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PUDDLE PROBLEMS PERSIST

‘Storm Ready’ campus floods after rainfall

ALIANA ZAMORANO
Staff Writer
aliana.zamorano@fiusm.com

When Joe Gomez walked through the Modesto A. Maidique Campus last Tuesday to class, he was met with a “monsoon” of ankle-deep, storm water flooding outside the Green Library.

“The drain was spitting out water because everywhere else on campus was so flooded,” said Gomez, a freshman journalism major. “I get that it was raining hard, but I don’t think the campus drains can handle even small showers.”

FIU is a “Storm Ready” university, according to the Department of Emergency Management’s website. Certified by the National Weather Service, the University meets all storm ready requirements as set by the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration.

These requirements include a 24 hour warning period, efficient communication with community members, accurate monitoring of storms and community preparedness for any emergency and awareness of emergency procedures.

Complaints of storm water flooding at MMC are a constant for hurricane season during the fall semester, however.

Sidewalks, parking lots and passages between buildings are common places for flooding, causing students to form lines to walk around the pools of water to avoid submerging their feet.

“There have been times that I have had to take off my shoes and roll up my pants,” said Lazaro Rodriguez, a senior biology major. “Every year it’s the same issue.”

University students are aware of the situation and have taken to Twitter and Instagram

to voice their opinions, posting photos of walkways and grass fields completely under water.

Most popular are posts of rainy game days outside the FIU stadium when massive flooding creates severe obstacles for football fans as they try to park and walk to the field.

But the issue doesn’t seem to be a priority for campus management.

Associate VP of Facilities Management John Cal said there is no flooding problem at the University.

“It’s a non-issue,” said Cal. “It just a nuisance and definitely not a severe problem.”

Yet, in a 2013 FIU Board of Trustees budget request for the 2014 and 2015 fiscal year, flooding was described as a “priority issue,” according to meeting minutes.

“During heavy rains, a number of areas on campus have very large pools of

standing water,” states the document. “These areas are along the pedestrian sidewalks and along roadways.”

The minutes also show that funds were requested to install catch basins or storm drains throughout campus.

But there is no current project, said Cal.

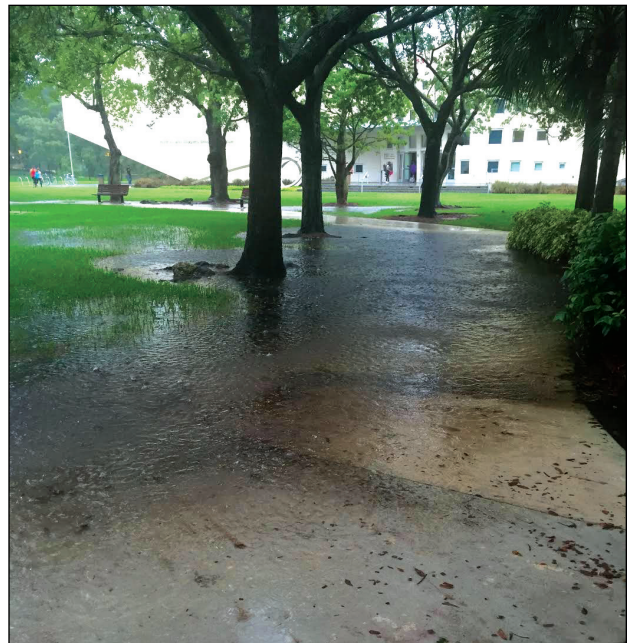
“I am not aware of this,” he said. “The only place where a campus drain system improvement project is underway is in the parking lot adjacent to the Surplus Warehouse.”

This project, located by the soccer field, is expected to be finished later this month.

No major movements seem to be in the works to fix the inches of rain that accumulate when it rains on campus.

The Department of Emergency Management did not respond by press time.

“I know it’s not an easy fix, but I just started at FIU in



NICOLE MONTERO/THE BEACON

The sidewalks just in front of the Ryder Business Building and across from the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs are prone to flooding.

August and it’s already affected my school days several times,” said Gomez. “It’s hard to get from point A to point B if you care about your shoes and pants at all.”

Faculty Senate considers changing grading scale

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer
philippe.buteau@fiusm.com

Grenville Draper is one of many advisers and professors who know students are frustrated with a C-minus grade.

“Students think that they have the necessary C to meet the requirements, only to find that a C-minus will not meet the requirement,” Draper wrote in a letter to the University Faculty Senate.

The letter was part of a debate about the future use

of C-minus started at an Oct. 6 Faculty Senate meeting. Professors voted to table the motion to eliminate a C-minus grade when they receive more data from the Division of Academic Affairs.

The grading system, if the proposal passes, would be A, A-, B+, B, B-, C, D and F.

“What I wanted was to relook at the grading system and where we cannot have the C-minus grade,” Draper said to Student Media. “It’s confusing.”

Draper works in the University as a geology professor, geosciences

undergraduate adviser and associate director of Liberal Studies; he believes the C-minus is a “barrier to students’ graduation.”

The current system dates back at least 20 years, according to Draper. Draper has worked at FIU for 37 years and said during his first decade at FIU that the grading system was A, B, C and D.

“The C-minus is an insidious, if not pernicious grade that means that the student has to repeat a course, thus impeding their progress to graduation,” Draper wrote.

A C-minus is equal to

a 1.67 grade point and on the University’s percentage grading scale it represents a score between 70 and 72 percent. A C is a 2.0 grade point and a score between 73 and 76 percent.

Draper suggested getting rid of the plus/minus and have a flat grading scale of A, B, C, D and F.

“We would have a lot less student frustration,” Draper said during the meeting.

The University of New Florida has a flat grading system and the Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University has a modified plus/minus scale: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D and F.

Florida State University, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida and the University of West Florida recognize C-minus as a passing grade for liberal studies, while the University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University and Florida Gulf Coast University do not.

Journalism Professor Neil Reisner, who opposes getting rid of the C-minus, said during the meeting that because he grades writing, which is more subjective, the “C-minus is useful.”

Kathleen Wilson, Faculty Senate chairwoman, said she would be more comfortable voting on the idea if she saw more data and heard from students on how they feel

about the C-minus.

“The lack of clarity of what it means bothers students,” Wilson said.

“Most current discussions about grading scales across the nation revolve around moving from a flat grading scale to a plus/minus scale and understanding the pros/cons of each decision,” according to a Academic Affairs report prepared for the Senate’s Steering Committee.

Arizona State University has its own version of the plus/minus grading scale: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D and E.

ASU’s senate wrote in their executive summary, which was cited in the Academic Affairs report, that the plus/minus system raises the standard that the C grade sets. But if the system were to be replaced, 70, 71 and 72 would equal a C-minus and be no longer acceptable.

