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Toxicology report shows student died of accidental alcohol, cocaine overdose

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Kellie Fullilove had a .50 blood alcohol count and cocaine in her system at the time of her death, according to toxicology reports obtained by the Miami Herald.

Fullilove was enrolled in the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences and earned her associate of arts and science degree from Florida Gulf Coast University.

The nursing student, who was found dead November 15 after attending an off-campus event hosted by Phi Gamma

Delta, had been texting one of the fraternity brothers about purchasing the drug, according to the Miami Herald.

"If you like going skiing your going to love fiji lmao," read a text message using a euphemism for the drug that was sent to Fullilove from the phone of fraternity brother Sean Velazquez. "We practically supply fiu."

The Miami Herald reports that Velazquez's defense attorney denies that the messages were "authorized or sanctioned" by the student.

Fullilove attended the FIJ Formal with Velazquez on Nov. 14, the night before her

death.

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department's investigation into Fullilove's death concluded without criminal charges being filed. At press time, Student Media's request for the police report had not been returned.

"The chapter has received a copy of the police report. Phi Gamma Delta does not condone illicit drug use or possession, underage drinking or other illegal behavior by members or guests," Shayan Shams, president of the University's Phi Gamma Delta chapter, said to Student Media. "Our thoughts and

prayers continue to be with Ms. Fullilove's family."

The fraternity, also known as FIJ, was placed on interim suspension following Fullilove's death pending the now-closed police investigation, according to a statement by University Media Relations sent to Student Media.

"While Phi Gamma Delta (FIJ) was on interim suspension, the University conducted an investigation. Based on that investigation, the fraternity was charged with violating the campus life alcohol policy by providing a bottle of champagne to some

FIJ members attending the off-campus formal," the statement said. "On January 25, 2016, FIJ was found responsible and placed on conduct probation until December 31, 2016, social probation until August 21, 2016."

The fraternity is required to complete a risk management workshop and is not allowed to organize any social events until after Aug. 22, 2016, according to the statement. The University is also reviewing the police report to determine if there is cause for Student Conduct hearings.

Cathy Akens, dean of

students, would not comment on the Student Conduct investigations leading up to the suspension of the fraternity outside of the statement from University Media Relations.

Student Media has made attempts to contact the president of the Interfraternity Council, of which FIJ is a member, and Associate Director of Campus Life Christianne Medrano, who oversees the Interfraternity Council. At press time, neither request was returned.

Student Media will update this story as more information becomes available.

Administration addresses Nature Preserve concerns

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Wednesday, March 2, President Mark Rosenberg issued a statement via email to order clarify concerns about FIU's Nature Preserve, the need for more athletic facilities and build for the future.

The redistribution of land that would occur with a Nature Preserve is in efforts to address students' needs and maintain the University's environmental stewardship, according to the email.

"We value the preserve as a permanent feature of our unique learning environment," the email reads. "As a university community we are committed to research and development as well as stewardship that is good for our community and protects our environment. This project is consistent with that

commitment."

Despite the University's plans, preparations to propose a resolution will be presented at the faculty senate meeting on March 8. The final decision, however, will be made by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on March 11.

According to Kenneth Jessell, senior vice president for Financial Affairs, FIU is the only school in Conference USA that does not have a football practice field.

"Our student athletes need to be afforded the opportunity to be as competitive as they can possibly be... They need to have the same facilities that the other institutions have. It's only fair to them to be competitive and they deserve it," said Jessell, who also serves as the University's chief financial officer.

For the past five years, FIU officials have been wanting to build additional intramural

practice fields for their students' athletes. However, the necessary resources were scarce.

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015, a proposal was presented to the Board of Trustees, who approved construction of the two fields on Southwest 17th Street, west of the stadium, for a total of \$8.9 million.

However, many concerns with the initial site, such as loss of mature trees, relocation of the road and safety issues due to closeness to the street, brought the need to consider different alternatives.

The northern part of the Nature Preserve came up as an alternative to build the fields with proximity to the gymnasium, locker-room and restroom facilities.

According to Jessell, the two fields to be added will be located right beside each other. One will be made with synthetic turf and the other with natural turf. Athletics will pay for half of the cost, the other half is being paid by a \$500,000 contribution from Student Government.

This contribution will still be provided even though SGC-MMC Senate's resolution declaring their opposition to building on the Preserve. The resolution was passed Monday, Feb. 29, following a unanimous vote from the Senate.

"There are ways that we can make this a win-win situation, we know that the Preserve is a valuable resource for our students and faculty, but we are trying to balance it out to benefit all

Statement released about misconduct allegations

ERICA SANTIAGO
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In an effort to fulfill its responsibility to ensure that classrooms, athletic fields and campuses are free from any form of harassment and a safe space for the community, the University issued a statement via email regarding recent news stories alleging misconduct involving a student-athlete and an employee, Friday March 4.

According to the statement, the University takes these as well as any other allegations seriously and addresses them, while ensuring fairness and due process to all involved.

External Relations released this statement three days after allegations of sexual misconduct made by Destini Feagin against women's basketball Head Coach Marlin Chinn became public.

"Our students and our community should be aware of the key facts regarding recent news stories about alleged misconduct involving a student-athlete and an employee," read the email.

The email continues, mentioning a criminal theft investigation that was opened by FIU Police against said student-athlete "on or about Feb. 15."

According to a redacted incident report received by Student Media, an unknown student was involved in "Theft/ Depriving The Victim Of The Right To The Property," which was reported Monday, Feb. 15 at

midnight.

Attempts to receive the full report are being made by Student Media.

"Based on information provided to the Athletic Department on February 22, the student-athlete was suspended from the women's basketball team the following day," the email said.

The email continued to state that it was after the student's suspension from the team that "serious allegations" were made against an FIU employee.

"Based on the information gathered so far, head women's basketball coach Marlin Chinn has been suspended, pending the outcome of the investigation."

