Occupation of University stalled for now

“Non-University speakers, however, must register for a time and area in order to lecture.”

One protester said although FIU Police gave them a grace period after 9 p.m., they were never told why they couldn’t stay.

“We couldn’t stay past 9 p.m. but he [a police officer] said if you want to stay a bit past that it’s OK,” said Cindy Ariza a freshman at the University. “They didn’t explain why we couldn’t stay past 9 p.m., even though the University is open way past that time.”

Ariza noted that they looked for answers from neering the “legal department” as to why they were being restricted from bringing in tents and the time they were allotted, but got lesser answers.

However, FIU Police insisted that restrictions are put in place for safety reasons.

“We give them the opportunity to have those events until things take a turn for the worst,” but that hasn’t happened yet,” said Capt. Alphonse Ianniello in a previous interview Student Media.

“Have officers there to make sure the peace is kept.”

Coming up:

College of Law

Citizenship Drive opens doors to naturalization for locals

College of Law

AURA ALTAMIRANDA
Contributing Writer

Students at the College of Law are making the path to citizenship easier for immigrants by dropping the price tag on the naturalization process.

The students, with the supervision of practicing attorneys and faculty, led the College of Law’s Citizenship Drive and their mission was to facilitate the naturalization process at no cost to individuals in the community seeking aid.

Appointments were made prior to the day of the drive; a large turnout was anticipated. The one-day event operated from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and had more than 100 attendants whose intent was to fill out the necessary paperwork to begin their applications for U.S. citizenship.

While the professionals looked over the final paperwork, the work was executed by the students. They helped attendees review the application line by line, explaining parts of the application that were difficult to understand, and filed fee waivers for those who could not afford to pay.

The event was organized by the Carlos A. Costa Immigration and Human Rights clinic, one of eight clinics which offer legal counseling to those who can’t afford help from firms.

The other seven clinics are the Community Development Clinic, the Consumer Bankruptcy Clinic, the Environmental Law Clinic, the Investor Advocacy Clinic, the Health, Ethics, Law, and Policy Clinic, the Family and Children Law Clinic and the Pedro Pan Immigrant Children’s Justice Clinic.

According to Nnami Jackson, third-year law student of the Investor Advocacy Clinic, many of their clients seek help from the clinic as their final option after having attempted firms. While they want professional advice, affordability is an issue as well.

The incentive for students working in the clinics is the application of their knowledge in professional environments, interacting with the clients they are working for, working on cases they’ve spent time learning how to handle in the classroom.

They see the cases through from beginning to end. What differentiates this from classroom learning is the tangible experience these students do not get from textbooks. The students handle the cases, choosing the best courses of action to with which to proceed. Students who have met a certain number of hours are sometimes allowed to speak on record in court. In addition, the students receive class credit depending on the time commitment necessary and how demanding the clinics are.

Maria Olis, third-year law student of the Carlos A. Costa Immigration and Human Rights Clinic, is both working for the clinic and being helped by it. She has been undergoing her own process and has been advised by Juan Gomez, a clinical professor, who has been developing her own knowledge and applying them to her work.

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Idaho man charged with trying to assassinate Obama

An Idaho man accused of firing an assault rifle at the White House believed he was Jesus and thought President Barack Obama was the Antichrist, according to court documents and those who knew him. At one point, he even suggested to an acquaintance the president was planning to implant computer tracking chips in people’s heads, prosecutors said.

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A window of the first family’s living quarters — when Obama and the first lady were away. If convicted, Obama faces up to life in prison.

SPORTS

Athletes and sports programs in Libya were woefully neglected during Muammar Gadhafi’s four-decade rule. With Gadhafi’s regime toppled last month, Libya’s athletes and sports officials are hoping for a better future.

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Sport, as a social activity, must be for the masses,” Gadhafi said in his treatise, “The Green Book.”

New dean attracted to FIU’s diversity

Salted during Moammar Gadhafi’s four-decade rule. Mediterranean countries that had far fewer resources, ranks near the bottom in sports competition with other oil-rich Libya has never won an Olympic medal and now seeks to build a future that isn’t defined by its natural resources.

Reis said the diverse student body is a good fit for SJMC. “I understand more where they were coming from and I was able to jump into this with their perspective,” Reis said.

Rick Richards went on to say that the clinic is a great experience for students from over 70 countries and that “one of the things that attracts me to FIU is the diversity of the student body.”

“The clinic is a great experience for students from over 70 countries and that ‘one of the things that attracts me to FIU is the diversity of the student body.’

Law students hone skills

The clinics operate on an academic schedule; they are currently wrapping up their fall semester. For clients, this is the regular operations. For clients, this is the free service.

