HOLIDAY TUNES

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS

Second road could have environmental impact

REBECCA BURTON
Contributing Writer

While most students who attend the Biscayne Bay Campus despise the school zone that seems to go on for miles on the only street leading onto campus, the construction of a second road would have had serious environmental consequences.

Vice Provost Steven Moll believes that another road is necessary, but environmentalists at BBC are worried that the construction will pose a threat to mangroves that are crucial to the ecosystem of Biscayne Bay.

Moll has long thought of BBC as “Biscayne the beautiful” because it is located on what used to be an abundant coastal mangrove forest on a 200-acre piece of land east of NE 151 Street. The environmental impacts caused by the killing of mangroves is creating challenges for Moll, who wishes to expand the younger campus.

Moll said with three schools on one road, the safety of 12,000 students is at stake.

The options of the new road are either an extension of NE 135 Street, NE 143 Street, or NE 163 Street along the Oleta River.

Moll strongly pushed for NE 135 Street, but North Miami Councilman Scott Galvin is strongly opposed.

Galvin, a University alumus, said he helped make the area of the proposed extension into a nature preserve and worked hard to restore its natural mangroves. He even had a bike path installed along the new preserve.

“I strongly oppose the extension of NE 151st Street because it is a quiet, residential neighborhood,” Galvin said during a phone interview. “To put a road there destroys the environment.”

The other two options also require the building of mangroves. Red, black, and white mangroves are native to South Florida’s estuary system and are key species to the rest of the ecosystem in north Biscayne Bay.

Zack Jud, a University doctoral student who studies the environmental impacts caused by depletion of mangroves, specializes his research in the history of BBC.

Before this coastal oasis was FIU, Jud said, it was one of the most dense mangrove forests in Florida. In the 1950s, in the spirit of spreading American trade to Latin America, plans for an international marketplace were proposed. Interama, as it was named, never achieved reality.

Due to political reasons under the Nixon administration and bankruptcy, only one building was constructed for Interama before the plans were cancelled. That structure today is the Hospitality and Tourism Management building.

Unfortunately, the damage to the mangroves was already done. Most of them were dug up and made into sub canals of the bay. The extra land was to be a study foundation for the buildings that never did on the drawing board. The state of Florida then deemed the piece of land be used for educational purposes and it eventually became BBC.

According to Jud, 80 percent of the mangroves that used to be here are gone, the landscape has changed dramatically and so has the ecosystem.

NEW ROAD, page 8

Organization aims to help Nicaraguan kids

EISSY DE LA MONEDA
Staff Writer

Helping people in need has been on the University’s radar lately. From designing shoes for children in Haiti to designing sites for children in Nicaragua, the University continues to emphasize the importance of giving back to the less fortunate.

Its most recent accomplishment was the task of assisting the Imagination Federation with the usability and effectiveness of their social networks in order to raise money and awareness on the issue of underprivileged children in Nicaragua.

The Imagination Federation is part of Friends of Students, a non-profit organization founded in 2006 by students in New York; its aim is to address the problem of poverty and homelessness.

The federation is the Florida chapter of this organization and aims to help with the education of underprivileged Nicaraguan children in the community of Chacanaeca. The organization seeks to raise awareness in the U.S. on the struggles occurring in Nicaragua.

Established in 2007, the Imagination Federation is a graduate class’ response to the work of Civil Rights leaders Bob Moses and Vincent Harding. Originally, the federation’s goal was to create a learning community for teachers. However, with so much interest and participation coming from students, they decided to change their focus.

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Check out the Graduation issue on Dec. 12 for commencement names and a peek back at Fall 2011.

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FACULTY PROFILE

Prof. Yawney takes the stage

CAROLINA ALCALA
Contributing Writer

The day had just begun and students were sipping coffee as a member of the English department took the stage.

Michael Yawney mbs his full head of salt-and-pepper hair as his eyes look eager to engage in conversation.

Yawney, an assistant professor of directing, playwriting and theatre history at the University, has written several plays, including “1,000 Homosexuals.”

But his biggest challenge every day is to confirm his bashfulness.

“I’m really shy,” he said as he tucked his head under his arms like a turtle. “I’m not good with self-promotion. It’s been a really big obstacle for me because I can’t go out there and say ‘I just came up with the next big thing!’ Even if I did it’s a job for me and it’s not something I do naturally.”

Growing up in poverty made me happy to just be able to do what I’m doing.

