Grievances filed against senators for unexcused absences

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

A look at the recently added Compliance Dashboard for the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus Senate’s website reveals that two senators, at large, Janice Rubio and Daniela Gonzalez, are currently at large.

The Compliance Dashboard, a system installed by the Student Government Association earlier in August, was made to ensure all members are performing their duties as tasked by the constitution. The dashboard is also intended to keep students informed of all open senate seats as well as any legislation in progress.

According to the dashboard, both senators have not attended four senate meetings out of the 12 meetings that have been held this fall semester. Their absences are a direct violation of the constitution, which states that all senators must attend the senate meetings every Monday at four.

For their unexcused absences, we have nothing on record showing why they were absent,” Senate Speaker William-Jose Velazquez told Student Media. “In the case of Senator Daniela Gonzalez she had notified us that she has a class at 5:00pm.”

Velazquez went on to explain that when Rubio did attend senate meetings she gave her constitutionally mandated reports, while Gonzalezings every Monday to deliver reports to the SGC-MMC. “For their unexcused absences, we have nothing on record showing why they were absent,” Senate Speaker William-Jose Velazquez told Student Media. “In the case of Senator Daniela Gonzalez she had notified us that she has a class at 5:00pm.”

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Secretary of the Smithsonian to visit Frost Art Museum Friday

GABRIEL ABRABÁS
News Director

Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution Wayne Clough, will be bringing a new perspective to The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum on Friday, Nov. 19.

The lecture, entitled “New Perspectives at the Smithsonian,” will have the 12th secretary of the museum and research complex speaking on the work he has done to expand the Smithsonian’s global reach as well as help shape the institution’s future through research on major current events.

Before starting his tenure with the Smithsonian, Clough served as president of the Georgia Institute of Technology for 14 years. He received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil engineering from Georgia Tech in 1964 and 1965, respectively. He was also awarded a doctorate in civil engineering from the University of California, Berkeley in 1969. Since then he began working at the Smithsonian, Clough has been part of several major openings at the Smithsonian, including the

David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins, the Sant Ocean Hall at the National Museum of Natural History, and the reopening of the National Museum of American History.

This event is part of the Steven and Dorothy Green Critics Lecture Series and is free and open to the public. The event is scheduled to start at 8 p.m. in the Frost Art Museum.

Garcia officially named dean of College of Education

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

Dr. Delia C. Garcia, who has been serving as Interim Dean of the College of Education since June 2010, accepted an offer from Provost and Executive Vice President Douglas Wartzok to officially serve as the college’s dean.

“Her decision to present Dr. Garcia the position, according to Wartzok, sparked from the overwhelming support faculty of the College.”

“And she has been in this position there has been a marked increase in the enthusiasm among the faculty for the clearly articulated vision for the College,” said Wartzok.

According to the recent Memorandum released by the Provost, it is his hope that Garcia’s role as dean will coincide with the College of Education’s successful goal to employ the “intellectual capital of academia to solve community problems and to publish these solutions for the betterment of civic engagement nationwide.”

While serving as Interim Dean, Garcia was an Associate Professor at the College of Education and concurrently served as director of the Urban Education graduate program. Her participation as principal investigator and director of family literacy and teacher education sponsored research projects sought to meet the needs of South Florida schools—particularly surrounding parental commitment and teacher training.

Prior to her period as Interim Dean, Garcia was Chairperson of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and Leadership and Professional Studies. Dr. Garcia has worked diligently to acquire more than $11 million in federal, state, and foundation grants to tackle the issues in familial literacy and urban teacher education.

As Interim Dean, Garcia placed an emphasis on support for the University’s education of minorities seeking higher
Garcia recipient of $2.8 million grant from Government

education. Due to her extensive research and widely adopted programs—serving over 3,000 families—Garcia was most recently awarded a $2.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Through this five-year grant, the College of Education has developed the Creating Latino Access to a Valuable Education program. By reaching out to local low performing schools, it is the College’s hope that CLAVE can provide Hispanic-American teachers from low performing schools the opportunity to pursue their graduate studies while enhancing their effectiveness in an urban environment.

