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Mandatory meal plans could increase student debt

ERICA SANTIAGO
News Director
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Places like Fresh Food Company and the Breezeway Cafe have become somewhat of a staple at the FIU south campus. Like many universities, FIU's dining facilities are covered in students meal plans, should they opt to purchase one. Also like other universities, for some students, a meal plan is not an option one can choose to opt out of.

Some Iowa college students say mandatory meal plans - required of

most residence hall dwellers at Iowa's public universities - add to student loan debt, which has surpassed \$1 trillion nationwide.

"I definitely feel like I could have a smaller meal plan," said Tina Remec, a University of Iowa freshman from Naperville, Ill.

At FIU's own housing facilities, meal plans are included in the cost of freshman housing, and is not optional. Students are required to purchase a meal plan along with their housing if they are living in the freshman dorms, according to FIU Housing's website.

Similar to Iowa's three public universities, meal plans are added to the cost of freshman housing because freshman residence halls are without kitchens. As indicated by the rental rates posted to the housing website, meal plans can increase the cost of

Panther housing from \$2,700 to nearly \$4,600 per semester with select meal plans. The plans, which include meals from Fresh Food Company, FIU Recharge, the Breezeway Cafe and food from other campus restaurants and shops, can add a few extra thousand

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"I definitely feel like I could have a smaller meal plan."

Tina Remec
Freshman
University of Iowa

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SISTERHOOD MEMORIES



ERICA SANTIAGO/THE BEACON

FIU's Phi Mu sorority members look through a sorority scrapbook while tabling at Graham Center to attract new recruits, Tuesday, Jan. 19.

dollars to overall housing costs for each freshman residence hall.

The rationale for requiring students living in residence halls to buy meal plans is twofold, said

Von Stange, assistant vice president for student life and director of UI Housing and Dining.

"We want students to have nutritious meals," he said. "It's also

a fire-safety issue if people start cooking on their own."

SEE MEAL PLANS, PAGE 2

Connecticut fares poorly in college transfer study

LINDA CONNER LAMBECK
Connecticut Post
TNS Staff

Although the vast majority of students who attend community colleges say their intent is to earn a bachelor's degree, in Connecticut only 10 percent reach that goal.

Nationally, the average is 14 percent.

Connecticut ranked 30th out of 43 states in a new study measuring states' effectiveness at helping community college students attain four-year degrees. The study was released Tuesday by the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University.

"This research tells Connecticut that far too many community college students are failing to meet their higher education goals," Davis Jenkins, a senior research associate at the center, said.

As the cost of higher education soars and the role of the less-expensive community colleges takes front stage in presidential debates, the success rate of community college graduates takes on a new urgency.

Connecticut has a huge opportunity to keep improving, said K.C. Deane, a program manager at the Aspen Institute, a co-sponsor of the report.

"This not something that is going to go anywhere," Deane said. "We have students and families hugely concerned about the cost of college and they will continue to start at the community college."

Officials at the Board of Regents for Higher Education, which oversees the state's community colleges, could not be reached for comment Monday.

Neither could John Mullane, a student success

counselor at Gateway Community College in New Haven who completed a study last year showing just how many Connecticut community college credits were rejected by the University of Connecticut.

The average loss is 12 credits, or a semester's worth of classes, Mullane said last year. Retaking the rejected courses delays graduation and costs millions.

Added together, the lost credits from 479 community college students who transferred to UConn in 2013-14 translated to about \$3 million in extra tuition and fees.

Not just about money

Culling data from the National Student Clearinghouse, the new Teachers College report ranks 43 states - seven did not have enough available data to be included - and looked the records of more than 720,000 degree-seeking students who entered higher education for the first time through a community college in 2007. The study compared outcomes six years later.

In general, the report found in most - but not all states - lower-income students were less likely than higher income peers in going on to collect a four year degree.

But income wasn't the only factor. The income gap in the rate of degrees awarded was small to non-existent in Florida, Iowa, North Dakota, and New Hampshire.

The report also found that students who transferred to public four year colleges, or highly selective private four year colleges, performed better than those at non-selective private colleges.

The best performing states were Washington and Iowa. Nearly half, 49 percent, of their students who transferred into a four year school got the bachelor's degree they sought. Following close behind were Illinois, California,

New Jersey and Florida.

Deane said data also suggests that success takes more than a transfer agreement between community colleges and four-year institutions.

"They are part of the equation," Deane said. "Colleges also need to help students understand what courses and competencies they need to learn to achieve the degree they are seeking."

Institutions, she added, need to think of student outcomes beyond their walls.

"It has to be about more than just completion of their associates degree and a successful transfer," Deane, said.

Connecticut, in recent years, has tried to strengthen the agreements between its community colleges and four-year institutions with varied success.

Mullane has said he would like to see a state law mandating transfer agreements between the state's 12 community colleges and all public four year institutions in the state.

In 2012, a law was passed in Connecticut requiring the development of a list of at least 30 general education course credits that could automatically be transferred among public higher education institutions. UConn was excluded and that list has still not been developed, Mullane said.

The next step in the Teachers College report, researchers say, is to figure out the 'whys.' Deane said a more focused look at states deemed to be doing a good job and to release a practical guide colleges can use to improve transfer outcomes.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Republican National Committee moves February debate from NBC to CNN

The Republican National Committee has made good on its promise to cut NBC out of its primary debate schedule. RNC Chairman Reince Priebus issued a statement late Monday announcing the cancellation of a partnership with NBC, which was set to carry a primary debate from Houston

on Feb. 26. The event will now be staged one night earlier by CNN. The committee was intent on punishing NBC over what it perceived as harsh treatment from the panel of CNBC moderators at the Oct. 28 Republican primary debate shown on the cable network.

Idaho pastor 'a different man' after Iran prison, N. Carolina congressman says

After three years in an Iranian prison, Saeed Abedini, a Boise, Idaho, pastor, appears to be in good shape physically, according to an account given to a visiting U.S. congressman who had long advocated for his release. But Abedini's mental and emotional state after a long period of brutality is much more complicated, and will take some time to figure out,

the congressman, Rep. Robert Pittenger, R-N.C., said. Pittenger, an evangelical Christian who began working for Abedini's release in September 2013, flew to Germany on Sunday after he learned Abedini was one of four Americans to be freed as the final pieces of the Iran nuclear deal fell into place.

10.2 million viewers watched fourth Democratic primary debate on NBC

The fourth Democratic primary debate broadcast Sunday on NBC was watched by 10.2 million viewers, according to Nielsen data. The figure ranks second among the four Democratic debates held so far and is up substantially from the

8.03 million who watched ABC's telecast of the Dec. 19 meeting of the three contenders for the 2016 Democratic nomination, Hillary Clinton, Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Mandatory meal plans add to college debt

MEAL PLANS, PAGE 1

A 2012 Kansas State University study of 300 first-year students showed students who ate at least 11 times in the dining center earned an average GPA of 3.4, while those who ate fewer than seven times a week in the dining hall earned an average GPA of 3.0. More than 60 percent of students surveyed said eating in the dining center made them feel more socially connected, Kansas State reported.

"We believe that having a meal plan makes it easier for students to focus on school - there's not shopping, cooking or cleaning up," said Brittney Rutherford, marketing coordinator for the ISU Department of Residence and ISU Dining. "Students also have the opportunity to gather with their friends for meals and build strong communities by dining together."

