Eco-Couture Recycling Fashion Show teaches sustainability

TRASH TO TREASURE

Student model couture outfits made from recyclable materials such as egg shells, wine corks and plastic bottles, during the third annual Eco-Couture Recycling Fashion Show on March 31.

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Thursday, March 31, about 1,100 visitors gathered in the Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture courtyard to witness the third annual Eco-Couture Recycling Fashion Show. Amira Ajlouni, FIU’s architecture alumna and the founder of the Recycling Fashion show along with the help of her event planner Jennifer Luis, a current architecture graduate student at FIU, organized the fashion show. Through the collaborative effort of FIU’s School of Architecture and university student volunteers, this recycled fashion show competition has become an annual event.

This year’s runway showcased 38 outfits, which had to be made out of recyclable items and must be reusable. The contestants were competing for scholarship prizes. First place won $1,000, second place won $500 and third place won $300. There was also an additional award for People’s Choice award winning an additional $200.

Each outfit is judged on innovation, beauty, craftsmanship and recycled material. The panel of judges included Rene Ruiz, designer of Rene Ruiz couture, TV personality Candela Ferro, journalist and Spanish news presenter Marian de la Fuente, director of Arquitectonica GEO Margarita Blanco, GEO Margarita Blanco, and Spanish news presenter and board member for Arquitectonica GEO Margarita Blanco.

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Access FIU presidential, vice presidential candidates removed from SGC-MMC voting ballots

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Jose Sirven and Devondra Shaw of Access FIU have been taken off the ballot for the SGC-MMC presidential election. Initially Sirven and Shaw were disqualified from this year’s elections, but still kept on the ballot, following a decision made by the Supreme Court of SGA at FIU. The Supreme Court ruled that Sirven’s position as president of the Residence Hall Association is not an SGA position despite RHA being an agency under the jurisdiction of SGA.

Shaw then appealed the decision to Student Affairs. Eric Arneson, assistant to Vice President Larry Lunsford of Student Affairs, was authorized to review the appeal in Lumsford’s absence.

“Shaw appeals the Majority Opinion of the Student Supreme Court of Florida International University. MMC dated March 23, 2016 (Majority Opinion),” said the Arneson’s statement to Shaw.

Shaw’s final decision was to uphold the Supreme Court’s decision in presuming Sirven and Shaw ineligible to run for office.

He said, “I have concluded that there is no basis for the appeal and therefore, I upheld the Majority Opinion of Student Supreme Court of Florida International University MMC dated March 23, 2016.”

In a statement made to Student Media, Shaw said, “Our disqualification came as a shock to both Jose and I, considering the personal relationship we have with the individuals running in the FIYOU ticket.”

“Had our eligibility to run been in question, I would have hoped it would have come up in conversation sooner than a week before elections,” she said. “However this has motivated us more than ever to continue advocating for the needs of FIU students that do not belong to the political class that now controls the student government.”

“We are hoping that the administration will share our desire for democratic and fair selections and overturn the unjust ruling by the SGA MMC Supreme Court,” said Shaw.

According to Arneson, the decision constitutes as final agency action of the University and no further action will be taken by the University.

As a party, Access FIU is not disqualified from SGA elections. However with Shaw and Sirven taken off the presidential ballot, SGA Speaker Alian Collazo and his running mate Michelle Juarez of FIYOU are now running unopposed.

“We are preparing to file suit in the BBC Supreme Court against the Supreme Court at MMC, because they waited so long for the hearing to take place,” said Sirven in a statement made to Student Media. “Our hope is that Devondra would be allowed to run for President with me as her running mate.”

Collazo sympathizes with Sirven and Shaw’s frustration at their disqualification, but he respects the decisions made by Student Affairs, according to Collazo in a statement made to Student Media.

“I have nothing against Mr. Sirven and I have nothing against Devondra Shaw,” said Collazo.

