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Police keeps sex assault, crimes low

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The new Annual Security report by FIU Police Department shows that University crime rates have been slightly dropping in recent years, despite the growth in student population.

Every year, the FIUPD, in compliance with the Clery Act, compiles a report with the number of crimes committed on each campus.

Categories include sex offense, robbery, aggravated assault, motor vehicle theft, burglary and arson.

Although national statistics show that one in four women will be affected, the report shows that there were only five sex offense cases at the University in 2013. There were six reported cases in 2011 and nine in 2012.

“We only get three to four reports of sexual assault a year. That’s a very low number for a campus of this size,” Chief of Police Alexander Casas previously told Student Media.

While the number of incidents stays low, Casas calls attention to the fact that sex assault is still happening on campus.

“It’s just one less incident, and if you’re one of those victims, it’s still a big deal to you,” he said. The percentage, to us, isn’t anything to be proud of, because it’s a drop of one case.”

These are just the number of cases that were reported to police. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, about 60 percent of sex assaults are not reported.

“They may choose not to report to the police. That’s their choice,” Casas said. “But if it is reported to the police, we will absolutely investigate it.”

Even if students don’t want to report sex assault to police, Casas said they have many options to seek help.

“They can go directly to Victim Empowerment, they can go to their Title IX coordinator and obviously they can go to us,” Casas said.

Of the reported cases this year, four occurred in the Modesto A. Maidique Campus — two of which were in the MMC housing. One occurred while

on study abroad.

No sex assault cases have been reported at the Biscayne Bay Campus since 2011.

According to RAINN, most sex assault cases were committed by someone known to the victim: 73 percent are committed by a non-stranger, 38 percent are committed by a friend or acquaintance, 28 percent are intimate and 7 percent are committed by a relative.

Most cases also take place in familiar places: four in 10 take place at the victim’s home, two in 10 take place at the home of a friend, neighbor or relative and one in 12 take place in a parking garage.

Most sex assault cases occur between 6 p.m. and midnight.

For the first time, FIUPD added categories to further classify crimes where the victim might know the attacker: the new report includes number of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking on campus.

Dating violence is categorized when violence is committed by someone in a social, romantic or intimate relationship with the victim.

Crime Category	Count
Sex Offenses, Forcible	2
Robbery	12
Aggravated Assault	12
Burglary	25
Motor Vehicle Theft	5
Arson	1
Liquor Law Arrests	3
Liquor Law Referrals	75
Drug Arrests	32
Drug Referrals	13
Weapons Arrest	2
Weapons Referrals	13
Hate Crimes	0
Domestic Violence	3
Dating Violence	1
Stalking	3

KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

To determine this, police look into the length of the relationship, the type of relationship and the frequency of interaction.

of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause them to fear for his or her safety or suffer substantial

Stalking is categorized as a course **SEE CRIME, PAGE 2**

MyFIU website, app receive more modern look

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The commonly used MyFIU website and mobile version underwent their first phase of design enhancements this fall semester.

Launched in spring 2007, the website was created by the Division of Information and Technology to change the way students used the Panthersoft system, rather than having to pull up different web pages to

look for financial information and class schedules.

The website has allowed users to do this, as well as to register for classes and enter their FIU e-mail, all in one place.

To revamp the user-experience, the division began planning, designing and developing the changes to the site and mobile app eight months ago, said Robert Grillo, vice president and chief information officer of the Division of IT.

The changes were introduced to users on Sunday, Oct. 26. Two days later, FIU was awarded the Cybersecurity Leadership and Innovation Award in the Education category by the Center for Digital Government for its cybersecurity efforts.

Some of these changes include links that provide University information and news and other tools and resources without the need of having to log into the website. Panther Links have been

redesigned to display the most widely used direct links.

For the mobile app version, which was launched in 2011, a PantherTrack service was incorporated to track University shuttles and bus en route to the Biscayne Bay Campus and the Engineering Center by using real-time pictures.

Grillo said that its cleaner and more modern responsive design interfaces better with newer versions of Apple’s iOS, OS X and Google’s Android.

Despite the updates,

students like Heidi Castellanos, a sophomore marketing major, said that the changes haven’t been very notable. She said that the Panther Degree Audit link should be more apparent as well as the links to financial information.

“More visual rather than writing,” said Castellanos. “[And] unless you haven’t been in the school for a while, you don’t even know what any of these stuff are.”

However, Grillo said this is just the first phase in the

Division of IT’s continuing effort to enhance the University’s applications and services.

The next phase will be to incorporate an extended validation certificate on the site’s weblink to decrease the amount of phishing e-mails and scams that redirect users to duplicate sites that steal usernames and passwords.

Grillo said that the new layouts were based on input

SEE WEBSITE, PAGE 2

In light of danger in other campuses, FIU Alert system offers relief for students

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If FIU students simultaneously hear their phones ringing, it’s most likely an alert from FIU.

“On two separate occasions, an unknown male on a bicycle has grabbed two females’ buttock at the [Modesto A. Maidique Campus]” read the most recent alert students received from the Department of Emergency Management.

These messages were

successful in alerting students of potential harm.

The University alerts typically vary in content: from messages about the weather to potential dangers on campus that students need to be aware of.

The catastrophes that have recently been occurring at other universities have been alarming to schools nationwide.

The shooting at Florida State University last week shows the need and importance of a

“The email system has been streamlined and the old system has been completely removed. The new system is much more efficient than the old one, and has more methods of sending out messages.”

Amy Aiken
Director
Department of Emergency Management

functioning alert system feature to any university. The system, called FIU Alert, works by sending

out messages in multiple ways to reach a student.

“There’s multiple methods of communication: text messages and voicemails to cell phones, emails to FIU accounts, alerts to the official FIU Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites, outdoor speakers, call boxes, the new LED outdoor billboards at MMC and [Biscayne Bay Campus], and VoIP phones in every classroom and office,” said Amy Aiken, the director of emergency management.

The current system was first implemented last October, and there were some minor issues while transitioning to the new system: students were receiving duplicate messages.

Aiken says they didn’t want to risk the new system crashing or glitching. So, the email would send twice.

Training and experience in learning the system has fixed this problem.

“The email system has

SEE ALERT, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

US shootings by police, prison conditions trouble UN

A U.N. anti-torture panel that is investigating the United States said Friday it was deeply concerned by what it described as the high incidence of police brutality and shootings — especially against African-Americans — in the U.S., was troubled by what it called harsh conditions in many prisons and was worried about the interrogation methods used on detainees.

The experts on the United Nations panel called for declassifying evidence of torture by the U.S. — in particular Guantanamo Bay detainees' accounts — and declassifying and promptly releasing, with minimal redactions, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's report about the CIA's secret detention and interrogation program.

