

11-25-2013

The Beacon, November 25, 2013

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Florida International University, "The Beacon, November 25, 2013" (2013). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 723.
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Audit reveals distance learning fee revenue spent outside of statute

MADISON FANTOZZI
News Director

Students are petitioning for its elimination and President Mark B. Rosenberg is unsure of how it can be reduced, but the Office of Internal Audit may have found a way to lower FIU Online's distance learning fee.

Auditors reported in the first audit of FIU Online in April that "significant" and "considerable" amounts of distance learning fee expenditures in fiscal year 2011-2012 violated state statute, concluding that the distance learning fee could be reduced with compliance to policy.

This proved true. The distance

learning fee decreased nearly 13 percent from the \$199 charge in 2011 to \$160 this semester for a three-credit course after the department agreed to comply and put in place better controls over its spending.

However, Dean of University College Joyce Elam said the audit's criticisms were matters of "grey areas."

According to Florida statute, "the amount of the distance learning course fee may not exceed additional costs of the services provided which are attributable to the development and delivery of the distance learning course."

What cannot be charged,

determined by Florida Distance Learning Task Force: instruction costs, costs covered by other fees and costs associated with the development and delivery of eligible distance learning courses.

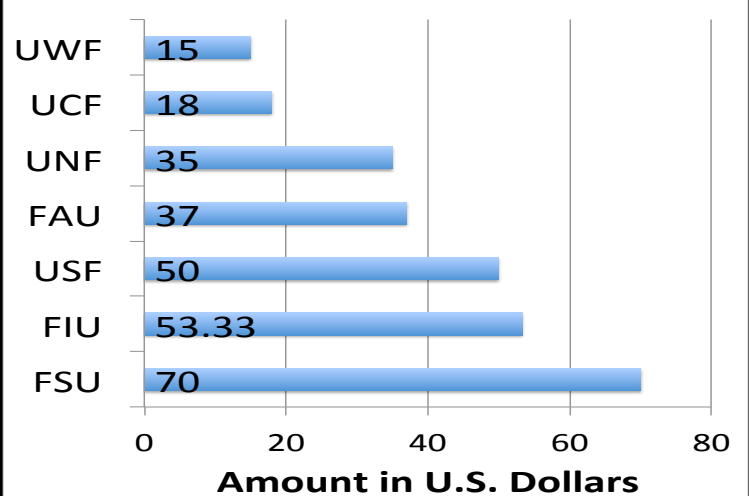
"The spending wasn't inappropriate, it was a matter of narrow interpretation," Elam said. "It's what tuition should pay for instead of the distance learning fee, like advisers."

However, auditors marked FIU Online's policy and procedures compliance as inadequate.

Over \$1.6 million paid to College of Arts and Sciences

SEE FINANCES, PAGE 2

Fall 2013 distance learning fee per credit hour



Karaoke night to destress Panthers after classes

ARLYNE PEREZ
Contributing Writer

As Florida International University College of Law has decided it is time to put down the books and grab a microphone, students will have a chance to celebrate all their hard work from the semester and take a breather before finals at karaoke night.

Held at the College of Law student lounge between the Admissions and Financial Aid Office and Student Services. On Nov. 26, Panthers will be encouraged to sing and dance along to music from Disc Jockey MP3 Entertainment.

"We do it to celebrate the last day of the full semester. [Associate Dean Michelle Mason] thought it would be a fun way to end the first semester," said

Zoraya Hernandez, coordinator of student services at the College of Law. "We get together, all the students, faculty and administrators and they have fun singing along the whole night."

Michelle Mason, senior associate dean of the college, started the annual karaoke night nine years ago to celebrate the last day of classes for all students.

The event is sponsored by the Student Services Department that takes care of all the student organizations at the College of Law.

"I think the event will be a great place to unwind and have fun," said Kayla Chaviano, freshmen business management major.

SEE ACTIVITIES, PAGE 2

Rosenberg receives five-year extension

BRANDON WISE
Editor-in-Chief



MARK B. ROSENBERG

University President Mark B. Rosenberg was given a five-year contract extension through August 2019 on Thursday, Nov. 21, by the Board of Trustees.

In a University-wide email, Board of Trustees Chairman Albert Maury commended Rosenberg:

"In his first four years, he has assembled an incredible team to carry out our vision for FIU as a leading student-centered urban public research university that has become a solutions center locally and globally," wrote Maury.

Rosenberg received a base salary of \$496,613 last year, according to floridahasarightto-know.com,

However, Media Relations confirmed this number was at the start of Rosenberg's 2009-2013 contract, which across-the-board increases rose to \$502,578.62.

The value of his renewed contract was not confirmed by press time, but his salary will remain approximately \$502,578.

Rosenberg will not be eligible for across-the-board increases received by other University employees with his new contract. Any salary increases will need to be granted by the Board of Trustees.

He will also be granted a \$50,000 signing bonus for the

extension, as well as an annual retirement supplement of \$80,000 beginning in December 2014 through December 2018.

If still continuously employed as president – including the last day of his term of Aug. 3, 2019 – Rosenberg will also receive a retention bonus of \$100,000.

Maury believes Rosenberg's leadership is key to the University's future success, noting last week's recognition of FIU's Graduation Success Initiative by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities.

"This award was for FIU's high-tech, high touch efforts in increasing our graduation rate by nine percentage points in the course of two years," wrote Maury.

Maury also noted the University's record of graduating more than 12,000 students each year, including more Hispanics than any other university, as well as the its leading role in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education – particularly that of Hispanics and minorities.

