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Stonewall proposes neutral restrooms

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The Stonewall Pride Alliance is looking into establishing additional gender neutral restrooms on Modesto Maidique Campus that would also be cost-effective.

The organization focuses on the needs of LGBTQA students, and tries to establish safe spaces on campus.

In an e-mail sent to student media, Stonewall Pride Alliance and other organizations on campus have proposed the initiative to administration and has submitted the proposal to Larry Lunsford, vice president of student affairs. The e-mail also mentions that the organization has met with John

Cal, associate vice president in facilities management, and with Catherine Akens, associate vice president of students.

According to the e-mail, Daniel Capote, president of Stonewall Pride Alliance, said that the proposal has been accepted and is being pushed forward. Capote wrote that they have contacted Ken Jessel, vice president of financial affairs, and is currently waiting on their response.

Gender neutral bathrooms at FIU are being proposed as single-service spaces by the organization. The concept would be to allow students to have privacy in a comfortable setting that would allow them to have the ability to lock the door behind them. They are also proposing to change

those existing bathrooms that read “family restrooms” to “restrooms” in order to include transgender and gender nonconforming people.

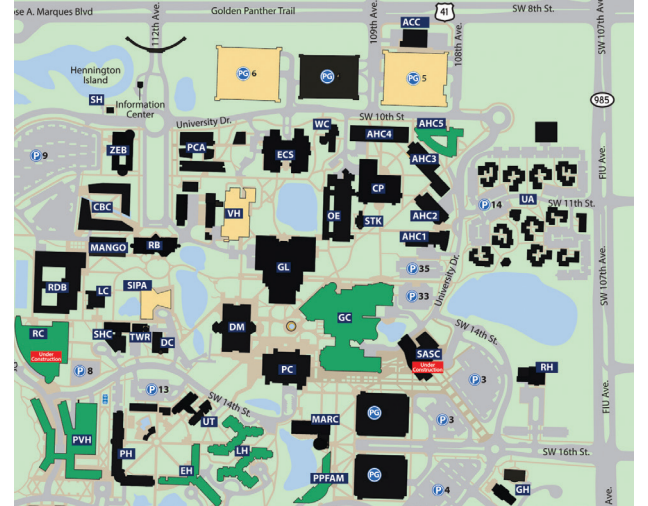
“What we encountered was an issue with the signs that appeared on [family] restrooms,” said Capote. “When the bathroom in GC had opened it had a ‘Family Restroom’ sign on the front, which was eventually changed to read simply ‘Restroom’ because the original signage excluded the importance that this space could serve to transgender students.”

The proposal entails 26 new single-service restrooms that would also include those already existing family style restrooms that would be renamed. The organization hopes that the initiative will be

considered for MMC.

“One population that we have identified as especially vulnerable has been transgender students. These are students that, in one way or another, feel that their gender identity does not match with the gender they were assigned at birth,” wrote Capote. “Because of this, many transgender people experience anxiety around visiting public restrooms.”

The organization, with the help of additional volunteers, have sought out new spaces on MMC that would be suitable for single-service restrooms. It would also possibly be considered on a resource list for transgender students. According to the organization, this would help students identify where they could use the restroom, and



CAYLA BUSH/THE BEACON

The University currently has eight buildings with gender neutral bathrooms, marked in green, while Stonewall seeks to expand this to four additional buildings, marked in yellow.

be certain of their safety.

“Because of the numerous ways that gender expression

manifests for the transgender

SEE LGBTQA, PAGE 2

Supreme Court immigration arguments, voices for families

JACOB BELL
McClatchy Washington Bureau
TNS Staff

As the Supreme Court on Monday weighed the legality of two executive orders on immigration, Sayra Hernandez, a 16-year-old from Mexico, stood outside the courthouse with her sister and mother. The family has a deportation date scheduled for April 29.

“For me and my family, it means a lot,” Hernandez, who lives in Ann Arbor, Mich., said of the court’s ability to uphold or tear down Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents, or DAPA. DAPA provides three-year work permits and safety from deportation to the parents of children who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, program applies to children brought to the U.S. illegally and is not affected by this case except for the administration’s proposal to extend the work permit for so-called Dreamers to three years from two.

Those Obama administration executive orders have been on ice for more than a year due to legal troubles, as Texas and 25 other states filed lawsuits against them.

For the hundreds of activists

and protesters who joined Hernandez and her family Monday outside the courthouse — the majority of whom were against the Texas lawsuit — the oral arguments of Texas v. U.S. served as an opportunity to have their voices heard. “Si, se puede,” which translates roughly to “Yes, we can,” was a consistent chant heard throughout the crowds.

“I’m here because I don’t want to be scared anymore that when I go home my mom isn’t going to be there,” said Kerry Gutierrez, a 17-year-old from Boulder, Colo., whose mother is in the U.S. illegally. “I don’t want to be the head of household; I’m too young for that.”

“I know what it’s like to live in fear of being deported, of being separated from my family,” said Julissa Arce, who came to the United States illegally when she was 11. Now Arce, a former protege at Goldman Sachs, sits on the board of the National Immigration Law Center, an organization that provides legal aid to low-income immigrants.

“At the end of the day my story is one about perseverance and determination, and that is the American story, and that’s what we want for the millions of people affected by this issue,” Arce added.

SEE DAPA, PAGE 2

CLICKY SITUATION



SELENE BASILE/THE BEACON

Both Jennifer Mosquera and John Cervera help students at BBC vote for the SGC-BBC and SGC-MMC elections.

Congress hears more views on iPhone encryption

MICHAEL DOYLE
McClatchy Washington Bureau
TNS Staff

Encrypted smartphones are piling up in law enforcement lockers, potentially stuffed with evidence that remains out of reach, but the conflict between law enforcement and privacy advocates seems no closer to resolution.

Silicon Valley executives remain intent on protecting privacy, leaving little room for lawmakers to maneuver months after a San Bernardino, Calif., massacre brought a long-simmering debate to the surface.