However, if C- becomes acceptable, it would raise the possibility that a student could pass all their classes and have less than a 2.0 grade point average.

“Which is less than successful academic standing for athletes and others and for graduation,” says ASU’s executive summary.

“It wouldn’t make a difference just getting rid of the C-minus,” said Chavante Marsh. “I can’t agree until I see the data too,” said Marsh,

a senior electrical engineering major.

The University of Arkansas’ Faculty Senate voted against a plus/minus system, according to the Academic Affairs report, and they noted several cons.

It can put many undergraduate students in jeopardy of losing their scholarships and lower student retention. Retention and graduation rates will likely result in more students being put on probation and in the long run, could result in reduced retention and graduation rates.

A disproportionate number of C-minus grades associated with the plus/minus grading system could render more students ineligible for financial aid because of insufficient academic progress. It can also make it more difficult for students to be reinstated for financial aid.

The University proposal was a part of a meeting in which senators will send their disagreement with the State Legislature bill, which could allow concealed weapons or firearms on State University System campuses or facilities.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will start at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27 at the main campus in the Wertheim Conservatory in Room 130 and Room 317 in Academic One at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

UNICEF SEEKS RIGHTS



BRYAN RICAURTE/THE BEACON

Jacqueline Rojas speaks as a representative for UNICEF at the UNICEF Girls’ Rights event held in Green Library Room 482 Thursday, Oct. 8.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Missouri to require all freshmen to undergo diversity training

The University of Missouri, which last week removed a student from its Columbia campus for shouting “the ‘N’ word” and other racial slurs at members of a black student group practicing for homecoming, announced Thursday that, as of January, all new entering freshmen will be required to undergo diversity training. The training, to be conducted online, will eventually become mandatory for all faculty, staff and other students. “As you know, a few individuals have tried to harass and intimidate our students using racial slurs over the past few weeks...,” MU Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin wrote.

UCLA students protest after Kanye West-themed frat party

Chanting “Black Bruins Matter,” UCLA students crammed into Chancellor Gene Block’s office Thursday, demanding a response for a party described as racist after some students wore blackface to a Kanye West-themed fraternity party. Holding signs reading, “Our culture is not

a costume,” hundreds of students marched on campus days after the party sparked anger over its racial overtones. Jerry Kang, vice chancellor for UCLA’s Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, told the crowd he was heartbroken because “black Bruins’ lives matter.

Israel says ‘lone wolves’ behind recent stabbings

A rash of Palestinian stabbings of Israelis, which continued Thursday with four more attacks, has been the work of lone assailants with no record of arrests or links to Palestinian militant groups, according to police officials. The copycat attacks, carried out by young Palestinians, mostly in

their teens, appear to have been spontaneous acts by individuals, part of a wave of unrest triggered by clashes last month between police and Arab youths at the contested holy site in Jerusalem’s Old City known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary.

World Day sheds light on death penalty

YURIELLE MENARD
Staff Writer
yurielle.menard@fiusm.com

World Day Against the Death Penalty was hosted by FIU College of Law and School of International and Public Affairs Thursday, Oct. 8.

The College of Law and the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs held a debate on capital punishment called, “The Death Penalty: European Union and International Perspectives.” It was moderated by College of Law professor, Noah Weisbord.

“The death penalty has been in the news a lot,” said Weisbord.

“There’s a new Supreme Court term that just started this week and at least six cases on the docket of the Supreme Court are death penalty related.”

The court is set to hear arguments over the constitutionality of capital sentences in Florida, Georgia, Kansas and Pennsylvania, according to The Wall Street Journal.

“It looks like the justices are starting to kind of calibrate and potentially narrow the death penalty down and there’s a general sentiment between growing and not just in other parts of the world, but in the U.S. as well,” Weisbord said.

Florida is one of 31 states that provide capital punishment for those who commit crimes, which include first-degree murder, felony murder, capital drug trafficking and capital sexual battery, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

The World Day Against the Death Penalty is a worldwide awareness where countries discuss the death penalty and how other countries have dealt with it.

The panel discussion featured FIU law faculty like professors Michele Anglade and Ediberto Roman. Anglade spoke on the relationship between race and the death penalty, while Roman talked about immigration.

Also, on the panel were European Consul Generals from Italy, Germany, Spain, France, Netherlands and Britain.

Erin DeCespedes, a third year law student, said that she wants to understand why there is still a death penalty in the United States, while other countries are opposed to it.

“I want to see the legal ramifications of keeping the death penalty being

discussed, especially since so many countries are opposed to it,” said DeCespedes.

FIU departments have been holding lectures on the death penalty including the Office of Global Learning that hosted a brief lecture recently Sept. 29.

The lecture was, “Debating the Death Penalty,” which was moderated by Stephen Harper, Death Penalty Clinic director.

The lecture highlighted the recent Supreme Court’s decision in June that allows the use of the execution drug, midazolam, which prisoners claim could risk excruciating pain during execution; therefore, making capital punishment unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The challenge to the drug was brought by four condemned inmates in Oklahoma, who said it did not reliably render the person unconscious and so violated the Eighth Amendment, according to The New York Times.

Eric Feldman, Academic Support Services coordinator, said he hopes students leave the debate with new knowledge and that they understand economic and discrimination angles.

Feldman said eliminating the death penalty abruptly would not be likely, however.

“I think it [the death penalty] will probably take some time because some people are very in favor of it, and some states are in favor of it,” said Feldman.

He also said the death penalty pertains to its unequal application to minority groups. “So you have two people that commit similar crimes and one is either black or poor and one’s either white or has a lot of money. The first group of people will be more likely to get the death penalty.”

Florida delivers the executional injections in a three-drug combination: midazolam, pancuronium bromide and potassium chloride.

“Before a drug can be put on the market, it must first be found to be safe. When it comes to the death penalty, it is the opposite: a person subject to execution must prove that the drug is unsafe,” said Harper.

The European Union has deprived the United States of drugs that would numb a person sufficiently that they would not feel pain, according to The Atlantic. The U.S. has turned to midazolam, which is not an anesthetic, causing anesthesia.

Though Florida uses a three-drug combination in the death penalty process, it doesn’t ensure that they will be completely numb therefore “causing unnecessary pain,” Harper said.

“The Supreme Court’s recent ruling put a burden on the defendant to find an alternative drug. But, the dissent is raising the issue for the first time in 40 years of whether the death penalty has become unconstitutional. Stay tuned,” he said.

Weisbord said the Supreme Court had a case about the use of the lethal injection because there was a number of failures for the lethal injection.

“It took 40 minutes to kill somebody, and there’s a question of whether this is inhumane and barbaric in violation of the constitution and it is,” said Weisbord.

