Homecoming Council reveals behind-the-scenes

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Every year, students, faculty, parents and alumni gather around campus and enjoy the series of Homecoming Week festivities—and there’s a whole team behind it all.

The Homecoming Council brainstorm ideas and puts them together for over eight months, according to Kelly Ibarra, a junior communication arts major and assistant director of administration for the HC.

“There are people who are coordinating together, Andrea Macias, a junior hospitality management major and assistant director of administration for the HC, told the team has become a family.

“At the beginning we weren’t as close, obviously, but we spend so many hours together that we became one,” said Macias.

“I had to go home and I don’t like to go home because I don’t have the appropriate resources [to study],” said Laidelyn Mendoza, a senior administration.

Grillo said the Wi-Fi worked fine at the beginning of the semester with its 35,000 simultaneous users. So because students are prevented from finishing their tests [electronic dance music] world restrictions, they weren’t able to do everything we want to do, but we try to get as close to those ideas as possible,” said Ibarra.

Bringing a live pantom to the University was one of their many ideas, but because of certain restrictions, they weren’t able to realize it.

“A lot of the council members have had amazing ideas. It kind of sometimes sucks that we can’t really do everything we want to do, but we try to get as close to those ideas as possible,” said Ibarra.

However, bringing artists like Tiësto was a shocking achievement, she said.

“He’s like the Beyoncé of the [electronic dance music] world and he’s a really humble person— he’s not a diva,” Ibarra said. “I think [because of the] the fact that he doesn’t restrict himself as an artist he said, ‘Why not FIU?’ Especially Miami— where [the Ultra Music Festival]...
New off-campus housing begins leasing to Panthers

APARTMENT, PAGE 1

for that housing and that wound is still fresh.

The building will have over 562 beds available – with apartments varying from one bedroom to four bedrooms. The residence comes with reserved parking for owners, as well as parking for guests, and has its own roommate-matching service for students who need it.

Although Harris could not confirm the price per unit to Student Media, a classified list in the University of Florida's database would cost $1,200 or $1,300 per unit.

Harris urges students to apply for their apartments online and start leasing early. Even though the off-campus housing is not exclusive for FIU students, Harris says that most of the targeted audience is the college community.

“It isn’t just for college students and we’re never going to turn down someone who’s qualified to live in one of our apartments,” said Harris. “But, at the same time, whose grandmother is really going to come in and say that she wants to live where the noise and racket is?”

The residence includes unlimited access to a fitness center, a swimming pool, a resident lounge and other amenities. The office already has more than 300 students from all campuses, students from the University of Miami in Coral Gables and regular residents in the City of Sweetwater.

“Everything in our building correlates to being a student and that’s why they’re our target,” said Zach Helton, leasing manager at 4th Street Commons.

“The study rooms we have, the fitness centers and a lot of other facilities that you won’t even have to leave the house to get.”

Some of these facilities include midnight breakfasts and massages during exams, as well as computer centers with iMacs, PCs and printers. It will also have outdoor grilling stations, Taco Tuesday nights and a private multi-use theatre.

“The truth is that we came to make a splash in this market and everything we do, including our customer service, is geared toward students to be successful,” said Helton. “That’s our goal.”

Harris agreed with Helton and said that the lack of housing at FIU makes it a different market than what he is used to.

“You guys don’t have off-campus housing,” he said. “You don’t have Greek housing and the on-campus housing – while people are happy with it – when a better opportunity comes along, they’re never going to turn you down.”

Elizabeth Larios, a senior majoring in English, lives on campus and also believes that the housing at the University could be better.

“I wish the housing here had all the stuff that 4th Commons will have.”

A family works on Homecoming

HOMECOMING, PAGE 1

Festival happens.”

She said that this year was not the comedian year because several of the ones they either passed away or weren’t doing shows anymore. However, after they found comedians D.L. Hughly and Eddie Griffin, they celebrated.

Ibarra also emphasized on the importance of students coming out to community.

“Every time it comes out of student tuition fees. You students like Ingrid Fust, a junior advertising major, said no one knows about all the events that are going on.

“When you think about Homecoming, you think about the game and the concert. I haven’t heard anything else,” said Fust.

“This is my junior year and I keep thinking like next year, I’ll do everything, but I don’t even know what everything is – it’s just the concert and the game.”

