A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

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Monday morning was the first day of college for thousands of scheduled freshmen— but one of them, it was his funeral instead.

Protesters rallied at the Torch of Friendship in Downtown Miami on Sunday Aug. 24, for a demonstration supporting the on-going situation in Ferguson, Missouri where a white police officer shot an unarmed black teen, Michael Brown, who was scheduled to attend Vatterott College.

In Ferguson, daily non-violent protests transform into nightly clashes with police armed with riot gear and militarized weaponry. In Miami, signs filled the sidewalk where the organizers assembled to spread their message, while six police cars watched carefully from across the street.

“Hands down, don’t shoot,” screamed a group of protesters with their arms raised to the sky, making sure their homemade signs were clearly visible to on-coming traffic.

Among the group of participants was Gordon Kingston, senior history major and president of the Florida Student Union at the University.

“At the end of the day we really do have power,” said Kingston. “Us as students, as human beings, we all have power. We need to exert this power to make a free, just society.”

The rally started at 4 p.m. with attendees lining up the side of Biscayne Boulevard. Signs and banners were waved at cars slowly creeping by, and bull horns blared with the sounds of chants and demands.

“No justice, no peace. No racist police,” was among many of the crowd favorites.

Overall it was a very peaceful demonstration. Bystanders would frequently stop and take pictures and videos, very often engaging in talks with many of the participants.

We want to show our support in a real way,” said David O’Connor, member of the One People’s Opposition, an anti-war and anti-imperialist initiative, which helped plan the event along with other organizations such as the People’s Opposition, an anti-war group.

“We want to stop black death. We want to stop unjustified black death by the cops. It happens time and again and it shouldn’t happen.”

The demonstration also included a speech segment where a few participants took the time to address everyone and thank them as a group. It even included one protestor who used the opportunity to read an essay she wrote while being there. After firing up the troops, it was back to the sidewalk for some more good-old-fashion assembly.

About two hours in, the event wound down when a group of three protesters started to get into...
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

American writer held by Syrian militants freed after nearly 2 years

Al-Qaida’s Syrian affiliate on Sunday unexpectedly freed an American writer from nearly two years of captivity after secret international negotiations for his release that were apparently led by Qatar. The Nusra Front may have freed Peter Theo Curtis as a gesture to distinguish itself from its more revered rival, the Islamic State, which declared a caliphate on the huge parts of Syria and Iraq that it has overrun in offensives marked by mass executions and other atrocities.

6.0 quake rattles Bay Area, sending about 170 people to hospitals

The little-known West Napa Fault shook for about 20 seconds early Sunday, enough to leave the San Francisco Bay Area with its biggest earthquake in 25 years — wrecking historic wine country buildings, buckling streets, emptying store shelves, rupturing gas and water lines, and sending about 170 people to the hospital. The 6.0-magnitude earthquake, centered about six miles south of the city of Napa. No one died and only half a dozen suffered serious injuries, including a boy crushed by a falling fireplace.

Ferguson rally shows tension with police and protesters

FERGUSON, PAGE 1

a heated exchange with the police.

The protesters, wearing Guy Fawkes masks, walked out onto the street blocking traffic holding a banner that read “Anonymous Miami,” referencing the hacking activist group known for its politically based cyber-attacks on government, religious, and corporate websites.

They argued that the police

University welcomes students with tips on nutrition, fire safety

WELCOME WEEK, PAGE 1

Her portion will cover, among other topics, reading nutrition labels, shopping smart in supermarkets, emotional eating, and the importance of physical activity.

“In all restaurants they have healthier options,” said Ajabshir. “When you go to Subway, instead of adding a lot of meat, you can add vegetables to your sandwich.”

Ajabshir will also be providing a demo on how to use Choosemyplate.gov, an online tool that helps individuals track their eating habits and find information on their dietary needs.

“My eating habits were horrible,” Ajabshir said. “I am a very good example of a person who modified her diet with time. And if I could do it, anybody can do it.”

Student organizations, such as the Association of Graduate Students of Dietetics and Nutrition and the Student Dietetics Association will be tabling to answer questions and distribute materials on nutrition education.

SGA, the Residence Hall Association, Radiate FM, Student Health Services, and others, will also be present to provide information.

“The event will be open to all registered University students free of charge, will take place Thursday, Aug. 28, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the MMC housing quad.

Rebels Juice will be on-site to hand out smoothies and half wraps to those in attendance. Beach mats will be given to the first 300 students to rest on.

