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CRIME

Kendall Berry murder suspect set to stand trial

PHILIPPE BUTEAU

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A pretrial motion will not decide whether Quentin Wyche acted in reasonable self-defense when he killed Kendall Berry, but a jury trial instead.

Wyche's defense attorneys, led by David Peckins, were trying to get the case dismissed on the basis Wyche was defending himself. However, after reviewing sworn witness testimonies, Judge Milton Hirsch denied Wyche's motion thus sending his case to a trial, the date for which has yet to be determined as of this report.

Berry's parents Derrick and Mellisscia Spillman were not available for comment as of press time.

Included in the judge's order are sworn witness statements that were given to police.

The statements varied in specifics, such as who started the fight, but they all agree there was a fight. According to the judge's order, both of the former students had their friends with them on the night of March 25, 2010 in front of the Recreation Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus.



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

FIU football coach, Mario Cristobal with the family of former football player and University student, Kendall Berry, during the senior football game vs. Duke on November 12, 2011.

The order also says supporters from both sides – Berry and Wyche's – got into fights with each other.

"In short order, chaos reigned," Hirsch wrote in his order. "[That chaos] rendered testimony vague,

incomplete, and contradictory."

Junior wide receiver for the Golden Panthers Antwoine Bell,

then a freshman, said in a statement to police that he saw someone other than Berry hit Wyche. In response to this attack from an "unidentified assailant," Wyche "took off running."

Bell told police he saw Berry run after Wyche, but by the time he caught up to the two men, Berry was on the ground bleeding.

Bell said he did not see if Berry use "great force against Wyche" to justify the "use of force likely to cause death or serious bodily injury."

But James Jones, a senior defensive lineman, then a sophomore, said both Wyche and Berry were equally "ready to fight."

He said the two men fought, Wyche took off running, Berry chased and caught up to Wyche and they would have continued fighting had their friends not arrived.

Alex Legions version of the story suggests a different persona for Wyche.

Wyche, Legion said in his statement, was "laughing and smiling" when he ran from Berry. However, there were too many people for Legion to see exactly what happened.

SEE WYCHE, PAGE 4

SGA

Student fee money allocated at budget deliberations

MELISSA CACERES

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The two days of discussion within the University Wide Council on the disbursement of the \$13 million of Activity & Service Fee have come to a close. The result: a tentative budget set for around 30 University wide organizations and facilities.

U-Wide Budget Deliberations, which involved a total of around 13 hours of debate throughout Feb. 15 and Feb. 18, ended with most of the Council and administrative advisers satisfied.

"I'm going to be honest and say that I'm comfortable with this budget even if we don't get an increase in A&S funds," said Patrick O'Keefe, Student Government Council president at the Modesto Maidique Campus. "I feel like this budget will provide everyone with more opportunities."

Despite the satisfaction,

numerous topics triggered disputes during the deliberations between council members as to who should get what amount of money from the pool of A&S funds.

The Council is composed of each campus' president, vice

"I'm going to be honest and say that I'm comfortable with this budget even if we don't get an increase in A&S funds."

Patrick O'Keefe,
President
SGC-MMC

president, speaker of the senate, comptroller from SGC-MMC and SGC at Biscayne Bay Campus and the speaker pro tempore from SGC-MMC.

The amounts decided upon by the Council are preliminary

since they must still be reviewed by the Student Government Senates from both campuses, Vice President of Student Affairs Rosa Jones and University President Mark Rosenberg.

Also a factor is the potential increase in the A&S fee that is to be decided upon by the Activity & Service Fee Committee. Depending on the increase percentage, SGA could be given between \$958,000 to \$2.4 million of additional funds to give to certain organizations.

The 2012-2013 projected revenue in A&S funds is \$12,906,460, though minus some University salaries, the Council had \$10,760,955 to work with.

"You need to put your dollars where your priorities are," said Matilde Gramling, director of budget and personnel for the department of student affairs, to the Council.

Directors and assistant directors of Campus Life from both campuses were also present to advise the Council.

UNIVERSITY WIDE BUDGET REQUESTS

Requests	Budget '11-'12	Request '12-'13	Allocated*
Graham Center	\$2,000,000	\$3,176,760	\$2,278,235
Wolfe University Center	\$1,528,846	\$1,711,554	\$1,711,554
Homecoming	\$350,000	\$912,975	\$400,000
Center for Leadership & Service	\$111,000	\$312,585	\$162,750
University Wide Leadership	\$49,875	\$42,000	\$42,000
Marching Band	\$75,000	\$124,710	\$40,000
Honors College	\$20,650	\$43,995	\$8,000
NY Times Readership Program	\$14,000	\$33,860	\$0

*The amount agreed upon by University Wide Council. Numbers are not final and subject to change.

The "Top Five" recipients were the first to be discussed because they are the five that will receive their base funding. They are comprised of facilities such as the Graham Center, Wolfe University Center, MMC Rec Center, BBC Rec Center and the Center for Leadership

and Service.

During the first day of deliberations, tensions arose when CLS was brought up among the Council.

Emilio Collyer, BBC vice president, and Samir Patel, speaker pro tempore from SGC-MMC, supported substantial

increases to the CLS budget and adding coordinators to the organization.

"We've left them in the back burner in the past years," said Patel, who credited the CLS-regulated Alternative Breaks

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 2

COMING UP | News

Check out Wednesday's issue for an update on the University smoking ban sanctions and its development since implementation in January 2011.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Another Rothstein Ponzi associate to plead guilty

Another former associate of convicted billion-dollar Ponzi scheme operator Scott Rothstein has pleaded guilty to federal fraud conspiracy charges.

The plea was entered Friday by 42-year-old Marybeth Feiss. Prosecutors say she was an administrative assistant who helped coordinate political events and illegal campaign contributions for Rothstein and his now-defunct law firm. The goal was to increase the firm’s political influence.

Feiss becomes the eighth person including Rothstein to plead guilty in the \$1.2 billion scam, which involved investments in phony legal settlements.

NATIONAL

US gangs are a force in Central American prisons

The deadliest prison blaze in a century has drawn attention to an unfortunate U.S. export to Central America: street gangs.

