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# The Beacon, November 25, 2015

Florida International University

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## University embraces millennial trend

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John Bailly gets around the city in a way that is far from the typical Miamian commute: biking.

Bailly, a professor at the University's Honors College who teaches three study abroad programs in Europe every summer, started biking five years ago — after his European travels, in which he experienced old cities, like ninth-century Bruges, that have smoothly adapted biking as an alternative mode of transportation.

To him, it's distressing that Miami hasn't been able to adapt.

"I-95 destroyed downtown and we continue to fund these policies of superhighways that ruin our city and create so much pollution noise," said Bailly.

Now, the Department of Parking and Transportation partnered up with the Office of Sustainability to paint sharrows, a pavement marking that reminds motorists that the lane is shared with cyclists, around campus and build bike lanes on expanding roads.

To someone like Bailly, who bikes 24 miles to and from the University, this is a big help.

"Human interaction is a huge part of the adventure [when I'm biking]," he said. "One thing that's really cool is the wildlife... I've encountered iguanas, vultures and manatees on my average day-to-day."

He said he notices speeding cars and raged drivers during his average trips to and from the University.

"Speed limit is not helpful," said Bailly. "In a car, 25 miles per hour may seem slow, but, when you're on a

## Volunteers form 'FIU' display out of cans of food

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"These cans were donated by some student organizations," said Josh Farmer, an AmeriCorps volunteer at the Center for Leadership and Service located at the Biscayne Bay Campus, as he started to arrange the cans in the shape of the letter "F" on top of a row of neatly organized sheets of over-sized yellow paper on the floor.

On Friday, Nov. 20, Farmer, along two more volunteers — Tanisha Noel, a junior majoring in psychology and William Sturup, a junior majoring in marine biology, built a display of the University's initials, titled Construction, out of cans of food as a "thank you" gesture to those who donated food to the Food Pantry during the week.

The student organization that donated the most was the Lambda Chi Alpha, with a donation of 1000 cans of food.

"I feel this is a positive thing," said Noel. "People could get inspired and donate."

The display was hosted at the Transgender Day of Remembrance, happening simultaneously, but it was the initiative of the Health Promotion Services office.

Ludovica Virgile, office

specialist at the Health Promotion Services, approached the Center for Leadership and Services days prior to the event with a request for help with collecting non-perishables for the Food Pantry at BBC.

"It is the National Hunger and Homelessness Week," said Virgile. "We thought this was a great opportunity to raise awareness about food insecurity among college students."

Officially, the volunteers started to work on the display at noon.

And after arranging and rearranging multiple boxes of canned tuna, sweet peas, mixed vegetables and Vienna sausages, the team finished the display around 1:30 pm.

In addition to the display, the Center for Leadership and Service also had a table where Ryan Keese, a coordinator at the Center, educated people about food insecurity among University students.

On his table, Keese was also selling mugs that had been designed by FIU students and plastic forks that represented the number of University students dealing with food disparity.

The proceeds from the mugs the forks sale were to be donated to the Food Pantry at BBC.

"Each fork represents 100 students," said Keese. "There are 288 forks for a total of 28,800 students."

There are 28,800 FIU students dealing with food insecurity at any given moment, according to Keese.

The office of Health Promotion Services collects these data from financial aids applications.

"The pantry served 35 students this semester," said Virgile. "That's equal to 320 pounds of food given out."

Farmer said that students who reach out to the food pantry for assistance receive a ratio of 10 pounds of food that's supposed to last them for a whole week.

Students must cook the food they receive because the pantry doesn't serve warm meals.

Because the display was hosted by the Transgender Day of Remembrance, attendees also had access to representatives from different organizations that help educate the general public on transgender issues, and who also offer services to the transgender community.

The Food Pantry is located at the Wolfe University Center 307 and it accepts donations throughout the semester.

## DEVELOPING LEADERS



NICOLE MEZA/THE BEACON

Dr. Jaffus Hardrick, the Vice President of the Division of Human Resources, co-hosts the Educate, Empower, Build Open Forum as part of the Campus Life Leadership Development Series Monday, Nov. 23.

bike, the speed limit is a matter of life and death."

The University has recently implemented a number of policies and

strategies to ease cyclers and promote their safety, in response to alternative transportation increase and demand.

One of the policies the University

has on campus is a 15 MPH speed limit and a five MPH parking garage speed limit.

**SEE TREND, PAGE 2**

## University hosts book presentation

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Thais Hernandez said she grew up climbing trees and playing with rocks in Havana, Cuba.

"There was no luxury of sitting on a computer for seven hours or watching TV," said Hernandez, a sculpting and painting double major.

Cynthia Alonso, a photographer and photo editor, exhibits artists, news events and the daily lives of people in Cuba through her book, "Passage to Cuba: An Up-Close Look at the World's Most Colorful Culture." Her book is made up of photographs of contemporary Cuba.

Jorge Duany, director at the University's Cuban Research Institute, said Alonso's shows images that are often neglected by foreigners.

"What interests me as an anthropologist are the photographs she documents that are not regularly seen in travel brochures: regular people that are not necessarily posing for the tourist gaze," said Duany.

For more than 20 years, Alonso's works have been published by Newsweek, Vanity Fair, Businessweek and TIME. Her works have also been presented in Canada and Latin America.

Alonso's photographs show a contrast between the folkloric aspect to the country and the foreigner's perspective of the less luxurious parts of Cuba. She combines the foreigner's perspective of Cuba into an adaptation of less commonly known places over a passage of time.

Places include the streets of Cuba with automobiles from the 1950s and she shows the contrasts between patina homes; peeling stucco apartments and the Capitol Building, Havana Cathedral and Hotel Nacional. Alonso

also highlights the different use of color palettes in Cuba, like salmon pink, sky blue, apricot and aqua green.

The rise of self-employment is also highlighted in the book. Alonso shows the number of vendors ranging from selling t-shirts to artwork. Hernandez said she remembers the struggle of living in Cuba with large families.

"A family of six struggles with what an entire household can eat for the rest of the week," said Hernandez.

"We were given a libreta, which rations the limitation of needs for survival." Libreta translates to a notebook.

Alonso also incorporates to her work historical references since she started her project in 1992. One of her images, for example, shows supporters for Elian Gonzalez, a six-year-old boy who brought international attention.

Gonzalez was found clinging to an inner tube off Florida in 1999 after his mother and others drowned trying to reach the United States. He was taken to live with his relatives in Miami, but his father, still in Cuba, demanded his return.

Past Cuban president, Fidel Castro, led marches calling for Gonzalez to be sent back to Cuba until American courts sided with his father. The book also serves as a visual connection for Cuban immigrants who have fled to Miami over the decades.

Some images include pictorials of Che Guevara and Fidel Castro. Guevara was a tactician of guerrilla warfare and a prominent communist figure in the Cuban Revolution between 1956 and 1959.

The book presentation is hosted by the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs and it will take place Saturday, Nov. 28 at Books & Books in Coral Gables.

# NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

## Occidental students end their weeklong sit-in, pledge to continue to fight campus bias

Student protesters at Occidental College have announced that they are ending their weeklong sit-in, vowing to continue their fight against racial bias at the liberal arts campus. “While the occupation is over, the movement is not,” said Abhilasha Bhola, a movement leader and senior majoring in diplomacy

## US, Cuba discuss how to contain oil spills

Florida’s coral reefs and delicate marine environment could become less vulnerable to pollution from potential oil spills under an agreement taking shape between the United States and Cuba.

The agreement would clear the way for American companies to provide the latest blowout

preventers and other pollution controls to help stave off spills in Cuban waters and contain slicks before they ride the ocean currents to Florida. The breakthrough would ease years of anxiety about oil exploration off the north coast of Cuba and help avoid a giant spill less than 50 miles from the Florida Keys.

## Paris attacks show the good and bad of high-tech revolution

The Paris attackers used an online gaming chat function to discuss their plans. To stay in touch, they used a social media app designed to protect Russian citizens from the prying eyes of their secret police. And, later, after they’d killed 130 and wounded another

351, the remaining members of a terror cell that was on the verge of launching yet another attack in Paris was found and arrested or killed early Wednesday when the GPS functions on their phones and rental cars gave away the group’s locations and travel histories.

## ‘Mockingjay Part 2’ dips to lowest opening in ‘Hunger Games’ series

Friday brought an opening box office haul of \$46 million for the fourth and final installment in the popular dystopian movie series starring Jennifer Lawrence as the heroine Katniss, according to movie tracking site boxofficemojo.com. With the film on 4,175 screens, the gross translated into

a healthy \$11,018 per-screen average. Those numbers dwarfed every other competitor this week, of course, but “Mockingjay’s” gross still fell short of expectations and landed far away from the \$55.1-million opening day last year for “Mockingjay Part 1.”

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

# FIU an ‘influential tech leader’

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The University has been recognized for its leadership in technology initiatives.

Techweek has announced the 100 most influential tech leaders in South Florida, also including four companies from Broward County, one from Palm Beach County, and about 25 from Miami-Dade, as well as university leaders and those who have launched start-up incubator and accelerators.

“These are the people that are attracting talent, retaining talent and supporting their cities throughout the evolving nature of technology and innovation,” said Katy Lynch, chief executive of Techweek, which hosts a series of technology events and conferences, including Techweek Miami from Dec. 7 to Dec. 12.

Techweek reviews five factors in compiling its list, looking at whether the leader has led innovative technology initiatives for public or private corporations and supported growth in the community as an advisor or mentor.

Other factors include if whether the leader has created a benefit for the public, such as inventing a coding language or leading a civic initiative and helping companies attain capital success and strategic growth.

The University recently hosted, “Startup Weekend Miami,” which is a three-day event that

aims to help student entrepreneurs pitch and develop startup ideas. Students are critiqued in 54 hours with the help of developers, designers and entrepreneurs.

“We want [students] to come to the Startup Weekend because we want them to meet with like-minded individuals,” said Saif Ishoof, vice president of the Office of Engagement in a previous interview with student media.

The Knight Innovator in Residence program at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication has also helped to develop media projects.

SJMC and the Knight Foundation have hosted technology conferences at BarCamp Miami in Wynwood’s Miami Ad School where people show up and pitch innovative ideas.

“We are really focusing on innovation and entrepreneurship and digital-first practices because we see that being where our industries are going,” said Philip Tucker, SJMC marketing and communication coordinator in a previous interview with student media.

This year, the College of Engineering & Computing opened an 8,000 square-foot facility in Parking Garage 6. The station includes high-tech classrooms, advising centers and research and computer labs.

In Broward County, the list released Monday, Nov. 23 includes EZ Doctor,

founded by David Marsidi; Vigilant Biosciences, founded by Matthew Kim; e-Builder, co-founded by Ron and Jonathan Antevy; and Magic Leap, founded by Rony Abovitz.

In Palm Beach County, Techweek 100 included Modernizing Medicine, represented by co-founder Dan Cane.

The bulk of the companies are in Miami-Dade, including amp.it and founder Derrick Ashong; Bioheart and CEO Mike Tomas; BigBinary and founder Neeraj Singh; CareCloud and chairman Albert Santalo; Class Wallet and founder Jamie Rosenberg; Clutch Prep and co-founders Alain Fontaine and Artem Volos; Criptext and founder Mayer Mizrahi; EveryPost and co-founders Leandro Armas and Fernando Cuscuela; Facilcloud and founder Gerardo Sandoval; Haku and co-founder Jose Escobar; and Klink Technologies and CEO Jeffrey Nadel.

The list also includes those contributing to expanding the region’s tech sector: startup incubators and accelerators in the region including Rokk3r Labs in Miami, Lab Miami; The Launch Pad and Venture Hive; educational efforts including Wyncode; Early Shares, an online platform for fundraising in Miami; social media platforms; technology consultants and staffing firms; and marketing and advertising agencies.

Additional reporting by the Sun Sentinel

# Diverse transit encouraged

## TREND, PAGE 1

Many reports, such as one published by U.S. Public Interest Research Group late last year, found that young American’s transportation choices are changing.

The report states that “young Americans drive less than older Americans and use public transportation more,” as well as often using “multiple modes of travel during a typical day or week.”

“The real piece is getting to campus -- bike lanes in the surrounding community, that’s the infrastructure that’s gonna help drive that kind of usage,” said Thomas Hartley, executive parking director in the Department of Parking and Transportation.

According to him, a bike committee was established to develop initiatives and policies that will ease cyclists’ movement on campus.

The University also houses an in-campus Bike Shop -- which began as a student project with Adrian Valella, current Bike Shop manager, and his friend. The two would volunteer at the Wednesday farmer’s market and repair bikes for

free.

Later, the school offered them a location, and, today, the bike shop is up and running as the “cheapest bike shop in Miami,” providing services with special prices for students, retail items and Do It Yourself classes.

Valella emphasizes that bikes are not a thing of the past, but of the future. He said that he has noticed a significant increase in bike users since 2012, when the shop first opened.

“Before the bike shop there were many abandoned bikes on campus because the students didn’t have a bike shop to repair them, so they would just be left behind,” said Valella.

“As we see more and more [bike usage] we will definitely step up the plate,” said Hartley.

“We’ve got nothing to lose but our chains,” reads a vintage picture of women cyclists wearing doctor coats taped to the bike shop door.

“Being connected to something that’s not electronic, you see this different world,” said Bailly, “I have so much human interaction and get to cherish our natural world -- not only from a conservation point of view, but just out of pure beauty.”

# THE BEACON

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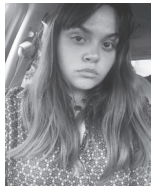
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## Artists redefine their craft in Wynwood

### YULISA'S CORNER



YULISA VEGA

Art Basel is around the corner and Wynwood was previously a haven for people wanting to see art for free as gallery spaces opened up. However, with so many of those gallery spaces gone, Wynwood is now a commodity in the eyes

of developers who will shake every last penny out of it.

Artists are forced to rethink traditional spaces and create their own. They are taking a stand against the corporate greed. They are losing a lot of visibility while gaining strong art communities that withstand the test of high rent.

