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FIU N.O.W. to host Annual Slut Walk

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FIU's National Organization for Women's fourth annual Miami Slut Walk will take place April 8 starting at 3 p.m. in front of the GC Lawns.

According to Drey Aradanas, president of NOW, the Slut Walk is a national movement and is in reference to a Canadian police officer's statement on sexual assault.

"In 2011, a police officer said in order for women to stop being victimized they should stop dressing like 'sluts,' said Aradanas.

"Often times when sexual assault occurs,

it's asked 'What was she wearing? What was he wearing? What were they doing?'" she said. "The [blame] is always placed upon the victim and not on the perpetrator and that's something we want to change."

This tendency to blame the victim is a product of rape culture and the annual Slut Walk is meant to combat this culture through education as well as a reclamation of the word "slut," according to Aradanas.

"Some people want to take back the word 'slut' and some people don't, and that's subjective. It's up to what that particular person wants,"

said Aradanas. "For me

personally, 'slut' means someone who practices their own sexuality."

A forum will take place after the Walk and will

“For me personally, 'slut' means someone who practices their own sexuality.”

Drey Aradanas
President

National Organization for Women

serve as the educational component to the event.

The Walk is a public

event meaning those outside of the FIU community can also participate. This year's event is expected to attract around 300 participants.

"The first year that NOW hosted the Slut Walk, there were 100 to 150 participants, the second year there were around 200 and the third year there saw 250. So there's been a steady increase," she said. "This year we're predicting around 300 people to participate."

"Some bystanders will show support and shout things like 'I'm so proud of you! I'm so glad you're doing this!'"

Said Rayna Milfort, a junior majoring in women and

gender studies who is also a member of NOW. "But I'll think 'why aren't you here?' Are you shy?"

There will also be a police presence following the walk as it makes its way around the perimeter of the school before culminating in front of the Parkview dorms.

"We want the police to see the Walk. We want them to be educated because often victims will report [sexual assault] and they'll feel discouraged because the police are unsupportive or say the wrong thing," said Aradanas.

"I don't want to say that administration doesn't care, because they do. But a lot of people, including

students, faculty and staff, don't know how to address sexual assault," she said.

Student can get involved by reaching out to NOW or by showing up on the day of the Slut Walk.

According to Aradanas and Milfort, NOW hopes the event will raise awareness about rape culture, encourage the community to rethink the word 'slut' and the way women express their sexuality.

"Some people are empowered naked and some people are empowered with more clothes on. It should be okay, no matter what," said Milfort.

Lawmakers against deportation intervention

JAMES ROSEN
McClatchy Washington
Bureau
TNS Staff

Three Republican Cuban-American lawmakers from Florida usually oppose President Barack Obama's immigration policies, but they're now among just five GOP lawmakers who opposed unprecedented House of Representatives involvement in a key U.S. Supreme Court case challenging Obama's deportation decisions.

Last week, the House overwhelmingly approved allowing Speaker Paul Ryan to file a friend-of-the-court brief opposing Obama's decision to withhold deportation for more than 5 million immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally.

South Florida Republicans accounted for three of the five Republicans voting no: Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Mario Diaz-Balart and Carlos Curbelo. The other two were Reps. Richard Hanna of New York, who frequently bucks GOP hard-liners in Congress and is retiring after the current term, and Robert Dold of Illinois.

Five other Cuban-Americans voted for the measure, which passed 234-186. All 181 Democrats who cast votes opposed it.

The Supreme Court on April 18 will hear the case brought by Texas arguing that Obama's bid to shield from deportation about 5.2 million immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally imposes unaffordable health care, education, law enforcement and other costs on them. Texas has been joined by Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Kansas, Idaho and 18 other states.

Ryan, the Wisconsin Republican who replaced Ohio Republican John Boehner as speaker last October, acknowledged that House intervention in a case before the Supreme Court was virtually unprecedented, but he said it was necessary to prevent what he called executive overreach by Obama.

Ryan and other Republicans said Obama's executive orders dating to 2014 amount to the president legislating immigration restructuring without going through Congress.

In a joint statement, Ros-Lehtinen and Diaz-Balart said that although individual members of Congress had the right to file briefs supporting court cases, the House as a whole should not do so. Last week's vote means that the brief filed by Ryan will have the weight of representing the entire body.

"All amicus briefs should carry the same weight, and beginning this pattern may signal to the Supreme Court that Congress is prioritizing certain cases over others," the two Miami Republicans said.

Curbelo, a first-term Republican from Kendall, went further. He accused Republicans of playing politics with the important issue of immigration.

"For too long, both parties have preferred to score petty political points using the immigration issue rather than passing meaningful reform to secure the border, reform our visa system and find a fair solution for the undocumented," Curbelo said.

"The surest and most constitutionally solvent way to end the president's executive overreach is to pass meaningful immigration reform, not by employing empty tactics that ignore the root cause of the problem," he said.

Two lower courts have ruled in favor of the states, most recently the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in New Orleans.

With only eight justices on the Supreme Court since Antonin Scalia's death last month, a 4-4 decision after the oral arguments

SEE LAW, PAGE 2

STAR STRUCK



CHARLOTTE ALBA/THE BEACON

Actress Eva Longoria discusses climate change at the "Young Hispanic Voters: Climate Change and Economic Opportunity" hosted by NextGen Climate and Latino Victory Project.

Universities address controversial namesakes

KATY MURPHY
San Jose Mercury News
TNS Staff

At universities across the country, centuries-old names that adorn buildings, streets and squares are under siege, from Stanford's Serra Mall to the University of California, Berkeley's Barrows Hall to Yale's Calhoun College.

Once widely revered in a different era, a priest, anthropologist, vice president and dozens of others whose names are etched on college campuses have become the subject of a historical autopsy. Students, inspired in part by the Black Lives Matter movement, are calling for the removal of symbols honoring people connected to slavery and colonialism.

