Housing to add keycard access on all dorms

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University housing wants to become more high-tech and secure for students, and the key to the solution rests in the FIU OneCard.

The Department of Student Housing created an initiative to implement keycard access to all housing buildings, and used Parkview Hall as a test trial this past Spring semester. The trial period was only for that semester. The pilot was a success.

Nahshon Rollins, a junior majoring in sociology, has lived on campus for two years and resided in Parkview Hall during the trial period. He said the keycard system was a life-saver.

“I’ve lost my physical key plenty of times so I know it’s a hassle to deal with it,” he said. “[the keycard] is a great way to access your room.”

Based on its successful performance, the department of housing chose to continue the project and plans to add keycard access as a feature to all on-campus housing by January 2015. There will be a total of 34 card readers.

John Tallon, assistant director of housing facilities, said the project was designed so students can use their current FIU OneCard. This will make it more convenient for students to have the necessary access to his or her room, as well as access to other features, such as the laundry rooms.

The biggest hurdle in this project, according to Tallon, was finding the right software that would be compatible with the FIU OneCard.

“We’re piggybacking off of an existing system, which is the OneCard. The Business Services office, which runs the OneCard, has really helped us get this set up,” Tallon said.

The office of business services helped the housing department with the manual processing of getting the 600 Parkview residents into the system for the test run.

Now that the system will be implemented in all other dorms, the housing department has to attend seminars to understand the programming to avoid manually imparting every single student living on campus.

The card readers won’t be up and running until this phase of the implementation is completed.

The card readers will be applied mainly for security purposes. Tallon said.

“We have thousands of students living on campus and everyone has a physical key to their room. When you have thousands of people, keys do get lost,” he said.

With the physical keys, housing has to change the locks of the room, which can be time-consuming and costly.

“It’s not logical for us to change the locks of the room every time someone loses a key,” said Tallon.

Once inputted, the Student Housing Department will have real-time access to turn the accessibility of a keycard on and off.

SEE KEYCARD, PAGE 2

Yik ‘Yakety Yak:’ what has Panthers yakking

EJOHN MACARANAS
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Social networking has not lost its mojo, especially at FIU. Every week on campus, millions of Facebook posts, Instagrams, Vines and tweets flood the cyberspace.

Now they will be joined by the latest networking craze to hit smartphones — Yik Yak.

The Yik Yak phone app, created just last year by Tyler Droll and Brooks Buffington, combines elements of both Twitter and “geo-fencing” to create an anonymous environment for students to “yak” about school happenings all across campus.

Unlike other social networks, Yik Yak has a specific lean towards college campuses, to the extent that it allows users to preview other colleges’ feeds with the designated peek category within the app.

The University was included on the peek list just this week. The app borrows some elements from fellow social networking platform, Reddit, in that it uses a karma system where users can upvote and downvote yaks.

Yik Yak appears to be particularly popular to the freshman population of the University.

“I think Yik Yak is a great way to express one’s most guarded secrets with the FIU community,” says freshman management major Steven Daniel Aragundi who has amassed 4,259 Yakarma points on the platform.

People accumulate Yakarma points by the number of “upvotes,” or likes they receive for their yaks. They can also gain points for receiving replies or comments to their posts.

Aragundi also adds that it can help students catch up on what’s happening on campus. “If you’re on it when something big on campus is happening, you’re probably going to catch wind of it,” he said.

It’s really funny and entertaining but distracts me in class. I’m sure I’ll lose interest in this soon, it’s like any other fad.

Katrina Akirmaian
Freshman
Biology Major

Panther Pride Parade

Students and employees of the Student Programming Council walk in the Homecoming parade on Saturday, Oct. 18 before the Homecoming game against Marshall.

SEE PARADE, PAGE 4

Dog clears bomb threat on campus

REBECA PICCARDO
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A possible bomb threat on campus Sunday morning was cleared by the early afternoon.

University police received a tip about a bomb threat in the Charles Perry building, also known as Primera Casa, at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. As a precaution, police alerted Miami-Dade County Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to assist in checking out the threat and ensuring the safety of the University community.

The University community did not receive an alert about the possible threat in the morning, but later in the afternoon, when President Mark B. Rosenberg sent out a University-wide email to announce the threat had been cleared.

