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‘Smart’ parking garage to spare students time in cars

MARIA C. SERRANO
Staff Writer
maria.serrano@fiusm.com

The opening of PG6 at the university’s main campus brings hundreds of new spaces for commuters. More than that, the garage brings new, smart technology to parking on campus. The PG6 structure enables the integration of license plate recognition with a car counting system, which allows the FIU Department of Parking and Transportation to push parking availability in real time.

The communication of the parking availability will be through the FIU mobile app, which could be found on the app store, and through variable message signals located in boards in the entrances of PG6 -- saving drivers time searching for an empty space.

According to Thomas Hartley, executive director of the FIU Department of Parking and Transportation, such communication platforms are still in construction. These platforms are expected to be in function in the upcoming weeks.

“Beyond just building the garage, we are launching a smart garage,” Tom said. “The new garage enhances ease of access and ease of parking throughout the university, all while reducing traffic congestion and the need to hunt for a parking space.”

Even though PG6 took nearly a year to construct, it has lightened the lives of drivers at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and has provided over 2,000 additional parking spaces.

“Sometimes I’ve waited around 20 to 30 minutes to park,” Sileirim Ortega said, a sophomore majoring in finance. “I see a really big relief here because the parking lot itself is bigger and more comfortable to drive.”

The FIU Board of Trustees approved the construction for the PG6 building in March 2011, yet it did not receive approval from the State of Florida Division of Bond Finance until late June.

The project needed reauthorization due to change of building location from the southeast side to the north side of the University, in addition to funding concerns and analysis



MARIA SERRANO/THE BEACON

The brand new Parking Garage 6, which opened on Jan. 12, 2015, brings what university officials say is a smart and convenient way for the FIU Community to park, take classes, and shop.

data requested by Governor Rick Scott in February 2013.

The technology in the PG6 building also has the possibility to gather current utilization data to forecast future needs.

According to Hartley, the PG6 location was strategically planned and because it was next to the main entrance, it provided the University with easy access from the main thoroughfare.

There are also upcoming projects that can be aided by the opening of PG6.

“This location also provides needed parking in a rapidly growing area,” Hartley said. “Especially with the additional medical buildings coming in line.”

The parking garage is located west of the Red Parking Garage and features a bridge to the Engineering and Computer Science Building. Much like PG5, it includes 35,000 square feet of shell space for university-related retail space and classrooms.

In addition to PG6 and to

better the commute in and out the FIU eighth street main entrance, 10th street was widened from 109th Avenue to 112th Avenue. A traffic circle was also added at 112th Avenue.

“PG6 has so much space around and it’s way better. I like it and it’s where I park all the time,” Ortega said. “I love the bridge. You just cross by and you don’t have to be looking for traffic, so it is very convenient for everyone.”

Mobile application simplifies campus navigation at MMC

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
News Director
adrian.suarezavila@fiusm.com

Working on campus, Jenyer Paez often finds it difficult to give directions to people navigating throughout campus.

“Since I work here on campus I have a lot of people ask me how to find certain buildings [and] certain departments, and it’s not always easy to give them directions,” Paez said.

Luckily for the senior English major, a solution is available in the tip of his fingers.

Campus Maps, a mobile application launched in summer 2012 by Vikram Bhandari, has recently added Florida International University to its server.

However, although the application features a map of the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, it doesn’t provide one for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The application, which features campus maps for over 85 colleges and universities in the country, allows users to get directions from one point on the selected campus to another.

According to Bhandari, the idea for the application was sparked from his personal frustration with trying to find his way throughout the University of Maryland College Park campus.

Although his class schedule only provided a

three-letter acronym for the building in which the class would be held, the campus map provided by the school featured the building’s full name, a mismatch that Bhandari found to be inefficient.

He then set to work on the application, which he hoped would make the process of finding a building more streamlined.

“

Since I work here on campus I have a lot of people ask me how to find certain buildings [and] certain departments, and it’s not always easy to give them directions

Jenyer Paez
Senior
English Major

”

“I’d be happy if [the application] got ten downloads,” Bhandari said.

He initially created the application specifically for UMD College Park.

The application achieved around 1500 downloads during its first year, a number that tripled during the following year.

For some students, being on time is critical.

“Time is of the essence, and students are moving around,” Paez said. “We have a schedule to keep up with and [Campus Maps] is gonna save us time, and I think that’s the most important element.”

According to Bhandari, the most common feedback from students is, “Wow, you’ve saved

my life.”

After the application’s success with the UMD College Park community, Bhandari decided to expand to the University of Virginia and University of Pennsylvania, gradually adding other college campuses as time progressed.

At the moment, Bhandari considers Blackboard as Campus Maps’ main competitor,

along with Guidebook, a program that charges schools to have their campus maps featured on the server, according to Bhandari.

Unlike Guidebook, Campus Maps is offered to students for free on the iTunes and Android app stores.

According to Bhandari, what sets Campus Maps apart from other mobile applications is the quick speed at which it provides directions to users.

But why add FIU to the server?

Bhandari’s aim was to reach the hundred largest college and university campuses within the United States.

“I had students’ interests at heart [when creating the application,]” Bhandari said.

What sets Campus Maps apart from the map available on the FIU Mobile app is its ability to provide students actual directions from one building to another, while the FIU Mobile app just features a localizer and a compass that points students to the desired location.

Bhandari has other apps under construction.

Among them is Campus Jobs, which allows users to identify job openings available near their college campus.

Bhandari encourages feedback from students.

Those interested in providing suggestions or asking questions are welcome to contact him at Vikram@getcampusmaps.com or founder@getcampusmaps.com.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

GOP hopes 2016 nomination process will be quick, smooth

Republican leaders are desperate to make the presidential nominating process quick and clean so their nominee can get onto the business of running against the Democrat in the general election.

Instead, it could become an unruly slog.