“We feel strongly that Americans will be better off if we can offer the very best protections for their digital lives,” Bruce Sewell, Apple’s senior vice president and general counsel, told a three-hour hearing Tuesday of the Oversight and Investigations panel of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. “The best way we ... know how to protect your information is through the use of strong encryption.”

Sewell noted as an example, in response to questions and allegations, that the company had refused a Chinese government request that it turn over source code for the Apple operating system.

Offering the counterpoint was FBI official Amy Hess. “Encryption as currently implemented poses real barriers to law enforcement’s ability to do its job,” she told the committee.

Hess started her career in the FBI’s Kansas City, Mo., field office in 1991, 16 years before Apple unveiled the first iPhone. She’s now executive assistant director of the FBI’s Science and Technology Branch and working on a frontier still being mapped by Congress and the courts.

The stakes are rising, by the day.

SEE IPHONE, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Congressman calls for cell phone hacking investigation after '60 Minutes' segment

U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu (D-California) is asking for a congressional investigation after an episode of "60 Minutes" in which his phone was hacked to show how easy it is. In a segment that aired Sunday night, "60 Minutes" purchased an iPhone in New York and sent it to Lieu in California. Lieu, who has a computer science degree from Stanford, agreed to use the phone as his personal device for a week. "60 Minutes"

then gave the phone's number to a German company that looks for security flaws in technology, and two German hackers were able to easily listen to Lieu's phone calls. Lieu said that when he showed up to tape the segment in Washington, the hackers had told producers which hotel he'd stayed at the night before. "It was really creepy that they knew where I was even though the GPS was turned off," he said by phone Monday.

Judge rules against China's first same-sex marriage case

A judge in central China ruled against a gay couple in China's first-ever same-sex marriage case Wednesday, effectively hobbling a case that has electrified the country's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists. The plaintiff, Sun Wenlin, a 27-year-old Hunan native, sued a civil affairs bureau in Changsha, the capital of central China's Hunan province, for refusing him the right to marry his 37-year-old

boyfriend, Hu Mingliang, last June. The Changsha Furong District People's Court agreed to hear the case earlier this year, sparking a flurry of sympathetic coverage in China's staid state-run media and galvanizing the country's nascent gay rights movement. "If we win the case, it would be an unprecedented achievement for China's LGBT community," Sun said in a phone interview before the hearing.

Austin Tice supporters to Obama: Don't leave missing journalist behind

With an urgency driven by President Barack Obama's dwindling number of days left in office, supporters of the missing U.S. journalist Austin Tice gathered Monday outside the White House calling for the administration to make his release a priority before the president's term expires. Tice, now 34, a U.S. Marine-turned-journalist who reported for outlets including McClatchy and The

Washington Post, vanished in Syria in August 2012. Apart from a video clip showing him in the custody of unknown gunmen shortly after his disappearance, there's been no confirmed sighting of Tice since. With his whereabouts still a mystery, Tice joins hundreds of Syrians who have simply disappeared in the midst of the country's bloody, 5-year-old civil war.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Alliance discusses neutral restrooms

LGBTQA, PAGE 1

population, they could very easily encounter harassment or even violence if they use a public restroom that other people feel they should not be in. One accommodation, however, that eases this struggle is gender neutral restrooms," says Capote.

"This is what we would like to see on the rest of the bathrooms which have been catalogued by our members," says Capote. "To restate what is included in the file, currently there are 'Family Restrooms' located in SIPA, PG 5, PG 6, and VH."

"Our first request is that these signs be changed in the same fashion as the restroom in GC, so that it is made clear that these spaces are available to all those who find themselves in need of using them," says Capote.

Capote believes that by making these minor changes to the signs outside of restrooms could help make a difference for many groups of students at FIU.

"These spaces are important resources for many people, including those with children, disabled peoples, and of course the students that I have been discussing which experience gender anxiety," says Capote.

The Stonewall Pride Alliance has also discovered restrooms that appear in what they call "gendered pairs." Capote said to student media that "Gendered pair restrooms are sets of two

single service restrooms which have one sign for men and the other has a sign for women."

"At first glance this might not seem like too much of an issue, but we found a clear example of the redundancy of this practice with the restrooms we found in AHC5," says Capote. "AHC5 contains two gender neutral bathrooms on the fifth floor by the conference room. However, because of similar floorplans on the fourth and third floors, there are four more single service restrooms which leads to a total of six for the building."

"However, these four other restrooms have gendered signage, with two being designated for women and two being designated for men. Considering that all these restrooms are identical, and are supposed to be used by only one person at a time, it is unnecessary to gender these spaces," says Capote. "It is also a bit confusing since completely identical restrooms have different signage, which seems to be decided upon arbitrarily."

Capote said, "There is nothing about the 'Family Restroom' that is different from the single service gendered restroom, and both of these are also identical to the gender neutral restrooms. We believe that changing all these inconsistent signs, across all buildings on campus, to read simply 'Restroom' is the best and most inclusive way to solve this issue."

The organization is currently waiting for a response from Jessel to see whether or not the proposal will be accepted.

Supreme court interprets two executive orders

DAPA, PAGE 1

For others, however, the authorization of DAPA and the DACA extensions would set a dangerous precedent for the powers of the commander in chief.

"At its core, it's not about whether you are anti- or pro-immigration, it's about whether the Supreme Court will allow the executive branch" to skirt the rule of law, U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho, R-Fla., said in a statement after the argument.

"It's ironic that people would come into this country illegally, and the reason they're coming illegally is because this country provides more opportunity than the places they came from," said U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas. "And yet, once here, they want us to be like the country they came from, where we don't enforce the law across the board."

There are more than 11 million immigrants in the U.S. who are here illegally, with 3.6 million of them possibly

eligible for DAPA benefits, according to a 2016 report from the Migration Policy Institute, a Washington-based nonpartisan research center.

"If you really dig deep down into this case and try to understand this, this is not (about) amnesty or some kind of blanket forgiveness," said Wendy Feliz, communications director for the American Immigration Council, an organization that advocates for immigration policy and education. "This is temporary protected status for people."

