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DEBT DEFEATED

University offers alternative college affordability options for students

GUETHSHINA ALTENA
News Director

University announced 'the Golden Promise' a program that covers the remaining cost of tuition for incoming freshmen that are receiving the full support amount of pell grant starting in the Fall 2017.

At the Access and Affordability forum, Raquel Perez, a CARTA professor moderated the discussion between President Mark B. Rosenberg, Director of Office of Scholarships Laura Castillo, Director of Financial Aid Francisco Valines; SGC-MMC President Alian Collazo.

The panel streamed live on the Roar on Wednesday Feb. 8 between 1p.m. and 2:30p.m.

"We are a public University that believes that eligible students ought to have the opportunity to get a four year degree, that eligible students belong here and have the ability to succeed here," Rosenberg said.

Students with an estimated family contribution of zero dollar, Golden promise students, will automatically receive the remaining balance for their tuition in form of FIU scholarships, grants or loans. The aid amount will be added to their financial award letter at the beginning of the year.

"There are a lot of resources here that should be able to get you to the finish line and beyond," Rosenberg said.

Students voiced their concerns about the lack of classes availability at both campuses and the travel time to get from one campus to the other. They explained that it is quite inconvenient when it comes to getting from one class at the north campus to get to another class at the south campus within an hour.

Rosenberg said the University is aiming for a "24/7, 365 availability of courses" some classes may have to be online but they are working with students to provide the varying coursework needed at the different campuses.



MARTINA BRETOUS/THE BEACON

From left to right: Panelists Laura Castillo, Alian Collazo, Francisco Valines, and President Mark B. Rosenberg talk to moderator Raquel Perez and audience about options to graduate with less debt on Wednesday February 8, 2017.

"We are a public University whose faculty understands why they are here and have the purpose to ensure that our students get a 'Worlds Ahead' education" He said.

Rosenberg said that FIU is a public University relatively young by north american public university standards but he sees our youth is an advantage.

"We believe that our youth gives us the ability to be far more responsive to our students than the older, more established institutions of Higher Education" Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg said that a good lesson for him when he first arrived to the University in 1976 from the University Pittsburg was seeing the faculty work day and night with a very special,

highly motivated, hardworking student body.

The University of Pittsburgh is about 230 years old and their system consisted of faculty teaching classes during the day and graduate

SEE ACCESS, PAGE 2

BISCAYNE BAY

University to host 11th annual town hall meeting

GUETHSHINA ALTENA
News Director

For the 11th time in FIU's history, the University will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting with President Rosenberg at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Student Government Association of Biscayne Bay Campus will be in attendance to have an open dialogue with students and FIU President Rosenberg about the future of BBC.

Dianne Morales the SGA BBC Director of Events has been helping in the planning of the annual town hall meeting for the last two years.

"It's a good venue for students to see the relationship between their student government representative and the president himself." Morales said "It's a good opportunity for students to learn that their voices can be heard and they are avenues to which they can express their

concerns, not only through the town hall meeting through contacting their student government representative as well.

Morales said that this meeting is also important to put a face to names of the representatives of the student body and highlight the relationship SGA BBC has with the president and the role they play in helping to facilitate those kind of conversations.

"Students voiced their concerns in the past about the lack of food options and the availability of some classes at the Biscayne Bay campus." Morales said.

The town hall meeting will take place with the participation of the Assistant Vice-President of Student Affairs Eric Ameson, President Rosenberg, and SGA President and FIU Foundation Board Member Allhan Mejia.

"Before taking questions, President Rosenberg will update

students and people attending about the ongoing projects that the University has." Morales said.

The meeting discussion will be guided by the types of questions asked by the audience, which is why Morales recommends attendees to come ready with questions and concerns that they may have.

"It's open to all students and anybody who is part of the FIU community" Morales said, encouraging interested students who primarily goes to MMC or EC to attend the meeting as well.

RSVP online is available at go.fiu.edu/sgabbctownhall

The town hall meeting will take place in the Wolfe University Center's May Ann Wolfe Theatre from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information contact the SGA BBC office at 305-919-5680.

Students reelects on escort services

MICHAEL ANALCO
Contributing writer

Tuition is a very common financial issue that college students struggle with every semester.

Some seek out scholarships and grants opportunities or loans to help pay for their college expenses.

According to research conducted in 2015 by Ohio State University, 70 percent of college students stress about having to pay for school. About half of students surveyed said they worry about making monthly ends meet.

With students work minimum wage jobs while attending school, students like Elio Gonzalez, a sophomore majoring in finance, said he wonders what lengths students go to in order to afford school.

"Luckily my mom helps me pay for my school," said Gonzalez,

Lately the sex and escort industry has received a boost from college students. Websites like SeekingArrangement.com have become viable options for

college students who struggle to pay for college.

In an interview conducted in 2011 by the Huffington Post with the founder of the website, Brandon Wade, estimated that of the 800,000 "sugar babies,"-- those who work as the escorts in the site-- about 35 percent of them were college students.