Dennis McGuire suffered for nearly 11 minutes, when he died fighting for his breath by a lethal injection. It was administered by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

With many individuals clearly suffering during the administration of the lethal injection, there is no question that the Supreme Court could order new standards on how the death penalty will be carried out, said Weisbord.

“So maybe there’s going to be new standards on how the death penalty can actually be carried out. With the six cases that are coming out, each of them may do little incremental things rather than saying the death penalty is unconstitutional under any circumstance.”

TruLe’sia Newberry, FIU Dream Defenders president, said “exercising capital punishment in our society isn’t fair.”

Newberry doesn’t believe in its legality because of its funding. “Each case is almost \$3 million and that’s absolutely absurd because we as taxpayers pay for that.”

Newberry also said that life without parole is an alternative to the death penalty. As a student activist, she believes awareness should be geared toward freeing people who have been wrongly convicted.

Weisbord said: “I think that death sentence and long prison sentences are not as much a deterrent as people imagine them to be. I think that better policing would help, more community policing. At the prevention level, that’s where it’s more important to put our resources rather than at the incarceration and attribution level.”

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus:
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Fax:
(305) 348-2712

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
sam.smith@fiusm.com

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

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“Campus Carry” may be bad for learning environment

NICOLE STONE
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

In Texas, a law permitting the carry of concealed firearms by students and staff on public campuses will be effective Aug. 1 of 2016 and a step in a similar direction may be in the future of fifteen other states, including Florida. The bill in question, dubbed ‘Campus Carry’ has moved along in Florida legislature, through both the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee and the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. Campus Carry in Florida will potentially allow gun measures similar to those to be allowed in Texas public colleges and universities this coming year.

Conversation about gun policy has been reignited by the recent tragedy that took place Oct. 1, at Oregon’s Umpqua Community College, where an armed student shot nine dead and injured nine others. Many wonder if things would have been different had there been other armed students to subdue the shooter. There is also controversy surrounding this, as Oregon’s gun laws legally allowed the shooter to have the guns on his person while on campus.

These conversations in respect to the loosening of gun laws have been feverishly reentering the focus of Americans by the events of Oct. 1. Organizations such as the National Rifle Association push the idea that more guns will provide more safety,

especially after this aforementioned tragedy. The N.R.A and followers of its ideologies claim the solution to this problem is not in better regulation, but in abundance.

President Obama, who has addressed nine mass shootings throughout the time of his presidency, had the following to say about gun policy:

“[There is] a gun for roughly every man, woman and child in America. So how can you with a straight face make the argument that more guns will make us safer?”

Campus Carry has the potential to completely mutate the environment at public colleges and universities. In an interview that took place Oct. 7, 2015, Stephanie Londono who is an adjunct religion professor at FIU stated that Campus Carry will alter the dynamics not only between the students and teacher, but amongst the students as well. “This is where we actually get to know ourselves and grow as people.” she explained. “This shouldn’t be a place where you should be fighting between life or death. I think this is going to ultimately do away with the purpose of education altogether.” Londono mentioned later in the interview that despite this, she would not be changing the way she taught religion, because the whole purpose is indeed to provoke thought.

“There are a lot of misconceptions about religion [class] and including now the element of a gun, the element of

violence? I don’t think I’ll be teaching, because students won’t come to my class.” Londono has said, after describing religion as a topic where one is already “walking on a minefield.”

Campus Carry will also undoubtedly change the face of education. The intellectual debates we see now in classrooms, especially in subjects that are already provocative by nature, such as religion, politics and morality, are important debates to be had. If we cannot maintain an intellectually and physically safe classroom environment, then schools are no longer a habitat for these elevated conversations. Things are different when one has to trust strangers with something as fragile as their lives.

Universities and colleges are supposed to be environments where one learns to be a member of society, something that already comes with enough stress and anxiety to warrant a great deal of attention to the mental health of students. In a high-stress atmosphere such as this, the increased presence of guns can have some ramifications very opposite to the intended effects.

A plausible shooter may be dissuaded by the knowledge that many other students are carrying, but in the instance that this knowledge isn’t sufficient and the shooter carries out their act, armed students will also react. This will create a dangerous arena of confusion, especially for law enforcement responding to the scene; where suddenly, everyone has a gun.

Alexander Casas, Chief of FIU’s police department, addressed Campus Carry in Sept. 2015 when the bill was just submitted for the 2016 legislative season. Casas expressed his discomfort, explaining that the bill would not only intensify an already dangerous situation, but would affect first responders who need to be quick to target the threat. “In a fraction of a second, they have to make a decision. That’s a big ask.” Casas said. He added that he would feel more comfortable if there were more qualifications that had to met before a gun could be purchased. To obtain a concealed weapons permit, all one really needs to do is “go to a gun show, take a class” and “walk out with a gun.”

Campus Carry proposes a step in the wrong direction. Maybe we should be reconsidering whether our “right to bear arms” should be earned through more extensive measures like mandatory training and mental health screenings. Perhaps the answer lies in greater awareness and acceptance of mental health, as it is often a topic of discussion at the incitement of a mass shooting. The idea that violence can be stopped by introducing more elements that have the potential to be violent seems counterintuitive; we wouldn’t add fire to something already burning in hopes of stopping the fire. Owning a gun is a responsibility and a literal physical weight not everyone is fit to carry.

New Deputy Secretary of Education offers change

GABRIELLE GARCIA
Staff Writer
gabrielle.garcia@fiusm.com

“The country’s longest serving Deputy Secretary of education steps down

-making room for great change”

After being the longest serving Deputy Secretary of Education, on Friday October 2, 2015, Deputy Secretary Arne Duncan announced that he

would be stepping down from his position this December. Following this announcement, during a press conference address President Obama stated, “He’s done more to bring our education system -- sometimes kicking and

screaming -- into the 21st century more than anybody else.” Following the announcement and commentary, the president went on to announce that John B. King, Jr. would be replacing Arne Duncan as The Deputy Secretary of Education.

The U.S. Department of Education works to ensure that there is not only equal access to education but also quality education throughout the Nation. As explained by The U.S. Department of Education, The Deputy Secretary of Education is responsible for the overall supervision, direction and the coordination of all activities of the department and serves as the principal advisor to the president on federal policies, programs and activities related to education in the United States. In addition, the Deputy

Secretary of Education is also responsible for the development and implementation of policies, programs and activities relating to elementary and secondary education: such as interventions, special education and rehabilitative services.

After having a Deputy Secretary in office since January of 2009, the nation is not only swooned with change, but also provided with new opportunities to enact new possibilities toward education. John B. King, Jr., who was most recently the Commissioner of New York State Public Schools is to take Arne Duncan’s place this December. During his address to the press, Duncan said “Over the years that I have known him and especially in the months we have worked together here, I’ve come to recognize John as one

of the most passionate, courageous, clear-headed leaders in our field.”

