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NOTHING LIKE A FIRST TIME WIN



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

FIU Women's basketball team celebrates their first Conference USA win, Thursday, Feb. 4. The Panthers defeated the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers 72-61.

FIU professor meets with holocaust survivor

NAPHTALI ROSENBERG
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Ada Monserrat, a professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, has made it a personal ritual to visit a piece of history every single school break. Monserrat has visited a myriad of historical landmarks, and interviewed historical figures such as Stephen Hawking.

This winter break she continued her historical ventures to interview a lady by the name of Hannah Goslar. Goslar was Anne Frank's childhood best-friend, and is her last surviving friend. According to Monserrat the interview was an absolutely inspiring.

Anne Frank was one of the 6 million Jewish victims of the Holocaust at age 16. In her short time she chronicled her experiences in a diary which has become the most famous memoir of all time.

Professor Monserrat got a chance to interview and converse with a living breathing character of the story, who lived an inspiring journey of her own.

"When I read the story of Anne Frank it really moved me," Monserrat said.

She described her previous visit of Anne Frank's "secret-annex" and she found it "so inspirational that someone in a moment like this wrote about it and was able to bring the best out of it."

"That's when I later started researching who was alive, who knew Anne Frank, and that's how I found (Goslar)," said Monserrat.

Monserrat explained, "I was basically writing back and forth with a journalist after reading an article in the Jerusalem-Post. We wrote back and forth until finally she granted me the interview, and I flew over there."

She met Goslar in Jerusalem and describes her as a "very nice woman." They were able to speak about many things like her personal survival story,

and of course her friendship with Anne Frank. She showed her pictures of her and Anne as young girls among many other memories.

According to Monserrat, Goslar described Frank as a "Very outgoing girl, very outgoing. Always riding a bike and very happy and active."

Goslar, nearly 90 years old, is still a very busy woman. She is an author and a renowned public speaker who relays her very own experiences in the Holocaust to promote peace and awareness.

Professor Monserrat describes a story from Goslar that gives a small glimpse of what the victims went through.

"She described her last meeting with Anne where she was throwing food over a fence that separated them."

They were in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where Anne Frank would pass away at 16, just a few days later.

Monserrat retold Goslar's account of the event, mentioning, "You weren't allowed near the fence or you would be shot and she risked this."

Hannah Goslar repeatedly risked her life to help her fellow victims in need.

Professor Monserrat recommends for students who are interested in in these type of experiences to read up on history.

"I read a lot of history and about important events, I want to learn about them and then travel over there."

For example, her meeting with Hannah. "I researched and then wrote back and forth, It takes a while but then I make it happen. You just have to research."

On her students, "I encourage them to follow, to learn about the things that interest them and to research it."

School of Music hosts international festival

MELISSA BURGESS
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The passion and love for guitar is taking over the FIU School of Music with the Miami International GuitART Festival starting Wednesday, February 24th until Sunday February 28th.

Dr. Mesut Özgen, Coordinator of Classical Guitar Studies at the FIU School of Music and Founder of the MIGF is organizing the five-day festival with various activities.

Özgen says that the music festival will have a series of concerts and other all-day events like master-classes and lectures.

"The masterclasses are offered for the advanced guitar students that register, and they perform in front of the artist and the students get feedback. It's very informative, interactive and entertaining," says Özgen

Thomas Caprara, majoring in music business and is performing with the FIU Guitar Ensemble at the festival, says he is excited for the masterclasses.

"The most exciting part of the festival is attending the masterclasses because they are always full of great information and it's an awesome learning experience," says Caprara.

Starting Wednesday, Feb. 24th

there will be a Luthiers Expo held in the Frost Art Museum Café, where a variety of handmade guitars will be on display and available for sale.

Throughout the festival, there will be eleven concerts performed by modern 20th century artists and composers from around the world, The Miami Guitar Trio, The Miami Guitar Orchestra & Student Showcase and a closing performance of the festival from FIU student majoring in Music Composition, Felipe Carvajal.

“ I hope to bring international and local artists together as well as students to have a high quality but entertaining music festival.

Dr. Mesut Özgen
Coordinator of Classical Guitar Studies
FIU School of Music

“I will be closing the festival with a Flamenco concert. I will be playing ten of my original

SEE MUSIC, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Microsoft selects 10 startups for accelerator

Microsoft is lending a hand to a set of startups working in the highly technical realm of machine learning.

The company on Thursday said it had selected 10 startups out of 720 applicants to participate in a four-month accelerator in and around Seattle.

Tech accelerators are designed to help new companies get off to a running start, offering guidance, networking and funding.

During the four-month program, companies will have access to Microsoft's own machine-learning engineers, among other experts. Also included are grants that give companies, if they choose, access to Microsoft's cloud-computing

platform.

"When we started, what we had in mind is, 'What can we do (to help) great startups that will eventually put Microsoft in the center of the ecosystem?'" Lavy said.

Before you're able to get Apple's Siri or Microsoft's Cortana to reliably reply to a request for a list of nearby coffee shops, for example, companies need to collect and analyze a mountain of data, Braga said.

"There's contextual information, accents, background noise, then you need to detect intent," said Braga. "There's many different ways of asking, 'Find me the nearest Starbucks.'"

French researcher says Zika link to Guillain-Barre syndrome is 'almost certain'

The Zika virus's health effects generally are described as mild flu-like symptoms for those who show symptoms at all or not yet certain, with references to Guillain-Barre syndrome, which causes paralysis, or microcephaly, an often devastating birth defect.

