Police keeps sex assault, crimes low

MyFIU website, app receive more modern look

In light of danger in other campuses, FIU Alert system offers relief for students
Annual crime report shows lower crime rates

CRIME, PAGE 1

emotional distress. In 2013, there were three reported cases of domestic violence, one case of dating violence and four cases of stalking. All of these occurred at MMC.

Meanwhile, Casas said that decreases in thefts, drug usage and other "opportunistic crimes" can be attributed to the "direct correlation" between crime statistics and the number of officers on duty.

"When I have more officers, I can put more people on foot patrol, direct patrols in certain parking garages or parking lots — it does have a residual effect on the opportunistic crimes," he said. "I think we’re at a point where our staffing levels are starting to have a consistent impact on our crime. These are good numbers."

But it’s not just quantity that plays a part. Casas claimed that the quality of police-work is another factor.

"Those numbers are directly reflective of the professional hard work and service that our police officers provide our community here," he said, later adding that the recent negative gun incidents are frowned upon by the department.

Casas emphasized the importance of looking at the number of incidents as opposed to percentages.

"Think about it: three out of 10 is 30 percent. That’s a big percentage. But if you go from [three] to seven, that’s not a lot of cases when you’re talking about burglaries," he said.

To Casas, the numbers won’t change how the police department works to combat crime.

"We will not relax — we will continue to maintain the level of policing that we’ve had," he said.

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NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

US shootings by police, prison conditions trouble UN

A U.N. anti-torture panel that is investigating the U.S. shootings by police, prison conditions and other abuses of power is looking for a Sales Rep to sell advertising for Student Media.

Interview for Production Manager, BBC Managing Editor, and News, Sports, Treatment. The U.S. ratified the 156-member-country review of U.S. compliance with the 1984 Convention of unarmed black individuals,” said Alessio Bruni, a member of the panel and a lead investigator in the review of U.S. compliance with the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment. The U.S. ratified the 156-member-country convention in 1994.

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STUDENTS PIONEER PROJECT TO PROTECT AGAINST SEA LEVEL RISE

Students pioneer project to protect against sea level rise

WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM

The students said they were inspired to undertake the project after reading about the 2011 U.N. report that would result in map data and show areas of inundation at 3 feet, 4 feet and 6 feet of sea level rise. LiDAR is a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a targeted area with laser and analyzing the reflected light.

"The most concerning I find about sea level rise is how much of the City of Miami Beach it would affect. The whole city would be affected; there is no escaping it," said Echeverri.

Echeverri also said that study for the project was very demanding because of the amount of research and work that it needed to be produced. However, it left her with an immense satisfaction when looking at the final product.

In relation to the exhibition, multiple lectures and panel discussions are planned to take place at the CGM, at FIU, and at the Miami Center for Architecture + Design (MCAD) in the coming months.

"The environmental challenges ahead are substantial, and their effect, not only on our immediate community, but world-wide, demand our attention and our active engagement. We hope that this exhibition will advance both," Nepomechí said.

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Classifieds

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University Division of IT gives MyFIU a new look

Academic Advisor Paige Johnson said that the alterations have been useful, especially since she is both a University employee and a doctoral student. As an academic advisor, she said that the changes has made it easier for her to direct students to their transcripts, for example.

“It’s a little more cleaner so you can direct students to transcripts are here,” as opposed to going through a bunch of different links," said Johnson. “Students just want to see [everything] right there. They don’t want to have to search. When they search, they don’t care anymore.”

Also, she said that she has encouraged her students to use the mobile app to stay on track of their information.

“You could be anywhere in the world, go to the mobile app, register for your classes, hit and enrol and you’re done.”

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Student projects, page 8

She recommends to others to be involved on this pressing issue now and later on. “It would be nice to be a part of a team in the future that needs to deal with this issue,” Echeverri said.

Professors Marta Canaves and Marilyn Nepomechí explained that the idea of creating the multi-faceted, interactive exhibition is part of the interest in raising public awareness and encouraging community engagement in the advancement of a city that would be more resilient over the course of its second century.

"Student projects, undertaken since 2011, as well as the panels, lectures and exhibition catalogue planted in conjunction with the exhibition, all form part of that study," said Marilyn Nepomechí, an architecture professor and co-curator of the exhibition.