Prisons in Honduras and elsewhere in Central America are teeming with inmates who belong to gangs that have their roots in Southern California. Refugees of the region’s civil wars sowed a new breed of violence on the streets of Los Angeles in the 1980s.

When the U.S. stepped up deportations of criminals in the 1990s, they brought their brutal habits with them to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, countries with weak law enforcement and an inadequate prison system.

WORLD

Olympics minister says ticket demands unreasonable

Britain’s Olympics minister says it’s unreasonable to give a full accounting of ticket sales for the 2012 London Olympics right now.

Olympics minister Hugh Robertson spoke Friday came a day after a London watchdog group demanded that games organizers clearly show how sales break down between expensive and affordable tickets.

Critics have sought the data to see if a disproportionate number of tickets have been sold at higher prices — shutting out average people who can’t pay prices up to \$2,012 per ticket.

But Robertson says the request is unfair because organizers are in the middle of a “very big, complicated ticketing operation.”

– Compiled by Lauren Rovira

HEALTH

Birth control act upsets churches



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP IMAGES

President Barack Obama, accompanied by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announces the revamp of his contraception policy requiring religious institutions to fully pay for birth control, Friday, Feb. 10, 2012.

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Religious groups have taken up issue with President Barack Obama’s Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on account of the provision that employers be required to cover the cost of birth control medication for their labor force.

This caused a number of organizations, including the Catholic Church, to denounce the reform as an infringement on their religious freedoms based on the First Amendment to the US Constitution.

“I think it has no constitutional basis, it’s an overreach of the federal government,” said Rigo Vega, a Catholic campus minister at the University. “Freedom of religion trumps health care.”

Many religious groups believe human life begins at conception. They feel contraceptives of any kind inhibit new life developing, and denounce their use.

“It could set a precedent for later infringement on religions,” Brian German, a senior majoring in history said. “This is very problematic.”

The Catholic Church also asked the

dioceses to mention the mandate in their mass services, hoping to raise community awareness of the issue.

“I understand that [Catholics] might feel attacked,” Cherylin Bean, president of FIU’s chapter of Voices for Planned Parenthood said. “[But] it’s not just them that you have to think about—it’s women’s health.”

On Feb. 10, Obama announced a compromise concerning the growing controversy about the birth control mandate within his 2010 health care reform law.

In an attempt to quell the disagreement, Obama suggested shifting the cost of birth control from the employers to the insurance companies.

Both the Planned Parenthood Federation, a non-profit organization dedicated to women’s health, and the Catholic Health Association support the compromise.

The Conference of Catholic Bishops has yet to comment on the matter and many Catholic members still remain skeptical of the compromise.

Within the state of Florida, Senator Marco Rubio introduced in January, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a

bill countering Obama’s birth control rule.

Under Rubio’s bill, religious hospitals, universities, as well as other employers who oppose contraceptive methods on the “basis of religious belief” will be able to refuse covering contraceptive methods for their employees.

“It’s not a money problem,” said Janio Arrowsmith, a junior in liberal studies and member of the Catholic Student Union. “It’s a principle problem.”

The Planned Parenthood website currently has a section dedicated to the plan called ‘Birth Control Matters!’ It asks readers to “help [them] protect access to birth control without co-pays,” providing them with information on how to contact the president.

“[Birth control] is for other medical purposes, too—not just pregnancy prevention,” Bean said.

Birth control today is used by women of all ages to prevent pregnancy, as well as to regulate the menstrual cycle, reduce acne and cramps and cure ovarian cysts.

“[Birth control] falls in the essential category [of health care],” said Bean.

University Health Services provides students with several contraceptive methods, including free condoms and affordable birth control pills.

“The more options women are offered, the better,” Oscar Loynaz, director of UHS, said.

The FIU pharmacy currently sells approximately 450 cycles of birth control a month.

“[Birth control at FIU] is very available,” Ana Slack, nurse practitioner at UHS said. “The University usually has cheap [contraceptive] medication.”

UHS provides birth control pills ranging from \$12 to \$50, according to Gail Rice, a nurse practitioner.

“In some cases women have to decide between birth control and rent,” said Bean.

“I think [the plan] would be very beneficial,” Camila Pham, senior health educator for UHS, said. “If it goes through, it would be positive.”

burden,” said Udhmani. “One thing that we always agree on is that the numbers never add up when they give them to us.”

A unanimous vote lead the Council to not appropriate any funds for the program.

“We understand that we want to provide services for our students but if we can’t even fully fund our own student media then why are we funding another entity where the main reason that they use it is for class,” said O’Keefe.

All-Nighter for the Poor, Dance Marathon and Relay for Life charity programs received the same amount as the year before or less than they requested.

“I’m open to listening to [Senate] on their opinions,” said O’Keefe. “Though I feel good about how our budget stands without the fee increase.”

Campus-specific hearings and deliberations will take place throughout the following two weeks.

THE BEACON

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‘We just can’t afford it’

BUDGET, PAGE 1

program for his personal development as a student.

O’Keefe didn’t support funding a new coordinator, because it would take a way a bulk of the money from all of the other groups.

“We just can’t afford it,” said Dawson.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the issue, with Collyer attempting to continuously vote down the proposed amount until CLS was allocated more money.

The Council settled in giving CLS \$162,750 of their requested \$312,585.

With several renovations being planned, every member of the Council agreed that the WUC needed to be given their asking amount of \$1,711,554.

A recurring theme throughout the allocations was the need for other University entities to be responsible for funding certain programs,

instead of A&S fees that come from students.

The Honors College was given \$8,000 after requesting \$20,650. SGC-BBC President Denise Halpin was vocal about questioning why the Honors College was the only academic college that SGA provides funds to.

“Why are we funding one college and not the rest?” said Halpin.

MMC Comptroller Cristina Loreto added that not every student benefits from Honors College programs.

The FIU Marching Band was brought up into question as an organization that SGA must pick up the tab for. The Council mentioned that Athletics should be providing them funds for expenditures like traveling to bowl games.

