ROYAL TREATMENT?
Students not-so-thrilled to ride stuffy limo at University

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Riding in a limo is supposed to be fun, but riding in a limo that is crowded with 25 other students for an hour-long trip in inadequate conditions during traffic is not.

“It’s hot in there,” said Chandrea Mercy, a sophomore biology major. “If you sit closer to the driver, it’s a little cooler. Further back in the limo, it’s like having a heat stroke. It’s not too good of an experience.”

This is the dilemma many students face when taking the “shadow bus” back and forth between the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The shadow bus is meant to be a shuttle service that can take students from one campus to the other in between the regular Golden Panther Express times. It’s meant to speed up transportation for students, but students didn’t expect to get picked up in a limo.

“The limo wasn’t something we intended to provide on a regular basis,” said Lisette Hernandez, director of Parking and Transportation. “It just happened that they sent that one because the other shuttle broke down.”

Royal Limousines is the owner of that limo and is the company contracted by the University to help run additional shuttles to keep up with the extra demand of students. They were originally providing a large all-black shuttle, but it only lasted about two weeks into the semester before it broke down.

Then, the company started using the limo as a replacement, and students don’t like the inconvenience of the ride.

“I told [the driver] about the ride, and that it’s pretty bumpy,” said Mercy. “He said if you sit on the side closer to the front, then you get a ‘good seat,’ so I guess he knows, as well.”

After attempts were made to contact Royal Limousines owner Alberto Perera, he did not comment by press time.

To add insult to injury, students that take the limo are still charged $2.50 for the one-way trip.

Hernandez said the most fair way to make up for the additional $1 million contract for the shuttles — of which the University covers half the cost — is to charge the students that use the service, as opposed to adding to the already rising cost of fees.

“Students aren’t getting what they pay for,” Hernandez said. “Hernandez asks that all students seeking to voice their opinions, whether good or bad, do so by emailing parking@fiu.edu.

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Students pictured above were waiting to catch the bus that transports them between University campuses, but were met by a limo instead. The Royal Limousines are not the students’ ride of choice, yet they’re still charged for the service.

Distance learning fee to decrease in the future

KRONO LESCANO
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FIU Online’s distance learning fee violated Florida statute in 2012, and now the University is working to fix things.

The distance learning fee — the additional fee students are charged for online courses — exceeded additional costs of the services provided, which are attributable to the development and delivery of the distance learning course, thus breaking the state statute.

Dean of University College, Joyce Elam, said it won’t happen again. “This violation was proved true last year when auditors concluded that the $53.33 per credit hour fee could be reduced if revenue was spent in compliance with statute and policy.

Elam, who manages FIU Online, said that these were matters of “grey areas.”

The same audit also revealed that 67 percent of the fee money tested within FIU Online had no benefit to any of its programs.

Now, almost a year after the audit, there is a new policy in place to help rid of the “grey areas” according to Elam.

“Our office looks to provide the best service to the student and will continue to look at options to make the schedule and the information available in a faster and more precise way,” said Hernandez.

The department of transportation is looking into other options to transport students instead of the limos, but until then, students will have to continue riding in them this semester.

“We will continue to look for better service and customer service as well. This is not acceptable by our standards,” said Hernandez.

Students were forced to evacuate the Green Library after the building’s fire alarm rang.

A burnt Starbucks croissant caused a ruckus on campus Wednesday, when the fire alarm went off and students and faculty had to evacuate the library.

The fire alarm went off in the Green Library at 10:50 a.m. on Oct. 1. Students, faculty and staff were ushered out of the building and were not allowed into the main area of the library’s breezeway.

University Police Chief Alexander Cras later confirmed that was no actual fire inside the library.

Cras confirmed what set the fire alarm off was a burnt croissant.

Charred croissant causes chaos on campus

PaTRick chalvire/The Beacon

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University mourns the History chair’s passing

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Five months short of his 90th birthday, professor emeritus Howard Kaminisky, has passed away.

Since 1972, Kaminisky played an important role in making FIU a four-year university, according to a memorandum by Provost Emeritus Douglas Wattzock.

Professor and Chair of the Department of History Kaminisky held a unique perspective about history close to his heart.

According to Wattzock, he served in the U.S. Army in 1942 during World War II at 18 years old. “He enthused full of enthusiasm, to defeat fascism abroad,” he said.

A communist, Kaminisky went to Czechoslovakia to live under its communist regime.

However, his political engagements to Marxism changed with his opposition to the Vietnam War and his political allegiance to President Reagan in the last 30 years, said Wattzock.

