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SPRING BREAK: MIAMI STYLE



WORK 'N' PLAY

Students share plans for the break



"I am going home – I live on an island called Curacao and I am going to spend time with my family. [We'll] go to the beach, have barbecues, watch movies."

Zoe Daswani
Computer Science Major

"I'm working [on campus in SIPA] but I'm going to try to go to the beach because I haven't been there in a couple years."

Ivan Melgar
Political Science Major



"For spring break, I'm going home to Jacksonville, I'll probably catch up on some work, work out and do anything to better myself."

Xavier Jones
Psychology Major

"I'm planning on spending some time with my son, who is nine months, and doing some work for school. [Also] taking some time off with my husband because work and school is stressful, we need some time off from all that."

Ludnie Leger
Social Work Major



"For spring break, I'll probably go to the beach, Dania Beach. [I'll also] catch up on homework."

Isabelle Dawson
International Relations major

"Hop on a plane and land in any city, [any] one that has empty flights. [I'm going to] see what's interesting to do there, just any city in the USA for two or three days."

Gretchen Joanne
International Relations Major



FIUPD wants students 'as safe as they can be'

MARTINA BRETOUS
News Director

Spring Break is right around the corner and the FIU Police Department's main priority is ensuring everyone's safety.

"Some problem areas that we see with students –and this is consistent throughout the nation typically during spring break– is excessive drinking," said Chief Alexander Casas of the FIUPD. "Students, pent up from semester's worth of work, let loose a little bit [and] sometimes, drink a little bit too much, and find themselves in situations ... that may compromise their safety."

During spring break, where there is usually a spike in crime, and on campus, the FIUPD focuses on the dormitories.

"[W]e bring in extra officers during those times, particularly in those areas that we need to patrol, which in the evenings, will be the dorms," Casas said. "That's where the parties are at, the frats and the dorms."

While on patrol, officers look for signs of distress or excessive

intoxication that might indicate something is not right.

"When we get there ... we want to make sure no one is having any medical episodes [like] dehydration, excessive intoxication, those types of things," said Casas. "So it's not only keeping the peace but also maintaining their health and their safety."

Those interactions, he says, determine whether they will let an individual, who may appear intoxicated, operate a vehicle or leave the location with someone.

"We ask questions like 'do you know where you are,' 'what's your name' ... to try to get an understanding of the person's state of mind ... and if they're in a position to make rational decisions," said Casas.

Casas urges students to form pacts with their friends to nominate one person who will "step up and calm everyone down," if anything gets out of hand. He also says it's important for groups to stick together when they go out and always leave the location with the same people they came.

SEE POLICE, PAGE 3

EDITOR'S NOTE

Break into spring and have fun

CAYLA BUSH



EDITOR IN CHIEF

staying safe over the break on pages two and three, while our editorial board calls for students to "see something, say something."

We did a small poll of students on both campuses, and found that most students would like to do water-related activities over the break. We also learned that the baseball team would prefer to play games over being on the beach.

I'm sprung over spring break.

I know, technically it starts next week. But, for many students, we've just been passively attending classes with our minds elsewhere.

But, before we all travel to new, and in the case of Gretchen Joanne, unknown places we've got a small guide for you.

Staying on campus or in town and want to know what's open on campus? Check out our short and sweet infographic page four and our story about planning a nice staycation.

Alexander Casas, chief of FIU Police Department, shares helpful tips for

I can identify with this preference, which I note in my column on page five. Other columns in this issue focus on tourism in Cuba, keeping the beaches clean and using the break to travel and find new adventures.

However you're spending the break, the Student Media staff hopes you enjoy it and be safe and responsible. As always, we'll keep you updated online at PantherNOW.com and over-the-air on The Roar, FIU Student Radio.

Have fun!

Tips from FIUPD

POLICE, PAGE 2

“If they [a student] go out with two or three friends, to the beach or a nightclub, and they stay behind by themselves, that is not the safest situation ... You put yourself in a situation where someone could take advantage of you, or you could find yourself lost or stranded,” said Casas.

Casas also notes that there’s a difference between having a good time and being disruptive.

“When your behavior gets to the point that it disrupts those around you, it becomes, what we call, disorderly intoxication -- being excessively rowdy, being verbally abusive, engaging in disputes or arguments with others up to and including physical altercations,” he said.

In addition to the legal ramifications of alcohol-related charges, which include suspended licenses and arrests, it can affect students’ collegiate careers.

“Those issues have legal consequences that you now have to deal with but in addition to that, as a student, you could be in violation of the code of student conduct ... and it could really impact your ability to get into grad school and different types of careers in the future,” Casas said.

Family members and friends can play a role in protecting their loved ones as well, Casas says.

“Let them know where you’re going to be traveling to so if a significant amount of time passes and they haven’t heard from you, in a day or so, they’ll have an idea of the last place you were supposed to be.”

He adds that services like Lyft and Uber are available for students and are sometimes the safer alternative.

“Our greatest concern with our students is to take the time off during spring break and act responsibly,” said Casas. “Enjoy yourselves, enjoy what spring break has to offer but do it in a responsible manner where you remain as safe as you can be.”

FIUPD is open 24/7, located in the PG5 Market Station at the Modesto Maidique Campus and in Building SO II at the Biscayne Bay Campus, or visit police.fiu.edu for more information on FIUPD.

TIPS FROM CHIEF CASAS OF THE FIUPD

- Whatever you do, don’t do it in excess.
- Designate one person who will step up and calm everyone down, if needed.
- Leave with the same people you arrived.
- Have fun but be responsible.

Housing & Res. Life open, accessible for break

CEYLIN ARIAS
Staff Writer

Spring break is less than a week away and most Panthers are getting ready to spend the week-long break with family and friends.