In the last few years, Goldman Properties developers have turned Wynwood, formerly known as Little Puerto Rico, from a shady neighborhood that was tucked away and ignored by most into a mecca for arts by bringing SoHo flair to South Florida.

The documentary "Right to Wynwood" explores the gentrification of the beloved arts neighborhood and the displacement of its old residents. "Goldman is a professional neighborhood gentrifier," says Marcos Feldman, an urban sociologist from FIU in the documentary.

Feldman goes on to speak about capitalism by referencing Henri Lefebvre's "The Survival of Capitalism" and its explanation of how capitalism's survival depends on space.

"So one, capitalism needs new parts of the planet to exploit to make money," says Feldman. "But there's another special aspect to capitalism spacial expansion right here at

home."

According to Feldman, this special aspect of capitalism includes reinventing the space and giving the space added value. Feldman also said that added value is achieved by cultural means of production through infusing space with a new cultural meaning and interpretation.

Little Puerto Rico morphed into Wynwood, where graffiti and large murals consume every plausible space.

Previously, rent in Wynwood was one of the lowest in the city and even in the county. However, as more developers swooped in, more artists and residents are swept out. The notion of a starving artist is certainly perpetuated in Wynwood as original galleries are forced to close to welcome in the glitz and glam of new and more hip galleries.

As a fine arts major and Miami native, I find it incredibly troubling how inaccessible art in Wynwood has become. Though I once enjoyed the monthly art walks, nowadays it is cluttered with a very bourgeois crowd who can afford ridiculous bar tabs and not give a second thought to art hung up in galleries. Every time I feel like I am drowning in a sea of selfie sticks.

I reached out to local Maitejosune Urrechaga, a multidisciplinary artist and half of Pocket Full of Lollipops, a local alternative band, for her thoughts on the matter.

"I do think Wynwood and some of the areas that have served as safe places for some artist have become obsolete, especially if you are one of the artist that are dependent on that," said Urrechaga. She explains that she will always create art wherever she will be.

"We have performed, put together and exhibited in several art fairs, happenings and galleries in the Wynwood and surrounding areas," said Urrechaga's husband and other half of Pocket Full of Lollipops.

They also reach out to areas of Wynwood that are not in the "trendy" or "safe" art spaces.

"Give me your grandma's back yard and I will make what I want with it. I am more about being in the community than making a scene. My community extends far beyond the boundaries of Miami," said Urrechaga, who makes a good point.

Locals have opened up their own homes to the masses with spaces like Palacio De Los Jugos and Suite 206. Suite 206 is the studio apartment of local band The Jellyfish Brothers. It held the legendary annual event known as Art Basel Distraction held on Art Basel weekend. Sonic Youth frontman Thurston Moore even popped in one year.

When The Jellyfish Brothers were unable to pay rent, they created a gofundme and met their goal in a matter of hours because a community was there to hoist them back up when they'd fallen; a community thankful that the alternative space existed and comforted so many. Artists are still here and still there for one another, but gentrification has become a widespread endemic in Miami and one wonders what will be the fate of our city.

"Yulisa's Corner" is a commentary on issues around Miami. Yulisa is a contributing writer for FIUSM. For suggestions, contact her at [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com).

## THE BEACON | Editorial

### Party safe this break

The semester is nearing its end and winter break is right around the corner. Though everyone is excited to finally catch up on some much needed rest, many students will use this time to enjoy the more social aspects of the college experience - partying and the nightlife.

Going out and partying is always fun after a long semester of studying, but it's important students do so responsibly. Have fun, but make sure you are not a danger to yourself or others. There are certain precautions you should always take while enjoying a night out with friends.

College students love spontaneity and making plans isn't something we always do before going out or partying. But, planning a night out lowers many risks, such as being stranded in an unfamiliar place without money, a working phone or a designated driver.

Before going out, always make sure you have a definite ride back home, whether it's you or someone you trust. If you plan on drinking that night then make sure you have a designated driver who can get you home safely.

Also, whether you're drinking or not, you should always have extra cash on you for bus or cab fare. This is important because cars break down, friends get separated or emergencies happen; always be prepared for the worst.

Always exercise caution at the party as well. Bringing a water bottle to a house party might seem insignificant, but it will keep you hydrated throughout the night. Drinking alcohol will dehydrate you slowly and will cause nausea, dizziness and a hangover. This is avoidable by alternating between alcoholic drinks and water. You can also ask for water at a club or bar if you can't bring one yourself. It's also best to avoid taking drinks from people you don't know.

Bringing your own water bottle can also save you from using contaminated cups or sharing with strangers. Keeping an eye on your own cup can save you from getting sick or being drugged. Remember that it's okay to drink moderately, or not to drink at all. Young adults shouldn't feel the pressure of having to drink to excess because "it's cool" or everyone else is doing it. Be conscious of your actions and think about the consequences. When it comes to alcohol nobody should be taking any risks. This isn't only about yourself, but others around you.

Having a good meal before a night out is also a good practice - drinking on an empty stomach increases the risk of feeling nauseous or dizzy while and after consuming alcohol.

If you see someone who is too intoxicated to walk or talk, make sure to stay with that person until help arrives. Don't look away and assume that somebody will take care of the situation, take action and find help. Ask others if they know this person or call 911.

The point of reiterating the importance of consciousness and safety when students go out isn't to scare them out of partying, but to make sure that, when they do have fun, they're doing so in the safest way possible. CAPS and SHS both have plenty of literature on what to do if something goes awry at a party, as well as preventing dangerous situations.

Moderation is key. As with anything else, a balance between fun and impulsive can save you and others from harm. In any case, this editorial board asks only that every Panther has a fun, safe break, and comes back feeling refreshed and ready to take on the rest of the semester.

## Black Friday eclipses Thanksgiving

### THE HOTLINE



DAMIEN GORDON

Thanksgiving has been slowly becoming the Meg Griffin of holidays over the years. It exists and people only acknowledge it because it's blocking the door outside to Black Friday.

It's time to face the facts and accept that it's just not as important as it once was.

We never needed it in the first place, because we should already

be thankful every day for the things we have. To millennials, it's a day of feigning thanks for some free food or a slick excuse to invite that cute person from work to dinner.

Thanksgiving used to be an event where the atmosphere could be felt weeks in advance through media and society. Many households still have a table of food for miles and relatives who clear plates faster than they clear the house when the food is gone.

Virtually every show used to do holiday themed episodes, from Christmas to Halloween, and every

holiday was highlighted. Now the focus is on the more consumerist side of events, rather than the spirit or gesture that past generations valued so greatly.

Black Friday has taken over and doesn't seem to be losing steam as it is constantly breaking its own records. According to CNN, over 140 million shoppers will invade the stores, generating over 50 billion dollars in revenue and despair for workers being forced to work the holiday.

I can't remember even seeing a Thanksgiving commercial this year; it's just Black Friday ads and Christmas ads. Stores just start dripping in Christmas, Hanukkah and other decorations as soon as trick or treating is over

It seems everyone is trying to further distance themselves from the holiday. Times are changing and materialism is on the forefront these days, but it doesn't mean people can't still have an old fashioned dinner.

