THE STRUGGLE

Students, staff concerned with overcrowding in Green Library

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Like many students, Michelle Chavez roams the floors of the Green Library, trying to find a place to study.

"Finding space is a nuisance in general," said Chavez, a senior majoring in advertising. "I won’t let myself roam for more than 15 minutes. I usually can’t waste that kind of time."

Whether they go in groups or on their own, University students struggle to find a table, cubicle or even just an outlet to plug their laptops. The problem begins with the easy access to the University and its resources.

The University, like all state universities, is open to the public; anyone can set foot on campus and go into buildings, buy a sandwich at Subway and use the computers in the library.

The library staff have noticed that students from private institutions — mostly online schools — are encouraged to do their schoolwork in the University, leaving actual FIU students without space.

Unfortunately, the University can’t do anything about it, said Anne Prestamo, the Wellness Coordinator.

"We have designation as a federal depository library, which requires all of our doors to be open to the public," she said.

Prestamo said that the staff is surveying and collecting data about the library space in general. Once the staff understands the extent of the problem, they can put a stop to overcrowding in both the shelving space and table space, she confirmed.

In a faculty senate meeting in early October, Associate Librarian Patricia Pereira-Pujol brought up the issue.

"Because we are a public institution, our resources can be used by people that are not FIU students or faculty," said Pereira-Pujol.

Students are concerned with the library overcrowding because they’re the ones paying tuition to use the resources and facilities, yet they can’t because there is always a space issue.

Eliene Contova, a sophomore majoring in public relations, feels frustrated that she can never find a place to study.

"I usually come alone, but when I do meet up with people, it’s an even bigger struggle to find a space for us all," she said. "It’s not cool if people from other schools are finding spots when I pay tuition."

Although it is more convenient to walk straight to the library and study after class, the problem has caused students to giving up on trying to find space in the library to study on campus.

"I’ve given up on trying to find space," said Luis Perez, a freshman majoring in biology. "I’ve resorted to staying home to study."

University, students gear up to fight the flu this season

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With Flu season affecting students, the Wellness Center has prepared multiple event days to educate on making healthier choices during the month in the Graham Center.

Through its Cold and Flu Random Acts of Wellness, the center will promote educational sessions with freebies and goodie bags to help students remain healthy during the season, said Ebonie Parris, wellness coordinator of University Health Services.

The Wellness Center for Disease Control and Prevention, common symptoms and signs of flu include high fever, cough, runny nose, body aches, headaches, and fatigue. It is spread by cough, sneezes, and even talking.

In the northern hemisphere, the flu season typically lasts from October to May, so the Cold and Flu RAW days will help provide information on effective ways to prepare.

Parris said that the days will consist of educational information, surveys, and Cold and Flu Packs which include hand sanitizers, tissues, informational palm cards, and homemade cold and flu aromatherapy blends.

She said these are goods to help students stay healthy.

The aromatherapy blends are available at the Wellness Center and are meant to open up the sinuses through the aromatherapy of essential oils such as peppermint, eucalyptus, and pine needle.

The homemade cold and flu blend, along with many other purposeful aromatherapy blends available at the Wellness Center, are made by Shardai Thompson, a junior biology major and wellness assistant.

Thompson is the aromatherapy lead, and she researches various essential oils and their purposes and with this is able to come up with a variety of concoctions. The blend in the flu packs will open up the sinuses through the aromatherapy of essential oils such as peppermint, eucalyptus, and pine needle.

Some students like Dalgis Morejon, a sophomore international relations major, prepare for the flu season by often washing their hands throughout the day.

Morejon said she uses hand sanitizer when a sink is not near and she takes Vitamin C tablets to support her immune system.

"I like looking for natural ways, like taking Vitamin C and eating foods that are high in Vitamin C, to keep my immune system at its best," Morejon said.

Besides encouraging students to fight against the infection, students who are interested in the health field also benefit. According to Parris, RAW days are planned by Student Health Services Wellness Assistants who are majoring in that area.

"By planning these events and participating in the events, these students get experience in their field of interest," Parris said. "These students will be educating others on how to prepare for this cold and flu season."

