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SMOKING BAN

Still ‘no official enforcement plan as of yet’

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer
nicolas.saravia@fiusm.com

It has been over a year since the University implemented its policy banning the use of tobacco products on all campuses.

However, formal sanctions for the regulation have yet to be settled on.

“There is no official enforcement plan as of yet,” said Mariela Gabaroni, assistant director of University Health Services.

The ban became effective on Jan. 1 of last year, after the University’s Board of Trustees approved the prohibition of the use of all tobacco-related products on Sept. 24, 2010.

FIU is the first institution in South Florida to be completely smoke free.

“It is an ongoing process because we are changing a culture,” Gabaroni said. “Students are going up to other students asking them to stop [smoking on campus] and people are respectful when asked politely.”

Gabaroni was the chair of the steering committee that was created to educate the University community about the new regulation being implemented and to further communicate the resources available to students, faculty and staff.

Originally intended to last an initial six months, social enforcement, or community members calling upon others to follow regulations, is still the University’s chosen method of dealing with the issue.

Those found smoking are asked to stop and palm cards with pertinent information on why the University has gone tobacco and smoke free are supposed to be offered for distribution.

Student opinions are divided on the method of enforcement.

“I think [social enforce-

ment] is ok. Smoking is a big problem in public areas. I think it is good to suggest to people to stop smoking on campus,” said Ging Ting, a hospitality freshman.

However, some think that suggesting is not enough.

“Social enforcement is not going to work. I don’t think its effective because people have their opinions engraved,” said Anthony Becerra, a hospitality senior.

According to students, smoking still occurs on campus.

“[Students] smoke a lot less since the no-smoking signs were put up. I was a little surprised because they are college kids, but I still see custodians smoking,” said Carmen Mulet, a junior chemistry major.

“The ban on smoking on campus is like making an illegal left turn at an intersection, everyone does it anyway and it’s not enforced,” said Luis Herrera, a senior psychology major. “I see friends of mine smoking right outside of class all the time.”

The Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution refused to comment on the repercussions of continuous offenses.

The ban includes areas in the proximity of University housing residences.

“Housing areas have always been smoke free,” said Joe Haefel, assistant director of housing and residential life.

However, if smoking occurs outside the residences, “students are held accountable and are encouraged to put [their cigarettes] down.”

University Health Services continues to provide on-campus sessions and consultations for students who want to quit smoking.

They also offer resources online through the Tobacco-

PRESIDENTIAL AIR WAVES



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

University President Mark Rosenberg visited WRGP Radiate FM station on Feb. 20 for an interview on the Pantherwire news show with hosts Melissa Caceres [above] and Jonathan Szydlo to discuss University issues and answer questions from students via social media.

ENROLLMENT

Student population growth a big part of University expansion plan

REBECCA BURTON
Contributing Writer
news@fiusm.com

When Mark Rosenberg became University president in 2009, he had a vision that aimed at improving the University’s financial and academic standing.

Douglas Wartzok, University provost, along with collaborators, faculty and staff helped transform Rosenberg’s goal into the 2010-2015 Worlds Ahead Strategic Plan.

One of the main parts of the Worlds Ahead plan, expanding FIU’s financial base, included steps to add an additional 2,000 students per year until the year 2015.

As students are trying to find parking spots or waiting in long lines for food, Rosenberg said adding the new students will gradually fix these problems.

“We’ve been suffering from budget deficiencies and budget insecurities,” Rosenberg said in an interview. “New students would expand our budget and give us an ability to add more teachers, classes and advisers. Increases come from more students, not tuition increases.”

To some, the plan looks good on paper, but the threat overcrowding and limited parking in a university, which has a student

body of 48,980 students, worries some.

Freshman Yani Ibarlucea, thinks adding more students is a difficult task. “An extra 2,000 kids is a lot. I would like to think FIU could keep up with it,” Ibarlucea said.

New students would expand our budget and give us an ability to add more teachers, classes and advisers.

Mark Rosenberg,
President
FIU

Whitney Smith, an alum, thinks adding new students would hurt, not help, the University’s reputation.

“Quality over quantity,” Smith said. “Typically a school is better if not everyone can get in.”

Rosenberg disagrees and believes

expansion is what is needed to advance the name and quality of FIU.

“Graduation and retention rates are what’s important,” he said. He also ensured all of the students would be “academically qualified.”

“The areas of focus for the next several years—arts, environment, globalization and health—are based on institutional strengths that form the groundwork for future innovation, economic development and job creation in our region,” Rosenberg stated in a letter to the University, preceding the Worlds Ahead Strategic Plan.

Rosenberg’s plan started with a strategy he proposed called “Hit the Ground Running,” and credits his 35 years of experience in higher education.

The main goal of this preliminary plan was to create a “leading student-centered urban public research university that is locally and globally engaged.”

Based on Rosenberg’s vision, Wartzok helped frame the Worlds Ahead plan.

“The University has identified four strategic themes [arts, environment, global, and health] and three University-wide strategic foundations [finance, infrastructure, and student success],” Wartzok

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COMING UP | News

Check out Friday’s issue for an article on the University’s environmental evaluation through the Green Report Card.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Police: Bicyclist struck by car, falls into river

Police say a bicyclist has died in southwest Florida after being struck by a car and falling from a bridge into a river.

Palmetto Police say 44-year-old Adon Newsome of Bradenton was riding across the DeSoto Bridge early Sunday when he was struck by a car. He fell into the Manatee River.

Police tell the Sarasota Herald-Tribune the driver stopped then drove to a nearby hospital to report the accident.

The crash remains under investigation.

NATIONAL

Infant killed after shots fired into Detroit home

Authorities say a 9-month-old boy was killed when shots were fired into a Detroit home early Monday.

