Students bridge technological divide

OMAR GUZMAN
Staff Writer

Choosing classes, managing financial aid, contacting professors and even homework assignments would be close to impossible without access to technology.

Along with the other adjustments that the transition to college life can bring, a new study published by the University of Oregon shows those without technological experience lack the preparation needed for success.

The study written by Joanna Goode, professor of education, and featured in the journal New Media and Society, finds that one's preparation needed for success.

Meaning that this type of environment is not conducive to extensive outside research.

Anaia Alexandre, a senior and psychology major, did not find much need for technology in high school.

Edgaro McGorty, a freshman and geology major, had a rough transition into the demands of college coursework.

“Computer technology and Internet access are keys to success in college," said Goode in an interview with University of Oregon news.

“Once you walk onto campus, you can’t enroll in classes, you can’t get financial aid, you can’t get onto Blackboard, you can’t answer e-mails. If you have no technology knowledge, you will not even survive the first week at most university campuses.”

The study found that the average high school education revolves around the instruction and discretion of the teacher.

“Internet access is literally crucial, especially in my honors courses. A good third of the class is entirely online … and I myself was set back tragically because I didn’t know that.”

Now, he realizes the ability to send, receive, and update important documents on his personal computer or those available on campus, to be much more convenient than his high school notebooks.

Patricia Morales, a theater management major, believes that technology has had a positive impact on her academic performance.

“My laptop is my everything. I think a lot of us can agree we would be nothing without our computers in college,” said Morales.

Goode says, the problems identified in the study likely have gotten worse and need to be addressed.

At FIU, there are several opportunities provided by University Technology Services to bridge the digital divide.

Through eTraining, UTS offers faculty, staff, and students online narrated QuickTime screen movie training and tutorials on more than 120 software applications.

Training for Moodle and even Blackboard orientation is offered for any students who are unfamiliar with these websites.

The divide is not as clearly defined at FIU, given extensive measures to provide students with technology.

Not only can students use computers on campus to conduct research and print assignments, they have the option of renting laptops, cameras, DVDs, and other equipment.

The services also benefit students who have devices of their own by offering free copies of otherwise costly programs such as

Roundtable series returns, past sessions now

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

The Tuesday Times Roundtable will be returning to the Modesto Madique and Biscayne Bay campuses with the Spring 2011 series and for the first time ever past TTR sessions will be available for free download on Apple’s iTunesU.


The roundtables are held every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. and are moderated by faculty members who encourage those in attendance to engage in discussions on a variety of topics that deal with global issues, events and trends. A free lunch is also provided to those who attend.

Some topics of the TTR MMC spring 2011 series include: U.S. immigration policies, international adoptions after natural disasters, the state of the economy and the repeal of “Don’t ask, Don’t tell.”

At BBC, students and faculty attending the TTR will hear on topics which include: WikiLeaks and the value of information in a global world, the benefits of higher education and literacy in the 21st century.

With the roundtables now available on iTunesU, the perspectives and opinions of University faculty and students will be broadcasted for the entire world to listen.

They are available free of charge at Florida International University’s iTunesU page.

The MMC TTR will take place every Tuesday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Ziff Education Building, room 150. The BBC TTR series occurs during the same time in the Wolf University Center, room 159.

A free lunch is provided at both campuses and students who attend are eligible to receive CSO points.
Students dislike Bay Vista conditions

BAY VISTA, page 8

Student residence hall,” Wassenaar said. “In today’s context, residence halls are very different living design solutions for students.”

Ekpo and many of the students agree the 1983 standards used to build Bay Vista are no longer suitable today and are consequently at the center of their housing discomfort.

They made it so you cannot open the windows,” Ekpo said. “If you are cooking and something is burning, you have to open the door which lets the bugs in and I am not big on bugs.”

Public relations senior Lucia Pineda is also not big on bugs.

“The first day I got here, the room was very dirty,” she said. “The bathroom and room floor were covered with stains and mold and there were cockroaches in the building.”

Pineda said because the conditions were so poor, she and two of her friends moved off campus. She said the apartment on the first floor floor on a regular basis causing water to come in contact with some electrical circuits, which, in one instance, caused severe electrical shock to one of her friends.

