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Florida International University

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New options for meal plans coming fall 2013

STEPHANIE MASON
Staff Writer

In an attempt to better tend to the needs of students, the University's Dining Services will be making changes and additions to its options for meal plans.

"Our goal is to try and meet the students' needs," said Patricia Williams, marketing manager for Panther Dining Services.

According to Williams, the most popular meal plan among students is called the VIP 5 while the VIP 7 is a close second. Unknown to many students, Williams stated that VIP actually stands for "Very Important Panther."

Currently, the VIP 5 allows students unlimited access to the Fresh Foods cafeteria Monday through Friday -- hence the "5" -- along with 300 dining dollars, or Panther Bucks, to spend on meals at other retail locations on campus. The VIP 7 entails unlimited access to the Fresh Foods cafeteria seven days a week as well as 100

Panther bucks to spend.

Williams said that the Dining Services Office periodically does research including surveys via email asking students how the office can better meal plans and the overall dining experience.

Through these surveys, Williams said what she has seen as a big concern from students is more flexibility. In order to accommodate this desire, Panther Dining Services will be changing the VIP 5 meal plan to include Saturday and Sunday, allowing the student to choose which five days of the week are unlimited. This meal plan will come into effect starting fall 2013.

Jasmine Chaney, freshman in marketing, and Chaz Dunn, freshman studying art, both live on campus and currently have meal plans; Chaney has the VIP 5 and Dunn has the VIP 7. After hearing about the new VIP 5, Dunn said it will be a lot more convenient and Chaney said she wishes that was the way it had been for her as a

freshman.

Dunn agreed with Chaney's opinion that currently, the meal plan is a bit inconvenient as far as hours and being able to eat at the other dining locations.

Chaney said she does not have a car so it is annoying that the hours the restaurants are open on campus are so short.

Chaney said that the hours of operation for many restaurants on campus are annoying because they're so short and she does not have a car.

"The hours are horrible for Fresh. The school doesn't cater to people who live on campus, it's more of commuter students that they cater to."

Chaney and Dunn also expressed that they feel there are not enough Panther Bucks given with the meal plan.

Both students said they would recommend the meal plan to other students, as it has been very helpful to have at times.

Graduate student in public administration,

Randall Melendez, lives off campus and does not have a meal plan. However, Melendez said he eats in the Fresh Foods cafeteria about once a day.

Melendez stated that the primary reason he eats in Fresh Foods is because it is relatively cheap and it is

buffet style.

"You get what you pay for," said Melendez.

Melendez said the meal plans are good for students who live on campus that either cannot cook or are too lazy.

Melendez also voiced a concern about the hours

of Dining Services locations for students living on campus. Melendez said that when he came to the University during spring break, all of the dining locations were closed.

"I was concerned about

SEE DINING, PAGE 2



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

There will be new meal plans offered during the upcoming fall semester including VIP 5, which will include Saturday and Sunday so students can choose which five days they can eat.

Incident in dorms believed to be April Fool's joke

DIEGO SALDANA ROJAS
Staff Writer

While many students probably didn't remember that Monday morning was April Fools' Day, housing students at the University certainly won't forget it in the near future.

Early on April 1, multiple false fire alarms were pulled in the housing quad. According to Interim Executive Director of Housing and Residential Life Lynn Hendricks, who sent an email to all housing students Monday morning following the incident around noon, slippery substances were placed on stairwells and hallways, and some doors were tied to prevent individuals from exiting their dorm rooms.

Currently, two students were identified as injured due to the slick materials placed on the stairwells, said University Chief of

Police Alexander Casas.

According to the email sent out by Hendricks, "these actions posed a significant danger to the health and welfare of our community and are being fully investigated by University Police."

According to Casas, the event appears to have been an April Fools' joke.

Shey Lum You, junior social work major, lives on the first floor of Lakeview Hall North and experienced the false fire alarms. Lum You recalled that the first alarm went off at around 1:30 a.m. with a second one at approximately 5:40 a.m.

"I thought it would have been a prank to have it done twice [in one night], that's when I thought it was a prank," Lum You said. "It's a big safety issue. Students don't want to be woken twice in a night for a prank especially when...some people may think it's real and some people may not."

Sophomore advertising major, Carlton Grant, woke up to both alarms and did not initially think they were pranks.

"Around 1 a.m. the first alarm goes and off I just thought it was fire drill [then] around 5:40 a.m.-something the alarm goes off again and... thought that maybe this time there was really a fire," Grant said.

Grant knew about the slippery substances being used on the stairwells and mentioned he saw a picture that was circulating of doors being bound with what appeared to be seran wrap.

Lum You was aware of slick substances being used on the stairwells but was not aware that doors were being bound.

Grant believes that many residents thought the whole event was an April Fools' Day prank.

"I think a lot of people were cognoscente of the fact it was April Fools',"

Grant said. "I think that if it was another day, seeing as how today was April Fools, and there was no reason for it and nobody could tie one and one together, then a lot more people could have gotten hurt," said Grant.

Casas noted that there were currently no individuals in custody and that the investigation is ongoing. He also mentioned there are currently no suspects for this incident.

Students with any information may contact the University Police at (305) 348-2626, the Office of Residential Life at (305) 348-3661 or by anonymously visiting the department website and looking under the Silent Witness tab.