But rising student debt has become a national problem, with some economists saying college grads saddled with debt are delaying marriage, childbearing, home purchases and entrepreneurial efforts.

Iowa ranks ninth in average student debt at \$29,730, the Institute for College Access and Success reports, and one of the highest default rates in the nation at 17.3 percent.

President Barack Obama suggested in a February speech in Indianapolis that gourmet food and top-notch recreation centers were driving up student debt.

At the UI, students can choose made-to-order burritos, pizza, hamburgers and home-cooked favorites such as meatloaf and mashed potatoes as well as use a salad bar, desserts and beverages. Mandatory meal plans make up 15 percent to 17 percent of the total estimated cost of attendance for in-state undergraduates.

Food was about 8 percent of the total cost for out-of-state students.

Meal plans at UNI - the university is made up of about 90 percent in-state students - are between 22 percent and 24 percent of the total estimated cost of attendance for undergraduates.

At ISU, meal plans are 16 percent to 22 percent of the total estimated cost of attendance for in-state undergraduates in 2015-2016.

"It adds to the student debt everyone has to deal with," agreed Dan Breitbarth, ISU student body president. "But at Iowa State, our food is great. When the food is great, you don't get too many complaints from students."

Some universities in other states have been criticized for using mandatory meal plans as a revenue stream offered to private food vendors that then pay for non-food expenses, such as dining center upgrades or other campus improvements, the New York Times reported in December.

The University of Tennessee started last fall requiring all students enrolled in at least 6 credit hours to have a meal plan. The change allowed returning students to opt out of residence hall-based meal plans, but if they do, they'll be charged \$300 per semester for food, whether they eat it or not.

Tennessee's contract with dining vendor Aramark provides that the university will

get 14 percent of all food revenue plus \$15.2 million in renovations to dining facilities, the Times reported. The money will help pay for a \$177 million student union.

Texas A&M signed a 10-year food service contract with Chartwells that includes a \$22.7 million signing bonus and \$25 million in building projects.

Iowa's public universities provide their own food service. They do sign contracts with vendors to buy food, but a Gazette review of the UI's contracts showed no kickbacks similar to those mentioned in the Times story.

The UI's Stange said he's aware some students question the value of mandatory meal plans, especially when looking at the cumulative cost of college.

"But when you look at our all-you-care-to-eat option, at \$6 a meal, it's a pretty good value," he said.

But many students aren't using their meal plans.

Jason Smith, 20, of Chicago, chose the unlimited Gold plan his first two years at Iowa, but downgraded to the cheaper Black meal plan for his junior year.

"Now with me in my third year, I realized I don't need to eat there all the time," he said of the Burge Market Place.

Smith eats about one meal a day at Burge during the week, he said. With 65 weekdays in the fall 2015 semester, that comes out to \$24 per meal. On weekends, he rarely uses his campus meal plan.

Remec, a nursing student, ate most of her meals in the Burge Market Place at the beginning of the fall semester. She and friends Victoria Tanyag of Des Moines and Raelyn Galindo of Sycamore, Ill., like the made-to-order quesadillas and omelets.

Now Remec grabs a granola bar or a piece of fruit in her room before going to class in the morning.

"I have the Black plan and I still have a ton of extra meals," she said.

Students with leftover meals or dining dollars often go on spending sprees at the end of the semester, stocking up on snacks or energy drinks at campus convenience stores to avoid losing the money.

UNI students used more than 97 percent of their dining dollars in 2014-2015, said Annie Karr, assistant director of Residence, Marketing and Conference Services. The surplus of nearly \$14,000 - about \$5 per student - was used to fund improvements to dining facilities or equipment purchases, she said.

Liz Mills, president of the UI Student Government, said she'd like to see cheaper meal plans. But as former executive director of Associated Residence Halls, another student government group, she knows food and wages are expensive.

Instead, she thinks UISG and individual students could do more to explain to younger students they can use flex meals in the Iowa Memorial Union, the main library and Pappajohn Business Building.

"We do hear 'I'm only eating there X number of times,'" she said. "We need to make sure students know where they can use them. There's a lot of education that can happen."

Additional reporting from TNS Staff

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Terrorism breeds ‘needless agoraphobia’

THE LEVELER



AUBREY CARR

Tuesday, Jan. 12, ISIS bombed Sultanahmet Square in Istanbul, Turkey, resulting in the death of 10 and 15 injured, many of whom were German tourists. Not long afterwards, posters on social media wrote, “So, it’s probably good we don’t go to Turkey just yet.”

Gratitude is in order when dodging a bullet, of course. That said, when gratefulness evolves into a travel-based form of agoraphobia, fear wins and there are parts of life that get left behind. Studying abroad can be a great introduction to experiencing the world and one of the most rewarding events in a college career. FIU has an extensive collection of programs and partner universities located around the globe that allow for opportunities to travel in a safe and controlled environment, even in areas of the world that are not as Westernised.

FIU’s numerous study abroad options include an

exchange student program to Istanbul at Bahçeşehir University, where as with all exchange programs, students can attend for a semester or the whole academic year; a short Hospitality-focused trip in December to Dubai, and an exchange program at the American University of Dubai. These are both critical areas to the United States, which means both experience in addition to intimate knowledge of these places – especially fluency in Turkish or Arabic (among other critical languages, such as Russian and Chinese) – can help land an incredible job in government work or otherwise make for a strong candidate in numerous other vocational areas.

Janina Kruzel, a freshman at FIU, is an international relations major with a focus on the Middle East and hopes to spend a year studying in Istanbul despite daunting news reports. “I’ve always wanted to travel the world and study and live in more or less ‘dangerous’ places – the Middle East especially. Acts of terror

have affected my thinking of traveling there but have not swayed my decision.” Kruzel stated.

Kano Miyajima, a junior exchange student from

are also large cultural differences like how much personal space one should have, a meter is customary in Japan Miyajima had said, and greetings

what she really loves about America and she is hoping to be able to come back and potentially work in Miami professionally.

Irrespective of whether one stays in their home country or ventures off into the world, there are always concerns and certain precautions should be taken to prevent unnecessary damages. It is safe to assume that if a country does not hold your home country’s embassy, buying a plane ticket and booking a hotel may be in poor taste. Do not let the potential harm in the world take control of any travel dreams you may have and crush them.

I say this not out of naïvety but from an adventurous heart that recognises that there is danger and mortality; but one cannot spend their life running away from every potential danger. It is far better to die having lived your dreams than to hide from the prospect of danger only to die anyway and without having had grand adventures, without having seen more of the incredible planet we are so

fortunate to inhabit.

There will always be danger. There will always be bad people. These are unavoidable truths and regardless of whether one stays in his hometown or is instead a modern nomad, these truths do not pay respect to geographical or political barriers. Nevertheless, it is pointless to stay holed up in one’s comfort zone.

Explore, learn new cultures and foreign languages, rethink your philosophy, add to your outlook on life and broaden your mind. There is too much to see in the world, too many people to meet, too many stories yet to be told and too many stars, sunsets, and above all, experiences to let the fear take your hand and hold you back. So go; be safe, but do not be afraid.

The Leveler is a column on global social justice and political commentary. To contact Aubrey, send an email to opinion@fiusm.com.

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When gratefulness evolves into a travel-based form of agoraphobia, fear wins and there are parts of life that get left behind.