—Michael Yawney, assistant professor Department of Theatre

Some of his students disagree. “There is never a dull moment with him,” said Jason Caceres, a bachelor of fine arts student in the theatre program. “He speaks about every subject that he teaches with such passion that it is actually an inspiration to sit and listen. He is one of the most encouraging teachers I have ever had to this day.”

Given his past, that may come as no surprise.

“Growing up poor has really affected the way I deal with certain things,” Yawney said. “You know, growing up in poverty made me happy to just be able to do what I’m doing. I never thought I’d leave New York. I spent 20 years of my life there and I’d never thought I’d move or learn to drive a car, but here I am.”

Yawney is always working with his students, trying to get them to think out of the box so that their work on the stage becomes a tangible experience for the audi-
Corrections
In Vol. 23, Issue 45 of The Beacon in the At the Bay section, the article “SEAS creates clean water program for African villages” incorrectly refers to SEAS as the School of Environmental Arts and Sciences. It is called the School of Environment, Arts and Society.

The Beacon will gladly change errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Experts analyze state palm trees

By Michael Yawney

Florida’s warm, humid climate and abundant rainfall make it a fitting environment for palm trees, even though only a dozen kinds are native to the state.

“People view Florida as a tropical paradise, and people have brought in non-native palm trees to symbolize the tropics,” said Michael Ross, an environmental researcher at the University of Florida. Florida has imported palm trees from all parts of the world including Asia and South America. The Coconut Palm is not a native species in Florida but is something that everyone likes to see.

It also is one of the most attractive and most valuable of the species. Its wood is pressed to extract oils for dyes and finishes and it is a key component in parquet flooring and furniture. The Coconut Palm produces more than 60 coconuts a year, Ross said. “[It] can be used to make medicine for problems in the heart, kidney and liver. Other uses can be for food, candles, soap and an array of products.”

Florida has more imported palm trees than native trees.

Native palm trees in Florida include only 12 palm tree species, said Scott Zona, green house curator at the Department of Biological Sciences. Some of them are the Palmover, Needle, Cabbage, Thatch, Silver, and Palm over.

“The Parlor Palm grows in the wetlands prominently,” Zona said. “It is the most widely distributed in the Everglades. The Needle Palm is a trunk-less palm that is small and shrubby and grows up to five feet. It’s popular in Florida’s landscape for both residential and commercial. Thatch Palm is used to make tiki huts and the Silver Palm grows in the pine forest.”

The Cabbage Palm is also called the Hearts Palm and it is Florida’s official state tree. Zona said. “The Cabbage Palm produces heart of palm that is like an artichoke. It is edible and used to put in salads. However, extracting the heart kills the species of the palm and eventually the palm dies.”

Palm trees are remarkably resistant to high winds and floods, which is why many palm trees in Florida remain after hurricanes and tropical storms.

They play an ecological role by bearing fruit for animals. Many palm trees like the Thatch and Silver palms produce small fruit, Ross said.

Some palm trees on Florida’s endangered list due to commercial development, natural events and construction in developing areas.

Some endangered tree species are Florida’s Royal Palm, Silver Palm, and Thatch Palm. Florida and federal laws protect endangered palm trees.

If you are interested in purchasing palm trees from the state and federal level. Tourists can’t imagine the Florida state tree being anything but a palm and Floridians see the palm as a huge tourist attraction that brings revenue into the Sunshine State. And researchers like Zona and Ross have a third angle of vision.

“For tourists in Florida palm trees symbolize a tropical environment that seems romantic,” Ross said.

People think of a palm tree they also tend to think relaxation.

“For most people palm trees signify sun-drenched beaches, vacations, stress-free living and Margaritaville,” Zona said.

“But palm trees are also a fascinating evolutionary story of flower pollinating plants, with enormous diversity and important ecological roles.”

This story was researched and written for JOU 1000 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. You can see this and other class work by going to thenews-wave.org.
SPORTS

HOME COOKING

Panthers look to extend their winning streak at home

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

After their last second victory against Coastal Carolina, FIU will play their second game in a three day span, having traveled to Atlanta on Dec. 1 to face Georgia State. Now the team is returning home for a game against Alabama State on Dec. 3.

TIMELY DEFENSE

Although Coastal Carolina shot 50 percent from the field against the Golden Panthers, FIU was able to make an important defensive stop down the stretch. The key moment before the game winning shot by Jeremy Allen came in the final 10 seconds of the game.

With the game tied at 62, the Golden Panthers were able to force Anthony Raffa to miss the jumper. Credit for the key defensive stop can go to film study that FIU had on Coastal Carolina in their previous game against Clemson.

