

2-11-2016

The Beacon, February 11, 2016

Florida International University

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Recommended Citation

Florida International University, "The Beacon, February 11, 2016" (2016). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 860.
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Student government 2016 applications open

TALIA TORBICA
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Each year, FIU students are given the opportunity to take part in Student Government Association Elections, during which candidates campaign and debate, allowing the voters to learn more about them to possibly persuade them to vote.

FIU's SGA provides students with different leadership opportunities, allowing them to take part in the decision-making processes that affect the FIU community. FIU's Student Government is composed of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branch.

According to Alian Collazo, the Senate Speaker, SGA is the "most important form of representation for students within the University," allowing them to shape the future of the institution that we are all a part of.

The elections are a way for student leaders to present their different ideas and viewpoints, all in hopes of making our University the best version it can be.

The 2016 SGA elections are open and will close on February 19, at 5 p.m. If you are interested in applying to run for President, Vice President, or various Senator positions, the application is posted on the Student Affairs website, under section "Get Involved".

Luis Callejas, the SGA Election Commissioner, explained that in order to hold a position within SGA, undergraduates must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 credit hours, with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 and a 2.0 term. Graduate students must be

“When it comes to applying for specific positions, such as an Arts and Science Senator, one has to be admitted in the college, if not, one has to provide a letter from the Dean of that college.”

Luis Callejas
Election Commissioner
Student Government Association

EQUALITY FOR ALL



ADRIAN SALGADO/THE BEACON

(From left to right) Fred Bardi, Ludwin Vielman, Yana Nudelman and Juliana Failde attract new members to join Amnesty International, a club, aimed at having human rights equally distributed.

Influential civil rights leader inspires students

YURIELLE MENARD
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"Who knows the black national anthem? Sing the black national anthem," Marc Lamont Hill said during his speech at the "I am Black History" event on February 2. Hill is an affluent journalist, civil rights leader and professor at Morehouse College heavily recognized within the African American community.

The Black Student Union is presenting "I am Black History," a series of events including guests speakers, shows and activities to commemorate Black History.

Throughout the month of February, BSU, the Coalition of Black Organizational Leaders and the National Panhellenic Council will be hosting many of these events on MMC.

Hill's appearance to MMC was one of the highlights of the "I am Black History" series, as his speech represented the "I am Social Change" segment. In this segment, Hill addresses issues of racial inequality, police brutality, and "getting America to listen to itself."

"We like to reduce Martin Luther King to that dream he had," Hill said.

Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech presented in front of the Lincoln memorial wasn't about dreams but about broken promises, promises that have been trending

various times in history by many slaves and black scholars. "America, you promised!"

Hill's speech empowered the crowd as he engaged them to stand up and sing the "black national anthem," "Lift Every Voice and Sing" written by James Weldon Johnson in 1899.

Hill said that the song stresses "lift every voice not just my voice or our voice".

Prior to the event, Hill had an intimate Meet n' Greet session with members of COBOL. During this meeting, Hill asked

as well as fatherhood and how he stays true to himself.

"Love. I think that without hesitation the thing that holds my life together is a deep love for us, a deep love for me, a deep love for my family and this idea of freedom," Hill said.

Hill offered many students insight on aspiring journalism careers, books that inspired his career, the balance between his lifestyle and career and his experience in Palestine as a Dream Defender.

“It just shows how powerful and how influential he is; everybody wants to come and hear him speak. He's a really powerful and dynamic speaker, very opinionated, and has a lot of interesting things to say despite your views on what he says it's really just intriguing.”

Esi Fynn-Obeng
Senior

Communication Arts, Organizational Studies and Sociology

the students if they had any questions and requested that most of his answers be off the record to ensure genuine answers.

Student Media was offered the opportunity to ask him about his balance of journalism, activism, being a professor,

Senior communication arts, organizational studies and sociology double major, Esi Fynn-Obeng, told Student Media "I'm really hoping that our black community really come out and show support." Fynn-Obeng said she knows that

a mandatory information session. There will be three information sessions, and each candidate is required to attend one.

The first information session is Feb. 16 at 5 p.m. in GC 150. The second session is Feb. 24 at 11 a.m. at GC 316.

The final session is March 3 at 12:30 p.m. in GC 314.

Voting will take place on April 5 and April 6, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 7 p.m., and the winners will be announced April 7 in GC.

Hill will be able to breakdown and discuss some issues, in order to "grab the audience and let them know what's going on."

Fynn-Obeng was attending the Meet n' Greet on behalf of the African Student Organization.

After the Meet n' Greet COBOL was escorted to the GC Ballrooms, where students filled the room. "It just shows how powerful and how influential he is; everybody wants to come and hear him speak. He's a really powerful and dynamic speaker, very opinionated, and has a lot of interesting things to say despite your views on what he says it's really just intriguing," said Fynn-Obeng.

After Hill spoke, he left crowd inspired to promote change as many students lined up to take photos and slip in last minute questions that he had not addressed or could not address due to the time limitation.

Hill left the students of FIU with a positive note of encouragement to no longer remain silent. "Seriously family, who we going to be? Do we purely want to be known for how we stroll, how we shimmy. Do we purely want to be known for how we got into the organization and not for what we did when we got into the organization? What's the point of being good if you good for nothing?"