Over the course of the French Polynesia Zika outbreak, the incidence of Guillain-Barre increased twentyfold, the researchers noted. But they did warn that Zika merited "rigorous clinical monitoring," despite

its reputation for inducing only mild symptoms in most of its sufferers. "The observation that severe clinical complications may occur highlights the need to strengthen surveillance for this emerging virus," the authors said.

In an interview this week with the French magazine *Le Point*, Musso said he believes the Guillain-Barre link is "almost certain" and that the link between Zika and microcephaly in infants is also a near certainty.

DISEASE DISCUSSION



NICOLE HERNANDEZ/THE BEACON

(From left to right): Dr. Aileen M. Marty, Francisco Fernandez-Lima, Matthew DeGennaro, Dr. Consuelo Beck-Sagué and Carolin Lusby speak at the University's Zika Watch forum, informing the local community of the infectious disease.

School of Music hosts GuitART Festival

MUSIC, PAGE 1

compositions with a full ensemble. My music is modern flamenco with some parts of jazz influence," says Carvajal.

The Masterclasses and concerts will take place in both the WPAC Recital Hall and Concert Hall.

The Miami Guitar Orchestra and Student Showcase Concert on Saturday February 27th and the Miami Guitar Trio Concert on Sunday, February 28th are both free for FIU Students.

Dr. Ögzen is not only arranging the festival, but he hopes to make the festival more known.

"There are people that have attended the concerts and are so impressed with them, and don't know anything about the Guitar Orchestra! They are always so surprised and always tell me they wish they knew more about them," he says.

"I hope to bring international and local artists together as well as students to have a high quality but entertaining music festival."

Carvajal says that he thinks that it's important to hold music festivals, especially this one.

"Every concert and workshop is going to be different and all the musicians attending are great. The concerts and masterclasses help the guitar community grow and improve and it's a great opportunity," he says.

Tickets to this festival range from free admission to \$35.

Ögzen thinks that the Miami International GuitART Festival is

important and one of the biggest guitar events especially for the FIU School of Music.

"If you look at all the other events going on in the world like wars, global warming and hunger, this has zero importance in terms of solving those problems. However, this is human nature and you can't ignore these problems. But, we can't live without music and it's impossible to live without art."

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New Barbie pushes for realistic beauty

ON THE SCENE



GABRIELLE GARCIA

Since her debut in March 1959, Barbie has experienced some significant changes to her blonde hair, blue eyed and petite physique. After a series of changes which included broadening the list of available eye colors, skin tones and hairstyles, Mattel Inc. has announced a new line of Barbie dolls that will now include four different body types.

Mattel has long been criticized for Barbie's dramatically unrealistic bodily proportions, which have projected false perceptions and standards of beauty to the

young children who play with them. In addition to the doll itself, Barbie's advertisements bombard impressionable youth with unrealistic depictions of the female body, which not only affects the esteem levels of the young female viewers but also narrows children's worldviews.

Prior to the dramatic changes Barbie has experienced these past two years, it could be inferred that Barbie didn't represent the average child that played with her. With Barbie's three new body types (the fourth being the original dimensions), seven new skin tones, 22 new eye colors and 24 new hairstyles, Barbie finally represents and appeals to a more realistic standard of beauty.

In a company statement, Evelyn Mazzocco, the senior

vice president and global general manager of Barbie said, "We believe we have a responsibility

“ We believe we have a responsibility to girls and parents to reflect a broader view of beauty.

Evelyn Mazzocco
Senior Vice President
Barbie

to girls and parents to reflect a broader view of beauty.”

The new body types and

other changes, however, have the potential to impact the perception boys and girls have towards body image. It's often the case that boys grow up with a certain understanding as to what a woman's body is supposed to look like and the same can be said for girls and their perceptions of the male body.

Young children, who are arguably the most impressionable members of the population, enact social roles when they play with other children. In fact, studies show that children potentially derive their own perceptions of identity and body image with the toys that they play with and it's during these circumstances that different ideas and perceptions are exchanged.

Although there is still plenty

of room for more awareness and change when it comes to depictions of beauty standards in today's society, the changes that Mattel has made to make Barbie more representative and relatable to today's youth are commendable and create a platform of potential for even further changes in the near future. Hopefully, Mattel's changes can be a catalyst for reform among other companies representations of body image worldwide.

On the Scene is a commentary on the hottest pop culture topics. For further commentary, contact Gabrielle Garcia at gabrielle.garcia@fiusm.com

Binge-watching online ruins how we view shows

THOUGHTS ON A PAGE



DAMIAN GORDON

The feeling of despair hits like a family member recently dying; but if they did, you wouldn't know because you've been watching all the seasons of the "X-Files" and can't even remember what human contact is like. This feeling isn't because of aliens, just another downside to binge-watching.

This is a new age where a viewer doesn't have to tune in at eight to watch their favorite show anymore; they can simply just record or stream it for

the next day. Shows don't have to be released episodically anymore and many people are choosing to binge them all and that's not very good for the medium or the people.

"You buy something new, but then it gets old," Sonja Lyubomirsky, a professor of psychology at the University of California, said. "At first, a new TV show is really exciting, but the more you watch, the less you enjoy it over time."

Recent programs on Netflix, such as "Narcos" or "Jessica Jones," release all their episodes at once, leaving the choice up to the user on how they'll consume it.

