**Police address faculty concerns about safety on campus**

**ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA**
Staff Writer
adrian.suarezavila@fiusm.com

For the University Faculty Senate, campus safety is a major concern.

To address the Faculty’s concerns, University Police Chief Alexander Casas delivered a campus safety update to the members during the Tuesday, Nov. 18, meeting.

Osama Mohammed, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, said he rarely sees police officers in the Engineering Center, a concern reiterated by Elisabeth Beristain-Moreiras, a marketing instructor who teaches at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Casas said that at least two officers are always on duty at the police station, but he reiterated that officers are always on duty at the Everglades Safety Inn, which is hosted by the Everglades Bicycle Club. He also said that during the last 14 years, he has never seen anyAdminController.

Despite his frustrations, Baltodano was not going to put an end to his passion for sports. Instead, he opted to find a sport that catered to those bound to wheelchairs. “I started playing basketball,” Holvin said. “But forget it. I sucked.”

Holvin eventually found his sport — handcycling. Rather than having to use his legs for support, the sport allowed him to use the force of his arms to power his handcycle.

The vehicle shares the concept of a bicycle; the only difference between the two is that a handcycle requires hand pedaling. Handcycling has proven to be a sport where Holvin could prosper for the last 14 years. He has competed in events like the Miami Half Marathon, a 13.1-mile race, and the Everglades Bicycle Club.”

“My handcycle now is about 14 years old,” said Baltodano. “It’s a bicycle that normally goes for about four-thousand, five-thousand grand.”

He said that this is due to the carbon fiber used in his bike. “The frame has a better aerodynamic style, plus the colors are very bright and the component makes it very expensive,” he said. Cosas also include gloves, helmet, sunglasses and a suit. His bike also needed some repairs and a different set of wheels composed of the pricy sport.

“Handcycling is a costly sport.”

“My handcycle now is about 14 years old. It’s a bicycle that normally goes for about four-thousand, five-thousand grand.”

Holvin Baltodano
Alumnus
FIU

**Students assaulted after name-calling**

**RAUL HERRERA**
Staff Writer
raul.herrera@fiusm.com

Two FIU students were attacked near the dorms by campus visitors in early October.

The incident, which occurred near the University Park Tower on Oct. 2, resulted in three battery charges.

According to an FIU Police Department report, the students were making their way to the Towers building when a group of three females taunted them by saying, “You ugly.”

One of the victims confronted the taunters by asking what she had said.

The three suspects all dropped their belongings and began to fight one of the students. The other student attempted to pull them away from her friend, but she, too, was caught in the fight.

The victims both reported injuries in their heads, with one being found with scratches on her right cheek and abdomen.

They provided their testimony to campus police, but refused to seek medical attention.

Later that day, one of the victims reported seeing Twitter posts made by the suspects. On Tuesday, Oct. 4, they reported to police one of the suspects’ full name. During the incident, she had been referred to as “Quisah.”

On Sunday, Oct. 8, the victims both agreed to press charges, and provided written statements. The three suspects, who allegedly have no affiliation to the University, were identified.

Campus police detectives contacted the first suspect, who agreed to come to the station. She was read her rights and then confessed to attacking the students. She was arrested and charged with simple battery.

The two other alleged perpetrators arrived at the police station on Friday, Oct. 14, and both confessed to being part of the fight. They were charged with simple battery, and were given trespassing warnings to prevent them from returning to campus.

**FIU alumnus finds strength through handcycling**

**NICHOLAS OLIVIA**
Staff Writer
nicholas.olivera@fiusm.com

For FIU alum Holvin Baltodano, being an athlete while handicapped is no obstacle.

An avid soccer player, Baltodano was forced to put his athletic dreams on hold at a young age, after a severe car accident left him paralyzed from the waist down.

Baltodano was forced to give up the sport he loved. “I started playing basketball,” Holvin said. “But forget it. I sucked.”

Holvin eventually found his sport — handcycling. Rather than having to use his legs for support, the sport allowed him to use the force of his arms to power his handcycle.

The vehicle shares the concept of a bicycle; the only difference between the two is that a handcycle requires hand pedaling. Handcycling has proven to be a sport where Holvin could prosper for the last 14 years. He has competed in events like the Miami Half Marathon, a 13.1-mile race, and the Everglades Bicycle Club. U n f o r t u n a t e l y , handcycling is a costly sport.