This month, the renaming movement is gaining momentum at Stanford, where

a student campaign is taking aim at Father Junipero Serra. The 18th-century Spanish missionary's name is ubiquitous on campus, but his detractors, backed by the student government, argue the newly sainted Serra, whose role in the assimilation and exploitation of Native Americans added controversy to his canonization last year, should not have dorms, halls or streets named after him.

It is "important for the university to recognize that we need to reinvest and re-appropriate these spaces in the names of indigenous people," said Leo John Bird, a Stanford junior from the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Mont., who has pressed for the changes.

Students from UC Berkeley, Amherst,

SEE NAMES, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

At least 30 killed in Brussels terrorist attacks

A series of terrorist attacks in the Belgian capital left at least 30 people dead and 230 injured on Tuesday, with the Islamic State extremist group claiming responsibility for the explosions at a subway station and Brussels' international airport.

The Sunni jihadist organization, which controls a swath of territory in Iraq and Syria, said a group of its "soldiers" had attacked "carefully selected targets" in "crusader Belgium, which has not stopped attacking Islam and its people."

Belgium is part of the U.S.-led coalition that has carried out airstrikes against the Islamic State.

White House seeks investment in water supplies

The White House on Tuesday unveiled several billion dollars' worth of corporate commitments to water research and development during a high-level summit.

Pegged to World Water Day, the summit was intended to draw attention to specific state and corporate pledges as well as new Obama administration initiatives prompted in part by Western states' drought and the Flint, Mich., drinking water scandal.

The corporate promises include a commitment by GE to invest \$500 million over the next decade on water and reuse technologies, and a pledge by San Francisco-based Ultra Capital to invest \$1.5 billion in decentralized "water management solutions."

Trump endorsed by woman in Congress

Less than week after Donald Trump carried nearly every county in her district during the Republican presidential primary, U.S. Rep. Renee Ellmers, R-N.C., met with the candidate Monday and endorsed him.

Ellmers is the first woman in Congress to endorse Trump for president.

Ellmers and other Republican lawmakers had lunch with Trump for more than an hour on Monday afternoon in Washington. After the meeting, she said she was moved by Trump's performance in last week's North Carolina Republican primary. Monday's meeting came as Trump seeks to win over party leaders who have so far not endorsed anyone in the presidential race but who have said they would support the eventual Republican GOP nominee.

"I wasn't there first either I wasn't sure (initially) what to think of him as a candidate," Ellmers said of Trump.

Lawmakers address Cuba-US relations

LAW, PAGE 1

next month would uphold the lower courts' rulings and overturn Obama's executive orders protecting millions of parents in the U.S. illegally and their children from deportation.

Immigration has become perhaps the most divisive issue in the presidential campaign, with Republican front-runner Donald Trump vowing to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Rep. Luis Gutierrez, an Illinois Democrat of Puerto Rican descent, ridiculed Republican lawmakers, many of whom he said had

disingenuously tried to distance themselves from Trump's hard-line stance on immigration.

"They keep saying, 'Well, Trump doesn't represent us. He doesn't (represent) our views. He doesn't represent our values,' and now they want to know where Trump gets all of his anti-immigrant, xenophobic views from," Gutierrez told reporters. "Try the House of Republicans."

The U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and 60 individual business leaders, including Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, filed an amicus brief supporting Obama earlier this month.

America's Voice, a pro-immigration advocacy group, said the vote last Thursday was the eighth "anti-immigration" vote taken by Republicans in the current session of Congress.

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California and 223 other Democrats filed an amicus brief backing Obama earlier this month, but there was no vote on the brief and it represents them as individuals.

In still another amicus brief, almost 120 cities and counties across the United States on March eight expressed support for Obama.

University namesakes spark controversy

NAMES, PAGE 1

Yale, Princeton, Georgetown and many other campuses in the past year have started similar campaigns, and the results are starting to show.

The movement "has now reached the fulcrum moment where it is going to start rolling downhill and taking everything with it," said Alfred Brophy, a professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law and an expert in reparations history and law who has been observing the trend.

A Harvard Law committee this month recommended the school ditch an unofficial seal bearing the family crest of Isaac Royall Jr., an early donor who got rich from the slave trade. Amherst trustees in January voted to drop "Lord Jeff," the school's unofficial mascot inspired by Lord Jeffery Amherst, the 18th-century British army officer for whom the town was named, and who suggested that smallpox be used as a weapon against Native Americans.

The shootings at a black church in Charleston, S.C., last June moved Yale's leaders to consider renaming a residential college named after John C. Calhoun, a statesman and vice president under John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. In a speech in August, Yale President Peter Salovey said Calhoun, an 1804 Yale graduate, "mounted the most powerful and influential defense of his day for slavery."

UC Berkeley did not agree to change the name of Barrows Hall to honor the Black Panther Party revolutionary Assata Shakur, as the Black Student Union demanded last year. But last week the school revealed senior campus officials were conducting a "comprehensive assessment of all of the building names" on campus.

Stanford is about to undertake a similar review. The president and provost have announced a new committee led by history Professor Emeritus David Kennedy to set principles for campus names.

"Not all of those names are names of people that have unblemished histories," Provost John Etchemendy told the Faculty Senate this month. "So we want to be able to apply the principles, not just to the Serra name but to other names to determine whether or

not they should be changed."

"Renaming buildings won't fix the problems facing minority students on college campuses, but it is a powerful step nonetheless," said Anthony Williams, a UC Berkeley sociology major from Vacaville.

Williams, who is African-American, and fellow student Bradley Afroilan, who is Filipino-American, created an art installation outside of Barrows Hall to bring attention to the debate, and to David Prescott Barrows,

“How do we make spaces inclusive in a university system that was never meant to include us?”

