THE BEACON INTERVIEWS
Webb unveils Astroscience building
RUSSELL QUINOA Contributing Writer

After working for over 15 years to bring a new astronomy center to students, Dr. James R. Webb has succeeded.

Webb, an astronomy professor at FIU, has been one of the driving forces behind the new building coming to the Modesto Maidique Campus. Now that FIU has received $1.8 million in Public Education Capital Outlay funds along with other private donations, Webb’s dream of bringing a new observatory tower to the Modesto Maidique Campus has finally come true.

The Beacon interviewed Professor Webb, who discussed the details behind the center.

Beacon: What is the name of the facility and what will it entail?

Webb: The Official name for the facility will be the “Stocker AstroScience Center”. Mr. Stocker donated $800,000 to build the facility which is why it will bear his name. It is effectively an observatory where we will teach introductory astronomy classes and laboratories, and have offices for FIU astronomers and astronomy students, a small reception area/museum for astronomy exhibits, and a large telescope located in a dome on the roof.

Beacon: What role did you have in securing funds for the new center?

Webb: I have been trying to get this facility for over 15 years. To make a long story short, our old observatory platform atop the CP building was rendered useless by building renovations and we received no replacement facilities, thus we had no real facilities to teach our astronomy labs.

After many years of no progress in getting replacement facilities, I personally organized a fundraiser entitled “Guitars under the Stars” at the conference center on BBC campus. We collected several thousand dollars, but most importantly a pledge from their president Maidique that the university would match any funds I could raise for the observatory.

I was subsequently contacted by a writer for the VIP Miami magazine who ran a story about me and the need for the observatory to educate our students. A potential donor who saw the article, a local retired physics teacher, contacted me and subsequently donated

Astronomy, page 2

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Physical Therapy student wins Minority Scholarship

MIGUEL CHATELOIN Contributing Writer

There are no visible bugs under Michelle Ramirez’s eyes and according to her, she doesn’t lose a wink of sleep.

Though this physical therapy student probably should, given that she puts 40 hours a week into her internship, studies every day for her board exam, does community service here and outside of the country, and still maintains a 3.96 grade point average.

It all paid off recently when the American Physical Therapy Association recognized the 25-year-old Cuban-Colombian’s achievement by giving her the Minority Scholarship, granting her $6,000 for tuition and loans.

With only seven recipients nationwide, Ramirez did not expect to get the scholarship. She notes that the competition is stiff and that few others apply.

In addition to her projects with Service for Peace, Ramirez volunteers regularly at Camillus House and Dorothy’s House, two homeless shelters in Miami.

Her compassion is what friends and colleagues say makes Ramirez stand out from other medical students. “She genuinely, genuinely cares for people,” said David Colusa, a friend from Service for Peace.

Ramirez has always had an interest in helping others but her passion for physical therapy was born not too long ago out of—ironically enough—an injury.

Before she tore an anterior cruciate ligament in her knee, she used to play soccer for Appalachian State University in North Carolina, during her undergraduate years, back when her life was “eat, sleep and drink soccer,” and sports medicine was her back-up

SCHOLARSHIP, page 2

THE BEACON INTERVIEWS

Basketball: new recruit ignores naysayers
SPORTS, PAGE 3

Ramirez notes that the competition is stiff and that fewer still apply. She wants to make sure their efforts were not in vain. “When we leave, we keep up with them. We get pictures back and we see that they’re continuing,” she said. “You want to make sure that what you’re doing there, that you’re sweating for 10 to 14 days in the sun with these people, that it’s continual when you leave.”

It is effectively an observatory where we will teach introductory astronomy classes and laboratories, and have offices for FIU astronomers and astronomy students, a small reception area/museum for astronomy exhibits, and a large telescope located in a dome on the roof.

Beacon: What role did you have in securing funds for the new center?

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Astronomy, page 2
Student wins APTA award

Student Green Energy Fund.

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Student Green Energy Fund.
Heralded recruit spurns powerhouse programs for FIU

DOMINIQUE FERGUSON

Before the Golden Panthers made the hire of Isaiah Thomas official, Ferguson did not even know what FIU was. The presence of Thomas, in addition to a positive visit to Modesto Maidique campus, sold Ferguson enough to become the first blue chip recruit in Thomas’ tenure. “I was still a little big iffy on it because it was such a small school and it was far from home,” Ferguson said. “I just realized you don’t need to go to a big school to do what you got to do.”