The project is composed of multiple parts, each with its own reason. One of the main components is the academic exploration, part of a grant funded by the National Science Foundation. It is intended to address natural and built environment responses to sea level rise in our urban region.

"Many people were involved with the project. Faculty, graduate students, a group of subject matter experts, elected officials, and community activists all contributed to the exhibition model," said Canaves.

According to Nepomechí, over 100 of the participants are graduate and post-professional students in the departments of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and Environmental and Urban Design.

One of the highlights of the exhibition is the interactive model in the Abraham Gallery. The lights in the model closely follow LiDAR data and show areas of inundation at 3 feet, 4 feet and 6 feet of sea level rise. LiDAR is a remote sensing technology that measures distance by illuminating a targeted area with laser and analyzing the reflected light.

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University’s alert system brings sense of calm to students

ALERT, PAGE 1

The system components are tested. So far, the new system has been effectively relayed messages to students.

Aiken said that the most important part is that students feel safe and secure with FIU’s Alert and that no issues have been encountered with the new system.

Andres Fernandez, a junior majoring in finance, said the alert system gives him a sense of relief.

“It gives me a sense of calm to know FIU’s system is so efficient, and there are so many ways to alert students,” he said. Fernandez. “Tragedies at other schools could have maybe been minimized if alert systems were as quick as ours.”

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Greedy middle-men threaten modern research

FRANK & IRENE

In contrast, there are other people who try and enjoy a range of activities, but fail to advance after a certain point. Let’s call them “dabblers.” You’re a dabbler if you have mastered two or three chords on guitar, were once told you had great potential by a former soccer coach, and the doodles that you make in class are exceptionally detailed. Parents of dabblers enroll their children in dance classes, little league sports, and piano lessons only to realize that the burning sensation at the pit of their child’s stomach is not passion, but an ardent desire to quit. Sometime between the beginning of middle school and the end of the freshman year, parents stop pressuring their child to choose a prodigious skill. It’s okay as long as you make good grades, right? Wrong. The college admission system becomes more selective every year. It is under the unrealistic assumption that college students should all be gifted. If that were the case, a collegiate experience would become dispensable. I do not pretend to understand why colleges make it so stressful to apply. I have considered that it is probably a tactic for evaluating a student’s training, or (cynically) that colleges want to compartmentalize students and make a statistical joke about their interests. However, I realized upon entering college that my insecurities were misguided. The department of admissions does not know the individuality of all of the applicants, just as I do not know much about “the girl who can sing soprano.” They imagine there is also a sense of satisfaction in knowing what they want to do with their life from an early age. These are usually the students who are considered “natural talents,” because they found their calling before entering college. Finally, it’s a little embarrassing that in my nineteen years of existence, I have yet to discover one thing I am particularly good at. Perhaps it comes off as a bit selfish, but wanting to be recognized as “the girl who can sing soprano” or “the boy who writes killer poems” seems way better than only being remembered by the freckles on your face or the color of the shirt you wore on one occasion. Those things are not a reflection of who you are as a person. I admire people who have dedicated years to perfecting a pintxo, or acquiring a black belt because they are self-motivated. While it was their parents who took them to their very first lessons, the decision to stick it out was personal, because, in my opinion, the cultivation of talent and mere passion go hand-in-hand.

As a matter of fact, for access to science, history, journals and databases and rapidly-advancing fields, it is impossibly expensive to do research anywhere else. These journals, which should be as inexpensive as possible so that more people can access them, are crucial to understanding modern scientific research and keeping up with rapidly-advancing fields. The hardest pill to swallow when it comes to scientific and mathematical journals is that they are very expensive. While students attending FIU and other universities have “free” access through their libraries, it is impossibly expensive to do research anywhere else. These journals, which should be as inexpensive as possible so that more people can access them, are crucial to understanding modern scientific research and keeping up with rapidly-advancing fields. The reason that these journals are so expensive is that the publishers take advantage of a system in which big institutions are willing to dish out a lot of money hand over fist; not only the university (aka the publisher’s database, an individual can expect to pay $3,000 to have their work published unprofessional work, but that’s just not the case. They aren’t doing their job and they’re hurting all of us. Next time the tuition bill comes, remember who some of that money is going to.

