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Transgender students face insurance issues at University

ALYSSA ELISO
Contributing Writer

An increasing number of universities throughout the nation are offering transgender students health insurance plans that cover gender reassignment surgery and hormone therapy.

In the last decade, activists have fought to acquire recognition for transgender needs on campus, beginning with the acknowledgment of a student's name change to allowing them to use the bathroom of their choosing. Progress has so far been made, as Harvard, Stanford, Emory and Cornell universities are now providing transgender students with insurance that covers gender reassignment surge.

According to the voluntary insurance plan offered to students through University Health Services, sexual reassignment surgery and hormone therapy are currently not covered under the University's insurance.

"Any time that a transgender student comes to us, our first step would be to identify at what

stage of the gender identity process the student is in and the steps we can take to getting them assistance," said Oscar Loynaz, director of University Health Services. "We will also work with the Counseling and Psychological Services center to further identify their needs."

In determining whether universities should cover sex-change surgeries, debate has risen between insurance companies and doctors.

Insurance companies consider gender reassignment surgeries and hormone therapy as elective surgeries and treatments that are not eligible for the University medical plan coverage, while doctors from the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association state that sex-change surgeries are medically necessary and essential to the well-being of the transgender individual.

The latest university to offer this coverage to students, Brown University, will announce its plan to cover sexual reassignment surgery in August 2013, becoming the 36th



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Over 300 students gathered in front of Deuxieme Maison to participate in the University's rendition of the popular 'Harlem Shake' video that became viral on YouTube. The rendition was organized by freshmen David Armas (second row, center-left, Stormtrooper helmet) and Michael Robla (right of Armas, shirtless, with a guitar hero remote).

university to offer this coverage to students.

Gender reassignment surgery includes a variety of procedures that alter the anatomy to create physical traits of the opposite gender. Psychological counseling and some form of hormone treatment usually follow the surgery.

As universities are slowly beginning to recognize transgender students, the Human Rights Campaign, a civil rights

organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans, reported that about one-quarter of Fortune 500 companies offer health plans that cover sex changes in addition to hormone therapy.

As FIU does not currently offer treatment options through the University's insurance plan, students can reach out to the Univer-

sity's LGBT community, clubs and organizations for support including the GLBT Advocacy Coalition, Rainbow Panthers, Stonewall Legal Alliance, and Stonewall Pride Alliance.

Six years ago colleges and universities offered no such treatment for transgender students.

According to the Transgender Law and Policy Institute, the number of universities offering

health insurance plans has since increased as today 36 colleges offer hormone and gender reassignment surgery, and an additional 25 only cover hormone treatment.

The University Health Services insurance meeting will take place on February 27 from 9 a.m. to noon, to discuss health plan coverage for the upcoming academic year.

-news@fiusm.com

Law School introduces new graduate degree for foreigners

VICTORIA RONDEROS
Contributing Writer

The College of Law has announced its new graduate degree, the Masters of Law. The degree is a one-year residential course of study for foreign graduate law students.

Through the Masters of Law, or LL.M, Program, students will have a chance to study, practice, experience and understand the concepts of American law and legal institutions.

Matthew C. Mirow, associate dean of the International and Graduate Studies and director of the LL.M Program, said the degree has been in the works since 2010.

"I was appointed at the beginning of the summer of 2010 by Dean Alex Acosta and it was one of the things he wanted to make a priority for the law school,"

said Mirow. "He said we needed an LL.M program, so we began working on that."

There are 24 credits: two required courses, one recommended course, and electives.

The program's electives will be subjective to the student. It will allow students to choose classes in whichever specialty they would like to study, with environmental law, real estate development, international trade, and taxation being the most popular studies, according to Mirow.

"If you've got somebody coming in, who wants to do a lot of international courses, if they're available in the curriculum, that student can do those," said Mirow. "If they want to focus in business law, and they decide to take business organizations, corporate tax, securities regu-

“It's good to know something about U.S Law, particularly if you're going to be working with U.S lawyers, but also for the legal English part of it.”

Matthew C. Mirow
Associate Dean and Director
International and Graduate Studies and LL.M Program

lations, all of the courses that are bundled around in that area, they can do those as well."

A national survey from July 2012 shows that most LL.M students in the United States come from China, Saudi Arabia and South Korea. The

program is open to all students from all countries around the world, but they are hoping to attract South American and Caribbean students in particular.

"Being here in South Florida, we are hopefully looking to draw

students from around the world, particularly from Latin America and the Caribbean. Miami, as a location, is a big draw for those students," Mirow said.

Mirow said that many students from around the world are interested in practicing American law.

"It's good to know something about U.S Law, particularly if you're going to be working with U.S lawyers, but also for the legal English part of it. To really gain a competency to be able to deal with law in English, is something that takes time to be in a place to do that," Mirow said.

The LL.M program will begin during the fall 2014 semester. The application deadline is March 15, 2014.

-news@fiusm.com

WORLD NEWS

Egypt’s military signals impatience with president

Egypt’s powerful military is showing signs of growing impatience with the country’s Islamist leaders, indirectly criticizing their policies and issuing thinly veiled threats that it might seize power again.

The tension is raising the specter of another military intervention much like the one in 2011, when generals replaced longtime authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak after they sided with anti-regime protesters in their 18-day popular uprising.

The strains come at a time when many Egyptians are despairing of an imminent end to the crippling political impasse between President Mohammed Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood group on one side, and the mostly secular and liberal opposition on the other.

The tug of war between the two camps is being waged against a grim backdrop of spreading unrest, rising crime and a worsening economy.

NATO and Afghan forces kill 25 insurgents

NATO and Afghan forces have killed at least 25 insurgents and three of their commanders in separate operations around the country, Afghan and coalition officials said Wednesday.