“I have never questioned their integrity but that has not been the same [case] from Mr. Sirven and his party,” he said.

“From day one, [Access FIU] said ‘Bring integrity back into Student Government,’” he said. “They didn’t question our ideas, they didn’t question what we’ve done, they questioned our integrity and that, we will not do.”

Though Collazo is running unopposed, students can still vote for either FIYOU or Access FIU for senatorial position on April 5 and April 6.

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NATION & WORLD

BRIEFS

Former Stanford athlete found guilty of sexual assault

A former Stanford athlete was found guilty Wednesday of sexually assaulting an unconscious intoxicated woman outside an on-campus fraternity party in a case that helped increase pressure on colleges nationwide to do more to prevent assaults and punish offenders. Brock Turner, 20, was convicted of three felony charges: assault with intent to commit rape of an incapacitated woman, sexually penetrating an incapacitated person with a foreign object and sexually penetrating an unconscious person with a foreign object. District Attorney Jeff Rosen said the case helps make the distinction clear between consensual sex and sexual assault. “Drunk means no,” Rosen said. “Passed out means no.”

California isn’t using blood data in Exide battery plant cleanup

The state of California has blood test results showing high levels of lead in children living near the closed Exide battery plant in Vernon, southeast of downtown Los Angeles, but is not using the information to direct its cleanup of lead-contaminated homes and yards.

Health experts say the test results should be used to help pinpoint neighborhoods most in need of swift cleanup because children there have been exposed to more of the poisonous metal. Lead, which spewed for decades from the Exide Technologies recycling facility, is especially dangerous to young children, putting them at risk of lifelong developmental and behavioral problems. Blood-testing data have guided government responses to lead contamination elsewhere.

Agent Orange benefit screening process scrutinized in Congress

The House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is looking into whether a contractor thoroughly reviewed the files of Vietnam veterans who might deserve benefits for illnesses linked to exposure to Agent Orange. A contractor that prescreens veteran files for evidence of those illnesses often spent just minutes reviewing each file, internal company documents show. The contractor, QTC Medical Services, reviewed files for 160,000 veterans. The company was paid approximately $300 for every file reviewed under 2 inches thick and $350 for files more than 2 inches thick.

STUDENT DESIGN FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

FASHION, PAGE 1

acclaimed psychoanalyst and artist Constance Silver, Ajani P. Stewart, the Environmental Programs Manager from the City of Miami, Barbara Hulanicki, a designer and Jessica Anderson, founder and chief designer of Apparel Design House.

“Everything has to do with craftsmanship. I looked for the way they put it together and the way they did it, because you know at the end of the day anyone can put things together but if you have the time and the talent to do it well that’s what makes it art,” said Ruiz.

Eco-Couture started in spring 2014. Ajlouni said the fashion show was her thesis project that gained a lot of popularity and she never expected her thesis to turn into an annual event.

The competition was created with the purpose of promoting sustainability through fashion and strives to educate and inspire the community about good recycling habits. The show is also meant to educate visitors on how to live an environmentally-friendly lifestyle.

Every year I always see something beautiful and interesting. The students’ works are always well designed and the materials are unique and the way they use them are innovative,” says Ajlouni.

At 8:30 p.m., the models hit the runway. The Master of Ceremonies, Martin Amado, encouraged the audience to vote for their favorite pick for the People’s choice award. Then he welcomed all 38 contestants and their designers back on stage for the judging to make their decisions.

Finally, the winners were announced. Third Place winner was contestant number 21, Cindy Rodriguez. Her dress was made out of a combination of white and brown egg shells, magazines and beer bottles.

“I’m always impressed by the outfits. Every year I always see something beautiful and interesting. The students’ works are always well designed and the materials are unique and the way they use them are innovative,” says Ajlouni.

“I wanted to showcase that we don’t really appreciate the fact that it’s a different type of material and its egg shells. I feel like a lot of times, people abandon the egg shells and you can’t really use them. I wanted to showcase that we don’t really have to use paper bags or bottle caps. We can think about other materials that are out there,” said Rodriguez.

