Bookstore rentals save students over $700,000 in fall

DIANE ARIAS
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It saves to rent. The University’s Barnes and Noble college bookstore announced recently that it has saved students $775,091 in book rentals during the fall of 2011. The bookstore is bringing these savings to students by renting the textbooks at half price of the new book price. However, despite the savings made available, students are not renting books more than they are buying them.

According to the general manager of the bookstore, Meghan Connolly, students may be buying books more than renting them because only half of the titles at the bookstore are available as rentals.

Students who need a code for their courses cannot rent out the code because it is usable only once a semester. As for consumable titles, they cannot be reused again for the next semester.

The titles that are customized for the University, like the MAC 1105 book and certain English books, cannot be used around the country for the bookstore’s other locations. This means they cannot rent these customized texts at the University’s bookstore.

“We use a database of rental titles that we can use if they’re not going to be re-rented at our stores at other stores around the country,” said Connolly.

The option of renting textbooks was made available at the University in the spring of 2007.

Patricia Price, chair of the Textbook Affordability Committee in the University’s Faculty Senate, thinks that book rentals and e-books, electronic versions of textbooks, are drawing students away from traditional textbooks.

Though she also believes that the traditional textbook will not be completely done away with, “Some students like the physicality of books and like to hold onto books to the end of the semester,” said Price.

In regard to saving money, Price said, “Renting textbooks saves a lot of money. Anything that saves money is great. If an upper-division student needs a case book, for example, it may be valuable in the future, which would be the only downside to renting.”

Nicole Fernandez, graduate student in the School of Education Curriculum and Instruction in social studies said, “I’ll rent it if it is available to rent. The only thing is that you can’t write in it that much. I like writing in my books. Sometimes I don’t rent my books because it can cost more than I am going to like the book or not.”

Lucas Au-yung-raidest, junior in international business and management said, “Sometimes book rentals are actually more expensive because, if you think about it, you can buy a book, return it used and get more money back and you get more value overall versus just renting it. Some books are actually more expensive than renting it. Some books have worked out for the bookstore but are actually more expensive than renting it. Some books have worked out for the bookstore but are actually more expensive than renting it.”

When asked how renting has worked out for them, Au-yung said, “Right now, for some books it has worked out for me, and there are other books that I got completely ripped off. I feel.”

David Frisch, junior, English literature major said, “I always liked them [book rentals]. Instead of spending $80 dollars on a textbook, I can sit there and spend $20 and rent it and then give it back. When used isn’t available, rent is a viable option. If I can’t find a book here, I’ll usually try to find one of the alternative book stores.”

When asked if they use any other resources to attain books, Frisch said, “I’ve used amazon.com to order books. Overnight shipping helps when I’m in a tight spot.”

Au-yung-raidest said, “I’ll go online and then I’ll check on chegg, nebo or on any other site.”

Seminar targets importance of activism in universities

MELHOR LEONOR
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Whether peaceful or violent, civic displays of objection surfaced globally in the past year as protesters brought their causes to the public eye. Local displays such as Occupy FIU are bringing a national sense of protest to our campus.

On Thursday, Jan. 12, as part of the Week of Welcome activities, The Department of Campus Life held the Student Activism seminar, where a panel of University staff and students discussed the power and purpose of protesting under the slogan “What Are You Fighting For?”

The program began with an introduction from each of the panel members.

Dr. Dawn Addy, director of the Center for Labor Research and Studies began by providing a historical perspective on student activism, also adding on her personal experience with activism.

Director for the Center for Service and Leadership and panel member, Beverley Dalrymple, emphasized on the importance of activism and on the avenues through which students can have their voices heard.

“There are many ways in which you can work on policy change. Petitioning, lobbying, volunteering, boycotting, buy-cotting and social entrepreneurship,” Dalrymple said. “We would like to offer our department as a resource for that. We focus on civic engagement and creating...
**FLORIDA AWAITS GOP PRIMARY**

**CURT ANDERSON**
Associated Press

Property manager Nancy Leon knows all too well the effects of Florida’s dismal economy. People can’t pay their condominium association fees and fall behind on mortgages or rent. The condo property suffers.

But it has to cut costs, which makes the place less attractive for new residents. A vicious cycle.