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

NC fines Duke Energy \$6.6 million for river spill

North Carolina's environmental agency has fined Duke Energy \$6.6 million for its February 2014 spill of coal ash into the Dan River.

The fine accounts only for violations Duke pleaded guilty to in federal court last May, the Department of Environmental Quality said.

"The state is holding Duke Energy accountable so that it and others understand there are consequences to breaking the law," Donald van der Vaart, environment secretary of the agency, said in a statement Tuesday.

The fine, which Duke may appeal within 30 days, follows a \$102 million settlement in May of federal criminal charges over Duke's ash handling.

Half the fines in the federal case stemmed from the Dan River spill, in which Duke ignored earlier warnings

about a 48-inch stormwater pipe that failed under a 27-acre coal ash pond.

Federal prosecutors said Duke executives twice refused to spend \$20,000 on internal pipe inspections three years before the spill.

The state fine announced Tuesday echoed those findings.

Duke's own consultants noted as far back as 1986 that the pipe that later failed was partly made of corrugated metal, a material that deteriorates with age. After the spill, Duke said it was surprised to learn the pipe wasn't made entirely of concrete, a stronger material.

Duke overhauled its ash management and is now closing ash basins across North Carolina under legislation that the spill prompted.

US hasn't had a bilingual president since FDR

The United States has not elected a president fluent in a language other than English in 72 years.

And in a field of 11 remaining presidential candidates, only two could change that: Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio.

The last president who spoke a foreign language fluently was Franklin D. Roosevelt, elected to his fourth term in 1944, who was taught French and German as a child.

Presidential candidates John Kerry in 2004 and Mitt Romney in 2012 found that speaking fluent French was turned against them by opponents who painted them as elitist and even worse, European-style politicians.

Romney, who spent two years as a Mormon missionary

in France, began a video for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City by introducing himself in one of the official languages of the international games: "Bonjour, je m'appelle Mitt Romney."

Now, the United States could have the chance to elect a bilingual president. Rubio, whose parents emigrated from Cuba, grew up speaking Spanish and English in Miami.

Bush learned Spanish after meeting his Mexican-born wife.

While speaking Spanish may no longer be necessary to reach out to them the way candidates did for their parents' generation, fluency does show an understanding and acceptance of their culture.

New visual thinking strategies in healthcare training

JOVANY BETANCOURT, ANA PINON AND JESLYN RODRIGUEZ
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"You can look at the same piece of art a thousand times and always find something new in it," said Hope Torrents at a recent presentation about the University of Miami's Visual Thinking Strategies program: The Fine Art of Healthcare.

VTS is the method of using visual art to complement professional career training by allowing participants to openly discuss their different interpretations on artistic pieces.

The presentation, held at Academic Health Center 4, introduced FIU students to the kind of thinking Torrents' program encourages.

Attendees were asked to interpret a painting and to provide evidence for their explanations using only the elements of the artistic piece. The exercise showed how every individual had their own interpretation about the painting based on experiences from their own life. VTS trainers call this healthy debate: amicable discourse.

VTS has already been implemented in programs in other highly reputable universities such as Harvard University and the University of Miami.

FIU might be next to use VTS to supplement training for careers in healthcare according to Miriam Machado, Education Curator for the Frost Museum.

"We have a medical school and a museum, let's bring them together," said Machado.

FIU medical students have already taken a liking to the idea, saying that the program helps bring the humanistic touch back to medicine.

Efron, a medical student in FIU's HWCAM, said: "In medical school, they really stress the importance of accurate history taking, and a workshop like this could really fine tune those skills."

Being on the forefront of medicine requires constant advancement in the techniques used to train healthcare professionals in order to match the needs of the changing population. For FIU, the newest advancement in healthcare training could come from the halls of the closest art gallery.

Students taking their innovative ideas to market

ANDREW WYRICH
The Record
TNS

With the school year ending, many college students are starting to search for jobs. Some North Jersey students, however, are looking beyond getting a job and are trying to start their own businesses instead.

From an app that connects college students with small businesses, to an improved design for traditional power strips, local college-age entrepreneurs have taken their ideas and turned them into growing businesses.

Fair Lawn, N.J., residents at the State University of New York at Binghamton, Shachar Avraham, 19, and Scott Wisotsky, 21, launched an app called Campus Pursuit this January.

"We like to think of ourselves as a pioneer of treasure-hunt marketing," Wisotsky said. "It's a form of advertising that reaches something traditional advertising really hasn't college-aged students."

Avraham and Wisotsky say the app has been popular at Binghamton, as more than 1,000 of the campuses' 15,000 students have downloaded Campus Pursuit. Small businesses have given away more than \$4,000 in prizes.

But as a business, Campus Pursuit said it offers analytics on who is engaged with their affiliated small businesses, including how many people use the gift cards they find, how many people use the app, as well as other data.

"We have a product that really works," Avraham said. "Every week we are getting calls from new small businesses in our area."

"Right now, we work with small businesses, but we think in the future

this has potential to work with larger corporations looking to advertise to college-aged students," Wisotsky said.

McNeil is the team leader for five students who have created Modularity Inc., a company trying to create a power strip that has flexibility for different-size chargers and other devices needing power.