Thompson said that being a wellness assistant has helped her to decide if she is following the right career path for her.

"This is a job that is related to what I want to do [in the future]," said Thompson. "It gives me an opportunity to see if I’m in the right field.

By planning these events and participating in the events, these students get experience in their field of interest. These students will be educating others on how to prepare for this cold and flu season.

Ebonie Parris
Wellness Coordinator
University Health Services

The CDC and the World Health Organization state that the most effective way to prepare is for everyone to get vaccinated unless they have certain conditions like Guillain-Barre syndrome. These conditions can be discussed with FIU Health Services.

According to SHS, the vaccine is available at its clinic and is free for students. For non-students, the vaccine costs $20, but the cost can be covered by most insurance plans. Both appointments and walk-ins are accepted.
Students and alumni fund film based on ‘Dungeons and Dragons’

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A group of University students and alumni participated in a movie based on an annual hobby: playing “Dungeons and Dragons.”

The film, “Rolling 20s,” based on a group of six friends – Danny, Shawn, Phil, Jake, Angie, and Lily – who play “Legends and Lore,” a tabletop fantasy role-playing game similar to “Dungeons and Dragons.”

The characters are played by alumna Vania Vieta and Nakayta Moore, as well as Studio214 alumni Vania Vieta and Khari McIntosh.

According to the website, 10,000 plants and more than 200 species are maintained at the University’s Office of Sustainability, including a variety of wildflowers, grasses, and herbs. The preserve provides students with the opportunity to come right here on campus and learn about these plant and animal species to oversee, the University’s Office of Sustainability offers 100 volunteer sessions throughout the year.

It creates a really good learning opportunity for students to come right here on campus and learn about these environments, Dutton said.

The preserve consists of three different ecosystems. The first is the Pine Rockland which has a dense shrub layer and a diverse vegetation of wildflowers, grasses, and herbs. The second, the Tropical Hardwood Hammocks, consists of broad-leaved trees and densely vegetated shrub.

Finally, the Freshwater Wetlands is a vast and complex wetland.

Dutton said that both the preserve and students benefit from their interaction. ‘[Students] learn about South Florida ecology and all the different wildlife that resides in the preserve,’ she said. ‘[It] helps them connect to the nature that surrounds them.’

Moreover, students have opportunities to work as park interpreters and volunteers. The preserve is also a getaway from all the busy campus, and I enjoy walking through it every time I go for my runs,” said Valera.

Khari McIntosh, a junior advertising major, spearheaded the project. “The Nature Preserve is a getaway at the University. It adds a certain ambience to the campus – sort of a getaway from all the surrounding buildings,” said McIntosh.

Four volunteering sessions remain this fall semester. Thursday, Nov. 13; Saturday, Nov. 29; Monday, Dec. 1 and Dec. 8. Pre-registration is not required. More information can be found at gogreen.fiu.edu.

According to Sotolongo, the only scenes left to film are the fantasy scenes. In order to do so, he went to an indie Gogo, a crowdfunding website where people raise awareness about their cause and collect funds.

From Sept. 9 to Oct. 9, their campaign raised over $5,000. These funds will be used to travel to sites that work with the fantasy theme, such as Bok Tower and Gardens in Lake Wales, Florida. The team chose this area because of the 300-foot tall building known as “a wizard looking tower.”

The non-fictional parts of the movie have been filmed in Miami, including the Modesto A. Maidique campus.

It’s like “Monty Python and the Holy Grail,” but with horses,” said Sotolongo. “Rolling 20s” will be shown in gaming conventions, like GenCon, that host film festivals.

Sotolongo said the movie will do well for another year, but webisodes will be released before the first screening.
Does the end justify the means?

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When you’re questioning war — more specifically, when a government official questions whether to go to war — do you think about the ethics of it in the moment of choosing? Is it worth going to war to fight for your country, invade another and bring violence into people’s lives?

When there is civil unrest, the quickest thought is to fight back. Yet, bringing justice at the cost of human lives through violence is simply wrong.

War deliberately kills innocent individuals, abusers human rights, displaces people and costs a lot to finance. I believe that there can always be an alternative method to handling situations but one may give you less advantage than the other; war will procure more of an advantage.

