SPRING BREAK: MIAMI STYLE
Students share plans for the break

“I am going home – I live on an island called Curacao and I am going to spend time with my family. [We’ll] go to the beach, have barbecues, watch movies.”
Zoe Daswani
Computer Science Major

“I’m planning on spending some time with my son, who is nine months, and doing some work for school. [Also] taking some time off with my husband because work and school is stressful, we need some time off from all that.”
Ivan Melgar
Political Science Major

“For spring break, I’m going home to Jacksonville, I’ll probably catch up on some work, work out and do anything to better myself.”
Xavier Jones
Psychology Major

“Hap on a plane and land in any city, [any] one that has empty flights. [I’m going to] see what’s interesting to do there, just any city in the USA for two or three days.”
Gretchen Joanne
International Relations major

“I’m going to try to go to the beach because I haven’t been there in a couple years.”
Ludnie Leger
Social Work Major

“For spring break, I’ll probably go to the beach, Dania Beach. [I’ll also] catch up on homework.”
Isabelle Dawson
International Relations major

Staying ‘N’ Play

FIUPD wants students ‘as safe as they can be’

MARTINA BRETOUS
News Director

Spring Break is right around the corner and the FIU Police Department’s main priority is ensuring everyone’s safety.

“Some problem areas that we see with students – and this is typically during spring break – is excessive drinking,” said Chief Alexander Casas of the FIUPD. “Students, pent up from semester’s worth of work, let loose a little bit [and] sometimes, drink a little bit too much, and find themselves in situations that may compromise their safety.”

During spring break, where there is usually a spike in crime, and on campus, the FIUPD focuses on the dormitories.

“I bring in extra officers during those times, particularly in those areas that we need to patrol, which in the evenings, will be the dorms,” Casas said.

“That’s where the parties are at, the frats and the dorms.”

While on patrol, officers look for signs of distress or excessive intoxication that might indicate something is not right.

“We ask questions like ‘do you know where you are,’ ‘what’s your name’ … to try to get an understanding of the person’s state of mind … and if they’re in a position to make rational decisions,” said Casas.

Casas urges students to form pacts with their friends to nominate one person who will “step up and calm everyone down,” if anything gets out of hand. He also says it’s important for groups to stick together when they go out and always leave the location with the same people they came.

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I’m sprung over spring break.

I know, technically it starts next week. But, for many students, we’ve just been passively attending classes with our minds elsewhere.

But, before we all travel to new, and in the case of Gretchen Joanne, unknown places we’ve got a small guide for you.

Staying on campus or in town and want to know what’s open on campus? Check out our short and sweet infographic page four and our story about planning a nice staycation.

Alexander Casas, chief of FIU Police Department, shares helpful tips for staying safe over the break on pages two and three, while our editorial board calls for students to “see something, say something.”

We did a small poll of students on both campuses, and found that most students would like to do water-related activities over the break. We also learned that the baseball team would prefer to play games over being on the beach.

I can identify with this preference, which I note in my column on page five. Other columns in this issue focus on tourism in Cuba, keeping the beaches clean and using the break to travel and find new adventures.

However you’re spending the break, the Student Media staff hopes you enjoy it and be safe and responsible. As always, we’ll keep you updated online at PantherNOW.com and over-the-air on The Roar, FIU Student Radio.

Have fun!”
Tips from FIUPD

POULCE, PAGE 2

“If they [a student] go out with two or three friends, to the beach or a nightclub, and they stay behind by themselves, that is not the safest situation... You put yourself in a situation where someone could take advantage of you, or you could find yourself lost or stranded,” said Casas.

Catalina Munoz, junior, still doesn’t know what their plans are for spring break. Munoz says she would love to go somewhere else, sometimes the safer alternative.

“During spring break… no one’s here, it’s completely vacant and I have FIU to myself,” added Munoz.

In addition to the legal ramifications of alcohol-related charges, which include suspended licenses and arrests, it can affect students’ collegiate careers.

“Those issues have legal consequences that you now have to deal with but in addition to that, as a student, you could be in violation of the code of student conduct… and it could really impact your ability to get into grad school and different types of careers in the future,” said Munoz.