The building should be demolished and a new one built, she said. “Between the time Bay Vista was built and now, one modern and four ultra-modern housing facilities have been built at MMC. The University Park Apartments were built in 1985, Panther Hall in 1995, University Park Towers in 2000, Everglades Hall in 2002 and Lakeview Village in 2006.”

In addition, Wassenaar said planning is under way for another phase of expansion that will add another 1,200 beds to the MMC housing capacity. That addition will give MMC approximately 4,200 beds in comparison to the approximately 375 at BBC.

“Many of the Bay Vista students said these facts speak to the disrespect the authorities display for the BBC. “We are in the process of developing new facilities for BBC housing,” he said. “But since the debt for the Bay Vista housing building is retired in 2016 and as the president’s new enrollment plan is better detailed and we understand how it is impacting the true demand for on-campus housing at BBC in terms of the type of students we will be recruiting, we won’t be able to devise a housing solution to replace the Bay Vista.”

Until then, students like hospitality management senior Chrysalis Gonzales will have to continue living with conditions she considers uncomfortable. “Right now a part of the ceiling in my bathroom has fallen down for more than a week and it is still not repaired despite many follow-ups,” she said.

Meanwhile, for journal senior Matara Thomas and Danny Portney, hospital management junior, their most pressing problem is the surprise visits from the residence assistant and maintenance personnel to their rooms.

“There is no privacy,” Portney said. “The RA’s, maintenance personnel and everybody else come into our rooms whenever they want to. But I think the time they come should be scheduled so we know when they are coming.”

In addition, the students said amenities at BBC are lacking in comparison to those at the MMC.

“The amenities are limited,” Thomas said. “For example, there was once a computer lab open to all housing residents, but since the beginning of Fall 2010 semester, it’s been closed and turned into a study room.”

The students pointed out the UP Towers complex, for instance, has multiple green areas, gazebos, luxury swimming pool, five social lounges, two multipurpose lounges, Wi-Fi lounges, vending areas and other amenities, many of which are missing or limited at Bay Vista.

Wassenaar said that, comparing apples to oranges, but many of the students said the difference in residential life at the campuses pales in comparison to the significant differences in amenities.

For Catherine Bondie, biology senior, the many amenities at MMC housing keep her living there.

“I have lived here since my freshman year,” she said. “Obviously I love and enjoy living here. The gym is amazing and the pool is very nice. If you put in a work order, the maintenance men come pretty fast actually. I am surprised, but they do. And I have never seen any bugs or roaches around here.”

Some of the students said it was not for the convenience of living near their classrooms, they would move off campus.

However, Wassenaar said he looks forward to the day when all of the University’s housing inventories will reflect the modern residence standards present in most of the housing solutions at MMC.
FOOTBALL

Collins departure sparks search for new coordinator

IGOR MELLO

The man who turned the Golden Panthers defense from practically the worst in the Football Bowl Subdivision to the best in the Sun Belt in the span of one year has left the University.

Geoff Collins is one-and-done.

The defensive coordinator has signed an agreement to become the co-defensive coordinator at Mississippi State University alongside with Chris Wilson, who was promoted after the departure of Manny Diaz. Collins will also take over as the linebackers coach for the Bulldogs.

“Geoff has shown the type of immediate impact he can bring to a defense by what he did at Florida International last season,” said Bulldog head coach Dan Mullen, according a press release by MSU.

“He’s a smart young coach that has great experience, and he’ll bring the same kind of aggressive attitude and philosophy that we expect from our defense at Mississippi State.”

The Panthers will miss Collins’ defense. Last season Collins led a defense that become the best in the Sun Belt in total defense, scoring defense, pass efficiency defense, and turnover margin. This all came after the Panthers ranked 119th nationally in total defense the year prior to his arrival.

Head coach Mario Cristobal was unavailable for comment, but Geoff Collins [center] helped turn the Golden Panthers into the top defensive unit in the Sun Belt.

According to the report, Cristobal may be looking at candidates within the program, but also expects to interview many external candidates as well. The Sun Belt Coach of the Year expects to find a replacement quickly.

The school has not yet released the list of candidates. There may only be two possible candidates if Cristobal, in fact, does select a coordinator within the program.