First place winners and People’s Choice Award winner was contestant number 37 Adrienne Kunter and designer Susana Alonso. Alonso said her dress was made out of white plastic grocery bags and was completely crocheted. The bottom of the dress had over 200 pompons.

“A lot of craftsmanship was involved but it was worth it because I’m really proud of the dress. You know, there’s a lot of really awesome garments this year and I’m excited for everyone. I know we all worked so hard and I’m just happy to be here and happy that people get to see the dress and all the work I put into it.”

First place winners were contestant number 28 with designers Laura de la Vega, Sharit Ben Asher and Andrea Canaves. The two-piece jumpsuit was made out of garbage bags, plastic and 3D print draft. Vega said that their look was a representation of women in architecture in the 21st century.

“We are extremely happy and we cannot believe we won. There was a lot of good designs and designers in the show. It’s amazing to know that we are capable of doing something like this and also being a winner,” said Vega.

Ajlouni hopes that the fashion show will continue to inspire people to integrate environmental sustainability into their lifestyles and inspire people to see recycled materials in a different light.

“This is an amazing experience and I wouldn’t miss for the world. It gives these wonderful students the stage to show how really talented they all are. It’s for all ages. Once you see the outfits, the creativity just shocks you. It just wakes up your creativity and inspires you to all the things you didn’t think was possible,” said Silver.
Killing arcades—the death of social gaming

IN TRUTH

Going outside and socializing is overrated; the further we are from each other, the better. What sounds like words of a crazy cat lady from down the street is actually what appears to be the outlook of the youth these days.

Arcades are becoming an increasingly rare relic within this society which is growing to favor distance over intimacy. These buildings which house games, prizes and machines brought some of gamers’ wildest fantasies to life, bringing them closer to reality, while being shared among players of all ages. Going to the arcade on any given weekend was the place to be for many growing up.

In Dania Beach, Boomers closed last January. The remnants of its existence was a large wooden roller coaster, called the Dania Beach Hurricane, recently demolished along with a bit of people’s childhood.

Arcades were huge in the ‘80s, ‘90s and early ‘00s, primarily due to how they were more powerful than home consoles. They gave an unrivaled experience that several early ‘00s, primarily due to how they were growing up.

These arcades are where I learned the art of negotiation and that my words can be one of my greatest tools. “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” was a tent-pole beat ‘em up game in arcades for years, staying in player rotations with life and death discussions over who was going to be Leonardo. There were plenty of times I had to convince other kids that Raphael was cooler, just to free up Leo for myself. There were times when I ran out of quarters and had to persuade someone that I could help them beat “House of the Dead” if they covered me. It’s no secret that neighborhood streets are less crowded by playing kids as most of them have everything they need on tablets now.

Growing up, most of my generation couldn’t wait to go outside. Staying inside was virtually a punishment.

When online gaming became a prominent force in gaming’s latest generation with the introduction of Xbox Live and PlayStation Network, arcades fell further to the wayside as people no longer had to leave their homes to play together.

The nasty and disrespectful comments people spout online would even provoke the Pope to slap the braces out of some kid’s mouth.

This invisible wall between two parties doesn’t exist in arcades, meaning two things must be kept in mind with whatever is said. First, You’re within arm’s length of another person and second, if you’re not being a decent human being, nobody will want to play with you, unlike online, where some poor soul is forced to.

Companies like Sony or Facebook are gambling their fortunes that Virtual Reality will be the next big thing. This technology is bound to be expensive to own and could be a big revival of the arcade scene.

This is exciting as it could lead to a whole new era - where the new generation is able to experience similar things people my age and those before me did.

The arcade is a place where friendships could start; where memorable stories can unfold and be saved in our memory banks for years to come.

