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DOWN WITH THE KING

PROTEST: Laura Garcia, a member of the United Students Against Sweatshops, paints a sign in protest of the Burger King corporation in front of the Green Library Nov. 26.

NATIONAL HEALTH OCCUPATIONS STUDENTS OF AMERICA

GETTING PHYSICAL
Pre-medical society serves community

NADIA KUJANKA
Contributing Writer

Jessica Browne, a health sciences major, was looking for a club that would give students who are interested in health a chance to make a difference.

The senior eventually teamed up with other students and faculty to establish an FIU Health Occupations Students of America organization chapter, which she is now president of.

Professor Barbara Anderson and Carol Pyle became the faculty advisors and a full committee of students soon followed.

According to Browne, the best thing about FIU’s HOSA is that it is open to all students.

The club’s members include pre-medicine, pre-occupational therapy and pre-dentistry students, as well as others who are not entering the health field.

“HOSA allows everyone to get together and see what it is like to work in the field and make contacts. Health care is all about team effort. You need to learn that taking care of a patient is a collaborative effort and that’s what HOSA is all about,” Browne said.

Sophomore Eddy Mora, a biology major, remembers when he first got involved in HOSA.

“I found out about FIU HOSA one day in Fall 2006 while walking through the Graham Center. There was a table there and I stopped and asked about it, since there was a HOSA club in my high school,” Mora said.

I remember I got two roses, and that made my day. Since then I’ve met a lot of interesting, fun and caring people both in the club and out of the club. This year, the National HOSA decided to focus on fund raising for Autism Speaks, the nation’s leading non-profit organization devoted to autism research and education.

FIU’s HOSA raised roughly $400 for the organization.

“We fund raise for autism because it has been the focus of the National HOSA for the past two years,” Browne said.

We spread awareness for autism because most people don’t understand it,” Browne said.

It needs to be addressed in our society in order for us to help autistic people.

Jessica Browne, FIU HOSA club president

Autism Speaks, during National HOSA Week Nov. 5 through Nov. 9.

“It was great to be a part of a project that made a difference for many autistic children,” Burgos said.

FIU’s HOSA has also teamed up with other organizations such as the Florida Autism Speaks, the nation’s leading non-profit organization devoted to autism research and education.

“The important thing is that students can update their information at anytime on PantherSoft and will be reminded at the beginning or end of the semester to update their information,” Cyrille said.
Students need to get involved, regardless of whether they’re Democrat or Republican. It’s important for students to be active while in college.

“The answer is to be nice to your neighbors, and receive the same in return,” Robiana said. “The views of the College Republicans do not necessarily align with the national politics. It varies based on the issue because all politics is local.”

The College Republicans believe that there might be a problem with radical individualism.

“The whole communal spirit of democracy doesn’t work if people are saying that what happens to you doesn’t matter, what happens to me is more important,” Robiana said.

The FIU College Republicans meet every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Primeras room 424. For more information on the group e-mail cgrepublicans@fiu.edu or visit www.fiu.edu/~soc.

Professor to establish educational link with Asia

Krishnan Dandapani catches his students off guard with unexpected jokes that intersperse his systematic teaching in his financial markets and institutions class at University Park campus.

“He shares a lot of real world information and it’s very dynamic teaching,” Iixa Karanja, graduate student in Dandapani’s class.

In his 23 years at FIU, Dandapani a professor of finance in the College of Business Administration, has co-directed the Asian Contemporary Studies Center at FIU, been a part of an academic hurricane task force, written numerous books and was a recipient of the Outstanding 100 award and $10,000 for research at Faculty Convocation on Oct. 5.

“I have had tremendous support from both the community as well as the University and a chance to work with great people,” Dandapani said.

Dandapani feels that FIU, being an international university, has mainly focused on the Caribbean and Latin America but with future growth at hand in China and India, he has great expectations for the University.

According to Dandapani’s research, Asia’s population is growing at an average rate of 10 percent, while the rest of the world is growing only at 3 to 4 percent.

That’s why Dandapani had a focus on Asia was important, and in 1997, he co-authored the Asian Studies Center. The focus on Asia was also resonated by President Moseado Maidique when he attended alumni meetings in Taiwan, Korea, and China and was astounded by the sheer number of alumni there.

Maidique jokingly remarked to students when he returned that there were probably more alumni in Asia than he would see in Miami.