The only program to receive zero funding was the New York Times Readership Program, which requested \$14,000.

“It has always been a

SOFTBALL

Panthers go undefeated in Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial

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After starting the year off at 1-4, FIU (6-4) has flipped the switch and has won four straight contests, going undefeated in the Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial.

“We just brought a little more intensity, a little more fire to the table and it was a great week of practice so it’s no accident we played so well this weekend,” coach Jake Schumann said.

FIU 5, UIC 4 (F/8)

It was a pitcher’s duel as sophomore Mariah Dawson pitched a complete game despite allowing six hits for the win.

Dawson allowed three earned runs, striking out eight on the day as FIU took care of UIC 5-4 in the opening game of the Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial on Feb. 17. Down 3-1, the Panthers clawed back by scoring four runs in the final two innings.

With the bases loaded, first baseman Shelby Graves came to pinch hit



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

The Panthers scored a total of 40 runs during the tournament en route capturing the Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial title.

and delivered a sacrifice fly inching the runner closer.

Third baseman Jessy Alfonso was plunked by a pitch, leading the game to be tied at 3-3, forcing extra innings.

Despite UIC scoring a run in extras, the FIU

persistence prevailed. Erika Arcuri laid down a near-perfect bunt to place the tying run on third for Ashley McClain.

The right fielder took two pitches before launching a deep drive to center field, giving FIU the

walk-off win.

FIU 8, PROVIDENCE 0 (F/5)

It was safe to say that the Panthers were running on all cylinders in game two as they shut out Providence 8-0 on Feb. 17.

Jenn Gniadek earned her first win of the year with her five innings of shutout ball. The shutout being her fifth of her career, tying her fifth all time on FIU’s list with Vanessa Preston. FIU now stands at 3-4 on the year.

FIU opened up the scoring in the first with an unearned run. But things really began to pick up for the Panthers in the second inning when the Panthers posted up three runs to give FIU a 4-0 lead.

In the fifth inning, Beth Peller came up and singled up the middle with the bases loaded, driving in two, ramping up FIU’s lead 6-0.

FIU tacked on two more runs on errors to force the mercy rule in the fifth.

FIU 3, SOUTH CAROLINA 1

FIU’s Dawson pitched a gem on Feb. 18, throwing her fourth complete game of the year, limiting the Gamecocks to two hits in their victory.

“My mindset tonight was to come in stronger this game and to really let my defense work behind me,” Dawson said. “Mixing it up, the ladder going up, going down, side to side and throwing off-speed. So just working the pitches really good”.

Junior Alex Casals got

SEE FELSBURG, PAGE 4

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Tempers flare as FIU enters its final stretch of season

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Mired by a four-game losing streak, the Panthers return home to U.S. Century Bank Arena to conclude their regular season schedule with contests against Troy on Feb. 23 and South Alabama on Feb. 25. Although playing at home has been everything but an advantage for the Panthers this season, the Panthers have defeated both Troy and South Alabama on the road this season.

FIU enters the game with a 1-8 record at home. With the regular season coming to a close, the Panthers must find a way to right themselves before the conference tournament.

“We don’t have no other choice,” Dominique Ferguson said. “[We] have to bounce back.”

In the Panthers’ first meeting against Troy (8-17, 3-11 SBC) on Feb. 2, FIU relied on a 17-5 run in the second half to defeat the Trojans 63-50. The catalyst for that run was guard DeJuan Wright, who scored seven of the Panthers’ 17 points in that game-defining run. Defensively the Panthers held Troy’s leading scorer, Will Weathers, to three points in the game. Wright finished the game with 18 points and 13 rebounds in the first meeting.

Since losing to FIU, the Trojans have dropped three of their last four games

in conference play. Weathers, Justin Wright and Alan Jones have carried the offensive load for the Trojans in their last four games. Combined, the trio has averaged 37 points per game for Troy in the last four games.

THOMAS’ SUSPENSION

With 13:03 remaining in the game against UALR on Feb. 16, head coach Isiah Thomas was ejected from the game for making contact with an official while arguing a foul on Ferguson. According to the television broadcast by the Sun Belt Network, official Brad Gaston is overheard stating to broadcast commentator Dave Odom, “He is ejected because he hit me on the back.”

In college basketball, the penalty of an automatic technical foul and ejection is assessed if contact is made with an official.

An attempt was made to appeal Thomas’ one game suspension to the Sun Belt Conference but the ruling was upheld, forcing Thomas to miss the Arkansas State game on Feb. 18. Thomas was unavailable for comment after the Arkansas State game.

TAKING THE REIGNS

Because FIU (7-19, 4-10 SBC) will be without the services of point guard Phil Taylor on Feb. 23 against Troy

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JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Phil Taylor (left) and Isiah Thomas were ejected against UALR on Feb 16.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Ferguson grows both on and off the court



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Ferguson is averaging 9.2 points and 6.4 rebounds per game.

MALCOLM SHIELDS

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Head Coach Isiah Thomas has reiterated that he believes in running his offense through the forwards and centers. “We’ve gone out and recruited size,” Thomas said. “Even though our size are freshman and sophomores, we still want to play inside-out.”

One of his big men who has made an impact since entering the program has been sophomore Dominique Ferguson. At 6-foot-9, Ferguson possesses the ideal size, strength and quickness as a forward.

As one of Thomas’ prized recruits in 2010, Ferguson’s game began to flourish during his sophomore year in high school. “I played on a good high school team. We had about seven or eight guys go [to] major D-1,” Ferguson said. “I did not start until the end of the season.” Throughout that season Ferguson slowly worked his way into the starting lineup. By the end of the season, Ferguson was a starter and obtained his career high at that time.

Being from the basketball haven that is the state of Indiana, his game on the court began to

attract the attention of numerous basketball programs from across the country. By the end of his sophomore, Ferguson began to receive letters of interest from schools.

“It was kind of nerve-wrecking. When I first started to get them, I was really excited,” Ferguson said. “I got letters from small schools [and] big schools and first I hung them up. After the first 20 [letters] I just threw them in a shoe box.” The letters got to such a point that he had numerous boxes full of letters from basketball programs. For Ferguson, it was a satisfying feeling of accomplishment. “I thought I had finally started making a name for myself.”