Now that he is on campus, he has already begun to take part in unofficial scrimmages with his teammates, and beginning to show he can fill a big void for the Golden Panthers, who stumbled to a 7-25 record in 2009-10 and were last in the SBC in that first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The road for the upcoming season has been paved for the Golden Panthers volleyball squad as their 2010 schedule was announced this week by head coach Danijela Tomic. The expectations for this team have risen each year and the team will look to build on its 2009 season after making it to the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

This year, the Golden Panthers begin their season away from home with six straight matches away from Miami. This time around, the Golden Panthers begin their season with 12 consecutive road matches, beginning on Aug. 27 against New Mexico State in the Florida State Invitational. Three of those matches during that extended road trip will be played across town in the Hurricane Invitational, hosted by the University of Miami on Sept. 10 and 11.

The Golden Panthers opted to attend FIU despite offers from major programs and a early commitment to Kentucky. "I was still a little big iffy on it because it was such a small school and it was far from home," Ferguson said. "I just realized you don’t need to go to a big school to do what you got to do."

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The incoming freshman will be a member of the FIU volleyball squad as well as the track-and-field team during the upcoming athletic year.

RECRUIT SHINES

Golden Panthers volleyball recruit Jessica Gehrke, also a track-and-field athlete, won four events in the championship meet to help the West High School girls track team capture the Class 4A Iowa state title in May.

Gehrke, who was featured in Sport’s Illustrates Faces in the Crowd section in May, won the 100-meter and 200-meter events to help her team capture the title. She became the first player in her school’s history to win four events in a single state meet.

The incoming freshman will be a member of the FIU volleyball squad as well as the track-and-field team during the upcoming athletic year.

THE VANGUARD

Heralded recruit spurns powerhouse programs for FIU

THE VANGUARD

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THE VANGUARD

Heralded recruit spurns powerhouse programs for FIU
New coach Horner starts recruiting cycle upon arrival

IGOR MELO
Contributing Writer

Randy Horner is diving head first into the recruiting pool. July 1 marked the first day of work for Horner. The new swimming and diving coach has been non-stop on the phones trying to get an early start on turning the program around.

Horner, former New Orleans coach, arrived in Miami in mid-June and has been exploring everything about his new city, especially the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, which will be one of his selling features in bringing in new recruits to FIU.

Beacon: What was it like for you on your first day at the job? Horner: Actually, I’ve been here for a few weeks unofficially, just kind of getting some ground work started in the recruiting process. It’s been good so far. I kind of like it. Though, right now, we have a great motivated staff and I’m glad to be a part of it.

Beacon: Have you spoken to your team yet? If so, what have you said to them? Horner: Yes. I have. I’ve been corresponding through e-mail as well as individual phone conversations with each of the members of the team. Just wanted to say ‘hello’ and tell them a little about myself, answer any of the questions they had as well as talk a little bit about their past experiences with the program and things that they would like to see in the future.

Beacon: What was your biggest influence in becoming a swimming coach? Horner: I really enjoy having an impact on young people’s lives. I love to win and I love being successful so the drive of making them better athletes is there. It’s an internal passion, but the big picture is developing them as people over a four to five year period.

Beacon: How much did University of New Orleans dropping to Division 3 affect you decision? Horner: It didn’t affect the decision to come here, but it sure affected my decision on seeking for other opportunities. When that happened my entire focus for that entire last season was to help every athlete on the program at University of New Orleans find a new home. We successfully transferred every swimmer on the program to other universities this year. There was no future at the division I level.

Beacon: What attracted you to FIU? Did you receive any other offers from any other schools? Horner: It’s all up to whatever positions are open on a yearly basis. There were only a few head coaching positions open, there were many assistant head coaching positions open. I did have some other options and I definitely think that was a great opportunity and one I could not pass up.

Beacon: Have you had the chance to check out the campus? What is your favorite part about FIU? Horner: The Graham Center is probably my favorite part of the campus, it’s the only part that I’ve really had a lot of exposure to at this point. The campus in general is beautiful [especially] the way it’s kept with the landscaping and everything. Just the modern nature of the buildings is very attractive, it’s going to be a great selling feature for bringing young student-athletes in to.

Beacon: In your first season at UNO, your men’s recruiting class was ranked 18th in the nation schools, how do you think you’ll fare in recruiting in first season at FIU? Horner: I think it’s going to be good. We just started our new recruiting cycle. That’s pretty much what I have been doing all day, making phone contacts. The interest level is very high. We have a lot of great, high-level student-athletes that are very interested in the program and the future of the program, and I think we’re going to have a great recruiting class this year.

