Smarty Pants Bowl attempts to spread AIDS awareness

JESSICA LOPEZ
Contributing Writer

Miami ranks first in the nation in AIDS case rates, according to data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Due to the fact that many South Floridians are uninformed about this disease, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications wanted to act as a sort of council that would look over every other school organization’s AIDS involvement.

Dr. William Darrow, professor of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and part of the research team that first looked at AIDS, was more than happy to help. Darrow, claiming to have dedicated his career to the study and eradication of HIV/AIDS, agreed to incorporate the “Tell Somebody New” campaign into his one of his courses by assigning the students a project that would require them to break into four teams to devise an HIV prevention plan for the FIU community.

“I noticed FIU doesn’t have an HIV prevention plan, and with a disease that has no cure, prevention is key,” said Darrow.

After working for nearly a whole semester on their prevention plans, the teams finally had the opportunity to present all of their hard work in a competitive setting at the annual Smarty Pants Bowl on April 11.

The “Totally Rad Roaries” began their campaign into the arena with a unique circumstance according to SGC-MMC Senate President Alex Blevins: “It’s necessary to talk about this issue since it is a disease that is spread intimately, but this is killing people. It’s necessary to talk about it,” said School of Journalism and Mass Communications associate dean, Allan Richards.

Sophomores Brandi Alcivar, Joseph Montes de Oca and Jenna Jennings (left to right), run across campus during the Shake-A-Sock 5K/Eco Walk, the event that ended the university’s Earth Week. The Students for Environmental Action club and the Office of University Sustainability planned a week full of events from April 4 to 9 for students to celebrate Earth Day (April 22).

But, before the teams could present their research, the competition was cut short. The event began after a 6:35 p.m. show time, meaning that the opening act’s closing song, which had a two-minute-long drumbeat, was being drowned out by the audience’s chatter.

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There are many conserva- tives who don’t like talking about this issue since it is a disease that is spread intimately, but this is killing people. It’s necessary to talk about it,” said School of Journalism and Mass Communications associate dean, Allan Richards.

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Poking fun at American Idol, Darrow served as host while MacMillin and Richards portrayed Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell.

Other community leaders, such as Joy Knight and Florence Greer, also judged the presentations. The teams drew straws to decide who would present first. The “Totally Rad Roaries” began their competition to present their reorganization plan to the state house reporters shows the striking degree to which the GOP has been able to break through gridlock and achieve improbable ends.

The historic and wildly contentious curbs on public sector bargaining in Wisconsin, quickly followed by similar action in Ohio, were but a signal that the status quo is being challenged on multiple fronts in many places.
Man bites dog — then sues over police canine’s act

A 33-year-old man who bit back after he was caught by a Phoenix police dog is suing police.

Erin Sullivan alleges the dog violated his civil rights and used excessive force to capture him after he ran from officers in Glendale during a burglary.

Police say Sullivan bit the dog back, injuring it.

The lawsuit names the cities of Phoenix and Glendale and four officers. Officials in Glendale and Phoenix have declined comment.

Sullivan also alleges Glendale police refused to give him insulin to treat his diabetes.

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Project boosts campaign’s mission

SMARTY PANTS, page 1

claimed that the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils served as an inspiration for the idea of a school-wide AIDS Committee.

The second team, “Soothsayers,” presented their idea of a six-year plan. The “Perky Panthers” focused their presentation on offering a multitude of ways to create said dialogue, such as by creating Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts for the campaign.

“Creating dialogue about AIDS is the most important thing in preventing it,” said Basilia Perkins, captain of the team.

Their presentation was executed with an example of their vision for the Youtube account—a poem sent in by someone who was somehow affected by HIV/AIDS. “I have goose bumps,” said MacMillin after watching the rendering.

Even after such diverse presenta-
tion the title of Smarty Pants Bowl champions ultimately went to the last team, the “Divine Dazzlers.” By focusing on advertising AIDS aware-
ness messages during school sporting events, the judges quickly deliberated to deem them as the first-ever bowl champions.