Catalina Munoz

Tips from Chief Casas of the FIUPD

• Whatever you don’t, don’t do it in excess.
• Designate one person who will step up and calm everyone down, if needed.
• Leave with the same people you arrived.
• Have fun but be responsible.

Panthers are less than a week away from spring break. Most Panthers are getting ready to spend the week-long break with family and friends.

For students already living on campus, however, the Office of Residential Life is more than happy to offer Panther students a place to stay during the break.

Andrew Naylor, associate director for housing at the Office of Residential Life, assures that their office is comprehensive when it comes to students needing to spend breaks on campus for any particular reason.

One thing to understand is that we, as a whole, take into serious consideration that many students often time need to stay in the Miami area to work or for whatever reason. That is why we make sure students have a place to live during the break period,” said Naylor.

Naylor prioritizes students’ housing accommodations in case they find themselves having nowhere else to go.

“The Office of Housing and Residential Life doesn’t believe in kicking students out just because the university is out for breaks,” said Naylor. “We make sure to be open and accessible throughout all breaks, not counting summer vacation.”

No program activities are scheduled during spring break, Naylor says, because students either decide to go back home or take the opportunity to travel elsewhere, this will not affect housing.

Thankfully, throughout the rest of March, Naylor shares that the Office of Residential Life offers a variety of program activities with the goal of helping students engage with others in order to learn about time management and other social issues.

The Dean’s List Gala is one of the many events that usually take place on March, but according to Kristen Smith, associate brand manager of the Office of Housing and Residential Life, the event came earlier this year.

“We actually had our Dean’s List Gala in February this year. It honors any undergraduate degree-seeking residential student who earns an FIU cumulative GPA of 3.5 or more on the basis of nine or more credit hours earned during any semester,” said Smith.

Program activities such as RHA Royals Pageant, on March 23, and the Drag Ball, on March 30, will take place during its usual schedule in March.

Formally known as the Mr. & Ms. Res. Life, the RHA Royals Pageant, allows residential students to compete for the Title of Mr. & Ms. Res Life, said Smith. The pageant contains five sections including: Introduction, FIU trivia questions, talent portion, FIU Spirit and the famous question: “Why do you deserve to be the next Mr./Ms. Res Life?”

For more information on events, visit housing.fiu.edu.

Panther Magazine – Thursday, March 9, 2017

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Now hiring

FIU Student Media is now accepting applications for
Editor in Chief of Panther Press and PantherNOW.

Now hiring

com, and General Manager of The Roar Student Radio.

If interested, visit GC 210 for more information.
Alternative Breaks offers ‘first shot at leadership’

NIA YOUNG
Entertainment Director

Alternate Breaks allows student to break free of the usual routine of spring break with their student led service programs. “Alternative Breaks is a service oriented, student lead program at FIU, focused on volunteer work,” Delgadillo said. "Site Leader is the most intense position in Alternative Breaks. The site leader keeps in contact with the community partner, plans fundraising dates, set goals, selects participants for the trip, keeps in contact with the committee board and handles logistics,” Delgadillo said.

Nashira Williams, advisor for Alternative Breaks and assistant director of the Center for Leadership and Service explains, Alternative Break’s Steering Committee is responsible for creating service experiences for the winter, spring, and summer vacations. These students choose sites from the parent company, Break Away, and develop relationships with the site to ensure the travelling team will be safe and have a successful time there.

“We are not choosing groups that are going to go and do administrative work. The committee is looking for projects that will offer strong direct service pertaining to that site’s social issue,” Williams explained. Site selection caters to students’

ALTERNATIVE BREAKS, PAGE 5

What’s Open on MMC

-Library Hours-
Sat. March 11 from 8 AM - 8 PM
Sun. March 12 CLOSED
Mon. March 13 - Th. March 16 8 AM - 9 PM
Fri. March 17 from 8 AM - 6 PM
Sat. March 18 CLOSED

-Wellness & Rec Center Hours-
Monday -Thursday from 6:15 AM to 9 PM
Friday from 6:15 AM to 2 PM
Saturday - Sunday from 12 PM to 6 PM

-Student Health Center Hours-
Monday from 8 PM to 5 PM

What’s Open on BBC

-Library Hours-
Sat. March 11 from 8 AM - 8 PM
Sun. March 12 CLOSED
Mon. March 13 - Th. March 16 8 AM - 9 PM
Fri. March 17 from 8 AM - 6 PM
Sat. March 18 CLOSED

