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FIU partners with Portfolium network

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In Spring 2016, Portfolium started a campus-wide spread of its ePortfolio network platform at Florida International University, allowing all students the opportunity to create a free portfolio where they can publish all their works. The decision was made after a successful pilot program with the Chaplin School of Hospitality.

Ever since the partnership between FIU and Portfolium began, more than 44,000 students from all majors were given access to a free ePortfolio.

According to Portfolium's website, it partners with various universities in order to "connect learning with opportunity." Their mission is to "help every student meet their full potential

by integrating learning with career management in an open and connected network that makes it easier to discover, prepare and qualify for the most relevant career opportunities."

Portfolium is currently partnering with over 150 institutions, and its ePortfolio network is assisting over five million students with starting their careers.

The ePortfolio network is a cloud based platform where students can post their works they believe will show their skills and talents. Portfolium describes this as "lifelong opportunities to capture . . . and convert skills into job offers, while giving learning institutions and employers the tools they need to assess competencies and recruit talent."

"This is a great opportunity for FIU students to be ahead

of their competition- utilizing the portfolio to showcase our skills and knowledge," says Edgar Sanchez Gomez, a senior majoring in Business Administration.

Portfolium was launched by Adam Markowitz in 2014. Markowitz graduated from UC San Diego in 2008 with a major in Aerospace Engineering. Although throughout his education Markowitz worked on challenging projects, volunteered, and worked part-time.

He noticed that when employers searched him online, they would not find his school work, but rather him socializing with friends.

According to Portfolium's website, Markowitz decided that he needed to stand out in the competitive work field, and he made a portfolio with all his works and accomplishments.

His portfolio included everything he thought best represented him, his works, essays, pictures, and more.

Markowitz brought the portfolio to his next interview and was hired as an engineer for the Space Shuttle Program. After launching the Space Shuttle, Markowitz began developing Portfolium.

Since its launch, Portfolium has become an international network that allows students to show employers their professional potential. According to Portfolium's website, it is backed by Seed San Diego, Vertical Ventures' Triton Fund, and University Ventures.

Portfolium allows the student to create an electronic portfolio that is organized and eye appealing. In an e-mail sent out to the student body from the Office of the Provost

& Executive Vice President, students can "upload real work samples including photos, videos, presentations and papers to showcase . . . coursework, projects, extracurriculars, volunteer activities, internships and work experiences."

Additionally, in today's world, "work samples are the strongest individual predictor of new hire performance, with number of years of job experience and number of years of education near the bottom of the list," according to the e-mail.

For FIU students that create a portfolio, companies such as Disney, Nike, Google and Facebook will have access to view them. "I think this is a great opportunity for us students, as incomers into the workforce, to get an adequate exposure in terms of our strengths and what we have to

offer to potential employers. A typical resume is often not designed to highlight these skills and assets," says Vesna Babarogic, a junior double majoring in Statistics and Psychology.

Besides having the opportunity to have employers view students' works, ePortfolio allows students to connect with their classmates and alumni, and work together on projects. The idea behind this was to encourage students to share ideas and build a student community.

Students have the opportunity to connect with others, similarly to LinkedIn, as well as like posts and leave comments. Also, all FIU students have free access to Portfolium, even after they graduate with no costs, fees, or storage limits.

FINAL PRESENTATION



ERICA SANTIAGO/THE BEACON

As part of Release Week 2016, students of Professor David Park's Social Media and Globalization class host an event educating students on the effects of media on globalization.

Retailers are using Virtual Reality to make shopping fun

SHAN LI
Los Angeles Times
TNS Staff

The next item you try on at the mall might be a virtual reality headset.

No longer relegated to video gamers, VR is coming to amusement parks, movie theaters and classrooms. But

the technology presents a major opportunity for retailers as they try to lure fickle shoppers into their stores, particularly as consumers shift more of their buying habits online.

Already, Ikea, Lowe's, Toms and North Face are turning to virtual reality to sell products, boost their brands and make shopping more fun.

"Virtual reality is going to fundamentally transform the human experience of shopping," a report from digital agency SapientNitro said, predicting that it would "lift sales for those retailers who get ahead of the curve."

Lowe's has added a futuristic edge to the often teeth-gnashing process of remodeling a kitchen or

bathroom.

In 19 stores around the country the home improvement chain has installed a space that enables shoppers to see a 3-D mock-up of their renovation plans.

Called the Holoroom, the simulated space can be personalized with individual

SEE VR, PAGE 2

Resources available at FIU to combat hazing

STEPHANIE ESPAILLAT
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Recent hazing accusations at Miami University in Ohio has made officials end all ties with two fraternities that were suspended earlier for hazing violations. As violations of misbehavior performed by greek organization become more concerning for individuals across the nation, these incidents have sparked a national concern for student's overall safety.

The two fraternities will now face disciplinary action, university officials said.

According to a statement released by Miami officials: "Following investigations into allegations of hazing and alcohol violations, Miami University and the national council of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity have jointly suspended the Miami University chapter of Pi Kappa Phi, and both Miami University and the national council of Phi Kappa Tau have suspended the local chapter of Phi Kappa Tau."

As more hazing and misbehavior violations

appear on university campuses, many universities nationwide are responding to these issues by focusing on different forms of campaigns and anti-misbehavior initiatives. FIU and its many facilities on campus have made initiatives to combat hazing as well as other forms of bullying.

In an e-mail sent to Student Media, Christianne Medrano, associate director of the interfraternity council said "we are constantly educating our students about [these] hazards and risks that involve hazing."

Medrano also mentions that despite popular belief that Greek Life is the only group on campus that performs hazing, she shares that this is a universal issue that is also demonstrated in many unexpected groups on campus.

