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Students walk out of ambassador's lecture

ERICA SANTIAGO
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Student protesters shouted "Hey hey! Ho ho! Occupation's got to go!" outside the Rafael Diaz-Ballart Law Building on Feb. 26 after UN Ambassador to Israel and FIU alumnus, Danny Danon, lectured an audience on Israel and the United Nations as well as their relations with the Arab world.

Danon's comments on Gaza sparked a moment of contention prompting Muslim students in the audience to abruptly walkout. Later, those same students were protesting to the side of the building.

According to Danon, the Hamas are "in charge of Gaza"

and are using resources provided by Israel to plan attacks on Israeli people.

"We allow trucks to go inside Gaza every day, more than 1000 trucks a day. We allow cement and wood to go inside Gaza," Danon said. "Unfortunately, the Hamas are using the cement and the wood that is being provided to Gaza, in order to build attack tunnels."

It was after this comment that Muslim students in the audience stood up and walked out of the lecture.

The room was briefly silent after the walkout until one audience member yelled "Good riddance!"

Another audience member responded with "They have the right to walk out."

Despite previous plans to speak with Student Media, Danon refused an interview following the lecture.

"Honestly I could have walked 20 or 25 times because of the stuff he was saying. It was so inaccurate and biased," said Rayid Sakib, a senior majoring in biomedical engineering.

Sakib, also the president of Students for Justice in Palestine at FIU, organized the walkout before hand.

"I was waiting until he said something about Gaza and he did say something about Gaza," he said. "[Danon] said Israel allows trucks [into Gaza] and that's not true. They don't allow anything."

Sakib had heard about the lecture a few weeks ago, and was initially weary of Danon's

invitation to speak at FIU.

"Usually FIU brings Israeli representatives who are pro-violence and pro-ethnic cleansing, so I looked him up," Sakib said.

According Sakib, Danon is against the Two-State solution, which would envisage Palestine as an independent State alongside the State of Israel.

"He's against the Two-State solution, which is the only viable solution and most popular solution in Palestine as of now," said Sakib.

After the walkout, during his lecture, Danon said, "On one hand, we do want to see the reconstruction of Gaza and we do want the support of the UN and other countries, but at the same time we cannot allow the

Hamas to continue to build attack tunnels that will attack Israelis eventually."

The lecture ended with a Q&A, where one audience member asked Danon what advice he would give students on campus who advocate for Israel.

"My advice is to be active, to stand up," said Danon. "Small movements make a lot of noise. Promote legislation that says 'we cannot boycott Israel.'"

Sakib believes that FIU made a mistake in inviting Danon to speak on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

"These discussion should not be one-sided biases, where you won't let students ask certain questions," said Sakib. "You have to include the other side, not just one side of the argument."

PLAY THAT FUNKY MUSIC



NICOLE MEZA/THE BEACON

Guitarist and composer Celso Cano plays in front of audiences during the second night of the Miami International GuitArt Festival 2016 at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Thursday, Feb. 24

School of Architecture hosts eco-fashion show

MELISSA BURGESS
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Recycling will once again turn into a fashion statement with FIU's School of Architecture's third annual Eco-Couture Recycling Fashion Show.

The free show will be held on March 31 at the Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture Building Courtyard at 7 p.m.

Amira Ajlouni, FIU's architecture alumna and the founder of the Eco-Couture Recycling Fashion show along with the help of her event partner, Jennifer Luis, a current architecture graduate student at FIU, are organizing the fashion show.

"We want this fashion show to inspire people and see recycled materials in a different light and see discarded materials as something that can be used for in a lot of different ways," says Ajlouni.

The competition was created with the purpose of promoting sustainability through fashion and strives to educate and inspire the community about good recycling habits plus how to live an environmentally-friendly lifestyle.

All FIU students are eligible to submit their

outfit drawings. Once the designs are picked, the designers are able to recreate their ideas into actual clothes, which will be displayed by models on a runway. Each outfit is judged on innovation, beauty, craftsmanship and recycled material.

The panel of judges include Rene Ruiz, designer of Rene Ruiz Couture and Dr. Constance Silver, acclaimed psychoanalyst, social worker and artist.

The fashion show will also award scholarships to the winners. First place will receive \$1,000, second place will receive \$500 and third place will receive \$250.

This year's runway is expected to showcase more than 50 outfits, all of which must follow two rules: the outfits must be made of recyclable items and must be reusable.

"It's awesome seeing contestants from all different types of majors whether it's architecture, medicine or law coming together and being apart of this fashion show and creating outfits," said event partner Jennifer Luis.

"I'm always impressed by the outfits. Every year we always see something

SEE TRENDY, PAGE 2

Student falls from second floor of Viertes Haus, survives

SOPHIE HERBUT
Staff Writer
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An FIU student was fooling around with friends on the night of Feb. 24, according to Officer David Navas.

They climbed the stairs to the second story of the north side of Viertes Haus and tightroped on the framing to the roof of the smaller side of the building.

The student slipped and fell through the plexiglass and landed on his back.

When the police found him, the student was conscious but had notable gashing on his head. He was taken into Kendall Regional Hospital to be treated.

After the student fell, his friend bolted out to find someone to help. A custodian was the one who made the call.

The student did not have a hard

time executing his stunt. The wall was barely waist-high and easily mountable.

A large group of police officers answered the call and arrived to the scene quickly.

"This is a terrible tragedy," said Navas. "This is something that should never have happened. This student could have lost his life for making a bad decision."

The name of the student and his friends are not yet known.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Supreme Court, now without Scalia, confronts Texas abortion clinic law

The abortion debate is returning to a recast Supreme Court that now may be tilted against the restrictive Texas law in question. And the resolution probably all comes down, once more, to 79-year-old Justice Anthony Kennedy. In a highly anticipated, hourlong oral argument set for Wednesday morning, the court will consider a challenge to a 2013 Texas law governing abortion clinics. Whatever the law's intent, it effectively restricts abortion

providers and hinders women seeking to end their pregnancies. The late Justice Antonin Scalia almost certainly would have voted to uphold the law. With his death, the high court's eight remaining justices could end up tied, an outcome that would keep the law in effect, or they could be stacked, ever so slightly, in favor of overturning the law, ruling for the abortion-providing clinics that have challenged the restrictions.