This method of

releasing content isn't good for the fans as this creates a scattered community where one person may be on episode two while another has already finished the entire season in the first week of its release.

Watching a show like "The Walking Dead" every Sunday leaves room for a forum of discussion and speculation to happen while fans wait for the next episode over the week.

Long binge sessions can give similar feelings like the one's after a big Thanksgiving dinner. A participant takes in so much only to end up asking questions such as "why did I do this to myself?" or the overly dramatic "is this how I die?"

According to a study by MarketCast, binge-watching isn't even a social activity as over half

“ At first, a new TV show is really exciting, but the more you watch, the less you enjoy it over time.

Sonja Lyubomirsky
Psychology Professor
University of California

of bingers prefer to watch their shows alone. You know what they say, the family that binges together, stays as far as humanly possible from each other while doing it.

Think back to running through a season of a show. There's probably not another person in the room sharing that experience. Compared

to watching something with a group like "NFL," "American Idol" or even "LOST" in its heyday, bingeing can be isolating.

Episodic shows also have room for improvement since a series with longer seasons usually take a mid-season break and the writers can get feedback. They then get a chance to fix any mistakes from the first half of the season.

Shows "On Demand" are just another factor causing this generation to have a shorter attention span. I'm surprised when relationships even last more than a week these days because of this lack of attention.

Bingeing can turn a masterpiece like "Breaking Bad," which slow cooked its story up through the seasons to its boiling point, into mere fast food where you consume, enjoy and forget about it later.

There's not really a moment to sit down and digest what just happened

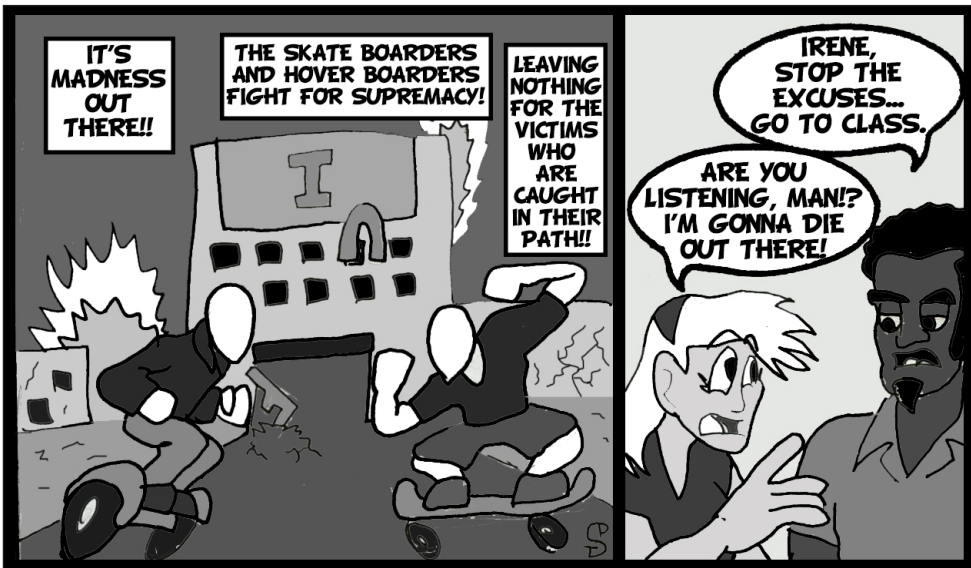
as the opening theme is already playing for the next episode.

I enjoyed "Daredevil" last year, but a lot of sequences just blend together in a blur when thinking back on them. This problem isn't due to the quality, but rather a quantity of how many episodes were watched so closely to each other.

This is where self-restraint comes into play, except those who have that probably already wait week-to-week for a new episode. As for me, I'll have a pile of books and homework from school to keep me restrained from doing anything.

Thoughts on a page is a commentary on the topics everyone thinks about, but doesn't discuss. For further commentary, contact Damian Gordon at damian.gordon@fiusm.com

BOARDS VS WALKERS



SAM PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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LIFE!

The Beacon - 4

fiusm.com

Monday, February 8, 2016

Miss FIU's fitness journey

MONDAY MOTIVATION



NIHAT STRIDER

A few months ago, Stephanie Almeida approached me to be her personal trainer as she signed up for the Miss FIU 2016 pageant. This was something new for me, to fitness train someone for a pageant but I accepted the challenge.

Almeida possesses two major strengths, promising potential and dedicated determination. When these two are combined, it is possible to achieve any goal. The pageant has a lifestyle and fitness portion and our goal was to get the highest score there. While we were set on astounding the judges with our lifestyle and fitness presentation, we had a bigger goal—taking the crown.

With responsibilities such as school, work and other commitments Almeida and I still made it a priority to meet and train on regular basis. The lifestyle and fitness portion requires contestants to wear a swimsuit and judges base their score on the contestants' aesthetic appearances of their body. Therefore, it was essential for us to target every muscle of the body in our regular workouts.

We dedicated each day of the week to a different set of muscles, alternating for a more lively routine. Building muscle was key to getting Almeida looking and feeling her best, for this we focused on high weights, as opposed to low weights, which require more cardio and will burn fat. High weights build muscle mass.

Once we worked out the logistics we got started the basics. The first few weeks the focus was on pull ups, push ups, sit ups and squats—all using her own body weight. Once her muscles were trained in the basics we began weight lifting for bodybuilding.