Anthony Williams
Sociology Major
UC Berkeley

an anthropologist whose book about the Philippines, published in 1905, referred to its people as "little savages."

His name, as students point out, is on a hall housing the university's ethnic studies department.

"We have this building named after this person who depicts us as below-human," Afroilan said. "Here at Berkeley, we're still trying to find a way to make this the public university it's supposed to be."

The challenge for colleges is to find "the most appropriate way to acknowledge and come to terms with the sins of the past," said Beverly Tatum, who for 13 years served as president at Spelman College, the historically black liberal arts school for women in Atlanta.

"The foundation of our nation was built on the oppression of indigenous people and the enslavement of Africans," Tatum said. "That is painful history for all of us."

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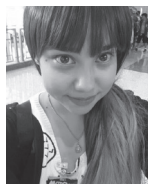
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Social media's role in our smoking youth

PANTHER HEALTH



MAYTINEE
KRAMER

I don't smoke, nor do I plan to start. However, the National Center for Health and Statistics reports that about 18 percent of Americans are smokers, a rate that has significantly decreased since 1997 when almost 25 percent smoked.

In today's society, it has become increasingly difficult to disconnect from social media, which plays a negative role in youth smoking. Media has expanded far beyond the employment of more traditional channels such as newspapers, magazines, radio and television.

With our increasing use of the Internet and interactive video gaming, tobacco control and tobacco industries have been turning to social media to influence the attitudes and behaviors of the American public.

According to the National Cancer Institute, cigarettes are one of the most heavily marketed products in the United States.

Tobacco advertising is dominated by three themes: satisfaction, the mitigation of anxieties about the dangers of smoking and the creation of associations between smoking and desirable outcomes.

According to data from the U.S. surgeon general, a vast majority of smokers start before they are 18, an age group that is heavily targeted by tobacco companies.

To smoke or not to smoke is a lifelong

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To smoke or not to smoke is a lifelong decision that young adults are not mature enough to make and most do not consider the consequences when they start.

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decision that young adults are not mature enough to make and most do not consider the consequences when they start.

Media has been well recognized as a key factor in shaping young people's social and psychological development. Technology and social media has allowed imagery of smoking to enter the personal scope of the consumer.

Through social media, people feel like they are doing something of their own

choice without outside pressure. Social media helps in creating an emotional bond that causes people to feel as though consuming something is part of their identity.

In a study published by the Journal of Adolescent Health, a survey of 1,563 tenth grade students in Los Angeles over a six-month period starting October 2010 revealed that 34 percent of respondents had at least one friend who talked about partying on social media, while 20 percent reported that their friends posted photos of them drinking online.

In short, the study revealed that those who were more exposed to photos of friends smoking and drinking were more likely to engage in those activities themselves.

In addition, teens who had few friends who smoked or drank were more likely to be influenced by other pictures of people drinking or smoking on social media to engage in such activities. This suggests that the pictures, rather than actual interaction, was the primary influence.

Popular media also forms a large pervasive environment of young people's social environment as it frequently includes references to tobacco.

Even if the intention may not be to promote smoking or any kind of deliberate message, many young people feel that what they see is a realistic reflection of

actual life that will not influence their own decisions.

In January of 2011, FIU became a tobacco and smoke free campus where under the regulation, smoking and use of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, are prohibited in all areas of FIU's campuses. This came with the university's commitment to providing students with a safe and healthy environment.

However, some individuals do not respect the regulation and smoking can still be found in some of the quieter, more secluded spots around campus.

Panthers should be concerned about their health as well as the health of others, especially for smokers who might be causing others harm through second-hand smoking.

Rather than allowing social media to influence students the wrong way, students can instead adopt a healthier lifestyle that reflects on their use of technology. Support groups and positive, encouraging messages can go a long way. Better yet, they can be a tool to encourage smokers to kick their habit.

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.

Our phobia of failure breeds a society of sore losers

IN TRUTH



DAMIAN GORDON

Some in society seem to be infatuated with winning, being in first place, getting that gold medal that shows they did something

trivial the best that day. This fear of losing is something that humans have fought with since cavemen started flexing.

The loss of a family member can elicit the same reaction LeBron James did in some when he left Cleveland all those years ago.

Seeing a grown man cry on live TV over a player going from one place to shoot a ball in a hoop to another is quite disturbing.

Look at sports teams with how people take team losses, especially at championship games. Fans, who are not playing or have a financial stake in the team, can become extremely angry, emotional or even violent from their team's loss.

Losing is not a good feeling; my basketball team and I made it to the finals only to lose after we missed the potential game winning shot. Emotions were running high after the game and some failed to appreciate

everything we accomplished up to that point.

There's a group of kids losing a game they love to play, then there's Cam Newton, who recently gave one of the saltiest post-game interviews in Super Bowl history before proceeding to walk out.

Newton, who actively gloats in the face of challengers and whose team had an impressive win streak, handled the loss worse than a middle-aged man mourning his slowly disappearing hair.

"Who likes to lose? You show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser." were the words spoken by Newton following his loss in an attempt to validate his poor attitude.

We're taught from a very young age to look down upon failure and always strive for success. This mindset overlooks the very important fact that failure is what helps illuminate that murky road to success.

Americans aren't familiar with the concept of portions and have a history of wanting more. It's no surprise that so many of us aren't prepared to deal with losses in competition.

Friendly trash talk is something that's a healthy way for competitors to not only

motivate themselves, but also their opponents as well.

The word "trash" has the connotation of something unwanted and dirty. It doesn't have to be though – a words function is not so black or white.

As long as these words are not coming from a place of malice, trash talk or banter should be encouraged to the youth.