Socializing in person with others is crucial to one’s development as a person. The experiences offered by arcades can potentially mold someone for the better.

In Truth is a commentary on issues that everyone has thoughts about, but doesn’t discuss. Damian Gordon is a staff writer for FIU student media. For suggestions, email Damian at damian.gordon@fiusm.com.

Bernie Sanders is not to be underestimated

From enduring an unsteady start to his presidential campaign in May of 2015 to his current status in the 2016 primary election season, Senator Bernie Sanders has significantly defied a series of unfavorable projections toward his campaign.

On Saturday, March 26, Sanders’ campaign gained a swift momentum, winning three caucus states: Alaska, Hawaii and Washington State.

During the early months of his campaign, Sanders most definitely attracted the attention of a range of pundits, especially with the announcement of his Democratic Socialist political philosophy.

Almost instantaneously, Sanders’ campaign was struck with a fog of hateful rhetoric that has continued to make its appearances and many voters have, and perhaps still do, question his credibility as a candidate - quite possibly because of the way in which Sanders’ campaign is represented by media platforms. With web access at the tips of many, if not most Americans’ fingers, social media sites serve as a virtual gateway for the 2016 election season.

Though many voters and pundits view Sanders as an underdog, I view Sanders as a beacon in a lighthouse, aiding sailors on their travels through a dark and tumultuous sea.

Regardless of the many difficulties his campaign has experienced, Sanders has responded by unwaveringly advocating, addressing and discussing topics that many find difficult to bring to the forefront of conversation.

Among his extensive and detailed list of issues the United States faces today, Sanders is applauded by his supporters for his fight to end income and wealth inequality, his advocacy for health care as a fundamental human right, his courage to take on enormous economic and political powers affiliated with the billionaire class, his social progressivism and his passion for environmental sustainability and protection.

Perhaps it is his consistency or his ability to engage with audiences of all backgrounds that has captured the minds and hearts of many Americans. Time can only tell what the next few months of primaries, caucuses and conventions have in store. Despite the results to come, Sanders has raised awareness to important questions, issues and dynamics the United States is experiencing. This may influence our nation for the better.

On the Scene is a commentary on the hottest pop culture topics. For further commentary, contact Gabrielle at gabrielle.garcia@fiusm.com.

A PLACE OF MY OWN

LOOK AT THIS! RESOURCES ARE DECREASING; CLIMATE CHANGE IS GETTING MORE SEVERE, AND I’M LOSING AT THE POLLS!!

I GOT IT! I’LL START MY OWN FUTURE NOW!! THAT WILL PREPARE FOR THE END OF THE WORLD AND HAVE A SOCIETY THAT THRIVES OFF OF IT!! WITH ME LEADING THE WAY WHEN NO ONE ELSE WILL!! GENIUS!!!

WHAT?! THAT’S AWFUL! AND IT MAKES NO SENSE!!

IT WILL IN THE FUTURE, CAROL!

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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How to recognize and fight emotional eating

The five components of physical fitness

This week’s Fitness Model is Saskia Guilbaud, a freshman architecture major. Guilbaud spends a lot of her time in the architecture studio on MMC campus but she makes sure to dedicate time for exercising in between her busy schedule.

The definition of physical fitness can be a little complex as we all have a different idea of what “fit” should look like. For some, it might mean sleek, Hollywood style body, while others might want bulging muscles, while a lot of women strive for the hourglass figure.

However, scientists have discovered five components of physical fitness. These components represent a reasonable definition of what a fit and healthy body should be like.

We always hear that exercise is great for you. Undoubtedly, this is true, but in order to get the maximum results from your workouts, you should follow a fitness regime that has variety and is balanced.

This is where the five components of physical fitness are applied.

**Cardiovascular fitness.** Cardiovascular fitness is the foundation that enhances all other levels of fitness. Cardio refers to the heart and lungs to work together to supply oxygen and nutrients to the body.