The party changed its rules and policies dramatically so someone could wrap up the 2016 nomination fast. Frequent debates are being discouraged.

The nomination fight will be shorter, with voting in primaries and caucuses starting later and the formal nomination wrapped up at the Republican National Convention earlier.

Suspected terrorist cells raided as Europe moves against threat

European security forces moved against suspected radical jihadists in two countries Thursday in the latest sign that last week’s Charlie Hebdo terrorist attacks have galvanized action against what officials for months have called a rising threat.

In Belgium, police killed two suspected jihadists and arrested one, while in Germany, police arrested a man they accused of recruiting fighters for Syria. In France, police linked a fourth shooting incident to the terrorist cell that carried out the Charlie Hebdo attacks a week ago.

Officials didn’t link the new cases to one another or to the Paris attacks that left 17 victims and three terrorists dead. But the events showed that after years of nervously watching so-called “jihadi tourists” sneaking into, and back from, Syria, European security forces were acting.

The raids and arrests came as Paris began to bury the dead from the Jan. 7 attack on the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo. On Thursday, the cartoonists Georges Wolinski, 80, and Bernard Verlhac, 58, known as Tignous, were buried. Others will follow in the coming days.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
junette.reyes@fusm.com

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

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Community college leaders await details of Obama’s plan

CHRIS KIEFFER
Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, Tupelo
TNS

President Obama likely will use next week’s State of the Union address to give more details about his recent proposal to provide free community college.

Leaders from a region that already has its own community college tuition guarantee program will be watching closely.

In an announcement last Friday, the president unveiled “America’s College Promise,” which would extend public education two additional years. Speaking at a community college in Knoxville, Tennessee, Obama cited a new program in that state that pays the cost of two years of community or technical college.

Tennessee’s program closely resembles one in Northeast Mississippi, where it now covers 17 counties and four community colleges. It is not clear, however, how similar the federal program would be.

“It is hard to evaluate because the details are missing,” said Lewis Whitfield, who has been among the champions of Northeast Mississippi’s tuition guarantee as senior vice president at the CREATE Foundation.

Those details, including how the administration proposes paying for it, could come in Tuesday’s address to the country. Initial reports have said that the federal government would cover three-quarters of the expenses with states paying the rest of the bill. Participating students must be enrolled at least half time, maintain a 2.5 grade-point average and make progress toward a degree.

Community colleges would have to offer programs that transfer to four-year colleges or job training programs.

The average tuition and fees at Mississippi’s 15 community colleges is \$2,476, said Eric Clark, executive director of the Mississippi Community College Board.

“I think it has the potential to do a lot of good,” Clark said of the proposal. “...The more Mississippi citizens who have at least two years of college, the more prosperous their lives will be, and the whole community will benefit.”

Both Northeast Mississippi Community College President Johnny Allen and Itawamba Community College President Mike Eaton also

said the proposal held promise, although Eaton noted he would still like to see more details.

“We appreciate President Obama’s effort to forge a more positive relationship with community college students across the country,” Allen said. “Obviously, this plan should directly benefit our community colleges with increased enrollments which will in turn foster in this nation a better trained and more effective workforce.”

The current tuition guarantee “has been a wonderful thing for our students and for ICC,” Eaton said. Obama’s proposal could lead to even more enrollment growth, however, especially if it allowed students to use Pell Grants and other aid to pay for expenses beyond tuition, Eaton said.

“I feel certain there would be people who would take advantage of that,” he said.

That is an important way the federal proposal appears to differ from the existing plans in Tennessee and in Northeast Mississippi. Those are “tuition gap” plans, meaning they cover the remaining cost of tuition after

scholarships, Pell Grants and other financial aid has been applied.

Reports indicate the new federal proposal would cover the cost of tuition up-front before other aid was applied. It is unclear whether community college Pell Grants and other state and federal aid would no longer exist or whether they could be used for other expenses like books, meals or housing.

By merely filling the tuition gap, the cost of Northeast Mississippi’s program has been relatively low, Whitfield said. This fall, it cost \$489,272 to provide money to 647 students in 17 counties. The program covered 2,730 students, but many of them already had the full cost of tuition paid by other sources. One benefit of the program, Whitfield said, is it forces students to find outside aid they did not realize was available.

“The tuition guarantee has played a role in helping remove barriers to get people to go to school and to feel like they could afford it,” Whitfield said.

Northeast Mississippi’s program has continued to

grow since the Gilmore Foundation launched it in Monroe County in 2008. Funds are paid by planning and development districts, foundations, county governments, city governments, business and individuals.

“I’m not certain how big this announcement is in the northeast corner of Mississippi,” Gilmore Executive Director Danny Spreitler said of the Obama proposal. “I’m really worried every time I see the federal government bring this type of program. They always attach strings, and a lot of strings are detrimental to existing programs.”

It is not yet known what would happen to the current tuition guarantee if the federal program did pass. Perhaps, Clark said, those funds could go toward other needs, such as books.

Passage is certainly not assured, however, with Republicans in control of both the U.S. House and Senate. Mississippi Republican Sen. Thad Cochran said he has concerns about how the proposal would impact the existing system.



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Dressing for success: it's a real thing

AMID BENNAIM

Staff Writer

amid.bennaim@fiusm.com

As social creatures, grooming is an important part of our biology. Keeping clean and looking good changes the way that we look at ourselves. This leads many to suggest that there is a correlation between dressing for success and achieving that success. As a matter of fact, psychologists have done more than just suggest, they have studied the link between dressing

well and being well groomed and being successful. As it turns out, the link is very strong.

According to independent studies quoted by Forbes Magazine, clothing can even help determine how some people are paid. While these numbers are hard to generalize because of different work environments and dress codes in different fields, it is clear that people who dress for success are more likely to have higher wages. With that information I

decided to try dressing more professionally before my exams.