The size and scope of the latest operations were an indication that the Afghan war is far from over after 11 years of conflict, even as U.S. and foreign forces begin rapidly withdrawing and handing the lead role for security to the Afghans.

Fighting is also expected to intensify as the traditional spring fighting season gets under way after the heavy snows that blanket much of northern and eastern Afghanistan starts melting.

Serbia withdraws suspected toxic milk

Serbian officials ordered some brands of milk taken off store shelves Wednesday, despite earlier claims that they were safe and not dangerously contaminated with a potentially cancer-causing toxin.

The order came after widespread public outrage over allegations that health authorities have for weeks been hiding the results of lab tests which reportedly show that much of the milk sold in Serbia contains high levels of aflatoxins, a fungus linked to mildewed cattle feed that can cause cancer if consumed in high doses.

Authorities have not published a list of the brands that have been ordered out of shops, saying they were waiting for results of tests being conducted in the Netherlands.

Lima’s reformist mayor battles to stay in office

After becoming the first woman ever elected to run Peru’s capital, Susana Villaran did what no modern predecessor had dared: She tried to bring order and transparency to a metropolis plagued by widespread corruption and a chaotic, patronage-thick transit system swollen with aging, smog-belching taxis and buses.

The 63-year-old career human rights defender didn’t flinch. She wrestled with powerful rackets to relocate the city’s unsanitary, crime-hounded wholesale market. And her campaign to clean up public transit is beginning to show results, with bus drivers starting to heed designated stops and traffic moving more smoothly in much of the city center as buses stick to designated lanes.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

Meteorites fly over South Florida and the world

JESSICA MESZAROS
BRANDON WISE
FIUSM Staff

When you wish upon a star, make sure it stays in the sky first.

Residents of South Florida looked up on Sunday, Feb. 17 and saw a ball of light resembling a meteor in the sky. The sighting duration was recorded at about three seconds.

Two days prior to the South Florida sighting, Russia witnessed a meteor blazing across the western Siberian sky. The meteor exploded with the force of 20 atomic bombs, injuring more than 1,000 people as it blasted out windows and spread panic in a city of 1 million, according to the Associated Press.

These are fairly common occurrences, according to physics and astronomy professor Walter Van Hamme.

“It’s basically the solid piece of material hitting a dense area in the atmosphere,” said Van Hamme. “It’s very similar to throwing a snowball against a wall, for example. As soon as it hits the wall, the impact will break down the object.”

Professor of Physics James Webb recalled

seeing a similar meteor when he was studying at the University of Florida as a graduate student in the 1980s.

“I actually saw a fairly bright one when I was a grad student, it exploded over Gainesville in 1988,” said Webb. “It wasn’t as big as the one in Russia, it didn’t do any damage.”

The largest recorded meteor strike in more than a century occurred hours before a 150-foot asteroid passed within about 17,000 miles (28,000 kilometers) of Earth.

The European Space Agency said its experts had determined there was no connection between the asteroid and the Russian meteor — just cosmic coincidence, according to the AP.

The AP reported that the shock wave blew in an estimated 100,000 square meters (more than 1 million square feet) of glass, according to city officials, who said 3,000 buildings in Chelyabinsk were damaged. In addition, part of the roof collapsed at a zinc factory.

“In all likelihood most of the damage was caused by the shock wave. As the object collides with the atmosphere, this sort of shock propagates through

“A lot of this stuff is avoidable. We have the technology.”

James Webb
Professor
Physics

the atmosphere,” said Van Hamme. He added that the amount of shock would shatter glass windows.

Daniella Roberts, treasurer of the Astronomy Club, described what people saw over South Florida was similar to the one that hit Russia, but not quite the same.

“The report in Miami wasn’t an impact, it burned up in the atmosphere,” Roberts said. “We saw the ball of fire and it dissipated. Those are actually what we call shooting stars.”

Van Hamme said that meteorites are difficult to detect. He said that if they are out of the earth’s atmosphere, they are typically small and dark. Even a “big telescope” could miss it, he said.

The only thing that civilians can do to help the detection of meteorites, according to Van Hamme, is to “support NASA in

their endeavors to observe the skies as much as they can to catalog all the available pieces of asteroids and material that are floating out there.”

However, Webb believes that without an active space program, it is like we are giving up our ability to track these asteroids.

“The big one, like the asteroid that just missed us, we can track. We have the capability and technology to do something about it before it becomes an issue, Webb said. “If we can detect it early enough, we can calculate their orbits and see if they will be a threat or not.”

Without an active space program, Webb thinks that the planet is at risk of similar situations to the one that occurred in Russia.

“A lot of this stuff is avoidable,” said Webb. “We have the technology.”

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CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 65 in the article titled, “Writing Center offering more than just writing help,” the story attributed the Center for Academic Success as the Writing Center. It should have read throughout the story as the Center for Academic Success instead of the Writing Center.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

METEOR FACTS

- 34,513 recorded findings of meteors since 2,300 B.C.
- Largest crater located in Arizona measures 43 miles in diameter.

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The Bacon, delivering the ‘real’ news

LOURDES GINART
Staff Writer

What do headlines like “Artwork on MMC Campus to be Censored,” “CIO Uses Tech Fee Money To Build Office Out Of iPads,” and “Quiet Asian Student Still Waiting for Professor To Show Up” have in common?

They are the hard-hitting investigative articles of FIU’s prestigious newspaper: The Bacon.

Aside from The Beacon, a mere shadow for a newspaper compared to FIU’s other student media, there lies a newspaper one of a kind.

The Bacon covers the scandalous, political, and day-to-day stories of the University – or used to, keep reading for more deets.

The Bacon has reported news far more in-depth than The Beacon–articles like the potential for zebra and leopard to be FIU’s new school colors, and the school’s new parking violation policy: vandalism.

The Bacon even surfaced information that The Beacon printed false and made-up information; found in an interview they had with the paper’s editor-in-chief, Lazaro Mercadante.