Currently, the College Republicans believe that what happens to you doesn’t matter, what happens to me is more important,” Robiana said.

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Music business
class releases CD

LAUREN AGOSTO
Staff Writer

The Music Management class taught by Professor Osvaldo Rossi will release the class-produced album "Secrets of Sound," on Nov. 30.

Rossi, who is the director of legal and business affairs for EMI Televisa Music has produced three albums so far in his classes.

"While I was putting together my syllabus, I asked myself, what kind of approach would I appreciate if I were a student longing to work in the music industry? I figured this would give the students real insight on what goes behind producing, marketing and promoting an album," Rossi said.

The event will include several performances by locals artists: Artofficial, a hip-hop fusion band which, according to Rossi, allows each student to contribute and illustrates the diversity of his class, while providing a mixture of sounds for everyone.

"I've learned that it's fast paced and a lot more intricate than I thought it would be, but fun at the same time. One thing I'm surprised to learn is how much teamwork is emphasized on and how crucial building relationships are; you may not like someone, but one day you might need their help, so be nice," said Rosalyn Delgado, another student in the class.

Rossi feels the album is beneficial to his students and their curriculum.

"It allows them to celebrate the fruit of their efforts, I have seen it every semester; it is the one night of the semester where they see that their hard work resulted in a beautiful project and experience," Rossi said.

"In creating the album, I learned that our work isn't really complete until you have the final product in your hands. Surprises always come about when you least expect it," said Jackie Gadea, another student in the class.

The album is a multi-artist, multi-genre compilation album which, according to Rossi, allows each student to contribute and illustrates the diversity of his class, while providing a mixture of sounds for everyone.

"I was surprised that HOSA has had so far by putting more emphasis on community service and giving our members the opportunity to meet and work with healthcare professionals in the area," Ribao said.

For more information about FIU’s chapter of HOSA, visit www.FIUHOSA.org.

Club raises funds to treat autism

HOSA, page 1

Children’s Miracle Network to raise money in a toy sale.

The club also paired up with Sigma Omega Zeta to raise $1,171 for the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides against Breast Cancer.

Also, the club paired up with FIU HOSA, such as junior Nora Contreras, a Health Sciences major, said that they enjoy the chance to make new friends and network within the community through their club.

"I like to be involved in various activities that will benefit others and the social events are really fun too," Devot said. "I know that whatever event I go to I will have a great time."

The club will hold its last meeting for the Fall semester and the executive board elections for the upcoming semester on Nov. 28.

The new president of the club will be Christy Ribao, a Health Sciences major and pre-med student since Browne is graduating this semester.

"I hope to continue the success that HOSA has had so far by putting more emphasis on community service and giving our members the opportunity to meet and work with healthcare professionals in the area," Ribao said.

HOSA raises funds to raise money in a toy sale.

The club also paired up with Sigma Omega Zeta to raise $1,171 for the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides against Breast Cancer.

Senior Sukaya Devot, a health science major, said she enjoys the social aspect of FIU HOSA.

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Advertisement
Achieving the green standard

Task force strives to incorporate eco-friendly measures in buildings

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Contributing Writer

Former Vice Provost Raul Moncarz remembers the Biscayne Bay Campus in 1972 when watching crabs cross the street was an everyday occurrence.

“There were less buildings, less cars, and less pollution,” Moncarz said.

The campus consisted of the Hospitality Management Building, formerly the Trade Center, and trailers that are near the Library.

Within the last few years, BBC has witnessed even more changes to the campus, including the HM Building’s renovations, construction of the Marine Sciences building and the new cafeteria and Library.

According to David Fonseca, BBC’s Student Government Council’s Environmental Correspondent, “you really can’t see [the pollution], but it’s there.”

Of course, new construction is going to affect the wildlife at the campus. Every type of construction is going to affect the wildlife - you’re taking up their space,” Fonseca said.

Squirrels can be seen scrounging the garbage cans, which means that something is eating away at their natural food source.

Florida International University President Modesto A. Maidique signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment on May 25, where he pledged to achieve “climate neutrality,” or a zero greenhouse gas footprint at FIU.

To adhere to his ACUPCC pledge, Maidique has created an environmental committee, the President’s Climate Committee Task Force.

According to Charles Scurr, committee chair, the task force is in charge of “creating institutional structures to guide the development and implementation of the plan” laid out to achieve climate neutrality according to the pledge’s rules.