When asked about the number of college students using sites like Seeking Arrangement to pay for school and tuition, Gonzalez said he was unaware that students would go these lengths.

"I mean, I knew that students would work in places like strip clubs and as dancers at clubs. I actually have a friend who joined a male strip club and gets booked for shows all the time," said Gonzalez.

"I just never realized that escort services were common ways for girls and guys to pay for school. I've

SEE ESCORT, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Trump administration is considering new, narrower travel ban, officials say

Rebuffed again by the courts, the Trump administration is weighing a new, more narrowly tailored executive order to restrict entry into the U.S. that would forestall further legal wrangling — even as the president himself vowed Friday to “do whatever is necessary to keep our country safe.”

One day after three appeals court judges unanimously refused to reinstate the president’s order barring travelers from seven predominantly Muslim nations, Trump again said his administration would ultimately prevail in court.

“We will continue to go through the court process and ultimately, I have no doubt we will win,” he told reporters at a White House news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

But he also previewed actions he said his administration may take “having to do with the additional security for our country.”

“We will not allow people into our country who are looking to do harm to our people. We will allow lots of people into our country that will love our people and do good for our country,” he said.

Trump said he could act as soon as next week.

Fearing deportations, Mexico warns its citizens in the US

The much-publicized deportation of an immigrant who had been living illegally in Arizona prompted the Mexican government on Friday to urge its nationals in the United States to “take precautions” amid a “new reality” for the immigrant community.

The expulsion of Guadalupe Garcia de Rayos, a Mexican citizen and mother of two U.S.-born children, “illustrates the new reality of the Mexican community living in the United States in the face of more severe application of migration controls,” the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CORRECTIONS

In Volume 1, Issue 3, the article titled “Heroic Heritage” incorrectly paraphrased quotes attributed to Percy Hintzen, director of African and African Diaspora Studies. The story has been corrected online to accurately reflect his beliefs and quotes.

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

University organize student forum for Bayview residents

GUETHSHINA ALTENA
News Director

On Feb. 7, students gathered in the Bayview H. Clubroom at the Biscayne Bay campus to share their concerns with the University SGA-BBC.

Leonardo Cosio, the vice-president of SGA-BBC was present and helped in the realization of the event.

“I think for what it was, the forum was really great in terms of attendance. A good amount of people showed up and showed interest by giving feedback”

The assistant vice-president of Student Affairs, Eric Arneson hosted the meeting along with Cosio. The purpose was to find out student’s frustrations about Bayview, the new residential building and the Biscayne Bay campus as a whole.

“We usually host it at the Wolfe Center but this time we wanted to reach Bayview students and give a chance for Bayview students to be heard,” said Anderson. “The forum is an opportunity for student government to do two things, like share new information to students like construction, academic programs and provide more information about the campus. The second part is to get feedback from students and answer their questions.”

Cosio said that one of the main problems students shared at the forum was parking, asking the administration to have the parking lot paved and

they responded by sharing their plans to do so by the summer of 2017.

“One of the main problems that were brought up was the gravel parking lot. It is located between bayview and Academic Center 2,” Cosio said. “Sometimes students overflow parking because there is not enough at Bayview, they would have to park on the gravel”

Limited dining options was also brought up as an issue that the students wants resolved. Especially for resident student, Cosio said students complained on the fact that they only get to choose between Moe’s and Subway.

“SGA met with business services which oversees dining on campus and we told them what we can do to better the options on campus so it’s in the process of being discussed,” said Cosio.

Cosio said that work is already in place to have more options available soon for students to have a rotating menu schedule from restaurants such as Chick-fil-la on some specific days of the week.

Apart from parking and food options, Arneson said that students asked for more student friendly environment.

“Students have expressed their frustrations, for example one of them was that there was a beautiful new Wolfe Center but that it wasn’t very student friendly,” said Arneson. “So from that meeting, I met with the director of the Wolfe

Center and we changed the policy to create an opportunity for students to personalize the windows, put up some banners, put up pictures of students and make it a more student friendly environment.”

While some students at the forum may have expressed their concerns, others had positive insights about the BBC campus.

“People really wanted to discuss the positives too, which was nice. They loved the view from the Bayview building, the resources available to them such as kayaking, paddle boarding, and the excursions from the Wellness and Recreational Center,” Cosio said.

Meredith Marseille, the comptroller of SGA-BBC also participated in this forum for students.

“[The forum] was just to get some input about how living in Bayview was going for students there and any issues that they have with it” Marseille said. “It was also an opportunity to give them an update on SGA and what’s going on with FIU BBC.”

Marseille said that it is convenient to have the meeting at Bayview because lack of housing has always been an issue at BBC. Now that the residential building is there, Marseille thinks that it’s great that they can now address and respond to the concerns of that population of students.

“Forums like this one is open to any FIU students who has something to say

about the way things are run at our campus” Marseille said. “Although this forum specifically targets residents students, we encourage all to participate and have other forums in the semester where it’s targeted to all BBC students.”