King, an experienced school teacher, principal and commissioner could be the source of change and reform that the nation’s educational system needs. Although he leaves behind a position where he has participated in many heated debates in regards to charter schools, testing and teacher evaluations, his thick skinned personality and passion for education could very well be a guiding force in the years to come. Although Duncan is lauded for his years of commitment and hard work and is responsible for enacting policy to improve the quality of education in our nation, it will be interesting to incorporate a new dynamic to the Department of Education.

TEXTING BABY



ANGEL BANEGAS/THE BEACON

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University hosts first ‘Silent Disco Party’

KAITLYN ALEXANDER- TITUS
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

On rooftops, subways and cruise ships all over the world, people are now partying in silence.

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, the Student Programming Council, the Homecoming Council, shop FIU and the Residence Hall Association collaborated to bring University students their first ever “Silent Disco Party.”

DJ Grahame and DJ Cammy from the company, Headphone Disco, kept the crowd moving with a wide variety of genres. Everything from hip-hop and R&B to EDM and Pop was played.

Originally, the event was set to take place in the Housing Quad, but due to weather conditions it was relocated to the GC Ballrooms. The doors opened at 7:30 p.m. and the event was catered by Jimmy John’s Gourmet Sandwiches.

On this night, students had the opportunity to control how they partied.

in advance. We contacted Degy Dance, which is the company that provides the headphones and [equipment], then after that we booked the GC Ballrooms. We ended up buying glow items for everyone and then contacting the vendors to work out the logistics,” Natalie Sarracino, the SPC director of the event, said.

Before the event, anticipation and excitement was definitely running high.

“I just want to see what it’s like. I’ve heard about them from other places but I’ve never been to one. I’m just excited to see what happens,” said Savannah Currier, a senior studying Liberal Studies and Philosophy.

According to The New York Times, the first huge “Silent Disco Party” was born in Glastonbury, England in 2005 due to noise complaints.

From there, it eventually made its way to America via the Bonnaroo festival in Manchester, Tennessee, where it’s now held annually. Currently, the word on these “Silent” parties is spreading and ushering in a new wave of party.

“My favorite part was when everybody was dancing to whatever music they had and you’d take off your headphones and everybody would dance to their own rhythm. I loved it.”
Samantha Amador
Freshman
Biology

Through the use of wireless headphones and FM transmitters students were able to choose between two different channels that were playing music spun by two DJs.

If you didn’t like a song you could switch to the next channel and find out what’s playing. The audience could even control the volume of the music they listened to, which is perfect for people who are conscious of their hearing.

An event such as this one couldn’t have been done without some strategic planning.

“Actually, we started setting up [for this event] in the summer, so this has been planned months

Silent Disco companies have been commissioned for weddings and one University even threw a “Silent Disco Party” in their library during finals week.

“My favorite part was when everybody was dancing to whatever music they had and you’d take off your headphones and everybody would dance to their own rhythm. I loved it,” Samantha Amador, a freshman studying Biology, said.

If you missed the event, don’t worry, you may see it advertised again.

“I would love to have this event again. I would love to have it bigger and better,” Natalie Sarracino, the SPC Event Director, said.

HOMANS OF FIU



ROMINA ANGELELLI/THE BEACON

Emily Scott, senior, liberal studies major. “Guys never shave their armpits and sometimes you come across guys that smell, but the majority of them don’t. They put on deodorant and scrub themselves all the time. They (hygiene and body hair) are not one in the same. Men don’t have the expectation of being hairless, so why should I? We’re mammals, we’re supposed to be hairy. That just goes to show how suppressed we are.”

The Force has returned

COLLIN SIMPSON
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

Gamers rejoice! It’s the fall and every gamer knows what that means. This is the time of year when all the new games hit the market for the holiday season and this year is no exception. Among these new games include “Halo 5: Guardians,” “Call of Duty: Black Ops 3,” and “Rise of the Tomb Raider.” But one of the titles that has gamers really excited is “Star Wars: Battlefront.”

For those who remember, the basis of the Battlefront series is that players can play as a soldier on either side of two opposing armies, battling across various worlds in the Star Wars universe. The first two installments were released in 2004 and 2005 for PlayStation 2 and Xbox, and quickly became huge hits. Players have been screaming for a sequel for the consoles ever since. However, this Battlefront is not considered a sequel, but a reboot.

“There are absolutely things in the previous Battlefront games that you’ll recognize and remember, but DICE wants to put its own flavor on it. That’s the only way we can do it. Hence it’s called ‘Star Wars: Battlefront,’ without a 3 at the end. We want to say it’s something new. But again, it’s going to be very Star Wars and very cool,” Patrick Soderlund, a representative from EA, announced at a gaming conference when Battlefront was first announced in 2013.

Battlefront is part of Disney’s new expansion to promote the new film, The Force Awakens. This installment

was developed by Electronic Arts, the same company that developed the Battlefield series.

This installment of Battlefront will be the first to not feature battles from the Clone Wars, focusing instead on battles from the original trilogy. The first gameplay videos aired during the E3 2015 Expo, earning a standing ovation from the attending audience, and comments on the game’s amazing graphics.

The full version of Battlefront will be released on Nov. 17, 2015 for Xbox One, PlayStation Four and the PC, although EA has announced that Xbox One players will be able to receive the game a week earlier. However, players will be given the chance to try the game out even earlier than that, with the announcement that the beta for Battlefront will be released on Oct. 8, giving gamers their first taste of Battlefront.

There’s no complicated sign-up process -- getting into the Battlefront beta is as simple as downloading it from your digital marketplace of choice. PS4 players can download the beta from the PlayStation Store, Xbox One owners can get it from the Xbox Live Marketplace and PC gamers can download it from EA’s Origin client. The beta itself will take up a total of 7 GB.

The full game will feature seven different modes for gamers to play on. However, only three modes will be available for the Beta:

Walker Assault on Hoth: In this mode, you can fight in 40-player online battles on the classic Battle of Hoth map. You can either side with the Rebels to destroy the Empire’s onslaught of AT-AT’s, or you can

side with the Empire and protect your Walkers to crush the Rebel objective. Also, under the right circumstances, you can unlock Hero mode, which will allow you to play as either Luke Skywalker or Darth Vader, depending on which side you choose.

Drop Zone on Sullust: On this mode, your goal is to capture falling escape pods and defend them from the opposing team as the pods open, so you can get the power-ups inside. Once the time runs out, you are presented with the choice of staying with the pod longer to collect its contents or rush to the next pod to keep your opponents from retrieving that pod’s contents. With frenzied 8 player vs 8 player matches, Drop Zone is sure to put your gaming skills to the test.