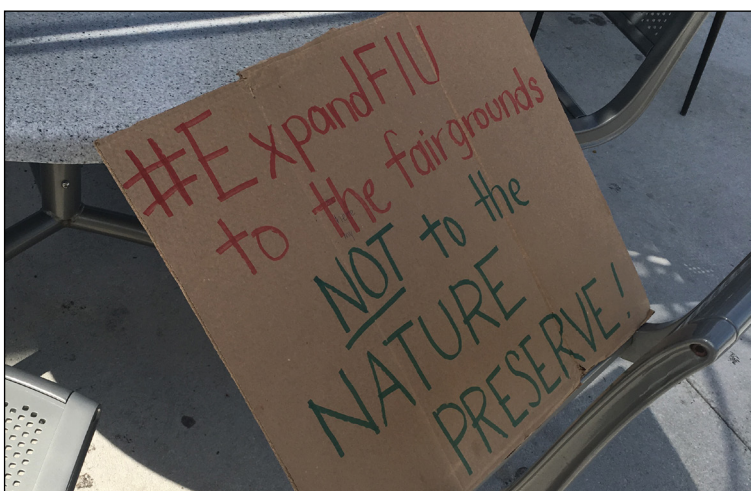
Chinn claimed the senior guard was absent from a game Saturday, Feb. 27, due to a violation of team policy.

Feagin told the Miami Herald that she had committed a violation when she used a teammate's OneCard to buy food. Feagin's mother, Joi Nicholson, paid off the \$350 debt the following Monday.

According to the Miami Herald, Nicholson and Feagin believe that Chinn suspended Feagin, the team's captain, from four games as punishment for resisting his sexual advances.

Student Media's request for comments from Feagin have not yet been returned. Student Media will update this story as more information becomes available.

Additional reporting by Cayla Bush



CAYLA BUSH/THE BEACON

A sign located outside the GC Atrium expresses discontent with plans to restructure the Nature Preserve in order to provide athletic space.

SEE PRESERVE, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Grizzly bears rebounding in Yellowstone

A decade after federal wildlife officials tried and failed to remove protections for grizzly bears that live in and near Yellowstone National Park, they are trying again, this time declaring that bear recovery efforts have been a “historic success.”

Pointing to estimates that the Yellowstone population has increased from as few as 136 bears

in 1975, the year they were listed as threatened, to as many as 700 today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this week proposed removing federal protections in favor of an oversight plan that would be enforced by state governments — one that would allow hunting bears that roam outside the park.

Europe’s hope for unity fading as it confronts rising discontent

German wags and social media commentators, looking at the current cocktail of woes facing the European Union, have come up with a notion of a single fix: the “Saxit,” or the forced exit of the deeply angry German state of Saxony from Germany and the EU.

It’s a jest perhaps only a German would understand. Saxony’s capital is Dresden, the birthplace and continued heart

of anti-refugee populism and violence in a nation that in the past year has taken in a million refugees. Dresden, and small towns near it, regularly make national newscasts for anti-refugee actions. In Berlin, and Munich and other urban areas where refugees have found greater acceptance, the news from Saxony these days is often described as an embarrassment to all Germans.

Homeless college student shows true grit in her pursuit of a home, degree

On a frigid winter morning, Latia Crockett-Holder, 23, emerges from her tent beneath a crumbling overpass in her stocking feet. In the dim viaduct, where the streetlights are out and water drips from melting icicles like stalactites in a cavern, Crockett-Holder pulls two sheets of baby wipes from a box to wash her face. She squirts toothpaste from a small tube directly into

her mouth, brushes and spits into the street. Then Crockett-Holder laces up her boots, slings a book bag over her shoulder and heads off to the No. 148 bus a block away. She has a 10:45 a.m. economics class at MacCormac College in the Loop. Crockett-Holder is studying criminal justice and dreams of a career in law enforcement.

FIUPD holds first swearing-in ceremony

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The FIU Police Department is enforcing a new mindset in their roles as law enforcement and are beginning new traditions.

Friday, Feb. 26, the FIU police department held its first official swearing-in ceremony.

Loved ones gathered to watch 14 officers and one K9 take an oath to protect the FIU community in the FIU Football Stadium Club.

Alexander Casas, Chief of Police, initiated the ceremony with a few jokes and took a serious turn when the oaths and expectations were said.

Casas said the new police officers will serve as “guardians of our community.” He paused to point out, “Notice I said guardians, not warriors.”

Casas said that the change of the word was to express the correct frame of mind of the officers and to give a more accurate term to describe the job. As well as emphasize their focus on protecting the community as their primary goal.

The ceremony was

created because of the surprisingly large number of new police officers joining the department in less than a year. Men and women have been sworn in from different professional backgrounds both in and out of the field.

Casas also mentioned the importance of family and how they “need [them] to help us stay human” when the job takes its toll on the new officers.

“[We are] authors of our history and together we will create our legacy,” said Casas, addressing both the loved ones and the officers.

The police department has had an estimated six officers leave this year, according to Officer David Navas, and has welcomed a U.S. Navy veteran, a teacher and a state attorney as they begin their new careers as well as transferring officers.

“We have an officer called Eddy Halaby who keeps coming back to FIU because on two previous occasions he’s taken leaves of absence to consult and train police officers in Haiti,” said Chief Casas. Each time Halaby returns he has to be sworn in again.

This was his third time

being sworn into FIUPD.

The police department also said their swearing-ins are usually at a much smaller scale but they want to begin this bigger and more formal event at least once a year - no matter the turn out.

“It’s pretty important to [the officers]. It’s pretty important to their families,” Casas said. “And it’s a very important first step in getting the FIU community to start to bond and get to know their new officers.”

Another new tradition will be that each new dog of the K9 unit will be sworn in as well after their training.

“They’re a member of our department and we treat them as a member of our department,” Casas said.

“Part of what makes law enforcement what it is are the traditions that we have,” said Casas. “And those traditions serve to remind officers that this is bigger than any individual here. That’s why these things are so important. It starts to get them to understand [that] this is about us, this is about community. This is not about me.”