The lack of classes was another issue that student brought up, according to Marseille.

“[The administration] is bringing back the Health Services major from the Modesto Maidique campus to the Biscayne Bay campus in the 2017 fall semester. This major will bring 700 to a thousand students to BBC and adding numerous classes along the way,” Marseille said.

Residents assistants for the building also helped answering a couple questions. “It was really nice to see people helping each other out as they each brought up their issues” Marseille said.

Arneson said that the next forum will be in late March or early April.

“Usually our forums are students that are really engaged, student leaders who share a lot of information but what we are trying to figure out better is how to connect with students who are not engaged,” said Arneson. “For instance, students who only go to class but don’t engage on any events or services on campus but we really need their opinion too. At the end of the day our role is to engage students on campus.”

Sex industry: ‘Last resort’

ESCORT, PAGE 1

never met someone who sold their body for sexual purposes [to afford taking classes] so knowing that there might be some students at FIU who do this is kind of upsetting.”

Brittany Peguero,

a senior in business administration in management, said she wasn’t surprised students are escorting to afford school.

“It’s really not that surprising, to be honest. I think that students would rather not get into so much loan debt and

if these services helped you pay for school then you’ve got to do what you’ve got to do,” said Peguero.

Paola Cadena, a junior majoring in biology, said that the college escort service is a result of college being too expensive.

“The increasing number of college students in this business tells me that education is very expensive and students aren’t getting help from other sources.” said Cadena.

“Education is more expensive than it should be,” said Peguero.

Nowadays, we can’t even be as successful as we expected to be with a bachelor’s degree. Most of us need to pursue grad schools degrees to make it in our fields. That equals more money,

Read more at PantherNOW.com

Accessibility forum bring options for students to afford college

ACCESS, PAGE 1

students teaching the night classes for students.

Rosenberg said: “What do we do with every dollar that’s appropriated to us by the state of Florida? How do we spend those dollars and the ones we charge students for Tuition?”

Laura Castillo, the director of Office of Scholarships to talk about the many grant and scholarship opportunities that the University offers. She said that FIU owns a website “fiu academic works”

that compiles a list of all the scholarships available to students from all the departments and colleges throughout the University.

“In the good old days, the funding that we got from the state was based upon a student came through our doors and enrolled; Today, the funding that we get is based upon a student’s graduation”

If a student takes a long time to graduate, which can be appropriate in his or her particular circumstances, that works against the University funding according to Rosenberg.

The state is interested in efficiency, accountability and timely graduation. It is increasingly asking the University to graduate every student in 4 years.

Director of Financial Aid Francisco Valines said the Financial Aid office has a default Prevention team that can help students make informed decisions when it comes to borrowing money to pay for college.

The office also provides one-on-one student loan counseling to all FIU students. For more information contact the Financial Aid office at 305-348-7000

PANTHER PRESS

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Dating in college is different from “any other setting”

WHAT'S UP FIU



LAQUAVIA SMITH

Should love be on our agenda while in college? As a junior at Florida International University, I've noticed over the years that my love life is at times harder than my finals. With love often comes stress and while many believe that relationships are essential to the “college experience,” I beg to differ.

Even though hook-ups and dating can add a few extra “pizzas” to your college life, the end results can be detrimental to your mental, physical and emotional state of being. It's important to note that dating in college is a bit different from dating in any other setting.

In college, you are surrounded by people ranging from the ages of 17 to 25, on average, who at times are overwhelmed and self-absorbed with their own dilemmas.

These issues alone can cause a person to be cruel, nonchalant or even emotionally detached from a situation whenever “dating” is the topic of discussion.

Whether it's an official relationship, a fling or casual dinner dates, it can become intense and at times, excessively draining.

According to The Washington Post, maintaining friendships and relationships are a few of the reasons one can deal with college and the stress that comes along for the ride.

These bonds and memories you create throughout those four years serve as stress relievers. However, they also mentioned that one should “avoid emotionally draining people.”

If I didn't know any better,

I would assume that I attract solely “emotionally draining people,” otherwise known as energy sucking vampires. EDP can be anyone, from your spring semester roommate, to the blonde guy in your calculus class and even your own mother.

Susan Svrluga, the author

“Even I have had my fair share of [emotionally draining people] and it's not a polite feeling. You are constantly juggling with your emotions while simultaneously dealing with the emotions of the said EDP and any other things you have going on.”

of The Washington Post article addressed reasons why one should “not allow friends or family members to dump added stress on you.” She explains that anxiety is indeed contagious during challenging times, especially during finals or homecoming week.

“It is crucial to direct your energy towards your own goals and projects,” she writes.

Even I have had my fair share of EDP and it's not a polite feeling. You are constantly juggling with your emotions while simultaneously dealing with the emotions of the said EDP and any other things you have going on.

I remember having issues with my significant other throughout my freshman year during midterms week and I barely possessed the will or emotional stability to attend any of my exams. Yeah,

dating is tough.