As a fact of access, a single peer-reviewed journal article can cost anywhere from $30 to $50. For a membership to a certain publisher’s database, an individual can expect to pay $5,000 every year. The University pays $3.4 million every year in order to give their students access to science, history, math and art journals. Instead of spending that money on scholarships and financial aid, the University has to line the pockets of the middlemen of academics. All universities and many schools need to pay for the services of these publishing houses. These companies make money hand over fist; not only do they charge institutions for access to their databases, but they also charge authors anywhere from $1,000 to $3,000 to have their work peer reviewed. The most infuriating aspect of this is that a lot of the work that they publish is questionable at best. Many peer-reviewed journals publish faulty experiments and disprovable results. Perhaps this is the greatest threat to modern scientific research. Some respected publishers have a serious lack of standards, as they will publish anything as long as the submitting researcher pays the fees. As the prices get higher, the quality gets lower. The problem with the current system is money. If they charge that much money it is because institutions are willing pay it. The current system puts a serious limitation on what can be published as researchers have to pay the cost of having their work reviewed. If they work for a university, then the university (aka the student population) has to pay those fees. The current system forms an economic barrier for people who might be doing research outside of a university. While the price is ridiculous, the publishing houses could attempt to excuse this by saying that they hold a high standard and high prices keep them from publishing unprofessional work, but that’s just not the case. They aren’t doing their job and they’re hurting all of us. Next time the tuition bill comes, remember who some of that money is going to.
Burgers and beers. Cassette tapes and wine corks. Graffiti. It sounds like the progression of a friends’ night out—food, music, alcohol and vandalism—in a decade when cassette tapes still existed. The reality, though, is better. It’s a place where music booms from 21st century speakers and the cassette tapes support the long bar.

The restaurant is located at 3190 Commodore Plaza, Coconut Grove, right around the corner from the neighborhood’s local veterinary. The outside is reminiscent of a dinner, but the high chairs and tables and the graffiti on the sidewall tell another story.

LoKal is home to Wynwood’s artsy designs, the Grove’s health-oriented lifestyle and Miami’s mixed cultures. The locale is better described as a “pub, bar, inn, restaurant, meeting place,” by the black graffiti letters over a white wall. Decorations such as this line the walls: Graffiti of phrases that resonate with the locale’s atmosphere

Graffiti of phrases that resonate with the locale’s atmosphere

Graffiti of phrases that resonate with the locale’s atmosphere

LoKal’s design and character are a representation of the owner’s lifestyle, an alum of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. I was able to meet with Matthew Kuscher, who was more than willing to schedule an interview with me.

“I have a soft spot for FIU,” Kuscher told me. “I was kind of a troublemaker and when I went to FIU it did change my path.”

After visiting his best friend in Seattle, who was very

eco-friendly, Kuscher decided that he wanted to live environmentally conscious. He created LoKal based on this belief.

“Upcycling is really what I cared about, I wanted to [have] obviously a cool feel to it, but the first priority was trying to be something that was gonna help spread the word.”

The restaurant and its decorations are mostly made with recycled materials. The chairs and the stools were items collected from restaurants that were throwing them away and several of the tables were made out of wooden pallets.

Apart from the recycled decorations, LoKal strives to support the community around it by going local. Everything is bought from relationships made with local farmers, providing high-end ingredients that are utilized to make its products from scratch in the kitchen.

“I’m obviously very big on shopping local, buying local and supporting local,” said Kuscher. “The only thing I buy that’s not local is cars and electronics and that’s because it’s, I think, pretty much impossible to find a Florida-based car or stereo system.”

With a staff of about 42 members, LoKal begins its day at 6 a.m., preparing the products for a busy day. The restaurant usually gets between 200 to 300 covers per day, with people even waiting in line for one of the restaurant’s exotic plates.

A tip: If you’re planning to go on a weekend night, call ahead to put your name in the waitlist; however, make sure you get there in time or you’ll be skipped!

LoKal has a variety of burgers, ranging from the Frita, a guava-topped burger, to My Childhood Dream—a burger that uses a donut cut in half instead of burger bread. All the burgers can be accompanied by one of multiple sides, such as the sweet potato fries.