“They ran a play against Clemson where they cleared it out over the top… We had gone over that and reminded the kids in the huddle that that could possibly be the play that they run,” coach Isiah Thomas said.

“They ran the clear out up the top and Jeremy happened to be the one guarding the guy at the top and he did an excellent job.”

Allen leads the way

Senior guard Allen is off to a quick start in the first five games of the season. His 15.8 points per game average leads the Golden Panthers.

In Allen’s first five games last season, he averaged only 8.8 points per game. On the defensive end, Allen has made his presence felt. Allen’s 3.6 steals per game is tops for the Golden Panthers in his second season after transferring from Central Michigan.

“His defense is spectacular,” coach Thomas said of Allen. “I think he’s one of the top defenders right now in the country at his position. From when we first got him, his confidence has steadily grown. He’s knocking down shots and giving us good leadership.”

SCOUTING REPORT: ALABAMA STATE

Alabama State comes to U.S. Century Bank Arena on Dec. 3 looking to right themselves after a rough start to their season. Offensively, the Hornets are led by Termaine Butler, who leads the team with 15.5 points per game.

Kenderek Washington follows with his 14.3 points per game and three steals per game average. In their first four games, the Hornets were defeated by an average of 15.7 points per game.

FOOTBALL

Panthers must sit and wait for bowl fate on Sunday

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

All season long, FIU had control of their own destiny. Where the team ended up at the end of the year depended on the performance on the field, not any other game. Their fate now lies in the hands of other teams who are trying to bid for a bowl spot.

As of Wednesday, there were exactly 70 teams that can be eligible after Saturday is 75 and at least 71. Anywhere from 1-5 teams that become eligible will not make a bowl.

WVU AT USF

As FIU fans sit at home watching the final week of college football games, they will have to cheer for other teams besides their own. It all started yesterday when West Virginia played USF. A Bulls loss will eliminate them from bowl contention, thus helping FIU in their hopes for a bowl trip.

UCLA AT OREGON

The Pac-12 title game features Oregon vs UCLA (6-6). Even though the Bruins have six wins, they will not qualify to be bowl eligible if they lose, because they will not have at least a .500 record.

However, UCLA could get a waiver to be in a bowl anyway, making the loss mean nothing. Nevertheless, still go for the Ducks in this one, just in case UCLA does not get accepted if they fall to 6-7.

SMU AT HOUSTON

Eyes should also be locked onto three noon games on Saturday. Root for Houston to beat Southern Miss in the C-USA title game.

If Houston wins, they will go undefeated and lock up a BCS bowl, leaving C-USA with some spots to fill for their bowl tie ins. The only reason to be
As season ends, Rodgers continues to produce for owners

B ROWN Black Friday and the NFL, it seems as though Americans are stepping away from the traditional Thanksgiving, where families spend all day together and reminiscing the year’s sports. I feel there’s nothing wrong with a little tradition, and football.

Aaron Rodgers celebrated his “discount double-check” dance twice on Thanksgiving, throwing the ball for 307 yards as well.

The second game on Thanksgiving featured a must win game for America’s team: The Dallas Cowboys, who pulled a nail biting 20-19 win over the sympathetic Miami Dolphins. The star of the game was the newly resurrected Laurent Robinson, who had an impressive 84 yards and two touchdowns on the day.

This was definitely a receiver’s game, seeing that Brandon Marshall had nearly 130 yards and a touchdown. Jason Witten had a mediocre game with only 43 yards, but had a very positive sports jock moment when he tackled into a Cowgirl cheerleader and immediately helped her up afterwards.

The last game of the night included the “Harbaugh Bowl,” where both Jim and John Harbaugh went head-to-head for the first time in their NFL careers. It wasn’t pretty, but the more NFL experienced Harbaugh got the job done.

The Ravens won 16-6. Joe Flacco had an impressive game throwing for 161 yards and a touchdown against a top-three defense. The Ravens defense completely dominated the 49ers offense with nine sacks on the game.

THE TRASH BIN

Dexter McCluster (Kansas City Chiefs) - Thomas Jones and Jackie Battle are making an incredible comeback. McCluster got first dibs at the starting job when Jamal Charles was left injured for the season.

He quickly lost his job to Battle and Jones. The small back is showing no signs of elusiveness.

Trash him.

Isaac Redman (Pittsburgh Steelers) - Dwyer has caught the eye of Mike Tomlin and has knocked Redman to the curb. With Mendenhall on his way back to the starting job, Redman’s career will be lost hope. Basarra.