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Japan, mentioned her own anxieties when it came to studying in America for the 2015-2016 academic year. She talked about the sparks of terrorism that have involved the US and her concern especially when considering ISIS’s role. Additionally, she said, “In Japan we can’t have guns, so I was worried about a school shooting.”

More than physical worries, there was the issue of whether or not she would adapt to the culture well. Japanese is not a commonly spoken language in the US. There

changing from bowing and a handshake to a kiss on the cheek and close speaking proximity.

“Study abroad is very important,” she asserted. “You get to know other cultures, other people’s ways of thinking [because] there are so many people [in America] who have different perspectives.” She mentioned that in Japan there is a narrow way of thinking, and everyone is expected to be more similar, more group-oriented than distinct and independent. The celebration of the latter is

Stimulants, ‘study drugs’ gaining college popularity

COLUMNIST



MAYTINEE KRAMER

Later in the semester, you are likely to find college students scattered all over campus studying or even cramming for exams rather than being out having a grand old time. Sometimes, the workload can become overbearing and a quick fix to help get through it all becomes very tempting.

Some overworked and overloaded college students are pushing themselves to enhance their abilities through the use of amphetamine drugs dubbed ‘college crack’ or ‘study drugs.’ Amphetamines are a chemical compound class that stimulate the central nervous system and are most often used to promote focus in patients with ADHD. In most cases, while amphetamines also have the ability to ease narcoleptic tendency and treat obesity, they are being abused as a cognitive performance enhancer.

Amphetamines are well-known euphoricants, with benzene backbones that target the nervous system’s neural receptors in ways similar to methamphetamine, cocaine, and MDMA which is most commonly known as ecstasy.

The 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, a study conducted annually by the US Department of Health and Human Services, reported that full-time college students were twice as likely to use Adderall under non-medical circumstances as their non-full-time counterparts. According to Peter Jay Won, a Pharm D and Ph.D. candidate who majored in biochemistry, students most commonly abuse amphetamines “[b]ecause it has the ability to keep them focused on one task, while temporarily increasing energy and mood” through the increase of certain neurotransmitters.

Students, without having been diagnosed with ADHD, claim to be taking these stimulants for what they think are the right reasons. However, they may not be aware of

the potential harms associated with the nonmedical use of prescription stimulants. Won states that, “the dangerous side effect to any drug that is being abused is when one develops dependency that is often followed by its ever so slight increase in dosage respective to tolerance.”

Depending on the magnitude of abuse, some of the following can occur: acne breakouts, weight loss, digestive and urinary problems, and depression. Depression is the most common side effect as amphetamines decrease much needed nutrition and sleep.

While the drug may seem like the perfect fix, students should take the initiative to lead a healthy lifestyle not only for their well-being, but in order to get through the tough times that college demands. The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offered by the FIU Student Health Center is available to help students learn and lead a healthy lifestyle as well as handle stress. Overall, forming a healthy lifestyle with an emphasis on proper diet, exercise,

sleep and stress management is imperative to one’s well being.

Panther Health is a commentary on college health in nutrition.

Maytinee Kramer is a staff writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, please contact Maytinee at opinion.fiusm.com.

FREE RIDES



SAM PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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Lecture discusses human, dog relationships

LESLIE OVALLE
Asst. Entertainment Director
leslie.ovalle@fiusm.com

Laura Hobgood, religion and environmental studies professor at Southwestern University, will be speaking on these thousand-year-old relationships, which according to her has shaped both of the species' journeys in such powerful ways that it is tough to imagine one without the other.

The lecture is titled "Becoming Human and Dog Together," and it is part of a distinguished speaker series hosted by the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs.

It will be held Jan. 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Wertheim Conservatory in room 130.

"This event is open to all majors," said Jessica Beck, a program specialist for the school of international relations and public affairs, "I think everyone can get something out of it, it's going to be really interesting, learning about the relationship between humans and animals."

Hobgood's most recent scholarship is published in her book, "A Dog's History

of the World: Canines and the Domestication of Humans." In the book she discusses anthropocene--an epoch that began when humans started to have significant impact on the Earth's ecosystems--suggesting that humans and dogs would be very different, had they not partnered with each other thousands of years ago.

These studies have proved this relationship to be a two-way street; however, some, like National Geographic, have taken it a step further stating: "We didn't domesticate dogs. They domesticated us."

One thing is for sure, human and dog relationships are one of the strongest and oldest cross-species relationships in history, earning the furry, four-legged creatures the title of man's best friend.

Beck can attest to this statement, she owns two dogs at the moment: a chocolate labrador named Andy and a tibetan spaniel named Shrug, "they are part of the family," she said.

"I think we may look at our dogs differently after this lecture," said Beck.

FRIDAY
JAN. 22

41st Annual Miami Harvest Festival
Miami-Dade Fairgrounds, starting at 8 a.m.

Resident DJ playing an open format
Garden of Eden Clothing Optional Bar in Key West, starting at 10 p.m.

SATURDAY
JAN. 23

Live Burlesque Entertainment
The Catalina Hotel & Beach Club from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Live Music
Titanic Brewery and Restaurant, starting at 9:30 p.m.

Karaoke
Seven Seas, starting at 10 p.m.

SUNDAY
JAN. 24

Sunday Funday
Duffy's Sports Grill, starting at 11:30 a.m.

The Flying Trapeze School
Bayfront Park, at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

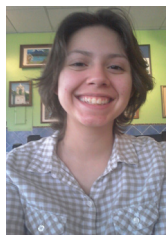
Latin Connection Band and DJ Carlitos
Mango's Tropical Cafe, starting at 9:30 p.m.

Chocolate Sundays
Purdy Lounge, beginning at 10 p.m.

CAYLA BUSH/THE BEACON

Local artist AJ Ruiz's 'Nimbus' is made of songs from the heart

PIPELINE



NATALIE BORJOQUEZ

Now that the new year has arrived and the holidays are over why not have your heart ripped out by the beautiful crooning of AJ Ruiz? AJ's newest solo project "Nimbus" is made of songs from the heart.

AJ's solo work is drastically different from the work he does with Purple Sun.

Purple Sun transports its fans to another time period, bringing to life all the 70s psychedelic rock that everyone loves to life but AJ takes listeners off to a land of broken

hearts, something everyone can relate to.

"Nimbus" isn't your typical romantically charged album. It's poetic. My absolute favorite song from the album has got to be "Turquoise." His pleading voice will make the stoniest, coldest hearts melt. AJ is able to tap into his own experiences and present

them out to the world.

Another popular track from Nimbus is "Where are Your Eyes". Now where Turquoise is calm and pleading, this song is aggressively possessive, although this may not be a feeling that everyone would care to admit they've had it is one that can be shared by most people. This track also include a beautiful cello, courtesy of Patricio Acevedo.

"This is What I Leave You With" is the closing track and it's the end of AJ's love story. It's a bittersweet ending to any amazing album. He let's his unrequited love go with all the hope that she can love herself as much as he does.

Nimbus shows the versatility of this local artist and we hope to see more of his solo work soon.

Nathalie is Local Genre Director at WRGP, listen to her live show *The Pipeline* every Wednesday from 4-6 p.m. For Suggestions email entertainment@fiusm.com

Millennial feminist experiences sexism

FEMMEAPPETITE



LESLIE ANGELA BLANCO

As a feminist in this day and age (2010's) it's hard not to face opposition from many men and unfortunately some women as well. Myself and other millennials of this generation are by no means exempt from sexism in our society.