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Congress discusses encryption on cell phones

IPHONE, PAGE 1

From last October through March, the New York Police Department was "locked out of 67 Apple devices" seized during investigations of 44 violent crimes, the NYPD's intelligence chief, Thomas P. Galati, testified.

A top Indiana State Police official likewise reported that more than 40 percent of the cellphones found in investigations of Internet crimes against children have encryption that blocks forensic examination.

"We absolutely know that we could stop pedophiles today if we had access to data on the encrypted phones sitting in our evidence rooms," Indiana State Police Capt. Charles Cohen said.

Executives with Facebook and its instant-messaging subsidiary WhatsApp, which encrypts all messages sent through it, declined to participate in the hearing, lawmakers said.

"This issue will not be easy," acknowledged Rep. Tim Murphy, R-Pa., chair of the House

subcommittee, adding that "it requires a very thoughtful approach."

Underscoring the uncertainties and complexities, both Murphy and his panel's senior Democrat, Rep. Diana DeGette of Colorado, avoided staking out positions in their questioning Tuesday.

Ron Hickman, the sheriff of Harris County, Texas, urged Congress to take action, saying federal legislation rather than state-by-state rules were needed in order to "keep a consistency across states for all manufacturers and ... create a more secure and competitive environment."

At the same time, Hickman warned against the federal government mandating that U.S. companies create "backdoor" access to encrypted information, leaving open the key question of what Congress might do other than, perhaps, add technical or budgetary resources.

The bill compels companies to "provide such technical assistance as is necessary" for law enforcement to obtain encrypted information.

APPROPRIATE APPROPRIATION

‘Cultural appropriation is not inherently negative’

THE LEVELER



AUBREY CARR

A viral video of a white student at the San Francisco State University being harassed because his hair was in dreadlocks by a black colleague of his that felt it was an attack against her culture swept the Internet on March 28.

In high school, I had dreadlocks for little more than a year. My ancestors include British, Russian, most of Western Europe, even Viking and none of their cultural hairstyles included dreads.

To those who call me out on cultural appropriation: You're right. To those who condemn me for partaking in their culture, I must retort: I styled my hair in such a way because dreadlocks are beautiful and I wanted a new hairstyle - not to spite African culture.

The problem begins when cultural appropriation is used in order to mock another

culture or desecrate serious points. Respect is still a huge part of engaging in other cultures.

Even for dreadlocks, the media and society have portrayed a problematic double standard between races. People of color have long been professed as unprofessional, dirty and uneducated if they wore dreadlocks. People with lighter skin who, despite having the same hairstyle, do not receive the negative association.

But cultural appropriation is not inherently negative. Oxford describes the term as “the taking over of creative or artistic forms, themes or practises by one cultural group from another.”

Urban Dictionary might add its own definition, stating that “being of a different culture or race means you are not allowed to adopt things from other cultures. This does nothing but hinder progress in the world.”

Consider the countless ideas and material objects we wouldn't have if it were not for appropriation.

The number zero, for example, from what is now Iraq or the U.S. governmental structure that nearly mirrors British parliament with its roots in Roman influence.

Every cultural staple can be traced back centuries, thus finding its place in areas around the world.

“Please, take the Christmas-like pattern of my family's Kerr tartan and cover your pillows in it. Drink black tea with Eccles cakes at three in the afternoon, like my mother prepared. Tell the stories my ancestors told. I would be ecstatic to know you were as in love with my culture as I am with yours.”

On the point of progress made by the contributor to Urban Dictionary, we would be nowhere today without the concept of zero and we certainly wouldn't be colonising Mars; we would have never figured out the math to fly beyond the atmosphere.

Take China. When Marco Polo travelled to the Orient, he ate noodles

and loved them so much that he brought them back to Italy, where they evolved into what “pasta” might immediately bring to mind today - tortellini, fettuccini, rotini, spaghetti and the list goes on.

The Chinese invented fireworks in the second century and Americans

amongst many other countries use them to celebrate independence or other milestones.

Tea leaves in hot water was originally a Chinese drink but the British turned it into Earl Grey and English Breakfast.

If you are of African, European, or Hispanic descent and have engaged in any of these activities,

you have culturally appropriated the Chinese and I would be surprised to learn that you have participated in none of the above.

That's okay, because noodles, fireworks and tea have made the world a happier place. We should celebrate their conceptions together.

If you're Jewish, wearing the new tartan made especially for the Jewish people, you're appropriating my Scottish heritage.

If you're Hispanic telling your children fairy tales like Cinderella, you're appropriating my German roots.

If you're African with a fancy for meat pies, you're appropriating my English upbringing - and that's fabulous.

Please, take the Christmas-like pattern of my family's Kerr tartan and cover your pillows in it. Drink black tea with Eccles cakes at three in the afternoon, like my mother prepared. Tell the stories my ancestors told. I would be ecstatic to know you were as in love with my

culture as I am with yours.

It's not wrong to celebrate one another's cultures by reverentially bringing them into our own lives. After all, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