For students already living on campus, however, the Office of Residential Life is more than happy to offer Panthers a place to stay during the break.

Andrew Naylor, associate director for housing at the Office of Residential Life, assures that their office is comprehensive when it comes to students needing to spend breaks on campus for any particular reason.

“One thing to understand is that we, as whole, take into serious consideration that many students often time need to stay in the Miami area to work or for whatever reason. That is why we make sure students have a place to live during the break period,” said Naylor.

Naylor prioritizes

students’ housing accommodations in case they find themselves having nowhere else to go.

“The Office of Housing and Residential Life doesn’t believe in kicking students out just because the university is out for breaks,” said Naylor. “We make sure to be open and accessible throughout all breaks, not counting summer vacation.”

No program activities are scheduled during spring break, Naylor says, because students either decide to go back home or take the opportunity to travel elsewhere, this will not affect housing.

However, throughout the rest of March, Naylor shares that the Office of Residential Life offers a variety of program activities with the goal of helping students engage with others in order to learn about time management and other social issues.

The Dean’s List Gala is one of the many activities that usually take place on March, but according to Kristen Smith, associate brand

manager of the Office of Housing and Residential Life, the event came earlier this year.

“We actually had our Dean’s List Gala in February this year. It honors any undergraduate degree-seeking residential student who earns an FIU cumulative GPA of 3.5 or more on the basis of nine or more credit hours earned during any semester,” said Smith.

Program activities such as RHA Royals Pageant, on March 23, and the Drag Ball, on March 30, will take place during its usual schedule in March.

Formally known as the Mr. & Ms. Res. Life, the RHA Royals Pageant, allows residential students to compete for the Title of Mr. & Ms. Res Life, said Smith.

The pageant contains five sections including: Introduction, FIU trivia questions, talent portion, FIU Spirit and the famous question: “Why do you deserve to be the next Mr./Ms. Res Life.”

For more information on events, visit housing.fiu.edu.

Students share plans for spring break on campus

CRISTINA RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

With midterms already underway, the next thing all students are looking forward to is spring break. Now, while the majority of students live off campus, there are those who live on-campus and have decided to stay in their dorm for spring break.

Ralph Valentin, senior, says it’s a great opportunity to be on campus because “it’s going to be quieter and calmer and not many people are going to be on campus,” so he plans on working on his senior project.

Sebastian Perez, junior computer science major, echoes this sentiment.

“[D]uring spring break ... no one’s here, it’s completely vacant [and] I have FIU to myself,” said Perez.

Perez says he’s able to do homework whenever he feels like.

he stays here on campus because his friends from up north come down to visit Miami.

“Usually, people from [up] north come down [to] Miami. I don’t usually go out [but] I have friends that come over,” said Perez.

On the other hand, there are some students who still don’t know what their plans are for spring break. Catalina Muñoz, junior communication arts major, feels that spring break is easy to plan.

“It’s something you don’t really plan ahead

of time. My friend and I were talking about looking for cheap flights to do something somewhere up north,” said Muñoz.

Muñoz hopes she gets to do something different for spring break that doesn’t involve going to the beach.

While Perez sees several benefits to an empty campus, he also feels the downfall of staying on campus is that there’s not much to do.

“[Spring Break] is not something I look forward to but there’s enough things off-campus to do that it’s not a big deal,” he said. “If I had the money, I would love to go somewhere else to travel.”

Perez also isn’t satisfied with the University’s restaurant hours for students who stay on-campus during spring break.

“There’s always Brezeway,” he says but with their overpriced food, it doesn’t feel fair to him.

Panther Dining Services has not yet released their hours during the break but Perez feels housing students are neglected in that area.

“Campus is really bad with housing students, the food hours are horrible. It’s a community school and they don’t think about housing students,” said Perez. “The only thing that’s kinda nice is Vicky’s but that’s pretty much it.”

There might not be much to do on campus but there are always events going on and nearby hotspots in or close to Miami, he adds.

“I don’t stay here for FIU. I stay here for Miami,” said Perez.

NOW HIRING

FIU Student Media is now accepting applications for Editor in Chief of Panther Press and PantherNOW.com, and General Manager of The Roar Student Radio. If interested, visit GC 210 for more information.

Spring Break:

For students interested in studying on campus over the break, here is what's open the week of March 12

What's Open on MMC



-Library Hours-
Sat. March 11 from 8 AM - 8 PM
Sun. March 12 CLOSED
Mon. March 13 - Th. March 16 8 AM - 9 PM
Fri. March 17 from 8 AM - 6 PM
Sat. March 18 CLOSED



-Wellness & Rec Center Hours-
Monday -Thursday from 6:15 AM to 9 PM
Friday from 6:15 AM to 2 PM
Saturday - Sunday from 12 PM to 6 PM



-Student Health Center Hours-
Monday - Friday from 8 PM to 5 PM

What's Open on BBC



-Library Hours-
Sat. March 11 from 8 AM - 8 PM
Sun. March 12 CLOSED
Mon. March 13 - Th. March 16 8 AM - 9 PM
Fri. March 17 from 8 AM - 6 PM
Sat. March 18 CLOSED



-Fitness Center Hours-
Monday - Sunday from 8 AM to 6 PM



-Aquatic Center Hours-
Monday - Friday from 12 PM to 7 PM
Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM
Sunday - CLOSED



-Student Health Center Hours-
Monday - Friday from 8 PM to 5 PM

*Panther Dining Services was unable to provide their spring break hours at the time of publication

NIA YOUNG/PANTHER PRESS

Alternative Breaks offers 'first shot at leadership'

NIA YOUNG
Entertainment Director

Alternative Breaks allows student to break free of the usual routine of spring break with their student lead service programs.