"We sat down as a team and asked, 'What problems do we as college students have?'" McNeil said. "We decided that with all of the different technology we have, that a power strip would be a good idea."

The idea for the Modu-Strip started as a concept in McNeil's entrepreneurial management course at Stevens. Now McNeil and his colleagues are trying to raise money for the Modu-Strip on the crowdfunding website Kickstarter.

Modularity has a working prototype of the Modu-Strip and has drummed up \$5,833 of the \$10,000 goal needed to finance the project on Kickstarter, an amount it must raise by May 26.

If successful, McNeil said Modularity will use the \$10,000 to design a prototype that would more closely resemble the product it hopes to put on the market. McNeil said his team is focusing on attaining the Kickstarter goal before thinking of ways to introduce the Modu-Strip to market.

McNeil said that if Modularity achieves the \$10,000 goal, Stevens will offer the team free housing over the summer and give them access to legal support to help build the company.

"Between all of our 18-credit course loads and different responsibilities, this has been a little difficult," McNeil said. "But we have been given an amazing opportunity, and we hope we can take advantage of that."

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The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

HOMANS OF FIU



BLANCA MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

"Being locked in an office from 9-5 every week is not life, having the freedom to travel the world and spend time doing what you love, that is a life well lived," Carlos Daniel Cortesi, marketing major senior

Daughter releases new album 'Not to Disappear'

EMILY AFRE
Contributing Writer
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Jan. 15, English indie trio, Daughter, released "Not to Disappear" a follow up to their 2013 debut LP "If You Leave" via Glassnote Entertainment Group.

Previously described as a moody folk project, Daughter intricately experiments with lush dream pop elements and subtle electronics with this well produced record.

Each layer within every track is meticulously placed, creating a density that transcends an aural experience and does not overwhelm.

Steady drum patterns, reverb heavy guitar and delicate bells work in tandem with each other. Reminiscent of Florence + The Machine, Hundred Waters and the xx, Daughter carefully executes a more melancholic and passive aggressive sound with "Not to Disappear."

Vocalist, Elena Tonra, plays her strengths with this record. The vulnerability of her lyricism is raw, honest and relatable, and is evident throughout the entire album. Her soft and hushed vocals are a true complement to the emotional weight that is carried in every song.

In the opening track, "New Ways," phrases like "There's something in you/I can't be

without/I just need it here" express the difficulties of "trying to find a way out" of a relationship you still rely on. "How long must I wait for you to become what I need?" "How" further sheds light on the importance of being with someone, where you can give

of being alone/Cause you are never there" and "I hate dreaming of being with you/I hate feeling alone" are words that make you wonder if solitude is better than being with someone who makes you feel like you are alone. Probably so.

her. Tonra taunts listeners with stabs at intimacy as she repeats "How I wanted you to promise we would only ever make love." (No Care). "Don't you think we'll be better off without temptation to regress, to fake tenderness?" (To Belong). It is interesting

soon I'll lose my mind/Then I'll lose my children/Then I'll lose my love/Then I'll sit in silence." Tonra paints the image of wandering aimlessly at night, calling out for her deceased mother who won't come back for her, as she goes on to faintly sing "But you will not tell me that/ Cause you know it hurts me every time you say it/ And you know you were doing the right thing."

Throughout the record, Tonra attempts to be convinced that she cannot lose herself in her love for someone else. In "To Belong," she explicitly states "I don't want to belong. I don't want to belong, to you, to anyone."

However, this does not diminish her desire to be with someone. "Mothers" and "Made of Stone" fall short. These cuts do not leave as lasting of an impression as the remainder of the album.

The songs feel stagnant and fade into the background, but decent enough to not ruin the listening experience of the album as a whole.

There are several themes throughout the record that constitute to its title. Feelings of loneliness and losing oneself are reflected throughout every aspect of the album.

The main concept to grasp here is to accept the pain that comes with love, but what matters most is to retain a sense of self, and not to disappear.

“

Heartache is more often than not a theme used as the platform for songwriters. It may be overdone, but with good reason in Daughter's case. Accept the pain that comes with love, but what matters most is to retain a sense of self, and not to disappear.

”

and take the right things to/from each other.

"Numbers," a single off the record, bring feelings of detachment to the surface with lyrics like "I wish my mouth would still taste you" and "I feel numb, make me better."

"Alone/With You" offers perspective on both feeling lonely and feeling alone even in the presence of someone who is meant to give you peace with their company. "I hate dreaming

Heartache is more often than not a theme used as the platform for songwriters. It may be overdone, but with good reason in Daughter's case. Tonra sheds skin with "No Care," a cut with a faster, more jarring pace than Daughter's previous work. Giving the illusion of apathy, Tonra sings "Because I'm aware, because it hurts that I am in love again." She tries to "[sleep] it off" but the heavy heartedness of broken promises cannot escape

to note, that Tonra made the courageous decision to write about the cracks in intimacy and their psychological effects aside of relationships, rarely ever mentioned in music.

Self identity is another concept Daughter delves into with the new record. It can be interpreted that another one of the album's singles, "Doing the Right Thing", realistically addresses the fear of dementia.