"You must also understand that hazing although it has been known to happen in Greek Life, main issues with hazing happen in larger scale when you factor in the hazing that happens in athletics [and] the band," writes Medrano. "Believe

SEE HAZING, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Former Berkeley law school dean disputes sexual misconduct review against him

A former University of California, Berkeley law school dean who was disciplined last year for violating the university's sexual harassment policies has lashed out at a new review of his behavior, calling it an unjust attack on his legal and academic rights. Sujit Choudhry, who resigned his deanship last month but remains on the faculty, has asked the disciplinary committee of Berkeley's Academic Senate to drop the second review, which could lead to the loss of his tenure, according to documents released by his attorneys Monday. In a university investigation last year, Choudhry admitted he repeatedly hugged, touched and gave kisses on the cheek to his former executive assistant, Tyann Sorrell, from September 2014 to March 2015.

Supreme Court strengthens free-speech rights of public employees

Just in time for the election season, the Supreme Court has strengthened legal protections for the nation's 22 million public employees against being demoted or fired for supporting the wrong political candidate in the eyes of their supervisors. "The Constitution prohibits a government employee from discharging or demoting an employee because the employee supports a particular political candidate," Justice Stephen G. Breyer said Tuesday. This applies, he said, even if a supervisor mistakenly assumes an employee is supporting a particular candidate. What counts is "the employer's motive," Breyer said. The 6-2 decision revived a free-speech lawsuit brought by a New Jersey police detective who was demoted to patrol officer because he was seen carrying a campaign sign supporting the mayor's opponent.

A predator fish in California has lost its White House support

A still-controversial 1992 law intended to boost California's striped-bass population can be scaled back, the Obama administration now believes. In a modest softening of the state's polarized water debate, a top Interior Department official voiced sympathy Wednesday for a Republican-authored bill that would end the 1992 law's stated goal of doubling the number of striped bass living in and around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. "It makes sense to remove the striped bass from the doubling goals," said Tom Iseman, deputy assistant secretary for water and science, adding that "the striped bass is a predator of native species." Maintaining the goal of doubling the predatory striped-bass population potentially undermines the 1992 law's accompanying goals of doubling the populations of other fish that ascend the Delta and Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Retailers use VR for new visual concepts

VR, PAGE 1

room sizes, equipment, colors and finishings. Shoppers can give Lowe's the dimensions of a room and fill it from a selection of thousands of Lowe's products.

Then they slip on an Oculus Rift virtual reality headset to look at how all the elements play together (an employee can switch out parts of the room while the customer is still looking). The design is also viewable at home on YouTube 360 with a Google Cardboard viewer, which Lowe's gives out free through on-site vending machines.

Kyle Nel, executive director of Lowe's Innovation Labs, said the Holoroom helps nudge people over the biggest hurdle when it comes to a room refresh: imagining what those changes will look like in real life.

"If you think about the way people conceptualize remodels now, it's really abstract," Nel said. "They go and get a little swatch here and one there and lay it on a table."

But with virtual reality, people can get a much more

"holistic" and immersive view of how a slab of marble or different paint color can change an entire room - drastically increasing the likelihood that they will go with Lowe's for their project, Nel said.

"It removes five steps along the way," he said. "Anyone who has done a renovation has a really visceral reaction."

Virtual reality headsets mimic the sights and sounds you find in the real world, using a combination of motion-tracking, graphics and algorithms. The next step for Lowe's is incorporating Microsoft HoloLens and Google's Project Tango, where virtual objects can be overlaid on top of real objects.

"You can stand in your own kitchen and overlay a fridge on top of your own fridge," Nel said. "It's uncannily real."

Although the virtual reality industry is still in the early stages, its annual revenue is forecasted to grow from less than \$1 billion to \$30 billion by 2020, according to advisory firm Digi-Capital. Annual sales of headsets could hit half a billion by 2025, Piper Jaffray predicts.

Down the line, as virtual reality becomes more mainstream and consumers buy their own headsets, much of so-called v-commerce could move away from stores and into the home. That means you could walk through a store and browse for new jeans all without leaving your couch.

But analysts say companies have to be smart about deploying virtual reality so that it's brand-relevant and doesn't feel gimmicky.

Virtual reality is also being used to add an experiential aspect to in-store shopping, unrelated to the actual buying of products. Retailers are dabbling in virtual reality for the same reason they are adding other conveniences like curbside pickup to lure people back into stores. They figure that the sci-fi aspect of VR is a form of entertainment that can't be replicated from behind a computer screen.

"Retailers have been down for so long, they have got to differentiate themselves to get people to shop," said Ron Friedman, a retail expert at advisory and accounting firm Marcum in Los Angeles.

Anti-hazing resources are available on FIU campus

HAZING, PAGE 1

it or not, strict FL hazing laws have been as a result of misbehavior of band members not greek members."

She also said that you can find this behavior on campus with the ROTC military program and many additional organizations. Medrano said, "other student clubs have also been charged with hazing allegations, but they don't always get the same type of media attention."

Greek Life at FIU offers many opportunities for anti-hazing and anti-misbehavior efforts for new members, recruitment chairs, and for the rest of the community.

Some of the initiatives that FIU offers for those involved with Greek Life are: FIU Greeks 101 new member workshop, online hazing prevention modules, greek summit workshop sessions, recruitment roundtable meetings, FIU Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute initiatives, and Hazing Prevention Week that usually takes place in the third week in September.

CAPS at FIU also works with organizations, including Greek Life, to combat misbehavior. This year CAPS has focused on working on the It's On Us campaign, and has hosted educational presentations for greek organizations.