"Alternative Breaks is a service oriented, student lead program at FIU, focused on volunteer work,"

“

We understand that not all student will come with a lofty resume...We want to honor that and be your first shot at a leadership position,

Nashira Williams
Assistant Director
Center for Leadership and Service

she will be working hand in hand with La Tortuga Feliz, an animal welfare project that will help sea turtles survive in their environment.

Delgadillo says she was an integral part of planning this trip.

"Site Leader is the most intense position in Alternative Breaks. The site leader keeps in contact with the community partner, plans fundraising dates, set goals, selects participants for the trip, keeps in contact with the committee board and handles logistics," Delgadillo said.

Nashira Williams, advisor for Alternative Breaks and assistant director of the Center for Leadership and Service explains, Alternative Break's Steering Committee is responsible for creating service experiences for the winter, spring, and summer vacations. These students choose sites from the parent company, Break Away, and develop relationships with the site to ensure the travelling team will be safe and have a successful time there.

"We are not choosing groups that are going to go and do administrative work. The committee is looking for projects that will offer strong direct service pertaining to that site's social issue," Williams explained.

Site selection caters to students'

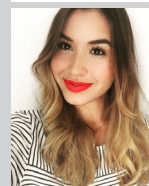
ALTERNATIVE BREAKS, PAGE 5

says Yunova Delgadillo, a senior interdisciplinary studies major.

Delgadillo is a site leader for an upcoming trip to Costa Rica, where

MiamiStaycation: Tips for a budget spring break in Miami

HAUTE COFFEE



STEPHANIE CASTRO

Spring break. Those two glorious words that mean midterms are over and it is officially time to relax and unwind.

Miami is known for being a go-to destination when it comes to celebrating spring break, right? As college students however, the price to pay for a week-long vacation isn't easy to come by, so here are a few ways to celebrate spring break on a budget.

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, located on the next to the Blue Parking Garage on MMC was designed by architect Yann Weymouth in 2008 and offers free admission to everyone.

According to thefrost.fiu.edu, "The Frost has received commendation from a wide array of national leaders in the arts. As the only Miami art

museum that is also an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, the Frost is able to integrate Smithsonian collections into exhibitions, educational initiatives, and benefits from access to the Smithsonian's expertise in conservation and development."

With a plethora of events throughout the year, the Frost museum is the ideal place for art history buffs. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays.

Another great art spot for graffiti lovers is Wynwood Walls.

Open Monday through Sunday, the trendy Wynwood Walls feature colorful street art murals by artists from around the world, and the entire Wynwood area is ideal for college students who love a creative atmosphere.

For Junior education student Anais Colina, her Spring Break tradition includes family time at the beach.

"I like going to El Farito beach. It's relaxing and I grew up going to the beach with my

family," said Colina. "I also enjoy riding my bike there because I can squeeze in some exercise too."

Senior recreation & sport management student Jordan Blecher is in agreement with Colina when it comes to beach vacations.

"I like hitting either Fort Lauderdale Beach or off South Beach to go paddle boarding or just go on the boat," said Blecher.

Miami is known for its beaches and El Farito and South Beach just happen to be two of many. A few favorites are Crandon Park Beach, Virginia Key Beach and Oleta River State Park Beach which is popular for its water activities such as kayaking.

For students who will be spending their spring break out of town, becoming an Airbnb host is a great way to make use of your space and make a little extra cash on the side.

These are just a few ways to spend spring break without breaking the bank.

Haute Coffee is a column that focuses on a range of topics affecting students.

STUDENTS BREAK EARLY



NIA YOUNG/PANTHER PRESS

From left to right: Junior marketing major Nadia Rami, junior psychology major Vanessa Cesar and junior public administration major Akilah Davis attend SPC Spring Break Bash, in collaboration with Fraternity and Sorority Life, on March 7, 2017 at Housing Quad Pool.

Student visits Costa Rica with Alternative Breaks

ALTERNATIVE BREAKS, PAGE 4

interest in their major but Williams stresses it shouldn't stop students from applying to work out of their major.

"If you're a bio major who wants to go read to kids, by all means we want you to get out and read to kids," she said.

While on site Delgadillo says students will spend a week with an organization whose goal is to develop their social issue and better their community. The issues addressed in Alternative breaks span a variety of social issues, from homelessness to the environment.

Williams says registration for AB happens over the summer, and the application opens during final's week. Delgadillo says eager students that missed the deadline for the main trips shouldn't worry;

Alternative Breaks offers "aB Express," three-day service trips within the state of Florida.

"Everyone involved will train all through the fall and spring semester," says Williams. "Participants will also go through Emergency Preparedness Training with the FIU Police for active shooter scenarios, in case we're in a place where that is necessary."

For applicants looking to become a site leader Williams says that Alternative Breaks will meet you where you are in terms of experience.

"We understand that not all student will come with a lofty resume...We want to honor that and be your first shot at a leadership position," Williams said.

Delgadillo and Williams share their top five items

to bring in an Alternative Breaks carry on stressing that "Simple Living", is the way to travelling:

DELGADILLO'S TOP FIVE

- Bug Spray,
- [Disposable] Film Camera
- List of Participants names and emergency contact numbers
- Pair of boots,
- Map of Costa Rica

WILLIAMS TOP FIVE

- Alternative Breaks Tee-Shirt
- Comb/brush combo
- Cash
- Phone
- Thank you cards

Spring break for workaholics is much-needed

THE SHADE LOCKER



CAYLA BUSH

As a self-proclaimed workaholic, I am not ashamed to admit that I will be working through spring break.

Yes, while my friends are posting SnapChat stories and Boomerangs on Instagram of them fake-laughing for false candids, I will be in an office lit by fluorescent lights that smells of old newspapers and slight sadness.