-Fitness Center Hours-
Monday - Sunday from 8 AM to 6 PM

-Aquatic Center Hours-
Monday - Friday from 12 PM to 7 PM
Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM
Sunday - CLOSED

-Student Health Center Hours-
Monday - Friday from 8 PM to 5 PM

# MiamiStaycation:
Tips for a budget spring break in Miami

HAUTE COFFEE
STEPRANIE CASTRO

Spring break. Those two glorious words that mean midterms are over and it is officially time to relax and unwind.

Miami is known for being a go-to destination when it comes to celebrating spring break, right? As college students however, the price to pay for a week-long vacation isn’t easy to come by, so here are a few ways to celebrate spring break on a budget.

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, located on the next to the Blue Parking Garage on MMC was designed by architect Yann Weymouth in 2008 and offers free admission to everyone.

According to thefrost.fiu.edu, "The Frost has received commendation from a wide array of national leaders in the arts. As the only Miami art museum that is also an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, the Frost is able to integrate Smithsonian collections into exhibitions, educational initiatives, and benefits from access to the Smithsonian’s expertise in conservation and development."

With a plethora of events throughout the year, the Frost museum is the ideal place for art history buffs. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays.

Another great art spot for graffiti lovers is Wynwood Walls.

Open Monday through Sunday, the trendy Wynwood Walls feature colorful street art murals by artists from around the world, and the entire Wynwood area is ideal for college students who love a creative atmosphere.

For Junior, education student Anais Colina, her Spring Break tradition includes going to the beach with her family,” said Colina. “I also enjoy riding my bike there because I can squeeze in some exercise too.”

Senior recreation & sport management student Jordan Blecher is in agreement with Colina when it comes to beach vacations.

“I like hitting either Fort Lauderdale Beach or off South Beach to go paddle boarding or just go on the boat,” said Blecher.

Miami is known for its beaches and El Farito and South Beach just happen to be two of many. A few favorites are Crandon Park Beach, Virginia Key Beach and Oleta River State Park Beach which is popular for its water activities such as kayaking.

For students who will be spending their spring break out of town, becoming an Airbnb host is a great way to make use of your space and make a little extra cash on the side.

These are just a few ways to spend spring break without breaking the bank.

Haute Coffee is a column that focuses on a range of topics affecting students.
Student visits Costa Rica with Alternative Breaks

ALTERNATIVE BREAKS, PAGE 4

interest in their major but Williams stresses it shouldn’t stop students from applying to work out of their major.

“If you’re a bio major who wants to go read to kids, by all means we want you to get out and read to kids,” she said.

While on site Delgadillo says students will spend a week with an organization whose goal is to develop their social issue and better their community. The issues addressed in Alternative breaks span a variety of social issues, from homelessness to the environment.

Williams says registration for AB happens over the summer, and the application opens during final’s week. Delgadillo says eager students that missed the deadline for the main trips shouldn’t worry; Alternative Breaks offers “aB Express,” three-day service trips within the state of Florida. “Everyone involved will train all through the fall and spring semester,” says Williams. “Participants will also go through Emergency Preparedness Training with the FIU Police for active shooter scenarios, in case we’re in a place where that is necessary.”

For applicants looking to become a site leader Williams says that Alternative Breaks will meet you where you are in terms of experience. “We understand that not all student will come with a lofty resume… We want to honor that and be your first shot at a leadership position,” Williams said.

Delgadillo and Williams share their top five items to bring in an Alternative Breaks carry on stressing that “Simple Living”, is the way to travelling:

**DELGADILLO’S TOP FIVE**

- Bug Spray
- [Disposable] Film Camera
- List of Participants names and emergency contact numbers
- Pair of boots
- Map of Costa Rica

**WILLIAMS TOP FIVE**

- Alternative Breaks Tee-Shirt
- Comb/brush combo
- Cash
- Phone
- Thank you cards

two of my top five favorite things. The beach and Wynwood, however, are two of my least favorite.

Don’t cringe at the life I’ve chosen, it suits me well. I thrive off the pressure that a crippling fear of failure and the disappointment of others brings.