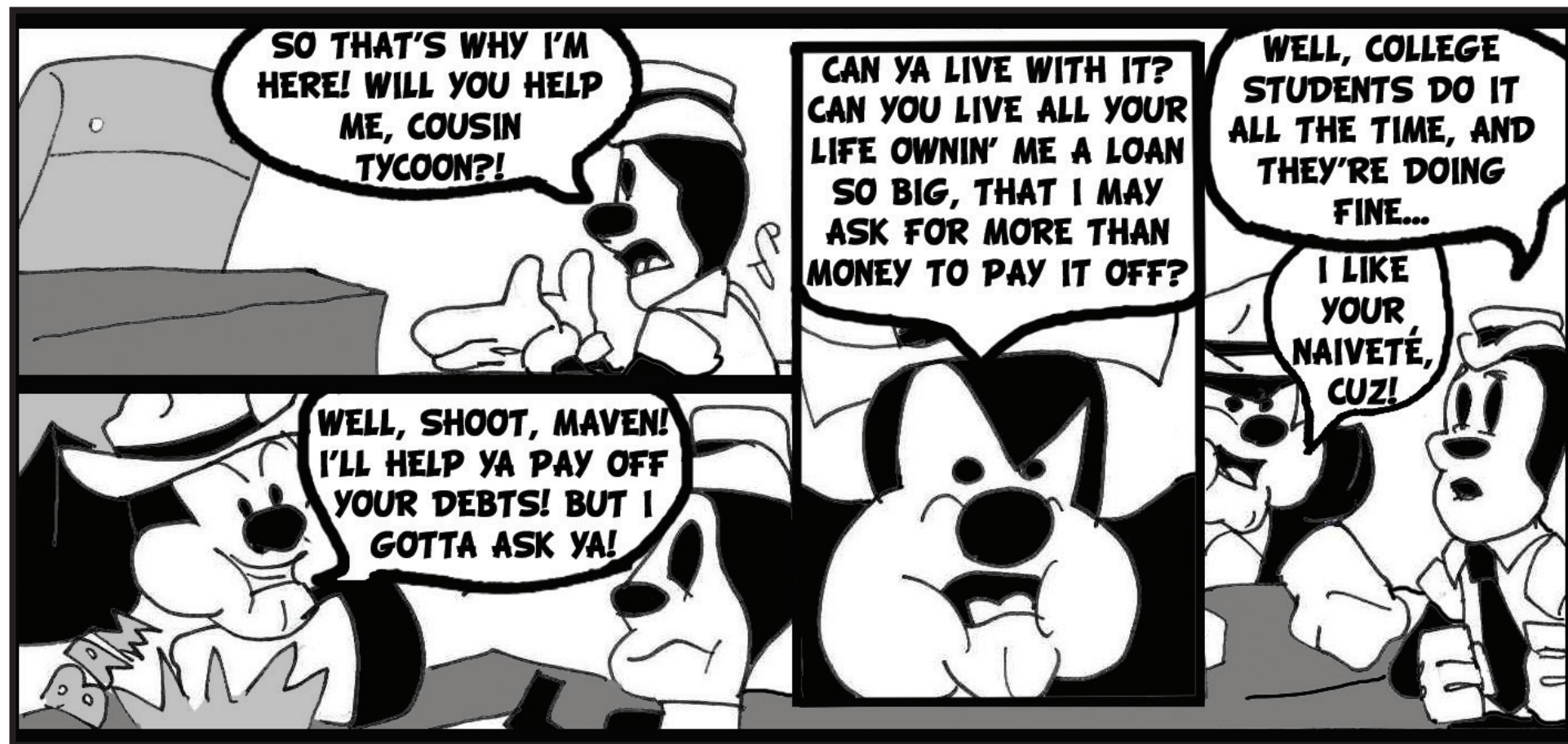
It's nice when something that was once on the fringes becomes normal in society and is integrated into another culture, but don't make it seem as though cultures with less privilege feel robbed of their pride.

America has been powerful and inventive because we have so many different people from different places bringing ideas and commodities with them.

This should continue through the respectful discovering of other cultures and peoples and introducing their brilliant concepts to those in our own cultural circles.

The Leveler is a column on global social justice and political commentary. For suggestions or comments, please contact Aubrey at aubrey.carr@fiusm.com

CUZ'N TYCOON



SAM PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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Honors professor earns national recognition after 10 years of service



ERIC DURAN/THE BEACON

DARIUS DUPINS
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John Bailly, Honors College professor and founder of Aesthetics & Values, recently celebrated the 10 year anniversary of the interdisciplinary curatorial program that has earned national recognition.

An artist in his own right, Bailly wanted to engage the profound nature of art as it related the society by getting students involved.

“There were all kinds of exercises that would have students draw or make art, but I thought that although that has value it was also limited... my idea was to get students involved in the contemporary art world,” said Bailly to Student Media.

A program that is solely about merging academia and the world of contemporary art, A&V has allowed students from a range of disciplines to become curators as part of a year-long course that culminates in a showcase of artists.

Bailly hopes the contemporary art that the students have come to know throughout their year-long project impacts them in ways that will last well past the last day of class.

“I do have students who have changed their majors and go into the arts, and that’s really satisfying but for me the most satisfying is a students who took the class eight or five years ago, tags me in a social media post and says, “hey I saw this show and I thought of our class and thought of you and want you to see it,” Bailly said.

When art still has a central role in the life of his students and is compelling in them and ignites something within the students is most rewarding for Bailly.

Though there have been other venues and mediums that have challenged the values of society, art has presented an easy way to absorb new aesthetics to challenge traditional values. Within the class,

Bailly uses personal identity to challenge traditional values.

“I’m interested in trying to create art that reflects these different influences coming together to make things that at first don’t seem like they belong together but they somehow do,” said Bailly.

The setup of the A&V exhibition is all up to the students. The students get a list of names of artists generated by the Frost Art Museum. From that list they have to choose an artist to contact and get them to sign a contract to agree to be in the exhibition at the Frost Art Museum and then the students plan the layout of the exhibition.

“It’s just [students] screaming and changing their minds and advocating for their artist and it is chaos and it works, it comes together,” Bailly said.

The first A&V took place in the Green Library in 2006. The show went from being a small student project into a big enough show that it became a museum exhibition.

“The class ate pizza at the first opening,” Bailly said.

In its 10th year A&V will feature nine artists based locally in Miami: Randy Burman, Weston Charles, Clifton Childree, Brookhart Jonquil, Barron Sherer, Magnus Sodamin, Alex Trimino, Michael Vasquez, and Agustina Woodgate.

Through the years, A&V has cultivated relationships with art institutions throughout Miami and the class has been invited to read poems at the O Miami Poetry Festival as well as going to other venues such as the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens and Deering Estate.

From pizza to a full buffet of hors d’oeuvres and Bacardi drinks, A&V has grown into a swanky party and ambitious art exhibition. Make sure to visit the A&V exhibition this month before the final day, May 1.