Beacon: How different is it to coach a Men’s team than it is a Women’s team? Which one is easier? Horner: I don’t have a preference. In the past I’ve always had a co-ed team where I had men and women as to my first year in UNO, where I had a women’s only team. So that’s the only other experience I have had with women’s only before we added the men there. It’s different, I wouldn’t say that one is better than the other, but it’s definitely different just kind of the dynamic of the group, how you deal with them. Some of the issues that come up are a little bit different based on natural sociology of the group.

Beacon: How do you plan on turning this swimming program around? Horner: If I have a vision of where the program is capable of going. Selling that vision to the existing members on that team to [reach] their true potential...then selling that vision to new prospects and recruits, convincing them that I can take them to that level athletically to pursue their goals.

Beacon: Is it realistic for the team to be able to compete for Sun Belt champion this year? Horner: No. I would say if things go well, we can be in contention in our third year (maybe). It takes some time to de- velop. Even just one freshmen class coming in next year would not be enough of an impact to make up the number of points that we’re behind with the contenders. You have to bring in a freshmen class and then they develop through the senior year.

Heat fans receive bad info and miss Wade on arrival

TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

The word went out early Monday morning to Miami Heat fans. Show up at 8 a.m. and greet Wade at the airport. So they did. But for about an hour, wrong location.

Wade arrived back in Miami, but instead of flying on a private jet into a charter facility — as the Heat marketing department expected — he took a different flight into one of the airport’s main terminals. So about 50 Heat fans, as well as a handful of ex-employees, were left with a glimpse of Wade, who is expected to decide his playing future in the coming days.

“We’ll hear that we were here,” said 20-year-old fan David Figueroa. “That’s enough for them.”

Sure enough, Wade’s representatives confirmed that the six-time All-Star was aware of the gathering, albeit after he left Miami International Airport.

The Heat leaked his travel plans overnight, telling fans to show up at 8 a.m. to greet Wade at the airport. Heat fans receive bad info and miss Wade on arrival.

The Heat turned to social media, both Facebook and Twitter, around 12:50 a.m. Monday to rally fans. Even at the late hour, buzz grew quickly, and some fans were in place — the wrong place, unknowingly — by 7 a.m.

An employee at the Signature Air facility said staff typically is told when a high-profile person like Wade is arriving, and that transportation for him is usually arranged ahead of time.

That wasn’t the case Monday. Only by the time word arrived that Wade was back in Miami, he’d already left the airport.

“Bad information,” Heat executive vice president Michael McCullough told the sign-waving, T-shirt-donning group.

Wade’s next appearance seems to have a lot more certain.

He’s scheduled to appear at a youth basketball camp about 30 minutes north of Miami on Tuesday, plus take questions with Alonzo Mourning about their charity weekend later this month. Hundreds of well-wishers are expected there, including dozens of children who are working on a “special” presentation for Wade.

Many of those well-wishers will be Heat employees. The organization chartered four buses to take about 200 staffers to a surprise birthday party for free agent Udonis Haslem last month, and will take a similar approach with Wade’s event on Tuesday.

But arriving Monday — in Miami-Wade County, of course, until July 8 by order of the county commissioners — Wade had been in Chicago.

He took his meetings there, including formal sit-downs with three clubs, plus an informal chat with the Heat. Now back in Miami, Wade will meet with Heat president Pat Riley and owner Micky Arison this week.

Heat officials were asking fans to reach out to Wade on Facebook at 3:33 p.m. Monday, a nod to “3,” his jersey number.

Heat fans receive bad info and miss Wade on arrival.

MIAMI HEAT

One of the triumvirate of marquee stars in this NBA free-agent megasale, Wade could decide this week between the Heat, the New Jersey Nets, the New York Knicks and his hometown team, the Chicago Bulls. Wade, LeBron James and Chris Bosh began getting formally wooed on Thursday by several clubs.

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MUSEUM OF MULTICULTURAL ART

The Frost Art Museum, although located near the heart of campus, mostly operates as a separate entity. The Graham Center is practically always advertising new exhibits at the Frost, but in order to really know just how much the museum has to offer at any given point, it’s best to walk through those very chic glass doors.

For all those who don’t visit the museum often, you’ll be surprised to find that throughout the year there is an average of four exhibits going on simultaneously aside from the Frost’s permanent collection.

