

4-10-2015

# The Beacon, April 10, 2015

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## Recommended Citation

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## POWERFUL PUMPS



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON



PHOTOS ABOVE BY MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

**LEFT:** Walk a Mile in Her Shoes march took place Wednesday, April 8 as part of Take Back the Night Week, organized by the Women's Center and Interfraternity Council in order to spread awareness on domestic violence, sexual abuse and to diminish rape culture. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Serge Aranov, a sophomore studying engineering and brother of Tau Kappa Epsilon holds

up a sign while participating in the Walk in Her Shoes march. Men who walked in the march wore heels to symbolize solidarity with women against domestic violence, sexual abuse and rape culture. **TOP RIGHT:** Froylan Remond, a junior studying chemistry, also wears heels during the event on Wednesday, April 8.

# Michael Heithaus, new dean of College of Arts and Sciences opens up about position

**ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA**  
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Michael Heithaus, the newly appointed dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, met with Student Media earlier this week for an interview.

Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton sent the memorandum informing the University community of Heithaus' appointment on Monday, March 30.

Before his official appointment, Heithaus served as the interim dean in July 2014. He was appointed to that position when then-Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Furton was appointed as the current provost.

Considering that the College of Arts and Sciences is the largest college in the University, one of Heithaus' main focal points is ensuring that the College is using the best teaching practices to engage students and faculty who work within it.

He admitted that he's excited to be the dean of a college whose faculty is concerned with the importance of engaging students in the classroom and applying best practices to their teaching methods.

Among his plans for his present administration are finding ways to secure permanent instructors who are fully available to ensure that the College is not relying on adjunct professors.

He and his team are also working on ways to examine the class scheduling system and noting which classes are the ones that students want the most, all in order to optimize students'

schedules to make sure they're taking the classes they need in order to graduate.

Heithaus is particularly interested in getting feedback from students.

He wants to reach out to students and brainstorm ways to get them engaged and make sure that they meet their advisors, professors and other important individuals within the College.

One of the ways in which he's done this is by hosting lunches in intimate group settings with different students from the College of Arts and Sciences in order to understand their concerns and have them speak about their individual experiences.

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Although we have a lot of different disciplines in the College of Arts and Sciences, the core values are really the same

Michael Heithaus  
Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences

As far as dealing with faculty, Heithaus admits to having had several meetings with faculty members from various disciplines in the College with the intention of getting a sense of their thoughts of the current activities of the College, their individual goals and their plans to achieve these goals.

“We all really share those values of we

want to make sure that we're preparing our students to really thrive in life,” Heithaus said.

He added that he and other members of the College of Arts and Sciences are interested in making sure that students are given an opportunity to be prepared for the future and become creative and critical thinkers to create their own path in life.

The generation of research opportunities in the University is also on his radar.

Heithaus said that one of the major benefits of being at a research university is the chance to become involved in various research opportunities.

One of his present plans is to work with

Aware of the fact that the College houses such a large assortment of academic disciplines, Heithaus nonetheless believes that some of the goals of the individual professors in the various departments fall on a similar foundation.

“Although we have a lot of different disciplines in the College of Arts and Sciences, the core values are really the same,” he said.

According to Heithaus, the College of Arts and Sciences is committed to the liberal arts. He admits that many of today's problems require interdisciplinary approaches to solution-finding.

He provided the example of students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields who may need to consider approaches in fields such as the arts in order to become critical problem solvers. In an equal light, students in the arts may benefit from considering approaches in STEM fields when thinking creatively.

According to the memorandum sent by Provost Furton, Heithaus joined the University community back in 2003 as an assistant professor of biology, and held various positions prior to his appointment as dean.

Heithaus served as the director of the Marine Sciences Program, and also as the associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

He was the founding executive director of the School of Environment, Arts and Society (SEAS).

For more, visit [FIUSM.com](http://FIUSM.com).

# NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

## Iran calls on Turkey to help find peace in embattled Yemen

A Turkey-led diplomatic initiative to prevent the conflict in Yemen from spreading in the Middle East showed signs of progress Tuesday at talks in Tehran, where Iran’s leadership agreed to work with visiting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to end the crisis.

“Iran and Turkey agree on stopping the bleeding in Yemen as soon as possible,” Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said at a joint news conference with Erdogan broadcast

by state television.

“With the help of other countries in the region, we can help there to be peace, stability, a broader government and dialogue in Yemen,” Rouhani said.

Erdogan’s visit is part of a diplomatic initiative that Turkey and Pakistan launched after the two countries were asked by ally Saudi Arabia to join the military coalition that launched airstrikes against Houthi rebels after the rebels overthrew the Yemeni government.

## Islamic State group not only suspect in war crimes at Tikrit

Iraqi forensic teams uncovered the bodies Tuesday of at least 40 victims of last year’s massacre near Tikrit of government soldiers captured by the Islamic State group in the early days of its onslaught across northern and central Iraq.

And those graves are only the beginning. More than 1,000 Shiite Muslims are thought to have been killed after they were captured last year; the bodies of many now can be unearthed from

the unmarked graves where they were dumped.

But the recapture of Tikrit last week after a bloody monthlong campaign also has revealed new abuses that add to Iraq’s nightmare -- by the mostly Shiite Muslim security forces and their Shiite militia allies, even by Sunni Muslim allies of the government, against Sunni residents they accuse of backing the Islamic State.

# Student opens up about sexual assault

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The University student whose report of sexual assault was made on Saturday, April 4, spoke about her ordeal to 7News earlier this week.

The assaulted student was a young woman. Specifically, a 19-year-old freshman.

Although she asked to remain anonymous, she nonetheless provided information that added further details to a case about which little has been disclosed by the University Police Department.

“[This is] a nightmare that I’m still living in, and I’m still going through. I’m still in shock that it happened to me,” she told 7News.

According to the account that the student provided, she and a female friend of hers met with a University football player and a friend at an unidentified café the night the incident occurred.

Following the meeting at the café, the two women followed the athlete to an apartment, which is where the student was raped.

The student told 7News that her assaulter said she was useless after the encounter, adding to the insult by telling her that she should learn to perform better sexually.

To the assaulted student, her experience is not

what many expect when they head off to college, according to the information she provided 7News.

She confessed that she doesn’t feel a sense of safety at the University following what happened, adding that she doesn’t feel that the University is available to help her.

According to the report, a spokesperson for the University informed the news outlet that a University student connected with the accusation was questioned and later released.

Students shared their sentiments on the recent updates.

“Whoever the football player is needs to be kicked out of the team,” said Linda Abreu, a senior public relations major. “And once that’s done he needs to be expelled for his debased act.”

Others shared similar feelings.

“With all of the seminars that the University hosts regarding sexual assault, Its On Us, for example, you’d think that this sort of stuff would not happen,” said Froylan Espinel, a sophomore religious studies major. “I’m happy that the victim is speaking out, but I think the school needs to be more vocal about calling out the guy who raped the girl.”