Aside from the thought that relationships, friendships and dating as a whole is beneficial and/or unbeneficial, many believe that in this day and age dating is basically a figment of our imagination and is no longer socially appropriate.

Harvard graduate and writer Charlotte Lieberman argues that her own generation in 2014 helped to begin this trend of emotionally empty individuals that would rather text than speak in person.

“We are a generation frightened of letting ourselves be emotionally vulnerable, addicted to communicating by text, and as a result, neglecting to treat each other with respect,” Lieberman writes in her Cosmopolitan article.

Lieberman walks us through the triumphs and troubles of her own college dating experiences and those of her associates.

“I am terrified of getting emotionally over invested when I'm seeing a guy. I'm scared of being totally honest,” Lieberman's friend, Alix, said.

I, too, have constantly struggled with the tug-of-war of doing too much or doing too little, forever contemplating if I should behave how I want or if I should “play it cool.” I'm not going to lie. The hook-ups and “boo-thangs” that have presented themselves throughout my college career have been more problematic than entertaining.

And don't even begin to talk about social media's impact on this romantic frenzy.

To read the full article, go online to PantherNOW.com

Laquavia Smith is a contributing writer for Panther Press. Her column, What's Up FIU, is a commentary on the latest style and entertainment news.

Less fish means losing the oceans

EYES ON THE EARTH



AMANDA JUNG

Fish have become a staple in American society as well as the diets and cultures of many others around the world.

Chances are you have been on a few fishing trips in your lifetime. And there is an even bigger possibility that you have owned a goldfish or visited an aquarium.

I am guilty of each and every one of the things that I mentioned above.

I have gone on camping trips with my family in which we spent time sitting at docks, waiting for something to get caught on our fishing lines.

I have owned a pet fish that eventually passed away and had to be flushed down the toilet.

And I have been on countless field trips to aquariums in which I have been feet away from hundreds of species of fish, only separated by a piece of glass.

But have you ever stopped to do the math? Fish have become a big part of our diets and on top of that, the entertainment industry.

How many more fish can we remove from the ocean before there are no more left to be caught?

According to National Geographic, “the loss of ocean biodiversity is accelerating” and “if the long-term trend continues... there will be little or no seafood available for sustainable harvest” in the next thirty years.

As humans, we depend on the survival of this ecosystem and with the removal of so many fish from the ocean, we are at risk.

Even more people are hopping on board with the pescetarian diet. In other words, the only meat that they consume is fish.

According to Authority Nutrition, “fish is one of the healthiest foods in the planet.” But what makes it so healthy?

Joe Leech, a dietitian for Authority Nutrition, claims that “it is loaded with important

nutrients, such as protein and vitamin D” and it is also the best source of omega-3 fatty acids.”

However, PETA offers a different point of view, showing that the health benefits are not what they seem.

They state that “the consumption of fish flesh is harmful to humans. Both wild and farmed fish live in increasingly polluted waters and their flesh rapidly accumulates high levels of dangerous toxins.”

They also tell us that “fish are the main, if not the only source of methylmercury” which is linked to cardiovascular disease, fetal brain damage, blindness, deafness and more.

These are similar points that Erica Melamed, the president of Plant-Based Society at FIU, has brought up.

Melamed is currently leading a campaign with the other members of the society titled, “Fishless February.” The goal is to encourage people not to consume fish or support establishments like SeaWorld that captivate fish as a part of their business.

Fish should not be eaten, or kept in tanks for the duration of their lives.

Additionally, a study that was published in UGA Today discovered that “through excretion, [fish] recycle the nutrients they take in, providing the fertilizer seagrass and algae need to grow.”

This study shows that fish do not just deserve to be free but – for the sake of their ecosystem – they need to be. Without them, the unique ecosystems of the oceans will perish.

Every choice we make somehow has an impact on the environment. Consider giving up fish for the month of February, not only in support of Plant-Based Society's campaign, but in support of the environment as well.

Going fishless now will help ensure that our oceans do not have to explore the dark possibility of being fishless forever.

Amanda Jung is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, Eyes on the Earth, is a commentary on current global environmental issues.

LOW-COST DICAPRIO



ERNESTO GONZALEZ/PANTHER PRESS

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. Be sure to include your name, major and year and a photo of yourself. Letters must be less than 400 words and may be edited for clarity and length. Panther Press will only run two letters a semester from any individual.

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LOOKING BACK AT LAST WEEK'S EVENTS



JAYLIN HAWKINS/PANTHER PRESS



JOSHUA CEBALLOS/PANTHER PRESS



MARTINA BRETIOUS/PANTHER PRESS

Top left: Issa Rae, creator of the hit HBO series, "Insecure," speaks to students in the GC Ballrooms about her journey to stardom for BSU's Black History Month speaker series on Feb. 9, 2017.

Top right: On Feb. 7, the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services hosted the "Diversity in the Workplace" event with representatives from Target, Brianna Guilarte and Jorge Solares.