No, I'm not bitter. In fact, because I work on campus, I'm glad parking will be a breeze, traffic will be lighter and I'll have fewer forced interactions with classmates.

Spring break is, for me, a time to have a well-deserved mental break from the emotional work it takes to be "on" all the time. Everyone who will trouble me throughout the day will be off somewhere pretending to have the time of their life for social media and I'll be able to rejoice in knowing that I can finally get some work done.

Instead of wondering why my group mate wants me to split the cost of the memory card he bought, I'll be able to focus on editing my video projects and calculating how many public speaking assignments I can forget due to senioritis without risking failing the class.

Rather than pretend that the girl who says every sentence as if it's a question isn't grating the last nerve I have, I'll be able to organize my desk and color-code all the paperwork I use.

Life will be beautiful.

I know I'm not the only workaholic who is looking forward to going to work during spring for this reason. We'll complain about it via text, telling our friends we hate we can't go to the beach on a whim because we'll be stuck in an office while secretly glowing inside because our office chair has the lumbar support hot sand doesn't.

We'll say we hate not being able to try out the new restaurant that opened in Coral Gables this week but know we won't miss the headache of parking and then having small talk when all we want is to get a nice wine buzz and go to bed.

My friends will spend their days on the beach and nights in Wynwood, while I'll be spending my days in a room that has air conditioning and office supplies.

Rather than pretend that the girl who says every sentence as if it's a question isn't grating the last nerve I have, I'll be able to organize my desk and color-code all the paperwork I use,

two of my top five favorite things. The beach and Wynwood, however, are two of my least favorite.

Don't cringe at the life I've chosen, it suits me well. I thrive off the pressure that a crippling fear of failure and the disappointment of others brings.

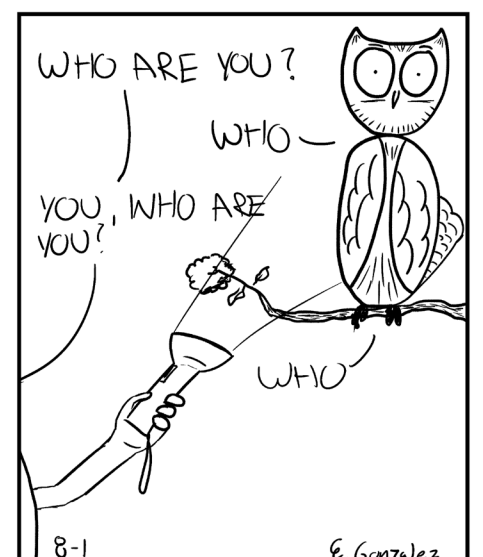
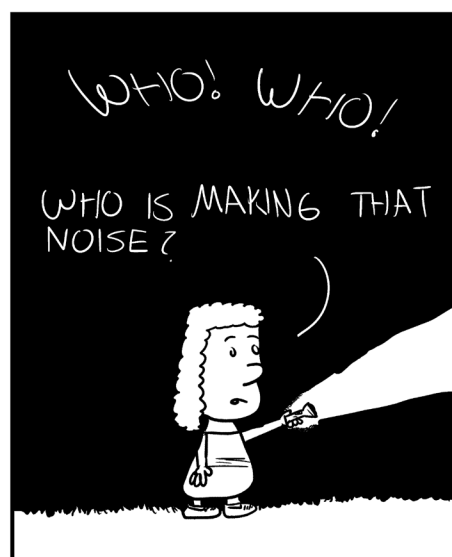
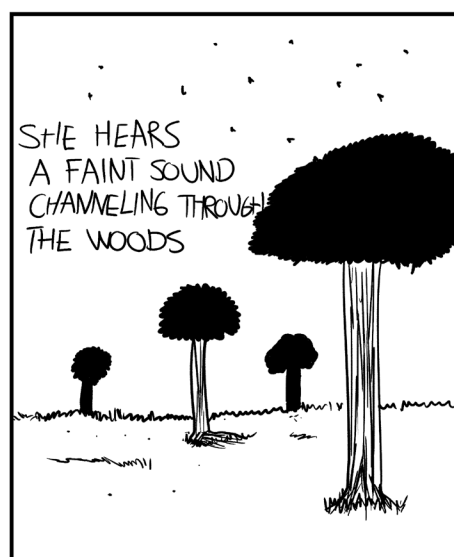
I also feel most at home far away from the health benefits of sunlight and outdoor activity. But above all, the freedom to spend my money as I'd like because I worked hard to earn it. One of the greatest motivators in life is green faces. Being a workaholic was pretty much my only lifestyle choice.

I'm not a loser who has no life. I have great friends that I appreciate more than they know.

Over the weekend, I'll do brunch with them and get mimosa happy and remember why I schlep from west Kendall to Coral Gables or Wynwood.

But during the week, I belong in an office.

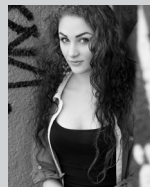
HOOT'S THERE



FORBIDDEN FRUIT

Tourism is not considered a ‘valid reason’ to enter Cuba

THE LEVELER



AUBREY CARR

Cuba has been the forbidden fruit on my list of places I have to see before I die.

I had an aunt who, out of the 22 countries she visited in her lifetime, said Cuba was her absolute favorite, and was devastated when relations turned sour enough to prevent her from returning.

During Barack Obama’s administration, U.S.-Cuban relations did improve, but this improvement only impacts the now legal importation of Cuban cigars and rum; and more importantly, the addition of an American embassy in Havana and a Cuban embassy in D.C. for the first time since 1961.

It’s challenging, though not impossible, as many Miamians know, to enter Cuba with an American passport.