JEFF POPOVICH, ASSISTANT COACH-SECONDARY

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Coley, Rodgers lead Golden Panthers to road win

RICO ALBARRACIN

After suffering a loss to North Texas, FIU had to fight back and overcome an offensively talented Denver Pioneers team to pull off a minor upset.

FIU (7-12, 2-3 SBC) overcame 18 lead changes to beat Denver (11-7, 3-2 SBC) on Saturday night 71-63. Junior Rakia Rodgers and freshman Jerica Coley both led the Panthers with 23 points each. Coley added eight rebounds along with a career-best 12-for-14 from the free throw line.

The Golden Panthers got their hands full with Chastity Reed, the 6’1” forward who is currently averaging 20 points and six rebounds per game.

The Trojans also have an outside threat with Janette Merrick, who is shooting .313 percent from three-point range. FIU will have to control the paint and slow down Reed for a key victory in conference play.

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JEFF POPOVICH, ASSISTANT COACH-SECONDARY

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

MIKE VARGA/BEACON PHOTO

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Golden Panthers drop OT contest in Denver

JACKSON WOLEK

The Golden Panthers got some bad news before their game against the Denver Pioneers even started, as second leading scorer and rebounder DeJuan Wright was deemed unable to play in the game due to a high fever. Wright would have been a huge key to the outcome of the game, not only for his scoring and defense.

In the end, free throws were in the key to the game as FIU shot just 55 percent from the line in a thrilling 79-70 overtime loss to the Pioneers on Jan. 15.

“That’s our energy guy, we know when he’s out there he’s hustling and giving energy and that’s something you can’t teach, so we definitely missed him tonight,” Phil Gary said.

He more than made up for Wright’s absence, scoring a team-high 22 points on the night.

The first half of play featured both teams exchanging baskets back and forth the whole time.

MIKE VARGA/BEACON PHOTO

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

FIU vs. UALR

• Time: 6:30 p.m.
• Where: 01/19/11
• Where: Miami, FL

Michelle Gonzalez [above] had 18 points in road victory.
Poor free throw shooting hurts FIU down the stretch

Jeff Popovich has led the Panthers for four seasons as the secondary coach. Despite not having any experience as a defensive coordinator, Popovich worked at the University of Miami, prior to his current job at FIU, where he served as a defensive assistant.
The second half went just as the first did, with both teams going back in forth in scoring and always staying within a few points of each other. What almost was a huge turning point in the game was when Denver’s leading scorer on the night, Chris Udoaf, got his fourth foul with around seven minutes left. FIU was unable to draw another foul to have him exit the game early, which would have been a big advantage.

Finally, with 4:03 remaining in regulation, the Golden Panthers took their first and only lead of the game when Gary put a layup in to make the score 59-58. The lead could have been bigger, and could have come much quicker and often if the Golden Panthers had a little more accuracy from the charity stripe.

With 32 seconds left and FIU down by three, Gary blew his defender to put it in the layup. After a quick foul where Denver converted just one free throw, Gary yet again made a huge play. The senior point guard drove right down the lane, drawing Eric Frederick’s defender toward him so that he could dish the ball off to Frederick for the easy layup to knot the game up at 65-65 with only six seconds in the game to go.

“We needed to come up with a steal or come up with a stop and we were able to do that,” stated Coach Isaiah Thomas. “Coming down on the other end we were able to convert our field goals and foul shots.”

In their first overtime game of the year, the Golden Panthers did not fare well at all and were outscored 14-5 in the five minute period.

Denver was able to control the tempo and knock down key shots to put the game away.
The Golden Panthers ended the game shooting a dismal 20-36 from the charity stripe, which ended up being a huge difference in the game.

“If we converted from the foul line tonight it’s a victory going away, but if you don’t convert from the foul line then the other team wins the basketball game,” Thomas said after the game.

With the loss, FIU dropped to 1-7 on the road and will be glad to come back to the comforts of home as they play three of their next four games at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Replacement may come from within coaching staff

Jeff Popovich has led the Panthers for four seasons as the secondary coach. Despite not having any experience as a defensive coordinator, Popovich worked at the University of Miami, prior to his current job at FIU, where he served as a defensive assistant.