Funny, I’m a staff writer and never met the guy. In its superiority, The Bacon has even found the funds to publish studies!

The latest study, “Most MDC Transfer Students Can Neither Read Nor Write,” showed the lack of education Miami Dade College students receive versus FIU students.

Not only did this study find MDC students obtain an extremely poor education, it also showed that MDC has resorted to hiring animals as teachers, like Assistant Professor Barky Henderson, a golden retriever who teaches algebra at MDC.

Apart from conducting studies, The Bacon also seems to have the upper hand on reporting stories; their writers have the luck to be in the right place at the right time.

Last year, one of The Bacon’s writers witnessed former football coach Mario Cristobal win a bar fight against three men.

You couldn’t pay for that type of coverage! The Bacon, delivering “FIU News So Hot, It’s Sizzling,” was founded in 2011 by the same students who conduct the FIU Meme Generators, or better known as “those guys in morphsuits and Guy Fawkes masks.”

But tragedy struck when The Bacon staff mysteriously disappeared after Spring 2012.

The Bacon’s website remains running not only to keep alive the memories of the missing writers, but to remind students that there was once a true newspaper on campus. The type of newspaper students could depend on for the latest news, outbreaks, or student life. Whether it be the measures students are taking to avoid old friends or the newest addition to FIU’s athletics departments, NFL star Brett Favre.

But seriously, The Bacon is a satirical newspaper that began last year by “those guys in morphsuits and Guy Fawkes mask.”

This article is intended to be satirical.

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Vending machines, authorizing annoyance

AARON PABON
Staff Writer

Everyday, a handful of students at the University will make a gamble.

That gamble: trying to make a purchase at the vending machine.

Many times, vending machines designed for our convenience rise up and decide to steal students’ money.

Sometimes the issue is the machine will simply eat your money, other times your prized snack is stuck hanging from a coil. But living in the 21st century, our “first-world problem” has evolved and transferred over to the card readers.

The use of the card was designed to make buying something from the vending machines easier, but even the card readers have been plagued with problems.

They almost never work.

The reader display will often say “cash only” and others are not even connected to a network to even read cards. You will, however, occasionally find the one that looks like it will work.

Looks like.

You pull out your FIU One Card and swipe it. You then see the pack of Pop Tarts that will hold you over in your two hour class. You punch in the code to buy it, but the display tells you to “make another selection.”

Dumbfounded by this, you make another selection, but it also doesn’t work.

After trying every code, you give up and hit the red button that will cancel your selection, but the display still says to “make another selection.”

Sometimes the machine will charge your card for all of the selections you made.

Recently, I tried to purchase a muffin from a machine in the Graham Center. I had the “make another selection”

“Many times, vending machines designed for our convenience rise up and decide to steal students money.”

issue, so I settled on a bag of cookies. The screen then said “authorizing request.” I waited about three minutes, hoping that the coils would turn.

After punching the code three more times to make the purchase, I gave up. I decided to hit the red “cancel payment” button, but the display still read “authorizing request.”

I went to the ATM to make a withdrawal, and was surprised to notice that the “purchase” from the vending had went through and charged my card.

While you can go to the OneCard office to get a refund, this is a major inconvenience.

I ask FIU to fix the readers, connect them to the network, or just get rid of them.

I would rather elbow check a machine with my snack hanging by the coils than deal with an untrusting card reader.

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Girl hate, a misleading stereotype

CHELSEA KLAIBER
Contributing Writer

Lately I’ve been hearing so many different versions of the same idea: women make poor friends to other women, they’re always out to steal your boyfriend and most are conniving human beings out to get you.

I admit, I used to have these same thoughts...when I was 13.

Luckily, I’ve gained more wisdom over time, and realize that these thoughts

are far from the truth, and only something we perpetuate because of internal misogyny.

The reality is that women make up more than half of the world’s population, and it’s just not fair to hold all 3.5 billion of them to this standard.

And oddly enough, I only ever hear other women saying these things, not men. Do they realize that if “all women are catty/two-faced/backstabbers,” then they are also included

in that stereotype?

If someone truly is having constant failed friendships with other women, they need to evaluate exactly what caused all of this.

I’m willing to bet that most of the time it’s not due to someone being a “catty girl,” but a self-fulfilling prophecy of the cultural expectations that women do behave this way.

I do, however, understand the sentiment that it can seem daunting trying to find friends with whom we can relate.

But it’s important to remember that there is no monolithic “woman.”

Women come in all shapes, all sizes, and all skin colors.

Not all women are the stereotypical shopping-obsessed cheerleader that popular culture likes to make us out to be (though some are into those things- and hey, that’s just fine, too).

My best female friends

and I share the same hobbies. We bond over our love for geeky stuff – video games, anime, and attending conventions.

I am so grateful to have these amazing, smart, talented women as my friends, and I can’t imagine not having them in my life because I was too narrow-minded to even give them a chance.

As for the common “I’m just one of the guys” mindset, I find this unfair to both men and women. Why do we need to put down women who we may not have much in common with?

The truth is, a good friend will love you despite your differences.

Open-mindedness is the key to creating and maintaining friendships with all people, men and women alike. You never know what you’re missing out on if you refuse to give someone a chance.

-opinion@fiusm.com

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

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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Music helps ADHD students to concentrate

EDWIVE SEME
Staff Writer

New research by the University's Center for Children and Families shows that listening to music might help students with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder concentrate more.

According to William E. Pelham, researcher and director of the CCF, lab experiments have failed to show that ADHD students are more distractible than other students.

Teachers, however, often say the opposite, claiming that they are terrible students who have difficulty focusing.

"So we decided to conduct a study that would observe students in a classroom setting," said Pelham.

Television and music theoretically being the biggest distractors to kids, the CCF decided to use those as their distractors in the experiment.