People are really struggling. We see it every day,” says Leon, a 42-year-old Republican who voted for President Barack Obama in 2008 as a symbol of hope and change but now isn’t sure the Democrat should get another term.

Yet, she’s not sold on Republican front-runner Mitt Romney or his rivals.

With the Florida Republican presidential primary looming on Jan. 31 and Obama coming to the state Thursday to announce a new economic initiative, this is the grim situation in a key campaign battleground: Ten percent unemployment.

Recent home foreclosures. Nearly half the state’s homeowners owing more on their mortgages than their properties are worth.

Ten months before the election, Flori-da’s economy presents a stark challenge for Obama and an opportunity for the eventual Republican nominee in the nation’s largest state with a history of vacillating between choosing Republicans and Democrats in presidential contests.

Obama carried Florida in 2008 against Republican John McCain, 51 percent to 48 percent. And, for now at least, Florida voters don’t seem to be abandoning Obama in droves.

A recent Quinnipiac University poll showed the president and Romney, the GOP front-runner, in a near-statistical tie in the state in a hypothetical head-to-head matchup.

Reflecting the stakes for the fall even though the GOP hasn’t settled on a nominee, Republicans and Democrats alike have been busy testing lines of argument on the economy.

In a recent appearance in West Palm Beach, Romney mentioned almost nothing about Florida-specific issues such as offshore oil-drilling and U.S.- Cuba relations, focusing instead on criticizing Obama and promoting his own economic plans. Campaign mailers sent to Florida Republicans echoed the strategy.

“Our economy has fallen flat. Who’s to blame?” asks one mailer. Another proclaims that Romney is the strongest to lead the country out of economic turmoil, arguing this: “With conserva-tive leadership, America can be first in the world in job creation again.”

Romney is in a strong position heading into Saturday’s primary in South Carolina after back-to-back victories in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Exit and exit polls from both states showed that voters overwhelmingly bought Romney’s argument that he is the strongest Republican to take on Obama in the fall on voters’ No. 1 issue: the economy.

Romney’s rivals — former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former Penn-sylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Texas Rep. Ron Paul — trailed on those measures and are fighting to keep their bids alive through the Florida primary.

We encourage students to exercise their right of free speech but we have to control the time, place and manner in order to maintain general university functions running.

Alexander Casas, FIU Police Department

Students, faculty talk expression

**ELECTIONS**

**Students, faculty talk expression**

We encourage students to exercise their right of free speech but we have to control the time, place and manner in order to maintain general university functions running.

Alexander Casas, FIU Police Department

We encourage students to exercise their right of free speech but we have to control the time, place and manner in order to maintain general university functions running.

Casas, chief of police at the FIU Police Department, emphasized the importance of protesting and being socially active while also complying with university policy.

"Balancing every interest is the agreement we abide by," Casas said. "We encourage students to exercise their right of free speech but we have to control the time, place and manner in order to maintain general university functions running."

The floor was then open for an open forum discussion, where panel members and students engaged in discussion.

Senior Sean McMahon, majoring in international relations and political science, aired his question at the panel, alluding to the episode of the University of California, Davis, where a video of law enforcement officers spraying sitting students with pepper spray gained much attention on the web.

"Sometimes these episodes can be avoided. Often times it depends on how police and protesters respond to each other’s presence," Addy said. "As long as everyone is being treated fairly and respectfully, there will be favorable response."

Adding to the topic of Students, faculty talk expression
The Panthers will be relying heavily on the efforts of Fanni Hutlassa, who is averaging 29.3 points per game and has scored over 10 points in all but one of FAU's games this season. Hutlassa is the leading scorer in the Sun Belt and is leading the team in scoring with 20 points per game. She is also a key player on defense, as she is averaging 5.1 rebounds per game and 2.1 steals per game.

The Owls, on the other hand, are依靠ing on the leadership of guard Muffet McGraw, who is averaging 21 points per game. McGraw is a key player on defense, as she is averaging 3.1 steals per game and 1.9 blocks per game. She is also a key player on offense, as she is averaging 4.5 rebounds per game and 1.8 assists per game. McGraw is a key player in the Owls' success, as she is the team's leading scorer and rebounder.

The key to stopping the Owls will be to slow down Hutlassa and McGraw. The Panthers will need to focus on defense to limit the Owls' scoring opportunities. They will need to apply pressure on the ball and force turnovers, as the Owls are averaging 16 turnovers per game.