Wendy Ordonez, CAPS coordinator of outreach and educational media, said in an e-mail to Student Media "as part of the It's On Us committee we hosted Tony Porter, who talked about masculinity and 'breaking out of the man box'."

"Peer Educators gave out shirts and had a trivia game about violence against women. This took place April 20, with two sessions opened to the Greeks,"

wrote Ordonez. "One at noon in the GC Ballrooms, another one at the Stadium Club at 6:30 pm." 357 students were reportedly in attendance for the events.

If students have been victims of hazing or any other forms of bullying on campus, Medrano said "if a student has been a victim of hazing, they can report the incident anonymously to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution... You can also search on the FIU Website in Student Conduct link for 'Report an Incident'."

"The University knows that all fraternities and sororities are values based organizations and we expect them to behave as such," said Medrano. "Any organization that behaves contrary to what their ritual suggests is an organization that is not congruent with the values we have discussed within our community."

Medrano also said that "FIU Fraternity and Sorority Life in collaboration with Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution have worked in partnership to hold our students to the highest expectations which means following the policies in the Student Code of Conduct and the National Policies from their respective headquarters, as well as local Fraternity and Sorority Life policies."

Although universities across the nation are responding to misbehavior within Greek Life by discipline or by using pre-emptive measures to educate those involved within these organizations, FIU also provides information for those who have experienced different forms of bullying by reporting it at the student affairs website.

Additional Reporting by TNS staff

THE BEACON

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Face facts: Tubman on the \$20 is insulting

SAM SAYS



SAM SMITH

Move over, Andrew Jackson, you're in Harriet Tubman's seat.

That's what Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew - and many United States citizens - have been saying about the movement to change the face of the \$20 bill.

However, there is some controversy regarding her place on the bill - and not in the way one might think.

At the Washington Post, columnist after columnist has addressed this issue. Feminista Jones even went so far as to say all women, including Harriet Tubman, should be kept off of the bill last year. Not because no woman deserves reverence, but because it is insulting to the memory of a woman who fought adamantly against capitalism and to women who are harmed by the institution daily.

While I disagree that no woman should be included on U.S. currency, in the words of Marshall McLuhan, "the medium is the message." As roundabout as it sounds, there is no way to separate the irony of Harriet Tubman's depiction on the \$20 bill from the commemorative gesture of doing so.

It's certainly well-intentioned, but the fact

of the matter is that memorializing a new face on any form of currency won't mark the end of any socio-economic struggle, especially that of women of color.

Nearly any historical visage, though,

“

I feel like it's very important that we do have members of the black and brown community in historical context, but when we think about putting Harriet Tubman on the \$20, no. She wasn't a person for capitalism or for economics. That's not Harriet Tubman's role in history.

party rewards campaign donors, patrons, friends and family members with government positions upon the party's election.

Just because a man is a founding father or a former president, though he commands

TruLe'sia Newberry
President
Dream Defenders FIU

”

would likely be better than that of Jackson.

With all the reverence due to a previous president of the United States, one must remember he was a slave-owner majorly responsible for the Trail of Tears.

Jackson's presidency also saw the rise of nepotistic politics in the United States in the form of the "patronage system." As can be garnered from the name, a winning political

a level of respect due to his historical significance, does not exempt him from his wrongdoings.

As we have seen in the movement to remove memorials to racist political figures on many college campuses, historical significance does not always warrant iconophilia.

I would argue, though, that Jackson's removal from the \$20, though it is likely for

the best, will not have any significant effect upon the relationship between the United States and its American Indian population. Not being of that descent, though, I can't say it wouldn't at least be an appreciated gesture.

Conversely to Jackson, Tubman is known for her work with the Underground Railroad freeing slaves, advocating for women's suffrage, acting as a Union spy during the Civil War and freeing 700 slaves in the first woman-led armed expedition during that same war.

Certainly, she would be a better role model to print on the bill we produce the second most, superseded only by the \$100 bill. Wouldn't she?

To the previously mentioned Feminista Jones, putting a former slave - a woman once considered property who risked her life to liberate others who had been designated the same way - on the \$20 bill would not be an honor to her memory.

TruLe'sia Newberry, an International Relations and Political Science senior and president of Dream Defenders FIU and founding president of UN Women at FIU, agreed.

SEE MONEY, PAGE 8

Feminism doesn't advocate matriarchal domination

ON THE SCENE



GABRIELLE GARCIA

Despite my efforts, I simply cannot understand why feminism seems to be recognized as a recent societal phenomenon.

Based on personal interactions, it seems to me that many individuals have had a sort of "stunning" revelation: they are feminists.

Now, I am not perturbed or angered at people who advocate for women's rights or believe in the power of women. Rather, I am bothered that such ideals seem to be only recently recognized and are often misconstrued.

Perhaps the best way to address this issue is to explain what feminism is. Despite the negativity that feminism faces, feminism is the advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of political, social and economic equality to men.

There have been many waves of feminism and feminism undergoes changes constantly - just as all other movements do. But what remains constant is feminism's belief in the equality of women when it comes to social, political and economic endeavors.

Quite simply, feminism essentially advocates for gender equality. By no means does feminism suggest matriarchal domination in exchange for patriarchal damnation.

With many members of society so enthralled by the words and thoughts of public figures, it's easy for people to jump on the bandwagon and blindly assume positions that they may not know much of.

Feminism is not intended to impose binaries on society, foster strict gender stereotypes or instigate hateful rhetoric targeted at males. Nor does feminism suggest that women need to reconceptualize who they are as beings.