Pelham explained that the group consisted of ADHD students and normal students.

Some days there would be no distractions present, or there would be a TV monitor in the front of the class, and other days speakers would play rock music in the classroom. Students were instructed to do their work and not get distracted.

As the CCF expected, television distracted everyone – however, it distracted the ADHD students more.

Other students were able to cope and get work done while glancing at the monitor frequently, whereas the ADHD students got much less work done.

The center expected music to have the same effect because of everything teachers said.



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Research shows listening to music, as sophomore psychology major Blanca Diaz is doing, helps students with ADHD concentrate more.

"All the teachers in the country are saying that ADHD students are easily distracted by everything that happens in the classroom, so we thought anything that we did would distract them," said Pelham.

Playing rock music, however, didn't decrease the work done by the group and its accuracy. Only a few kids, both normal and ADHD, were distracted.

"On a vast majority of the ADHD kids, compared to the other kids, music had no [bad] effect at all," Pelham said. "In fact when we looked at individual

patterns, some of the ADHD students actually did more work and were more accurate when there was music playing."

According to Pelham, about 15 percent of the ADHD students completed about 20 percent more work when music was playing in the classroom.

"So really, it was a pretty significant effect," said Pelham.

While music might not be used as treatment, the CCF is doing other studies on intervention treatment, a method that involves setting rules and having positive and negative consequences

to create behavior modifications. Intervention treatment might be better than medication in the long term.

According to Pelham, medication has commendable short term effects and long term benefits, but behavior modification can last longer.

However, it's a harder and longer process; behavior modification has to be done consistently at home for the child to learn new behavior patterns.

"You can give a child medication for 10 years, but if you stop and compare him [or her] to

a child who was never on medication, they're technically the same," Pelham said. "Behavior modification could and should be used instead of medication."

According to Pelham, if music can help ADHD students, it might be able to do the same for college students although it might vary from individual to individual.

"If you're wondering whether or not music distracts or helps you in your studies, you should try and experiment on yourself," advised Pelham.

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Bard College president, next lecturer in CHUE's lecture series

JUNETTE REYES
Staff Writer

Leon Botstein, conductor and president of Bard College, will present the next lecture in The Center for the Humanities's Spring 2013 series, "Exile, the Arts and Patronage."

CHUE and the Exile Studies Program have partnered with the lecture series Exile, the Arts and Patronage of Spring 2013.

Botstein's lecture, "The Exiled Intellectual and the American University," will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 25 in the Graham Center in Room 243.

Botstein will discuss Bard College's role as

patron of the arts, particularly of exiled artists.

Botstein was born in Zurich, Switzerland and is the son of Polish refugees. He is described as a "highly acclaimed conductor and impresario," in addition to being an educator and writer.

"Bard College itself has been a shelter for exiles, especially academic exiles, intellectual exiles, for decades," said Dr. Michael P. Gillespie, the director of CHUE.

Gillespie said the majority of people who come to the events are exiled in Miami or have direct experience with exiles.

"What we are doing together is keeping the

discussion of exiles in the forefront of people's consciousness," said Gillespie.

This is one direction Gillespie is taking CHUE.

"Our aim is to foster conversations on the humanities in South Florida," said Gillespie. "We are here to talk to people from South Florida, who already have a very great sense of the Humanities, to let them know how we feel about certain issues and to learn from them on other issues."

CHUE was certified in April 2011 and has featured lectures that touch upon issues such as the importance of the humanities as well as opposing views, the business side of

medicine in terms of the complications of health-care costs, the representations of violence in cinema in terms of its usefulness and whether it is unnecessary or art and the racial tensions and changes in cities.

"What we try to do is have a range of lectures that would appeal to different student constituencies here," said Gillespie. "It has been really gratifying and very enlightening, very illuminating, to me, to learn as much about different perspectives of the humanities as I have and learn it from people who, without the center, I never would have been in contact with.

“What we are doing together is keeping the discussion of exiles in the forefront of people’s consciousness.”

Michael P. Gillespie
Director
CHUE

"In many ways, FIU is a traditional university with a traditional student body but it is also, I think, an extremely important resource for the City of

Miami, for Miami Dade County and for South Florida," said Gillespie.

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Oscars might just turn out to be as predictable as usual

With the Oscars riding in this weekend, everyone who’s into award shows and movies has the same question on their mind: who’s taking home the gold?



JUAN BARQUIN

It is doubtful that most people have acquainted themselves with every film nominated this year, as there are a grand total of 53 nominees in these 24 categories. It’s an overwhelming number for anyone, especially with how challenging it is to watch some of these considering their lack of a wide US release. This year’s Best Picture nominees were fairly popular and widely

shown. There’s an abundance of American history films this year, with “Argo,” “Django Unchained,” “Lincoln,” and “Zero Dark Thirty” rounding out the nominees. While some of these seem to be in the lead, it wouldn’t be tough for a technical beauty like “Life of Pi,” the pandering musical “Les Miserables,” the indie darling “Beasts of the Southern Wild,” or even the mental illness romcom “Silver Linings Playbook” to steal it out of their hands. There’s a clear front-runner in the race for Foreign Film and it’s name is “Amour,” which is up for five nominations this year, including Best Picture. Everyone is gaga for Haneke’s depressing tale of old age and death, and it’s currently playing

at the Tower Theater this month. Another impressive nominee from Chile is “No,” which will be having its Miami premiere next month at the Miami International Film Festival. Nobody ever pays much attention to the short film nominees, but there’s a prime cut of fifteen shorts this year that are easy to watch if you know where to look. Those who missed the beautiful animated short “Paperman” in front of Disney’s “Wreck-It Ralph,” can find that tossed into the mix, and those interested in the live-action and documentary shorts will find that “Curfew” and “Monday’s at Racine” are likely to win and worth watching at the Cosford Cinema or Miami Beach Cinematheque.