Some of the programs who began recruiting Ferguson were Arizona, Duke, Kentucky, Indiana and UCLA. The one school that drew his interest was FIU. Although the other Universities had higher-profile basketball programs, Thomas’ personality and message made an impression on Ferguson. “When I talked to him, he did not put me on a high pedestal like other schools did,” Ferguson said. “He did not tell me that I was the only one. He was pretty much straight up with me.”

For Thomas, Ferguson’s

skill set was intriguing to him. “He had a great skill set in terms of handling the basketball. He was a good dribbler [and] a good passer,” Thomas said. “I think that he is just starting to get a pretty decent understanding of his size and strength.”

Thomas also sold Ferguson on the opportunity that FIU would provide to him as a person. “I told him that my job and responsibility was to make him a better person and a better player and the person comes before the player.”

Once Ferguson made his way to campus in 2010, he had to wait until December due to an issue with the NCAA. “It was hard because it was my freshman year... and I had already bonded with the guys.” Once he was allowed to play, he made an impact. In his first game against Florida A&M, Ferguson finished the game with 10 points, five rebounds and four blocks.

Ferguson completed his freshman year averaging 7.1 points and 4.8 rebounds. The biggest adjustment that Ferguson made from high school to college was the level of physicality of Division I basketball. “In high school, I never got pushed around, but here I still

got to battle people,” Ferguson said.

For Thomas, he has been more impressed with the growth and success of Ferguson off the hardwood. “His biggest wins have come off the floor in terms of growing and maturing,” Thomas said. “We are starting to see that maturity come up to the floor in our practices. By the time he is a junior and senior, the full compliment of the person and the player should be on display.”

The Panthers were short-handed beginning this season in the interior with Joey De La Rosa and Brandon Moore joining the team in December. For Ferguson, it was about him doing his job and leading by example. “I was already mentally preparing,” Ferguson said. “I just played my role.” After only scoring in double-figures in three games in the first month of the season, Ferguson has registered 10 games scoring at least 10 or more points.

In order for the Panthers to make a run in the Sun Belt Conference tournament, he knows the team must play as a unit. “Everybody has to come together,” Ferguson said. “We are definitely on the same page right now.”

Jury will decide whether Wyche acted in self-defense

WYCHE, PAGE 1

Colt Anderson, redshirt senior tight end, then a sophomore, said Wyche was the aggressor throughout the entire confrontation.

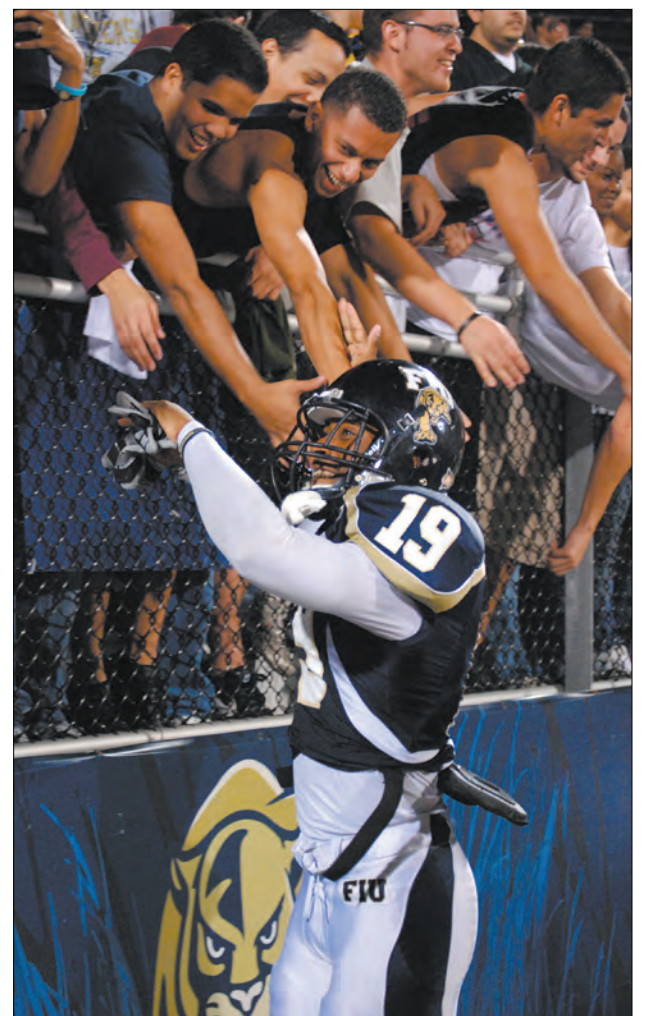
The defense’s theory of the case, according to the judge, is that Wyche attempted to get away from the fight before it became physical and Berry, along with others, chased him. Wyche found himself in the position where running was no longer possible and did what he had to do to save his own life.

Wyche’s defense attorneys are using former Gov. Jeb Bush’s “Stand Your Ground Law,” which passed in 2005, as the basis of their self-defense argument.

“He just happened to thrust himself against the scissor that the defendant had taken out apparently from his book bag when he was being chased down by this football team,” Peckins said to CBS Miami after Wyche’s Jan. 23 hearing.

The prosecution’s theory is that Wyche ran from where the fight took place, got a hold of the most readily-available deadly weapon, either returned to the area or laid in wait and stabbed Berry in the heart.

“This is someone who brought a knife to a fist fight, and someone is dead because of it,” prosecutor Abbe Rifkin said to



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Kendall Berry passed away on March 25, 2010.

CBS Miami.


Hirsch was not able to come to a conclusion in his ruling because the presented records did not give him enough information to dismiss the case due to Wyche

standing his ground.

“Because I can draw no conclusion, this motion must fail,” Hirsch wrote. “The defendant has met his burden of proof.”