NICOLE HERNANDEZ/THE BEACON



NICOLE HERNANDEZ/THE BEACON

Top Left: April 6. Alex Trimino working on her installation, “Totemic Light Patterns”

Middle: March 30. A&V students decide where to place art work for the A&V exhibition.

Bottom Left: March 30. An A&V student prepares a piece of artwork to be placed in the Frost Art Museum.

Bottom Right: April 6. John Bailly A&V professor talks to the crowd at the opening of Aesthetics & Values.



ERIC DURAN/THE BEACON

PANTHER PROFILE



DARIUS DUPINS/THE BEACON

LGBT PRIDE



DARIUS DUPINS

I put a label on today's Panther Pride Profile subject before sitting down to interview him. Junior, Juan Garcia and ESE Education major identifies himself as an ally, our second of our Panther Pride Profile series.

Garcia identifies as an ally because he has a cousin who identifies as gay and another that claims bisexuality.

"My first reaction was confusion, but as time went by it became normal to me," said Garcia.

I was more than excited when Garcia signed up for an interview. I assumed he was gay and a perspective from a

deaf, gay student would have been beyond extraordinary. My expectations of this interview weren't met, but I was still able to hear what a deaf ally's experiences were in regards to discrimination, dating and the obstacles he might face when interacting with other LGBTQA identifying individuals.

As an ally of the LGBTQA community, Garcia thinks FIU is a place where inclusion is all around. Compared to outside of campus, Garcia believes FIU is safe and welcoming to all LGBTQA students.

It's hard to take what Garcia has to say about how safe FIU is and how much of an inclusive space it is seriously. Though Garcia identifies as an ally, that doesn't mean he knows what is good for our

community. Sure, maybe FIU is all inclusive but to whom?

Garcia, another student taking Dr. Loynaz's LGBTQA class, has learned a lot of history regarding Stonewall and the things that came before Stonewall - the Ottoman Empire was the section of history that interested him the most. He also said he cousins were a catalyst for taking the LGBTQA class.

Though he didn't live up to my deaf, gay expectations, I was able to connect with Garcia and get a perspective I wouldn't have gotten elsewhere.

LGBT Pride is a student profile column that highlight LGBTQA students at FIU.

April 13. Juan Garcia attends Dr. Loynaz's LGBTQA class and watches his interpreter as he translates what is being said.

'Love Streams' makes Tim Hecker go inspirational

SELECTED ANALYZED WORKS



CINDY HERNANDEZ

On "Love Streams," Tim Hecker finds himself at his most intimate, magical and strangely optimistic.

Hecker's releases border on scary to the obvious feelings enticed by the "Wall of Sound" musical aesthetic that occurs for a drone artist. However, "Love Steams" is different, in part because it decides to usher you into a world not of disappointment, but of sensitivity.

On album opener "Obsidian Counterpoint," Hecker uses Middle Eastern instruments like sitars and

cymbals against flutes to do something entirely different from his usual work.

Accessibility isn't the word to describe this - it is a new direction for someone whose past work, particularly "Virgins," is so rooted in something rough. It's beautiful and inspired by gospel, but with a sense of personal ownership.

This transcendence comes not from some God, but from self-exploration. Those same instruments can be found on "Bijie Dream," and on "Live Leak Instrumental," a kind of scary choice for a song name if you link the instrument usage to LiveLeak.com, a violent website full of gore videos. "Live Leak Instrumental" is not scary in Hecker's usual, hazy way but in a passive aggressive matter,

distorting in places you wouldn't otherwise have thought of.

The sound of the choir is of great importance to this album, especially in how Hecker plays off the singing as not something to be drowned off and sealed, but as instruments of their own.

The endless looping of high notes, isolated among each other is hypnotic and enlightening. On "Castrati Stack," the choir voices become harsh reverberated noise, fuzzy and spiky to the ear.

On "Violet Monumental I," the singing of simple questions against ringing and sharp tight notes is enticing to the ear, and on "II," the constant looping of piano is spooky and playful.

It almost sounds like the anxiety of being a Boo in the "Super Mario" world. The high hats and claps compliment the sound of the organ well, but always retain an element of Halloween as opposed to slasher flick.

"Love Streams" also shows Hecker's prowess at making beautiful, enveloping compositions "Up Red Bull Creek" is such a track, and it would fit well within an orchestra setting.

What I'm most fascinated with on "Love Streams" is how Hecker brings in old influences, like computer glitch and makes them fit the album seamlessly.

"Voice Crack," my favorite track on the album, makes a case for the organic sound of electronics as time

has elapsed in music history. The glitchiness combined with the sound of the choir makes for one of his most powerful songs.

"Collapse Sonata" comes through and softens the load of the album, a sensitive track really.

Hecker's "Love Stream" speaks for a kind of electronic music that is in tune with the organic production of emotions. It speaks to a higher order that expects more of the electronic musician behind the album in the first place.

Selected Analyzed Works is a column that discusses selected works from the RPM genre. For suggestions or comments email life@fusm.com

INBOX FURY



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

SOFTBALL

Panthers avoid second straight conference sweep

SANTIAGO ARCHIERI
Staff Writer
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FIU's softball team was on the brink of being swept for the third time in their last four series, but Stephanie Teixeira and A.J. Belans had other plans.

Teixeira and Belans avoided being swept by University of Alabama at Birmingham Sunday, April 17, as they both provided homeruns for the Panthers in the 11-3 win.

The duo has now hit home runs in the same game four times this season.

It wasn't all happy tales for the Panthers over the weekend, as they got off to a rough start in the first two games.

The series started Saturday, April 16 with a double header. The first game of the night went down to the wire, but it was UAB who came out on top in extra innings.

It was a defensive battle up until the fifth inning, when FIU was the first team to be up on the scoreboard. Dani Mowry hit a rocket to right field, good enough for a single,

but also bringing in Ashley Leon.

The Panthers took the lead, but UAB tied it up at 1-1 in the sixth.