More importantly, instead of feigning congratulations after a competition, what needs to be taught is how to not be a sore loser, or how to take defeat in stride.

They say losing builds character. Maybe it does, or maybe it doesn't. But if Charlie Sheen is a poster boy for winning, perhaps it's better to keep taking "L's."

Playful banter can help improve social skills. People enter an elevator, actively avoid eye contact and in the event that their stares actually meet, a weak, awkward smile usually follows.

I'm not advocating that anyone drop to the floor and shout, "what are those?" as there's a degree of respect with which someone should approach a stranger.

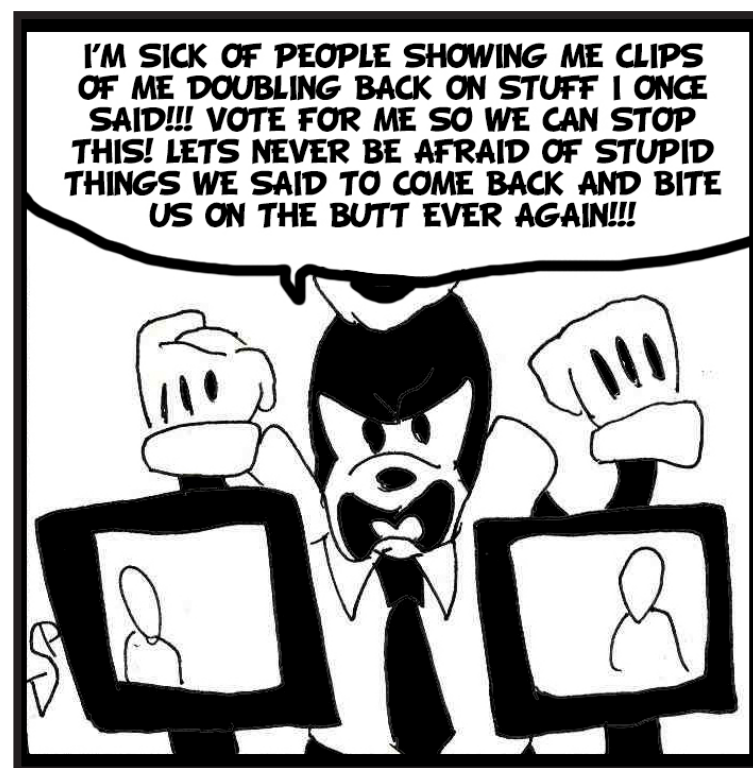
When it comes to sports, a layer of thick skin and the ability to not take everything so seriously

is critical to success.

Embracing failure is just as important as celebrating success. We all need to sit and ask ourselves "what's wrong with being a loser?"

In Truth is a commentary on issues that everyone has thoughts about, but doesn't discuss. Damian Gordon is a staff writer for FIU student media. For suggestions, email Damian at damian.gordon@fiusm.com

FREE SPEECH



SAM PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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A.R.T. Live showcases raw soul music

ZOE LODATO
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

During the break, one of FIU's own, Lola Chel, a public relations senior, organized a talent showcase at Studio 504, March 13.

A.R.T. Live: Soul Night saw music



ZOE LODATO/THE BEACON

Southrn Most Poet performs at A.R.T. Live:Soul Night, March 13.

artist, poets and included wine tasting and pairing presented by Chef Jordan Catering Co.

The artist and poets presented hailed as far as from Central Florida and from all levels of experience. Included in the showcase: Southrn Most Poet, Ari Safari and Reginald.

Southrn Most Poet, a graduate from Full Sail University, an educational system primarily focused on degrees in the entertainment realm, takes pride in bouncing words off his tongue.

"When I'm frustrated, I express how I feel through my words and a sick beat," says Southrn Most Poet.

As a young millennial and Dominican Republic native, Southrn Most Poet continues to define himself in the world. He exemplifies the soul behind the A.R.T. Live event, a multimedia art event whose purpose is geared towards supporting local artists as well as to inspire others in the community.

Purposefully misspelled, the word 'southern' gives him a sense of uniqueness that transcends to the other featured artists at A.R.T. Live.

Along side Southrn Most Poet, was performative poet Ari Safari.

"My name's Ari Safari...real name is

Arianna but people call me Ari Safari," said the performative poet. Safari, is a Lesbian poet originally from California.

As a woman of her word, she aims to empower woman to see themselves as

Reginald. Since the age of nine, Reginald views his talent as a way to relax others.

"I want people to feel therapeutic vibrations while listening to my sound," Reginald states.

“

When I'm frustrated, I express how I feel through my words and a sick beat.

Southrn Most Poet
Poet

”

personal superheroes.

"The power of positive thinking makes us strong," Safari says and this concept of pure positivity is felt throughout the A.R.T. Live space.

Safari does not wish to stop here at performing and sees herself collaborating with script writers and producers in order to communicate her message of female empowerment.

Also at Soul Night was saxophonist

As a tri-county regular, Reginald's first headlining gig at A.R.T. Live was beautiful, the warmth of the sound reciprocated off of the audience in the form of large smiles.

A.R.T. Live showcased talent of all kinds that all connected in the deeper, raw sense of soul and how music can communicate globally in order to unite us all.