Many say that I'm idealistic and would advise me to turn the other cheek regarding these social issues--they would tell me to ignore it, fake a smile, and kindly bear it. However, I disagree strongly with this solution---there is a reason for the whole feminist movement after all; we need it and if we ignore the issues at hand that squanders the movement altogether. At the end of the day it all comes down to respect. If you respect each individual regardless of their gender and get rid of the preconceived notions of the roles assigned to us, we would be having less problems of sexism in our society.

As a woman, and as a student in my early twenties I experience sexism and prejudice on almost a daily basis. I understand that this is changing, however is it really?

Recently, just this summer, I

experienced something that I've never experienced before. I was in New York and my best friend and I set out to explore central park. As we entered --these men trying to advertise their bikes approached us, which was completely fine until they started becoming disrespectful.

I don't doubt that most women face or have faced sexism multiple times in their lives. In this particular case, it was a woman instead of a man who came to our defense. When my friend and I stated that we weren't interested in their bikes and proceeded to walk away--they basically followed us and kept asking. At this point I became extremely aggravated and told them to back off and that we're not interested. The men ignored that and continued to badger us. There were men and women in the crowd but the men didn't try to help us. Instead, one of the women present saw what was happening and told them to leave us alone (luckily she worked with them). They finally left and in light of the situation she offered to give us a huge discount as compensation for what transpired. I was grateful for that and felt very lucky. In this scenario most people would think that a male would come to our rescue with the whole "damsel in distress" scenario but such is not the case. Women can relate and the fact that she intervened

so strongly gives me cause to believe that our strongest allies are people that can empathize with our plight.

A few weeks ago, as I was backing out of a Starbucks and turned to look to see if there were any cars--a middle aged man saw me and blew kisses my way. Another instance of disrespect and disregard for a woman. Later that same day, I rode my bike and I passed by these two teenage boys who moved out of the way to let me pass yet one of them made a comment stating "You so cute". I just shook my head in disappointment; they definitely start young. It's important to educate young people, even as young as highschool on how its not okay to cat call a woman, feel entitled to her body, or to disrespect girls, and view them only for your pleasure. That seems to be the mentality in this male dominated society which still has a long way to go despite this idea of "progressiveness" America has.

The most recent incident of ignorance I've experienced actually happened just last weekend. I was in an art gallery with my neighbor, we were hanging out before he left to Washington DC and one of the gallery managers came up to us and made remark that made me cringe. He basically gestured towards me and told

my neighbor: "She's beautiful, you should buy a painting for her."

Trying to basically solicit the fact that since we were on a date, he should try to get me something in order to get something out of it. Ofcourse inside I was fuming but I let out a comment and said, "We can buy paintings ourselves and don't need a guy to buy it for us thanks." It wasn't really his remark that bothered me, it was the fact that he spoke to my friend as if I was nonexistent--an object like one of his paintings if you will.

I honestly feel sorrow for girls who experience this daily like myself, but at the same time I feel like it is our duty to educate ourselves about it and to educate our young men from childhood and young adulthood. We all live in this society together, the little steps we take to make it that much better. Because of sexism, gender wage gap, and perpetuated gender roles--we need feminism. Through education and the practice of respect, maybe then our young men wouldn't grow up to be condescending adults, whether they are conscious of it or not.

Leslie is a staff writer for FIUSM, her column *femmeappetite* covers food, feminism and health. for questions or comments email leslie.blanco@fiusm.com

Alan Rickman, known for Snape in 'Harry Potter' series, dies at 69

SUDYEN NAVARRETE
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For many of us he is known as the 'half-blood prince' of the Harry Potter series, Professor Severus Snape, portrayed by British actor, Alan Rickman, died at 69 after a battle with cancer.

He died in London and his publicist, Catherine Olim, spoke to the press giving the reason of his death.

Rickman conquered the hearts of many young moviegoers after impersonating the role of the serious, grumpy and mysterious Severus Snape, professor and master of potions at Hogwarts and head of the Slytherin house.

Rickman played Snape amazingly, starting with his villainous-deep voice, to his thoughtful - acted look that always seemed bothered about something. His dedication to this character made him admirable and respected throughout his career as a stage and film actor.

His acting made me want to learn more about Snape such as why was he always so serious, and it helped me reach the conclusion that deep inside Snape was just a good but hurt man for something that went wrong.

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street turned out great just with the cast, which included Rickman.

He portrayed Judge Turpin, the antagonist that was madly obsessed with Todd's wife and daughter. With this movie he showed to viewers more of his acting talents as a stage actor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FANDANGO

Before Harry Potter, and Sweeney Todd he was Hans Gruber in "Die Hard." He was the mastermind of a terrorist group. It was his first action film and he became well known after the movie's release.

His roles as a creepy villain gave him the praise and respect he has received over the years. He's a unique villain with a look that seemed curious, thoughtful, vengeful and good all at the same time.

Rickman began his acting career 40 years ago after he left the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. He began his stage acting career in plays such as "Troilus and Cressida". In 1972 he had his television debut in

"Romeo and Juliet," he played Tybalt.

He acted on Broadway, directed films, acted on films and even won a golden globe for Best Supporting Actor in a Miniseries or TV Film.

Many die-hard fans of Harry Potter respond to Rickman's death.

"He was an extremely talented actor, not only in Harry Potter but other movies such as 'Love Actually' which is one of my favorite films," said Vanessa Cuadros, a senior broadcast media. "He always played any role perfectly, I'm saddened about his death, he was so good as an actor."

Many loved his acting because of his antagonism but later came to admire him even more as he turned

out to be different than what many expected in the series.

J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series shared a memory on her twitter.

"There are no words to express how shocked and devastated I am to hear of Alan Rickman's death. He was a magnificent actor and a wonderful man."

Rickman took the role of Snape in 2001 after only three books had been published. According to CNN.

He stated that he wasn't well aware of what the series was about or his character. After almost nine years of playing Snape, Rickman left a memory in every Harry Potter

fan, and I'm sure among many other actors he worked with.

As of me, he will forever be remembered as the man who put natural and effortlessly beautiful work into his roles as an actor, especially of Severus Snape.

His character and story will be passed along through generations as fans grow older.

Student, Suyeny Diaz, a senior psychology major and fanatic of the Harry Potter series said, "Alan Rickman is a phenomenal actor in every work that he did. As a Harry Potter fanatic, I wasn't a fan of Severus Snape in the books," said Diaz.

"But Rickman brought him to life and made me appreciate the flawed hero. He will truly be missed and thank you for the memories. Rest in Peace, Half-Blood Prince."

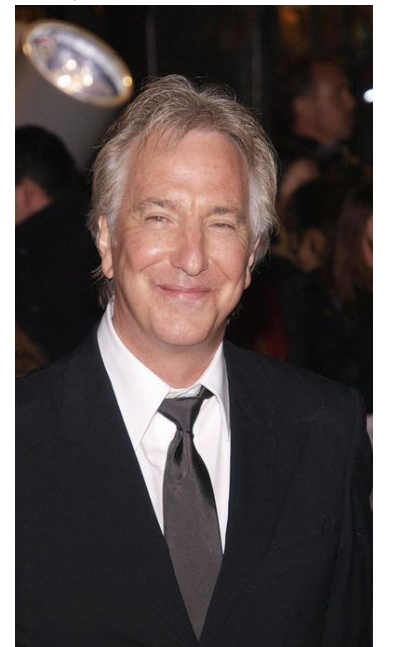


PHOTO COURTESY OF FANDANGO

'Que Pasa MIA' comes to WRGP

VERONIKA QUISPE
Contributing Writer
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To make the dreaded ride to FIU a little easier, or the necessary ingredient to make the first cup of coffee taste even better, WRGP brings you "Que Pasa, MIA?" FIU's funniest morning talk show every Tuesday and Thursday from 8-9 a.m.

