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Journalist asks students to make change

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Soledad O'Brien, award-winning journalist and a CNN correspondent, said that college students are the people who will shape national issues on the Latino community.

O'Brien returned to the University a second time to discuss topics such as voting elections, education, leadership and the entertainment industry among Latinos.

"I feel that people of your age group are the ones trying to move the needle on a lot of these important issues," said O'Brien, who kicked off her "I am Latino in America" tour at FIU on Monday, Sept. 28.

She was invited by the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council earlier this year to talk about racial profiling and protests against police brutality during her "Black in America" tour.

Through her "I am Latino in America" tour, O'Brien said she wants to empower Latino Americans, especially students.

"I know that the student body is really interested and active and loves to be engaged in a conversation," said O'Brien in an interview with FIU Student Media.

"When you do a presentation like 'Latino in America' tour,

you really want the students to come back with questions and to be part of the conversation you're having. For all those reasons, FIU is a great place to begin."

O'Brien said she chose to kick off her tour at the University because of its outreach to the Latino community, its student engagement and involvement.

FIU ranks No. 9 out of 50 colleges in the nation to successfully award degrees to Hispanics, according to Best Colleges.com

Experts on the topic issues were also a part of the discussion. One of the panelists included Elizabeth Bejar, vice president for Academic Affairs, who spoke about education.

O'Brien talked about her "Latino in America" documentary, which includes interviews on families and individuals of Hispanic descent within American society.

O'Brien interviews a high school student named Cindy in her Latino in America documentary. She said Cindy was determined to graduate on time, even though she was pregnant and was 40 credits behind.

O'Brien used Cindy's story to discuss the importance of Latinos having hope.

"Hope is sort of another word for feeling like you have an opportunity somewhere, and I

think what she lacked was a sense that there was another door through which there was a lot of possibilities," O'Brien said.

"It's always about continuing through, and I think that's what she needs to hear."

She said students should engage with others and find out about their day-to-day experiences, and discuss why they are the way they are.

"I think the thing about being a good reporter is being curious and to try to understand why people are how they are and how they got that way."

"Students of this generation have a personal connection with trending social issues in which they feel they can do something and know that they are contributing to the greater good," said O'Brien. She said that is what makes today's generation different from her own.

O'Brien also said that in addition to education, immigration is a big issue that is affecting the Latino community. However, she said that supporting an issue is not the only way to increase voter turnout for the Hispanic community.

"My advice to students would be: figure out what's a change



BRYAM RICUARTE/THE BEACON

Broadcast journalist Soledad O'Brien kicks off her national tour "I Am Latino in America." She spoke at the Graham Center Ballrooms on Modesto Maidique Campus.

you're interested in, get behind a candidate who is going to bring the change to the world and help that person achieve it."

University students travel to Philly, hoped to see pope

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Evelyn Hernandez, a senior special education major, traveled 1,195 miles for a chance to see Pope Francis in the flesh.

Francis, the 266th pope of the Catholic Church, appeared at the triennial World Meeting of the Families in Philadelphia, offering mass Sunday on the steps of the city's art museum.

More than 25 families and University students made the trip from Miami to attend, approximately 300 in total.

They traveled in seven buses. For Hernandez this meant sleeping in an uncomfortable bus with no leg room and no reclining chairs.

But it was worth it. "We prayed and sang, and it was still an amazing trip," she said. "I felt so blessed and amazed to just

be there listening to him live. It was calming and I was at peace, something that's very hard for me on a normal basis."

Hernandez said she waited more than three hours in a crowd that might have exceeded 1 million people.

"We prayed and sang, and it was still an amazing trip. I felt so blessed and amazed to just be there listening."

Evelyn Hernandez
Senior
Special Education

Their goal was to get into the mass of people and see the pope cruising through the streets of Philadelphia.

It didn't happen. "I still heard him and saw him through the

jumbotron," she said. "Truth is, I probably wouldn't have watched it or heard it back at home because life gets in the way. Sometimes you need a time off to find yourself and evaluate what's important."

For Hernandez and her friends, it was a pilgrimage. The group departed Miami via bus at around 7 p.m. Friday and arrived in Philadelphia Saturday at about 9 p.m.

Ivan Rodriguez, a priest ordained a year and a half ago at Miami's Mother of Christ Catholic Church, helped lead the pilgrimage.

"We came from Miami to see the pope because we belong to the church, and the pope is our vicar," said Rodriguez. "We got to meet other people with the same beliefs as us, and that's beautiful."

The World Meeting of the Families is an international celebration of family, community and faith.

At the Sunday mass, the pope highlighted the importance of the family in the 21st century.

"What kind of world do we want to leave to our children?" he said. "May our children find in us models and incentives to communion... and men and women capable of joining others in bringing to full flower all the good seeds, which the Lord has sown."

Tommaso Benigni, a senior biomedical engineering major and the fifth child of 10 in his Italian family, said the trip was a "spiritual tool" for both him and his relatives.

His parents came to the United States as missionaries more than 20 years ago, dedicated to spreading the word about God's love.

For 21-year-old Benigni, the meeting was the perfect opportunity to show how much he values family.

"It was important to come to Philadelphia in

person as a show of support for the Catholic Church," Benigni said. "We need to show that it isn't some dead religion that no one practices."

Benigni thinks it's especially important to preserve the image of the family.

"There's constantly people bombarding you with opinions about what a family is, especially in social media," he said. "The pope is someone who has an actual message and his opinion matters."

Lucia Benigni, Tommaso's mother and one of the coordinators of the trip, said the pilgrimage was a special opportunity to be in communion with the pope.

"For us Catholics, the pope is a foundation of Jesus Christ," she said. "This World Meeting of the Families is especially important to reaffirm what the family is: a communion of love where we learn to

give our life to the other."

In his homily, Pope Francis spoke about this same thing and focused on what it means to be a family.

"It's a father and mother united in love with their children," said Lucia. "It's for the service of the other, not only for happiness."

The group returned to Miami on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

"We'll hopefully get to find our vocation," said Lucia. "Our mission is to evangelize because we're all called to announce the love of God to all men."

And that's what the group did when they spoke about God's love to strangers, telling them He loves them "as they are and with all their flaws".

"This trip has made me see how important the family is," said Hernandez. "I wouldn't have lived it the same way if I was home. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity."