“The commitment includes a set of guidelines,” Scurr wrote in an e-mail. “This includes a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions, actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum, and a target date for achieving climate neutrality as soon as possible.”

The commitment also calls for other measures, including achieving a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver Standard and a “green” building rating system established by the U.S. Green Building Council for building construction. Other changes include the implementation of Energy Star certified products and the generation of at least 15 percent of the electricity produced by FIU’s structures from renewable sources.

Fonseca said SGC-BBC is trying to ensure the LEED Silver Standard.

Changes can be seen in the new buildings that come equipped with energy efficient fluorescent light bulbs and water-efficient showerheads in the student residence buildings.

Bonasia Bonasia gets to publish work into a novel

WILMA HERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Florida International University Alumna Lynn K. Bonasia’s first novel, Some Assembly Required, will be published in June 2008.

Set in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, the story details how a former writer of instruction manuals and a recovering alcoholic try to assemble new lives and solve a 30-year old mystery of a teenage boy’s disappearance.

Bonasia graduated from FIU in 2005 with a Master in Fine Arts in creative writing but had already begun the book in 2002, during a novel writing class. Originally titled Washashores, Bonasia continued working on it as her MFA thesis project.

“The unfinished manuscript collected dust for a couple of years while I continued school,” Bonasia said. “I have discipline in writing, but there are always distractions such as the email icon, clients needing ads, my kid, phone calls, and a cat that likes to rest her head on my escape button.”

Although she admits to having writer’s block, she isn’t a victim of it, she said. “I have a perceptive understanding of character,” Bonasia said. “I know how to bring her knowledge of the world into her stories and she was also a very good poet.”

Lynn K. Bonasia, FIU alumna and writer

The unfinished manuscript collected dust for a couple of years while I continued school. I have discipline in writing, but there are always distractions such as the email icon, clients needing ads, my kid, phone calls, and a cat that likes to rest her head on my escape button.

She has freelanced as an advertising copywriter, provided the University with a beaconbbc@yahoo.com

Eddith Sevilla
BBC Managing Editor

Contact Us

Wendy, the character, is my old flame back into my life. “She came into our program by force,” Bonasia said. “She knew how to bring her knowledge of the world into her stories and she was also a very good poet.”

Chinelly said she is certain the book will have good reviews and is looking forward to reading it.

“Lynn’s fiction deals with human conditions. It explores our fears, desires, and difficulties. That’s what good fiction does; it changes the reader,” Chinelly said. “She knew how to bring her knowledge of the world into her stories and she was also a very good poet.”

Barret said the novel has a complicated plot that mixes humor and loss.

Barret is excited to be in print regardless of how critics may react to the work once it hits shelves.

“Does it tickle me that after this book comes out my obit can legitimately say ‘Author Lynn K. Bonasia.’ Even if the book is panned, no one can take that away from me,” she said.

In her next novel, the setting is also in Cape Cod and is about a clam shack owner dealing with the sudden death of an employee that brings an old flame back into her life.
University Apartments
poorly maintained, unclean

As I checked-in to my dorm in the University Park Apartments earlier this semester, the scene I came across met my expectations most adequately: the tile floor was noticeably old, scratched here and there in hundreds of places and seemingly filthy beyond any standard method of cleaning. The stove-top was spotted with the burnt flakes of unknown meals from countless other tenants and missing one of the heat coils. A rather large piece of the ceiling had been casually left to blend in with the grime of the floor. None of this surprised me.

This is my second semester living in one of the University Park apartments. As such, my firsthand knowledge of the overall living conditions of UPA – when compared to the other newer and, apparently, more important residence halls in campus – has prepared me for my experiences with my dorm, and the housing department.

To be fair it should be noted that any experience is in part what one makes of it. Despite the state of the apartments, living on campus, specifically UPA, is not a miserable experience.

There is a fairly vibrant life and energy within the UPA community through numerous events held throughout the semester.

The apartments make provisions so that it is possible for individuals to develop a sense of living as a part of the UPA community.

That said, the discrepancy in the living conditions between UPA and other residence halls is obvious among most residents, as they go well beyond any expected or fair differences.

The age of the apartments is at fault for the state. The neglect has not been addressed, possibly due to the construction of newer, more profitable dorms. The sheer squallor and broken down state of certain rooms still permeates even after the resident and roommates have taken it upon themselves to clean their dorm after moving in.