"We express concern at the reported current police violence in Chicago, especially against African-American and Latino young people, and deep concern at the frequent and recurrent police shootings or fatal pursuit of unarmed black individuals," said Alessio Bruni, a member of the panel and a lead investigator in the review of U.S. compliance with the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment. The U.S. ratified the 156-member-country convention in 1994.

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Annual crime report shows lower crime rates

CRIME, PAGE 1

emotional distress.

In 2013, there were three reported cases of domestic violence, one case of dating violence and four cases of stalking. All of these occurred at MMC.

Meanwhile, Casas said that decreases in thefts, drug usage and other "opportunistic crimes" can be attributed to the "direct correlation" between crime statistics and the number

of officers on duty.

"When I have more officers, I can put more people on foot patrol, direct patrols in certain parking garages or parking lots — it does have a residual effect on the opportunistic crimes," he said. "I think we're at a point where our staffing levels are starting to have a consistent impact on our crime. These are good numbers."

But it's not just quantity that plays a part. Casas claimed that the quality of police-work

is another factor.

"Those numbers are directly reflective of the professional hard work and service that our police officers provide our community here," he said, later adding that the recent negative gun incidents are frowned upon by the department.

Casas emphasized the importance of looking at the number of incidents as opposed to percentages.

"Think about it: three out of

10 is 30 percent. That's a big percentage. But if you go from [three] to seven, that's not a lot of cases when you're talking about burglaries," he said.

To Casas, the numbers won't change how the police department works to combat crime.

"We will not relax — we will continue to maintain the level of policing that we've had," he said.

University Division of IT gives MyFIU a new look

WEBSITE, PAGE 1

from students, faculty and staff.

"We sought input from students on design elements for the site and its usability. After deployment, we continually surveyed students to receive feedback for future enhancements," Grillo said. "Our primary motivation is to continue to keep the site and mobile applications modern and easier to use."

Academic Advisor Paige Johnson said that the alterations have been useful, especially since she is both a University employee and a doctoral student. As an academic advisor, she said that the changes has made it easier for her to direct students to their transcripts, for example.

"It's a little more cleaner so you can direct students to 'transcripts are here,' as opposed to going through a bunch of

different links," said Johnson. "Students just want to see [everything] right there. They don't want to have to search. When they search, they don't care anymore."

Also, she said that she has encouraged her students to use the mobile app to stay on track of their information.

"You could be anywhere in the world, go to the mobile app, register for your classes, hit and enroll and you're done."

Students pioneer project to protect against sea level rise

HOUSING, PAGE 8

She recommends to others to be involved on this pressing issue now and later on. "It would be nice to be a part of a team in the future that needs to deal with this issue," Echeverri said.

Professors Marta Canaves and Marilys Nepomechie explain that the idea of creating the multi-faceted, interactive exhibition is part of the interest in raising public awareness and encouraging community engagement in the advancement of a city that will become more resilient over the course of its second century.

"Student projects, undertaken since 2011, as well as the panels, lectures and exhibition catalogue planned in conjunction with

the exhibition, all form part of that study," said Marilys Nepomechie, an architecture professor and co-curator of the exhibition.

The project is composed of multiple parts, each with its own reason. One of the main components is the academic exploration, part of a grant funded by the National Science Foundation. It is intended to address natural and built environment responses to sea level rise in our urban region.

"Many people were involved with the project. Faculty, graduate students, a range of subject matter experts, elected officials, and community activists all contributed to the exhibition materials," said Canaves.

According to Nepomechie, over 100 of the participants

are graduate and post-professional students in the departments of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and Environmental and Urban Design.

One of the highlights of the exhibition is the interactive model in the Abraham Gallery. The lights in the model closely follow LiDAR map data and show areas of inundation at 3 feet, 4 feet and 6 feet of sea level rise. LiDAR is a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a targeted area with laser and analyzing the reflected light.

"The most concerning I find about sea level rise is how much of the City of Miami Beach it would affect. The whole city would be affected; there is no escaping it," said Echeverri.

Echeverri also said that study for the project was very demanding because of the amount of research and work that it needed to be produced. However, it left her with an immense satisfaction when looking at the final product.

In relation to the exhibition, multiple lectures and panel discussions are planned to take place at the CGM, at FIU, and at the Miami Center for Architecture + Design (MCAD) in the coming months.

"The environmental challenges ahead are substantial, and their effect, not only on our immediate community, but world-wide, demand our attention and our active engagement. We hope that this exhibition will advance both," Nepomechie said.

University's alert system brings sense of calm to students

ALERT, PAGE 1

been streamlined and the old system has been completely removed," Aiken said. "The new system is much more efficient than the old one, and has more methods of sending out messages."

Every semester, system

components are tested. So far, the new system has been effectively relayed messages to students.

Aiken said that the most important part is that students feel safe with FIU Alert and that no issues have been encountered with the new system.

Andres Fernandez, a junior majoring in finance, said the alert

system gives him a sense of relief.

"It gives me a sense of calm to know FIU's system is so efficient, and there are so many ways to alert a student of danger," said Fernandez. "Tragedies at other schools could have maybe been minimized if alert systems were as quick as ours."

Dabbling: What we do best

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Many students today wish they had a set of skills that were, characteristically, theirs. When describing themselves to new people, they would proudly say: “I am a pianist.” Being talented at something implies that someone is invested in their own personal growth. It also suggests the ability to overcome challenges and thrive. I imagine there is also a sense of satisfaction in knowing what they want to do with their life from an early age. These are usually the students who are considered “natural talents,” because they found their calling before entering college.

Frankly, it’s a little embarrassing that in my nineteen years of existence, I have yet to discover one thing I am particularly good at. Perhaps it comes off as a bit selfish, but wanting to be recognized as “the girl who can sing soprano” or “the boy who writes killer poems” seems way better than only being remembered by the freckles on your face or the color of the shirt you wore on one occasion. Those things are not a reflection of who you are as a person. I admire people who have dedicated years to perfecting a pirouette, or acquiring a black belt because they are self-motivated. While it was their parents who took them to their very first lessons, the decision to stick it out was personal, because, in my opinion, the cultivation of talent and mere passion go hand-in-hand.

In contrast, there are other people who try and enjoy a range of activities, but fail to advance after a certain point. Let’s call them “dabblers.” You’re a dabbler if you have mastered two or three chords on guitar, were once told you had great potential by a former soccer coach, and the doodles that you make in class are exceptionally detailed. Parents of dabblers enroll their children in dance classes, little league sports, and piano lessons only to realize that the burning sensation at the pit of their child’s stomach is not passion, but an ardent desire to quit. Sometime between the beginning of middle school and the end of freshman year, parents stop pressuring their child to choose a prodigious skill.