The actors and actresses are easy predictions this year, with Daniel Day-Lewis and Tommy Lee Jones up for the male wins for “Lincoln,” and Jennifer Lawrence and Anne Hathaway for the female wins in “Silver Linings Playbook” and “Les Miserables,” respectively. There’s a slim chance that Emmanuelle Riva, Robert DeNiro, or Christoph Waltz may be able to sneak their way into winning, but it’s unlikely. If “Lincoln” seems like it is gaining an overwhelming amount of possible love, it’s because it’s the likely winner for Best Adapted Screenplay, and seven time nominee Steven Spielberg is the current frontrunner for Best Director. Ben Affleck may have won the Globe, the BAFTA, but

the Academy excluded him from their nominees, making for a disappointing bunch. While Best Picture nominees “Django Unchained,” “Amour,” and “Zero Dark Thirty” all have a shot for Original Screenplay, Ang Lee’s technical genius for “Life of Pi” will likely go unrewarded as it falls under the boring, predictable steamroller that is “Lincoln.” The minor categories aren’t on too many minds and are unpredictable as can be, so a quick look at documentary and animated will serve to close this off. In terms of documentaries, the important look at sexual abuse in the military, “The Invisible War,” will likely be snubbed this year for the pretty but aimless “Searching

for Sugar Man.” As for the animated features, it’s a fairly strong category, but Pixar’s weak “Brave” looks to be in the lead instead of the stop-motion wonders “Paranorman” and “Frankenweenie.” It’s impossible to tell what could happen with the Oscars, as voters tend to ditch their usual predictability at times, but these are just some simple predictions and helpful tips to knowing where to watch a few of the lesser known flicks this year. Juan Barquin is a junior FIU English major. For the past year and a half, he has written more than 80 movie reviews for YAM-Magazine and is pursuing a certificate in Film Studies at the University. -juan.barquin@fiusm.com

Top five

Budget apps for students

We live in a time where nearly a quarter of the technology we saw in Star Trek and Back to the Future actually exist, and most of said technology exists in the form of smart-phones and tablets. With the ever-evolving technology, new apps and features are being designed to help everyone, everywhere, in any life-style. As college students, we are limited on the apps we can get due to the varying costs. But, don’t fret. There are plenty of free apps out there to help the college student on the budget. I have compiled a list of the top five educational apps for college students.



AARON PABON

EVERNOTE PEEK
FOR IOS, ANDROID, AND WINDOWS
FREE

For the students that replaced their Meed Compositions and Five Stars for a tablet, this is for you. Evernote doesn’t only take notes, but also image and audio files. All of the files can be organized into folders for specific classes and has a cloud service for students to sync to other devices. Notes can also be converted to digital flash cards and generates questions based on your notes.

MERRIAM-WEBSTER-Dictionary
FOR IOS, ANDROID, AND WINDOWS
FREE

Regardless of the times, we are still going to need one at one point. Aside from working as your standard dictionary, it offers antonyms, sentence examples, synonyms, and a word of the day. What makes this a more effective app compared to others is the ability use a voice search. Simply say whichever word you are looking up into the microphone, and it will

search it.

DROPBOX
FOR IOS, ANDROID, AND WINDOWS
FREE

Need to free up some memory, but can’t afford a thumb-drive or SD-Card? Here is free memory. Dropbox allows you to download/upload nearly any file type online and access it at any time, on any device. You can even access your files via the dropbox website to access your files. This is also great if you are working on a project and don’t want to worry about losing that tiny thumb-drive.

GRAPHING CALCULATOR
FOR IOS AND WINDOWS
\$1.99

The only app on this list that actually costs something, but, compared to the money you need to shell out for a standalone Texas Instruments, worth it. If it is not required for you class to get an actual one, and you need one, save the cash and download it. It has all of the same functions as a regular graphing calculator (solve equations, make graphs, make plots) and take screenshots so you can refer to past equations.

EASYBIB
FOR IOS AND ANDROID
FREE

Probably the most tedious work for your research paper is the citations. With the EasyBib app, you can create accurate citations in APA, Chicago, and MLA styles. You can manually plug in the name of the book, film, or ISBN number of whatever you are citing; or scan the barcode for an instant citation. You can email your citations to yourself and paste them into your paper.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING 2013

FRIDAY, FEB. 22

LIBQUAL SURVEY (A SURVEY OF STUDENT/FACULTY/STAFF OPINIONS OF LIBRARY SERVICES).
WHEN: All day
WHERE: Paper survey forms available at Green Library, Hubert Library; web survey form available at <http://libqual.fiu.edu>

DORAL ACADEMY CHARTER FAIR
WHEN: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Doral Acad Charter High School, Doral, FL

HEALTHCARE RISK MANAGEMENT
WHEN: 8 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Register
WHERE: MMC

VETERANS JOBS AND RESOURCE FAIR
WHEN: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC FIU Football stadium

NATIONAL ISSUES FORUM: LIFE AFTER THE CLIFF
WHEN: 4-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Wolfe Center Ballroom

SPC MOVIES: SINISTER
WHEN: 5 and 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 140

SATURDAY, FEB. 23

HEALTHCARE RISK MANAGEMENT
WHEN: 8 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Register
WHERE: MMC

CENTRAL FLORIDA COLLEGE FAIR
WHEN: 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

SYMPOSIUM-FLORIDA AND THE CARIBBEAN: THE CONTEMPORARY LANDSCAPE
WHEN: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: The Frost Art Museum

PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATE INFORMATION SESSION
WHEN: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GL 220

SUNDAY, FEB. 24

HEALTHCARE RISK MANAGEMENT
WHEN: 8 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Register
WHERE: MMC

MIAMI NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR
WHEN: 12-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: DoubleTree by Hilton Miami Airport Convention Center, Miami FL

To have your event featured, email us at calendar@fiusm.com

-aaron.pabon@fiusm.com

New coaching staff brings loads of experience

JONATHAN JACOBSKIND
Staff Writer

If there is one thing Head Coach Ron Turner and his newly appointed coaching staff don't lack heading into their first year at FIU, it's experience. FIU's new men in charge boast a combined 30 years of NFL experience.