As part of WRGP's new array of talk shows this upcoming semester, "Que Pasa, MIA?" serves as a source for South Florida locals to learn about FIU as well as Miami for the week.

Hosts Anthony Barroso, Luis Diaz and I feature guests at least once a week. Listeners will be able to experience a wide variety of interviews with local artists, such as alternative rock band Kid Lore, made up of FIU alumni Jorge Mogna, junior Adam Tahoun and his younger brother Daniel. Kid Lore had released its EP "For Those Who Can't Dance" in November and were hosting a release party at Sidebar Miami on Thanksgiving weekend.

For those who were not too busy traveling over winter break QPM suggested a lineup of movies debuting in December just in time for the cozy holiday season. FIU grad Matthew Abad joined to go in depth and give

his take on the most exciting films. Abad runs a successful podcast called "Spoilers with Matt" which analyzes the latest motion pictures in any box office with experts. Films included "Star Wars," The Revenant, Hateful Eight, and the Big Short. Abad is also working on a film himself. Although he could not share too many details, he left QPM wanting more and will be coming back on air when the project is finalized.

Panthers' football standout and Miami native Jeremiah McKinnon has been invited on his last year at FIU and the upcoming North Miami Tropic Bowl he was honored to play in after a great senior season. McKinnon called

in from Denver, where he is training with professionals, to share some great stories such as his first kiss, and even provided advice for high school athletes who will be committing to a school early February.

For those who missed the show, all the episodes will be found on soundcloud by searching "Que Pasa, MIA?". For the latest pictures or updates on QPM the hosts developed @QuePasa_MIA on instagram or @QuePasaMIA_ on twitter.

Veronika is a contributing writer and member of the hosting team for Que Pasa MIA. To contact her, email life@fiusm.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANTONY BARROSO

Instrumentalist/ song writer presents lyrical message

WRGP TRACKS



JONATHAN BRUNAUCHE

Ill Clinton is a songwriter and instrumentalist based in Jacksonville Fl. Clinton has a number of singles releases as well as three other projects all centered and focused on hip-hop and soul.

Toward the end of 2015 Clinton released Vol. 2 on Dec. 15. Vol 2 makes its first impression with the song "A Wish" featuring Amma Whatt.

From this track Clinton provides some airy production, a combination of lead synths and a bit of electric guitar riffs in the latter half of the song.

Sonically the initial track sounds inspired by Erykah Badu, especially through Whatt's singing.

Skipping onto the third track, "Thank You," Drasi Amor

features here giving a D'Angelo-esque style of singing and the refrain starts with a simple but catchy and gracefully sung "Thank you" repeated twice followed by verses of self-love.

The following track "A Brother Like Ezell" is a song with concern for the well-being and safety of black lives and the fifth song get up "All My People" counters the somber message of Ezell.

The remainder of the project continues the soul hop trend until the end with similar production throughout and additional features from other artist with voices and styles comparable to better known figures like Common, Little Brother, and The Foreign Exchange.

Jonathan is Urban genre director at WRGP, with music review columns publishing once a week. For album suggestions for Jonathan email life@fiusm.com

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men suffer 'dissappointing' loss, 66-60

DAVID DRUCKER
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After upsetting outpacing a Louisiana Tech team two nights before, the Florida International University men's basketball team (9-9, 3-2 in Conference USA) suffered a disappointing 66-60 defeat on Jan. 16 to the University of Southern Mississippi. The Panthers traded the lead through the first half with a Golden Eagles team that entered the game with a 4-11 overall record, but shot a miserable 27.3% in the second half.

"When I talk about the consistency [I want], I talk about consistent effort and I don't think we gave the same effort tonight that we did that tonight," said Head Coach Anthony Evans.

Junior guard Donte McGill got the Panthers out to a hot start with 17 points on 7-12 shooting, but disappeared later, attempting only three shots in the second half and finishing with 19 points. Senior center Adrian Diaz also finished the game with 19 points, adding two blocks, an assist and a steal in the process. He also picked up four personal fouls.

"They tried to attack Diaz and keep him from getting easy touches. They also sat in the paint

and were able to make shots when the clock was running out," said Evans.

FIU got out to a hot start in the beginning of the game. The Panthers scored the game's first seven points, but they began to have trouble finding open looks against a Golden Eagles defense that was on top of their game. At halftime, the Panthers had a 31-27 edge.

"I think we were taking long shots. They were packed in the paint, so when we drove, the shots that we normally hit when nobody is there, somebody was there. Now we have to make the extra pass and maybe drive it again or take the midrange shot instead of just settling for a three."

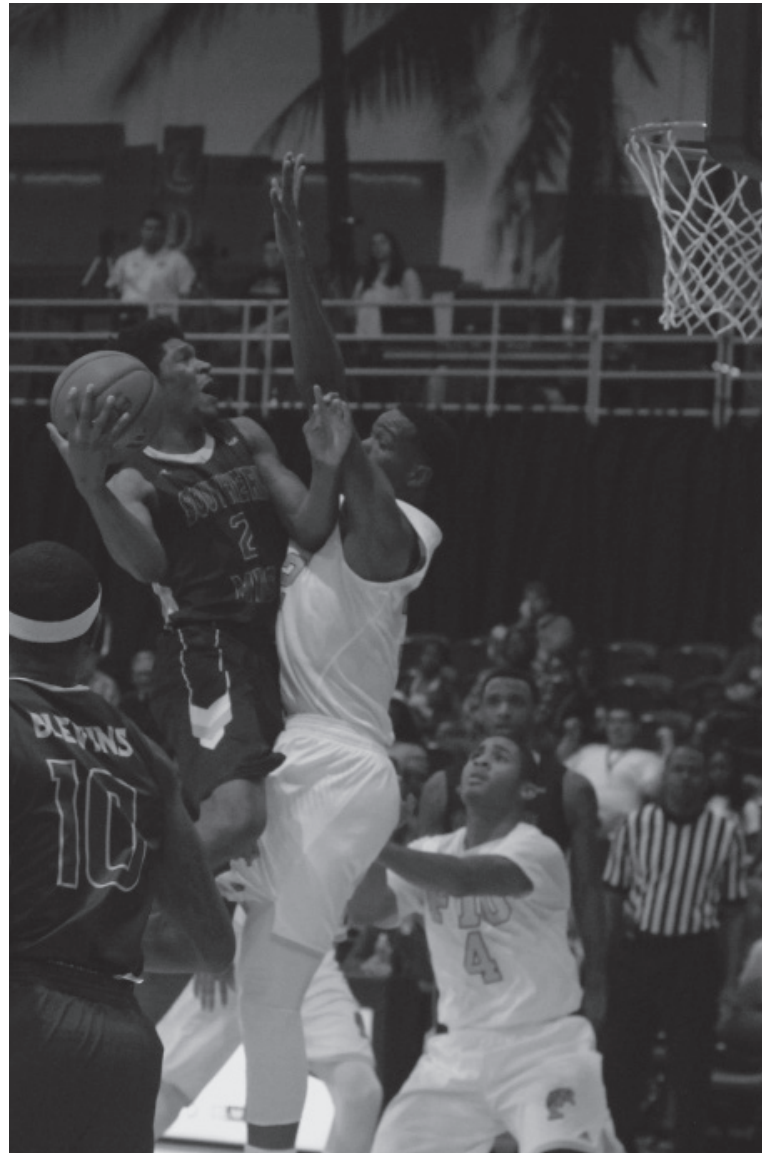
The Panthers seemed to lack the same energy that they entered the first half with when they retook Lime Court for the second half. The Golden Eagles took their first lead with 15:47 left in the first half. Southern Mississippi senior Kourtlin Jackson was instrumental in his team's comeback effort; he scored a game-high 23 points, 13 of which came in the second half.