In case of rain, the event will be moved to the Everglades lounge.

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TO REQUEST A QUOTE
Solidarity and unity: Accounts from Ferguson, Missouri

CLINTON WALKER
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Carrying a megaphone, a young man by the name of Nick Coulter shouts, “Hands Up!” The crowds respond, “Don’t Shoot!” “No Justice!,” “No Peace!”, “Mike Brown! Mike Brown!”, these are just a few of the many shouts that were heard from the once normal street florissant. It’s simply amazing. As I look out among the sea of people, the steady convoy belt of cars with citizens and their families chanting back with citizens with their hands in the air, it’s hard for me to believe that this is where I live. After spending my summer at FIU attending classes, this was not the welcome home I was expecting.

As everyone now knows, on Saturday, Aug. 9, 2014, an unarmed Michael Brown was shot 6 times by a Ferguson police officer, Darren Wilson, in the Saint Louis County area of Missouri. Presumably being in response to a theft, there are now hundreds of protesters on the busiest streets in North County who believe that this was no accident, and that Brown was no criminal. With constant social media coverage, this event eventually caught national attention, which meant that this small St. Louis commu- nity was now the watchful eye of the mass media of America, and let me be the first to say everything you see is not what it seems.

After the initial protests that ended up in riots and looting, constant social media activism, and the persuasion of friends, I finally had to see if this was really happening in my city, and what I saw was not what the media told me. What I saw was unity in the strongest definition.

What I saw was unity in the strongest definition.

People of every race, culture, sex, age and every other demographic were spending a nice Tuesday afternoon in the summer actively demanding justice for a young man who probably no one but roughly 15 in the crowd knew personally. There were people with signs, others directing traffic to the parade of citizens in their cars of support, while other nights there were street performers, and people handing out water and food to famished participants. Though these were not the only occupants of the protest, you had opposing gang members, Indian Monks, Protestant Priests, and even Holocaust survivors were walking the streets chanting with strangers. These were not the angry mob the media was warning us about.

This was a community in mourning and it’s sympa- thizers, coming together not only in support of Michael Brown and his family, but also in celebration of unity, of the people who are saying, “Enough is enough, we are tired of seeing African Amer- ican youth killed.”

No guns, no Molotov cocktails, no fighting, just people who are taking a stand. I also urge people to not only follow the national media on this subject, but actually follow citizens of Ferguson, and St. Louis. They are the people going through this, and there is no better place to gather facts than from the source.

DIEGO SALDAÑA-ROJAS
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Acquiring software for good

After 8 hours of shooting and editing, he had created his first stop motion video of a Lego robot building itself. Fast forward to this summer and my 15-year-old brother is working with Unity, a video game development tool and Blender, a motion graphics program. Through “messing around” with these programs, he has created a helpful YouTube tutorial here and there, he has not only discov- ered a new passion for design but has now found a career choice.

He has the added bonus of having a high level of experience with design programs, without having set foot on a university campus or design school.

I also see stolen programs being put to good use by fellow student journalists.


These programs on their own can cost hundreds of dollars making it difficult to fit into an already tight student budget. Even with student discounts, editing programs can be out of reach for many students.

What I saw was unity in the strongest definition.

These who aspire to be designers and journalists of any type will have to work with these programs in the future.

Knowing how to use and produce superior content is the only way to stand out in an already competitive job market.

In majors like journalism, students must wait until they are in their junior or senior years to work on large projects with advanced programs like Premiere.

In some cases, the thief ends up having to purchase the legitimate version of the program anyways. You can’t have Adobe Premiere glitching on you during an important edit for a client or a company you are working for.

Acquiring intimate and expensive editing programs like Photoshop, Illus- trator and Premiere, without paying for them, is illegal.

If you’re going to steal, at least be a noble thief and put them to good use.

What I saw was unity in the strongest definition.

Every with student discounts, editing programs can be out of reach for many students.

During times of boredom to then forget he downloaded it.

One edited photo became another. Simple color changed to complex layers and masks.

Within a week he had torn up a few lamps and turned his room into a photo studio.

What I saw was unity in the strongest definition.

