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ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT

Occupy members charged with ‘unlawful assembly’

MELISSA CACERES AND LAUREN ROVIRA FISU Staff
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Seven participants of the Occupy FIU Art & Music Festival were arrested around 5 p.m. on Jan. 12, on the Modesto Maidique Campus near the Deuxième Maison pit.

The people arrested were comprised of two FIU students, Carlos Ortiz and Derrick Mustelier; one alum, Alex Rosales; and four non-FIU students, Alfredo Quintero, Philip Picaza, Jonathan Brand and Raul Serrano.

All seven were charged with unlawful assembly and released from Miami-Dade County Jail the next day. Records show each was being held on $500 bond.

“(The police) told us we were being too loud and that we had to move,” said Picaza in an interview with Student Media. “When I raised my voice to inform everyone else, I was immediately grabbed and put under arrest and so were six other people just for being at the right place at the wrong time.”

Police officers were questioned by Student Media about the events at the DM pit, but refused to comment; instead directing all questions to the Office of Media Relations. In a response to The Miami Herald, Director of Media Relations Maydel Santana-Bruvo stated that the arrests happened because the students did not have a permit to protest in the area. “We asked them to stop, to move and leave. They refused,” Santana-Bruvo said. Around 20 people had gathered to set up for the concert series put on by Occupy FIU at the DM Pit, which was organized in support of the University’s Haiti earthquake anniversary commemoration.

Seven different local bands were scheduled to play from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.; three videographers were also present at the time. Formed in fall 2011, Occupy FIU is a group formed to emulate the Occupy Wall Street protests by localizing the discontent of the protesters to the overall discontent at the University. Their campaigns include bringing to light the “injustices behind tuition hikes, sordid university fees and the alarming privatization of public education.” According to several members, they had received prior verbal approval from the University’s ombudsman to host their event at that location.

Political science major William Sanchez, one of the main organizers of the event, said they were told that there should not be a problem and that the only thing that could disrupt the event is if someone were to complain about the noise. Yet in an interview later with Student Media, University Ombudsman Larry Lumsford claimed no such thing.

“I didn’t give them permission. The last time I spoke with the group was last fall and in no relation to yesterday’s event,” said Lumsford, who is in charge of resolving student issues with faculty, staff, departments or programs. “Perhaps they thought, if we throw out a name, they wouldn’t get arrested.”

The event had “hardly started,” according to members of Occupy FIU, when the authorities began to intervene.

As they attempted to set up, they were stopped by FIU police as well as two Miami-Dade County Police officers.

For about an hour, the Occupy members and police officers were turned away from the DM pit near the Deuxième Maison.

COMING UP | Life!
For a review on the popular novel, The Hunger Games, check out ‘Cover to Cover’ in the weekend edition on Jan. 20.

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Law Library acquires historic legal collection

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A victory for legal history has occurred, as a 6,000-volume collection of historic legal materials from Latin America and Europe kept by the College of Law will be the beneficiary of a $6,000 National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

The award is expected to aid in the care and restoration of the Mario Diaz Cruz Collection, donated by the Rainforth Foundation.

“The Mario Diaz Cruz Collection is of great value to legal scholars as it is the most significant collection of Cuban materials outside of Cuba,” said Teresa Stanton, director of the Law Library.

The compilation also contains works from other Latin American countries, as well as Italy, France and Spain.

The collection has its origins in 1915 Havana, where it was a working library for lawyer Mario Diaz Cruz.

His son, with his same name and also an attorney, brought the materials to Miami.

The works contain manuscripts, books and journals.

However, the collection also includes commentaries and treatises written by leading legal scholars between 1757 and 1959.

It also has judicial decisions from the Supreme Court of Justice of Cuba from 1903 to 1959.

The main emphasis of the library is private law, including commercial law, property, wills, banking, contracts and constitutional law.

“(The works) also represent a rare look into the legal world of pre-Castro Cuba and must be preserved so that they may be studied by the legal scholars of today as well as those of the future,” mentioned Stanton, who is also the associate dean of Information Services.

“This will benefit not only our own academic and legal communities, but also the general public. Very few law libraries in the country are fortunate enough to own many of the valuable materials that comprise the Mario Diaz Cruz collection as well as a first rate staff with expertise in dealing with Latin America,” affirmed Manuel Gomez, associate professor of Latin American law.

This is not the first time the NEH benefitted FIU, as it also provided a $6,000...
**Group states it had permit to DM pit**

We were asked to leave, but when one of our members urged us to try to get the people to the lawn, he was arrested.