Although FIU got the lead back a couple minutes later as Diaz grinded out a few points in the paint, the Golden Eagles ultimately threw the FIU offense

out of balance as they took the lead for a final time with 12:37 left in the second half. The Panthers fell behind as much as 12 points but were able to make a late surge to close the lead to 63-59 with 13.1 seconds to play. The Golden Eagles made the minimal amount of free throws necessary to secure the win and took the contest at 66-60.

The inconsistency of the offense through these games may be what is troubling coach Evans the most. As of Jan 19, LA Tech and Southern Mississippi allow a nearly identical points per game average of 70.8 and 71.6, respectively. Against the former, the Panthers shot 56.9% from the field and 50% from three point range, scoring 88 points. FIU shot only 36% from the field and 17.6% from behind the arc against the Golden Eagles.

Despite Saturday's disappointing loss, the Panthers leave for Texas Wednesday morning having won four of their last six games, including wins against upper-tier C-USA opponent Western Kentucky University and LA Tech. They will begin their tour of the Lone Star state with a visit to the University of Texas at San Antonio on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. to face the Roadrunners.



BLANCA MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

Southern Mississippi Kourtlin Jackson attempts to dunk the ball as FIU Forward Daviyon Draper blocks at the game Saturday, Jan. 16

FOOTBALL

NFL Conference predictions

END ZONE



STEFANO RIVERA

A week after all four road teams advanced to the Divisional Round of the NFL playoffs, all four home teams advanced, reaching their respective Conference Championships.

This marked the first time since 2004 that both one and two seeds advanced to both Conference Championships.

On Saturday, Jan. 16, the New England Patriots defeated the Kansas City Chiefs 27-20 as Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski connected for two touchdowns. The Chiefs kept it close with a late touchdown, but were unable to recover the onside kick to regain possession, sending the New England Patriots to the AFC Championship.

That same night, the Arizona Cardinals defeated the Green Bay Packers in a thrilling, overtime finish, 26-20. This was arguably one of the best football games I have ever witnessed. Down 20-13 with only seconds left, Aaron Rodgers heaved a prayer to the end zone, which was caught by Jeff Janis to force overtime. If you remember, this wasn't the first time Rodgers has thrown a Hail Mary to win or tie the

ball game in the final seconds. He defeated the Detroit Lions in Week 13 in similar fashion.

However, Carson Palmer and Larry Fitzgerald connected on a 75-yard pass play on the first play of overtime. Two plays later, Fitzgerald scored the game winning touchdown to send the Cardinals to the NFC Championship.

It would be pretty difficult to match that ending and by the early looks of the Carolina Panthers vs Seattle Seahawks game on Sunday, Jan. 17, it seemed like it would never happen. The Panthers got off to an amazing start, leading 31-0 at halftime. Most people including myself, thought this was going to be a blow out at the time.

However, Russell Wilson led Seattle to a terrific second-half comeback, scoring 24 unanswered points. The Seahawks failed to recover the onside kick late in the game as the Panthers defeated the Seahawks 31-24, advancing to the NFC Championship against the Cardinals.

In the final game of the Divisional Round, the Denver Broncos defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers 23-16 to advance to the AFC Championship against the Patriots.

It seemed liked Pittsburgh had control throughout most of the game,

until a costly fumble by Fitzgerald Toussaint, gave the Broncos the momentum and favorable field position to lead a touchdown-scoring drive.

Once again, a failed onside kick recovery decided this game and gave Denver the edge against the Steelers. Unlike Wild Card Weekend, all four contests were decided by one score or less.

This sets up a 3:05 p.m. matchup between the Broncos and Patriots on Sunday, Jan. 24, and a 6:40 p.m. matchup between the Panthers and Cardinals after.

Brady vs Manning. What else could football fans want? Well I would like to see Manning get his second Super Bowl ring and finish his career with a bang. However, the Patriots bring a high octane offense into "Mile High" and are never easy to slow down. Earlier this season, these teams met at Denver and it was a classic. Denver won in overtime 30-24 as CJ Anderson ran 48 yards for the game winning touchdown.

This game has much more meaning to it than a typical regular season matchup. This is to punch a ticket into Super Bowl 50.

Although both teams advanced to this stage, they have glaring

SEE END ZONE, PAGE 7

BASKETBALL

Whiteside earns big bucks by playing for Heat

JASON LIESER
The Palm Beach Post
TNS Staff

Hassan Whiteside was ready to party.

At the end of an uneven week in which he missed a key game with a knee issue and got yelled at on the court by teammates, he emerged with one of the best performances of his career and powered the Heat to a major comeback in Denver. The excitement overcame him in a post-game TV interview as he pointed out -- accurately -- that no one else in the NBA is getting triple-doubles with blocks and pointed to the bulging veins in his forearm.

When he finally made it back to the visiting locker room at Pepsi Center, he got the reception he wanted, but not quite the

way he was expecting it. His rowdy teammates were not celebrating his 19 points, 17 rebounds and 11 blocks, but rather the time Whiteside got an offensive rebound and kicked it out to an open teammate instead of trying to plow through a double-team.

"Yeah, that was historical," Dwyane Wade teased. "That is what we're looking for, and he did it more than just that one time. We want to tell him when he does good, just like we're on him when he does bad. We were just having a little fun with him."

Whiteside, who had six assists all of last season, laughed. He got the joke.

And he might be getting the message behind it.

Whiteside rode out

SEE WHITESIDE, PAGE 7

SPORT

Panthers suffer from fourth straight loss

MATT PORTER

The Palm Beach Post
TNS Staff

It's still a young team, Panthers General Manager Dale Tallon said to a visitor in the press box between periods. They're still learning how to win.

The latest lesson, a 4-2 loss to Edmonton Monday night at the BB&T Center, was a hard one. Tallon was unmoved.

"We've got a long way to go yet," he said. "We haven't done anything. We're a more competitive, better team. But we have to take it to another level."

That'll have to wait for another day. The Panthers (26-15-5) opened a four-game homestand by losing their fourth game in a row. They played one-third of a game against the last-place Oilers, who arrived with the worst road record in the league (5-14-4) and led the whole way.

The Panthers woke up after third-period goals from Reilly Smith and Quinton Howden, but Edmonton (19-23-5) had done enough damage. Top scorer Taylor Hall, a former No. 1 overall pick, scored twice. Goalie Cam Talbot, feeling good hours after the club announced a three-year, \$12.5 million contract extension, made 30 saves.

After a six-game road trip that saw the

end of their franchise-record 12-game winning streak, the Atlantic Division-leading Panthers couldn't get it going quickly enough.