The University of Missouri Board of Curators fires embattled instructor Melissa Click

The board made its decision in a 4-2 vote Wednesday night in Kansas City. Board member John R. Phillips and board chairwoman Pamela Henrickson voted no. On Thursday, when the vote was first disclosed, Henrickson said a university investigation shows Click's actions were not compatible with university policies. Click was famously caught on camera in November calling for "muscle"

while blocking student journalists from covering a campus demonstration. A second video surfaced this month showing Click cursing at a police officer during the University of Missouri-Columbia's homecoming parade in October. Both incidents came last fall during a turbulent time on Mizzou's campus where black students were protesting a series of racist incidents on campus.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CORRECTIONS

In Volume 27, Issue 67, the article titled "Black history - an ongoing history," incorrectly stated that Trayvon Martin was shot by a police officer. Martin was shot by a Neighborhood Watch member.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Website helps students to vote

VOTE, PAGE 8

"In Harvard they incorporated TurboVote sign up with Freshman class registration and it worked to higher their voter registration rate, while some other universities even made it part of the pre-enrollment process," says Flaxman about the point process model.

The organization model seems more in sync with student run and lead organizations. This process involves bringing groups of students together and having them at a meeting or event where they're encouraged to sign up for TurboVote. Flaxman claims that both methods are effective in their own way.

"One thing that we did notice," Flaxman says, "is that there was no success in places where the initiative was not backed by administrative partners."

According to Flaxman, the whole process, although student driven, cannot be completely student led. He believes the administration within the university must also get involved in order for the initiative to have results.

It seemed that the majority of participating students at the workshop believe that the general information about TurboVote was helpful and even started suggesting ways of involving the rest of the students at FIU to motivate them to sign up for the website.

Ideas such as tying it to Student Government Elections, promoting it at different events, if allowed, such as Homecoming, Uproar or having a sign up session during orientation or even making the sign up a part of registration were among the student suggestions.

Calatayud says, "We need to find ways to

work with students and the administration if mwe want this to work".

SGA plans to reach out to groups of students, council leaders and administration in order to start taking the first steps in deciding if TurboVote is a good option for FIU and "get the ball running" on making a reality of it on campus.

"I think this should be introduced to the FIU community, because after all, students are the future of this nation and they should vote for the sake of their future." Biter states.

The students behind the idea of TurboVote being integrated into campus now need to begin plans; the clock is ticking. "Unfortunately, we won't make it for the primaries" Calatayud mentioned, though she hopes that, if the project is successful, it will be ready for the general elections.

Fashion show focuses on sustainability

TRENDY, PAGE 1

beautiful and interesting. One of my favorites was one of the third place winners from the 2014 show, where there was a dress made of black cable ties woven together. The students' works are always well designed and the materials are unique and the way they use them are innovative," says Ajlouni.

The first place winners last year were students Susana Alonso and Adrienne Canter. The concept of their dress was composed of pop tabs, stretchy cord and cable ties. They put them together through two different weaving techniques.

"Each year, I look forward to the fashion show. It's another element of the FIU School of Architecture that enlivens the experience of being a student at FIU. I'm especially excited to see new ideas

in the more than 50 outfits we plan to showcase this year," said Juan Brizuela, a mass communications graduate student.

Eco-Couture started in spring 2014. Ajlouni says that the fashion show was her thesis project that gained a lot of popularity and drew in a large audience. Through the collaborative effort of FIU's School of Architecture and university student volunteers to arrange this one of a kind recycled fashion show competition, it has become an annual tradition.

Ajlouni hopes that this event will inspire people to integrate environmental sustainability into their lifestyles.

"We want people to come and leave with a message. We want people to go home and question the materials you use on a daily basis and think of a new way to use it," said Ajlouni. "This is the best free event you'll ever go to."

THE BEACON

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Political correctness is ruining films

THOUGHTS ON A PAGE



DAMIAN GORDON

Holy censored dialogue, today's atmosphere is so politically correct that it tries to sanitize anything that might possibly affect anyone. This has led to less R-rated flicks and more films where kids can enter and annoy a whole audience.

This is far from the media of the 80's and the 90's with films like "Lethal Weapon," "Terminator" and the very 90's, in your face characters like Deadpool, who finally got his own movie.

"Deadpool" is the project no studio wanted on their hands, yet it recently came out to record-breaking box office numbers. This can be the defining film that shapes what studios will make moving forward, like "X-Men" did in 2000 and "Ironman" did in 2007.

R-rated movies are seen as a gamble these days because kids aren't able to buy tickets for it. This is ridiculous, considering kids existed before the twenty-first century and these films still made tons of money for their time.

There are plenty of old PG-13 movies that

would be viewed as R today and vice versa such as "The Breakfast Club" and "Beverly Hills Cop." It's all about perception.

Long ago, when I heard "My Neck, My Back" and "The Whisper Song," on the radio, they wouldn't dare play the extremely

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Today's atmosphere is so politically correct that it tries to sanitize anything that might possibly affect anyone.

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dirty versions of these songs on the airwaves.

Then, years later I went online, heard the real versions and I immediately had to go to

church. I don't even like going to church. Kids these days would hear those lyrics and not even bat an eye.

The internet exposes kids to countless inappropriate things at an earlier age these days. Most internet content is uncensored, featuring videos and images that can't be unseen.

Studios are unnecessarily watering things down to include an audience that has already been exposed to content that is considered "too much" for them.

The solution looks simple: make movies as explicit as they used to be. However, there are PG-13 films today that feature more violence than their older R-rated counterparts. It's okay to impale somebody, just as long as there's no blood.

In movies like "The Avengers," the heroes can do everything from decapitating and maiming to talking ill of their enemies mothers because they're robots.

The more disconnected from reality a film or show is, the more it's allowed to get away with. It's a weird loophole to get around the Motion Picture Association of America board and their archaic ratings.

A 2013 study released by the American Academy of Pediatrics shows that gun

violence in PG-13-rated films has tripled since 1985.

Allow more than one f-bomb or depict two people having the most mild sex imaginable and the film will automatically earn an R-rating regardless of the actual content as a whole.

Rating systems should just tell consumers what kind of content is included in the film and leave the decision up to the individuals.

Everybody is different and a generalization of what is appropriate for a smorgasbord of people is like me buying clothing for friends from Baby Gap thinking, "Geoff is human and babies are human... this shirt should fit him."

"Deadpool" has proved there is a market for these movies. Kids aren't the ones with the money, it's the people who mistakenly had them who have the cash and studios should start to realize that again.

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

The disparity between STEM and the humanities

ON THE SCENE



GABRIELLE GARCIA

As the world plunges deeper into a technological reality, epistemological endeavors venture toward the sciences and the world of mathematics. Now more than ever, educators across all primary and higher learning platforms advocate that a STEM education paves the way for the future and should thus be the focal point in our national curriculum.