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

N. Carolina's Rep. McHenry announces bid for whip position

U.S. Rep. Patrick McHenry announced Tuesday that he is officially running for the No. 3 position in House leadership, the majority whip. In a letter to GOP colleagues, the North Carolina Republican said it was time to change the culture of the conference. "We need a new leadership team that is committed to conservative principles, but more than that we must recognize the need for a culture change within our conference," he wrote. "A new culture based on trust, consistency, communication and collaboration."

Snapchat? Twitter? Millennials aren't that interested

All millennials are hooked on social networks like Snapchat, Twitter and Instagram, right?

Maybe not, according to survey results recently published by investment firm Battery Ventures.

The findings, which came from an Ipsos poll conducted online in August from a sample of 1,253 U.S. adults ages 20 to 35,

suggest that the supposedly social media-obsessed 20-somethings of America aren't that obsessed at all. Some 54 percent of survey respondents said they don't have an account with Snapchat, 41 percent said they don't have an account with Pinterest, and 39 percent said they're neither on Twitter nor Instagram.

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University dean represents FIU

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Mike Heithaus, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, testified before a the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research in Washington D.C. Tuesday, Sept. 29.

The hearing, called "Research Innovations from our Nation's Agricultural Colleges and Universities," will give the opportunity to highlight the University's innovative

work in detecting and protecting crops in South Florida, according to FIU Federal Relations.

Crops have recently been susceptible to the deadly laurel wilt disease, which spreads by an invasive insect.

The dean also discussed FIU's outreach efforts to attract minority high school students to the agricultural sciences. The University is trying to connect Hispanic farm workers, Hispanic agricultural scientists and engineers.

Other participants involved during the

hearing included Mindy Brashears, director of the International Center for Food Industry Excellence at Texas Tech University and Michael Lacy, professor and department head of the Department of Poultry Science at the University of Georgia.

Other topics that were planned for discussion include veterans and small farmers outreach, economic growth and job creation and research partnerships of which the University is engaged.

Police find three bullet casings found in FIU arena

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Three bullet casings were found in the FIU Arena at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Wayne Rustad, equipment athletics facilities manager, said he found an empty silver Winchester Luger 9mm casing in a laundry room on the first floor of the arena. The casing was visible in the dryer's lint trap, according to a report by the University police department on Sept. 8.

Rustad said that the laundry facility is used by staff for athletic wear and used by FIU athletes.

He spoke about his finding to Julie Berg McGraw, associate athletic director, who said the police advised her not to comment on the matter to Student Media until an investigation was completed.

Rustad also reported two other empty bullet casings that he found about three to four months ago in the laundry room. The cartridges are a Blazer .45 AUTO and a 1-FC Luger 9mm, both

gold. The casings were taken as found property and will not be sent to the Miami-Dade Police Department laboratory because the police do not know how long the bullet casings were in the lint trap and who held them.

According to Alexander Casas, chief of the FIU Police Department, the police have conducted forensic analysis to determine the origin of the casings.

"We don't just completely dismiss it as a random action," Casas said. He also said it is possible that a recreational shooter did not empty his pockets before cleaning.

Casas says concerns about the casings are minimal, since the only people who had access to the facility was staff from Athletics. Otherwise, the police would have sent a security warning to the University community.

Casas said it would have been a bigger issue if the casings were to have been found in a parking lot, for example.



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Wynwood's gentrification displaces impoverished

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Gentrification, in a sense, is all about the classic notion of “out with the old, in with the new” and it is occurring in Wynwood.

Wynwood is now affectionately titled the “art district” after being taken into the hands of various wealthy developers who saw its potential. Graffiti brings the district to life; anyone who has been there has felt the atmospheric magic of being dwarfed by the art on the district's towering buildings.

A night of enjoying this new Wynwood culture is quickly being added to bucket lists everywhere. There are coffee shops, classy

restaurants and numerous bars to suit the nightlife groove sought by many checking out the district.

This rebirth would not have been possible without the encouragement of its developers. Among these developers are David Lombardi and Tony Goldman who helped push out the old and replaced it with upscale art museums and dining venues.

Unfortunately, all this came at the cost of the people who didn't fit the portrait of a hip, new Wynwood.

Gentrification is a dark and ugly process. A massive part of urban redevelopment is improving property values, something that isn't foreign to Wynwood's own redevelopment. More often than not, the original inhabitants are forced to leave, as they are unable to pay the increased rent.

During an interview featured in Camila Álvarez's documentary, “Right to Wynwood,” Lombardi proudly recalls pushing out an entire building of tenants in order to demolish the structure.

“I delivered a big machine that rips the building down... I parked it there as an omen for them... The morning I got the permit [for demolition], I had the policemen come and knock on every door and tell them they had one hour to get out... They all stood on the sidewalk with their suitcases... I went by and wished them well on their future endeavors,” said Lombardi.

This displacement of one community of people for another should be firing alarms in the minds of Wynwood's visitors. Maybe they are unaware of what gentrification truly

means for the community; and it only means the destruction of community.

If Wynwood is really about diverse people coming together in an urban microcosm, there should be options for the lower-income residents who existed there previously. What is happening in Wynwood is not progress at all. It is just a flip in the social hierarchy of the city.

Instead of those with low income, what we have now are high-income residents. Progress does not breed the elimination of entire communities; rather, it should integrate them. The truth of Wynwood's revamping in particular is essentially “out with the poor, in with the rich.”

The artists of Wynwood may not realize their role as catalysts for their own exploitation and the exploitation

of their art. The art district in Wynwood was once an outlet for artists to put themselves out there and further develop their careers. After the incitement of Wynwood's gentrification, art in Wynwood is no longer about art.

Wynwood's art is a device to bring in an audience and raise property values. This art is about making money. Many of the artists featured in “Right to Wynwood” stated that they didn't care why the art was there - what mattered to them was that it simply existed there, and bountifully.

The gentrification of Wynwood is not a light matter, and the costs of its progress should be taken into account when deciding whether this is truly a rags-to-riches success story.

Prevent, not debate, sexual assault Free speech on campus

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
TNS Staff

A much-needed conversation about how to prevent sexual assault on college campuses is being hijacked. Social media are being manipulated into debating about whether the numbers in recent studies are right. Whether the studies are accurate. Whether this is really about a liberal agenda.