Aside from experience, there won't be a need for icebreakers with this coaching staff as Ron Turner went the familiarity route when hiring his staff.

"I choose guys that I know what kind of people they are, what kind of character they have, and what kind of teachers or communicators they are. That is what's most important to me," Ron Turner said. "These guys have a great mix of experience and youth, high-en-

ergy guys that can relate to the players."

Ron Turner turned over a new leaf for FIU football, keeping only one position coach -- running backs coach Apollo Wright from Mario Cristobal's staff.

Wright, however, left FIU on Feb. 18 to reprise his same role in the University of New Mexico.

With South Florida being a hotbed for high school football talent and Cristobal's former staff knowing the area real well, it begs the question as why not keep some of Cristobal's coaches in order to reel in some of the area's finest athletes.

"I didn't want to necessarily just come in and clean house. I wanted to find the best people that where the best fit for the direction that we're trying to go," Ron Turner said. "I had an open mind and

FIU STAFF TURNOVER	
CRISTOBAL STAFF	TURNER STAFF
Alex Mirabal: Offensive Line Todd Orlando: Defensive Coordinator Tim Cramsey: Offensive Coordinator/Quarterbacks Jeff Popovich: Special Teams Coordinator Cedric Calhoun: Defensive Line Juan Navarro, Jr.: Outside Linebackers Frank Ponce: Wide Receivers Dennis Smith: Tight Ends/Recruiting Coordinator Apollo Wright: Running Backs	Ron Turner: Offensive Coordinator Steve Shankweiler: Offensive Line Josh Conklin: Defensive Coordinator Kevin Wolthausen: Special Teams Andrew Hayes-Stoker: Running Backs Morgan Turner: Tight Ends/Offensive Tackles Cameron Turner: Quarterbacks/Wide Receivers Tom Williams: Linebackers Andre Patterson: Defensive Line

spoke to everyone on the staff."

As if Ron Turner could not surround himself enough with guys that satisfy his niche, the former Super Bowl participant hired his two sons to

his coach staff. Cameron Turner, who is coming off a year stint as an assistant to head coach of the Minnesota Vikings will coach quarterbacks and receivers, while Morgan

Turner, a former offensive assistant for the Stanford Cardinals, will coach the offensive line and tight ends.

Getting his sons to FIU was actually a difficult task, according to Ron Turner. He had to do his

best to pry them from their previous jobs.

"They both had great jobs where they were, I had to fight to get them," Ron Turner said. "We have been sitting in some of the meetings talking terminology and talking football and I enjoy listening to them, they both have great ideas. They have done a great job of preparing for this."

As soon as Ron Turner was hired on Jan. 4, it was not the smoothest of transitions. Upon getting the call by athletic director Pete Garcia, he has been hired, Ron Turner was faced with daunting task of compiling a recruiting class while hiring his coaching staff, all at the same time.

"It's part of the job. It was non-stop and tough, but in a good way," Ron

SEE FOOTBALL PAGE 7

Club responds to IOC's takedown of wrestling

RHYS WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

On Feb. 12, news broke that the International Olympic Committee proposed that wrestling be dropped from the 2020 Olympic games, a decision that ignited uproar in the wrestling community.

The FIU wrestling club was among the groups upset with the IOC's decision.

"It is absurd to get rid of the sport," said Jahrel Francis, club member. "The IOC removing it just makes me believe that there will be a severe downfall in the Olympics in coming games."

"Dumb. Plain and simple, it is dumb to take out wrestling," member Christian Viera said. "It was one of the original sports to be involved in the games."

Michael Azu, another member, believes stripping wrestling from the Olympics kills any desire to continue wrestling for some.

"It is messed up because the wrestlers are not going to have any motivation to pursue it," Azu said. "If it truly is kept out of future Olympics, I don't think that it as a sport will be as big around the world as it currently is."

All over the nation, groups are petitioning the IOC to change their decision back to keep wrestling as a sport for the Olympic games. The biggest push is from Minn. Rep. Bob Dettmer, a former Olympic wrestler and NCAA wrestling national champion, who is pushing in the House of Representatives to take action in petitioning the decision of the IOC, along with fellow Minn. Rep. Tim Walz attempting to do so in the Senate.

Later in September, the IOC will its decision on whether to officially drop the sport.

Students are not only reacting on the Olympic front, but how it will affect the athletes who have

“It has been practiced for thousands of years and [the IOC] is taking so many people’s motivation and dreams away.”

Jose Arrastia
Club member
FIU wrestling

dedicated their lives, or planned on it to wrestling with the dream of becoming an Olympic athlete.

"It doesn't only disrespect the sport but it also diminishes the dreams of thousands of children and teens around the world as they were training for that one event, or children in the United States who rely on the sport to make it to college," Francis said.

"It has been practiced for thousands of years and [the IOC]

is taking so many people's motivation and dreams away," Jose Arrastia added.

Some people, like freshman Darrick Jones, do not see the IOC's decision as much of an issue for future Olympic games so long as they don't start taking out some of the other key sports. "As long as track is still included I will still be watching the future versions of the games," Jones said. "I think mixed martial arts

would be an awesome replacement for wrestling. That simply is an amazing idea to me."

The IOC decided that wrestling is no longer one of the "core 25" sports. Possible replacements that are being considered for the single open spot are baseball/softball, karate, squash, roller sport, sport climbing, wushu and wakeboarding along with the possibility of wrestling returning.