Victoria Aguilir, member

**College given $6,000 national grant**

Samantha Garvey and her family were offered a rent-subsidized home by officials in the Long Island county housing authority. The family moved into the home a month later.

**Homeless New York Teen to Win Science Prize**

Samantha Garvey is a senior.

**Lebanese Man Detained in Thailand as Terror Threat**

Thai police were questioning a Lebanese man with alleged links to Hezbollah militants as the US Embassy and Israel warned Friday of a “real and credible” terrorist threat against Americans and Israelis in Bangkok. Police said a bombing had been planned and another suspect was at large.

The warning comes during heightened tension over U.S. and Israeli responses to the prospect that Iran and Israel warned Friday of a “real and credible” terrorist threat against Americans and Israelis in Bangkok. Police said a bombing had been planned and another suspect was at large.

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Panthers travel to Mobile for Sun Belt showdown

BRANDON WISE

This season, the Panthers have been Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, winning some big games, but dropping games to lesser opponents. Head Coach Cindy Russo has even noticed it all season long. “At times, we are a team that plays at a level that very few people play at in this conference,” Russo said. “But we don’t do it all the time.”

The Panthers head into this game in fifth (2-3) in the East Division of the Sun Belt Conference, two games behind South Alabama, who is currently in a tie for second (4-1) with FAU. The Panthers will be seeking their first conference win against South Alabama when they visit the Jaguars in the Mobile Civic Center on Wednesday, January 18.

The Jaguars have yet to lose at home, posting a 7-0 mark. M anni El is the Jaguars leading scorer, averaging 10.6 points per game, followed closely by Camille Reynolds, who scores 10.3 per game. FBU statistically faces the Jaguars in every category. Jerica Coley and Carmen Miloglou have combined for nearly as many assists (130) as the entire South Alabama team (162). Based on the statistics, this should be a victory for the Panthers, but as of late they have struggled to play well in the Sun Belt.

In their last game, FUMI, 78, ULL 48

MEN'S BASKETBALL

MALCOM SHIELDS

Impressive victories over George Mason and Coastal Carolina earlier in the season now seem like a distant memory. Since December, the Jaguars have struggled, posting a 2-9 record. On Jan. 19, the Panthers wrapped up a short road trip in Mobile, Ala. to take on the Jaguars of South Alabama.

The Jaguars have struggled, posting a 2-9 record. On Jan. 19, the Panthers wrapped up a short road trip in Mobile, Ala. to take on the Jaguars of South Alabama. South Alabama (9-6, 1-3 SBC) enters its matchup against FIU as a battle tested team. The Jaguars have defeated LSU in overtime and close losses to Sun Belt Western Division contenders Denver and North Texas.

In conference play, the Jaguars are in the top five in offensive and defensive rebounds as well as blocks shot per game. Their front line will be anchored by 6'7" small forward Augustine Rubit. He leads South Alabama with 14.5 points per game and 8.7 rebounds per game.

Good luck.

Rough road ahead for new coach

With the exit of Danjela Tonic as head coach of the University’s indoor (v o l e y b a l l ) team, who is now the coach of Bowling Green State University, FBU faces a dilemma. Currently in the middle of a national coaching search, Director of Volleyball Operations Rita Buck-Crockett is looking for a coach to not only duplicate what Tonic did as a coach at FBU, but to also bring the program a greater deal of national attention. Good luck.

The shoes that the next coach will fill will be large ones. Maybe to the outsider looking in, what FBU has done in the past seven may not be spectacular, but look closer. Tonic did what most coaches can’t: allure talented student-athletes to a school with crummy and outdated facilities. A program where no four-star recruit in their right mind would choose. But Tonic did it. She was able to convince three All-Americans, yes three, to come to FBU.

With a star-studded lineup in 2009, she coached the Panthers to a remarkable 32-4 record, including a perfect 17-0 in conference play. Tonic also doubled the amount of NCAA Division 1 Women’s Volleyball Championship tournament appearances. If there is a knock on Tonic, it is that she was not able to win the Sun Belt Conference championship in the seven seasons’ as head coach. So in essence, Tonic was able to turn around a program that most people could care less about.

In a school, more to a degree a city, that lives and breathes football, volleyball is the last thing on people’s minds. She was able to get people in the seats for a team that was exciting to watch. She was able to do this in one of the worst facilities in the Sun Belt Conference.

The fact that the University has decided to burn money, an entire new “emerging” sport is with a new “emerging” sport is what is not being made see to where Tomic was never fail. She will have time to fail, but as of late they have struggled, posting a 2-9 record. On Jan. 19, the Panthers wrapped up a short road trip in Mobile, Ala. to take on the Jaguars of South Alabama.