As of press time, Hendricks was not available for further comment on this story other than the email sent to all Housing students.

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Career Management Services offer tools to students

ERIC WATT
Contributing Writer

Students in the College of Business that are hunting for careers have an ideal method of securing a job through Career Management Services that provides an abundance of services that can help tailor a business student for employment.

According to John Nykolaiszyn, associate director of CMS in the College of Business, contact is kept with around 2,500 registered companies and currently 275 active job postings that are updated monthly to keep opportunities available for registered students. The CMS also hosts events like panel discussions, info sessions, career fairs

and etiquette lunches and dinners for students to broaden the scope of job opportunities and advise students how to interact in social situations.

These services are not only limited to undergraduate students, but to graduate students and alumni as well.

"There are so many people of the same age out there that

it increases competition," said Ryan Emigh, senior finance major. "There are thousands of kids graduating from college and only a handful of jobs available for them."

Emigh said the importance of networking and connections plays a pivotal role in securing a career.

"Employers have been getting

pickier about resumes, degrees and skill sets," said Emigh.

The College of Business provides resources to make job-hunting easier for students. Honors programs such as Honors in International Business are available for sharpening skills and a general understanding

SEE CAREER, PAGE 2

WORLD NEWS

Tough times ahead in post-Chavez Venezuela

Doing business in post-Hugo Chavez Venezuela is not for the faint of heart.

Thousands of companies suffer under currency controls that all but deny them the U.S. dollars they need to import vital items into this oil-rich country, from food to cars to spare parts — even gasoline. Venezuelan firms must sell their wares at state-controlled prices that don’t reflect the 22 percent inflation rate, the highest in Latin America. Even Venezuela’s socialist government admits the controls don’t work — but its attention is focused on the April 14 election to replace the late President Hugo Chavez.

Cyprus gains more time to achieve surplus

Cyprus has been granted an extra year — until 2017 — to achieve a targeted budget surplus of 4 percent as part of bailout negotiations with international lenders, the government spokesman said Monday.

The change is designed to prepare for what could be a deeper than expected economic slowdown as the Mediterranean country is forced to drastically shrink its banking and financial industry.

Pakistani woman makes history with run in May vote

A 40-year-old Pakistani housewife has made history by becoming the first woman to run for parliament from the country’s deeply conservative tribal region bordering Afghanistan.

Badam Zari is pushing back against patriarchal traditions and braving potential attack by Islamist militants in the hope of forcing the government to focus more on helping Pakistani women.

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

CMS offers chances for jobs

CAREER, PAGE 1

of business’ application in differing cultures. The problem has become whether or not students are taking the initiative to work with the available material.

Nykolaishyn stressed the idea of “access and utilization.”

Students may be facing a problem in the job market

because, while the material on campus is accessible, they might not be putting it to use.

“Students are responsible for making their own networks. We can’t just plug you into a networking opportunity, but we can certainly give you the material to work with,” Nykolaishyn said.

During events like panel discussions, CMS invites

experts and well-respected entrepreneurs to offer advice to students. Resume and interview preparation services are also available for students who are actively taking part in job hunting. Emigh said even professors are willing to help, providing networking opportunities and letters of recommendation.

The College of Business, despite the programs

it offers, still receives some degree of negative feedback from the students.

“The tools are given but there is no help in actually applying them,” said Jose Rodriguez, senior business management major. “Everything is more theoretical than hands on. Experience is necessary for this field.”

-news@fiusm.com

VIP plan turns more flexible

DINING, PAGE 1

how the students eat...if there’s nothing open and not everyone goes away for vacation or goes away for a holiday,” said Melendez.

Williams also wants students to know that the meal plans are not just for students who live on campus.

She said that any student should have a meal plan because it not only saves money and time, but it allows students to be part of the college experience.

Williams said students can “treat it like your own personal refrigerator,” whether using the meal plan for a full meal, eating some yogurt

before class or grabbing a late-night slice of pizza.

Aside from the VIP 5 and VIP 7, there are also several other options including a new lower-priced plan as well. Students can sign up for a meal plan at pantherdining.com.

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NKorea taps reformist premier amid nuclear tension

ERIC WATT
Staff Writer

North Korea’s parliament on Monday approved the appointment of a new premier seen by outside experts as an economic reformer one day after top party officials adopted a declaration making nuclear arms and a stronger

economy the nation’s top priorities.

The U.S., meanwhile, made its latest conspicuous display of firepower, announcing it had sent F-22 stealth fighter jets to participate in annual U.S.-South Korean war games that Pyongyang calls preparation for an invasion. The new South Korean president, who has a policy meant to re-engage Pyongyang with talks and aid, told her top military leaders Monday to set aside political considerations and respond strongly should North Korea attack.

according to Seoul’s Unification Ministry. He was sacked initially because of a proposal for an incentive-based hourly, rather than monthly, wage system deemed too similar to U.S.-style capitalism, Japan’s Mainichi Shimbun newspaper reported in 2007. Pak replaces Choe Yong Rim, who is 82.

backtracked, said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea analyst at Seoul’s Dongguk University. His appointment could be a message to the outside world that North Korea wants to calm tension and focus more on economic revitalization, Koh said.