Detroit Police Sgt. Gary Diaz says the infant was pronounced dead at a hospital, not long after the 4:30 a.m. incident.

Diaz says shell casings have been found outside the home, and the shots could have been fired from a moving car. A witness told investigators a car sped away after the shooting.

No arrests have been made. Police have not elaborated further on the circumstances surrounding the shooting.

WORLD

Al-Qaida in Yemen confirms senior leader’s death

Yemen’s branch of al-Qaida has confirmed the death of a senior leader, who officials say died in a bloody family feud.

A statement posted on a militant website by Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula on Monday said that government agents “motivated by the hiring regime in Sanaa” were responsible for the death of its “emir”, Tariq al-Dahab.

It did not comment beyond that on claims by officials and tribal leaders that al-Dahab had been slain Thursday at his home in southern Yemen by his half brother Hizam. Hizam and 15 others were then reported to have been killed by Dahab’s followers.

The clashes came days before Feb. 21 elections to approve a new leader to replace President Ali Abdullah Saleh. A year-long uprising has sought to push Saleh from power.

– Compiled by Lauren Rovira

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Md. House passes gay marriage bill

SARAH BREITENBACH
AP Staff

Maryland appears ready to become one of a handful of states in the U.S. to legalize gay marriage after the bill to allow it passed a long-standing hurdle in the Maryland House of Delegates on Friday.

After courting the votes of a couple delegates initially opposed to the measure, House members voted 72-67 to pass the bill. An initial vote count suggested the measure passed with 71 votes, leaving out an affirmative from Delegate John Bohanan.

Next up is the Senate, which handily passed a similar bill last year. Gov. Martin O’Malley sponsored the bill and has pushed for gay marriage to be legalized.

Approval would make Maryland the eighth state plus the District of Columbia to legalize the marriages, although opponents have vowed to petition the measure to referendum.

“Today, we took a giant step

toward marriage equality becoming law — and we are in this position due to the unwavering leadership and resolve of Governor O’Malley, Speaker (Michael) Busch and our legislative allies,” Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement released Friday.

An amendment from Delegate Tiffany Alston, a Prince George’s Democrat who previously opposed to the bill, was accepted by the members, a move opponents suggested secured her vote. It would keep the law from going into effect until any litigation related to a potential voters’ referendum on the measure is processed.

The body also added an amendment Thursday evening, altering the effective date from October to January 2013.

Delegate Wade Kach, a Republican from Baltimore County, said earlier in that day that his support was contingent upon that amendment.

Throughout the week, several key lawmakers, including Kach

and Republican Delegate Robert Costa, made pronouncements that after personal consideration they would support the legislation.

Opponents say the bill does not adequately protect religious freedoms and would force educators to teach about gay marriage in public schools.

Delegates rejected amendments to create civil unions, allow parents to opt out of education programs that address same-sex relationships, limit marriage for gay couples over 18 and to put the measure directly on the ballot.

Opponents argued that Democrats rushed the measure through without proper consideration of amendments once they knew there would be enough votes.

“We should not use brute force strength on such a weighty issue,” said minority leader Anthony O’Donnell, R-Calvert.

Earlier in the week, opposition lawmakers criticized proponents for dragging their feet on the measure in order to have enough time to secure votes.

‘We can afford to add more students’

GROWTH, PAGE 1

said in a letter to the University community. “The foundations assure our ability to advance our teaching, research and engagement mission within each of our strategic themes.”

Rosenberg said the financial stability would come mainly from tuition payments from more students.

Infrastructure would include new construction on both campuses to house the new students, and student success

would come from an influx of new advisers.

He also hopes to make advising a more “intrusive” process in which advisers would help students decide their majors early on.

“This process is called major mapping,” Rosenberg said. “It would give students more thoughtful guidance.”

He also said he understands that getting into classes in a large university isn’t always smooth.

“You’re always in the process of balancing,” he said. “My two kids graduated from FIU and had similar types of challenges. What we find is, given our complex workload, we have to provide classes day and night at both campuses. If more of our students were full time then it would be less of a problem, but 50 percent are part time and it makes it harder to make classes at times they are available to take them.”

The plan, in theory, would add approximately 1,000 new students per year to MMC, 500 to BBC, and about 500 new graduate and e-learning students. The main goal after the 5-year plan would be to have a total of 20,000 new students by 2020.

“We can’t expand BBC until we get a new entrance,” Rosenberg said. “My first concern is the safety of my students.”

The North Miami City Council, Vice Provost Steven Moll and environmentalists have recently been in an ongoing dispute about a proposed second road leading into the campus at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Two other schools share

NW 151st Street, the only road leading into the campus currently. Rosenberg said that 150 new professors have also been added this year.

“We are the premier public university in a huge market and we can afford to add more students to meet the market demand,” said SGC-MMC President Patrick O’ Keefe. “I think it will enhance the learning opportunities as we have seen in the last few years.

When budgets increase, so do services and the University can provide more. The University will need to add more professors, but the plan shows that this will happen.”

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. You can see this and other class work by going to thenewswave.org



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NEDA GHOMESHI	ALFRED SOTO



CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus:
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Fax:
(305) 348-2712

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
alexandra.camejo@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

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FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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.

SOFTBALL

Panthers go undefeated in Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial

ANTHONY GUIVAS
Staff Writer
anthony.guivas@fiusm.com

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

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer
malcolm.shields@fiusm.com

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

SEE MEN’S, PAGE 4



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

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

BASEBALL

Panthers swept by No. 6 Rice in opening weekend

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Staff Writer
eduardo.almaguer@fiusm.com

FIU (0-3) suffered a sweep at the hands of the Owls (3-0) in their season opening series, having the lead only once in all three games.

RICE 6, FIU 2

An almost three-hour rain delay washed away FIU's offense in its season opener as the team fell 6-2 against the number sixth ranked team in the country.