"FIU, under President Rosenberg's leadership, is committed to giving our students the tools they need to succeed in and outside the classroom," wrote Maury.

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MELLOW MUSIC



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

Members of the band The Madison Letter Clayton Jones (right) and Mitch Schrock (left) performed during a Student Programming Council carnival this past Wednesday.

WORLD NEWS

North Korea detains US war veteran, 85, son says

North Korean officials detained an 85-year-old U.S. veteran of the Korean War last month as he sat in a plane set to leave the country, the man’s son said. A uniformed North Korean officer boarded the plane on Oct. 26 and asked Merrill Newman, a tourist, for his passport before telling a stewardess that Newman had to leave the plane, the son, Jeffrey Newman, said Wednesday. “My dad got off, walked out with the stewardess, and that’s the last he was seen,” Jeffrey Newman told The Associated Press at his home in California. It wasn’t clear what led to the detention.

German “Lost Art” register posts further pictures

German authorities released more pictures and details Thursday of the massive trove of art that was discovered in a Munich apartment last year. Prosecutors gave the official “Lost Art” website permission to put a further 54 entries online, taking the total to 79. The new items include works by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch, French painter Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and German impressionist Max Liebermann.

Death of a Honduran taxi driver

Benjamin Alvarez Moncada pulled his cab to the front of the taxi stand behind Los Dolores church and half a block from the capital’s main police station. He was the first in line, so he was the one to die, the other drivers said. It’s as simple as that. “Don Mincho,” as the 68-year-old was called, expected a passenger to emerge from the throngs headed home after work on Tuesday afternoon. Instead, a 15-year-old sidled up to his taxi with a revolver and fired three shots, hitting him in the chest, ear and neck. Then, the boy in a green shirt and baggy pants ambled away as casually as he had arrived. Simple as that.

For more world news, check out FIUSM.com.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 25, Issue 41, in the article titled, “Shalom FIU reaches out to educate students on Isreal,” we misspelled Israel.

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

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The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

Auditors conclude distance learning fee can be lowered

employees, over \$336,000 paid to College of Business Administration and over \$100,000 paid to School of Journalism and Mass Communication administrative and support staff for salaries and fringe benefits without any justification for paying these expenditures from the distance learning fee.

The audit also disclosed that 96 percent of distance learning fee dollars tested within the College of Arts and Sciences had little or no direct benefit to its online programs, and 67 percent of dollars tested within FIU Online had no direct benefit to distance learning or other online programs.

The auditors’ conclusion: opportunities to reduce the distance learning fee exists if FIU Online spends its revenue in compliance with statute and policy.

FIU Online establishes its distance learning fee annually based on projected enrollment and budgeted costs of developing and delivering its courses. The department responded to the audit with new controls to ensure spending proportionate to

“I’m 100 percent certain the distance fee will not increase.”

Joyce Elam
Dean
University College

program costs.

“We will ensure the distance learning fee is only spent on things authorized by statute,” Elam said. “But in today’s world with budget cuts, it’s difficult to identify where funds will come from and we need the fee in order to offer students the convenience of online courses.”

But some students want to see the fee eliminated – over 200 have signed a petition on change.org.

Laura Perez-Arias, a junior hospitality major who has signed the petition, said the fee is not-so-convenient.

“This ridiculous fee is as much as the travel fee if I were to take the bus

to Biscayne Bay Campus two days a week,” she said, calculating that at \$5 a day, two days a week for 16 weeks she would pay \$160 in travel expenses.

Elam said no fee would mean no online courses, however. Still, the University’s distance learning fee remains one of the highest in the state.

“As the number of students enrolled in online class grow, the economy will help scale the fee,” she said.

Rosenberg shared the same outlook in an interview with Student Media in early October.

“I do see a flattening of the fee structure, but I can’t predict how and I don’t see any in the short term,” Rosenberg said.

While Elam says eliminating the fee is not an option, she can promise students one thing.

“I’m 100 percent certain the distance fee will not increase,” Elam said.

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University offers fun before finals

ACTIVITIES, PAGE 1

Chaviano hopes the event will be an exciting way to enjoy the end of the fall semester and interact with peers or future professors.

Hernandez also said the event is good for first year students that are tense and don’t know what to expect from the University. The karaoke night gives new students the opportunity to experience the University in a stress-free environment – ideal for any student wishing to relax on the last day of classes before the start of the next semester.

Students even create groups or make competitions like girls versus boys

at the event to make it fun and interesting. The professors also join in with the students or staff to make groups for the different competitions as well. However, those are just some of the activities that take place. Participants are encouraged to create other competitions if they wish to take part in the experience.

-news@fiusm.com

EVENT INFO

What: College of Law
Karaoke Night
When: Nov. 26, 7 p.m.
to 10 p.m.
Where: College of Law
student lounge



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDENT SERVICES

Third-year law students (from left to right) Daivelis Garcia and Djenane Fanfan sing and dance to karaoke tunes at the College of Law’s annual karaoke night last year.

SEAS professor talks rising sea levels

SEAS, PAGE 8

“I think humans in general have a problem with looking into the future,” he said. “It’s really hard to convince people to think that way.”

Elaine Pritzker, coordinator of the School of Environment, Arts and Society, said she walks to campus, uses little plastic and drinks from a reusable water bottle because it’s the small things that will ultimately save the environment.

“I’m lucky that I live close enough,” she said, enabling her to walk to work.

Although Pritzker has gone green, Ogle said the problem is getting others on board.

For this reason, Ogle is devoted to teaching youth about sea level rise and climate change.