On July 12, the museum will host a morning lecture and meet-and-greet with Haitian sculptor Jean Claude Rigaud, an artist who’s traveled the world to study from masters of his trade and now resides and works in Miami to share what he’s learned.

Another Haitian artist will make his appearance at the Frost on July 28, at the event entitled “Meet and Mingle with Philippe Dodard.”

These two artists’ backgrounds are exemplary of the Frost’s expansive international arts coverage.

Both hailing from the Caribbean and the latter influential in the arts of the African Diaspora, they represent the part of the world where “tap-tap” is a term commonly used and art is a feast of color: Haiti.

This summer, the Frost presents “Tap-Tap: Celebrating the Art of Haiti.” The exhibit’s proceeds go to earthquake relief targeting art and culture.

“Paul Strand in México” takes museum-goers west of the Caribbean through the work of Paul Strand, who has been recognized as “one of the great modernist photographers of the 20th century.”

Strand’s photography brought out the characters he thought embodied Mexico’s essence. His pieces, photographed during the early 1930s through 1966, capture the heart of the Mexican workers, indigenous residents, and the remains of colonial architecture in the modern city.

Then, from our very own mysterious native tribes, the Frost has gathered an assortment of spiritually charged pieces to put together “Spiritual Healing – Shamans of the Northwest Coast: Art and the Cultural Approach to Healing.”

Comprised of both relics and new representations of historical objects, this exhibit sheds a light on the shamanic North American culture that is often left forgotten among stocks of Native American history and heritage.

The compilation features pieces utilized in healing, and is designed to educate the public on the practices and beliefs of the animist tribes.

All of these exhibits were inaugurated early this summer in partnership with Target Wednesday After Hours.

On July 21, entrepreneur Michelle Villalobos will visit the museum at 6 p.m. to coach people on self-marketing skills and forms the “findable profile” skills that are necessary to survive in a world of networking business.

The Grand Gallery, located on the second floor of the museum, is currently occupied by the unusual and alluring works of one Volif Roitman, the late versatile artist and center of the exhibit “From MADI to the Ludic Revolution.”

The innovative Uruguayan’s career spanned six centuries and two artistic movements, both of which are represented in the Gallery in colorful works, generally of a playful nature. Some are moving structures and some are small geometric light boxes from Roitman’s MADI days in 1940s Buenos Aires. Either way, all the pieces are defined by their luminous color schemes.

But don’t be too quick to frame Roitman as an earlier Romero Brito. His wacky geometric lights and whimsical color works are put together with taste and the finished product gives off a pleasant glow that you could never find in Brito’s kittens.

FISTFULS OF TECH!

Best online services for keeping students organized

The Internet is full of little nooks and crannies that hold within them not melted butter but great services that would help any student out in their day-to-day struggle to learn in college. Here are a few of the essentials that have made my life easier and hopefully will do the same for you.

GOOGLE APPS = EMAIL, CALENDAR, AND DOCS [FREE]

Google’s suite of online applications is pretty robust, but these few are some that will make college a little less daunting. First off, GMail is a great online mail client that offers a lot of customization. I have left programs like Outlook and Apple Mail in the dust because Google’s online mail is more feature-rich than any desktop program can offer. Calendar is a great calendar app that can send you emails or even push notifications to make sure you make it to class on time. Both these services can be synced to almost any smart phone with Google Sync, which uses Microsoft’s Exchange technology to sync between you and Google’s servers.

Google Docs, however, is the star in this group. Docs will allow you to create Microsoft Office compatible files including text, spreadsheets, and even PowerPoint slide shows. The online document creator is not as feature rich and powerful as Microsoft Office itself but it gets the job, whatever it is, done for free. Best of all, it stores all of that in the cloud so you can access and print it from wherever you are.

MINT [FREE]

Mint is an online banking service that basically takes all your bank accounts, including the ones for your financial aid, and groups them together in one place where you can view and manage all your money. Mint, which was recently purchased by Intuit Software, will monitor and help you budget your money, send alerts when you either receive money or are about to overdraft.

Mint is extremely secure as it basically has a read only access to your accounts, thanks to industry mandated online API’s that are made for services like these. Mint has applications for the iPhone and Android and is free. This has definitely helped me get a grip on my finances and see where my money is going.

THINGS [MAC ONLY, $49.95 FOR THE DESKTOP CLIENT AND $9.99 FOR THE IPHONE VERSION]

Things for Mac is the ultimate app for those people that need to get things done and follow a to-do list. It can compile tasks based on urgency, word tags, or even by project. All of these exhibits were inaugurated early this summer in partnership with Target Wednesday After Hours.