While the winners of the Smarty Pants Bowl earned an “A” for their project, everyone at the event was content once it was over. Perkins, whose team came in second place, was not hurt over the loss, but rather excited by the project’s possibilities.

“This started off as a class project, but it became a passion in the process,” said Perkins.

Along with attendees at the event, MacMillin was satisfied with the presentations and the purpose of the event.

“It’s so exciting. This was not just a project; this stuff is going to be imple-
mented,” said MacMillin.

The evening came to a close with a few brief words from Dr. Darrow, who thanked everyone for their hard work and for attending.

Special thanks were reserved for Donovan Thomas, founder of the RCP movement, a community movement created to raise HIV/AIDS awareness in South Florida.

The Thomas congratulated everyone on the success of the evening and seemed very impressed with all the information the teams had gathered.

According to MacMillin and other hosts, the night was a success and step forward for the “Tell Somebody New” campaign.

“I think everyone was a winner tonight, and soon the whole FIU community will be winners with a new HIV/AIDS awareness program,” said Darrow.

Budget could be proposed next year

BUDGET, page 1

submitted a repurposed budget to forestall final approval from the senate in session.

“All the people that voted against it, the majority of them were in the meeting that day.

There was a huge chunk that voiced their concern, they were there, and so I don’t see why it shouldn’t pass,” said SGC-MMC President Helena Ramerez.

On April 11, Housing Senator Carlos Rodriguez filed a petition with the judi-
cracy against the SGC-MMC Budget Committee, claiming that the Committee violated Florida Statues section 1009.24 (10)(b) by submit-
ing the proposed budget to Dr. Jones without prior approval from the Senate.

Rodriguez noted that the legislation states, “The allo-
cation and expenditure of the [student activity and service fee] fund shall be determined by the student government association of the university.”

The court decided in favor of Rodriguez and ulti-
mately agreed that the Budget Committee was guilty of misfeasance for violating Florida Statute 1009.24 (10)(b).

“We found that they were guilty, but we didn’t punish them as in censuring them or removing them from office because there were mitigating factors. They had pressure from the administration,” said Octavio Mella, SGC-MMC chief justice.

The budget that was presented to Jones is still in her possession and at her disposal to make sugges-
tions for changes. While the Senate was supposed to vote on the SGC-MMC Budget at their final session on April 18, Jones has yet to send back the budget.

Mujica claims that only Jones has the authority to circumvent the constitu-
tion, and if the budget is not proposed to this year’s Senate, it could be presented to next year’s senators.

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Not your usual domestic violence incident

A Kansas woman faces a charge of harboring a vicious animal after her pet python grabbed onto her neck and would not let go until a police officer intervened.

Chrstyal Wilson of Lyons, Kan., took the eight-
foot-long albino snake from its cage for feeding Tuesday when it clapsed its jaws on the side of her neck, Police Chief Chris Detmer said Friday.

Luckily, the snake has small teeth rather than sharp fangs, he said.

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College paper goes topless for exotic dancer story

A Philadelphia college newspaper has gone top-
less to publish a story alleging a professor used exotic dancers in a business seminar.

La Salle University students say administrators would not let them print the story above the fold on the front page. So the top half of Thursday’s Collegian is blank, except for the words “See below the fold.”

The newspaper’s executive editor, Vinny Vella, says administrators initially forbade him from printing the article until their investigation was complete.
BASEBALL

Offense fuels comeback win as Panthers takes series

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

The FIU baseball team would get things started with a bang and beat their Sun Belt Conference in a come-back victory on Apr. 17.

With a good performance from their pitching staff the night before, FIU (22-16, SBC 7-8) would start Daniel DeSimone to duel against T.J. Geith. DeSimone would only pitch two innings after giving up an early three run lead. DeSimone would allow four runs off seven hits and then come off for Kyle Fitzpatrick to relieve him.

The UL Ragin’ Cajuns would put early T.J. Geith on the mound to combat the Golden Panther offensive. Geith would pitch four innings allowing six runs off of seven hits while striking out seven hitters.