The University Athletics Department and Police Department could not be reached for comment by press time.

# New software makes scheduling easier

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OneStop Enrollment Services is doing away with the manual pen-and-paper scheduling for the 2015 summer and fall semesters with the launch of MyCourseScheduler.

The recently launched program can be found at the my.fiu.edu student portal under the Academics tab.

The software was first launched on November 2014, with much positive feedback.

“We’re thrilled that many students discovered [MyCourseScheduler] during the soft launch, began using it, and have spread the word,” said Luis Rodriguez, assistant director of OneStop Enrollment Services.

According to its website, the program allows the students to schedule their courses and personal responsibilities all in one place.

“Making registration a quick and painless process,” states the easy-to-use manual on the website.

The motto for the program is “scheduling made easy” and it stays true to this by allowing students to choose their desired courses and plan time for their personal responsibilities, such as meal breaks, work, study sessions, etc.

Through this program, the student can plug in different things, such as the desired campus locations and semester terms. There is also an online

option for online students.

The program will showcase various schedule options that fit each student’s requests. They will be able to view them in detail and compare up to four schedules at a time.

On the University’s social media accounts, the program has received a great amount of positive feedback.

“I must try this!” commented Roger Paz, a student majoring in finance.

After comparing potential schedules, students can send their most desirable schedule to their enrollment shopping cart. Then, after logging in to their MyFIU account, they can import their cart and proceed to enroll in the courses.

University alumni in administration, Arturo Aviles, also commented regarding the University’s social media, stating his amazement on how the times are changing.

“When I registered, you had to pick up a course book at the registrar and call in and hope it wasn’t busy,” said Aviles. “You guys got it good now.”

Christopher Dittrich, a graduate student at the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, believes that the program is a bit superfluous.

“I find it unnecessary because us young adults shouldn’t need to have a specific break time,” said Dittrich, “We have to adapt.”

However, he states that he sees the benefit that this can bring to students who are

beginning to adapt to college scheduling.

Inspiration for this program comes from other universities in the nation like Arizona State University, Pennsylvania State University and Ohio State University, who already offer software programs similar to the MyCourseScheduler.

The software was created by a company called College Scheduler, LLC and, according to Charlie Andrews, the director of the Academic Advising Center and First Year Programs, the cost to the University for this software is less than one dollar per student each year.

This program will also be running behind-the-scenes reports on the data that students input in the software. This will help administrators view popular break times for students and demand trends for all courses.

“This will inform our decision-making and prediction-making of what classes to offer,” said Andrews. “Ultimately saving us time and money.”

According to him, besides making the process of scheduling much easier for students, this program will also encourage students to take more credits and therefore graduate in a timely fashion.

“If we can make it easier for students to build their schedule, they will be more likely to find the time to take more credits,” he said.

For more information, go to onestop.fiu.edu.

## TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

## CORRECTIONS

In Vol.26 Issue 82, on page eight, Mike Heithaus was listed as the interim dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. He was named dean March 30, 2015.

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

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# Know the difference of going vegan or vegetarian

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According to meat lovers everywhere, vegetarians and vegans have been protesting animal cruelty for the sake of insignificant animals. There are people who don't understand why vegetarians choose to alter their diets because they believe we're scared of a 'necessary' scientific experiment, known as genetically modified organisms. They also argue that we can't comprehend the economic importance of what it truly means to be modified for the survival of the human race. On behalf of people who dislike GMOs and have seen them as the threat to agricultural business and therefore our way of life, I have my

own opinions on some of these "rabbit-food" diets and some of reasons why we choose to do it anyways. People who wish to find a silver-lining while stuck between a rock and a hard place should look at the consequences of each action separate from the grander scale of things. For some people, veganism and vegetarianism is a modern utilitarian concept used to reduce the slaughter of animals or prevent cruelty toward them. The point is to avoid murdering an animal by trying to find alternative routes to obtain the nutrients they would get from meat and to make sure big companies don't profit from it. However, there is a slight problem with this picture for the people who haven't decided to make that lifestyle change.

Veganism and vegetarianism can be misleading to people who don't know the difference. Vegans get their nutrition on plant-based diets and typically any food item that did not come from an animal. Vegetarians eat dairy, eggs and cheese while also eating a variety of vegetables. To most people, if you take milk from a cow it does not seem like cruelty because you're not hurting the animal which is false in some cases. Either way, these companies that genetically modify their animals profit from these products so vegans refuse to consume it. Vegans avoid all parts and products that come from cows and could opt for the soy based-items or milk substitutes that has been processed like regular milk. For most people protein and iron are questionable in these diets

since they would normally gain it by eating meats of some kind but taking supplements, eating eggs, tofu or even eating spinach can get you the iron your body needs. Recently, P.O.D. market underneath University Towers on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus has been offering to its vegetarians and vegans edamame snacks, fruit juice strips, toasted fruit chips and even chia seed power-bars - all of which are delicious in my opinion. However, people besides vegans and vegetarians are also enjoying the new snacks so try it out when you have the chance. If you're opting for a switch in your diet, don't try and do all the different fads such as juice cleansing or completely change up your meals immediately. Sticking to all super

fruits or even going for those green tea cleansers to supplement your transition is the safest bet. You can easily add more protein and vegetables to your diet if it seems too drastic and switch back and forth if you want. It's hard for someone to avoid the foods they probably grew up eating but the benefits are worth it. Personally, I have been going on and off a vegetarian diet if I think I've had too much meat or too little. However, I like being a vegetarian because not only do you end up getting awesome healthy snacks from the fridge, but you also get to enjoy the joys of eating delicious coconut and mango fruit chips while protecting the animals who don't deserve being mistreated. Bon appetite to all my veggie lovers.