There is no doubt that technologies of all kinds have contributed to the progression of our world; However, such an intense focus on STEM has created a disadvantageous disparity between STEM subjects, the humanities and the arts. Because these disparities have consistently grown, thousands of art programs in elementary, middle and high schools around the nation have been defunded and even cut. At the college level, from my own personal experience, it seems that the sciences are a more central focus among the student population, while the arts remain in the shadows.

As an English major, I cannot begin to express how fortunate I am to have been exposed to such diverse approaches to not only the world of literature but also to

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Cutting arts programs in schools needs to end in order to prevent a lack of diversity among student bodies pursuing higher education across our nation

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the world of academia, providing me with the opportunity to establish connections with several thematic, pedagogical and cultural disciplines. Being an English major has not only given me the chance to develop my analytical and critical thinking skills but it has also shown me the true value in studying and understanding the past to better understand the present.

Although studying and developing the sciences is extremely important, the arts and the humanities are not of lesser

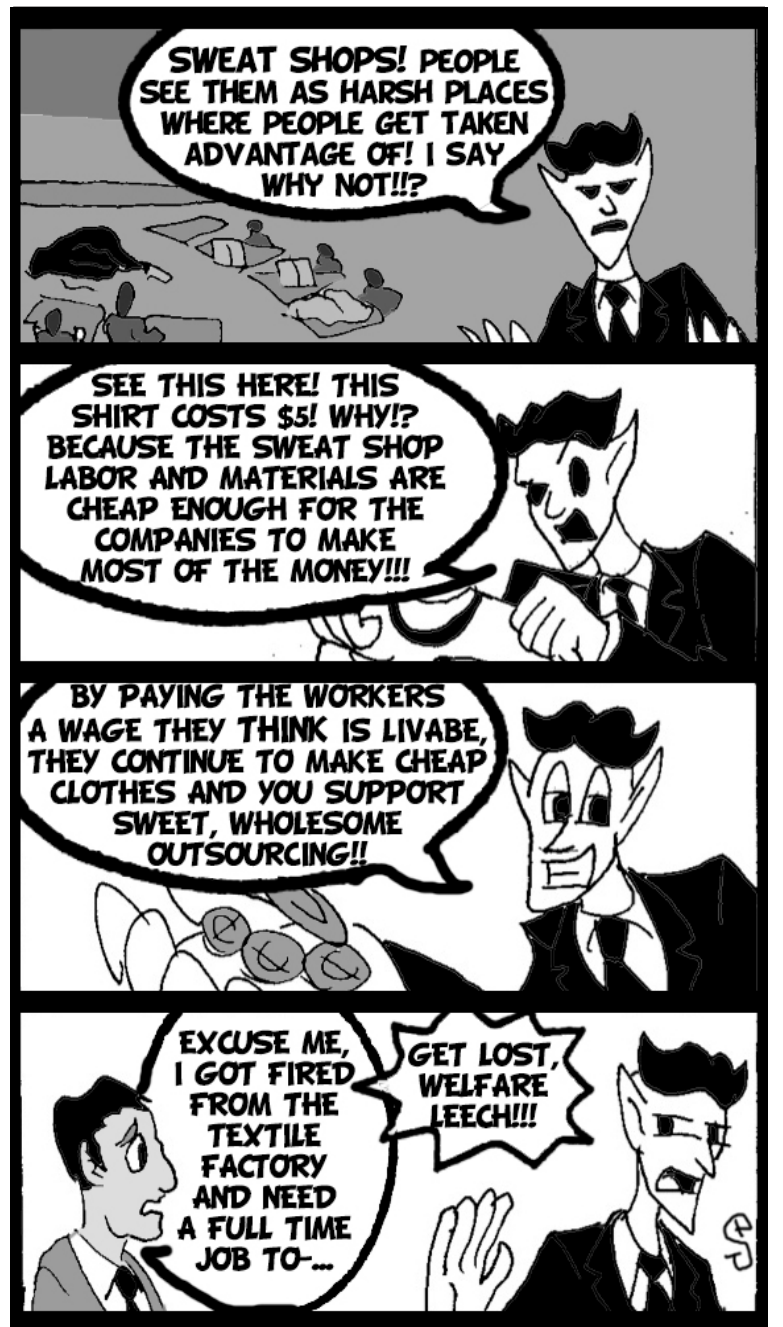
importance.

These disciplines provide a creative lense in addition to a means of understanding the abstract existences we may encounter and attempt to comprehend. Education shouldn't solely be about producing potential employees. Education should cater to all sorts of minds and interests in efforts to produce the most well-rounded and equipped individuals with the skills to coexist with one another.

It's time for state educational institutions across the nation to better diversify their programs of study and give their undivided attention to the arts and humanities. Reducing funding and cutting arts programs in schools needs to come to an end in order to prevent a lack of diversity among student bodies pursuing higher education across our nation. All voices and all minds deserve to be heard, challenged and understood; one discipline of study is no better than another.

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

SWEAT SHOPS



SAM PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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RELAY-4-LIFE



AMANDA RABINES/THE BEACON

Mideny Bell, Biology major, senior, participate in Relay for Life fundraising with Miami FC. Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2016.

Monday Motivation: Basketball's physical and mental health effects

MOTIVATION MONDAY



NIHAT STRIDER

Playing basketball is a great form of cardiovascular exercise.

Expert studies have proven that performing cardiovascular exercise reduces the risk of heart

disease and stroke. Playing one hour of basketball burns 630 to 750 calories.

If you are determined to lose weight or want to stay healthy, basketball is a great sport to aid in your weight loss or health goals.

The physical movements required to play this game improve bone health.

New bone tissue is formed over time when the weight-bearing basketball is dribbled across the court during the rigorous game, increasing the strength of the bones.

The game provides an exemplary total body workout. The attributes of the game include strength training that results in lean and strong muscles.

When someone is playing strong defense, a strong stance is needed when the opponent is pushing and trying to pass through.

The entire body goes on defense mode and the muscles tense for strength.

Playing strong defense will work the deltoid, traps, lower back, upper back and core muscles.

Dribbling and shooting the ball works out the entire arm muscles and also the shoulder joints. Powering through the entire court during the game does a tremendous workout for the entire leg muscles.

Two important bodily skills are acquired by playing basketball: balance and coordination; the body

learns how to balance itself and maintain a strong posture.

This ability is a great trait that is used during our daily lives.

Standing and sitting with a good posture develops a healthy spinal cord. In a game, you are constantly being pushed and tackled by your opponent.

The spinal cord, like the rest of the body, trains itself to maintain a strong posture and hold balance.