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The Beacon – Wednesday, January 18, 2012

SPORTS

Team searches for more options since Wright’s injury

Since guard DeJuan Wright has been out of the lineup, FIU (4-12, 1-3 SBC) has struggled to protect the basketball and find consistent scoring outside of starters Ferguson, Jeremy Allen and Phil Taylor. "When guys are coming in, we need them to not turn the ball over," Allen said. "As starters we need to set the tempo and not turn the ball over. We need to collectively come together and do it as a team."

As a trio, Taylor, Allen and Ferguson are ranked first, second and sixth respectively in scoring per game in conference play. "Offensively they have to carry the load for us," Thomas said. "We don’t have enough offense right now." In the last six games, FIU has averaged only 8.8 points per game from the bench.

Wright Update

After the loss to Middle Tennessee, coach Thomas stated that he did not know if Wright would return for the duration of the season. "We gotta keep trying to search… find guys that can take up the slack on the offensive load until DeJuan comes back, if he comes back." Wright has been out of the lineup since Dec. 14 when he sustained a leg injury in the first half against Maryland.
Art student finally pursues his true calling

HEATHER ARMAS
Staff Writer
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Orestes De la Paz is not your typical art major. At 25, he has gone through four majors and a life-altering decision to finally follow his true calling, with his makeup and hairstyling career as well as pursuing music and art.

“Throughout high school, I focused my energies on piano, singing, performing in theater productions, video editing, painting — simply pouring myself out artistically in any which way possible before I started my college years. I figured I had to get it out of my system before I found a real major to consider for a practically minded career. Three years and four major changes later, I still hadn’t found a right fit,” De la Paz said, regarding his beginnings at the University.

As time went by, I started to focus my energies on piano, pursuing music and art. This lead me to discovering my passion for hair and makeup. The more I worked in the beauty industry, the more I found myself applying concepts of what I learned in art classes. I had heard stories of fine artists who needed some kind of practical application of their skills who then became hair and makeup artists. I simply decided to follow the path in reverse,” he said.

With the bit of knowledge he had gained in high school theater, he decided to branch out and begin freelancing with makeup and hairstyling. Nights hanging out with his friends at the dorms inspired the path to refocus.

“I’d have to accept the fact that art and creativity had to play integral parts to my future successes. It dawned on me then to treat hair and makeup as my mediums. The more I worked in the beauty industry, the more I found myself applying concepts of what I learned in art classes. I had heard stories of fine artists who needed some kind of practical application of their skills who then became hair and makeup artists. I simply decided to follow the path in reverse,” he said.

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GUIDED, PAGE 5

without much upheaval.

I do not know if “recording a session with one mic on the floor to a four-track” could be considered a type of sound production, but that is the style you should expect, or lack thereof. That is not a slight as this is them sounding and feeling authentic in their lo-fi glory and not an automated produced machine.

“Doughnut for a Snowman” audaciously features a recorder in the beginning of the song, and its brevity actually enhances its sounding and feeling authentic. That is not a slight as this could be considered a type of sound production. Brevity is appropriate for this album — as in a span of 41 minutes, the 21 tracks clang through, but never sounded so fulfilling and laden with catchy, melodic hooks.

This realignment of garage rock pioneers feels well-justified after progressive listeners of “Let’s Go...” It is an album that could be used as an introductory piece to GBV’s newcomers, that also does not alienate its dedicated fan base. With a collection of chugging, disjointed music patches (“Hang Mr. Kite” and “God Loves Us”), “We Won’t Apologize for the Human Race,” and “The Unsinkable Fats Domino,” it makes it as gratifying as any reunion album could be. One never feels that this is some makeshift album made to promote a tacked-on tour, as GBV is already planning another LP this year. For the most part, the varied components all work here.

In the standout track “God Loves Us,” Sprout declares amongst the hard-hitting riffs, “We are living proof that God loves us.” Bad blood could not keep them apart, and their comeback proves that there is plenty of love for them to receive. Recommended Tracks: “God Loves Us,” “We Won’t Apologize for the Human Race,” and “The Unsinkable Fats Domino.”

Michael Hernandez is DJ Mike Munchkind. His show is Radiophobia on Thursdays, 4-6 p.m. on RadioFM.
Gamestop, not a threat to academic

ALEX SORONDO  
Staff Writer  
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To suggest that having a Gamestop on campus is in some way a threat to any student’s academic performance is as much an insult, however inadvertent, as an opinion. It suggests that students who frequent the store, whether to buy or play video games or just stand around talking shop, are incapable of setting down a book, attending class, or playing video games is no greater threat to a student’s performance, no greater stain on the University’s image of professionalism, than having a game room beside Chilis’s, or even having televisions in the Graham Center.