Ogle has lectured on these subjects to Maritime and Science Technology Academy students at Biscayne Bay Campus, as well students at Alonzo and Tracey Mourning Senior High Biscayne Bay Campus and David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center. Ogle also plans to teach students at Miami Northwestern Senior High School in the future.

“I think conversations are the only way to do it,” Pritzker said.

Through the “Discover Your Own Backyard” project, Ogle teaches students about their South Florida environment by studying wetland habitats and mangroves at their disposal.

He said it’s a great way to show students how changes in the environment can have a global impact.

Ogle said planting mangrove

seedlings through the “Adopt a Mangrove” project is a great model for students because it gives them a sense of ownership when restoring the environment.

Thousands of mangroves have been planted throughout Oleta River State Park, Historic Virginia Key Beach Park and other beaches due to Ogle’s efforts to protect South Florida’s environment.

Ogle said getting the next generation outside in nature is conducive to saving the environment because the current generation suffers from “nature deficit disorder.”

“The more you can attach people to that nature, the more they’ll care” he said.

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Trying to figure out life and other stuff

JUNETTE REYES
Opinion Director

As I'm nearing the end of my college career as an undergraduate student, I'm constantly being approached with the question we are all eventually forced to answer: "What do you want to do with your life?"

Honestly, this question is asked of us as soon as college becomes part of the plan, and it almost always is expected to be part of the plan.

Since I am writing to you now, it clearly became part of my plan. But now that I'm on the verge of ending this particular chapter of my life, I almost feel like it has only made me feel more confused about my answer to that question.

I'm genuinely concerned about this, as I feel as though these four years of discovery were supposed to be the critical time I had to spend getting my act together

in order to finally figure out what I want to do.

One would think it would work out that way, as I've spent all this time studying

a timeline of expected accomplishments is drilled into our heads from an early age.

If I had to guess, I'd say it's a little bit of both.

The reality is we are pressured to a certain degree to have our lives figured out at such an early age.

the one subject I plan on basing my career on. And yet, my mind comes to a complete blank when I am faced with this question.

Of course, I have my generic answer, since I do not want to seem as though I've wasted all of my time. What I am unsure of is whether this is due to my own personal issues of not accepting I don't have everything figured out by this point or because

I don't think I would have any issues with this were it not for this unspoken expectation from society to reach certain goals in our lives within a given time. At least I wouldn't feel as pressured to figure it all out before I graduate, as I'm sure I'd still want to have something in mind regardless of society's expectations.

The reality is we are pressured to a

certain degree to have our lives figured out at such an early age. We graduate from high school, so we're expected to move onto college. Once we graduate from college, we're expected to go straight into the "real" world, completely sure of ourselves.

I refuse to accept this ideology. If you have your life figured out by this point, congratulations. You are one of the lucky few.

As for the rest of us, don't feel inclined to know exactly what you want to do with life just yet. We're still young, meaning we have many decisions and mistakes to make ahead of us. Just make sure the first one you make isn't forcing yourself into some lifestyle you're not entirely sure about just because you feel pressured to have it all figured out by now.

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Reminding Panthers of their own selfworth

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

The idea behind Operation Beautiful is, well, beautiful. It's an amazing idea to make students, male or female, feel better about themselves — especially in colleges and universities.

According to the National Institute of National Health, 30 percent of college students in 2011 reported feeling depressed enough that basic functioning was difficult.

College is already a place where students are more free and less

That's not true at all.

Everybody has their own beauty and they shouldn't be afraid to show it because they think they won't be accepted because maybe their beauty isn't conventional.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but sometimes, people just need that reminder of the beauty they possess.

Operation Beautiful is a great way to remind everyone of the beauty within. Every time I walked into the Glenn Hubert Library and saw the post-it saying, "That morning hair just reminds me how stunning your

Operation Beautiful is a great way to remind everyone of the beauty within.

careful with their sexuality and sexual decisions, and in students with depression, this number is higher. The chance of substance abuse and suicide is also much higher.

Stress and depression go hand-in-hand and the need for self-esteem is dire.

The need for not only women, but also men, to know their own self-worth is paramount. There are ads on television every day essentially telling viewers that unless they look like a Calvin Klein or a Victoria's Secret model, they aren't normal or good enough.

eyes are," I would smile and my confidence would boost.

I only wish the event had been bigger. I only saw two or three post-its and then that seemed like it was it. I also wish it was more than one day long.

This should be a daily thing and everyone should know beauty.

So just remember: you're all amazing and you're all beautiful.

Don't ever let anyone tell you otherwise.

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Text talk should always give way to real talk

DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS
Entertainment Director

We are more connected than ever before in the history of humanity.

Communicating with individuals on the other side of the planet instantaneously is something we take for granted. We may be connected more easily as a global society, but are we using this to have meaningful conversations?

Take the importance we give to text messaging as an example. It seems that we, as a society, have created an unwritten, perhaps at this point published, work on how to text message. The complexity of text messaging is not only in the syntax but also in the much deeper undertones that many individuals give to certain phrases.

The dissection of text and Facebook messages is most commonly seen when two people are starting to talk to each other with romantic intentions in mind.

We give importance to the number of punctuation marks, emoticons and emojis. Let's not forget the most important thing of all: the amount of time between the sending of a message and the response. Moments of anxiety or relief are brought about due to the ring of a cell phone.

On more than one occasion, I have come across men and women analyzing a text message as if it were a line from a piece by Chaucer or Shakespeare. With every "P" or ";" a team of linguists, namely one's friends, are dispatched to analyze the frequency, placement and context of the emoticons/emoji.

Contrary to popular belief, text messaging should not be the focus in the commencement of a relationship.