Your entry, according to the U.S. embassy in Cuba, must be approved for one of 12 reasons, which include family visits, official business of the U.S. or foreign governments, journalistic activity, professional or educational research, authorized exporting or importing of goods, to name a few.

But, tourism is not considered a valid reason to enter Cuba.

Yet, this minor change in the embargo has opened the door just enough to plant more firmly the idea of Cuba as a touristic destination into the minds of many

Americans, which, although an exciting notion, could have negative costs.

Elaine Dovale, a junior majoring in marketing and a native Cuban, does “not believe the economic relations [between Cuba and the U.S.] are beneficial for the Cuban people,” because if Cuba’s tourism increases, it could lead to meager wages and

low pollution levels: qualities that would undoubtedly be tainted by the infiltration of factories and tourists who treat the island as an amusement park or resort instead of a country to be respected.

The Cuban government, Dovale said, is one “that denies” and operates under a “regime of terror,” uncompromising on

would translate into igniting the Cuban economy, empowering the Cuban people, funding education and infrastructure...more trade while respecting the resources,” Dovale said. “I hope to see Cuba in the future as a country [with] ideals that are not oppressing its people.”

While Dovale doesn’t have an answer to the problem, she doesn’t believe American intervention is it.

“In a lot of ways, [Cuba] is frozen in time,” Dovale said. “At the same time, we have these little glimpses of the present... almost like a glimpse of the future.”

This is exactly why, at least for some of us, Cuba has always seemed like this far away, untouchable, magical time-machine of a country, filled with interesting people and incredible food.

But, it’s also a country with a corrupt government, and for American passport holders, an immigration process at the airport that seems like it’s only navigable for seasoned travelers with legitimate motives to enter the country.

So, if you’re looking for a holiday at a beach resort during spring break, perhaps contemporary Cuba isn’t the place for you.

One day, though, it would be wonderful to see relations restored, with a less shady Cuban government and more consideration on America’s behalf for the Cuban people and their beautiful ecosystem.

Aubrey Carr is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, The Leveler, covers global social justice and political commentary.



In a lot of ways, [Cuba] is frozen in time. At the same time, we have these little glimpses of the present...almost like a glimpse of the future.

Elaine Dovale
Junior
Marketing



bad working conditions – if the Cubans on the island are even lucky enough to be given jobs on cruise ships and shops at all.

Although one would think that the money gained from tourism would go to infrastructure and the education system – areas Dovale believes are priorities because of the low quality in both – these issues are not aided by the money that is already coming in from tourism, which according to GlobalSecurity.org, is “the main engine of growth for the Cuban economy since the second half of 2004.”

Another concern Dovale has is the environmental impact American tourism would bring. She described Cuba as “untouched,” with plentiful natural resources

many issues, perhaps because it fears the start of a “revolution of thought” led by the Cuban-Americans who have experienced both countries and are the liaison between them.

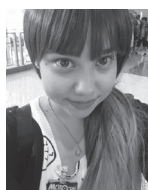
Dovale describes those who have lived in Cuba their entire lives as people who look out at the world as if through a window and “live under the fear of a government.”

She said that “if the Cuban people become more aware that the world is paying attention...they would rebel,” much to the government’s chagrin – a red flag that signals to Dovale that negotiations with the U.S. “aren’t going anywhere if the [Cuban] government doesn’t compromise.”

“I wish that all of these negotiations

Spring break is not a time for marring beaches

PANTHER HEALTH



MAYTINEE KRAMER

Last year, Miami Beach hosted Floatopia, an event where people float and relax on rafts along the coast and mingle on the beach.

The aim was to provide something fun and different for Miami, and while the event might have promoted good vibes and good people coming together to connect, the event was disastrous

for the environment.

There are psychological benefits of various types of natural scenes, and as new research shows, those benefits are taken away by trashing the environment.

The aftermath of the event looked like a scene straight out of “Sharknado.” The coastline was nothing but a trashed beach covered in discarded rafts, bottles and cans left behind by thousands of people.

Despite many posts reminding attendees to clean up after themselves, volunteers, city and county crews were left to clean up the huge mess until 11 p.m. that day and then at 6 a.m. the following day.

Miami officials and environmental groups were

outraged over the trashed beach, and as a result, Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine and Commissioner Michael Grieco vowed to ban future Floatopias to protect the environment.

Even Floatopia Miami wrote on the group’s Facebook page: “The level of disrespect shown on our beach yesterday was unimaginable. Thank you to everyone who clean up after themselves but unfortunately, this time, you were the minority. We refuse to be associated with this kind of behavior and much less will we facilitate an event that hurts a city and beach that we love.”

As spring break once again approaches, students should be reminded that it’s just as important to look after the environment as it

is to have fun. Humanity is badly damaging the oceans, with 8 million metric tons of plastic filling them annually, according to the Washington Post.

A recent study in Environment and Behavior states that coastal or water-related scenes have psychological benefits, giving a “restorative” sense of being while helping unburden the brain by relieving stress.

While we know that littering can have detrimental effects on the environment, Kayleigh Wyles of Plymouth Marine Laboratory in the UK told the Washington Post that it can also “have an impact on individuals’ health and well being.”