Also, he is a nationally distinguished medieval scholar who earned a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and who was also a notable history professor at the University of Washington.

Apart from his contributions to the University and his country, Kaminisky also played an important part in the lives of his colleagues.

“He was one of my best friends,” said Darden Pyron, a history professor.

Pyron described him as fierce, willful and confrontational.

“He led the fight to allow us to enroll freshmen and sophomores. That changed the entire nature of the University,” said Pyron.

Pyron said he spoke over 20 different languages, loved the ocean and that he enjoyed being a part of FIU.

“He found a place...that was very congenial to him,” said

The History Department will host a memorial service on Monday, Oct. 6, at 3:30 p.m., in the Green Library, room 220.

DISTANCE LEARNING ISSUES SOLVED WITH NEW POLICY IN EFFECT

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This policy informs the different colleges and schools within the University about how they can spend the fee money and requires them to first comply with a budget before they receive any of the revenue.

This budget is to be submitted to FIU Online at the beginning of each year and it should detail what they plan to spend their distance learning fee dollars on. At the end of the year, they are then given an annual report that compares their projected spending to their actual costs.

“By having this very well-defined template, it’s very clear what they’re planning to spend the money on,” said Elam. “I think we have much tighter controls on [the spending].”

Finding a solution to these spending issues is one challenge, but students last year tried to eliminate the fee altogether. After the audit information was released, a petition was started by recent alum Daniel Herrero to try and get rid of more than just the “grey areas.” Within the budget frame that the petition was open, it gathered 209 signatures, but was unable to succeed in removing the distance learning fee.

After attempting to contact Herrero, he was unavailable to comment by press time.

“We need the fee in order to offer students the convenience of online courses,” Elam previously told Student Media.

Although cutting the fee completely from FIU Online is not a plausible approach, Elam did assure students that the $53.33 fee would decrease.

“I can’t tell you when, but there is a downward trajectory,” Elam said.

Elam said that both the economy and the demand for learning are factors in the fee decreasing; the more students enroll online, the more the school can spread fixed costs across.

Compared to other universities, FIU has one of the most expensive online fees. For example, the University of Florida currently has a distance learning fee of $29.43 per credit hour for undergraduates.

Ricardo Arana, a freshman political science major at UF said, “I haven’t taken online classes yet, but if UF charged that much, I would look to take the classes in person.”

The one thing Elam continues to guarantee to students is, “It will never go up — I’m 100 percent certain,” she said.

Elam said that the only thing that would cause the fee to go up is a sudden plummet of online students. If this were to happen, a large amount of fixed costs would exist with fewer students to pay for them.

“You know, it is a process, but it is going to go down,” said Elam.

FIU to enforce tailgating rules

The University began enforcing some tailgating rules and procedures in Tamiami Park, starting with the football game against Florida Atlantic University on Thursday evening.

While tailgating, students can’t litter, sell merchandise, take or consume alcohol other than beer or take glass bottles or containers.

Legisliming a car will be enforced, according to an e-mail sent by the officer of External Relations.

Although grills are allowed, students can’t make fires on the ground or dump charcoal on the park grounds.

Tents larger than 10 feet by 12 feet are not allowed and music needs to be contained per tailgating area— disc jockeys, stages or speakers are not allowed and music needs to be contained per tailgating area.

All cars driving in the park must be going at 15 mph.

“Planning ahead and observing these rules will ensure that you have a wonderful time and avoid any friction associated with being turned away at the entrance to the tailgate area within Tamiami Park,” the e-mail read.

Other areas available to tailgate are lots 6 and 24, east of the FIU Stadium.

For more information, students can look up the tailgating policies and procedures and fill out the tailgating space reservation form.
Can people blindly trust the police?

NADINE RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Police brutality has alarmingly increased over the last few years, the symbol of safety and justice slowly turning into that of a potential enemy to rights, including life. According to The National Police Misconduct Statistics and Reporting Project (NPMSPR), from April 2009 to June 2010 there have been 5,986 reports of misconduct, 382 fatalities linked to misconduct, and over $380 million has been spent in settlements and judgements.

One incident that is still apparent in the media and in people’s hearts is Mike Brown’s death. Mike Brown was an unarmed 18-year-old black male who was shot down on August 9, 2014, by Officer Darren Wilson. Although the actual trial is going on now, the expected date for a verdict from the grand jury is not until January 2015. This incident was prominent in social media due to the apparent racial profiling involved and the resemblance to Trayvon Martin’s death back in 2012, in which another young black male was shot.