“Better to succeed in the fall semester than in the spring. As a result, October sales were up 7 percent over the same month last year. Light trucks were the biggest contributor. A steep drop in gas prices was a key reason the Consumer Price Index dropped 0.1 percent in October, the Labor Department said. Food prices did rise, but at the slowest pace this year. Excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called “core” prices, rose 0.1 percent.

Europe inflation could give the Federal Reserve more leeway to lower long-term interest rates to help the economy. Still, oil prices have been climbing in recent weeks and hit $80 a barrel Wednesday for the first time in four months. They have risen as the economy improves while tensions rise in countries that hold some of the world’s major sources of crude.

If those prices translate into higher gas prices, consumers could pull back on spending and slow economic growth. Strong consumer spending helped the economy grow at an annual rate of 2.5 percent in the July-September quarter. The October gain in retail sales suggests similar growth in the final three months of the year.

Instability in Europe might also hurt the U.S. economy. A shaky euro would likely strengthen the dollar, making U.S. goods appear cheaper to overseas buyers. And exports to Europe already accounted for about one-fifth of U.S. corporate revenue, analysts say.

If that happens, slowing output by U.S. manufacturers could hinder the broader economic recovery.

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Despite defeating the Denver Pioneers in the opening round, the Panthers were unable to handle Western Kentucky, which defeated FIU in the semifinals for the second year in a row.
Foul trouble hurts Panthers late in road loss to UTSA

While the Panthers shot 42.3 percent from the floor, they held UTSA to 32.6 percent, making five of 25 shots in the second half. But UTSA didn’t need to shoot well, attempting 28 of their 44 free throw attempts in the second half. FIU found themselves in a tight bind because they could not keep their opponents from the free throw line.

UTSA scored 31 points from the charity stripe, which gave the Roadrunners a huge advantage over FIU. The Panthers only took 11 shots from the free throw line, making nine of them.

Senior Fanni Hutlassa was the leading scorer for FIU with 18 points and nine rebounds despite only playing in limited minutes. Hutlassa and teammate Jerica Coley, who scored 14 points, would both foul out.

Also plagued by foul trouble was center Finda Mansare who had eight points and only five rebounds.

Once again leading in the turnover category with 22, FIU continually shot themselves in the foot while the Roadrunners forced twelve steals and capitalized off the Panthers turnovers scoring 25 points.

UTSA was more aggressive as they also doubled FIU in second-chance opportunities, scoring 12 points on those chances compared to FIU’s six.

The Panthers will return to some home cooking inside of the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Monday, Nov. 21 when they match up against the Florida A&M Rattlers. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m.
Inspired by travel

Alumni art featured in “Voyageurs” exhibit at Frost

SANDY ZAPATA
Staff Writer

Jorge Fernandez and Andrea Lahoz are University alumni who exhibited their artwork at the Frost Art Museum on Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. The event was hosted by Le Cerle Français and Pi Delta Phi.

The exhibition is aptly entitled “Voyageurs” because Lahoz and Fernandez have traveled to several destinations in including Europe, Asia and the Caribbean. Lahoz and Fernandez are French and Pi Delta Phi.

The event was hosted by Le Cerle Art Museum on Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.

The exhibition is aptly entitled "Voyageurs" because Lahoz and Fernandez have traveled to several destinations in including Europe, Asia and the Caribbean.

Fernandez graduated in 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in international business and marketing with a minor in French. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in international business through the Chapman Graduate School of Business and Fernandez is expected to graduate August 2012.

As a currently enrolled full-time student, his biggest struggle is finding time to dedicate to his hobby, painting.

"Whenever I have time to paint, it’s a miracle," said Fernandez.

Fernandez recalled his first encounter with the arts and his family’s reaction to his decision of being an artist.

“My family was kind of discouraging. To them, it was an unstable career and not very realistic.”

Yet despite his family’s disparaging outlook, Fernandez continued to paint. With the guidance of his high school teacher, he learned the technicalities of the materials and the results that they would produce.

Fernandez uses oils to paint landscapes, portraits and architecture. He describes his work as classical and compares it to 18th and 19th century work.

"I paint what I see and what I like — things that are beautiful to me," said Fernandez.

In 2009, before graduating, Fernandez decided to take a trip that he’s always wanted to go experience. He went backpacking through Europe with a set budget of $20 a day, which included meals and transportation.

Fernandez traveled to London, Spain, Portugal, Paris, Florence, Venice, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic and many more interlinear cities and towns he never expected to encounter.

"The experience was extremely enriching," said Fernandez.

His 45-day trip changed his perspective about life more than he had expected.

