Recent teen suicides set focus on discrimination

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

Last week, five young men from various regions across the country, different backgrounds and educations, ranging from 13 to 19 years old, had one thing in common—they committed suicide as a result of harassment for being gay.

This recent chain of gay teen suicides brings the safety and inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students on campuses nationwide, including FIU, into question.

According to the most recent Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender-Friendly Campus Climate Index, a nationally recognized assessment tool, FIU students gave the University one and a half stars out of five in regards to LGBT campus safety. The University was given a composite score of two and a half stars out of five.

There are a number of growing organizations and key individuals working to shatter these low figures and improve the overall experience of LGBT students at the University.

“For the university as a whole, there are a lot of things, which have not been done yet, but are in the process of happening. As far as creating different methods of dealing with harassment, and different methods of dealing with advocacy so that even before harassment, people are aware,” said Daniel Anzueto, Coordinator of Student Programs at the Honors College aware,” said Wynn. “I want to be able to expand this office so that students not only have this office but also a safe space for them on campus. So that when they walk through the door, they can be who they are, without worrying about harassment,” said Wynn.

Wynn claims that it would be impossible to get a strong visibility of harassment without increasing resources and outlets for LGBT initiatives.

Anzueto believes that the University has grown considerably supportive of the LGBT community over the past five years, but understands that on a national plane, there is so much that needs to be done to ensure that bullying does not drive these students to make tragic decisions.

“There are a lot of other places that are not as friendly to the LGBT community, which causes many students to change schools, to remain closeted, and sometimes, horribly, to decide to commit suicide,” said Anzueto.

By providing more resources and outlets for LGBT students on campus, the University’s administrative advocates hope to create a sense of inclusion for these individuals on campus. More resources would alleviate pent up frustration associated with coming out or living with heterosexual roommates.

Both at the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay Campuses, Graduate Assistants, Bridgette Wynn and Camille Perkins, are working for the Multicultural Programs and Services Office to focus on LGBT initiatives.

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Illiterate clone triumphs in election

FranciscoEverardoOliveiraSilva,betterknown by hisclownnameTiritera,ishthead

ofsecond-placedcandidateinBrazil’spresiden
tial and congressional elections, according to

Tiritera usually appears in public wearing a

blond wig, a red hat and a gaudy outfit. He

survived an attempt by public prosecutors to bar
him from running because of evidence that he is

illiterate.

St. Paul man charged with locking girlfriend in dog kennel

St. PaulauthoritiesreportthatLukeBrandon

Scotclottedhisgirlfriendindoakennel,according
to

According to a criminal complaint, the woman

arrived to Scott’s home and told him she was

breaking up with him. He became upset,locked

the door, and punched her in the face.

Scott forced her into a large dog kennel and

kept her there for a short time.

–CompiledbyAlexandraCamejo

E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: JoaoVieira

WebEditor: BenchArrington

PhotoEditor: JeffArrington

WebDesigner: AlinaPerez

CopyEditors: JasonBrown

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corrections

In Vol. 24, Issue 18 of The Beacon, the article from the “A1 in the Bay” section titled “Overcoming the Excuse: The Longest Roundtable” incorrectly states that “Some Protect the Ego by Working on their Escuses Early” is the topic of the next Tuesday Times Roundtable on Oct. 5. It is in fact the topic of the Nov. 9 Tuesday Times Roundtable. The topic of the next Tuesday Times Roundtable is “Who’s Driving this Bus, Anyway?! Agenda-Setting in the Age of the Endless Election.”

Public financing called into question

Nothing amped up the debate more than Rick Scott’s unprecedented spending spree to win the Republican nomination for governor — the multimillionaire businessman spent more than $50 million of his own money to defeat Attorney General Bill McCollum, who had no choice but to accept public funds.

“So what happens if you don’t have that kind of money? That’s where public funding is important,” said House Democratic Leader Franklin Sands of Weston, who voted against the measure being put on the ballot.

The federal government has public financing for presidential campaigns and Florida is one of 16 states that have full or partial public financing. The Sunshine State has had public financing for statewide campaigns for more than 20 years, and voters put it in the constitution in 1998.

The campaign financing program gave statewide candidates more than $11 million in taxpayer money during the 2006 elections, when Gov. Charlie Crist was elected. Crist himself got $3.3 million for his campaign.