It’s okay as long as you make good grades, right? Wrong. The college admission system becomes more selective every year. It is under the unrealistic assumption that college students should all be gifted. If that were the case, a collegiate experience would become dispensable.

I do not pretend to understand why colleges make it so stressful to apply. I have considered that it is probably a tactic for evaluating a student’s training, or (cynically) that colleges want to compartmentalize students and make a statistical joke about their interests. However, I realized upon entering college that my insecurities were misguided. The department of admissions does not know the individuality of all of the applicants, just as I do not know much else about “the girl who can sing soprano.” They

simply aim to admit students who demonstrated their determination to earn a college degree.

I then put a lot of thought into the parameters of talent, and came to the conclusion that our “natural” abilities reflect what we were exposed to, what we enjoy, and what we have practiced. Natural talent, in this respect, does not exist. To quote one of my favorite writers, Malcolm Gladwell, “Practice isn’t the thing you do once you’re good. It’s the thing you do that makes you good.” This is to say, abilities are built into skill. Even an ability like a photographic memory can be sharpened by exerting the full capacity of your mind. Therein, the problem with accepting that talents are constructed, is that we would have to take responsibility for our levels of accomplishment.

Perhaps dabblers are late bloomers, waiting to find their true calling. Perhaps their actual knack is to explore, or dabble in new things. It sounds a bit silly to think about, but having a grasp of various skills demonstrates that you are well-rounded. Although you may think that hobbies have no point, except for being fun; they actually provide the circumstances to hone passion. Which brings me back to the importance of college environments. Universities offer hundreds of courses, and endorse plenty of student clubs and organizations. They are, ideally, where you can develop skills— academic, artistic, or otherwise. After all, everyone is on his or her own path to self-awareness.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Fresh off the press: graduation & holiday wishes

The Fall 2014 semester has finally come to an end for the students, faculty and staff of Florida International University. As an Editorial Board of FIU Student Media, we would like to say thank you for keeping up with us throughout this semester, and that we look forward to providing more fresh content in spring 2015.

Most importantly, we want to wish the best of luck to several members of FIUSM that will be leaving us this semester, as the season of graduation approaches. Your service to FIUSM has been greatly appreciated and significant to the improvement of our quality. We hope that your skills and knowledge take you far into your career and that you achieve everything you put your minds to. Know that wherever you go, we will always believe in you, and we will always expect the best from you.

Good luck to everyone these upcoming weeks of finals and have a wonderful winter break.

We’ll write to you again next semester.

Greedy middle-men threaten modern research

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Most FIU students have no idea that there is a fundamental problem with the current academic system that puts a very serious limit on how much information academics have access to. As a matter of fact, for nearly all majors outside of the hard sciences and mathematics, most students would never even come to notice that peer-reviewed

academic journals are almost impossible to access to all but a few. The reason for such ignorance is that FIU spends thousands of dollars on yearly memberships for all sorts of journals and databases and most students have no idea. The price, however, is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the failed system in charge of publishing academic papers.

The harshest pill to swallow when it comes to scientific and mathematical journals is that they are very

expensive. While students attending FIU and other universities have “free” access through their libraries, it is impossibly expensive to do research anywhere else. These journals, which should be as inexpensive as possible so that more people can access them, are crucial to understanding modern research and keeping up with rapidly-advancing fields.

The reason that these journals are so expensive is that the publishers take advantage of a system in

which big institutions are willing to dish out a lot of cash. The job of the publishers is basically to receive a journal entry (meaning the results to an experiment or research on a phenomenon) and to mail it to other respected academics who can review the methods, research and results and attest to their academic standard. While the publishers only act as the middlemen they see fit to take a large commission. They sell the legitimacy and respectability of their institution.

As a matter of fact, access to a single peer-reviewed journal article can cost anywhere from \$30 to \$50. For a membership to a certain publisher’s database, an individual can expect to pay \$5,000 per year. FIU alone pays \$3.4 million every year in order to give their students access to science, history, math and art journals. Instead of spending that money on scholarships and financial aid, the University has to line the pockets of the middlemen of academics. All universities and many schools need to pay for the services of these publishing houses.

These companies make money hand over fist; not only do they charge institutions for access to their databases, but they also charge authors anywhere from \$1,000 to \$3,000 to have their work peer reviewed. The most infuriating aspect of this is that a lot of the work that they publish is questionable at best. Many peer-reviewed journals publish faulty experiments and disprovable results.

Perhaps this is the greatest threat to modern scientific research. Some respected

publishers have a serious lack of standards, as they will publish anything as long as the submitting researcher pays the fees. As the prices get higher, the quality gets lower.

The problem with the system is not only the cost; if they charge that much money it is because institutions are willing pay it. The current system puts a serious limitation on what can be published as researchers have to pay the cost of having their work reviewed. If they work for a university, then the university (aka the student population) has to pay those fees. The current system forms an economic barrier for people who might be doing research outside of a university. While the price is ridiculous, the publishing houses could attempt to excuse this by saying that they hold a high standard and high prices keep them from publishing unprofessional work, but that’s just not the case. They aren’t doing their job and they’re hurting all of us. Next time the tuition bill comes, remember who some of that money is going to.

FRANK & IRENE



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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LET IT GLOW



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

Anise Castellano, a junior studying biology, paints an incense burner at the “Baby, It’s Cold Outside” event hosted by SPC on Tuesday, Nov.25. Along with painting free incense burners, students received free coffee and hot chocolate.

LoKal, home of good beers, locally bought food and organic dog treats

THE FOODIE



NICOLE ZUMMAR

Burgers and beers. Cassette tapes and wine corks. Graffiti.

It sounds like the progression of a friends’ night out—food, music, alcohol and vandalism—in a decade when cassette tapes still existed. The reality, though, is better. It’s a place where music booms from 21st century speakers and the cassette tapes support the long bar.

The restaurant is located at 3190 Commodore Plaza, Coconut Grove, right around the corner from the neighborhood’s local veterinary. The outside is reminiscent of a dinner, but the high chairs and tables and the graffiti on the sidewall tell another story.

LoKal is home to Wynwood’s artsy designs, the Grove’s health-oriented lifestyle and Miami’s mixed cultures. The locale is better described as a “pub, bar, inn, restaurant, meeting place,” by the black graffiti letters over a white splotch on the wall. Decorations such as this line the walls: Graffiti of phrases that resonate with the locale’s atmosphere and the restaurant’s logo designed from 6,400 corkscrews that were going to waste.

Apart from exhibiting a laid-back ambiance, LoKal’s design and character are a representation of the owner’s lifestyle, an alum of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. I was able to meet with Matthew Kuscher, who was more than willing to schedule an interview with me.