Families are regularly eating less at the dinner table than ever before, with the one day they're supposed to being swept under the rug for the giant flat screen they bought half off.

This shopping phenomenon

appears to stem from the Costco effect where people are buying things like 40 miniature candles just because they're extremely cheap. People better be cautious with all this spending or next Friday will be Black Friday too when the electricity bill doesn't get paid.

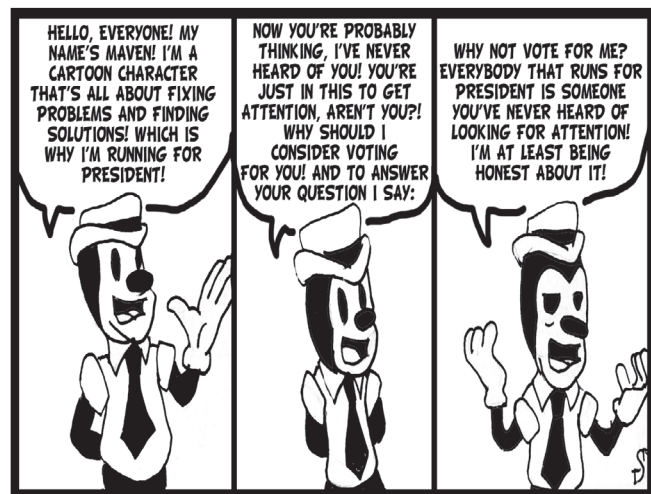
This isn't that bad of a change, especially for me because the chaotic atmosphere of Black Friday is something I prefer over relatives destroying the bathroom across the hall from me.

People around my age group are known for breaking societal norms and traditions; Thanksgiving is just another one of the customs we're moving away from and that's okay.

Although none of this means turkeys will breathe a sigh of relief anytime soon, as the holiday still has life left in it for at least a couple more generations, it does mean older folk have another reason to say "back in my day..." while we sigh in agony.

"The Hotline" is a commentary discussing the most heated topics of today from ink to online. For more commentary, contact him at [damiengordon@fiusm.com](mailto:damiengordon@fiusm.com).

## MAVEN: FUTURE PRESIDENT



SAM PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com) or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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# WOLFSONIAN-FIU HOSTS FREE GUIDED TOURS FOR STUDENTS



CINDY RAYS/THE BEACON

String Quartet performing melody No. 4 By Bach at the Wolfsonian-FIU at During "Free 3rd Fridays"



CINDY

Luis Cuevas performs freestyle modern dance alongside Caroline Buse on the Viola.

## Balanced meals promote healthier lifestyles

### SDA HEALTH



RENIEL R. NODARSE

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 23 out of 50 states here in the United States had an obesity prevalence of over twenty five percent and 18 out of 50 states had an obesity prevalence of over thirty percent.

This means that more than one-fourth of the United States is being reported as obese. It's 2015 and people and are becoming scared. There is an obesity

epidemic in this country and those of us who aren't overweight are freaked to make sure it stays that way.

Those of us who are trying to diminish these high statistics are learning how to make better choices when it comes to choosing what we put in our bodies. According to an article by health.com titled "Top 10 Healthiest Fast Food Places," Panera Bread made the number one spot.

Although we choose these healthier places to eat, does it mean we are choosing well-rounded and balanced meals? We

go to these restaurants that have ingredients that are fresh and high in quality, but what we don't realize is that we aren't balancing our portions with the amount of exercise that we do daily. America's problem isn't that we are choosing the wrong foods; our problem is we don't know how much is considered too much.

We as Americans have a fast-paced lifestyle. We work and go to school. Some of us even find time to lend a helping hand in our community by volunteering to make this world a better place. However, with all these scheduled daily activities, we may have not scheduled time for exercise. We need to learn how to balance out what we eat with how much we move.

Want to portion out your day better? Consider the following tips:

Went for a run and spent the day working hard in the sun? Go ahead and treat yourself to a larger meal; your body needs to replenish itself after a long day's work.

Took the day off and spent it watching Netflix in bed? Today you should eat a lighter meal; something to keep

hunger away without over consuming or storing that unnecessary amount of fat that your body is clearly not using at the moment.

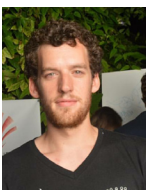
Spent the day at work and studying at school? Today eat moderately, your body needs fuel to produce brain power. However, don't over fuel your body because you can flood it.

We should continue to eat at these healthier places. What we need to pay more attention to is how we can eat and keep the weight at bay. Balance is something that we can all easily learn how to do and it will keep away any risk of being obese in the long run. Our generation has the opportunity to change the world for the better. So get up America; live free, eat right and move on.

*Reniel R. Nodarse is a member of the Student Dietetic Association. SDA Health is a weekly column written by members of the Association, and published on Wednesdays. For suggestions concerning health topics, email the SDA Health contributors at life@fusm.com.*

## 'Love' a hypersexual '3-D extravaganza'

### SICK FLICKS



DAVID SEELEY

If you're feeling a little bored with all the superhero movies, sequels that should have never been made and overall unoriginality coming out of Hollywood these days, you can find solace and experience something different with "Love," the new film by Argentine filmmaker Gaspar Noe.

This boundary pushing director has divided critics as well as movie fans with his graphic depictions of violence and sex throughout his filmmaking career. His first film "I Stand Alone" deals with incest as its main subject matter. His next film "Irreversible" is a complex mystery thriller that contains a nearly 10 minute long rape scene. Noe followed this up in 2009 with "Enter the Void," a story about a brother and sister living in Tokyo who are involved in a psychedelic mix of drugs, sex and violence.

His newest film "Love" is a 3D extravaganza filled with an almost pornographic level of sexually explicit content, which includes full frontal male nudity, threesomes and realistic portrayal of sexual intercourse.

Filmed on location in Paris using non professional actors, "Love" tells the story of Murphy, an American studying abroad in Paris who meets and falls in love with Elektra, a French girl who fulfills every one of Murphy's sick and twisted fantasies.

This part of their life is shown through flashbacks while present day Murphy is at home with his current wife and child reflecting on his time with Elektra after her mother calls him, worried that she hasn't spoken to her in over three months. Throughout its 2 hour and 15 minute run time we see the ups and downs of Murphy and Elektra's modern day relationship set against the beautiful, as well as seedy underground streets of Paris. The 3D cameras that Noe used to

capture the action are meant to bring you into the bedroom so to speak, right there with Murphy and his many different partners throughout the course of the film. The technology feels fresh in this aspect, instead of using the 3D for massive stunts or computer generated effects, Noe embraces the technology and provides a much more personal and intimate use of it.

The story does start to meander in the second half of the film and the constant explicit content may leave the audience feeling exhausted, and but the way Noe blends the right music with the perfect imagery and the curiosity of what happens to Murphy and Elektra are enough to keep the audience involved all the way to the end.