“Pak Pong Ju is the face of economic reform, such as it exists — reform with North Korean characteristics as they say,” said John Delury, a professor and North Korea analyst at Seoul’s Yonsei University.

Any economic changes won’t be radical, Delury said, and, for the time being, they’re mostly aspirational. One possible change could entail a shift of part of the country’s massive military spending into the economy as a whole, he said.

Pak is widely known for spearheading reforms in 2002, when the government began allowing some markets, although it later

Pyeongyang has reacted with anger to the U.S.-South Korean military drills and to a new round of U.N. and U.S. sanctions that followed its Feb. 12 underground nuclear test, the country’s third. Analysts see a full-scale North Korean attack as unlikely and say the threats are more likely efforts to provoke softer policies toward Pyongyang from a new government in Seoul, to win diplomatic talks with Washington and to solidify the young North Korean leader’s military credentials at home.

Despite the rising hostility, recent rhetoric has focused on efforts to turn around a moribund economy and nuclear development.



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INTERVIEWS START FRIDAY, APRIL 5.

Coming back from a stressful semester

VINSON PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

A student's college career can be full of incredible and awesome experiences, tremendous opportunities and semesters replete with numerous achievements.

However, the college career is a long journey and sometimes we have that semester where we stumble and can't seem to regain our stride.

We temporarily lose our confident bounce in our step because of a class that seems nearly impossible to pass or have a class schedule and workload that seems to devour all 168 hours in a week.

Perhaps it's a semester where nothing seems to go a student's way: carefully thought-out plans become undone due to unexpected external occurrences or significant personal goals are sacrificed for activities that may not be interesting but must be done.

Simply put, it's that one semester where you're just

off your game.

The "off your game" semester can be a frustrating period of time where one feels utterly drained of energy, motivation and overall happiness; even a student's confidence might take a hit.

I know from firsthand experience what this feels like and how it can take a toll.

Although it is very demanding and tough to endure these nightmare semesters, one has to remember their capabilities and not allow their circumstances to completely ruin and diminish confidence and the overall college experience.

Easier said than done, but it can be done.

If someone went through the semester where challenging courses overshadowed the best effort of the student and a below decent grade was earned, engage in serious reflection and figure out what went wrong and apply those lessons in the future so history isn't repeated.

Although it hurts to know that a high GPA might take a

potential skydive downward, the college career is long and if lessons are learned, there will be plenty of opportunities to bring it back up.

If the semester has been incredibly busy, some students may feel there isn't enough time in the day to get everything done and they feel overwhelmed.

Take a step back and break all of your big responsibilities down into little tasks, instead

everything one at a time.

Before it is even noticeable, most of the tasks in that planner will be checked off. This will surely put a mind at ease.

No matter how tough and frustrating a semester gets or whether or not one finished a semester as strong as they could have, learn from those less than favorable experiences and try not to let those experiences diminish confi-

“The “off your game” semester can be a frustrating period of time where one feels utterly drained of energy, motivation and overall happiness.”

of looking at the mountain of assignments and responsibilities as a whole, just take it step by step and knock out

dence in yourself.

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When's the last time you read a book?

MIGUEL MARTINEZ-VIERA
Contributing Writer

Somewhere in our history, possibly around the time that movies and TV began to dominate our cultural conscious, perfectly literate people stopped reading just for the sake of reading. This isn't a criticism of you directly, although you are to blame, but it's rather a questioning glance at our cultural standards.

When you hang out with your friends, do you ever discuss the books you've read?

My assumption, which I'm pretty confident in, is that you most likely do not. We seem to prefer to talk about celebrities and other people's lives rather than discuss how a particular protagonist's character arc in a novel relates to the struggle of the disenfranchised middle-class college student in modern day America.

It's almost looked at as being weird in our modern culture to wish to discuss literature as a pedestrian topic. And the thing is, that that in itself is very weird.

The fact that you're reading these words tells me that you are more than capable of reading and comprehending words, and yet, for many of you this may be the most non-required reading you do (well, this and your Facebook or Twitter feed).

When I walk around campus, I very, very, very rarely see a student simply sitting and reading. I see plenty of students on their phones, texting friends, scrolling through



CAROLINA GUILLLOT/THE BEACON

Instagram, checking Facebook, or playing a game, but I struggle to see the students who hold a book in their hands and block out the outside noise, which in the end is just a stale static drowning our individuality with its massiveness.

I know that it's a lot to ask for. After all, we're all busy with class and work and college life in general, but I believe that every person who can read should be reading a book for pleasure at any given time.

I'm not suggesting that you ignore your other responsibilities and spend your time within paper pages breathing only words, but I am suggesting that we, as a collective

people, begin to cut out the excess junk and noise of the unproductive "norm."

I have plenty of bones to pick with Facebook, and Instagram, and Twitter, and all such idiotic wastes of time, but that's not the point of this little article. The point is that as fully literate people, we are wasting our potential by not reading a book every once in awhile.

If the trends stay true to the way they're going, we may one day reach a point where we look back and wonder what a book ever was.

-opinion@fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

Old rules keeping away new progress

In mid-March, news broke that Pablo Haspel, president of Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus was declined a chance to run for the same position at Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Haspel was disqualified on the basis that 50 percent of his classes were not on MMC. The SGA appeals board, however, said it was because his major was based out of the Broward Pines Center, which falls under BBC jurisdiction, and promptly slammed down a 4-0 vote against him running.