The only way to address these ongoing inquiries is through dialogue and education. Feminism should hallmark equality and oust ideals of superiority. Feminism has an honorable past and should flourish from it with utmost significance, presently and into the future.

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

NO HAIR TO TEAR



SAM PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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VEGAN VISITORS

Environmentally-conscious clubs seek to raise awareness



CAMILA FERNANDEZ/THE BEACON

Top left: Sarah Bird, senior engineering major and vice president of the Plant-Based Society Club, tastes vegan food.

Right: Bianca Garcia participates at a vegan food sale by Plant-based Society Club with the FIU Garden Club, which gathers on Wednesday's near the Green Library from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bottom: Melissa Subido-Tremblay, a senior nutrition major and Sarah Bird, senior engineering major enjoy the stands at the food sale.

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer
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Much has happened this spring at Florida International University, where the new Plant-Based Society Club has gained more than 100 members.

The club began with a merge between the Plant-Based Society Club and the Vegan/Vegetarian Society. Since then, the club has hosted different events to promote their cause against eating or using animal products.

Plant-Based Society is led by club President, Stephanie Bird and Vice-President, Sarah Bird, two sisters, who are passionate about sustainability. Both traveled to Thailand, where Thai food, like other Asian cuisines, can easily be vegan. Vegan food include, rice, noodles, vegetables and no cheese, butter or milk.

PBS has worked with different campus organizations, like the FIU Garden Club,

which hosts an organic farmer's market every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. near the University's Green Library.

The two clubs have raised funds together selling organic and vegan foods on campus, like peanut butter and chocolate Buckeye Balls.

"I first went vegan my freshman year at FIU, almost three years ago," said Sarah Bird, a junior environmental engineering major.

Sarah said she met vegan students during a road trip to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania for an environmental leadership summit. She said they inspired to live a plant-based lifestyle, which allows her to make an impact on health and the environment.

According to Food Navigator USA, 36 percent of U.S. consumers either prefer milk alternative and use meat alternatives, which is substantially greater than those who claim they are vegan at seven percent.

"I feel better than ever since

going vegan. [The club] is here to support anyone interested in living a healthier, greener, and more compassionate lifestyle in whatever way we can," Sarah

“ [The club] is here to support anyone interested in living a healthier, greener, and more compassionate lifestyle in whatever way we can.

Sarah Bird
Vice President
Plant-Based Society Club

said.

The clubs also worked to fight against developers and administration on campus, who are currently building athletic facilities at the University's Nature Preserve at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

A petition was created to show the number of students who opposed the plan.

During the semester, PBS

and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) 2, have worked closely together to promote veganism. PETA 2 is similar to PETA, which promotes animal rights campaigns, which include ending fur and leather use and meat and dairy consumption.

PETA 2 representative, Erica Melamed, helped host Humane Meat April Fools on April 1. Nearly 50 people participated at the tabling event, which was funded by PETA 2. Free vegan meat was offered, and a petition on getting more vegan options on campus brought attention.

The club and PETA 2 also hosted a Rainforest Tarp Demo event, where about 100 people participated. A red tarp was used to demonstrate how eating meat destroys a certain amount of rainforest every 1/10 of a second.

Food was funded by PETA 2, and several members from PBS brought homemade food.

"A lot of people were a bit confused on the statistics of the demo, but after some quick

research, I was able to come up with a short monologue to tell people about how much they make sense," said Melamed.

"Many of the members were actually very interested in learning how to go right out and speak to people and have the confidence to do it. This event was so much fun and a really great way to get people to notice us and come speak with us about the issue," she said.

PBS and PETA 2 have also hosted several film screenings, like Cowspiracy and Vegucated. On April 26, both will host a Meat-Out day event, where they've used the hashtag #DaretoBePlantBased. Speakers include James Wildman, Animal Rights Foundation of Florida humane educator and Elyssa Diehl, Humane League SouthFlorida Grassroots director.

With hopes to continue to grow and promote sustainability and plant-based diets, PBS will continue their progress as one of few vegan clubs on campus.



SEE MY BODY



GUETHSHINA ALTEÑA/THE BEACON

Left: Phi Delta Epsilon's students poses as models to showcase diseases at the "Body Exhibit" to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals in the GC pit on Tuesday, April 26, 2016.

Right: Subzero Ice Cream and Yogurt sells ice cream to fundraise for the Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

Bottom: Students visit the disease showcase and enjoy ice cream.

New initiative to bring luck to graduating students

CAYLA BUSH
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Luck can sometimes be hard to find, which is why the Wellness and Recreation Center at BBC would like to provide graduating students with a little extra.

Beginning this year, students can purchase and decorate padlocks, and lock them on the fence at the Aquatic Center in honor of luck. The new initiative, called Locks of Luck, was brought to the University by Elias Bardawil, director of the Wellness and Recreation Center.

"Locks of Luck is a new

graduation tradition that is hosted by the Wellness and Recreation Center at BBC," Bardawil said. "The idea came about from the Locks of Love idea on bridges in Paris. I said, 'What if we can do the same thing for students at FIU and this is their Locks of Luck, toward success and affinity to the University?'"

The tradition, Bardawil said, is open to any University student, regardless of the campus they're on most often.

"We wanted the students to have a lasting memory of their time in the Wellness and Recreation Center on BBC," Bardawil said. "When they

walk into the facility, the staff congratulates them on their graduation. We walk them to the dedicated space at the Aquatic Center where we take their pictures and their locks are placed. The event has been very well received."

Students interested in participating in the initiative can participate during the three times a year when cap and gowns are distributed, at the Wellness and Recreation table at the BBC bookstore. Alumni can also participate during this time as well.