"The work ethic's lacking for sure," coach Gerard Gallant said. "I'm not happy with the way we played these last couple games."

The game was a rematch of a rough-and-tumble affair two Sundays ago in Edmonton. In that one, Oilers forward Matt Hendricks had the Panthers seething, and their fists flying, after he laid an illegal check on star defenseman Aaron Ekblad. The 19-year-old All-Star has not played since, suffering from a suspected concussion, and could return Friday. Hendricks, who was not penalized on the play, was dealt a three-game suspension from the NHL.

Coincidentally, his suspension ended Monday.

On his first shift, Hendricks dutifully dropped the gloves with Panthers defenseman Erik Gudbranson, five inches and 10 pounds larger. Hendricks absorbed a dozen rights, to the delight of the majority of 14,897 spectators.

The excitement didn't last. Less than a minute later, Hall snatched a turnover, rushed up the ice alone and beat Al Montoya (19 saves) up high. Jordan Eberle scored after a giveaway in Florida's end.

In the second period, Hall snapped home a wrister from the high slot, a sequence that began after teammate Leon Draisaitl beat a seemingly unaware Derek MacKenzie to the puck and entered the zone.

Smith made it 3-1 with 17:15 left by beating Talbot from the right circle. Montoya made a glove save on a Nail Yakupov breakaway. Less than three minutes later, tough guy Shawn Thornton made a slick backhand pass to Howden, who tapped it in.

After a flurry of chances from the Panthers -- and several huge stops by Montoya at the other end -- Teddy Purcell slid home an empty-netter with 1:28 left, as Montoya was caught leaving for an extra skater.

The Panthers also continued their power-play drought, which dates to Jan. 2. They went 0-for-4 and haven't scored in 23 opportunities.

Though the winning streak awoke a segment of the fickle South Florida sports fandom, this is a critical stretch for the Panthers to show they're a worthy product. Florida ranks 26th of 30 NHL teams in attendance and has sold out four games, against the Rangers (twice), Canadiens and opening night against the Flyers.

Executive chairman Peter Luukko said the team is drawing better than expected, with the streak helping in a major way.

"We won't have any game with a small attendance the rest of the year," said a hopeful Luukko, who made good on a promise made during the streak. Already wearing a lucky tie emblazoned in Panthers logos, he said he would add a red suit to the ensemble. He arrived wearing a custom-cut number from a Texas tailor.

"If we do that again, I'd certainly wear it again," Luukko said. "If we make the Stanley Cup Finals, I'll wear it every game."

If another winning streak is to begin from here, it will be an uphill climb. Western Conference-leading Chicago arrives on Friday. The homestand includes playoff contender and cross-state rival Tampa Bay and Toronto, which usually draws a big crowd. Then it's off to Washington, which has a five-point edge on the Blackhawks for the President's Trophy. When the Cats come home again, playoff contenders Detroit and Pittsburgh will come to town.

Standing in the dressing room underneath a large sign that read "No Excuses," forward Nick Bjugstad offhandedly referred to the last four losses as a series of "little lapses." A team that's ready for greater things would ensure that's an accurate description, not something worse.

Superbowl 50 Prediction: Broncos vs. Panthers

END ZONE, PAGE 6

weaknesses. The Denver offense has been fairly pedestrian throughout the entire season, leaning on its defense to force turnovers and create short fields. For the Patriots, it's their inability to run the football, managing only 38 yards rushing in their previous game. Granted, the Kansas City's defense is no joke, but Denver is tops in the league and played like it against the Steelers.

Instead, New England uses the quick, short passes as its "run game". Wide receivers Julian Edelman and Danny Amendola are key weapons for

Brady in this style of offense. I think it's going to come down to whether Denver's defense can contain New England's offense. Denver has four Pro Bowlers, cornerbacks Aqib Talib, Chris Harris Jr. and linebackers Von Miller and Demarcus Ware, who can all challenge Brady and his offense.

That all being said, I think this game is neck and neck throughout and the game is decided on the final possession. Denver's defense will be too much for Brady to handle, and Manning does just enough on offense to reach his fourth Super Bowl.

Broncos: 20

Patriots: 17

The Cardinals and Panthers will decide who represents the NFC in the Super Bowl. This is the battle of MVP candidates between Palmer and Cam Newton, although I already think Newton has locked his name for the award.

After a thrilling victory, Arizona will need to regain focus and prepare for its toughest game yet. The Cardinals and their potent offense will square off with Carolina's ferocious defense, and this is the matchup to look for.

Panthers rookie cornerback, Josh Norman, will most likely shadow Fitzgerald throughout

the game. Against the Packers, Fitzgerald caught eight passes for 176 yards and a touchdown, so he will get a lot of attention.

If the Panther pass rush gets to Palmer, I think Carolina wins this game easily. The Cardinals will need to establish a consistent run game to balance their offense and keep Carolina on its toes.

On the other side, Newton has been playing extremely well. Although he only threw for 161 yards against Seattle, he did not commit a turnover and played a safe game. Carolina's ability to run the ball, with Jonathan Stewart and Newton himself, will ultimately be the difference maker in this game. In fact,

I think the team that runs for more yards will come out with the victory, and that team is the Carolina Panthers.

Panthers: 34
Cardinals: 27

Although I'd like to deviate from having both No. 1 seeds advance, I really believe the Broncos and Panthers are on a collision course for Super Bowl 50 on Sunday, Feb. 7.

End Zone is a weekly column discussing the NFL. Stefano is a contributing writing for FIUSM, and can be contacted by emailing sports@fiusm.com

Whiteside can get big money playing Miami Heat's way

WHITESIDE, PAGE 6

a rough road trip to finish with 33 points on 15-for-22 shooting, 28 rebounds and nine blocks over the final two games. That bumped his season averages to 12.3, 11.3 and four heading into Tuesday's game against Milwaukee (7:30 p.m., Fox Sports Sun), but those are merely a partial indicator of where he stands.

Meaningful progress shows up in subtle ways, and it almost always begins unevenly. A player starts by making the smart play inconsistently and, if successful, eventually gets to a point where the right moves come as naturally as they do for Chris Bosh.

"His communication and his poise have gotten a lot better," Bosh said. "It's been a continuation of his growth. If he's gonna continue to grow and continue to be a good player, he's gonna help us out a lot."

"He's gotta forge his own way. I can tell him and try my best to give him advice and I can do all these things, and he wants to do well, but he's gonna do it his own way. We have to allow him to do that and keep giving him pointers and stay on him and try to lead him as much as possible."

At 26, Whiteside no longer qualifies as young. There has been a rookie-like development, however, since

signing with the Heat a little over a year ago. There was less structure prior to that as he wandered from one year at Marshall to the dysfunctional Sacramento Kings to international teams and the D-League.

His tenure in Miami has been a full reboot. While there is much more work to be done, he has made strides on the path from raw talent to refined weapon.

"Every day I'm learning and I'm getting used to guys' tendencies and what my teammates like to do," he said. "I'm rotating better to guys and I've gotten good at staying down on pump-fakes and staying out of foul trouble."

All of that has been true at times, and the next goal is for it to be true most of the time and eventually all of the time.

He has cut back his fouls from 4.1 per 36 minutes last season to 3.1, a big reason why his playing time is up 23 percent.

His composure has improved, too, and there has been nothing close to the blow-ups that got him in trouble last season with Alex Len and Kelly Olynyk.