For even the most die-hard gamer, the fact he or she came to school today rather than stayed home to play video games is a testament to some capacity for discipline, and probably far more than they need to resist the temptation of skipping class to stand among video games they can’t even play.

Instead, we lead lives that revolve around attending class, studying, sleeping and socializing. It’s therefore important that we attend a campus that is designed to cater to our education and social life alike.

Gamestop is a business, yes, but it also works as a figurative water cooler around which gamers can gather to network and relax between classes. The availability of shrink-wrapped video games is no greater threat to a student’s performance, no greater stain on the University’s image of professionalism, than having a game room beside Chilis’s, or even having televisions in the Graham Center.

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The availability of video games is no greater threat to a student’s performance than having a game room beside Chilis’s.

The development of a more unified student voice at FIU is a necessity. Yet, with the recent arrests of Gamestop attendees at the Occupi FIU Art and Music Festival, we must question the methods in which the movement chose to be heard.

The Beacon, an organization that prides itself on exercising the first amendment to the fullest extent, respects a student’s right to free speech, but there is a right way and a wrong way to exercise that right.

For a movement that has already worked the red tape of legal protest, the way the festival was handled was amateur at best. As students, it is our responsibility to ensure that we are abiding by all rules and regulations, to be aware of where we are free to voice our opinions and what measures needed to successfully get that message across.

The members of Occupy FIU were arrested because they did not observe the necessary channels to have an event at the Deuxième Maison pit. While they claimed to have spoken to and received permission from the University Ombudsman Lynn Lansford, none of the members interviewed could recall him by name. According to Lansford, no permission-written or verbal-was given.

If verbal agreements are not valid in a formal business setting, a University setting is no different. Before action is taken at any location on either campus, the necessary steps to guarantee permission need to be taken.

The members were unable to provide written documentation that they were permitted to have an event at DM. The DM pit is not a free speech zone, therefore event permits are required. Although Occupy FIU held a teach-in at the pit last semester, the advertisement for this festival anticipated and ultimately attracted a large police presence.

We acknowledge that the designated free speech zones are not clearly marked and based on Florida law dictates that tuition must increase by 7% every year. The extra 8% is then tagged on by FIU and is approved by Patrick O’Keefe as our SGA president. In the first semester of the University to not have its tuition, high levels of unemployment, and wage stagnation, undoubtedly add so hard on these students? It is the political realization of the questions being posed.

Simply, the interests of the students, the student body to stand in contrast to those of the Universities administration. Higher tuition, high levels of unemployment, and wage stagnation, undoubtedly add so hard on these students? It is the political realization of the questions being posed.

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Students perform repairs to park in honor of MLK

BARBARA CORRELLINI DUARTE
Staff Writer

The cold chill of a Saturday morning couldn’t keep these students from waking up early on the morning of Jan. 14 to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

Students from the University and Miami Dade College met at the Goulds Park and started to clear around 8 a.m. for the event organized by the Center for Leadership and Service, Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department, and various other civic groups.

“One of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s greatest messages was what can you do for others,” said Shannonlee King, a student from different majors Leadership and Service and VISTA for the FIU Center for Community Engagement.

“Today is a great opportunity to help out teaches character, working with other people, not getting a kind of work it takes for a sandbox.

Volunteers were divided into 13 teams and split to work on various projects around the park.

I feel like we are all here because of team work,” said Tyrone Watson, sophomore criminal justice major. “The FIU community helping out other communities (near) our campuses.”

Throughout the five hours of service, students worked on playground maintenance, landscape, gardening, painting and cleaning.

“Moving many do you walk a park,” asked Jeremy Vargas, a sophomore business major, while working on a sandbox.

“We walk by one every day. We never really know what kind of work it takes for keeping up a park. Working with other people not getting paid and being here just to help out teaches character, philanthropy, teamwork and leadership.”

The fact that some projects did not have enough tools for all volunteers did not deter volunteers from taking part.

Several students worked in small groups picking up garbage, leaves and branches without gloves, rake or shovel.

“I think it’s really important that we get out and know what is going on in our community and that we are part of something that is bigger than ourselves,” said Christine Selby, graduate student of international education.

“That’s really what Martin Luther King was about, being part of a greater good and seeing that everybody has a right and need for freedom and respect within the community.”