These efforts are often in vain since the check-out policy, a policy that exists to hold tenants accountable for any damages that might have occurred throughout their stay, is loosely enforced, if at all.

This results in stubborn spots of grime on the floor, large patches of mildew near the central air vents (which seems like a health hazard) and the notorious shower tubs, which will have you considering a second shower soon after your first.

Clearly it is the residents’ duty to maintain their dorms, but it is not their duty to clean the filth of previous residents – especially right after check-in.

By placing the responsibility of cleaning the dorms solely on students, Housing cunningly avoids having to take any responsibility for the state of the rooms they offer.

If the check-in policy were strictly enforced, students would have to take note of problems as soon as they checked in and could then complain about the state of their rooms.

These students would therefore have to record the condition of their rooms upon arrival and how these issues were never resolved, thereby making Housing responsible.

As residents of UPA, most of us understand that you get what you pay for.

We don’t hold unrealistic expectations of what the apartments should be like, but we deserve equality and fairness in policy when it comes to, if nothing else, the simple functionality and cleanliness of our dorms.

We don’t pay at least $2,000 to take note of problems as soon as they checked in and could then complain about the state of their rooms.

We don’t pay at least $2,000 to be repulsed by what is to be our own living space for the entire semester.

If you tell them not to do it, they’ll just want to do it more.

We’ve all heard that phrase in reference to just about anything from marijuana, bullying or any ‘unacceptable act’.

But now this phrase can extend itself to the most publicly explicit, and the most overt display of teenage sexuality currently rampaging in America’s schools.

Schools in America have always been ‘on the fence’ about public displays of affection (i.e. open mouth kissing in the halls), but Fossil Hills Middle School in North Texas believes that hugging is everything short of public fornication.

“If you tell them not to do it, they’ll just want to do it more.”

With physical contact banned, these students will most likely come to class on time without two lip-locked pre-teens blocking the hallways.

Jolain, who attended Saint Michael’s Middle School, recalls, “some girl getting felt up by the bleachers, under her skirt.”

Nor can she ever forget, “this guy who would whip out his [genitals] in class.”

Then there is the enforcement – when asked why hugging is prohibited, students could not explain why.

If physical contact were to be reduced, then there would be problems.

With the policy-setting being applied to middle schools specifically for these reasons.

The policy is a double-edged sword, though.

With physical contact banned, these students will most likely come to class on time without two lip-locked pre-teens blocking the hallways.

On the other hand, students “may develop long-term intimacy issues stemming from the discouragement to make even friendly, social physical contact like hand-shakes, [and] pats on the back,” said Lawrin Riles, a Kilmer Middle School parent.

Sophomore Jennifer Laban agrees.

“Omitting hugging from a middle school setting will lead us to 30 year olds who don’t know how to physically connect,” Laban said.

Natalia Lisby, a junior, also agrees this ban could also lead to future social problems.

“At such an impressionable age, to teach kids to fear and avoid physical contact with others can impede their sexual and emotional maturity,” Lisby said.

These policies speak volumes about a growing puritanical trend toward public displays of affection and what is deemed appropriate. It feels like we are retreating back to the ‘50s when holding hands was a scandalous act.

Fossil Hills Middle in Texas may have good intentions, but where will the good be when their students become socially awkward and fear to show a simple sign of affection in the form of a harmless, two second hug?
Japanese Fashion becomes popular in U.S.

ELYSE COLEMAN  
Staff Writer

In the back of the December 2007 issue of Shojo Beat magazine, a publication featuring Japanese comics, or Manga, was an ad for a clothing brand called Baby, The Stars Shine Bright. The ad features the brand’s upcoming line of “western size” clothing. Baby is one of Japan’s major brand-name producers of “Lolita clothing,” a style inspired by Victorian-era attire. Baby is one of various Lolita clothing brands currently opening their lines to international markets. In addition, Gothic & Lolita Bible, a popular Lolita fashion magazine in Japan, will soon be translated and distributed to American audiences courtesy of the English-language manga, singer Gwen Stefani is also of noted as a major influence for bringing western attention to Japanese styles. The former lead vocalist of No Doubt released her own clothing line, L.A.M.B., in 2003. L.A.M.B. stands for “Love. Angel. Music. Baby.”