Building pageant-ready abs was also a priority of ours. I have three rules for chiseled abs: eat clean, sweat it out and show them off. Almeida is also an FIU Golden Dazzler, so through her dance experience she already had a good base to work on.

Reaching a fitness goal is not a nine-to-five job, it takes a lifestyle change. There were days we could not meet for our routines, these days Almeida performed her exercises on her own.

Along with a fitness routine, we also came up with a meal plan for Almeida. Good nutrition is the base that a successful fitness lifestyle stands upon. To make this base as strong as it could be our meal plan had to be strategic, providing Almeida with the necessary nutrients to build muscle and have the energy to reach her goal.

In health and fitness we always concentrate on the physical attribute; however, our mental health should not be taken for granted. Along with physical and nutritional training, Almeida practiced regular meditation. This practice has been proven to lower stress levels and clear the mind—key elements for her goal of taking the Miss FIU crown.

The day of the Miss FIU Scholarship Pageant had arrived, all of our hard work will add up to this moment. Our fitness and lifestyle training went beyond that portion of the pageant, our training was showcased in how Almeida carried herself throughout the pageant. She was physically and mentally prepared for all aspects of the pageant—the evening gown, talent portion and so on.

The moment we all had been waiting for arrived, the crowning of the next Miss Florida International University. There was an air of anticipation in the room and finally it was announced, "Stephanie Almeida". We had reached our goal. All it took was discipline, determination and meditation.

Our Journey, however, did not end there. Almeida continues her fitness training to maintain her wellbeing and inspire FIU students to do the same—set a goal and reach it.

Motivation Monday is a weekly column covering fitness and health from a personal trainer's point of view. To offer Nihat comments or suggestions email life@fiusm.com.

LIL' CESAR



SOPHIE HERBUT/THE BEACON

Stephen Escudero, a senior english major, raps an original piece at the Hip Hop Meets Shakespeare event in the Marc Pavilion hosted by Sigma Tau Delta. He won the Shakespeare Slam Competition.

Alumni inspires students

ERIC DURAN

Contributing Writer
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FIU's third annual Panther Alumni Week continued this Thursday, Feb. 4. Aimed at connecting students with FIU's over 200,000 graduates, PAW hosted a variety of guest speakers across the MMC, BBC and Engineering campus.

The keynote speaker featured class of 1993 alum Dwayne Bryant, a finance and international business major. Now founder and CEO of Inner Vision International, Bryant has spent over 20 years motivating others to reach their goals.

His corporation, Inner Vision International, empowers urban youth by emphasizing character development, leadership skills and self-awareness. As an officer on FIU's Board of Directors, Bryant spoke on his success and the importance of sharing his journey with students.

"Young people want to know that FIU works. The best way to know that it works is seeing successful alumni

doing things in the world that they want to do," said Bryant.

He opened his presentation by showcasing the luxuries he has attained, but not without clarifying the work he endured to get there.

"Success is a journey... but it takes hard work," says Bryant.

Students looked to Bryant for the secret to this success, learning time and again the key was self-worth. Another piece of advice he gave to students was to play the roles they want, not the roles they are given.

It was clear he had a deep investment in the FIU community, pushing students to seek campus resources to brighten their future. With involvement in campus organizations such as Black Student Union and his work with Career Planning & Placement, he exemplified the hard work he was selling.

"What I think brought me here is his outlook on education. How he looks at [students'] self-esteem and not just defines them by tests. I think that's what really breaks a child," said Eliana Alba, a junior majoring in

marketing.

Bryant also poked fun at students, encouraging confidence and creating an accepting atmosphere. When interacting with the students he did not seek the right answers, only the confidence to speak up. While Bryant's topics ranged from African history to growing up in the ghettos of Central Florida, he created an honest, direct and light-hearted environment.

His lecture was far from the conventional one-way setup. It was a reflection of his values and his work in Inner Vision International, showing students how far character development goes in the development of a leader.

From humble beginnings, he continues to represent diversity within FIU and his home back in Chicago.

He hopes his involvement on campus will teach students that with the proper work ethic, anything is possible; "if you come here and get your education and leadership positions, those skills will transfer into your career," said Bryant.

The making of a Panther

ZOE LODATO

Contributing Writer
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Christopher Kacens wanted to find an enticing way to understand the spirit FIU.

A first semester freshmen coming into a diverse and large environment like FIU in the spring semester can feel lost. For many students like him, it's the first time they meet people with morals and opinions that differ from their own.

With the overwhelming amount of conversations heard in different languages throughout the campus, new students like Kacens can find it difficult to begin assimilating with the diverse culture of FIU.

Often promoted at orientation, a three-day excursion to Lake Placid in South Central Florida like Panther Camp helps transfer and freshman students meet each other every spring and summer.

But what an outsider might not realize when deciding whether to

experience a camp like scenario with strangers from all parts of the globe is that Panther Camp is more than just an opportunity to network. For some, it helps them discover themselves.

"I came here as an introvert but with the help of my Echo Family I was able to open up and feel comfortable with doing so," said Shiv Panchal, a freshman majoring in international business.

As the weekend progresses, the feel of the camp becomes more self-reflective. In an activity

called "Trash Your Values," the facilitators asked the campers to write down 10 values they treasure in life. Little by little, campers discarded the values they thought no longer mattered.

Alex Castillo, a former camper himself and now a Panther Camp facilitator, said that knowing there are a lot of new students entering a diverse college environment makes him inclined to help out to make them feel welcomed.