Last summer Calhoun was a defensive backs coach. His line also ranked fourth in the conference for rushing defense, allowing only an average of 168.7 yards rushing.

The week prior, the Golden Panthers finished second against UM, Central Connecticut State.

The Golden Panthers swimming and diving team returned to action at the Bay Vista Aquatics Complex on Jan. 15 against the University of Miami and Central Connecticut State University in a dual meet.

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Today’s victory, which sent the game into overtime.

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IN STITCHES

Fashion a form of expression for art student

Ashley Gardner, a visual arts student, may be the only girl at the university with a fox fur stole. Posture and poise come naturally to the former ballerina whose fashion philosophy is a mix of everything.

“I always get the term unique, which I think is funny because it’s a nice way of saying ‘you dress weird’.” Gardner said of others’ comments on her own personal style. She describes her own style as eclectic and draws inspiration from vintage to modern.

Gardner began to develop a taste for fashion when she started attending public school in the ninth grade. Before then, she wore traditional school uniforms. Fashion became her way of expressing herself after a long stint practicing ballet. Her favorite designers include Gareth Pugh, the late Alexander McQueen, Vivienne Westwood, John Galliano and Giles Deacon showing a flair for the extravagant.

“I really like the street style of it. Vivienne Westwood came up with the designs for the Sex Pistols. She takes the classic English tartans and punks it up a bit.” Gardner said.

Taking cues from books and magazines, Gardner dresses in a mix of vintage with more modern trends. She paired a classic collared blouse with velvet detailing with black leggings that had cut outs. On her feet she wore heeled black...
REALITY SHOW COMES TO DANCE MARATHON

ALEX MACIEL Staff Writer

Every year FIU holds a dance marathon for those who share the desire to have a good time and help others. It’s an added bonus that someone from this group of people will get to bear the title of FIU’s favorite dancer.

Since its inception in 1998, FIU’s Dance Marathon has raised over $850,000; last year’s total was $160,000. All of the proceeds directly benefit the children at Miami Children’s Hospital and the Miami Children’s Hospital Foundation.

“Donating to the Hospital is a great cause. Many of the families that we help cannot afford to cover the costs for more serious conditions,” said Mari Campuzano, coordinator for the Center of Leadership & Service.

The help to plan and support the event comes from the Children’s Miracle Network. They help direct the proceeds to the Miami Children’s Hospital.

“Every year the competition grows, not only in numbers, but also in interest. Although Greek Life hosts the event, it is not only the Greek community but a mixture of people,” said Campuzano.

A winner is chosen annually. This includes last year’s champion, Jen Sada.

“FIU’s So You Think You Can Dance was a great experience that gave me the opportunity to share my true passion of dance with the FIU community. I was proud to be a part of it, and being able to raise money for charity,” said Sada.

Not only is it a good cause, but the participants also are truly excited to dance and perform.

Campuzano referred to the So You Think You Can Dance event as “the most significant one out of the entire Dance Marathon.”

So You Think You Can Dance will take place on Jan. 19 at 8 p.m. Make sure to come out to support or make a donation.

THE KING’S SPEECH

GARDNER, page 5

A VINTAGE ALTERNATE TO COUTURE

“Even if I were waking up and had nothing to do that day, I would get dressed up and go to the grocery store. I definitely get dressed for myself,” Gardner said about her reason for dressing the way she does.

Gardner’s talent for picking out vintage clothes and pairing them with inexpensive, trendy pieces prove that you don’t have to wear couture to dress in style. Gardner said, “Because I can’t afford John Galliano, I make a lot of my clothes and I do a lot of vintage shopping as well. I invest more in my clothes and I do a lot of vintage dressing the way she does. Gardner’s talent for picking out vintage clothes and pairing them with inexpensive, trendy pieces prove that you don’t have to wear couture to dress in style.

In Stitches is a bi-weekly column profiling campus fashion. Look for it every other Wednesday. You can read more In Stitches online at infi usm.com. Photos by Ezra Eldragan.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2011

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MEDICAL SCHOOL VISIT

Howard University and Miami University students will present a case demonstration on both sides of the Atlantic that feature next-generation technology and variations on applications of approved medications with an emphasis on new approaches.