“I have a soft spot for FIU,” Kuscher told me. “I was kind of a troublemaker and when I went to FIU it did change my path.”

After visiting his best friend in Seattle, who was very

eco-friendly, Kuscher decided that he wanted to live environmentally conscious. He created LoKal based on this belief.

“Upcycling is really what I cared about, I wanted to [have] obviously a cool feel to it, but the first priority was trying to be something that was gonna help spread the word.”

The restaurant and its decorations are mostly made with recycled materials. The chairs and the stools were items collected from restaurants that were throwing them away and several of the tables were made out of wooden pallets.

Apart from the recycled decorations, LoKal strives to support the community around it by going local. Everything is bought from relationships made with local farmers, providing high-end ingredients that are utilized to make its products from scratch in the kitchen.

“I’m obviously very big on shopping local, buying local and supporting local,” said Kuscher. “The only thing I buy that’s not local is cars and electronics and that’s because it’s, I think, pretty much impossible to find a Florida-based car or stereo system.”

With a staff of about 42 members, LoKal begins its day at 6 a.m., preparing the products for a busy day. The restaurant usually gets between 200 to 300 covers per day, with people even waiting in line for one of the restaurant’s exotic plates. A tip: If you’re planning to go on a weekend night, call ahead to put your name in the waitlist; however, make sure you get there in time or you’ll be skipped!

LoKal has a variety of burgers, ranging from the Frita, a guava-topped burger, to My Childhood Dream—a burger that uses a donut cut in half instead of burger bread. All the burgers can be accompanied by one of multiple sides, such as the sweet potato fries.

Although I still haven’t gone for either of those, I have tried The Classic and the Fidy-Fidy. Both of them have great flavor, but my favorite part is going half-and-half with sweet potato fries and normal fries and dipping them in the two sauces that accompany every dish.

The Classic is self-explanatory, it’s the typical American burger, but with sharp Wisconsin cheddar. The Fidy-Fidy is more exotic, with the meat being half ground beef and half ground bacon, topped with even more bacon and sweet onion marmalade. If you’re a bacon person like me, go with the Fidy-Fidy.

A very interesting thing that LoKal does, is that on the menu, it states the city where some of the ingredients that they use come from—sometimes it even mentions the farm’s name. So if you’re not certain that you’re getting local and high-end ingredients, look it up.

Some of the best-selling plates include the LoKal burger, the chicken and waffles, the key lime pie and the doggie chicken and rice. The restaurant does not only provide meals with quality ingredients for its human customers, but for their dogs as well.

“We’re an extremely dog-friendly restaurant...I like going places with my dogs and most places don’t like you bringing [your] dogs,” said Kuscher. “There’s [also] a vet around the corner that’s been there forever and we thought it’d be really cool to get these sick dogs coming out of the doctor to put a smile on their face [so] we make them organic dog biscuits every day.”

Apart from the great food LoKal also offers a large

SEE LOKAL, PAGE 5

15 new films you'll want to see this December

TNS STAFF

It's the rush to the finish line, and the start of serious campaigning for awards season kudos, as 15-odd titles make their way to movie screens and more than 15-odd if you happen to live in New York or Los Angeles, where would-be Academy Awards contenders must be booked for a one-week run before Dec. 31. There's something for everybody, sort of, although the themes are darker, the offerings sparser than in previous end-of-year lineups.

Here's what we have to look forward to:

THE BABADOOK (Dec. 5) "It's just a book, it can't hurt you," the single mum assures her 6-year-old son, scared silly by the spooky picture book they've been poring over at bedtime, and by its top-hatted namesake in Jennifer Kent's award-winning Australian horror pic. The term "pop-up book" gets a whole new, and ominous, meaning.

THE PYRAMID (Dec. 5) From the director of the remake of *The Hills Have Eyes*, a tale of vengeful pharaohs set on an archaeological dig in the Egyptian desert.

"You're crazy if you think I'm not going in there!" Abercrombie & Fitch model and *Chronicle* co-star Ashley Hinshaw says, heading for the orifice of a creepy, three-sided tomb. "Help me!" one of her fellow excavators can be heard screaming a short time

later from the labyrinthine bowels of the titular edifice, designed in ancient times to insure that no one, ever, gets out alive.

DIPLOMACY (Dec. 12) Imagine the City of Light without the Louvre, sans Eiffel Tower. Hitler's command to destroy Nazi-occupied Paris before the Allies rolled in is the subject of Volker Schlöndorff's historical *pas de deux*, with Andre Dussollier as the Swedish diplomat who entreats the German general, played by Niels Arestrup, not to proceed with the plan.

EXODUS: GODS AND KINGS (Dec. 12) What strange accent doth Christian Bale speaketh in Ridley Scott's biblical epic, playing Moses to Joel Edgerton's Ramses in the CG-crazy Old Testament reenactment?

"Remember this. I am prepared to fight. For eternity," this warrior Moses cautions the Egyptian king, just before the sea parts and chariots chase 600,000 Israelites being led by an Oscar-winner to a new land.

TOP FIVE (Dec. 12) Chris Rock stars _ and wrote and directs _ this roman a clef-y romantic comedy about a famous comic star who wants to be taken seriously, and then a beautiful newspaper reporter Rosario Dawson enters the picture to see what he is made of.

WILD (Dec. 12) Reese

Witherspoon is still the front-runner _ or front-trekker _ in the best actress awards race, starring as Cheryl Strayed in the adaptation of her best-selling memoir about a 1,100-mile solo hike on the Pacific Crest Trail, trying to right a life that has gone woefully wrong. From the director of *Dallas Buyers Club*.

THE HOBBIT: THE BATTLE OF THE FIVE ARMIES (Dec. 17) Martin Freeman is the furry-footed hero in Peter Jackson's final J.R.R. Tolkien adaptation, leading the Company of Thorin out of the Lonely Mountain and into an epic dustup with orcs, wargs, elves, dwarfs, and men. Pass the pipe, Master Baggins, we must celebrate forthwith! PG-13

ANNIE (Dec. 19) Will Smith is one of the principals behind this new take on the 1977 musical based on Harold Gray's vintage comic strip, *Little Orphan Annie*. Beasts of the Southern Wild's Oscar sweetheart Quvenzhané Wallis has the title role and Jamie Foxx is the Daddy Warbucks-ian Will Stacks, a multimillionaire running for mayor who thinks it would be good PR to have his photo taken with a cute waif. Cameron Diaz and Rose Byrne also star.