Meanwhile, Ibarra said that because he thought that he wouldn’t leave is because I’m on scholarship, but I think that FIU needs to step up its game when it comes to both on-campus and off-campus housing.

The apartments will be close to campus—with only five to ten minute walk from Parking Garage 5. For Ian Gorgon, freshman biology major and FIU commuter, this is ideal.

“It takes me about 45 minutes to get to campus in the morning with all the traffic,” said Gorgon. “It would be great if I could find something I can afford that’s also close to campus. That way I can use my time better – basically to sleep in.”

4th Street Commons has already began the process of leasing apartments. Although specific prices have not been listed, Harris said that the residence would be affordable to students.

“We understand our target market and we understand your budget,” said Harris. “How am I gonna charge you two thousand dollars for rent if I know your favorite meal of the week is Ramen Noodles?”

To apply, students can go to http://4thstreetcommons.com or stop by the leasing office located on 1411 SW 107 Ave.
PERUVIANS: ‘SOMETHING IS MISSING’

ANTONY PINEDO CORDOVA
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On Wednesday, Oct. 5, Peruvians elected about 1,800 mayors and 25 regional presidents in an election without the ability to distinguish the degree of morals and ethics each authority must possess to hold office.

In the case of the municipal election in Lima, over 50 percent of the city’s residents have elected a former mayor, Luis Castañeda Lossio, who was accused of embezzlement and money laundering. Voters recognize his greatest quality as being that “he’s a good politician.”

Peruvian citizens have chosen a governor who is currently imprisoned for influence peddling; which is the practice of using one’s influence to receive special treatment, under the premise that both he and his voters would be working toward his freedom. This kind of promise, and the fact that citizens believe in it, demonstrate that something is missing as to their moral standards in respect to the type of authorities they choose to have.

Unfortunately, Peruvian citizens are accepting as normal the “steals, but does the job” idea, given that they ask for more public works without taking into consideration corruption or ethics in regards to public expenses. This is regrettable, since it creates a moral crisis in a society whose democratic system is in evolution.

Ethics and efficiency should never be separate in order to effectively evaluate a candidate given that, in a democracy, the authorities are the reflection of their society. Sadly, there are many emblematic cases in Latin America such as Pablo Escobar’s, in which his supporters also accepted his disquietant practices and had a lot of popularity.

If a consensus is not reached on that the legality of public function should be based on the ethics of its service, there won’t be a true fight against corruption.

Healthy and delicious meals enrich your body and your life

MCT STAFF

Serving food to students is what we do. As the Urban School Food Alliance, we represent six of the largest school districts in the nation (New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, Dallas and Orlando), feeding more than 3 million elementary, middle school and high school students every school day.

Our mission is more than supplying healthy meals for our children. We believe that school breakfast and lunch are integral to a student’s education. This is why we believe that meals need to be healthy and tasty, why we believe meals need to be accessible to all students and why we believe that mealtime needs to be viewed as part of the educational day.

The USFA strongly supports the vision of the first lady and backs the larger goals of the 2010 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. The recent and ongoing debate in Washington on whether school food standards should be rolled back misses what we believe is the whole point of important nutritional standards: to bring healthier food onto our students’ plates and into their lives. And yes, we need to get them to eat it too.

Our districts have had success in exposing students to and having them eat meals under these new standards. Our districts have developed creative menus and innovative ways of providing lean proteins, whole wheat, low-fat dairy, and fresh fruits and vegetables. We can and should demonstrate actionable leadership in this debate.

These healthy and delicious meals need to be accessible to all students. And we need to get away from the attitude that school meals are only for the kids who can’t afford to bring lunch from home. The new approach to serving American children should mean offering free lunches to all students regardless of a family’s financial need. This would not only directly benefit the children and their families, but it would also cut through the current bureaucracy and enable American companies to sell more of their healthy products to our cafeterias.

We challenge our teachers, our administrators, and our state and government officials to think of school breakfast and lunch not just as a meal program but also as what they were originally intended to be: enrichment programs.

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‘You’re Dead!’ shows the progression of a true artist

Flying Lotus is an expert on melding traditional jazz elements with luscious electronic productions. His revered musical style is found on some of his more recent releases including his 2010 masterpiece, “Cosmogramma.”