Here are four top ten list of songs getting the most spins in their respective genres. Be sure to tune in at 95.3 FM or online at fiusm.com/wrgp

NATHALIE BOJORQUEZ
Local Genre Director
nathalie.boroquez@fiusm.com

LOCAL

- 1.Deaf Poets // Had Me
- 2.Mantra Love // Howlin'
3. Michelle Blades // Subtropical Suburban
- 4.The Hong's // Charades
- 5.Michelle Blades // Going to Bars to Drink Alone
- 6.Deaf Poets // Pale Skin
- 7.The Hong's // Magazine
- 8.The Hong's // Becomers
- 9.Michelle Blades // Crushed
- 10.Deaf Poets // Degenerate Mind

STEPHANIE ESPAILLAT
Loud Genre Director
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LOUD

- 1.Holy Wave // She Put A Seed In My Ear
- 2.DIIV // Out Of My Mind
3. Day Wave // Deadbeat Girl
- 4.Bleached // Keep On Keeping On
- 5.Mothers // It Hurts Until It Doesn't
- 6.Violet Mae // In The Sun
- 7.Night Moves// Only To Live In Your Memories
- 8.Hinds // San Diego
- 9.Ra Ra Riot // I Need Your Light
- 10.Homeshake // Move This Body

JONATHAN BRUNACHE
Urban Genre Director
jonathan.brunache@fiusm.com

URBAN

- 1.Lena Fayre // Is There Only One
- 2.Neon Indian // Vega Intl Night School
3. Bus Driver // Thumbs
- 4.Dam Funk // Invite The Light
- 5.Santigold // Who Be Lovin Me
- 6.The Jack Moves // The Jack Moves
- 7.Fan CP // Perla
- 8.Jackson Turner // The Foundation
- 9.Far Freddy's Drop // Bays
- 10.Robert Glasper Experiment // Black Radio 2

CINDY HERNANDEZ
RPM Genre Director
cindy.hernandez@fiusm.com
RPM

- 1.Santigold // Chasing Shadows
- 2.Junior Boys // You Say That
- 3.Buhu // LSD

- 4.Breakbot // The Sweetest Romance
- 5.Santigold // Banshee
- 6.Bones & Beeker // Heartbroken In Love

- 7.NZCA Lines // Two Hearts
- 8.Porches// Underwater
- 9.Snakeships // All My Friends

- 10.Neon Indian // Annie

Cannibal Kids release final independent album

PIPELINE



NATALIE
BOJORQUEZ

The EP “Cake Daze” has finally been released by Cannibal Kids this past week. Cannibal Kids combine disco and alternative rock to make up their costal, up-beat sound. This EP is a homage to the past of this surf-inspired band; it will be their last EP that has been released independently because they have now been proudly signed to a label.

“Cake Daze” is somewhat of a walk down memory lane for the dedicated fans of the band. It begins with “Graphing,” which accurately captures the band’s tropical sound that they began with. The narrator’s speaks of traveling anywhere with a woman and it not a matter of when they’ll go. This is almost like the band speaking to themselves, they have a lot of potential and it was just a matter of time before someone took notice.

“Where are the People?” is a seemingly innocent song about the location of people, when actually it’s an existential crisis shrouded in a funky beat. The song really gets into your head and before you know it, you’ll be singing it all day. If you take a closer look at the lyrics, you’ll notice the nihilistic undertones; the narrator asks the listener simple questions about their surrounding that carry more weight than initially thought.

“My boy/My Girl” is the concluding song on the band’s EP. Slower compared to the type of production Cannibal Kids are known for, the song takes a more somber tone. This last track feels like the answer to some great question like, “what is the answer to life, the universe, and everything?” The pounding drums anticipate the ending and leave the listener ready to leap off a cliff with thiiibs and, while the simplicity of the lyrics cushion you as you fall.

Cake Daze is a relatively short EP but it is strong and it lives up to the expectations that

people have for Cannibal Kids. The band is working with their label to produce a full album and Pipeline looks forward to

hearing it!

Pipeline is a column that covers local music acts. To submit comments and

suggestions contact life@fiusm.com

HOMANS OF FIU



BLANCA MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

“Being an exchange student at FIU is very enriching as I have met people from all over the world and it has given me new professional opportunities.”

Marie-Amelie Charpentier

Senior

International Marketing and Business Development

VANS celebrates 50th Anniversary worldwide

ADAM TSCHORN
Los Angeles Times
TSN Staff

ANAHEIM, Calif. When the Van Doren Rubber Co. threw open its retail doors in Anaheim on March 16, 1966, the business was so new many of the boxes on the shelves didn’t even have shoes in them. But there were samples to try on. Somewhere between 12 and 16 customers placed orders for the company’s rubber-soled canvas deck shoes that had to be manufactured on the premises overnight and picked up the next day.

Faded color photographs of that first factory show an unassuming building painted warehouse white, with a storefront almost willed into existence through a few hundred square feet of brick and stone. A wood-paneled station wagon parked out front seems to take up half the block.

That building, that day and those dozen or so pairs of freshly cut, assembled and boxed shoes could have been just another blip on the radar of 1960s manufacturing, but it turned out to be something much bigger. The Van Doren Rubber Co. would become Vans, makers of the super-casual SoCal footwear with the waffle-bottom sole that goofy-footed its way into our collective consciousness.

Now a multibillion-dollar action sports brand owned by North Carolina-based VF Corp., Vans will mark its golden anniversary Wednesday with half a dozen

simultaneous music-fueled parties in six cities around the globe including Austin, Texas; Cape Town, South Africa; Hong Kong and Mexico City. The same day, it will release limited-edition \$175 woven checkerboard sneakers and republish a 2009 book chronicling the label’s history.

That Vans, which has come to symbolize Southern California youth culture, is old enough to join AARP is surprising enough, but, as it notches the half-century mark, Vans isn’t just surviving, it’s thriving.

“In 2004, Vans was a \$325-million business annually and essentially breaking even, making no money,” said VF President and Chief Operating Officer Steve Rendle. “Fast-forward to where we are today: Vans is our second-largest brand at \$2.2 billion [in 2015 revenue], and they are one of our most profitable businesses.”

Vans’ journey from storefront start-up to global lifestyle brand has as many curves as a skate park. Along for every moment of the ride has been Steve Van Doren. Now 60, the son of company co-founder Paul Van Doren is officially vice president of events and promotions. But unofficially he is brand historian, mentor and keeper of the family flame.