Although I still haven’t gone for either of those, I have tried The Classic and the Fidy-Fidy. Both of them have great flavor, but my favorite part is going half-and-half with sweet potato fries and normal fries and dipping them in the two sauces that accompany every dish.

The Classic is self-explanatory, it’s the typical American burger, but with sharp Wisconsin cheddar. The Fidy-Fidy is more exotic, with the meat being half ground beef and half ground bacon, topped with even more bacon and sweet onion marmalade. If you’re a bacon person like me, go with the Fidy-Fidy.

A very interesting thing that LoKal does, is that on the menu, it states the city where some of the ingredients that they use come from—sometimes it even mentions the farm’s name. So if you’re not certain that you’re getting local and high-end ingredients, look it up.

Some of the best-selling plates include the LoKal burger, the chicken and waffles, the key lime pie and the doggie chicken and rice. The restaurant does not only provide meals with quality ingredients for its human customers, but for their dogs as well.

“We’re an extremely dog-friendly restaurant...I like going places with my dogs and most places don’t like you bringing [your] dogs,” said Kuscher. “There’s [also] a vet around the corner that’s been there forever and we thought it’d be really cool to get these sick dogs coming out of the doctor to put a smile on their face [so] we make them organic dog biscuits every day.”

Apart from the great food LoKal also offers a large...
15 new films you’ll want to see this December

LIFE! The Beacon – Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Merging good food with local culture

LOCAL, PAGE 4

number of beers from local breweries. Their beer director, David Rodríguez, is tasked with creating the beer list and is constantly bringing in new material – draft, bottles, whichever your preference, the menu offers over 40 different beers from all over Florida.

However, if you want a more complete list, I suggest you head over to Kush by LoKal, which is located in Wynwood. While LoKal is more restaurant oriented, Kush offers the more bar-like image of the two. Being located in the Grove, LoKal is a great spot for a quick bite before heading out to dinner or a night out.

Merging good food with local culture

It’s a really fancy place in the sense that we have very, very high-end ingredients, but you can come in with your hat backwards and the stubbies,” Kuscher said. There are engaged students on a budget can still come and afford it, but people on a higher income can come for their relax day and know that they’re getting the high-end ingredients that they used to.

LoKal was the first burger and beer place that the staff properly, going above and beyond for the guests and offering good service. Additionally, it’s through this plan that LoKal is able to provide its customers with quality food at the prices that the market finds difficult to compete with.

Since its opening, LoKal has acquired countless loyal customers, to the point that they have begun to take possession of the restaurant.

“If we closed people starting getting mad and I was getting almost hate emails because they were... planning to come and we were closed,” Kuscher said. “It’s no surprise the customers have taken ownership of the restaurant. In its early days, Kuscher invited the children of LoKal clients to collaborate on the restaurant design. They had a number of high chairs that they had gotten for free and needed reconverting for use in the restaurant. The children came in and painted the high chairs that today stand as part of LoKal’s décor. The children are now three years older, Kuscher said, and they come into the restaurant and can call out their high chair.

Being located in the Grove, LoKal is considered somewhat far from the reaches for people living in North Miami, Broward and the like. Nonetheless, Kuscher and the team are intent on opening more LoKals and maybe eventually opening more locations with different environments, which he didn’t specify in detail.

So while we wait for Kuscher to open more innovative restaurants in Miami, we can enjoy their locally made burgers in the place that makes sure its name is as part of our culture as the “LoKal” brand stamped at the top of every burger bun.

THE INTERVIEW

Alone and celebrated in North Korea, a comedy about two tabloid-TV nincompoops _ James Franco, Seth Rogen _ who land an exclusive interview with dictator Kim Jong-un, only to find themselves enlisted by the CIA in a plot to assassinate the Supreme Leader. This could start a war.

INTO THE WOODS

The 25th film adaptation of the Sondheim Broadway smash gets the movie musical treatment – _ but wouldn’t you know it from the trailer, which doesn’t even offer a snatch of a song. With Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, Anna Kendrick, Chris Pine, Tracey Ullman, Christine Baranski, and John Michael McDonagh singing and dancing their way through a Grimm universe. At least, we think that’s what they’re going to do.