Survival Mission on Tatooine: The role on this game is survival. You play a Rebel soldier stranded on Tatooine, where you’re forced to battle wave after wave of Imperial forces that will include Stormtroopers, AT-ST’s, TIE fighters, and much more. On this mode, you’ll be able to play alone or with a friend, either through online co-op or split screen mode.

The beta was released on Oct. 8 and will end on Oct. 12. As with all betas, there may be technical glitches during gameplay, as this is the rough draft of the game. Also, once the beta ends on Oct. 12, all of the achievements and level-ups made during gameplay will be deleted. So, pick up your controllers, and get ready to battle in a galaxy far, far away.

MIXING IT UP



BRYAM RICAURTE/THE BEACON

Mixtura Productions, a salsa band, performs at the Graham Center Pit for Hispanic Heritage Month Thursday, Oct. 8.

Deafheaven gives fans unique style of sound

JULIAN BALBOA
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

Ah, the harmonically cacophonous sound of church bells. It generally signifies the beginning of something. The beginning of a morning, the beginning of a (hopefully) long-lasting marriage, and the beginning of Deafheaven’s opening track, “Brought to the Water”, to their third LP, “New Bermuda.”

Deafheaven have established their reputation as one of the premiere black metal bands in the scene right now. They proved that they can pack a punch on their debut, “Roads to Judah,” introducing their sound as a mix between the symphonic and often somber genre of post-rock and the emotional, abrasive and ridiculously misunderstood genre of black metal.

The band often cites Emperor and Alcest as influences in their sound (Stephane Paut of Alcest even provides additional vocals on the band’s follow-up, “Sunbather”), but I’d be lying by saying that they were influenced entirely by two bands.

With a sound like Deafheaven’s, it’s obvious that they have listened to a lot of music outside post-metal and black metal. Some of the interludes you hear in their music have acoustic guitars and pianos, which bring to mind groups like Wilco and The Smiths.

It’s interesting how it all comes into play once you hear a song and take it all in for what it’s worth because when you hear a guitar riff that makes you think of Johnny Marr’s elegant jangly tones or piano chords coinciding with a shake of a tambourine that spring to mind Jeff Tweedy’s ear for acoustic rhythm, you begin to hear it and understand it in the context of where it appears.

The music that they find themselves casually listening to find their way into their own music, as different as it may

appear to be at first listen.

Their sophomore album, “Sunbather,” catapulted them into stardom. “Sunbather” made headlines for being one of the most critically acclaimed albums of that year amongst all genres across many different outlets that review and cover music, and for good reason. “Sunbather” was a fantastic album, albeit a little overrated/overshadowed by all the acclaim it garnered, that showed raw emotion and significant progression in a band that already impressed listeners with their debut.

Think of it this way: If “Roads to Judah” was “A New Hope,” then “Sunbather” was “The Empire Strikes Back.” But if that’s the case, and here’s the real question, then is “New Bermuda” anything like “Return of the Jedi?”

The simple answer is no and that’s a good thing. “Return of the Jedi” is disappointing and “New Bermuda” is not, at all. Movies aside, “New Bermuda” is a natural follow-up to “Sunbather,” which takes the band’s black metal outfit and adds the personality of the thrash metal scene from the ‘80s.

The beginning track, “Brought to the Water”, comes in at full-force with a galloping speed reminiscent of bands like Slayer, Testament and Vio-Lence; whose lead vocalist, George Clarke, cites as influences for “New Bermuda’s” overarching sound. The main riff in this song, coming in around the middle of the track, is catchy like a lot of thrash riffs and the use of a tremolo pedal brings a thematic touch to the song.

You’ll find moments like this all over the album: the intro to “Baby Blue”, the outro to “Come Back” and the entirety of “Gifts for the Earth,” which is the best ending to an album I’ve heard this year and my favorite song on the album.

If you’re looking for another album like “Sunbather,” you won’t find it on this album. Sure, the interludes that

were present on “Sunbather” are also present on “New Bermuda,” but they’re always much more brief than they are on “Sunbather.” A track the band released last year as a part of Adult Swim’s Singles Collection for 2014, “From the Kettle onto the Coil,” was perhaps the biggest teaser for where Deafheaven was looking to take the direction of their sound to.

The one thing about this album I love the most is that it is easily Deafheaven’s most accessible album in their discography.

Granted, black metal is a rather difficult genre to get into for the average Mac DeMarco or La Luz fan, but for metal fans that are more accustomed to thrash or classic heavy metal such as Black Sabbath, Pantera, or Judas Priest, this is the next step in their evolving music palette.

Even metal fans that are into death metal bands like Atheist, Death or Gorguts may find themselves enjoying this album. It’s fast, aggressive and catchy; things that “New Bermuda” succeeds in with flying colors and offers more to fans that wanted something with a kick in its step than “Sunbather” did.

Overall, while it’s easy to make comparisons to “Sunbather,” “New Bermuda” is a different beast altogether. It shouldn’t be dismissed as a better album than its predecessor, but, rather, it should be approached as “which is more enjoyable?” because I feel they’re both on the same level of quality.

It’s a candidate for album of the year within the metal world, alongside Between the Buried and Me’s “Coma Ecliptic,” Napalm Death’s “Easy Meat” and Tribulation’s “Children of the Night,” as well as overall album of the year. For right now, though, “New Bermuda” is the band’s best addition to their ever-growing discography and still sees the band progressing even further on an upward slope.



CHRIS RODRIGUEZ
Asst. Entertainment Director
chris.rodriquez@fiusm.com

Here are the most played albums this week on FIU Student Radio. Be sure to tune in to 95.3 FM or online at fiusm.com/wrgp to hear your favorite tunes.

1. Beach House- “Depression Cherry”
2. Panda Bear- “Crosswords”
3. Lana Del Rey- “Honeymoon”
4. Tamaryn- “Cranekiss”
5. Hibou- “Hibou”
6. Homeshake- “Midnight Snack”
7. FKA twigs- “M3LL155X”
8. Wild Ones- “Heatwave”
9. Childbirth- “Women’s Rights”
10. Hermitude- “Dark Night Sweet Light”