Shoes loved by many, shunned by others

OLIVIA CAMAYD  
Staff Writer

A decade ago when the word “croc” came up in conversation, most would immediately think of a crocodile, or Steve Irwin, depending on the accent used. In 2007, this is not the case. Now the word “croc” likely triggers the disturbing image of sunflower yellow, plastic clogs. So when did this transition happen and why would anyone ever resort to wearing such unappealing shoes?

One reason could be their unmistakable comfort. Many students and retailers seem to stand by the claim that the shoe’s comfort level surpasses its unattractive appearance. David Polanco, a vendor at a Miami Nordstrom, calls them “the ugliest, most comfortable shoes on the planet. I would not be caught dead wearing them in public, but they’re the only shoes I wear at home.”

Lynden “Duke” Johnson founded Crocs, Inc. in 2002 in Boulder, Colorado. The original model, the Crocs Beach, was first sold that same year in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. During the subsequent years, Crocs have increased in popularity due in large part to word of mouth advertising about their impressive comfort (Jennifer Alsever “What a Croc!” fastcompany.com). In 2007, Crocs’ revenue has increased a staggering 130% since last year. According to an October 31st press release from www.crocs.com/company/press, the company made a total of $256.3 million this year compared to last year’s $111.3 million.

The shoes come in a variety of colors ranging from neutral black and gray to blindingly bright orange and lime green. In 2006, Crocs, Inc. further increased their variety by buying a company called Iffbitz, which allows their customers to personalize their Crocs with an assortment of charms and embellishments.

Crocs, Inc. owns several shoe companies that meet their customers’ needs. For those customers who are more fashion conscious, YOU by Crocs is a more stylish take on the Crocs material. Its website (youbycrocs.com), claims it is the “intersection of fashion and Soleful comfort.”

Most FIU students who spoke to the Beacon showed an aversion toward the shoe. “They look comfortable, but disappointed me. I tried them on and [they were] unfashionable. I wouldn’t spend money on them”, says Derek Pacheco, a junior at FIU. Other students, like Amanda Hechavarria, have given the shoes a try only to find that they were less comfortable than advertised. “There are small bumps on the bottom of the shoes and an unpleasant breeze passes through your toes,” Hechavarria said.

Crocs not only face harsh criticism from students, but in the outside world as well. Hating Crocs has become as much of a trend as wearing them. Some have gone as far as making websites, such as ihatecrocs.blogspot.com, specifically to discuss the flaws of the shoes. This resistance against the Croc trend extends into the mainstream media. Megan O’Rourke of Slate went as far as calling the shoes “exquisitely ugly” in her article “The Croc Epidemic” and John Stewart from the popular faux news program “The Daily Show” has shown extraordinary distaste for the shoes.

The war against Crocs was further fueled this past September, when news of a young boy named Rory’s nearly had his toenail ripped off after his shoe got caught in an escalator (crocsaccidents.blogspot.com). Rory was not the first to suffer physical injury as a result of wearing Crocs. Earlier this year
Free t-shirts are a staple of campus life. They provide a way to show pride for the University, represent which events you have attended, what organizations you are involved with and provide an alternative to doing laundry or buying new clothes.

Campus organizations often garner attention about their causes and attract attention to their events by spending money on t-shirts to promote events beforehand and to hand out at activities.

Alejandra Maruri, president of the Student Alumni Association, said that even though shirts can be “pricey,” they are worth it.

“They are an attractive factor for students. What else does a college student want besides free shirts and free food?” Maruri said. Rose Pereira, a computer-engineering student, wears FIU shirts at least twice a week so obtaining free shirts are a must for her.

“I wear [FIU shirts] to class, to hang out and some with my pajamas. They are an important part of my wardrobe,” said Pereira. Although producing the shirts can prove expensive for clubs, there are ways to offset the costs.

In a campus with hundreds of organizations registered with the Student Organizations Council, name recognition is important. T-shirts turn students into human billboards for these clubs.

“Sometimes we get sponsors, so the cost of the shirts is not out of our pocket,” said Maruri. For some students, however, free t-shirts are not about the threads themselves, but the sense of accomplishment of receiving one.

“Everyone wants a shirt at events, and when it’s you that ends up grabbing it out of the air, you feel like you won,” said Niko Votipka, a freshman majoring in biomedical engineering. There are many opportunities year-round to find some free clothing.

Panthers Unleashed shirts were a common sight during Homecoming where the Homecoming Council gave out the shirts at sponsored events, last Friday, the Career Services office was passing out free FIU Football shirts which read “Give ‘Em The Paw 2007” to students passing through Graham Center all day during Homecoming Court voting.