I also feel most at home far away from the health benefits of sunlight and outdoor activity. But above all, the freedom to spend my money as I’d like because I worked hard to earn it. One of the greatest motivators in life is green faces.

Rather than pretend that the girl who says every sentence as if it’s a question isn’t grating the last nerve I have, I’ll be able to organize my desk and color-code all the paperwork I use.

Life will be beautiful. I know I’m not the only workaholic who is looking forward to going to work during spring for this reason. We’ll complain about it via text, telling our friends we hate it but know we won’t miss the headache of parking and then having small talk when all we want is to get a nice wine buzz and go to bed.

My friends will spend their days on the beach and nights in Wynwood, while I’ll be spending my days in a room that has air conditioning and office supplies,
FORBIDDEN FRUIT

Tourism is not considered a ‘valid reason’ to enter Cuba

Cuba has been the forbidden fruit on my list of places I have to see before I die. I had an aunt who, out of the 22 countries she visited in her lifetime, said Cuba was her favorite because, and was devastated when relations turned sour enough to prevent her from returning.

During Barack Obama’s administration, U.S.-Cuban relations did improve, but this improvement only impacts the now legal importation of Cuban cigars and rum; and more importantly, the addition of an American embassy in Havana and a Cuban embassy in D.C. for the first time since 1961. It’s challenging, though not impossible, as many Miamians know, to enter Cuba with an American passport.

Your entry, according to the U.S. embassy in Cuba, must be approved for one of 12 reasons, which include family visits, official business of the U.S. or foreign governments, journalistic activity, professional or educational research, authorized exporting or importing of goods, to name a few.

But, tourism is not considered a valid reason to enter Cuba. Yet, this minor change in the embargo has opened the door just enough to plant the seeds of what Dovale believes is “the main engine of growth for the Cuban economy since the second half of 2004.”

Another concern Dovale has is the environmental impact American tourism would bring. She described Cuba as “untouched,” with plentiful natural resources and low pollution levels, qualities that would undoubtedly be tainted by the continuation of factories and tourists who treat the island as an amusement park instead of a country to be respected.

The Cuban government, Dovale said, is “one that denies” and operates under “a regime of terror,” uncompromising on many issues, perhaps because it fears the start of a “revolution of thought” led by the Cuban-Americans who have experienced both countries and are the liaison between them.

Dovale describes those who have lived in Cuba their entire lives as people who look out at the world as if through a window and “live under the fear of a government.” She said that “if the Cuban people become more aware that the world is paying attention…they would rebel,” much to the government’s chagrin – a red flag that signals to Dovale that negotiations with the government’s “untouchable” nature.”

“I wish that all of these negotiations would translate into igniting the Cuban economy, empowering the Cuban people, funding education and infrastructure…more trade while respecting the resources,” Dovale said.

“If I were to see Cuba in the future as a country [with] ideals that are not oppressing its people…”

While Dovale doesn’t have an answer to the problem, she doesn’t believe American intervention is it. “If a lot of ways, [Cuba] is frozen in time,” Dovale said. “At the same time, we still have some glimpses of the present... almost like a glimpse of the future.”

This is exactly why, at least for some of us, Cuba has always seemed like this far away, untouchable, magical time-machine of a country, filled with interesting people and incredible food.

But, it’s also a country with a corrupt government, and for American passport holders, an immigration process at the airport that seems like it’s only navigable for seasoned travelers with legitimate motives to enter the country.

So, if you’re looking for a holiday at a beach resort during spring break, perhaps contemporary Cuba isn’t the place for you. One day, though, it would be wonderful to see relations restored, with a less shady Cuban government and more consideration on America’s behalf for the Cuban people and their beautiful ecosystem.

Aubrey Carr is a staff writer for Panther Press. Her column, The Leveler, covers global social justice and political commentary.
If you see something, say something this spring break

Spring break: a time for adventure and traveling

The World

Miami and its beaches are some of the top spring break destinations for tourists from all over the world, bringing in a record-setting 15.8 million visitors in 2016, according to the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau. Spring break is a time to officially welcome the end of winter — even though there’s no such thing as winter in South Florida — and kick off the prologue to what this summer’s weather will include. South Beach is one of America’s most notorious spring break hot spots, which inevitably implies a boozed and sexed-up atmosphere. When combined these two can result in serious legal complications.

