three games with the strained shoulder last month, returned for one, missed the other five with the shoulder, then played in the past seven before missing 10 games with the shoulder Wednesday against the Knicks. He said it wasn’t smart to attempt to return and that he will continue to rest Friday in Phoenix.

Heard in the third quarter with a strained left shoulder, an injury that required him to go to the locker-room. Wade said he still doesn’t know what the exact injury is. “It’s something that happened without a reason.”

The Heat played much of the night against the league’s lowest-scoring starting backcourt of Chris Johnson and Raul Noto, 16-16, but at just 7.7 points combined.

But Miami couldn’t capitalize; Wade and Dragic combined just five points combined in the second half.

The loss prevented the Heat from moving nine games above .500 for the first time and also dropped Miami into second place in the Southeast Division, one half game behind Atlanta. Utah (16-20) broke a three-game losing streak.

The Heat led 29-19 after a quarter, thanks to Dragic’s nine first-quarter points and 12 for 17 shooting. The game was even sooner with confetti slipping through what Jazz officials called a leaky roof.

We came out with the right mentality and focus,” Wade said.

Dragic in foul trouble and Tyler Johnson missing the game with his recurring shoulder injury, Bam Adebayo was needed for 20 minutes.

Udrih, who entered with 29 assists and six turnovers in his past seven games, committed two turnovers and missed four of six shots.

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Everglades restoration relies on citizen understanding

EVELYN PEREZ
FU NEWS

Mustafa Kamal Sikder wants more coverage in Everglades restoration efforts.

The FIU environmental studies student is examining Floridians’ opinions on the various benefits they currently enjoy from the River of Grass, including water purification, storm protection, recreational opportunities and sliding. He also wants to explore their attitudes about restoring it. His research project is funded by the Everglades Foundation FIU ForEverglades Scholarship.

“This Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan is one of the largest restoration efforts ever attempted in our country. It is being implemented in 16 counties over a 1.5 million area, but its outcomes will be felt in the entire state,” Sikder said.

“Restoration can affect everything from fisheries, which are major, economic drivers, to how we extract ground water for our consumption. People need to be informed of and care about what’s happening with Everglades restoration.”

In 2000, the U.S. Congress authorized the Everglades Restoration Plan to restore, preserve and protect the water resources of the Florida Everglades.

By redirecting freshwater flow to areas that need it most, the plan would likely alter the various ecosystems it provides.

While research has generally focused on the science behind Everglades restoration, Sikder is collecting information from residents living in different areas throughout Florida, including coastal, inland, agricultural and urban communities through an online survey.

The study will also analyze the public’s perception on climate change and sea level rise risk, and how these perceptions align with the restoration plan. According to Sikder, decision-makers who live on campus are going to respond to the plan as it is implemented in the next 30 years.

“Policy decisions that have a direct or indirect impact on people requires knowing the public’s preference to ensure its sustainability,” he said. Sikder, a graduate student conducting research under Earth and Environment Professor Pallab Mondal, hopes the body of work derived from his research will assist policy-makers in introducing, modifying or evading legislation pertaining to Everglades restoration; avoid local conflicts; and better implementing the restoration plan.

FIU should have addressed the hoverboard policy sooner

SHADY CORNER

I’m going to preface this piece by getting one simple opinion out of the way: hoverboards are stupid.

Honestly, let’s talk about the fact that you’re not even hovering, so why is everyone calling it a hoverboard? I can’t really think of any time I’ve seen a person on campus riding a hoverboard and haven’t thought they were preposterous.

Riding a bike, scooter or even a skateboard isn’t about being some super cool hoverboard. Imagine, if you will, a person riding around campus using a segway. You’d laugh at that person, and most likely call them a Paul Blart wannabe.

So, why is it that a hoverboard is considered cool? It’s just the awkward child of a segway; entirely too slow to actually be useful in getting someone to their destination in a practical amount of time. Although I don’t like hoverboards, and often consider them most uninnovating in technological advancement, I do think that the University has taken too harsh a stance on their on-campus use and storage.