“We need teachers who understand and are sensitive to the needs of linguistically and culturally diverse students and possess the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to maximize learning opportunities for students in urban schools,” said Garcia in an interview about CLAVE. CLAVE is seen as a program with the opportunity to support the University as a Hispanic-serving institution.

Wartzok’s Memorandum stated, “through this program, the College of Education will be able to offer tuition scholarships to teachers and administrators… and enhance student support services and mentoring opportunities in the College.”

Dr. Garcia’s research in teacher education has led to over 250 tuition scholarships for teachers seeking a graduate degree in urban education, along with being published in the areas of family involvement, teacher and parent efficacy, and urban teacher preparation, and developed curriculum guides and instructional materials for teacher education. As a leader and chair of several professional organizations, “It is important that students have role models,” said Garcia, in reference to her work with CLAVE, and will serve as the ultimate role model as dean for the College of Education.

Buy a truck, get a free AK-47 from dealership

Nations Trucks, a used car dealership in Sanford, Florida has begun a new promotion for Veteran’s Day which will last until the end of the month and allow buyers to get a free AK-47 with their purchase.

General sales manager Nick Ginetto told local news station WKMG that with a purchase of a used truck, anyone will get a $400 voucher to a local gun store. Customers will have to qualify under state and federal laws. If customers are not interested in an assault rifle, they can receive $400 in cash. Ginetto told WKMG that he realizes the promotion is controversial, but it’s already bringing in business. At the close of business Thursday, he told WKMG News, the business had 47 appointments scheduled for Friday. Typically, he said there’s only three.

– Compiled by Gabriel Arrarás
JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

With a showdown at home with Florida State looming later in the week, it could have been very easy for the Golden Panthers to overlook another in-state opponent.

The Barry University Buccaneers made sure they weren’t an afterthought, giving FIU all they could handle for the better part of 40 minutes on Nov. 15. In the opening minutes of the game, Barry broke away late in the second half and remained perfect through two games with a 69-54 victory over the Buccaneers.

“The defensive effort and intensity picked up in the second half and we were able to put our transition and scoring in gear,” Head Coach Isiah Thomas said. “I told them to trust the things we believe in and we need to get back to playing the way we practice.”

It was a slow start for the Golden Panthers as they struggled to hit their shots from the outside and the Buccaneers took a 10-2 lead to open the game.

Eric Frederick, providing his down-low presence to go along with the Golden Panthers a spark early on that carried through for the rest of the evening.

Despite regaining their composed and battling their way back into the game, FIU struggled to break away from a scrappy Barry team that forced eight Golden Panther turnovers in the first half, allowing the Buccaneers to keep the game competitive for most of the opening 20 minutes.

The Buccaneers (0-2), powered by seven first-half buckets from beyond the arc, took a five-point lead into the locker room as the Golden Panthers (2-0) struggled to find consistency, shooting a paltry 40 percent from the field in the first half.

That all changed in the second half as the shots began to fall for FIU as they battled their way back into the game. Frederick picked up where he left off, continuing to provide most of the offensive production.

There was a bit of a scare with a little over 13 minutes remaining, however, when the 250-pound forward fell to the floor after getting elbowed near the eye by fellow teammate DeJuan Wright going for a rebound.

“We are always fighting over rebounds and everyone is calling me ‘Nelly’ now,” Frederick joked afterward.

But Marvin Roberts picked up the torch by electrifying the crowd with a monstrous dunk on a Barry defender while drawing the foul to help shift the momentum back in FIU’s direction off a Barry turnover.

Moments later, Jeremy Allen followed with a one-handed slam of his own as the Golden Panthers began to display their scoring ability from outside the arc.

“I thought we had a couple defensive stops that changed the momentum of the game,” Thomas said. “That’s what really gave us control of the game.”

Frederick, who re-entered the game with a new jersey and a bandage on his right cheek, continued to provide an offensive boost and finished the game with a team-high 21 points before getting stitches on his right cheek after the game.