Florida law states that if someone is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, that person cannot give consent. As with most crimes, rape does not usually occur in situations where there are multiple witnesses, but it’s not unheard of for sexual assault to take place in crowded areas and in the dark. When it comes to sexual assault and sex under the influence, if you see something, say something. FIU has an ongoing sexual assault prevention campaign, “It’s On Us,” but if you can do something in the moment, rather than leave it up to officials to later sift through based on he-said, she-said accounts, which is all too often the case, please help the situation in any way possible.

If you see that someone is drunk and obviously being assaulted or pressured into sex, do something to help keep that person safe, whether that means pretending to know them to get them away from the person, reporting the situation immediately and agreeing to testify as a witness, getting proof of the act, and/or confronting and handling the situation yourself (legally, of course).

This advice doesn’t stop when spring break ends, either, because sexual assault does not happen solely during this one week every year. It’s important that we as students, as Miamians — as people — protect each other whenever possible.

It’s our responsibility to do everything we can to make the world a better place and standing up for each other in any circumstance when someone needs our help — especially a circumstance as stigmatized as sexual assault — is one of the ways we can begin to make a difference.

Keep Florida beaches clean

Many students will leap towards the nearest beach for spring break, making Florida a popular destination for students nationwide. Vacations spent in Florida mean happy vacationers and a fatter wallet for the Florida economy, with Miami ranking in the top 10 for spring break destinations. According to the Washington Times, compared to 1985 where revelers spent roughly $110 million in Fort Lauderdale, in 2014, spring breakers spent $1.2 billion. However, beaches and its inhabitants suffer the consequences. So, on the behalf of the beachgoers, please quit bringing your trash with you. Every spring, news stations’ headlines are nuanced by the amount of trash that has been left behind by spring break tourists.

With the notorious party scene at Miami Beach, pollution washes on and off the beaches typically into the shore. The trash that invades the beaches typically involves styrofoam, plastic, and alcohol paraphernalia that may be either glass or aluminum.

Regardless of whether or not these are recyclable materials, these spring breakers are not picking up after themselves. And where exactly does this debris end up? It’s not in the trash? It ends up in our oceans, in the stomachs of our sea creatures and potentially in our stomachs. Considering the fact that most of these materials are not biodegradable, animals may consume them, be caught for food, and end up in our systems through the simple food cycle.

If you are going to visit our beautiful Florida beaches and are going to bask underneath our sun, please pick up after yourself. If you don’t clean up after yourself, someone else might. However, the chances of you polluting the environment are higher than the chances of someone picking up after you.

Therefore, enjoy the weather, enjoy the beaches and enjoy the company of your friends. Just don’t bring your trash with you.

Daniela Perez is a staff writer for Panther Magazine. Her column, Pulse’s Phenomena, is a commentary on human interest.

Send Your Letters

Have something on your mind? Send an email to opinion@fiusm.com. We reserve the right to edit and publish 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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Baseball players prefer competing during break

BRETT SHWEKY
Staff Writer

Spring Break is what I love to do, so I wouldn’t want to have it any other way.” Starting pitcher Dominic LoBrutto believes that playing collegiate baseball is far more enjoyable than having a week off for Spring Break.

“I’m playing college baseball, that’s honestly one of the most fun things you can do,” said the junior. “I’d rather play five to six games over the week here, over being at any beach or any place in the world to be quite honest.”

The Panthers will host the (7-2) Charleston Southern University Buccaneers in a three-game series spanning from Thursday, March 9 to Saturday, March 11.

If they were offered to students, which of the following FIU activities would you like to participate in during Spring Break?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restaurant or bar hopping with other FIU students</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group fitness events</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking classes</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising for a cause</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concerts</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student retreats</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water-related activities (SCUBA, boat trips)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What are you excited to do during Spring Break 2017?

1. Literally, the chance to do nothing for an entire week
2. Spend time on Netflix/YouTube/social media
3. Catch up on homework
4. See friends or significant other
5. Spend time with family
6. Exercise
7. Travel
8. Catch up on sleep

For more break tips, please visit www.pantherNOW.com