War is necessary, but it’s never ethical. It never will be.

Violence should never be the answer, and I know I am contradicting myself, but it depends on the situation and which side you’re facing.

A group of citizens could rebel against an unjust government. Public demonstrations can quickly turn into violent acts to call upon the government and seek global attention for help. Would that justify war? Is it ethical?

The answer is no; however, it does achieve a certain level of progress where the end justifies the means.

Even when a country lacks a functioning government and its citizens go to war against it, it is effective in the end. The country will slowly pick itself back up again and endure through time as a stronger and richer society.

If you think about it, the long term effects of war create a stronger and prosperous civilization. Humanity keeps going and the means taken through war are necessary. Discussing the rights and wrongs of war will never give an easy answer.

Wars are not always officially declared; they just happen nowadays. Societies are in constant war and conflicts are tentatively solved. Although never good, war is unfortunately necessary. If the ends could not justify the means and we were ethical all the time by attempting to solve without force, most nations would not be where they are now.

Skaters gonna skate

AMID BENNAIM
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An article in the “Washington Post” by Stanford University Professor Ian Morris explains.

“Since 1914, we have endured world wars, genocides and government-sponsored famines, not to mention civil strife, riots and murders. Altogether, we have killed a staggering 100 million to 200 million of our own kind. But over the century, about 10 billion lives were lived — which means that just 1 to 2 percent of the world’s population died violently,” he said.

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When there is civil unrest, the quickest thought is to fight back. Yet, bringing justice at the cost of human lives through violence is simply wrong.

Skaters gonna skate

Case for a youth sabbatical

AMID BENNAIM
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American culture is pretty successful at creating a nation that is productive, free and economically affluent. However, it is not same culture which tells children from a very early age that there is one path to success. Usually, that path is to work hard in high school, followed directly by working to death in the best possible university and busy, long working hours after that. This is a great system for absorbing academic knowledge, but it is the best system for building a well-rounded, productive member of society.

It creates a society of people that lack the basic social skills that can prove useful in future life, family, interactions with other humans and even the building of meaningful business connections. For most of us, school started being unpleasant in the ninth grade. That transition from middle school to high school brings with it a lot of added baggage. Suddenly, grades matter much more. Sport teams become extracurricular activities. Community service hours become a prized commodity. Somehow, this crucial phase in our social and cognitive development gave way to extreme academic expectations.

At an age in which people are discovering who they are, what they like and dislike and what they believe in, society locks them in a box. I know this because I knew more than a few high schoolers who were more interested in exploring their textbooks than their sensuality. Perhaps there is a school somewhere which offers a class that can emulate the joy of first love, the pain that comes once it ends, the rebelliousness of youth or the first time that you did something crazy; but that’s not likely. These are all lessons which are crucial to our development, but they happen outside of school.

A balance is always required, or as Buddha would put it: “a middle way.”

After surviving the emotional nightmares that high school, we go straight to college. If a student spent his entire time in high school working hard, then that student is rewarded by attending a university with very high academic standards where the work is non-stop. After four years of hard work, that student will find a job that will probably pay well, but will have very long hours. This person might have money, but he/she is not rich.

For this reason, I encourage everyone to take some time off from formal education to learn about themselves and the true nature of life, to learn what makes one happy, to dedicate some time to others and to experience new things. Ideally, the best time to do this is right after high school. I realize that if you are reading “The Beacon,” it is probably too late for that; but one can always take a semester off.

With six months off, there are many things that one can do. I encourage everyone to travel. While travel isn’t necessarily affordable, it is definitely worthwhile. There are plenty of destinations to visit on a low budget. There is so much to see in the world and so much to learn.

It seems irresponsible to put up our blinders and walk in a straight line like horses.

I highly recommend getting a job in the field that you plan to major in. It seems a little silly to chose a career without fully knowing what that career is all about. Sure, one can work in the summer and have a basic idea of what it’s like; but if two months is educative, six months is even better.

Besides, an experience like that looks really good on a resume.

I also recommend volunteering. This might sound like hippie propaganda, but I really struggle to find something that gives me the same satisfaction as helping others. Volunteering puts life in a different perspective.