# Horrific events in Kenya spark no concern from media

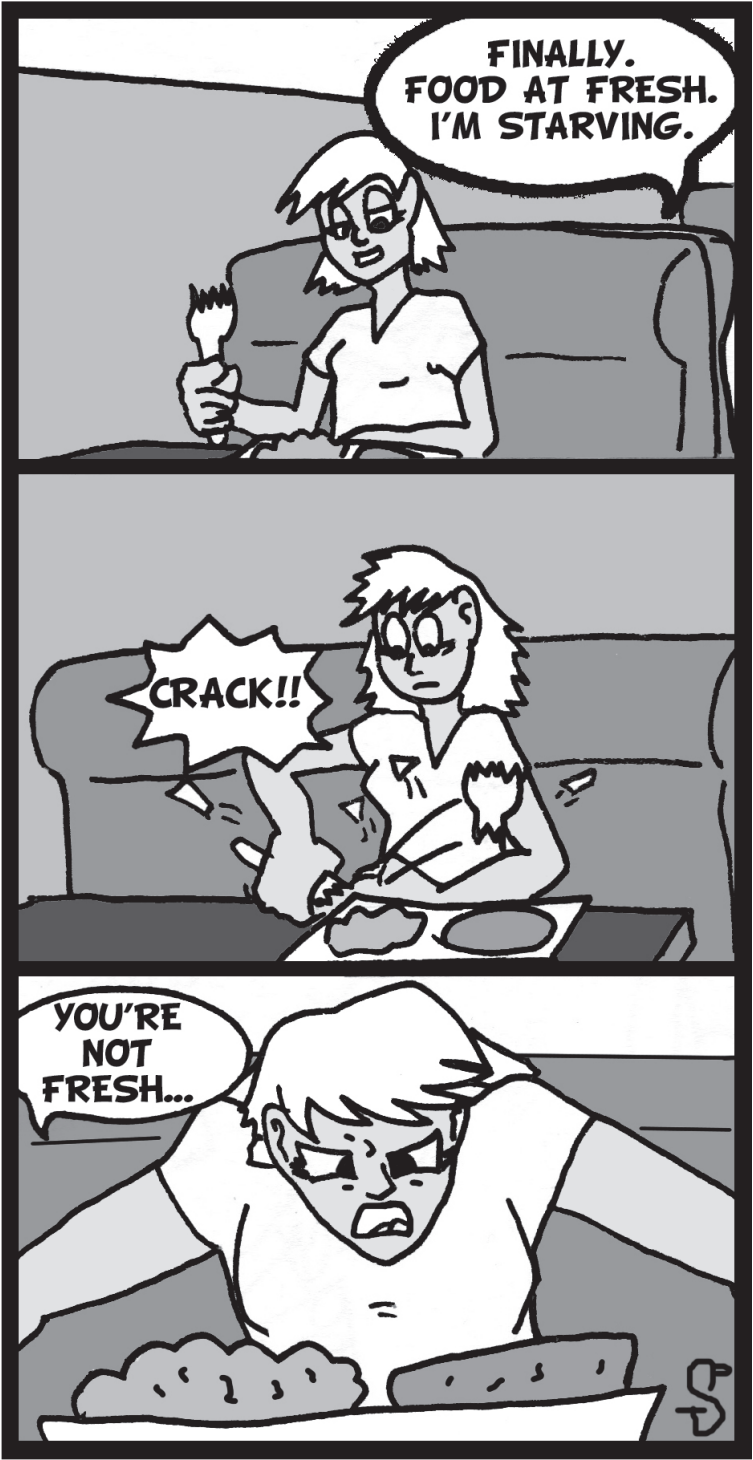
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For those of you who don't know of the tragic event that happened just days ago in Kenya then put down your smartphone and perk up your ears; this is a discussion you might want to join. Thursday, April 2, 2015 147 students from Garissa University were brutally murdered. A terrorists group by the name of Al-Shabaab claimed the attack. You'd think that the media, especially the American media, would have jumped at the opportunity to report on a mass murder. Mass murder or murder in general is click bait heaven for the American media. For instance, can you think of one mass shooting that took place in The United States over the past few years that got international media coverage. Sandy Hook? The Colorado "Batman" shooting? Despite America's palpable love for showing horrific events on their media channels to boost views or get more clicks, the media response to this particular disaster has been static, and I'm not the only one who's noticed. Social media sites like Twitter and Facebook have been bombarded with angry protests asking that all seem to demand an answer to one very important question - where's the media?

"Where is the outpouring of grief for the student massacre in #KenyaAttack. where is the #JeSuisKenyan. I stand in solidarity with Africa," Facebook user, Mahek Chahal posted March 6. Another Facebook user, Lalah Hathaway, posted this on the same day, "Four days ago 148 students were killed in Garissa, Kenya and neither the media attention nor international response begin to scratch the surface of what is required. These acts are barbaric and deplorable irrespective of where they are carried out. I guess the flight to Africa is much too long for the world leaders to go there, but if it were for gold, diamonds, or oil it would be necessary." If you keep scrolling down Facebook's "#JeSuisKenyan" tag search the comments seem to repeat themselves. Westerners are displaying their outrage in the best way they can - through the Internet. World leaders' responses to this attack were also not enough to subdue the flames that'd been ignited by

inquisitive and outraged citizens online. In a Time article by journalist Aryn Baker, the President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta released a statement urging Kenyans to "stay calm as we resolve this matter" opposed to visiting the university himself. There were 17 people were killed at the Charlie Hebdo incident and world leaders, including 11 African leaders, marched in Paris yet this massacre isn't enough to gather such unified support. So, why isn't the world responding? I've been asking myself this question repeatedly over the past few days. Garissa University, a predominantly black school, was attacked and if this had happened in America the #blacklivesmatter protesters would be marching day and night until their voices were heard. Where are they now? On Twitter one user, Abrar Qureshi, said, "I don't want to say it but it seems for the media pundits and Western population in general black/colored lives don't matter." But, maybe this isn't about #blacklivesmatter maybe it is deeper than that. Let me ask you a question - if this were a Western crime would the world have responded differently? I have an opinion - a sort of belief - that I wasn't really able to substantiate until now and that is that we westerners are forgetting. One part of society (the first world) progresses rapidly - technology, advances in medicine and education - the other (the third world) stays in a constant state of chaos - extremist beliefs, primitive ruling, lack of education, clean water, clean clothes and technology. We are essentially being tossed into groups and one group is growing so fast as a society that we are leaving the other behind. But we're not groups; we are humans. We are leaving fellow humans behind. Isn't this what social justice warriors are fighting for - the right to stand on equal ground with all genders? Isn't this what black-rights activities are fighting for - that black lives are important? Where are you guys? It's time to get angry. The first world media cares about first world problems. But do you? Do you feel anything? Anger, sympathy, sadness...anything at all? If so, do you feel it strongly enough to act? If you answer "no" then my point has been proven. If you answer "yes" maybe there is hope for us after all.

# FRANK AND IRENE: You're not fresh



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

## 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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# FIUSM sits down with comedian Bill Burr

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Comedian Bill Burr will be at The Fillmore for two shows on Friday, March 10. FIUSM had a chance to sit down with Burr.

**Q: In what esteem is the South Beach Comedy Festival held in amongst comedians of your stature?**

**A:** Before you even talk about the festival, just to be able to perform in that venue that the great one performed in, I get chills thinking about it.

And as far as the South Beach Comedy Festival, I can't speak for all comedians but I think it's one of our favorites because it's such an incredible city to go to.

Beautiful people, great weather. You see a lot of wives and girlfriends coming along with the comedians on this one because they always want to support us on the road when we go somewhere fun.

When we need them and we're going to Minnesota, for some reason, they don't come along.

**Q: As a comedian who has accomplished so much, are there times where you feel complacency, and if you do feel that, how do you fight that?**

**A:** If you start mailing it in, you immediately start bombing, your numbers go down, and then you just sink back down to the horrible level that you were at where you started out where you don't want to go to.

I fortunately don't have that problem with the complacency thing. I love being a comedian and I take it very seriously and I want to get better at it. I'm constantly competing with myself and my last special. Honestly it's such a fun job I don't know how that happens. I don't know how you could ever phone in a fun job.