As the projects were being completed, nearly 400 participants gathered in the park gymnasium to have lunch and attend to the closing ceremony.

Before heading back home, volunteers were engaged in a dance activity lead by Dushay Bivens, dance instructor at Goulds Park.

Jack Karly, director of Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department, started the ceremony delivering a speech to thank all the volunteers and staff.

“We estimate today that there was more than $20,000 worth of work that was done out here. Give yourselves a collective round of applause for that contribution.”

Kameika Clayton, a freshman nursing student, helps out with fixing up Goulds Park.

Panthers set score with style

BRANDON WISE
Asst. Sports Director

Last season, Central Connecticut State came to FIU and defeated the Panthers 142-121.

This time around, the Panthers wanted to make a statement and send their seniors out in style. They did just that, defeating the Blue Devils 174-120 in Miami on Jan. 14. Head Coach Randy Horner was very pleased with his squad’s performance.

“They really responded,” Horner said. “This is a team that beat us last year and we definitely wanted to come back and win our last home dual meet and build some momentum heading into the conference championships.”

“I feel like we got off to a bit of a rocky start for the Panthers, as they dropped the opening event, the 400-yard medley relay, by two seconds to the Blue Devils.

The Panthers bounced back and took the next three events before dropping the 100-yard breaststroke, 200-yard butterfly, and 50-yard freestyle to the Blue Devils.

However, they would get back on track, riding the showing of Sonia Perez-Arana. She won the first of her three events, the 1,000-yard freestyle, by a full 10 seconds over her next highest competitor, 10:30.25. Perez-Arana would go on to also take the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:03.52 and the 400-yard IM with a time of 4:33:66. Both events were won by at least eight seconds. Horner thinks the sky is the limit for Perez-Arana.

“She’s a great swimmer,” Horner said. “Her winning events in duals is sometimes secondary to what she’s doing time wise to possibly set herself up for nationals, she’s that kind of talent.”

Not only did Gisela Gutierrez also have a very good day in the pool. She won the 100-yard backstroke over Allison Rasile of Central Connecticut State by posting a time of 59:59. She would then go on to dominate the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:08.32 over Alex Czaplinski who came in second with a time of 5:14:35 for the Blue Devils.

In Diving, Sabrina Beaupre continued to dominate as she won both the 1- and 3-meter diving competitions with scores of 297.25 (1 M) and 305.18 (3 M).

After dropping the meet last season to the Blue Devils, Horner knew that this would be a good way to see how the program has progressed since then.

“Always want to beat teams that may have beaten you the previous year to show that improvement,” Horner said. “It’s a good measuring stick to where we are as a program.”

This the final home meet for seniors. Elly James (Back/IM), Kariann Stevens (Free/Butterfly), and Vicnan Torres (Free/Butterfly). Horner said that they did their part in sending the seniors out the right way.

“The whole team was swimming to send the seniors off as winners here in our last home meet and also help the community.”

Horner said. “This is a team that wants to come back and win our last home meet and build some momentum heading into the conference championships.”

Council is optimistic for the new semester

ANTHONY CAVE AND JONATHAN SZYDLO
FIUSM Staff

During the fall semester SGC-BBC passed resolutions that serves as recommendations toward the respective departments of their constituents.

Kevin Houston, SGC-BBC School of Journalism and Mass Communication senator, worked with SMC in making online payments possible for the schools Grammar Exam, which is a requirement for Writing Strategies, a prerequisite course for admission into SJMC.

However, with the coming spring semester, Houston said that there is “money set aside” for resolutions to fix the restroom doors in the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus agenda this semester.

Improvements to the Wolfe University Center, including the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre and a plan to erect a panther statue are among the items on the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus’ agenda this semester.

Members of the Senate met with an architect last semester to discuss a vision for the entire building. Haspel said that he wants to have it set up where future SGC-BBC members could benefit.

He is also working on a resolution to add multipurpose/family bathrooms throughout the campus.

This would better accommodate areas like the Aquatic Center, which houses swim lessons by the North Miami Neptune’s, a local swim group, for children of all ages every weekday afternoon.

Other planned resolutions for the spring include a binge-drinking awareness group, which will be proposed by Lower Division Senator Christopher Morrisett, and SGC-BBC Vice President Emilko Colyer is working on a resolution to fix the restroom doors in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management building, which has been in discussions since the previous semester.

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Other resolutions passed by the SGC-BBC Senate have included the construction of a covered walkway from the Wolfe University Center to Marine Science Building; renovations to be made to the campus’ recreation fields; and panther paws to be painted on NE 151 street, from Biscayne Boulevard to the campus.

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