Public financing has become a partisan issue in the Florida Legislature, with most Republicans opposing it and most Democrats supporting it and the amendment would pass.

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Despite tough losses, Panthers poised for Sun Belt Conference

The Lady Toppers were led by Melanie Williams, who led the team with 13 kills. The Lady Toppers were able to get back on track in the final quarter of the game, as they committed 20 errors and only had 11 assists. Williams led the team with 11 digs, while Una Trkulja had two blocks.

The second set saw the FIU defense improve, as they were able to get all over the Golden Panthers after that battering defeat at Pitt. The Lady Toppers were not able to get back on track, as the closest they were in the set was trailing 2-1. The Lady Toppers went on a 9-3 run.
The women's soccer team went into the state of Alabama this weekend with two wins in the conference, and came out with two more.

The Golden Panthers took care of business, and just two days after the were able to beat Troy, they came through and beat South Alabama 1-0 on oct. 3 to increase their record to 4-0 in the conference and 7-4-1 altogether.

The Golden Panthers started the game fast as freshman Chelsea Leiva put the ball in the back of the South Alabama net herself with a 35 left footer 19 minutes into the game. This was Chelsea's sixth goal of the year, as well as her fourth game winner.

The defense in the game was yet again a great one, as South Alabama was only able to manage three shots on goal in the game. This allowed the Panthers to ultimately post their fourth shutout in a row, which is only one away from tying a school record.

More chances to score mean better chances to score. The Golden Panthers turned in 19 shots on goal for the day. Mayara de Fonseca Bordin out shot South Alabama by herself with five shots.

The Panthers were also able to limit South Alabama to only one corner kick for the game, compared to the Panthers' seven. On top of that, both of South Alabama’s leaders in goals, Kasey Crowe and Kristyn Thacker had no shots on goal at all.

However, the Panthers were unable to get a comfortable lead to put the game away for good, but thanks to a great defense, still secured the win.

"The first 30 minutes today, outside of our finishing, was a class in attacking and ball possession," Head coach Thomas Chestnut said after the game.

FIU is now tied for first place in the conference with the Denver Pioneers.

The Panthers will try to continue both their shutout streak and winning streak at home on Oct. 8 at 8 p.m. as they play Western Kentucky University (6-4-3) who are 3-1 in the conference, with their only loss coming from Denver.

After WKU, FIU will go head to head against Middle Tennessee on Oct. 10 at 1 p.m., a team that beat FIU last year, the only conference team to do so. Middle Tennessee currently holds a 2-1 record in the conference with a combined record of 5-7.
Relay ready for sixth year of fundraising for a cause

The American Cancer Society.

Relay for Life is an over-night walkathon that helps raise awareness and money for The American Cancer Society.

Relay brings to light the courage of survivors who have overcome a difficult part of their lives as well as drawing attention to the plight of those who are currently struggling with cancer.

People from all over South Florida volunteer their time and walk for the cause while organizations across campus find creative ways to raise money by selling all kinds of food, goods and games. From Phi Mu Alpha serenading ladies with Mo-Town tunes to Lambda Chi Alpha's own club tent, these innovative ideas to raise money not only help build a sense of unity within the University and between volunteers, but also aid in funding to find a cure.

Now in its sixth year, Relay for Life will be starting off the 2010-11 year with its annual Kick-Off Party. Heartfelt stories, unforgettable experiences, and a night to kick start a season full of fun pre-events are in store for attendees. Facts about the cause and the disease will also be discussed.

A special guest-speaker from the American Cancer Society will also be chiming in on how the money is being used.

Those interested in starting a team will be allowed to sign up for just $100.

Expect food, giveaways and a night of entertainment at the event.

Caelin McCarty, a veteran volunteer, says, “We are always trying to improve Relay and our pre-events. So you can expect them to be bigger and better.”

Last year’s “Around the World” theme brought students, faculty, and members of the community together to circle around themed laps.

Every cycle was themed by city per lap; whether it was New Orleans Mardi Gras or Scottish Kilts, students dressed in wild fashions and costumes.

The theme was also the basis of many fundraisers as clubs found ways to support the cause from selling Cuban pork and yucca to American food.

Performances throughout the night kept the overnight festivities awake with student singers and even a stroll show-case by Multi-Cultural Greek organizations.

Although the event was all in good fun, the lighted candles remained lit through-out the night to show why FIU was there: to fight against cancer.