A face-to-face conversation holds more value than any lengthy text message. Body language, facial expressions and tone of voice are all cues that are absent throughout a text conversation. They are

cues that cannot be picked up by looking at words on a screen.

This diminishes the sense of intimacy one can experience in a face-to-face conversation, as opposed to a bright screen with meaningless words that do not give you a complete feel for how the

I have come across men and women analyzing a text message as if it were a line from a piece by Chaucer or Shakespeare.

other person is reacting to your messages.

Cell phones should be used as a tool for us to convene and share genuine conversation — not to host the conversation.

Text messaging and other forms of impersonal communication will continue to expand and evolve. We, as a society, will only continue to expand on these forms of communication. While such means of communicating are of great benefit to society as a whole, we must not attempt to think that we can replace a face-to-face conversation with an instant message, a phone call or a text message.

Trade :) for real ones.

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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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Help wanted: students to aid Philippines

OSCAR LIN
Staff Writer

“Wala nang hihigit pang kadakilaan sa pag-alay ng buhay sa bayan” is an old saying in the Philippine language called Tagalog, meaning “There is no greater nobility than offering one’s life to the nation.”

On Nov. 11, Typhoon Haiyan, the first typhoon to hit landfall for the season, has caused a death toll of more than 10,000 people, causing more than 600,000 people to evacuate from the destruction in Tacloban, a small city located in the south-east of the capital city of the Philippines, Manilla. Families and friends were devastated by the news and tried to reach out to relatives that still lives in the Philippines. With the help of UNICEF in Manilla doing as much as they can, UNICEF from South Florida is standing up to contribute and help support the cause. Teaming up with Music Saves Lives, Asian Student Union, and Alpha Epsilon Delta, UNICEF@FIU will be hosting a special event called the FIU Philippines Benefit show at the GC Pit on Nov. 26 from 2:30-6:30PM, to raise money and help provide for the victims of the Typhoon Haiyan. What’s great about the show is the fact that every dollar you donate will be doubled by the George

Harrison Fund.

“UNICEF@FIU is setting up this event because we represent the United Nations Children’s Fund. It is one of our missions to respond to an emergency crisis such as the one happening in the Philippines, especially on a scale like that. Personally, though, I’m originally from there and I love the Philippines.” Lorraine Ann, a junior Political Science and International Relations major, and president of UNICEF@FIU said.

Being a student leader, Lorraine feels that she is in the right position to set up such an event as this. Although she does not take credit for the event, collaboration with Alpha Epsilon Delta, Asian Student Union, and Music Saves Lives are what made the event ultimately possible. She wants this event to be a precursor to future events that they are going to host for the crisis in the Philippines.

“I don’t want this to be a ‘spur of the moment’ type of thing. We will do follow up projects,” Ann said.

Be on the lookout as bands and performer such as Rezolution, Tokyo Love Bots dance crew, and more to truly show their greatest nobility for the Philippines.

-oscar.lin@fiusm.com



OSCAR LIN/THE BEACON

Mark Tuazon, senior in mechanical engineering, stands strong for the Philippines as he calls out to the students to help support those affected by Typhoon Haiyan.

Snowblind leaves listeners quiet and cold

COLUMNIST



LUIS SANTANA

Snowblind. The word itself conjures up images of loneliness, despair and blindness. We are introduced to a nameless character who like us, is lost and confused in this snow covered landscape. Now imagine music behind this word. Think cold and ethereal, empty and yet full. Plucked guitar strings filling the air alongside strange electronic sounds that at first seem alien, but soon become comforting and familiar. These two elements, usually not found together, combine to make Graph Rabbit’s debut concept

album, “Snowblind.”

The first track, “My Name,” starts with a sequence of electronic chirps that as soon as it begins, ends and we are woken up with our protagonist by the sounds of a finger plucked acoustic guitar. His voice, a high falsetto, rises above the landscape telling us how things are “so strange, so strange.” One cannot stress just how much you can feel this song. How you can sense our heroes loss and fear. And just as it begins, the song ebbs away.

The fourth track, “White Birds,” has our protagonist wishing for death. He pleads in his falsetto, “bury me, under the shade tree.” This song has far less ambient synths than the aforementioned track. Synths are more in

the background creating an atmosphere rather than commanding a presence. Instead they allow the acoustic guitar to mold the landscape and the story. Plucked strings are accompanied by smooth movements and slides up and down the neck of the guitar as our hero pleads to us to end it all. The track ends with the synths taking over the acoustic guitar creating a feeling of despair and finality.

Track six, “Falling Snow,” shows our protagonist adapting to the snowy landscape he’s now a part of. A resounding and happy acoustic guitar is joined by short verses of lyric all ending “in the falling snow.” The song sounds triumphant, as if our friend has conquered the landscape and tamed it,

calling it his own and enjoying his life rather than despising it.

“Only Fields,” the seventh track, brings us a calm sound, the acoustic guitar and synths blending together in perfection, one not demanding any more than the other while our hero describes to us the revelations and failings he’s discovered in this landscape. Our hero has desired much, but has found other things that he hadn’t had before. He sings to us, “if you ask me how it feels, there’s no answer, only fields.” With these final words, handbells take over and bring to the end of this album.

The last track, “White Out” has no lyrics. There is no singing. Only the sounds of an acoustic guitar, sleigh

bells, minimal synths and a rustling noise that is not customary of the rest of the music. The name of this track embodies the finality of it. Our character has succumbed to this snowy landscape, whether through death or acceptance, he has become one with it. He has no words. No suicidal thoughts. No complaints. No more revelations.