On his album, Steven Ellison features his famous relative Ravi Coltrane, son of saxophonist John Coltrane, and other guests, including the bass guitar phenom Thundercat. Their collaborative effort made “Cosmogramma” a fascinating album and an essential listen for contemporary jazz fans.

The Warp Records heavyweight has done it again with his new jazz-electronic album, “You’re Dead!” Several notable guests include Thundercat, West Coast rappers Kendrick Lamar and Snoop Dogg (also known as Snoop Lion) and Herbie Hancock. The album and an essential listen for contemporary jazz fans.

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The album rolls in quickly with the bass-filled intro “Theme” and it sets the pace for the album. Two minutes later, on the track “Cold Dead,” Ellison exhibits his incredible skills. His intricate production works well with the slaming bass drums and shredding guitar. Both these tracks are relatively short, which is the case for the majority of the songs on the album.

“Turkey Dog Coma” appears to be a bonus track on “Cosmogramma.” Harmonies accompany Thundercat’s bass and electric guitar. A trumpet enters the scene, giving the music a jazz fusion feel.

Only one track makes it near the four-minute mark and that is “Never Catch Me,” featuring Kendrick Lamar. This song is less jazzy than the ones that precede it, but the track does feature Thundercat on bass and Flying Lotus handling the beatwork. Kendrick’s voice eventually fades out, and Flying Lotus takes center stage with his signature rhythms.

Captain Murphy, Ellison’s delinquent, drug addicted alias, also makes his presence known on two songs. He first appears on “Dead Man’s Tetris,” which features Snoop Dogg, and later on “The Boys Who Died in Their Sleep.” On the former, both musicians rap over trap snares and woozy bass notes. Captain Murphy lists some of his favorite prescription drugs on “The Boys Who Died in Their Sleep.” The end of the track is characterized by a descent into an abyss and Murphy repeating the phrase, “I know of a place inside my mind where I can fly.”

Jazz elements have been a part of Ellison’s output since the last decade. Never before has he downplayed electronic sounds that characterize his previous works. On “You’re Dead!” we see a more mature artist willing to deeply explore the genre of his close relatives. Few artists have the skill and versatility of Flying Lotus. He will continue to deliver excellent albums that show his interests and natural progression as an artist.

Artist: Flying Lotus
Album: You’re Dead
Rating: 4/5

Rapper shows his versatile skill in his new mixtape

If you have never been a fan of Childish Gambino, “STN MTN/KAUAI” will definitely make you one. He gives you two different sides of Childish Gambino. With “STN MTN” you get the raw, Atlanta, Georgia, Childish Gambino. On the “Kauai” side, you get Childish Gambino, “the boy” from his script “Because The Internet.” But both the mixtape and album shows Childish Gambino’s comedic side as well with his metaphors and punchlines.

He also has some features on this mixtape/album and one on Kauai, which surprised me.

STN MTN

A lot of people who aren’t Childish Gambino fans have never heard this side of him before. A lot of people feel that he can’t be grimy or be hood like an Atlanta rapper because of some of his mainstream songs. People who only see Childish Gambino as Donald Glover The Rapper are in for a rude awakening. Childish Gambino is known for his metaphors, irony and punch lines and he gives all of that through “STN MTN.”

He starts off the mixtape with disc jockey Drama hosting STN MTN as a Gangsta Grillz featured mixtape. The first track called “Dream/Southern Hospitality/Partna Dem,” he talks about his dreams of the things he would change and do in Atlanta such as make sure Chick-Fil-A opens on Sundays, bring back the Freaknik, make sure stripper have Mother’s Day off and have his own Gangsta Grillz Mixtape. He then freestyles over well-known Atlanta instrumentalists such as Ludacris’ “Southern Hospitality” and Rich Kid’s “Partna Dem.”

Throughout the tape, he has raps over Southern artist instrumental and instrumentals with lots of bass, which Atlanta beats are known for.

Childish Gambino collaborated with upcoming female rapper Kari Faux and added a verse to her song “No Small Talk,” my favorite track off of “STN MTN.” This track has that authentic rapper/Outkast/Underground Kingz feel to it.