Another reason that this incident was such a large event in media was the fact that an impressive amount of protestors began to speak out against the injustice. Although it got out of hand quickly due to some protestors shoplifting, the police responded too harshly. Police officers attempted to gain control first through curfew, then by tear gas. Soon, there were reported incidents of police bringing out tear gas before curfew began. Chil

ities should be looking towards their local officers to do this.

Police brutality has alarmingly increased over the last few years, including John Crawford III, a black male who died after being shot for carrying a BB gun at Walmart, and Michael Cho, an Asian male shot down in California back in 2008 within 41 seconds of encountering the police. He was suspected of vandalism and cornered behind a liquor store.

The above mentioned were only a selected few of the cases that have continuously kept springing up in this country in a recent epidemic. The question is, how do we fix this dilemma, if those whom we go to when we are in dire need, are the ones turning their guns towards us? Who can trust the police? It seems that in order to be on the side of justice and safety, one has to be a specific skin color, can trust the police? It seems that in order to be on the side of justice and safety, one has to be a specific skin color, fit a certain appearance. I think it’s time that these teachings have etched into my brain, whether I like it or not.

I tend to have a just-do-it-tomorrow attitude, so my father will always have a job as an unof

ficial consultant. For the most part, I get it—you can prevent tomorrow’s doom with today’s discipline. I think it’s time that these teachings have moved on to bigger fish like world leaders and congress; especially after last week, where I saw people from all around the world coming together to make a point: climate change is real and we need to deal with it now.

At the UN Summit in New York on Tuesday, Sept 23, Mayor Bill de Blasio even warned against the “reckless way in which we live.” In the presence of former Vice President Al Gore, the United Nations secretary general and hollywood celebrities, he added that “we know humanity is facing an existential threat.”

The following few days, however, newspapers were filled with words like “plans” and “talks,” and days after that, the world moved on.

The oil companies kept producing and the world continued down a path of unknown peril. Politicians can’t run away from the idea that global warming is real (well, technically they can, but they’d be foolish to do so).

Just like everything in the 24-hour news cycle modern day world, climate change had a short shelf life. It always has.

This wasn’t the first time people from around the world got together to discuss climate change. This also wasn’t the first time that we walked away from a conference or gathering designed to help solve our problems, still not knowing what our exit strategy will be.

The oil companies aren’t budging and the politicians, who set regulations and can enact laws, are only doing so much – if nothing at all.

I think in order to understand the complexity of climate change and the slow train coming, you need to think about that young, short-sighted adolescent boy, who believes only in the now. It’s humorous, but it really shows how foolish we’ve become as people. Everything is fine now, more or less, but wait until tomorrow comes and you — most likely your kids — have to take the wheel.

That day, the world will say something that I’ve said so many times: ”Whooops, my bad.”

The oil companies aren’t budging and the politicians, who set regulations and can enact laws, are only doing so much — if nothing at all.
A look inside the male modeling industry with David James

David James, 38, has spent the past 20 years of his life working as a male model.

"So, it’s 2001 and I’m watching Zoolander with my parents, and my father, who is kind of warning up me to modeling, looks at me and says, "This is your life? This is what you do?!"

The tragic gagline fanged scene just occurred and Derek Zoolander is crying over losing his male model rootinotes in the blaze. "I said, ‘Well, you know, part of it is true. Dad. They do have model apartments with bunk beds, but we don’t fight with gasoline. And I am not a moran, you know?’"

In 1992, James entered the world of modeling.

"I wanted to travel and I wanted the flexibility of lifestyle." James booked a campaign and walked the runway for Eryn, Tommy Hilfiger, Ralph Lauren, and on and on. He had the opportunity to fly to Paris, Milan, and London for photo shoots. His parents were not as thrilled as you may expect.

"There are not as many gigs for men as there are women, just look at it from a retailer’s perspective. Men buy less than women, says Linda Sugarman, owner of Model Machine, an agency that has been booking male and female models since 2008.

A study by IBISWorld in 2013 cites reduced advertising expenditure as the effect of the 2009 recession.

"I am not sure I would become a male model unless I was a really famous one. Even then. Only maybe," pondered Sugarman.

The average modeling career only lasts two to three years. Yet there is a spot for men in their 30s and 40s. Statistical breakdowns of request castings for national print advertisements in New York City found that 39-year-olds are the most coveted for jobs. This is great news for James who has no plans to stop modeling anytime soon.

"I make my choice and I’m doing well. I have a good life."