**Q: Your most memorable moment (in the eyes of many) is your rant against**

*Philadelphia in 2006 in response to their heckling. If Miami were to heckle you in the same manner, what are some of the things you would say about this city to get on our nerves?*

**A:** I don't know, you're sinking into the ocean? [Laughs] I'm thinking about going down there and making people laugh, I'm not thinking about that situation. Every city is an easy target. I can make fun of my own city.

You're always going to have some sort of sports disappointment, something embarrassing that happened in the news, and then there's always some sort of ridiculous stereotype that you can just throw everybody in to.

I actually really like Philly. They boo somebody every other weekend so everybody else seems to remember it except for people in Philly.

**Q: What's harder, going from beginning comedian to quality act, or going from quality act to the status you're at now? What's harder? What transition is harder?**

**A:** The hardest thing I found in the beginning was the travel accommodations early on... When I was coming up, you could pay cash for a motel room, so God knows what kind of convicted felon or drug dealer or guy who just killed his wife was in the other room.

**Q: Does it annoy you that you're known so heavily for that Philly incident?**

**A:** No. It's not something I'm embarrassed of so if somebody brings it up and they enjoyed it, it's always flattering.

**Q: A big part of your material was "I'm not getting married." and then you go ahead and get married and a bunch of people are like 'Hey, what's going on here?'"**

**A:** Are there really a bunch of people that said it?



PHOTO BY GRANT THISTLE, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Bill Burr, comedian, performs in the United Kingdom, in the King's Theater, part of the Glasgow Comedy Festival.

**Q: Someone who trashes marriage and goes out and gets married, someone's going to call you on it.**

**A:** First of all, I went forty-five years without being married. I was older than Brett Favre when I got married, and then also, the reason I didn't get married was because I was afraid of it and I got over a big fear and now it's been a great thing, so what you're seeing is somebody growing as a person.

**Q: You came up in the same time in New York City around the same time that other comedians of your stature. Why did so many quality good comedians come from that city, that "Comedy Cellar" venue, in that short window of time?**

**A:** I don't know.

**Q: Got any theories?**

**A:** Stand-up comedy in the late 80's early 90's in New York City, the amount of slots you could get, just the vibe of the city and then everything that happened.

Giuliani came in and did this weird sort of clean-up of the city and then nine-eleven happened. I think during those volatile times, I guess people needed to laugh.

**Q: Do you feel that... that generation [of comics] that it hasn't gotten its due publicity?**

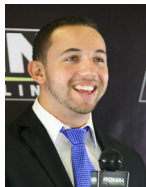
**A:** Everyone in my generation seems to be doing pretty well, other than the guys who died tragically which was horrific. That's the saddest thing about my generation of comics.

That's one of those things where people are like "Hey, you know, you're like the comic's comic" and it's like "It's kind of easy to obtain that status when the top seven guys die tragically.

You know when [Mike] Tyson went to jail and whoever got the belt got the belt? That's what I feel like.

# The identity of the Reverse Flash revealed and the Arrow is made out to be a villain

DC ON TV



CHRIS SANTIAGO

**The Flash:**

All hell broke loose! First we find out that Harrison Wells is the Reverse Flash, and then we find out that the real Harrison Wells was killed by the actual Eobard Thawne and then used a device to somehow transform into Harrison Wells!

I knew things weren't all that they had seemed to be for Wells. It's strangely comforting, however, that there actually used to be a real Harrison Wells, a devoted scientist and significant other to a beautiful woman. Why is it strangely comforting?

Well, because I've grown fond of Harrison Wells. He's that character that you love to hate, but hate to love.

Okay, let's get this thing started. First off, what an epic way to start the episode! A fight that is too quick for

the naked eye. We got a good glimpse at how exactly the fight between Barry and Thawne went down that night at Barry's house those 15 years ago.

And let me tell you, that was truly intense. The back and forth between the two speedsters was incredible.

And then, when Reverse Flash escaped and suddenly couldn't run anymore and he pulled off his mask, I think we can all agree when we all shouted, "Who the heck is that guy?!"

We were expecting Dr. Wells, but got some random guy. It was all too confusing!

So, now that Barry has his suspicions against Wells, he's starting to give him a bit of attitude and Wells doesn't like it too much.

To continue, the villain in this episode was none other than The Trickster! And who played The Trickster back in the day? None other than Luke Skywalker...I mean, Mark Hamill!

I felt like I was watching him be The Joker from the old animated Batman cartoon days. It was wonderful. The child in me was screaming for joy.

Plus, how long has Mark Hamill waited to finally tell someone else on a show that he's their father? That Star Wars reference cracked me up.

Overall, a tremendous episode for the books, once again.

**Arrow:**

Well, Ra's Al Ghul really just made life extremely difficult for Oliver Queen.

He has successfully gone and made the Arrow into a full blown vigilante in Starling City in order to coax him further into taking his mantle as the next Ra's Al Ghul.

So much to the point that Detective Lance is pulling out all the stocks to catch the Arrow.

The flashbacks in this episode were really significant to those who

have watched the show since day one.

So, for me, this was an especially great episode because of one name, Celina Jade. Okay, Shado, excuse me. But we all know that when we saw that face, we nearly lost our minds.

Well, in this episode, we see Oliver in his flashbacks with Shado's twin sister. It's a great way to reintroduce a factor in Oliver's life that helped big time in transitioning from a vigilante to a hero.

The reason why I'm happy she's back in a form is because I met her last year and she's such a sweetheart (yes, she's a celebrity crush of mine).

The chasing scenes and the fighting scenes in this episode have exceeded any other action scene since the mid-season finale. I really would love to know how long it takes just to film one of those scenes!

The League of Assassins are going around and killing innocent people, even the mayor, to further

incriminate the Arrow and make him into what everyone sort of already fears he is, a villain.

And to make matters worse, Ra's Al Ghul captures Detective Lance and reveals to him that the Arrow is Oliver Queen. This only ruins everything else for Oliver, for now he has no choice but to turn himself in to Lance and suffer the consequences.

And mind you, while all of this is going on, Ray Palmer is laying in a hospital bed incapacitated and has Felicity injecting him with nanotechnology to help speed up his recovery.

At the end, Oliver is riding with Lance in a tanker truck. Roy sabotages that arrest dressed up as the Arrow. Now, Roy is in custody and Oliver isn't! Thanks a lot, Roy.

**"DC on TV" with Chris is a column covering the latest episodes of the ongoing series The Flash and Arrow.**

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# tUnE-yArDs and Son Lux at Grand Central

## CHRISTIAN PORTILLA

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On Saturday, April 4, tUnE-yArDs were at Grand Central with opening acts by Jude and Son Lux. It was the first time for Son Lux and tUnE-yArDs in the magic city but I know it won't be the last.