KAUAI

Childish Gambino gave us more of his crooner side on “Kauai” and sang to the females. This side features his new single, “Sober.” Childish Gambino sings in a mid-falsetto Drama hosting STN MTN as a Gangsta Grillz featured mixtape. The first track called “Dream/Southern Hospitality/Partna Dem,” he talks about his dreams of the things he would change and do in Atlanta such as make sure Chick-Fil-A opens on Sundays, bring back the Freaknik, make sure stripper have Mother’s Day off and have his own Gangsta Grillz Mixtape. He then freestyles over well-known Atlanta instrumentalists such as Ludacris’ “Southern Hospitality” and Rich Kid’s “Partna Dem.”

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Childish Gambino collaborated with upcoming female rapper Kari Faux and added a verse to her song “No Small Talk,” my favorite track off of “STN MTN.” This track has that authentic rapper/Outkast/Underground Kingz feel to it.

Childish Gambino didn’t mind showing off his childish side with this lyric: “Now that we have found love / Baby, these haters can’t say sh*t. / Oh, I know sometimes it’s hard / when I’m so far so I know you miss this di-love.” He deliberately left in where he changed the word “d**k” to “love,” just to add in some humor; but I’m still trying to figure out what or what is “Roscoe’s wetsuit” from the story.

I love both sides of Childish Gambino, but of course I’m more of an R&B chick to heart so the “Kauai” side made me melting in my seat, if you get what I’m saying. This will reach out to the people that like that southern sound, lots of bass, punch lines and true freestyles. It will also reach out to those people who enjoy R&B and mellow types of grooves.

Artist: Childish Gambino
Album: STN MTN/KAUAI
Rating: 3.5/5
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- Outdoor Fire Pit With Seating
- On-Site Retail
- On-Site Management and Maintenance
- Private Multi-Use Theatre
- Controlled Access
Roadrunners outrun the defense

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The Panthers traveled to the Alamodome Saturday night, Oct. 11, to take on the University of Texas at San Antonio for the first time in school history. However, the Panthers were unable to get over 500 and fell to the Roadrunners, 16-13.

Both teams got off to a slow start offensively. The Roadrunners were unable to capitalize on two first quarter turnovers by freshman quarterback Alex McGough. McGough fumbled and threw an interception early but the defense was able to bail him out.

The Panthers recovered a muffed punt by the Roadrunners on the UTSA 28-yard line that led to a 15-yard touchdown pass from McGough to tight end Jonnu Smith. It was Smith’s fourth touchdown reception of the year and it gave the Panthers a 10-0 lead. He leads all Conference USA with 34 receptions in 2014.

The Roadrunners were able to break through late in the half. Senior running back Javeon Williams punched in a 2-yard touchdown run with 39 seconds left. The score was set up by two long runs by redshirt freshman quarterback Austin Robinson. Robinson entered the game for the Roadrunners after starting quarterback Blake Bogenschutz went down with what appeared to be a wrist injury.

UTSA struck first in the second half with a 41-yard field goal to tie the game 10-10 with 8:08 left in the third quarter. The Panthers left some points on the board late in the third quarter. With four minutes left, running back Alex Gardner fumbled on the 1-yard line on a first down run. The Roadrunners gave the ball right back after redshirt junior cornerback Richard Leonard forced and then recovered a fumble on the FIU 36-yard line. The takeaway led to a short field goal by kicker and punter Austin Taylor. The Roadrunners answered with a 27-yard field goal with 2:44 left.

Wide receiver Glenn Coleman fumbled the ensuing kickoff which gave UTSA the ball on the FIU 26-yard line with just over a minute left. UTSA kicker Sean Ianno nailed his third field goal of the night to give the Roadrunners a 16-13 lead with 55 seconds left.

McGough’s Hail Mary attempt was picked off as time expired. He finished the game 11 of 25 through the air for 141 yards. He also threw a touchdown pass and an interception.

Despite the loss, the Panthers’ defense was sturdy once again, forcing three Roadrunner turnovers which led to 13 points for the Panthers.

Robinson stepped in and had himself a game. Robinson threw for 144 yards and hit on 14 of 17 attempts. He also led the Roadrunners with 64 yards rushing.

The loss puts the Panthers at 3-4 overall and 2-1 in C-USA. It also deals a big blow to their bowl game hopes. Next up for the Panthers is their Homecoming game against the 6-0 Thundering Herd of Marshall University. Game time is set for Saturday, Oct. 18 at 6 p.m.
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The Panthers, coming off a rain delay and rescheduled match in Birmingham, Alabama, found themselves in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Sunday, Oct. 12, against a familiar Middle Tennessee State University team. The conditions of the field were sloppy and wet from the previous days’ rain, a situation seen more than a few times this season.