Tubman causes controversy

MONEY, PAGE 3

"I think that it's disrespectful," said Newberry to Student Media. "I feel like it's very important that we do have members of the black and brown community in historical context, but when we think about putting Harriet Tubman on the \$20, no. She wasn't a person for capitalism or for economics. That's not Harriet Tubman's role in history."

Indeed, it seems rather ham-handed to slap the face of an anti-capitalist icon onto currency. I somehow doubt any foreign powers will think the United States more progressive for simply exchanging a slave-owner for an abolitionist on our greenbacks.

"I think it is an insult, most definitely," said Newberry. "It's like a ploy. I don't know the end-all be-all reason, but I think it's out of place and inappropriate."

In fact, before the

controversy, could you have named the faces on the dollar bill increments? Or on our coins? Personally, I had to look up who was on the \$50 bill. It's Ulysses S. Grant. That rather makes Jackson the odd-man-out on issues of slavery. Even Washington on the \$1 bill, who owned slaves, was a proponent for slavery's gradual abolition.

Though I think Jackson should be replaced on the front of the bill, the point of the controversy is best voiced by Newberry.

"I don't feel like those who are humanitarians and abolitionists, people who fought for rights, should be on the staple piece of parchment that supports global commodity and capitalism," she said.

Sam Says is a bi-weekly column discussing social justice issues in popular culture and current events. For further commentary, contact Sam at sam.smith@fiusm.com.

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SERIAL DEFENDER

The Panthers defeated Florida Atlantic University in a three-game series at the FIU Baseball Stadium 2-1. The team struggled all weekend, winning 7-6 Friday, April 22; 4-3 Saturday, April 23; and losing 1-9 Sunday, April 24. The University now stands at 7-11 in the conference, and 19-22 overall.

Left: Right-handed pitcher Cody Crouse pitches to the home plate against FAU Friday, April 22.

Below: Center Zack Soria faces off against the FAU pitcher during Saturday's game.



MEGAN TAIT/ THE BEACON

SOFTBALL

FIU wins series 2-1

SANTIAGO ARCHIERI
Staff Writer
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The FIU softball team played and won against an out-of-conference opponent for the last time this season.

Saturday, April 23, FIU took the field for the first of two games of the night, in their three-game series against Florida Gulf Coast University.

The first game was action filled, as the teams combined for 20 hits in a slugfest. It was a back and forth game in which neither team would back down.

FIU tied it in the second inning at 2-2, but a two-run homerun in the fourth by Chandler Middlebrook switched the lead again.

FIU closed the gap to 4-3 in the fifth after an Ashley Leon RBI single that followed a leadoff triple from Jackie Schoff. The one run deficit was the closest the Panthers would get for the rest of the game, dropping the game 6-4.

Megan Kugelmann took the loss, dropping her record to 6-5 for the season. She allowed two home runs, both being two run shots, five total hits and walked two in her 3.1 innings pitched.

Leon led the bats with three hits, while Belans had two RBI on two hits.

Corrine Jenkins put the Panthers back in shape in the second game, throwing a three-hit shutout. This marks her 13th career shutout but just the first of the season. She improved to 6-8, striking out six and not walking a single batter in what can be called the best game of her senior year.

The game broke open in the fifth inning, as Leon put FIU on the board with a two-run RBI single. Cather Aleima Lopez provided an RBI single in the sixth, an inning that also featured two FGCU errors to add to the Panther lead. FIU won the game 4-0.

During Sunday's game the pitching shined again

for the Panthers, but it was Abby Summers who had her heroics on the mound.

Summers tossed her fourth complete game of the season, allowing one run and five hits in a 3-1 win to give FIU the series.

FIU was scoreless until the fourth, when Stephanie Teixeira hit a double, and went on to score after a Lauren Williams RBI-single. Teixeira then went on to hit her 40th RBI of the season in the sixth inning, an inning in which FIU scored two runs.

FGCU scored their lone run in the sixth inning. Summers was one strikeout away from her career high, finishing the game with five. Summers also improves to 10-7 for the season, the first FIU pitcher to reach 10 wins this year.

The Panthers are back on the road next weekend in their second to last series of the season against Marshall University. The three game series will get underway Saturday, April 30 with a doubleheader.

SOCCER

Lack of soccer fandom in Miami raises concerns

SANTI SAYS



SANTIAGO ARCHIERI

Miami FC provided complimentary tickets to FIUSM without guarantee that the game would be covered. Santiago used these tickets to watch the game against OKC Rayo,

Soccer has always been a huge part of my life, so when I was given the chance to attend the Miami FC game on Friday, April 22, I immediately accepted it.

I have played soccer the majority of my life, covered the Fort Lauderdale Strikers for a brief period and have been anxiously following any news about the Miami MLS team.

About a year ago, news broke about the National American Soccer League expanding and bringing a team down to Miami. The Miami FC found a temporary home right across the street from my dorm, so of course I had to check it out.

The game against the OKC Rayo was the first Miami FC game I attended. I was disappointed to see a ton of empty seats,

especially after over 10,000 fans filled the stands for their home opener just two weeks prior to this match.

I sat there with plenty of room around me, but ten minutes before kickoff, a lightning delay of nearly two hours sent most of the fans home. It didn't help that when the match finally did get underway, not many people wanted to sit on the wet bleacher seats of the Ocean Bank Field.

The game itself was electrifying, and came down to the wire.

The OKC Rayo were able to pull off a 3-2 victory with a last second goal. Sadly, not too many people were able to enjoy it.

I had a great time at the game, but if you are going to enjoy the experience rather than the game, it's not the scene for you.