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

University responds to student protests for the Nature Preserve

PRESERVE, PAGE 1

parties involved,” Jessell said. “[In fact], the jogging trail will extend above those fields to make it even larger and ultimately more attractive to students.”

According to Jessell, building on the Nature Preserve presents savings of approximately \$1.3 million. He added that these savings would be put into improving the Preserve, which could possibly be a larger capital cost than the savings.

“Please look to see what they [student opposition] are really proposing before you sign a petition” Jessell said. “There are a lot of misconceptions about the project for the

nature preserve and I want students to find out the real facts.”

Those in opposition of the plans to change the Nature Preserve remain frustrated despite University administration’s reassurances. The petition to stop the plans that was created by a concerned group has already reached over 7,000 signatures from the community.

“We made all the documents regarding the building plans available to the students publicly before they [University administration] ever did. The only reason the students know about this issue is because we brought it up,” said Joshua Muñoz-

Jiménez, the organic garden manager.

The senior agricultural science major also says that their goal is to disseminate the important documents and allow the community to decide their own stance on the issue.

According to Rosenberg, the University believes in the importance of having a nature preserve, but also hopes that students will engage in a collaborative effort to arrive at a win-win situation where both sides move one step closer to their goal.

FIU Student Media will be updating this article as more information becomes available.

THE BEACON

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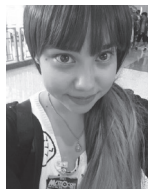
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Social media – a negative network

PANTHER HEALTH



MAYTINEE
KRAMER

We are the social media generation. Everywhere you look, people are scrolling through their phones, posting selfies on Instagram or tweeting the latest Internet meme of the year. Social media and smartphones have changed our personal and social lives, giving us the means to broadcast our thoughts and lives to the world. However, the influence of social media on girls is of particular importance because of their vulnerability and because they're the heaviest users of social networking.

As TIME Magazine wrote, 92 percent of American children have an online presence before the age of two, with parents posting images of their children online, otherwise

known as "sharenting."

As children grow up, social media teaches them to be narcissistic and perpetuates their exhibitionist ways. The boom in today's selfie culture further gives rise to a competitive spirit as well as the trend of sexualization. Many students today can't think about a life without social media as it has become so engraved in our everyday lives.

Nancy Jo Sales, the author of the book, "American Girls: Social Media and the Secret Lives of Teenagers," spent two and a half years researching and studying how social media and dating apps are putting pressure on American teenagers. Girls, specifically, claimed that social media is bad, but without it they wouldn't have a life.

That life though, is full of unsolicited harassment, bullying and pornography. The idea of needing to portray

themselves as "hot" or popular has become a factor in their lives.

Social media's popularity contest has led many people to seek validation of themselves based on the number of "likes" they receive. Our online culture is promoting negative self-esteem and instant judgment.

Some common activities that have replaced intimacy are sexting and sharing "nudes." Sexting is the act of sending sexually revealing photos of themselves or sexually explicit messages to another individual or group.

A nationwide survey conducted by the National Campaign to Support Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy found that 20 percent of teens participated in sexting. Boys lean more towards sending explicit or suggestive messages, but girls are more pressured to send inappropriate photos of themselves due to a

new notion of sexual liberation through being provocative.

With today's technology, the Internet is a fertile ground for explicit content to go viral which leads to girls suffering not only personal trauma, but humiliation and even judicial ramifications.

Online pornography also plays a role in girls sexualizing themselves. Studies have reported that American children are exposed to online porn as young as the age of six.

According to the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, 93 percent of boys and 62 percent of girls view pornography before the age of 18. As the saying goes, "monkey see, monkey do," meaning what people watch influences how they behave and act and how they think about sexuality and sex.

For female Panthers, it's great to feel sexy, look sexy and be considered sexy every once in awhile as we're all

grown women, but all this sexualization and social media can distract us from the importance of our academic success and well-being.

There is nothing wrong with acknowledging and enjoying sexuality, but trouble arises when it leads to shaming, victimizing and portraying the female body as an object. The American Psychological Association reported evidence of the negative effects of such treatment, including the reduction of a girl's ability to concentrate, leading to impaired performance.

Social media also has its positive factors as it can be used to maintain friendships, be playful with one another or to make others laugh. Rather than using it for pressuring and sexualizing others, female Panthers, as well as all other students of the FIU community should make an effort to curtail the negativity social networking can cause.

A good start to remedying the situation is logging off and physically communicating. People are made to communicate face-to-face because apart from verbally speaking, much of communication also occurs with nonverbal cues and body language.

Disconnecting can also help one to be mindful of the present moment and encourage other healthy activities such as exercising, healthy eating, social gatherings and studying. Overall, social media can be powerful tool, it just depends on how often we use it - and how.

Panther Health is a commentary on college health in nutrition. Maytinee Kramer is a staff writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, please contact Maytinee at opinion.fiusm.com.

The Academy's attempt to address a lack of diversity

ON THE SCENE



GABRIELLE
GARCIA

After abundant controversy and uproar over the Oscars, people worldwide tuned in to see the anticipated Academy Awards. The boycotts, which condemned The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for lack of diversity, stirred the pot to say the least as it opened people's hearts and minds to many difficult discussions.

This years Academy Awards though, seemed

to address only one angle of diversity.

Initially, I found Chris Rock's performance to be engaging, sarcastic and eye-opening. I most definitely had a laugh and achieved a new sense of awareness for issues that have been and continue to be at stake today.

Yet, as the show continued, I found Rock's comedy and commentary to increasingly contradict the issue about diversity.

While the prejudices and vices associated with race are unfortunately very much prevalent in society today, I perceived that the Oscar boycotts were meant to address issues of

diversity, not the binaries of black and white.

Punch line after punch line, I began to wonder if Rock's comedy was addressing and questioning diversity or focusing on the boundaries of race.

I contend that diversity delves beyond the realms of race and color. We must equally address issues across all spectrums. This includes the LGBTQ community and those with disabilities as well. Where are their opportunities and undivided recognitions in the film industry?