The Panthers and the Rice University Owls both had seven hits in the game, but the Owls made theirs count.

Despite a solid performance on the mound by R.J. Fondon, the senior left-hander was tagged with the loss after surrendering three earned runs and walking five batters in five innings. He also struck out seven Owls.

The Panthers' seven hits were all singles, with junior Rudy Flores having the only multi-hit game for the team after going two-for-four at the plate.

The Owls were held scoreless just for one inning as Christian Singer hit a solo homerun in the bottom of the second inning off Fondon. Rice was back at it in the very next inning, pushing across two more runs to shove FIU into a three-run hole.

A bases-loaded, no-out situation in the top of the fourth inning was the Panther's best chance to either tie the game or take the lead.

After junior Adam Kirsch struck out, Rice's third baseman committed a fielding error that allowed Shantz to score the first of FIU's two runs on the night. Still with the bases loaded and one out, David Vazquez hit a ground-ball for a double play, ending the inning and shifting the momentum



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Logan Dodds was suspended for the first series of the season due to a violation of team rules.

back to Rice.

The Owls drowned the Panther's hope of battling back after a three-run homerun by Shane Hoelscher off redshirt sophomore Eddy Pidermann put FIU at a five-run deficit.

The Panthers could not respond to the Owls, scratching through only one run on Kirsch's RBI single in the top of the eighth inning.

Rice snapped its two-year, opening day losing streak and subsequently extended FIU's to a second consecutive year.

RICE 5, FIU 4 (F/12)

In baseball, the saying, "you have to have a short-term memory," is a frequently cited one, usually following a loss. For FIU, it is going to be tough to forget this one.

FIU dropped a 12-inning affair against Rice in which they blew their

lead in the ninth and eventually gave up a walk-off homerun to lose 5-4.

Making only his second career start, left-hander Mason McVay allowed only three hits in 5.2 innings, but walked five Owls while striking out one.

Junior Jabari Henry enjoyed a three-for-six night with the first FIU homerun of the season and a pair of runs and RBIs.

Junior Nathan Burns had three hits, including a triple, and freshman Julius Gaines recorded his first two hits of his collegiate career, two doubles.

The first seven innings were a pitching duel. A third-inning sacrifice fly by Rice gave them a 1-0 lead, but it remained scoreless until FIU tied the match when Henry scored on a wild pitch.

Senior right-hander Christian

Marlborough surrendered two runs in the bottom of the frame, and the Panthers headed into the top of the ninth in a 3-1 hole.

The Panthers, however, refused to head back into the clubhouse with an "L" hanging over their heads.

After junior Rudy Flores hit an RBI single to score senior Pablo Bermudez, Henry smashed a two-out, two-strike homerun to take a 4-3 lead.

Junior Michael Gomez, the team's closer, could not get three outs and give FIU its first career win against Rice. After walking the first batter, Jeremy Rathjen hit an infield single to tie the game and keep the Owls' hopes alive.

In the bottom of the 12th inning, redshirt sophomore Albert Cardenas allowed Rathjen to become the hero again, surrendering the game-winning

homerun to the Rice outfielder and sending the Owls home as winners.

When dealing with Rice, the Panthers simply bit off more than they could chew.

RICE 8, FIU 1

Sunday afternoon's game at Reckling Park was the complete opposite of Saturday's. Where as only one run was scored in the first seven innings on Saturday, five were scored in the first inning on Sunday. Unfortunately for FIU, all five were Rice's, as FIU could not overcome the blow and dropped the match 8-1.

Freshman right-hander Jose Lazaro had a rude introduction to Division I baseball, as the Rice hitters knocked him around hard in the first inning. Recording only two outs in his start, Lazaro gave up two hits, five walks and hit two batters, leading to the five earned runs.

Sophomore Mike Ellis was called in relief and surrendered only one run in 5 1/3 and striking out three. The damage, however, had been done.

No Panther had more than one hit, and junior Rudy Flores had the team's lone RBI.

The Owls exploded in the first inning after a bases-clearing double by Craig Manuel, RBI single and a bases loaded walk to give them a 5-0 lead.

After freshman Julius Gaines led off the third inning with a single, Flores drove him home with a two-out single. The Rice pitching staff silenced the Panther bats afterwards, allowing only three hits. The Owls tacked on three more runs as the game progressed, eventually earning the sweep.

It is the first time since 2008 that the Panthers begin the season 0-3.

FIU returns to the mound on Friday to take on No. 20 Florida State University (3-0) at 4 p.m.

Team scores school-record 21 runs in blowout victory over Wildcats

FELSBERG, PAGE 3

the ball rolling, getting on base via an error and later on moved to second on a fielders choice by Megan Horne who reached safely on the play.

McClain would then step to the plate and single to load up the bases.

Center fielder Peller then delivered the first run of the game in the third inning with an RBI groundout. Shelby Graves followed with an RBI single.

The last run came in when South Carolina's left fielder had trouble scooping up the ball, hiking up FIU's lead to 3-0. The Panthers did not look back.

"I think we played a pretty solid weekend so far. Solid defense, solid pitching, solid hitting and I think we have put every-

thing together the last four games. You go 4-0 when you play that way," Schumann said.

FIU 21, VILLANOVA 2 (F/5)

After reaching the .500 plateau with a win against South Carolina, it didn't take long for FIU to add yet another win as they beat Villanova with a school-record 21 runs in five innings.

The Panthers' offense came alive in the ballgame with two eye-popping 10 run innings, adding another school record to a historic night of softball on Feb. 18.

Kayla Burri, who homered, led the way for FIU, going 4-4 and driving in four runs for the Panthers. And via the mercy rule, the game concluded in the fifth by a score of 21-2.

FIU 3, JACKSONVILLE 1

The streaking Panthers continued their winning ways on Feb. 19 against Jacksonville.