The second skill earned is hand-eye coordination. You are either dribbling the ball to pass through the court or to a teammate while also trying to make the shot in the basket.

Constantly, the hand and movements have to match the eye coordination. This sends strong and fast signals to the brain cells to react fast and efficiently.

Research has shown basketball has not only physical but mental development as well.

Players have to go through the mental process of quickly assessing what is happening on the court and react immediately and efficiently. This constant efficient decision making helps us develop our brain cells.

On a game of chess we use strong minds in order to win. In basketball we have to use both physical and mental strength to make that winning score.

Playing basketball also increases your confidence and self esteem. Scoring shots and making game points will truly boost your confidence.

Often, when you play basketball, especially for a college intramural team, there is a large crowd. When the brain hears the cheer it quickly adapts itself and sets up to go for the win.

This phenomenon increases

brain power.

Nowadays we depend on technology, which is great, but sometimes we indulge ourselves in the virtual worlds of social media too much.

Playing physical sports with people will enhance our interpersonal skills, enhancing our ability to work well in groups.

All that is needed to play the game is a single basketball and a hoop. You can ask your friends or neighbors to join you.

A lot of companies have started offering employee bonuses for staying healthy and fit.

They often have in house corporate gymnasiums and company sports teams.

This is because the company knows keeping their employee healthy is in their best interest, it will not only save them healthcare money but they will have physically and mentally fit employees.

FIU offers intramural sports to all students. The intramural basketball team is facilitated by the FIU Wellness & Recreation Center.

All you need is to bring your Panther ID and you will be able to play for a team. The administration lets you either create a team or join an existing team.

Yes, these games are played for competition but they are very friendly. You will get to meet many students who are active that stay healthy and fit together.

So what are you waiting for? Pick up a basketball, make a team and start playing!

Motivation Monday is a weekly column covering fitness and health. Nihat is a certified personal trainer, for comments or questions email nihat.strider@fiusm.com

AMA hosts charity event

GUETHSHINA ALTENA

Asst. Entertainment Director
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For the first time in its existence, the American Marketing Association (AMA) will be hosting an event to celebrate the founder of a charity for people with cystic fibrosis.

A fundraising event, however, will be organized beforehand on campus to collect donations for the charity Claire's Place Foundation. All the proceeds will go to the organization as a surprise check to the founder, Claire Wineland. AMA is looking forward to raising around \$10,000 for the charity.

Sabrina Bocarand, a freshman international business major and an active member of AMA, takes pride in the efforts made for fundraising so far.

"All the money that we fundraise at the event is going to the cause of Claire's place Foundation. Ultimately, It will help support kids who were born with [cystic fibrosis] and their families" Bocaranda said.

Wineland, who has been diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, started her own foundation to

at the event and people interested in participating should contact her as soon as possible.

The AMA Director of membership is Stephanie Espinoza, a senior international business and marketing major. She has been part of the organization since the fall of 2004.

"About a month ago, we were presented with the opportunity to collaborate in this project that will help Claire's place foundation" Espinoza said. "This upcoming event is more like an end to this campaign that we have been doing for the entire month of February."

"She tries to focus on the financial and emotional need of the families that she helps in her foundation, since a lot of organizations are already doing research on the disease and she wanted to do something different." Espinoza said.

Wineland will be on campus March 8 to talk about her foundation and experiences. AMA has been fundraising for a few weeks to help support the charity.

According to Espinoza, it will be an open event and

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Well, we're going to have different activities, such as [food trucks], kissing booth, and other super cool activities for people to participate in.

Sabrina Bocaranda
International Business
AMA Member

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fight against the disease. On Tuesday, March 8, the 18 year old will be coming to campus to talk to students.

For that reason, AMA put in place a fair to fundraise the remainder of the money to their goal. Tomorrow, March 1 in CBC courtyard, AMA will host the event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Well, we're going to have different activities, such as [food trucks], kissing booth, and other super cool activities for people to participate in," Bocaranda said.

According to Bocaranda, there will be a flash mob dancing

anyone interested may attend and participate.

AMA will be fundraising money for Wineland's place foundation on Tuesday, March 1, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the College of Business Complex (CBC) courtyard.

For more information, contact the American Marketing Association at FIUAMA@gmail.com or visit their office in Ryder's Business Room 307B. For those interested in volunteering in the Flash mob, contact Bocaranda at sboca002@fiu.edu.

NAP TIME



Current lifestyle choices that affect your 40s

SDA HEALTH



OLGUYNE BARREAU

Young adulthood is a rocky transition for many people. Young adults are often left scrambling to figure out how to balance school and work, all while managing stress and finances. During this time period, it is nearly impossible to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

It is common for young adults to grab a quick meal from a fast-food restaurant. Some find it easier to skip meals altogether. In fact, young adults consume the most fast food, compared to

other age groups.

Why should it matter if you are not eating healthy now? You are young. You can catch up later, right?

What we eat in young adulthood has a direct impact on our long-term health, especially in our constant state of stress that comes with being a young adult. In a study by Dr. Jared Reis and colleagues, people who ate nutritious foods in their 20s were more likely to have healthier arteries in their 40s.

Adults who develop cardiovascular issues, not related to genetic defects in their 40s, are more likely to have neglected making healthy

lifestyle choices in their 20s.

So what can you do to make sure you are getting all of your

the week so that you can grab them while running out the front door. Doing this is also far more

diabetes and hypertension.

Also, excessive alcohol intake can worsen your pre-existing conditions. Opt for lighter drinks or simply drink fewer drinks in one sitting.

Make time for some exercise. Many people avoid exercising because they feel like they need to devote an entire hour or two to have a "complete" exercise session.

According to a study by J. Drigny and colleagues, cardio does not have to be an hour long to be beneficial to cardiovascular health. Even quick 30-minute sessions can help a heart be a healthy.

Feel confident and empowered, knowing that you can take charge of your health for a better future, otherwise your 40s could easily feel like you are in need of an early retirement.

SDA Health is a weekly column written by members of the Student Dietitian Association. The column focuses on healthy eating and living. For more commentary or to suggest a topic, email life@fiusm.com

“Packing snacks such as granola bars and yogurt can provide you with necessary nutrients and allows you to remain active.”

long-term health benefits while you are in your 20s? Let us look at the four things that you can do for a healthier and longer future.

Eat on the go. Many of us skip breakfast simply because we lack time. Write down your daily schedule and see where you can fit in a 5-10 minute, pre-packed snack. Packing snacks such as granola bars and yogurt can provide you with necessary nutrients and allows you to remain active.