The Blazers hit a walk off homerun in the eighth inning to end the first game 3-1. Abby Summers took the loss dropping to 8-7 in the season after the game.

The Panthers got off to a hot start in the second game as Teixeira hit a homerun in the first inning, but five earned runs for the Blazers in the bottom of the first put them in a 5-1 hole and it wouldn't get better for FIU after that.

Corrine Jenkins was scratched from the game after two innings, and Rachel Dwyer was able to tame the Blazers for a while.

Dwyer allowed just two hits in 2.2 innings, but the game came to an end in the fifth inning by the run rule, with UAB coming out on top 9-1.

Jenkins dropped to 5-8 with the loss, totaling six runs on six hits.

The loss was the Panthers sixth in seven games, and fifth straight



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

First baseman Stephanie Teixeira returns the ball to the homeplate against the University of Alabama at Birmingham during a three-game series against the Blazers. The Panthers fell 2-1 against UAB during the series.

against Conference USA opponents.

The series came to a close on Sunday, and FIU woke up at the right time. The Panthers managed to get 14 hits in an 11-3 win on the road.

Belans was able to knock her eighth homerun of the season, and Teixeira hit her team-leading 12th

homerun of the season, which is also her career high for most homeruns in a season.

Teixeira keeps climbing the FIU record books. She has 31 homeruns in her collegiate career, currently the second most in FIU history. She is also currently fifth for most homeruns in a season, and

second for most RBI's in FIU history with 131.

The Panthers are now 23-23 overall for the season and 8-10 in C-USA. The Panthers have a small break from conference play, now traveling to play Florida Gulf Coast University on April 23-24.

Their next C-USA game will be Saturday,

April 30, against Marshall University, who is currently last on the East division of the C-USA standings.

With six games left against conference opponents, the Panthers have no room for error left if they want to make the post-season tournament.

TENNIS

2016 season capped off with 10- game win streak

REINALDO LLERENA
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The No. 43-ranked FIU women's tennis team put up historic numbers and broke school records on the way to the team's best season in recent history.

The Panthers' 15-2 record is the best since 2009, when the team finished with a 20-9 overall record.

The team's .882 winning percentage is the second-best in school history, only trailing the 2000-2001 team's .885 winning season.

During the season, the women also broke the school record with a 10-game winning streak.

The historic streak began after a 7-0 win over Stetson University February 6, and was snapped when the team fell to then-No. 48 Columbia on March 15.

The Panthers were undefeated this season when the team clinched the doubles point.

In comparison, the team's only losses of the season came when they lost the initial point. The team's record when they lost the doubles point was 3-2.

Freshman Maryna Veksler, the



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Senior, Kaitlin Brozovich played a huge role for the tennis team as she provided consistency and leadership to a young squad as they had one of their best seasons in recent years.

team's number one starter, put up standout numbers in her first season at FIU. She won 25 singles matches on the year and went 10-4 in dual matches this season.

Junior Nina Nagode had an equally successful season as the team's number starter.

The Slovenian posted an 11-3 record in dual matches and had 21 wins on the season. Nagode and Veksler posted a 9-3 doubles record in dual matches, the second-best on the team.

Redshirt freshman Andrea Lazaro had a breakout season. The Spaniard

went undefeated during the regular season, posting a 15-0 record in dual matches. Lazaro's performance saw her rise from the number five starter to the number three starter on the team.

Lazaro paired up with senior Carlotta Orlando in dual matches to

post the best doubles record on the team. The duo went 12-3 during the season.

Seniors Kaitlin Brozovich and Orlando put up respectable numbers in their final season at FIU. Despite dropping from the number three to the number four starter, Orlando posted a 20-9 overall record with 12 of her wins coming in dual matches.

Brozovich finished with a respectable 14-11 overall record and had nine wins in dual matches.

Sophomore Nerma Caluk led the team with 26 singles wins on the season. The sophomore was 12-1 as the team's number five starter and was 14-2 overall in dual matches.

The Panthers will enter the Conference USA Women's Tennis Championships as the No. 1 seed.

Last year, the team entered the C-USA tournament as the No. 5 seed and advanced to the semifinals before losing to No. 1-seeded Rice, 4-1.

FIU will play Friday, April 22, against the winner of the No. 8 Middle Tennessee State University and the No. 9 Western Kentucky University match. First serve from Murfreesboro, Tennessee is set for 11 a.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Panthers finish in top three in California road trip

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The track and field team traveled to Norwalk, California, last weekend to compete in three different meets.

The Panthers took part in the Mt. SAC Relays, the Cal State LA Twilight Open in Los Angeles and the Beach Invitational in Long Beach. During their trip, the Panthers finished in the top three while recording two school records.

One of the school records came from redshirt junior Alton Eliphar. The sprinter set a school record during the 200-meter dash during the Mt. SAC Relays with a personal-best time of 20.75 seconds, ranking him 21 nationally.

The Palm Bay native also

recorded a personal record during the 100-meter dash with a time 10.33 seconds. With that time, it ranked him No. 20 in the country.

Freshman Clarissa Cutliff tied the school record in high jump with the result of 1.80 meters during the Mt. SAC Relays. With that score, it ranks the Orlando native No. 11 in the country in high jumps.

With the performance from the Panther's top two athletes, both the men and women made their marks during the three meets. The men's team overall finished in second, and the women finished first in the Cal State LA Twilight Invitational.

Starting on the men's side, sophomore sprinter Wilkenson Myrtill claimed second place in the 100-meter dash at the Cal State LA Twilight with a time of

10.75 seconds.

Sophomore Todd Jackson finished with a personal record in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.15 seconds, placing him in first place.

Jackson also finished in second place in the 400-meter with a time of 49.70 seconds. The Riverview, Florida native placed second in the 400-meter with a time 49.70 seconds.

During the Beach Invitational, Jackson recorded a personal record in the 400-meter with a time of 48.60 seconds.

During the Cal State LA Twilight, the Panthers were successful in the long jump led by Christopher Prophete, who placed first with the result of 7.06 meters.