 “[Sponsoring the free shirts] has been a great experience because this opportunity has allowed our office to have face-to-face contact with many different student populations throughout the campus community,” said Shawna McNair, Assistant Director of Career Services, in a press release.

Students interested in getting free shirts can follow these tips to score some:

Join clubs. Check the SOC Web site and get active. Shirts are usually included in the cost for memberships at some clubs. Just make sure you actually attend a few meetings so other members don’t wonder who you are and why you’re wearing their shirt when they pass you in the hall.

Attend advertised events. Trail of the Torch, Freshman Convocation, Rage Week events, and others that have flyers and posters littered around campus are likely to have shirts involved.

Attend Panther Rage meetings. This organization is, other than fraternities and sororities, perhaps the most visible around campus in terms of Golden Panther Gear. “Roary is my Homeboy” shirts are all the “Rage” at FIU.

Be loud and proud. Most of the time, getting a shirt thrown to you requires a bit of yelling.

Steal it from your roommate’s drawer (not recommended)

If you simply cannot seem to get lucky with scoring free shirts or simply want to expand your collection, the FIU Bookstore has a wide selection of FIU gear that can be used to show your Golden Panther Pride, ranging from the very reasonably priced to the “more overpriced than a University of Miami education” category.
Asian styles pushed by pop star Stefani

JAPANESE FASHION, page 6

consumers.

In a 2005 interview with British newspaper The Observer, Gwen Stefani discusses her first visit to Harajuku, one of Japan’s largest fashion districts and how its youth street fashion has come to inspire her style. Along with lolita, Stefani also mentions “girls with blonde hair and dark tans and high heels, like they were from Hollywood,” a look that peaked in the early 2000s where girls would bleach and dye their hair, tan their skin, and wear white makeup and bright, flashy clothing and accessories.

In actuality, gyaru borrows quite a lot from American appearance, according to Joelle Davis, a moderator of the Ganguro on LiveJournal (http://community.livejournal.com/ganguro). “I heard long ago that gyaru is a sort of rebellion against the conformity that Japanese culture and society pressured on its citizens, and in being so, we see a more western look across the nation.” We see it...in the designer bags, blonde and brown hair. [Some look to] many western popstars in magazines for style inspiration.”

Other Japanese fashion trends have also been inspired by American fashion such as bōsōzoku, a style that began in the 1950s, which translates to “violent running tribe.” According to a January 2007 article in Japan Today, bōsōzoku is inspired by the greasers of the 1950s who became known in the youth through biker films such as The Wild One starring Marlon Brando. While L.A.M.B. and Harajuku lovers have received great appraise from fashion critics, such as those at Entertainment Weekly and Style.com, purists of these fashions have different opinions: “Personally, I don’t like it at all,” says Davis. “I think it’s too haut monde and the pop stars and magazines for style inspiration.”

ALL DRESSED UP: The Japan Club wore different Gothic lolita styles to educate members on Japanese fashion

HIGH RISK, HIGH REWARD?

HIV contaminated organs raise questions

Earlier this month a horrible story came out of Chicago. Four patients got infected with HIV from organs that were determined to be hepatitis C from a deceased organ donor.

The recipients were infected with HIV two weeks ago, according to medical officials reported by Associated Press; the transplants took place in January, but the recipients were not tested for HIV until recently.

According to Medical News Today, the organ donor had been tested by an ELISA test before the transplant, which is a fast HIV test that screens for antibodies. The results came out negative. The ELISA test was re-administered after the infections were discovered and the result came out negative too.

The most likely reason the test came out negative is because the donor had received the infection in the last three weeks before donation, according to AP.

If a person gets infected with HIV, it takes 22 days from time of exposure to be detected by the standard HIV test (ELISA).

Another important issue is that the donor was identified in a high-risk status, which was confirmed on a questionnaire before the transplant. “We were aware of that from the beginning,” said Dave Bosch of the Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Donation, the regional organ procurement agency that handled the donor organs in article from the Reuters news agency.

According to Bosch, 9 percent of the 22,000 organ transplants in the United States involve high-risk organs.

Statistics reflect that the risk of getting any disease from transplanted organs is less than 0.01 percent, according to Tanner.

“The transplant system is safe,” according to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

According to AP, behaviors that may make a potential donor’s organs “high risk” include having unprotected sex, having sex for money or drugs, and intravenous use of recreational drugs, within the past five years prior to organ donation.