Haspel is now left hovering in purgatory.

FIU has always championed a message of being worlds ahead. We're all about being international and mixing everyone together to create one big, happy family, right?

So when did we ditch that ideology and segregate BBC and MMC and restrict what activities its corresponding students can and cannot do?

The Beacon believes that whether Haspel's or the appeal board's reasoning was correct, either rule is dated and unwise.

Declining a potential candidate on the basis of where his major is or how many classes he takes on which campus, severely limits the choices that students are handed.

At the time of press, there's only one candidate for the MMC position, Liane Sippin.

While the Graham Center will undoubtedly be more tolerable without the harassment to vote for three or four different candidates, we're supposed to be a democracy, not a dictatorship.

In the past, both campuses have had candidacies run uncontested – Haspel being the lone candidate, as a matter of fact — and that doesn't bode well for a campus. It promotes an "if you don't like it, deal with it" atmosphere, which is all too familiar in this society.

As the race begins to heat up, if students don't like Sippin's platform, what are they supposed to do? Sure, they can refuse to vote, but in the end she'd still be the winning candidate by default.

This rule eliminates a chance for discourse between potential candidates. If Sippin runs unopposed, who will challenge her ideas? Or how can she convince everyone that she is the better candidate when there's no one to compare herself to?

The Beacon has two offices, one in MMC and BBC. How unfair would it be to decline BBC writers the opportunity to write about events happening in MMC? Or how thick would we have to be to tell an established MMC staff writer that he can't cover a keynote event in BBC because he has the majority of his classes in the former campus?

Haspel's experience as a president of a campus can serve him well, but it looks like the student body will never find out.

SGA must consider revising this rule as soon as possible. Give students a choice and if that means bypassing rules like the one that keeps Haspel out, then so be it.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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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The Frost launches first online exhibition and project space

NATALIE MONTANER
Contributing Writer

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum is set to launch its first ever online exhibition and project space entitled, “The Drawing Project; What is line and how does it travel through space.”

The act of drawing has evolved and taken many forms throughout history and the cultural changes brought upon by the passage of hundreds of years. Focusing on the question, “what is line and how does it travel through space,” this project hopes to respond to the idea that a drawing is not simply an object, but also an action or “the trace of a point in

time.”

Curated by University graduate Emmy Mathis, “The Drawing Project” will host never before displayed pieces from the Frost’s permanent collection, as well as the works of many artists, both local and international.

“One of the aims of the museum is to reach an international audience and provide provocative programs, exhibitions and projects that speak to a diverse community,” said Carol Damian, director of the Frost.

Pulled from the Drawing Research Network, a website which sets to improve our understanding of drawing and raise the profile on its research,

internationally respected artists such as Shirin Neshat, Robert Rauschenberg and Jean Cocteau will have works in this collection. Local artists, including Jenny Brillhart and Kevin Arrow, will be able to showcase their work for their fellow Miamians as well.

“The Drawing Project is not only unique to the United States, and thus important to FIU, but allows us to engage with artists with a single focus: drawing. It is quite remarkable to see what they submit and how they interpret the project and how we can also use our own collection as participant,” said Damian.

Aside from the local and international artists, there is

set to be a special curatorial section from the Girls’ Club Collection, which will display work from contemporary female artists.

The website will have

its “project space” up and running for proposals and an online residency. The first artist to partake in this project space and residency will be local artist Brill-

hart, who will be on for the months of April & May.

Not just an online exhibition and display of work, “The Drawing Project” will also host a series of events, workshops, webisodes, lectures and panel discussions to further expand this project to the public.

Kick starting this phenomenal online experience will be a reception and panel discussion on April 3 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., which is open and free to the public.

“The Drawing Project” then goes fully live and can be accessed through www.drawingproject.frostartmuseum.org. The site will be accessible through Sept. 3.

-life@fiusm.com

“One of the aims of the museum is to reach an international audience and provide provocative programs, exhibitions and projects that speak to a diverse community.”

Carol Damian
Director

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum

Students debate: Is belief in God reasonable?

KEILA DIAZ
Contributing Writer

The Catholic Panthers and the Secular Student Alliance will meet this Thursday to face off, debate-style, in the Graham Center. The two groups will be debating whether or not belief in God is reasonable.

The Catholic Panthers, as they are more commonly known, are a faith organization on campus that exists through the Multi-Faith Council.

The organization serves students, faculty and staff through bible studies, praise and worship services, mass on campus, and community outreach.

According to their website, the purpose of the organization is to serve as a spiritual family and home for those who seek and are open to an encounter with Christ.

The Secular Student Alliance Chapter at FIU is a group for students and community members that are secular, atheist, agnostic, freethinkers, skeptics, and humanists among others.

Through their main FaceBook group page, SSA seeks to spread awareness and understanding about secularism and dispel the misled belief that secularism is devil-worship as well as to organize and perform volunteer work in the community.

According to Melissa Zwilling, president and founder of SSA at FIU, the hope is that the debate will spark conversation among students about philosophical questions. The point of the debate is not to change anyone’s mind but to show other perspectives and alternative opinions on the subject.