Marcus Ghent came in second with the result of 6.88 meters. Following him was Eric Knott

who finished third with the result of 6.71.

In the hammer throws, junior Sean Pratt placed third with the result of 46.30 meters and second in the Javelin with the result of 42.35 meters at the Cal State LA Twilight.

For the women's team, senior Sharniece King ran a personal best finishing in first place with a time of 24.36 seconds in the 200-meter dash during the Cal State LA Twilight.

In the 100-meter hurdles, senior Jaylaan Slaughter finished in first place in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.14 seconds. Lexis Shields came in second place with the time of 14.45 seconds.

In the Beach Invitational, Shields set a personal record in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.04 seconds.

Freshmen Kenflore Atilus and Jada Roberson both made their marks during the Cal State LA Twilight. Atilus finished in first place with a mark of 1.60 meters. Roberson took third in the long jump with a mark of 5.50 meter.

In the shot put at the Cal State LA Twilight, Terrisa Russell finished in first place, throwing 12.40 meters. In the hammer, she had a PR with the mark of 44.44 meters.

Senior Tiffani Hernández came in first-place in the javelin event with the result of 42.32.

The Panthers will travel to Jacksonville, Florida to compete in the North Florida Twilight Invitational Thursday, May 5.

This will be their final meet before they compete for the C-USA Outdoor Championship in Murfreesboro, Tennessee on May 12.

BASEBALL

FI-Lose might be a better name

LOUIS' HACKS



LOUIS AGUDELO

Florida International University baseball is more than halfway through the 2016 season, and they have flat out disappointed.

This team is 17-21 overall, and have lost twice as many games against Conference USA teams as they've won.

It should be understood that the Panthers played just as poorly, if not worse, before the C-USA tournament last season, where they caught fire and went on to take home the Conference Championship. That's all good, but as reigning champions of the conference, this is not how they should be playing.

Coming into this season, expectations were definitely high, considering how they finished last season. Everyone knows by now that there was a big shakeup of the lineup, and several new faces, but none of it seemed like it mattered to the boys of spring from Sweetwater.

Players returning for the 2015 season even said that this lineup would be better at the plate than last season's, which many would have considered a stretch. When you lose four power bats from the middle of your batting order, how can you expect transfers from junior colleges to be able to fill those roles adequately?

Surprisingly enough, those transfers have been some of the few things keeping this team anywhere near .500, with key hits, and stepping up in a few late game situations after coming back from unimaginable deficits.

Many players on this team have also sacrificed at-bats, and playing time, time and time again, for what they believed will help the squad, always telling reporters about how the team comes first. The comradery on this FIU team, from the outside looking in is great. All the players are friends, and the atmosphere in the dugout is exactly

what you'd expect from a bunch of guys fighting for the same cause.

The problems seem to come on the mound. The pitching this season has posted an ERA that seems to get closer and closer to five runs every game. Head Coach Turtle Thomas has stuck to his guns this far, keeping the pitching rotation the same, with the rare exception of a game in the middle of the week where he gives talented relievers the chance to go the distance and pitch a couple more innings than they usually would.

With things set up this way, his top three starters have combined for an 8-9 record, hardly something to brag about. It doesn't look like Thomas is going to change his philosophy anytime soon, but that might be what he needs to do if he wants to see his team's luck change for the better.

Whether he does, or doesn't, FIU has, in the eyes of a few, their most important series of the season coming up this weekend when the Florida Atlantic University Owls come to town.

In the Panther's bullpen awaits transfer Cain Spangler, who came to FIU from FAU this offseason. It'll be interesting to see if he'll see his first action of the season against his former team, but if the rest of this season has been any indication, we won't see it.

If the Panthers can somehow sweep the Owls, who currently sit at third place in the C-USA standings, with an 11-4 record against the rest of the conference, it could be just the jolt this team needs to play well and perhaps even win most of these last 18 games left in the season, 16 of which are against C-USA opponents. The first game, and first chance to pick up some momentum before the conference tournament is Friday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m..

Louis' Hacks is a biweekly column covering FIU baseball. For suggestions and comments, contact Louis at louis.agudelo@fiusm.com.

MLB

Fernandez stops Marlins' slide, gets 6-1 win over Nationals

CRAIG DAVIS
Sun Sentinel
TNS Staff

The ace is the pitcher a team leans on to lead it to good times. But perhaps, more importantly, to put a stop to the bad.

The Miami Marlins were in much need of a stopper after starting 0-5 at Marlins Park and with the first-place Nationals arriving Monday for a four-game series.

No one better to turn to than Jose Fernandez, who has virtually owned the place.

It took some early run support and late relief help for Fernandez to record the Marlins' first win of the season by a starting pitcher in a 6-1 decision against the Nationals.

Add a slump-busting home run by Giancarlo Stanton, and the Marlins (4-7) ended a four-game losing streak.

Perhaps what they needed most was for the Atlanta Braves to leave town and Tanner Roark to arrive. Two of Miami's four wins have come at the expense of the Nationals right-hander, who didn't allow any runs in seven innings of his other start, against Atlanta.

The Marlins have tagged him for nine runs (seven earned) in 10 innings over the two games.

Fernandez limited the Nationals (9-3) to one run and three hits in a gutsy 103-pitch effort in which he completed a season-high six innings. It seemed unlikely to last that long after he threw 54 pitches

in the first two innings.

The vital moment for Fernandez came with one out in the fifth, facing Bryce Harper with runners on the corners. Harper had home runs in four consecutive games and is arguably the toughest out at the moment in the majors.

Fernandez kept Harper in the park, though he lofted a towering drive to right that sent Michael Taylor home with a sacrifice fly.

In the bottom of the inning, Stanton teed off on a low fastball from Roark and lined a 110-mph screamer (per Statcast) into the shrubbery over the relocated fence in right-center. That made Stanton the first beneficiary of the relocated fence as replays indicated the ball would not have cleared the old wall.