For crying out loud, stop it. Whether it's 1 in 4, 1 in 5 or 1 in 100, it's too many sexual assaults. That is one too many times that a woman, a young and usually inexperienced woman, has been kissed, touched, fondled or raped.

It is one too many times that a man, also most often young and inexperienced, has perceived a woman as willing, available and able to satisfy his sexual urges. It is one too many times that a man

took advantage of a woman no matter the message she was giving him.

Knock it off. It's about misused power. It's about a crime.

This is part of the same thinking, or lack thereof, that accompanies men telling women what they can and cannot do with their bodies, their health care, their ambition and their dreams. Denying women full pay (78 cents for every \$1 a man makes), family and early child care benefits and adequate maternity leave, makes it tough to crawl out of the sub-basement of despair that goes along with being a second-class citizen.

Feminists have fought this battle for centuries. Some historians credit Plato with being the first feminist, pointing to his arguments around 394 B.C. for political, social, sexual and educational equality for women.

Plato was one of the first to say gender differences could not be explained by biology and that a system of child care would free women to participate in society.

Twenty-four centuries later, these issues are still roiling our nation.

The latest study that is being picked apart was released Monday by the Association of American Universities. The AAU commissioned the largest survey of its kind, with responses last spring from 150,000 students at 27 colleges and universities.

The survey's findings, similar to those from previous studies, showed that more than 1 in 4 women experience sexual assault during four years of college.

Women are not prey. Women who are too incapacitated to say no are not prey. Men have no rights where women's bodies are concerned.

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The term “Worlds Ahead” is a motto Florida International University claims to live by and enforce within the university's student body. By claiming to be “worlds ahead,” FIU projects an image of a progressive university that fosters the creative expressions of its forward-thinking scholars.

We constantly see students express their social, economic and political stances via protests and demonstrations around campus. Examples would be FIU's National Organization for Women standing against rape culture via their annual Miami SlutWalk and protests against police brutality through students' involvement in the Black Lives Matter movement.

But does FIU's free speech policy really live up to the university's “Worlds Ahead” initiative? A rating provided by the Foundations for Individual Rights in Education suggests otherwise.

FIRE rates university free speech policies by assigning a particular color. FIU was given the color “yellow,” meaning

that that there is at least one aspect to FIU's free speech policy that can be viewed as either vague or questionable when addressing students' rights to free speech.

Though it's not clear as what exactly that aspect of the policy is, many students do have an issue with FIU's policy of having to “apply” to free speech. If students wish to host a demonstration or protest on campus said student must fill out an application.

Some students feel that having to apply to exercise free speech can intimidate student activist organizations. If it doesn't intimidate them then it can certainly stifle their voice should their application not be approved.

This policy of applying for the right to demonstrate on campus raises the question as to what demonstrations would get rejected.

Last year, pro-life advocates protested on campus against abortions. Part of their demonstration included graphic pictures of unborn and mutilated fetuses as well as comparisons of abortion to murder.

Any student can also recall radical Christian groups loudly preaching to students how we're all “going to hell” and

yelling homophobic slurs.

Did those same groups have to apply for their free speech? Where is the line drawn?

All universities have free speech policies and each differ in some way shape or form, but not all of them involve having to actually apply for the right to demonstrate.

Students should not feel intimidated or stifled when trying to voice their concerns about the environment around them. Free speech policies are necessary because there should be rules and regulations that ensure that demonstrations do not impede on other student's ability to learn. However, free speech is a right - not something that needs to be applied for.

If FIU wishes to be on the forefront of change and call themselves “worlds ahead” then the university should understand that college-aged students have historically been the catalysts of great change. To stifle our voices or intimidating us by putting us through an application process is not only questionable at best, but also a disservice to those of us who truly want to advocate change that is “worlds ahead” of where we are now.

HOT-HEADED



ANGEL BANEGAS/THE BEACON

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Halloween Horror Nights, a year's worth of work

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Universal Orlando's Halloween Horror Nights is back for its 25th anniversary with a record nine houses occupying every section of the park.

Through Sunday, Nov. 1, the park is transformed into a dark atmospheric land where there's something lurking around every corner. This is possible through around the clock work and a dedicated team.

Some of this year's big scare houses include "The Walking Dead," "Freddy vs. Jason," "The Purge" and "Insidious."

HHN show director Charles Gray took some time to show a peak behind the curtains how everything works.

Each house requires a year's worth of planning in advance to ensure it's as authentic as possible to each series, while trying to remain distinct from the

other attractions.

About four to six team members meet up and throw around ideas in regards to the year's theme. Then a few months later, they give the info to the technical team to make it happen, then two months after that its construction time.

Gray commented on the tight schedule saying, "Every year we're like 'we're not gonna make it!' then we always make it and that's the kind of amazing team we have...that's just a testament to the people building, working on it, putting 24 hours a day sometimes."

Starting in July and continuing through August, auditions are held every Tuesday for cast members ranging from fresh-face 18 year-olds to people in their 70's.

Rehearsals start a week before the event and a night of dress rehearsals where employees do any last tweaks to a room or costume.

"Mechanically, you might

find that if we're open till two in the morning and I need this certain shutter open and close, is

this, constantly around behind the scenes doing touch ups to make-up or fixing costumes in

zone hosts horror icons such as Dracula, Frankenstein and Wolfman. Another note section is "Scary Tales" where fairy tale characters like Red Riding Hood or Snow White get a gory steam punk update.

Aside from many of the park's rides that are available for use, there are two shows to keep guests entertained, "Bill and Ted's Excellent Halloween Adventure" and "The Carnage Returns" featuring Jack The Clown.

"Bill and Ted's" features the duo on a quest to stop Kanye West from ruining pop culture after he steals their time machine phone booth. It's as every bit ridiculous as it is enjoyable with laughs and air guitar.

HHN came back this year with the intention of pulling out all the stops and reminding everyone why they've been around for 25 years.

“

Every year we're like 'we're not gonna make it!' then we always make it and that's the kind of amazing team we have...that's just a testament to the people building, working on it, putting 24 hours a day sometimes.

Charles Gray
Show Director
Halloween Horror Nights

”

that going to work for eight hours for 30 nights? You have to weigh the benefits and disadvantages of is it worth it to do and if so will it hold up," Gray said.

There are twice as many "scareactors" than ever before and costume malfunctions are bound to happen. That's why there's a team dedicated to

need of stitching. They are truly the real ghosts of Halloween Horror Nights.