The Panthers started off with two quick runs in the first frame. McClain and Peller both advanced on a Brie Rojas groundout that then led to Shelby Graves' deep fly. McClain tagged home.

FIU would tally up another run on a single by Burri, extending their lead to a quick 2-0.

The Panthers added another run in second inning on a McClain infield single, but from that point on runs were at a premium, making the game a pitching affair.

Gniadek pitched well through the first three frames but hit a snag in

the fourth, giving up a solo homer, a walk and a single.

This then led to Gniadek being replaced by Dawson, who got the win for the Panthers after pitching four shutout innings with nine strikeouts.

"I was a little nervous, I mean you never like to have runners on second and third when the score is just 3-1. That's two runners that could have tied the game easily but I came in there and knew I needed to get another out," Dawson said.

FIU will now look to continue their winning streak next weekend as they head to Boca Raton to start the FAU Invitational.

The Panthers will take on Tulsa at 11 a.m. and Loyola Marymount at 1 p.m. on Feb. 24.

FIU looking for second win at home this year

MEN'S, PAGE 3

because of his ejection for two technical fouls against Arkansas State, freshman guard Deric Hill will be the probable starter in place of Taylor.

Although not the scorer that Taylor is, coach Thomas has credited Hill for his ability

to be a facilitating point guard when called into action.

"He moves the team," Thomas said after the Feb. 11 game against Denver. Hill made his first start of the season against UALR. In 32 minutes, Hill scored four points and registered two assists against the Trojans.

MEN'S BASKETBALL



THURSDAY, FEB. 12
TROY AT FIU, 5:30 p.m.
U.S. CENTURY BANK ARENA

VAGINA TALK

Monologues shed light on women's issues

HOLLY MCCOACH
Staff Writer
holly.mccoach@fiusm.com

The Department of Theatre is not the only department that puts on a display of plays. The Women's Studies Student Association at the University is hosting their annual show this month, "The Vagina Monologues," as they have been for more than five years.

With a title like that, one would think that it is an event that is intended for women only. Yes, and no. Female students from any department of the University perform the intimate experiences and feelings they have had with their vaginas.

These experiences can include rape, sex, birth, or simply how they each feel of their "down there."

Despite this, audiences of men and women are encouraged by WSSA to save the date and attend between Feb. 23 and 25 in the School of International and Public Affairs Room 125 at 8 p.m.

It all began with writer

and activist Eve Ensler, who wrote "The Vagina Monologues" after traveling the globe, interviewing women on their vaginal experiences. V-Day became the result, a campaign between February and April which calls attention to this taboo subject that has to do with women's sexual organs.

One of the women in charge of this project is recent graduate Lupe Juarez, who graduated with a women's studies degree in December. During the V-Day season, WSSA becomes busier than ever.

"Within that time frame, colleges and universities have to host their event. Each year, we have decided to host 'The Vagina Monologues.' It has been very impacting," said Juarez.

Roughly each year, the campaign focuses on women of a particular region.

The women of Haiti have been the focus both this year and last year. City of Joy, a shelter in Haiti that was funded by V-Day for women who were victims of violence, educates and gives therapy



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Zakiya Becca, a sophomore majoring in communication arts, rehearses for "The Vagina Monologues."

to these women so that they can venture out into their community to help other women. During "The Vagina Monologues" at the

University, WSSA gives a spotlight monologue where women talk about women in that particular region. WSSA also has donated to

other groups and organizations, including the victims of the Rios family.

The girls of the Rios family, who are in their late teens and are residents of Miami Gardens, are victims of fatherly abuse. WSSA first heard about the family through prosecutor Josie Ashton, who is the founder of College Brides Walk.

Although the girls have received treatment, their home environment still existed, as well as the memories that were created there. As a result, the girls slept elsewhere many nights and dropped out of school.

"We learned about the Rios family, and we decided parts of the proceeds would go to them," said Juarez. "What we decided to do was to go into their rooms and completely redecorate [them]."

The plan worked. The girls warmed up to their home, and began attending school again.

As for "The Vagina Monologues," anyone is free to join, but devotion is a must. With auditions beginning in October, rehearsals run from then

until the day of the actual show. Although everyone is free to participate, women are the only ones allowed to act.

"We love to have men involved. They can help us with the set, they can help us at the door selling tickets, and they can help with reception areas," said Juarez.

Attending "The Vagina Monologues" is not free, but money received is donated to organizations that assist women who are victims of rape, abuse, prostitution and even human trafficking. Students with IDs pay \$10; however, presale tickets can be bought from DM 212 for \$8. University faculty and staff tickets are \$15.

"It's not free to come into the event because, with the help of students and everyone that attends, we are able to impact [women]," she said.

With the amount of purpose and intrigue behind "The Vagina Monologues," WSSA can provide audiences with the art of theater, with undertones of social and political impact.

HAUTE TOPIC

NYFW: designers revive trends from previous season

Another New York fashion week has come and gone, and my finger hurts from clicking through all the shows on Style.com. Everything was beautiful and inspirational, save for the witch shoes and funky hats of Marc Jacobs.

The funny thing about his collection was that the clothes were breathtaking but the accessories were horrible.

Maybe Jacobs was making some sort of commentary about how designers make their accessories the high point of their designs instead of focusing on the garments.

Once upon a time, accessories were mere afterthoughts, but with the explosion of street-style fashion on the Internet,



PHOTOS BY: REX FEATURES/AP IMAGES

images of shoes and bags permeate more quickly and become easier to identify, and therefore, make tons of dough for designers.

While browsing

through the runway shows and presentations for next fall, I noticed something very peculiar: color was everywhere.

Bright oranges and reds



popped up all over town, making the neon trend that still continues more accessible for the wearer.