The Panthers will also need to focus on rebounding, as they are averaging 37.5 rebounds per game. They will need to box out the Owls and use their size to their advantage. The Panthers will need to use their size and strength to get easy baskets and limit the Owls' scoring opportunities.

The Owls will need to focus on offense, as they are averaging 70 points per game. They will need to get the ball inside to the Owls' big men, as they are averaging 44.5 rebounds per game. They will need to play a fast-paced game and get easy baskets to keep the Panthers from gaining an edge.

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Defending champs start season against No. 14 Clemson

The Panthers will begin their 2012 season on the road, visiting 14-ranked Clemson Tigers on Jan. 20.

FIU, who finished 2011 with a 13-7 record, is coming off their Sun Belt Conference championship win over North Texas.

The tennis team is looking to not only defend their title but also capture their sixth championship in eight years.

Motivation should not be an issue, as head coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall’au has established a theme, as she does every year, for the new season. This year is no different, with a theme of “All the Way.”

“Personally, when you play in a tournament, you want to go all the way,” Applebaum-Dall’au said.

“That way I meant for it to come across was, right now, is that every individual on my team has a personal wall that they have to overcome. That wall is what’s keeping us from being a Top-20 program that I know we can be.”

Leading the defending champions are seniors Christine Seradni and Lisa Johnson, who paired up and secured the Doubles championship last season with an 8-3 set victory over the Sun Belt Conference champions.

Seradni finished last year, where they compiled a record of 8-3. She transferred to FIU from Utah in her Junior year. She went 87-6 in her career. Her team won the South Carolina in singles competition. The junior transferred to FIU after primarily played doubles competition.

McLean [top] heads into her first season at FIU. The Panthers went 1-1-5 last year and won the Sun Belt Conference championship behind Lisa Johnson and Christine Seradni.

McLean will be looked upon from the incoming class of players, which they sat down with to let them know what is expected.

“Theyir first week in, as upperclassmen, we told them ‘This is what you have to do and what you can’t do.’ Yeah, we definitely set down with them,” Seradni said.

“The Panthers will not play at home until March 7, when they open conference play and host Middle Tennessee. The schedule might seem peculiar and tough, but Applebaum-Dall’au prefers it that way.

“I like to do that. I like to end the season at home. End of the year, you like to be at home,” Applebaum-Dall’au said. “I have a tough schedule for my girls every year. I don’t like to sugar coat it... I like to have it where we’re getting down to the nitty gritty and getting dirty.”

That tough beginning to the season gets the team ready for conference play, where FIU feels that they should be better than everyone in the SBC.

When it comes down to the end of the year, the team expects to win a championship.

“If I said no, you should fire me. We should win conference every year as long as I am here,” Applebaum-Dall’au said. “If we don’t, then I am not doing something right. It’s a little that deserves to be here at FIU every single year.”

2012 Tennis Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>Clemson</td>
<td>3 p.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 22</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 27</td>
<td>Quinnipac</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Jan. 28</td>
<td>FAU</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Feb. 5</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
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<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>New Mexico</td>
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<td>Mar. 11</td>
<td>North Texas</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Mar. 12</td>
<td>Texas Tech-Smith</td>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
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<td>Mar. 25</td>
<td>Sam Houston</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 26</td>
<td>North Texas</td>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
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<td>Mar. 7</td>
<td>Middle Tennessee</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
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<td>Mar. 9</td>
<td>Penn</td>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
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<td>Mar. 13</td>
<td>Ole Miss</td>
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<td>Mar. 14</td>
<td>Southern Miss</td>
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<td>Mar. 15</td>
<td>Yale</td>
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<td>Mar. 20</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
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<td>Mar. 22</td>
<td>Florida Atlantic</td>
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<td>Mar. 29</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Apr. 6</td>
<td>FAU</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 19</td>
<td>SBC Championship</td>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
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Home: Blue
Away: Gold

The Great Eight

2012 Spring Tennis Preview

Rico Albarracin
Asst. Sports Director
rico.albarracin@fium.com

GUILLETTA BOHA
Year: Sophomore
2011 Record: 14-9
Boha surprised many last year posting a mark of 14-9 from the number 6 position. The Wuerzburg, Germany native heads into this season with high expectations of being successful with the departure of Liset Brito and Maria Spenceley.