The prejudices and ill will associated with race and color need to cease—specifically the

lack of compassion and recognition for other human beings.

The film industry and The Academy has most definitely taken a fall; However, I believe The Academy has the ability to make significant changes for the better. Diversity shouldn't be solely oriented towards race and the film industry shouldn't be either.

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

AMERICANS



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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USDA perpetuates legalized labeling scheme



SARAH HYACINTHE

The parallels between nutrition and fashion are similar. Nutrition is a lot like fashion in the sense that it trends over time.

The current trend is organic food, based on the thought that chemical free foods do not have adverse side effects on the individual's health.

With such promise in tow, the public gravitates towards farmer's markets, natural food aisles and natural food stores. However, questions have come around to what "organic" really means and allowing the consumer to know what is actually in the food they think they are buying.

According to the USDA, an organic food product is grown and processed based on federal guidelines addressing the quality of the soil, animal raising practices, pests, weeds and additives. Upon conformity, farmers may use the USDA certified organic foods label to indicate the process and quality of their food.

Failure to follow guidelines results in financial penalties or revocation of the organic certificate. To the innocent bystander that sounds reassuring. However, we will

discuss why the revocation is too good to be true.

According to Toomey Erin from the "Drake Journal of Agriculture Law," in order to comply with the federal requirements, farmers and handlers must only use substances on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances.

This should be rather reassuring if it weren't for the fact that as of 2014 there are over 250 non-organic substances on the list which is a drastic surge from the 77 non-organic substances found in 2002.

During the upgrading process of the list the "sunset review," companies petition the National Organic Standards Board Reviews to keep an allowed substance on the list.

Some claim the rise in non-organic substances on the list is a reflection of federal standards being influenced by representatives of the agribusiness sector.

The Organic Food Production Act is tasked with regulating the labels of products presented to consumers. Basically an item that says 100 percent Organic must be made with and only contain organic ingredients.

Yet, a product can say organic but have 95 percent organically produced ingredients and processed products labeled organic

can have around 70 percent organic ingredients and conform to regulations, thus explaining the confusion amongst consumers.

In addition, who can even verify the content of these products? No law exists and no process is in place to test every item before it goes to market.

With an endless list of carve-outs, exceptions and inclusions in organic production regulations, it is difficult for the USDA to implement uniform labeling policies for organic products and production processes.

This becomes the conundrum every health conscious individual faces when trying to contrivance their personal regiment.

With a largely ineffective regulatory regime in place, these mislabeled products flood the market and misguide consumers during their purchasing choices.

Those who believe they are purchasing high quality foods are really just spending money on questionably better products.

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

LET'S HAVE FUN!



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

Powerlifting, weightlifting and motivation



NIHAT STRIDER

Wednesday, Feb. 22, FIU WRC hosted its first Powerlifting Competition. The winner was Jonathan Marrero who achieved the title "Strongest Panther."

Marrero is a South Florida native and FIU senior majoring in business administration.

Powerlifting is a fascinating form of weight lifting. The movements are considered natural for your body and incorporates more than your primary muscle.

For example, when bench pressing we all believe it only engages our pectoral muscle. But with proper form a bench press will engage your core, shoulders, arms and quads.

Powerlifting consists of three basic lifts that incorporates the majority of the human body. These three lifts include: bench press, squat lift and deadlift. The progress that takes place in powerlifting is relatively easy to monitor as there are only a few sets of standardized workouts.

Marrero won the title of "Strongest Panther" in the FIU Powerlifting competition because he established a plan. He maintained a daily discipline leading up to the day of the lift. He knew what maximum weights he could lift and concentrated on performing those workouts in proper form.

While weightlifting it is important to remember that form is the most important aspect. Without proper form we will not engage the muscle for maximum benefit and our body is also subject to major injury.

Marrero's fitness lifestyle began at John A. Ferguson High School as a team player on the football team. The team did various types of speed workouts and some crossfit style exercises to build stamina and speed. In the year 2009 and 2010 their team won the title of being the fastest team in the district.

After sometime away from the fitness world due to severe knee injury, Marrero was unhappy with his lifestyle. Due to his unfortunate injuries, he knew he was no longer able to play football or run track and field. Nonetheless, he wanted to

renew his healthy and fit lifestyle.

His father, then introduced him to bodybuilding and weightlifting. Marrero began to visit the gym daily where his father taught him the basics of weightlifting.

Marrero had found his way back to fitness! As he was not that knowledgeable in this subject, he started following different workout programs and also began following the gurus of the bodybuilding world. It is a common mistake that novice bodybuilders overdose on pre workouts and various supplements. Unfortunately the same happened to Marrero; his left lung collapsed due to excessive supplements.

Previously it was injury in action but this time it was a medical damage, a collapse of his lungs. Marrero learned from his mistakes and took an oath to eat "real" food instead of supplements.

He did a makeover to his kitchen, not the interior design but the foods in it. He started changing his diet habits, which is what I recommend to everyone who is dieting. He also changed his carbohydrates to whole grains and milks to fat free milk and ate as many raw foods as possible, i.e.

fruits and vegetables.

Marrero started to follow the specific routines of the bodybuilders who had been in powerlifting competitions for a long period of time. He asked for help from FIU alumn, Dustin Elliot who is also a power lifter. Elliot helped Marrero with specific techniques that included breathing repetitions. Believe it or not, while lifting weights, your breathing cycle is extremely important.

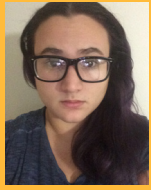
After a blown knee, one collapsed lung and a handful of other injuries, Marrero did not give up. "What is all this hard work in education and degree worth, if I do not live a long and healthy life to enjoy it?," Marrero said.

So many times we find ourselves with petty excuses for not going to the gym or working out. We are all studying to become educated individuals, but if we do not live a healthy life, we will not enjoy our success.

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

Hoy Polloy excited about new music

UNGODLY REVIEWS



NADINE RODRIGUEZ

The last time we spoke with The Hoy Polloy, the group of four spoke enthusiastically on how they were formed and how they identified themselves in an age of having to fit within a genre.