UNBROKEN

A World War II survival drama from director Angelina Jolie, her second feature. (Her first, In the Land of Blood and Honey, also dealt with the horrors of war.) British newcomer Jack O’Connell stars as the real-life Olympic track star Louis Zamperini, who survived a plane crash in the Pacific, was adrift for 47 days, and then was taken prisoner by the Japanese. The Coen Brothers get screenplay credit.
Offseason needed to ripen young talent

Prejudice against gays and lesbians hurts women’s collegiate basketball

FOOTBALL
The 2014 college football regular season has come and gone, and for the third year in a row, FIU has been left out of a bowl game. The Panthers finished their first season in Conference USA with a 4-8 record, 3-5 in conference. The highlight is a 3-win improvement from last year’s painful 1-11 season.

The Panthers lost four games in 2014 by three points or less. Had they won just two of those close games, they would have reached six wins and become eligible for a bowl game for only the third time in school history.

Head Coach Ron Turner will be entering his third season at the helm of the program. In his first two seasons, Turner has led the Panthers to a 5-19 record.

The Panthers have 11 seniors that will not be back next year. On the offensive line, they will be losing starting center Donald Senat. Senat started all twelve games for the Panthers in 2014. The Panthers will also be without the services of third-year receiver Glenn Coleman. Coleman started eight games for the Panthers and played in all twelve. He was the second receiving option for freshman quarterback Alex McGough. Coleman finished his senior year with 23 receptions for 468 yards and three touchdowns. His 85-yard touchdown reception against UAB was the longest pass play for the Panthers in 2014.

Junior tight end Arik Don-Fadiga breaks a tackle able to stay in bounds to pick up more yards against Mean Green of University of North Texas. The Panthers lost 17-13, ending their season with a 4-8 record.

Panthers in 2014.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Panthers will be losing three key contributors from their 2014 roster: defensive end Giovanni Francois, safety Demarkus Perkins and safety Justin Halley. Francois played in all twelve games for the Panthers, recording 36 tackles and five sacks on the year. Perkins started and played in 11 games; he led the team with 67 tackles. Halley also started and played in 11 games; he recorded 45 tackles and 3 pass break-ups on the year.

The Panthers hope they can hang on to their best defensive/special teams player for one more year; cornerbamk Richard Leonard. As a redshirt junior, Leonard is eligible to enter the NFL draft a year early if he so desires. After the year he had in 2014, that idea may not be too far fetched. As a cornerback, Leonard had five interceptions and a total of 144 return yards on those picks. He scored three total touchdowns on defense. In the return game, he had five kickoffs return for a total of 5.7 yards per return. He was even able to break one for a score in the final game of the season at the University of North Texas.

The Panther offense has a lot to look forward to in 2015. They are returning an arsenal of young talent at the skill positions.

McGough showed sparks of greatness in his freshman campaign. He finished the 2014 season with 1680 yards passing, 14 touchdowns and 6 interceptions. It will be interesting to see how McGough will improve with an entire offseason in the starting role.

Mcgough’s favorite target was sophomore tight end Jonnu Smith. Smith led all division 1 tight ends with 61 receptions for 710 yards and eight touchdowns. Smith was not named a finalist for the 2014 Mackey Award, an honor given annually to the most outstanding tight end in college football.

He will likely be on all preseason watchlists for the 2015 Mackey award.

On the ground, the Panthers saw some promise in freshman running back Alex McGough. The Panthers had reason to be excited with the depth and talent at running back.

The Panthers hope that their returning talent and an influx of new recruits can get the program back on the winning track.

Jorge Corralles/Beacon

TNS STAFF

In an age when gay marriage has gained acceptance across the United States, when the Apple CEO, and an NFL and NBA player have come out, when the WNBA and hockey teams, gay, homophobia remains endemic in women’s college basketball.

It is an issue that has plagued the sport for decades, but few talk about it.

Cindy Russo, who has coached women’s basketball at Florida International University for 40 years, won more than 700 games and seen the sport make great strides, said homophobia remains as much a problem today as it was decades ago.

Parents of recruits still sometimes ask college coaches: “Do you have any gay players on your team?” Heterosexual coaches routinely prey on parents’ fears and religious beliefs, using homophobia as a recruiting tactic to steer high school players away from unmarried female coaches.