Russell Simmons

FIU Student Government Council - Biscayne Bay Campus
Lecture Series Presents:



Wed, Feb. 22, 2012
Florida International University
Wolfe University Center Ballroom - 244
3000 NE 151st St., North Miami, FL 33181

Doors open at 6:00pm
Event starts at 6:30pm



SPOTLIGHT ON

Fashion model signed to agency, questions industry

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Imagine that you are flipping through a magazine and you come across an ad for a big name clothing company. You see a tall, thin model with a captivating face. This girl could very well be Ashley Garner, a University student studying art history.

Garner is no newbie to the modeling industry. With two years of freelance modeling experience in Miami, she has already been published in three magazines and has become very involved in the beauty industry.

Although freelancing has been Garner's preferred route in her modeling career, an agency in New York has recently snatched her up as their very own.

The Sharlet Grier agency signed Garner this year. Although this company is in New York, they are opening a branch in Miami in June and Garner will be able to work for them without having to relocate.

"I did a shoot with a photographer who recommended I send [the pictures] to Sharlet Grier" said Garner. "I got a call the next day."

Garner expressed the major perks of the modeling industry: free champagne, free clothes, admission to events and being the center of attention. "You meet some amazing and interesting people," said Garner.

One of Garner's most notable achievements was working with the popular chain store, Banana



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

[Left]: Garner flips through photos she has taken, and photos of herself she has collected in her dorm room. [Right]: Garner's Banana Republic spread.

Republic. Icon Magazine published a four page spread featuring her in two of the four pages.

"It was really great to see that all my hard work had paid off in such a beautiful way," said Garner.

Despite the glamour that is associated with modeling, Garner shared that it has its difficulties.

"Modeling is really difficult because you put so much on other people who don't even know you," said Garner. "There are a lot of people that don't really care about you."

The beauty industry is known for being cutthroat. Garner explained that although freelance modeling has been an interesting experience, she has had moments where she ques-

tioned if it is worth it.

"Being told that you are fat when you are not sucks," said Garner.

She went on to explain that a number of agencies refused to sign her because her thighs were too "athletic."

Standing at five feet, nine inches tall and weighing a mere 115 pounds, one wonders how sane the beauty industry really

is.

Regardless if the industry loves her or hates her, Garner has other things on her mind. She expressed that modeling not her true passion. Ashley enjoys photography, styling and journalism. She hopes to find a job in the fashion industry, but not necessarily as a model.

"[Modeling] is not my calling. It's just fun stuff," said Garner.

EDUCATION

Asst. professor realizes research effects outside the lab

BROOKE WERTMAN

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Recently, Dr. Laura Dinehart, an assistant professor of early childhood education at the University, has had many opportunities to see her name in the news. The attention and recognition is not without cause.

Her most recent research may decide the future importance of handwriting in the elementary school curriculum. Though the study is not yet complete, the results thus far have many wondering if a subject that has been pushed aside may deserve more attention.

"People always seem to either love or hate research. No one ever feels neutral about it," said Dinehart. "I never thought I would end

up doing research. I always wanted to help people, but I thought I would be counseling and work with people one-on-one."

Dinehart enjoyed getting the results of a study. Dinehart's friend suggested that she should pursue research.

Dinehart continued her education and got a doctoral degree at the University of Miami before returning to the FIU to teach.

them to better academic outcomes.

It was this interest that lead Dinehart to her most recent study on the connection between handwriting skills and math and reading comprehension.

"We started out studying language skills in pre-kindergarten schools. We weren't even looking for the link we found."

"At the same time that we were finding our results, other research was coming out stating similar findings, so it's nice that our results are being validated," said Dinehart.

To be clear, the study is not distinguishing between elegant and sloppy handwriting, but rather the benefits of mastering handwriting at a young age and the positive effects this mastery has later on in a child's educational career.

The study measured the fine-motor skills of four-year-olds, including drawing, writing letters and numbers. These same children were then tested as second graders on their reading and math abilities.

Students who tested well on fine-motor skills averaged with a B in these subjects, while those who tested poorly averaged a C. "Kids don't get grades on handwriting anymore and cursive is often not taught in schools. We're not sure what the effects of this will be," said Dinehart.

"It takes a lot to be able to write," acknowledged Dinehart. "It is often overlooked by adults because it comes so easily to us. Think of learning to drive a car and all the little things you have to pay attention

SEE STUDY, PAGE 6

"I thought 'no, no, no, I could never be one of those people who sit at a computer in an office all day.'"

Dr. Laura Dinehart
Early Childhood Education, Assistant Professor

Dinehart had her first experiences in research while finishing up her undergraduate degree in developmental psychology at the University.

While working in the infant psychology lab, a friend noticed and commented how much

"I thought 'No, no, no, I could never be one of those people who sit at a computer in an office all day,'" said Dinehart. "I decided to try it when I started my master's, fully expecting to switch back to my original plan, but I never did."

From the start, her focus has always been the developmental outcome of children from high-risk environments.

By studying children at a very high risk of doing poorly in school, she hopes to find factors that can be altered and ultimately lead

FIT FOR LIFE!

Take these steps to avoid common workout errors

There is no greater satisfaction than seeing a room full of students ready to maximize their workout results in my Latin Spice and Cardio Core classes. However, I often notice common workout errors that threaten their efforts. The following are a few mistakes to avoid so that you can receive the most out of your workout.



RATASHA IRIBAR-

LACK OF WARM-UP

Would you ever take a test without looking at the material first? Probably not. Studying before a test prepares you for what to expect on the exam so that you receive a good grade. The same concept applies to your workout regime. According to the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America, the purpose of a warm-up is to increase core temperature and prepare the muscles for the corresponding workout. In my Cardio Core

class, I start out with low-impact knee lifts, grapevines and other exercises that prepare the body for a gradual increase to higher-impact exercises, like jumping jacks and high kicks. If you walk into the gym and start doing squats and bicep curls, you could be risking serious injury. To avoid injury, perform a five to 10 minute warm-up that is appropriate for the workout. For example, if you are about to run three miles on a treadmill, start off with power walking, then move on to slow jogging; gradually increase your intensity. Limbering movements, like arm circles, ankle rolls and head rolls are also great for increasing joint mobility for your workout. In addition, light stretches, like runner’s lunges, are useful, but do not hold them for more than 15 seconds.