Bottom Left: During Panther Alumni Week, the FIU Alumni Association hosted a meet-and-greet in the GC pit so students could speak with alumnis on Feb. 7, 2017.

Annual 'Kissing Bridge Sweethearts' event 'a part of our university culture'

MICHELLE SILVA
Contributing Writer

This Valentine's Day, students can honor the Kissing Bridge through activities inclusive of all students, regardless of relationship status.

As spring semester advances, Panthers will have the chance to unwind while getting to know the University's history this coming Tuesday, Feb. 14 as they eat and participate in raffles.

Not to be misled by the "sweetheart" in the event title, this event does not exclude students who have yet to kiss someone in front of the Kissing Bridge, since its aim is to foster interest in university history and tradition.

"Student Ambassadors put on the traditional Kissing Bridge event to bring awareness to the tradition of the bridge," former Student Ambassador president, Amanda Cantillo said.

Coordinator of Student Programs, Beatriz Newborn, invites students, faculty, and staff to join in on the Sweetheart Event.

"Attendees will get information about the kissing bridge tradition, giveaways from the FIU Ambassadors and other organizations like SGA along with baked goods and other delicious food, along with Valentine's day decorations and several chance drawings as we raise money for our professional development conference and

FIU scholarships," Newborn said.

Organizations in attendance will also provide venues for students to connect with the University.

Upholding the theme of tradition, FIU's landmark Kissing Bridge continues to serve as the backdrop for the event, which will be situated between the Green Library and the Ryder Business Building.

“

As a student, it can be so easy to get caught up in everything that you're doing and so this is just something that can be not too much effort, to swing by and to see what's going on, and then you get to be a part of something that has been a part of our university culture for many decades,

Simone Worsdale
Alumna

”

For some, the kissing bridge might hold a deeper meaning than a place for students to sit and relax in between classes.

After meeting at the University in 2010, alumna Simone Worsdale and her then-boyfriend, got engaged in late 2012, going on to take some of their engagement pictures in front of the bridge in 2013.

"One of the longest running and consistent,

uninterrupted traditions of FIU," as Worsdale said of the Kissing Bridge, became a part of her love story.

Alumni are not the only ones attached to the Kissing Bridge, students who are just embarking on their FIU journey like second-year student, Carolina Gonzalez, remember their first Sweetheart Tradition fondly. Gonzalez encourages single and taken students alike to attend this year.

"I went last year and it was a lot of fun," Gonzalez said, "it really has nothing to do with, like, 'boyfriend,' or 'girlfriend,' or none of that stuff."

Students who are single, taken, or somewhere in between need one requisite to attend: an interest in embedding university tradition into their lives, according to Worsdale.

"As a student, it can be so easy to get caught up in everything that you're doing and so this is just something that can be not too much effort, to swing by and to see what's going on, and then you get to be a part of something that has been a part of our university culture for many decades," said Worsdale.

Student Ambassadors remain tradition-keepers on campus, Cantillo says, in their efforts to honor the Kissing Bridge.

The event will take place between 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.. For more information, visit fialumni.com. For more information on campus events aimed at long-established customers, visit fialumni.com.

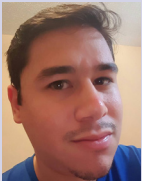
Black History Month Spotlight

Guethshina Altena

“Being black is like a journey you know because of all history that we had, all the ancestors that fight for us. Me as a black person, I feel like I have to live up to that expectation but that’s a good thing because we have a community of people who are supportive and we all stand in this together ... Being black is having the strength to deal with the consequences of being black.”

#MusicMonday

This week’s best music releases

FRESH BAKE

CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ

The first week of February had much to offer music listeners of all genres. Here are five of the most essential tracks you should add to your playlist.

**Vince Staples
“BagBak”**

Coming off the critical acclaim of last year’s “Prima Donna” EP, the Long Beach native offers up spitfire social commentary over a dizzying beat that takes elements from both Southern trap music and early techno. Touching on themes of inclusion, Staples raps “Obama ain’t enough for me/We just gettin started/The next Bill Gates can be on Section 8 up in the projects.”

Staples’ focused anger is belied and often masked by the bubbly energy of the production. Nonetheless, he ends on a repeated affirmation: “We on now,” presented as both a note of optimism and a rallying cry.

**Father John Misty “Ballad
of a Dying Man”**

One of a string of recent releases leading to his upcoming album “Pure Comedy,” the occasionally egotistical folk and

indie pop artist crafts a narrative involving the titular “dying man”, who faces both his own mortality and his impact on those around him. Tillman loosens up on a flexible yet detached vocal performance, occasionally revealing a neat falsetto as he navigates the satirically quotable lyrics.

“Eventually the dying man takes his final breath/But first checks the news feed to see what he’s ‘bout to miss.”

The titular character remains open to interpretation: Is it President Trump, himself, all of us? The vagueness remains nonetheless appealing as the song ends on a satisfying crescendo, marked by a haunting chorus of voices leading us along to an uncertain fate.