Since then, the eccentric musical group released their third album, "Ferret Winter," and just finished wrapping up their upcoming album, "Parrot Airways."

[deciding to start a new album], it's something that wakes up with you one morning and throughout time it becomes more evident." The Hoy Polloy commented.

However, the writing process was the same as other albums.

"The influences were different, but the process always and forever happens the same way. One of the four of us reaches out to one of the remaining three with something involving notes. And like magic, the songs that ever last, write themselves," they said.

Although the new album came naturally and passionately,

compare to the 12 he had on guitar," the band explained, "...so we acquired drummer extraordinaire Mike Romero and Panther flourished as rhythm guitarist."

Adding another individual to a musical group, even if its for recording purposes, always causes complications.

"Adding an extra soul into this has been the most difficult. To cultivate another personality within the 'band's' identity along with the stress of everyday interference is a great challenge."

Even with obstacles, it is evident that The Hoy Polloy are ecstatic to have completed Parrot Airways.

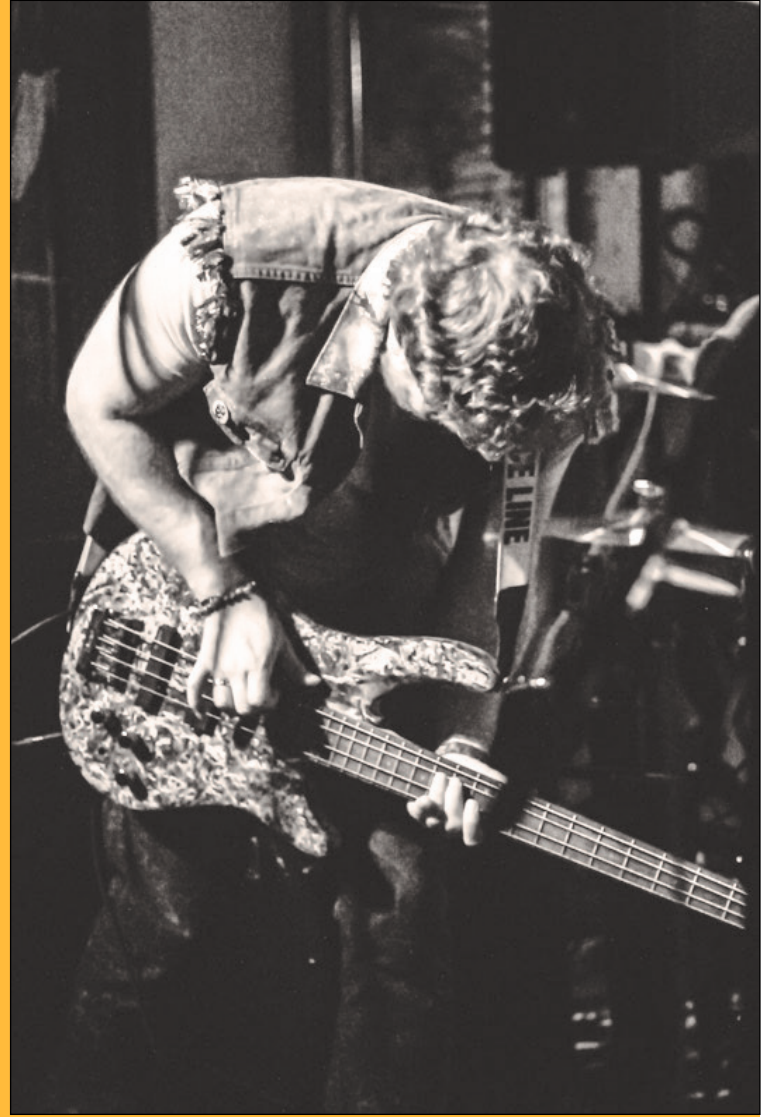
"We all feel very proud to see our newest baby ready for fruition. We have set high expectations for ourselves since day one; a very competitive mentality to pursue further past our presumed limitations."

The album was recorded at The Hit Factory Criteria Miami, situated in Northern Miami. The band spoke out about their experience at a new recording location and how they actually stumbled onto such an opportunity.

"This experience tops them all. You can't make it past the gates if you don't have the guts and oh man, breathing in that historic air instills a level of confidence inside you that shatters any fear," the band said.

"In reflection, this entire process became possible because of our newest family member, Sam Allison [producer and engineer]. If we were to be compared to the beloved sailor Popeye," the band joked, "then Sam is our can of spinach."

With a brand new record completed, the band has an



NADINE RODRIGUEZ/THE BEACON

Lead vocalist and bass player, K Sos perform for a live audience at Kill Your Idol on Miami Beach.



NADINE RODRIGUEZ/THE BEACON

Bass player, Frankie perform for a live audience at Kill Your Idol on Miami Beach.

Now, the band is extremely excited to share their latest creation and not shy about tackling on a new album and challenges they faced on the way.

"It's a very natural feeling

blockades still stood in the way of completion.

"It was becoming clear that Panther was not best utilized behind the drum set where three years of self-training did not

impressive feat under their belts so early in 2016. It comes as no surprise that their goals for 2016 are nothing but huge.

"Our main objective, now that recording Parrot Airways is complete, is to push our music past [the] cities' boundaries. To the road we go."

Readers can give The Hoy Polloy a listen at thehoypolloy.

com and read up on updates from the band themselves by following them on Twitter and Instagram: thehoypolloy.

Ungodly Reviews is a column covering albums, artist and concerts. For suggestions and comments contact Nadine at nadine.rodriguez@fiusm.com



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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Destini Feagin and the culture of college athletics

T-TIME



GIANCARLO
NAVAS

The alleged sexual harassment by first year Head Coach of the women's basketball team Marlin Chinn speaks to the system of indentured servitude that is college athletics.

Cloaked in a veil of education is an oppressive system that feasts on the defenseless and emboldens the powerful. Senior forward Destini Feagin may have been a victim of not only sexual assault, but of the culture of college athletics.