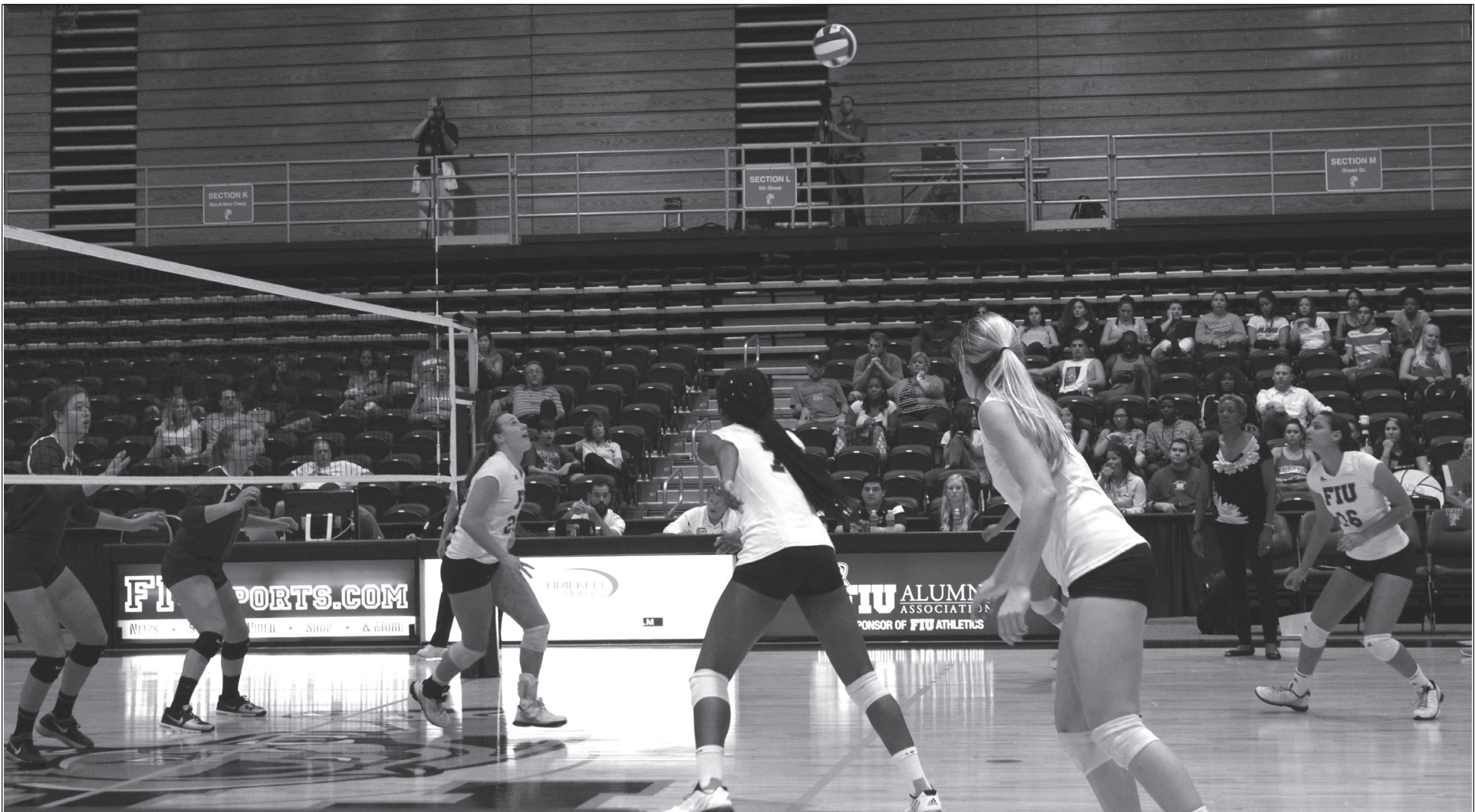


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WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

Women’s volleyball team loses to FGCU



NICOLE MEZA/THE BEACON

STEFANO RIVERA
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

The women’s volleyball team hosted Florida Gulf Coast University on Tuesday, Oct. 6, as its slate of four consecutive home games continued. Coming from the Atlantic 10 Conference, the Eagles were the final non-conference game for the Panthers this season.

The Panthers fell to the Eagles in four sets with a final score of 23-25, 25-11, 21-25, and 22-25. This loss put an end to the team’s brief two-game winning streak. FGCU improved to 11-7 overall, while the

Panthers took a step back to 10-7 (4-2 in C-USA). For the season, the team finished 6-5 against non-conference opponents.

In the first set, the Panthers started off slowly, finishing with a -.027 hitting percentage. However, they got things together and responded by tying the score up at 1-1. Junior Gloria Levorin, sophomore Jennifer Ene and sophomore Tia Clay fueled the team in this set with 9 kills combined.

Hitting was a major concern for the team throughout the match. Despite out-blocking the Eagles 3-1 throughout the game and into the third set, the team couldn’t take the lead. FGCU finished with a .389 hitting

percentage compared to the Panther’s .195 percentage. Bad hitting hurt the Panthers in the final set as they finished with a -.030 hitting percentage in the fourth set.

“We had 28 hitting errors and they only had seven blocks. We had 16 blocks and we lost 3-1. That’s almost impossible to do,” Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett said.

Even though the games were close and the Panthers hung around with the Eagles, the hitting miscues prevented the team from finishing the plays.

“Our passing was good. Our setters did a very good job. Our hitters just weren’t hitting the ball,” Buck-Crockett said.

The overall numbers were fairly even.

Some aces and blocks even favored the University throughout the match but the team wasn’t able to wrap up the victory.

“Their effort was good but I don’t think they were focused as much as I would have liked them to be focused,” Buck-Crockett said.

The team was led by senior Lucia Castro, who collected 12 kills, Clay, who finished with 10 kills and a .316 hitting percentage, and senior Adriana McLamb, who notched 13 digs.

The Panthers will have to learn from their mistakes if they look to bounce back and end the homestand on a positive note.

CONFERENCE USA VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS			
TEAM	C-USA WINS	C-USA LOSSES	OVERALL
WKU	4	0	17-2
UTSA	3	0	11-5
NORTH TEXAS	3	1	11-8
RICE	3	1	13-5
SOUTHERN MISS	3	1	16-5
FIU	4	2	10-7
FLORIDA ATLANTIC	3	2	11-6
MARSHALL	2	3	11-7

*All records up to date as of Oct.9



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FLAG FOOTBALL

PiKapp finishes SigEp

LUIS DIAZ
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

This Greek game of the week features Pikapp facing off against a depleted SigEp team in flag football. The score does not tell the whole story of the game, but it does give an adequate summary of what took place on Tuesday, October 6 at the FIU Intramural Fields.

SigEp was fresh off a 25-0 loss to Sammy, trying to prove they are a better team than what they put on the field last week. You could say they did that, improving their deficit this week to 24-0 against Pikapp.

The flag football team representing Sigma Phi Epsilon had no answer to the deadly double rush Pi Kappa Phi sent to their quarterback all night. On SigEp’s first drive of the game, they allowed a sack that was immediately followed by an interception. Pikapp, two plays later, hit their wide receiver on a fade in the corner of the endzone for a touchdown. Now, if that’s all you heard from the game, you had a great idea of what happened the rest of the game.