WHERE: WUC Theatre

ACTIVE MINDS FIRST MEETING

Presented by SPH 401.

WHERE: ISET 2011 Conference

5 & 7 p.m.

Puzzle by websudoku.com

To solve the sudoku puzzle, every row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1-9 only once. Check your answers on FIUSM.com

Puzzle Difficulty: Hard

.poster
Negligent gun laws a factor in shooting

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON
Staff Writer

It wasn’t a mere tragic coincidence that a massacre that left six people dead and 13 others wounded was in a state that has careless and negligent gun laws.

A brief look into Loughner’s behavioral history shows a spiral into what appears to be mental illness. Former neighbors and friends have described Loughner as mentally disturbed and deranged. Paranoid thoughts, the seemingly total inability to differentiate reality and fantasy and instances of disruptive behavior paint the picture of a mentally ill young man who is incapable of taking responsibility for his vile actions.

I think it important not to be so blinded by the rage and sadness we feel collectively, but to ignore the fact that incoherent, recklessly purchased guns largely contributed to this tragedy. It would be shortsighted not to examine factors that could contribute to something like this happening again. According to ABC News, Loughner had legally purchased the gun after passing an instant background check at sporting’s warehouse. The fact that there are instantaneous background checks for potential purchasers of guns would be laughable if it wasn’t so terrifying. Whether a more thorough look into Loughner’s past would have prevented this tragedy is relevant, as it serves as an example of the limitations of these background checks.

Furthermore, the lack of specificity of who is barred from buying guns holds potentially harmful ramifications. According to the New Republic, “Federal law prohibits the sale or transfer of guns to several categories of people, including felons, illegal immigrants, and drug abusers.” These categories are simply too vague and unscreening. According to The Wall Street Journal, it is federally illegal to sell guns to any person “declared mentally unfit.” To be deemed mentally unfit seems to be quite an ordeal that

1. ...this is clear: “Whoever isn’t with us is not against us, but is our enemy.”

When politicians use the politics of fear, which tends to arouse hostile emotions, it is all that surprising when a small percentage turns to violence?

If not outright responsible for the creation of images depicting President Obama as Hitler politicians offer an implicitly endorse-ment or an obviously forced and hollow renunciation.

Recently, the demeanor of Congressmen is only further fueling hostility. Jumping up and calling Obama a liar as did Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina, or asking Jesus to judge against our President as did a member of the Birther Movement, reinforces the battle lines and maintains an air of hostility.

These actions are moving us further away from any chance of civility and any hope of actually discussing the issues. These actions perpetuate a political envi-ronment that is less about solutions and more about creating targets to hit. While my examples certainly focus on Republicans, both parties are to blame.

It is well past time that we recognize the need for civility and be satisfied with nothing less.
Haiti

President unhappily receives election report

Romeo Preval officially received the report of an international team trying to solve an electoral deadlock, but he was unhappy with their recommendations.

Nicaragua

3 federal judges probe in drug case

Three federal judges have been suspended and put under investigation for ordering the release of ten alleged drug traffickers. The judges had three days to present a report explaining why they dismissed the cases.

Gyana

Guyana recognizes a Palestinian state

Guyana has recognized Palestinian statehood, joining a string of other South American nations in a push for Palestine and Israel to negotiate a peace deal.

Bay Vista Housing

Housing conditions worse than expected

W.EARL SIMPSON
Staff Writer

In the Spring 2010 semester, Patience Ekpo transferred from the University of North Texas to FIU to study for her major’s in global strategic communications. When she arrived at the University, she accepted housing accommodation at the University Park Apartments at Modesto Maidique Campus where she shared a one-bedroom-double with a roommate she considered untidy and disrespectful.

In Fall 2010, to avoid sharing facilities, Ekpo opted to live in a one-bedroom-single at the Bay Vista Housing. But when she moved in, she said she got the shock of her life.

"Housing here is very crusty and run down," Ekpo said. "They should invest more money into improving the facilities. "When I lived at the University Park Apartments, I complained the rent was too high for the poor facilities we got there, but Bay Vista housing has got nothing on UPA."