“SSA wants to encourage people to question their philosophical and religious ideas. A lot of people go through life never thoroughly examining what they believe or why, and we want this debate to promote discussion on campus. In addition, it has given us a great way to encourage interfaith dialogue,” said Zwilling, president and founder of SSA at FIU.

The SSA has a second FaceBook group page where they have extended discussions on different topics. The debate, which is partly funded by the Council for Student Organizations, has been advertised around campus as “the hottest debate that FIU has seen in a long time.” The debate is set up so that each team has three representatives. There is one moderator and various opportunities for interaction with the audience have been planned.

“It would be interesting to see the two different views on the matter. As long as the debate doesn’t become two zealot groups insulting each other and just a respectable discussion of different opinions then I have no problem seeing it,” said Daniel Granda, senior and Electrical Engineering major, about the debate and seeing more like it on campus.

-life@fiusm.com

When: Thursday, April 4th
7:45 pm-9:30 pm
Where: MMC, Graham Center 140
Contact: fiucatholic@gmail.com
and/or fiu@secularstudents.org

Singing Away



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

Singer Cas Haley performs during SPC’s ‘Coffee House’ event in the GC Ballrooms. In addition to the sounds of spoken word poems, singing and instrumentals, the audience also enjoyed delicious gourmet coffee and pastries.

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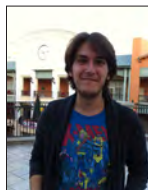
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‘Blancanieves’ brings a beautiful new life into an old tale

For all the awards it won for being a modern silent film, “The Artist” didn’t bring anything all that original to the table, leaving some

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

wishing for a silent piece with some meat on its bones. In comes Pablo Berger with his own modern silent, an impressive little feature called “Blancanieves.”

Not only is “Blancanieves” a modern silent, it is yet another retelling of the Snow White tale that has risen over the last few years. With how terrible both “Snow White and the Huntsman” and “Mirror, Mirror” were, one would be right in being wary.

Luckily enough, “Blancanieves” is far from traditional and has no interest in bludgeoning the audience to death with a meek young woman who relies on a man to save her time and time again. Instead, Berger chooses to craft a compelling new narrative out of an old and familiar tale.

Placing the audience in early 20th century Seville, the film begins by following the usual outline of Snow White’s tragic life. Here we see Snow as Carmen (Macarena García), a bullfighter’s daughter who lost both her mother and grandmother and was left to live with her sadistic stepmother Encarna (Maribel Verdú). Her father is kept under lock and key, paralyzed long ago during a bullfight, but Snow manages to find him, and he teaches her how to bullfight over the years.

When her stepmother tries to murder her after disposing of her father, Carmen finds herself with amnesia and in the home of the Los Enanitos Toreros, the bullfighting dwarves. It is

through them that she finds the perfect opportunity to embark on a bullfighting career of her own, and is dubbed “Blancanieves” after the story.

Many have thrown around comparisons to some of Pedro Almodóvar’s earlier works, including but not limited to “Matador,” and it’s no surprise why considering it’s brimming with Spanish culture. One of the best things about “Blancanieves” is that it’s grounded in realism to a certain extent. Pablo Berger pushes the story to some fairly macabre levels, to the point where people quite literally have the opportunity to pay ten cents to smooch Carmen’s corpse in an attempt to bring her back to life in a cheap side-show manner.

There’s also more than enough melodrama populating the story to be mistaken for one of his works, and quite a bit of humor and tenderness amidst it. Thankfully, the acting never tips over into an over the top realm. Even when Encarna falls into the ridiculously wicked caricature one expects, Maribel Verdú never gives anything but an excellent performance. She needs no magic mirror to fuel her hatred of Carmen, but Berger presents her longing for attention through constant scenes involving her in front of a camera.

While Verdú is a force to be reckoned with, Macarena García is exactly the right fit for Snow White. She’s beautiful, she knows how to convey emotion through her expresses, and she wears that bullfighter outfit pretty dang well. One of García’s best qualities, however, is just how much chemistry she has with one of the dwarves, Rafita, played by the charming Sergio Dorado.

-See fiusm.com for the rest of this story.



Getting Involved



Dear Nick,

I wanted to know more about events and activities for men of color here at FIU.

S.T.
Senior
Biology Major

Dear S.T.,

Diversity is one of the most exciting parts of the FIU experience. With so many groups and events, I am certain you will find a wide array of activities to choose from. FIU has a Black Student Union that welcomes students of all races to rejoice in African American programming that is reflective of our culture and history. Moreover, FIU is home to the Caribbean Student Association, the Brazilian Culture Club, and Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, is a organization on campus that



seeks to take a leadership role in meeting the needs of the Latino community through cultural awareness, community service and promotion of the Latino culture and people. In addition to these great organizations, the Office of Counseling and Psychological Services hosts a wonderful event called “The Chill”, I sat down to speak with Dr. Matthew Woodfork, post-doctoral fellow, the creative genius behind the Chill get more information. Dr. Woodfork informed me that the purpose of The Chill forums are to generate an honest, thoughtful dialogue among male students of color, especially black males. This gives them a better understanding of who they are as men, students, and members of their communities so they may thrive within and beyond FIU. This program has been developed within CAPS in conjunction with strong collaboration from MPAS Male Mentoring Initiative. According to Dr. Woodfork, “Guys that attend have the opportunity for a real conversation about things that are important to them as black males, for example, music. Everybody connects on some level with music, and Hip Hop in particular has evolved into one of the main forms of expression for many in the African American community during the past 40 years!” There have been several forums offered already which have touched upon black male identity, family, relationships with women, and community orientation, just to name a few. In addition to engaging discussions, attendees have the chance to socialize and build connections while enjoying free food! Those who may be interested in participating in the future can contact CAPS or MPAS Male Mentoring Initiative for more information. With so many opportunities to get involved, I am sure you will find an outlet to help you connect and thrive!