In advance of the bashes, Van Doren, who is scheduled to hit several of the global birthday parties with Vans-loving skateboarders Tony Alva and Steve Caballero, no less, ushered a reporter into his Cypress, Calif., office to talk about

the brand’s past, its present and where it might be in another 50 years.

The space is crammed with fantastical footwear. An enormous pair of high-tops bears signatures of employees around the world. A 50th anniversary slip-on, reserved for employees only, sits on his desk. The heel logo has the word “family” stamped in gold glitter. On the wall above Van Doren’s head is a framed picture of a pair of feet. It’s a wedding picture of his daughter, Kristy, and her husband wearing custom Vans.

“I had hers made out of the same fabric as her dress,” Van Doren said, beaming with pride for Kristy Van Doren-Batson, who is not only his daughter but also his senior director of events and promotions.

Steve Van Doren cites two factors that helped the fledgling business survive. An early embrace by SoCal skate culture, plus the company’s ability, and desire, to churn out custom shoes.

That part of the Vans story began two years before the company was founded when his father, then an employee of Massachusetts-based Randolph Rubber Co., came to Southern California from Boston in 1964 to help turn around a Garden Grove factory. By the next year, he and his employer had parted ways, but before he left, an encounter with surf legend Duke Kahanamoku planted the seed for a future business model.

“My dad was down in Huntington Beach,” Van Doren said. “Duke Kahanamoku was there,

[surfers] Fred Hemmings, Corky Carroll and Paul Strauch were there too, and they all had these navy blue Hawaiian shirts on ... My dad said: ‘Duke, I can make you a pair of shoes out of that Hawaiian shirt ... ‘ Duke gave him Fred’s shirt, my dad went back to the Randolph factory and made a pair of shoes for him.”

Randolph briefly sold versions of the aloha-print slip-on in 1965 (vintage pairs have been valued at \$3,000 in online forums), with Vans reissuing its own version over the years.

Determined to build his own shoe business from the ground up, Paul Van Doren teamed with his brother, James Van Doren, and business partners Gordon Lee and Serge D’Elia. By early 1966, the wheels were in motion, and in March, the Van Doren Rubber Co. sold its first shoes. The very first style was a lace-up canvas deck shoe known as the Style 44 Authentic.

Skateboarders were early fans. “They adopted us, no ifs, ands or buts about it,” Steve Van Doren said in a 2009 interview with The Times. “When you’re skateboarding, you tend to wear out one shoe because you’re dragging it to brake or you’re sliding with it. And the shoes were \$8 back then, and they could buy one shoe for \$4.”

Vans signed Stacy Peralta as its first sponsored skater and, later, Alva. In 1976, they helped the company create the first dedicated skateboarding shoe.

If there was a single stroke of luck in Vans’ first two decades, it was the black-and-white

checkerboard, a pattern so much a part of the brand DNA it covers millions of pairs of Vans, the facade of company headquarters and even a tricked-out Fiat in the parking lot.

In “Fast Times at Ridgmont High,” Sean Penn wore his own checkered pair as part of his Jeff Spicoli wardrobe.

“‘Fast Times’ definitely put us on the map,” Van Doren said. “We were about a \$20-million company before the movie came out, and we were on track for \$40 million to \$45 million after that.”

But the brand’s biggest break nearly became its undoing.

“In 1982, my uncle decided we should do athletic shoes — we actually had two shoes in Runner’s World,” Van Doren recounted, “and we ended up with running flats, basketball, volleyball, wrestling and even break-dancing shoes. We even pulled all the money from the [success of the] checkerboard into that stuff, but it wasn’t us.”

In 1984, Vans filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, from which it emerged in 1986. Two years later, the co-founders sold the company to banking firm McCown De Leeuw & Co. In 2004, it was purchased by VF.

For the last dozen years, the parent company has let the design, sales and marketing sides of the Vans business do their own thing. Between that hands-off approach and Steve Van Doren’s longtime role as standard-bearer of what Rendle calls “the Van Doren spirit,” it’s easy to forget it’s not a family-owned business.

TRACK&FIELD

Season kicks off at 'Canes Invitational

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March 18-19, 15 schools including FIU competed at the 2016 Hurricane Invitational hosted by the University of Miami.

This was a rigorous task for the Panthers' track and field team as they competed in 34 different events between the two days.

The other schools who were invited to compete included Boston University, Virginia Tech University, Bowdoin College, George Mason University, College of the Bahamas, ASA College, Nova Southeastern University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Memorial University, Saint Thomas University, Keiser University, Johnson and Wales University and

Palm Beach Atlantic University.

There were teams from all over the country and even outside the US. Since the event had such a wide range of competition, all the teams got to gauge exactly where they are at to begin this season.

Of the 34 events, the FIU team were represented in 18 of them and finished as high as second in multiple events. FIU's 'A' team which includes Brandon Ballard, Alton Eliphar, Earnest Hamilton and Todd Jackson finished second in the Men's 4x400 Meter Relay Finals and Chandra Fullwood finished second in Women's Shot Put Final.

A standout, Alex Del Rosario, Redshirt Junior ran an impressive 48.64, which was the best of all the FIU men and eighth in 400 Meter Finals.

When asked about it he said, "Well honestly, I was really disappointed with it. I think I can go 47/46. I've had a groin injury all year and it was hurting me as I was running and I couldn't really go into that next gear. I felt like it held me."

An interesting story was that of Oriol Anu and her FIU career. After an injury ridden Junior Season, Anu was eager to get back on the track, especially at an outdoor event. Unfortunately a false start derailed her opportunity to compete in the 100 Meter Hurdles.