Ekpo is one of the many students living at Bay Vista who said they are unhappy with the living conditions there. Of the 15 Bay Vista students interviewed for this story, 12 of them, or 86 percent, expressed dissatisfaction with issues such as dilapidated buildings, unrepaided ceilings, broken toilets, mold infestation, untimely work order responses and pest infestation. Three hundred students live at the Bay Vista housing complex.

Ekpo who did her undergraduate studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey, said while at Rutgers, she lived in a modern housing facility. She said compared to that facility, the Bay Vista housing condition is appealing.

"This place is ghetto," she said. "My shower sucks. I can never get the right temperature. I waste my time in the shower almost on a daily basis playing with the temperature settings. I can never get it either not too hot or not too cold. Most of the time, it is too hot and I get burned."

"Also, my toilet does not work. For one week, it flushed all day every day. I should not have to sit there and listen to my toilet flushing 24 hours for a week because housing is stupid. "This building is so old and crusty, they should just knock it down and build another dorm," Ekpo said.

Bay Vista was the first University housing facility and the only one built at BBC. It was built in 1983 under the administration of then University president Gregory B. Wolfe, according to James Wassenaar, executive director of Student Affairs Operations and Auxiliary Services.

Wassenaar said because the president did not have a housing professional on staff at that time, he opted for a private developer who conceived a structure with design standards typical to those of a Holiday Inn motel.

"I really was not conceived as a housing facility," Wassenaar said.

Biscayne Social

Students encounter new experiences while hypnotized

JONATHAN SZYDLO
Contributing Writer

Hypnosis is not a hoax. Skeptical?

So was an initial crowd of about 90 in attendance for Sailesh’s, self-proclaimed Hypnotist Extraordinaire, performance at the Wolfe University Center Theater on Jan. 13. The Student Programming Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus hosted it as part of its “Week of Welcome” events held across both University campuses last week.

Some were skeptics. Some were believers. Some came to laugh at what they thought would be cheap parlor tricks, while others were just curious as to what entertainment the University had to offer.

“I’m looking to explore the university more and find out what type of events they have,” said Raj Naidu, a civil engineering graduate student.

“I’m on a budget too, so I’m looking for all forms of alternate entertainment that they have to offer,” said another volunteer.

3 federal judges probe in drug case

DANTE WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

Hypnotist Sailesh (standing) appears to be handling a venomous snake in the presence of his hypnotized volunteers during a show which the Student Programming Council presented on Jan. 13 in the Wolfe University Center Theater.

in Miami,” Eva Pentitfere, a junior biology major, was amongst the skeptics in attendance.

“I want to see if this really works. I’ve never seen this done in person, but I’ve seen it on TV,” said Pentitfere. As the show kicked off, Sailesh had his randomly chosen volunteers on stage. He delivered a five-minute guide towards achieving a meditative state, allowing him access to the volunteers’ subconscious as they fell into a deep sleep. And with the final command of “sleep,” they were under the suggestive power of Sailesh for the remainder of the evening.

Volunteers were put through a series of suggestions in which they were under the impression that they were in extreme cold, switched genders, were on a mission to Mars, relived their prom dance and reached a different state of consciousness.

Janiel Varges, a senior Political Science major, although skeptical, was one of the first to fall into the hypnotic trance. “Physically, I was up on that stage and seated in my chair. But psychologically, emotionally and mentally, I couldn’t do much to snap out of it. After tonight’s experience, it would be safe to say that I am definitely a believer,” said Varges.

JC Remedios, a senior double majoring in Liberal Studies and Psychology, was “one of the quick ones to fall.”

“I was scared the whole time [of Sailesh making] me do something that I would regret and couldn’t hold back,” said Remedios. “Being an openly gay person, there were points in the show that I was afraid that if what the other straight would do, or what his reaction would be and whether or not it would be hostile.”

From the minute Sailesh stepped onto the stage until he released the volunteers from their hypnotic trance, the audience was on the edge of their seats in disbelief.

“I walked into this as a complete skeptic and now there is no denying the truth behind it,” said Remedios.

Biscayne Social is a weekly column run on Wednesday covering events at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Reviews are up to the columnist’s discretion.