I tried it out the week before finals week of last semester. I was really surprised at how much it really changed my confidence for the exams. I found out that by dressing nicely and putting more effort into looking good, I had more confidence when I walked through the door for a test. Since I am not a person who usually loses their cool during exams, I was shocked that it worked for me. Needless to say, dressing well isn't going to make up for studying hard, but it is another form of preparation.

The boost of confidence that comes from looking good is very familiar to most students. Putting on a button-down shirt or wearing a fancy dress before going out feels different than throwing on some old sweatpants. As a matter of fact, I would be genuinely surprised to learn that there is a person reading this article that has never had someone tell them to dress for success.

So what exactly constitutes dressing 'well'? For starters, it is important to know that the term is very contextual. Dressing well for a student at FIU might mean putting on nice jeans and a button-down shirt, but for a Wall Street banker it means wearing a designer suit. In the broadest terms it means dressing in a manner that makes one feel good about what they wear and makes them feel self-assured. The key is to feel beautiful and confident in whatever you wear.

For anyone that has any doubts as to the reality of this link between dressing well and success, I suggest that you try it. Most people already own some clothes that make them look good, so there is pretty much nothing to lose. While dressing for success won't get you a job or substitute studying, the fact that something so simple can have a positive impact on our lives makes it feel pretty logical to give it a shot.

Phillip L. Marcus, great professor and dear friend

When I first met Professor Phillip L. Marcus he was wheeling his bag behind him into class smirking, dressed in slacks, snakeskin shoes and a red polo buttoned to the neckline, onto which he'd pressed in bold white lettering, "It's great to be here!"

He said this line a lot. On the one hand referring to the actual location, FIU, the classroom, the company of students he adored and revered; but referring also, and I think more urgently, to a more cosmic notion of "here." That life is great and brimming with purpose and well worth the traffic and so on.

Which carried a lot of weight when he said it on account of his being an older guy, older than most of his colleagues, who could recite for you a catalogue of atrocities from World War I: the profiles, practices and psychology of serial killers -- the darkest chapters of a hundred biographies -- the natures of post-traumatic stress disorder, unrequited love, religious doubt, grief, pain. He'd read the science of it all and he knew the poetry. He carried a pretty strong idea of why somebody might not think it's too great to be here. Marcus endured enough to afford him some license in feeling that way; but he didn't.

Here was this wiry man in his late 60s who at 8 a.m. had been awake longer than any of us and couldn't stop smiling, laughing at jokes he hadn't said yet. Jokes that were totally ridiculous but were made funny by his relish for puns, his baffling misuse of slang, his misguided references to Lady Gaga and the fact that he would apply Jungian psychology to everything from "Black Swan" to the foam on his latte.

But I also know he was happy because he woke up at a ridiculous hour -- 4 a.m. or something -- which miserable people tend not to do. I remember once getting to my dorm after a concert at around 4 a.m. and sitting down to send him a reminder to bring a book he was going to show me.

He'd apparently just woken up. A few moments later, as I was settling into bed, he sent me a quick response with long considered sentences and lots of exclamation points.

While I can't quite speak of Phillip L. Marcus as the most eccentric professor I ever had -- not since that

one 60-year-old adjunct who spoke each week of his masturbatory habits and his contempt for his wife -- he's certainly a runner up, in a good way.

"I used to have a seven-foot python named Monty," Marcus told one class when students had digressed into talking about their pets, "but it ate my pig so I had to get rid of it."

His cell phone case had a zebra-print design made of rhinestones and he complimented more purses than papers.

"[The] first time I published an article," he told me, "I was in elementary school. I wrote it about a fish. I got its name wrong, though. And instead of putting 'Phill' in the byline, they put 'Bill'. So it was a poorly-written story about a fish that wasn't real by a boy who didn't exist."

Whether talking about Hemingway's machismo or chronicling his travails with online dating he was hilarious, encouraging, inspiring and infernally bright.

Since his death on Saturday, Jan. 10 many of his former students have spoken of "majoring in English, minoring in Marcus." This was because his classes were full of repeat offenders. On the first day each semester, he'd dismiss those seasoned students out of the room ten minutes early so he could speak privately to the new students. Tell them what the deal was.

"Do your reading," in so many words, "take lots of notes, embrace Carl Jung into your hearts and know that I love you. Come to me for anything."

He was Mr. Feeny, save for the fact that he smiled all the time and dressed in zebra-print everything. Marcus was the greatest professor many of his students had and thanks to the six hours he spent sitting with us at Starbucks each week -- where he would not hear of any student paying for his own coffee -- he was one of the dearest friends we made.

And so upon his departure, it seems only in keeping with what Professor Marcus would've taught and would've encouraged, that the grieving be turned into a celebration. A remembrance and an appreciation of what he gave us and of what he accomplished and of all other things, painful and pretty.

It is, after all, pretty great to be here.

ALEXANDER SORONDO

BOOK QUEUE



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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MMC Student Government creates series for incoming students

KATRINA VELEZ
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

The Student Government Association’s “Meet and Greet: What I Wish I Knew” opening segment invited students on Tuesday, Jan. 13, to hear its members speak about what they wish they would have known when they first started FIU.

SGA representatives briefed students about its current projects for the academic year.

“I always hear the

student body government is doing this, but I never see it happen,” said freshman Samantha Palomino. “So when we walked in we thought, oh ok, they’re talking to people, asking questions, they want to know what’s going on and [have] people show up.”

Speakers noted the importance of SGA to the campus community, given that the organization receives an annual \$16 million budget to fund all campus clubs and student activities, including its current plans to expand the

number of study spaces.

Questions regarding the budget were on everyone’s mind, like FIU’s unreliable Wi-Fi.

“I understand it’s a first world problem,” Palomino said.

Nonetheless, speakers admitted to the bitter irony of the Steve and Dorothea Green Library and the Graham Center being the worst places for obtaining an internet connection, and announced plans to improve it within the next three years.