“Handcycling is a costly sport.”

“My handcycle now is about 14 years old. It’s a bicycle that normally goes for about four-thousand, five-thousand grand.”

Holvin Baltodano
Alumnus
FIU

**CHILLIN’**

Georgia Talania, a senior studying English and Japanese, and Sylvanna Loo, a junior in East Asian studies, walk from SIPA after class wearing warmer clothes to combat the cold weather. Wednesday’s cold front and rain caused a notable change in fashion around campus.
CHIEF OF POLICE ADDRESSES FACULTY SENATE SAFETY CONCERNS

**FACULTY, PAGE 1**

Chief of police addresses faculty senate safety concerns

I’m not here to change your minds. You have opinions on this, and I get that,” said Casas in regards to the concerns of the Faculty Senate of the weapons on campus. “All I want to do is have an opportunity to make you a little more comfortable with why we got this [equipment].”

But officers can’t simply use the equipment without training.

All officers must complete over 40 hours of police training, focusing not just on tactics, but also high-stress incident last training involving individuals with mental issues. A two-day training session must also be completed before officers can use the rifles correctly.

To better prepare to handle a situation at the University, the officers train in the dorms as a means of familiarizing themselves with the environment they will have to protect.

Addressing the general concern over the rifles, Casas referenced past shootings in Columbine High School and in the Century movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, stating that these incidents are some of the reasons why the University has the M16s.

“My job to prepare for that extraordinary incident that is extraordinarily rare in occurrence and highly improbable,” said Casas.

Alumnus seeking dream an inspiration to students

**ALUMNUS, PAGE 1**

With a donation bucket on his lap, he said he would ask passersby if they had any change. His display was decorated with trophies he earned from marathons, as well as pictures of him in action.

Baltoaldano’s efforts earned him a level of respect from the students who were willing to chip in a dollar or two for his cause. However, he said others would also give him a tip “no, thank you,” or no response at all.

“I don’t pay attention to [a negative] kind of attitude,” he said.

“Otherwise, I would be frustrated all the time.”

Philip Koenig, a senior international relations major, admires the commitment Baltoaldano has for the sport.

“I’ve been seeing him for a while and I appreciate the time he commits to it,” Koenig said. “I don’t usually give away money, but I can appreciate what it is that he’s doing,” he said.

Chief of police addresses faculty senate safety concerns

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“My job to prepare for that extraordinary incident that is extraordinarily rare in occurrence and highly improbable,” said Casas.

Yet another strong argument in favor of the President’s stance on gun control is the absence of any public opposition. The petition has been signed by millions of Americans, with a significant portion of them being students and faculty members of colleges and universities across the country. The petition calls for a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, as well as increased background checks and red flag laws. The petition has gained significant traction on social media platforms, with users sharing it widely and urging their followers to sign it.

In conclusion, the President’s decision to ban assault weapons is a crucial step towards ensuring the safety of students and faculty members on college campuses. The absence of public opposition further strengthens the case for this ban, and it is essential that we continue to support this important initiative. Together, we can create a safer environment for all students and faculty members, and ensure that our campuses remain free from the threat of gun violence.
The generation of validation

KRISTINE PEREZ
Staff Writer
kristine.perez@fiusm.com

Everybody on social media looks like they are having the time of their lives. Generation Y is becoming notorious for those who are constantly attached to some sort of technological device, whether it is a smartphone, tablet or computer. There is a psychological need to be relentlessly updated on the lives of our family, friends and celebrities, as we are always refreshing Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

To make matters worse, we enter these social media sites with emotions in tow. The question is: are we actually interested in what is going on in their lives? Why does it matter that your classmate from elementary school got married and your friend from high school landed a new job? The sad truth is that besides the people who are sincerely happy for you, everyone else’s page is either envious of your success or waiting for you to fail. Of course, seldom does anyone post their failures on social networking because no one wants to be that person.

Therefore, social media pages are usually filled with happy moments—at or at least moments that look happy. The newest trend is posting a “candid” picture where people look as if they are enjoying life to the fullest and not interrupting the moment by taking pictures, although the moment will be ruined when they spend 15 minutes silently editing the picture and posting it online. Because no one wants to post a mediocre shot, we must take images we see on social media with a grain of salt and realize that there is no need to be envious of the perfectly planned and edited photo. Social media postings are overdone, whether the person consciously did so or not, to appear better than it actually is. We have associated how many likes a post gets with how many people genuinely care about what you have to say. Obviously, we want our lives to appear perfect, even when they are not, and posting an image is a way to validate something if you are not, and posting an image is not quite right. I feel very strongly about this, probably more than most; holidays are better where the winters are cold, with hot chocolate and the crazy people you call your family.