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 3: SECRET OF THE TOMB (Dec. 19) The third and final installment in the hit series in which a former museum guard (Ben Stiller) hobs

and nobs with figures from the past. This one has something to do with the waning magic powers of the Tablet of Ahkmenrah. Ben Kingsley, Owen Wilson, Steve Coogan, Ricky Gervais, and the late Robin Williams pop up to help, or hinder or steal a few laughs.

BIG EYES (Dec. 25) The story of celebrated kitsch artists Walter and Margaret Keane, famous in the 1950s for their mass-produced paintings of orb-eyed children and clowns. Walter claimed the artwork as his, but Margaret did most of the brushwork. And hence, a big, messy divorce. Christoph Waltz and Amy Adams are the Keanes, and Tim Burton, who explored the depths of schlock artistry in *Ed Wood*, directs.

THE GAMBLER (Dec. 25) Mark Wahlberg is a college professor with a bad gambling jones and a student (Brie Larson) who wants to seduce him, in *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* director Rupert Wyatt's tough-looking Los Angeles drama. John Goodman, Jessica Lange, and Michael Kenneth Williams also ante in.

THE IMITATION GAME (Dec. 25) Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Alan Turing, the British mathematician and logician who cracked the Nazis' Enigma code in World War II _ and whose life in subsequent years, when he was outed as a homosexual, turned cruelly hellish.

THE INTERVIEW (Dec. 25) Already condemned in North Korea, a comedy about two tabloid-TV nincompoops _ James Franco, Seth Rogen _ who land an exclusive interview with dictator Kim Jong-un, only to find themselves enlisted by the CIA in a plot to assassinate the Supreme Leader. This could start a war.

INTO THE WOODS (Dec. 25) The James Lapine/Stephen Sondheim Broadway smash gets the Rob Marshall (*Chicago*, *Nine*) movie musical treatment _ but you wouldn't know it from the trailer, which doesn't even offer a snippet of a song. With Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, Anna Kendrick, Chris Pine, Tracey Ullman, Christine Baranski, and Johnny Depp singing and dancing their way through a Grimm universe. At least, we think that's what they're going to do.

UNBROKEN (Dec. 25) A World War II survival drama from director Angelina Jolie, her second feature. (Her first, *In the Land of Blood and Honey*, also dealt with the horrors of war.) British newcomer Jack O'Connell stars as the real-life Olympic track star Louis Zamperini, who survived a plane crash in the Pacific, was adrift for 47 days, and then was taken prisoner by the Japanese. The Coen Brothers get screenplay credit.

Merging good food with local culture

LOKAL, PAGE 4

number of beers from local breweries. Their beer director, David Rodriguez, is tasked with creating the beer list and is constantly bringing in new material—draft, bottles, whichever your preference, the menu offers over 40 different beers from all over Florida.

However, if you want a more complete list, I suggest you head over to *Kush* by LoKal, which is located in Wynwood. While LoKal is more restaurant oriented, *Kush* offers the more bar-like image of the two.

LoKal's clientele ranges from dog-lovers to business people to college students. It's a comfortable environment open to anyone who wants a taste of clean proteins, grass-fed beef and good beer. So if you do plan to go to LoKal, expect to see at least one of man's best friends relaxing by a table or devouring its meal.

"It's a really fancy place in the sense that we have very, very high-end ingredients, but you can come in with your hat backwards and your flip-flops," Kuscher said. "College students on a budget can still come and afford it, but people on a higher income can come for their relax day and know that they're getting [the] high-end ingredients that they're used to."

LoKal was the first burger and beer place that offered quality ingredients that matched the Grove community's lifestyle. In order to provide its customers with meals at the price that it does, LoKal works on a zero-marketing plan.

Its staff continues to work with its word-of-mouth technique and the belief that putting out good, healthy food will encourage people to keep coming back. Kuscher believes that the best marketing plan lies in treating

the staff properly, going above and beyond for the guests and offering good service. Additionally, it's through this plan that LoKal is able to provide its customers with quality food at the prices that the market finds difficult to compete with.

Since its opening, LoKal has acquired countless loyal customers, to the point that they have begun to take possession of the restaurant.

"If we closed people started getting mad and I was getting almost hate emails because they were...planning to come and we were closed...for whatever reason," Kuscher said.

It's no surprise the customers have taken ownership of the restaurant. In its early days, Kuscher invited the children of LoKal clients to collaborate on the restaurant design. They had a number of high chairs that they had gotten for free and needed retouching for use in the restaurant. The children came in and painted the high chairs that today stand as part of LoKal's décor. The children are now three years older, Kuscher said, and they come into the restaurant and can call out their high chair.

Being located in the Grove, LoKal is considered somewhat far from reach for people living in North Miami, Broward and the like. Nonetheless, Kuscher and his team are intent on opening more LoKals and maybe other locales with different environments, which he didn't specify in detail.

So while we wait for Kuscher to open more innovative restaurants in Miami, we can enjoy their locally made burgers in the place that makes sure its name is as part of our culture as the "LoKal" brand stamped at the top of every burger bun.

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40% of survivors fear reprisal by their attacker

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FOOTBALL

Offseason needed to ripen young talent

COLUMNIST



JORGE CORRALES

The 2014 college football regular season has come and gone, and for the third year in a row, FIU has been left out of a bowl game. The Panthers finished their first season in Conference USA with a 4-8 record, 3-5 in conference. The highlight is a 3-win improvement from last year's painful 1-11 season.

The Panthers lost four games in 2014 by three points or less. Had they won just two of those close games, they would have reached six wins and become eligible for a bowl game for only the third time in school history.

Head Coach Ron Turner will be entering his third season at the helm of the program. In his first two seasons, Turner has led the Panthers to a 5-19 record.

The Panthers have 11 seniors that will not be back next year. On the offensive line, they will be losing starting center Donald Senat. Senat started all twelve games for the Panthers in 2014.

The Panthers will also be without the services of wide receiver Glenn Coleman. Coleman started eight games for the Panthers and played in all twelve. He was the second receiving option for freshman quarterback Alex McGough. Coleman finished his senior year with 23 receptions for 468 yards and three touchdowns. His 85-yard touchdown reception against UAB was the longest pass play for the



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Junior tight end Akil Don-Fodio breaks a tackle able to stay in bounds to pick up more yards against Mean Green of University of North Texas. The Panthers lost 17-13, ending their season with a 4-8 record

Panthers in 2014.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Panthers will be losing three key contributors from their 2014 roster: defensive end Giovanni Francois, safety Demarkus Perkins and safety Justin Halley. Francois played in all twelve games for the Panthers, recording 36 tackles and five sacks on the year. Perkins started and played in 11 games; he led the team with 67 tackles. Halley also started

and played in 11 games; he recorded 45 tackles and 3 pass break-ups on the year.