The meeting allowed

for students to gain transparency in relation to FIU’s campus activities and developments.

“I wanted this to be something students can relate to,” said Mary Corbin, a junior and SGA’s current chief of staff. “We wanted to give the students a gist of what SGA is all about and what we do for them.”

This segment is part of the organization’s series “SGA Declassified School Survival Guide,” a spin-off title of Nickelodeon’s “Ned’s Declassified

School Survival Guide,” which Corbin thought would relate to the lower

“I wanted this to be something students can relate to.”

Mary Corbin
Chief of Staff
SGA

classmen age group. Students enjoyed Publix

cupcakes, pizza and free office supplies while the organization’s legislation offered advice on handling college as an incoming freshmen or new student.

Freshman Anaise Hernandez was also worried about the Wi-Fi connection.

“It was helpful to find out how things are passed around here,” Hernandez said. “Especially that whole Wi-Fi thing. We’re waiting for that to speed up -- literally.”

Forest Hills Drive J. Cole drops chart topping album to end 2014

COLUMNIST



FRANCIS
IZQUIERDO

Jermaine Lamarr Cole, also known as J. Cole, surprised fans with his album “Forest Hills Drive” last December. Cole was able to create, what could be characterized

as, the best hip-hop album to be released in 2014. It is real, honest and relatable.

With just 13 tracks, the album is able to lure listeners to his life, beginning with his earliest years. This explains why the second song in the album, following the intro, is titled “January 28th,” his birthday.

“Wet Dreamz” then carries the album’s audience into reminiscent trance towards his adolescence. The brave decision to speak about vulnerability, youth and innocence, by talking about ego and truth, was a bold step for the artist.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM MADRRZYK VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

German native J. Cole released his The third studio album, “2014 Forest Hills Drive,” on Dec. 9.

“03’ Adolescence” may be one of the most powerful songs throughout the album.

The track dives into 2003, when Cole had turned 18, graduated from high school and

moved to New York City to pursue his college career at St. John’s.

It channels Cole’s inner most thoughts, while aspiring to become an MC. He presents ideas of low self-esteem, his troubles with women and the misconception of what living free is.

He shares his temptation on pursuing a negative route in his life to get quick money, but emphasizes how important receiving his education and being patient truly is.

His songs “St. Tropez” and “A Tale of 2 Citiez” focus on his upcoming fame and fortune -- the changes in his life.

“G.O.M.D” and “No Role Modelz” is a standoff stab towards Hollywood. As presented in the

songs, commercialization and industry sells, and he pokes fun as to how it seeps into hip-hop culture.

Specifically in “No Role Modelz” he mentions how there are rarely any strong female figures for young girls, but also pleads to return to his roots. The song “Hello” furthers the “stick to your roots,” assertion.

“Fire Squad” focuses about the thought of white dominance over blacks, in one verse he states, “White people have snatched the sound.”

“Apparently” and “Love Yourz” are songs reflecting on life, wrong decisions and a desire to fix them.

“Intro” and “Note to Self” reiterate the main outlook of the whole album: freedom, happiness and love.

And if touching upon any of the universal themes, of youth and hardship, wasn’t enough, the rapper also raises brows, for the fact that he produced all of “Forest Hill Drive’s” beats.

A little about J. Cole, he was born in Frankfurt, Germany and raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina by his mother. After graduating high school, he became a student at St. Johns University in New York City on an academic scholarship and graduated magna cum laude.

Throughout this period of time, he had already established a passion for rap, looking up to legends like Jay-Z, Tupac and Nas.

After finishing his first mixtape, he tried to capture the attention of one his idols, Jay-Z. When his approach did not go as planned, he took a job as a bill collector receiving a minimum of \$10 an hour.

He made a living, for a while, like this and would spend months (sometimes illegally) trying to get into New York studios to record his mix-tape.

Consequently, his mixtape “The Come Up” demanded attention. He ended up being the first artist to be signed with Roc Nation: a label owned by Jay-Z.

J. Cole’s debut in 2007, established a loyal fan base. He has been featured in albums such as Jay-Z’s “The Blueprint 3,” has collaborated with artists such as Mos Def, Wale and Drake and has released two mixtapes: “The Warm Up” and “Friday Night Lights.”

In 2011, he released his first official album, “Cole World: The Sideline Story,” which was at the top of the Billboard 200. In 2013, he released another album, “Born Sinner,” which included his famous single “Power Trip.”

Not only does “Forest Hill Drive” demonstrate J. Cole’s progression and growth as an artist, it shows passion for his art and ambitions for life. It provides lyricism filled with perspective and commentary on the culture today.

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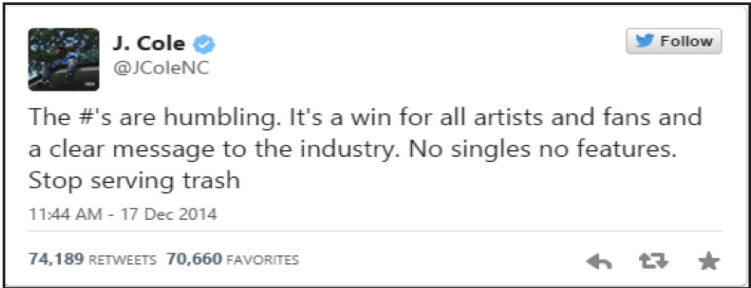


PHOTO COURTESY OF J. COLE OFFICIAL TWITTER

J. Cole thanks his fans on twitter after his album tops The Billboard 200 chart in its first week.

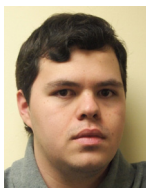
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‘Death Race 2000’ will leave you in stitches with satire

CULT CLASSICS



RAFAEL ABREU

Produced by the master of B-movies, Roger Corman, comes “Death Race 2000”, a 1975 satirical film starring David Carradine and featuring Sylvester Stallone before he was Rocky Balboa.