The Grand Gallery, located on the second floor of the museum, is currently occupied by the unusual and alluring works of one Volif Roitman, the late versatile artist and center of the exhibit “From MADI to the Ludic Revolution.”

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But don’t be too quick to frame Roitman as an earlier Romero Brito. His wacky geometric lights and whimsical color works are put together with taste and the finished product gives off a pleasant glow that you could never find in Brito’s kittens.
There are plenty of bands out there whose music makes people want to jump around and send their bodies into a frenzy. These are bands like The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, etc., who have defined the history of rock music so thoroughly that even the bands on this list owe something of a debt, no matter how minuscule (and yawn-inducing) that debt is.

Of course, this isn’t the story of those awesome bands, but rather the story of how someone listens to The Beatles and says, “Man, isn’t ‘Something’ the best Beatles song? I want all of our songs to sound like that.” Like aural Valium, these are the artists whose music acts as the perfect soundtrack for that special trip into catatonia that you’ve always dreamt of. Sleep and just general boredom are the only sorts of outcomes you can expect from these winners.

Moby

Starting off a list by saying that Moby makes music for coma patients is a bit like saying that Moby is a skinny, bald Vegan: it’s just a statement of fact.

However, that wasn’t always the case. The man no one calls Richard Melville Hall did play in several punk bands circa the 1980s and, in fact, began his proper solo career as a progressive electronic musician, helping to shape various nascent genres of electronic music. But then something happened, and that something was Play. Ever since that album’s huge success, Moby has specialized in a very specific kind of aural sleep aid: the kind of sonic wallpaper you’d expect to hear on some new age music compilation right next to tracks by Enya and Einaida.

Jack Johnson

For those subscribing to the notion that life’s a beach, Jack Johnson has peddled some of the most reviled acoustic pop music of the decade. It’s as if he got the whole laying-back-in-the-sand thing down but forgot about the fact that people do a lot of other things at the beach too.

Like a malignant tumor composed of folly aphorisms and surfboard wax, Johnson has managed to release several albums whose ultimately mind numbing feel-good attitude only serves to inspire more rage. He may inspire sleep, but it’s of the sort where you wake up in the morning and curse that this was what knocked you out in the first place.

Coldplay

Of all the bands on this list so far, this is the only one that actually turned over the world. How that is conceivably possible with such manifest academic balladry is only a testament to how many people made mixtapes with “Yellow” as the “We should totally get drunk on wine coolers” song. Who knew that such a particular brand of sod-rock could infiltrate the mainstream with such indifference being the cornerstone of its creation.

Nowadays, Coldplay fancies itself a more experimental outfit, taking creative influences than they did in their “Yellow” days. But make no mistake about it, same yawn-inducing music for 20-something’s you heard on Parachutes has only just transformed into yawn inducing music for people who like U2, but without all that pesky “energy” people are always fussing about.

Vampire Weekend

No band in recent memory has inspired perhaps more collective shuddering than these guys. They essentially write music about going to Harvard that can conceivably be played at any dinner party once that AIR CD is finished. Oh, and there are tables in some of the songs, too.

None of these elements make for anything close to engaging because of the ridiculously specific audience they’re pandering to.

FIFA ON TV WHEN AND WHERE

FIFA madness is in full swing and as the games come to an end in the upcoming days, here are some of the best places to get caught up in all the excitement:

Segafredo L’Originale on 1040 Lincoln Road offers frozen drink specials changing to represent the teams playing. Plus, there’s no costly cover charge to get in—not common for Lincoln Road. Segafredo L’Originale on 1040 Lincoln Road or Ticketmaster.com.

Churchill’s

Airing the semifinals on July 6 and 7 at 2:30 p.m., Churchill’s is located in Little Haiti and is better known for their underground music scene than for being a sports bar. But the pub has played every game in the series and is the perfect place for those who aren’t avid soccer fans and are trying to stay away from the typical bar. Churchill’s is located at 1501 SW 2nd Blvd.

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Kendall Ale House

The ever popular Kendall Ale House located at 11625 SW Kendall Drive, doesn’t have special events catering to the FIFA World Cup but it wins as the top spot to watch any game. The bar opens every 75 hours and their menu is sure to keep your stomach happy even if you’re sad about your team losing. Make sure to try their signature chicken wings, “Zingers.”