In other words, it is the capacity of our heart and lungs to work together to supply oxygen and nutrients to the body.

**Muscular fitness.** Muscular fitness is the strength and endurance of our muscles. It is the ability of our muscles to contract and relax.

**Flexibility.** Flexibility is the ability of our muscles and joints to move through a range of motion.

**Body composition.** Body composition is the ratio of fat to muscle in our body.

**Aerobic capacity.** Aerobic capacity is the ability of our cardiovascular system to transport oxygen to our muscles.

For more of Motivation Monday visit fiusm.com.

Coming of age collegian

Joseph Cardenas

His first film after 2014’s critically acclaimed “Boyhood” follows a 1980 college baseball team on a journey the weekend before classes begin. As the freshmen embrace adulthood and freedom, they move into a dorm house with their competitive teammates.

“What we wanted to capture was what it’s like for someone to go off to school,” said Tyler Hoechlin at a roundtable interview with three other actors in the film: Blake Jenner, Ryan Guzman and Will Brittain.

The roundtable took place at the Mandarin Oriental hotel in downtown Miami, sitting with other reporters, Britain even engaging in games of tic-tac-toe with everyone at the table.

Hoechlin elaborated, looking back on his own days in college about “that moment [of] my parents driving away and realizing ‘oh wow I’m actually on my own, and these are the first moments where I’m free to be who I want to be’.”

The film focuses closely on one of the freshmen, Jake (Jenner), a pitcher whose noticeably tamer than the rest of his rowdy team. As he and the other freshmen navigate disco clubs and house parties, being mentored by upperclassmen (Glen Powell), Roerchter (Guzman), and McReynolds (Glen Powell), Hoechlin, he grows close to one of the girls, Beverly (Zoe Deutch).

Over the weekend, Jake and his friends explore their freedom and sexuality, helping people avoid illness and disease, leading to a long and healthy life.

For more of Motivation Monday visit fiusm.com.
AJJOUNI’S event partner, and Jason Chandler, the chair of FIU’s School of Architecture, offered a moment of silence before the fashion show began to honor architecture student Zaha Hadid, who died Thursday.

Outfits were made using items that typically end up in landfills, including: plastic forks, garbage bags, water bottles and pieces of old tires.

For Munarriz it was important that their piece have a narrative and while the finished product wasn’t what was originally intended, he describes the outfit as post-apocalyptic and aggressive.

“We originally imagined something more elegant but it’s hard to make sandpaper look sexy,” Gongora said. The fashion show competition was open to the entire FIU student body, the only requirements being that the dress be made of completely recycled and reusable material and that the outfit could be worn more than once.

Jose Caba, a junior economics major, saw the show for the first time last year and knew he wanted to design an outfit this year. He created a dress fit for a queen using newspaper, chains, tape, garbage bags, hooks and velcro.

“I did a little everyday so I didn’t slack and wait till last minute,” said Caba, who worked on the elaborate project for two weeks.

TV host and interior designer Martin Amado served as the show’s master of ceremonies and mentioned the materials each dress was made from as its model walked down the runway.

The outfits were judged by a panel of eight judges, including journalist Marian de la Fuente, director of Arquitectonica GEO, Margarita Blanco, Constance Silver, a psychoanalyst and artist, TV personality Candela Ferro, designer Rene Ruiz, founder and chief designer of Apparel design house Jessica Anderson and the City of Miami’s environmental programs manager, Barbara Hulanicki.

There were a total of four money prizes ranging for $250 - $5,000. The top three prizes were decided by judges and the last prize was determined by the audience through anonymous voting ballots.

Judges deliberated on the 38 outfits for more than 25 minutes. Third place winner, Cindy Rodriguez, created her dress out of eggshells. Susan Alonso took home the second-place prize of $500 as well as the People’s Choice Award of $250 with her outfit made from plastic water bottles and white plastic grocery bags.