Some may say that "Love" is just pornography dressed up as an art film, but Noe provides us with realistic sexual experiences without going too far. When you watch this movie you know it's not porn but you also know that it's unlike

anything you've seen before.

The blend of artistic expression and its guerilla style cinematography in "Love" make it the perfect addition to Gaspar Noe's already eclectic filmography. You may leave this film feeling disgusted, or you may walk out of the film feeling invigorated, but you will feel something.

After all, this is the goal of a director like Gaspar Noe; to get people thinking and talking about everyday subject matter that most of the time gets pushed to the side and ignored. Going against the norm and further evolving the art of film making are all staples of Noe's films and I guarantee whatever he does next will continue to surprise, confuse, and astound us.

Gaspar Noe's "Love" in 3D, rated R, is now playing through Dec. 9 at Miami Beach Cinematheque. For ticket information go to [www.mbcinema.com](http://www.mbcinema.com)

*For suggestions and comments, email [life@fusm.com](mailto:life@fusm.com)*

## ITO

Walking ar...

### BEACON BITS



GABBY ARZOLA

N...

beach with food

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## COLUMNIST



CINDY RAYS

Free guided tours at the Wolfsonian begin at 6 p.m. every third Friday for the general public. However, for students, faculty and staff of the State University System of Florida, guided tours are always free. Happy hour at the Wolfsonian Café starts at 4 p.m. and lasts until 9 p.m. According to Museum Shop Manager Paola La Rivera, "it must be the best kept secret on South Beach."

With beer and wine

specials starting at only \$3, live music and dance performances, it's clear that if you want to start your Friday night the right way you must start here.

Last Friday, Nov. 20, the acts were made up of Caroline Buse performing Bach's Selections from Suite No. 2, alongside Luis Alberto Cuevas freestyling contemporary dance to Buse's viola recital.

The room filled up with a young crowd looking for more than just a good deal on beers. They were enjoying the incredible talent and the art on the walls surrounding them.

The Wolfsonian invites

all members of the Florida International University community to use and enjoy its resources. The café is a great place to study for the upcoming finals.

"People really need to know about this place," said Omar Shariff Miami Beach local and dancer who came to support his friend Luis Cuevas. "It's something different you can do with your weekend and gain a little bit of culture as well."

For more information please contact Johanna Ditren, visitor services associate, at [jditren@thewolf.fiu.edu](mailto:jditren@thewolf.fiu.edu).

[cindy.rays@fiusm.com](mailto:cindy.rays@fiusm.com)

## WOLFSONIAN-FIU EXHIBITIONS

**Miami Beach: From Mangrove to Tourist Mecca**

**Margin of Error**

**Orange Oratory**

**Philodendron: From Pan-Latin Exotic to American Modern**

**Art and Design in the Modern Age**

**An Artist on the Eastern Front: Feliks Topolski, 1941**

**Americans All: Race Relations in Depression-Era Murals**

# FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra presents TANTRA

**RICARDO CHAVEZ**  
Contributing Writer  
[life@fiusm.com](mailto:life@fiusm.com)

Florida International University's guitar orchestra, directed by Mesut Ozgen, performed TANTRA on Friday, Nov. 20.

The musical pieces orchestrated during the show were quite varied. One piece by the name of "Mountain Mission," purveyed a modern and contemporary style. Another piece, known as "Alma," epitomized the classic Latin tunes that one may easily distinguish.

Each of the pieces, however, illustrated a harmonious tune that focused on the layering of sounds. As stated by Ozgen, this "allows for listeners to delve deeper into the music, only to find an entirely different melody within the song itself." Ozgen is the first to be awarded the prestigious "Dean's Prize" by Yale University.

Shows such as these are quite unique considering the musical instruments used and talent required to perform it. Those who attended TANTRA believe that the FIU's Miami Guitar Orchestra is not as promoted as it should be.

"I have never heard the guitar orchestra within FIU. Spectacles like these deserve much more publicity throughout campus than they are

receiving. Perhaps The Beacon can help spread the word," said Jean Rosenburg, an attendee of the event.

Student Natalie Lopez commented on the tremendous efforts put forth by Ozgen. "A Guitar orchestra isn't something you have the opportunity to see every day. Mesut Ozgen is probably the biggest contributor this program has ever had," Lopez said.

Performer Carlos Serrano emphasized on how hard everyone has been working towards making the show a success. "We have been practicing ever since the beginning of the semester. We have worked really hard, and have done everything we possibly can to prepare for this night," said Serrano.

The FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra was able to display their skills after an entire semester of difficult practice. Those who attended the TANTRA concert were given a glimpse of what the FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra expects to accomplish in the near future.

TANTRA served as a preview to the upcoming Miami International GuitART Festival. The festival will be featuring respected musical artists from around the world and will take place at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center on Feb. 24-28.

## Mojitos Y Cafecitos offers twists on classic meals

ound FIU, I always hear conversations about going to the beach, but not wanting to spend too much money on food.

I know the struggle is real. Great food at an inexpensive price is often an oxymoron when it comes to Miami Beach-- but not anymore.

Broke students, rejoice! Now we can enjoy our famous food that won't break our bank.

Mojitos Y Cafecitos is one of the best spots in town, a Latin fusion restaurant surely not one to disappoint. Located at 7450 Ocean Terrace, right off the highway, it's far enough to escape the traffic but still just steps away from the beach and love.

Inside the Miami Beach art deco building, the curved aluminum outdoor dining area has a minimalist interior.

Around, this place is perfect for hanging out with friends. With a pool table and lots of space to sit indoor or outdoor, it's great space for an event, or just to hang out with your closest pals.

ITO has lots of well-known dishes with unexpected twists.

The most popular appetizers, the croquetas, have a crunchy exterior and a soft interior. What made this dish special was the fresh blueberry sauce.

The sweet combination was fun and different from the typical croquetas I've had. In addition was their fried cheese empanada. Almost like the dessert you get after dinner, this empanada is y and sweet.

And is more up your alley, ITO

serves up cheesy yucca bites filled with crème fraîche, and chicken empanadas with a garlic aioli.

Even though all of the appetizers were incredible, my personal favorite was the mojito chicken wings. The chicken is marinated in lime juice, simple syrup, mint, and other spices, then fried until crispy. The meat was sweet and had a slightly citrus flavor.

The entrées I ordered were churrasco with chimichurri sauce, bacon cheeseburger on a keiser roll, and mojo ribs.

First off, the portions were huge! ITO does not skimp in lieu of their low prices.

The churrasco was grilled until medium rare and was paired with a malanga puree and rum infused cherry tomatoes. With the tangy and fresh chimichurri sauce drizzled on top, and the warm cherry tomatoes, this is definitely my definition of comfort food.

The bacon cheeseburger was big enough to share. The burger was thick, juicy, and had little charred corners that I love. The sharp cheddar cheese added a creamy texture and the crisp bacon had a salty crunch.

But what separates a good burger, from a great burger, is the bun. The fresh Kaiser bun was toasted on the grill until soft grill marks appeared. Served with a side of fries and mojo ketchup, it was simply delicious.