Three main ethical questions arise from all these facts.

Isn’t there another test more accurate than the ELISA test? And why were the recipients not tested for HIV after the transplant?

To start, there is another type of test that is more accurate known as NAT, which is a slower test that looks at the genetic material of the HIV or hepatitis C pathogen, and can therefore detect the presence of a virus shortly after infection, before the body has had time to produce enough antibodies to show up in the antibody test, according to Medical News Today.

The problem is that this test takes longer than the ELISA test, and since time is essential they apply the ELISA test.

According to an article in the Chicago Tribune titled “Organ Patients spread of HIV probed,” an organ can be stored only for a short time, as little as four hours in the case of hearts and lungs, experts said.

The availability is another concern. If you pass, maybe you don’t get another organ, according to Dr. Matthew Kuehnert, director of blood, organ and tissue safety with the federal Center for Disease Control, none of the affected hospitals – Rush University Medical Center, Northwestern Memorial Hospital and the University of Chicago Medical Center- appeared to have followed CDC guidelines for testing at-risk patients after a transplant.

Gift of Hope in a statement on their website www.giftofhope.org, affirms that a review of the case verified that they performed standard tests for HIV and HCV in accordance with the appropriate guidelines as required by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) and the CDC.

As for the recipients friends and family? According to the Chicago Tribune, it’s too soon to say whether the organ recipients passed on the infections to anyone else.

Is there a transplant system that is 100 percent secure that can someday be implemented?

“I predict it will happen. We’re just not there today. I hope it won’t be too long... maybe a year or two,” said James Burdick, head of the division of transplantation at the federal Health Resources and Services Administration.
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A Passion to Perform. Deutsche Bank
Two stars on team make or break the team’s season

Galindo and Hicks must have the team in a hole, allowing 1,392 yards combined in the past three games, and that is a trend that looks like it will continue when the Mean Green come to the Orange Bowl. Despite its 2-9 record, the Mean Green boast the most formidable passing offense in the Belt, ranking first in conference and 16th overall in the nation. If the Golden Panthers are going to stop the Mean Green offense, they will have to shut down junior wide receiver Casey Fitzgerald, who is third in the nation in receptions and fourth in receiving yards. On the season, Fitzgerald leads the Sun Belt with 104 receptions, 1,264 yards and 12 touchdowns. Fitzgerald has dominated vulnerable passing offenses all season, including a five-touchdown game against Navy, which North Texas lost 72-64. The reason North Texas is 2-9 despite its high scoring offense, which ranks fourth in the Sun Belt in scoring, is their defense, which allows 45 points and 499 yards per game. If the Golden Panthers are going to beat NTU, their best bet is with a steady dose of veteran running back Modou McCall or freshman quarterback Colt Anderson.

McCall or Anderson will have to take the place of starter Wayne Younger, who injured his collarbone during the team’s 55-23 loss to the FAU Owls on Nov. 24. While Younger was known for his ability to make plays with his feet, McCall is more of a traditional pocket passer. Anderson can move, but he doesn’t have the quickness of Younger.

Neither has made much of a mark in limited playing time this year, though McCall did impress in the fourth quarter of the loss to FAU, going 33-35 with two touchdowns and one interception. Anderson probably has a more accurate arm than McCall and can certainly move in and out of the pocket more fluidly, but McCall looked much more comfortable than Anderson in the FAU game.

Anderson had just three passing attempts, with one completion for 10 yards, and three rushes for three yards. He looked tentative with his passes and seemed reluctant to put the ball in the air, which may give Cristobal enough reason to start McCall and try to let the sophomore get into a rhythm.

Golden Panthers struggle against streaking Bulls

As a result of the Bulls’ sturdy play inside, the Golden Panthers were forced to shoot a season-high 24 3-point field goals, while only making eight of them.

Junior guard Kenneth White contributed to the Golden Panthers’ poor shooting night, going 1-for-7 from 3-point range and made only six field goals in 21 attempts for the game.

“It was his day; he was open,” Rouco said of White. “I thought he led the Bulls with two blocks and disrupted the offensive play of the loss to FAU, going 23-35 with two touchdowns and one interception. Anderson probably has a more accurate arm than McCall and can certainly move in and out of the pocket more fluidly, but McCall looked much more comfortable than Anderson in the FAU game.