MTSU was relatively quiet coming into the Sunday, Oct. 12 match, but the muzzle came off quickly for the Blue Raiders. Early chances were popping up all over the field, but the disciplined Panthers defense was jaded to any premature pressure — until the 26th minute. MTSU freshman Peyton McCollum launched a screamer from 15 yards out, finding the left side netting.

Not being phased by the onslaught of chances from the Panthers, MTSU countered with only one shot of their own, and one that counted for a 2-0 lead. Kelsie Roberts for the Blue Raiders took advantage of a corner kick at the 43rd minute mark to put her team ahead for what eventually was the remainder of the game.

In the second half, the Panthers were not ready to lie down and accept the deficit at hand. Outshooting MTSU 11-7 in the first half, the trend continued into the last 45 minutes. The Panthers had eight shots to MTSU’s four, but none that found the back of the net. Leiva continued to pressure the Blue Raiders, picking up where she left off with an impressive eight shots of her own. The team shots on goal for the game totaled six, a number that surely isn’t bad.

With the road loss, the Panthers fell to 6-6-1, 1-2-1 in Conference USA. With four points, a win can control their destiny by moving up the standings drastically, thanks again to their .500 overall record.

Sitting at ninth place in C-USA, Chestnutt and his team are peeking into the window of the top eight. MTSU became relevant again by squeaking into the eighth spot with a 5-6-2, 2-2-1 record.

On the horizon are a slew of top-talent matches with two of the top three C-USA teams. Rice University on Friday, Oct. 17, and University of North Texas on Sunday, Oct. 19, will provide the toughest weekend the Panthers have seen at home this season.

With all the chances and on-goal opportunities the Panthers have seen over the past two games against Florida Atlantic University and Middle Tennessee State University, the Panthers will look to finally reward their hard work and hustle with a bundle of goals that can gift-wrap their team to victories over the next two games in Miami.

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Moving out of your parents’ house and into on-campus or off-campus housing has its pros and cons. And moving in with roommates is an experience that will shape a college student in many ways.

I moved out of my parents’ home over four years ago when I was 19 years old, which was not an easy task. Life challenges you in many ways when starting college, even more so when you move to a new place where you don’t know anybody. Things can get scary when sharing your new home with total strangers. You have to be prepared to share the kitchen and all the appliances, so if you want to make lunch or dinner and someone is using them, you are simply going to have to wait for them to finish. I’d get frustrated when dirty dishes were left in the kitchen sink. I couldn’t understand why some people would not just wash what they used, rather than letting it sit for a week.

When I first moved out from home into an apartment in Cupertino, California, I lived with a couple who were in their 40s and a student from the same school I was attending. They were very respectful regarding the use of the T.V. and kitchen. The other student, a guy from Colorado, wasn’t as tidy. Not only would he leave the kitchen dirty, but once when he showed me his room, I was so relieved I didn’t have to room with him because it looked like a bomb of clothes exploded in there.

I didn’t have to worry about paying for any kitchen appliances or the T.V. when I first moved from home, which is the bright side of sharing a space with strangers. I was on a budget and couldn’t afford those things at the time. So although having roommates meant I needed to share everything, it also made having those things possible.

The shared spaces, like the living room and kitchen, presented a slight challenge after being used to how things worked at home with my family. However, humans have the ability to adjust. My current roommates have no problem with me having friends or study groups over, or even hosting small get-togethers on the weekends. But I adjusted to them watching TV at certain times that might not be very convenient for me because of the noise. I have found that talking to each other and coming to a compromise helped us avoid arguments.

You don’t always get to pick who you room with – you kind of have to take what you can get. Sometimes it goes well, sometimes it doesn’t.

I have lived with random people and with one of my best friends at some point. All of these people offered some great experiences that made me the person I am today. The positive and negative moments go hand-in-hand in life, and I am slowly realizing that people choose whether to let those experiences affect them in a negative way. These lessons will help you figure out who you are as an individual. Living with roommates will put you in situations you never experienced when living at home with your family. These situations will help you acquire valuable people skills that could potentially land you a job to support you living on your own one day.

Check for a new Straight-Up Alex by Alexandra Mosquera Netzkarsh every Wednesday.