If you have little extra time on the weekends, you can also cook simple meals at the beginning of

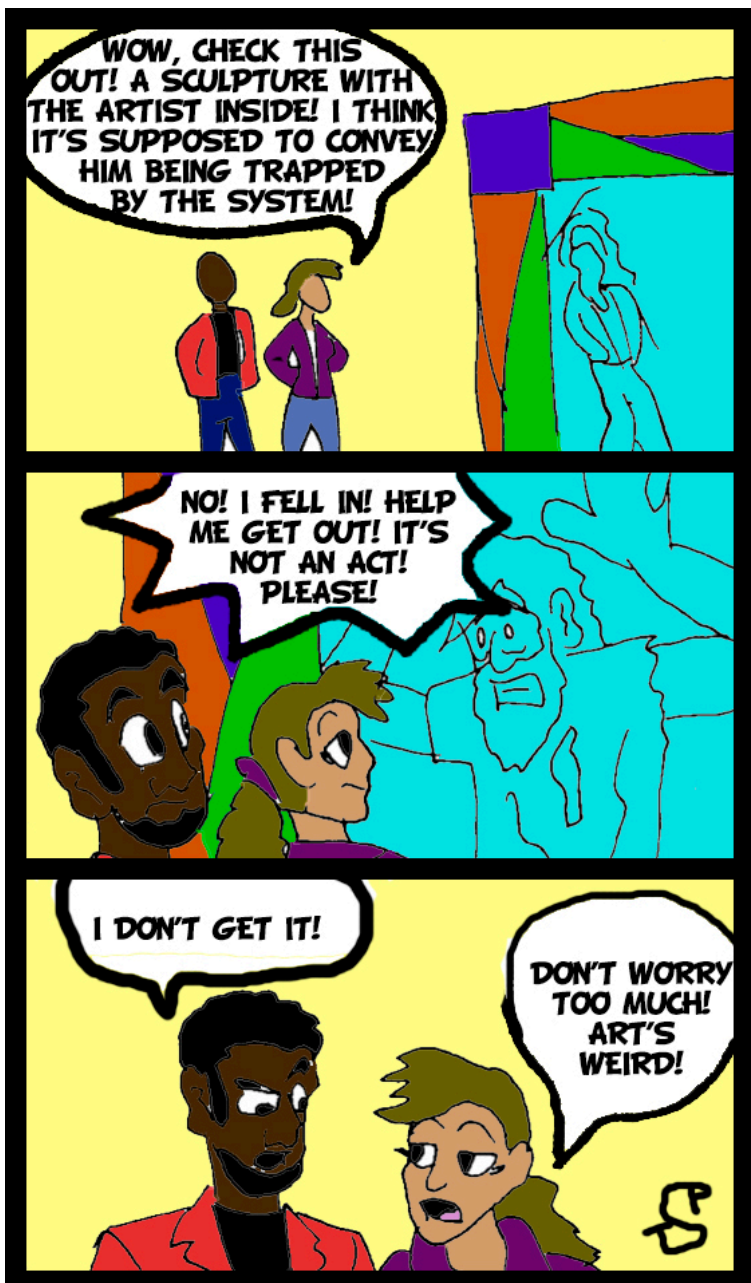
economical than eating out.

Pick the better option. Many times it feels like eating out can be inevitable. While many fast-food and dine-in restaurants usually serve foods that are calorically dense and filled with fats, there are healthier options on these menus as well.

A side salad instead of a side of fries or have a refreshing glass of water instead of a high calorie fountain drink.

Moderate your alcohol intake. Excessive alcohol consumption is linked to a bigger waistline and an increased risk of developing

TRAPPED!



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON



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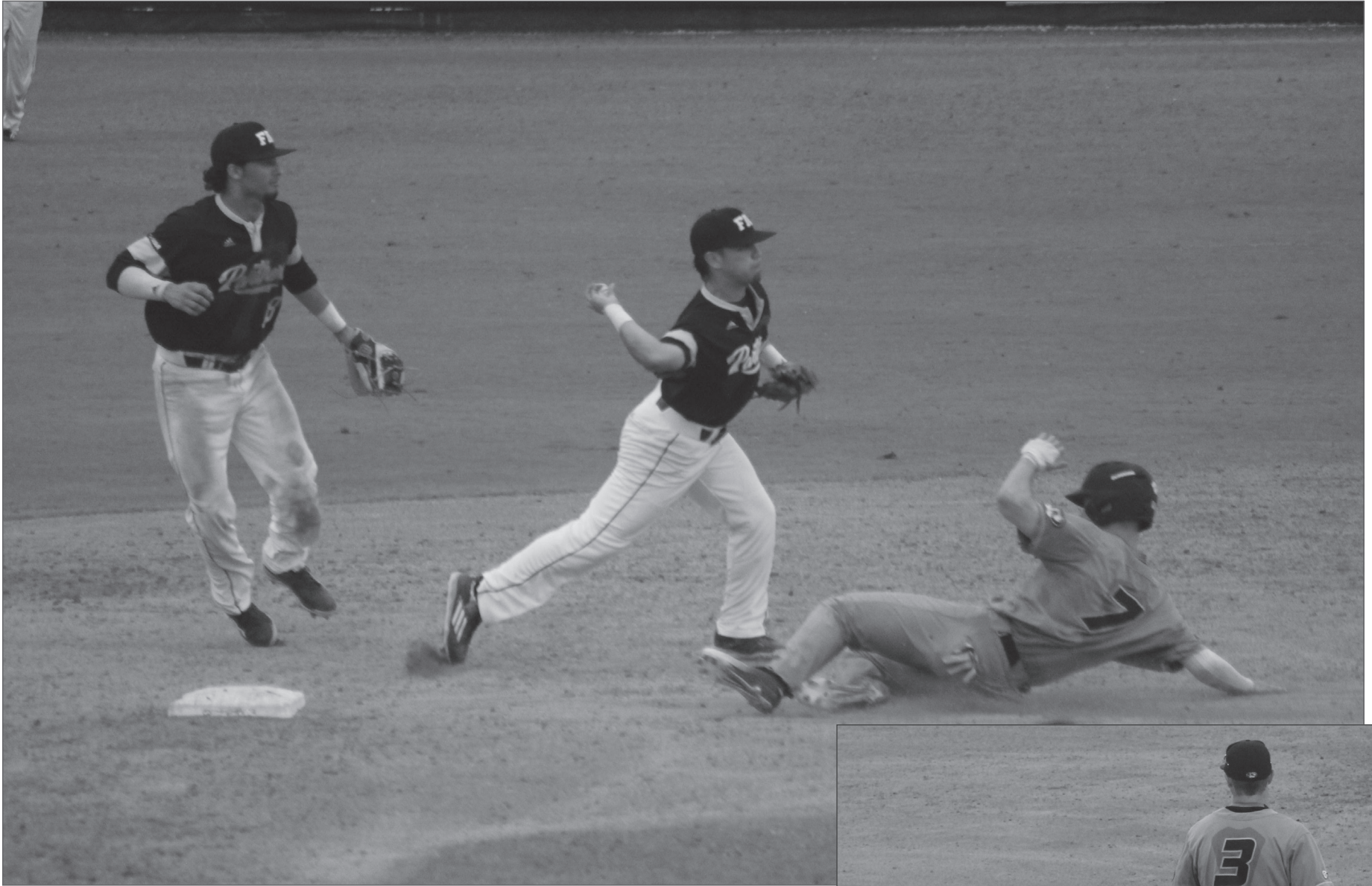