The empty seats and poor fan support is making me concerned about the future of soccer in Miami. I have always been an avid supporter of bringing soccer down to Miami, but fans have to show how bad they want it.

The Miami FC have done a terrific job

SEE MIAMI FC, PAGE 7

NBA

0-100 (million) real quick: Hassan Whiteside worth a maximum contract

SANTI SAYS



SANTIAGO ARCHIERI

With the NBA post season underway, the Miami Heat have one goal, win their fourth championship in franchise history.

Once it is all said and done, fans will focus

on what is bound to be one of the most exciting free agency periods of all time, possibly topping the 2010 frenzy.

Now, while everyone might have their sights on LeBron James (#HeGone), Kevin Durant and countless others, I'm going to place a lot of my attention on Miami Heat big man, Hassan Whiteside.

When every fan turned their backs on him, when the media questioned his decisions, when people complained about his passing or attitude, I had to stay backing him up.

I was under fire most of the time, and it was understandable. No one wants a potential franchise player to be acting in such a way that he might be causing more problems than he's solving, but I just knew that he was

prepared to turn it around.

And every time I defended Whiteside, I would get the same replies; "He is too much of a kid. He can't behave. He doesn't belong in the league." But sure enough, the All-Star break ends, and Whiteside starts to make new marks in Miami Heat history.

Granted, he did have issues earlier in the season. I accept that there were occasional bone-headed moves, but I never saw a fan base want to get rid of such a talented player like I saw Heat fans having a picnic with his contract on the ESPN trade machine.

But why keep Whiteside? Let's break it down into fixing his attitude, improvement, and talent.

The first issue was his attitude. Too many technicals Hassan, why do you get so many technical fouls! He had seven technical fouls and got ejected twice in 2015. Not awful, but certainly something that a relatively new player should tone down on. And tone it down he did, as he finished the year with four technical fouls and got ejected once, an ejection that broke Heat fans.

It came in the fourth quarter in a blowout loss against the Spurs, when he elbowed Boban Marjanovic in the

face. Whiteside actually apologized for the stupid play, and it was the last time we saw anything of that sort for the rest of the season.

We see Whiteside bonding more with his teammates. And clearly, Whiteside improved his attitude, and that improvement is the next category. He did not just fix the attitude, he improved it. You don't see Whiteside argue with referees as much or get upset like before. He has gotten a lot better at keeping his cool, a big issue from his first season with Miami.

His free throw shooting went from 50 percent to 65 percent in a season. While that may not be a great stat on paper, it is important to note that he has consistently shot over 75 percent from the line ever since changing his routine with Assistant Coach Juwan Howard. Hassan has become better at the line consistently.

Whiteside is also developing new arsenals to his game, whether on the defensive side or offensive end. He has a nice looking jumper, is creating looks with newfound post moves, started passing the ball a lot more, setting solid screens to create lobs, and is improving even more on the defense.

The talent part, this is where it gets fun. Whiteside ended the season averaging 14.2 points per game along with 11.8 rebounds. He was third in the league in rebounding, third in field goal percentage (.606) and seventh in PER (25.7).

And some people might never forget Rudy Gobert subtweeting "Blancote", saying that numbers can sometimes hurt a team. Well, with Bosh having to miss nearly half the season yet again, I don't think those numbers hurt a team that finished third in the Eastern Conference. Au-Revoir to that argument Gobert, enjoy the playoffs with your numbers that didn't help your team enough.

But wait, there's more! Stephen Curry, JJ Redick, and Kevin Durant were the only players above Whiteside in true shooting percentage at the end of the season. No player had a better defensive rating than Whiteside, who averaged 3.7 blocks per game, led the league with 267 blocks, which was 92 more than the runner up. Just remember, no one did it with blocks, as Whiteside went on to finish the season with four triple doubles. Did I mention he played under 30 minutes per game and came off the bench in 30 games?

Don't get this all confused for me making a case that Whiteside is the next Kareem, that his defense should put him number one on the all-time list for defensive players or that he should be next to Steph Curry on the three point shootout just because he has a jumper. I am not creating an unrealistic look for Whiteside, I am just laying down the numbers and facts on the table.

Now, my argument is not that Miami will give Whiteside a max contract, or that they should. But his value might be overlooked in free agency, because there are so many stars on the market. As much as I would love for my team to retain him in free agency, the league is a business, and that's how all decisions should be based. If Miami is unable to keep him, I am sure that he will find money and a new home elsewhere. Whiteside just might be willing to take a bit less to stay in Miami, and if that is the case, I say go for it.

Santi Says is a column that shares the experiences and opinions of Santiago Archieri as they relate to sports fans. For suggestions or commentary, email Santiago at santiago.archierri@fiusm.com

NHL

Islanders eliminate Panthers in six games, advance to second round

ALEJANDRO HERNANDEZ
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The Panthers were down 2-1 in the series heading into game four. In an almost a must win game the Florida Panthers needed to win game four to turn back the advantage to their side.

After being tied in the first period at zero Panthers' forward Teddy Purcell gets the first goal of the game and with that goal the Panthers have scored first in each of the four games played.

The game remained balanced as the two even teams were exchanging shots through the second period until Islanders Captain John Tavares sniped a top shelf goal on the power play past Panthers goaltender Roberto Luongo to tie the game at one with 15 seconds left in the second period.

The Panthers were 20 minutes away from tying the series at two but needed a goal in order to take the lead until Alex Petrovic shot it passed Islanders goaltender Thomas Greiss with 10 minutes left in the third period.

With in the final seconds the Panthers had a late scare as the Islanders tried everything with the goaltender pulled to try and tie the game but Luongo stood tall as well as the Panthers defense and sealed the 2-1 victory.