Stanton, who was mired in a 2-for-21 slump before the homer, added an RBI single in the seventh.

As in his previous outing, Fernandez battled through a long and laborious initial two innings before finding his rhythm. He didn't give up a hit in those frames, but walked three (one intentional), hit Jayson Werth and threw two wild pitches.

In the second he issued the free pass to get to Roark, then walked the pitcher to load the bases. He left them loaded by striking out Taylor, but the 32-pitch inning signaled a tough climb to the late innings.

Fernandez, who improved to 4-0 in his career against Washington, breezed

through the next two innings, including four strikeouts, and didn't allow a hit until Taylor doubled leading off the fifth.

The Marlins gave Fernandez a lead to protect with three runs in the first. Dee Gordon followed the leadoff hitter's playbook, reaching third via a single, steal and balk by Roark. Christian Yelich drove him in by slapping a hit the opposite way through a drawn-in infield.

But it was struggling Marcell Ozuna who made the inning significant by lining a two-out, two-run single to center. That matched Ozuna's RBI output from the first 10 games.

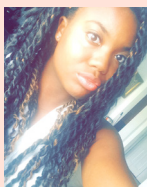
It was an encouraging sign not only for Ozuna, who came into the game hitting .190 and recently dropped in the order from second to sixth, but also for the Marlins who found two-out hits with runners in scoring position elusive during the losing streak.

They added a run in the second with the aid of secret weapon Pat Shine, their video coordinator, who gave the go-ahead on the first of two successful replay challenges, this one overturning an out at second base. Fernandez attempted to lay down a sacrifice bunt, and catcher Wilson Ramos threw to second ahead of Adeiny Hechavarria.

But replay showed the high throw pulled Danny Espinosa off the bag. Hechavarria would score on Martin Prado's hard grounder to third.

BBC's lack of non-binary bathrooms 'transphobic'

COLUMNIST



CAYLA BUSH

BBC is centuries old, figuratively speaking. It's no wonder, then, that gender neutral bathrooms have yet to come to the campus.

Students who do not define themselves using genders or those who do not identify as the gender they were assigned at birth are essentially told that they don't exist at BBC.

Gender neutral bathrooms are available at MMC, in either the form of family restrooms or restrooms that are simply unlabeled. The transition to this system was not one that took extreme amount of effort. In fact, all it took for some of the locations was a small signage change.

Why, then, has BBC neglected to designate a gender neutral safe space for students? It cannot be for lack of need -- I find it hard to believe that the campus has no students who would benefit from the space.

The answer, it seems, is simple: BBC isn't being pressured to add gender neutral restrooms, and therefore they have not began allocating these gender neutral spaces.

It's ridiculous that administration would need a rallying cry to provide gender neutral bathrooms, rather than being understanding of the need and proactive. It's almost as if they're saying "we don't care about the issues that face students unless we are pressured to do so."

FIU prides itself on being an all-inclusive, safe and diverse campus. If the University is so proud of its diversity, then why doesn't the school show unwavering support for its students who are trans or non-binary?

A common argument against gender neutral bathrooms is that these bathrooms would make it easier for women and children to be sexually assaulted by men who "claim"

to be trans in order to access their victims. However, this argument is problematic and deeply rooted in transphobia.

First, women have been sexually assaulted in public, in their own homes and of course in public bathrooms by men who were perfectly comfortable doing so without pretending to be trans.

Second, there are no recorded statistics of a trans person sexually assaulting someone in a public bathroom. However, according to The Advocate, about 70 percent of trans people experience being assaulted while using a public restroom.

Finally, trans people are not confused nor are they pretending to be something they are not. The idea that they are pretending to be the opposite gender in order to harm someone, perpetuates the stereotype that they are "deceivers" trying to scam aren't out in the world to deceive anyone - they're out here trying to live their lives. At FIU, they are here for an education and an equal opportunity to pursue their careers.

Gender identity is complex and we may not always understand it. However, the University community must understand that a person's identity is not meant for us to understand, it is meant for us to respect. We respect these identities by creating facilities that are inclusive and safe for all members of the community.

Being Worlds Ahead means more than actively seeking international students, more than seeking international research opportunities. It means understanding the changing world, and how students view their place in it. It means changing to reflect the world and being proactive.

It's disheartening to know that the University isn't proactive in protecting their students, and ensuring spaces free of fear of oppression. BBC should take notice of the way of the world, and designate gender neutral bathrooms for its students.

POOL SIDE



ERIKA SANTIAGO/THE BEACON

Lorentz SintLouis, senior psychology major, plays pool in the game room of the Wolfe Center.

Social Tea Party to raise transgender awareness

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Thursday, April 28, Campus Life and the Multicultural Programs and Services offices will host the only Release Week event geared specifically towards bringing transgender awareness to students.

The Pride Social Tea Party will be held at Biscayne Bay Campus in the Wolfe University Center Room 155, from 11 a.m. to noon.

Students can expect to learn and have their questions about the transgender community answered in a relaxed setting, while sipping tea. There will be no guest speakers or panel discussions.

"We will be passing out pronoun cards and answering any

questions students have about the community," said Mario Lara, a graduate assistant and staff member of the MPAS office.

"I'm looking forward to the free massage and being able to learn about the transgender community more

Ruby Falcon
Senior
Psychology

Members from the University's LGBTQA chapter will also be on site to help answer questions and offer free student giveaways. While this is

the first Pride Social Tea Party held at FIU, similar events have been held at other universities.

"I heard the idea from another university and thought it sounded like a really cool thing to do in a nice setting," Lara said.

In aiming to give students a relaxed atmosphere to unwind from finals week, free tea, snacks and massages will be offered.

"I'm looking forward to the free massage and being able to learn about the transgender community more," said Ruby Falcon, a senior studying psychology. "I think this is a good way to learn more."

Staff members are hoping for a large turn out and hopes to make the Pride Social Tea Party an annual event.

For any further questions on the Pride Social Tea Party contact the Biscayne Bay Campus MPAS Office or Campus Life.

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