BUILDING AN EARLY LEAD AND DEALING WITH ADVERSITY

Pablo Bermudez would set the tone by homering off his first pitch to right field. Martinez would ground out to third later in the first to bring Patton home.

Young Barrios would add the third run by recording an RBI single to center field to bring Garrett Wittels home for a three run lead.

“We didn’t get the hits early when we needed it, we blew a 3 run lead. The home runs don’t mean much to me,” said Coach Thomas. “It was good to get our bullpen back up.”

SOFTBALL, page 4

Eric Campbell
Head Coach

The hard work and the training has been done, so right now it’s really about how sharp and how good can we have the athletes feel on game day as far as being able to compete.

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Weekly Accolade

With all of the individual accolades achieved this year by the team, coach Campbell admits that “it is really hard to choose who would be the most improved or MVP of them team,” saying that “it is really hard to choose who would be the most improved or MVP of them team.”

Andres Leon

Staff Writer

The success that many of the Golden panthers have had thus far has not gone unnoticed, as some of the athletes are ranked in the top 50 in the nation for their respective events.

The team of Marrisa McElvene, Lakesha Kelley, Carlie Kuy Mills and T’Keyah Dunoy went into the meet Saturday ranked NO. 19 in the nation, along with having the eighth fastest time in the East Region overall in the 4x100 relay.

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The FIU men’s and women’s track and field team had yet another stellar outing at the Hurricane Alumni Invitational on Saturday, April 16th at The University of Miami, as they continue to improve both individually and as a collective unit in preparation for the conference and national tournament.

“We had a phenomenal meet, although it was delayed by 2, and a half hours due to the weather we had a number of personal bets and number of people won their events, so it was a tremendous event for us actually,” said coach Campbell.

The meet would continue on to Sunday as well, with many of the younger athletes staying strong.

The next meet that they participate in on Friday, April 28 in the Penn relays, and will be sure to test where they stand nationally more than any other event they have been in thus far.

It is one of the biggest track meets in the country and brings out the top programs.

The meet usually averages around 50,000 spectators a night.

It will be great preparation for when they go to the Sun Belt championships on May 13th and the National championships on June 8th.

SOFTBALL

Powerful offense carries team past WKU

MALcolm Shield

Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers scored over 10 runs for the fifth time this season as they defeated Western Kentucky 13-2, 6 inning game on April 17.

Sophomore Alex Casals led the Golden Panthers offensively, hitting her first career grand slam.

Western Kentucky scored the first run on a leadoff solo home run by Kelsie Mattos in the top of the first inning.

In the bottom half of the inning, the Golden Panthers countered with a two-out rally to take the lead. Ashley McClain began the rally with a single.

After a walk to Brie Rojas, Kayla Burri hit a single to centerfield scoring McClain to tie the game.

On the play, Rojas advanced to third. Rojas scored from third base after Burri attempted to steal second base and the throw from the catcher
Thursday’s meeting “a good session.”

He called makes sense,” said Michael Hausfeld, one
continue with everyone talking as long as it
the commissioner said.

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So what about the fans, who are frus-
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Alexandra Camejo
Asst. News Director

With finals week approaching and the end of the semester looming near, seniors are finally gearing up for graduation.

“I feel like I’ve been dying for graduation since my freshman year. All of the tests, the essays, the assignments, the projects and studying finally were worth it this moment,” said Melissa Delgado, senior and business major.

Yet, according to the Student Alumni Association, it wasn’t what Delgado did that led her to a diploma—it’s what she didn’t do. Having been warned in her freshman orientation, Delgado has never stepped on the great seal of FIU that is engraved at the Betty Chapman Plaza entrance of the Graham Center.

“I remember the story that my peer advisor told me about that seal, and no matter how many people were coming in or out, I never laid a toe on it,” said Delgado.

According to tradition, the workers who engraved the seal in 1997 placed a curse on it before students even had a chance to take a step. One worker, who cannot be tracked down, joked to another by saying, “Imagine if a student steps on the seal and doesn’t graduate within the expected time.” The workers laughed and continued to place the seal. Two years later Javier Lopez was admitted into the University as a freshman with hopes of accelerating to graduation within three years.