**Blanck Mass
“Silent Treatment”**

The latest from the solo project of Benjamin John Power is an alarming and sprawling piece that combines elements of witch house and drone music. A cut-up sample of a chorus of voices greets us at the opening before descending into a pulsating rhythm of sharp percussion and white noise.

Despite the intimidating length of seven minutes, the entire affair moves swiftly, creating an urgent atmosphere that just fades away without resolution.

**Jimi Tents (ft. saidbysed)
“Should’ve Called, Pt. 2”**

Brooklyn rapper Jimi Tents released this direct sequel to his

2015 track “Should’ve Called,” a cut from his debut album, 5 o’clock Shadow. Much in the vein of its predecessor, the track revolves around a smooth non-fussy production centered by a pillowy key arrangement that recalls the work of Mick Jenkins and Kirk Knight.

Much like Jenkins, Tents is introspective and melancholic. At one point, he laments, “I ain’t better/I’m bitter” before navigating scenarios of anxiety and loneliness on the road. R&B unknown saidbysed brings it home with the chorus (“It’s all on me/That’s why they all on me”) complementing Tents’ smooth and confident flow.

Vagabon “Minneapolis”

On her latest from her upcoming *Infinite Worlds*, Cameroon native Laetitia Tamko digs into the reverb-drenched and fast-paced number that recalls the fuzzy indie pop of Dinosaur Jr. and the punchy melodies of Veruca Salt. Her vocal is all playfulness without strain in the celebratory ode to both the titular city and the idea of leaving home and settling into a new place.

While familiar, the adventurous take —check the drop of silence before she rips into the second verse— offers up an exciting peek to her upcoming studio debut.

Fresh Bake is a weekly column that reviews new music releases in various genres.

‘Train’ needs to ‘dig deep for their roots’

MUSIC MATTERS

HAROLD LOPEZ

The group who brought you hits like “Drops of Jupiter” and “Hey, Soul Sister” are back with their 10th studio album, “A Girl, a Bottle, a Boat.” While the group is known for more of an alternative sound, they are taking a new direction with this

album by exploring the pop world.

Starting off with the fun and catchy “Drink Up” with sounds of a fun spring getaway to Malibu, California under the hot sun, the chorus is like a splash of beach water on your face.

“Play That Song” also got a lot of attention as Train incorporated the melody of “Heart and Soul,” written by Hoagy Carmichael and Frank Loesser. It has elements of folk to it

and though they produced very nicely, I think of Nelly Furtado’s “Whoa, Nelly!” when I listen to the track.

“The News” brings us back to the rock band we all love, with the drums kick in the middle of the chorus with the touch of lightning magic. As the album goes deeper, you get more into the teen-pop gushy songs; “Valentine” goes back in time with the bop trend giving me vibes of Meghan Trainor’s debut album, *Title*.

Overall, the album seems forced into the pop mainstream world. While there are a few standout tracks, namely “Drink Up” and “You Better Believe,” Train needs to come back strong and dig deep in for their roots.

Music Matters is weekly music column that reviews pop, rock and alternative music albums and singles.

FIU Music series:

‘young and modern voice’

MARTINA BRETOS
Entertainment Director

With Valentine’s Day right on our heels, the FIU Music Series brings the “Broadway of Love” concert, to offer a concert that will allow the audience to escape and go to another place, says Kathryn Longo, professor at the School of Music.

“I’m biased but I think we always need music in the world and that art is really important. Getting the chance to say something you can’t say with words is invaluable and so, I feel that way about our whole series,” she said.

The FIU Music Series is a combination of students, faculty and guest ensembles performing concerts

this repertoire,” said Khare.

Khare says the only challenge in preparing the concert was figuring out what songs to leave out but she assures concert goers will enjoy many songs that are “popular for the season.”

Longo and Khare both note that while the music is an essential part of the performance, singers also have to work on entertaining their audience and making it feel “as real as possible.”

“I tell singers ‘Yes, you have to have a beautiful voice, of course, but that’s not enough. Your audience is not going to relate to you if just stand up and all you do is sing. You really have to be ... an entertainer,” Khare said. “If you’re not entertaining, if you don’t have that spark or desire to do that, then this might not be for you.”

To achieve that, students are asked to personalize the pieces and apply them to their own lives. They also work on their facial expressions and body language to accurately portray the emotion of the song they are performing.

“We have studio classes where the students get together and sing for each other and it’s kind of a way to workshop the piece in front of an audience,” said Longo.

Singers are then paired together to see how figure out the flow of the concert, and that is where “Dr. Khare is awesome,” says Longo. While there isn’t a specific storyline because each song comes from a different musical, Khare works to ensure there is a sense of continuity throughout the concert.

The students also rehearse with Maria Paulina Garcia, pianist and vocal coach at the University, to work on the collaboration between the pianist and the singer and then, the stage presentation.

Longo and Khare invite members of the FIU community to attend the event and say the University’s diversity enriches the quality of performance given by students.