Alex Cox’s ‘Repo Man:’ a true cult classic, but recognized by few

Why is it that more people don’t know about writer/director Alex Cox’s 1984 debut "Repo Man?"

Is it due to its status as a cult classic? It is because it spans the entire history of the film’s release, from its theatre run to its eventual release on home video.

"Repo Man" stars Harry Dean Stanton and Emilio Estevez as Bud and Otto, a repo man and a suburban punk, who Bud takes under his wing.

The film chronicles their misadventures, as well as the adventures featuring the other repo men and an “agency” that’s looking for the Malibu.

All of these different characters and events don’t all feel random or out-of-place; instead, they all feel like they belong, and could only ever belong in this film’s world.

The film’s story follows these different threads and manages to make them all connect via other characters and the Malibu; they also help flesh out and poke fun at the world that’s inhabited.

The film mixes genres, ultimately becoming unlike any film that’s ever been put to celluloid. It works as a punk film, since it uses punk music for the soundtrack and also showcases aspects of the punk culture at the time.

"Repo Man" mixes aspects of punk and otherworldly force being a highly sought after film that is both complex and visually stunning. The film is a true cult classic that is well worth a viewing.
Panthers travel to New Mexico for conference game versus ranked Lobos

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After falling in their Conference-USA opener in a close match to University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Panthers will have a chance to get back to their winning ways when they travel to Albuquerque, New Mexico to face off against the University of New Mexico Lobos. Before the 3-2 loss to the No. 17 ranked Blazers Sept. 27 FIU was 2-0 against teams who were ranked nationally in the NCAA standings.

Coming into this contest on Oct. 4, the Panthers will have a chance to push their record against ranked teams to 3-1, facing off against the now No. 23 ranked Lobos.

To see Panthers 3-4-1, 0-1-0 in the National Collegiate Athletic Association rankings is possible, but one would have to scroll down the rankings page much longer, as they are placed just under Villanova University and above Marist College No. 103.

Head Coach Scott Calabrese and his team will look to improve that ranking by defeating the Lobos who enter the match sporting a 5-5-1, 0-1-0 record thus far this season.

Scouting the Lobos

Just like FIU, the Lobos fell in their conference opener to University of North Carolina at Charlotte after two late goals were scored on them, ruining their chances at a perfect conference record.

Before falling to Charlotte, the Lobos found themselves ranked at No. 5 in the nation.

There is no doubt that the Lobos will come out seeking revenge against the Panthers after falling almost 20 spots in the rankings and are now in the bottom half of the conference table.

This New Mexico team features 16 players returning from their unbelievable season last year, where the Lobos made it all the way to the Final Four before losing to Notre Dame, 2-0, the eventual champions of the tournament.

The team also features six players on their roster who have represented their country on the national stage, including USA, Canada, New Zealand, Costa Rica and Jamaica.

Both the Panthers and the Lobos will seek to get to a .500 conference record with the win Friday night in Albuquerque.

Captain Leads the Charge

If the Panthers would like to return from New Mexico with a win, the team will look to their captain senior striker Quentin Albrecht, to continue playing at the performance as in recent outings.

Albrecht has scored five goals this season, leading the Panthers in goals scored and is coming off of back-to-back multi-goal games.

The German native scored two goals in the team’s win over Florida Gulf Coast University and also found the back of the net twice in the game against UAB despite the loss.

Albrecht also leads the Panthers in total points recorded with (10).

The next best points scorer has been sophomore defender, Marvin Hezel, who has recorded 3 total points for the team this season after tallying a goal and an assist in his eight games played. The game against the Lobos will be played at 9 p.m. in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

After returning from New Mexico, the Panthers will host another conference opponent on Oct. 8th when the University of South Carolina Gamecocks travel down south to Miami. The gamble against the Gamecocks is set for a 7:30 p.m. start.
Cross country looking to best their best

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The men and women’s cross country teams will travel to Orlando, Florida, this weekend for the 19th Annual Disney Cross Country Classic, looking to build upon the strong performances made in Gainesville.

Though ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex encourages athletes and their families to enjoy The Walt Disney Company’s other amenities, the Panthers will focus on building upon the improvements made two weeks ago, at the Mountain Dew Invitational, where many Southeastern Conference programs were present.

The men placed 8th out of 13 total NCAA Division I teams competing in the 8-kilometers, with an average of 27:41.50.

Freshman Ronny Greenup led the way with a time of 25:33.86, a mark good enough for 31st place out of 264 total contestants in the 8K. This was Greenup’s second consecutive finish in the 25-minute range.