As I walked to my usual spot, I felt the first row on a super chill vibe, almost too chill where I wished the dancers would have made it to the front and they would have stayed in the back.

The lights dimmed and Son Lux made their way to the stage.

Son Lux is a tricultural trio made up of vocalist Ryan Lott, guitarist Rafiq Bhatia and drummer Ian Chang.

All The Right Things is the first track I ever heard of theirs and I knew I was going to be a lifelong fan.

The clever play on words, the drums, the incorporation of orchestrations and synths, is an audible roller coaster ride.

It was the first time I had ever heard a combination like this and like a vegetarian eating a juicy burger for the first time, I was changed.

They played songs from the Alternate Worlds album and also their latest track from their March release Change Is Everything. Each member looked like they were feeling the music.

At one point, Lott reached his right hand out figuratively squeezing a heart in his hand leaving his left hand on his chest, Bhatia with closed eyes and intensity,

slayed the guitar and Chang placed a towel on his head to catch sweat as he banged and beat his drums.

Each member brings individuality and lively stage presence, props to Bhatia for wearing a Biggie shirt and to Chang who was the only member who stayed after the show to meet fans and to sell and sign merch.

The band seemed really humbled to be opening for tUnE-yArDs and hyped the crowd for their set as they left the stage.

tUnE-yArDs band members are front woman Merrill Garbus who drums, plays the keys and ukulele and Nate Brenner on bass, synths and vocals and a variation of touring members. What captivated me when I first heard tUnE-yArDs was that I could not identify the sex of the vocalist.

The band sounds wild. They could best be described as afro-punk, but each song has a personality of its own. They also merge wacky screams and a touch of lyrical sass, feminism, activism and reggae.

Using a loop pedal on stage, they begin with a beat or sound and it keeps repeating as each instrument carefully inserts itself in the song.

The bands colorful costumes captured the eyes of the audience with bright reds, blues, oranges and afrocentric shapes and prints including unique crafty accessories.

Garbus had blue face paint around her eyes, which enhanced her primitive look. tUnE-yArDs took to the stage and the party started.

During some songs, the background



CHRISTIAN PORTILLA/THE BEACON

tUnE-yArDs performed at Grand Central on Friday, April 4.

vocalists came to the front of the stage and contemporary danced to the music.

Garbus also mentioned that she passed by Miami before on a personal growth trip to Haiti and would be donating a dollar of the ticket sales to The Water Fountain charity, which was inspired by her trip and the droughts in her home state of California.

They decided not to end with the usual encore the band kept playing until their last song, which Garbus said is "more fun" and left the audience craving for more.

As a self-proclaimed live music junkie and after many shows at Grand Central, I could definitely distinguish that the

venue's sound has improved incredibly.

It could be the fact that the bands brought along their own sound engineers or maybe Grand Central has invested in better equipment, but the music was crisp and clear.

I could hear every instrument and the vocals were not drowned in the music. It also helps that each band has incredible talented singers.

Overall, both bands in their respective genre brought a sense of original sounds that have not been experimented with before, which made it for an incredible, refreshing and unique concert.

## Couch-surfing is a risk worth taking

### STORIES ABROAD



ITZEL BASUALDO

CouchSurfing.com is a platform that allows you to find free accommodation all over the world in the form of a couch or spare mattress offered generally by good Samaritans, but in the eyes of many Americans, this is just asking for trouble.

I first learned of this website last year at FIU. My professor was showing us a couple of successful start-up companies, among them CouchSurfing. As a class, we were mainly shocked that anyone would feel comfortable enough to crash on a stranger's couch.

However, despite the possible risks and imminent threat this posed, along with my lack of interest in consorting with strangers, I had a probing curiosity about how this thing worked.

According to a study conducted in 2010 by the University of Michigan, the ratio of positive to negative evaluations on the site is a mere 2,500 to one. I was unable to find any CouchSurfing-related criminal incidents on the Internet, so, I figured, why not?

My first couch was in Boumemouth, England, a small beach town I knew nothing about until I actually arrived. The entire purpose of my trip was to attend a Bombay Bicycle Club concert I didn't even have tickets to.

I sent a polite message to first-time-host Stefan Karkashian, who, according to his profile, is a 22-year-old with good references from people who had hosted him in Japan, Italy and Slovenia.

My promising potential host asked me if I had a Facebook profile, "so I can convince myself that you aren't just some dodgy geezer." It seemed we were on the same page.

He asked me and my friend to meet him at around 5 p.m. that evening in a populated

space, so I proposed the café where I was having an afternoon snack. He arrived on his bike straight from work, a nearby school in an impoverished neighborhood.

Karkashian was well dressed and sported a newsboy hat along with a vibrantly friendly attitude.

He told us his roommates were not completely comfortable with two foreign girls having keys to their place, so the Cambridge grad proposed we meet after the concert for drinks with his friends and coworkers.

Karkashian accompanied us to the concert hall in freezing weather and made great conversation even though his place was in the other direction.

Afterward, he cheerily introduced us to all his coworkers who were recent graduates working as teachers for a charity.

I felt entirely out of place, not just for lacking a college degree, but because I looked homeless – sweaty from moshing, dressed in the same clothes for the past fifteen hours and carrying a tattered jean backpack; I was in no condition for the public eye.

Despite my deplorable appearance, I never once felt uncomfortable due to our host or his friends.

On the contrary, his slightly drunken friend made me feel better about my situation by encouraging me to take off my shoes with her, but I politely rejected her invitation because I wasn't about to go pata sucia in the UK.

After some booty-popping, bar-hopping and gin-and-tonics, we arrived at a rock bar where Karkashian claimed we could swing dance.

And we did, or attempted to in our tipsiness. To end the night on an even crazier note, we bumped into Bombay Bicycle Club; Karkashian introduced me to the lead singer, pretending he had attended the concert himself. He told him he enjoyed the show and changed the subject with "But, this

is my friend, Itzel, and she came all the way from Barcelona just to see you!"

Soon after, we made our way back to Karkashian's place, where he had our sleeping arrangements ready for us to crash onto.

He offered us tea and biscuits and told us we could play some tunes on the turntable. The mini-party soon ended when his roommate banged on the wall, signaling us to shut up.

Though my friend and I had proposed to make breakfast together, we woke up too late to cook anything, so we left without offering anything in return except our presence and loudness the night before.

With the world falling apart and lousy people like us trying to couch-surf, why would anyone want to offer potential serial-killers a place to stay?

According to Karkashian one of the millions of CouchSurfing hosts from 365 countries with a great heart and intriguing stories to tell, he simply wanted to give back – and not only by offering a place to stay. After working for this charity in the UK, Karkashian hopes to travel to Malawi and volunteer as an educator.

If you want to travel for cheap, if you're up for an adventure, if you want to connect with people from all over the world, exchange experiences and experience something you will never forget (for better or for worse), couch-surf.