Pierre Garcon (Indianapolis Colts) - Not only are the Colts defeated, but the more Painter has lost his quarterback relationship with Garcon. Their offense isn’t working and Garcon isn’t in the mix.

UNDER THE CRUZAR

Roy Helu (Washington Redskins) - The running back situation in the country’s capital is really starting to get confusing.

Just start Roy Helu since last week’s performance were above and beyond every other Skins back. He has been the most productive back in a season that went from something to nothing. Washington Roulette.

Riley Cooper (Philadelphia Eagles) - With five catches for 75 yards and a touchdown, for the time being, Cooper is the number one target in Andy Reid’s offense.

It looks like Tim Tebow isn’t the only Florida alum making a name for himself this season. Vince Young loves the former Gator and will continue to throw to him. Swamp Thing.

Johnny Knox (Chicago Bears) - With no Jay Cutler pulling the trigger, Mr. Haney is really catching a liking for Johnny Knox, who had nearly 150 yards and a touchdown last week. Cutler is missing the rest of the regular season due to injury, and Haney’s confidence in Knox isn’t going anywhere. Here’s Johnny.

CHRISTMAS EVE IN HAWAII

Christmas Eve in Hawaii may be a bowl option

NBA

Lebron excited over end of lockout

RACHEL COHEN | AP Staff Writer

With hundreds of boxes of food sitting behind them ready to be distributed to Brooklyn families, LeBron James and his famous friends were determined to stay on message.

More than two dozen media members crowded around James, Dwanye Wade, Carmelo Anthony and Chris Paul on Nov. 29, and question after question came about the NBA with a tentative deal in place to end the lockout.

Paul left the New Orleans to join Anthony with the Knicks? Are the new rules designed to prevent stars from abandoning smaller-market teams as James and Anthony did?

“As far as the ins and outs of the deal, we won’t discuss today,” James said. “I think right now the most I’m focusing on is getting all these boxes out of my house in North Carolina and getting everything shipped back to New Orleans so I can get ready for the season.”

Paul leave New Orleans to join Anthony with the Knicks? Are the new rules designed to prevent stars from abandoning smaller-market teams as James and Anthony did?

“Ah, man, I have no idea about that different type stuff,” he said. “I think right now the thing I’m most focused on is getting all these boxes out of my house in North Carolina and getting everything shipped back to New Orleans so I can get ready for the season.”

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What seniors wish they had known as freshman

SYLVIAN SIMONI
Staff Writer

Picture this: a mountain of paperwork on your desk consisting of applications to graduate school, transcripts and 4000-level term papers; an updated, classier wardrobe with no trace of the gym shorts you wore for an entire month; and finally, the unsettling mentality that asks, “Where do I go from here?”

If you’re a senior, all of the above holds true. You are graduating.

The saving grace of your anxiety is that you’ve already been through the process of adjusting to a new environment and hidden under your sleeve are the tips and tricks to four successful years at the University.

“The first thing I wish I knew are the additional classes to the bases don’t card,” jokes Stephen Meadows, a psychology major.

“Really though, if there’s something I wish I knew as a freshman, it’s getting rid of my University Core Curriculum requirements — as quickly as possible.”

See an academic advisor as soon as possible. Otherwise, you’re looking to stay here an extra year or two than intended — personal experience.

The mandatory courses listed under the University Core Curriculum are designed to give students a well-rounded base in their college career. It rests upon the faculty’s belief that a foundational curriculum fosters intellectual development and enhances personal, social, intellectual and academic relations.

“Get your hands on the Plan of Study sheet for a few majors you’re interested in,” suggested Meadows. “If the majors you’re pursuing are distinctly related, you’ll most likely find that there’s a similar requirement between both tracks. It will save you time and money.”

Seniors also stress the importance of knowing the lay of the land.

Carlos Martinez, a computer science major, remarks, “I know this sounds ridiculous, but take advantage of the campus tours conducted by your peer advisor at [Freshman] Orientation. Every year I end up taking some class at a building I’ve never been to and I never get a chance to look for it until the first day of class.”

Some freshmen become intimidated by the power and mastery of their professors in the subjects they teach, but seniors advise not to cower in a corner — of the classroom, that is.

“I’m an athletic and fairly big guy: six feet tall and around 200 pounds. That didn’t stop me from my international problems professor — all 5 feet and 8 inches of him — scaring the living daylights out of me for the first few weeks. But then I worked up the courage to meet with him during office hours to discuss a paper, and I was blown away by how helpful and sincere he was,” shared Manuel Ortega, an international relations major.