“What I think is really great about FIU is that we have such an interesting and diverse group of students. In the Golden Age of Broadway, you don’t always think of Hispanic singers or black singers but we have that in our program and we bring a richness to it ... , a young and modern voice to that tradition,” said Longo.

The free event will take place from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Miami Beach. For more information on the music series and upcoming events, visit music.fiu.edu.

throughout the year. It’s a chance for students to perform live and work on their classical techniques and various singing styles, says Vindhya Khare, voice coach at the University.

“We want to give the best opportunities to our singers ... help them learn music that will not only, be academically stimulating [and] challenging but also, our goal is that they’re going to get hired to sing post-graduation or even while they’re in their studies,” said Khare.

On Monday, Feb. 13, 14 singers will take the stage at the Miami Beach Urban Studios and perform love songs from the “Golden Age” of Broadway, a time between to ‘30s and ‘50s, and a few pieces from contemporary music. The numbers will include music from “Guys and Dolls,” “South Pacific,” “West Side story” and a few contemporary pieces, namely from “Aladdin” and “Into The Woods.”

“This style suits very much the classical voice. It utilizes the same vocal technique and our singers are able to use their beautiful classical singing technique and bring that to

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team 'needs to compete' in last matches of the season



HITESH GOSWAMI/PANTHER PRESS

Junior guard Amari Hawkins fights to reach the rim during a game against Old Dominion University. The Panthers are set to take on the University of Southern Mississippi on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. on the Lime Court at FIU.

PETER HOLLAND, JR.
Staff Writer

With six more games left, FIU will have to fight for a spot to play in the Conference USA tournament, as the team prepares for the next two home games against University of Southern Mississippi and Louisiana Tech University.

FIU has been in a slump losing back-to-back home games to both Old Dominion University, 86-64, and giving a season-high 101 points to University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The final score against UNC was 101-54.

Head Coach Tiara Malcom said the team needs to improve in the way it's played for the rest of the season.

"Moving forward, as we get into the last half of the conference, we just have to compete," said Malcom. "Finishing being committed to the defensive end of the floor and those type of things. For me I'm just looking for improvement from our players. Those are things we were talking about in November and December."

Three of their last four games prior to their road games against Rice University and University of North Texas, the Panthers gave up an average of 87.6 points while only putting up an average of 60.0 points.

Although the Panthers are in the bottom five of C-USA, Malcom said the team is

looking to find a way to win and compete in the last six upcoming games.

"The good thing about it is that there are still games left in the season," said Malcom. "They have to come into practice and you know, get better and want to improve, that they want to be coachable, want to try to fight for something and try to get into post-season play."

Only 11 teams will secure a spot in the C-USA tournament, which will be from March 8-11, and the Panthers must play hard if they want to be included.

The Panthers will gear up to go against USM on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. and LA Tech on Saturday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m.

HEALTH

Alumnae finds 'calling' after going vegan

HEATHER O'DELL
Staff Writer

Katrina Rodriguez, FIU alumnae and founder of Raw Vibes Miami, said her life changed when she went vegan. Now she encourages everyone to live a healthy lifestyle.

"It all started when I began having stomach issues," Rodriguez said. "I never felt good. I was always sick to my stomach. Doctors would prescribe me all these different medications to aid my digestion. Most of it wouldn't really work or had bad side effects."

That is when, Rodriguez said, she decided to go vegan.

Switching to a vegan diet means eliminating all animal products and products that come from animals. Vegans do not eat meat or consume dairy products; their diet is strictly plant-based.

"Changing my diet literally changed my life," the chef said. "My stomach issues went away, and I just felt really good. This is what drove me to my calling."

Rodriguez attended Matthew Kenney Plant-based Culinary Academy in Santa Monica, California. After her time at MK, Rodriguez moved back to Miami and opened Raw Vibes Miami.

"I started off small by selling homemade almond milk that I would make from scratch every morning," said Rodriguez. "After a while, I gained a lot of clients and they would always ask me for more products."

Rodriguez continues to sell vegan products from her home, but she created a Raw Vibes Miami Instagram and Facebook account, where she posts vegan recipes for those who want to alter their lifestyle.

"It is always hard at first to go vegan or vegetarian, and it isn't for everyone," she said. "If you even have the slightest urge to change your diet, I really think you should. Everyone should give this lifestyle a chance."

Rodriguez's vegan recipes can be found on Instagram and Facebook @RawVibesMiami.

WELLNESS & REC

Fitness trainer fuses twerking with exercises

JULIETA RODRIGO
Staff Writer

Personal trainer Tiffany Jackson wants students to twerk their way into shape. And with her Booty Work class, you'll do just that.

Offered at the BBC Recreation and Wellness Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 2 p.m., Booty Work is a high-energy fitness program that works your glutes, your abdomen, and your thighs to today's hip-hop hits.

The class was created three years ago to offer a mix of dance and aerobic fitness to students, according to Jackson. Featuring beats from Trey Songz, Beyonce, Fabolous, Drake, Tory Lanez and Waka Flocka, the class is a way to exercise, or, as Jackson likes to call it, "twerkicize."