"I'm just fearing one day

Coen brothers return to parody the Golden Age of Hollywood once more

LIFESTYLE POINTS



JOSEPH
CARDENAS

The Coen Brothers - Ethan and Joel Coen - have a knack of directing, writing and producing movies; establishing a genre and thinking outside of it to create truly bizarre humor. This talent shines brightest in films like "The Big Lebowski," "Burn After Reading." Their 2016 "Hail Caesar!" is no different.

The film has a star-studded cast in Josh Brolin ("No Country For Old Men", "Everest"), Channing Tatum ("Magic Mike", "21 Jump Street"), Scarlett Johansson ("The Avengers", "Lucy"), Jonah Hill ("21 Jump Street", "Knocked Up"), George Clooney ("Tomorrowland", "Ocean's Eleven"), Ralph Fiennes ("Schindler's List", "Harry Potter" series, "Spectre") and Tilda Swinton ("Chronicles of Narnia", "Snowpiercer"). They all come together to emulate the off-kilter backstage mess of the receding period of the Golden Age of Hollywood. Eddie Mannix (Brolin) is a Hollywood "fixer" for a film studio overseeing the production of religious flick "Hail

Caesar!". Mannix manages several behind-the-scenes dramas following a subsequent kidnapping of the main actor of the film in production.

Baird Whitlock (Clooney) is kidnapped by Communist filmmakers who not only hold him for ransom but comically try to teach him their ideals.

Meanwhile, Mannix has to deal with studio drama: Hobie Doyle (Alden Ehrenreich, "Beautiful Creatures") struggles with transitioning from acting in a Western film to a drama, DeeAnna Moran (Johansson) has to find a way to keep her scandalous pregnancy under the radar and gossip columnist Thora Thacker (Swinton) is threatening to write a degrading exposé on Whitlock and his disappearance. All this while he is deciding whether or not to take a job in television.

There's no beating around the bush here, this movie is certainly one of the most bizarre and dragged out cinematic experiences. Despite being over an hour long, it feels like an eternity when the credits finally roll. It really is, a long journey. The many story arcs gave the film more weight and content to digest in 105 minutes than necessary. The story

doesn't follow the kidnapping, which is the only interesting arc of the movie.

That said, it's parodying the Golden Age of Hollywood and commentary of the time period sets the film up for so many highlights. It's odd in its instances but recovers quickly with its ironic take on such a complicated time for social discussions. It also pays tasteful homage to some of the most famous film genres that came from the Golden Age, like the Westerns, water dance sequence and Gene Kelly's dance interludes (which Tatum nails perfectly). All in all, it's a brilliantly weird movie that jumps far and sticks the landing.

It's out in theaters and is already gearing for a glittering reception. The Coen Brothers did a spectacular job and obvious by its glowing cast, it's a film worth Hollywood's spotlight. Head to a local theater and get a taste at what Hollywood was really like back in its hay day.

LifeStyle points is a weekly column by Joseph Cardenas, for suggestions and comments email life@fiu.edu

Netflix and Chill: Movies to watch on Valentine's Day

TV TALK



CAYLA BUSH

Love is in the air, and Netflix has cornered the market in new age romance.

As you and bae prepare to "Netflix and Chill," put these romantic films in your queues for the weekend.

"50 First Dates"

Adam Sandler takes a subtle comedic approach to love in this movie. Sandler plays Henry, a playboy who falls head over heels for Lucy, played by Drew Barrymore. The problem, however, is that Lucy has amnesia, and relives the same 24 hours each day.

The acting isn't great, and although interesting, the storyline isn't as well written as it could be. What makes this movie one to watch this Valentine's Day is the cozy vibe from Barrymore and Sandler. It's believable that the two are in a happily ditzy relationship.

The story isn't actually meant to be taken seriously. It's the perfect kind of goofy, not-quite-there movie that's made for new couples or those who don't take themselves seriously.

"Silver Linings Playbook"

Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence star in this critically acclaimed, award-winning off centered romantic drama.

The movie focuses on Patrizio "Pat" Solitano, Jr. (Cooper), in his quest to reclaim his life and wife after being released from a psychiatric hospital. It's painful to watch as Pat suffers breakdowns and adjusts to his new life.

The story is eased along by Lawrence's performance as Tiffany Maxwell, a widow with a bit of a sexual history who is largely ostracized by the local community. Tiffany offers to help Pat reconnect with his wife if he helps her out, and the ensuing dance the two share is enthralling.

This is a story about two broken

people who find solace in each other - not your typical Valentine's Day feature film. That's what makes it great and worthwhile. It's a reminder that our past does not define us and that no matter how broken you are, you're never too difficult to love.

"The Professional"

This movie isn't a romance film, but that's precisely why it's on the list. Not all great loves are romantic -- platonic love is needed and expected in life.

There are probably greater examples of platonic love than this, but "The Professional" has the most endearing. It's a tale of a hitman who takes in and cares for an orphaned 12-year-old girl. In the age of Kyga relationships, a film that features a purely platonic adult-child relationship is good to explore.

The film is also well put together, and though violent, it's one that has enough action to entertain. Watch this film if you're interested in an off-the-beaten-path love story.

"Honeymoon"

The list wouldn't be complete without an anti-Valentine's film, and "Honeymoon" is probably the most anti of them all.