The mojo ribs were tender and the meat was falling off the bone. The salt, pepper, garlic mojo flavor was very pronounced, and tasted like the home cooked meals my grandma used to make for the family—but ITO's was a little better (sorry grandma).

ITO continued to recreate traditional Hispanic recipes such as their guava and cream cheese doughnut.

With fresh cream cheese frosting piped

on top of a cinnamon sugar doughnut, then drizzled with a warm guava sauce, this is definitely something I wanted to eat by the dozen.

Describing the food at ITO is difficult. Their menu is simple and traditional, yet unique and creative. Their adventurous flavors and modern twists on classic dishes have guests' pallets always wondering "what's next?"

Every dish was simple, and no detail was left overlooked. The passion and love for cuisine emanated from every dish, and that made a big difference with how it tasted.

Because I'm only 20 years old, I didn't have the pleasure to try one of their famous mojitos, but they looked really good and colorful.

This place is definitely one of the best restaurants I've ever been to, and I definitely recommend it everyone.

So next time when you're at the beach, make your way down to ITO, and have some of the best food you'll ever eat under

the Miami sun!

*Beacon Bits is a weekly column about food for the college student on the weekends. Gabby Arzola was not given free food, she paid for it. For suggestions of nearby restaurants, please email Gabby at [gabby.arzola.com](mailto:gabby.arzola.com)*



GABBY ARZOLA/THE BEACON

ITO Mojitos Y Cafecitos recreates traditional meals by infusing new flavors, such as chicken empanadas with a garlic aioli, fried cheese with guava sauce, yucca bites with cream fresh and croquetas with blueberry jam pictured above.

## FOOTBALL

# Panthers end the season with crushing defeat

JACOB SPIWAK

Asst. Sports Director

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There were many ways FIU's season finale could've gone. Very few of them would have resulted in FIU upsetting the highly favored Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers, but anything is possible, so FIU fans and players were optimistic nonetheless. Unfortunately for FIU, the season ended in the absolute worst, most depressing way imaginable for the Panthers.

After getting embarrassed by Marshall University 52-0 just a week prior, the Panthers' loss margin actually increased against WKU. FIU (5-7, 3-5) got demolished by the Hilltoppers (9-2, 7-0) in a 63-7 blowout. This game was over before it started, as WKU came out firing and FIU's underwhelming performance against Marshall clearly carried over into this one.

Not only did the Panthers lose, that much was expected by just about everyone who predicted the outcome of the game. But the overall atmosphere made the whole afternoon that much worse; hardly any fans in the seats, pouring rain that resulted in three lightning delays (and the game being called five minutes early), and the list continues to go on.

Right from the start, WKU was the better team. On their second play from scrimmage, the Hilltoppers aggressively called for a flea flicker, which resulted

in a 73-yard touchdown pass from Brandon Doughty to Taywan Taylor since absolutely nobody on the FIU defense or coaching staff saw it coming. It's those types of trick plays that I've wanted to see from FIU all season long, but instead they stuck with their same conservative playbook on both sides of the ball.

The FIU defense had no answer for the talented and aggressive Hilltoppers, as WKU put up 21 points in the first quarter and 35 in the first half. As well as WKU played on offense, FIU's offensive corps played about as poorly as one could fathom. Their only score came from an Alex Gardner rushing touchdown in garbage time and committing three turnovers with only 168 yards of total offense pretty much tells the story.

Despite coming off one of the best seasons FIU has ever seen at the quarterback position (aside from his awful performances against Marshall and WKU), sophomore Alex McGough was visibly upset after the game. He discussed how he needs to improve individually first and foremost in order to help the team win games.

"I didn't do enough to win the game," McGough said. "Simple as that. When I turn the ball over three times, you're not going to win a game against a good team like [WKU]. I have to focus on myself, get better and [turn the ball over less]."

It was clear as day how disappointed the players were after the game, especially the seniors who had played their final game



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Defensive Lineman Madison Kubat brings down Western Kentucky University Hilltopper Kylan Towner Saturday, Nov. 21 at the Ocean Bank Field.

at FIU. Cornerback Richard Leonard and defensive end Michael Wakefield each used phrases such as "not doing what they needed to do as a team" to sum up the end of their final season.

Head coach Ron Turner shared the feelings of his seniors and spoke about how disappointed he is that those guys won't be able to partake in postseason play.

"I feel bad for the seniors," Turner said. "We had a chance to go out and win one of the last two and go to a bowl game, and we didn't get it done. They bought

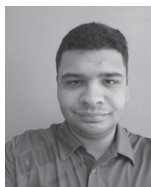
into everything we asked them to do, and provided good leadership, and I'm very disappointed in how the season ended."

So what's next for FIU football? First and foremost this team needs to take some time off and get healthy. Turner continued to bring up how many injuries the Panthers had to deal with in 2015 and with a lot of young players ready to shine FIU should be fine moving forward. However, that won't make this loss any easier to take now that the long offseason is underway than the Panthers would've wanted.

## NASCAR

# Kyle Busch becomes new NASCAR champion

### REY'S TRACK



REINALDO LLERENA

The NASCAR Sprint Cup series debuted in 1992, announced his retirement back in January 2015. A win at Martinsville Speedway during the "Eliminator" round of the "Chase" saw the four-time champion automatically qualify for the final round of the "Chase." Harvick was looking to be the first defending series champion to repeat as champion since Jimmie Johnson went on his historical run of five straight championships from 2006-2010. Busch looked to win the championship despite missing the first 11 races of the season because of a fractured leg. A string of wins during the summer helped propel Busch into the top 30 in points, a benchmark NASCAR set for Busch to be eligible for the "Chase." Busch sought Toyota's first NASCAR title, as well. Truex, Jr. surprised NASCAR fans when he made it into the final round of "Chase." Truex drives for "Furniture Row Racing," a single-car team based in Denver, Colo. Compared to the other teams he was facing, Truex was underfunded and lacked the resources that "Hendrick Motorsports," "Stewart-Haas Racing" and "Joe Gibbs Racing" has, yet he raced into the final

round with a consistent top-10 finish throughout the season.

The race was delayed an hour after a downpour soaked the track. Track officials were desperate to clean the track of water as soon as possible. To try and make the scheduled start time, officials cleared the frontstretch of the track of spectators around 2 p.m. The race promoters also disassembled the stage where driver introductions were to take place. After two hours of track cleaning, the track was ready for racing.

Gordon led a few laps early in the race, but kept fighting his car throughout the remainder of the race. He dropped back outside of the top 10 during the middle of the race and clawed his way back to sixth, where he would finish. Like Gordon, Truex fought his car for the duration of the race. At one point, Truex got up to third place, but fell back several laps later. A respectable 12th-place finish for a single-car team that struggled to make the top 10 last season. With 11 laps remaining, debris on the frontstretch brought out the final caution flag of the day. This grouped up the field for one final green-flag run.