“Most of your professors want to share their knowledge with you. They were undergrads just like you and me. They understand.”

Academics aren’t the only layer of brick and mortar in the college experience that has been to and I never get a chance to look for it until the first day of class.”

Students help Imagination Federation with marketing

IMAGINATION, page 1

the focus of the organization to a more global perspective.

Nicaragua was of immediate focus because so many members of the organization had ties to the country. Alex Salinas, Emily Sendin, Carlos Morales and Paul Feigenbaum run the federation.

“We want to benefit Nicaragua because of the issues many of the people involved and show them how to deal with these types of issues. We want to think of others rather than ourselves and teach people to be selfless,” said Morales.

The Imagination Federation has taken eight trips to Nicaragua since they first began. The trips bring the children of Chacraseca food, clothes and most importantly, an education.

The federation has funded five homes and opened a secondary school in the area, since most schools are located miles away from the homes in Chacraseca.

In addition to the donations and new constructions, the federation created the Tengo Un Sueño or I Have a Dream project. The project supports 34 kindergarten and first grade students by providing them with uniforms, school supplies, lunch, teachers, school organizers and tutoring.

The project is a 16-year agreement among parents, teachers and school organizers to provide the kids with any necessary tools for academic success. The project’s main goal is to support the children from primary school to college. The federation provides $20 a month per child in order for them to attend school and it does not include teachers’ salaries.

With so many children to support, it is no surprise that donations and awareness are major contributors to the federation.

They have not had much success, but fortunately Professor Ben Lauren came across the federation after searching for service learning projects for his technical writing class.

Fellow educator Feigenbaum heard he was looking to help and told Professor Lauren about the organization’s situation.

“Paul told me about the federation and it seemed like a worthy cause. I felt like students would understand and support the organization. The federation needed things that we could provide for them,” said Lauren.

He assigned his class to redesign the federation’s website, blog, newsletter, logo, website and blog content.

Without much experience in usability, the sponsors of the federation have not been able to achieve the level of awareness or money they require in order to keep helping the children in Nicaragua.

The federation hopes that the technical writing class can help them achieve that with more user-friendly, attractive utilities.

The class’ main goal is to provide the federation with sites that are easy to navigate, content that is easy to understand and, most importantly, an efficient and practical way to raise awareness and donations to pursue their cause for a better future for the children of Chacraseca.

When asked how she felt about doing this project, freshman Matha Altamiranda, a member of the blog design team, said,

“I’m glad we got the opportunity to help an organization with a great cause. Our skills as a team have allowed us to be part of a bigger picture. Now that my team has designed them a new blog, we will be able to transmit their experiences effectively and hopefully gain the attention and support they need.”
Undergraduates should study abroad, take advantage

The Beacon – Friday, December 2, 2011 www.fiusm.com

**EDITORIAL**

Imagine losing a pound of weight a day while having a sound stomach for a month. H. G. Wells, author of *When the Sleeper Wakes*, would have written it as dream come true; many see it as a dieting danger. The HCG diet has grown in popularity because of its fast results, hunger suppression, and exercise free regimen. HCG, or Human Chorionic Gonadotropin, is a hormone released during pregnancy that guarantees the attainment of necessary nutrients for proper fetal growth by using up the mother’s stored fat, regardless of her caloric intake. Dieters determine their HCG dose per day depending on their height and weight. Upon starting, they are counselled against checking the scale for at least two weeks while usually taking in a very limited diet. With this in mind, it is only natural that many clinicians are hesitant to recommend this diet so readily.

**TECHNOLOGY**

The University’s upperclassmen are reflecting upon many voice their desire to turn back time upon. Many voice their desire to turn back time