When not frantically trying to find the quickest exit in the horror houses, guests will be passing through one of the five "scare zones" to get to the next place.

The "All Night Die-In" scare

Nancy Meyers reflects on working in Hollywood

REBECCA KEEGAN
TNS

Nancy Meyers was not allowed on the set of her first movie without a male chaperone. Thirteen films later — six of them as director — Meyers can laugh about it.

It was 1979 and Warner Bros was making "Private Benjamin" from a script Meyers had written with Charles Shyer, whom she would later marry. Her contract stipulated that Meyers, then 29, had to be with Shyer or with another male producer at all times while on set.

"I assumed it was because I was an inexperienced woman," Meyers said. "It was a very male world. I didn't know any women directors. I'm sure there were other women writers, but I didn't know them. It was a bit isolating. There were pinups in the (crew) guys' boxes. It made me really uncomfortable. I walked around and introduced myself. I said, 'Hi, I'm the co-writer. I'd love if you would take that down.'"

Meyers' latest movie as writer and director, "The Intern," centers on a character who would find that chauvinist world unrecognizable in many ways. Jules, a young CEO of a tech startup played by Anne Hathaway, is the boss of 200 employees, responsible for the mortgage

on a tastefully decorated Brooklyn brownstone, married to an attentive stay-at-home dad. And Jules has something Meyers says she never really did — a mentor, a 70-year-old retired businessman named Ben (Robert De Niro) who is improbably hired as her intern.

"It came from something that was missing in my life but I never thought of," said Meyers, now 65. "When somebody's in a stressful situation, wouldn't it be nice to have someone with some wisdom to watch your back, remind you who you are and what you're doing well? Wouldn't we all like that?"

Meyers has an unusual, dichotomous quality — she takes the details of life and her movies utterly seriously while having a sense of humor about herself. Petite, crisply dressed at a busy Los Angeles breakfast spot on a recent morning, she spied an Oscar-winning screenwriter across the room. "I'll introduce you," she said. "He'll have no idea who I am."

Asked if she could go back and offer her younger self a piece of advice, Meyers said, "I'd rather be able to talk to me now. I'd say, 'Calm down.'"

As a female director of several successful studio movies, Meyers is the unofficial president of one of the world's tiniest sororities. She has ridden

out trends in the film business — many of them grim for the category of relationship-driven movie she makes — and watched as women in Hollywood have grown increasingly vocal about what they perceive as a second-class status.

For her fans, many of them female, Meyers' tales of triumphant women in films like "It's Complicated" and "Something's Gotta Give" occupy event status. Mindy Kaling tweeted recently, "I'm going to see #TheIntern with my dad and I bet you a zillion dollars we both love it and also cry a little," while Jezebel, Gawker's female-driven blog, accompanies breathless posts about "The Intern" with a picture of the director wearing a tiny clip-art crown on her head.

Though Meyers' movies have all been commercial successes, her audience is not typically an opening-weekend crowd. And film critics tend to be less charmed by them than moviegoers — the dismissive phrases "chick flick" and "middle-age porn" crop up in reviews. Meyers' films dwell in an affluent, mostly white world and often touch off cultural discussions about gender and age.

"Nancy has an awareness that her position is somewhat unique," said Suzanne Farwell, who started as Meyers' assistant

on her first film as a director, 1998's "The Parent Trap," and served as a producer on "The Intern." "She's always had a lot of clarity about what she wants, but now she has more confidence."

Making "The Intern" tested that confidence, however, as Meyers found a film industry dramatically changed since the release of her last film, 2009's "It's Complicated."

"Everybody was trying to make something else when I finished the script and sent it around," Meyers said. "Everybody was trying to make 'Spider-Man,' so it hit the market not at the right time. ... I just kept taking more meetings and sending it out again. I got to the point where I was going to bury the script in my backyard. Dig a hole. Buy a nice little box at the Container Store. At a certain point I thought, 'enough.'"

As Meyers worked to set up the film, cast members came and went — Reese Witherspoon and Tina Fey were both attached at one point. The kind of production budgets Meyers had worked with in the past, on films like "What Women Want," which starred Mel Gibson, and "The Holiday" with Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet, were no longer given to a movie without capes or visual effects. ("The Intern" cost about \$40 million.)

"I knew that, and so I didn't fight that," Meyers

said of the evolving Hollywood economics. "Things change. I'm sure there was a sense of, 'Can she do it for this number?' 'Cause I've made a lot of movies that had really healthy budgets for movies that mostly take place in the kitchen and the bedroom."

Ultimately Warner Bros. signed on and Meyers adjusted, shooting on fewer weeks than she was accustomed to and using real locations instead of building her famously detailed and lavish sets. She maintained some of her old habits — playing music on set, scrutinizing production design details, hiring a lot of women in below-the-line positions. ("We have male pinups," Meyers joked.)

"It's a comfort being one of the oldest people on the set now," Meyers said. "I remember being one of the youngest and the only woman, and I didn't like it."

In many ways the themes Meyers explores in "The Intern" are more generational than gender-based. De Niro's character is the one who can actually communicate, as the young adults around him struggle to choose the right emoticon for their feelings. The movie's millennial men, in particular, are slumped-shouldered boys compared to De Niro's capable, well-groomed adult. When Ben asks, "Why doesn't anybody tuck anything in anymore?" it's easy to

hear Meyers' voice coming through.

"Older people have wisdom," Meyers said. "Older people have value. The millennials are so big. They're everywhere. That's fantastic. You can't open the paper without seeing who invented what and wow, he's 23! But I'm not that far off from Bob (De Niro's) age. These things are kind of personal. You're just writing from your heart."

Other scenes, including one that showcases the still-present tension between working and stay-at-home moms, are pulled directly from Meyers' experience as a working mother of two.

"Of all the things that have happened to me in 35 years, why do I remember the mother who said me, 'We're having a fiesta at lunch tomorrow. Do you think you could bring the guacamole? You probably won't have time to make it so you can buy some.'" Meyers asked. "I felt so judged. Of course I love to cook, and of course I can make guacamole, and of course I had time."

It's a scene that probably wouldn't occur to a male writer, Meyers admitted.

"A lot of my women (characters), they come from me," she said. "The things that worry me worry them. I feel a real responsibility when I write women."