It’s disingenuous spending it in hot weather, unless you’re purposely taking a trip to a warm destination for the holidays, of course.

Apart from the lack of cold I would like for the holidays, every year after Halloween, I get that Christmas-holiday feeling inside me that used to be more potent when I was a little kid. Growing up has definitely taken some of the fun out of the holidays. I guess I don’t expect as much as I did when I was little.

We’re in a climate change hole

TNS STAFF

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently released its Fifth Assessment Report, summarizing the state of climate science and solutions. The report reinforces previous findings that the earth is warming, humans are primarily responsible and rapid reductions in emissions are urgently needed. Our current emissions trend substantially increases the risk of costly, dangerous, irreversible and potentially catastrophic changes in the global life support systems we all depend upon.

We’ve dug ourselves into a climate change hole. Despite even more dire warnings, greenhouse gas emissions have grown 42 percent since the IPCC’s first assessment report in 1990. Preserving a safe climate means turning global greenhouse gas emissions down this decade and reducing them rapidly in absolute terms during the next 40 years, even as GDP and population increase. It also means keeping three quarters of proven fossil fuel reserves in the ground or safely storing the emissions from burning those fuels.

The science summarized by the IPCC gives clear guidance for what we should do next. Stop new digging.

The more high-emissions infrastructure we build now, the more we’ll have to scrap in coming decades, so let’s stop building it as soon as we can. That means no new coal-fired power plants, no new shipping terminals to move coal overseas, no more pipelines or rail lines to unconventional oil supplies, and no drilling for oil in the soon-to-be ice-free Arctic. It will be difficult to stop these projects. But once built, they will be even harder to shut down. Better to not build them in the first place.

Today’s technology allows us to move past combustion now, in most applications. But scaling up new technology to meet the demands of a modern industrial society won’t be easy. Not doing so will be harder still, because of the damage runaway climate change will inflict on the earth and on human society.

The new IPCC Synthesis Report shows how to climb out of this hole. But first we need to stop digging.

We have associated how many likes a post gets with how many people genuinely care about what you have to say. Of course, seldom does anyone post their failures on social networking because no one wants to be that person.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUE 214. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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LET IT GO

THE BEACON

Miami lacks the winter holiday spirit

DANIELLE GARCIA
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

Over the course of the next two months or so, we will all hopefully be spending quality time with our friends and family, wearing the warmest sweater or sweatshirt you can find for us, making s’mores by the fireplace, drinking eggnog to warm up, singing carols and having a merry, good time. If that is the case, then you must live somewhere at least above Orlando because, here in Miami, we don’t have those cold winter pleasures.

I’ve spent Christmas up north before and, although it was exceedingly cold, it was so much more enjoyable than spending it in the humid, 80 degree weather of Miami. When it’s cold and snowing and you’re layered up with scarves and sweaters, you know it’s the holiday season.

If you’re sweating, wearing shorts and sandals while eating a turkey dinner, something’s not quite right. I feel very strongly about this, probably more than most; holidays are better where the winters are cold, with hot chocolate and the crazy people you call your family.

It’s disingenuous spending it in hot weather, unless you’re purposely taking a trip to a warm destination for the holidays, of course.

POLICY

 Apart from the lack of cold I would like for the holidays, every year after Halloween, I get that Christmas-holiday feeling inside me that used to be more potent when I was a little kid. Growing up has definitely taken some of the fun out of the holidays. I guess I don’t expect as much as I did when I was little.

H o n e s t l y , knowing Santa Claus doesn’t exist was my first heartbreak as a little kid. I used to be so excited Christmas morning when my family and I opened presents. Now, as an adult, I miss that. I miss the thrill of being a little kid during the holidays.

DONALD W. NASEE
Professor, Public Relations
Miami University

SUNRISE, FL

December 21, 2012

There is a psychological need for those who are prosperous to post their successes on social media. There is no need to be envious of the perfectly planned and edited photo. Social media postings are overdone, whether the person consciously did so or not, to appear better than it actually is. We have associated how many likes a post gets with how many people genuinely care about what you have to say. Obviously, we want our lives to appear perfect, even when they are not, and posting an image is not quite right. I feel very strongly about this, probably more than most; holidays are better where the winters are cold, with hot chocolate and the crazy people you call your family.