Monday, Jan. 11, the University reiterated the official policy on hoverboards. The email, sent to all students, stated that “these devices may only be used on University sidewalks and only when crossing the street at crosswalks.”

I understand they’re a safety hazard, especially when some idiot is riding down the hallway practically barrelling over people. But I think it’s ridiculous that the University has to remind students not to be inconsiderate, to not barrel over people in the hallway or damage floors by using the wheels.

However, the University continues its email to insist that “the storage and/or use of hoverboards also is expressly prohibited in residence halls and University apartments.”

Here, is where my critique of the policy comes in.

Students who eagerly brought their new Christmas gifts to school are now being told they’re prohibited. Where are these students supposed to keep their belongings, if not in their home for the next 15 weeks? If they are supposed to pay to ship them home, wherever that may be?

In addition, the email states that “until further notice, hoverboards cannot be charged anywhere on FIU campuses, centers, museums or any FIU property.” So, you can bring your hoverboard, but if it dies you’re on your own.

I know that the University is concerned primarily with the safety of hoverboards, which have been shown on the news to have caught fire. But, the devices that have caught fire have done so due to negligence and improper use.

Furthermore, any concerns the University might have had about students’ use of the devices should have been addressed before students returned to school, especially those who live on campus and now have to figure out where to keep their belongings or face being kicked out of housing.

Hoverboards have been in the news for at least four months now, and the craze didn’t just happen overnight. Chris Brown, Tyga and both of their children were the first seen on social media using the boards months ago. For someone to convince me that the University did not know that students would be using them on campus, they’d have to make me reasonably believe that those in charge do not watch the news, or at least haven’t done so at all in December.

I find that incredibly hard to believe. It’s almost impossible to convince anyone of this.

So, why is it that the University didn’t have the foresight to inform students of such harsh restrictions and give proper warning of the changes and possible consequences?

I have absolutely no issues with the University looking out for my safety. I just feel that their decisions that have such an effect on students should have been given much sooner to give students proper time and options as to how to abide by them.

In the future, I’d prefer to have an email such as this sent at least three days before move in day, as I’m sure most of my peers would as well. This would not only give the students who live on campus enough time to make the proper adjustments to what they’re bringing on campus, but would also give commuter students time to take note and heed the changes as well.

Shady Corner is a column that tackles University policies, and is open for suggestions. If you have ideas or comments contact Cayla at cayla.bush@fiusm.com

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016

Volleyball signs important recruit

STEFANO RIVERA
Contributing Writer

Monday, Jan. 4, FIU women’s volleyball Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett announced the signing of a new commit, Sidney Henderson to a National Letter of Intent. Henderson is a 5-foot-9 outside/outside hitter from Chicago, Illinois, and a senior in Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy.

Henderson was awarded Most Valuable Player for the 2015 season and continues to be a vital part of the Panthers in recent years.

Sidney Henderson to a National Letter of Intent. Henderson is a 5-foot-9 outside/outside hitter from Chicago, Illinois, and a senior in Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy.

Henderson was awarded Most Valuable Player for the 2015 season and continues to be a vital part of the Panthers in recent years. Henderson provides impressive athletic ability. Her approach touch is 9 feet 9 inches, block touch is 9 feet, and vertical leap is 28 inches.

In 2015, the Panthers finished 15-13 (9-7 in Conference USA), which was good for seventh in the final conference standings. The team bounced back from a 7-23 record in 2014, and improved in many areas.

Henderson will attempt to follow the footsteps of Lucia Castro, one of the best players to play for the Panthers in recent years. Like Henderson, Castro was an outside hitter, and finished in the top ten of various FIU volleyball record books.

The Panthers are a young team and will be looking to utilize Henderson’s abilities and talents throughout the 2016 season.