At the top, we have the coach, all powerful and in total control. Beneath him are the players, succumbing to the will of the all-powerful, a construct the builders of this country fought tooth and nail to change.

The players are at the mercy of someone else's morality and assuming the allegations of sexual harassment are true, Feagin was under the control of a man who lacked any.

Chinn was allegedly pursuing a sexual relationship with Feagin. Feagin was quoted in the Miami Herald describing how Chinn would talk to her.

"Commenting on my looks, my body, frame, my breasts, my behind. The way I smile. He would go into detail what his sexual thoughts were."

Feagin went on to say how alone and cornered she felt by the situation.

"I felt powerless. I felt like I couldn't tell anybody because he would use basketball against me. And he knew how much I wanted to play."

College athletics strike again. The labor has none of the power and is at the whim of someone who does. A coach is allegedly sexually harassing a player on road trips and in practice and the result is that the player feels like they cannot speak up. The players are trapped by this construction of college athletics, that if they did

speak up they would take away what was precious to them.

But here, America is giving programming like the NCAA National Championship game and March Madness record ratings. The rights to broadcast the March Madness tournament sold for 10 billion dollars, the GDP of Haiti was under 9 billion in 2015.

America is feeding this machine of fake amateurism as some of its employees are not only not paid, but sexually harassed by their bosses.

Feagin was suspended prior to her filing a complaint against Chinn because she borrowed a teammates Panther bucks card to buy food because hers was depleted, a NCAA violation.

So the institution in place to protect student-athletes not only employed a man who is accused of sexual harassment of a student athlete but has more money than a small country and still won't help their athletes eat when they are hungry without suspending them because they are tainting the purity of college athletics.

Last week 16 Tennessee coaches were at a press conference amid their own sexual harassment scandal and instead of questioning their culture of unfairness, misogyny and tyranny they stood pat and refused to look in a mirror. They stuck to their guns like the good foot soldiers they are and continued to give power to the machine.

Why wouldn't they? The coaches are the ones who benefit most from it. Alabama's head coach Nick Saban has his mansion paid for by the university in addition to his seven million dollar salary.

Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh has a private jet paid for by Michigan in addition to his seven million dollar salary. Saban fled the pros because suddenly the power paradigm shifted to the players and he became a punchline in Miami.

Harbaugh? He could not get along with his players or management and had to go to a system where people couldn't disagree with him because he was the one in

SEE CULTURE, PAGE 7

MEN'S BASKETBALL

TURN IT OVER

Struggling Panthers allow season-high in turnovers with loss against UAB



MICHAEL SLOAN/THE BEACON

Junior guard Donte McGill drives past UAB guard Dirk Williams on his way to the basket. Despite the Panthers falling to the Blazers, McGill led all scorers with 17 points on 6-12 shooting from the field.

DAVID DRUCKER

Staff Writer

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The men's basketball team was handled on Thursday, March 3, night in a 77-60 victory by the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers. The Panthers were able to make big runs in each half to keep the lead within reach, but a stout UAB team took advantage of

FIU's mediocre shooting and 22 turnovers to claim their first win in Florida in three years.

The Blazers (25-5, 15-2 in C-USA) entered the game already the regular season conference champions. After winning the C-USA championship last year, the Blazers put together a fantastic regular season in which they compiled a 14-game winning streak.



MICHAEL SLOAN/THE BEACON

Forward Michael Douglas handles the ball against the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

FIU entered the contest coming off of 71-63 win over Florida Atlantic University, but still feeling the sting of losing seven of their last nine games.

In a rare move, Head Coach Anthony Evans elected to start sophomore guard Eric Nottage in place of freshman Kimar Williams. Nottage finished the game with just three points and a rebound in 25 minutes of action.

The Panthers made the Blazers work for their points in the beginning of the first half. FIU shot 50 percent from the field while holding the Blazers to 41.4 percent shooting.

UAB was able to attempt 14 more first half shots than the Panthers, however, thanks to second chance opportunities and FIU's nine turnovers in the first ten minutes.

FIU's early high turnover rate foreshadowed a disastrous night of maintaining possession; the Panthers 22 total turnovers led to 26 UAB points going the other way.

In the first few minutes of the game, junior guard Donte McGill flashed some of the skill that made him FIU's midseason MVP as he made his first three

shots. He kept FIU close as they trailed UAB 19-17 with 10:59 left in the first half.

The Blazers took over from there, outscoring FIU 22-9 through the remainder of the half. At the intermission, FIU was down 41-28. Senior Daviyon Draper helped the Panthers close the lead in the beginning of the second half. He scored five straight points and closed the lead to 46-41 with 13:47 left in the game.

The Blazers were able to pull away, however, as the Panthers shot 38.7 percent from the field. At the final buzzer, the Blazers defeated FIU 77-60.

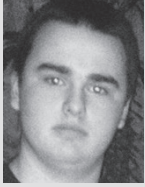
For UAB, the victory was Head Coach Jerod Haase's first career road win in the Sunshine State. Haase was 0-4 versus Florida Atlantic University and FIU on the road prior to his team's 77-60 rout of the Panthers on Thursday night.

The Panthers will play their last leg of the regular season on Saturday, March 5, at FIU Arena when they hosted Middle Tennessee State University at 6 p.m.

BASEBALL

FIU overcomes early struggles thanks to pitching staff

JAKE'S TAKES



JACOB SPIWAK

After struggling mightily against Southeastern Conference opponents University of Mississippi and University of Missouri early this season, I wasn't sure what to expect from the FIU baseball team when their level of competition lowered a bit.

The Panthers entered a long four-game home series against Seton Hall University with

an abysmal record of 1-4, with FIU's lone win coming against the NAIA-level St. Thomas University Bobcats.

The reigning Conference USA champion Panthers proved that they were much better than their record showed, taking three of four games from the Pirates of Seton Hall and improving their record to 4-5.

If this were a normal three-game weekend series FIU would've gotten the sweep, but unfortunately for the Panthers the series had an extra game that Seton Hall won 2-1 in an extremely competitive pitcher's duel.