Busch pulled away from Harvick, who lined up second, on the restart and cruised to the finish, securing his first NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship and the first championship for Toyota, Busch's manufacturer. Instead of celebrating a new champion with cheers, several NASCAR fans let out a collective groan. Some fans pointed out that Busch missed close to a third of the season and shouldn't be called champion because he missed so many races. In my opinion, I believe that Busch earned his championship through his dominance during the summer. To come back and win a championship after breaking your leg is an amazing feat in itself and no fan can discourage that. A new rules package awaits NASCAR competitors in 2016. Low-downforce aerodynamic packages are a change from this year's high-downforce package. In other words, aerodynamics will not affect drivers as much as it did this year. Therefore, closer racing should result from this change in the rules. 2016 also marks the debut of Chase Elliott, who will replace Gordon in his famous #24 car.

Busch won the race over second-place Harvick. Gordon finished in sixth place and Truex finished 12th. Since Busch beat the other three "Chase" contenders, he is the 2015 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion. Gordon, who made his

debut in 1988 Winston Cup Series champion, Bill Elliott, has dominated the Xfinity Series, securing the 2014 Xfinity Series championship along the way. Elliott has a lot of expectations to live up to since he's replacing Gordon. But, the main headline of 2016 is this: What will post-Gordon NASCAR look like? Gordon had a big following throughout his career. Some fans, like myself, have grown up with Gordon and don't know how NASCAR was before Gordon arrived. If NASCAR can attract as many viewers without Gordon, I believe that the season is a success on its own. For now, the man NASCAR fans call "Rowdy" is the champion and new faces will soon shine down on Daytona International Speedway in Feb. Until then, several drivers need a new team to work for, including Clint Bowyer, whose former team, Michael Waltrip Racing, shut down after the final race of the 2015 season. Bowyer's free agency, the new rules package and Elliott's debut all headline the 2015 offseason will be the first NASCAR offseason without Gordon since 1992.

Each racer had a story to tell, with the most prominent story being that the Ford EcoBoost 400 at Homestead was Gordon's final race. Busch won the race over second-place Harvick. Gordon finished in sixth place and Truex finished 12th. Since Busch beat the other three "Chase" contenders, he is the 2015 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion. Gordon, who made his

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WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

# Panthers fall in first round of C-USA tourney

**STEFANO RIVERA**  
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The Florida International University women's volleyball team (15-13) ended its season on Friday, Nov. 20, losing to the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners in the first round of the Conference USA Tournament in San Antonio, Texas.

After winning the first set, the Panthers dropped the final three as the Roadrunners proved to be too much. The set scores were 25-21, 22-25, 20-25 and 19-25.

In the first set, the team took advantage of its stellar hitting percentage. The Panthers hit .452 and were able to spread the ball around to their hitters.

Junior middle blocker, Katie Hogan, and sophomore middle blocker, Jennifer Ene, contributed with four kills each.

UTSA defeated the Panthers in the second set to tie the match. Throughout the set, the team held a five-point lead, but saw it slip away after committing three costly service errors towards the end of the set.

In the third set, the Panthers struggled to hit the ball, finishing with a hitting percentage of .067. The Roadrunners used a late run to take the set and a 2-1 lead.

In the final set, the Panthers found themselves up 7-2 early, but UTSA outscored them 23-12 down the stretch to take the match. The Roadrunners advance to the semi-final round and will face off against the sixth seed, University of

Southern Mississippi.

Overall, the Panthers finished with a hitting percentage of .205, with 57 kills and 26 errors. The team only recorded seven blocks, compared to UTSA's 12. Going into the match, FIU led the conference in blocks.

Although they lost, the Panthers had a healthy dose from their hitters. Hogan finished with 17 kills, Ene with 11 kills, senior outside hitter, Lucia Castro and sophomore outside hitter, Tia Clay, both with nine kills. Freshman setter, Katie Friesen, collected 30 assists and senior libero, Adriana McLamb, led the way defensively with 17 digs.

The Roadrunners posted similar stats, finishing with a hitting percentage of .252, with 54 kills and 19 errors. As a

team, UTSA totalled six aces and gained several points off their 12 blocks.

Freshman setter, Amanda Gonzales, led the way for the Roadrunners. Gonzales distributed the ball evenly finishing with a match-high 44 assists. Three players posted double-figure kills, including junior outside hitter, Kasey Kiefer, who finished with a match-high 18 kills.

In a season that saw many ups and downs, the Panthers more than doubled their win total from a year ago when they finished with only seven wins. This improvement merits recognition and the team will try to improve on its success next season.

FOOTBALL

# Western Kentucky outplay Panthers in season finale

**PETE'S PICKS**  
  
PETER HOLLAND JR.

Things never went right for the Panthers on Senior Day as they were

quarterback Brandon Doughtey ran a flea flicker that turned into a 73 yard bomb for a touchdown to his primary target Taywan Taylor.

That touchdown pass alone was basically the turning point of the game, and it was only the first quarter. Doughtey finished the game 16-21 for 224 yards and three touchdowns.

"I thought we had a good week, came out with a lot of energy," said Head Coach Ron Turner. "It seemed like like when they threw the flea-flicker on the first drive, it was like putting a pin in a balloon. That deflated us a bit. We've got to bounce back from that."

Panthers' offense never had an answer until later in the fourth quarter when starting running back Alex Gardner scored a rushing touchdown. The sophomore finished the game with 9 carries for 48

yards and one touchdown. He also led the game in receptions with 10 catches for 41 yards.

Starting QB Alex Mcgough struggled on offense as he finished the game 17-30 for 95 yards and two interceptions. One of the interceptions resulted to a 92 yard touchdown by WKU's cornerback Wonderful Terry.

"I've got to play better as an individual" Mcgough said. "As the quarterback plays better, the team plays better and we score some points. We just got to put some drives together. We didn't put any drives together the last two games. That's my fault. I will take the heat for that."

Because of a 30 minute lightning delay, the game finished early with five minutes left in the fourth quarter. FIU will miss another bowl game for the fourth straight season.

demolished 63-7 by Conference USA leader Western Kentucky University on Saturday, Nov. 21.

The Hilltoppers not only snapped FIU's home game winning streak, they eliminated the Panthers only shot at being bowl eligible.

FIU finished their season 5-7 (3-5 in C-USA) and gave a total of 115 total points in two games.

Despite Ocean Bank Field turning into a ocean river bed because it rained heavily the entire game, WKU wasn't phased at all. On the second play of the series, their starting



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Quarterback Alex McGough and Offensive Linebacker Chris Miller regroup in the rain on Nov. 21 inside the FIU Football Stadium, where the FIU Panthers lost with a score of 63-7.



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## LGBTQA talks about transgender issues



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

Alina Tello Cordon, who works for the Switchboard of Miami as a LGBTQ Therapist/Care Coordinator, presents at the “Understanding the T” event held at Wolfe University Center room 155 Thursday, Nov. 19.

**KAYLA JOHNSON**  
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“Understanding the T” was an event held to honor members of the trans community, one that has been largely ignored. This discussion is a part of our University’s goal to bring about social awareness.

This discussion was held last Thursday, Nov. 19 in WUC 155 and organized by Mario Lara, a graduate assistant in charge of the LGBTQA initiative at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Guest speakers included Alina Tello-Cordon and Campbell Alexander. The open forum presented by Cordon allowed students and faculty members to start a dialogue addressing the misconceptions held in society about trans people.