In the end, it was the help of FUPD’s bomb sniffing dog, Robi, that allowed police to search and clear the building, according to the email.

PC is the first building ever built in the University, and it houses the offices of the president, provost, board of trustees, admissions and financial aid, among others.

“We thank FIU students, faculty and staff for being active participants in safety and working with police to resolve this matter,” said Rosenberg in his memorandum. “The PC building is safe and normal operations have resumed.”

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.
More sea turtles come to Florida, but reasons are mysterious

This year’s early count of sea turtles nesting on Florida beaches is encouraging, though there are many unknowns in the numbers.

Welcome to the mysterious world of sea turtles, which spend much of their time far from Florida’s beaches encountering fishing boats, oil spills, plastic trash and any number of other perils.

Nest by loggerhead, green and leatherback turtles has been trending up in numbers for nearly the past five years along the state’s coast. But there have been significant dips and climbs in their nest counts.

Green turtles, for example, have wowed researchers with their growing preference for Florida beaches. Yet while last year’s count was surprisingly high, this year’s is down, which experts expected.

In Texas, Liberian Americans weary of Ebola stigma

The Ebola crisis that has killed almost 4,500 people across Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea has hit close to home for many West African immigrants living in communities from Minnesota to Rhode Island. But probably none has been more hit than in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The community of 10,000 Liberians headed the call to help family and friends when the epidemic took hold overseas.

Now they’re immersed in their own battle for survival and facing probing questions from others about the origin of the disease.

Liberian Americans here, some of whom haven’t been back to their homeland in years or decades, report losing jobs, getting suspicious looks and facing probing questions from co-workers that they never received before.

“They have to worry about family back home and being stigmatized over here,” said Ulla Adighibe, 52, several friends of whom have died of Ebola in Liberia.

Alumni to expand tutoring company

ANDREA VIZCAINO
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Johnny Betancourt started private tutoring sessions, teaching organic chemistry to earn some extra cash while in school. Years later, the University alumnus has a start-up company in his hands: Clutch Tutoring.

“One word got out about his private tutoring and how helpful it was, the demand for private tutoring sessions started adding up. This is when Betancourt came up with the idea of putting all the students into groups so he would be able to reach a bigger amount of students and teach it all at once. This is the concept behind Clutch, which caters to FIU students and coursework exclusively.

The reason why we do this work is because we cater to every record of when the student is learning in the classrooms,” said Marco Souza, CEO and physics tutor. “The closer we are to what exactly it is they are learning in the classrooms, the more relevant the content and the more the students here at FIU are interested in the program and learn from it.”

Jessica Justiz, a recent graduate with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry, at one point needed help with her physics and organic chemistry classes.

“Definitely I wouldn’t have passed without them and were able to teach other subjects. The subjects they teach include calculus, biology, statistics and even MCAT test prep.”

Michael Blanco, a senior biochemistry major, used Clutch when he needed help in chemistry class. He credits his tutor, Jules Bruno, for passing the class with a 3.0 GPA.

“Jules knows chemistry so well— it’s as if he invented the subject,” he said. “Without Jules, I would have failed chem.”

Clutch recently received recognition from Techstars, a start-up accelerator, which helps fund sponsors for them.

New app piques student interest

APP, PAGE 1

It’s really funny and entertaining but distracts me in class,” said freshman biology major Katrina Akirmaian, who has earned 439 Yakarma points. “I’m sure I’ll lose interest in this soon, it’s like any other fad.”

Akirmaian is not the only one who think this way. Freshman biomedical engineering major Annabelle Santos has some words to say on the matter as well.

“I honestly think it’s passing trend, but because it’s perpetuated by a college community, which gets new students every year that have tons of time on their hands,” she said. Santos, who has earned 3,800 Yakarma points, added, “I really wouldn’t be surprised either if FIU’s attention span drops Yik Yak for a new app.”

It is not only the critics of the app that agree Yik Yak’s days on campus as the social media darling of the moment are numbered.

New app piques student interest

Housing department attains OneCard readers for all dorms

KEYCARD, PAGE 1

With this system, the department will now have access to every record of when the card was swiped into a building.