“There is a fear among parents that if their son or daughter is around a gay person, it is going to make them gay, like it’s a contagious disease,” Russo said.

“Is there is still so much prejudice and ignorance out there. Male coaches, and some women, will say to parents, ‘Do you know so-and-so’s gay?’ It just takes that to put a little doubt in their minds. And it works.

“I’ve had the question asked many times, how I feel about gay players on the team, or if I have any gay players on my team. I tell them, ‘Honestly, it’s not something I talk about. I don’t know if there are gay people on my team, they are respectable and have high integrity, and to me, that’s all that matters.’ I’m to an age where you just get tired of it.”

Whether the coach is a lesbian or just perceived as one, the stigma is the same. That helps explain why out of 350 Division I women’s basketball coaches, only one is openly gay. Sherrir Murrell at Portland ( Ore.) State.

In summer 2009, the team’s media relations director asked Murrell if she’d like a photo of her family in the media guide. She thought, “Sure, why not? What’s the big deal? The people who know me know I’m gay, anyway.” She figured it was time to stop hiding. She submitted a photo of herself, her partner, and their twin daughters. The word was out, and news hit the media. No Division I coach had ever publicly declared herself gay, and none have since. She found most people surprisingly accepting.

“For many years, I stayed in the closet because I heard horror stories about recruiting,” Murrell said by phone. “I saw older coaches in the closet and just thought that’s the way it’s supposed to be. The world around us is changing, but our profession is still in the Dark Ages. I was terrified, but I took the plunge, and thankfully, landed in safe water.

“Honestly, I have not had one negative experience. I have had support from 80-year-old boosters, my university, everyone. I know that geographically, it’s easier in Portland than some places in the South, but I’m here to tell lesbian coaches out there, ‘We’ll be OK. Let go of the fear.’

“It was unbelievably liberating to take the white elephant out of the room. Nobody has to tippy-toe around me anymore. Too many damn good coaches have left coaching because of the homophobia. They just couldn’t do a double life, and that breaks my heart.”

One longtime Division I coach, who requested anonymity, left the profession because she grew tired of the discrimination. She is a lesbian, in her mid-50s, and recalled a typical recruiting trip as a Big Ten assistant. She was with the head coach in the living room of a highly touted recruit in Detroit. The recruit’s mother asked the head coach, “You don’t have those kind of people working for you, do you?” The coach replied, “Absolutely not. I would not stand for it.”

The gay assistant felt a pit in her stomach. But she stayed silent. For three decades.

“We felt we had to hide to keep our jobs,” she said.

The anti-gay sentiment is not always that blatant, but the undercurrent is still there, and has driven generations of female coaches out of the business or deeper into the closet. Often, the homophobia is thinly veiled, spoken in code words all too familiar within the sport’s inner circles.

Heterosexual coaches on the recruiting trail flaunt their straightness with photos of spouses and children, boasting that their programs are steeped in “family values” while insinuating that a competing coach is gay or runs a gay-tolerant program that does not foster a “family culture.”

When Robin Pingeton was introduced as head coach at the University of Missouri in April 2010, she had her husband and 3-year-old son by her side. She said: “I’m a Christian that happens to be a coach... I’m very blessed to have my staff here. This is something very unique, I think, for Division I women’s basketball to have a staff that the entire staff is married with kids. Family is important to us, and we live it every day.”

Homophobia and the exodus of lesbian
Graduate student expected to continue success in upcoming track and field season

Sylvia Fowles and Eriana Larkins. "Now the mudslinging gets dirty."

Miguel Diaz, co-founder of the organization, said that since last year's University of Central Florida Invitational, Campbell claimed first place in the 200. The arrival of Wylessa Myrick, a sprinter who herself earned All-American honors for the University of Miami at the NCAA Outdoor Championships, "is a great opportunity for us as a large part in this improvement."

As a graduate student, Campbell has a new opportunity to set another slew of personal records. Given that there is only one other graduate student on the team, it's unlikely to look up to Campbell for guidance. If they can manage to reflect Campbell's work ethic and performance, they might look up to Campbell for inspiration.