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When you’re really young, your family makes the most out of your innocence. They go out of their way for you to have the best time— setting up the Christmas tree, shopping, hiding presents and waking up in the middle of the night to eat the cookies you left for Santa while quietly setting up the presents then, finally, seeing your reaction in the morning.

H o n e s t l y , knowing Santa Claus doesn’t exist was my first heartbreak as a little kid. I used to be so excited Christmas morning when my family and I opened presents. Now, as an adult, I miss that. I miss the thrill of being a little kid during the holidays.
Anberlin brings farewell tour to Revolution Live

CLAUDIO ZELAYA
Staff Writer
claudio.zelaya@fiusm.com

Twelve years ago, in our own backyard, magic was made when a group of talented men got together to form a brotherhood that would bring powerful and inspiring music to their fans’ ears.

Anberlin was formed in central Florida and currently includes Stephen Christian (vocals), Joseph Milligan (lead guitar), Deon Rexroth (bass), Nathan Young (drums) and Christian Mahoney (rhythm guitar).

In their career, Anberlin has put out seven albums with their latest, “Lowborn,” released in July. Throughout the years, the band have brought us such hits as “Godspeed,” “Stranger Ways,” “Paperthin Rhythm,” “Impossible” and countless more.

It’s a bittersweet time for fans since, earlier this year, the band put out a video explaining that this would be their last year touring, ending their illustrious career.

That’s not to say that the members don’t have a future in music, but it’s time for the brand to go out with a bang.

Anberlin had their debut album come out on Tooth & Nail Records, produced by Aaron Sprinkle. Fast-forward 11 years, and the band is releasing their final record on the same label.

Like with any death, it’s important to celebrate the life and not dwell on the loss. To say the band will be “dead” after this year simply doesn’t feel right, because when any artist has been around as long and has touched as many hearts as they have, the music will never truly die.

Luckily for the fans, Anberlin gave the world a year notice about their breakup.

With the thousands of bands that grace our ears, breakups and reunions are usually the type of deals that hit followers right in the face. To get any type of notice is rather kind of a band, but Anberlin went above and beyond to make sure fans had enough time to save some cash to see them the last time they tour the world.

Another fresh of breath air is the lack of drama in this breakup. In the music business, what starts off as lifelong friendship can end in bitter splits. Such is not the case here, nor feuds over money, other members, or any third parties, but rather duties pulling them away from music.

Some are getting married or having children, so juggling a full-time touring schedule does seem painfully time-consuming.

But they know it’s better to end something when everyone is at their happiest, instead of at each other’s throats.

If there’s one thing we can take away from Anberlin’s final days, it’s that they are some of the classiest musicians out there that don’t give up without warning because of conflicting circumstances.

Monday, Nov. 24, will be the last time they play Ft. Lauderdale as Anberlin and at Revolution Live. They will have support from ’68.

Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are $19.50 in advance and $21 the day of the show. The last album, “Lowborn,” is out now, so be sure to pick up the culmination of 12 years touring.

Walt Disney Animation’s newest film, “Big Hero 6,” is an action-packed, funny and heartwarming film. It’s about a boy, Hiro, and his robot, Baymax, as they go after a mysterious man who’s up to no good. Hiro enlists the help of his four science-oriented friends, who together make up the titular six. “Big Hero 6” really hit me emotionally, and, considering the film has plenty of tear-worthy moments, Disney is doing its job. The film is very much about the relationship between family and friends. Though the story is not very complicated, it’s fueled by the characters’ passion. The characters are the best part of “Big Hero 6.” From Baymax to Hiro, to his brother, Tadashi, what makes these characters so likeable, is their individuality. The film’s genuine nature and warmth even prevents the usual obnoxiousness characterizing these types of films. Teammates Go Go, Wasabi, Honey Lemon and Fred are all so enjoyable and unique that they become instantly memorable.