Both men play race car drivers, who, with their navigators, go across the former-US country and kill people with their cars in order to acquire points so that they can win the race (never mind actually getting first place in the actual race itself). All the while, a group of rebels is planning to stop the race indefinitely and put an

end to the current regime that runs the country. There really isn’t much to this film, but any way to get it more exposure helps. The one thing to keep in mind with this film is that it’s satirical; so much of what you might see should not at all be taken seriously. In fact, the more ludicrous, the better. This film made my cheeks sore due to the amount of laughter it gave me. Pretty much anytime someone got killed was a laugh, due to the outrageousness of it all.

The film also explains a bit about how the world is and what the situation in the year 2000 is (there’s actually backstory that can be looked up independently from the film itself).

One of the things I really liked about “Death Race 2000” is its future setting, one where a Death Race is a sport and a place called New Los Angeles exists (makes you wonder what happened to the old one).

Another thing I like about the movie is how cheap it is. From everything being filmed in California, to some of the deaths, and even the appearance of some guy named Sylvester Stallone, the film has all the qualifications of being quite low budget (which is of course a Corman staple).

The film on a technical level is also well done, utilizing effective editing (mainly in scenes where plenty of action and death is

occurring), and good direction overall. I also have to give props to the script, which is at least partially responsible for the amount of laughs I got.

The actors also did a great job, all of whom seemed to understand perfectly what kind of movie they were acting in (no actual bad acting, either). What ultimately makes “Death Race 2000” so great and worthy of recommending to just about anyone is how fun it is. I can’t remember the last time I had fun watching a movie. It’s hilarious, it’s satirical, it’s a cult classic, it’s a perfect B-movie and it’s everything you could possibly want out of a movie about a Death Race in the year 2000.

Zhaneta Byberi (Albania)

Zuleica Wilson (Angola)

Valentina Ferrer (Argentina)

Digene Zimmerman (Aruba)

Tegan Martin (Australia)

Julia Furdea (Austria)

Tomii Culmer (Bahamas)

Anissa Blondin (Belgium)

Claudia Tavel (Bolivia)

Melissa Gurgel (Brazil)

Jayene Jno Lewis (British Virgin Islands)

Kristina Georgieva (Bulgaria)

Chanel Beckenlehner (Canada)

Hellen Marlene Tonicio (Chile)

Yanliang Hu (China)

Paulina Vega (Colombia)

Karina Ramos (Costa Rica)

Ivana Misura (Croatia)

Laurien Angelista (Curacao)

Gabriela Frankova (Czech Republic)

Kimberly Castillo (Dominican Republic)

Alejandra Argudo (Ecuador)

Lara Debbane (Egypt)

Patricia Murillo (El Salvador)

Hiwot Mamo (Ethiopia)

Bea Toinoven (Finland)

Camille Cerf (France)

Maggaly Ormelia Nguema (Gabon)

Ana Zubashvili (Georgia)

Josefin Donat (Germany)

Abena Appiah (Ghana)

Grace Levy (Great Britain)

Ismeni Dafopoulou (Greece)

Brittany Bell (Guam)

Ana Montufar Urrutia (Guatemala)

Niketa Barker (Guyana)

Christie Desir (Haiti)

Gabriela Ordenez (Honduras)

Henrietta Keleman (Hungary)

Noyonita Loth (India)

Elvira Devinamira (Indonesia)

Lisa Madden (Ireland)

Doron Matalon (Israel)

Valentina Bonariva (Italy)

Kaci Fennell (Jamaica)

Keiko Tsuji (Japan)

Aiday Issayeva (Kazakhstan)

Gaylyne Ayugi (Kenya)

Ye Bin Yoo (Korea)

Artnesa Krasiniqi (Kosovo)

Saly Greije (Lebanon)

Patricija Belousova (Lithuania)

Sabrina Beneet (Malaysia)

Pallavi Gungram (Mauritius)

Josselyn Garciglia (Mexico)

Sharr Htut Eaindra (Myanmar)

Yasmin Verheijen (Netherlands)

Rachel Millns (New Zealand)

Marline Barberena (Nicaragua)

Queen Celestine (Nigeria)

Elise Dalby (Norway)

Yomatsy Hazelwood De La Rosa (Panama)

Sally Jara Davalos (Paraguay)

Jimena Vecco (Peru)

Mary Jean Lastimosa (Philippines)

Marcela Chmielowska (Poland)

Patricia De Silva (Portugal)

Gabriela Berrios (Puerto Rico)

Yulia Alipova (Russia)

Andjelka Tomasevic (Serbia)

Rathi Menon (Singapore)

Silvia Prochadzko (Slovak Republic)

Urska Bracko (Slovenia)

Ziphosakhe Zokufa (South Africa)

Desire Cordero (Spain)

Avanti Page (Sri Lanka)

Roxanne Didier-Nicholas (St. Lucia)

Camilla Hansson (Sweden)

Zoe Methez (Switzerland)

Nale Boniface (Tanzania)

Pimbongkod Chankaew (Thailand)

Jevon King (Trinidad & Tobago)

Dilan Cicec Deniz (Turkey)

Shanice Williams (Turks & Caicos)

Diana Harkusha (Ukraine)

Johana Riva Garabetian (Uruguay)

Nia Sanchez (USA)

Migbelis Lynette Castellanos (Venezuela)

MISS UNIVERSE CONTESTANTS

The 2015 Miss Universe pageant will be held at FIU on Jan. 25

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FOOTBALL

Leonard ready to lead 2015 football team

JACOB SPIWAK
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

If you ask anyone who watched the FIU football team play last year what the best part of the season was, it's safe to assume that a very common answer among those asked would be cornerback and return specialist Richard Leonard.