Diego Saldaña-Rojas
Cuban-American organization emerges

JASMINE ROMERO
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Mirel Wagner’s lullabies contemplates the light in darker places in her second studio album

Day one of the fall semester is a day filled with preparations for either side. It was the best of days, it was the worst: Day 1 at FIU

It was the best of days, it was the worst: Day 1 at FIU

Cuban-American organization emerges

diego saldana-rojas
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Florida International University’s students are made up of approximately 60 percent Hispanics — of which a substantial number are Cuban-American. Despite the overwhelming majority of Cuban-Americans, there were no clubs or organizations in place to represent them and their culture, until last September.

Last fall semester, the University’s Cuban Research Institute sent out a flier calling on students to organize a Cuban-American student organization. By the time the first meeting ended, 20 students met, held elections and chose their executive board.

A great portion of students, FIU students, are Cuban or are interested in the Cuban-American culture...until last September we didn’t have a Cuban-American student organization. There wasn’t a place or a club where Cuban or Cuban-American students could come and talk about the culture,” said Angilady Mesa, senior political science and criminal justice major and the Cuban-American Student Organization president.

CASO seeks to promote and celebrate Cuban culture among the University’s students. Past events have included hosting Domino tournaments and Cuban reggaeton artists on campus as well as roundtable discussions focusing on issues that affect the Caribbean nation.

“This year, we promote Cuban culture. We promote Cuban music, culture and art,” said senior sociology major, Glenda Almela.

Although some of CASO’s events are in Spanish, all of their bi-monthly meetings are in English. “Being Hispanic or speaking Spanish is not required. The club’s secretary is an embodiment of this as he is neither Hispanic nor speaks Spanish,” said Mesa.

The organization hopes to continue recruiting members and providing the University with events that highlight the culture of the island.

CASO’s next events are planned for Sept. 24 and Oct. 28 with free food, music and giveaways.

Mirel Wagner’s lullabies contemplates the light in darker places in her second studio album

jason perez/the beacon

It was the best of days, it was the worst: Day 1 at FIU

LIFE!
5 Seconds of Summer, a new kind of boy band

MARILSA PONCE Contributing Writer
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5 Seconds of Summer, the Australian based pop-punk band, has gained some international exposure since opening for One Direction during their Take Me Home tour.

Do not be fooled by their affiliations with One Direction — they’re emphasizing that they’re a band, not a boy band, contrary to the claims of countless critics.

“How am I supposed to tell them apart from all the other boy bands?” asks Amanda Dobbins in her Vulture review “What Is 5SOS? Your Boy Band, Explained”.

“Well, they’re Australian, which is new,” she replies, “And they play instruments — like, real ones. Guitars and drums. They are a boy rock band.”

Labels aside, 5SOS has come a long way from the days of YouTube covers that brought them to fame in the online realm. They’re writing original music and working with producer John Feldmann, really showing the capabilities of these young men.

Lead vocalist and guitarist, Luke Hemmings, guitarist and vocalist, Michael Clifford and bassist and vocalist, Calum Hood all attended Norwest Christian College when they started posting up YouTube videos of themselves covering popular songs. Drummer, Ashton Irwin, was the last to join in 2011 but never really explains how this is possible, especially with the only person who would be able to understand them.

As it stands, “Lucy” can at least be admired for its pseudoscience, as the premise for such a silly movie), but I think Besson decided to make a film that would only need to focus on its protagonist, leaving all explanations with the only person who would be able to understand them.

In this respect, I believe the film allows audiences themselves to wonder and question what exactly happened and how.

While it is a sci-fi action film, the most exciting thing for me was seeing Lucy’s transformation. It was neat to see her notice things no one else could, do things that would be deemed impossible and fight people without lifting a finger.

As the film reaches its interesting finale, Lucy becomes so massively powerful that it’s hard to talk about without spoiling it all. Needless to say, I believe that the film, in one form or another, makes its point with this finale; what that point is, however, may depend on the interpretation of the audience watching.

In songs like “Everything I didn’t say,” lyrics such as “I wish that I could of made you stay, and I’m the only one to blame, I know that it’s a little too late, this is everything I didn’t say,” make young girls all over the world get weak at the knees.

Also in their song “Beside You,” belting out lines like “she sleeps alone, my heart wants to come home, I wish I was, I wish I was beside you;” it’s hard not to catch the young teen girls demo-graphic that love boy bands.

However, despite being tossed into the pop category, 5SOS doesn’t shy away from writing lyrics like “She’s got a naughty tattoo in a place that I wanna get.”

All in all, these guys are much more than some boys playing instruments, making music, and this album reflects that. Their substance to their songs and show potential for a long and great career ahead of them.

Lucy Bayly/For Beacon

President Mark Rosenberg speaks to incoming freshmen at freshman convocation.

WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2018
Women’s soccer team kick-starts the season

A crowd of 379 FIU and University of Arizona fans alike joined the women’s soccer team in kicking off their home and season opener of the 2014 season Friday evening. The fans were electric, thanks in part to the men’s soccer team leading chants like “I believe that we will win” and singing “Ole, ole, ole, ole!” — until their collective breaths drew short.

The Panthers had a physical battle against the Arizona Wildcats. There were plenty of 50-50 opportunities to be had by both teams; three yellow cards were handed out, all to FIU, and there was a bit of scrappy play between both squads. Unfortunately for FIU, they were on the short end.

“It was hard to keep the ball under control for us today,” said redshirt senior Chelsea Leiva. “I think [the problem was] keeping the ball on our half, the attacking half of the field.”

The Wildcats capitalized early on a misguided clearance by the Panthers and scored goal one of the night in the 25-minute mark of the match. The second goal of the night came on an 11-on-10 advantage for the Wildcats. Having the 11th woman on the field could make all the difference and most likely doesn’t allow a late goal.

Another area of optimism can be found in Leiva’s strong play. With three shots on goal, she likely doesn’t allow a late goal.

The defense for the Panthers rebounded from home loss, pounce on Ospreys

The shot total for FIU and the University of North Florida was 18-5 last Sunday, Aug. 24. The Panthers 18 shots over the Ospreys’ five was due in large part to redshirt junior midfielder Scarlet Montoya.

Montoya made a team record high six shots and another team-high three shots on goal. The Ospreys were smothered by the Panthers’ early offense and seemingly could not find a way to halt the barrage of opportunities flowing FIU’s way.

At the 18 minute mark, senior forward Ashleigh Shim found the first of her two goals of the day, with an assist by Montoya.

Shim controlled a cross by Montoya and found a way to get a low shot past the Ospreys’ goalkeeper, Megan Dorney. At Shim’s second goal, which put the game out of reach with a final score of 3-0, forward Chelsea Leiva found Shim on the right side. With two goals Sunday afternoon, Shim moved into number 10 all-time scorer for FIU.

Senior midfielder Johanna Volz took full advantage of a penalty kick at the 21st minute, giving the Panthers a 2-0 lead.

The defense and midfield seemed to be in sync and fully locked in after dissecting some of their miscues from Friday night against Arizona. The Ospreys did not get a single shot on goal against Stojakovic. The defense for the Panthers kept their opponents at bay for most of the game, both in an effective and clean manner. No yellow cards were handed out for the Panthers compared to the three they were issued in their season opener.

The changing line-up was implemented by Chestnutt. Senior forward Caroline Hernandez, who impressed spectators with her strong leg against Arizona, and sophomore Talia McMurtie made their way into the starting 11 for FIU. This gave Chestnutt and his team flexibility in their attack and ultimately forced UNF Head Coach Robin Confer to substitute a couple defenders early on to try and harbor a comeback.

The Panthers (1-1) will look forward to their next matchup against the Santa Clara University Broncos on Friday, Aug. 29, at 10 p.m.; Friday’s match will be the team’s second of a three-game road trip before returning home, Sept. 3.
University partner rechristens the FIU Stadium home field

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For the next three years the University football field will be going by a different name.

Wednesday afternoon, FIU Athletics announced that they signed a three-year deal with Ocean Bank to change the name of the home field located in FIU Stadium to Ocean Bank Field at FIU Stadium.

Since 2011, the field had been going by the name Alfonso Field at FIU Stadium, after alumni David Alfonso.

The University has had a previous partnership with Ocean Bank and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

“Since our founding in 1982, we have grown alongside FIU and supported its development into a major research university, and one of the largest in the nation,” said Ocean Bank Chairman A. Alfonso Macedo.

Macedo is currently a member of the Dean’s Council for the College of Business. Other bank members and executives – such as Juan del Busto, a member of the Board of Directors, and Ralph González-Jacobo, executive vice president and head of lending and retail banking – are both school alumni.

Ocean Bank has already contributed $1 million to the University’s College of Business, which helped fund the construction of the Ocean Bank Auditorium.

There is no word as to how much the University will benefit monetarily from the partnership.

Ocean Bank Field will host its first football game Aug. 30, when the Panthers host the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats to start off the 2014-season.