NINA DJORDJEVIC
Year: Freshman
2011 Record: 0-0
Djordjevic heads into her first season as a Panther from Serbia, where she attended the First Sports Basketball High School. She plans to study Environmental Engineering at FIU.

KARYN GUTTORMSEN
Year: Freshman
2011 Record: 0-0
Guttormsen is coming to FIU from Bradford High School in Wisconsin, where she went 87-6 in her career. Her team won the state title in 2010, when she was also named Wisconsin Player of the year.

MAGALI HOLT
Year: Junior
2011 Record: 2-6
Holt has struggled in her career mark of 2-6. The Quebec native has seen much action in her two seasons as a Panther, playing in only 22 matches, 24 in doubles competition.

LISA JOHNSON
Year: Senior
2011 Record: 15:11
Johnson has compiled a career singles record of 47-38 at both FIU and Utah. She transferred to FIU from Utah in her Junior year, where she went 19-5 in singles play. Johnson and Christine Seradni went 3-0 in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament last year.

RITA MAISAK
Year: Freshman
2011 Record: 0-0
Maisak comes into this season with a career record of 22-23 at both FIU and South Carolina in singles competition. The junior partnered with Johnson in doubles competition last year, where they compiled a record of 8-3. She is originally from Minsk, Belarus.

SARAH MCELAN
Year: Freshman
2011 Record: 0-0
McLean is entering her first season as a Panther. At Gallagher High School, she went 10-2 and was the 2010 FHSAA 2A singles champion. She earned first team All-Dade in singles and doubles in 2010.

CHRISTINE SERADNI
Year: Senior
2011 Record: 0-0
Seradni is finishing off her career as a Panther this season, after posting a mark of 33-25 in the last two years. The Virginia native was named to the Sun Belt Commissioner’s list last season for having a GPA of 3.5 or higher.
Fundraiser encourages more involvement in 15th year

SANDY ZAPATA
Staff Writer
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Dance Marathon will be marking its 15 years at the University on Jan. 20 at the Universi-
ty’s Recreation Center. The fundraiser of 25 hours benefits the Chil-
dren’s Miracle Network on a national level and the local Miami Children’s Hospital. This year’s theme is based on Disney’s “The Lion King,” high-
lighting the movie’s motto, “it means no worries.”

The logistics of the annual event are always known but this time around the personal,
emotional experiences of the dancers who partici-
pate are being spotlighted.

Joanna Garcia, the Center for Leadership
and Services coordinator has been involved with Dance Marathon since her freshmen year at the University of Florida, which lasted for 32 hours.

Through her sorority and its philanthropy,
Garcia got involved as a team dancer for DM. “At first you’re excited and everyone wants to line dance and then you go through your different moods, you get tired, some people get tired and some people don’t respond very well to it.”

Although Garcia no longer dances for the event, her involvement in the fundraiser has affected her life in such a way that she never thought it would. “This event is special because I have ties to it and after my first year I knew standing was going to be uncomfortable.”

Garcia continued to participate as a dancer in DM for the rest of her undergraduate career. “My first year was the best because I didn’t know what to expect and after my first year I knew standing was going to be uncomfortable.”

Joyful and fulfilled, Garcia says the event is special because of the fundraiser’s impact on different communities, whether it is in Gaines-
ville, FL or Miami, FL, and to involve so many people in an amazing feeling. “Garcia encourages anyone who hasn’t been involved to try it or at least to stop by and check it out.”

“You might need some sleep afterwards but I think they’ll [newcomers] have a good time and enjoy being part of the event.” Giovanni Correale, a senior, psychology major and recruitment chairperson, has been involved in DM for two years. Correale was involved in a lot of the service-
oriented programs provided by CLS and decided to take a chance with DM. “Throughout the night my legs hurt, my feet hurt, but in the beginning of the morning I felt so happy that I made it to the end.”

A week later, Corre-
rale’s niece was diag-
nosed with an erupted appendix and sent to Miami Children’s Hospital. As a result, he decided to be a part of the DM committee and continue with this partic-
ular service project that touched so close to home.

Despite the tedious and long hours spent dancing and lack of rest and showers, Correale said, “It’s a big ol’ pachanga [party] and you’re taken care of for 24 hours.”