Regarding the visuals, the film is very impressive, holding up the whole time, easy on the eyes and teeming with creativity. The setting, “San Fransokyo,” is a unique one, offering a variety of great sights, such as the city skyline, the clouds that hover over the film’s version of the Golden Gate Bridge, and even Hiro’s house (which doubles as his aunt’s cafe). However, I felt as if the location was underutilized. This could have easily been San Francisco and the story would barely change. I hope that, if a sequel is made, filmmakers better explore the location. The film’s use of music is noteworthy because I feared it was going to use licensed music the whole time. Using licensed music for the sake of using it, especially in a family film, is almost always superfluous and can sometimes take the audience out of the film. The trailers did use licensed music, and it was awfully distracting, so I was pleasantly surprised by the original score that plays often and is used to great effect. “Big Hero 6” is a much better film than I was expecting, and I’m very glad it exceeded my expectations. It manages to hit all the right comedic and emotional strings, while maintaining my interest. It has a well-established premise that has a very good payoff, featuring fantastic visuals and memorable characters.

This giant display of Baymax from “Big Hero 6” was part of Stan Lee’s Comikaze in Los Angeles from Oct. 31 to Nov. 2.

“Big Hero 6” really hit me emotionally, and, considering the film has plenty of tear-worthy moments, Disney is doing its job. The film is very much about the relationship between family and friends. Though the story is not very complicated, it’s fueled by the characters’ passion.

The film also has an awesome end credits scene that you simply cannot miss!

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The Beacon – Friday, November 21, 2014
Eagles continue to control the courts

REBECCA CHARUR
Staff Writer
rebecca.charur@fiusm.com

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, FIU fell to Florida Gulf Coast University 49-47 in Fort Myers, Fl. This is the second consecutive game that the Panthers have lost by more than 15 points, with the first loss coming against a fast-paced Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles team.

The Panthers had been hoping to bounce back with a win against FGCU's after their 56-73 loss against the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles. Unfortunately, both Eagle teams rose to the occasion on their respective game nights, dropping FIU to 0-2 on the year. Despite another solid performance from junior Taylor Shade, who recorded 12 points and a career high of five rebounds, senior Tyonia McKinnie, the Panthers could not muster the necessary momentum to get back into the game, especially after falling behind early.

In the early minutes of the game, FGCU had already pulled ahead with a 12-4 lead. And just when the Panthers seemed to have found some kind of offensive rhythm in the first half, the Eagles responded almost immediately by drilling a 3-pointer, forcing a turnover, and then converting on the transition layup. When halftime came around, FGCU had extended their lead to 24 with the scoreboard reading 44-20. Of these 44 points, 15 of them came off 11 Panther turnovers.

FIU also struggled, shooting the ball from the field, only converting on 32 percent of their shots, which would unfortunately prove to be an issue throughout the entirety of the game. FIU picked up their on-court struggles right where they had left off coming out of halftime, shooting only 30 percent (15-of-50) from the field. FGCU took advantage of this and went on a 10-0 run to open the second half and extend their lead to 32. One of the issues with the Panthers’ lack of offensive presence has been their high rate of turnovers over the last two games. They had 22 total turnovers in Tuesday night’s loss, while FGCU only committed four. Moreover, the Eagles scored 35 points off those turnovers. Flashback to last Friday’s game against Tennessee Tech, where FIU had committed 26 turnovers which led to 29 Golden Eagle points.

When asked where the team needed to improve for the next games Head Coach Cindy Russo simply responded, “Everywhere.” The Panthers will look to make such improvements and earn their first win of the season this Sunday Nov. 23 against the Cleveland State Vikings, who have an undefeated record of 1-0 thus far. The Viking’s first win of the season came against Toledo at home, where they defeated them 81-71.

Panthers look to extend winning streak

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Asst. Sports Director
patrick.chalvire@fiusm.com

For the first time since the 2010-2011 season, the men’s basketball team is 2-0 and will be looking to extend their record on Friday Nov. 21, when they face the Florida Memorial University Lions.

The Lions are 0-1 after losing their season opener to Saint Leo University, 89-48. In their matchup, Florida Memorial committed 21 turnovers, while only shooting 35 percent from the floor. Four Saint Leo University starters reached double figures as well.

The basketball gods were not kind to the Panthers when they faced the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles. After their 56-73 loss against the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles, the Panthers' record fell to 0-2 on the year.