The Panthers hope they can hang on to their best defensive/special teams player for one more year; cornerback Richard Leonard. As a redshirt junior, Leonard is eligible to enter the NFL draft a year early if he so desires. After the year he had in 2014, that idea may not be too far fetched. As a cornerback, Leonard had five interceptions and a total of 144 return

yards on those picks. He scored three total touchdowns on defense. In the return game, Leonard ranked 15 in the nation with 25.7 yards per return. He was even able to break one for a score in the final game of the season at the University of North Texas.

The Panther offense has a lot to look forward to in 2015. They are returning an arsenal of young talent at the skill positions.

McGough showed sparks of greatness in his freshman campaign. He finished the 2014 season with 1680 yards passing, 14 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. It will be interesting to see how McGough will improve with an entire offseason in the starting role.

McGough's favorite target was sophomore tight end Jonnu Smith. Smith led all division 1 tight ends with 61 receptions for 710 yards and eight touchdowns. Smith was not named a finalist for the 2014 Mackey Award, an honor given annually to the most outstanding tight end in college football. He will likely be on all preseason watchlists for the 2015 Mackey award.

On the ground, the Panthers saw some promise in freshman running back Alex Gardner. Gardner was the team's leading rusher before having to miss the final four games due to a shoulder injury.

The Panthers hope that their returning talent and an influx of new recruits can get the program back on the winning track.

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BASKETBALL

Prejudice against gays and lesbians hurts women's collegiate basketball

TNS STAFF

In an age when gay marriage has gained acceptance across the United States, when the Apple CEO, and an NFL and NBA player have come out, when the WNBA targets gay fans, homophobia remains endemic in women's college basketball.

It is an issue that has plagued the sport for decades, but few talk about it.

Cindy Russo, who has coached women's basketball at Florida International University for 40 years, won more than 700 games and seen the sport make great strides, said homophobia remains as much a problem today as it was decades ago.

Parents of recruits still sometimes ask college coaches: "Do you have any gay players on your team?" Heterosexual coaches routinely prey on parents' fears and religious beliefs, using homophobia as a recruiting tactic to steer high school players away from unmarried female coaches.

"There is a fear among parents that if their son or daughter is around a gay person, it is going to make them gay, like it's a contagious disease," Russo said. "There is still so much prejudice and ignorance out there. Male coaches, and some women, will say to parents, 'Do you know so-and-so's gay?' It just takes that to put a little doubt in their minds. And it

works.

"I've had the question asked many times, how I feel about gay players on the team, or if I have any gay players on my team. I tell them, 'Honestly, it's not something I talk about. I can tell you if there are gay people on my team, they are respectable and have high integrity, and to me, that's all that matters.' I'm to an age where you just get tired of it."

Whether the coach is a lesbian or just perceived as one, the stigma is the same. That helps explain why out of 350 Division I women's basketball coaches, only one is openly gay - Sherri Murrell at Portland (Ore.) State.

In summer 2009, the team's media relations director asked Murrell if she'd like a photo of her family in the media guide. She thought, "Sure, why not? What's the big deal? The people who know me know I'm gay, anyway." She figured it was time to stop hiding. She submitted a photo of herself, her partner, and their twin daughters. The word was out, and news hit the media. No Division I coach had ever publicly declared herself gay, and none have since. She found most people surprisingly accepting.

"For many years, I stayed in the closet because I heard horror stories about recruiting," Murrell said by phone. "I saw older coaches in the closet and just

thought that's the way it's supposed to be. The world around us is changing, but our profession is still in the Dark Ages. I was terrified, but I took the plunge, and thankfully, landed in safe water.

"Honestly, I have not had one negative experience. I have had support from 80-year-old boosters, my university, everyone. I know that geographically, it's easier in Portland than some places in the South, but I'm here to tell lesbian coaches out there, 'We'll be OK. Let go of the fear.'

"It was unbelievably liberating to take the white elephant out of the room. Nobody has to tippy-toe around me anymore. Too many darn good coaches have left coaching because of the homophobia. They just couldn't do a double life, and that breaks my heart."

One longtime Division I coach, who requested anonymity, left the profession because she grew tired of the discrimination. She is a lesbian, in her mid-50s, and recalled a typical recruiting trip as a Big Ten assistant. She was with the head coach in the living room of a highly touted recruit in Detroit. The recruit's mother asked the head coach, "You don't have those kind of people working for you, do you?" The coach replied, "Absolutely not. I would not stand for it."

The gay assistant felt a pit in her

stomach. But she stayed silent. For three decades.

"We felt we had to hide to keep our jobs," she said.

The anti-gay sentiment is not always that blatant, but the undercurrent is still there, and it has driven generations of female coaches out of the business or deeper into the closet. Often, the homophobia is thinly veiled, spoken in code words all too familiar within the sport's inner circles.

Heterosexual coaches on the recruiting trail flaunt their straightness with photos of spouses and children, boasting that their programs are steeped in "family values" while insinuating that a competing coach is gay or runs a gay-tolerant program that does not foster a "family culture."

When Robin Pingeton was introduced as head coach at the University of Missouri in April 2010, she had her husband and 3-year-old son by her side. She said: "I'm a Christian that happens to be a coach. ... I'm very blessed to have my staff here. This is something very unique, I think, for Division I women's basketball to have a staff that the entire staff is married with kids. Family is important to us, and we live it every day."

Homophobia and the exodus of lesbian

SEE PREJUDICE, PAGE 7

TRACK & FIELD

Graduate student expected to continue success in upcoming track and field season

COLUMNIST



DAVID DRUCKER

Speed may be something that cannot be taught, but it sure can be worked upon. Graduate student and nursing major **Kristian**

Campbell is now one of the most experienced athletes on the track and field team. He has sprinted for the Panthers since 2011 and is looking forward to leading by example and setting new personal records in the 2014-2015 indoor and outdoor seasons.

Campbell was born in Miami, Florida in 1992. He attended Coral Reef High School, where

he ran track and field for three years. This is where he first gained his track and field recognition. Campbell ran a 22.47 in the 200-meter at the 4A District Championships. At the Regional Championships that year, he ran a 22.94 in the same event. Times like these brought Campbell to the University's attention, and soon enough he was recruited to the track and field team.

Campbell began to put in work for the University's track and field team four years ago. His indoor freshman campaign included times of 22.37 in the 200-meter and 10.95 in the 100-meter at the Sun Belt Conference Championships.

These times ranked him in 18th and 12th places in the prelims, respectively. It turned out, however, that Campbell was just getting his feet wet for the outdoor season. On Friday, Feb. 3, 2012, he claimed second place at the New Balance Collegiate Invitational with a 7.00 in the 60-meter dash. He would build on this success at the FIU Felsberg Invitational with a 21.84 in the 200-meter dash, for which he gained first place. Campbell's freshman year would set up a successful college campaign.