**COMMENTS**


**SPORTS**

Kenneth Branagh is terrific as Kenneth Branagh is terrific as

**FIT FOR LIFE**

Trendy HCG diet does enable weight loss, but at a price

**NEWS**

HCG diet does cause many participants to experience

**ART BASEL WEEKEND EVENTS**

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<td><strong>P*K Me I’m Famous! by Cathy and David Guetta</strong> 11 p.m. U.V., $200 via wantickets.com, ages 21 over and up</td>
<td><strong>Tom Tom Magazine’s Art Base Showcase with Holly Hunt, Snakehale, The State Of, and others</strong> 8 p.m., Churchill’s Pub, tickets $7 at the door</td>
<td><strong>Crozstown Rebels present Get Los</strong> Art Basel with Damon Albarn, Clive, Henry, Lee Curtis, and others: Noon, Electric Pickle, tickets $35 plus fees via eventbrite.com, ages 21 and up</td>
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<td><strong>Fab 5 Freddy and Ninjasonik</strong> 7 p.m., Fountain Art Fair Miami, one-day tickets cost $10 plus fees via eventbrite.com, ages 21 and up</td>
<td><strong>FIU New Music Ensemble at Art Basel</strong> 7:30-9 p.m. at the Betsy Hotel, open to the public</td>
<td><strong>Breakfast in the Park with Joel Perlman:</strong> 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., The Patricia &amp; Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami Beach</td>
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<td><strong>Entrepreneurship Workshop: Developing a Killer Business Plan</strong> 11 a.m., Business Center, $5 per session</td>
<td><strong>Choral Arts Series: Holiday Festival Choral Concert</strong> 7:30-9 p.m., St. Andrews Cathedral, $15.00 General Admission, $10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, $5.00 FIU Students/Alumni</td>
<td><strong>The FIU New Music Ensemble: 7:30-9 p.m.</strong> Harvard &amp; Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall, $15.00 General Admission, $10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, $5.00 FIU Students/Alumni</td>
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<td><strong>Keyboard Arts Series: Music For Piano</strong> 7:30-9 p.m., Herbert &amp; Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall, $15.00 General Admission, $10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, $5.00 FIU Students/Alumni</td>
<td><strong>Basel Castle 2011: 5 p.m., Overthrow Castle, tickets $10 at the door, ages 18 and up</strong></td>
<td><strong>Crosstown Rebels present Get Los</strong> Art Basel with Damon Albarn, Clive, Henry, Lee Curtis, and others: Noon, Electric Pickle, tickets $35 plus fees via eventbrite.com, ages 21 and up</td>
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| **Fit for Life is a bi weekly fitness column. Look for it every other Friday.** | **Phase 1: The Loading Phase** During the first two days of the HCG diet, clients are asked to eat as much as possible. The rationale behind this is that the surplus of fat will be stored away for later use. And energy that the client will need later in the program. **Phase 2: The Maintenance Phase** Following this food spurge is the most difficult part of the process. The dieter is asked to reduce their caloric intake to just five-hundred a day and continue taking their HCG drops. In addition, dairy, carbohydrates, alcohol, and sugary, containing drinks are strictly prohibited. Instead, people on the HCG diet consume their calories from organic meats, vegetables, fruits, and fish. Also, they are only allowed two-hundred grams of lean meats and up to 2 servings of fruit a day to curb sugar cravings, and are restricted to specific low-calorie vegetables like spinach, asparagus, and broccoli. This is where the dieting danger arises. Although there have been many positive testimonials on weight loss from the diet, not everyone is feeling a decrease in appetite and an increase in energy levels. Kimberly, a member of the Dr. Oz studio audience, was on the diet for forty days and lost twenty-five pounds. But she also lost her hair, and suffered from irritability and nausea while on the program. “It was very difficult to sustain over that period of time. I felt depressed, I was hungry,” she said. Another studio audience member, Nicole, also suffered side effects from the HCG diet. “About a week into it, I was extremely lethargic. I was tired. I had headaches, I didn’t feel good. And two weeks into it passed out!” Nicole consulted her physician only to discover that while on the diet, she could be placing her health and life in jeopardy. As advised, she took herself off the program immediately. Her menstrual cycle vanished for a period of four months. In addition to the side effects already mentioned, injections of the hormone can lead to blood clots, leg cramps, constipation, and breast tenderness. Extremely low-calorie diets in general can cause severe bone and muscle loss, electrolyte imbalances, and gallstones.

**ART BASEL WEEKEND EVENTS**

**FRIDAY, DEC. 2**

- **P*K Me I’m Famous! by Cathy and David Guetta** 11 p.m. U.V., $200 via wantickets.com, ages 21 over and up
- **Fab 5 Freddy and Ninjasonik** 7 p.m., Fountain Art Fair Miami, one-day tickets cost $10 plus fees via eventbrite.com, ages 21 and up
- **Entrepreneurship Workshop: Developing a Killer Business Plan** 11 a.m., Business Center, $5 per session
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**SATURDAY, DEC. 3**

- **Tom Tom Magazine’s Art Base Showcase with Holly Hunt, Snakehale, The State Of, and others** 8 p.m., Churchill’s Pub, tickets $7 at the door
- **FIU New Music Ensemble at Art Basel** 7:30-9 p.m. at the Betsy Hotel, open to the public
- **Choral Arts Series: Holiday Festival Choral Concert** 7:30-9 p.m., St. Andrews Cathedral, $15.00 General Admission, $10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, $5.00 FIU Students/Alumni
- **FIU Men’s Basketball vs. Alabama State** 7:30-10 p.m., U.S. Century Bank Arena