For the full story, visit fiusm.com



NIHAT STRIDER/THE BEACON

Zombies camp up a Jane Austen classic

JOSEPH CARDENAS
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Seth Grahame-Smith struck gold upon the release of a quirk book classic. The campy, yet fancy, “Pride and Prejudice and Zombies,” has been more than well received as a novel that pays homage to Jane Austen, the author of “Pride and Prejudice.”

In April 2009, the book about a zombie apocalypse during the Victorian age, took the world by storm for its use and manipulation of Jane Austen’s own original writing to preserve its story and integrity while still adding in everything we expect from a story about brain-eating zombies.

A film adaptation graced the silver screen in what most would assume would be the worst zombie film of the century. It’s true: seldom do we have a zombie movie that isn’t so campy it makes everyone cringe. However, this film, directed by Burr Steers, who also directed “Charlie St. Cloud” and “17 Again”, does everything right.

It could’ve been a pure romantic tragedy we’ve all seen before. It could’ve been the grossest cliché since “Nightmare on Elm Street” when Freddy Krueger slaughtered Johnny Depp in an explosion of blood.

Surprisingly, it was both, but it accomplished all of this with style that not most camp films have. The movie was fun to watch – an unregrettable adventure from start to finish. Knowing nothing

of great literature won’t change how you experience this film either.

“I like zombies, and I love ‘Pride & Prejudice,’” Jordan Cline, a freshman at FIU, said at a screening of the film, “so, putting them together was a good mix.”

“The fact that you’ve got zombies in your world blows the whole thing open,” Douglas Booth, who plays Charles Bingley, said in a roundtable interview with other college and high school newspapers at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, “anything is really possible.”

The roundtable interview, included Lily James, actress from “Downton Abbey” and “Cinderella,” who plays Elizabeth, and Matt Smith actor from “Doctor Who,” who plays Carson. The screening precluded it.

Both film and novel follow the story of Elizabeth Bennett, the second of five sisters. They are trained in martial arts and muskets by their father, who wants them to defend themselves in a world ravaged by the “dreadfuls” – as the undead are referred to often.

While their mother wants them to marry suitable gentlemen, Elizabeth, is like most independent women in an otherworldly apocalypse. She is content with slicing zombies when they come calling.

“I wanted to be a really honest interpretation of Liz Bennett,” James said. “But then as soon as you put it in the setting of a zombie apocalypse it changes. Everything became heightened and much more about life and death. She became much fiercer and angrier because of that.”

As the events of Austen’s classic plays out – she is acquainted with the arrogant Colonel Fitzwilliam Darcy, who cares about defending the country from the threat of humanity’s destruction. His pride clouds him from seeing how he treats others; her prejudice misguides where she places her trust. But they reconcile and begin falling in love.

However, there’s still the ever-looming threat of the four horsemen of the apocalypse and a literal army of zombies to worry about. Who’s on what side and are the undead capable to live? After all, it wouldn’t be a fun Jane Austen story without blood and an existential global doomsday in it.

“There is a central love story, and it’s important that we believe in that,” Matt Smith said, “but also it doesn’t take itself too seriously, which I think is important.”

That really was the most wonderful thing about the movie, that high-class society is somehow not lost amid a zombie apocalypse. It’s what makes it hilarious and earnest. The movie successfully takes Austen’s classic and turns it into a ridiculous camp horror without compromising the integrity of the original novel. It was “Pride & Prejudice”... with zombies.

The film also stars Sam Riley from “Maleficent” and “On The Road,” and Lena Headey, from “Game of Thrones,” and is now playing in theaters. With Valentine’s Day around the corner, maybe a compromise for some old fashioned romance with blood and guts thrown in the mix, would make the perfect date night.

Shoegaze band releases sophomore album ‘Hypatia’

MUSIC NOTES



CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ

The shoegaze revival lives on. At least, it would certainly appear that way after listening to “Hypatia,” the sophomore effort from Wray, a trio surprisingly based in Birmingham, Alabama.

The latest release establishes them as the most recent buzzworthy band to

carry the banner of an increasingly crowded and self-aware scene. It’s easy to predict that Wray will get lost in the shuffle of numerous shoegaze revival groups currently making their own mark on the indie soundscape.

That would be an injustice to a band who approaches the sound with an impressive level of sophistication and technicality. When “Hypatia” unfurls itself, one is introduced to a group who quite impressively knows how to navigate their way around catchy melodies and uses a dense wall of sound as a tool to heighten emotion rather than sink into it.

Much like their contemporaries Title Fight, Wray had early roots in punk rock before switching up for a dreamier aesthetic. However, their approach is distinctive: infusing elements of jangle pop, post punk and even their own southern roots. “Giant”, for example, with its driving melody, is deceptively inspired by War on Drugs Americana aesthetic while being bathed in layers of lush guitar.

While the songs don’t fuss or fight for your attention, they do exist to please. Wray knows the value of a well-crafted hook and uses it to great effect. For reference, check the title track, built around an infectious guitar riff that is immediate and inviting. On “Jennifer,” the melody sounds closer to 80s pop act Tommy Tutone, rather than obvious influences such as Catherine Wheel before crashing through waves of reverb.

Rarely does Wray’s sound feel frantic or forced, preferring instead to dig into more languid aspects of the genre. Yet they still make it enticing. On the opening track “Belong”, there is no grand gesture or alarming dissonance. Just a continuous rhythm delivered with a sense of

cool detachment. Such is their approach, which may be more intriguing to seasoned listeners of the genre than newcomers.