Instead, our hero is left with silence. With contemplation. With thoughts. With a realization with self. And us? We are left having been on this journey. We are left like him, with our thoughts. We are left with “Snowblind.”

-life@fiusm.com

Is NYC for the birds? Wild turkeys spur tension

JENNIFER PELTZ
AP Writer

Say “wild” and “New York City,” and few might fill in these blanks: a flock of feral turkeys causing a flap in a city that defines urbanity.

Yet a population of roving turkeys on Staten Island has become a mess-making, traffic-stopping scourge to some residents, an impromptu natural attraction to others and a fraught project for government officials.

Since dozens of the turkeys were rounded up and killed this summer, the birds’ future has become a topic as heated as a Thanksgiving meat thermometer.

“We don’t want to kill them. We just want them to leave us alone,” says Barbara Laing, who watched as at least 50 turkeys converged outside her house around sundown one recent

evening with a chorus of honks — their own and those of drivers futilely trying to shoo them out of traffic.

The turkeys milled on the grass, flew up like cartoon ghosts into a large maple tree, and settled in for the night.

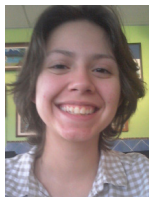
It’s a sight that charms onlookers and sometimes residents, when the turkeys aren’t fouling yards with droppings, devouring gardens, waking up residents with raucous pre-dawn mating sessions, and utterly disregarding dogs and other supposed deterrents.

“They really are a beautiful bird ... but they ruined our property,” says Laing’s sister and next-door neighbor, Mary Jane Froese.

After decades of effort to halt the decline of the symbolically American birds, experts say the nation’s wild turkey population has rebounded from about 300,000 in the early 1950s to an estimated 7 million now.

New Neomythics album causes projectile vomiting

COLUMNIST



NATALIE BOJORQUEZ

The Neomythics bring absolutely nothing new with their second album. While their first album held some praise for their “fight the power lyrics” and their punk rock vibe, their second album “Projectiles” was a complete flop. Not only are the lyrics boring and monotonous, but they’ve coupled it with bad rhyming schemes. In this new album it also seems like they’re trying to

do too much at once. In their first track they paired a ‘70s guitar and drum style with a techno voice over; while this could have had the potential to be something great and amazing, The Neomythics completely failed to do anything worthwhile with it.

The album has potential to be great, but keeps disappointing the listener at every turn. It is a frustrating album to listen to because the drummer has a very great style and is able to adapt well in every song, but what Gregory Howe makes up for in percussion the rest of the ensemble lacks in charisma

and basic musical abilities. The only song that is really worth listening to would be “Standing Stones.” It has very smooth transitions and the lyric style has been upgraded from a kindergartner to a second grader.

That being said, this is still an album that should never be recommended to anyone, unless they’re looking for a comparison for how not to blend different music styles. Overall the album did not bode well with this listener. A two out of five is being nice.

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Bullying or hazing; both show their heads in athletics

COLUMNIST



RHYS WILLIAMS

Let me start off by saying that most of what happens in a locker room stays in a locker room — especially the older the athletes get. Sometimes, though, things can go too far, and this is coming from a guy who may have locked a kid or two in a locker for a while from time to time during his high school athletics career.

This has come up due to the recent issues within the Miami Dolphins locker room between offensive guard Richie Incognito — who has been suspended indefinitely by the team — and offensive tackle Jonathan Martin. Martin recently left the team and checked himself into the hospital for “emotional distress” caused by what the media believes to be bullying.

If you have been living under a rock for the last few weeks, you can go online and look for the transcript of the voicemail Incognito sent to Martin, if you haven’t already. Although it is a terrible, racist and threatening towards Martin, you have to acknowledge the facts that are coming out and realize that hazing is different from bullying and that both are different than bigotry and racism.

Incognito, who is the accused in the situation, was a member of the three-man leadership council for the Dolphins. The leadership council also consisted of two other players: quarter Ryan Tannehill and linebacker Dannell Ellerbe.

These three were people on the team who other players, as well as coaches, could come to with any conflicts. Martin was one of the players to vote Incognito into the council — even though he has a history of being considered one of the dirtiest players in the National Football League, and had problems when he played collegiately.

Yes, what Incognito did was wrong, and no, in no way am I endorsing the behavior that he displayed in the voicemail, in the texts or on the video of him while at a pool hall with fellow Dolphins offensive lineman Mike Pouncey... but what I am saying is that I think the media has blown it out of proportion before they knew all the facts behind the situation.

Players such as Tannehill and wide receiver Brian Hartline have come out in defense of Incognito.

Also, I am not endorsing bullying, but I do know from personal experience

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JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Offensive line coach Steve Shakweiler (middle) addresses his offensive linemen on the sideline during the Bethune-Cookman University game. Both players involved in the situation with the Miami Dolphins were offensive linemen on the team.

Senior guard pulled due to eligibility situation

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Sports Director

On Thursday, Nov. 21, senior guard Raymond Taylor was pulled from the starting lineup to give FIU a chance to further investigate the eligibility concerns that surround Taylor.

Taylor withdrew from the 2012 National Basketball Association draft however, he withdrew after the NCAA deadline of April 10.

This led to Taylor sitting out a season last year under former FIU head coach Richard Pitino, now the head coach at Minnesota.

The situation came as shock to Pitino as he was told by FIU that Taylor was eligible to play upon transferring from Florida Atlantic.

According to a report done by ESPN, the NCAA was contacted on Thursday, Nov. 21 for further clarification on Taylor’s eligibility since he withdrew from the draft after the standard NCAA deadline.