**SUNDAY, DEC. 4**

- **Crozstown Rebels present Get Los** Art Basel with Damon Albarn, Clive, Henry, Lee Curtis, and others: Noon, Electric Pickle, tickets $35 plus fees via eventbrite.com, ages 21 and up
- **Hard 2 Leave** 11:1 p.m., Goldrush Miami, tickets $10 plus fees via eventbrite.com, ages 21 and up
- **Breakfast in the Park with Joel Perlman:** 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum
- **The FIU New Music Ensemble: 7:30-9 p.m.** Harvard & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall, $15.00 General Admission, $10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, $5.00 FIU Students/Alumni

**WRITE TO CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED!**
Final council meeting of semester presents setbacks

The Nov. 28 Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus meeting, the last of the Fall 2011 semester, yielded little more than the same meandering confection of its inglorious past.

Each department is required to keep an inventory and know how much of each chemical is needed and exactly how much would go over the required amount. What this does is ensure that chemicals do not go to waste, and it minimizes the amount of capital spent on these substances each year, which is a simple win-win situation for everyone. The University is making sure to dispose of these chemicals after they have been used as safely as possible.

According to Environmental Labs Manager Seema Sah, the Environmental Health and Safety Department has established a team that goes in and collects the used chemicals, then gives the chemicals to independent contractors who dispose of the chemicals at their specific location. Something that we might not be the most responsible about is the amount of chemicals that go into our local bodies of water via pesticides and fertilizers that we add to our grass. While these chemicals are considered to be hazardous as well, there is not much of a safety net in place for them, as it is very difficult to tell just how much of these chemicals seep into our groundwaters.

A clear example of this is in the small pond just across from the northwest corner of the Owla Eban building. Since there is no movement in that pond, chemicals from the pesticides and fertilizers allow for eutrophication and speeds up the growth of any plant life in the pond, sucking all the oxygen out with it. This is a problem, and it is one that will not be easily solved, seen as how the natural alternative, such as natural manure and composted food, often produce foul odors and would make walking around school a very unpleasant experience.

Our university, like any other, has its share of environmental issues to look after, and the key to those issues being moved forward is an understanding of how we are dealing with them, or not dealing with them. We have many improvements to make, like beyond just the same meandering confection of its inglorious past.

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One of a kind, underwater lab used to study reefs

REBECCA BURTON  Contributing Writer

Key Largo is home to one of the world’s most vibrant coral reef systems, but overfishing of important herbivorous fish could threaten the health of these wonders that divers and snorkelers alike hold dear.

Doron Burklepale, 34, assistant professor of marine biology and oceanography at the University, discovered this in 2004 during a 10-day research mission on board the only underwater sea research vessel in the world, the Aquarius Undersea Laboratory. Located in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the Aquarius sits about 60 feet deep at the base of Conch Reef, about four miles from Key Largo. Aquarius is operated by the University of North Carolina Wilmington and is owned by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.

By living in the subtropical-like pressurized habitat, divers’ bodies become saturated with the maximum partial pressure of gas possible for that depth, a technique called saturation diving. Once their bodies are saturated, they can dive for up to nine hours in one day, and avoid the deadly decompression sickness known as “the bends.”

After a long day of diving, scientists, also called aquanauts, sleep, eat and even use the Internet for days at a time, instead of in any other laboratory in the world. This is possible from the Life Support Buoys that sit at the surface and is about 30 feet in diameter. The LSB is a platform that is connected to the sea lab and provides all of the gases needed for breathing underwater. Although convenient, the experience may not always be the most comfortable.

“The hardest part is being cold all the time, and constantly losing body heat,” Burklepale said, referring to the heavy air conditioning used in the lab to keep the correct air balance. Joseph Pawlik, 51, professor of marine science at UNC Wilmington, has conducted four missions since 1995 but has never been an aquanaut himself. “I got cold too easily,” Pawlik said. “But I never have trouble finding interested students to send down. The hardest part is denying students the opportunity to go.”

The prolonged experience allows divers to conduct extensive research that would be impossible if they had to return to the surface often. It is also more cost and time efficient. In Pawlik’s most recent mission, he sent students to monitor Caribbean barrel sponges. The information the aquanauts found could be important to monitoring the future effects of the BP oil gusher in the Gulf of Mexico.