Three other Panthers scored in double digits, including Allen (14), Phil Gary (12) and Wright (11).

A home date with Florida State on Nov. 18 has the team excited about a potential upset in what could be the biggest home win since FIU defeated Michigan in the U.S. Century Bank Arena in 2000.

But things need to go a bit differently if the team expects to remain unbeaten.

“If we play like we did it’s going to be ugly,” Frederick said. Wright added: “We have to respect our opponents. If we do the things we’re supposed to do, anything can happen Thursday night.”

VOLLEYBALL SUN BELT CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT

Team recounts importance of outgoing seniors

RICO ALBARRACIN
Staff Writer

Teams go through times of transition. Players are constantly coming and going at the university level. It can be a hard process for fans to witness this as they become used to the team’s regulars. Players may leave for different reasons including graduation, the desire to go to a professional league or explore other opportunities.

For Head Coach Damijana Tomic, she had two of them this year.

Seniors Natalia Valentin and Ines Medved played their last game at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Nov.13, when the Panthers swept South Alabama in straight sets. It was a dominant performance by FIU, who has been looking forward to this team to grow and play at a high level all season, who seems to be clicking at the right time.

Although it’s been four years, for Valentin, she feels it has been too fast.

“It’s so much fun. I just can’t believe it’s over. I haven’t realized it yet,” Valentin said. “I mean, it’s over but I’ll never play on this court again. It’s another step in my life. My teammates are like ‘Oh my God, you’re leaving,’ and I told them ‘Guys, enjoy it, because it goes by so fast.’

With such a young team, the seniors were forced to be the leaders, although it didn’t come as a surprise that the two would step into the roles.

“For the two of them to have this leadership role this year with this young team that we had and the struggles that we had and putting all the pieces together put a lot of pressure on the two of them,” Tomic said. “They stepped up every time I needed something.”

Jovana Bjelic, who has played with the two seniors for two seasons now, felt that she couldn’t have been with a better pair of players.

“I can say that these two seniors are the best people that I have met here,” Bjelic said. “I am glad to have had the opportunity to play with them. To be roommates with them. To interact with them. They have something that is going to be very hard to replace. I don’t know how we’re going to replace them.”

Ines Medved came to FIU in the summer of 2007 with a chance to play in the World Junior Championships for the Croatian Junior National Team.

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Ines Medved came to FIU in the summer of 2007 with a chance to play in the World Junior Championships for the Croatian Junior National Team. She passed up the opportunity so that she could get ready for her collegiate career. A dedicated individual, Medved was asked to fill different roles in her four years as a Panther, from outside hitter to setter, all to which she stepped in stride. Although her play was limited throughout her time at FIU, that didn’t stop her from contributing to the program.

“She sets a good example for her coaches and teammates. If I felt that someone needed help off the court with classes, getting adjusted to a new culture, anything that I needed, Ines was the first person I would go to because she is so mature and so understanding.”

Players can be a mentor to others to key on have on any team. Someone who players can turn to and seek out advice or help. Medved feels she has learned all these keys from her coaches and teammates.

“This is one of the best experiences I’ve had in my life,” Medved said. “Those people are really good people. They make you a better person and push you in every way. From volleyball, to being a better person to your teammates and the rest of the people in your life, to school and work. You pretty become a better person after this experience.”

“Yet she was like the team moms,” Valentin Lakovic said. “Whenever we were down, she was there to help us, to listen to us, to advise us. I’m really happy to have her in my life.”

“Ines, it’s just a pleasure to play with her,” junior Sabrina Gonzalez said. “She sets a good example for her teammates and off the court and she’s an amazing individual.”

“You have those kids that you’ll always remember and Ines is one of them,” Tomic said. “Maybe when you look in the record books, her name is not going to be there as much as Nari [Valentin] and Yarimar Rosa, but she brought to this team as much as any player that I have coached.”

If Ines was the go-to player for coach Tomic off the court, Valentin was the go-to player on the court.