There is also an emergency shutdown feature for all the buildings. If a building needs to be securely locked for an emergency, the Department of Housing has the ability to do so with the click of a button.

This may also be done to open or close any single door, simply by using a mobile device.

“I think it’s going to be more convenient,” Nahshon Souza explains how they expanded tutoring company.

“I definitely would not have passed physics without them and they helped me get a 100 on my first orgo exam. They are very helpful and just help in making sense of everything.”

“I think it’s going to be more convenient,” Nahshon Souza said. “No one needs to rush to class while worrying if they are late.”

The tragedy of popular apps is that they do have their 15 minutes of fame,” Aragundi noted. “Just like Temple Run and Words With Friends, Yik Yak will become a thing of the past but as for now, I’m enjoying the ride!”

Whether or not the app will prove to be a lasting competitor in the evernevering onslaught of social media crazes, Yik Yak seems like something the Panthers will be yakkering about at this very moment.

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OH THE HUMANITIES!

STEM attempts to surpass other areas of studies

KRISTOPHER SAAD
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STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. Anyone who’s somewhat informed about education and economic reform these days has undoubtedly heard the acronym uttered a million times.

Touted as the savior of all of America’s social and economic problems, the rhetoric coming from public officials and politicians is pushing for greater numbers of teenagers and young adults to enter STEM fields. Even the United States president himself is getting in on the act. He promised $3.1 billion to further develop STEM-focused education reforms. Yet this push for STEM education is diverting attention from and devaluing important areas of study such as the humanities.

It would be to the great detriment of society if the humanities were relegated to marginal areas of study as is being done. The humanities should not be ignored or devalued. Any humanities major has undoubtedly been exposed to jokes and stereotypes claiming that humanities are worthless or have no economic incentive. These need to stop. The humanities provide some of the most important areas of study and expression like art, English, history, theatre, music, and philosophy among a myriad of others.

The humanities encompass fields of study that have been vital creators of human history, creators of expressive art, romantic and adventurous aspirations and music that gives us joy like nothing else.

They have brought us the journalism that serves as a watch over our democracy and issues a constant fight for equality and the bettering of humanity.

The humanities have brought us some of history’s greatest literary compositions and ideas about how the world works and why. They add color, vibrance, variety and tremendous, incalculable beauty to the world. A method of capturing human pain and emotion, sadness, happiness and everything in between – the core of what makes us human.

Yet these humanities are often put on the back burner against the more favorable rational and logical studies of science and engineering. All it takes is for one to imagine how the removal of the humanities would leave the world barren, grey and dull, with no liveliness, peculiarity or expressed emotion, astonishing and perhaps even a loss of equality and justice.

The emphasis on STEM education is academic eugenics – the planned sterilization and creation of a set of people who are perceived as more highly valued because of what they have studied. This emphasis on STEM education comes at a massive cost to all. The artists, the philosophers, the writers, the poets, the musicians, the actors, the journalists, the historians and everyone else who plays an essential role in capturing the essence of the human condition, expressing it and recording it for future generations.

When we look at history, it’s not solely the scientific and technological accomplishments that we marvel at. But also the art, the books, the music that carry the human spirit through time and space.

We need to take a step back and let people decide for themselves what they want to study. If we’re to be truly progressive we must present them with all of the available options and let them choose for themselves their passion and academic direction instead of shoving STEM down their throats and punishing them when they choose otherwise.

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Are you running around, trying to find the perfect backpack or cowboy boots that will get you “in” with that crowd at your school or hangout? Buying a skateboard to make a “cool” friend? Are you pretending to know about something you really don’t impress somebody?

I know, you don’t want to admit it. Nobody will. I don’t blame you for attempting to save yourself the embarrassment. But I’m going to warn you right now.

Stop trying to fit in. In the long run, it’s not going to work.

Alright, so let’s say you get that tattoo and those pants and start saying it’s not going to work.

Nobody will. I don’t blame you for trying to please others, respect, acceptance, without any energy expen-

siture. You don’t have to try. Your best friend is waiting for you there, asking if you want to hang out. You smile and say yes, of course. Almost right away, he or she cracks a joke and you’re laughing so hard your cheeks sting. They ask what you think of the movie you’re about to see and you say it’s probably going to suck.