Coaches might at least partly explain why so many men are being hired to coach women's sports. When Title IX legislation passed in 1972, requiring equal sports opportunities for females, more than 90 percent of high school and AAU coaches were coached by women. In 2013, it was less than 10 percent, according to separate studies by Brooklyn College professors Vivian Acosta and Linda Jean Carpenter, and the Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sport at the University of Minnesota.

The numbers do not lie," said Mary Jo Kane, director of the Tucker Center. "It certainly is not the case that there is only one woman in male basketball."

That fact alone, that only one has come out, is such a powerful and symbolic statement, that it's going to take a very well-established, well-respected Division I coach to come out. Someone is going to have to be the Jackie Robinson of women's college coaching."

Murrell had no intention of being a trailblazer. She didn't want to be Googled and the first thing that comes up is "Only Lesbian Coach."

"I have not had any of my kids come out," Murrell said. "But after getting so many heartbreaking emails and calls from coaches, saying things like, 'I want to be out and I'm not even out to my grandmother,' or 'I want to be out but my head coach is homophobic,' I realized I am helping make change."

High school and AAU coaches say homophobia in recruiting remains rampant.

"Oh, yeah, that definitely is a big issue," said Miguel Diaz, co-founder of the Miami Suns, a girls' elite basketball program that hosted nine All-American level college players including WNBA star Sylvia Fowles and Ariana Larkins. "Now more than ever. Coaches' salaries are escalated. Stakes are higher. The pressure to win is greater, so the gloves come off and the mudslinging gets dirty."

Pat Griffin, professor emeritus at University of Massachusetts-Amherst, has been conducting LGBT sports education workshops for more than 20 years. She has seen as much change as she would like.

"I call it the glass closet," Griffin said. "Coaches are in the closet, but everyone on the team knows they’re there. If you’ve lived your whole life believing it’s necessary to conceal your private life from everybody in your professional life, it’s really difficult to make that change and believe it’s going to be OK if you come out."

We’ve reached a point where older coaches might at least partly explain why that you have to be closeted in order to stay in the profession and be successful. As a sad way have become an obstacle to younger coaches coming out.”

Griffin was hired by Penn State to meet with the athletic department in 2007, when women’s basketball coach Rene Portland was forced to resign after 27 years at the school amid allegations that she did not tolerate gay players on her team.

Portland had a longstanding policy: No Drinking, No Drugs, No Lesbians. She was accused of forcing gay players off the team, and in 2003, Chicago Sun-Times: she said: “I will not have it in my program, I bring it up, and the kids are so relieved, and the parents are so relieved.”

A highly publicized lawsuit filed by former player Jen Harris led to Portland’s resignation. University of Miami coach Katie Meier says she is “proud we have a spectrum of diversity” on her team. "A Rene Portland situation should not happen anymore," Meier said. “At this point, your sexuality is the same thing as your race, and I think society has evolved. If [homophobic tactics are] still going on in women’s basketball recruiting, they’re in trouble because to be that way and segment a society, you’re going to miss some really special young people. It’s discrimination, straight up."

Maybe so, but homophobia didn’t go away."

Last year, when Baylor star Brittney Griner came out as gay, she told ESPn that although Baylor coach Kim Mulkey knew she was gay and accepted it, and her teammates didn’t talk to about it publicly.

"It was a recruiting thing," Griner told ESPN. "The coaches thought that if it seemed like they condemned it, people wouldn’t let their kids come play for Baylor.

Some parents fear that a lesbian role model will turn their daughters gay. Some girls say they end up being labeled as gay. They grow ponytails, wear makeup and nail polish. In softball, there’s that not-so-secret credo: "No bow? No Lesbo."

One lesbian high school girls coach in Florida who has not come out explained: "I have a front to present a feminine picture to the audience, parents and administrators. I was conditioned to believe that the real me was not socially acceptable."

"There are parents who will be judgmental," she said. "It’s really hard because I have girls coming out to me, seeking guidance, and I am fighting the same battles they are but I can’t tell them that. Maybe someday I’ll come out, but for now, I’m not ready to wave the rainbow flag.

As head girls’ basketball coach at Miami High, Sam Baumgarten has had as many as dozens of talented players during his 23 years in the business. His most coveted and high-profile star, 6-foot-4 center Beatrice Mompremier, on Wednesday chose Baylor over Tennessee, Miami, North Carolina and Ohio State. Notre Dame, Florida, Florida State, Louisville and LSU also wooed her.