A newlywed couple takes their honeymoon in a remote cabin and the wedded bliss wears off fairly quickly. Bride Bea, played by Rose Leslie, begins to frighten husband Paul, who is portrayed by Harry Treadaway, when she acts strangely on their honeymoon.

The film is twisted and intense, but sets the mood for intense cuddling.

TVTalk is a weekly column providing recommendations of television shows available through various on-demand programming options. To provide show suggestions for Cayla, or offer commentary, email cayla.bush@fiusm.com.

VALENTINE'S DAY WEEKEND EVENTS

Free Edition

Friday: Valentine's Day Event

7 p.m. @ Unity on the Bay - Courtyard

Saturday: Live at The Yard ft.

Alejandro Elizondo: Motown Edition

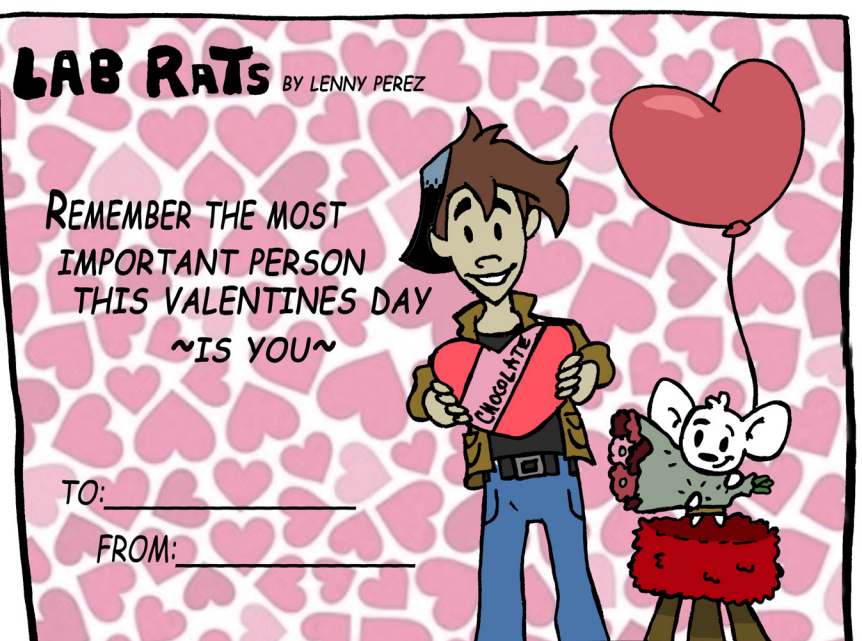
7 p.m. @ 70 NW 29th St.

Pridelines Youth Valentine's Day Dance

7 p.m. @ Unity on the Bay - Courtyard

Sunday: Valentine's Day Brunch

11 a.m. @ Soulfully Good Restaurant & Lounge



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers suffer fourth straight loss

DAVID DRUCKER
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Finally - a hope for the University's men's basketball team to climb out from under their three-game losing streak glimmered in the distance on Saturday night.

FIU played a competitive first half against the Blue Raiders - one of Conference USA's hottest teams - and even secured a nine-point lead with seven minutes left.

But even that was not enough help for a Panthers' team that cannot help themselves.

Instead, the Panthers fell to 11-13 on the season (5-6 in C-USA) as they dropped a 67-66 decision on the road to Middle Tennessee State University.

FIU's possession problems doomed them again as they coughed up 14 turnovers, leading to an extra 16 Blue Raider points.

FIU entered the second game of their road trip already on a three-game losing skid. Their latest loss was a narrow 74-69 defeat at the hands of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (another C-USA heavyweight).

In fact, every loss in their losing streak had been by a margin of five points or fewer. In other words, late-game execution was a familiar issue that the Panthers had hoped to correct Saturday night.

Another slow start for FIU put them in at an early 16-9 disadvantage. Middle Tennessee used the three point arc to their favor in the first half, shooting 7-15 from distance.

Three of those triples came from MTSU's Giddy Potts, who made all three in the game's first four minutes.

FIU junior guard Donte McGill broke his personal scoring slump in the first

half; the former junior college player scored 10 points in the first 20 minutes.

With another seven points from senior forward Daviyon Draper, FIU fought back to tie the game with just seconds left in the first half.

MTSU got to the line before the halftime buzzer rang, however, and went into the intermission with a 33-30 lead.

The Panthers came out with energy in the second half, holding off MTSU's offense with authority.

With 7:39 left in the game, the Panthers had a 54-45 lead. Draper carried FIU through the second stanza, scoring 18 of his game-high 25 points in the final 20 minutes.

Draper's effort wouldn't be enough to keep FIU afloat, however, when MTSU came surging back.

Potts led an 8-2 run by the Blue Raiders, which Draper answered with five points of his own.

The Blue Raiders then put together an 8-1 scoring run to put them up 66-62 with two minutes remaining.

FIU had a chance to win to win as Draper tied the game up 66-66 with eight seconds remaining.

Potts made one of his two free throws and FIU missed its 15-foot potential buzzer-beater.

With Saturday's contest, the Panthers have committed a total of 31 turnovers over their last two games.

Although they corrected some of their second chance opportunities on Saturday, turnovers and late-game play continue to haunt the Panthers throughout their losing streak.

The Panthers face the University of Texas at El Paso Thursday, Feb. 11, and follow that up against the University of Texas at San Antonio Saturday, Feb. 13, in a two-game homestand.