There’s no lying, no hiding. No costume to throw on to run on stage. Complete acceptance, without any energy expenditure. You don’t have to try.

So what are you doing? Who are you trying to please? What are you trying to gain? When you try to please others, you will never win. If you’re trying to earn other people’s respect, respect yourself first. Know what’s right for you. Don’t lie to yourself. You will only end up living a dishonest life spent trying to please others and you will never be happy. You won’t even learn to

agree with something you don’t actu-

ally agree with. You laugh at something that’s not funny. But then you give them a pat on your back, a fist punch, a seal of approval. You sigh in relief. You go home and take off the mask.

Stop trying to be a ‘cool kid’

Send Us Your Letters

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124.

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If you’re trying to earn other people’s respect, respect yourself first.

Beacon – 3

Diego Saldaña-Rojas
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OH THE HUMANITIES!

If we’re to be truly progressive we must present them with all of the available options...
Different University groups and organizations took part in the Homecoming Parade on oct. 18 to build morale around campus before FIU faced Marshall University in the Homecoming game that evening. The parade began at 1:45 pm in Lot 9.

MARIA GIL  
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Gladys Ricart envisioned Sept. 26, 1999 to be one of the most special days of her life — it was her wedding day. However, that Sunday would be her last.

The excitement that consumed the day quickly became horror and sorrow. Agustin Garcia, Ricart’s ex-boyfriend, drove to Ricart’s New Jersey home that day brandishing a .38-caliber handgun.

Garcia shot the bride to be three times in what the court called “emotional rage.”

Following Ashton’s act, hundreds of women began marching every year in their wedding dress in remembrance of Ricart in places like New York, Florida, Wisconsin, Washington and Dominican Republic.

These marches caused a new movement. A new awareness was launched in the streets, an awareness to promote peaceful relationship and bring to the eyes of the community that domestic violence is a serious matter.

This year, the fifth Annual College Brides Walk will occur on Friday Feb. 13. The walk will begin at Barry University, head to Johnson & Wales University and then return back to Barry University, making it a total of six miles.

Women against domestic violence on the rise

MARIA GIL  
Staff Writer  
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Approximately 80 percent of female victims experienced their first rape before the age of 25 and almost half experienced the first rape before age 18. 28 percent of male victims of rape were first raped when they were 10 years old or younger.

Stephanie Wong, Vice President National Organization for Women

Approximately 80 percent of female victims experienced their first rape before the age of 25 and almost half experienced the first rape before age 18. 28 percent of male victims of rape were first raped when they were 10 years old or younger.

The statistics can be troubling. Stephanie Wong who advises that if you are suffering domestic violence to approach a service like No More Tears or Women in Distress in order to receive aid. Also, No More Tears is a service for men, women and children, since women aren’t the only victims of domestic and dating violence.

Marriage is a symbol of a beautiful journey with a loved one. Unfortunately, domestic violence is a possibility and an unfortunate reality within some marriages.

Wong will participate in the College Brides Walk. She says that she will be, “wearing the beautiful gown and speaking up about such an ugly practice with a loved one. Un fortunately, domestic violence is a possibility and an unfortunate reality within some marriages.

While also remembering the tragedy of Gladys Ricart.
Rise to the head of the class.

Did you know the Coast Guard has a scholarship program that will cover tuition and fees, pay you a monthly salary, and guarantee you a career after graduation? Open to students at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), the College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative (CSP) Scholarship Program is giving college juniors and seniors hands-on training, leadership experience, and unparalleled benefits. After completing CSP, graduates are guaranteed careers in fields like humanitarianism, search and rescue, and many more.

Visit GoCoastGuard.com/CSPScholarship to learn more.
Women’s soccer on their way to the top

JAMES PROFETTO
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Top-tier talent in Conference USA

Prior to traveling to Miami this past weekend, Oct. 17 through Oct. 19, Rice University fell to the women’s soccer team on Friday, Oct. 17, with overtime paving a thrilling narrative to begin the two-game weekend. North Texas University, now with 11 wins, strung out onto the field at the FIU Soccer Stadium on Sunday, Oct. 19, for a 1 p.m. match.