"I paint what I see and what I like — things that are beautiful to me," said Fernandez.

The most important thing he gained from his experience is to always expect the unexpected, never settle for the first answer and be very resourceful.

"The only thing I want is to have a decent job in my field, live decently and be happy with whatever I do, which will always include painting," shared Fernandez.

Lahoz graduated with a degree in international relations and, in 2010, earned a minor in French, Portuguese and Art History.

She considers herself an amateur photographer and says her motivation to stay interested in photography is a direct result of her travels.

"The experience was extremely enriching," said Fernandez.

In 2006, she traveled along with the Modern Languages Department to France.

She toured Belo Horizonte, Brazil in 2008 with the Modern Languages Department and in 2009 she went to Italy with the Honors College.

During her last semester in 2010, she voyaged with the University’s Semester At Sea program and traveled around the world.

Lahoz said she shared her travels with her family and friends through photography. They were quick to compliment and encourage her.

“They would tell me I have a good eye for photography, which encouraged me to continue taking pictures” recounted Lahoz.

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Presently, Lahoz is interning at the David Castillo Gallery in the Wynwood area of Miami and aspires to continue working with the arts as she continues her education.

She is planning on returning to school during the fall 2012 to pursue her master’s degree in a program called Creative and Cultural Industries at the London Metropolitan University.

This is her first exhibit and she is “super excited, thrilled and honored to be able to present my work at The Frost Art Museum.”

Both Fernandez and Lahoz said their experiences acquired through traveling have affected their lives.

“Do not be a tourist, be a traveler,” said Fernandez.

Through the University’s Semester At Sea program, alumna Andrea Lahoz was able to visit Asia. (Above) A photo Lahoz took in Thailand.

The most important thing he gained from his experience is to always expect the unexpected, never settle for the first answer and be very resourceful.

“If I paint, I can make a living. There’s no end to it.”

Lahoz graduated with a degree in international relations and, in 2010, earned a minor in French, Portuguese and Art History.

She considered herself an amateur photographer and says her motivation to stay interested in photography is a direct result of her travels.

“One of the highlights of traveling has to be meeting new people and coming together through the arts.”

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Poor acting on ‘A Gifted Man’ negates interesting plot line

Supernatural Drama: “A Gifted Man”

CBS, Fridays at 8 p.m.

Director Jonathan Demme and creator Susannah Grant did a great job assembling a cast that has either starred in or appeared in notable films, such as Jennifer Ehle in “The King’s Speech,” Emmy winner Margo Martindale and one of the most watched actors on television, Patrick Wilson. Regardless, you would think that, with such a cast, the acting wouldn’t be totally atrocious; I was wrong before I came to that assumption — my first mistake was feeding this show to my DVR.

“A Gifted Man” has the premise of an ingenuous, arrogant doctor named Michael Holt (Wilson) who is accustomed to his opulent lifestyle. He gets an unexpected visit from his dead ex-wife, Anna Paul, who he claims to still love — you don’t see that very often. Anna lives in the in-between zone because she has “unfurnished business-ness.” She melts Michael’s heart of stone and twists his arm to be more humanitarian toward the less wealthy and to tend to the clinic she left behind by hiring Dr. Kate Sykora, played by Rachelle Lefevre (Twilight saga).

This show seems like it would be amazing, but there are too many sappy one-liners that make me question why I began watching the show in the first place. The acting, regardless of renowned prestige, is not genuine and comes as a melodrama that needs to be put to rest — hey Dr. Holt, you can handle that, right? I’ve been looking for a glimpse of hope for the show and, although it is impressive what Dr. Holt can do when his patients can’t afford to live without his help, I can definitely live without watching the show.

In the last episode, viewers were shocked when Michael examined a man in need of surgery, but comes to find that this man could have been behind Anna’s hit-and-run.

Although we realize that this patient was not the murderer, I wish he was because it would have been the answer to Anna’s questionable killing and it would have also been the highlight of the show. Producers definitely left room for a glimpse of hope for chemistry between Dr. Holt and Dr. Sykora and this would really encourage more viewers to tune in.

I’d like to see the growth of a doctor with a heart two sizes too small grow a little person as a result of the help of his dead ex-wife and explore a little outside the doctor scene; it’s just what a show like this needs.

I advise producers not to follow the steps taken by “Hurt of D’vine.” Rachel Bilson as a doctor would probably look for cancer, get distracted and pull out something else — maybe another cheesy line.

New addition to biggest shopping weekend of year

ESRA ERODOGAN
Lifef Editor

Thanksgiving is one of the few holidays that families make time to see each other. But this year, instead of enjoying a relaxing evening after dinner with family and friends, many will be gearing up for Black Friday shopping.