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BASEBALL

WAITING FOR WIN

Panthers have underwhelming start to new season



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Shortstop Irving Lopez throws the ball to first base to complete a double play in the 8th inning on Wednesday, Feb. 26. The University of Missouri Tigers, however, would still go on to defeat the Panthers by a score of 7-6.

JAKE'S TAKES



JACOB SPIWAK

When the 2016 baseball season kicked off against the University of Mississippi Rebels on Friday, Feb. 19, there were a lot of questions surrounding the defending Conference USA champions.

Could Head Coach Turtle

Thomas get his Panthers to open the season with a series win over a ranked Southeastern Conference team like they did last year against the University of Tennessee?

How would all of the transfers and new position players fare after many of FIU's top hitters from their C-USA championship team either graduated or got drafted?

With so many uncertainties leading up to opening day, the early part of 2016 would prove to be crucial to determine exactly what Thomas' team is capable of.

So far, with five games played and a long homestand now under way, the Panthers have been

underwhelming to say the least.

With a record of just 1-4 to begin with and a sweep by Ole Miss in a lopsided series that didn't see the Panthers even close to getting one win, FIU came out of the gate flat.

The difficulty of their early season schedule is partially to blame, as Ole Miss and the University of Missouri are both talented SEC teams, but a defending conference champion should still show more fight than that.

While they almost came from

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MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Sophomore center fielder Jack Schaaf rounds third base on his way to score against the University of Missouri.

SOCCER

PANTHER PROFILE

Andrew Booth to represent University at the national level

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The men's soccer program has another standout player getting the opportunity to play at the national level. Andrew Booth, a freshman midfielder/defender from Tamarac, Florida,

has been invited to the Jamaica National U-20 training camp which takes place Feb. 26-28 in Kingston, Jamaica.

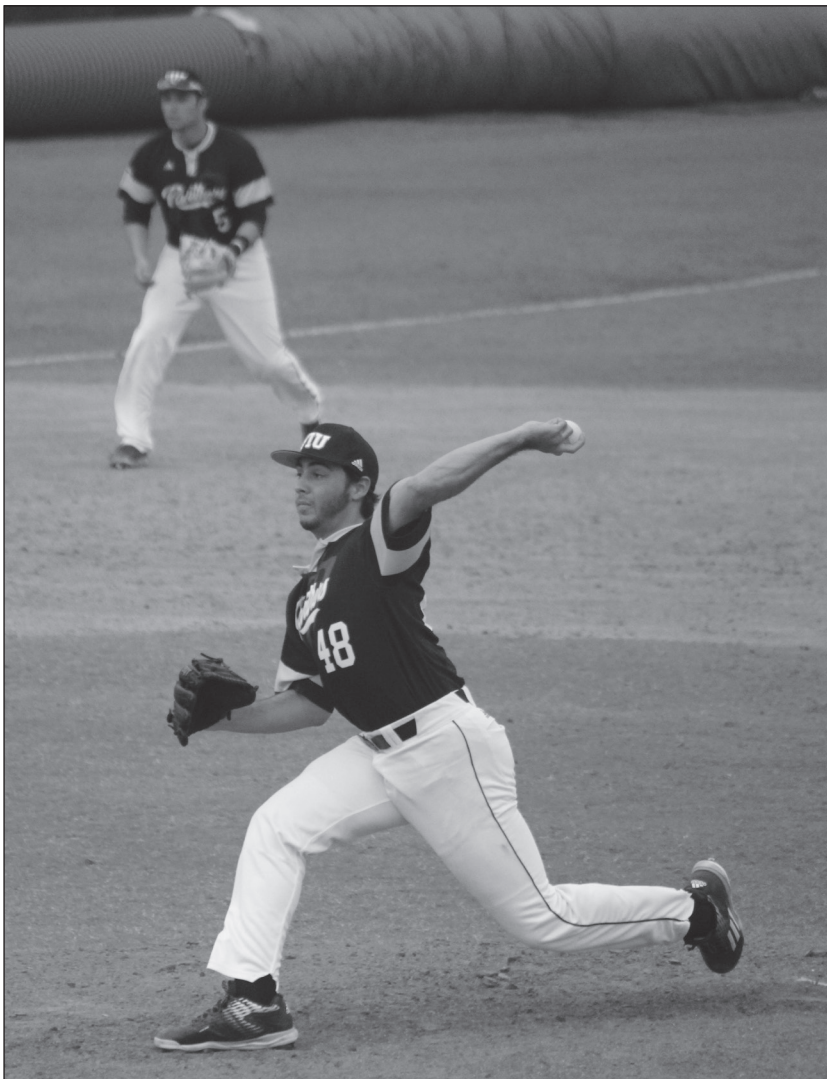
The training camp is in preparation for the Caribbean Football Union Tournament slated for June 13-19, 2016.

"It's always a great honor to have an opportunity to represent your country and I believe that Andrew will do very well," said Scott Calabrese, head soccer coach at FIU. "Andrew

has worked hard this spring and he continues to improve, it's clear that the Jamaican Federation has also seen his potential as well. Most importantly this will be another avenue and set of experiences that will enhance his development as a player and we are excited for him."

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BASEBALL



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Frank Chacon throws a pitch at the FIU Baseball Stadium. The freshman lefthander has a 10.80 ERA and 3.1 innings pitched in two relief appearances this season.

Initial performance likely to hinder championship chances

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behind to defeat Mizzou at home, their 1-4 record is definitely a cause for concern.

FIU showed their potential in their lone victory over St. Thomas University, as the Panthers won their home opener by a score of 6-1.