"I realized that I'm out here to do a job," Whiteside said. "Guys are gonna try whatever to get me out of the game since I'm such a big presence, and I don't want to

hurt my teammates by getting ejected."

That leads to the ultimate question of maturity: With a potentially massive payday awaiting him in free agency this summer, is Whiteside willing to go against human nature by making his own interests subservient to the team's? He can only answer that with his play.

When he barrels bullheadedly into multiple defenders or starts chasing blocks instead of sticking to his assignment, that suggests he is hunting stats. What Heat veterans want him to see, though, is that he can earn a lucrative contract simply by executing what Erik Spoelstra is asking of him.

"That's a decision he's got to make," Wade said. "I'm sure he would love to average 20 and 12 and five or something like that, and there's nothing wrong with going for numbers. You play this game to dominate, it's just sometimes you've gotta do it within the team concept."

"If Hassan is healthy, he's gonna get paid. It's not even necessarily about numbers in today's game; it's about what a team feels you can bring to them and how you can fit into their system. But I also just allow Hassan to be Hassan. You can't change him to be what you want him to be. You have to allow him to be him and help him along the way. That's what we're trying to do."

Extracting ‘bully’ plants at Virginia Key

LESLIE OVALLE

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Citizens for a Better South Florida, a non-profit organization that began in 1989 and focuses on bringing education to a diverse, underserved community, will be hosting a habitat restoration day at Virginia Key on Jan. 31 from 8 a.m. to noon.

The event will consist of hands-on restoration, educational booths and food.

Entrance to the park and parking will be free of charge.

The hands-on restoration will be comprised of manually removing invasive exotic plants in the area, which can damage

the ecosystem.

“These plants become bullies and take over,” said Laura Tellez, a program director for the organization, “so they must be removed to restore a balance.”

These infamous invasive exotic plants have caused a grave threat to native species, some have even become endangered, according to The City of Miami Parks and Recreation.

A few of the endangered species include: the Biscayne Prickly Ash (*Zanthoxylum coriaceum*), a flowering plant in the citrus family that grows glandular fruits in clusters; the Florida Silver Palm (*Coccothrinax argentata*), a fan palm with leaves that are dark blue-green above and silver

below, it also grown fruits that turn black when ripe; and the

“These plants become bullies and take over so they must be removed to restore a balance.”

Laura Tellez

Program Director

Citizens for a Better South Florida

Beachberry (*Scaevola plumieri*), a shrub with dark-green leaves, white flowers and black drupes.

Tools for the restoration will be provided for participants. Tellez recommends all participants to sign up online before the event; to sign up visit citizensrestoration.eventbrite.com

All volunteers are required to meet at Virginia Key Beach, on Arthur Lamb Jr. Road. A google interactive map is provided on the sign up website, Tellez recommends to use that map for directions.

Younger children are not encouraged to participate in the hands-on portion of the event due to the use of hazardous tools; however, there will be other activities and education booths for children to enjoy.

“There will definitely be

something for everyone,” said Tellez.

The habitat restoration event will be preceded the day before, Saturday, Jan. 30, by an event titled: “Anti-Poverty Summit: Building Climate Resilience and Social Equity.” This event will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and childcare will be provided.

The Saturday event will be educational and will host various speakers, touching upon climate change and initiatives that can provide community resilience.

“The vision is to make sure that people will be part of the solution,” said Tellez.

For more information visit the organization’s website, abettersouthflorida.org

Klamath River deal falls, could rekindle water use feud

BETTINA BOXALL

Los Angeles Times
TNS

The demise of a deal to end decades of feuding on the Klamath River could rekindle old battles over water use and dams in a remote corner of California.

A key piece of a three-part agreement expired when Congress failed to approve it by Dec. 31. The complicated pact, backed by the states of California and Oregon, called for the removal of four hydroelectric dams, settled water rights disputes and spelled out water allocations for irrigators and wildlife refuges in the Klamath Basin.

But the deal never got traction in the GOP-dominated Congress. And though some backers are holding out hope that it can be resurrected, others are doubtful.

“It would be very difficult if not impossible to pull the same parties to the table and reach a similar agreement,” said Don Gentry, chairman of

Oregon’s Klamath Tribes.

Conflict over the Klamath embodies classic struggles over western water.

Tribes, farmers, hydropower interests and commercial fishermen all have fought over the 255-mile river, which winds from southern Oregon through Northern California to the Pacific Ocean. Dams, farm and ranch diversions and agricultural runoff have exacted a heavy toll on a waterway that once supported Chinook salmon runs half a million strong.

The clashes drew national attention in 2001, a dry year when the federal government cut irrigation deliveries to preserve fish flows.

Enraged farmers threatened to open irrigation gates by force. The following year, the government increased irrigation deliveries - triggering lethal river conditions that left more than 30,000 dead salmon and steelhead trout floating in the lower Klamath.

The agreements, signed in 2010 and expanded in

2014, were supposed to end the strife. But they didn’t please everyone.

California’s Siskiyou County, where three of the utility company dams are located, opposed their removal, as did key Republican congressmen. Environmentalists and some tribes complained that the pact gave too much water to irrigators and too

“... actually the Congress did exactly what it should have done. They looked at this and said, ‘This is a nonstarter.’”

Tom Schlosser

Attorney

California’s Hoopa Valley Tribe

little to salmon.

Attorney Tom Schlosser, who represents California’s Hoopa Valley Tribe, called the expiration “good news.”

“I’m so tired of hearing this story. ... We all sang ‘Kumbaya’ and Congress didn’t pay any attention,” Schlosser said, “when actually the Congress did exactly what it should

have done. They looked at this and said, ‘This is a nonstarter.’”

The Hoopa, he said, will press ahead for dam removal through the federal dam relicensing process, which was put on the back burner when the agreements were struck. California’s Yurok Tribe, which withdrew from the accord last year, also

has indicated it will keep pushing to get rid of the dams.

Other groups could head back to court to settle lingering water rights disputes between the Klamath Tribes and farmers. “Parties are going to start doing some of their own things,” said Greg Addington of the Klamath Water Users Association, a

group of irrigation districts supplied by the federal Klamath Project.

“I’m not saying it’s over,” Addington said of attempts to save the accord. But Congress would have to signal more interest before his group makes another big push for the settlement. “We’re not just going to go beat our head against the wall again,” he said.

The U.S. Interior Department, which oversees federal irrigation operations and wildlife refuges in the basin, supported the Klamath deal. “We still believe the future of the basin lies with negotiated agreements, and we will work hard with the parties to find ways to achieve their collective goals,” Interior Secretary Sally Jewel said in a statement.

The dams, spread across 65 miles of the Klamath, are owned by PacifiCorp, a part of Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway Inc. empire.

Under the pact, the company had until 2020 to remove the structures, the oldest of which was erected

in 1918. The dams block historic salmon spawning grounds on the upper river and create stagnant pools of water that breed toxin-producing algae.

The agreements called for California to help pay for the dam removal and granted PacifiCorp immunity from any liability claims that arose from decommissioning.

Without the Klamath agreements, PacifiCorp faces a lengthy dam relicensing process and requirements to meet California water quality standards that could force it to spend an estimated \$400 million on fish ladders and other improvements.

“We’re all just waiting to see whether there’s any desire among the congressional delegation, the administration and the settlement partners to try to resurrect the agreements we made,” said PacifiCorp spokesman Bob Gravely. “We don’t know exactly how that would happen or what it would look like.”

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