The implications of either losing or winning were dire for the Panthers. With Panthers and Rice University on Friday, Oct. 17. Coming into the late-night match, the Owls of Rice were ranked number three overall in Conference USA standings. The Panthers were sitting at eighth overall.

This allowed for senior forwards, Chelsea Johanna Volz and her band of midfielders to work within all night. Senior midfielder Nevena Stojakovic was shaken up after heavy contact. No matter, though, as the Serbian native refocused and added five key saves on the night.

“It’s my job to stop shots,” said Stojakovic. “A big part of stopping [Rice] was [due to] my teammates…I’m proud of them. They showed big effort and were willing to win.”

Owls fight back

At halftime, one could slice a knife through the thin air and deep breaths each fan were taking. Going into halftime 0-0 presented a fresh slate for the Panthers and a more confident mindset knowing the game was in their hands. “We were controlling the whole game and [a goal] was coming,” said Leiva. A goal, indeed, presented itself to the Panthers. At the 54th minute, a rather unlikely candidate, but always a likely factor, found the first goal on the night and of her career. Bowden seemingly made the best chance of her positioning off a wonderfully executed set piece (Leiva and junior midfielder Madlen Weinhardt cred- ited with assists). “Madlen put in a beautiful ball and Chelsea got a head on it,” said Bowden, smiling from ear-to-ear while holding a congratulatory plant in her hands. “It just kinda skid off her head, went back-post and I volleyed it in.”

The narrative quickly became defense, defense while Rice’s became desperation. Chestnutt and his team have watched and felt the frustration of late goal equalizers after a score. Those feelings were revisited in the final 40 seconds.

The Owls’ Quincy Truong, orchestrated a strong attack and launched a prayer into the box, which found fellow teammate Lauren Hughes. Stojakovic made her only mistake of the night in this sequence by coming out too far, allowing Hughes to softly head in an equalizer. “We let our minds kind of wander in the last 40 seconds,” said Rios. “From there, we [said], ‘Alright, we just have to win in overtime. There’s no other option.’”

Finding gold

As everyone in attendance began to prepare themselves for overtime, only one loud, booming voice was heard. The voice of sophomore midfielder, Alyssa Robinson, inserted herself into the middle of the Panther huddle, yelling motivational commands that quickly alerted everyone of the team to the direction of the left side of the tank. Six minutes into the first 10 minute half of overtime, Shim continued her shared (four assists on the season) and found a trailing Leiva on the left side of the box. Leiva faced Owl goalkeeper Amy Czyz for the last time that night and struck gold—a golden goal for the win.

“[Their mental focus was] high tonight,” said Chestnutt. “It’s what we needed. We were happy to see that.”

Chestnutt also mentioned that the Panthers played to their level, to their roles. The 2-1 victory was one of the more complete games the University has played this season and has boosted them to a 7-6-1, 2-2-1 record. With seven points, the Panthers sit at 11th overall in C-USA.

When asked if the victory over Rice was a confidence boost in preparation for NTU, Rios provided the most colorful commentary of the night: “We hate North Texas, so I think this [win] is awesome. This definitely helps us and our main focus now is North Texas and beating them.”

SEE SOCCER, PAGE 7

STAMPEDE HITS HOME

FRESHMAN BACKPAGE

Freshman quarterback Alex McGough dives on a scramble looking toward the sideline for the first down marker. McGough ran for the only rushing touchdown against Marshall University, losing 45-13, Saturday, Oct 18.
Panthers look forward to climbing standings in final games of season

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE
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After a quick home stand against Middle Tennessee State University and University of Southern Mississippi this past weekend, the volleyball team is back on the road for two conference games against Western Kentucky University and University of North Texas.

The Panthers unfortunately lost both home matches each going the distance to five sets. This hurt the team’s spot in the standings as it dropped them to eighth in the standings after being in fifth place, and now having a Conference USA record of 3-4.

This weekend’s matchups won’t get any easier as Western Kentucky is second in the Conference and North Texas is one spot above FIU at seventh in the standings.

Once again, the Panthers are under .500 and look to bounce back this weekend to even up their C-USA record.