*Itzel Basualdo attends two different schools in Barcelona, the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and the Escola Massana, a school exclusively for art and design. Basualdo is double majoring in journalism and fine arts, with a minor in art history. She writes weekly columns for The Beacon about her experiences and encounters abroad.*

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## Jazmine Sullivan advance April 14 show

### DARIUS DUPINS

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To support her third studio album, "Reality Show," Jazmine Sullivan has had major success selling out dates in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Silver Springs, Maryland.

With a string of five shows before stopping here, Miami to perform at The Fillmore Miami Beach with fellow RCA label mate and newcomer, Jordan Bratton on April 14.

Her pitch perfect voice is enough to keep the eager audience singing and mesmerized as Sullivan belts out hits from her first two albums, "Fearless" and "Love Me Back" and her recent chart-topping album "Reality Show."

On April 14, Sullivan is scheduled to perform at The Fillmore Miami Beach with fellow RCA label mate and newcomer, Jordan Bratton.

There's no need for the stage theatrics with Sullivan. Her pitch perfect voice is enough to keep the eager audience singing and mesmerized as Sullivan belts out hits from her first two albums, "Fearless" and "Love Me Back" and her recent chart-topping album "Reality Show."

On the evening of April 14, there will be approximately 75 minutes of intricate runs and riffs from Sullivan who will tune the audience into her gift as a performer rather than offering a failed attempt at being the "total package."

Sullivan reemerges after nearly half a decade to fans excited to hear new music from a voice that defines a generation.

## BASEBALL

# Panthers win game against in-state rival USF

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Win at any time against anyone. That's the mindset for the University baseball team as they are two-thirds into the season sitting in the bottom pack of the standings.

After dropping a must win series against Conference USA opponent, University of Texas at San Antonio, last weekend, the Panthers were in need of a win.

On Tuesday, April 7 the baseball team played against the University of South Florida and even though they aren't in the conference, this was still a crucial game to win and gain momentum.

The Panthers' offense went off as the 3-4-5 hitters combined to go 8-for-10 with six RBIs and six runs scored.

The offense was headlined by

junior Edwin Rios who went 2-for-2 with three RBIs and three runs scored and senior Brian Portelli backed up Rios hitting 4-for-5 with two RBIs and a run scored.

Sophomore JC Escarra rounded off the heart of the lineup going 2-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored.

The three combined for eight of the Panthers' 14 hits.

Rios reached base five times and blasted his tenth home run of the season. His two-run shot in the bottom of the first leads the team in that category.

It was all hands on deck for the pitching staff as a total of five pitchers were used. Freshman Ian Exposito picked up his first-career win, throwing two-thirds of an inning of relief.

Junior Charles Cormier threw three innings out of the bullpen to close out the game and earn the save.

USF jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the top of the first before Rios' two-run shot pulled FIU within one. The Bulls wouldn't give up the lead that easy as they scored another run in the second and third to take a 5-2 lead.

FIU exploded with seven runs in the bottom of the fourth to take an 11-5 lead. The whole lineup was hitting and contributing to the offense.

The Panthers never looked back holding off the Bulls for the 13-7 win.

The Panthers defeated a very talented in-state rival in USF with 22 wins on the season but the fun doesn't end there.

FIU will now have to go play against another in-state rival, Florida Atlantic University, for a three game weekend series.

Hopefully they can notch another win and translate these non-conference wins to C-USA wins to move up in the standings.



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Freshman pitcher Dominic LoBrutto looks to the field during the game against the University of Texas at El Paso on Friday, April 3. The Panthers lost the Friday and Sunday game against UTSA. They play their next home game on Friday, April 17.

## SOFTBALL

# University softball team looks to roll on past UTEP

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The FIU softball team (24-17, 7-8 C-USA) will continue their road trip from Jacksonville, Florida to take on the University of Texas at El Paso in a conference matchup in El Paso, Texas this weekend. The time for game one is set for 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 11.

The Panthers had an exciting comeback walk-off conference victory last weekend in the last game of the series against UAB at the FIU softball stadium.

They took the series 2-1 and look to continue the conference winning streak when taking on UTEP this weekend.

The series against UAB was a fight between east and west divisions to bring down one of the Conference USA favorites on the field.

The FIU softball team has made it consecutive weeks with series wins over

teams receiving votes in the conference.

The FIU softball team was down 7-0 in the bottom of the third inning during the first game of the series last weekend against UAB.

They were almost run-ruled until the Panthers' bats unleashed fury and put up nine runs in the bottom of the third eventually posting a season-high 16 runs for the win.

Eight of the Panthers' starting nine recorded at least one RBI in the first game.

If the FIU softball team could keep the bats hot going into this weekend against UTEP, the Panthers have a chance to climb up the standings and improve to over .500 in the conference.

One FIU standout sophomore is not to be reckoned with at the plate. Stephanie Teixeira finds herself in the nation's top 50 in five different categories.

Teixeira is ranked No. 8 in walks and leads all of Conference USA, averaging just over one walk per game.

Also accentuating her No. 8 ranking in OBP% (.607) which is also first in C-USA, along with having the 47th-best batting average in all of NCAA Division I softball with a .411. Teixeira is breaking records and leading the team, the conference and competing nationally only as a sophomore. She shows promise and has proven her role as a key player in the game.

Sophomore Gabby Spallone leads the conference in doubles with 12, and the FIU softball team has three players occupying the top five spots in the league. Teixeira (10) and freshman Ashley Belans (10) are tied for third.

Defensively, junior ace Corinne Jenkins' registered her 45th career win last weekend over UAB and with that victory is just two wins away from 47 which would move her into a tie for third all-time in program history. Right now her ERA is a 2.97 with a record of 15-7. She too continues to show dominance in the

circle and if continues at this rate, could crush past FIU softball records.

Going up against UTEP this weekend should be a simple sweep for the Panthers as the only real weapons they have on their team is star junior infielder Kawehiokalani Netane and senior outfielder Ashley Eldridge.

Netane is ranked eighth in C-USA with a .407 batting average. She's set single season highs in HRs (6), RBIs (23), hits (46), doubles (10), while tying her own season high in stolen bases (6).

Eldridge leads the team in HRs with seven and 31 RBIs. She's hitting .357 with 21 runs scored and seven doubles.

The FIU softball teams stats exceed that of the best star players at UTEP by far which should guarantee a conference sweep for the Panthers this weekend. UTEP will host the Panthers during a doubleheader on Saturday at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. finishing the weekend off on Sunday at 10 a.m.

## SAND VOLLEYBALL

# Panthers climb to No. 3 in AVCA Collegiate Poll

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According to the AVCA Collegiate Sand Poll, the Panthers have moved to the No. 3 spot in the nation.

This is just a week after DiG Magazine Collegiate Poll announced the team was No. 3 in their rankings. In both rankings, the Panthers are behind University of South Carolina and University of Hawaii.