According to SAA tradition, Lopez showed little respect for the seal, and frequently stepped on it on his way in and out of GC. Due to his disregard of the power of the seal, Lopez never met his three-year goal for graduation. It actually took him a staggering nine years to get his bachelor’s degree.

Ever since, students have been warned to never set foot on the great seal, or else they would be deemed to suffer the same fate as Lopez or worse.

While SAA cannot provide any more information on this student or his current whereabouts, Lopez’s story and the curse of the seal have lived on for more than ten years. Peer advisors let incoming freshman know that students who step on the great seal will not make it to graduation on time, if at all.

On a given day, thousands of people walk through GC, and in this traffic it is not uncommon to find students and friends stopping each other from suffering the fate that stepping on the seal brings.

“My friend told me about the seal curse when I was about two steps from it, and I managed to jump over the thing at the last second,” said Michelle Perez, a junior and biology major.

Correlating the University’s four-year graduation rates with the great seal’s curse would be impossible, and those that disregard the superstition find its believers to be outlandish. In fact, according to the American Enterprise Institute, four-year colleges graduated an average of just 53% of students within six years.

“It’s just a superstition just like...
Project Hope was created to provide a beacon of hope for individuals whose financial struggle keep them from affording the cost of cancer treatment. Their latest event, a fashion show, used fashion for charity.

Florida International University teamed up with the League Against Cancer, a community-based, non-profit organization providing free medical care to cancer patients. The financial burden of cancer treatment is overwhelming, typically costing approximately $50,000.

The financial burden of cancer treatment is overwhelming, typically costing approximately $50,000.

To help relieve the weight of a full chemotherapy treatment, Project Hope has come together to raise $45,000.

Nicole Milian, founder and president of the University’s branch, had the desire to help struggling families with the burden of these medical expenses.

“There is a history of cancer in my family. I understand that some families cannot afford the cost of treatment. I therefore hope to spread awareness and help these families,” said Milian.

On Apr. 16, Project Hope held a fashion show featuring a variety of designers and vocal artists.

The event, “La Mode de L’Espoir,” French for fashion of hope, was held at The Deauville Beach Resort in Miami Beach and is one of Project Hope’s biggest events.

“Many of our models and novice models walked the runway for a cause, showcasing different designs and new collections from local designers.

The first collection featured was M-M Couture, followed by Kristina Ashley Swimwear, Cherry Bomb Boutique and lastly Mimi’s by Danitza Zimac.

Both performing artists, Sam Dearmond and The Bento Box Band, had acoustic and mellow undertones. Complimentary hors d’oeuvres as well as cocktails were served to attendees.

100% of the profits from Saturday’s event go to the cancer patients of The League Against Cancer. This includes the $40 ticket required to enter the venue that held up to 550 people.

A raffle was also held in order to contribute more to the patients.

The fashion show received additional help from volunteer students from Miami-Dade College and Florida International University. Volunteers contributed their time and effort to garner corporate sponsorships, promote the event, and hosted an array of local fundraising activities leading up to the main event.

The Fashion Show aided a good cause while providing people with a fun and interesting event.

“Where there is love there is hope,” said Milian.
Electronic books no match for tradition

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Mobile devices such as the iPad and Kindle make buying eBooks as easy as clicking a link, and they are usually cheaper to boot. With the failure of bookstores, such as many Borders across the country most recently, it is evident that physical books are all types of losing popularity against their digitized counter parts.

Anyone with an Internet connection can get their favorite books, magazines and newspapers from any number of online sources without even having to turn a page. Despite the benefits of digitizing many aspects of our society, completely digitizing books would remove the personal, imaginative, and memorable qualities that many avid readers value.