According to the report, Taylor’s name appeared on the official NBA early-entry list in a release dated, May 3, 2012. However, Taylor is in his own category as a collegian who had withdrawn from the NBA draft on the final early-entry list, dated June 20, 2012.

However, based on recent NBA releases, Taylor waited until sometime between May 3 and June 20, after the early-signing period began, to withdraw.

The biggest concern when it comes to allowing Taylor to play this



JASEN DELGADO/THE BEACON

Senior guard Raymond Taylor (above) is facing eligibility issues after the team’s 6-2 start.

season and redshirt a year ago, despite not withdrawing at the NCAA-mandated time, would be that an exception was made for Taylor that other players potentially weren’t allowed to have the past two seasons.

Raymond is averaging a total of 12 points a game to go along with an average of six assist a game and six steals so far this season. Raymond leaves the team as the Panthers third leading scorer early in the 2013 season.

Head coach Anthony Evans told ESPN after an 82-67 victory over Bethune-Cookman that his administration called him and said he couldn’t use Taylor, who was with the team on the trip. Evans said it caught him off guard and he was still in the fact-finding stage and would meet with the administration Friday.

As of now the status of Taylor’s eligibility remains uncertain.

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Panthers minus Davydova off to 0-4 start

RUBEN PALACIOS
Asst. Sports Director

The women’s basketball team will enter the FIU Thanksgiving Classic a winless team after they lost to Boston College 89-69 and dropped to 0-4 on the season.



M. DAVYDOVA scored 36 points against Boston College but struggled to be efficient as she shot 10 of 28 from the field.

The Preseason Conference Player of the Year found her touch from the free-throw line, though, going a perfect 12 of 12 from the charity stripe.

The team remains without their second best player, senior center Marita Davydova, who has not played yet this season. Her presence on the court has been missed by the team and especially by Coley who needs another player to take some of the scoring load off her.

Head Coach Cindy Russo has addressed Davydova’s benching as just a “coach’s decision.”

With Coley struggling to find her shooting touch and without Davydova the team struggled and shot just 40 percent from the field.

The team, as a whole, managed to stay perfect from the free-throw

line shooting 21 of 21 despite struggling from the field.

Redshirt freshman Brianna Wright scored the team’s first seven points and finished the game with 13 points as she shot 4 of 8 from the field and a perfect 5 of 5 from the free-throw line.

Junior Zsafia Labady was the third Panther in double digits as she scored 10 points on 50 percent from the field.

The Panthers will look to end their losing streak in the opening game of the Classic against Valparaiso.

As of Nov. 21, the Crusaders are also 0-4 and struggling to defend their opponents.

In its four losses, Valparaiso has been outscored by a combined 133 points.

The Panthers, on the other hand, have been outscored by a combined 57 points in their four losses.

As of late, the Panthers have been extremely successful during their Holiday tournaments.

Last year the Panthers finished in second place at the Classic after a massive upset over heavily-favored Iowa as Coley converted on a game-winning layup at the buzzer. The Panthers eventually fell to LSU in the championship game 76-69.

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Olympic groups to monitor Brazil's polluted waters

STEPHEN WADE
AP Writer

Olympic sports federations will be monitoring efforts to clean up the polluted waters around Rio de Janeiro to prevent health risks to athletes at the 2016 Games.

An Associated Press report this week showed nearly 70 percent of Rio's sewage is untreated and dumped into iconic beach areas like Copacabana and Ipanema and picturesque Guanabara Bay. Those waters will host several of Rio's events at the Olympics and Paralympics.

FINA, the world governing body of swimming, said Friday its sports medicine committee would check water conditions before the games.

"A test event will be conducted some months in advance, in the same waters and under the same conditions," FINA said in a statement to the AP.

"On this occasion, the Rio 2016 organizing committee must present a certificate of water quality in accordance to Brazilian law."

FINA's marathon swimming event will be held off Copacabana. Those waters are also the venue for the swimming portion of the triathlon.

In bid documents, Rio organizers pledged to Olympic officials that the pollution would be cleaned up after decades of neglect and poor planning.

In data obtained by the AP, the measurement of fecal coliform bacteria in Copacabana went up 16 times above the Brazilian government's satisfactory level as recently as three weeks ago.

The Rodrigo de Freitas, the venue for rowing and canoeing located in the heart of the city, experiences periodic fish die-offs that

leave thousands floating in the briny lake.

Matt Smith, executive director of rowing's world governing body, said Rio officials blame heavy rains and the city's sewer system for the dead fish. Smith called the health risk to rowers "low" but cautioned about possible problems.

“That the bay is rotten and the beaches are polluted, everyone has known this for 20 years...”

Carlos Minc,
Secretary for the Environment
The State of Rio de Janeiro

"We are working on contingency scenarios but if, for any reason, we have a massive rain-fall just before or during the 2016 Games, we risk cancellation to ensure healthy conditions for the rowers," he said in an email to AP.

Smith said the last four Olympic regattas had been held on artificial courses where water quality was easy to control. The last natural lake was 1996 in Atlanta, he said.

The most deeply rooted problem is Guanabara Bay, which will hold sailing events. The bay has become a polluted dump where few locals — except the poor from Rio's neigh-

boring slums — dare to swim.

"We're for sure concerned about it, and we're in discussion with the organizing committee about it," said Jerome Pels, chief executive officer of sailing's world governing body. "We know with reports we are getting from sailors who are training there — just from the visual view of the water — that already there are some concerns. ... It's on our radar."

Rio organizers have been pressed by the International Olympic Committee to speed the pace of construction. Cleaning the water could add to delays in preparing for the games, which will cost about \$15 billion in public and private money.