Longer hems, especially pencil-skirt length,

dominated almost everywhere as well. Fashion is not ready for us to bare our legs yet, which will take some adjusting to for those of us who live in warmer

climates.

Marchesa and Marc Jacobs showed many colorful, metallic-infused textured damask and paisley prints that look wonderful when contrasted with darker-colored knits.

Band of Outsiders and J. Crew Collection also showed printed pants in plaids, polka dots and paisley, and paired them with fun, bright-colored jackets.

Oversized jackets and tops are still big at Band of Outsiders, meaning you can keep your Forever 21 blazers in rotation for another year.

I know many of you are probably sick of stripes by now, but do not write them off just yet. Stripes in various widths and colors are still in, especially on pants.

You can "do it yourself" by sewing craft ribbon in bright colors on

SEE NYFW, PAGE 6

RADIATE REVIEWS

Sleigh Bells’ new effort flops

Sleigh Bells’ sound is very peculiar. The combination of heavy guitar riffs and sweet pop vocals allow for a juxtaposition of elements that would normally clash and make for an unpleasant experience, yet still pay off and deliver a pleasant surprise, much like a Sour Patch Kid.



CARLOS
SUCRE-PARRA

Yet, despite these contrasting elements in their sound, their first album, “Treats,” was a success, attracting both indie tastes with its image and the mainstream public with its catchy, borderline jock jam songs that resemble football arena chants more than overwrought melodies.

It was easy to hop on the bandwagon and have a good time with the tunes, as the simple, often yelled-out lyrics inherently demand for the listener to have fun.

“Reign of Terror,” their second effort, places a certain dilemma for the band: maintain the same sound and face the risk of seeming dated, or depart from their initial image, become more ambitious, and seek greater artistic payoff?

In general, while there are minor changes to the approach of the songs, which have richer sounds and heavier layers and instrumentation thanks to better production, “Reign of Terror” sounds flat and lethargic in spirits and composition; it does nothing to further improve the band’s signature sound nor its image.

The contrast in sounds and vocals that became Sleigh Bells’ claim to fame is tough to replicate.

It requires a great level of precision and production in order to make this particular style accessible to the public, yet displaying raw power and emotion



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

Members of the noise pop group, Alexis Krauss [right] and Derek Miller [left].

in a controlled manner, an orderly chaos that proved hard to reproduce, even for its own authors, as it happens in this second album.

What once seemed exciting and energetic seems simply disorganized and dull—a messy injection of layer upon layer of sound, often discordant just for its own sake, with no real sense of purpose.

This absence of sonic unity, in turn, leads to disinterest on the part of the listener, something that may not necessarily be considered a negative, as the album blows through in a rather brief 36 minutes.

The album lacks any catchy, easy sing-along tracks like “Rill Rill,” the closest to this being “Comeback Kid,” which has overcomplicated synth, drum machine percussion and metal riffs, and often sounds more like an amateur mixture of Cradle of Filth, Mariah Carey and southern hip-hop than past tracks’ rhythm and cohesive stomp and clap qualities, which can be found in “Crown on the Ground.”

Over the course of the production of the album, Derek Miller and Alexis Krauss expressed how the album would

take a much darker turn, lyrically and melodically, with a heavier emphasis in instrumentation and pulsating rhythms.

Based on these descriptions, I expected a heavier rock-based version of “Crystal Castles,” but instead found myself confused, wondering the record’s goal.

While, indeed, the lyrics have taken a more complex turn, one is not really expecting epic stories or a much deeper personal songbook, considering the starting point contained tracks such as “A/B Machines,” which was nothing more than two verses repeated over and over again.

Musically, the tracks contain a much higher level of production, but its tame sound speaks badly for the work done. All charm gone, it truly is tragic to see a band often defended as “mindless yet fun music” has a total absence of fun.

The crown is on the ground, but it is not a certain thing if anyone will pick it up if you were born to lose.

Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column. Carlos Sucre-Parra is a DJ at WRGP Radiate FM. Email him at carlos.sucrepra@fiusm.com

Colors, prints and stripes gain popularity in fall

NYFW, PAGE 5

the side seam of jeans, shorts or trousers.

While most of the above have been done before, albeit not without twists here and there, there were a few completely new ideas.

Alexander Wang introduced a lot of textured leather in various colors, as well as 3.1 Phillip Lim with a suede-green leather jacket that I cannot get out of my head. Lim also presented subtle bell sleeves on sweaters and jackets that surprisingly do not look like costumes.

Metallic accents in unlikely colors, like green and orange, were all over Rag and Bone and Theyskens’ Theory in the form of military jackets and boleros.

My absolute favorite looks were by Derek Lam and Victoria Beckham. Lam’s inverted lace prints were to die for, but I mostly

fell in love with his all-white ensembles.

The contrast of cozy knits with sheer, long skirts in creme and white is easily replicable and totally chic.

Beckham’s collection was all body-conscious dresses with either a short voluminous skirt or a long straight skirt.

What I love about her collection is the simplicity of the lines and the bold colors, allowing you to picture yourself wearing it all as you see it in an image.

There are six months between now and when these collections hit stores, which is a flaw of the fashion industry, but it does give me the time to think about what I will really want to be wearing next year.

Haute Topic is a weekly fashion column. Look for it every Wednesday this spring. Email her at esra.erdogan@fiusm.com.

FALL TIPS

Buy: Bell sleeves, white jeans, prints
Keep: Colorful pants, oversized blazers
Toss: Black

Local artists give fun performance

ARBOLES, PAGE 8

Even Miami blues-man, Jesse Jackson looked as if he had fallen head over heels for this seven piece.

And then, cue Arboles Libres.

It’s pretty difficult followup the type of performance that Ketchy Shuby put on, and even for a seasoned act like Arboles Libres, a bit of excitement that had the crowd bouncing around like preschoolers on trampolines was lost by the guitar driven three piece.