Regardless, an FIU team that still has a lot

to figure out made a statement that they don't plan on taking a step back after winning the C-USA Tournament in 2015. Each of their three wins were very decisive, as they outscored the Pirates 23-5 in the weekend portion of the series.

I wrote last week that FIU's pitching staff was going to be their strength moving forward and that prediction has looked better seemingly every time the Panthers have taken the field as of late.

Led by sophomore lefty Dominic LoBrutto out of the bullpen and ace starting pitcher Andres Nunez, FIU pitchers held the Pirates to just four earned runs in the four-game series. That's phenomenal no matter

what level you're playing at or who your opponent is.

Head Coach Turtle Thomas stated after the home opener that it was much too early to decide what his starting rotation would be for the rest of the season and every single one of his pitchers are throwing so well that it's making his decision that much harder.

However, any coach around the country would be the first to tell you that this type of pitching performance delaying a decision on the rotation is a great problem to have.

As far as the Panthers' offense is concerned, my colleague Louis Agudelo said it best during the offseason when he compared the FIU lineup

to a sandwich with no meat.

Essentially all of the top power hitters that propelled this lineup to the C-USA championship last year are no longer on the roster, and the effect has been obvious.

FIU has hit only four home runs this season, all of which came from just two players (2 home runs apiece from Nick Day and Kenny Meimerstorf).

While FIU struggles to hit for power, something this lineup has shown a tremendous ability to do is get on base consistently.

Whether it's been via a single, which accounts for 75 percent of the Panthers' 96 hits this season, or a walk/hit by pitch (total of 35), the Panthers' new-look

lineup has shown a lot of discipline at the plate.

It's still very early in the season and the Panthers still have a losing record. But with their next ten games being played at home, a lights-out pitching staff and a lineup that always finds a way on base, there's reason for optimism despite being swept by the SEC to start 2016.

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

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

University athletics gains another victim

CULTURE, PAGE 6

charge. Bully the players into taking no pay. Bully the players into being silent about sexual harassment because they feel they can't speak up against the dictator.

Chinn has been suspended by the University while they investigate the matter, it is unclear if Chinn is on paid leave or not.

Despite being suspended Chinn coached in the senior game Saturday, Feb. 27, against the FAU Owls.

"To me, it appeared like they were trying to brush it under the rug," Joi Nicholson, Feagin's mother, said. "They didn't want to talk about it. They just seemed like they didn't want any part of it. As

if they were in not disbelief, but denial."

FIU did not announce the suspension of Chinn until two hours after the Miami Herald broke the story, reactionary as always. Nothing was done until the public became aware of this despite the reports saying that Feagin has reported the incident much before.

We continue to feed this machine of college athletics, in the name of nobility and purity, even though it's anything but.

T-time is a biweekly column about FIU women's basketball. For commentary or suggestions email Giancarlo Navas at giancarlo.navas@fiusm.com

FOOTBALL

Panthers' spring training season brings hope of bowl eligibility

PETE'S PICKS



PETER HOLLAND, JR.

After couple months of strength and conditioning through out the whole winter, the football team is back on the field today for spring practice.

Head Coach Ron Turner will run 15 total practice sessions including four controlled scrimmage every Saturday until their spring game on April 15.

After finishing 5-7 last season and being one game short of bowl eligibility, FIU will come to this season with a lot of questions about the returning players going into spring practice.

Who will protect Alex McGough?

The offensive line was clearly the weakness for the

Panther's offense. It began last year when then junior now senior offensive guard Jordan Budwig had season ending shoulder surgery.

When he went down, Turner had to rotate the starting five seven times last season.

Good news is that he and All-C-USA center Michael Montero are back and ready to anchor the line that gave up 27 sacks.

Turner also brought in two early enrollees that happened to be identical twins Dallas and Doug Connell.

Look for those two to contribute right away and bring more depth to the offensive line.

Which early enrollee will step up?

Of course the main reason why some true freshmen graduated early is to get a head start and participate in the spring game.

Last year Anthony Jones wowed the coaches with his speed and quickness as an early enrollee. He was so

good that last season he saw playing time as a running back and wide receiver.

Now who's going to wow the coaches this year? Four players enrolled this semester to be eligible for spring football. The Connell brothers I mentioned earlier have plenty of upside to contribute on the offensive line.

Or maybe Isaiah Hill from Tallahassee could turn some heads, as he will be playing at free safety.

If not Hill, it could be the JUCO transfer from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Newton Salisbury at defensive end.

New leaders on defense

FIU has a lot of holes to fill and most of are on the defense.

The Panthers not only have to replace their all C-USA pass rushers and sack leaders Denzel Perine and Michael Wakefield, but they also have to replace their two cornerbacks Jeremiah Mckinnon and long time

captain Richard Leonard.

With them gone, expect some new names and new faces from players with limited experience.

Good news is that defensive tackle Imarjaye Albany is back for his senior season.

Look for the Miami native to anchor the defensive front. Not to mention their biggest strength on defense will be the linebacker corp. led by two-year starter Anthony Wint.

Look for him to get the young defensive unit lined up.

Trayvon Williams is also returning from a season ending knee injury. As of now, every position is wide open.

Turner will be going to his fourth year as a head coach for FIU. Currently he is 10-27 in career at FIU and has yet to be bowl eligible.

Turner and his coaching staff could be on the hot seat if this season ends without a post season. The official spring game will be on April 15 at 6 p.m.

FIU FOOTBALL SPRING TRAINING SCHEDULE

DATE	TIMES
March 7	9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
March 9	9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
March 10	9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
March 22	9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
March 24	9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
March 25	6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
March 29	9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
March 31	9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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Honoring the legacy of Jeffrey Schmalz

POLITICOBUZZ



FABIENNE FLEURANTIN

Captivated by the story of a man who was dedicated to informing the world of an important cause, Samuel G. Freedman and Kerry Donahue set out on a journey to tell the incredible story of journalist Jeffrey Schmalz. AIDS may have taken Schmalz in the end, but with his death came the birth of a new journalism. The way reporting would be displayed to the public and mainstream media has been changed forever.