Kimberly Harvey, senior, sociology and criminal justice major is the director of recruitment and has been part of DM for four years. Harvey admits that she wasn’t much of a kid lover before DM. However, her perspective has changed after DM as well as other notable aspects of her life, like public speaking. “You might hate it at the moment—you feet will start killing you and your back will start hurting from standing so long. But, after it’s all over and you look back on it, you’re so thankful that you did it. It’s a life-
changing philanthropy.”

Carano flaunts her fighting skills in “Haywire”

SANDY ZAPATA
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S ex, drugs, war, disease, crime and comedy—Steven Soderbergh has done a little of everything. His decision to leap into action has definitely been a good one, as he adroitly brings us the fast-paced film that showcases the unique approach to the genre this year. It is tense, sexy and serious while Kenneth Brannagh’s and Bill Paxton among them—while also featuring actors like Michael Fassbender and Michael Angarano. No shortage of big names—Michael Douglas, Antonio Banderas and Bill Paxton among—while also featuring actors like Michael Fassbender and Michael Angarano. Among the supporting cast, Fassbender and Ewan McGregor stand out. Both men play char-
acters with professional ties to Mallory and complement Caran-
o’s performance. McGregor is sharp and serious while Kenneth Brannagh’s and Bill Paxton among them—while also featuring actors like Michael Fassbender and Michael Angarano. Among the supporting cast, Fassbender and Ewan McGregor stand out. Both men play char-
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acters with professional ties to Mallory and complement Caran-
"Haywire." It is nothing more than a serviceable map for Carano to beat her co-stars senseless in wonderfully choreographed fight scenes that echo the early James Bond films. Much like his work on “The Informant!” Soderbergh draws heavily upon how successful a movie feel. Not only does he provide gorgeous scenery with shots taken at Barcelona, Dublin and other scenic cities, but he captures the intensity that an action film deserves through the close-combat his actors engage in.

For an action film, “Haywire” is realistic as was “Contagion,” his previous disease drama film. Soderbergh’s work as the director of photography and editor of the film is notable. His distinct visual experience brings to the screen feels familiar and appealing to the senses.

While some may complain that “Haywire” isn’t smart or plausible enough to work, Steven Soderbergh achieves his goal of delivering a fun and fast-paced film that showcases its star as intended.

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie review column. Juan Barquin is an intern for the Miami Interna-
tional Film Festival.

Fassbender (left) shares a sexy scene in Haywire with Carano (right), who plays a freelance operative.

Photo courtesy of Universal Media
The Hunger Games makes Cover to Cover

By: pick up The Hunger Games, and you will not want to put it down. This may be the most addicting series I have picked up since I found Harry Potter in the fifth grade.

The 12 districts of Panem, the continent previously known as North America, are controlled by a totalitarian government called the Capitol. Each year, the Capitol mandates that one boy and one girl between the ages of 12 and 18 from each district fight to the death in what they call the Hunger Games.

The Games, put in place because District 13 once revolted against the Capitol, are meant to serve as a reminder of what happens to those who do not obey the government’s demands. District 13 was destroyed by the Capitol and anyone who disobeys the law faces the same fate. Meanwhile, the government also mandates that every citizen of Panem watch the children fight to their death.

Katniss Everdeen lives in the last and most barren district of Panem, District 12, and decides to volunteer for the Games when her sister, Prim, is selected for the games at the age of 12.

Through its addictive storyline, The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins made it difficult for me to put it down. From the second Katniss risks her life to save her young sister to the moment of the climax in the novel, the story never gets dull. The book offers a little bit of everything—from romance in Katniss’ love triangle to action in the brutal deaths of the Hunger Games contestants. The novel makes a strong statement about not only the effects of war, but comments on the way that “reality” shows and violence on TV have affected and will continue to affect the viewers in our own country.

For example, in the memorable moment of the novel when Katniss volunteers herself to enter the Games for her sister, the entire crowd, including every member of District 12, makes a gesture toward her with three fingers, moving them silently from their lips to the air in her direction.

When Collins informs us that “it means thanks, it means admiration, it means good-bye to someone you love,” she suggests that people are stronger than the negative material and violent aspects in the imaginary country of Panem. She compares the effects of the Games to those that hold us down in our America, as good outweighs evil in the novel from the beginning to the end.