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A few of the many amenities of living on-campus at FIU:

+ Fully furnished suites
+ Utilities, cable, & internet included
+ Leadership & job opportunities
+ Free tutoring & academic advising
+ Better grades*
+ Make new friends!
+ Fun, exciting programming
+ Safe & secure environment
+ Discounted meal plans (Panther & Lakeview)
+ Short walk to your classes and the gym
+ Resident-only parking lots
+ Save on ever increasing fuel costs and frustrating commutes to/from campus


* Studies show that students who live on campus tend to make better grades and are more likely to graduate in 4 years.
FIRST DEFEAT

Team unable to stop Bulls’ inside game

JONATHAN RAMOS
Contributing Writer

With 5:38 left in the game, University of South Florida center Kentrell Gransberry got in position inside the paint and scored once again before clapping his hands confidently and jogging to his huddle after another FIU timeout.

For the Golden Panthers (2-1), that play was a microcosm of the teams 77-69 loss to the USF Bulls (4-3) Nov. 26 at the Pharmed Arena. Gransberry, a second team All-Big East selection last season, led the Bulls with 21 points on 8-for-13 shooting from the field, and was a force on both sides of the ball.

“He’s amazing, we just have to get him the ball and he does what he needs to,” USF guard Michael James said.

Indeed. Gransberry was the center of attention for the Golden Panthers defense, often drawing double teams en route to getting to the line 10 times to lead his team.

The Golden Panthers went 7-13 at the line for the game as the Bulls capitalized throughout the game on their way to an 18-2-for-29 night at the stripe. Gransberry, the top returning rebounder in the nation coming

BALL HANDLER: Senior guard Michael James drives past a USF defender during the Golden Panthers’ 77-69 loss on Nov. 26 at Pharmed Arena.

MEN’S BASKETBALL, page 10

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Golden Panthers falter in FIU Thanksgiving Classic

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

The Pharmed Arena played host to the FIU Thanksgiving Classic Nov. 23 and 25. The Golden Panthers (1-4), University of Providence Friars (4-2), University of South Carolina Gamecocks (4-2) and the University of Illinois Fighting Illini (5-1) participated in the tournament.

The Golden Panthers got off to a promising start against Providence. They entered halftime with a 33-24 lead that would be short lived. Despite having a 14-point lead in the second half, a 15.0 run by Providence brought the lead up to 14 points in the second half, FIU lost after a 15-0 Providence run.

The Golden Panthers ended up losing the game 71-60. Providence, led by sophomore guard Kendria Holmes, scored a game-high 19 points.

Junior forward Marquita Astley led FIU in both scoring and rebounding with 12 points and a career-high 16 rebounds for the second consecutive game.

“It was the defense. It was definitely the defense,” said junior guard Iva Ciglar. “You can’t blame it on the offense [because] you [can] have a good day or bad day on offense, but you always have to have a good day on defense and that is definitely what we did not have today.”

The Golden Panthers then went on to beat Illinois, who had lost to South Carolina, 91-58. This meant FIU was to play South Carolina in the consolation game, while Providence and Illinois played for the tournament championship.

In the consolation game against South Carolina, the Golden Panthers would only lead briefly at the beginning as the Gamecocks scored consistently, mainly in the paint where they had a clear size advantage. At halftime, FIU trailed 34-42.

In the second half, senior guard LaQuetta Ferguson scored 23 of her career-high 32 points and helped keep FIU within striking range, but South Carolina responded to every run and would end up winning 82-66.

Ferguson’s career-high came following her toughest game of the season against Providence in which she only scored eight points and sustained a concussion towards the end of the game.

“These losses are bad, but they’re good because we learn with every loss and by the time we get in our conference, we’ll be ready to compete and beat the teams in our conference,” said Ferguson.

In the championship game, Illinois edged out Providence by one point to win 60-59.

The all-tournament team consisted of Ferguson, South Carolina freshmen guard Jordan Jones, Providence sophomore forward Emily Cournoyer, Illinois Junior forward Chelsea Gorden and Smith.

Golden Panthers coach Cindy Russo was pleased to face tough competition at this juncture of the season.

“You know I was worried about that when I had the schedule and it can go two ways,” Russo said.

“You can really get better and gain from it, win or lose, or it can crush them, but today I would say they are on the other side of the coin, meaning they are learning from it and getting better, so that makes me happy.”

The Golden Panthers will be the University of South Florida on Nov. 29.