Yet the catchy moments are abound. “Regular,” which would certainly recall contemporaries DIIV, the band showcases their astute skill as a cohesive unit, delivering a beachy melody that would most certainly work for anything from a summer night outing to a solo dance session in your bedroom. And as the song progresses, the sound becomes more aggressive yet all the more inviting.

The band most certainly has an incredibly effective rhythm section despite the fact that the drums are often buried in the mix. The vocals are melancholic and unobtrusive. Impressively, none of the songs on this record ever feel haphazard or like they’re on the verge of falling apart. Each song is tightly structured and cohesive. “Pined,” for instance is a demonstration on how the shoegaze revivalists adhere to their influences, recalling early 90s Chapterhouse by draping the pop structure with a dense wall

of sound.

Already seasoned as a touring act, including a stint as the openers for space rock vets Man or Astro-man?, Wray is slowly developing an impressive reputation within the scene. “Hypatia” finds a band now settling comfortably into a creative peak. As the revival lumbers on, countless carbon copies will undoubtedly be pushed out of the machine this coming year. Nonetheless, Wray’s output seeks to add dimension to an often shapeless sound.

Wray is a band from Birmingham, Alabama consisting of David Brown (bass,vocals), David Swatzell (guitar,vocals), and Blake Wimberly (drums.) “Hypatia” is available now via Communicating Vessels. Rating: 4/5

Music Notes is a column that features up-and-coming bands. To offer suggestions and commentary on this column email life@fiusm.com

REMEMBERING WOLFE

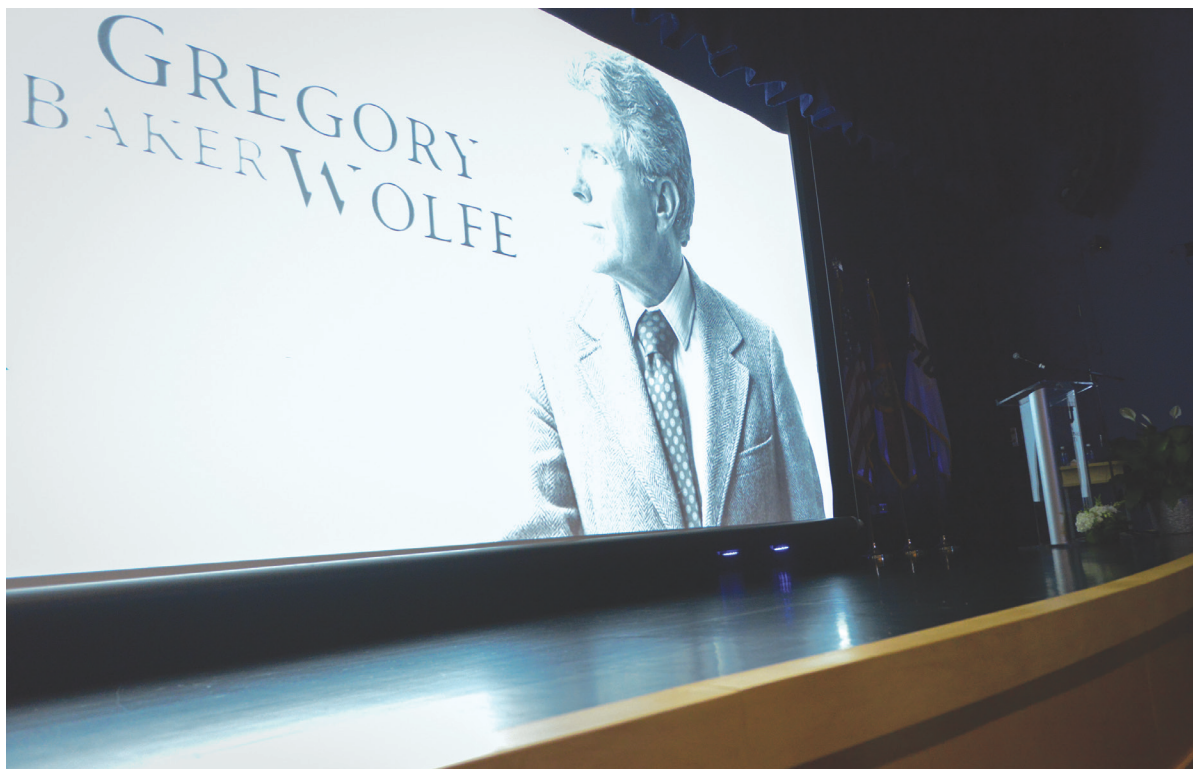


PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDIA RELATIONS

University community and staff celebrate and remember the life of Gregory Baker Wolfe, former FIU president. Tuesday, February 2. Under Wolfe’s direction FIU expanded to a four-year university.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

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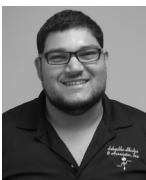


MICHAEL SLOAN/THE BEACON

The women's basketball team bask in their first conference win of the season against the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers Thursday, Feb. 5. The win also marks Head Coach Marlin Chinn's first conference win since joining the organization.

The struggle goes beyond the court for FIU

T-TIME



GIANCARLO NAVAS

Down by two and heading into halftime, the FIU women's basketball team had to be feeling pretty good about their chances to snap a 14 game losing streak. Then they got outscored by 33 points in the second half. And as the final buzzer rang on a 84-54 defeat by Old Dominion last Saturday,

there is a sense that this may never end.