WORKIN' UP A SWEAT



NICOLAS GARCIA/THE BEACON

Jimmie Paul, a senior studying criminal justice, and Rachael Rans, a business management senior, jog around the jogging path next to the Nature Preserve on campus to stay fit.

SOFTBALL

Softball team prepares to have a bounce-back season

SANTIAGO ARCHIERI
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With the new season just around the corner, the FIU softball team looks to turn it around after missing the conference tournament last season.

Gator Rebhan will be entering his second season as the head coach of the Panthers.

The team will kick off their fresh journey and start the season in Miami Friday, Feb. 12 against in-state rivals, the Seminoles of Florida State University.

This will be the first of five games of an action packed weekend for the softball team.

They will have a doubleheader on Saturday, Feb. 13 against St. Johns University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and wrap up on Valentine's Day as they play Long Island University Brooklyn and Valparaiso University.

Last season, the team ended up 30-24 overall, with a 10-14 mark that was not enough to reach the Conference USA tournament.

Down the stretch when it mattered the most, the Panthers lost seven of their final 11 games, with six of those losses being against C-USA opponents.

But that is all in the past now. A new season brings a newfound excitement for the entire squad. Fresh faces, a new season, and high hopes.

Along with a new season come some new faces to the field. Some

might find it concerning, but two of the starters are freshmen, and the biggest additions have Rebhan especially excited.

The team has brought in two freshmen to their pitching squad, as well as leftie transfer.

Rebhan says this is their major key moving forward, and that some variety and a bigger rotation for the upcoming season is essential.

“

Last year, I think we didn't have the pitching to get us through weekends, but this year we do, and after struggling on the mound last season against conference teams, I think it will be a big improvement this season.

Gator Rebhan
Head Coach
FIU Softball

”

“Last year, I think we didn't have the pitching to get us through weekends, but this year we do, and after struggling on the mound last season against conference teams, I think it will be a big improvement this season,” Rebhan said.

Senior right-handed pitcher Corrine Jenkins had 35 appearances for the Panthers last season, and led

the team with a 3.11 ERA.

Sophomore right-handed pitcher Rachel Dwyer had the second lowest ERA with 4.09, and had the second most appearances with 21.

Dwyer looks to keep a key part in the rotation.

Although some new rookies on the team might be shining, the Panthers are bringing back some phenomenal talent.

Seventeen Panthers are returning for the 2016 season, and on this list is the highly favored infielder Stephanie Texeira.

Texeira was the 2014 C-USA Freshman of the Year, a member of the 2014 C-USA All-Freshman Team, two-time member of the C-USA Second-Team in 2014 and 2015 and two-time two-time C-USA Hitter of the Week in 2014.

Recently, Texeira was named to the C-USA All Preseason Team.

Entering her third season with FIU, Texeira finished her 2015 campaign with some record breaking numbers, which include a .444 batting average and eight homeruns.

She also led C-USA in on base percentage with .833 and finished ranked third in RBI with 51.

She looks to lead the Panthers yet again this season, but hopefully this time with a bid to the C- USA Softball Tournament.

The first pitch of the season takes place during the JuiceBlendz FIU Softball Invitational Saturday at 7 p.m.

NFL

Denver defense too much for Cam Newton

BOWL BASH



STEFANO RIVERA

Cam Newton had no comments after the Denver Broncos defeated the Carolina Panthers 24-10, taking home the Vince Lombardi trophy home for the first time since 1998.

Although my prediction of Carolina winning 31-23 was completely off, I had one thing right: Denver could make this game interesting if its league-leading defense performed to its fullest.

Boy did it ever.

On Carolina's second possession, the Broncos scored off Von Miller's strip sack, as teammate, Malik Jackson, scooped the ball right on the goal line.

Miller, rightfully so, ended up winning the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player, finishing with six tackles, including 2.5 sacks

and two forced fumbles.

The Broncos' defense flustered Newton in many ways.

I thought Newton would have been able to adapt to the Denver defense. However, it's the inability for opposing offenses to adapt that makes this defense so elite.

Sure, the Carolina's road to the Super Bowl included Seattle and Arizona, two solid defensive teams, but Newton seemed to defeat them with such ease.

If you haven't seen how Newton fared against Denver, he finished 18/41 for 265 yards and an interception.

Not good numbers for the NFL's MVP.

Although he struggled passing the pigskin, I'll give him some credit for using his feet throughout the first half. Newton was Carolina's leading rusher, finishing with 45 yards.

One reason why the Panthers had difficulties running the football was

because of a minor injury to Jonathan Stewart.

I think most of the credit must be given to Denver's ability to stop the run, however, having Stewart jumping in and out of the lineup hurt Carolina.

He did jump the pile for a goal line touchdown but only finished with 12 carries and 29 yards.

Backup running back, Mike Tolbert, committed a costly turnover on one of his five carries.

This game wasn't for the people who love thrilling, high-scoring outcomes.

Even I thought this game was boring at times, just like the majority of the commercials this year. Pretty upsetting if you ask me.

I'd prefer a 50-20 blowout to a defensive battle consisting of many turnovers.

Denver's offense struggled, finishing with under 200 yards of total offense, becoming the first team to win a Super Bowl

with such numbers.