Baumgarten has witnessed homophobic tactics in recruiting but said that as far as he knows, it never came up with Mompremier. "She never mentioned anything about any coach’s sexual orientation," he said. "She felt most comfortable with Coach Mulkey’s personality and coaching style, but she really liked a lot of the coaches who recruited her. It came down to basketball. She’s a gay-girl, she’ll be who she is whether her coach is gay or straight. That made no difference to her."

Veteran Northwest Florida (Fla.) High School Coach Clyde Glover has had parents prohibit daughters from playing basketball. "Some of these families are devout Christians and it is a religious issue, and they do not want to support a gay person in track because they think there are fewer gay girls in those sports.

"We’ve had a few girls who are lesbian on our team the past few years, and we don’t put them on an island. They are all Lady Bulls. They have the same rules. They are not/isolated. They are welcome, and they can’t bring their dates to practice.”
College: Only the strong will see graduation

A Social Darwinism is a theory that explains how people evolved through history and how they adapted to different social changes. The theory says those who are more astute, stronger and have other capacities will enhance the survival rate for future generations, thanks to adaptation. Meanwhile, the rest disappear over time.

College students and dropping out go hand-in-hand sometimes. Nowadays, the amount of students returning to college to finish their degree is declining, and this is a growing issue.

In college, students face a similar challenge. Classes increase in expectations semester after semester, year after year. The courses taken in our junior and senior year are sometimes so hard that we fail the class. We might have to drop a course before we fail it and we need to retake it later on.

Professors seem to make our lives impossible, but they aren’t really doing this. They simply want us to learn through reading, writing, and some practice, how to manage different situations that might come up in the future when we have careers.

There are other problems that make students drop out of college, and College Darwinism supports these reasons. Social Darwinism compares evolution through the process of natural selection between animals and plants, and the human race. Therefore, College Darwinism would compare full-time college students in the U.S. to the theory Charles Darwin had about natural selection and adaptation.

The students that drop out of college are the ones that give up and lose the battle of natural selection. There are different reasons for students to drop out of college, one including sh*t happens. There is nothing that can be done about those situations or at least that’s what those students think.

Preventing students from dropping out of school is the best remedy for them to stay in school. Lowering the price of education would make it easier for students because many drop out for financial reasons. More and more students leave their studies because of this.

Students can’t afford an education anymore, and the jobs they apply for after graduation won’t pay much more than a job that doesn’t require a college degree.

Because students aren’t able to pay for their studies with a summer job, savings, or part-time job, they have to work full-time job and this hinders them. They start failing classes and choose priorities that require them to work and earn money, rather than pay tuition.

When a young adult goes to college for the first time, it’s a big decision. They miss their parents, friends and home and have trouble adjusting to a new environment.

Staying in college will give you the foundation needed to be a more well-rounded member of society.

Project aims to protect against sea level rising

Sea level rise and its critical effects on Miami-Dade County has become a major concern. To address this issue, FIU architecture alumni created an informative project on the issue for county residents.

The product and insights of the project are part of the exhibition, “Miami 2100: Envisioning a resilient second century” which is currently shown in the Coral Gables Museum. “(What is) most concerning is the extent to which our urban areas will be affected, and the critical need for action,” said Martha Canaves, a landscape architecture and urban design professor, as well as co-curator of the exhibition.

The project started in the departments of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and Environmental and Urban Design in the fall of 2011. Preparations and fabrication of exhibits for the museum began in summer 2014 with the support of the Cintas foundation and the Cejas Family Foundation.

“I am very happy that I got the chance to be a part of it and learn about a topic that affects our city so directly,” said alumni Ana Echeverri, a member of the project.

FSU shooting revives debate over guns on campuses

The NRA’s Tallahassee lobbyist Marion Hammer said Tuesday that she hopes to have a “thoughtful, deliberate” conversation on the subject when the Legislature reconvenes.

It was too soon to say how legislative leaders would respond. House Speaker Steve Crisafulli, a Republican, said the community still needed time to grieve over what happened at FSU, as well as Saturday’s fatal shooting of Leon County Deputy Chris Smith.

Crisafulli said the time would come to discuss legislation.

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