‘The Grinder’ and ‘Grandfathered’ are good sitcoms

ROBERT LLOYD
TNS Staff

With the Tuesday premieres of “The Grinder,” starring Rob Lowe, and “Grandfathered,” with John Stamos, Fox proffers a brace of genial, even family-friendly sitcoms of a sort not usually associated with the network of “Married With Children” and, recently, “The Last Man on Earth,” in which Will Forte fills a swimming pool with his own human waste.

There is a lot of nostalgic energy generated from the get-go. Each series stars an actor not much over 50 whose youthful pinup prettiness hasn’t reached its half-life — indeed has been remarkably slow to decay, supporting and underscoring their characters’ substantial but not unwavering self-regard. And each of them has been partnered with a younger, former child star: Fred Savage of “The Wonder Years” for Lowe and Josh Peck of “Drake & Josh” for Stamos.

Both are well-made, well-cast series about finding purpose and untangling what you really want from what you only think you want and what you want from what you need, and specifically about discovering this all in (still-foxy) middle age. Splitting the difference between hectic and gentle, they’re warmhearted without being terribly sentimental — that is, they point to their own warmheartedness and make a little face.

In “The Grinder,” created by Andrew Mogel and Jarrad Paul (co-writers and directors of the recent Jack Black film “The D Train”), Lowe plays Dean Sanderson, the son and brother of lawyers. Dean only plays one on TV, or did — after nine years, his series, also called “The Grinder,” is airing its last episode and he has come home to Boise, Idaho, to watch it with his family: kid brother Stewart (Savage), father Dean Sr. (William Devane), sister-in-law Debbie (Mary Elizabeth Ellis from “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia”), his niece and nephew.

The conceit of the show is that Stewart, though a real lawyer, lacks the confidence

to be a great one — he is dependent on note cards, mumbles his way through arguments and, when the going gets tough, he stops — and that Dean, whose divorce from his TV character is causing him some existential distress (“Right now I’m just driving on the highway of What the Hell Is My Life, looking for an offramp,” he says with typical drama), has the stuff to be one, though his knowledge of the law consists entirely of things picked up from TV scripts.

They will have much to teach each other.

Little of what happens in the pilot would make much sense outside the borders of popular fiction. Or perhaps that’s just how things work in Boise, you are free to believe.

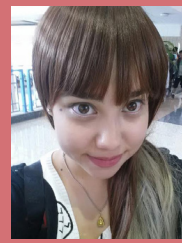
But it has emotional truth, let’s call it, and it plays well. Like the judge and jury who are happy to let Dean have his way in and with the courtroom, we are inclined to overlook troublesome details for the sake of entertainment.

“Grandfathered,” created by Daniel Chun, formerly a head writer on “The Office,” takes a well-worn trope — the confirmed, usually swinging bachelor whose life is turned upside down by the arrival of a child or children — and adds an extra generation. Stamos plays restaurateur Jimmy Martino, an energetic, somewhat fretful human tornado who, when we meet him, is plucking a gray hair from his head as though it were a tick. Soon enough, after a brief bit of establishing this and that, we see him meet his unsuspected son, the woolly-headed Gerald (Peck), who has a child of his own, a baby daughter.

Gerald’s mother is played, happily, by the great Paget Brewster, whom we have seen this year also as a regular on “Community” and “Another Period” and who at 46 seems to be coming into her own — 127 episodes of “Criminal Minds,” 126 of which I never saw, notwithstanding. Brewster is an actress who can simultaneously seem capable and eccentric, calm and unpredictable: “If you hurt my son or his daughter,” she tells

‘Hotel Transylvania 2’ features positivity

NIGHT AT THE MOVIES



MAYTINEE KRAMER

Vampires, zombies, mummies and werewolves may be thought of as terrifying, but if you were to ask Count Dracula, he would simply tell you monsters are nothing but peace-loving creatures that have been unfairly labeled and treated.

Just in time for Halloween, the follow-up family comedy to “Hotel Transylvania,” “Hotel Transylvania 2,” starring the voices of Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Andy Samberg and Asher Blinkoff, puts the fun in funny, giving adults plenty of appropriate jokes to appreciate while children have their boo-ha-has.

“Hotel Transylvania 2” is cute and slightly spooky, but definitely sends out a positive heartfelt message on family unity and diversity. Having a change of heart over his monster-only guest policy, Dracula opens up his hotel to humans, and it seems things are changing for the better.

Though having opened up to humans and monsters living amongst each other, he is still concerned that

his half-human grandson, Dennis, may not be a vampire, and comes up with a plan to draw out the boy’s potential abilities. Things turn topsy-turvy when Dracula’s father, who is ancient and detests humans, turns up with the expectation of Dennis also continuing the Dracula family line.

By acknowledging the fact that not everyone can conform to preconceived ideals, this movie says “being different is okay.” Moreover, “Hotel Transylvania 2” functions as a social-allegory on a number of levels and recognizes the need for an open mind in life and love. This spooky feel-good family comedy gave me a heart-warming feeling, and is quite the treat mixed in with a few tricks.

Night at the Movies is a movie review column that runs every Thursday. life@fiusm.com

MOVIE:
Hotel
Transylvania 2

RATING:
5/5

Jimmy, “I will choke you to death with your own overly moisturized hand.”

What’s nice about the series is that, after the required moment of shock, confusion and temperamental if not factual denial, Jimmy moves on quickly to acceptance and interest. Though the pilot hits some of the expected beats — don’t muss my pants, baby with dirty hands — it doesn’t revel in the comedy of discomfiture common to such stories. It doesn’t artificially harden Jimmy’s heart just to melt it.

Still, it’s no accident that we see him early on in his skyscraper apartment,

with its floor-to-ceiling views of the city below, eating breakfast for one, his only company a voice-activated music system — not lonely, necessarily, but visibly alone — and that by the end it is filled with his new extended family. Though everyone in “Grandfathered” is single — meaning there will be “love interests” or “sex objects” passing through — the main business will be with the community they all define.

They will have much to teach each other.

THE FAIR, BE THERE



SUDYEN NAVARRETE/THE BEACON

Jordan Lukshinski, a senior computer science speaking with a representative from the Geospatial Intelligence Agency at the Career Fair held at the Graham Center Ballrooms.