The Top-10 teams in the rankings include USC, Hawaii, FIU, Pepperdine University, Florida State University, Long Beach State University, Georgia State University, University California Los Angeles, Stetson University, and

University of Arizona. Of these teams, the majority are west coast teams, but the Panthers are ahead of FSU and GSU to represent the east coast schools.

The Panthers have accomplished this with a 17-1 record, including sixteen consecutive victories. Some of the victories this season have come against top tier opponents including Pepperdine, FSU, and University of South Carolina, which are all Top 15 teams. This has been the best start to the program in its short existence.

In the AVCA's previous rankings two weeks ago, the Panthers were ranked No. 6. The team moved three spots, passing Pepperdine, FSU, and Long Beach State after going undefeated in the Doctors Hospital FIU Surf and Turf Invitational in

Miami Beach this past weekend.

They defeated Stanford University, Webber International University, Carson-Newman College, and Florida Atlantic University in convincing fashion after beating them all 5-0. The Panthers now have an impressive twelve wins by way of a sweep and have not lost a tournament this season.

The stout play of senior, Maryna Samoday and freshman, Anja Licka, has been anchoring the Panthers all season at the No. 1 position.

They improved their record to 17-1 this past weekend in dual matches and have proved to be a sturdy duo, playing in all 18 matches this season.

They have also only lost 5 sets of the 39 they have played throughout the season.

The Siesta Fiesta is up next for the Panthers as they will play No. 9 ranked Stetson in Siesta Key, Florida on Friday, April 10.

Earlier this season, the Hatters defeated the Panthers 2-3 for their only loss of the season back in early March.

A win against a Top-10 team could propel the Panthers past Hawaii and USC.

The team will need to prepare for the AVCA National Championships, as they will be one of the favorites to win.

However, cracking the top-3 in two separate rankings in an impressive achievement for a third-year program.

TENNIS

University tennis star wins C-USA Player of Week

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After dominating her opponents in the last two days. The Panther’s Tennis star Yana Koroleva has been named Conference USA Women’s Tennis Player of the week Tuesday morning.

Koroleva picked up two consecutive wins, defeating UCF’s Carolina Eberhart, 6-1, 6-1, and UAB’s Rachel Daniell, 6-2, 6-0. This Russian native was also victorious in both her double matches with fellow teammate sophomore Nina Nagode make these dynamic duo a perfect 11-0 of the season.

With that the Panthers

are currently 5-0 against Conference USA opponents after defeating UAB 4-0 this past Sunday.

So far this season, Koroleva is 22-7 in single matches and 13-3 in double matches which includes winning 11 consecutive wins and has recorded 18 of her 22 wins in straight sets. She also has a 21-6 record in double action, with a 14-3 mark in dual play.

This will be Koroleva’s first honor by the Conference USA.

FIU will be traveling to Houston, Texas this weekebd to participate in the 2015 C-USA Tennis Championship, which will be on April 16.



MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Senior Yana Koroleva returns a serve against New Mexico State on March 24. The Panthers play in the 2015 C-USA Championship on Thursday, April 16.



MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Senior Yana Koroleva has been named Conference USA Women’s Tennis Player of the week Tuesday morning.

2014-2015 FIU WOMEN’S TENNIS SEASON STATISTICS

FIU 4, UAB 0

Apr 5, 2015 at Orlando, Fla. (UCF Tennis Complex)

Singles Competition

- 1. Yana Koroleva (FIU) def. Rachel Daniell (UAB) 6-2, 6-0
- 2. Amy Lowther (UAB) vs. Carlotta Orlando (FIU) unfinished
- 3. Nina Nagode (FIU) def. Elaine Simon (UAB) 6-2, 6-0
- 4. Nerma Caluk (FIU) def. Paula Castro (UAB) 6-3, 6-0
- 5. Caroline Faight (UAB) vs. Kaitlin Brozovich (FIU) unfinished
- 6. Catherine Ragon (UAB) vs. Valentina Briceno (FIU) unfinished

Doubles Competition

- 1. Yana Koroleva/Nina Nagode (FIU) def. Caroline Faight/Paula Castro (UAB) 6-2
- 2. Rachel Daniell/Elaine Simon (UAB) vs. Nerma Caluk/Kaitlin Brozovich (FIU) unfinished
- 3. Carlotta Orlando/Valentina Briceno (FIU) def. Amy Lowther/Catherine Ragon (UAB) 6-1

Match Notes

FIU 11-7  
UAB 6-12  
Order of finish: Doubles (3,1); Singles (1,3,4)

BASKETBALL

Duke coach calls win ‘best moment’ of career

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Duke University men’s basketball head coach Mike Krzyzewski is one of the most decorated coaches in any sport.

The 68 year old has collected more than a thousand victories, coached a multitude of future NBA talents and most recently won his fifth NCAA title.

The question is, in the post-game celebration, why did Krzyzewski refer to Duke’s 68-63 victory over the University of Wisconsin as the “best moment” of his coaching career?

Krzyzewski has seen greatness come and go over the years. He once coached in an era in which staying in school was the popular move.

Since then, he and many other basketball programs have lost talents to the “one-and done” process, a trend in which freshmen play for one year at a school before entering the NBA.

Nevertheless, before Monday’s game, he was the winner of four championships spread out over four decades.

The championship game was a slugfest this year. Points were exchanged back and forth well into the second half.

The physicality of the game was unusually high as well, leading Wisconsin head coach Bo Ryan to call it “a shame that it had to be played that way.”

The Badgers kicked it up a notch a few minutes into the second half behind Sam Dekker and Naismith Player of the Year Frank Kaminsky.

With less than 14 minutes remaining in the season, Kaminsky drove to the rim and rolled in a basket to put Wisconsin up by nine – a deficit Duke hadn’t seen all season.

The Blue Devils weren’t finished though, especially if freshman Grayson Allen had

anything to say about it. The player who once rode the bench in the beginning of the season stepped up and scored eight points to lead the Duke surge.

The Blue Devils scored eight straight points to cut down Wisconsin’s lead and closed it out to claim the 68-63 win. Allen finished with 16 points in 21 minutes off of the bench.

Krzyzewski’s ability to improve freshmen over the course of a season and then trust them enough to unleash them in clutch moments is a testament to his coaching.

While of course Allen deserves credit for his performance himself, “Coach K” compiled a record a

35-4 with a freshmen-led roster and then used that squad to defeat a team that downed the tremendous University of Kentucky in the previous round.

Monday night’s victory gave Krzyzewski his fifth NCAA title and second place in all-time titles behind coaching legend John Wooden.

“Coach K” said it himself, even for a man who coached all-time great Duke teams in the 1980s and all-time great Olympic teams in the 1990s, Monday night’s premier game is a deserving “best moment” of his career.

Contact Us

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# At THE BAY

The Beacon – 8

fiusm.com

Friday, April 10, 2015

## Venturing across campus, meeting new swim club

COLUMNIST



CAMILA FERNANDEZ

It’s 81 degrees Fahrenheit and I’m drenched in sweat walking across the Biscayne Bay Campus. Maybe it wasn’t a good day to wear a long-sleeved sweater, but boy was I tired of being inside all day.