The 2014 season was by far the best of Leonard's collegiate career, having led the Panthers in just about every defensive and special teams statistic (interceptions, defensive touchdowns, return touchdowns/yards, etc.). He also led the nation in fumble recoveries with four.

These stats propelled Leonard to receiving All-Conference USA First Team honors both as a defensive back and as a punt returner.

He did so well last season that many thought he would forego his final year of eligibility and enter the NFL Draft this spring. However, a few weeks ago, Leonard announced that he would be returning to the school next season. Every Panther fan breathed a large sigh of relief when Leonard announced this.

After sitting down and

speaking with his family to make his final decision, Leonard determined there were two main reasons why coming back was the best choice for him.

"I made my decision [to return] so I can graduate school and compete to win a Conference USA championship and a bowl game," Leonard said.

The Panthers haven't competed in a bowl game since Leonard's freshman year (a 20-10 defeat at the hands of Marshall), and he has never been a part of a team that won their conference.

He also mentioned that some of his teammates who have already made the transition from FIU to the NFL reached out to him to offer advice.

"I talked to T.Y. [Hilton] and Johnathan Cyprien before I made my decision," Leonard said. "They just told me to look into it closely and make the right decision for myself, not anybody else."

Another person who gave Leonard advice during this process was Head Coach Ron Turner.

"I talked to Coach Turner everyday," Leonard said. "He talked to me about the draft and asked me how I felt and told me to just make

the right decision." The main sacrifice Leonard made with his decision to come back was that he'd miss out on the 2015 NFL Draft.

Leonard commented on how he was able to turn down the temptation of potentially being drafted.

"It was kind of hard, but I did what was best for me. I had some things in my game I felt I had to get better at and I wanted to improve on, and show the scouts what I could do," Leonard said.

Specifically, Leonard discussed improving on his breakaway speed, getting off blocks and his ability to physically guard taller receivers, a task he would definitely be asked to do a lot of at the next level.

When reflecting on last season, Leonard said the biggest accomplishment in his eyes wasn't a personal feat or individual statistic. Rather, he looked at the team as a whole and the improvements they made, and their desire to continue to get better. "I would say [the biggest accomplishment was] the team really coming together as one this season. We now have bigger aspirations that will lead us to hopefully contending for a conference championship next year. We

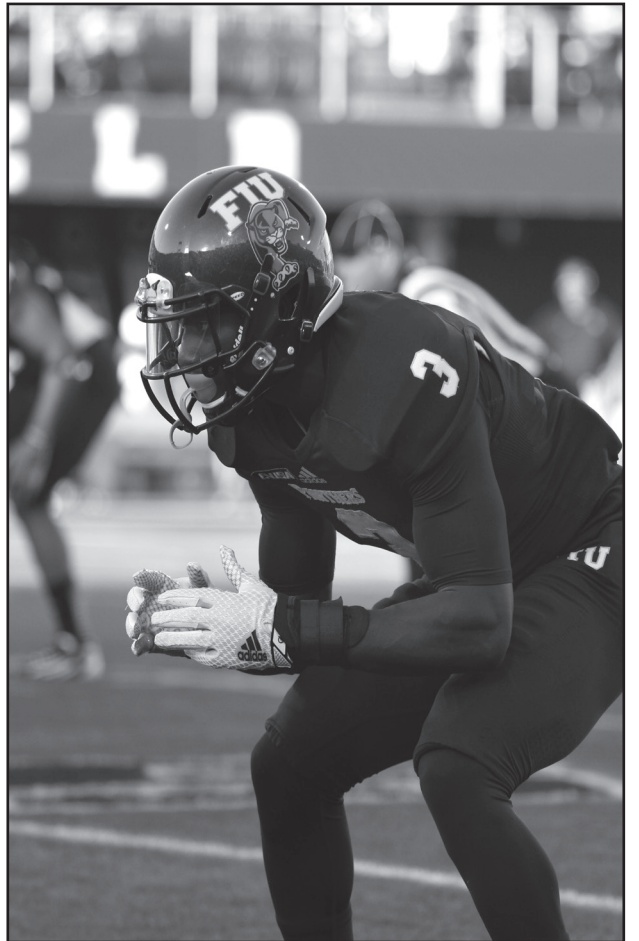
went from one win [in 2013] to four wins [this past season], and now we're trying to reach seven, maybe eight or more this year," Leonard said.

All of these aforementioned accomplishments are even more impressive when you look back on the 2013 season and how difficult it was not only for the team (who went 1-11), but also on a personal level for Leonard. He had to sit out the entire season due to academic reasons, which many players could use as an excuse to give up or stop moving forward.

Instead, Leonard used this as an opportunity to improve himself as a player, and more importantly, as a student.

"I had faith in God, and my parents always talked to me and said everything was going to be alright," Leonard said. "I promised them I would never make that mistake again. I told them I would work hard, and that's exactly what I did during that 2013 season and offseason. I worked hard, kept my head together and made sure to stay in the books."

Looking to the future, Leonard touched on how he hopes to see the team increase their win total and win a Conference USA championship and a bowl game.



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

Senior cornerback Richard Leonard did so well last season that many thought he would forego his final year of eligibility and enter the NFL Draft this spring. He decided to stay at FIU and finish school.

When asked about himself personally, the main thing he looks for is "just overall improvement across the board. Personally, I want to improve on all the stats I put up this year, and maybe win the Jim Thorpe Award" (given to the nation's best defensive back).

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men drop to even record with loss to Western Kentucky



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

Junior forward Adrian Diaz puts up a contested jump shot during the game against Western Kentucky University on Saturday, Jan. 17. The Panthers fell to the Hilltoppers 65-58.

DAVID DRUCKER
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

The men's basketball team dropped a close game on Saturday, Jan. 17 against Conference USA opponent Western Kentucky University in a 65-58 defeat.