Natalia Valentin, who played for the Puerto Rican Junior National Team in 2007 along with Yarimar Rosa, has put up the numbers to be remembered in the history of FIU volleyball. With 4,541 assists, Valentin will walk away as the schools all-time assist leader. Valentin also ranks second all-time in digs at FIU, with 1,087.

The stats only tell half of the story.

“Even last year, when [Rosa] graduated, I said that Yari is one of the players that if you’re
The Panthers went to Texas for the World Vision Invitational and came back with a lesson learned.

You must win close games.

The Golden Panthers lost two of three contests during their season opening tournament, with a blowout loss to Baylor, a close defeat to Montana State and a victory by a small margin against Rice.

The weekend started off rough for FIU as they were beaten on Nov. 12 by the No. 2 team in the country, Baylor (5-0), 83-36. The Bears started the game on an 18-0 run before Fanni Hutlassa sank two three-pointers to stop the run. It would be the closest the Panthers would get, as Baylor rolled to a win with Brittany Griner leading the way with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Although Griner came second in the nation in blocks last season, she managed not to record a block during the game. Hutlassa led the Panthers with nine points and six rebounds. Jerica Coley and Carmen Miloglou chipped in with 7 points each, while Michelle Gonzalez added 4 points and 2 assists. Although she did not score, Maja Krajacic managed to grab 5 rebounds on the night.

The Panthers bounced right back the next night to defeat the Rice Owls (1-2) 66-65. Freshman Jerica Coley led the Panthers with 16 points, while Rakia Rodgers and Michelle Gonzalez chipped in with 15 points each. FIU (1-2) held the throughout most of the game, even having a 47-37 with 13 minutes to go. Rice made a furious comeback, as they trailed by 8 with two minutes left, but with 11 seconds to go, leading 64-62, Gonzalez hit two clutch free throws to increase the lead. Although Rice would hit a three late, it would not be enough as the Panthers escaped with a win.

FIU had one more test before leaving Texas. Montana State (1-2) was looking for their first win and would find it against the Panthers, as the Bobcats escaped an FIU comeback to win 58-57. The Panthers trailed by seven with two minutes to go before going on a 6-0 run capped off by a Rodgers jumper with 42 seconds cut FIU’s deficit to one at 56-55. The Bobcats were able to score to get back up to a three point lead. As time winded down, Liene Jekabsone hit a two that was not enough to enough to tie the game, letting Montana State squeeze out the victory.

Over the invitational, Rodgers led the team in scoring with 12.7 points game, while Hutlassa contributed eight rebounds a game. Gonzalez averaged 1.7 assists per game and Coley had two steals per game. The Panthers will play their home opener on Nov. 20 vs. Eastern Kentucky (1-0) at 4:30 p.m.
touched them in a meaningful way,” said singer/songwriter Kenia Arias as bells rang in the middle of the Graham Center courtyard.

“I like the bells,” she pointed out. “It reminds me of The Sound of Music.”

Born in Puerto Rico, from Dominican and Puerto Rican parents, Arias was brought to the United States in a vessel of salsa.

Settling in Long Island, NY, Kenia was brought up in a musical environment, with the aforementioned salsa from the old and the fresh new sounds of hip hop and R&B of the time.

By the age of four, she was already singing along the TV and radio, and at the age of six, she decided that singing was her thing.

“I recorded my first demo when I was 14 in someone’s basement. It was actually a really, really pimp studio; I was impressed!” After reassurance all we have to start somewhere, she went on with her tale: “I first recorded covers, because the process of writing my own music at the time seemed overwhelming, and as long as I was singing and felt a connection to the music, I was happy.”

She was signed to a production company at 17, and even though she was no longer doing covers, she still wasn’t doing her own music, something which had now begun to bother her.

“There was a lyricist with the production company, so they weren’t covers. But they weren’t mine either,” she said.

So after one cover album, she decided to do her own music.