On Tuesday, Nov. 18, FIU took advantage of the Panthers' lack of offensive presence, forcing a turnover in the first half, the Eagles responded almost immediately by drilling a 3-pointer, forcing a turnover, and then converting on the transition layup. When halftime came around, FGCU had extended their lead to 24 with the scoreboard reading 44-20. Of these 44 points, 15 of them came off 11 Panther turnovers. FIU also struggled, shooting the ball from the field, only converting on 32 percent of their shots, which would unfortunately prove to be an issue throughout the entirety of the game. FIU picked up their on-court struggles right where they had left off coming out of halftime, shooting only 30 percent (15-of-50) from the field. FGCU took advantage of this and went on a 10-0 run to open the second half and extend their lead to 32.

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FOOTBALL

The strive to end season on a high note

Jorge Corrales
Staff Writer
jorge.corrales@fiusm.com

A glance at the epic comeback: predictions of next year’s key players

The Panthers will travel to Denton, Texas on Saturday, Nov. 22, to close out their season against the Mean Green of University of North Texas. Kickoff is set for 3:30 p.m. and the game will be broadcasted on the American Sports Network.

This will be the Panthers’ first trip to Denton since 2010 when both teams were in the Sun Belt Conference. These teams tied the record for the longest game in college football history in 2006. The game went into seven overtimes before the Mean Green won by a score of 25-22.

The Panthers sent off their seniors with an impressive 38-28 comeback victory in their final home game on Saturday, Nov. 15. After being down 21-3 in the second quarter, the Panthers rallied for 28-straight points and never looked back.

They got a lot of help from sophomore tight end Jonnu Smith, who had a career day. Smith had eight catches for 140 yards and three touchdowns. Smith now leads all tight ends in receptions (57), receiving yards (695) and touchdowns (8). Despite these impressive numbers, Smith is not one of the eight finalists to the John Mackey Award, an honor given every year to the most outstanding tight end in college football.

Freshman quarterback Alex McGough also had a good afternoon. He threw for a career high 231 yards and three touchdowns— all of those to Smith. The Panthers also got some scoring from junior linebacker Davison Colimon, who returned an interception 79 yards to the house, and Anthon Samuel, who scored the game’s final touchdown on a two-yard run.

The Mean Green enter the game with a record of 3-7, coming off a 35-17 loss at University of Texas at El Paso. They have been running a “quarterback by committee” system for most of the year, but they seem to have landed on junior Andrew McNulty. He has four touchdown passes and five interceptions in eight games played.

The man catching most of those passes is junior Carlos Harris. Harris has 57 receptions on the year. Behind him is senior Darius Terrell with 19. Junior cornerback Richard Leonard will have his hands full while chasing Smith most of the day.

On the ground, the Mean Green rely on a two running back system. Junior Antoinne Jumpreros leads the way with 556 yards and five touchdowns, while senior Reggie Pegram has added 400 yards and four. Both backs have over 100 rushing attempts in 2014. The Panthers enter Saturday leading the nation in takeaways (31) and ranked No. 44 in total defense.

The Mean Green defense gives up over 380 yards and 31 points per game. About 167 of those yards come on the ground; so expect running backs Anthon Samuel and Napoleon Maxwell to get a lot of touches. Freshman running back Alex Gardner is expected to miss his fourth straight game with a shoulder injury.

Neither the Panthers (4-7) nor the Mean Green (3-7) will be eligible for a bowl game, even with a victory. Saturday’s contest will be a chance for both teams to show what they have before the close of the 2014.
Local news anchor talks reporting, Haiti, racism

JEFFREY PIERRE
Staff Writer
jeffrey.pierre@fiusm.com

Calvin Hughes, a news anchor for WPLG Local 10, climbed his way up the journalistic ladder from small-town Missouri street reporter to Emmy Award-winning news anchor.

Hughes was born in Cleveland and lived in East St. Louis, Illinois, for several years—humble beginnings, according to Hughes, that he calls a mixture of Allapattah, Overtown and Liberty City.

At 25 years old, after studying at the University of Missouri Columbia, Hughes was the first to break the Michael Irvin arrest news story. In March 1996, Irvin, who was a star wide-receiver for the Dallas Cowboys, was arrested on charges of cocaine possession at a hotel party celebrating his 30th birthday.

Hughes shared these stories with journalism students on Monday, Nov. 17, at an event hosted by the Association of Black Journalists. “I don’t normally talk about these things with a canned speech,” Hughes said, opening the floor for discussion. ABJ brought Hughes to the University not only for his success as a journalist, but his success as a black reporter turned news anchor. “It’s nothing more than overcoming self-doubt and fear,” he said.