At the end of the day, it is important to recognize that lessons aren’t exclusively learned in classrooms. I’m not suggesting to throw away formal education, but life only gets more complicated after college. For those who want to have families, you can probably kiss your dreams of adventure goodbye once you feel the baby kicking.

I guess it comes down to the fact that we have just one life to live and I think that we should take advantage of this rare gift.

YOLO

SKATERS GONNA SKATE

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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DISCLAIMER

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Teachers from all over Miami-Dade County met at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, Nov. 4, for one of the biggest art events of the year: ARTS@FIU. The event was a professional development day art teachers to gain knowledge and learn techniques to engage the students in their classes.

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On Tuesday, Nov. 4, teachers from all over Miami-Dade County flocked to the Wertheim Performing Arts Center for one of the biggest art events of the year. ARTS@FIU was a professional development day for any and all arts teachers to gain knowledge and learn techniques to engage the students in their classes.

Bryan Petorak, district supervisor of the Performing Arts Division of Academic Support and the Office of Academics and Transportation for the Miami-Dade Public Schools system, was the man behind the event. Petorak oversees professional development for teachers, curriculum related to the performing arts, implementation of legislation that affects the performing arts, scheduling district performances and much more, so it was important to him that ARTS@FIU be engaging and informative.

Petorak met with FIU faculty prior to the event to shape ARTS@FIU into a day that would benefit Miami-Dade County teachers.

“I wanted to identify sessions that we could offer for all of the disciplines that we have here with art, music, and theater,” Petorak said.

According to Petorak, ARTS@FIU has just focused on music education the last two years but expanded to include theater and art this year.

The event began at 8:30 a.m. with an introduction by Petorak and a video he showed in which Maya Angelou directly spoke about how to have a positive impact on peoples' lives. Petorak then read one of his favorite poems by Angelou, “On the Pulse of Morning,” to prepare the teachers for a day of learning how to impact their students’ lives.

At around 9 a.m. the teachers broke off into music, art and theater sessions.

“Teachers are participating in these sessions just as students participate in classes and courses. They can then take new information to their classes that will be useful,” Petorak said.

One session, “Participatory Culture: Creativity in Music Programs” led by Evan Saunders Elementary School.

According to Petorak, “The best part about today was being able to interact with people who will eventually be my peers and getting an idea of what I can bring to the school system,” said Alex Toussaint, a sophomore majoring in music education. ARTS@FIU is one of several professional development days for Miami-Dade County teachers and brought in a significant number of teachers this year.

‘Footprint of Permanent Public Art’ sheds light on Cuban imprint in Miami

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They make great cigars and great rum, but how many people know that one of Cuba’s most prized crafts is in fact the artwork? Sprawled all over Miami are numerous paintings, sculptures and artifacts carefully born into being through the meticulous hands of a Cuban. In a city where Puerto Rico meets Venezuela, Venezuela meets Nicaragua, and Nicaragua meets every other Spanish-speaking country, this melting pot makes it very difficult for non-Hispanics and some Hispanics alike to differentiate between cultures.

This mixture of cultures and traditions has caused the cultures to dissipate into one, then making a need for umbrella terms such as “Hispanic.” This is not a negative term in any sense, however, it does encourage people to somewhat ignore the differences between these vastly dissimilar cultures.

For years, Cubans have been attempting to set their mark in Miami, quickly differentiating themselves from other ‘Hispanic’ cultures. Being the only country to have been allowed a “Wet Foot, Dry Foot” policy, Cuba has inspired as well as, opened the door to so many other countries finding their way into Miami and has, in many ways, shaped Miami into what it is today.

The artwork has played a drastic part in this transformation, decorating parks, buildings and more in an attempt to spread the Cuban culture. In recent years, however, many more Spanish-speaking nations have been making their own mark on this city.

Even though Cuban Americans still remain one of the largest populations in Miami, there is still a need to keep the Cuban cultures and traditions alive.

This is where Jorge Hernandez has stepped in to become the messenger for Cuban culture and art. The Cuban native has made it his duty to host several lectures on the importance of not only Cuban art, but also the Cuban-American in Miami.