The Hilltoppers (12-5) improved to 5-0 in CUSA while the Panthers (9-9) struggled to break free of the WKU full-court press the entire second half.

"We didn't have the press break, and they were able to turn us over a few times and get some baskets off of us or at least get possession. So that's something that we're going to have to work on," said Head Coach Anthony Evans.

The Panthers started the first half with more energy than they had against Marshall University the previous game.

Junior forward Daviyon Draper scored the Panthers' first basket and then sank a well-contested baseline jumper a few possessions later.

Draper scored 15 points on 7-of-11 shooting and notched 11 total rebounds over the course of the game. The defensive effort was also present for the Panthers in the first half; senior guard Kris Gulley grabbed two of his team's four first-half steals. They also held WKU to 7-of-30 shooting in the first period of play. At halftime, the score was tied up at 24.

The second half was a different story on both sides of the floor for FIU.

The Hilltoppers got some easy points off of inbounds passes and breaks to the hoop. The Panthers also were

unable to break the full-court press that WKU had set; they turned over the ball eight times in the second half.

The Hilltoppers used these points off of turnovers to climb out to a 56-48 lead with 3:51 remaining.

“We just made mistakes in the second half that were crucial.”

Adrian Diaz
Forward
FIU Men's Basketball

"I feel like we had the same press break in the first half and the second half. We just made mistakes in the second half that were crucial," said junior forward Adrian Diaz.

The Panthers' best chance at a comeback came when WKU committed a backcourt violation with 1:45 left. Diaz was fouled while shooting and made both of his free throws to cut the Hilltopper lead to three.

Diaz then had to leave the game after committing his fifth foul on Harrison-Docks, who made both of his free throws.

Senior guard Dennis Mavin ran the ball back and hit a step-back jumper to make it a three-point game again, but another foul and two more Hilltopper free throws put the game away.

FIU will hit the road to continue its conference competition by taking on Old Dominion University (15-2) on Jan. 29. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. from the Ted Constant Convocation Center in Norfolk, Virginia.

SOCCER

San Lorenzo tops Nacional at FIU

JORGE CORRALES
Sports Director
jorge.corrales@fiusm.com

San Lorenzo of Argentina defeated Atlético Nacional of Colombia by a score 2-0 at FIU Stadium on Saturday, Jan. 17.

It marked the second time that Atlético Nacional makes the trip to Miami and lost.

The club also traveled to Miami in July of 2014 and lost a 4-2 decision to AS Monaco.

San Lorenzo was spurred by two first half goals from Martin Cauteruccio and Enzo Kalinski.

They got off to a quick start as Emanuel Mass centered a ball to an unmarked Cauteruccio who tapped it in with only three minutes gone by.

“Scoring is always a good thing,” Cauteruccio said. “It’s good to start the new season on such a positive note. I think this was a good step forward for the club.”

Despite the early lead, San Lorenzo continued to pressure the Nacional defense and they found the back of the net again with Kalinski’s goal in the minute 37.

Kalinski headed a shot past the diving Nacional goalkeeper Franco Armani.

The game was briefly delayed at the start of the second half as Atlético Nacional fans showered the pitch with paper and fireworks.



MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO/THE BEACON

San Lorenzo players celebrate after Martin Cauteruccio scored the first goal in the third minute. The Argentinean team won the Copa Campeones de América 2-0.

The Nacional fans, who were seated in the East end zones stands, were warned that the game would be suspended if their antics continued.

The delay was the most exciting part of the second half.

Neither club was able to net a goal in the second.

San Lorenzo arrived in Miami on Wednesday, Jan. 14 and practiced daily at the FIU Soccer Stadium while Nacional arrived on Jan. 16 and was

only able to fit in one practice before Saturday’s match.

Both teams noted that the artificial turf of Ocean Bank Field would be a new challenge for them.

“The pitch was the same for both clubs so you can eliminate that as a reason we lost. Neither club is used to practicing, much less playing matches on artificial turf,” said Club Atlético Nacional Coach Juan Carlos Osorio.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Blowouts becoming common for women

REBECCA CHARUR
Staff Writer
rebecca.charur@fiusm.com

Nothing seemed to go FIU’s way on the night of Saturday, Jan. 17 when they took on the Western Kentucky University Lady Toppers with a final decision of 81-42. In fact, the game painted a clear image of two teams going in complete opposite directions this season.

While the Panthers are still in search of their first win against a Conference USA opponent, the Lady Toppers are undefeated at 5-0. In addition, they boast an overall record of 16-3, contrasting FIU’s record of 3-13. Over the first four minutes of the game, WKU would score the first 11 points until about the 14:56 mark when Marita Davydova knocked down the bucket and the foul. This gave FIU their first points of the game; however, it would not be enough to spark some life for the Panthers. With about 12 minutes left in the half, the Lady Toppers had extended their lead to 18 and even went on 24-8 run jut before the halftime whistle blew. By then, WKU had taken a commanding 41-23 lead heading into the locker room.

It was the same old story

coming out of the break, as the Lady Toppers opened with a 9-0 run. They extended their lead to as many as 41 points. FIU responded with a small run that would cut the lead down to 27, but that was the closest they would get as the final whistle blew and put the Panthers out of their misery.

Redshirt freshman Kiandre’a Pound led the way in scoring with 14 points, while Destini Feagin recorded 11 points off three three-pointers. After scoring FIU’s first points, Davydova also had herself a solid outing with 13 boards, only two shy of her career best. The most impressive performance of the night, however, belonged to WKU’s redshirt sophomore guard Kendall Noble who recorded 17 points, 10 rebounds, five assists, five steals and a block.

The Panthers managed to out-rebound the Lady Toppers 46-43 but lost the battle of points in the paint - where WKU scored 54 points - and the turnover battle. FIU had 23 turnovers that WKU took advantage of for 22 points off those mistakes.