The bats were working, Alex Demchak delivered five scoreless innings and if anything the Panthers should've won by more than five runs with the way they were playing.

The pitching staff was expected to be FIU's strength and Demchak proved why with that performance.

Thomas knows he has a lot of talented arms on this roster and is still in the process of figuring out this team's final pitching rotation.

"[Demchak] will get some more starting opportunities, but so will a lot of guys," said Thomas. "With as many games as we've got coming up in the first five weeks of the year, everybody [is going to] throw."

When the Panthers play like they did against St. Thomas, it appears as if they can hang in there with just about anyone.

Even though 2015's star-studded roster is no longer intact, FIU can still rely on the bats of players such as Eddie Silva, Austin Rodriguez and Nick Day to get on base and drive in

some runs.

With the upcoming schedule including games against teams like Seton Hall University and Loyola Marymount University all being played at home, the time is now for the Panthers to show what this team can do.

Their schedule doesn't get much easier from here, and the Panthers will be tested every step of the way, but as conference play gets closer it becomes more and more crucial for the Panthers to figure it out.

If they continue to play like they have in their first five games, it will become increasingly less likely to see FIU repeat as 2016 C-USA champions.

Last year's conference champion team underwhelmed all season long and finally hit their stride in the C-USA Tournament, so we've seen before that struggles during the regular season aren't the end of the world.

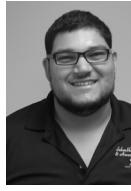
But for a team that still has a lot of holes to fill and questions to be answered before they can reach their true potential, they don't have the luxury of waiting.

Jake's Takes is a biweekly column about Panther Baseball. For commentary and suggestions email Jacob Spiwak at jacob.spiwak@fiusm.com.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers look to finish season strong after Rice loss

T-TIME



GIANCARLO NAVAS

Up in a skybox overlooking the Lime Court at FIU stadium, it's all smiles for FIU women's basketball Head Coach Marlin Chinn.

His team may have lost to Rice 62 to 68, but you wouldn't be able to tell. A positivity radiated from the first year head coach that is uncommon for the leader of a team that is 4-22.

"I wanna make sure that we load the girls up with a ton of enthusiasm and energy, we just ask them to play hard," said Chinn. "This was a real positive for us."

Taylor Shade and the Offense

Despite the loss, the Panthers had stretches of the game where they looked very good.

Playing with senior Taylor Shade, junior Nikolina Todorovic and

senior Brianna Wright, FIU went on a run to bring them back from down double digits.

That rag-tag group of bench players coupled with Shade's playmaking sparked something interesting from FIU.

Shade's ability to run the offense is perhaps best on the team especially in the pick and roll game.

"She gets a lot of good shots. She got going late for us, she can penetrate, she can kick or get to a pull up," Chinn said. "She has gotten good at that."

Despite Shade being arguably their best offensive player, freshman point guard Kristian Hudson does a lot of the offense initiating. With Shade being a senior it's understandable that Chinn would want to groom his young point guard.

Hudson's Struggles

What Hudson was greeted to was a plethora of traps off pick and rolls and full court presses.

She struggled with

the ball and getting into offensive sets, however this isn't something new.

Hudson averages more turnovers (4.4) than assists (4.1) on the year and her inexperience has shown. Chinn however, believes in her growth.

"That's just being a freshman, trying to learn the speed the game. She is playing against juniors and seniors and she's learning. It's been a rollercoaster ride of a season for her," said Chinn.

"I do tell everyone that she is going to be an unbelievable coach when she finishes playing. Her IQ is so high. She is always thinking about the game. She is going to be really really good when she gets into next season."

Pace

What Chinn has been consistent about since day one of his coaching tenure at FIU is the want to play quickly.

He believes in fast paced offenses and has been unable to play his style because of FIU's

lack of depth.

"We are not as deep as we want to be," said Chinn. "Earlier in the season we played five or six girls, so we couldn't sustain playing like that in the third and fourth quarter. But we will get there."

The offense Chinn envisions is something closer to what Rice had than FIU.

Rice would push the pace and run out after getting a rebound, their point guard Maya Hawkins would run at breakneck speeds up and down the floor.

As the season starts to wind down Chinn remains positive.

Up top in a skybox talking to the media he smiles and laugh, even though they lost at home. He remains entrenched in his positivity; he believes that better times are soon.

T-Time is a biweekly column about women's basketball in FIU. To contact Giancarlo email him at giancarlo.navas@fiusm.com

SOCCER

Booth boosts University chances for new campaign

GOALS, PAGE 6

Booth was redshirted this past season with the Panthers and is expected to have a significant impact during the 2016 campaign.

He was named a Sun Sentinel and Miami Herald All-County selection from 2012-15. In addition, he was named team MVP in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Along with his time at the University, Booth played for other soccer academies during the offseason.

Booth played for the Kendall Soccer Academy in 2014-15, under Head Coach Johnny Ramos, and the Plantation Academy from 2005 to 2014 with Head Coach Jimmy Sotter.

His 2013 Plantation club won the Disney Showcase.

Booth looks to contribute to the FIU team that went



12-7-1 and finished the season with its best record in over 11 years.

The Panthers claimed the 2015 C-USA title, earning the team's first NCAA appearance since 2004.

Following the team's historic run in the C-USA Tournament, FIU moved into the top 25 in the NSCAA's

final regular season poll at No. 16, announced back in Nov. 17.

Earlier this season, FIU cracked the top 25, earning a ranking as high as No. 14.

The Panthers had their name in the record books in almost all offensive categories. They finished the year ranked as the conference's top scoring offense with 41 goals, 36 assists for 118 points.

FIU ranks No. 14 in the nation in goals, No. 21 in the nation in assists and No. 18 in the nation in total points.

Averaging 5.90 points per game (No. 10 in the nation), FIU notched two or more goals in 13 of the team's 20 matches this season.

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Caribbean, black culture debated at discussion series



FABIENNE FLEURANTIN

POLITICOBUZZ Culture has been profoundly ingrained into each and every one of us, formulating our ideas about the world and how we experience

it. But it can also divide us, blurring the lines of what it means to take pride in our culture without denigrating someone else's.

Multicultural Programs and Services hosted an All Lives Matter Discussion Series, where students came together to have an in-depth debate about Caribbean and black culture and how it has affected their perspectives.

Race and culture have always been confounded territories for me. I identify as black when it comes to race, yet I associate myself with Haitian culture

because I was immersed in it while growing up. It is what I am composed of and I've met many Haitian people throughout elementary and middle school who've shared the same circumstance.