In his lecture, he exposes the wider public to the wonders of Cuban paintings, sculptures, monuments, etc. The viewer is taken on a historical and cultural journey through the minds of Cubans who have travelled far to leave “a footprint in the city.” Jorge has not only strived to present these works of art to the viewers, but has also done research behind these pieces and their creators, thoroughly providing the viewers with the inspirations, trials and successes that helped to bring these murals, paintings and buildings into existence.

On Wednesday, Nov. 12, Jorge Hernandez will open up the opportunity for people to step into the “Footprint of Permanent Public Art” in Miami. This lecture will serve as enlightenment and a learning experience for its students. It will tap into the very core, the heart of Cuban culture and expose its beauty and what it truly means to be Cuban-American.
Christopher Nolan’s ambitious project

Christopher Nolan has never done anything as ambitious as what he’s done with “Interstellar,” a science-fiction tale about space travel and family. Starring Matthew McConaughey as Cooper, a man who leaves his life on Earth to save the human race. It also stars Anne Hathaway, David Gyasi, Wes Bentley, Jessica Chastain and Michael Caine.

If the star-studded cast doesn’t draw your attention, “Interstellar” is heavy on its visuals and delivers as it should. Scenes from farmland to space are photographed with excellence. The shots of the spaceships are incredible, showing off extraordinary detail of the craft and the surroundings.

Although outer space is more fascinating than miles of crops, even interior spaces are pleasing sets to observe, with a nice contrast of tones from Earth to the outer regions of space.

The film’s visual effects bring life an Earth in trouble and areas of space that unimagined. It all feels and looks genuine, even ordinary places on Earth are made interesting due to the dramatic circumstances. Bottom line: The effects of “Interstellar” are top-notch.

The narrative of “Interstellar” is surprisingly easy to follow, yet the story is what I found to be the film’s weakest element. At the beginning, not much happens; we see crops, people talking and outer space. I did not feel engaged or interested in the film’s story as much as I enjoyed the visuals or the score and general sound effects.

However, the film does have a narrative shift around the halfway point, and from there my interest soared. It almost seemed like the Nolan brothers realized their script was boring, so added extra twists and conflict to spice it up. But to be fair, the script does set up these surprises in a way that feels fleshed out well and not tacked on.

I don’t believe “Interstellar” did anything new on the Nolan front, but is a fantastic showcase of their capability. The story is entertaining, overall, featuring great acting, great visuals, and great music. It even has comic relief.

It’s an ambitious movie that does not accomplish some amazing, miraculous goal, but it’s still good at its core. If nothing else, “Interstellar” proves that Nolan can still wow us on an epic scale.

RAFAEL ABREU

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RAFAEL ABREU

I see gourmet-style dishes pass by me every few seconds. There’s a loud chatter this evening: the tables surrounding me sound as if they’re enjoying their company. How could they not? It’s CVI.CHE 105.

Known as the Pennvian goto place in Miami, the restaurant is highlighted not only for its food, but its look. I could declare CVI.CHE 105 as “hip” as their website states.

The food is exquisitely served and the ambiance radiates chic with white-and-gray furniture and green finishes, giving the restaurant a lively yet stylish feel. Most of the crowd is comprised of regulars attracted to the unique setting CVI.CHE 105 offers.

When it comes to the food, though, it has a striking similarity to the menu of other Peruvian restaurants, like Sabor a Peru. Nonetheless, CVI.CHE seems to be going for “fashionable” over restaurants, like Sabor a Peru. Nonetheless, CVI.CHE 105 offers.

Back to the food, though: CVI.CHE serves a variety of dishes, and, of course, is best known for its ceviche selection. Whether you want the ceviche mild or spicy, with a pink or yellow sauce, this restaurant has it—and it has flavor.

The sauces’ texture is great: not too watery, not too dense. But as good as the texture is, I expected a more pronounced flavor.

As for my other typical order, the lomo saltado, it also could use a stronger flavor. Both hold a very passive taste, which, if intensified, would be amazing. The meat is rather tender and the onions, peppers and tomatoes are thoroughly soaked in the juice of the meat. I greatly appreciate the burst of juiciness when biting into these vegetables.