“It’s great to actually have a conversation with someone and have them see that we’re just regular people,” said Alexander, who is on the Board of Directors for the AQUA Women’s Foundation, a community partner of our University.

“Unfortunately, there is a lot of stigma against the letter ‘T.’ I am trying to take away that stigma,” said Alexander.

The debate covered the difference between gender identity and gender expression. However, participants were also informed that members of the trans community are disproportionately affected by unemployment, homelessness, risky sexual behavior, dropping out of school, anxiety/depression and STI’s more than any other group in LGBTQ.

“The best thing is to ask questions about how a trans person prefers to be addressed

instead of making harmful assumptions,” said Cordon, who works with the Switchboard of Miami as a LGBTQ Therapist/Care Coordinator and Alexander. “We want to create a safe space for people to communicate about these issues.”

She emphasized that trans men and women should be addressed with their pronouns. For example, a trans male should be referred to as “him” if that is what makes him comfortable and that people should avoid transphobic or invalidating language and use gender inclusive language. This includes terms like “it” and “he-she.”

Cordon makes it clear that being trans is not the issue.

“Trans is not synonymous with a mental health issue,” said Cordon. “Psychological problems arise from societal treatment of trans people.”

Gender policing also has a big impact on the trans community. They are forced to perform based on how society views their gender.

“Gender policing is the imposition or enforcement of normative expressions,” said Cordon. “But some people go outside of their gender identity through expression.”

As an ally of LGBTQ, Meredith Morgan, a coordinator of the University’s Women’s Center and a close friend of Cordon and Alexander, addressed the fact that a person’s internal gender does not always match their biological sex.

“Trans issues are overlooked and misunderstood,” Morgan said. “For example, a lot of people think that people should use restrooms that match their gender at birth. They don’t understand that some people

don’t feel that their gender identity aligns with the gender they were assigned so we need to bring more awareness.”

One of the junior English students students at the event, Katherine Marcelino, said that she always strives to use language that cannot be misconstrued as offensive within any socially marginalized community.

“I am currently taking an LGBTQ course in alliance with FIU’s global learning initiative,” said Marcelino. “I have also been a part of the committee that organizes the events for transgender week.”

She feels that stereotypes of how men and women should behave prevent a lack of understanding and common ground.

“It’s important that we don’t conform or adhere to just one stereotype of gender or one sense of self,” said Marcelino. “It allows you to relate to many different kinds of people. It also helps you to be more sensitive to the needs of others.”

“Understanding the T” ended with a testimony from Campbell Alexander, who wants to establish a level of comfort and openness concerning a topic that people may tend to shy away from.

In December 2014, the Human Rights Ordinance added gender and expression to be protected so that trans people cannot be denied public services.

Cordon and Alexander are hopeful about the future of the trans community.

“This is a real issue,” Alexander said. “We are not just some fabrication. Having this opportunity and being given that audience means the world to me.”

## Should we be pricing ecosystem services?

ECOFRIENDLY



BRYAN PALACIO

In the world we live in today, the value of everything is measured in dollars. This seems to be very easy when talking about goods or products, but what about when you’re talking about nature?

If you removed a forest, how much would it cost to replicate the services that forest does for the people who live in and around it? If we removed all of nature, how much would it cost for us to do the things nature does for us? Some say without ecosystem services, humans would pay the ultimate price and perish.

Ecosystem services are services done by the environment which provide benefits for humans. As a community of living and nonliving things, an ecosystem can, and usually does, provide multiple services.

For example, a forest provides timber, shelter, food and recreational opportunity among other benefits. Each one of those services is worth something because people are willing to pay for its preservation or else we’d have to make up for those services.

Add up how much each service costs and it will give you how much the forest is worth. Although I do believe that nature has a right to exist on its own without any benefit to humans, it is a great way to put a dollar sign where others don’t see a tangible value.

The market economy that dominates today’s society strictly sees things in a cost-benefit struggle. They take nature as being a free service that we can use at our will.

But now that we’ve caused large impacts on nature and must pay the price for it, we understand that nature does have a value. And if legislation only cares about dollar signs, then it’s a great way to show how valuable nature can be.

Nature isn’t just one thing to all of us. To some people, it is a place to live, to others it’s a place of spiritual or emotional refuge and to others it may be a nuisance.

Unfortunately, not many people care about intrinsic value. In a capitalistic society where we are meant to think of what is best for the individual, where the economy runs on an idea of producing and consuming, the power of the dollar is overriding.

So how do you place a value on a view or a feeling? Indeed we do because you will always pay more for a room in a hotel with an ocean view. But this value can be different to many different people, therefore we need something more concrete for everyone to understand. And that is where ecosystem services come in.

It helps us put a concrete value on what nature does for us. If you combine all the ecosystem services provided by nature (\$33 trillion), the sum would equal more than the world GDP (\$25 trillion).

Nature is truly invaluable for without it we wouldn’t be able to exist. And although ecosystem services degrade the existential value of nature and only continues the current market paradigm we are in, it also helps show its current worth.

I believe the ecosystem services benefits both humans and nature more than harms it. That is why I support placing a pricing ecosystem services.

## Put a ribbon on it

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World AIDS Day is a nationally recognized day that commemorates and raises awareness about the AIDS syndrome caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Each year, FIU hosts an event on Tuesday, Dec. 1 to raise awareness about AIDS in the community and last year happened to grab the attention of Local 10 News.

The event this year at FIU-BBC, coordinated by Multicultural Programs and Services and LGBTQA, will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 1 in Panther Square from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“We are going to have a resource fair where there will be booths talking about services they provide such as Health Services as well as free HIV testing for students,” said Mario Lara, graduate student for Higher Education and graduate assistant at BBC for LGBTQA.

In addition, Lara informed that there will also be entertainment, a keynote speaker, giveaways and free food.

“There is going to be a student performer as well as a Keynote presentation by Dr. Mary Jo Trepka, professor at FIU who has been funded by the National Institute of Health since 2009, in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre and there will be t-shirt and bag

giveaways and students will be provided with free lunch at the event.”

The event is expected to have at least 200 student participants, just as many as they did last year, according to Lara.

Last year, a quilt was fashioned from smaller pieces of cloth, each symbolizing someone who has died from AIDS related causes, with the help of the student participants.

This year, the quilt will be put up on display for students to observe, but as for the student participants, the event is going to challenge students to think about the theme of the event and what it means to them.

“This year we are pushing for the theme ‘Put a Ribbon on It.’ It tells people that HIV is an infection that hasn’t gone away and is still a problem today,” said Lara. “It means to wear condoms, raise awareness about AIDS and to try and prevent more people from getting it.”

“I believe that this is a good event because it’s reaching out to the community and helping raise awareness, express feelings of sympathy and explaining how it’s okay to have AIDS,” said Sebastian Llamosas, sophomore in mechanical engineering. “The fact that they are giving free HIV testing is beneficial to the community in the sense that it is providing reassurance to people who don’t have the infection and awareness who those who might.”