Peyton Manning only totalled 141 yards and an interception.

Running back CJ Anderson was their saving grace, finishing with 90 yards and a touchdown off 23 carries.

Those numbers aren't too fancy, but he was an important part of the offense in the beginning of the game. Anderson got stuffed various times, but ran off big chunks of yards at some points of the game to help initiate drives.

Carolina's defense did what it had to do, limiting the Broncos to such low yardage totals. Another elite defense throughout the season, the Panthers just didn't make the eye-popping plays needed to outduel Denver's defense.

Panther's linebacker, Thomas Davis is a heck of an athlete. Two weeks from fracturing his arm, he finished the Super Bowl with seven total tackles and a tackle for loss. Fellow linebacker, Luke Kuechly

added 10 total tackles and a sack.

Honestly, I have no clue why I thought this game would be in the mid 20s and low 30s. Two of the league's best defenses going at it, so you'd think I'd lower my predicted score, right? Nope.

Anyways, aside from that my other predictions were on point....if you swap the teams and players.

Newton was the one who ended up with 35+ pass attempts, not Manning. It was Denver's defense that set up the offense with short fields, not Carolina's.

It was Carolina that struggled to run the football, not Denver. But not many people thought Denver would pull this off.

I was happy with the teams playing in this year's Super Bowl. My favorite teams, the San Diego Chargers and Miami Dolphins, unfortunately, weren't playing so I didn't have any pressure.

Also, not having to root

against the New England Patriots or Seattle Seahawks was a positive for me.

The end results for the quarterbacks were completely different. As we all anticipate, Manning looks like he will be retiring at the end of the season, so this was possibly his final shot at winning the big game.

After capturing his second ring, this is just the icing on the cake on an already terrific career.

As for Newton, I think he will have multiple chances at another Super Bowl.

In fact, I believe the Panthers can be heavy favorites for next year's season.

The sky's the limit for Newton, as long as he learns from his mistakes and becomes stronger.

Bowl Bash discusses NFL football games including the Super Bowl. For suggestions or commentary email stefano.rivera@fiusm.com

NBA

Heat's seven-foot situation

ALEX'S HOOPS



ALEJANDRO SOLANA

The Miami Heat center that exploded onto the NBA scene last season had a roller-coaster month of January.

Hassan Whiteside, saw himself go from

the Heat's future center, fan favorite and necessary championship piece, to a player not many want suiting up next season, let alone another game this year.

How could this happen? How could a player's appreciation and admiration die out so quickly among the masses in Miami?

Sure, fans are delusional and irrational when it comes to sports, so the rash change of heart Heat fans are experiencing is not surprising.

However, Whiteside's sudden tribulations may also have to do with a certain article written by a local Miami writer that caught just about everyone's attention, including the seven-foot center.

Ryan Yousefi, better know to the Heat Twitter world as Rizzmigizz, published an article in the Miami New Times last week that had all of Miami buzzing.

A struggling Heat team, which had lost four games in a row, also lost their starting center, Whiteside, to an oblique injury.

Disaster loomed for a team struggling to stay above the standings in the much-improved Eastern Conference. Instead, what followed was the team's first four-game win streak of the season and a sudden new burst of life for a team which seemed lifeless in the past week.

Due to the success of the team without Hassan, it was no surprise that the critics would arise.

Yousefi was one of the first to point out what a lot were wondering, the statistical proof that Whiteside may be doing more harm than good for this Miami Heat squad.

Using advanced stats, Whiteside's shot blocking ability and rebounding is proven to not be as effective to the team's overall efficiency as one may have thought previously.

The article, titled "Miami Heat is better without Hassan Whiteside on the Court," points out that the Heat have a better defensive rating with Whiteside on the bench, 96.5, than when Hassan plays, a 102.0 defensive rating. (The lower the number, the better).

Whiteside's response to the article came a day after, only feeding the critics who say the seven-foot center out of Marshall is immature and does not fit the prototypical Heat player we are used to seeing.

A reply on an Instagram post of a fan that had shared Yousefi's article, Whiteside commented, "Why would you post some (expletive) like this?"

It is no question that Pat Riley and the Miami Heat believe the 26 year old has some character issues, but those can always be overlooked when a player produces on the court.

Yes, he does it with blocks, and he'll never let us forget it, but for an organization that has been trusting advanced analytics for years now, some of these numbers may be difficult to overlook when deciding whether or not to re-sign the big man in the offseason.

It is also worth mentioning that

this has never been an organization that deals well with immature players. The Miami Heat pride themselves on being a first class, professional, organization and Whiteside's antics, however entertaining they may be, are not deeply admired by this team's front office.

In other words, a PR headache from a player who loves his Snapchat stories and uses his 140-character limit very liberally.

It's strange to think that a seven-footer who leads the league in blocks, is in the top 10 in the league amongst rebounders and ironically won ESPN's defensive player of the month amid all these conspiracies, does not fit the plans of the future for this team and Pat Riley's vision, but this very well may be the case.

The league is changing, with the likes of the Warriors and Rockets who play up-tempo style basketball and shoot a million three-pointers a game, a seven-footer just isn't as valuable as it once was in this league.