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GOLF

Eighth place finish at Johnie Imes Invitational

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The FIU women's golf team placed fifth at the 8th annual Johnie Imes Invitational in Columbia, Mo., held from Sept. 28-29 at The Club at Old Hawthorne. FIU came into the invitational as the 56th-ranked team in the country.

The first day of competition at the invitational saw competitors tackle 36 holes in one day. The Panthers came out strong in their opening rounds. After the first day, FIU was in 8th place out of 18 teams. But, the team scored low on the final day.

FIU placed fifth at the invitational with a combined

score of 871 (+5).

Meghan MacLaren posted FIU's lowest rounds of the season on day one, scoring a 2-under par 70 in the morning round and a 3-under par 69 in the afternoon round.

MacLaren birdied 8 holes on the day to pace the Panthers. After day one, MacLaren was 6th on the individual scoreboard at 5-under par.

In her final round, MacLaren had five birdies as opposed to three bogeys. Her second 2-under par round of the invitational allowed MacLaren to climb to fourth on the individual scoreboard at 7-under par, where she would finish.

Sophie Godley, who came off of a hot start in the Golfweek

Conference Challenge, played well on day one. Godley shot a 3-over par 75 in her morning round and shot a 2-over par 74 in the afternoon round to finish the day at 5-over par.

She followed up day one with a 1-over par 73 in her final round. Godley finished the week at 6-over par in 38th place.

Carla Jane impressed in her morning round of day one. She birdied two holes and limited her mistakes to finish with an even-par 72. But, Jane did not remain consistent in her afternoon round. She had five bogeys on the day before doubling the par-3 16th.

Jane's inconsistencies plagued her final round as well. After a 1-under par front nine, Jane shot

a 3-over back nine to finish with a 74 (+2). Jane finished the week with a total score of 225 (+9).

Katerina Krasova bounced back after a rough first tournament in Colorado. The sophomore from the Czech Republic shot a combined 1-over par for the week. A 3-under par 69 in her final round highlighted Krasova's week.

In her final round, Krasova scored four birdies in her final round to offset the one bogey she carded on her front nine. Krasova finished the week at 3-over par in 27th place.

Camila Serrano struggled with consistency at the tournament. The 2014 Conference USA Freshman of the Year has had a rough start to the season. Her

3-over par second round was the highlight of the junior's weekend.

As of Tuesday, Sept. 29, Serrano's scoring average for the season sits at 76.17, a far cry from 2014, when she led the team with a 73.76 scoring average. She will have to work on her consistency as the season goes on. Serrano finished the week with a total score of 229 (+13).

Next up, FIU will head back to Colorado to compete in the Ron Moore Women's Invitational. The invitational will be held from Oct. 9-11 at the Highlands Ranch Golf Club in Littleton. FIU has never competed in the Ron Moore Invitational.

FOOTBALL

Panthers expected to defeat UMass 27-14

JAKE'S TAKES

JACOB SPIWAK

I'm just going to go on record and say it: FIU's next game will set the tone for how the team plays for the rest of this season, and may just determine whether or not we see the Panthers (2-2) playing in a Bowl Game this winter and maybe even competing for the Conference USA Championship.

A midseason matchup against the bottom-feeding University of Massachusetts Minutemen (0-3), which will take place this Saturday, Oct. 3rd, may not seem like that big of a deal on the surface, but hear me out on this; through the first four games of the season, FIU has split with 2 wins and 2 losses.

The two wins were against a

terribly underperforming University of Central Florida team (0-4) and the FCS North Carolina Central University Eagles (1-2). On the other hand, their two losses are against two very solid teams in Indiana University (4-0) and Louisiana Tech University (2-2).

So why exactly is this game so important? Momentum. This is FIU's last non-conference game before getting fully into their C-USA schedule, and finishing 3-1 in out of conference games (especially with 3 of them being played on the road) would be a huge confidence builder for an improving FIU team.

Plus, FIU needs as many wins as they can get early in the season to be on pace for a Bowl appearance. Generally a team needs 6 wins to clinch a berth in postseason play, but due to FIU's low attendance and lack of national exposure they'll more

than likely need 7 wins to be invited to a Bowl Game.

With games later in the season against C-USA powerhouses such as Marshall University and Western Kentucky University, FIU must win games against schools like UMass when they have the chance.

UMass shouldn't be a huge problem for the Panthers on paper, as the Minutemen have struggled mightily on defense and don't have an overwhelming offense whatsoever.

They're not necessarily a bad team, and their extremely difficult non-conference schedule is partially to blame for their winless record. Either way, I don't view the Minutemen as being on the same level as FIU, and this is a game the Panthers need to win if they want to be viewed as a legitimate C-USA contender.

FIU has beaten both of the lesser

teams they've played thus far, and if that trend continues this weekend they'll improve to 3-2. However, nothing is guaranteed in college football, and FIU will need to bring their A-game to take down a UMass squad that also views this as a must-win game.

Early weather forecasts predict Amherst to be chilly and rainy this weekend, which could point to an advantage for UMass. New England weather is vastly different than here in Miami, and the Panthers will definitely need to adjust to weather in the high 50s.

If it is indeed raining with the 12 mph winds that are predicted, FIU will have to count on running backs Alex Gardner and Anthon Samuel to lead the offense on the ground. FIU's running game looked awful last week, but most of that can be attributed to the sheer size and

strength of LA Tech's front seven. This UMass defense is nowhere near the size and talent of LA Tech's, so I see FIU's running backs playing a much better game and helping the Panthers move the ball.

Prediction: FIU defeats UMass 27-14. I don't expect this to be a blowout, but the Panthers have been playing too well lately to show any reason why they can't handle a team like UMass. The Panthers defense will force at least 2 turnovers and sophomore quarterback Alex McGough will turn in another solid performance despite the weather, leading FIU to their third win of 2015.

"Jake's Takes" offers commentary on the University football team with predictions or recaps of gameplay. For commentary, email Jacob at jacob.spiwak@fiusm.com.