"I was pretty relaxed coming into the race. I didn't get nervous until I got into the blocks and I got overwhelmed all at once. I just got nervous and jumped the gun," Anu said.

As far as her road from recovery of

a broken foot, she said that the hardest thing was "just being patient, because I'm not patient at all and I had to learn to develop patience over the last year."

Jermaine Felix, an assistant coach and 2011 FIU graduate offered his opinion on the team and the



GARRETT EPPERSON/THE BEACON

Track and field team members participate in events during the Hurricane Invitational, held March 18-19.



GARRETT EPPERSON/THE BEACON

event. When asked how the meet went, coach Felix said, "As a whole I would say our Men's and Women's teams came out and competed strong, we had quite a bit of top three to five finishes. For a kickoff meet, I would say the team did pretty well overall. As for

the upcoming meets coach Felix said, even though a lot of us did well today, we expect their performances to get better and better throughout the season."

BASEBALL

Panthers off to slow start in C-USA play

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FIU started conference play off with a 10-11 record, which was lukewarm for a team coming off of a Conference USA Championship.

The short, five game road-trip began with a split series at Jacksonville University. The first game went to FIU with solid pitched and good backup on offense, but the Dolphin bats proved to be too much in the second, and final game of the series, What with JU notching 13 hits, three of them being home runs.

That was on Wednesday. By Friday, the Panthers were

in Charlotte, North Carolina to begin their first series against a conference opponent all season.

The ball was in Andres Nunez' (2-1) hand to start the weekend against the 49ers from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

As has been an unfortunate trend for the big right-hander, he got behind early, by allowing the 49ers to score two runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Nunez managed to pull things together and pitch seven whole innings with only three hits and five strikeouts.

While the Panthers had one more hit that night than the 49ers, they came a run short in extra innings, when with runners on both 2nd and 3rd, Charlotte

second baseman Brett Netzer hit a walk-off single in the bottom of the 10th to win 4-3.

Chris Mourelle (3-2) got the nod again Saturday against the 49ers. The bats were hot for the Charlotte team coming off of Friday night's win, with 12 hits, but FIU's bats were all but on fire.

The Panthers were able to get 16 hits and two home runs in the first three innings. One belonged to Nick Day, and the other to Zach Files, counting for two of the pairs four hits on the day.

This was help that Mourelle would need on a less-than-dominant day. Jack Schaaf and Kolby Folis also had a couple of hits each in their more-than-dominant showing Saturday,

propelling their team to an 8-5 win.

The rubber match on Sunday would be a boring one, for FIU's standards.

Notching one of their lowest hit-totals of the season, the Panthers left it up to the anchor of their rotation to have a great day.

While Garrett Cave (1-2) did have five strikeouts in this outing, he also allowed three earned runs. He didn't help his cause one bit, as Charlotte left-hander Josh Maciejewski posted eight strikeouts off of the FIU hitters, and didn't allow more than two runs to cross home plate.

That would have been enough, but three more runs would

eventually come across for the 49ers before all was said and done, and FIU would miss their shot at winning the first CUSA series of the season.

FIU has a chance to get back over, or at least get to .500 this weekend, March 25, when The Thundering Herd of Marshall University make the trip to Miami to take on the Panthers.

It'll be interesting to see how much Head Coach Turtle Thomas changes around his line-up and/or pitching rotation before the series begins.

So far this season, Thomas likes to stick to his guns, but fans have to wait and see, once again, what he'll do to try and win some games.

Panther Sports Talk Live

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SOCCER

PANTHER PROFILE

Naomi Ruele to compete in 2016 olympics

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The Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics will be welcoming a redshirt freshman from FIU: Naomi Ruele.

Ruele will be able to glorify her hometown country of Botswana. Ruele clinched the spot after swimming a 26.07 on Sunday at National Championships from the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center.

Swimmers must compete a set distance inside the pool, which in different cases, it involves a specific style of swimming and must compete for the shortest possible time.

For those who don't know about the growing star, Ruele has acceded some of the fastest times in the world. Ruede earned five gold medals at the Botswana Nationals in December 2013.

She qualified for the Youth Olympic Games in the 50 yard

backstroke at the South African National Aquatics in 2013 and became the first ever to do so representing Botswana.

She is coming off a historic season here at FIU, eclipsing a mark in the record books. Ruele now holds the all-time fastest times in the 50 yard freestyle (22.23), 100 yard freestyle (49.30) and also second all-time in the 100 yard backstroke (53.09).

Most impressive about Ruele is that she is only opening the door to the next episode.

Swimming is one of the most physically fit sports in the world. These athletes practice day in and day out to become these swimming machines. It takes everything in your body at full speed and technique to compete with highest of highest talent.

The Olympics is the grandest stage of them all, everyone from all over the world, tunes in to watch these amazing show their gifted talents.

Even if you're not a fan of the sport, everyone wants to know



who will win that gold medal. Athlete's dream to one day represent themselves and their country till it becomes a reality.

Not many can suppress the idea of becoming an Olympics because the toughest of the toughest competition will be center stage at this global event that begins August 5, 2016. That day will be the day of journey for Ruele, a day to remember.

Ruele has the chance to finally represent herself in her first Olympic competition and FIU is proud to have such talent.

She will be traveling with her fellow countrymen with hopes to show the world why swimming is her life.

This passion has driven her to the point that she is ready to deliver her name in the history books. We as FIU students and alumni from all over will be rooting for her.

May the best of luck be behind Naomi Ruele as she swims another chapter into her life.

NFL

Pete's Mock Draft: Spots 6-10 sees mostly offensive players receiving opportunity to play in NFL

PETE'S PICKS



PETER HOLLAND, JR.

With only six weeks away until the 2016 NFL Draft, its only best to countdown the days by making a first round mock draft. Before spring break, I gave the first five overall and projected with whom the team should pick. Now it's time number six through ten.