“Dying Words: The AIDS Reporting of Jeff Schmalz And How It Transformed The New York Times,” started out as a passion project. Freedman’s intention was to keep Schmalz’s work alive. He struggled with finding a medium through which he would be able to deliver Schmalz’s life to a larger audience. However, with the help of radio documentarian Kerry Donahue, this dream became a reality.

Together, they interviewed those who knew Schmalz, both behind closed doors and in the public eye. They documented the memories of the interviewees and created the book and radio piece, “Dying Words: The AIDS Reporting of Jeffrey Schmalz.”

Jeffrey Schmalz started out as a copyboy for The New York Times, but it wasn’t long before his determination got him the position of copy editor at the age of 20.

While we can observe that Schmalz had many successes, his coming up in the news industry wasn’t easy. Schmalz’s identity as a gay journalist conflicted with his work interest. In order to keep his career afloat, he had to hide.

Schmalz only came out to people who were his allies, a move revealing his true identity which had the power to destroy his career.

On Dec. 21, 1990, Schmalz collapsed in the newsroom of The New York Times and was rushed to the hospital. This was the moment he was diagnosed with AIDS.

From that day forward his life had changed forever. He felt it was his responsibility to report what was happening in the LGBTQA community - not only for his sake, but for theirs as well.

Although, it wasn’t an easy choice for him.

Freedman, during his presentation at BBC, described how Schmalz struggled with straddling the line between wrong and right.

“Part of him was totally devoted to The New York

Times’ values and rules the Times has of reporting without fear or failure. But being sick with AIDS - reporting on AIDS, he felt a tremendous pressure from activists...there was a tremendous sense of him having a tug of war internally with what he was supposed to do, and how he was supposed to function - as a neutral journalist, as an advocate or try to do some combination of both.”

Though Schmalz was torn by this dilemma, he made a change in his reporting by personally disclosing his story to those he interviewed. He gave them a sense of hope by showing them that he could function and pursue what he was passionate about and that they could as well. His articles had a human element to them, bringing the narratives he carried with him to life.

As Samuel Freedman and Kerry Donahue closed their presentation, they played a radio snippet of Jeffrey Schmalz in his final years, looking back on his life.

“Here’s your life. This is it. If you died tomorrow, would you be happy? I’m extremely happy in a certain way. I know that sounds ridiculous. Here I am, dying, yet my life, in a lot of ways, has never been happier; has never been more directive,” Schmalz said.

“I feel more content. I feel



FABIENNE FLEURANTIN/THE BEACON

Samuel G. Freedman, co-author of the book, “Dying Words: The AIDS Reporting of Jeff Schmalz And How It Transformed The New York Times,” presents his panel on journalist Jeffrey Schmalz, featured in the photo behind him.

like this is where I should’ve been all along and I’m sorry that it took a fatal disease to do it - but, better late than never.”

The free audio documentary can be found on www.dyingwordsproject.com.

PoliticoBuzz is a commentary that raises awareness about

political issues in the US and worldwide. Fabienne Fleurantin is a contributing writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, contact her at opinion@fiusm.com

Student Life brings Panther Pride to campus

NICHOLAS OLIVERA
Staff Writer
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Representatives for Student Life eagerly awaited for someone to pass their gold-and-blue table located in the main lobby of FIU at I-75. It was Panther Pride Week and they didn’t want anyone to be without a free snack or a specially-designed T-shirt to commemorate the event.

“We want to encourage panther pride,” said Diana Arcentales, the Student Life Coordinator for FIU at I-75. “Many of the events that we do here are also done at the MMC or BBC: Week of Welcome, Stress Relief week, Spirit week.”

According to Arcentales, a dosage of Panther Pride is greatly appreciated by the students at the I-75

campus. They do their best to have an event that will cater to the students at least once a month.

Due to the diminutive construction of FIU at I-75, the center has become popular among students for its peaceful setting. In fact, the location technically isn’t even considered a campus. Instead, it’s referred to as a center.

“They like that it’s more quiet here,” said Estefania Calzada, a student assistant who works for Student Life with FIU at I-75. “They like that it is not busy so they come here to study because they could find a random study area guaranteed.”

Calzada gestures to a handful of quiet students scattered throughout the common area of the center’s main lobby. It’s a sight that greatly differs from the cluttered halls of MMC’s

Graham Center or even the occasional crowds found at BBC’s Panther Square.

“What I have noticed is that students are very

“

We don’t even have to ask them for their student ID when they come to sign in since we know most students by face already,

Estefania Calzada
Student Assistant
Student Life

”

appreciative of the stuff that we give out,” Calzada said. “Maybe when they go somewhere like MMC they won’t see a Student Life table since the campus is so massive.”

The limited space has become somewhat of an advantage to the Student Life community.

Greeting every face who enters the center

has familiarized both Arcentales and Calzada with almost the entire student body of FIU at I-75. The pair take pride in knowing almost all

An event like this is held once a month on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, which allows for Student Life

of the names of the five hundred plus students who come through the main lobby of the center. “We don’t even have to ask them for their student ID when they come to sign in since we know most students by face already,” Calzada said. “It shows more of a connection instead of asking for a random student number.”

to witness the fluctuating attendance of the center. For example, Monday’s event attracted 49 students while Tuesday’s event had 103 just between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

This level of interaction has deeply familiarized Student Life with the typical needs of the student body at FIU at I-75.

“I’ve heard plenty of times that the snacks that we offer are often the first thing students will eat that day,” said Arcentales. “We offer a bit of relief for the students [who] don’t get a chance to stop with school or work or whatever they have going on in their lives.”

Next month’s event will occur April 25-28 from 4:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the third floor of the center. Student Life will be bringing in two, perhaps three massage therapists who will treat students in desperate need of a stress reduction.

This will be done in order to ease students through quite possibly the most stressful week of the entire semester—finals week.

“We just want for the students to know that we’re here for them,” said Arcentales.