Incorporating dance and fitness instruction, Jackson leads the class by breaking down routines into easy-to-follow eight count steps. Repetition of the routine helps students perfect their form while increasing their confidence in front of a mirror.

As a fitness instructor, Jackson said she is always

looking for new ways to incorporate urban beats and dance routines into her classes.

Dance moves in popular songs like "Hit the Quan" and "Watch Me" subtly feature typical exercises that work to tone your arms, booty, hamstrings, calves and core.

"This class is about having fun, letting your body move and vibing out with other people with good energy."

Tiffany Jackson
Personal Trainer
BBC REC

Jackson uses these moves as the foundation for many of her dance sequences, and seamlessly combines them with typical lunges, thigh lifts, and kickbacks for a more intense workout.

"What women fail to realize," Jackson said, "is that when they're twerking, they're

actually in a squat position and are working their lower abs without knowing."

Participating students laughed and cheered each other on when a dance routine was successfully completed, with many students opting to video record the class on their phones for future sharing on social media.

Tahina Jules, a sophomore nursing student, said she loves Jackson's bright and energetic personality.

"She doesn't judge anyone," Jules said. "She's a beautiful spirit and brings out the best in her students."

Jackson said students' main focus should be having a good time when taking her class.

"This class is about having fun, letting your body move, listening to good music and vibing out with other people with good energy."

For more information about Booty Work, follow Tiffany Jackson on Instagram at msbootywork or contact the FIU Wellness Center at (305)919-5678.

BASEBALL



PANTHER PRESS FILE PHOTO

BRETT SHWEKY
Staff Writer

The baseball team looks to begin a new chapter, as the team turns the page on its 29-29 record from the 2015-2016 season.

Back in June 2016, the University announced Mervyl Melendez as the team's new head coach, and he feels FIU is the place to be.

"FIU is the right fit for my family and myself," he said. "There is a rich tradition of baseball at Florida International and also in the South Florida area."

Coach Melendez has spent 17 years as a head coach, having spent the past five seasons with the Alabama State University Hornets. With the Hornets, he compiled over 158 wins, lead the team to three-straight Southwestern

Athletic Conference Eastern Division titles, and was able to attend the NCAA tournament after winning the SWAC tournament in 2016.

Prior to Alabama State, Melendez spent 12 seasons as Bethune-Cookman University's head coach. Under Melendez, the Wildcats were able to win 11 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) championships.

Melendez was also named one of Baseball American's Top-10 Head coaches under the Age of 40. And in 2009, he became the second-youngest head coach in NCAA division baseball history to achieve 300 career wins.

During his coaching tenure, Melendez has had more than 30 of his players go on to play professional baseball. This includes Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Hiram Burgos and Arizona Diamondbacks outfielder Peter O'Brien.

"Getting players better is something my staff and

I take extreme pride in," said the head coach. "My philosophy is player development. Development of our players does not take a back seat over winning."

The Panthers had their first practice with Melendez on Jan. 27, and he said, the team still needs improvement in some areas.

"We still have a couple things that we need to work on before the season begins," said Melendez. "The players have worked all off-season on sharpening their skills; however, team chemistry and how to play with one another is something we are still working on."

The Panthers will kickoff the season at home against the Jacksonville State Univervisty Gamecocks on Feb. 17 at 7 pm. at the Baseball Stadium.

Senior shortstop says there are 'no limits' this season



PANTHER PRESS FILE PHOTO

Short stop Irving Lopez returns the ball to home plate during a 2016 game. The senior hopes to be a part of a championship contending team this year.

HEATHER O'DELL
Staff Writer

Irving Lopez, the starting shortstop for the Panthers, has hopes he and his team will make it to the World Series in Omaha this season.

"We have a really good chemistry this year as a team and coaching staff," said Lopez. "I think we can really go far this year."

Lopez grew up in Yuma, Arizona, and he attended Arizona Western College for first two years and transferred to FIU to continue his baseball career with the Panthers in Division One.

"Playing D1 baseball has been my dream since I was

4 years old," the shortstop said. "Without the support of my family, I wouldn't be here today. I owe this all to them."

Since becoming a fellow Panther his junior year, the now senior has accomplished many things with the FIU baseball team.

"My favorite thing about being a part of FIU is playing with players from all over the country," Lopez said. "The team is very diverse, and it's special to know that they aren't just my teammates, but very close friends, too."

Although Lopez is not from Miami, he looks forward to playing FIU's longtime rival, University of Miami, each chance he gets.

"I may not be a local like most of my teammates, but UM is our cross-town rival," Lopez said. "We are actually playing UM four times this year. I look forward to playing them each and every time."

Last year, Lopez led the team with a .335 batting average with 66 hits and a .394 on-base percentage. Despite his impressive stats, the baseball player still believes there is room for improvement.

"Everyone is good individually," said Lopez. "This season, we need to play better as a team and accomplish everything as one unit. With a mindset like that, we have no limits."