Squash is a racquet sport played by two players or four players on court at a time, in a four-walled court with a small rubber ball. Roller sports are sports that use human powered vehicles, such as roller blades, which move by either gravity or pushing methods.

The sport of wushu is an exhibition of skill and a full-contact sport which is derived from traditional Chinese martial arts techniques.

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FIU tennis' losing streak, woes continue

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

The Panthers' rocky start to the season continued after their trip to Mobile, Ala, pushing their losing streak to five straight after losses.

Unlike their trip to the northeast in early February, which were blowout losses, the trip to Alabama saw results of smaller margins in both matches. Still, FIU found itself on the short end of both matches.

On Feb. 15, the Panthers narrowly lost

to University of South Alabama 4-3, and on Feb. 16, in their first meeting since last season's Sun Belt Championship game, University of North Texas took down FIU 5-2.

"We played against probably two of the toughest teams in the conference," Head Coach Katarina Petrovic said. "North Texas is really talented as even their lower position players are good."

Against South Alabama, singles victories by freshmen Carlotta Orlando, and Aleksandra Trifunovic knotted the contest at two after FIU trailed 2-0.

"It always good to win matches, but right now I'm still looking at things I need to do better at," Trifunovic said.

"I'm very happy that I won in doubles with Giulietta. We improved a lot since our first doubles match," Orlando said. "We can still improve a lot, and I feel if we keep playing like our last match [against South Alabama] we have a chance to win all our other matches."

Then after falling behind 3-2, junior Giulietta Boha tied the match at 3-3 with her singles win to put the whole match in the hands of senior Rita Maisak.

The senior was unable to deliver the win for FIU. In Maisak's singles match, she split the first two sets by winning the first 6-1 and losing the second 6-3. In the decisive third set, Maisak had two match-point opportunities but was unable to capitalize. Maisak came up short 7-6 in the final set, costing FIU the victory in their Sun Belt Conference opener.

"The score was 3-3 and it's always tough when a player is in a position where her match is for the whole thing.

SEE TENNIS PAGE 7

Panthers look to sweep second tournament at FIU Classic



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Senior infielder Jessie Alfonso is third on the team with a .333 batting average and second in on-base percentage and slugging percentage.

SUN BELT CONFERENCE STANDINGS

South Alabama	8-1	North Texas	4-5
Louisiana-Lafayette	7-1	Troy	4-5
Louisiana-Monroe	5-4	Florida Atlantic	3-6
FIU	6-5	Middle Tennessee	0-5
WKU	2-2		

BRYAN PALACIO Contributing Writer

After playing 11 games in 14 days, the FIU softball team trudges onto their next tournament of the season with a perfect weekend behind them, but not as fast a start as they would’ve liked.

The Panthers (6-5) come off a weekend tournament which saw them win all four of their games in the Blue/Gold Felsberg Memorial tournament, bringing them to a five-game win streak and above .500 for the first time this season. Unfortunately, it’s not the start they were looking for.

“Forty plus wins,” said senior Brie Rojas in the preseason of the team’s goal.

Forty wins is still possible, but that means they’d have to go 34-9 over the rest of the season. The Panthers have only reached 40 wins once in program history in 2001.

The season just started and FIU, sitting third in the Sun Belt Conference, is already down four games to teams that have played fewer games. But without any conference games played yet, the team is still in good position to compete for the top spot.

“We made our adjustments,” said Head Coach Jake Schumann. “When they’re going to throw us away then we need to hit it away. [We need to] be on the cover and hit to all fields. I thought we did pretty well at that this weekend.”

FIU ranks sixth in team batting average in the SBC, same spot they held last year.

If they are planning on placing first, they need to hit better, both individually and as a team.

Only senior Alex Casals places in the top ten in batting average.

They are a perfect 16-for-16 on stolen bases, though, a mark that lands them second in the conference behind South Alabama’s 20.

The Panthers rank seventh in pitching in the conference with an ERA 3.55 a game.

Although, they have pitched two more games than the other teams in the conference, they have given up the most hits, 20, than the next closest team.

They have recorded the most strikeouts. Junior Shelbie Wagnon has the eighth-best ERA in the SBC along with a 3-0 record.

Junior Mariah Dawson ranks third with 26 strikeouts, but way behind Jordan Wallace’s conference-leading 42 from University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Where the team does shine is fielding. They are second to University of South Alabama with a fielding percentage of .971 to go along with 81 assists, and 225 putouts, a play made by one or more fielders that cause a batter or a base runner to be ruled out.

The Panthers will play in the FIU Classic Tournament that starts today at 4 p.m. where they will take on Savannah State University, the University of Hartford, and Mercer University.

-sports@fiusm.com

Tennis still struggling as conference play opens

TENNIS, PAGE 6

I thought since [Maisak] being a senior I thought she could win it, but unfortunately wasn’t able to,” Petrovic said. “When she had match point at up 6-5 she made a bad decision on the serve, but I already talked to her about it.”

Against the Mean Green of North Texas, the Panthers took care of business in doubles. Battling windy weather conditions, the duo of Maisak and Trifunovic, along with Boha and Orlando earned victories to clinch the doubles point.

In singles however, the Panthers faltered. Out of the five matches, Orlando was the only one on the winning side defeating North Texas’ Kseniya Bardabush in three hard fought

sets 4-6, 6-4, and 10-5.

With the stretch of four straight road games in the books, the Panthers now have 11 of their final 13 matches on their home tennis courts.

FIU will look to regroup as its quests for win number one the season continues on Friday Feb. 22 at home against intra-state opponent Florida State University.

“Now I can only continue to encourage the girls, and building more mental toughness,” Petrovic said. “I will continue to stress to give 100 percent. These girls work really hard in practice, it hasn’t completely shown in the matches yet, but it’s not something that happens in one day.”