SigEp had six offensive drives. Of their 21 plays in these six drives, 21 of them occurred on their side of the field. You read that right. Pikapp’s defense held SigEp on their side of the gridiron the

entire night. Pikapp’s offense was stellar, scoring in all three of their first-half possessions. But their defense is what made it happen “We had a good balance but it was all about our defense,” captain Fernando Trillo said after the game. “They gave us a short field every time making it easy for the offense to score.”

Pikapp should have been paying rent for the time they spent in the redzone. They had only three of their offensive snaps 21 offensive snaps from outside of the 20-yard line. But not everything was roses for this team and they definitely have a lot to build on. With a two dropped passes in the endzone, missed interceptions and an interception to begin the second half of the game, Trillo knows there is much to work on.

“This was our first game, but with the schedule we have in front of us and the team we have, we should be putting up more than 30 every game and shutting every team out.”

It’s one thing to have too much confidence and say something like that, and it’s a whole other thing entirely when talk like that can be backed up. And although it was only one game, a game that thanks to the mercy rule ended early, you could put your money that this team has a great shot of being able to defend what they say.

BASKETBALL

Coaches pick ODU to finish second in C-USA basketball

ED MILLER
The Virginian-Pilot
[TNS](#)

Conference USA’s basketball coaches are bullish on Old Dominion. Guard Trey Freeman likes the Monarchs’ chances this year as well.

“Our energy and enthusiasm, that might be better than last year,” Freeman said prior to the start of practice this week. “The intangibles, I feel like we have.”

Tangibles, too. Enough to be picked to finish second and get three of the 14 first-place votes in a poll the league’s coaches released Wednesday.

Alabama-Birmingham, with five starters returning from a team that won the conference tournament, was picked first,

collecting the other 11 votes for first.

ODU, which finished 27-8, cracked the AP top 25 for the first time and reached the semifinals of the NIT, brings back three starters and five of its top eight scorers. They’ll be joined by three newcomers and three players who sat out last season.

Freeman, a Kellam High graduate and Campbell transfer who was voted the league’s Newcomer of the Year last season, leads the charge. The 6-foot-1 senior averaged 16.9 points and 3.6 assists last year and was voted to the 10-member preseason all-conference team.

UAB placed senior guard Robert Brown and sophomore forward William Lee on the preseason squad, and

will once again enjoy the advantage of having the C-USA tourney in its home city. But three years after winning just five games, ODU is positioned to have a say in the league race as well.

“I know we’re going to go hard,” Freeman said, referring to preparations for the season, and the challenge of blending new players into the system. “We might make a lot of silly mistakes, but we’re going to make them going 100 percent.”

Conference USA men’s basketball poll:

1. UAB (11)
2. Old Dominion (3)
3. Middle Tennessee
4. UTEP
5. Louisiana Tech
6. WKU
7. Rice
8. North Texas
9. Marshall
10. FIU
11. Charlotte
12. Florida Atlantic
13. UTSA
14. Southern Miss

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Women’s soccer plans to bounce back next game

SANTIAGO ARCHIERI
Contributing Writer
sports@fiusm.com

The FIU women’s soccer team is looking to get back to their winning ways on Friday, October 9 against Southern Miss. The Panthers are coming off a disappointing weekend that featured back to back losses.

The Panthers struggled on with their offensive game on

their losses, as North Texas and Rice both outshot the Panthers by more than twice their total shots. The Panthers were also shut out against North Texas, marking the fourth time in eleven games this season they finished a game without a goal.

Southern Miss is coming to Miami after having a relieving weekend. They might have gone split their two games, but Golden Eagles were able to pick

up their first Conference USA win and they also broke a six game winless streak. Overall, Southern Miss has won one game in the past month and has an overall record of 3-7-3 and 1-3 in conference play.

Southern Miss has also found the back of the net once in their past eight games, being outscored a total score of 10-1 and going 1-6-1 in that span.

After a pair of bad losses, the

Panthers fell to 2-2 in conference play and 6-7-0 overall. Scarlet Montoya looks to continue her hot streak after winning Conference USA offensive player of the week and scoring three times in her last four games. FIU also has a 5-2 record at home for the season, but their 1-5 away record has been haunting their season.

FIU also is hoping to see more of Malden Weinhardt, the leading goal scorer for the year so far.

Weinhardt has accounted for four goals, but only one in the past five games. FIU is 3-1 in games that Weinhardt has scored in.

FIU is currently eighth in the Conference USA standings, while Southern Miss is twelfth, but the victorious team will have full control of their season in their hands, as the rest of the schedule for both teams is against conference opponents.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Jimmy Johnson says the ‘U’ is no longer unique

MIKE BIANCHI
Orlando Sentinel
[TNS](#)

On this week of the once-great Florida State-Miami rivalry, I have but one question:

What happened to the Miami Hurricanes?

This is the same simple question I asked Jimmy Johnson during a visit to his home in the Florida Keys over the summer.

I figured who better to answer the question about the once-feared Hurricanes being downgraded to a tropical depression than the man who turned UM into the “U.” Howard Schnellenberger resurrected Miami’s program and won the school’s first national title, but Johnson created the image, aura and

swashbuckling swagger that transformed the Hurricanes into the most dominant, dynastic, intensely intimidating college football program of the 1980s and ‘90s.

As Johnson sat at the computer in his home office, he answered my question by Googling the schedules of the UM teams he coached when the Hurricanes were an independent in the mid-1980s. He then, one by one, recited the names of some of his opponents.

“Florida ... Florida State ... Oklahoma ... Notre Dame ... Michigan,” Johnson said. “We had a half-a-dozen games every year against marquee-type teams _ and you only played 11 games back then. So half of our games were on primetime national TV every

year, and that’s when it meant something to be on TV. Hell, these days, everybody’s on TV every week.”

In other words, Miami has nothing special it can sell big-time recruits anymore. Let’s face it, the two decades of UM dominance were one of the biggest aberrations in college football history. Unlike other great dynasties – Alabama, Nebraska, Notre Dame, USC, etc. _ the ‘Canes weren’t built on fan support, booster contributions, plush facilities and highly paid coaches. Miami was built on one thing and one thing only: PLAYERS.

“If a player wanted to go to the NFL, he’d come to Miami because we played a great schedule and because we played on television,” Johnson

said.

The problem is Miami, since joining the ACC, no longer plays a great schedule and therefore no longer has the market cornered on recruits who want to play on primetime TV. But UM’s fans and administration are still living in the 1980s and believe they can become great again by just hiring and firing coaches.

Sadly, it has become all the rage at UM games for delusional fans to spend their money hiring airplanes dragging banners that say “Fire Al Golden.” Golden, it seems, is simply the latest coach being victimized by UM’s unrealistic fan base. If you want to blame somebody for the dilapidated state of UM’s program, blame the administration, former

school president Donna Shalala and the Board of Trustees.