Be Well,

Nick



Nick Scheidt, M.S. is a Doctoral Psychology Intern at FIU Counseling and Psychological Services. He is a Clinical Psychology Doctoral Candidate from Carlos Albizu University. Once he completes his internship at FIU, Nick plans to work as a Psychologist, Writer, and Professor.

Do you have questions you would like to Ask Nick? Send an email to: Nscheidt@fiu.edu

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Vocal leadership ignite spark in defense

JONATHAN JACOBSSKIND
Asst. Sports Director

It's not the rattling sound of shoulder pads colliding, helmets smashing or even coaches blowing their whistles that fans hear the most when the football team takes the field.

It's the electrifying voices of defensive end Paul Crawford and linebacker Markeith Russell that radiate all across Alonso Field at FIU Stadium.

With spring football in full swing, the Panthers will rely heavily on the vocal leadership of Crawford and Russell to get through those tiresome, body bruising practice sessions that have the Panthers gearing up for an improved 2013 campaign.

"It feels really good to have guys under you that you can pour your knowledge into because I feel like when you can pour your knowledge into someone it also gives you room to pour knowledge back into yourself," Crawford said about vocal leadership. "When you have teams that are so tight and worry about the play too much, it tends to lead to mistakes, but our defense, we come out with the mindset to fly around, have fun, to hit dudes and it allows guys to play a little looser."

One of Crawford's able teammates, Russell who is primed for a breakout season after an injury riddled 2012 season that earned



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Linebacker Markeith Russell, center, jokes around with a few young fans after spring football practice.

him a medical redshirt, stresses the Panthers won't enjoy any progress if communication is not present on the field at all times.

"Communication is step one. If you do not communicate, success is very limited," Russell said. "If we're not on the same page and communicating with each other then opponents can bust for big plays, touchdowns happen and if we do not get a call and the game

is on the line, we can lose on that very play."

A hometown product out of North Miami Beach Senior High, Russell is no stranger to the spotlight as the 6-foot-1, 225-pound middle linebacker has been a vocal leader ever since the days he suited up for his youth football team, the North Miami Beach Sun Devils.

"Even from my North Miami Beach Sun Devil days I was out

there being vocal leader. It's something my coaches say I've always done right," Russell said. "A great leader is waking up and being able to motivate guys to do something that they love to do. In the heat of the battle, you got to encourage, you can't lead my discouraging anybody, you always got to pick somebody up. If someone got a big play done on them you got to say, 'Hey, scratch that off, next play, lets

go."

As for Crawford, the Texas native registered 18 tackles in 2012 combined with 1.5 sacks. The 6-foot-9, 270-pound senior can always be found riling up his teammates with words of encouragement along with singing and dancing to some of the team's favorite pump-up songs.

"I've always been a high-energy guy and a high-intensive guy and I feel like that has got me where I am today, so that's why I'm going to continue to keep the intensity high and the energy level high," Crawford said. "Good players motivate themselves, great players motivate others."

Despite what it may seem as a competition of who can be the loudest on the field, both Crawford and Russell downplayed the vocal leadership competition and believe being vocal brings the team into a more cohesive unit, but not necessarily guaranteeing the win.

"Markeith is over there with the linebackers and I'm on [defensive] line, we're not really competing, we're just trying to be in unison and getting the team loose," Crawford. "I don't ever think it's the riling up that gets the victory. I feel like if anything in that moment, we need to just hunker down, anchor down and just play hard-nosed football."

-jonathan.jacobsskind@fiusm.com

Injuries and lack of energy cause for team's woes

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

With the loss to Brown University on March 29, the misery continued as the Panthers now find themselves in a season-long seven-game losing streak.

Before the season, senior Rita Maisak and junior Giulietta Boha said they had expected greater things this season compared to last year. A six-game losing streak to start the season and the current seven-game losing streak is not something either predicted.

The losing streak is something that Head Coach Katarina Petrovic didn't envision either in her first season with the Panthers.

At first, the team has struggled to win in doubles matches, which has haunted the team in

their past seven matches. They have only won three doubles matches this season.

While doubles has become an Achilles heel for the Panthers, there are other things that have hindered the team from getting wins. The inconsistency in every given match has cost the Panthers.

Along with the inconsistency, players have not given 100 percent effort in every match, according to Petrovic. With the exception of freshman Carlotta Orlando, the rest of the players on the team have had moments of playing well and moments where they can't buy a match.

After a slow start, Boha was able put together a string of victories before finding herself in another slump in the past few matches.

"I tell the players I need to see energy, and they

agree, but then when I ask why they are not, they can't give me a reason," Petrovic said.

The five and six singles positions have been almost nonexistent all season for the Panthers. The number six position in singles has been played by either freshmen Lotte Gras or Michelle Sabado.