In the same moment and in the relationship created among Katniss and her fellow tributes, or game players, in the novel, Collins proves that the humanity of mankind is enough to inspire people to overcome those who try to control us and tell us what is right and wrong, like the Capitol does to the citizens of Panem. In this sense, the book promotes virtuosity and the importance of critical thinking. Because of the complex and advanced humanistic ideas that it promotes, The Hunger Games is more than just a teen novel—it is more than appropriate for college and adult audiences.

Despite all of its strong points, the book is not flawless. At some points, the novel proves to be predictable. This predictability occurred a little too often for my taste. However, certain parts of the novel—the end in particular—did not surprise me.

The first book of the trilogy has been given rave reviews from many sources, including Stephen King, whose review of the novel can be read on Entertainment Weekly’s website. The book is a relatively short, easy read, making it a breeze to enjoy as the workload of a new semester begins to unfold.

The Hunger Games is to be released in the form of a movie on March 24. I am anxiously waiting for its release and the chance to read the rest of the trilogy, which includes The New York Times bestseller Catching Fire, and the third installment called Mockingjay.

Through its addictive storyline, The Hunger Games makes Cover to Cover.
Assimilation not optional, speaking English essential

**PAOLO RAMOS**
Staff Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

Assimilation should not be an option when moving to another country. The responsibility of learning the predominant language of that country should be a high priority, as it benefits the people moving into the country and allows for the country to better serve them.

In the United States, English is the predominant language spoken and used in federal and business transactions. Therefore, it should be expected of those desiring to live and do business in the U.S. to at least have a working knowledge of English.

Living in Miami undoubtedly exposes us to countless nuances and eccentricities of the high cultural diversity within the city. This may also be a cause of frustration for some when trying to interact or do business in a city where the cultures and languages are not familiar.

The fact that Miami is so embracing of other cultures is often taken advantage of, and some who live and do business here have forgotten that cultural adaptation is a two-way street.

By being in the U.S., learning the language spoken by the majority of the country should be a necessity when choosing to live here, for it is not only to demonstrate courtesy for the generous hospitality offered by living here.

Miami, unlike most of the U.S., is considered to be more of a cultural mosaic rather than a melting pot, in that most immigrants from other countries can comfortably express their culture. There is a fine line however between freedom of expression and outright disregard for a home country’s customs.

As of the year 2000 census, 80 percent of people living in the U.S. listed English as their first language. When compared to this data, Miami seems like a far outlier, with 75 percent listing other languages other than English as their first language.

Although these statistics may be accurate, they are potentially problematic considering the divide presented between small segments of the country in relation to the country as a whole.

In the U.S., unity between all states and the cities within them is important and idealized, in spite of the varying demographic degrees such as culture. Language, however, must be one of the keys within the areas of the country.

Even my family has directly experienced the difficulty caused by the lack of English-speaking ability present in Miami.

Earlier last year, my father visited a tag agency in Hialeah to complete the registration for his car. The person he dealt with had difficulty speaking English, but reassured my dad that everything was in order. A few months later, I had to borrow my dad’s car in order to get my driver’s license. When the agent at the DMV ran his registration through, it did not show his car as being registered.

The fact that Miami is so embracing of other cultures is often taken advantage of, and some have forgotten that cultural adaptation is a two-way street.

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**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Occupy FIU arrests threaten freedom of speech, rights**

**Neda Ghomeshi**

Why is the arrest of seven people, student or otherwise, of any consequence to anyone? After all, the police were only keeping the peace, right?

To the first question, the ramifications of this escalated assault on those involved are pretty hefty. To start, the tone this sets for the students at FIU is that pre-crimed sanctions are acceptable, and this is supposed to serve as an example to anyone who would step forward and try to confront the university on its policies.

It must be asserted that no crime was committed, the case of Jonathan Brand was dropped, and it wasn’t until the court was made aware that it was an Occupy participant that the charges began to stick. This in and of itself should be enough to have the charges condemned by President Rosenberg.

To the second question, there were no problems with the police until calls came down to them from the administration to confront us with mandates about our plans to encamp.

When they approached us en mass, four to our seven, you can imagine the element of intimidation that was in play. Mediation with the General Counsel was required to get a tent up as a protest symbol.

The arbitrary rules created with no written documentation to follow up their claims validity, were observed as a courtesy of the Occupy crew at FIU. The very idea of limiting the terms of free speech to a zone, then further limiting its parameters to a time frame (in this case 8am-9pm) is repugnant.