FIU will have a few days off before making the short drive to Boca Raton, Fla., to take on the Owls of Florida Atlantic University on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 5 p.m.



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University professors battle commercial sexual exploitation

MARIA C. SERRANO
Staff Writer
maria.serrano@fiusm.com

Advertising and public relations Professor Maria Elena Villar has joined forces with University of Miami researchers to fight against child commercial sexual exploitation in Colombia.

Through the development of an educational role-playing game called “Por Estas Calles,” meaning

from University of Miami doctoral student, Jessica Wendorf, a Colombian-American who saw the need to partner with child-serving organizations in Colombia.

“Through their existing relationship with Jessica, [the organizations] reached out to her to help them address the need to raise awareness about the problem,” Villar said.

The team traveled to Bogota, Barranquilla and Cartagena,

mother who forces her daughter to provide sexual favors as a source of income.

Another character would be a taxi driver who provides information to tourists on where child prostitutes are found.

The game is intended to be used at workshops held by the police and the Ministry of Tourism in affected areas. It will also provide recommendations for how to report child sexual exploitation to police.

“People in all sectors of Colombian society can identify the problem, prevent it and/or report it to the proper authorities,” Villar said.

According to the organization Children of the Andes, there are 35,000 children being affected by this crime, especially in cities like Quibdo where 49.9 percent of the country’s extreme poverty is found.

Colombian Police Officer Luis Eduardo Barrera, informed Student Media of the importance of the National Police’s involvement in overseeing child protection, especially in the areas of tourism protection and national heritage.

Villar and the researchers received a grant from the Miami Consortium for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, a collaboration between FIU’s Latin American

Colombia where they have partnered with the Colombian National Police. They also met with the Ministry of Tourism, Fundacion Renacer, Fundacion Juan Felipe Gomez Escobar and Colombia Joven to better understand child exploitation in the country.

The game requires players to role-play as characters in scenarios where child sexual exploitation is eminent. Characters include a

“on these streets,” the team hopes to raise awareness in regions where crime and extreme poverty forces children to fall victims.

“Criminals prey on these vulnerable children and youth and entice them to get involved in these activities,” Villar said. “But there is a percentage of children that is forced or coerced and don’t know how to get out of it,” she said.

The idea for the game came

Maria Elena Villar
Chair
Advertising & Public Relations

NEW YEAR, NEW ME



MARCIA AKSU/THE BEACON

Bianca Domond, a freshman studying hospitality, holds up a sign with her New Years resolution at the New Year’s Brunch on Thursday, Jan. 15.

Caribbean Center and UM’s Center for Latin American Studies.

They were awarded \$10,000 to develop the project between June 2014 and May 2015. They plan to travel to Colombia again at the beginning of February to visit several regions who are exposed to the problem.

“I haven’t seen a case of a

person that I know suffering such an abuse, but it is something you see in the news and people talking in the streets of Colombia,” said University alum and Colombian native Juan Camilo Aristizabal.

“It is something that needs to be addressed and I am more than willing to cooperate in resolving that issue,” Aristizabal said.

E-cigarettes, not really the ‘healthier’ alternative

COLUMNIST



CAMILA FERNANDEZ

From a nasty tobacco-filled cigarettes to tasty-flavored, tobacco-free electronic cigarettes, young adults who look to quit their old smoking habits have found an alternative.

While traditional cigarettes contain over 7,000 toxic chemicals like ammonia and carbon monoxide, e-cigarettes depend on a tiny battery for its vapor effect. Despite their differences, e-cigarettes are not the saviors of bad-habit smoking.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, both cigarettes use the powerfully addictive chemical nicotine - the key ingredient for returning

customers. Although e-cigarettes help to avoid quick degrading skin and lung cancer, experts say that flawed manufacturing could account for carcinogens and vaporizing heavy metals like lead, tin and zinc.

Who are the head chefs of these cinnamon apple, banana nut bread, vanilla cupcake, chocolate candy bar and coconut bomb flavored “vapes”? According to The New York Times, the Chinese. Nearly 90 percent of the world’s e-cigarettes are made in China.

Due to its popularity, the Food and Drug Administration has worked on guidelines for careful manufacturing, but analysts say it could take years for Chinese factories to slow down their soaring profits before complying to tense regulation.

Sales of e-cigs more than

doubled last year from 2012 to \$1.7 billion, according to Wells Fargo Securities. In the next ten years, the use of the new technology could surpass that of traditional

cigarettes.

No-smoke.org states that as of Oct. 2014, out of the 1,014 tobacco-free campuses in the nation, 587 prohibit the use of



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

As of Oct. 1, 2014, 587 universities prohibit the use of e-cigarettes on campus.

e-cigarettes including our very own FIU. The University’s ban on tobacco began in early 2011 including “electronic cigarette(s)...or any other device intended to simulate smoked tobacco.”

Even though smoking is not allowed, my nose still squirms from the lingering fumes of sneaky students and staff smoking on campus. To see students use e-cigarettes inside campus buildings is even more uncanny.

When I studied abroad in Paris, I concluded that the need to smoke is frightening -- even high school students are not forbidden from smoking a cigarette on school grounds. Everyone has the right to do as they choose, but despite the immense beauty and mystery of the city, it was hard to catch a bit of fresh air sometimes.

Sure, e-cigarettes don’t let out a big puff of unpleasant smells, but must it really become another addiction? For those who choose e-cigs with nicotine, its addictive component can intensify a bad habit that later becomes a struggle to break out of.

Instead, I propose a different kind of pleasantry -- living a liberating life away from the chains of addictions. I have a loving friend who can’t watch an entire film with me without having to step out for a smoke and whose aroma impedes me from fully enjoying this person’s presence.

Whether it’s a cigarette or the next “healthier” version of an e-cigarette, addiction should never become a necessity nor a bad habit.

camila.fernandez@fiusm.com