“I said to myself, ‘What really draws my attention the most? What am I feeling right now?’ And from that I made a demo with 12 songs on it. And that I just mailed to everyone: Please sign me! Please sign me! Until someone finally did!”

Everything was going great for Arias, until her parents told her they would be moving down to Florida, and there was nothing she could do to change it.

The prospect of going from the bustling and rich artistic scene in New York to a place where “Everyone is 80 years old,” according to Kenia, didn’t excite her in the very least. Mostly because her career was already off to a good start, and moving from New York would seriously affect that. In the end, she had to do it.

“I cried a lot, but I fully understand now why my parents wouldn’t just let me stay. Besides, I never really wanted to leave their side,” said Arias.

But how do you manage a singing career in New York from Florida?

“I flew off for everything,” she said.

Auditions, gigs and interviews in the Big Apple were still being attended by Kenia from Florida.

The breaking point came when she got a call back from an audition for Rent to play the role of Mimi.

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Kanye West’s newest album an ‘over-the-top’ success

RUNAWAY, page 5

of this album actually helps in that regard.

This is best highlighted in what is, to me, the album’s standout track, “Runaway”.

Already famous for its famous refrain of “a toast for the douchebags” and the aforementioned music video, the album version of “Runaway” is Kanye’s longest album track to date.

At first the song seems like a gimmick, at least the chorus. It’s almost a tongue-in-cheek celebration of being a jerk: “Let’s have a toast for the douchebags” and the aforementioned album’s standout track, “Runaway”.

However, the music belies a darker tone. Replete with minor tones and sighing strings, it gives off a more melancholy tone than the ebullient chorus would let on.

While they take themselves a bit too seriously at times, the orchestral interludes on the chorus of “Betrayed by Bones” come to mind, they retain their hooks while shedding some of the more embarrassingly jokey moments of their earlier work. As the musical culture of early twenty-somethings has shifted like a Vampire Weekend b-side with an altogether enjoyable collection of songs.

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THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 17

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET

Enjoy some organic smoothies, fresh local produce, yoga sessions and more!

FACULTY RECITAL SERIES

Featuring Paul Green, clarinet, presented by FIU Music.

INTERNATIONAL TRIVIA COMPETITION

Part of International Education Week.

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EXPO

Learn about sports worldwide with free demos and activities! Sponsored by the REC Center.

INTERNATIONAL DINNER

Experience the flavors of the world with fellow students and staff. Sponsored by Residential Life.

THURSDAY, NOV. 18

INTERNATIONAL LATE NIGHT/SOC CLUB FAIR

Supported by Campus Life. Free coffee and cookie!

INTERNATIONAL TRIVIA COMPETITION

Part of International Education Week.

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER TOURNAMENT

FILM: THE DINNER GAME (FRANCE)

Watch the movie that inspired Dinner for Schmucks

DINNER FOR SCHMUCKS

How much do you know about how French people eat dinner? Sponsored by the French Language Institute as they take on FAU.

THE POETS OF MUSIC

Presented by FIU Music, Wind and Percussion Arts Center.

4th Annual International Photo Contest

Win for the best picture. Photos awarded to the winner. Photos can be submitted via Facebook group “4th annual international photo contest”

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Florida governor’s past shows he is untrustworthy

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Elective plastic surgery has proven to be a very popular way to improve people’s self-image and is also an expensive way to enhance confidence and perhaps improve lifestyles.

With advancements in medicine, it may be easier and easier to quickly improve any part of our bodies that we don’t like. All the while there are societal influences telling us all that if we look good we will be happy.

It is no wonder so many men and women decide to “under the knife” with the intention of improving themselves. Cosmetic surgery can improve self-esteem and boost confidence, but it also does so for all of the wrong reasons.

Real confidence is something that cannot be bought and hiding behind surgical improvements is a quick fix to a larger problem.

In all but rare occasions, elective surgery is completely unnecessary and many self-image problems can be solved in much safer and non-invasive ways, such as a healthy lifestyle and a positive attitude.