"Rio 2016 can guarantee beyond any doubt that no athlete, official or member of the Olympic family will be put at risk," Rio organizers said in a statement to AP. "The health and welfare of the athletes is always our top priority."

Rio organizers added that water quality was the responsibility of the state government.

"We trust that the authorities will deliver the conditions to enable the athletes to compete to the very best of their ability in 2016," organizers added.

The 2008 Beijing Olympics were marked by choking air pollution, a setback for a government that tried to use the games to portray China as a rising, prosperous world power.

Carlos Minc, secretary for the environment for the state of Rio de Janeiro, acknowledged the bay's contamination has been festering for years.

The Rio state's INEA environmental agency has classified nearly all the 13 bayside beaches it monitors as "terrible" for 12 years running due to high levels of fecal bacteria. Exposure

to such bacteria can cause gastro-intestinal illnesses like cramps, diarrhea, dysentery and cholera.

"That the bay is rotten and the beaches are polluted, everyone has known this for 20 years," Minc said Thursday in an interview in O Globo newspaper. "This is nothing new. ... What is new is that now we have a different response than before."

Minc said the state government had closed 10 landfills around the bay, though illegal ones were still operating. He said some industrial pollution had been curbed, and programs were in the works to retrieve floating garbage and install river treatment units — so-called RTU's built over rivers that filter most of the trash and human waste before it pours into open water.

Environmentalists see the RTU's as stopgap measures.

Minc also mentioned that cooperation was needed from Rio's city government. Many delays in preparing the Rio Olympics have been caused by conflicts between Brazil's three levels of government — local, state and national.

The local organizing committee has yet to announce an operating budget, stalled because of long negotiations about which level of government will pay, and how much.

Marco Aurelio Sa Ribeiro, president of the Brazilian Sailing Confederation, acknowledged the bay was dirty, but said the sailing was good.

"Clearly the Guanabara Bay is not the cleanest place in the world, but it is a great place for sailing," he said in an interview. "Every year at least one world championship is held here. ... The foreign sailors are extremely pleased. The wind is fantastic and the view is wonderful."

"With 10 million people living around here, of course there is waste and sewage," he added.

Issues at professional level raising questions

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that people have to pay their dues when they are the youngest in a group of people and at every level of football it is visible.

I can remember having to carry water jugs and older players' pads and helmets to and from the field in my middle school years, and having to pay for some meals for fellow linemen in my freshmen year.

Of course, I then took advantage later in my later years of each setting but that was the norm and the traditions that we felt obligated to keep running.

Hazing on the other hand is what most of those activities would fall under.

Bullying would be a constant barrage of those events happening, while in reality, they would happen maybe the first week or two of practice and then we would have earned our "stripes," so to say, with play on the field and it would stop.

Now, again, I am not saying that hazing is great — in any organization, athletic, Greek life,

work place you name it — but it is something that helps build character and continue tradition, if it is not taken too far.

Racial harassment and threatening of one's family or even the person in general are way beyond anything that happens in the average and normal situation and locker room or even in a normal workplace or school environment.

Harmless joking between friends can look something like, "Oh, I'm going to knock you out if you do that," or "I should smack the hell out of you for what you just did/said," but threatening family members in the same way and calling someone a racial slur are on a completely different level than the tomfoolery between friends.

If it happens with the athletics programs here, I do not know; I assume that there is some level of it but that is something I can't say for certain, especially since there has been turmoil in, at least, the football program.

A few little hazing

things would possibly be considered icing on the cake for first year Head Coach Ron Turner and his staff, who have issues that go back to January when players tweeted about bringing recruits to a local strip club.

"We haven't had to deal with anything since the Incognito-Martin situation started," Turner said. "[The coaching staff] made it perfectly clear on June 24 when the freshmen were coming in for summer school to our veteran guys that we don't do that. They are welcome to help them and bring them along but we don't do that kind of stuff. We had a few minor incidences during the first few days of training camp but I saw that and got on it and nothing has happened since."

"Being younger and starting off you can always expect a little hazing," redshirt freshman Michael Montero said. "As big as the Dolphins case I have never seen anything like that. It is just a part of football."

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Jewish Studies Initiatives

School of International and Public Affairs



Spring 2014 Courses available at the Jewish Museum of South Florida

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SYD 4606 / SYD 5607 – "Sociology of World Jewish Communities" Prof. Abraham Lavender Monday 6:45 - 9:15 pm

An overview of Jewish communities throughout the world. Analyze the origins, migrations, demographic and social characteristics. Covers Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Mizrahi communities.

[SYD 4606 is an undergraduate course.]

[SYD 5607 is open to graduate students only.]

REL 3308 – "World Religions" Ivanessa Arostegui Wednesday 6:45 - 9:15 pm

Examines the origins, teachings and practices of selected world religions.

REL 3692 / RLG 5937 – "Jerusalem" Prof. Tudor Parfitt Thursday 6:45 - 9:15 pm

Explores the role of Jerusalem in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and its place in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

For more Information please visit <http://jewishstudies.fiu.edu/>

University and Florida coastlines threatened by rising sea levels

School of Environment, Arts and Society Environment Coordinator Nicholas Ogle talks awareness and prevention

SOFIA GALLANO
Staff Writer

Florida is most susceptible to rising sea levels in the U.S. and will likely be underwater by the end of the century according to city officials.

Environmental Coordinator Nicholas Ogle said keeping South Florida afloat is difficult when people aren't considering the potential risks.

"How do we get people to think 50 to 100 years down the road?" he said.

Through thermal expansion, land-based ice melts causes sea levels to rise, according to Ogle.