Head Coach Ryan Heberling stated that he is looking forward to Greenup going sub-25 soon, and this weekend’s event will give Greenup another opportunity to do so.

Also cracking the top 100, was junior Daniel Puentes with a time of 26:42.93, putting him in 83rd place. The Hollywood native made a vast improvement over his time at the University of Central Florida Invitational, where he finished in 29:01.37.

Panther cross country fans should expect Puentes to continue to improve and notch his best time of 2014 this weekend.

Other times for the men who participated in Gainesville includes junior Eli Monzon’s 27:57.52, freshman Andres Magliano’s 28:06.28, and freshman Leonel Pozo’s 30:06.89.

The women’s cross country team managed to capture a rare achievement in Gainesville; all four of the women recorded 2014 bests for the 5K.

Senior Catherine Ventura claimed the best time and her best for 2014 with a time of 20:17.94. This became Montiel’s best personal time as well, beating her old mark by nearly a minute.

Sophomore Brittany Wasserback competed with the team for the second time this season and ran a 22:09.08. Like Montiel’s time, this new 2014 best beat her old one by nearly a minute.

Also participating was sophomore Adrienne Gerzeny, who ran a 21:56.60 – a 2014 best.

A pattern of consistent improvement is obvious among the women runners, and it would be expected to continue to beat their old times in Orlando.

The Disney Cross Country Classic is a chance for the men and women to stack themselves up against the best in the nation and have fun while doing so. If the men and women can keep up their trend of improvement, Panther fans should look for a new slew of 2014 bests out of this weekend’s run.

Rugby beats the Knights and target Owls

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The FIU men’s rugby team has started its season off stronger than ever as they shut-down the Florida State University on Sept. 17. The Panthers defeated the Seminoles 12-7.

Despite these shortages the team has started their season strong and have put so much work into the game, and to top a 22-10 victory.

“I believe this is the toughest, strongest and complete team we have ever had because we don’t have any week spots on the field,” Gilbert said.

The game of rugby is definitely growing and increasing in popularity; in result 14 new players have signed up to challenge themselves with the team that took second in the Southern Independent Rugby Conference championship last season.

However they’re not all rookies to the game.

Six of them have had prior rugby experience from Chile, Argentina and the Miami Rugby association.

Some B side players have also stepped up and have taken some of the missing spots.

The additions to the rosters have created nice room for adaptability in any position needed on the field.

“The game plan for this season is, to start quick and put points on the board and play shut down defense,” says Gilbert.

The team will also have a tough battle against Florida State University on Oct. 25. Last season they defeated the Seminoles in one game and lost the other. For the past couple of seasons these two teams have battled for the two spots at the SIRC, whoever wins the conference gets a spot in nationals.

According to Rugby Florida Union, the Panthers hold the number two spot after Florida Atlantic University. The Owls have five points because of a bonus point, and FIU is second at four points.

The SIRC conference has decided to split their games throughout the fall and spring season.

So now the team must face the challenge of both the SIRC conference and Florida Cup during one season.

For the SIRC it’s a fight to see who faces the top two teams of the North. For the Florida Cup the top four teams go to the championship-ship in Nov. The Panthers will take on FAU on Oct. 4.
The Benjamin Dash course is set, Panthers are ready to go

**Panthers dive into 2014 season**

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Losing six seniors, including Sonia Perez Arau and Sabrina Beauregard, both record-setting team leaders, the team may have to compensate with new talent and some experienced players returning.

Another team leader, current senior Gustafsdottir, will be returning for a victory in the C-USA tournament and supplying tougher contention for the NCAA title.

Practices are twice a day with some sessions at the swimming pool in Tamiami Park.

This season has much of the same competition as last season, with the first meet of the season against rival Florida Atlantic University on Saturday, Oct. 4.

Other competitors that return to the schedule include University of North Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University.

New competition includes, Illinois State University and Appalachian State University.

Panthers can also look forward to home competition against crosstown rival University of Miami, taking place Jan. 31 at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Aquatic Center.

**TOP:** Here is the second maze, adjacent to the Royal Caribbean construction site, where dashers will have to clamber through on all fours.

**MIDDLE RIGHT:** The quarter pipe, one located near the previous housing, was the hardest to build and possibly the hardest obstacle to climb.

**MIDDLE LEFT:** The first obstacle dashers will overcome is a wall climb, in front of the Kensington Conference Center.

**BOTTOM:** Participants will climb over this hill of tires, found at the entrance of the Kensington Conference Center.

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**RUNNING DIRTY**

The Benjamin Dash course is set, Panthers are ready to go.

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