When it comes down to it, it is completely up to the person to decide how he or she feels about his or her body, and with just a little bit of daily positive thinking, a negative self-image can slowly be converted into a positive one.

One possible reason why so many resort to cosmetic surgery is because of the pressure from society that says we have to be beautiful to be happy.

Although we are taught from childhood that physical appearance is so important, more people need to realize that beauty cannot be mass produced and sold, as real beauty comes from how people carry themselves. Beauty really shows when people are confident in how they portray themselves.

In many cases, getting surgery is a futile attempt to combat the effects of aging when, in reality, most people should be proud of the bodies they live in and present their natural selves confidently.

Many surgical procedures are very risky. Although in some cases it may be small, there are risks associated with almost every cosmetic procedure.

Simply wanting to look a certain way is in no way worth risking your health and, in some cases, permanent scarring and disfigurement. Plastic surgery procedures, from the minor to the invasive, are often completely unnecessary. It is never a good idea to be willingly cut open by someone who may or may not know what he or she is doing. Elective surgery can be defined as an intentional wound in a controlled environment.

People contemplating any kind of cosmetic surgery should be aware of all the risks. Many of those risks can easily be avoided by simply playing your strengths, accepting who you are and working on improving confidence from within.

Cosmetic surgery not worth the risks

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MARGARET DEPASS
Contributing Writer

I have been noticing students’ conduct on campus that reflects both their good etiquette or lack thereof.

The most obvious is putting feet up on seats. The students have left where they were sitting, there are stains and dirt, which causes excess and unnecessary cleaning on the part of the campus crew to maintain a healthy and clean environment.

If students absolutely need to have their feet up, removing their shoes will surely lessen the wear and tear on the seats. Unless someone has smelly feet or holes in his or her socks, which is more of an embarrassment, it is much more pleasant and the best after-effect to remove one’s shoes before putting feet up on furniture.

Most of the time, I see women guilty of doing this everyday and wearing flip flops, which are easy to take off.

Coincidentally, while pondering the writing of this article, I sat next to my usual spot outside of my classroom waiting for it to become available. I had a business meeting that day and was nicely dressed.

As soon as the classroom was available and I stood up to go in, two of my classmates pointed out that there was dirt on the back of my pants. I was annoyed! There had been someone with her shoes on the sitting area in my spot when I first walked up, that is why I was sitting next to my usual spot, but I didn’t expect my seat to be dirty.

I know most students don’t wear their business attire to school unless they have a function, but, I wonder if they put their feet up on their furniture at home or if they take better care of their own space than their school? Another problem I see caused by dirty shoes on seats is when I take the shuttle between the two campuses. I know we all experience our legs falling asleep, but putting dirty shoes up on the material and upholstery of the bus seats is not the answer.

I have also observed, even though every professor for each of my classes put in the syllabus and also reviewed the expected code of conduct on the first day of class, those of us who are trying to pay attention to the lesson being taught are still distracted by incompetent students seated close to the front of the class, especially those who are daring enough to engage their laptops with either videos, games or Facebook, which I am assuming are overruling the expected code of conduct.

Another observed breach of etiquette is by those students who sit in someone else’s routine seat. Those of us who are there to learn and choose a seat in order to maximize the visibility our hearing needs can encounter hostility or annoyance from someone who randomly decides to sit in our routine seats.

Those hostile students usually don’t show an interest in learning and it is obvious that they have a social agenda for sitting in that seat.

Many of us spend more time at school than at home, and it would be such a pleasure to have the benefits of a nice learning environment.

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Student etiquette in need of refinement

Many of us spend more time at school than at home, and it would be such a pleasure to have the benefits of a nice learning environment.
Students take part in clean-up effort of bay

NADRA MARBOUK Contributing Writer

Walking by the bay shore, students can be heard yelling out “bottle cap!” in the early morning hours of a Saturday.

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus held “Day at the Bay,” its annual community service project of the Fall on Nov. 13. The event was held by the bay and had members from different University clubs, such as the Kayak club, the Black Student Union, and Alternative Break.