He said because 80 percent of the ice is land-

based, Florida can anticipate a "very large expansion."

The University, along with other Florida coastline assets, sits only a few feet above present-day sea levels. Residents in these areas should be aware of the risks to come in the next few decades.

If legislation were in place to warn prospective property owners about flood risks, it would legitimize the matter, however Ogle said those laws don't exist. He said it's unfair that there are no state laws that require realtors to inform clients of flood risks.

Ogle said its important people think about what changes to expect when purchasing a 30-year mort-

gage and having laws that support those concerns is necessary in finding a solution. "One of the first steps is getting laws on the books," he said.

Ogle said because there aren't laws that force people to consider the prospects of rising sea levels, they won't be proactive in addressing the issue.

According to him, first citizens need to be informed and then legislation needs to be implemented.

Ogle said it is unknown at what rate the ice is melting, but a way to slow the process is by making choices today that will reduce the amount of greenhouse gases.

SEE SEAS, PAGE 2

B.O.B VISITS FIU



MARGARITA RENTIS/THE BEACON

B.o.B. visited the Biscayne Bay Campus Nov. 21. B.o.B. discussed music and his new album, "Underground Luxury." The album will be released Dec. 17.

Lecturer uses art as weapon against juvenile injustice

JEFFREY PIERCE
Contributing Writer

As a photojournalist and writer, Professor Richard Ross of the University of California has had an extensive career covering and sharing stories dealing with various issues and topics.

Ross visited Biscayne Bay Campus on Nov. 21 to speak to students, most of whom were aspiring journalists, to share the stories of the incarcerated youths in America and expose the common practice of their mistreatment from his latest project "Juvenile in Justice."

Ross, whose photographic work has been featured throughout publications such as Time Magazine, Newsweek, Mother

Jones, and Harper's Magazine received significant recognition for his body of work "Architecture of Authority," which was published as a monograph by Aperture Foundation in 2007.

In Ross's latest project "Juvenile in Justice", he documented the placement and treatment of American juveniles housed by law in facilities that "treat, confine, punish, assist and occasionally harm them," as he explained.

But even more, he conducts an in-depth examination of the U.S. juvenile justice system. Through his project, Ross has documented over 100 facilities in 30 states.

"I'm not a judge and I'm not a probation

officer, I'm an artist and I'm a human being," said Ross explaining his role throughout his journey. "I want to use my art as a weapon."

Throughout his lecture, Ross provided the audience with powerful imagery depicting countless juveniles, each of whom he creatively conceals the identities of, to expose the failures of the system to help the misguided youth in this country.

Each image often shows a teenage boy or girl alone and inside a large holding cell simply standing, sitting or hiding away.

He leaves the audience with horrifying facts regarding the juveniles who find themselves incarcerated.

According to Ross, 88 percent of kids are brought in for non-violent crimes are put in direct contact with violent offenders.

Ross tells stories like of a girl in Caldwell, Idaho who abused methamphetamines, was a truant and was put in jail rather than a proper place where she could receive help and rehabilitation.

"What's a good solution for a drug abuser that doesn't go to high school? Let's hold her in jail," Ross said sarcastically. "Do you give her drug counseling or adequate schooling? No."

Ross goes on to explain that since the mid-1980s, American youths have been portrayed by the media as "wild teenagers" to create attractive stories

that sell newspapers and magazines. He even states that the population of kids held in youth prisons has declined since 1996, but the rate of mass incarceration is still on the rise.

"I want you to realize that this is you," Ross said. "These are your kids, you know these kids, treat them with some dignity and respect."

Students like Serena Jimenez, a journalism senior and substitute teacher who often works with kids, spoke very highly of Ross and his lecture.

"I just stumbled in here and I'm glad I did," said Jimenez, "I had no idea kids were being railroaded into the justice system like this."

Moses Shumow, School

of Journalism and Mass Communication professor, hosted Ross and stressed the importance of his work.

"It's a great example of how mass communications can advocate important social topics," said Shumow.

Ross plans to continue the project and is currently working on two books relating to the topic of juvenile injustice. He tries to encourage students to share his stories and even take on projects of their own.

"I can make a picture. I know how to write. I can create a movement; that's what I said seven years ago: 'I'm going to create a movement,' but I'm still one person," Ross said.

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B.o.B plays "Underground Luxury" for students

AMANI NEPHEW
Contributing Writer

Everyone can remember turning to any radio station in 2009 and not being able to escape the hit that was "Nothin' On You" by B.o.B and Bruno Mars, men who charmed their way into the hearts of every "beautiful girl."

Now on his college tour to promote his third studio album "Underground Luxury",

Bobby Ray made a stop at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Nov. 21 to talk music. The event was hosted by the Student Programming Council in the Wolfe Center Ballrooms on the second floor, where University and Maritime and Science Technology Academy students gathered for a meet-and-greet.

Students enjoyed the new sounds, a mix of R&B and smooth hip-hop.

B.o.B's new album that is set for a

Dec. 17 release will add more than 15 new singles to his tracklist. He also produced over 80 percent of the album on his own.

B.o.B's hit "Airplanes" featuring Paramore's lead vocalist Hayley Williams added alternative rock to his repertoire as well. With his hit songs, he has gained a huge following -- part of which came out to Thursday's event.

There was even a student dance contest on the stage, which Bay Vista resident

Ivonne Antonian, junior public relations major, won and took home a cash prize.

B.o.B kept the momentum and friendly atmosphere going when it was time to meet and greet with all the students and faculty. He took plenty of photos, signed every poster with his album cover and offered a hug and smile to each excited fan.

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