The school succeeded in raising up to $70,000.

This year, the Relay for Life committee plans to raise $85,000 to benefit the cause.

And with last year being FIU’s best turn out yet, this year is sure to turn up the volume with a great theme to be named at the kick-off party.

The party kicks off Wednesday, October 6th, 2010 at 6pm in GC 243.

For more information follow Relay for Life on Face-book.com/FIURelay, Twitter.com/FIURelay, Youtube.com/FIURelay, and RelayforLife.org/usouthfl. You can also email Relay at FIURelayFor-Life@gmail.com or visit GC 2210.
Alfredo Aparicio  Contributing Writer

FIU alum, John Hasselbach, always had a passion for filmmaking.

After establishing the first film club at FIU, providing various activities such as workshops and a place to showcase upcoming films made by students, Hasselbach transferred to UM where he received his Bachelor’s degree in Communications, with a major in motion pictures and a minor in theater.

There is just one thing that sets John Hasselbach apart from the average student: he has Attention Deficient Disorder, ADD.

Hasselbach transcribed his work to make his films and began his journey into independent filmmaking.

His credits include working as a Production Assistant for 20th Century Fox in L.A., small TV roles, and shows like CSI as well as big productions such as Stick to Your Guns with Matt Damon. He now works as a cameraman for Channel 17 WLRN, and has a few ideas in mind for his next project.

In regards to My Story, its message was clear: disabilities exist in all forms and are caused by a variety of reasons.

The film shows it is how one deals with struggles that demonstrates the strength of a person.

Alum’s documentary reveals life with disabilities

The Beacon – Wednesday, October 6, 2010

ABC

John Hasselbach

Alum's documentary reveals life with disabilities

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Contributing Writer

Alfredo Aparicio
Public education needs restructuring

NEDA GOMESHI
Staff Writer

If the U.S. does not improve its education system fast, the students will fall further behind in the world and perhaps to the point of irrelevance.

The need to take away days from summers and add days to school calendars may allow students to learn more and, with time, catch up to its global competitors.

Most nations force their students to learn subjects like math, reading and science at an early age. In the U.S., these subjects are briefly taught. This lack of focus on fundamentals leaves U.S. students unprepared for their future endeavors. The U.S. ranks 25 out of the 30 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in mathematics.

We are not just behind in math. For example, Finland has the highest rate of teens literate in the world. Unfortunately, one in every seven Americans cannot even read.

There are some of the reasons as to why the public education system in the U.S. needs to aggressively catch up with the rest of the world. There is no excuseable reason as to why the U.S. is not as same as the top competitor.

Students from other countries are successfully earning a proper education that is putting them ahead of U.S. students.

During an NBC interview, President Barack Obama said, “Students in China, India and other fast-growing countries are already leaving U.S. students in the HIV, They have caught up and now in some cases have surpassed us.”

Obama’s statement supports the current reality that international students from China, India, Finland and other countries are taking U.S. jobs.

The Council of Scientific Society Presidents estimates that by 2011, over 90 percent of all physical scientists and engineers in the world will be Asians working in Asia. The U.S. should view this analysis as a threat.

The U.S. needs to revamp its public education system dramatically and quickly in order to slow this trend if there is any hope to reverse it. If the U.S. does not improve its education system fast, the students will fall further behind in the world and perhaps to the point of irrelevance.

Gay blood-ban ignorant, intolerant

BRANDON THOMPSON
Contributing Writer

While on campus, you may see signs that are encouraging you to take some time out of your day to donate blood and save lives. Unfortunately, if you are a homosexual man you are not allowed to have the chance to save a life because you are prejudged and are believed to have HIV or AIDS.

There has been a ban on homosexual men donating blood dating back to the 1980s because the time there was no way of testing for HIV and AIDS. There is now an accurate way of testing for HIV and AIDS. Therefore, the ban should be lifted.

The thing that boggles my mind the most about this whole issue is that blood centers like the Community Blood Centers of South Florida, Inc. and Florida’s Blood Centers are begging people to donate blood, but when a gay male approaches to donate they are quickly turned away.

We can understand the proper need of blood, it seems like they are highly discriminatory of the blood they want to receive.

If these centers are afraid of the risk of receiving blood that may contain HIV or AIDS, they should simply ask that they provide recent documentation that they are HIV and AIDS negative.