The problem I have with the dishes at CVI.CHE is, the size. Sure, they’re great if you’re the type of person that enjoys a normal portion, but with my huge appetite, I’m usually left unsatisfied. Additionally, I’m really annoyed by the fact that the lomo at this restaurant has more vegetables than meat, which leaves me even hungrier.

That’s why I usually go for delivery from Sabor a Peru.

CVI.CHE 105’s goal is not just to serve “traditional Peruvian gourmet,” as their website states, but to provide that hot, sociable atmosphere. If you go to this restaurant, know that you’re paying not just for food, but for the feel as well.

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Proximity to MMC: 2.5/5
Affordability: 3/5
Overall: 4/5

Because Recycling Makes You More Attractive*
RUMBLE, YOUNG MAN, RUMBLE
Starting freshman quarterback deserves coach’s assurance

Pushing the envelope is something all writers do to a certain extent. Whether it’s Upton Sinclair, José Martí, or even myself, someone has to challenge the status quo for the good of the people who need to hear the truth. Now obviously, Sinclair and Martí were advocates for social change in different ways, but they both shared the same spirit of truth even if it’s not the easiest thing to do.

Did you know Sinclair, the author of “The Jungle,” went undercover for weeks at a meatpacking plant to get the facts for his book, which exposed the horrors of the industry; that’s tough to do. Martí, a Cuban poet and independence writer, was exiled and ostracized for his political beliefs that Cuba should be self-governed and break away from Spanish and American rule. Trying to break away from not one, but two imperial superpowers was a very tall task as well.

Finally we get to me, nothing hugely important or extremely difficult on my resume, like changing an entire industry’s sanitation code or freeing a country with pen. No, I’m just a humble sports writer and radio host that noticed a trend that I believe FIU football fans should be aware of so they could ask themselves “Why?”

The Panthers opened the 2014-2015 season losing to Bethune-Cookman 14-12. Junior quarterback E.J. Hilliard earned the start after a promising campaign the year before where he played well out of the bullpen for shaky starter Jake Medlock. All throughout camp, freshman Alex McGough was nipping at Hilliard’s ankles to get that starting spot, but Head Coach Ron Turner decided to go with the experienced Hilliard.

5-6 for 26 yards and 2 sacks were Hilliard’s stats before Turner decided to go with his youngster McGough, who came in relief and almost led the Panthers to the win, throwing 13-27 for 117 yards and a touchdown. After that McGough drew the start and hasn’t looked back on his way to starting the last eight games in a row and a record of 3-5. Three of the five Panthers freshman quarterback Alex McGough passes the ball against Marshall University on Saturday, Oct. 18. The Panthers play Middle Tennessee on Saturday, Nov. 15. losses were to Power 5 conference opponents in University of Louisville, University of Pittsburgh and undefeated Marshall University.

Even though McGough is playing well for a freshman quarterback on a rebuilding team, I sense that Turner is hesitant to hand the reigns completely over to McGough. The reason I say this is because Hilliard has appeared in almost every game during the season, give or take a few.

Quarterback is a very sensitive position; internal and external confidence is a major intangible that every good quarterback has. Meaning, “coach believes in me and therefore I believe in myself.” When you keep swapping out players and setting him up for failure. More than that is the stake that splits the locker room, what if half of the team supports the starter and the other half supports the backup? We see it in the NFL all of the time, you’d be naïve to think that college football is any different.

I believe that if the younger guy is just as good or better than the older guy, you start the youngster. McGough is the future of this program; as a freshman McGough is already tied for 10th all-time at FIU in touchdowns in a single season (9). If Turner believes that McGough is the future just like I believe it, he should have a longer leash with the freshman and reassure his internal and external confidence by leaving him in the game unless a blowout is at hand.

Just as the old football proverb goes: If you have two quarterbacks, you have zero quarterbacks. Let the young man rumble.

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The women’s softball team will be looking for its best season in years.

After jumping to a fast start winning their first four “fall ball” games, the Panthers finished the 2014 season with a Conference USA record of 14-19, 15-9. This was an improvement from the 2013 season (27-28), as they played their last season in the Sun Belt Conference.

Their home record was 21-7 with their first 15 home games resulting in outscoring their opponents 76-39 points during that span.