6. Baltimore Ravens (5-11) Ronnie Stanley Offensive Tackle Notre Dame 6'5 315

Injuries played a huge role in the Raven's losing season, including their quarterback Joe Flacco. Stanley could be a steal for the Ravens, and their young offensive line unit.

His main strength is run blocking and can put a pass rusher on their backs, then get to the next level to block the linebackers. If the Ravens

pick Stanley, most likely they would start him at right tackle and develop him to be their left tackle in the future.

7. San Francisco 49ers (5-11) Jared Goff Quarterback University of California-Berkley 6'4 205

Yes, Colin Kaepernick is still on the 49ers roster. However, it is pretty clear that they are moving forward with the struggling QB. In comes Jared Goff from CAL. For starters he doesn't have to leave the Northern California region since Cal-Berkley is not too far away.

Goff is a day one starter, and could fit in any NFL system. Despite his 9 inch hands, which is the smallest hands in this year's quarterback class, his deep ball throws and excellent football makes up for his small hands. Look for first year Head Coach Chip Kelly build this team around Goff if the Niners pick him.

8. Philadelphia Eagles (7-9) Laquan Treadwell Wide Receiver Ole Miss 6'3 216

The number eight pick was originally for the Miami Dolphins, but during free agency, both teams settled on a trade in which the Eagles sent cornerback Byron Maxwell and middle linebacker Kiko Alonso to the Dolphins in exchange of switching five spots in the first round of the draft.

So now the Dolphins currently hold the number 13 pick. As for the Eagles, this is basically a rebuild mode after they went on a release spree to the overpaid players that didn't produce. The Eagles need more weapons for Sam Bradford, who received a two-year extension earlier this month.

Treadwell has the whole package to be the Eagle's deep threat. His great hands, dynamics skill set and size is everything the Eagles are looking for. He is worth trading up five spots.

9. Tampa Bay Buccaneers (6-10) Noah Spence Defensive End Eastern Kentucky University 6'2 251

The Bucs have no pass rushers whatsoever, and drafting a defensive end makes more sense for Tampa Bay. Drafting Spence this high might be a reach due to his time playing in a small school like Eastern Kentucky, or the baggage he carried back at Ohio State University, where he was dismissed.

Yet, his production on the field still remains. With 63 tackles, 22.5 tackles for loss and 15 quarterback hurries last season at ECU, not to mention one of the most talk about player by scouts after his showcase during the Senior Bowl, Spence could be one of the biggest steals this year.

10. New York Giants (6-10) Myles Jack Linebacker UCLA 6'1 225

Jack could arguably be the best all-around athlete in this year's draft class, and something the Giants could use after resigning Jason Pierre-Paul and bringing Olivier Vernon from Miami during Free Agency to solve their pass rusher problem.

Now the next need is linebacker help, that's where Jack comes in. Back at UCLA, he was everywhere on the field as a linebacker and running back. Last season was a down year for the former Bruin due to his season-ending knee injury he sustained earlier last season.

Good news is that whoever picks him, he will be ready for training camp this year. The Giants were one of the worst defenses in the NFL. It's not surprising that the main focus is bringing in defensive players. Jack can play anywhere in the linebacker position because of his speed and instincts.

ROUND OF APPLAUSE

Chaplin School students earn \$10,000 scholarship prize



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN BLANCO

Senior hospitality and tourism students Yolanda Suarez (left) and Michelle Diaz (right) are presented the Red Robin Golden Robin prize from celebrity chef Andrew Zimmern.

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Red Robin honored FIU's Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management students Michelle Diaz and Yolanda Suarez on the Burger Bash stage at last month's South Beach Food & Wine festival.

Diaz and Suarez teamed up for Red Robin's Golden Robin Contest and their original Loaded Baked Potato Burger recipe took the prize, beating out more than 300 submissions by other students to win a \$10,000 scholarship. The prize winning burger has a chance to appear on Red Robin's menu in the future.

"[The festival] brought us all together...we worked over 96 hours together," Diaz told FIU Student Media as she reflected over the time spent at this year's festival.

The Loaded Baked Potato Burger recipe came to life after Diaz and Suarez looked to see what Red Robin didn't have on their menu. The duo also

wanted to combine two favorite American bar classics.

This was the final year for Diaz and Suarez, both seniors who have plans to pursue careers in the hospitality and culinary industries. Suarez will enter in the food and beverage developmental program training at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside while Diaz will

continue to grow in her kitchen manager role at Latin House.

Diaz and Suarez got to serve their winning burger to attendees of the event alongside Red Robin. The South Beach Food & Wine festival has raised more than \$22 million for the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management at FIU.

SPC Upcoming Events

Healthy Living Xpo March 24 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Panther Square	LGBTQA 3-D Series: March 24 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. WUC 155	Night Paddle March 24 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. WUC 160	Panther Republican Watch Party March 25 9 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Panther Square
Egg Hunt Volunteer Trip March 26 5:15 a.m. FIU BBC	Tri Club Work-out March 26 7:30 p.m. Aquatic Center	Career Services on the Go March 28 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Panther Square	Poseidon's Panthers Swimming Practices March 29 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Aquatic Center
Tuesday Times Roundtable March 29 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. WUC 159	Career Services on the Go March 29 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. FIU @ I-75	Poseidon's Panthers Swimming Practices March 30 5 - 7 p.m. Aquatic Center	ALM: The Confederate Flag & Racial Identity March 30 1 p.m. WUC 253
SPC Dancing with the Wolfe Series March 30 2 - 3 p.m. WUC 160	SGA General Meeting March 30 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. WUC 221	Wolfe Day March 31 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Panther Square	Academic Quiz Bowl March 31 4 p.m. WUC Ballrooms

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