Here’s all you need to know: UCF has better facilities than Miami does. The Knights have an on-campus stadium and an indoor practice facility; the Canes have neither.

Until Miami realizes it needs to start spending money -and lots of it -to upgrade its football infrastructure, the Canes will continue to wallow in the abyss of insignificance. Memo to Miami: If you want to play big-boy football, stop spending like a small-time program. Do you really think you can compete with the affluent programs that surround you -Florida State, Florida, Alabama and Georgia - by pinching pennies? Do you really think you can compete in

the Daytona 500 by showing up in a 1997 Buick Skylark?

Although ACC Commissioner John Swofford would never admit this publicly, he absolutely has to be second-guessing the league’s decision to add Miami 11 years ago. Swofford’s grand plan was to put Miami and FSU in separate divisions, play the ACC Championship Game in the State of Florida and have the two powerhouses annually face off in front of sellout crowds and a gigantic national TV audience.

Since Jimbo took over, FSU has certainly lived up to its end of the bargain, but Miami has now been through three head coaches and still has never even been to an ACC Championship Game.

ROSENBERG CUTS RIBBON



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

University President Mark B. Rosenberg and Nelson Wolfe, son of former president Gregory Wolfe, cut the ribbon for the opening of the renovated Mary Ann Wolfe Theater on Friday, Oct. 9 in Panther Square.

A call for media diversity

COLUMNIST



LAURA OROZCO
PORRAS

Geneva Overholser, a prestigious and award-winning journalist, gave a lecture at the Biscayne Bay Campus last Wednesday. She urged upcoming journalists to incorporate diversity in their newsroom.

Part of the FIU Hearst Distinguished Lecture Series, “Leading from the Outside: Rethinking Journalism Leadership with Change is the New Normal” was received by a large population of journalism students and staff at the Wolfe Ballrooms.

Overholser, who currently serves on the boards of the Academy of American Poets, the Rita Allen Foundation and the Women’s Media Center, as well as the advisory board of the CUNY Graduate

School of Journalism, stated statistics on the scarcity of women and ethnic minorities in power in media journalism. Caucasian men dominate the majority of media.

She focused on the lack of representation of different ethnicities and cultures within the United States’ media. Her vision is that it can accurately represent and inform readers from different points of view and backgrounds.

Legacy media, the notion that journalists are hiring people like themselves, needs to come to an end. Overholser explained this as journalists “replicating themselves,” hiring those similar to them in physical appearance and personality. But what these journalists fail to consider is how different people can bring a different voice to media.

Although she gave a call-to-action to future journalists, she fell short on how to break into the industry.

While she is a journalist, she is not an activist. Her spirit for change did not meet the expectations of students who aspire to create this change.

An important question brought out by a few students at the lecture was the emphasis on the standard of beauty for women in TV journalism. While one student questioned why outfits were becoming less professional and more revealing, another questioned her potential as an African-American woman who did not meet this standard.

“Go on print media!” Overholser said untactfully.

Unfortunately, this is the reality of television. A woman is not distinguished by anything other than her looks. While a man can report the news and wear the same suit for every newscast, a woman has to dress provocatively to attract more viewers. Once a woman loses her youthful look, she is seen as old, wrinkly and no longer decent.

Media and journalism is not focused on important news anymore but is “hooked on scandal,” as Overholser stated.

Journalism is transitioning to digital and social media, allowing everyone to have a voice but the agenda created by old forms of media prevails.

Most minorities are not hired because of their skill or potential but rather because of the Equal Opportunity Employment Act. What media need are journalists who are not afraid of change and are willing to create an inclusive workforce.

While Overholser can attest to this, it is up to the future journalists to create a voice for every generation, ethnicity and gender for all Americans.

LGTBQA series offers suicide prevention tips

GUETHSHINA ALTENA
Contributing Writer
bbc@fiusm.com

Jeremy Pettit said that people of the LGBTQA community are more likely to have suicidal thoughts.

Pettit, a psychology professor and editor of Behavioral Medicine, said that being overwhelmed can make people feel like suicide is an option.

To learn about suicide prevention, the University’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning and Ally Initiatives will host its LGBTQA 3D series. The series takes place at both the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and the Biscayne Bay Campus.

According to Jazmine Clifton, a graduate assistant at the LGBTQA Initiatives, the 3D stands for “Dine, Discuss and Deliberate.”

The suicide rate of young adults between the ages of 15 and 24 has tripled since the 1950’s, according to the American College Health Association. However, no research has proven a higher suicide rate among people of the LGBTQA community than other communities said Cheryl Nowell, the assistant vice president of Student Health and Counseling.

One in 12 college students have made a suicide plan at some point, and 1.5 out of every 100 have actually attempted it, according to a 2002 study by the ACHA. Suicide is the second most common cause of death among college students, according to the American Psychological Association.

“In efforts to reduce the number of students struggling with suicidal behaviors, the 3D series session will open a panel that offers tips and word of wisdom about the issue,” said Clifton.

Nowell said it’s crucial that students know that they’re not alone when struggling with suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

“We are here to help,” said Nowell.

The University’s Multicultural

Programs & Services will host the event Wednesday, Oct. 21 and Thursday, Oct. 22 from noon to 2 p.m at the Graham Center Room 314 and the Wolfe University Center Room 155. Clifton said sessions are open to anyone interested and that they should RSVP at least one day in advance on their website.

Pettit said that suicide is caused by various factors such as genetic components, social components and psychological components.

Rejection, exclusion and depression can lead someone to commit suicide. However, they can learn to cope with those situations by learning more about the warning signs and prevention methods of suicidal behaviors.

Nowell said that even if a student is not currently affected or does not know anyone who is struggling with suicide, they are still encouraged to come to the event.

She said students will encounter people struggling with suicide issues and that recognizing signs and symptoms can contribute to saving lives.

“If you do not see the need to attend this event for yourself, do it for your friends and family,” said Nowell.

Clifton said the LGBTQA Initiatives staff is working to answer the needs of students and that it’s important that they are aware.

“There are people to contact when struggling with suicidal behaviors and beyond,” Clifton said.

The Counseling and Psychological Services center is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For help after hours, Nowell said students can call to schedule a consultation.

She said that if it’s urgent, they can be seen as soon as possible, however. For after-hours, students can contact 305-348-CAPS to speak to a counselor.

“It is crucial that students know that help is just a phone call away,” Nowell said.



BRYAN RICAURTE/THE BEACON

Geneva Overholser, a senior fellow at the Center for Communication Leadership and Policy at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, speaks for the Hearst Distinguished Lecture Series at the Wolfe Center Ballroom Wednesday, Oct. 7.