Another alternative is that they could perform an HIV test on site, seeing as though they already test inquiring blood donors to see if their iron level is acceptable. A rapid HIV test only takes 20 minutes, and is performed with either blood or oral fluid.

These centers are ignorant because they are making it seem like only men can have HIV or AIDS, when women can actually be infected as well. In 2007 more than 278,000 women are infected with HIV or AIDS in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

HIV and AIDS does not only affect homosexual men. It also affects heterosexual men and women and homosexual women. It is what they only thing that homosexual men clearly shows discrimination.

Solely focusing on homosexual men leaves a blind side open for HIV and AIDS to slip in. Allowing heterosexual men, women and homosexual women to donate blood without the thought that they may be infected is ludicrous. The center is forgetting about all the other possibilities for these deadly viruses and diseases to slip in.

If homosexual men want to perform a great deed for society and donate blood they are forced to lie in order to so. Being forced to lie in order to save a life is not fair, but many do so because they are homosexual.

If gay men have evidence of HIV or AIDS infection, or any other harmful diseases they should be able to donate blood. The fact that they are being turned away because they are homosexual disgusts me.

Ignorance is not acceptable when it comes to the issue of saving lives and discriminating against others. Homosexual men should have the right to donate blood and not be turned away if they don’t have any harmful diseases.

In order for everyone to have a fair opportunity to donate and for the center to be sure if the blood they are receiving is clean, they should test everyone’s blood for HIV, AIDS and other diseases. This solution will provide closure for both parties as well as provide inquiring blood donors of their statuses.

According to Givel2org.org, more than 38,000 blood donations are needed daily. These centers should remember that beggars can’t be choosers, and if these men would want to help save their blood they should be allowed to do so.

Definition of family challenged due to morality, not legality

MELANIE MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary defines “family” as “a group living under one roof and usually under one head.” America’s definition, however, seemed to be much more on the fence.

It was one year as a student, as 2003 and 2006, tracked the changes in the viewpoint of everyday Americans regarding the definition of family.

As a result of the head of the study, found that while the percentage of America willing to consider same-sex couples as a family has risen over the years, it was clear as a result of our culture’s growing acceptance, there still remains a healthy portion of Americans who are more willing to acknowledge their dogs and cats as part of their definition of family before same-sex couples living together under one roof, with or without children.

For the sake of legal procedures such as laws, taxes and inheritance to name a few, I personally believe that legally married couples, heterosexual or same-sex, living together and sharing property and name with or without children constitute as a family.

I tailor my definition mostly to the pre-defined and well-defined standards because while individuals living together or living with living pets feels like a family, the legal definition of family should be the only one to apply when it comes to legal situations.

With Florida finding the legislature preventing same-sex couples to legally adopt as unconstitutional, the ‘family issue’ has remained in the forefront of the public conscience. But, as cases are going to court all across the nation, it becomes more apparent to me that the issue at heart isn’t the wholesome definition of a family. Rather, it’s for the specific meaning of the definition of homosexuality itself in our evolving society.

I found one of the larger focuses of the issues attempting to define family dealt with children and the influence and local definition of family has on them. While many agrees that children are not necessary to define a family, to claim that same-sex parents with children are not a family calls into question whether each case is being taken into specific consideration on the capabilities of the individuals, or if the legislature is treating the issue entirely by indirectly claiming that same-sex couples are not fit to be parents solely because they are homosexual.

Under the guise of family dynamics, there is really another non-issue people don’t want to discuss. The definition of family may vary, but more polar are the opinions and morals of the individuals tailoring the definitions to their own values or personal morality. Instead, it has become more a war between old traditions and the new, changing norms.

Those sympathetic to the gay cause, those who define family in its broadest sense, risk social disdain or be labeled homosexual themselves. Those opposed to it, for what ever national meanings they’re being called bigots or narrow-minded.

If the bottom line were issue was addressed once and for all, however, then maybe the ‘family issue’ can be left to the major and family.
Lima to have first female mayor ever

A victory by Susana Villanúa, human rights advocate and former minister of social development and women’s affairs, would give the left control of Peru’s coastal capital for the first time in nearly three decades.

Drug suspect wanted in US captured

Police captured Marvin Ramirez Rios, a suspected drug trafficker wanted in the U.S. for cocaine smuggling, and seized nearly 52 million in cash his brother was carrying in two bags, authorities said on Oct. 3.