Fortunately, the crowd was loaded enough to go from ballroom salsa dancing to a belligerent sway.

Consisting of two guitars and a drum set, Arboles’ driving force is the strength of their guitars and their ability to make even the sternest of the rock gods shed a tear of joy while the guitarists had more shredding going on than an Enron accounting department circa 2001.

With a bit of metal, a dash of blues, and a trip down rabbit hole, the set was brought to a close with the members of Ketchy Shuby joining Arboles Libres on stage filling the pint-sized Churchill’s stage with 10 guys jamming to a 10 minute cover of The Grateful Dead’s Fire on the Mountain that caused my heart to grow triple its size.

With a three song encore wrapping up a three hour show that had members of both bands shuffling on and off the stage bringing different personalities within the different sets, I can’t help but give this show two thumbs up.

The crowd was jamming, the bands were having a blast and it oozed out of each note played, and the venue was vibrating with the sounds that do justice to the three decades of Miami music history that has set off the careers of countless local acts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

22

WEDNESDAY

SGA APPLICATIONS ARE DUE
WHEN: 5 p.m.

CLUB FOR MINDFUL CONCIIOUS LIVING WELCOME MEETING
WHEN: 12-12:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free to public
WHERE: MMC RDB 2001

SGC BBC LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS: RUSSELL SIMMONS
WHEN: 6:30-7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Tickets are available at the WUC Info Desk
WHERE: BBC WUC Ballroom

TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS IN TURBULENT TIMES
WHEN: 4:30-5:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC SIPA 125

TARGET WEDNESDAY AFTER HOURS
WHEN: 6-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: The Frost Art Museum

MEET WITH A PROFESSIONAL MBA ADVISER
WHEN: 3-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC CBC 200

23

THURSDAY

FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC DEPARTMENTAL RECITAL
WHEN: 3:30-5:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

MYERS-BRIGGS TYPE INDICATOR: UNDERSTANDING YOUR PERSONALITY TYPE (PART 2)*
WHEN: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 316

MIAMI HERALD SMALL BUSINESS FORUM
WHEN: 8-1 p.m.
WHERE: FIU’s College of Business Complex, Ocean Bank Auditorium

BSU AND ATHLETICS “BLACK OUT BASKETBALL GAME”
WHERE: US Century Bank Arena

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

DELAY YOUR DREAM

Early graduation not worth extra student debt

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

Students become increasingly indebted to their college or university by borrowing loans to advance in their studies, unaware that they may not find a job with a salary adequate enough to pay that debt in a timely manner.

According to an article published on Feb. 1 by Julia Duba for FIU Student Media on the subject of the Pell Grant summer term cancellation, “The amount of money University students owe after graduation is approximately \$7,000 below the national average.”

This is still a large enough sum that some students will eventually need to deal with all because of this idea of wanting to graduate early.

Delaying one’s graduation date continues to receive a bad reputation despite the opportunities of being debtless as well as the additional time that can be used to gain the necessary experience for their field.

Since the University requires summer term credits in order to graduate, it is understandable when some students resort to loans for a term in which some aid might be limited, especially now that the Pell Grant has been

cancelled for summer terms.

I advise you to take classes during fall or spring, which are the semesters when students are eligible to receive a Pell Grant.

Limiting the borrowing of loans during fall and spring terms is trickier, though, because some aid, such as Bright Futures, require students to take a certain number of credits to maintain their aid. This means students cannot necessarily decrease the number of courses they are taking for the sake of being debtless, even though their aid might not fully cover tuition without loans.

Still, students should take the opportunity of remaining as debt free as possible, even if it means delaying their graduation date.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey of 2009-2010, unemployment rates for some majors, such as engineering, business, law, and psychology, were all within the range of six to 15 percent for recent college graduates.

In contrast, most unemployment rates significantly dropped to the three to six percent range the more experienced the college graduate was.

Besides being in debt, students could also be incapable of paying their debt if their rushed degree does not lead them to

“**Students should take the opportunity of remaining as debt free as possible, even if it means delaying their graduation date.**”

the career with the necessary salary to start paying it off.

As mentioned in an article published on Jan. 12 by Paolo Ramos for FIU Student Media on the subject of a stable employment, “The unemployment rate for college graduates is at an all-time high of 5.1 percent.”

Employers are seeking applicants with experience rather than those having only the degree itself.

Instead of looking at delaying graduation in a bad light, students should see it as more time to further prepare themselves for their field.

It is not enough to simply attend class. Student should instead use the time presented to seek experience wherever they can find it. Furthermore, opportunities for experience is

one thing our University does not lack.

As stated by Ramos, “The University offers career services that introduces students to important aspects of the professional world, offer networking opportunities and provide consultations with those already employed in various industries.”

In addition, Ramos stated that “Many departments and organizations within the school also have connections with internships that students should take advantage of to get a head start in their careers.”

The possibility of being debtless and the opportunity of gaining experience in their fields with the time presented should encourage students to not rush through college, as much as they may want to graduate as early as possible.

CLASS DISMISSED

Government losing grip on education

Several states finally get to leave the No Child Left Behind Act in the dust -- and for great reason.

COLUMNIST



JASMYN ELLIOTT

As of late, 11 states have been given waivers that have freed them from the No Child Left Behind standards, enabling them to create their own school grading systems according to the state’s needs.

Florida was among this precious few, and I, for one, am ecstatic.

According to an article in *The Miami Herald*, under the No Child Left Behind Act, 100 percent of students in the state are required to be proficient in reading and math by 2014 in the hopes that minority and disadvantaged students will be able to reach their full potential.

Instead, the law has done more harm than good by labeling entire schools as “failures” and leaving them to help themselves without any resources while high performance schools received praise and funding.