The Panthers proved to be tough to play in South Florida. However, they were mediocre on the road, finishing at .500 with a 10-10 record.

The Panthers visited the No. 3 Arizona State University Sun Devils in Phoenix, Arizona for a midseason game but lost 8-0 in a difficult matchup. Winning against No. 19 University of Minnesota was a testament to their level of talent. The Panthers posted up impressive stats as a team, ending up with a batting average of .289 and ERA of 3.09.

Before the start of the actual season, the softball team will be participating in their annual fall ball.

They face off against Ave Maria University, Saint Thomas University, Miami-Dade College and Barry University. These teams will provide a preseason test for the Panthers.

On Friday, Aug. 1, Pete Garcia, FIU’s Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment, announced the new hiring of Head Coach Gator Rebhan.

“Coach Rebhan is a proven winner. Given the success he has had on the state and national levels, along with the early success he had last year as an assistant coach, it made the decision clear to us that he is the right person for the job,” said Garcia.

Rebhan, who was an assistant coach for the team last year, is excited to start his first season as head coach for the Panthers.

“If I’ve been a local coach in the area for over 20 years and I’m excited to be given the chance to lead this program. We have a great group of players and a lot of talent on this team. I think being a local coach will bring a lot of excitement to this program. Having been an assistant coach for the team last year, I have a great rapport with the athletes already and am extremely excited to begin,” said Rebhan.

Lead by Rebhan, the Panthers look to be a legitimate contender once again in not only C-USA, but also the NCAA.

Panthers look for fresh start with new coach

“WE HAVE A GREAT GROUP OF PLAYERS AND A LOT OF TALENT ON THIS TEAM. I THINK BEING A LOCAL COACH WILL BRING A LOT OF EXCITEMENT TO THIS PROGRAM.”

GATOR REBhan, HEAD COACH "SOFTBALL"
Florida State lean on true freshmen to help extend win streak

MCT STAFF

It started with a 68-yard touchdown pass to Travis Rudolph and ended with a 38-yard score from Dalvin Cook.

Watched at home on TV, I could see the emotion on the faces of the players and the fans as they celebrated another victory.

Near the end of Wednesday night’s 95-86 victory over the Bucks at the Bradley Center in Milwaukee, an audible chorus of “M-V-P! M-V-P!” arose from boisterous Bulls fans as Derrick Rose went in for the three-point line.

No wonder Thibodeau has been so impressed by emerging as a viable fourth-quarter option. Is there an NBA team any more fun to watch? Pau Gasol looks like the best free-agent signing of the summer, Carmelo Anthony included. Gasol leads the Bulls in scoring, rebounds, and assists.

But, whether we like it or not, the better safe-than-sorry approach should guide every decision for Rose and the Bulls until he gets more comfortable re-establishing his body’s limits.

For everybody else, Rose’s new normal means never being surprised when he misses a practice or game to injury. Never taking his presence on the floor for granted and never forgetting he can’t possibly be the same elite player he was before two knee surgeries, not for a long while, at least.

Stop thinking of Rose as the guy worthy of MVP chants.

That reality can be frustrating for some of his high profile fans and media overreaction... present company included... to Rose missing two straight games with sprained ankles and Rose demonstrating to everybody, maybe most importantly to himself, that he doesn’t have to feel 100 percent healthy to affect a game by drawing double-teams and scoring.

A Bulls team conditioned after two seasons to playing without Rose will continue to execute at a high level whether No. 1 is in a uniform or a tailored suit.

Kirk Hinrich, who has been around long enough to think he succeeded Jerry Sloan, has yet to show age.

No wonder Thibodeau has been so impressed by emerging as a viable fourth-quarter option. Is there an NBA team any more fun to watch? Pau Gasol looks like the best free-agent signing of the summer, Carmelo Anthony included. Gasol leads the Bulls in scoring, rebounds, and assists.
Writers embark on expedition in the Everglades

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Preparing for a career in journalism, Zoraida Pastor, a senior psychology major, joined the debut “Everglades Wilderness Writing Expedition” course.

The National Park Service, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, launched the Expedition for Florida college and graduate students between the ages of 18 and 25 interested in pursuing journalism and creative writing.