With the exception of a forfeit by Florida State in their match on Feb. 22, the six position is yet to register a victory in singles. Senior Magali Holt, has only three singles victories this season at the number five position.

As the injuries begin to mount up, it has greatly shortened the depth chart.

Due to the injuries, the Panthers were forced to forfeit the number six position in their losses to Tulane and Brown.

Injuries to Maisak and Sabado have left the

team shorthanded and they are still considered day-to-day.

Petrovic declined to comment further on the injuries.

These injuries have forced the other players

matches. Nine of the teams they have played are currently ranked opponents.

"It's really tough to provide enough energy to the players that are playing out of position,"

“Right now, it’s been tough especially battling injuries but right now we are just going to practice the same and I’m looking forward to try to get a good draw in our conference tournament.”

Katarina Petrovic
Head Coach
Tennis

to play out of their position, which also hurts the team's chances in winning

and if you see a player is losing too many matches it usually means they are

playing out of position," Petrovic said.

The Panthers now have three games left on their schedule before the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

"Right now, it's been tough especially battling injuries but right now we are just going to practice the same and I'm looking forward to try to get a good draw in our conference tournament," Petrovic said.

Last season, the Panthers made a good run in the conference tournament as they made it all the way to the championship round despite a subpar season.

They will need to experience some déjà vu in this season's conference tournament as it offers a great opportunity for the team to salvage a dismal season.

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Live scrimmage shows defensive leadership, offensive youth

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

As the football team concluded the first full week of spring practice in pads, it also held its first live scrimmage. The scrimmage certainly showed that there is still a lot of work to be done in every aspect of the game.

The kicking game, which up until the scrimmage had shown a lot of promise, had three blocked field goals, with a fourth that barely made it over and through the uprights after being blocked by the defensive line.

The punt team did not fare too well either as they had one punt tipped with the rest nearly blocked.

“It definitely worries me that we had those blocked kicks,” Head Coach Ron Turner said. “We need to get stronger up front and in the overall operation; the first blocked kick was a botched hold while the second was a bad snap to start it off. They really need to block better up front and the operation of all of it needs to get better.”

Even though the offense and quarterback Jake Medlock have shown vast improvements from the first day in pads, Medlock and company did not get out to the start they intended as the redshirt junior had his first pass intercepted by cornerback Sam Miller.

That interception was one of two interceptions Medlock tossed on the day, the second coming from free safety Justin Halley towards the end of practice.

“I definitely think we started off slow but we started picking it up towards the end,” Medlock said. “We made a few



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Quarterback Jake Medlock, sporting a red non-contact jersey, anchors the offense in the team's scrimmage last Friday night.

mental mistakes overall but that is why we watch film. I can do a lot better, receivers ran great routes and running backs did really well.”

Medlock also believes that the biggest change he's had to adjust to so far is the difference to Turner's system from the system ran by former Head Coach Mario Cristobal. In Turner's system, Medlock is more under center and less in shotgun formation.

“We have worked every day, offensive

line, receivers, everyone making sure we know the playbook inside and out. The coaching staff is introducing the overall playbook little by little so we can make sure that we understand it and critique the mistakes that we make to have it where we can run the offense to perfection in the fall.”

The Panthers are loaded with inexperienced players, especially on offense as the offensive line consists of five new starters. A few notable returning starters

included Medlock and running back Kedrick Rhodes.

The defense also lost a few key defensive players in safety Jonathan Cyprien and defensive tackle Tourek Williams, both whom are projected to be drafted in the upcoming NFL Draft.

The defense returns a plethora of stand-outs including defensive end Paul Crawford, defensive lineman Greg Hickman and cornerbacks Miller and Richard Leonard.

Defensive tackle Isame Faciane, who started last season alongside Crawford, has not played a single down of spring practice as he's out with a shoulder injury. Don't expect to see Faciane on the field at all for spring football as team doctors estimated Faciane won't be able to return to normal football activities until May.

Despite Faciane not be able to practice, the defense has shown tremendous improvement from last season. Every practice the defensive line sacks the quarterback more than once. The defensive backfield also has their fair share of highlights as they average two interceptions a practice.

According to Turner, Leonard has shown great improvement and looks to have a breakout year for the defense. Leonard is confident in his abilities and embraces the challenge.

“With the new coaching staff, they are leaving me on an island so I feel comfortable. They are letting me be me,” Leonard said. “I am confident enough to go up against anyone in the country.”

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Michael Carter-Williams does it all for Syracuse

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Writer

If all Syracuse point guard Michael Carter-Williams needed to worry about lately was basketball, that would have been plenty.

Could he generate enough offense to help the defense-first Orange get to the Final Four?

Could he take advantage of the NCAA tournament spotlight to improve NBA teams' opinions of him?

There also was this on Carter-Williams' mind, though: His family home in Massachusetts was hit by a fire last weekend.

“When I'm on the court, or when I'm in practice, all my focus is on my teammates and the team,” the sophomore said. “Outside of basketball, I think I can just be there for my family as much as I can. But when it comes time for basketball, everything else is kind of irrelevant. I'm just focused on the team.”

Carter-Williams did a terrific job of dealing with one thing at a time, so much so that he was chosen as the top player in the East Regional for helping No. 4 seed Syracuse beat No. 1 seed Indiana, then No. 3 seed Marquette, to make it to the Final Four for the first time since winning the 2003 NCAA championship.