Longer stretches are saved for the end of the workout to assist joint mobility, reduce muscle soreness and decrease risk of injury. There are two

major problems I notice when walking around my classes and the Recreation Center in general: people do not stretch, or stretch very little and they use ballistic stretching. Ballistic stretching uses a bouncing movement that forces the limbs to extend further when they are not ready to do so. The next time you go for an arm overhead straddle stretch, contain yourself from bouncing around. Instead, hold the stretch for 12 to 60 seconds. This type of stretching, called static stretching, is the safest way to go.

One of the greatest threats to any type of workout is poor alignment. If you are among the many that experience neck pain during a crunch, listen closely. Supporting your neck and holding on for your life while you pull up is not going to engage your core. Before becoming a fitness instructor, I fell victim to the neck pain. I learned to correct my error when I attended my

first ultimate abs class and the instructor said, “Place your hands on your shoulders, and keep your ears in line with them!” She explained to the class that when you place your hands behind your neck, it is only natural to pull on those muscles when you crunch up. This is why you may feel that your neck is robbing you of an abdominal workout. By keeping your ears in line with your shoulders and placing your hands on your shoulders, your abs gain full control. Another common alignment error is allowing the knee to shift past the toe during lunges and squats. Keep the knee and ankle in one alignment to avoid knee pain or injury. When doing any kind of standing alignment, such as marching or dead lifts, remember to keep the knees slightly bent, shoulders back and down, knees and toes pointing in the same direction, contract your abs and place the pelvis in a neutral position. In addition, placing the pelvis in a neutral position is

an integral part of alignment while performing exercises that require you to lie down, like the crunch, because it helps to keep the lower back on the mat and reduce pain in that area.

I can’t emphasize this enough— drink plenty of water. Staying hydrated is important for any type of workout because it helps regulate body temperature and restores the body fluids lost through sweating. Because we all differ in weight, height and fitness level, we all have different hydration needs. Therefore, as a general rule of thumb, make sure to drink water before, during and after exercise to avoid dehydration. Whatever workout routine you follow, avoiding these common errors will provide you with an effective workout and prevent unwanted injury during your next session.

Fit for Life! is a fitness and health foods column. Email at ratasha.iribarren@fiusm.com

Research aims to improve early childhood education

STUDY, PAGE 5

to and remember... learning to write can be just as complex.” The current emphasis on technology in education doesn’t help, either. Studies show that typing a letter does not help a child to internalize it the same way writing a letter does. One suggestion she has is to give chil-

dren more of an opportunity to practice these skills. Whether that means having a child write for 15 minutes a day or just bringing out the markers and crayons more often at home, kids with more writing and drawing opportunities will do better in the long run. Another important study Dinehart has been involved in is the long-term benefits

of high quality childcare for foster kids. Her research shows that a high quality daycare program can counterbalance a negative home environment. “They need it the most because they are at the greatest risk and yet they are the least likely to get it,” said Dinehart. “It is an area that really needs to be examined.” Over the years, Dinehart has realized

that she has more of an opportunity to make a difference through research than working one-on-one with people. “By doing research I can influence policy and programs. I can change how people see things.” Dr. Dinehart will be continuing her research with the hope that once the link is better defined, it will be used to improve early childhood education.

FIU

FLORIDA
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NOTICE OF
PUBLIC
HEARINGS

The University Fee Committee
will be holding public hearings on

Wednesday, February 22, 2012 BBC
WUC 155 at 3:30pm

Thursday, February 23, 2012 MMC
GC 140 at 9:00am

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested
individuals an opportunity to hear arguments
pertaining to the proposed increase to the Activity and Service Fee.
The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2012 term.
Students and other interested individuals are
invited to attend these meetings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

20

MONDAY

“SPIRITUALITY IN
THE CONTEMPO-
RARY CHURCH”
WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-
12:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free to
students
WHERE: MMC GC
Ballroom

EXILE, CREATIVITY
AND TOTALITARI-
ANISM: “PLAYING
GAMES IN EXILE”
WHEN: 7-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 243

HOW TO SUCCEED IN
BUSINESS WITHOUT
REALLY TRYING
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20
WHERE: Roxy Per-
forming Arts Center

COCONUT GROVE
ARTS FESTIVAL
WHEN: 10 a.m.-6
p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5
WHERE: Coconut
Grove Convention
Center

21

TUESDAY

TIME MANAGEMENT
& YOUR RESEARCH
ASSIGNMENTS
WHEN: 7-8 p.m.
WHERE: Lakeview Hall

ENVIRONMENTAL
FILM SERIES: “THE
END OF THE LINE”
WHEN: 6-8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and
open to the public
WHERE: BBC WUC
Theatre

CHAMBER PLAYERS
SERIES CONCERT
WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15.00
General Admission,
\$10.00 Seniors and
FIU Faculty/Staff,
\$5.00 FIU Students
and Alumni Associa-
tion Members
WHERE: Herbert &
Nicole Wertheim Per-
forming Arts Center,
Concert Hall

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT
FEATURED EMAIL:
CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM

BORDERLESS WITH BROOKLYN

Within Miami borders, poverty rate staggering

Miami is trying her hardest to compete as a real metropolitan city, but as the staggering poverty level continues to grow and the income disparities continue to widen, she and her citizens lose.



COLUMNIST

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON

According to an MSNBC report that labeled Miami the number one “worst-run city in America,” (we beat Detroit... Detroit!),

Miami is riddled with economic disparities that manifests in a few core areas. Possessing the second highest rate of income inequality and the 13th highest crime rate in the nation, Miami needs help.

The most shocking statistic in the article is that the poverty rate is 34 percent. It is an obtuse concept, poverty, the word itself is as an umbrella term that a myriad of social issues fall under. If there were a philosophical synonym for poverty, the closest word would be ‘deficiency.’ Not enough money is an obvious branch of the poverty tree, but infinite other branches include a lack of educational resources, hunger, homelessness and an inability to access proper (or any) health care.

Reading a statistic about poverty rates provides no context; you will get a small, modicum of an idea of what abject poverty looks like on a solely surface level, if you head to Overtown.