Scientists who want to conduct research using Aquarius submit grant proposals to NOAA. If the proposals are deemed useful, scientists are invited to conduct their missions. The research they find is to help benefit the marine habitats not only in South Florida, but also around the world.

The Aquarius was built in 1986 and was first placed in the Virgin Islands. Thirteen missions later, it was moved to Wilmington to be refurbished after damage from Hurricane Hugo. In 1993, it was moved to its current location, and has since been home to more than 90 successful missions, including Burklepale’s. The director of Aquarius, Thomas Potts, 46, said that since its time in Key Largo “scientists have acquired a long-term dataset that is essential to comprehensive and intensively studying and documenting changes in a coral reef ecosystem that could not be attained by disparate research projects alone.”

Burklepale’s mission is proof of that. His mission was to reveal the need for diversity of herbivorous fish in coral reef systems. Burklepale and his graduate student, small submersible captain, Carlina Potts, a science graduate student at the University, conducted a mission in the Gulf of Mexico.

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After nine hours of diving for 10 days, Burklepale and his group of scientists found that certain species of seaweed aren’t eaten enough and their overgrowth could potentially harm the corals. He and his team also concluded that overfishing of certain herbivorous fish was affecting the seaweed balance and, therefore, the health of the coral systems.

Burklepale’s missions along with others at the laboratory have helped produce more than 300 peer-reviewed scientific publications, but scientific research isn’t the only use for the Aquarius. Potts said the sea lab is also used for underwater technology development and for ocean education and outreach as well as a national training facility for scientific divers.

Unlike Jules Undersea Hotel in Key Largo, not just anyone can stay at Aquarius. Divers must go through five days of additional SCUBA training. “We had to go through intense training,” Burklepale said. “Our instructors would mess with us, pull off our masks, and imitate actual emergency situations.”

Potts credits the stationary position of the Aquarius to its success. “I think the biggest benefit of the Aquarius is that it has been in place for 20 years in one location,” Potts said. “We can document long term changes and have long term data, which is very rare.”

Pawlik agrees.

“Key Largo is an excellent location with a great reef system,” Pawlik said. “There is a lot of topography and internal waves. The longer the laboratory is here, the more valuable information we can get.”

This story was researched and written for JOU 300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. A version of this story can be found on the website of the national conference of the Society of Environmental Journalists at the University of Miami. You can see this and other class work for SEJ at themiamiplanet.org or by going to thenewswave.org

City councilman says University is ‘stuck at this point’

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“There are few natural mangrove forests left in this part of town,” Jud said. “There are restoration proj- ects being done, but not nearly what it used to be.”

Jad, a specialist in marine life, said the real impor- tance of the mangroves is to stabilize the shoreline and provide habitats for fish and other aquatic species.

“These trees provide crucial habitats for fish that we find economically and ecologically important,” Jad said. “Fish like to eat such as lobster, snapper, grouper and stone crabs spend their juvenile stages living in the mangroves. By depleting them, we’re depleting the fish.”

Doron Burklepale, asso- ciate professor of marine biology and oceanography, agrees with Jad. He said coastal areas covered with mangroves produce more than 2,000 percent more fish.

Burklepale also said the killing of mangroves can indirectly cause bleaching of coral reefs. Certain herbivorous fish, like parrotfish, are the only food for mangroves as their homes. When mangroves are depleted, so are herbivorous fish. Without these crucial plant- ers, there is an abun- dance of algae that invades the corals. This causes the coral reefs to become, in essence, “algae reefs,” Burklepale said.

Moll understands the delicacy of the environ- ment the campus resides on, and the importance of these ecosystems. When the plans of the supplemental road are finalized, Moll said, “We are actively working to restore mangroves around campus.”

Jennifer Grimm, envi- ronmental coordinator at the University, said that this university, in partnership with Miami-Dade county schools, has committed funds to restore about 15 acres of mangrove habitat on BBC. The beginning of the process began with removing about seven acres of Austra- lian Pines, which are an invasive species, in order to replant mangroves in their place.

“The restoration will provide more habitat for wildlife, such as birds and fish,” Grimm said. “Additional, these ecosystems will absorb more water from sea level rise compared to that of an open area, such as a beach.”

Grimm also said there are plans to restore a portion of BBC into a mangrove-wetland system that will serve as a living learning lab for the university.

“This habitat will be protected for perpetuity.”

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. You can see this and other class work for SEJ at themiamiplanet.org or by going to themiamiplanet.org.