Women’s volleyball players bringing their ‘A’ game into the new season

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After losing in five sets against the No. 3 Tuba Golden Hurricane in the quarterfinals of the Conference USA Volleyball Championship, the University’s women’s volleyball team is determined to redeem themselves.

With the coaching staff in place, the team is ready to embark on a long journey to success.

Some people have questioned the fact that the team only has one senior on the roster, Martyna Gluchowicz. They believe this can negatively affect the team since they don’t have an abundance of veterans or leadership that other teams might have.

The volleyball team has responded to these remarks by adding Edfors to the coaching staff who brings his knowledge of the game to share with the players.

The coaching staff has not worried much about having only one senior on the roster because the same young team proved to them that they can compete and win against older and more experienced teams.

This showed in the C-USA tournament when they surprised the whole conference by making it to the quarterfinals. Not many people expected FIU to make it that far, but the University feels unsatisfied by the results of last year and is hungry to win.

The first step to the C-USA tournament starts off at the Radisson-University of Central Florida Invitational in Orlando. The Panthers will play against Western Carolina University, North-eastern University, Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Central Florida. The team will stay on the road for back to back tournaments at the University of South Florida and the South Dakota State University.

The big game to circle on your calendar is the South Dakota State game Aug. 29. If they can change that to a winning record this season, they will be a force to be reckoned with in the C-USA tournament.

The volleyball team is young, but they display an immense amount of talent. Be on the lookout for Anabela Sataric.

As a freshman last year she made her mark on the team as a key offensive weapon. She led the team in hitting a percentage of .333 that the year, posting 16 kills against four errors in 36 total attempts. Sataric was third on the team in kills and had 45 digs and eight service aces.

This is just a small sample of what the whole team can bring to the game. With these developing players, it looks like all the pieces are coming together for a strong future and an exciting season.

Buck-Crockett and the rest of the coaching staff are staying positive. At the end of the day who doesn’t love a true underdog story?

Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett was unavailable for comment.
Feast and festivities, a Polynesian themed party

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For the past 12 years, the luau has been a fresh-
man-oriented celebration – or so the former name implied. Ivy Siegel Mack, assis-
tant director for Campus Life and advisor of the Student Organiza-
tion Council, said titing the event “Freshman Luau” caused many to think the event was exclusively for students entering their first year of college. Although still a popular event receiving hundreds of attendees, Mack said the name-
change transpired after being asked numerous times over the years if non-freshman are able to attend.

“I feel like it would be less confusing,” says Mack. However, the name of the event is the only thing changing in this year’s luau. Polynesian dishes will be served while hula dancers entertain the crowd. Meanwhile, Campus Life will be handing out freebies. There will also be a photo booth for students and faculty to capture their time during this year’s Week of Welcome – whether they are freshman or in their final year before graduating.

Food sampling and giveaways at Restaurant and Business Fair

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With over 30 local restaurants and businesses offering a day of sampling and giveaways, students are bound to pack on some pounds during their first year in college, also known as the freshman 15. The seventh annual Restaurant and Business Fair hosted by Campus Life takes place today, Wednesday, Aug. 27 from noon to 2 p.m. in Wolfe University Center Ballroom 244, continuing the Week of Welcome celebrations.

“A lot of people say that it is their favorite event of the week,” said Andres Bermeo, Campus Life marketing coordinator. Students, faculty and staff and even members of the community can enjoy sample size dishes and handouts from restaurants exclusively in Miami, such as City Slickers Subs and Salads and Misha’s Cupcakes, to well-known franchises like Smoothie King and Smashburger. Tony Roma’s Steakhouse and Quiznos Subs Sandwich Restaurants join this year’s offerings. The purpose of the fair is to acquaint locals with the restaurants near Biscayne Bay Campus, offering discounts to students and staff. Campus Life will release “Guide to Savings,” a coupon booklet listing the discounts offered by most of the participating businesses during the first week of October.

With a record-breaking turnout at last year’s fair of about 700 attendees, Bermeo says he only expects this year’s turnout to be even larger. He attributes this to the recent renovations to WUC, which he says will bring traffic to the event taking place in the WUC Ballrooms for the second year in a row.

In past years, the fair was held in Panther Square of WUC, but Bermeo says they moved the event to the ballrooms because they offer more space and power outlets.

MEET ME IN THE PLAZA

After several months of construction, the Panther Plaza and sculpture will be unveiled on Friday, August 29 at 2pm.

Students from MAST Academy high school study at the BBC library. Although high school started last week, some MAST do dual enrollment at FIU.