The graduate student continued to improve in his sophomore year as he continued to set new personal records. At the Brigham Southern College

Panther Ice Breaker, he ranked third in the 200-meter dash with a 22:20 and fifth in the 60-meter dash with a 6.88. In fact, Campbell placed in the top eight in every event he ran in that year.

Campbell's performance last year was impressive as well. He set three personal records last year between the indoor and outdoor seasons. Some would say the most impressive of these performances were his 60-meter in 6.83, 100-meter in 10.65, and 400-meter in 54.81. At last year's University of Central Florida Invitational, Campbell claimed first place in the 4x100. The arrival of Wylleshia Myrick, a sprinters coach who herself earned All-America honors for

the University of Miami at the NCAA Outdoor Championships, likely played a large part in this improvement.

No as a graduate student, Campbell has a new opportunity to set another slew of personal records. Given that there is only one other graduate student on the roster, young sprinters will likely look up to Campbell for guidance. If they can manage to reflect Campbell's work ethic and improvement over the arc of his college career, than the University's track and field team may be a competitor in Conference USA.

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Female coaches still face homophobic prejudices

PREJUDICE, PAGE 6

coaches might at least partly explain why so many men are being hired to coach women's sports. When Title IX legislation passed in 1972, requiring equal sports opportunities for females, more than 90 percent of women's teams were coached by women. In 2013, it was less than 40 percent, according to separate studies by Brooklyn College professors Vivian Acosta and Linda Jean Carpenter, and the Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sport at the University of Minnesota.

"The numbers do not lie," said Mary Jo Kane, director of the Tucker Center. "It certainly is not the case that there is only one lesbian in women's basketball."

"That fact alone, that only one has come out, is such a powerful and symbolic statement about how much fear there is. It's going to take a very well-established, well-respected Division I coach to come out. Someone is going to have to be the Jackie Robinson of women's college coaching."

Murrell had no intention of being a trailblazer. "I didn't want to be Googled and the first thing that comes up is 'Only Out Lesbian Coach,'" Murrell said. "But after getting so many heartbreaking emails and calls from coaches, saying things like, 'I want to be out and I'm not even out to my grandmother,' or 'I want to be out but my head coach is homophobic,' I realized I am helping make change."

High school and AAU coaches say homophobia in recruiting remains rampant.

"Oh, yeah, that definitely is a big issue," said Miguel Diaz, co-founder of the Miami Suns, a girls' elite basketball program that has produced hundreds of college players including WNBA stars Sylvia Fowles and Eriana Larkins. "Now more than ever. Coaches' salaries are escalating, stakes are higher, the pressure to win is greater, so the gloves come off and the mudslinging gets dirty."

Pat Griffin, professor emeritus at University of Massachusetts-Amherst, has been conducting LGBT sports education workshops for more than 20 years. She hasn't seen as much change as she would like.

"I call it the glass closet," Griffin said. "Coaches are in the closet, but everyone knows they're there. If you've lived your whole life believing it's necessary to conceal your private life from everybody in your professional life, it's really difficult to make that change and believe it's going to be OK if you come out."

"We've reached a point where older coaches who go by old-school philosophy that you have to be closeted in order to stay in the profession and be successful in a sad way have become an obstacle to younger coaches coming out."

Griffin was hired by Penn State to meet with the athletic department in 2007, when women's basketball coach Rene Portland was forced to resign after 27 years at the school amid allegations that she did not tolerate gay players on her team.

Portland had a longstanding policy: No Drinking. No Drugs. No Lesbians. She was accused of forcing gay players off the team. Asked about it at the time by the Chicago Sun-Times, she said: "I will not have it in my program. I bring it up, and the kids are so relieved, and the parents are so relieved."

A highly publicized lawsuit filed by former player Jen Harris led to Portland's resignation.

University of Miami coach Katie Meier says she is "proud we have a spectrum of diversity" on her team.

"A Rene Portland situation should not happen anymore," Meier said. "At this point, your sexuality is the same thing as your race, and I think society has evolved. If [homophobic tactics are] still going on in women's basketball recruiting, they're in trouble because to be that way and segment a society, you're going to miss some really special young people. It's discrimination, straight up."

Maybe so, but homophobia didn't go away with Portland.

Last year, when Baylor star Brittney Griner came out as gay, she told ESPN that although Baylor coach Kim Mulkey knew she was gay and accepted it, she told Griner and her teammates not to talk about it publicly.

"It was a recruiting thing," Griner told ESPN. "The coaches thought that if it seemed like they condoned it, people wouldn't let their kids come play for Baylor."

Some parents fear that a lesbian role

model will turn their daughters gay. Some girls share their parents' fears.

"There is something unique about the sporting environment that we should not be dismissive of, and the kinds of pressures that puts on coaches," Kane said. "There are few professions where you have an older adult and younger adult in very close, physically intimate quarters, in hotels, locker rooms, on nights and weekends."

Jolynn Schneider, 48, played for top-ranked Iowa in the late 1980s and now lives in Key West. She was heavily recruited out of Regina High, a Catholic school in Harper Woods, Mich.

"I have to admit, I chose Iowa in large part because Vivian Stringer was married and had a family," Schneider said. "I come from a sheltered Catholic home, third of seven children. I had no experience with gay people, so I went with what I was most comfortable with as a 17-year-old."

"I remember going on one recruiting trip and the coach took me out to dinner and she looked so masculine that the waitress called her 'Sir,' and thought we were on a date. I remember that being awkward. I know a lot more now than I did then. One thing I can tell you, in all my years at Iowa, no teammate or coach ever hit on me. I had my boyfriend, my sorority. Everyone minded their own business."

Carla Harris, a former UM player and now head coach at her alma mater Norland High, has had many parents express fears of having their daughters exposed to lesbians. She tells them not to worry.

"I haven't had any of my kids come back from college converted," Harris said. "If they came back gay it's because they were already gay. Maybe they cut their hair short, stopped straightening their hair, stopped dressing as girly, because in college they feel more freedom to be who they are, but they didn't become gay because they had a gay coach or teammate."

"In all my years at UM, there were never any issues between straight and gay players. As long as everyone stays in their lane, everything is fine."

But because of the prejudices, some gay coaches try to play it straight by wearing makeup, high heels and tight skirts. Among athletes, heterosexuals sometimes glamorize themselves to avoid being labeled as gay. They grow ponytails,

wear makeup and nail polish. In softball, there is a not-so-secret credo: "No bow? Lesbo."