A part of the Miller’s Ale House restaurant chain, there are also locations in Doral, North Miami Beach, Palmetto Bay and Fort Lauderdale.

Irish Tavern & Grill

The tavern, located at 15067 SW 112th St., has been opening up at 7 a.m. to accommodate early bird soccer fans wanting to catch the morning games. The tavern shows matches on 20 screens and offers drink specials including $0.99 drafts and pitchers for $6.99.

PILGRIM NOT ONLY FOR THANKSGIVING

Scott Pilgrim is an underdog. He’s a hero, incredibly stupid, yet resourceful with a heart of gold. He’s also the main character of Canadian comic author Bryan Lee O’Malley’s latest project.

Held in manga sized graphic novels, the Scott Pilgrim series provides both nostalgia as well as current pop allusions. Throughout the six books, Scott comically battles seven evil ex-boyfriends of his new love interest Ramona Flowers.

The exact reason as to why he has to fight the exes has yet to be described, but the mystery is cleverly warded to the readers throughout every book.

When he’s not fighting for his lady’s love, Scott is playing Sega Genesis or roacking out with his band, Sex Bob-omb.

Every book includes crazy fight scenes and hilarious and honest conversations. Even if you’re not one to usually partake in video games or comic books, the Scott Pilgrim series is still a great read seeing as how despite their over the top lives, the characters come off as genuine people.

In between busting through walls and blabbing about the Uncanny X-men, Scott and his friends have actual drama. Scott’s gay roommate, Wallace, has landlord issues while the band stresses about recording a new album. Every aspect manages to be just light enough to not overpower the characters and keep the comedy eclectic.

Even with the interwoven lives of the characters, the world they live in still comes off streamlined and easy to understand, arguably the strongest aspect of the series.

The good times that emanate from this series will hit the big screen in August. The film is directed by “Shaun of the Dead” director, Edgar Wright, and stars the always-awkward Michael Cera as Scott.


Throw in a video game coming out sometime this summer, and you’ve got more Scott Pilgrim than you can handle. Thanks to all the crammed together release dates, the movie differs from the book near the end. This is a plus for anyone who wants to catch up while avoiding spoiler alerts.

If it’s your first comic, Scott Pilgrim is a quirky series that will leave you wanting more. With each book in the series being relatively small, it’s common practice for newcomers to blow through them quickly. It’s a good idea to pick it up if you’re an old school comic reader too. The series doesn’t forget what inspired it and yet is still hip to the times.
Pornographers disregarding STDs

ODETTE BARRIENTOS
Assistant Editor

A Los Angeles-based AIDS group recently filed a complaint with the Miami-Dade County Health Department against Miami-based adult film-making companies Bang Brothers, Films, Josh Stone Productions and Reality Kings Productions Beverly Hills-based adult film-making company Hustler Video. They claim that the actors in adult films aren’t wearing condoms and could be spreading diseases including HIV.

In making such films, producers often conditioned that not wearing condoms is okay, thus contributing to the AIDS epidemic and the spread of other STDS. The complaint was filed under the state’s sanitary nuisance law, Florida Statute 386, which bans any act that ‘is a public nuisance and may be injurious to health or welfare.’

‘The object is not to shut down the adult films, only to get the male actors to wear condoms,’ said Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

At first glance, this complaint sounds useless and ineffective. The adult-film industry does not make money by promoting safe sex. It never has. Adult-film makers everywhere (not just in South Florida) would resist this. So, why try to change their agenda now?

A look at the AIDS statistics in the US, particularly in Florida, justifies this complaint. Overall, over one million AIDS cases have been reported in the State of USA, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Of those with known residence, 85% were reported in major metropolitan areas. New York has accounted for around a fifth of all cases, with Los Angeles (60,583 cases), and Miami (58,554) also providing substantial numbers.

Florida has consistently ranked third in the nation in the number of reported cases. In addition, HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death in Florida for both black males and black females age 25-44.

Meanwhile, the porn industry does harm in promoting unsafe sex as commerce, because people are wrong to go about minimizing the effects of an epidemic, especially one that has plagued this country for decades.

‘The use of condoms is not the policy of Bang Brothers or the vast majority of adult industry producers,’ said Larry Walters, a lawyer for that represents the company. ‘What kind of adult film would you have without condoms?’

Even so, according to Walters, Bang Brothers actors are permitted to wear condoms in films if they want, and they are regularly tested for STDS and HIV.