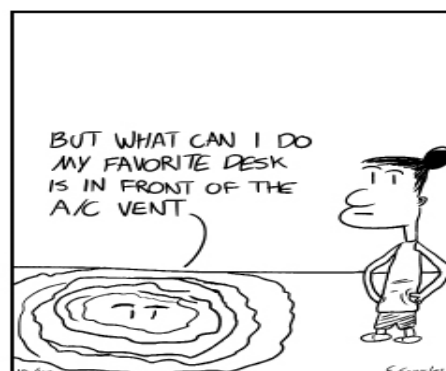
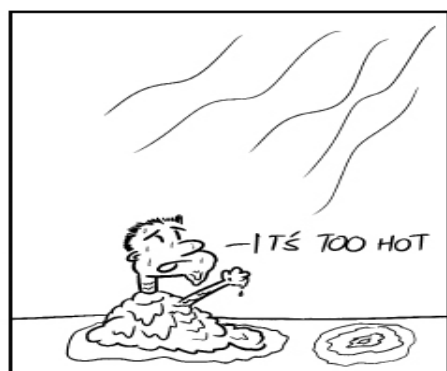
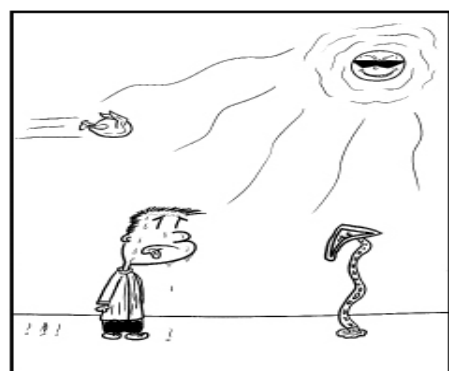
A study conducted by Wyles found that respondents said that

images of litter disrupted or interfered with the pleasingness, and they also expressed anger or sadness. Nobody wants to see a trashed beach let alone spend a day there.

I agree with the decision to ban Floatopia. Aside from keeping the beach clean and looking after the environment, taking away such an event should teach people to pick up after themselves and take responsibility for their actions.

Maytinee Kramer is the Assistant Opinion Director for Panther Press. Her column, Panther Health, is a commentary on maintaining one’s health during college.

SUNNY SIDE UP



PANTHER EDITORIAL

If you see something, say something this spring break

Miami and its beaches are year-round destinations for tourists from all over the world, bringing in a record-setting 15.8 million visitors in 2016, according to the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Spring break is a time to officially welcome the end of winter — even though there's no such thing as winter in South Florida — and kick off the prologue to what this summer's

shenanigans will include. South Beach is one of America's most notorious spring break hot spots, which inevitably implies booze and sex. When combined these two can result in serious legal complications.

Florida law states that if someone is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, that person cannot give consent.

As with most crimes, rape does not usually occur

in situations where there are multiple witnesses, but it's not unheard of for sexual assault to take place in crowded areas and in broad daylight.

When it comes to sexual assault and sex under the influence, if you see something, say something. FIU has an ongoing sexual assault prevention campaign, "It's On Us," but if you can do something in the moment, rather than leave it up

to officials to later sift through based on he-said-she-said accounts, which is all too often the case, please help the situation in any way possible.

If you see that someone is drunk and obviously being assaulted or pressured into sex, do something to help keep that person safe, whether that means pretending to know them to get them away from the person, reporting the situation immediately

and agreeing to testify as a witness, getting proof of the act, and/or confronting and handling the situation yourself (legally, of course).

This advice doesn't stop when spring break ends, either, because sexual assault does not happen solely during this one week every year.

It's important that we as students, as Miamians — as people — protect each other whenever possible.

It's our responsibility to do everything we can to make the world a better place and standing up for each other in any circumstance when someone needs our help — especially a circumstance as stigmatized as sexual assault — is one of the ways we can begin to make a difference.

Spring break: a time for adventure and traveling

RIGHT TURN



CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ

On far too many occasions I've written about uncontroversial topics like race relations, Donald Trump, or the civil war in Syria.

I think it's about time that I tackle a truly difficult question: what are the best things to do during spring break?

Proud party-animal that I am not, I will probably spend most of my break getting ahead on my homework.

The deadlines for menacing research papers loom ahead and rapidly approach; better to start perusing Wikipedia for content now rather than later. But if I could travel somewhere, I would prefer to do that.

If I lived away from home, though, now would be the time to visit relatives. I was curious about what non-Miamians did for their spring break, so I asked a few FIU students about their plans.

Michael Carabello, a senior double majoring in political science and economics, said "I'm originally from West Palm, so ever since coming to college here at FIU I'd go visit my friends back at West Palm. Before I came to Miami I'd go out with my friends, see movies, stuff like that."

Carabello's ideal spring break vacation, though, would be to "travel to Europe and win a million dollars." If only!

Unlike Carabello, Beeta Rezakhani, a junior majoring in international relations, doesn't use her spring break to visit family.

Her family lives in Boca Raton, she said, and because of how relatively close it is to Miami, she's able to drive up once a month. So, instead, she said, she prefers to use her time off to travel.

"Typically I like to go out and travel," she said. "So, a typical spring break would be going on cruises. Cruises are fun; you get to knock out like three countries at

once and go boating."

As for her ideal spring break get-away, Rezakhani said, "Ideally, I'd go to Maui or get my friends together to go island-hopping in Asia."

Students that come from other Florida cities most likely feel the same about spring break as Rezakhani does, but, what about the native Miamian?

Nick Zapata, a senior Miamian majoring in psychology, said that traveling for spring break is always on his things-to-do list.

"Usually, I like to travel, get out of Miami for a little bit," Zapata said. "Last year, I went to Washington, D.C., and the

“

Cruises are fun; you get to knock out like three countries at once and go boating.

Beeta Rezakhani
Junior
International Relations

”
year before that I went to Gainesville to visit my friend who studied at UF. I like to get out of Miami for spring break."

The small sample size notwithstanding, there's a word that describes the common trend of the answers I received: wanderlust.

I had often seen the word on Instagram pages, but only recently did I look up its meaning. As per Merriam-Webster, wanderlust is "a strong desire to travel."

Of course, we college students do have a strong desire to travel. We get to have fun, experience, and enjoy some more freedoms when we go off on adventures.