CONFERENCE USA EAST DIVISION FOOTBALL STANDINGS

TEAM	C-USA WINS	C-USA LOSSES	OVERALL
WKU	1	0	3-1
MIDDLE TENNESSE	1	0	2-2
FLORIDA ATLANTIC	1	0	1-3
MARSHALL	0	0	3-1
OLD DOMINION	0	0	2-2
FIU	0	1	2-2
CHARLOTTE	0	2	2-2

*All records up to date as of Sept. 29

UPCOMING FOOTBALL GAMES

SATURDAY, OCT. 3

AT UMASS
WHEN: 3 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 10

HOME AGAINST UTEP
WHEN: 12 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 17

AT MIDDLE TENNESSEE
WHEN: TBA

HOMECOMING
SATURDAY, OCT. 24
AGAINST OLD DOMINION
WHEN: 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 31

AT FLORIDA ATLANTIC
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Women's soccer attempts three-peat

SANTIAGO ARCHIERI
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FIU women's soccer is hitting the road this weekend. The Panthers are set to play Rice University on Friday, Oct. 2nd at 7:00 P.M., which will mark their third Conference USA match-up of the season. The Panthers are on a roll, coming off two straight victories to put them atop the C-USA standings.

Their opponents, the Rice Owls, also had their first C-USA contests of the season this past weekend, finishing with a 1-1 record after losing to Marshall University on Sunday. Rice is welcoming FIU with a 5-4-1 overall record. FIU is currently at 6-5-0, as they are above the .500 mark for the first time since they won their season opener against the University of Dayton.

The Owls, on the other hand, are on bit of a cold stretch over the past two weeks. They have dropped three of their last



MEGAN TAIT/ THE BEACON

Midfielder Alyssa Robinson fights for control of the ball during the game against UTEP, which took place Sept. 27 at the FIU Soccer Stadium. The next game will take place in Houston, Texas on Oct. 2 to take on Rice.

four games, being outscored by a total goal difference of 9-4 in that span.

It is a different story for the Panthers. After losing by five goals to the nationally ranked University of Florida Gators, FIU was able to dominate the University of Texas at San Antonio, and pulled away with a clutch victory after a stoppage time goal against the University of Texas at El Paso. The Panthers will be looking to feed off this momentum heading into Houston.

FIU will need to keep up this pace in order to be a contender in C-USA. The rest of the games of the season are against conference opponents, and it is time to put their 4-5 start and ugly losses behind them. The 2-0 start in conference play could be a sign of a complete turnaround for their season, and there is no better way to prove that than a weekend road trip against a team that is prepared to bounce back off a loss.

MEN'S SOCCER

Forward named Offensive Player of the Week

DAVID DRUCKER
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Junior forward Luis Betancur was named the Conference USA Offensive Player of the Week on Sunday, Sept. 27, for his hat trick against Florida Atlantic University and his goal against Marshall University.

Betancur has scored a total of five goals

on the year and provided a surprising source of offense for the No. 14 men's soccer team.

Betancur scored his second, third and fourth goals of the season on Monday, Sept. 21 during a matchup with FAU. The Panthers exploded for seven goals against the Owls, adding their fifth-straight win in a row in the process.

Betancur was a big reason for his team's offensive production - he converted

two rebounds into goals in the 35th and 77th minutes and added a goal on a header in the 58th minute. The junior also stepped up versus the Mean Green on a strike to the bottom right corner of Marshall's net to put FIU up 2-0 in the 26th minute.

FIU's entire offense has been electrifying lately. The Panthers recorded 12 goals in their first two conference games and have outscored opponents 20-6 during their six-game winning streak.

As for Betancur, the Plantation, Fla. native has seen his role with the team fluctuate in his three years at the University.

As a freshman in 2013, Betancur recorded three goals and an assist while appearing in 17 games. During his sophomore season, however, Betancur only saw action in 11 games and scored one goal. Now a junior, Betancur has bounced back with 10 points on five goals in 2015 with plenty of soccer left on the schedule.

IT'S GOOD TO BE ON TOP



MEGAN TAIT/ THE BEACON

Forward/Midfielder Jamar Champion-Hinds about to kick the ball after receiving a pass from Midfielder Ismael Longo during the game against Marshall.



MEGAN TAIT/ THE BEACON

Midfielder Daniel Gonzalez at the home game against Marshall at the FIU Soccer Stadium on Sept. 26. The next home match will be Saturday, Oct. 3 against the Charlotte 49ers.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

‘Controversial’ series title starts social justice discourse

LESLIE ANGELA

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When FIU NOW re-posted an Instagram photo that brought to attention the name of an event being hosted at BBC, the “All Lives Matter” series was thrust into the spotlight.

The series, hosted and sponsored by Multicultural Programs and Services and organized by Associate Director Jeffrey McNamee, came under fire for the title, which FIU NOW considered disrespectful to the Black Lives Matter campaign.

McNamee created this event as a part of a workshop series that tackles social justice topics.

“The All Lives Matter Series tackles different things about stereotypes, racism, cultures,

ethnicity and social justice. The workshop is not a part of the hashtag all lives matter that’s on twitter, it’s not that,” McNamee said.

In light of events within the last few years regarding police brutality and the marginalization, racial profiling and discrimination focused on minority groups, there have been movements to bring awareness to these social issues.

Black Lives Matter and its matching hashtag came about in response to these controversial incidents.

In opposition to this campaign, the All Lives Matter movement populated on social media with the aim to counter protest this group with the hashtag #alllivesmatter. This has brought frustration to the former because it denounces the Black Lives Matter movement and its efforts to bring about social

change.

Students responded to the title of the workshop series with scrutiny and suspicion.

“Seeing the title I honestly thought that it was disrespectful. I mean obviously I feel really strongly of the movement and that it should get the recognition it deserves—black lives matter and the meaning behind it,” said Laura Hernandez, a member of N.O.W.

“I thought the people behind this title—the people at [MPAS], I thought they would be the ones that would have knowledge that #alllivesmatter is a very controversial subject. That’s what surprised me the most—it surprised a lot of people.”

After seeing the event via social media, students didn’t hesitate to voice their concerns about the title and the issues behind it.

“I wish they would come out to the event, I’ve actually gotten feedback this past week because it’s close to the workshop. If there are lots of people upset, let’s get in a room together, let’s talk it out,” said McNamee in response.

“I’m not opposed to changing the name but I want to talk to people. That’s what the social justice is about—we’re supposed to talk together and prompt good intelligent discourse and it’s a discourse I think students need to have.”

Esi Fynn-Obeng, cofounder and president of the African Student Organization, was a speaker at the #BlackWomenMatter forum last Thursday, Sept. 24, although she has issues with the title of the series.

“All Lives Matter belittles the Black Lives Matter movement, silences and dismisses the issues that BLM is trying to spread awareness

about which is a war on black bodies by police officers on a global and national level.” Fynn-Obeng said.