It widened the very gap that it was trying to bridge together.

Furthermore, it tied the hands of our teachers by giving them a rigid curriculum that, while preparing students for a standardized test, left them grossly

unprepared for the rigors of a college education.

“**College and careers are not a series of standardized tests, and it’s about time our teachers are freed from teaching as if they are.**”

Other states have also failed under No Child Left Behind. New Mexico, the latest state to receive a waiver, had a 90 percent failure rate under federal standards, according to *The Huffington Post*.

While other factors may be at play, clearly the rigid standards of No Child Left Behind did little to raise New Mexico’s educational profile.

This also shows that this state, and others, must be free to set their own educational standards.

As more states apply for, and hopefully receive, waivers from No Child

Left Behind, I look forward to state governments being able to take back their educational systems.

With this freedom, they can concentrate their education dollars, as scant as they may be, on issues relevant to their state’s educational system.

Also, by allowing the states the power to tailor their educational standards to the needs of the students within their borders, they will cease with this one-size-fits-all nonsense.

I look forward to the time that states no longer have to teach to the test and are able to teach students with an eye toward college and career, which is a plan all states applying a waiver must submit for review in order to receive one.

While I understand the merit behind former President George W. Bush’s plan, the rigid standards did little to nothing to help the country improve its quality of education.

College and careers are not a series of standardized tests, and it’s about time our teachers are freed from teaching as if they are.

As Obama stated in reference to this move, “What might work in Minnesota might not work in Kentucky.”

In fact, it hasn’t worked at all.

“*Class Dismissed*” is a weekly column critiquing education in America.

Email jasmyn.elliott@fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

Smoking ban needs enforcement

“Ban” is a pretty strong way of labeling the approach the University has taken towards smoking on campus. It has been over a year since FIU first implemented its University-wide smoking ban, and we have yet to see evidence of it at any campus.

While we are not condoning smoking or disregarding the health risks associated with it, *The Beacon* suggests that the smoking ban, as it is currently enforced, does not ban much.

Regardless of which campus one might frequent, the odds of seeing someone smoking on campus are high. If a regulation such as this, is going to be implemented, it needs to be enforced.

As the smoking ban currently stands, any one who witnesses the use of tobacco on campus is to verbally address the person and hand over an information card on the ban’s specifics.

Not only is this method of enforcement unrealistic (How likely is it that students will go to acquire these cards?), but it was only meant to be in place for the first six months of regulation. If the University is going to consider itself tobacco-free then there must be consequences for those who go against it.

Without real enforcement or a tangible set of disciplinary consequences, all the smoking ban ensures is that there won’t be any ashtrays for the disposal of cigarettes.

While addiction to tobacco is clearly unhealthy, we respect a person’s choice to do what is legally within rights to their body. Residential students or faculty and staff that spend the day on any campus still find a way to smoke, and not providing them with any place to dispose or smoke their cigarettes simply increases pollution.

We are not suggesting a reversal on the ban, but encouraging the development of a formal sanction of regulations. Until then, perhaps the signs in front of every doorway should read, “kind of a smoke free campus.”

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in (550 word maximum) to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor-in-chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com

HOSPITALITY

Tip based laborers battling a potential drop in minimum wage

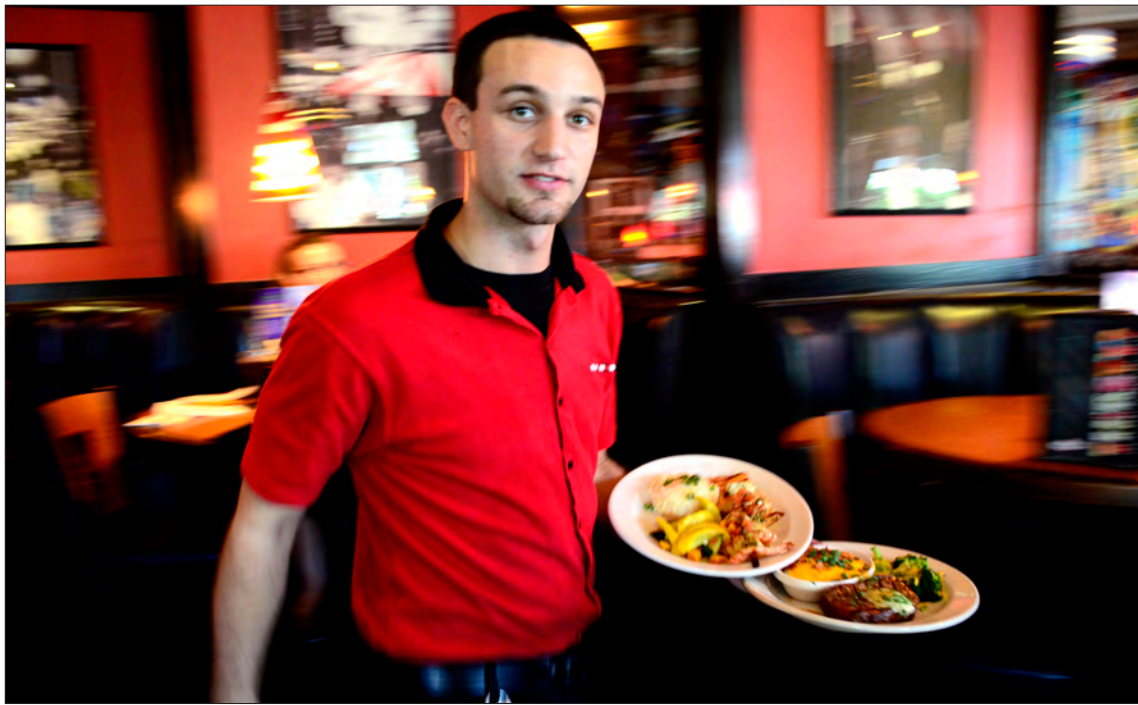
DEONDRAL CLARK
Contributing Writer
bbc@fiusm.com

In the state of Florida, restaurant waiters/waitresses, bartenders, and other workers who make their living off of tips, are outraged about a bill that is being pushed by the Florida Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.