In Overtown, where a huge concentration of poverty is thriving, it looks like technicolor buildings that have

been abandoned with wooden boards nailed over broken windows. It looks like expensive cars that roll by slowly and let out girls without ever fully coming to a complete stop. It looks like kids playing in streets with potholes that need to be filled.

In every city, income disparities exist - but in Miami, they define it. It is not just morally imperative to pour more funding into the impoverished neighborhoods of Miami, it’s a move in the right direction for overall prosperity and productivity.

Let’s assume for a moment you strongly believe in the American dream. You assert that one can get an education and if they work hard enough, sustain a career and healthy lifestyle.

This, you say, is a reality not just a mere notion of possibility. Thus, one must support initiatives that reinforce this mantra. By equalizing the playing field in these neighborhoods where children and young adults never had a fair start is not just “right,” it’s American.

As crime continues to overflow into greater Miami-Dade, the poorer neighborhoods will get more attention. However, the attention must not be solely on erecting playgrounds and repaving decrepit streets; there has to be outreach to the systemic roots of poverty and crime.

As local politicians focus energy and resources on building swing sets and painting rust colored fences white, they have to shift their focus on giving resources directly into programs that benefit the peoples’ lives within the

communities.

In other words, the \$200,000 park that was funded by the Miami Community Redevelopment Agency and built by the Omni Parkwest Redevelopment Association, is a nice start and all but, the fact that it is impermanent, a concept that would be humorous if it were not a reality, and could after two years turn into a convention center, gives total pause to the entire idea.

Overtown and other poor neighborhoods in Miami need not just redevelopment but *smart, citizen-oriented* redevelopment.

After all, it was the construction of I-95 that fragmented Overtown in the first place and largely caused its economic decline.

A comment left by an anonymous user on an informal travel site to Miami had this to say about Liberty City, another neighborhood plagued by poverty and crime: “Do your best to avoid this place. It is by far the most disgustingly putrid location I have ever seen. The existential squalor is even worse than the South Bronx!”

The insensitivity and elitism in that comment is obvious, but its also a poignant statement; Miami’s poorest neighborhoods, as a whole, are indeed being avoided, when instead, they should be rediscovered.

In next month’s column, read about educational initiatives and grassroots organizations in Overtown.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

VP Joe Biden: Together we must end dating violence

More than twenty years ago, I read a study of junior high school students in Rhode Island that included one finding I’ve never been able to get out of my head. Students were asked if a man who spent money on a woman during a date was entitled to force her into sexual activity. An astounding 25 percent of the young boys said yes – and even more astounding, 17 percent of the junior high school girls agreed.

You may think that sounds like a long time ago – and it was. But, sadly, dating violence remains a very real problem in our country – especially on college campuses.

Today, while in college, nearly one in five women will be a victim of sexual assault and one in ten teens will be hurt on purpose by someone they are dating. These aren’t just statistics, these are people you know: your roommates, your friends, your sisters, your classmates. This is a problem we all have to face.

My dad used to say that there’s no worse sin than the abuse of power. Whether it was raising a hand to someone weaker, or using any advantage to push people around, he taught me

that if you saw abuse, you had an obligation to attempt to stop it. It’s a lesson to remember every day, but especially this February, during Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

Awareness is the first step to pushing back against a problem this big. When I held Senate hearings on violence against women more than two decades ago, domestic abuse in American society was rarely spoken about in public. I’ll never forget the stories of abuse I heard in over a thousand hours of hearings. The brutality of family members, acquaintances, and strangers against the women in their lives was absolutely devastating.

It was those hearings that led to the Violence Against Women Act, and since then annual incidents of domestic violence have dropped by more than 50%. But for women in college and younger today, the risk is still much too high.

That’s why I joined with Education Secretary Arne Duncan last April to announce historic new guidelines for colleges and universities about their responsibilities under Title IX to prevent sexual assault. Under the federal civil

rights law, schools have an obligation not only to respond appropriately when an assault occurs, but also to create a climate on campus that makes such violence unacceptable.

I also started an initiative called *1is2many* to help reduce dating violence and sexual assault among teens and young adults. We harnessed the power of technology to get our message out, launching a national contest to develop “Apps Against Abuse.” The two winning apps – which will be available later this spring – will let you get in touch with your friends quickly and safely so you can call for help if you need it and stop violence in its tracks. We’ve also made sure the National Dating Abuse Helpline can be reached by text, online, or phone 24/7.

Last month, the FBI changed the way the federal government defines rape. The narrow, outdated definition – unchanged since 1929 – said the assault had to be forcible and against a woman’s will to be classified as rape. It’s just not true, and it’s a point that I make on college campuses all across the country. Rape is rape and no means no. No means no whether drunk or sober. No means no

whether in the dorm room or on the street. There is never an excuse. Young women and men alike need to understand this. Under the new definition, rape occurs when there is no consent, and it also includes sexual assault against boys and young men in national law enforcement reporting.

These are important changes, but ending dating violence and sexual assault isn’t just a matter of laws and legislation. It’s about education. It’s about attitudes. It’s about your participation. I need your help to address this issue in your dorms and on your campuses. Studies show that men’s ideas about what other men think is one of the strongest determinants of how they act. So guys, you need to speak out.

The ultimate measure of a civilized society is how its laws and culture treat the abuse of women. Attitudes can change. Violence can end. But it can’t happen without universal understanding that dating violence and sexual assault will never be tolerated anywhere, at any time, for any reason. Period. That’s all of our responsibility.

-Joe Biden, Vice President of the United States



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SOUTH BEACH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

Students getting whipped into shape for festival weekend

SHANNON COPELAND

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The Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management will be participating in the annual South Beach Wine & Food Festival presented by the Food Network from Feb. 23-26.

The festival, which is in its eleventh year, will include the presence of celebrity chefs such as Paula Deen and Bobby Flay.

The staff of CSHTM, the chefs and students all are preparing for the festival. Participating students work in almost every aspect of the festival including logistics, operations, public relations, marketing, auction coordination and cuisine preparation.