Jasmine Sias Richardson, a senior broadcasting major and president of ABJ says, today, newcomers lack diversity, which directly affects the stories they report.

“Since he’s been here, he’s been pretty invested in reporting in multicultural communities,” she said.

After working at KYW-TV, the CBS station in Philadelphia, where he worked since November 2003, Hughes moved to Miami and Channel 10 three years later. Previously, Hughes worked in Atlanta, Georgia; Dallas, Texas; Lexington, Kentucky and Evansville, Indiana.

In 2011, Hughes received praise for his reporting on the earthquake in Haiti. The Miami New Times awarded him Best TV News Anchor, saying “Reporters’ platitudes and smiling faces often hide the intransigence of poverty and blight. [Hughes’] reporting reveals those problems without dismissing them.”

Looking back, Hughes calls his experience in Haiti “the worst story ever had to cover.”

After the 2010 earthquake, the country took major hits in infrastructure. Support from law enforcement and healthcare providers was non-existent and evident on the streets.

“There’s nothing that prepares you for seeing dead bodies everywhere,” he said.

After his stories detailing his triumphs as a reporter, he took questions. One student asked if racism played a role during his career.

Hughes stated that it did, though added that he chose not to focus on it.

“The best way to fight racism is through excellence,” he said, quoting someone Oprah Winfrey told him once in a conversation.

Florida poised to let hunters use silencers

Diane Eggeman, director of FWC’s division of hunting and game management, recommended Florida lift its ban on neighboring Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana recently did.

Georgia’s new law went into effect July 1. Louisiana, until this year, restricted silenced hunters to hunting coyotes and other “outlaw quadrupeds.”

Eggeman said that permit silenced hunters haven’t reported an increase in poaching or game drives.

“There’s a common misconception that suppressors make the gun completely silent, and that’s really far from the truth,” she said.

Eggeman said a deer-hunting rifle with a suppressor is still louder when fired than a jackhammer, a garbage disposal or live rock music.

In a letter to the wildlife commissioners, NRA lobbyist Marion Hammer said Florida enacted its suppressor restrictions in August 1957 “with no legitimate justification, except that, at the time, Hollywood movies made suppressors synonymous with machine guns, assassins and alcohol prohibition days.”

She called the devices an “appropriate use of technology” to protect hunters’ ear health.

“Increased use of suppressors will help to eliminate noise complaints, which have been used more frequently as an excuse to close shooting ranges, informal shooting areas and hunting lands throughout the country,” she also wrote.

Silencers, like machine guns, are strictly regulated under federal firearms law, passed by Congress in 1934 in the wake of Prohibition-era gangland crimes, including the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre in Chicago in 1929.

The law requires a buyer to pass a federal background check, pay a $200 fee and register the device with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Explosives. Ownership cannot be transferred as easily as ownership of military firearms.

Suppressors are not common among Florida hunters because of the state’s restrictions and because each costs $500 to $2,000. About 40,000 are owned by Florida residents, said Todd Macfarlane, president of the American Suppressor Association, a trade group for manufacturers.

He said they are primarily a hearing safety device.

University environmentalist to partake in first appreciation day

KARLA REYES
Contributing Writer
breys@fiusm.com

This weekend, an event to encourage community members to preserve the Florida Bay will present research conducted by University environmentalists.

The School of Environment, Arts and Sciences is taking part in Florida Bay Appreciation Day this Saturday, Nov. 22, at Founder’s Park at Islamorada.

Hosted by the Everglades Foundation, the event will run from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Aileen Soto, education and outreach coordinator for SEAS, said students will showcase their research projects on behalf of groups within the school.

“I’m basically corralling different research labs,” said Soto.

University presentations will feature the Medina Aquarius Program, Wetland Ecosystems Research Lab, the Aquaculture and Fisheries Ecology Lab, Dr. Jennifer Rehage’s Lab and Seagrass Ecosystems Lab.

The Florida Bay is at the north end of the Keys and, from Islamorada, the edge of the Everglades is visible, making the subhead for the event “Everglades in your backyard.”

The event is meant to raise awareness about protecting the Bay and its importance in terms of being a water source for the community.

Vivian Miller, director of Everglades Education and Outreach for Everglades Foundation, said they hope to encourage the community to keep the bay on their minds.

“It’s free and family-friendly, but it is educational,” said Miller.

The event will include live music, food trucks and a key lime pie-eating contest.