The cleaning began by the Hospitality and Tourism Management building at 9 a.m. and ended at the Kowens Conference Center at 1 p.m. Marie Way, SGC-BBC special events coordinator and senior psychology major, organized the event whilst Odell Higgs, SGC-BBC press secretary and senior advertising major, helped bring a freelance writer from The Miami Herald to cover the event.

Students were given a check list when signing-in where they tally up the amount of each item listed they may have come across whilst cleaning by the shore. The list includes beverage bottles, clothing, shoes, pull tabs, food wrappers and even diapers and syringes.

The students were given three different bags: a black one for garbage, and two clear ones for plastics and paper.

The event held an orientation at 8:45 a.m. where students had a small yoga session and an ice breaker.

The first 100 students who showed up received a free “SGA” t-shirt. The next 75 received a free “SGA” recyclable bottle. All the participants received “FLU” hand sanitizers.

During the Spring semester, SGA would like to host another community service clean-up project similar to this one.

Christian “Cici” Battle, SGC-BBC president, is hoping to make it a larger one by including more activities such as kayaking on the bay to attract more participants and help students feel more connected to the beauty of the bay and the environment.

“I think it’s a wonderful event for the bay and environment. It brings awareness to the FIU community because it is right in our backyard and it’s important to keep our campus clean and free of hazardous debris to the marine ecosystem,” said Naketa Calvert, senior history major.

At the end of the event, participants signed a wooden board found by the bay to help commemorate the event.

“It’s important to lead by example and it’s important because by partaking in this event, it brings us one step closer to the go green initiative,” said Denise Halpin, SGC-BBC vice president and junior hospitality major.

By 10:50 a.m., there were 40 student participants signed up and by the end of the event there were 50.

SGC-BBC is looking for an environmental affairs director. The person in this position must be passionate about the environment and bring awareness to the University community regarding issues of environmental concern.

The environmental affairs director also hosts events to get students involved.

“Being the event was held on a Saturday, I was surprised with the amount of students that participated,” Higgins said. “However, I feel we need more support from alternative SGI organizations and regular students because more involvement shows we’re all on board with environmental awareness on campus.”

FOODGASM

Gourmet burgers a growing trend

What do most people associate with a hamburger? Likely, the answer is fast food. Sure there are many upsides to fast food, unfortunately food quality is not one of them. McDonald’s may have served billions of burgers, but has it served them a “better burger”?

While gourmet burgers may sound like a paradox to some, they are actually a growing food trend. Restaurants steadily compete to out-do each other’s burgers by using better ingredients, making bigger burgers, and coming up with new varieties.

My first experience with upscale burgers came years ago on a trip to Los Angeles. Before I was introduced to the Father’s Office burger, I never considered myself a burger enthusiast. However, after hearing about how incredible this burger was I was dying to try it, and it surely did not disappoint. Later I modeled my own burger recipe after the “Office Burger’s” mouthwatering flavor, juiciness, and style.

A local spot called Le Tab on 1100 North Ocean Dr., Hollywood, has been ranked by GM Magazine as the number one burger you have to eat before you die, and also featured on “The Oprah Winfrey Show.” When I heard this news, I had to try it for myself. Le Tab’s burger is more traditional than what I had at Father’s Office. It comes with a poppy seed bun, lettuce, tomato, and onion, seeming- nothing out of the ordinary. What makes this burger special is the juiciness and flavor derived from nearly a pound of seasoned and slow cooked sirloin.

As much as I hate to toot my own horn, I do like to think that my personal burger recipe is a must-try. Instead of beef my recipe uses ground bison meat. Besides being healthier, I like bison meat for its’ robust flavor.


CUBA

First of 13 political prisoners freed

The first of 13 remaining dissidents jailed since 2003 was released from prison and returned to his home, a strong signal the government intends to release all of the men despite their refusal to go into exile.

The 13 were arrested two years ago under a new anti-terrorism law.

Princess Diana was the only non-English major. She is the Statesman after the “Office Burger’s” mouthwatering flavor, juiciness, and style.

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