How did Whiteside respond to his critics in his first game back for the Heat? 10 points, 5-for-5 shooting, nine rebounds, five blocks and an assist in only 17 minutes coming off the bench, willing his team to victory over Dallas.

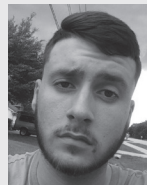
Perhaps limiting Whiteside's minutes may be the answer for this team, but one thing is for sure, this romance between a championship organization and its young eccentric seven-footer is far from over.

Alex's Hoops is a column that focuses on basketball related issues. To offer commentary or suggestions, email Alejandro at alejandro.solana@fiusm.com

BASEBALL

Next man up for C-USA champs

LOUIS' HACKS



LOUIS AGUDELO

F I U Baseball will begin its 2016 Conference USA Title defense on Feb. 19, with the advantage of a talented veteran

pitching staff – a rarity at the college level.

As everyone paying attention should already know, and as sources have informed those of you reading, the Panthers' 3, 4, 5, and 6-hitters that lead the Panthers to its first C-USA Championship, are gone.

Well, Head Coach Turtle Thomas has picked up a couple of junior college transfers to fill those spots, so hopefully, that's not a huge concern (disclaimer: I'm concerned).

Thomas has also added a couple of new arms to the pitching staff, via transfer, and looks to see if they can bolster an already solid staff, who as an entire team posted a 4.98 era last season, not too shabby on the college level.

With so many new faces, fans need a proven, trustworthy option to look toward when things get tough, like returning right-handers Andres Nunez,

Williams Durruthy, Cody Crouse, Robby Kalaf, Garrett Cave and Chris Mourelle. They'll also bring back the left-hander, Dominic Lobrutto.

Of the eight pitchers just named, three posted era's under 4, and all eight combined, were a game under .500.

This pitching staff hasn't churned out a lot of greatness, but they can be counted on.

Let it not be forgotten, that every once-in-awhile, I see splashes of greatness: Danny Dopico, Gianna Zayas.

Again, these splashes are nothing more than splashes, here for a limited time, but the team has got to get as much out of them as you can while they're around.

All things considered, .500 can be more than you can ask of quite a few college rotations around the country, so fans should be glad to be guaranteed at least something near that, but it will take more than just chilled, usually savory, consistency to repeat as Conference champs.

Louis' Hacks is a biweekly column analyzing the baseball team and its players. For commentary or suggestions, email Louis at louis.agudelo@fiusm.com

SEX, LOVE AND CELEBRATIONS

FIU celebrates Mardi Gras, safe sex and healthy relationships

PAINT THE SQUARE



SUDYEN NAVARRETE/THE BEACON

Gutierrez and Fleurantin getting masks and beads during the Mardi Gras events.



SUDYEN NAVARRETE/THE BEACON

Students bonding over arts and crafts table as they create custom Mardi Gras masks.



SUDYEN NAVARRETE /THE BEACON

Zarina Gutierrez and Fabienne Fleurantin, both junior journalism students attend Mardi Gras hosted by SPC in Panther Square Thursday, Feb. 4.

Sex Fair provides health education at BBC

FRANCOIS CARDIER
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

FIU's Student Health Services has once again partnered with clubs and organizations like the Women's Center and LGBTQA to organize and host the sixth annual Sex Fair at Biscayne Bay Campus.

"The fair is a fun place where students can learn about STDs and have fun," said Isabel Capellan, a senior health educator at the Student Health Services. She received her undergraduate degree from FIU and has a masters degree in

Public Health.

Florida is the state with the highest number of Human Immunodeficiency Virus cases in the United States. According to a study conducted by the Center for the Disease Control in 2013, Miami was ranked as the first city with the highest rate of HIV.

HIV occurrences in Jacksonville and Orlando placed 10th and 11th and the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater area as the 18th.

"The department wanted to spread awareness about HIV and other STDs so on 2010 they started doing the Sex Fair and it has grown since then," said

Cepellan.

The fair will be held Thursday, Feb. 11, at Panther Square in BBC. More than sixteen tables from clubs and other organizations will have games and informational talks to spread awareness.

The Sex Fair will have games and mini-talks that seek to instruct students and faculty about the risks of STDs and how to prevent them. "We will have games like Sex Jeopardy, a kissing booth, Risky Business etc.," said Capellan.

Risky Business is a game that aims to instruct student the danger of mixing sex and alcohol. The game will detail

how different levels of sobriety affect your decision making and how that may lead to unwanted sexual encounters.

Community members from outside FIU like Union Positiva, will also take part in the upcoming fair, offering free HIV tests for students and faculty members.

The fair has become a tradition within FIU. Students who attend may receive souvenirs like T-shirts and free prophylactics.

Diego Barrios, 22, attends the fair every year. "It's fun, and the free condoms [are a] huge perk. I try to get as many as many as I can," said Barrios.

Chlamydia is the most widely spread STD at FIU, Capella said. This figure cannot be attested due to the fact that the University Health Services Department does not collect data from STDs to protect the confidentiality of students.

"We all know that we have to protect ourselves from STDs, but it is impressive still, how many get infected" said Barrios.

The Sex Fair is open to all students from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and features games, giveaways and free food.

For more information contact the Student Health Services at 305-919-5307.

JOIN OUR STAFF!

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 or apply at fiusm.com.