As I approached the University’s Aquatic Center, I saw the bright, shimmering light of its refreshing pool waters. Sadly, I had no bathingsuit, yet I was curious enough to visit the alluring site.

Entering the Center, I asked a group of students as to how it occurred to them to go swimming on a Tuesday afternoon. These smart bunch are part of the the Poseidon’s Panthers Club, a new swim club on campus.

“I’ve gotten in better shape than I was in the beginning of the semester because [of the Club],” said Ibrahim Sultan, a freshman business marketing major. “When I come here, I don’t really think about anything. I just swim for like hours,” he said.

His physical shape proved what he said to be true and so did the upper body strength and tight abs of other club members. They train Tuesdays and Wednesdays every week led by trained swimming coaches.

Elianis Nieves, vice president of Poseidon’s Panthers and a sophomore public relations major, said people who already go to the gym should come out and use the facility.

She said it’s a great way to relax and dive into another world.

“I feel like it’s the place where I can

be as serene as I want to. If I had a really bad day at work or I had a really bad day in school, I can just come into the pool,” Nieves said. “I just sit there under water, hold my breath and it’s the most relaxing thing I’ve ever felt.”

Francisco Bolado, one of the coaches who happens to also be an ocean rescue lifeguard in Sunny Isles Beach, trains the students alongside Nieves.

“A lot of people are nervous of looking stupid or embarrassed, and you know, there’s no judgement,” Bolado said.

“These are not competitive swimmers. We’re here trying to help students become swimmers and better swimmers,” he said. According to their Facebook page, the club had its first meet-and-greet February 3 of this spring with already more than 20 students on board.

Bolado said they teach students at all levels of experience. Good thing for me, the last time I took swimming lessons I was thirteen years old -- I’m not saying I’m old or anything.

Bolado said that first-level beginners learn about breathing techniques. “Basically breathing is very, very important. You need to always learn that you don’t swim holding your breath,” he said.

Afterwards, students can work on different stroke techniques, such as the butterfly stroke in which both arms are raised out of the water and lifted forward together. They also do freestyle technique, all while working on endurance by adding a yard each time.

Bolado said that for some, swimming in the 16 feet area can be a challenge. “It is fulfilling to teach somebody who before was afraid of the water. Afraid to go in deeper water.



CAMILA FERNANDEZ/THE BEACON

Ibrahim Sultan, a freshman studying business marketing, practices the butterfly stroke at Poseidon’s Panthers Club in the Biscayne Bay Campus Aquatic Center.

Then you see them swimming,” he said. I wonder, how sweet is it to swim in front of the beautiful Biscayne Bay view? That’s surely something the Modesto A. Maidique Campus doesn’t provide for its students.

Sonia Scheuren, a master’s student in religious studies, comes to the BBC to practice, even though all her classes are at the MMC.

Due to a serious back condition, a doctor encouraged Scheuren to swim on a frequent basis.

Scheuren said the pool facilities at the main campus seem to cater to student residents.

Free swimming lessons at the North Campus didn’t seem bad of a deal.

“I had at the beginning scoliosis and the doctor told me it’d be nice if I join swimming or something like that,” said Scheuren.

“I don’t feel the pain anymore. I usually go to the gym, but during swimming and being in the water...it’s different,” she said.

After being under the boiling sun, expect to see me getting a gnarly workout in the pool before my next class.

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## Korean-language classes become popular in U.S. colleges

LARRY GORDON

LA Times  
TNS

When Olivia Hernandez was a middle schooler in Oxnard, Calif., she became hooked on K-wave \_ the global phenomenon of South Korean pop music, television and culture. Inspired by the romantic series “My Lovely Sam Soon” and bands like Claziquai, she taught herself the Korean alphabet and learned a few phrases.

This year, as a UCLA transfer student, Hernandez jumped at the chance to take an introductory Korean language class. She and other students are learning grammar basics and the honorifics used to address elders and bosses. As a sweetener, the class usually watches a Korean rock music video, which they once might have appreciated only for the melodies and production values.

“Now I understand what they are

saying. Now it makes sense,” said Hernandez, a psychology major who wants to use her Korean language skills when she becomes a therapist.

According to a recent national study, enrollment in Korean language courses at U.S. colleges and universities showed the largest percentage growth of any foreign language. The Modern Language Association reported that Korean language enrollment rose 45 percent from 2009 to 2013.

Overall, language studies declined by 6.7 percent during that same period, and interest dropped in many popular ones, including Spanish, French and German.

The number of students in Korean classes nationwide \_ 12,230 \_ is well below the most studied languages, including Japanese, Chinese and Arabic. Currently, just 154 colleges offer Korean, but that is 70 percent more than a decade ago.

“There’s no doubt that Korean popular culture in film and music

has captivated the minds of young people,” said Rosemary Feal, executive director of the Modern Language Association.

She attributed the dip in overall foreign language studies to campus budget cutbacks and the pressure students feel to focus on career-oriented classes, such as science and business, at the expense of humanities.

That decline has occurred, Feal said, even though “knowledge of a second language often is helpful in many positions and translates into increased salary.”

According to university officials and professors, some of the interest in Korean is coming from the children and grandchildren of Korean immigrants. But non-Koreans fascinated with contemporary culture are leading the trend.

Some were drawn by the K-pop dance moves of Psy in his 2012 international video hit “Gangnam Style” or by the English-subtitled

TV series “Queen of Housewives.” And some by the prospect of jobs at Korean corporations.

At UCLA, enrollment is up significantly in both in the beginners’ courses and in the so-called heritage classes tailored to Korean Americans who have some knowledge of the language but often don’t have the grammar skills. Professors report waiting lists at the start of the quarters for the classes. (Most UCLA undergraduates must fulfill a graduation requirement for a year of language study or test out of it.)

Los Angeles “is a great place to study Korean,” said UCLA humanities dean David Schaberg, who is a Chinese language and literature scholar. Students can practice speaking with Korean American friends and visit Korean institutions, restaurants and stores in Koreatown and other parts of town, he said.

In a recent heritage class, lecturer Jane Choi ran the 18 students through

some of the complicated honorifics by using illustrations from the “Calvin and Hobbes” comic strip to show the status differences between teachers and children. The class did vocabulary drills on modes of transportation (bus/beoseu, subway/jihacheol and train/gicha) and phone etiquette: (Hello/ Yeoboseyo and Is this Linda’s place? Geogi rinda jibijiyo?)

Andrew Hahn, a senior from Irvine, said his first language at home was Korean but that he didn’t get much beyond childhood ability. He became more proficient in Spanish, which he studied in high school.

“As a Korean American, it is only right to learn my native tongue and become comfortable with it. And it is a way to connect back with the culture,” said Hahn, a political science major in the heritage class.

Learning sentence structure, diction and vocabulary, he said, also will help him in what he hopes will be a career in law.

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