These practices are of a subversive nature and should not be tolerated by the student body. In protest perhaps everyone conducting activities at FIU should use the word Occupy before their event to witness first hand the prejudice involved by the word alone.

I would lead administrative staff to behave in such ways? Double standards where they will tell us what to do without documentation, but when we lack the “appropriate” documentation arrests can be made on the probability that an incarceration, of a charge that the police decide on after the fact, might be contemplated.

I suppose this kind of behavior is normal to a university that doles out masters degrees in National Security Studies financed by the Defense Intelligence Agency that teaches people how to be spies, and has a Global Governance Masters program for the Southern Command in Doral which is the US military’s control center for operations in Latin America.

Perhaps this is why degree paths like Anthropology and Social Science in the Liberal Art are under attack by Rick Scott, while undermining education to use a business plan model that failed at Texas A&M.

That’s not to say that FIU hasn’t been selling itself to corporate interests. The University hosts Well’s [sic] Fargo despite the fact that Well’s [sic] Fargo invests in two companies of the Prison Industrial Complex.

Putting that all into context, there is also the matter of the Global Learning Program that assesses student’s attitudes, then reciprocates the student to favor liberal imperialism. Maybe that was the true crime of those arrested and charged afterward for “disruption of an education institution”, the disruption being that of thought and ideas that might somehow effect the minds of FIU’s students, pure unadulterated thought crime.

-Michael Park
Member of Occupy FIU

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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts by leaving a comment to us on Facebook, sharing your thoughts on Twitter, or by digitally writing your letter to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com.

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New semester ‘bites’

NADRA MABROUK
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Ten days after the start of the spring term, and the malcontent is ever present in the air, ranging from full classrooms to bug bites.

There will always be a student or two who will walk in late in the middle of the class and steal others’ attention for a second from the professor’s lecture. In Cristal Ramos’ case, there was not a lecture to interrupt.

“On the first day of class, one of my professors was 30 minutes late,” said Ramos, sophomore and journalism major.

Often, students like to enjoy reading outside by the bay or eating their lunch in one of the swing seats outside the Bay cafeteria while studying or catching up in between classes. These peaceful moments can be hindered, or in fact, slightly biting.

“There’s an increase in bug activity; I’ve gotten bit everywhere,” said Hector Gonzalez, a junior and psychology major.

There was more availability of classes for some, leaving them pleased that they do not have to rely on paying the recently increased Golden Panther Express fare of $2.50 to get to the Modesto Maidique Campus for class.

“This is the first semester where I could find all of the classes I need at Biscayne Bay Campus with good professors,” said Michelle Reyes, a sophomore and fine arts major. “There should always be that wide of a selection at this campus. I don’t need the shuttle this term.”

Not every student was lucky, though.

“All of the classes that I need are full and even when there are spots, professors just don’t let you register anymore,” said Ned Chandler, a sophomore and philosophy major. “I registered for a painting class that ended up getting cancelled. I had to rush around last minute to find a class that fit my schedule.”

The rush to find classes was not the only conflict. Students also have had difficulty getting books in on time and in the way that they find most feasible.

“I’ve tried to rent my textbooks for class but they weren’t available for rent and so I had to buy all of them,” said Alison Ho, sophomore and business major.

Another textbook titled, “Elements of Moral Philosophy” was unavailable until the middle of the second week for freshman biology major Ilana Korchia. “I like the use of access codes because you get to learn on your own pace online, but they’re very expensive,” said Niloufar Firouzi-Badoorally, a freshman and pre-med.

The lack of available textbooks and classes were just the tip of the iceberg of concerns. Some students even expressed malcontent towards the availability of parking by the bay.

“There’s just never any parking. There’s always spaces available in the meter parking and the faculty,” said Britney Ward, senior Early Childhood Education major. “They should take some of those spots out and make them for students.”

With the lack of spaces, the parking fees seem to be an inconvenient redundancy.

“Why do I have to pay the parking fee twice? The $80 fee should be one time. I think it is unreasonable,” said Yuyang Hou, sophomore Business major.

Not everyone is pleased with the quiet late afternoons on campus.

“There should be more activity on this campus,” said Badoorally, “There should be more life here.”