Going back to last season, FIU was 2-36 in 2015. They are winless in 2016 (0-9) and it doesn't look to get much better. There are only nine games left in the season and FIU would have to win out just to go .500 in 2016, not even the season.

It is rough for first year FIU head coach Marlin Chin, but it is a rebuilding year. These aren't his players and hasn't had a chance to really recruit for his vision of the team. After winning game one of the season against Florida A&M, coach Chin said he wanted to play fast up-tempo basketball.

His vision differs a bit from the players he had in place. Despite not scoring well FIU has played a fast pace, what Chinn wants. Pace is a two way street, if a team, say FIU, uses a lot of clock during their possessions and plays slow the overall pace of the game will slow down.

While conference-USA doesn't have advanced statistics like pace factor, judging

from opponents point totals FIU would appear to be playing fast pace basketball. The Panthers don't put up a lot of point, but they sure do allow them. At least in part indicating that teams get many field goal attempts.

Imagine, if FIU uses 24 seconds of clock each possession the opponent will have limited field goal attempts and opportunities to score. If FIU uses 15 seconds of clock, then their opponent can get the ball back quicker and allow for more possessions.

Typically when a team is good offensively their goal is to play as fast as they can without compromising efficiency, the more possessions for a good offense the better, because it eliminates the randomness of fewer possession basketball. And if you are good at offense you want more chances to score.

Because C-USA doesn't track stats as pace or offensive and defensive efficiency it is difficult to truly evaluate what is wrong with this team. Why are they losing so much and what needs to get fixed.

I am a firm believer that our eyes can lie to us, especially when watching sports. Confirmation bias is a thing that plagues us all and it is important to quantify as many things as we can with accurate numbers.

The numbers that C-USA is providing on their website would have been helpful in Bill Russell's era of basketball. Not in 2016. The fans and journalists are more informed than ever, they understand that counting

stats aren't helpful.

C-USA providing stats on "scoring offense" doesn't tell anyone anything other than that team scores a lot. That number has no context. It can be affected by many things, pace most notably. If a team is leading the conference in scoring offense but shoots a low field goal percentage is that team good at offense? They score a lot inefficiently so you can safely say no correct?

Well, that field goal % doesn't take into account that three pointers are worth more than two pointers and a three is a harder shot. So if a team takes a lot of 3's and scores a lot, they will need fewer shots because of the value of the three, despite shooting a lower percentage.

All that and I still haven't discussed how a higher possession game can skew numbers because the more possessions in a game, the more counting stats available. Those numbers are no good. They don't give you a complete picture the way advanced metrics do. Where offensive efficiency takes all those factors into account and provides a contextualized number used to evaluate a team.

Conference-USA however, refuses to include such numbers on their website. Instead they provide those useless counting stats, which don't help in the evaluating of a team. I feel bad for Bill Russell; he doesn't know what he was missing.

T-Time is a biweekly column about

women's basketball in FIU. To contact Giancarlo email him at giancarlo.navas@fiusm.com



MICHAEL SLOAN/THE BEACON

Freshman guard Kristian Hudson drives the ball down the lane against UAB Thursday, Feb. 5. The Panthers next game is at the University of Texas at El Paso Thursday, Feb. 11.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Turnovers hold back Panthers in 74-69 loss to UAB

DAVID DRUCKER
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The FIU men's basketball team (11-12, 5-5 in Conference USA) dropped their third straight game in a row on Thursday, Feb. 4 as they fell to the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers. The Panthers constructed impressive scoring runs in both the first and second halves, but the Blazers were able to ward off their charges and take the contest 74-69.

For the first time in weeks, Head Coach Anthony Evans mixed up how he used his players. While senior forward Daviyon Draper and senior center Adrian Diaz still led the way for FIU (16 and 14 points respectively), Evans utilized his bench players much more than in past contests. A struggling version of junior Donte McGill was

ence with an 8-1 record. UAB entered the game winners of 15 of their last 16 contests. The Panthers had just dropped both games of their two-game home stand.

FIU lacked energy coming out of the gate. The Blazers had already gotten out to a 20-8 lead with 12:45 minutes left in the first half. The Panthers recovered, however, and used a 12-0 run to tie the game up at 20-20. UAB retook the lead before the half and went into the break up 41-36.

FIU senior center Adrian Diaz found a worthy challenge in UAB center Tosin Mehinti in a matchup of 6-foot-9 against 6-foot-11. The two players made each other work for their production all night. Diaz ended the contest with 14 points with six rebounds and five blocked shots. Mehinti notched a season-high 13 points and seven rebounds.

“

FIU lacked energy coming out of the gate. The Blazers had already gotten out to a 20-8 lead with 12:45 minutes left in the first half.

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restricted to 17 minutes in favor of players like freshman Michael Douglas and junior Elmo Stephen, who both played 23 minutes. The result was 30 bench points - their highest reserve total scoring by far in weeks.

Another clear team improvement this week was FIU's three point shooting: the Panthers shot 46.2 percent from behind the arc. Not much of that mattered, however, because of the 17 turnovers the Panthers committed.

The Blazers entered Thursday night's game as the top team in the confer-

UAB began the second half with more energy again, except this time gaining as much as a 17-point lead with 13:06 minutes left in the game. FIU put together a 21-7 run and cut the lead to 64-61 with 3:21 on the clock. The Panthers got the game as close as 68-66 with 34 seconds left. A pair of made free throws and a fast break dunk from Dirk Williams put the game away for the Blazers at 74-69.