The Panthers first opponent on the road trip will be Western Kentucky. Mentioned previously, they are one of the top teams in the conference with a C-USA record of 8-1. They are also the first team in the conference to reach 20 wins. Their overall record is an impressive 20-5.

Going into the match against FIU, the Hilltoppers have won their last nine out of ten games. Earlier this season on Friday, Oct. 3, WKU played FIU here at home and easily swept the Panthers in three sets.

On the flipside coming into this match WKU will be facing a new and extremely improved FIU volleyball team. Since their first encounter, the Panthers were in the bottom of the standings and since then they are right in the thick of things and still climbing their way up in the standings. Still, this will be a difficult match for FIU because WKU is still undefeated at home this season with a 9-0 record.

Recently FIU has been able to play deep into matches and hasn’t been swept since playing WKU very early in the season in sweeps. The Panthers have an opportunity to make a statement in the conference with the Hilltoppers in this true David and Goliath matchup.

Two days later on Sunday, Oct. 26, the team will travel from Kentucky to Denton, Texas to take on the Mean Green. North Texas is only one spot ahead of the Panthers and exactly one game ahead of them.

North Texas has been in a slump as of late losing six of their last ten games dropping them in the standings. Compared to WKU, North Texas has showed some problems lately when playing at home losing their last two matches. Still, their record at home is a solid 7-3.

This will be the first and only time these two teams will match up in the regular season so FIU needs to get the win in this match to possibly overtake them in the standings. North Texas’ C-USA record is 4-5 but that should not fool anybody of their abilities because they have an overall winning record of 13-9 which shows they beat better talent outside of the conference as well.

This match and overall road trip is crucial for the Panthers but more importantly junior co-captain Lucia Castro who is on a hot streak right now leading the team in scoring. It is crucial that her play style spreads throughout the team as they are on the home stretch of the regular season.

One player can’t single handedly beat these teams especially WKU. In these upcoming games, the Panthers have to show what they are truly made of because the balance of the season could be determined in these two games, whether or not the Panthers have a spot in the playoffs.
Finding truth in Buddhism

I never identified with a religion as a child. My family raised me Catholic, but I chose a different path after questioning everything I learned in religion classes and in church. I took a couple religion courses in college and realized that I could choose my own belief system. It was not until I embarked on a year-long spiritual journey that I came across Buddhism.

Last year, I enrolled in a “History of Buddhism” course and opened my eyes completely. I wanted to learn about the lessons taught by Buddha, known as Siddhārtha Gautama or Shakyamuni. It was not until I completely. I wanted to learn about the lessons taught by Buddha, known as Siddhārtha Gautama or Shakyamuni. It was not until I

Another thing I admire about Buddhism is, historically, it has never been the center of war – which cannot be said for most other popular religions. Buddhism doesn’t degrade other religions. It doesn’t teach that one religion is right and the others are wrong. For Buddhists, there is no hell as is taught in many religions, because we are already damned by our egos that constantly desire happiness.

Meditation is also a tool used by Buddhists to transform the mind. After meditating several times, I have been able to develop a more positive and peaceful state of mind. If students are not gung-ho about becoming Buddhist from this article, they could still benefit from Buddhist practices like meditation. The Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation Center offers free yoga classes for students and faculty, which have helped me release the tension in my muscles and relax my mind.

My family raised me a Catholic, but I chose a different path after questioning everything I learned in religion classes and in church.

BBC Campus Life goes to Halloween Horror Nights

The Office of Campus Life at Biscayne Bay Campus has planned to take students to Orlando for the Halloween-themed amusement park this week. For $25, students get to hitch a ride with Campus Life from Biscayne Bay Campus to Orlando at noon this Wednesday, Oct. 22 to attend Halloween Horror Nights. Students will spend Wednesday and most of Thursday in Orlando and arrive back at BBC on Thursday, Oct. 23 at midnight.

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The Beacon – 8 Wednesday, October 22, 2014

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ASK!: A LIFE HACK

STRAIGHT-UP ALEX

ALEXANDRA MOSQUERA NETZKARSCH

If students are not gung-ho about becoming Buddhist from this article, they could still benefit from Buddhist