However, HIV tests conducted on newly infected, contagious people may come up negative for weeks after infection, a phenomenon referred to as the “window period.”

Furthermore, AIDS is not the only STD threat, some diseases such as Herpes may go undetected for years while the host remains contagious.

Perhaps the use of condoms in adult films would help set a better example, a monkey-see monkey-do effect. After all, we live in a consumerist world that is driven by the media and advertisement. It is completely logical to call out adult film-makers in a region that stands at the top of the charts in AIDS cases.

Allowing for an epidemic to gain strength with no desire to control or influence it whatsoever is clearly the best way to make money. It’s not just Miami’s adult-film makers’ way of thinking – it’s everyone else involved in the industry.

At the end of the day, these movies don’t go on to show the repercussions of unprotected sex.

David Debrauwere
Contributing Writer

Recently, I’ve noticed a big move towards healthier and nutritionally conscious eating choices. With South Beach diets, the old school, fast food options have grown in popularity. The University of Miami is looking to diversify the eating options on campus. With Child’s Too opening up, and the opening of the new garage’s restaurants in the fall, including Chick-fil-A, Moe’s, Papa John’s, Dunkin’ Donuts, and Salad Creations, we may be in for a treat on campus.

However, like most treats, they are unhealthy. Fortunately, there are alternative choices. Instead of the old restaurants, the only healthy options are Salad Creations, some items at Camille’s, located in the recreation center, and maybe Subway if you eat off-campus.

Again, I’m not health nut, but I still care about my nutrition.

And what about those that are health nuts? For students who want healthy choices, they are railroaded into a couple of eateries, where healthy meals are the exception and not the rule.

The one question I have to pose to those who picked these restaurants: what were the criteria for a restaurant opening on campus? It’s clearly not a healthy menu.

Our school is supposedly moving towards a healthier campus with “innovations” such nutrition labels on foods, healthier options in vending machines, and the contentious campus-wide smoking ban. The University does have a great opportunity here to make a real and positive impact on students’ health.

When I heard that restaurants were coming to the new garage, it was already half-finished and everything was decided. The students never had the option to choose the food places.

This makes me wonder whether the school is getting something from the restaurants for allowing them on campus. They definitely want the locations to generate revenue, but healthier options could generate revenue as well. In fact, they may even make more money because of the lack of healthy options on campus.

Instead, we are left with mostly unhealthy restaurants. Sure, you could go off-campus, but most people don’t have that much time between classes. And even if you did, good luck finding a parking spot when you get back.

The majority of what we’ve left with on campus has menus consisting of greasy, fattening food, with the occasional “light” meal thrown in. Looking at Moe’s menu, their salads contain meat and beans, which are not the healthiest of choices.

Most restaurants claim to have healthy choices, but in reality they are simply healthier than the rest of the menu. They are not healthy in the sense that they are good for you and will aid your health.

It’s a wonder why the University has not latched on to the nutrition craze sweeping the world, especially with the plethora of low calorie and high protein meals out there, usually packing extra-unnecessary calories.

In doing so, the University would appease the demand that exists for healthy food all the while making a kill in the process. It’s a win-win situation.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the University. Each is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the four sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding a response to its editorial, send them to opinion@fi usm.com

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Get a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something about Miami? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fi usm.com or drop by our offices at either 240 at 1200 W Flagler. For your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

[Afghanistan is] “a war of Obama’s choosing. This is not something the United States had actively prosecuted or actively engaged in.”

— President Obama

Send your opinion to opinion@fi usm.com
Sigal Segev joins Ad/PR department

BECCA GRIESEMER
Contributing Writer

Sigal Segev has been part of the FIU community since she enrolled in its graduate program. She now returns as an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s Advertising/Public Relations department.

Now on a tenure track, Segev is on her way to becoming a full professor after future evaluation.

Her original dream was to be a correspondent in her native country of Israel, but she was advised there wasn’t a journalism graduate program at the time.

She then decided on integrated communications: advertising and public relations, where she received a master’s degree, saying she fell in love with consumer behavior, specifically the pre-campaign stage.

“My mission statement in life was to do research,” Segev said. “When this position at FIU opened, I applied enthusiastically.”

Segev focuses on global consumer behavior, green branding, and multiculturism communication.

Her interest in green consumer research was sparked four years ago with the birth of her second child, when she decided to start buying organic foods for her family.

“There was no previous research on mainstream, what I call, ‘Realistic Green Consumers,’” Segev said.