Next up for the Panthers is a matchup on Thursday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. against the University of Texas at El Paso Miners at FIU Arena.

FOOTBALL



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Roary and the Golden Dazzlers welcome community members to the 2016 National Signing Day press conference Wednesday, Feb. 3. The football team confirmed 20 high school students sent in letters of intent, joining the four early commits. The 2016 signing class includes 13 offensive players, 10 defensive players and one on special teams.

Panthers add size and talent on National Signing Day

JACOB SPIWAK
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There are few days in all of sports that have as much importance and excitement surrounding them than National Signing Day. The futures of both young men and college football programs around the country are shaped on the first Wednesday of every February.

This Signing Day was a critical one for the FIU Panthers, as their football program is at a point where slight improvements can propel them to regular bowl appearances, while making a couple wrong moves could send the Panthers to the bottom of Conference USA.

While it's much too early to tell how any of these players will turn out once they're playing at the college level, early indications show that the Panthers came away with a very solid recruiting class that addressed a lot of holes and added some much-needed size to the roster.

“We feel really good about this class,” head coach Ron Turner said. “Our coaches did a tremendous job of [not only] evaluating their talent and athleticism, but also the character of these individuals... We feel like we've got a very good group coming in.”

“

Our coaches did a tremendous job of [not only] evaluating their talent and athleticism, but also the character of these individuals... We feel like we've got a very good group coming in.

Ron Turner
Head Coach
FIU Football

”

Turner mentioned that the team got just about all of the players they were targeting to sign, and is optimistic that there are a few players in the new class of Panthers that can make an immediate impact on the field.

One of those players in particular is junior college transfer cornerback Khairi Reaser. After playing his first two seasons at San Jose City College, Reaser will look to capitalize on potential openings

atop the depth chart. With the Panthers' top two corners in Richard Leonard and Jeremiah McKinnon both graduating, there certainly seems to be a spot for Reaser if he can earn it.

“[Cornerback] is an area where we're looking for guys [to play] right away,”

“

Turner said. “We liked [Reaser] a lot on film, brought him in and liked him as a person, and we think he is a guy that hopefully can come in and contribute early.”

It's rare that Turner brings in a player from junior college, so it's a safe bet that he and the FIU coaching staff saw a lot in Reaser.

The aforementioned physical size of this recruiting class is also something that really stands out. Bringing in multiple

players over 300 pounds and adding significant depth on both the offensive and defensive lines is something that can only help a team like FIU that seemed to lose the battle on the line of scrimmage so often last season.

“On the offensive line we wanted

“

to get bigger and stronger,” Turner said. “A couple of [the newly signed players] were over 300 [pounds] or in the 290-305 range, which is really good for a high school kid, especially since it's good weight. It's a good 305 or a good 295, not sloppy.”

Size wasn't just added at offensive and defensive line, however. One of the standouts of this recruiting class is 6-foot-2 wide receiver Stantley Thomas. A three-sport athlete in high

school (football, basketball and track & field), Thomas comes into an FIU program that has drastically needed a standout wide receiver for years now. If Thomas comes into his own this offseason and can use his height to his advantage, he could line up very nicely on the opposite side of Thomas Owens.

Overall the 2016 recruiting class has 24 new signees, with 20 coming from the state of Florida and one coming from each Illinois, Oklahoma, California and Georgia. FIU always recruits heavily in Florida, but the growing number of out-of-state players is an indication that the Panthers are looking everywhere for the best possible players to take the field in blue and gold.

There is still a lot of time and practice to go for the Panthers, but after a successful start to the offseason the Panthers are eagerly awaiting their season opener against Indiana University Thursday, Sept. 1.

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Java Jam exposes various cultures to BBC students

NICOLE STONE
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The Biscayne Bay Campus will be hosting an opportunity for coffee, conversation and immersion in the culture of the Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean New Year today, Feb. 8, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the AC-2 Bus Stop. Java Jam, dubbed for its resemblance to the conversationalist atmosphere of a coffee lounge, is an event that will be periodically occurring throughout the spring semester. Students, faculty and staff will be offered coffee and snacks while experiencing different cultures and languages. Java Jam will occur several times within the spring semester, each

time featuring different cultures to celebrate like those of India on March 14 and Venezuela and Colombia on April 14.

This is a great way to expose oneself to the diverse perspective of each culture and to ignite a greater understanding of the world we exist in. We all come from different cultural backgrounds which combine to create a greater collective human circumstance. Understanding begins with mere exposure and coffee, conversation and snacks is a great place to start. The ecosystem of a well-rounded mind requires exposure to new experiences as it cannot grow without them.

Java Jam is not only an opportunity to grow mentally, it also offers a communal aspect that

DANCES WITH WOLVES



DIANA SANCHEZ/THE BEACON

Brandy Owen, a freshman business administration major, mirrors the dance moves of instructor Juliana Demard in the weekly Dancing at the Wolf class. The next class is Tuesday, Feb. 9 at noon.

is incredibly special. Students, faculty and staff should take this opportunity to engage with others in a setting of

a culture that may or may not be familiar to them. Those who are familiar with the featured culture can help inform those

who are still learning of it. This setting for the exchange of information helps build social bonds and immersion between

attendants—except better, thanks to the cup of coffee warming their palms.

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