However, I never experienced the feeling of not belonging until high school. The question of my identity was pinned against me and derogatory slurs were thrown my way.

FIU graduate student Magda Compere had similar sentiments while she expressed her feelings during the discussion. She was born in Boston, but lived and went to school in Haiti for some time.

She spoke of how she perceived her Caribbean culture and how coming to America changed that.

"I never considered myself black because I didn't notice that I was different," she says.

Another FIU graduate student, Mark Harris, described what he thought black culture meant to him and how he disagrees with

separation."

So, how do we define culture and race? This has a different meaning for every person. But



We as individuals have to understand that those subdivisions are things we should take pride in, but we can't let that pride divide us.

Mark Harris
Graduate Student



the constructions that have been established by it.

"Imagine a structure where everybody, like people in America, are still classified as black Americans," he said. "But it shouldn't be like that because what it does [is] create

it boils down to the question of how these cultures are reflected towards other individuals.

It has been said that many people find differences between the black and Caribbean culture because of how we are portrayed in the media. The media portrays

black people in a one dimensional perspective that is inflated to such an extent of factiousness. This, in turn, pins each culture against each other, bringing one down while putting another up.

This is what people see in Caribbean countries and think that this is what they'll see when they come to America. But as individuals, we are so much more than just one thing.

Just as Mark Harris emphasized during the conversation: "We as individuals have to understand that those subdivisions are things we should take pride in, but we can't let that pride divide us."

PoliticoBuzz is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide. For suggestions and commentary contact opinion@fiusm.com

Website promotes college vote

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Elections are around the corner and FIU's Student Government Association wants Panthers involved.

SGA, in combination with a website called TurboVote, is on a mission for students to be more politically active.

Alexis Calatayud, president of SGA at MMC, along with the rest of SGA, invited students to attend a workshop headed by the creator of TurboVote.

TurboVote creator, Seth Flaxman informed students on how he started the process of creating the site, what exactly the program is and how it could produce better results on campus.

Flaxman says "The way [TurboVote] works is that it helps you fill out an online version of your voting registration. Then we mail it to you with a stamp and envelope for you to finish filling out. Then we send you a reminder through text of when you need to mail it in - if that's what your state requires, like here in Florida."

The program also assists in the process of voting by mail, where allowed, as well as sending other reminders about when and where there is a polling place to participate in elections.

"It's not easy," Flaxman says, "we need to wake people up to the world of democracy aside from

presidential elections."

Flaxman explains that when he was in college he was an economics major, yet very eager to vote. He spoke about how he used to take his friends to polling places.

"It's not always a problem of apathy," he says. "Sometimes people cannot find out what exactly they need to do to vote, where to go or when."

"I found that the internet revolutionized a lot of things except the public sector," Flaxman said.

He told the group that he searched online for a way to make voting easier and more "user friendly" yet found nothing.

That is why in 2010 he started working on the project that was TurboVote while in college. In 2012, TurboVote was launched.

Flaxman emphasizes that presidential elections are not the only time to vote, there's other smaller elections at a state or even county level that a lot of people do not participate in.

Although the program intrigued and seemed helpful to several students in the crowd, the ultimate question seemed to be about how this program would work at FIU.

Flaxman says that he has tried this out on several different campuses across the nation and that he has seen it work for around "60 percent of the campus student population".

Calatayud mentions that she is excited to bring

this innovation to FIU and wants to "inform the rest of the students of this and see if they really will support bringing this to our campus."

Most students, after hearing about TurboVote, had varying opinions and degrees of excitement for it.

Berkan Biter, a senior international relations major, agrees that the concept presented, as well as the facts stated in the workshop, seem convincing enough to bring it to the FIU campuses.

"I believe this would be a beneficial as well as efficient system," Biter says. "Many students actually don't know how to vote or think that their vote would not matter."

"There's a lot of reasons students would want to vote but it's not magic," Flaxman said. "We need student initiative in order to be successful."

This is probably the biggest problem addressed during the workshop. The main question was how could they get this program out to all students and actively motivate them to sign up.

Different university scenarios were discussed at the workshop where Flaxman explained ideas he had seen work in the past. He explains that there are two models, a process point or an organizing model.

SEE VOTE, PAGE 2

BBC to host lecture on AIDS journalist

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Jeffrey Schmalz's work at the New York Times reporting the stories of the AIDS crisis of the early 1990s could have been lost after his death.

Schmalz, who worked at the Times from 1973 until his death in 1993, wrote profiles on people with HIV and AIDS, as well as reports on the disease itself near the end of his life.

"These articles he wrote were so significant when they came out and changed so much in American journalism ... and yet, barely a generation later, much of that has been forgotten," said Samuel G. Freedman, Columbia professor, author and former New York Times writer.

Freedman, who called Schmalz his mentor and friend, will host "Dying Words: The AIDS Reporting of Jeff Schmalz and How it Transformed the New York Times," a lecture based on Freedman's book of the same name, Tuesday, March 1 at 2 p.m. in BBC's Academic Center One Room 194.

Radio producer and director of the Columbia radio program Kerry Donahue, who co-wrote the book and worked with Freedman to create a radio-documentary on the subject, will speak alongside him during the lecture.

The talk will cover Schmalz's impact on the way AIDS was reported in a time when gay and lesbian reporters were pressured to stay "in the closet" to keep their jobs.

Freedman said at the Times, in particular, then-editor Abraham Rosenthal's homophobia prevented many LGBT reporters from "coming

out."

Schmalz was one of those.

"It's important to bring young readers, both straight and gay, back to that time period and also be reminded of how many exceptionally talented, exceptionally gifted, exceptionally productive people - members of the media, the arts and business, all aspects of society - lost their lives to this disease at incredibly young ages," said Freedman.

Schmalz was 39 when he died Nov. 6, 1993, three years after his own AIDS diagnosis.

Although Schmalz was open about his sexuality with Freedman, he discovered while writing the book with Donahue that was not so with everyone.

"The homophobia at the top of the paper was so toxic that Jeff was reluctant to come out to anyone who held his career in their hands," Freedman said.

For the current generation, Freedman said it is likely difficult to imagine such circumstances.

"I think Jeff's work really set the tone for the change in the coverage of AIDS in a way that's hard to fathom today," said Freedman.

Due to the internet age, Freedman said the news landscape has become much more widely spread. The Times' influence in Schmalz's day was, according to him, exponentially more.

"The Times amplified [the issue] tremendously - that also made such a big difference," he said.

"It's vital, especially for young journalists to know about that experience and to know who helped batter open some of those doors that are open now," said Freedman.