The proposed bill, SPB 7210, will allow restaurants to slash Florida's minimum wage for servers from \$4.65 to \$2.13 an hour, provided that the restaurants guarantee that their workers would make at least \$9.98 an hour after tips.

The bill has conflicted views between the restaurant owners who are supporters of the bill and the servers who are against it. Supporters argue that the bill is needed to help the state's restaurant industry. Opponents say that it is 'ridiculous' that they would even try to cut wages with the way the economy is now.

Students and faculty in the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management opined that it will have a long term negative effect for the industry. They also



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Jason Lemon, senior hospitality student, grinds it out during his Feb. 20 afternoon shift at T.G.I. Fridays around the corner of the Biscayne Bay Campus.

feel that the cost of living is rising and wages seem to be diminishing.

"If they make a good amount of tips, it doesn't matter what they are getting from the employer, the tips balances their pay and guarantees the workers a check," said Rakesh Kamal, a Senior Teaching

Lab Specialist and Food Labs Manager.

That balance is not always certain, however.

"It could be hot and cold in terms of wages," said Kennard Rutkowski, an Academic Advisor in CSHTM, who doesn't feel

wages should be cut. "The \$4.65 minimum wage, plus the employee meals, plus tips, which is an average of 15-20 percent, can be very lucrative in a good restaurant. On the other hand, those restaurants that do not have a high volume of customers, the wages

could be inadequate."

Freshman hospitality and tourism management major Rebekah Knight concurs that the money from tips will not always compensate for a drop in wages.

"I don't believe the minimum wage for tipped employees should be cut," Knight said. "Servers and waiters who work the evening shifts get the most tips. What will happen to the morning shift servers?"

Supporters of the bill argue that it is needed to save the state's restaurant industry. The CEO of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, Carol Dover, told *The Orlando Sentinel* that the current \$4.65 minimum for tipped workers is "killing" her members.

"It's ridiculous. Servers' pay has always been low because it is anticipated that they make 20 percent from gratuity, which is not the case. Very rarely do restaurants mandate that servers receive 20 percent of tips," said Sharee Brice, hospitality and tourism Management major.

"When they do, they don't take into account that servers have to pay out of their tips the bus boys and other people that get tipped out from servers."

JOURNALISM

New York Times editors to teleconference with students

MALORIE DIAZ
Contributing Writer
bbc@fiusm.com

A live teleconference with two editors from *The New York Times* at the Biscayne Bay Campus will engage students on Feb. 23 and 29 to discuss civic involvement and global awareness.

According to Graduate Assistant of the Office of Global Learning Initiatives Eric Feldman, the topic on Feb. 23 will be 'Civic Engagement,' which will cover the importance of involvement in the community. Dean Boquet, N.Y. Times managing editor for news, will lead the conference.

On Feb. 29, the topic will be 'Global Awareness,' and how it is urgent for students to know what is going on around the world.

The conferences will be from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in Wolfe University Center 223 for both events.

Joe Kahn, N.Y. Times foreign editor, will host the event, where he will discuss the importance of global awareness among students.

Feldman said the editors were chosen by *The New York Times* to lead the teleconferences and the Times invited FIU to be one of the participants because of their strong academic partnership with the news outlet.

The partnership is known as the New York Times Readership Program and its purpose is to provide an abundance of resources for students both inside and outside the classroom.

These include funding, lectures, student essay contests, and access to *The New York Times* on campus.

Since classes from various departments and disciplines will be invited, a large turnout is expected.

According to Feldman, FIU Global Learning has partnered with the FIU Honors College and the

Student Government Association for the teleconferences.

In addition, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications was invited to ensure that a large variety of students gain as much out of it as possible.

During this time students will be able to have questions answered by

submitting them in real time via chat or telephone.

Participation from their own computers or telephones is an option, but there will also be a designated room for both dates available.

The organization will provide free pizza to attendees for their participation, and students are also encour-

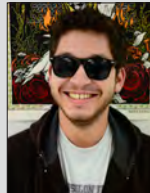
aged to network amongst each other and confer the issues from their own perspectives.

"The primary goal of the Global Learning Initiative is for our students to develop a sense of global awareness, a global perspective, and an attitude of global engagement," said Feldman.

BEAT STREET

One night, three years in the making

With every kick of the bass drum a cloud of dust and ash from the past three decades of local acts rises from the ground like the holy ghost tending to its flock at Churchill's Pub.



JONATHAN SZYDLO

After three years as a band, and countless shows throughout the Miami scene, Arboles Libres threw themselves a birthday party on Feb. 18 with Ketchy Shuby opening up the shindig and setting the bouncing off the walls vibe of the night.

The show kicked off at midnight, and in no small part thanks to Ketchy Shuby's amazing showmanship, the seven piece

band turned Churchill's into a scene straight out of Animal House, you know, the one where they stumble into Otis Day and the Knights playing Shout.

Needless to say, the crowd was getting down, like Downtown Julie Brown. You had shoeless vixens on the left and lady killers on the right, all of which got together for a sloppy dance party with all dignity lost in the wind.

Ketchy weaved back and forth through the musical realms with some Beatles like tunes that had the sax man put own the brass and pick up the flute sending his band mates into a synchronized shuffle, to the surfer rock drum beats that lead to the closing of their set that gave a Ramones meets salsa feel.



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

SEE ARBOLES, PAGE 6

Arboles Libres takes the stage at Churchill's Pub on Feb. 18 for their three year anniversary show.