“I’m against it, I understand the reasoning for it—global diversity, ect. If it wanted to be a place where everyone can think and talk about these issues that’s great but I wish a title was used to articulate that.”

The All Lives Matter workshop series first took place in the beginning of September. The next one, “All Lives Matter: The ‘N’ Word Discussion” will take place Thursday, Oct. 1, in WUC 155 at 2 p.m. The events after will be “All Lives Matter: Black Lives Matter” Thursday, Oct. 15, in WUC 253 at 12:30 p.m. followed by “All Lives Matter: Chinese Lives Matter” on Tuesday, Oct. 27, in WUC 253 at 2:30 p.m.

Swimming open season in Jacksonville

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This Saturday, Oct. 3rd, FIU swimming will take on both the Ospreys of the University of North Florida, and the Eagles of Georgia Southern University, in Jacksonville, FL.

This will be the first dual-meet of the season, as well as the Panthers’ swimming season opener.

This will be a meet only for the swimming portion of the swimming and diving team, due to the fact that the facility where the meet is being held has no diving well.

This will give the divers a bit more time to prepare for the long season ahead of them, as the entire team will attempt the feat of winning back to back Conference USA championships.

This will be the first time Head Coach Randy Horner

and his girls will be traveling to Jacksonville to face the Osprey in their new off-campus facility.

Most of UNF’s squad is comprised of in-state talent, who, because of their Florida background, shouldn’t have much trouble with the heat of the 1 p.m. start this weekend.

Horner’s team, as we all know very well, is mostly international swimmers and divers who might not be as used to the Florida sun, but the third-year coach smiled confessed Monday morning, “We do nothing but outdoors.”

He’s confident that because of the rigors of the outdoor conditioning he puts his team through, the sun won’t be anything more than an ally.

Georgia Southern is another team that FIU isn’t very familiar with. The Eagles themselves aren’t very familiar with any sort of college competition, as 12 of their athletes are freshman who will be seeing their first ever

collegiate action this Saturday.

Horner thinks that this will work to GSU’s advantage “Freshman do pretty well in their first meet, because they’re pretty hyped up and excited.”

This weekend’s accomplishments won’t be measured in wins, losses, or points.

Rather, it was emphasized that “It’s all about training our athletes to be the best they can be at the end of the season.”

The team intends to use Saturday as a stepping stone towards reaching peak form for C-USA championships at the end of February 2016.

“We’re really not too worried about results right now”

That being said, no one should be surprised if the girls and their coaches aren’t excited if they come back to Miami Saturday night with the feeling of absolute dominance over their first opponents.

An eclipsed mid-autumn festival

FRANCOIS CARDIER

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The Moon Festival roared loud in Panther Square at the Biscayne Bay Campus this past Monday, Sept. 28. Students celebrated with food and traditional decoration.

The Moon Festival, also called Mid-Autumn Festival, started with the lunar eclipse that darkened the skies this past Sunday, Sept. 27.

In Korea, China and Vietnam the night is marked by a tremendous celebration, in which families close and distant, get together to celebrate and give thanks for the harvest and pray for good fortune for the next year.

At BBC, the members of the International Student Club came

together to organize an event for Panthers to experience the tradition of this festival.

Andre Dawson, ISC advisor at BBC, was one of the members in charge of organizing the event.

“We do this festival every year to expose the students here in FIU to a new culture,” said Dawson.

Moon cakes and other sweet treats were present at the gathering as students mingled and got to know more about one of Asia’s biggest holidays of the year. Panther square was decorated top to bottom with lanterns and images of the Festival so that students could feel the vibes of the real festival.

The event ended with a lunch for all accompanied by the tradition of giving thanks for the blessings in their lives.

Former student faces prison

JAY WEAVER AND DAVID OVALLE

TNS Staff

David McConnell says he didn’t dream of becoming a drug dealer.

After all, he graduated from the collegiate high school at Miami Dade College and nearly completed his business degree as an honors student at Florida International University.

But a lifetime of feeling like a misfit with psychological issues drove him to drugs, eventually turning McConnell into one of South Florida’s biggest smugglers of the club drug Molly, all of it ordered from China -- an illicit narcotics pipeline spotlighted by the Miami Herald in a recent three-part series.

On Monday, McConnell’s defense attorney hoped to persuade a federal judge to give him less than 13 years in prison for importing 30 kilos of the synthetic drug methylene via the Internet and U.S. mail-delivery services. He also was convicted of a firearms possession offense.

Federal prosecutors are on board with that punishment, but U.S. District Judge Joan Lenard could give the 28-year-old

up to 20 years in prison.

Petruzzi described McConnell’s upbringing in suburban Miami-Dade as “certainly anything but normal.” His parents divorced but continued to live together, while the ex-wife started dating a man who moved into the family home. That man introduced McConnell to drugs, leading to his use of marijuana as a teen and then a “litany” of other drugs, including cocaine, ecstasy, methylene and crystal meth.

McConnell’s desire to fit in with others ultimately led him to start selling methylene,” according to the memo. “Unfortunately, [he] knew exactly what he was doing, and, like everything else in his life that he had ever put his mind to, he became good at it.”

Using the Internet, McConnell ordered kilos of drugs from China and had them delivered to an unassuming barbershop along Miami’s Coral Way, among other locations, between 2012 and 2014. McConnell, who went by the nickname “Sway,” and his friends paid for the methylene by wiring money to a Chinese chemical company called Egbert

Limited.

A records check by federal authorities revealed that in just two months, more than 20 packages from China had been mailed to the Heads Up Barbershop just outside Coral Gables. After a 20-month investigation, which included an undercover agent posing as a mail carrier to deliver packages, federal authorities this spring quietly arrested McConnell and two others.

One of McConnell’s cohorts, Brian Scot Bailey, who received packages to his home, was acquitted at trial in July. His defense lawyer told jurors that McConnell told him the drugs were legit.

Another co-defendant, Bryan Grandados, pleaded guilty and will be sentenced on Tuesday. Agents earlier had arrested a barbershop employee, Bryan Romero, who also pleaded guilty.

McConnell developed his Molly operation in the mold of McDonald’s, franchising 20-something-age dealers while supplying them with methylene. Two of them also cooperated with agents against him and they too did federal prison time.