The first place prize of $1,000 went to a team consisting of Laura De Vega, Shari Ben Asher and Andrea Canaves who collaborated to create a two-piece outfit from plastic bags and 3D printed material.

All proceeds made during the fashion show will go toward scholarships for students in the FIU Department of Architecture. Designs featured in the Eco Couture Recycling Fashion Show will be on display on the second floor of the terrace dining area at Dadeland throughout the month of April.
Untangling the mess of the WNT pay gap

The United States Women's National team (USWNT) is once again at war with their soccer federation. Five players from America's most successful women's team have filed for a wage-discrimination action against the U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In the past the WNT have fought for better playing and travel conditions and while never getting much success with these movements, they have garnered a lot of public support. Their latest movement, however, is being meet with more resistance. There are many dissenting opinions of what is fair pay in a sports business model, based on revenue brought in and collective bargaining agreements. Following the release of the USSF's 3025 financial report, the WNT felt like they had a legitimate case. According to the report the WNT made approximately $20 million more than their male counterparts, while getting only a fourth of the pay. Any capitalist would agree that's wrong and in an anti-Marxist America it feels kind of illegal. However this isn’t a simple conversation. There are layers to it and untangling it all makes for difficult nuance, it isn’t as black and white as saying; they made more money therefore they should get paid more. I think what's intriguing on the aforementioned is a starting point that any sensible American can get behind. However what makes this complicated and hazy is the odd labor discussions the WNT find themselves in. Their collective bargaining agreement (CBA) expired in 2012 and the women have been operating under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) while the new CBA is being negotiated.

The divide is tangibly delineated here as the point of contention and key to the WNT's action is exactly what does this MOU mean. What the USSF says is that the MOU is supposed to keep much of the CBA's structure while tweaks a few key points and that it extends to the end of this year. The WNT says it's only a stop-gap measure not an end all be all. However, the MOU specifically details the player's salaries, which range from 36,000 a year to 72,000 a year. Richard Nichols who is the executive director of the players union informed the USSF in December of 2015 that the MOU was invalid as a CBA and if a new one was not put into play by February of 2016 then it would end and the player’s would be bound by an no-strike clause. So here is where the case lies, a judge will have to decide the limits and powers this MOU has.
SOFTBALL

SLIDE THROUGH

Freshman outfielder, Jackie Schoff, slides into third base to avoid the force out. FIU eventually lost the game against UTEP 6-4.

BASKETBALL

NCAA tournament structure keeps outliers in the running

MONEY, PAGE 6

invited - they must win their own conference tournaments in order to secure a bid. Take the University of Alabama at Birmingham: they crushed their competition all season long going 26-5 overall, but lost in the postseason and went to the National Invitation Tournament instead.

I have covered two below average men’s basketball teams at Florida International University in my two years here. Both of them could not keep a .500 record with some of the top talent in Conference USA.

Add in the fact that their standing body of runners fans is a fraction of that of a power five conference and you get a pretty sad game-day atmosphere.

When their pride has been taken away from these Panthers - when they are spending the prime of their lives being spanked on their home court on a Saturday night instead of partying like most of their peers - how do you get off the floor? How do you convince these Panthers that they are playing for something?

It’s teams like the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders that keep FIU motivated. They weren’t just underdogs; they were dark horses by mid-major standards. In their final game of the regular season, they needed a last second three just to lift them over FIU. They went on to upset number two Michigan State University in the first round of the tournament. Applause and hysteria swirled around them for days as they relished the national spotlight.

As they got the attention they would never otherwise gain.

Many people think that the NCAA tournament is unfair for mid-major teams, but it’s quite the opposite. They are the best thing to ever happen to them.

They bring hope to otherwise hopeless seasons. Then they give players a chance to upset a heavyweight so above their pay grade that they would never go pick them up.