The series was headed back to Florida from game five.

After the Islanders lost game four in they're building they felt they needed to do a better job and coming out strong in the Panthers building. They exactly did that

as the Islanders scored the first goal first time in the series as Frans Nielsen scored the first goal of the game off a rebound of Panthers goaltender Roberto Luongo.

The Panthers and Islander were even in each category in this series and battled through the first two periods.

Panthers were down 1-0 to start the third period until young phenom Aleksander Barkov received a superb pass from Alex Petrovic to tie the game with a deflected pass.

The Panthers ended up going into overtime. The Panthers before that night were 0-6 in overtime games since their cup run in 1996. Both teams exchanged shots and point blank scoring chances but it remained tied after the first overtime.

The Panthers got into penalty trouble in the second overtime as Derek Mackenzie took a questionable slashing penalty. Unfortunately for the Panthers with 33 seconds left to kill off the penalty Islanders rookie Alan Quine scored his first career playoff goal for the game winning shot to give the Islanders a 2-1 victory in overtime and also a 3-2 series lead.

With one more win for the Islanders for them to clinch the Panthers were on the brink of elimination for game 6. The series was headed back to Brooklyn.

The start of the game was as predicted from the Panthers as Jonathan Huberdeau scored his first career playoff goal with one minute left in the first period.

The second period was all defense for both sides. Each team had their scoring chance but both goalies were on their game especially Roberto Luongo from the Panthers that two shutout periods headed into the third period.

This game 6 felt like it was a game 7 the Islanders fans were very loud and were a key factor late in the third period as the Islanders were trailing by one goal in the final minute of the game.

With 35 seconds left the Islanders had pulled their goalie to get an extra striker to try and score the tying goal.

The Panthers had the puck possession in the Islanders zone and were tripped up twice on the same play that until this day there is still some controversy on the no calls that cause the game.

After that series of trips the Islanders came roaring right back into the Panthers zone and managed to put one past Roberto Luongo that left a loose puck next to his crease which Captain John Tavares once again scored to tie the game headed into overtime.

It was the second straight game gone to overtime and third of the series. There was no score in the first overtime, which caused another overtime.

In double overtime the Panthers gave it there all but unfortunately were on the opposite end of it and once again Islanders captain Tavares scored his second goal of the game and the game winning goal which helped the Islanders move to the second round of the playoffs for first time since 1993.

The Panthers were officially eliminated from the playoffs. For the Panthers fans the Cinderella story has come to an end and it was a phenomenal season this year with all the young players they have developed over the years and have a very bright future for this organization and the fans should be really excited.

SOCCER

Miami FC experiences lack of support

MIAMI FC, PAGE 6

of promoting themselves around the University campus. I always see the club's colors around the Graham Center and cheap tickets up for grabs, but as I asked around, not many students were aware of the team playing literally across the street from where they live.

With the right support and growth, the Miami FC could be something special. On the field, it is understandable to not expect instant success, because the team is still only in its first year. As time goes on, I can see a breakthrough coming for the program. The game was only their first loss of the season, and they are still building chemistry.

With wins, the fans will come. Sadly, that is how all Miami sports tend to be.

It doesn't matter to me what division or league this team is in, because for the first time in a long span, Miami has professional soccer. Those "die-hard" fans that are urging for an MLS team should be rooting the little brothers in the NASL, because ultimately, it is professional soccer.

As of now, the Miami FC program has to piece everything together. There is a lot missing to make the experience at those home games more entertaining, but they are on the right track.

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Mejia, the first re-elected SGC-BBC president in almost 20 years

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For the first time in nearly 20 years, BBC students have re-elected an SGC-BBC president to serve a second term.

Allhan Mejia, a senior seeking a dual degree in marketing and environmental sustainability, was elected to serve a second presidential term last Thursday, April 21. The last student to be elected twice was Arthur Papillon whose second term lasted from 1997-1998.

“The expectations this year [for candidacy] were a bit higher than the year before, because that first go round was a coin flip [between the two candidates],” said Mejia. “I actually only ended up winning by 42 votes that first time around.”

“But this year... I ended up getting 66 percent of the votes,” he said. “So it seemed like everyone expected that result because I was coming in as the current sitting president.”

The pressure of meeting his peers’ expectations for victory added more stress to this year’s campaign, according to Mejia.

He said, “People were just like ‘yea, you’ll get it.’”

“So [the feeling] was like ‘woah, if I don’t get it, that’s even scarier,’” he said.

The purpose of his campaign was to have a chance to complete certain projects that were started during his last term, according to Mejia.

“There are some really cool things that we want to do that we haven’t been able to do since it takes a lot of adjustments during that first year [as president],” he said. “It’s because of all the people you have to meet, all the

people that you have to connect with in order to even get past the red tape to get approval for these projects.”

“Next year it will be a lot smoother for us to get our projects accomplished,” Mejia said.

Among those projects is a Zen Garden Mejia hopes to add to the second floor balcony of the Wolfe Center.