One lesbian high school girls coach in Florida who has not come out explained: "I tried to present a feminine picture to the audience, parents and administrators. I was conditioned to believe that the real me was not socially acceptable."

She says her players and some of their parents might suspect her homosexuality, but she is choosing to keep her sexuality private — at least for now.

"There are parents who will be judgmental," she said. "It's really hard because I have girls coming out to me, seeking guidance, and I am fighting the same battles they are but I can't tell them that. Maybe someday I'll come out, but for now, I'm not ready to wave the rainbow flag."

As head girls' basketball coach at Miami High, Sam Baumgarten has had a front row seat at the recruitment of dozens of talented players during his 23 years in the business. His most coveted and high-profile star, 6-4 center Beatrice Mompremier, on Wednesday chose Baylor over Tennessee, Miami, North Carolina and Ohio State. Notre Dame, Florida, Florida State, Louisville and LSU also wooed her.

Baumgarten has witnessed homophobic tactics in recruiting but said that as far as he knows, it never came up with Mompremier. "She never mentioned anything about any coach's sexual orientation," he said. "She felt most comfortable with Coach Mulkey's personality and coaching style, but she really liked a lot of the coaches who recruited her. It came down to basketball. She's a girly-girl, and she'll be who she is whether her coach is gay or straight. That made no difference to her."

Veteran Northwestern (Fla.) High coach Clyde Glover has had parents prohibit daughters from playing basketball.

"Some of these families are devout Christians and it is a religious issue, and they will steer their daughters to volleyball or track because they think there are fewer gay girls in those sports."

"We've had a few girls who are lesbian on our team the past few years, and we don't put them on an island. They are all Lady Bulls. They have the same rules. They have to dress professional. And they can't bring their dates to practice."

College: Only the strong will see graduation

STRAIGHT-UP
ALEX



ALEXANDRA
MOSQUERA
NETZKARSCH

Social Darwinism is a theory that explains how people evolved throughout history and how they adapted to different social changes. The theory says those who are more astute, stronger and have other capacities will enhance the survival rate for future generations, thanks to adaptation. Meanwhile, the rest disappear over time.

College students and dropping out go hand-in-hand sometimes. Nowadays, the amount of students returning to college to finish their degree is declining, and this is a growing issue.

In college, students face a similar challenge. Classes increase in expectations semester after semester, year after year. The courses taken in our junior and senior year are sometimes so hard that we fail the class. We might have to drop a course before we fail it and we need to retake it later on.

Professors seem to make our lives impossible, but they aren't really doing this. They simply want us to learn through reading, writing, and some practice, how to manage different situations that might come up in the future when we have careers.

There are other problems that make students drop out of college, and College Darwinism supports these reasons.

Social Darwinism compares

evolution through the process of natural selection between animals and plants, and the human race. Therefore, College Darwinism would compare full-time college students in the U.S. to the theory Charles Darwin had about natural selection and adaptation.

The students that drop out of college are the ones that give up and lose the battle of natural selection. There are different reasons for students to drop out of college, one including sh** happens. There is nothing that can be done about those situations or at least that's what those students think.

Preventing students from dropping out of school is the best remedy for them to stay in school. Lowering the price of education would make it easier for students because many drop out for financial reasons. More and more students leave their studies because of this.

Students can't afford an education anymore, and the jobs they apply for after graduation won't pay much more than a job that doesn't require a college degree.

Because students aren't able to pay for their studies with a summer job, savings, or part-time job, they have to work full-time and this hinders them. They start failing classes and choose priorities that require them to work and earn money, rather than pay tuition.

When a young adult goes to college for the first time, it's a big decision. They miss their parents, friends and home and have trouble adjusting to a new environment.

A QUILT TO REMEMBER



MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Students stand in front of a section of the AIDS memorial quilt on display in Panther Square during World's AIDS Day on Monday, Dec. 1. The entire quilt has 48,000 panels and serves as a memorial for those who have died of AIDS.

Being homesick is overcome by making new friends at school, taking up activities of your interest which allow you to meet people with common likes and of the similar age who will make you forget little by little about being homesick.

Students aren't aware of College Darwinism, but it's necessary to first know the problem to find a solution.

Don't drop out of school unless it is your very last option. Even then, reconsider and look for help in advisors, professors

and friends.

Staying in college will give you the foundation needed to be a more well-rounded member of society.

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Project aims to protect against sea level rising

MARIA SERRANO
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Sea level rise and its critical effects on Miami-Dade County has become a major concern. To address this issue, FIU architecture alumni created an informative project on the

issue for county residents.

The product and insights of the project are part of the exhibition, "Miami 2100: Envisioning a resilient second century" which is currently shown in the Coral Gables Museum.

"[What is] most concerning [is] the extent to which our urban areas will be affected, and the critical need for action," said Martha

Canaves, a landscape architecture and urban design professor, as well as co-curator of the exhibition.

The project started in the departments of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and Environmental and Urban Design in the fall of 2011. Preparations and fabrication of exhibits for the museum began in summer 2014 with the

support of the Cintas foundation and the Cejas Family Foundation.

"I am very happy that I got the chance to be a part of it and learn about a topic that affects our city so directly," said alumni Ana Echeverri, a member of the project.

SEE HOUSING, PAGE 2

FSU shooting revives debate over guns on campuses

TNS STAFF

Last Thursday's shooting at Florida State University has spurred a renewed call for allowing guns on college campuses.

Among those leading the charge: Nathan Scott, one of three people shot and wounded last week when Myron May opened fire at the FSU library. Scott is part of a group called Students for Concealed Carry at Florida State, which on Tuesday asked state lawmakers to allow concealed-weapon permit holders to carry firearms on college grounds.

Their request may resonate in Tallahassee, especially with the powerful National Rifle Association echoing the call.

The NRA's Tallahassee lobbyist Marion Hammer said Tuesday that she hopes to have a "thoughtful, deliberative" conversation on the subject when the Legislature reconvenes.

It was too soon to say how legislative leaders would respond.

House Speaker Steve Crisafulli, a Republican, said the community still needed time to grieve over what happened at FSU, as well as Saturday's fatal shooting of Leon County Deputy Chris Smith. But Crisafulli said the time would come to discuss legislation.

"When it does, we'll consider all factors that can contribute to stopping tragedies like this from happening in the future," he said, adding that he is a "strong supporter of the Second Amendment."

Florida is one of 20 states that ban carrying a concealed weapon on college campuses, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Lawmakers discussed changing that in 2011 as part of a broader proposal to let concealed-weapon permit holders carry their firearms more openly. But the weapons restrictions for college campuses remained in place, thanks largely to efforts by then GOP state Sen. John Thrasher.

Thrasher recently became president at Florida State. He did not return calls from the Herald/Times on Tuesday.