Defense and offense rise on mock draft

DRAFT, PAGE 6

Ezekiel Elliott

Ezekiel Elliott could be a huge upgrade for the Dallas Cowboys. After trading down 5 spots and holding the Philadelphia Eagles’ original pick, the Dallas Cowboys have 2nd overall on the board...and it is up to them.

The Cowboys have a lot of holes they need to fill offensively and defensively. Right now, the biggest need for the Cowboys is running backs. Back in the day, now that former Dallas Cowboys’ starter Lamar Miller decided to play for the Houston Texans, Ezekiel Elliott could be a home run pick for the Dallas Cowboys if he’s available at number 13. Also known as Big Freak Zeke, he has all the tangibles to be every down back due to his size and breakaway speed. He could make 5-yard gain into a 50-yard gain in one carry.

14. Oakland Raiders (7-9) Jack Conklin 6’6” 6-foott 326-pound offensive lineman University of Michigan State University

The Raiders are this close in becoming a legitimate contender in the AFC conference. Adding a tackle makes sense for the Raiders since they struggled to protect their young franchise quarterback Derek Carr. Conklin is a huge upgrade at Michigan State. His pass-blocking skills could be a huge asset for the raiders.

15. Los Angeles Rams (7-9) Reggie Ragland 6’3” 258-pound 3rd overall middle linebacker University of Alabama

The debut of the L.A. Rams could be an interesting one. They need to fill both a middle linebacker and the pick. Since they go pick them up, they can win them games, even back when they were still the St. Louis Rams.

Yet, there are still some veteran quarterbacks that could sign in the free agent market. For now, I have the Rams drafting a middle linebacker and picking Ragland at 21.

Pete’s Picks is a biweekly column about the NFL and FIU Football. For commentary and suggestions, email Peter Holland Jr. at peter.holland@fiu.edu
When wearing something with a symbol on it, does one always know the symbol’s origins and meaning? One may wear it for pride, or maybe to show off their sense of fashion. Sometimes symbols trend among the elite or the famous, thereby making it a must-have item to those who wish to stay with the times. The symbols one sports may gleam with glitz and glory, but behind every image lies a meaning: a designated history, forever transforming its original definition to the world.

Thursday, March 31, the Multicultural Programs and Services presented students at BBC with this discussion on the meaning behind the Confederate flag and how this symbol impacted students here at FIU in the Wolfe University Center. Justin Hill is a Junior here at the university. He expressed his sentiments on what he thought the Confederate flag meant to him. “The Confederate flag, for me, it means hate. I mean, it’s disgusting. I think that it goes more than just a war of the north and the south. And me, as a black man, you know, it isn’t just a war. It’s my ancestors and what they went through.” Hill also thinks that it still affects people today. “Although we’re a ways away from slavery, I don’t feel this country was built for us as a black race. I don’t feel like it was established with us in mind, so of course when I see the flag, I feel like they shouldn’t see it as a sense of pride. They should see it as a disgraceful flag.” Jeffrey McNamee, director of MPAS at BBC, led the discussion and touched on other symbols that have been misused by the public. The swastika, for example, was used throughout the Hitler and the Nazi Regime to terrorize millions of Jews into near extinction. It is virtually the most recognizable symbol of evil by many people. Yet, the history behind it is different. This was a symbol that was, and still is, used by Hindus to mean “to be good.” But Hitler turned it at an angle, forever changing the significance of this symbol and its impact on society as we know it. The subject of cultural appropriation came up as well, with the inappropriate use of Native American headaddresses and names of tribes as mascots. A number of sports teams have adopted these names, like Florida State University Seminoles. “The team would not reconsider whether to change the team’s nickname if it became a political barrier to building a new stadium in the nation’s capital or elsewhere,” said Redskins coach Bruce Allen to USA Today. Herein lies the problem of the misconception of symbols, awareness of where they came from, what they mean to others and what they stand for. The Confederate flag is a remnant of the southern states during the civil war - states who were in favor of slavery. This flag was generated in hatred and those who still use it today misunderstand its meaning.