Stores are opening earlier than ever and many stores anticipate large crowds and lots of spending.

“I hate it. I prefer online shopping,” said Bianca Khan, a sophomore.

Poor acting on “A Gifted Man” negates interesting plot line

Small businesses are more passionate about what they’re doing and big corporations are more about the money than the product.

Rachel Miller, Senior, Biology

Some may be put off by this campaign being spear-headed by a corporation like American Express, but it seems like the credit card company is using its capital to help expose small businesses.

The Facebook page for the event provides small business owners the tools to make a short commercial and a listing organized by zip code so consumers can find businesses to support in their area.

“Small businesses look more at quality and support that other local businesses and large corporations sourced from sweatshops to get the cheapest product possible; that makes them special. I do and will continue to support them,” said Miller.

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Students treated as customers

ANTHONY PERERA
Contributing Writer

Students have many options for education these days, but while there are many great options, there are also many schools out there behaving more like businesses than actual learning institutions.

Profits are the motivation behind business. To attain the highest profits possible, the business needs to constantly cut its budgets. This is the model for every business, and is the reason why education should not be a business.

Each state has its publicly-funded schools and private institutions. Many of these are the same, but the private institutions are the smaller, for-profit schools. Everest and Keiser are two examples of this business model in Florida.

These schools spend the majority of their beginnings trying to become accredited by the state, as this is the only way its students will be able to receive state funds such as financial aid.

Many of these schools are online-only, which means they have no physical campus or facility, which is a clear indication of just how profitable they can be.

According to hackaducation.com, University of Phoenix’s profits rose $1.33 billion in one quarter, despite a disappointing 42 percent drop in student enrollment.

Another outrageous number is the amount that these schools spend on the marketing of their brand, which is often more than what they spend on the curriculum or actual teaching that goes on in the classroom.

According to adee.com, University of Phoenix spends over $100 million on ad campaigns alone.

These schools, while having the benefit of flexible scheduling, which is more of a marketing tool than anything else because of the fact that most major institutions offer the same thing, are the subject of much scrutiny because of the many negative allegations made by its students.

A “PBS Frontline” documentary titled “College Inc.” discusses that very matter. In this documentary, former students of major-for-profit institutions gave candid interviews on the subject of the faulty education they received at these schools.

Many of these for-profit schools that offer nursing programs have a clause in their enrollment contracts that states that the locations of their training are subject to change at any time.

The moment students sign these contracts, there is nothing they can do after graduating if they feel that the school did not give proper schooling.

According to Nora, Martha and Susan, graduates of Everest College, if they were to apply for a hospital job, it would be very difficult to get that job if the employer sees that the prospective student has never practiced in an actual hospital, which is exactly what happened during their respective job searches.

In their cases, the college claimed they would have the opportunity to train in a hospital, but because of that clause on the contract, they were not legally obligated to do so and are safe from legal action.

That is a simple technique used by every company to maximize profits: do anything and everything to trick the customer into paying. Clauses are something that do not belong in school contracts, but they are a common sight in businesses, which is precisely what these institutions are.

The main objective of these colleges is to make money, just like any other business. They are not wrong in how they run their schools; they are simply doing what is necessary for their bottom line.

Their ultimate responsibility is to please their shareholders and CEO, not their students, which is why they should be seen more as companies with clients instead of schools with students.

The professors at these schools pay for the services that should ultimately lead to an end, such as a meaningful learning experience, but the college is not concerned with that end as much as they are with the means.

Here at the University, the school is funded by the state, which means the government oversees financial affairs and has an invested interest in the students and the college not taking advantage of its funds. That is the way it should work.

There is no negative accusation that can honestly be made to the for-profit schools, as they are only doing what every single business should do, which is to make as much money as possible.

What students need to decide is whether or not they are comfortable going to an institution that sees them as a customer, and not as a student.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Proposed activity tax an asinine ploy to swindle paying students

One of the principal roles of CSO is to fairly allocate funds to the various student organizations. However, as revealed in the November 4 SGA University Wide Meeting, CSO wants to take those funds back, in what it calls an “activity charge.” What I call an “involvement tax.”

Essentially, members of clubs would be charged a fee to host events. I have never heard anything more asinine.

For starters, the SGA and CSO constitution only gives them the authority to allocate funds, not impose fees. Second, it is explicitly illegal under Florida Law to charge students to participate in an event funded by A&S funds.

According to Sanjeev Udhani, the “involvement tax” would save SGA money during the budget deliberations in the Spring semester. He also stated that USF and FSU allow their clubs to charge fees.