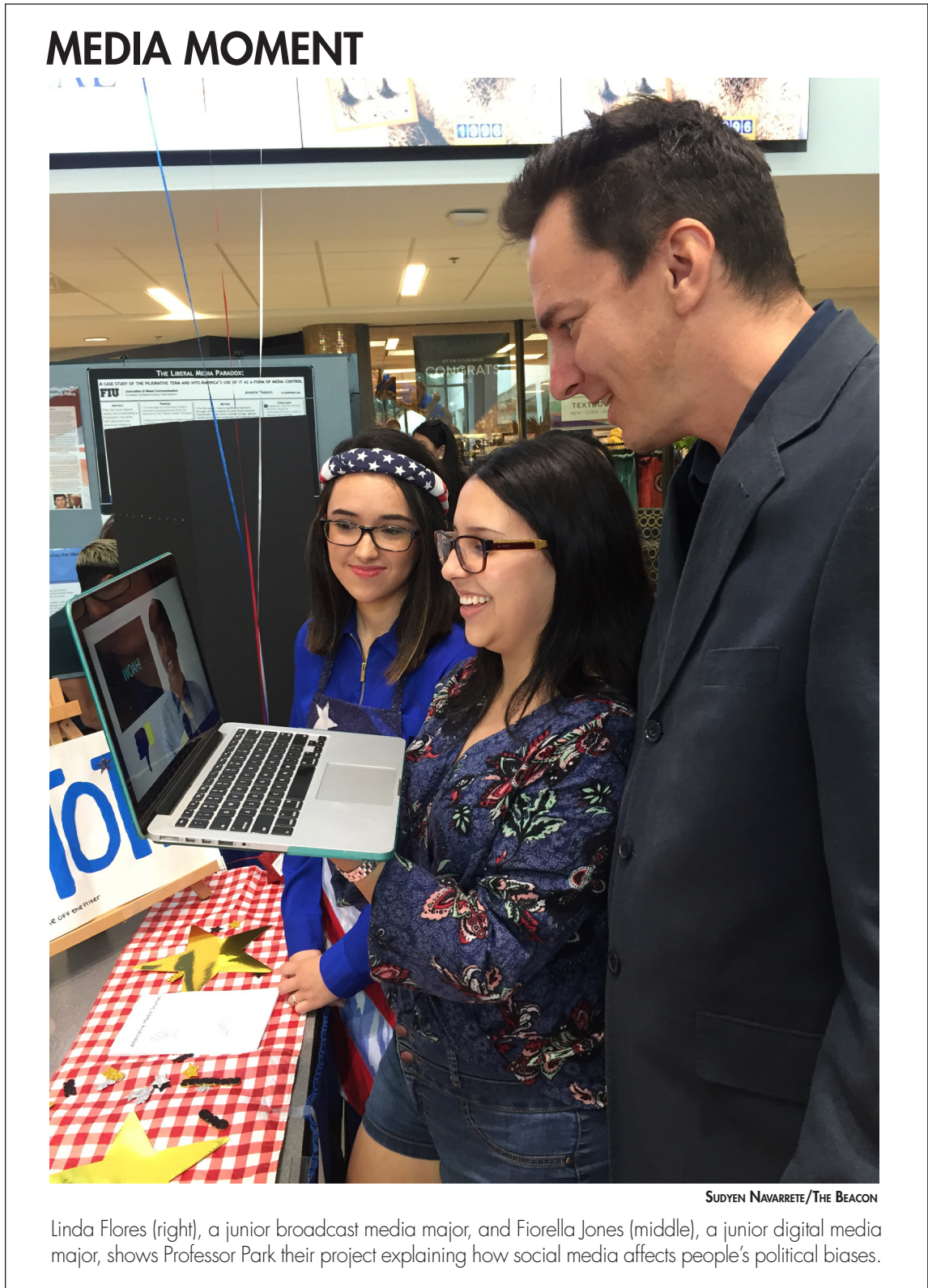
“It’s an outdoor space where there’s going to be a chalkboard wall called a ‘Wall of Positivity,’” he said.

Students will be able to write positive thoughts and words of encouragement on the wall for others in the community to see.

“[SGC-BBC] will put some plants that attract butterflies into the garden,” said Mejia. “So it’ll be a nice little space where students can go to just relax.”

For now members of SGC are getting price quotes and reaching out to vendors to help complete the project, according to Mejia.

Mejia says the project won’t be approved until after the Wolfe Center has made some



SUDYEN NAVARRETE/THE BEACON

Linda Flores (right), a junior broadcast media major, and Fiorella Jones (middle), a junior digital media major, shows Professor Park their project explaining how social media affects people’s political biases.

is also a large part of his future initiatives as SGC-BBC president.

paper use in the Wolfe Center by putting hand dryers in the bathroom.”

Mejia also wants to pursue programs that benefit the influx of housing students that will be living in the soon-to-be opened Bayview Housing. Some of the programs include movie nights and partnering with different government councils around BBC to help new residents move into their dorms.

“I think that we’re going to have more students engaged,” said Mejia about the changes he expects to see around campus with the new residents. “Right now there are no students here past a certain hour.”

He said, “Now that we have housing, there’s going to be 410

students living here 24/7. So it’s going to allow us to actually have those students be here full time and a set niche of students we can always have an event for.”

Going into his second term, Mejia expects a smoother presidency and says there’s at least one valuable lesson he plans on taking with him into the new term.

“Start the projects earlier. A lot earlier,” he said. “We started [our projects] in almost late-Fall”

“That was on [SGC-BBC] because we were so focused on regrouping at first,” he said. “But now we want to do that [start the projects earlier] but also be more patient.”

“The expectations this year [for candidacy] were a bit higher than the year before, because that first go round was a coin flip [between the two candidates], this year... I ended up getting 66 percent of the votes.”

Allhan Mejia
President
SGC-BBC

renovations to the area. Even then, he says, he would still have to take the proposal the center’s Space Committee.

Environmental sustainability

“In the Wolfe Center bathrooms, we don’t have any hand dryers - we’re using paper to dry our hands,” said Mejia. “I think that we could reduce our



The Beacon will return to production for Summer Semester B.

WRGP will continue broadcasting, and you can keep up to date with updated FIU news and sports on fiusm.com.