Her goal is to work with other professors, such as Dr. Juliet Pinto and Dr. Brian Parker, both assistant professors in the SJMC, to compile new information to make recommendations for effective green branding. The three professors co-authored “What It Means to Go Green: Consumer Perceptions of Green Brands and Dimensions of Greenness,” which was accepted by the American Academy of Advertising.

Segev’s higher education journey began at Tel Aviv University, where she studied political science and Arabic. When her husband chose FIU for his graduate program, she followed suit.

She described that as an interna-tional student, FIU was a warm and welcoming place. “It becomes your home: the faculty, the nature of it all, everything,” Segev said.

Segev then traveled to England to study at the University of Leicester, where she received her Ph.D. in Communications. She spent time working as the marketing communications director for Surf Communications Solutions, a telecommunications company that has offices in the U.S., Europe and Asia, before finding her way back to Miami.

She recently worked with Miami Ad School in an interactive global strategic communications track program that she coordinated.

Segev also developed a new class, Public Diplomacy, which is an integration of all concepts: marketing, public relations, international and media relations, images, culture, and, in her words, “anything else you can think of.”

The most important thing Segev would like her students to take away from her classes is to open their eyes to look at perceptions more critically.

Heather Radi-Bermudez, SJMC’s marketing coordinator, explained the same excitement about Segev’s appointment.

“She has the foresight to see where the industry is going, and to be that intelligent and savvy enough to realize this is something we need to invest in,” Bermudez said.

SJMC’s Dean Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver expressed a similar outlook. She said that Segev’s nontraditional active research agenda and one-to-one basis with students caught her eye.

“She’s up on everything that’s going on. She has a great deal of enthusiasm for her profession.”

SJMC Associate Dean Allan Richards remembers walking into the office during Christmas break and finding Segev there, working.

“I asked her, ‘What are you doing here?’ She said, ‘This is my holiday, I have three kids.’ She’s delightfully driven about her work,” Richards said, who also explained why Segev is an asset to the department.

“If you take a look at her attitude, collegiality, what she’s researching… I mean, it’s a lot in one package.”

One penny. One murdered child. One and a half million pennies. A mass murder made tangible.

Many know of the 6 million Jews the Nazis killed during World War II. With the project of a South Florida youth, visitors to the Holocaust Documentation and Education Center can now grasp the number of children among the victims.

David Broide, 13, pushed for about a year to collect the pennies as a bar mitzvah project. The product of his campaign is in dozens of bags, rolls and sandwich bags lining the halls of the Holocaust center in downtown Hollywood.

Thus far, 1.2 million of the pennies have been delivered to the Holocaust center. Broide and his family plan to bring the rest in about a month.

While the center decides how best to use them, visitors are amazed at the sight, says Rositta Kohnberg, executive vice president.

“They always say something like, ‘So many pennies, so many children,’” said Kohnberg, herself a child of a Holocaust survivor. “This is amazing. In all my years of Holocaust education, I’ve never met a young person who did this by himself.”

For Broide, who began collecting the coins last summer, the project is personal: to commemorate his late grandfather. He was a hero to me,” said Broide, a member of the Beit David Highland Lakes Shul in Aventura. “I think he’d be very proud of this.”

Donations came from friends, relatives and classmates at the Hillel Community Day School in North Miami Beach. Broide also contributed $1,300 from his bar mitzvah gifts.

Pens and luggage tags also contributed, dropping coins in cans at check-in counters at Port Everglades and the Port of Miami. A vice president of the cruise line, Craig Milan, is a board member of the Holocaust center.

The project had other help as well. Crystal Springs Water in Fort Lauderdale provided 40 five-gallon jugs to hold some of the pennies. Palindrome Consulting in northeastern Miami-Dade County hosted and maintained Broide’s website, NeverForgetNeverAgain.org.

Palindrome owner Ilan Srdni is also a grandson of Holocaust survivors. “I think this generation of survivors is going to be leaving us pretty soon. If not for people like David keeping the memory alive, it will be difficult for my grandchildren to know what happened.”

Kohnberg said a Brinks truck brought the pennies which weighed 6,000 pounds to the center on April 9, two days before Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Broide drew less-welcome attention after an early newspaper article about the project was reposted on a Holocaust denial website. Some reader responses carried venom.

The shaken teen suspended the work for about two months. “That showed me there really is hate out there,” he said.

Broide actually overturned his goal by 100,000 pennies, he said. Now he’s planning another project for the center: 6 million pennies, representing all the Jewish Holocaust victims.