This is not true. I contacted the CSO equivalents at USF (Center for Student Involvement) and FSU (Student Activities Center). I was told that in no uncertain terms were Udhani’s statements true. I checked the statutes of both universities – they clearly state that clubs funded in part or whole by A&S Funds could not charge students for entry into events or for membership in the club. Also, neither council changes any kind of an “involvement tax”.

In addition, if there were funds leftover in the CSO budget, it would be put into the A&C account managed by Student Affairs Vice President Rose Jones, which is different than SGA’s A&C to use. So I can only assume Udhani was mistaken when he spoke at the November 4 meeting.

More alarming however, is the extreme secrecy in which CSO advisor Ayana Wilson and President Elizabeth Fava have taken in proposing this. If you examine the CSO executive minutes, which are more accurately called agendas due to their inexcusable lack of information, you will find not only any mention of this proposal. (The “minutes” simply list the topics each executive member spoke about, but do not give any information about what was actually said.)

I demand to know why CSO is purposefully omitting information about such a drastic policy from their minutes. If this “involvement tax” proposal was being discussed in other meetings, why were they not advertised and made open to the public as required by Sunshine Law?

I don’t know why CSO wants to do this, but I do know why I care. CSO is a unique organization in that its budget can never be affected by the budget cuts facing education in Florida. Its budget comes solely from the A&S fees, which come out of student tuition. With millions in budget cuts, there are, CSO cannot be affected.

I salute SGA for tabling the vote on the proposal until their next meeting and beg them to vote NO on this “involvement tax.” And I strongly encourage the CSO clubs to stand up to the CSO executive board on this issue. Students already pay A&S fees; they should not have to pay again.

Ben F. Badger Jr. / CSRF Director of Alumni Relations
Soccer tournament draws students

Raul Reis appointed as SJMC dean

Josha Seemungal
Contributing Writer

The Biscayne Bay Campus Recreation Center collaborated with the BBC Futbol Club and International Student Scholar Services to host the inaugural FIU BBC World Cup Futbol Tournament at the North Miami Athletic Stadium on Nov. 18. Events like these allow us to build greater relationships with students like those with the BBC Futbol Club," said Val Butler, Recreational Center general assistant and organizer of the FIU BBC World Cup Futbol Tournament. The event is the first of its kind, and consisted of five teams: Uruguay, Haiti, Ukraine, Cambodia and Catalonia, going along with the international theme, was held in celebration of the University’s International Education Week, which featured guest speakers, lectures, demonstrations, and a study abroad fair.

Ukraine defeated Cambodia in the final 1-0 to win the tournament. “There are always people who play basketball and soccer in their own time, but we wanted something connected to FIU,” said BBC Futbol Club president Maria N. Reynaga.

Despite the increment weather, the first game kicked off at 11 a.m. and saw Catalonia emerge victorious against Uruguay thanks in part to an audacious back-heeled goal by team captain Carlos Forero. This moment of inspiration set the tone for a tournament that proved competitive and entertaining.

“I haven’t played soccer in months, so every time I play I appreciate it,” said Nick Kalf, sophomore student from the Netherlands.

As the games progressed at a high tempo, the tackles and shots came in from everywhere, leaving little time for rest. Played in a round robin tournament, every team had the opportunity to test themselves against the other four teams. After the first few games no team dominated procedures, and it all came down to the final first round matches to determine who would meet in the World Cup Final. At the end of two closely fought semi-final games, Cambodia and Ukraine emerged.

The two teams would take on each other one last time in a 20-minute game. Shelley Printsen, from team Ukraine, raced down the right wing and shot from distance into the roof of the net to score the game winning goal. It was a fitting end to a tournament held in celebration of International Education Week, Printems, a Haitian, had won the World Cup for Ukraine.

And with the tournament having proven to be a success, Butler revealed that the event would be held annually. “We definitely intend to do this every year,” said Butler.

SOC to thank members with Fall Feast

Fu Zhou Wu
Contributing Writer

The idea of giving thanks, is one that is ingrained in American society and celebrated every year through Thanksgiving feasts.

To give thanks to members of the Biscayne Bay Campus’ diverse group of student organization members, the Student Organization Council is throwing their annual Fall Feast on Nov. 21 at the Wolfe University Center Ballroom from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

At the event, participants will be able take part in a variety of craft activities such as making hand turkeys and decorating different Thanksgiving themed items. Every year, SOC hosts a social event for all members of its organization.

“It is a get-together with our clubs. [The Fall Feast] is not about Thanksgiving, but it has the same idea of giving thanks to our clubs for their involvement and their hard work throughout the semester,” said Mais Kayyali, president of SOC.