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PHOTOS BY JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Freshman Carlotta Orlando is one of the few bright spots so far this season, winning all but one of her singles matches for a 4-1 record.

No football coaches leftover from Cristobal era

FOOTBALL, PAGE 6

Turner said. “A lot of things were going on, a lot of balls were in the air but we finally were able to get together a great coaching staff and recruiting class.”

With those priorities now in check and finally settling

into his reins as head coach, Ron Turner is looking forward to doing what he came here to do: coach football and contour the minds of young student athletes.

“When I first got here my main focus were on recruiting and getting my staff together, so I told our guys that they’re the most important part of program

because for the next three weeks I’m going to be gone,” Ron Turner said. “We’re just anxious to finally get back out there on the field with the players and get to know them as people.”

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SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Hospitality students are in the middle of the South Beach Wine and Food Festival which started Thursday, Feb. 21 and will last until Sunday, Feb. 24. This year, hospitality students are preparing a healthy burger for the Amstel Light Burger Bash, hosted by Rachael Ray. The burger recipe will also go in the South Beach Diet Book. The burger consists of fresh turkey, spicy jicama slaw and raita on fresh naan bread. Malcolm Prude, junior in hospitality management, chops up green and yellow peppers along with ginger, carrots, fresh cilantro and other ingredients for the slaw. While preparing the slaw, about 1,500 loaves of bread were being prepared as well.

Larry King comes to FIU for lecture

KARLA REYES
Contributing Writer

Larry King is a name that should be familiar to anyone who has paid attention to the news in the past 30 years. A journalist, radio and television host, it is fitting for King to speak at the Biscayne Bay Campus where the School of Journalism and Mass Communications is located, as a part of the Student Government Council's lecture series.

SGC-BBC creates a lecture series every year with the aim of enticing students to participate and learn from different distinguished figures.

"Our hope is that the student body will learn from these speakers and thus create an invigorating debate," said Pablo Haspel, SGC-BBC president who is earning his master's degree in public administration.

For these lectures, student government reaches out to various public speaker agencies in order to see whom they are offering and evaluate how it would be beneficial to have them speak at the University.

However, students had the final say when Larry King was the highest ranked in a survey of which speakers they would prefer in the lecture series.

In the past, the lecture series has brought Common, Dan Savage and Adrian Grenier, and they hope to continue the tradi-

tion with Carl Hiaasen and King.

"[Bringing Larry King to FIU] is an educational experience that will allow the student body to interact and learn from an individual that has had the honor of interviewing many of the most distinguished people in the world," said Haspel.

From 1985 to 2010, King hosted the popular and self-titled TV program "Larry King Live" on CNN. Throughout his run on "Larry King Live," King interviewed many prominent figures from politicians to celebrities.

The lecture will be based around an evening with Larry King, in which students will hear about his experiences starting as a journalist in Florida and becoming one of the nation's most watched TV personalities.

With someone who has such an extended resume as King, SGC-BBC hopes that students will be inspired by his experiences in order to achieve the same success he has achieved. Students are encouraged to attend and to take away life lessons from these lectures that will help them on their path to finding careers.

The SGC-BBC Lecture Series Presents: Larry King will take place in the WUC Ballrooms on Thursday, Mar. 28 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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A "Hoot" of an evening with Carl Hiaasen

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

An Evening with Carl Hiaasen promises to be a "Hoot" as the best selling author and journalist for The Miami Herald visits the Biscayne Bay Campus on Monday, Feb. 25 where he will give a lecture on Florida's environment and its natural resources and will be available for a Q&A session and book signing afterward.

The evening with Hiaasen is free and open to the public and will take place in the Wolfe University Center at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Hiaasen is the second guest lecturer in the Student Government Association – BBC lecture series that began with The New York Times media reporter, Brian Stelter, this past January and will conclude with Larry King this upcoming March.

Hiaasen's lecture will be co-sponsored by the School of Environment, Arts and Society.

"We looked at different topics or areas such as politics, journalism, etc.," said Rafael Zapata, the assistant director of Campus Life at BBC and SGC-BBC adviser. "We were looking at partnering up with an academic department to bring someone to the campus."

Hiaasen, who was born and raised in Florida, was hired by The Miami Herald in 1976, where he still works as a columnist, and began his career as a novelist in 1981 with "Powder Burn," which he wrote with Bill Montalbano.

Hiaasen wrote his first solo novel, "Tourist Season," in 1986. His 1993 novel, "Strip Tease," was adapted into a film starring Demi Moore and Burt Reynolds in 1996.

"Hoot," his first young adult novel written in 2002 and made into a film starring Luke Wilson

“We’re hoping the lecture is a learning and engaging experience for our students.”

Rafael Zapata
Assistant Director and SGA Adviser
Campus Life and Student Government Association

in 2006, won a Newbery Honor award in 2003 and spent more than two years on the New York Times Bestseller list.

Since then he has written three other young adult novels—“Flush,” “Scat” and “Chomp”—and over 10 adult fiction novels, eight of which have been national bestsellers that have been translated into more than 30

languages.

Because of how well-known and liked Hiaasen is, SGC-BBC decided they had to bring him in for the lecture series.

"In the end, we discussed awards the speaker had won or their visibility as well as the time of the year," said Zapata. "We also surveyed 200 students to get an idea based on our budget

and they came pretty close to our original idea."

The partnership with SEAS also made Hiaasen an ideal candidate for the lecture as his novels always touch upon themes of the environment and natural surrounding of Florida's landscape and the corruption of politicians.

Hiaasen has even published two collections of his newspaper columns, entitled "Paradise Screwed" and "Kick Ass" respectively, to prove that the stories he writes aren't all fiction.

"SEAS was looking at the environmental portion and because of BBC's location it seemed to be the best fit. We wanted the lecture to tie into SEAS and what they do in their department," said Zapata. "We're hoping the lecture is a learning and engaging experience for our students."

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