After a dismal 1-4 stretch to end the Big East regular season, Syracuse (30-9) has won seven of its last eight games and will play Michigan (30-7) — the South Regional's No. 4 seed — in the national semifinals

at Atlanta next Saturday. Michigan beat Florida 79-59 Sunday to reach the Final Four.

“We're starting off the games real well. Once we get a lead, we try to build on it. We don't look back. We don't get comfortable. We always put the pressure on the other team,” Carter-Williams said. “If they're going to come back, they're going to have to do something spectacular.”

That is thanks to him, in many ways.

For as much attention and praise as Syracuse's 2-3 zone defense has received lately — and rightly so, especially after holding both Indiana and Marquette to season-low point totals — the Orange might not be where they are if it weren't for Carter-Williams' all-around game.

“He's a tremendous, tremendous point guard. He really is,” said Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim, who is 3-0 in national semifinal games and 1-2 in national title games. “He keys it for our team.”

In the East Regional final Saturday, Carter-Williams did a little bit of everything, finishing with 12 points, eight rebounds, six assists, five steals and only one turnover as Syracuse beat Marquette 55-39. On Thursday, he scored 24 points in a 61-50 victory over Indiana in the regional semifinals.

“I think Michael Carter-Williams, over the last couple of weeks, may be playing the best he's ever played,” Marquette coach Buzz Williams said, “and that says a lot, because he's always been

really good.”

Didn't really get a chance to prove that last season, though.

As a freshman, Carter-Williams did not start a single game, averaging 2.7 points and 2.1 assists while stuck as Boeheim's fourth choice at guard, behind Scoop Jardine, Brandon Triche and Dion Waiters, who was the No. 4 overall pick in the first round of the NBA draft.

“He struggled at times in practice last year, playing against those guys. What you would figure would be normal. But he showed that he could be a good player last year. There was no doubt about that. This year, once he got his opportunity, from Day 1, he was really good,” Boeheim said.

“When his shooting gets better, he will be a great player,” Boeheim added. “He understands the game.

He sees the game. He's got a great feel for the game of basketball.”

All spindly arms and legs while out front of Syracuse's zone, the 6-foot-6 Carter-Williams really blossomed this season, ranking third in Division I by averaging 7.6 assists and fourth with 2.7 steals. He also averaged 11.8 points.

Triche, a senior guard, enjoys playing alongside Carter-Williams at both ends of the court.

Hit the deck!



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Emily Podschweit makes the diving save at the Surf and Turf Classic at the FIU Sand Volleyball Courts.

WUC director chosen and taking position April 15

VINSON PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

Scott Jones has been selected to take over the reins of the Wolfe University Center on April 15 and will serve as its director in place of Elie “Elias” Bardawil, who served as its interim director since October 2012.

The former Director of the WUC was Gregory Olson, who retired in October, and has worked for Biscayne Bay Campus for over 30 years.

According to Eric Arneson, assistant vice president of Student Affairs, the process of selecting a new director for the WUC took several months to complete and included a large nationwide search, a search committee made up of Biscayne Bay Campus students and staff and advertising.

Once the search committee reviewed the candidates that applied for the position, they narrowed down the candidate pool down to 3 applicants. Those

three applicants were invited by Arneson for on-campus interviews in February.

When Arneson conducted his interviews with the candidates, he mentioned the three criteria he was looking for in the candidate, which were: someone who had experience with college students, especially with student unions, someone with at least a master’s degree in education and someone who will understand and appreciate the diversity of the University’s student body.

Based on the criteria and the recommendations of the search committee and evaluations done by students and faculty on the 3 candidates, Jones was selected for the position.

Jones is currently director of the Student Union at American University and several years ago, Jones was residence coordinator at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“[Jones] understands the campus inside [and] out,” said Arneson.

As director of the WUC,

Break on the set



On April 1, a group of people sat by the bay to have lunch after a full day of filming for a new Nickelodeon show called “Every Witch Way.” Among the group were actors, actresses, directors and parents. The show will air this summer.

SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

he will have numerous responsibilities such as overseeing the Team Ropes Adventure Challenge Course. The TRAC ropes course consists of a series of team-building exercises designed to create group cohesion.

According to Arneson, one of Jones’ responsibilities will be to find ways to market the ropes course and WUC “internally and externally” in order to generate another source of revenue

for the University.

The objective is to advertise the space to students as well as the general public to use utilize the ropes course or hold events at WUC like conferences or weddings.

Another responsibility that Jones will inherit when he arrives on April 15 will be the \$3 million facelift that BBC will go through.

Renovations have been approved to make BBC more vibrant and to create “more opportunity for student

energy,” said Arneson, who also said he shares this responsibility as well.

Arneson mentioned that since Jones will be director of WUC and the renovations will affect several departments, Jones will have to create relationships with students and staff.



Arneson also discussed that Jones will face the new challenge of limited classroom space, which involves having classes held in WUC 221, WUC 222 and WUC

223 and in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater, which means that Jones will have to work with instructors and faculty to ensure that there will be no interference between programming and class time.

Jones has experience with renovation projects and his knowledge may very well carry over into the new position he is set to take in April.

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