“I found out about the program through FIU’s Society of Professional Journalists chapter,” said Pastor. “I wanted to do something different before leaving FIU and I thought it would be a great experience to be writing and getting [my work] published.”

The Everglades features the vast beauty and complexity of Florida landscape, with rich features like tropical wetlands to indigenous animals.

Pastor, heavily influenced by Walt Whitman, a renowned American poet, joined the first launch of the program to hone her writing skills and bond with the environment.

“His work and vision have shaped the way I look at nature,” she said.

She also said she was excited to go camping for the first time.

North Carolina Outward Bound, an educational program who partners with the National Park Service, provided students with techniques to survive in the wilderness.

Some advice Pastor gives to students interested in experiencing the Everglades through this course is to go beyond the familiar.

“My advice to anyone is to not be afraid to try. You lose more if you don’t try, and you might even gain more from going outside of your comfort zone,” she said.

The program, teaching 10 aspiring writers and journalists, encourages qualified candidates to explore the wilderness and write about their experiences with the environment.

Six of the aspiring writers are University students, but Nadjah Campbell, a sophomore journalism major at the University of Miami, also joined the program.

“Our school sends out lists for every college, so when I scrolled through the email, I saw this thing more about the Everglades and [thought] this looked cool. I opened it up and read through the program details and got more excited,” said Campbell.

Johanna Piard, a freshman studying English at Miami Dade College, gave her input about the mission.

“I found out about the program through my supervisor for [our school newspaper] ‘The Reporter,’” said Piard. “The fact that it said ‘writing’ in the program’s title is what sparked my interest, since I barely hear of writing programs. So I jumped at the chance.”

“I chose to apply because I knew that this experience will enlighten me as well as [help me] gain more skills as a writer,” said Piard.

Piard also shared her goals with the expedition and what she hopes to achieve from it.

“My goal is to be completely knowledgeable about the Everglades, alongside creating a great written piece at the end,” she said. “I don’t really have a fixated goal though, so I’m keeping my mind open to the endless possibilities and the new experience.”

Chinese implement cash cow in film industry

MCT STAFF

The head of China’s powerful state-run movie enterprise that supervises film imports wants to strengthen ties with Hollywood to help build a mature film industry in China.

Chairman Han Sanping, who presided over a period of rapid growth in China’s film industry.

To test the project, the group has selected 1,500 top-ranked theaters in China which produces and distributes mainland movies and over 25 percent of box-office revenue from foreign movies imported into China.

Despite the box-office growth, market restrictions and rampant piracy of toys and DVDs have frustrated Hollywood executives eager to tap into the country’s expanding middle class that has a strong appetite for U.S. movies.

“In Hollywood, box office accounts for just 20 percent of total revenue, and the other 80 percent comes from merchandise, theme parks or other businesses,” La said. “In China, most film revenue comes from the box office, and consumer products is nearly zero. We need to expand that in order to build a mature film industry in China.”

Under the plan, China Film would set up licensing deals with studios. Profits would be shared between China Film Group and the studios based on the level of sales, La said.

La said he had already discussed his plan with major studio executives in Hollywood in March. “Of course, they showed their enthusiasm and interest in this project,” he said.

Analysts say it’s difficult to predict how much money studios would collect from in-theater stores, given that theater owners and Chinese distributors also are likely to seek a share in the retail business. What’s more, studios currently collect only about 25 percent of box-office revenue from foreign movies imported into China.

“IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHAT KIND OF MERCHANDISE WILL BE SOLD, BUT GIVEN THAT THE THEATRICAL MARKET (IN CHINA) IS GROWING ABOUT 35 PERCENT A YEAR,” said Stanley Rosen, a professor of political science at the University of Southern California who specializes in China. “THIS IS A CONCESSION TO HOLLYWOOD, WHICH IS ALWAYS CLAMORING FOR A CHANCE TO GET ADDITIONAL REVENUE.”

In January, La took over as head of China Film Group, which produces and distributes mainland movies and oversees the export and import of films. He replaced longtime Chairman Han Samping, who presided over a period of rapid growth in China’s film industry.