And it seems being a Miamian as opposed to someone from another city does not seem to make much of a difference!

Christian Gonzalez is a staff writer for Panther Press. His column, Right Turn, is a commentary on foreign affairs, culture, and social sciences.

Keep Florida beaches clean

PULITZER'S PHENOMENA



DANIELA PEREZ

you.

Every spring, news stations' headlines are nuanced by the amount of trash that has been left behind by spring break tourists.

With the notorious party scene at Miami Beach, pollution washes on and

“

Vacations spent in Florida means happy vacationers and a fatter wallet for the Florida economy.

”

into the shore. The trash that invades the beaches typically involves styrofoam, plastic, and alcohol paraphernalia that may be either glass or aluminum.

Regardless of whether or not these are recyclable materials, these spring breakers are not picking up after themselves. And where exactly does this debris end

up if it's not in the trash?

It ends up in our oceans, in the stomachs of our sea creatures and potentially in our stomachs. Considering the fact that most of these materials are not biodegradable, animals may consume them, be caught for food, and end up in our systems through the simple food cycle.

If you are going to visit our beautiful Florida beaches and are going to bask underneath our sun, please pick up after yourself.

If you don't clean up after yourself, someone else might. However, the chances of you polluting the environment are higher than the chances of someone picking up after you.

Therefore, enjoy the weather, enjoy the beaches and enjoy the company of your friends. Just don't bring your trash with you.

Daniela Perez is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, Pulitzer's Phenomena, is a commentary on human interest.

PANTHER MAGAZINE

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Safety tips for your break

JULIETA RODRIGO
Staff Writer

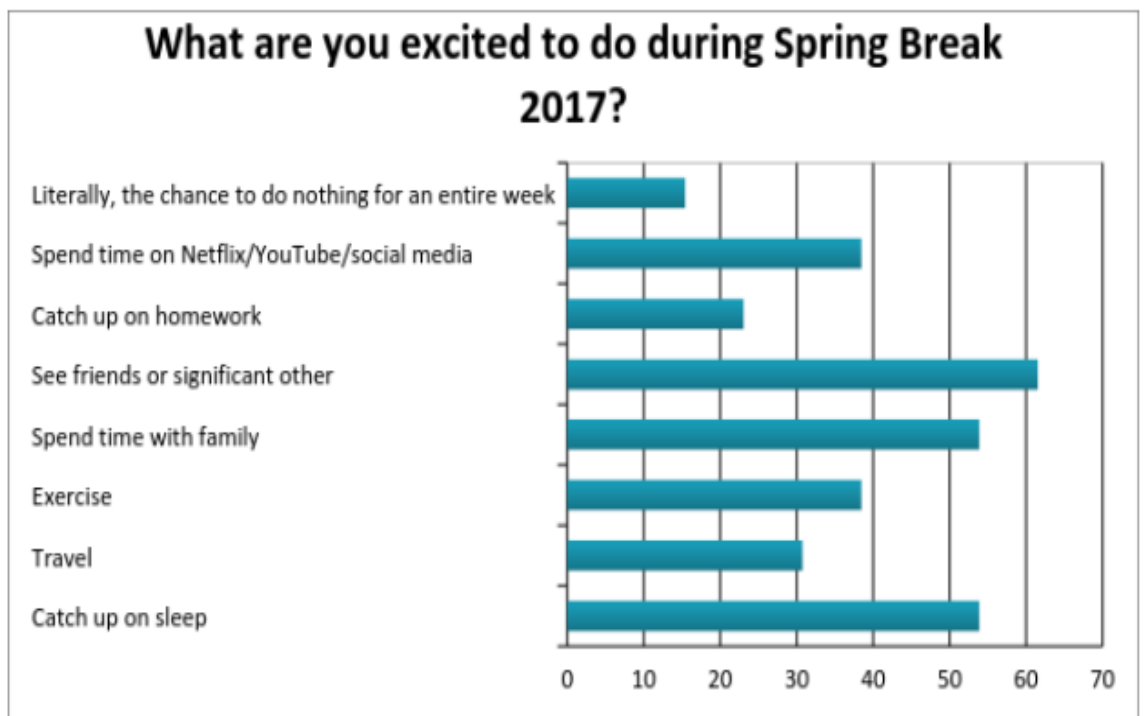
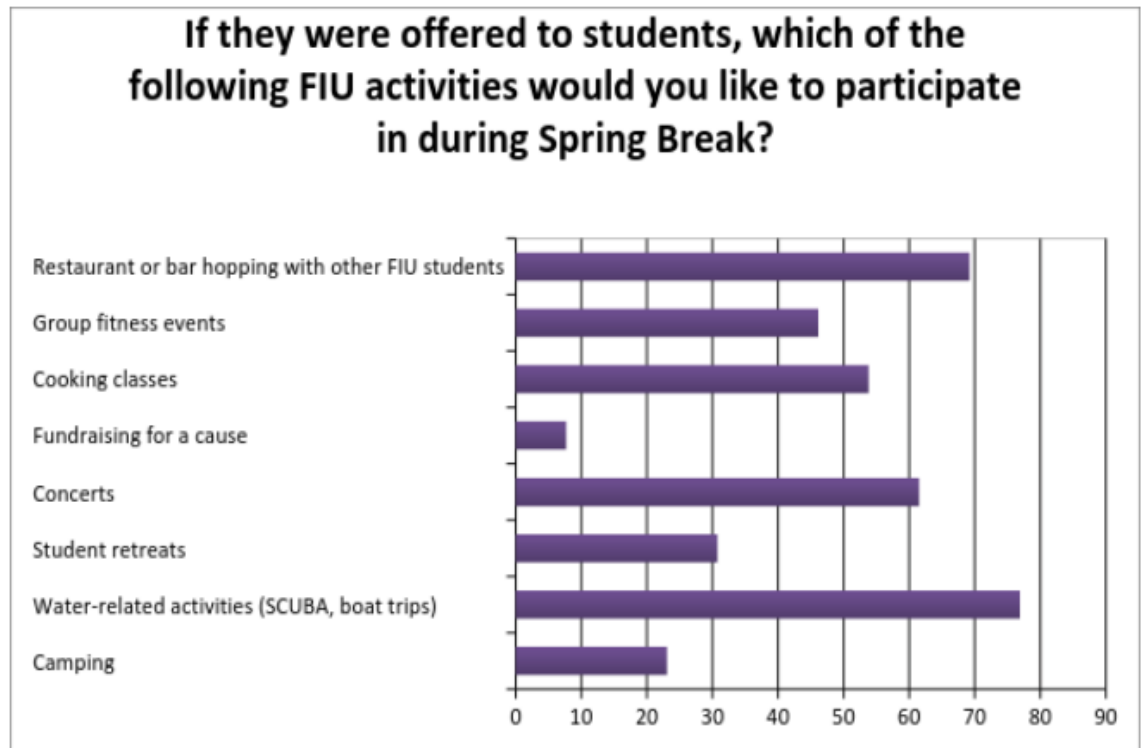
After the stress of midterm examinations, Spring Break can be a fun and exciting week for students. However, as with any fun activity, it is always important to remain safe and alert. Here, Student Media has compiled a list of tips to help students stay safe during Spring Break:

1. Don't drink and drive: Approximately 1,825 students between the ages of 18 and 24 die each year from alcohol related unintentional-injuries, including car crashes, according to College Drinking Prevention. It is always better to call an Uber or taxi, or let a responsible friend act as designated driver for the night.
2. Talk to your family and friends: If you are traveling, inform them of your itinerary, including where you are going, expected time of arrival and return, where you will be staying, who will be accompanying you, and any other pertinent information.
3. Use protection: If you are going to be outside in the sun, wear sunscreen, hats, and protective clothing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends sunscreen with at least SPF 15, and reapplication every two hours. If you engage in sexual activity, use condoms and other kinds of birth control to keep yourself protected from STDs.
4. Keep your battery intact: Make sure your cell phone is adequately charged before you head out, and take a portable charger in your bag whenever possible.
5. Stick Together: Keep an eye on your friends when you go out, and make sure every person has a plan to get home. Do not allow your friends to take rides from strangers.
6. Participate in campus events: One of the best ways to ensure safety during Spring Break is to go to campus-sponsored events. For instance, the Wellness and Recreation Center on both BBC and MMC campuses will remain open during Spring Break for group fitness classes or individual workout sessions.

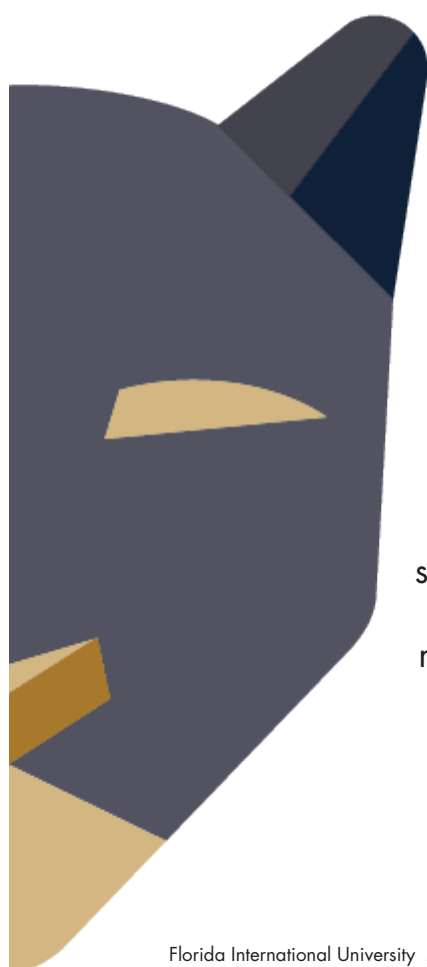
For more break tips, please visit www.pantherNOW.com

#SPRINGBREAKIN'

How students are spending the break



PantherNOW.com



FIU Student Media's rebranded website is still bringing up to the minute news coverage, instant sports updates, what's new in student life, music and talk shows, event photo galleries and more.

Baseball players prefer competing during break

BRETT SHWEKY
Staff Writer

Spring Break is known by many, as a time for college students to relax and recover from their demanding courses. But for the FIU baseball team, the time to rest is rerouted into the time to work hard. Freshman infielder Derek Cartaya said that he never had much of a Spring Break growing up as he would utilize the break to help improve his skillset.

"Being a baseball player, I feel as if I never had a Spring Break," said the second baseman. "Every Spring Break I would go out of town or the state for a tournament,

so I didn't have the typical break like most of my peers."

Cartaya continued by saying that he still enjoys his Spring Break by just playing the game he loves.

"I truly enjoy playing baseball," said the freshman.

"I'd rather plave five of six games over the week here, over being at any beach of any place in the world to be quite honest."

Dominic LoBrutto
Starting Pitcher
Baseball

Spring Break is what I love to do, so I wouldn't want to have it any other way."

Starting pitcher Dominic LoBrutto believes that playing collegiate baseball is far more enjoyable than having a week off for Spring Break.

"I'm playing college baseball, that's honestly one of the most fun things you can do," said the junior. "I'd rather play five to six games over the week here, over being at any beach or any place in the world to be quite honest."

The Panthers will host the (7-2) Charleston Southern University Buccaneers in a three-game series spanning from Thursday, March 9 to Saturday, March 11.

"Being on the field during