Almost every type of print can now be obtained online for a cheaper price. It is unfortunate that, with the huge success of digitized media, people can now be in front of a computer screen for virtually every waking moment of their lives. In a time where technology is invading every aspect of our lives we should be looking for reasons to get off the computer, not stay on. By comparison, eBooks are life-less and impersonal. Books are meant to be an escape, and it is much more difficult to become absorbed while staring at a screen. From personal experience, I can say that reading from a digital screen lacks a certain immersive quality. Additionally, the feel of paper pages is just classic and no digital device will ever be able to replace it.

EBooks are definitely the next logical step towards the future. Where the printing press made physical books more accessible, eBooks make literature exponentially more widely available. However, the beauty lies in the experience of seeing the thickness of the book, turning the pages, and becoming engrossed for a few hours. No eBook can provide the same experience as a worn hardcover. While eBooks are gaining momentum because of their practicality and efficiency, print books will always be more appealing to me because of the laid back atmosphere they provide.

Digitizing everything has its advantages, but the rising popularity of eBooks eliminates yet another reason to get off the computer. Physical books should continue to be a good reason to leave the computer and do some studying or just get lost in a great story, not to mention it is easier on the eyes. According to www.prevent-blindness.org, sitting too close in front of a computer screen for extended hours can increase the likelihood of eye strain.

Physical books are a prime example of the escape from the overwhelming embrace of technology that many look for when it is time to relax. While most authors publish on both mediums to reach the maximum audience, some newer authors are relying solely on the eBook method to distribute their work, because of its ease. While this could tip the balance in the favor of the eBook, it is very probable that physical books will still be published for a while, as nostalgic readers everywhere will not let eBooks disappear without a fight.

The feel of paper pages is just classic, and no digital device will ever be able to replace it.
New research center has community-oriented goals

HERBERT WERTHEIM COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

LUI S ROCA Contributing Writer

Given the chance to give one last lecture to students before they graduate, Frederick R. Blevens warned them about believing such rumors as “President Obama to speak at FIU Spring Commencement,” or “PRI to turn Tamiami park into water park.”

As part of Tau Sigma Alpha Honor Society’s “Legacies Lecture Series,” Blevens, a professor at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, spoke on April 14 about social media and the need to teach, especially high school students, the different ways to use media.

The second-annual “Legacies Lecture Series” started in 2008. The series is an event which gives professors the chance to give “the lecture of a lifetime,” according to a TSA press release. Professors have the liberty to lecture on any topic they desire as long as it adheres to the question: “If you had one lecture to give to your students, what would you say?”

Blevens, a 2001 National Journalism Professor of the year, was the sixth professor to speak at the “Legacy Lecture Series.” He titled his speech “It’s an honor to follow in the footsteps of those who did this before me and those who did this nationally.”

The ability of the audience to interpret and be critical of what they read, listen to, and watch was major component of Blevens’ speech.

“In many ways, these efforts to spread news literacy ... [has put] the tools that raise expectations and challenge the news ... in the hands of the audience. We challenge the news industry to haul what Bill Moyers often described as ‘our march towards pliancy.’”

Blevens said nowadays, so many people do not bother to do extra research and tend to believe the first thing they read or see. For example, Blevens had one of his honors classes work on a project that turned out to be a prank on society.

“[Honor students] have a good idea of who is well liked and who is popular. We let the students give their suggestions and then we go ahead and contact the professor and see if he/she is available,” said Cruz.

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Blevens ended his lecture with a quote from the autobiography of George Seldes titled, “Witness to a Century.”

“[In my brother] Gilbert and I ... remained throughout our lifetimes just what Father was, freethinkers, and likewise, doubters and dissenters and perhaps, I suppose, Father’s rule had been ‘Question everything, take nothing for granted,’ and I never outlived it, and I would suggest it be made the motto of a world journalists’ association.”

Lecture emphasized importance of being news literate

CRISTINA MIRALLES Staff Writer

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“The Truth about those Tweets: Notes from a Parallel Universe.”

“We know teachers have to follow a certain curriculum in the classroom, but don’t always have the opportunity to say what they want and feel, so we have this event so professors get the chance to tell students what they want before they graduate,” said Andrea Cruz, president of TSA and journalism major.

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