“I hope to gain hands-on experience while working with the students and the chefs,” said Celine Fillopi, nutrition and dietetics major with a minor in hospitality and tourism management.

Fillopi, who focuses her culinary skills on baking, will be preparing her signature low fat carrot cake and zucchini bread dish in order to practice for the festival.

Students commit an average of 36,319 hours to the festival. In addition to experience, the students gain scholarship opportunities and job offers. Over \$14 million have been raised as a result of the festival.

“It takes 3,832 positions to fulfill the shift requirements for the festival, and so far we have 1,069 students,” said Richard Lopez, the Student Association Program Manager for the SOBE WFF.

Lopez was passionate in his overview of the students and their participation while explaining that students play in the organizational aspect of the festival.

“The students partake in tasks ranging from golf carting to inventory to the welcoming aspect,” Lopez said. “Also, each event will have a different



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

[Left to right]: Fang Shu, hospitality and Tourism Management graduate student, Festival Manager Christian Fombru, Student Coordinators Liz Ortega and Anna Munoz during a meeting on Feb. 17 in preparation for the South Beach Wine & Food Festival running from Feb. 23 to 26. Students commit an average of 36,319 hours to the festival. Students not only gain job experience for their future and education, but also scholarship offers and employment opportunities.

theme. That’s something everyone can look forward to.”

Michael Moran, the lead chef instructor at CSHTM, described the students’ participation as “stellar.”

“I consider my students to be the glue,” Moran said. “We have the big companies and sponsors at this event, but the students are the glue.”

In regards to the benefits of the festival, Moran believes, “[Students] have the opportunity to work along-

side some of the best chefs and professionals in the world.”

Daniel Bloom, a Culinary Manager with Burger Bash and Grand Tasting, who is also a teaching assistant pursuing a bachelor’s in hospitality management, gave a summary of what his day will be like.

“My days are longer than the average student,” Bloom said. “I will start at the Grand Tasting Village assisting with setup of the tents, then

I’ll transfer to the Bank of American Wine seminar to aid in the culinary arrangements; then after that I will head over to Flavors of Play.”

Ashley Davis, a hospitality and tourism management major, sees the festival as a “chance of a lifetime.”

When asked what she hopes to gain from this experience, Davis said with a smile on her face, “possibly a job.”

Jorge Caroni, hospitality and

tourism management major, will assist with supervision of students and transport the food to the convention center. He describes the preparation process as “crazy. Everything is boiling down.”

Mohammad Qureshi, Assistant Dean for the CSHTM, believes this event will “benefit the students and the school, as it allows the student to make contact with the industry, which will be helpful for them.”

STUDENT LIFE

Hip-hop mogul set to deliver a ‘phat’ lecture

EUGENIA NIKITINA

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Russell Simmons, most notable for being a co-founder of Def Jam Records, is scheduled to speak about the evolution of hip-hop and its effect on society on Feb. 22 at Biscayne Bay Campus in Wolfe University Center Ballroom 244.

The event, sponsored by the Student Government Association at BBC, will open its doors at 6 p.m., while the presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Simmons is also the driving force behind numerous ventures including Phat Farm apparel line, the television series Def Comedy Jam and the footwear line Run Athletics.

The entrepreneur is responsible for the

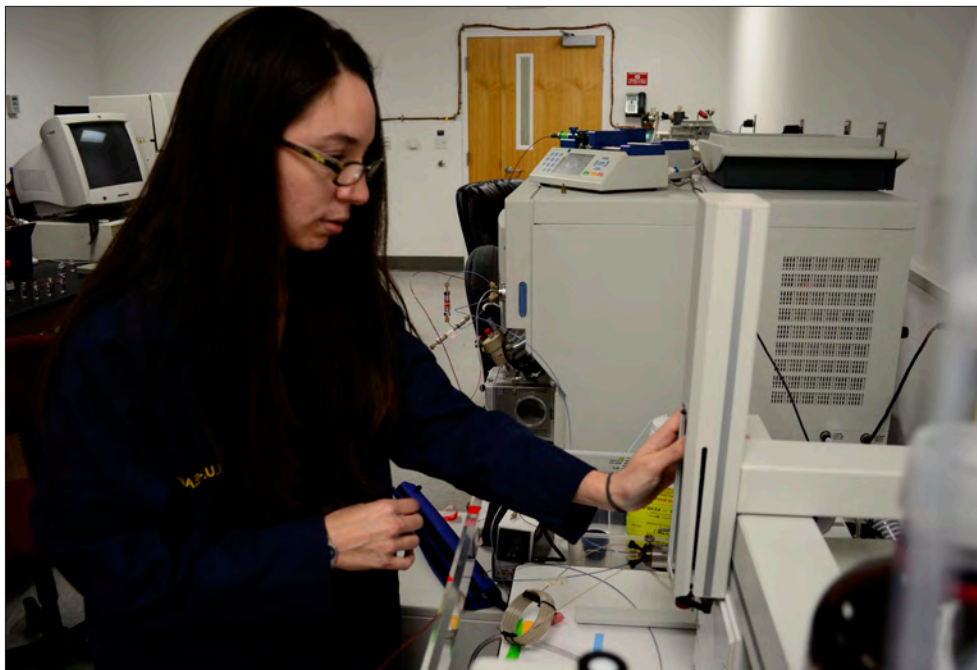
success of LL Cool J, Run–D.M.C. and the Beastie Boys. Simmons’ net worth is estimated at \$340 million.

Rush Communications, Simmons’ multimillion-dollar corporation, is one of the largest African American owned media firms.

When the corporation is not busy launching careers, it spearheads projects like UniRush, which offers prepaid cards and a basic set of financial services to families with lower incomes.

Simmons is also a vegan, animal activist, gay rights supporter and has taken part in the recent Occupy Wall Street protest movement. Tickets for the event are available at the SGA office in WUC 301. The event is free for students with an FIU One Card and five dollars for the general public.

LACED WATERS



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Nubia Heuett, a chemistry graduate student, is developing a method to test the Biscayne Bay Campus sewage water for any levels of explicit drugs such as cocaine, LSD, and heroin.