Dock being revamped for student studies

BRIAN CORREIA
Contributing Writer

The School of Environmental and Society at Biscayne Bay Campus is in the process of revamping the boat dock along the water bank to provide students further hands on learning for their on-campus studies.

All larger universities in Florida received an undisclosed amount of funds, based on their student enrollment numbers and staff sizes, from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to utilize for new building infrastructures.

The University is utilizing these funds for exactly what they were originally intended: to stimulate the construction industry and build further infrastructures to enhance the learning environment for students, according to Joel Trexler, professor of biological sciences and director of marine sciences.

“We have heard that [the] University of Florida did not use the funds as instructed by the Federal Government, but rather used the money to pay for salaries to help offset budget cuts in the recent years,” said Trexler. “Their goal is to compensate teachers for their services to the students which will bring more students to their campus thus generating more revenue for the school in future years.”

The University has already hired an architect, Mark Cruz, which developed the blueprints for the upcoming project and has already been awarded the necessary permit from Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management. The next step of the project is to engage the University’s purchasing department to release an invitation to bid to external vendors to perform the work.

The goal for BBC is to build the boat ramp in order to take full advantage of all the additional resources offered to students by being located along the bay.

“Many of the renovations going on in the Marine Sciences building, boat dock and boat ramp are possible because the facilities at BBC are so conveniently located along Biscayne Bay,” Trexler said.

Once the plans for the boat yard have been finalized, the next stages, similar to the ramp renovations, will include: hiring an architect to come in to design the blue prints and then a construction company to complete the project.

Marine sciences, biology, chemistry and earth and environment are the disciplines that will have full use of the boat ramp and yard to complete their learning objectives once the renovations are completed.

TOP STORY

Vietnamese noodle dish served in a bowl of pleasure leaves you with a feeling of satisfaction.

The coffee cup only has condensed milk in the environment. "The major concern right now is when the next hurricane hits South Florida [it] will result in a costly destruction to the Universi-

WHERE TO FIND PHO

Little Saigon
• 16725 North Miami Ave. North Miami Beach

Pho 78
• 2430 N. University Dr. Hollywood

FOODGASM

GENE KRAVETS
Contributing Writer

On a stormy day, when the sun's rays are not present to warm my soul, soup is the option of choice.

One particular variety of soup has won over my loyal devotion. In fact, it has become a sort of addiction. It’s won over my loyal devotion. In fact, soup.

It's freezing out and the rays are not present to warm my soul, but sometimes chicken and vegetables can serve as alternates. Finding a pho restaurant is the first step. Most Vietnamese restaur-

ants have pho on the menu, however certain places specialize in pho.

Little Saigon in North Miami Beach at 16725 North Miami Avenue serves pho, while Pho 78 in Hollywood at 2430 North University Drive and in Pembroke Pines at 7449 Pine Boulevard specializes in the dish, but also has other vietnamese dishes.

The next step is ordering. Typically there will be a number of menu of pho varieties to choose from. The only difference between the varieties is the type of meat that are added to the soup.

If you are unfamiliar with the names of different cuts, I recommend going with the eye-round, or/and brisket or flank.

Eating pho can be a little bit intimidating to a first-timer, but adven-
turous eaters can go for tripe and tendon in their pho.

Once you order, the steaming hot pho should be brought out in less than a few minutes with a plate of veggies to customize the flavor of your broth.

Bean sprouts, herbs and jalapenos are thrown into the bowl and then you have the opportunity to customize the flavor of your broth.

Another initiative, still in the discussion stages, is to build a boat yard behind the maintenance facilities at BBC to secure the five boats in the event of a natural disaster.

“The major concern right now is when the next hurricane hits South Florida [it] will result in a costly destruction to the Universi-

ty's current boats used by biological science students and faculty,” Trexler said.

Once the plans for the boat yard have been finalized, the next stages, similar to the ramp renovations, will include: hiring an architect to come in to design the blue prints and then a construction company to complete the project.

Marine sciences, biology, chemistry and earth and environment are the disciplines that will have full use of the boat ramp and yard to complete their learning objectives once the renovations are completed.

Both initiatives are expected to complete by the end of the Fall Semester since the school must utilize all of the ARRA funds before Spring 2011.

“The renovations are an important step and will ultimately encourage the students to study the environment around BBC,” Trexler said. “More importantly, it will make it extremely easy for students and faculty alike to work in the environment.”