CRIME

Kendall Berry murder suspect set to stand trial

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
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A pretrial motion will not decide whether Quentin Wyche acted in reasonable self-defense when he killed Kendall Berry, but a jury trial instead.

Wyche’s defense attorneys, led by David Peckins, were trying to get the case dismissed on the basis Wyche was defending himself. However, after reviewing sworn witness testimonies, Judge Milton Hirsch denied Wyche’s motion thus sending his case to a trial, the date for which has yet to be determined as of this report.

Berry’s parents Derrick and Mellisscia Spillman were not available for comment as of press time.

Included in the judge’s order are sworn witness statements that were given to police.

The statements varied in specifics, such as who started the fight, but they all agree there was a fight. According to the judge’s order, both of the former students had their friends with them on the night of March 25, 2010 in front of the Recreation Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The order also says supporters from both sides – Berry and Wyche’s – got into fights with each other.

“In short order, chaos reigned,” Hirsch wrote in his order. “[That chaos] rendered testimony vague, incomplete, and contradictory.”

Student fee money allocated at budget deliberations

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The two days of discussion within the University Wide Council on the disbursement of the $13 million of Activity & Service Fee have come to a close. The result: a tentative budget set for around 30 University-wide organizations and facilities.

UNI-Wide Budget Deliberations, which involved a total of around 13 hours of debate throughout Feb. 15 and Feb. 18, ended with most of the Council and administrative advisers satisfied.

“I’m going to be honest and say that I’m comfortable with this budget even if we don’t get an increase in A&S funds,” said Patrick O’Keefe, Student Government Council president at the Modesto Maidique Campus. “I feel like this budget will provide everyone with more opportunities.”

Despite the satisfaction, numerous topics triggered disputes during the deliberations between council members as to who should get what amount of money from the pool of A&S funds.

The Council is composed of each campus’ president, vice president, speaker pro tempore from SGC-MMC, president of CLS, Senate, Vice President of Student Affairs Rosalinda Jones and University President Mark Rosenberg.

Also a factor is the potential increase in the A&S fee that is to be decided upon by the Activity & Service Fee Committee. Depending on the increase percentage, SGA could be given between $599,000 to $2.4 million of additional funds to give to certain organizations.

The 2012-2013 projected revenue in A&S funds is $12,906,460, though minus some University salaries, the Council had $10,758,655 to work with.

“You need to put your dollars where your priorities are,” said Marible Gramling, director of CLS-MMC.

The “Top Five” recipients since they must still be reviewed by the Student Government Council from both campuses, Vice President of Student Affairs Rosalinda Jones and University President Mark Rosenberg. The amounts decided upon by the Council are preliminary.

<table>
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The amounts agreed upon by University Wide Council. Numbers are not final and subject to change.

Check out Wednesday’s issue for an update on the University smoking ban sanctions and it’s development since implementation in January 2011.

See Wyche, Page 4

See Budget, Page 2

Approved by the Council are preliminary
**NEWS FLASH**

**LOCAL**

Another Rothstein Ponzi associate to plead guilty

Another former associate of convicted billion-dollar Ponzi scheme operator Scott Rothstein has pleaded guilty to federal fraud conspiracy charges.

The plea was entered Friday by 42-year-old Marybeth Feiss. Prosecutors say she was an administrative assistant who helped coordinate political events and illegal campaign contributions for Rothstein and his now-defunct law firm. The goal was to increase the firm’s political influence.

Feiss becomes the eighth person including Rothstein to plead guilty in the $1.2 billion scam, which involved investments in phony legal settlements.

**US**

Gangs flourish throughout the region’s civil wars sowed a new breed of violence on America are teeming with inmates who belong to gangs in the 1990s, they brought their brutal habits with them to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, countries with weak law enforcement and an inadequate prison system.

**WORLD**

Olympics minister says ticket demands unreasonable

Britain’s Olympics minister says it’s unreasonable to give a full accounting of ticket sales for the 2012 London Olympics right now.

Olympics minister Hugh Robertson spoke Friday a day after a London watchdog group demanded that games organizers clearly show how sales break down between expensive and affordable tickets.

Critics have sought the data to see if a disproportionate number of tickets have been sold at higher prices — shunting out average people who can’t pay prices up to $2,012 per ticket.

But Robertson says the request is unfair because organizers are in the middle of a “very big, complicated ticketing operation.”

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**HEALTH**

Birth control act upsets churches

President Barack Obama, accompanied by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announces the revamp of his contraception policy requiring religious institutions to fully pay for birth control, Friday, Feb. 10, 2012.

Religious groups have taken up issue with President Barack Obama’s Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on account of the provision that employers be required to cover the cost of birth control medication for their force.

This caused a number of organizations, including the Catholic Church, to denounce the reform as an infringement on their religious freedoms based on the First Amendment to the Constitution.

“I think it’s a constitutional basis, it’s an overreach of the federal government,” said Rigo Vega, a Catholic campus minister at the University. “Freedom of religion trumps health care.”

Many religious groups believe human life begins at conception. They feel contraceptives of any kind inhibit new life development, and denounce their use.

“It could set a precedent for later infringement on religions,” Brian German, a senior majoring in history said. “This is very problematic.”

The Catholic Church also asked the dioceses to mention the mandate in their mass services, hoping to raise community awareness of the issue.

“I understand that [Catholics] might feel attacked,” Cheryl Bean, president of FIU’s chapter of Nuns for Planned Parenthood said. “But it’s not just them that you have to think about—at it’s women’s health.”

On Feb. 10, Obama announced a compromise concerning the growing controversy about the birth control mandate within his 2010 health care reform law.

In an attempt to quell the disagreement, Obama suggested shifting the cost of birth control from the employers to the insurance companies.

Both the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, a non-profit organization dedicated to women’s health, and the Catholic Health Association support the compromise.

The Conference of Catholic Bishops has yet to comment on the matter and many Catholic members still remain skeptical of the compromise.

Within the state of Florida, Senator Marco Rubio introduced in January, the Freedom Religious Freedom Act, a bill countering Obama’s birth control rule.

Under Rubio’s bill, religious hospi
tals, universities, as well as other employers who oppose contraceptive methods on the “basis of religious belief” will be able to refuse to finance contra-
ceptive methods for their employees.

“It’s not a money problem,” said Janio Arzamanchi, a junior in liberal studies and member of the Catholic Student Union. “It’s a principle problem.”

The Planned Parenthood website currently has a section dedicated to the plan called ‘Birth Control Matters.’ It asks readers to “help [them] protect access to birth control without co-pays,” providing them with information on how to contact the president.

“[Birth control] is for other medical purposes, too—not just pregnancy prevention,” said Bean.

Birth control today is used by women of all ages to prevent pregnancy, as well as to regulate the menstrual cycle, reduce acne and cramps and cure ovarian cysts.

[Birth control] falls in the essential category [of health care],” said Bean. Univeristy Health Services provides students with several contraceptive methods, including free condoms and affordable birth control pills.

“The more options women are offered, the better,” Oscar Loyoan, director of UHS, said.

The FIU pharmacy currently sells approximately 450 cycles of birth control a month.

“[Birth control at FIU] is very available,” said Anna Slack, nurse practitioner at UHS. “The University usually has cheap [contraceptive] medication.”

UHS provides birth control pills ranging from $12 to $50, according to Gail Rice, a nurse practitioner.

“In some cases women have to decide between birth control and rent,” said Bean.

“I think [the plan would be very beneficial],” Camila Plam, senior health education student at UHS said. “If it goes through, it would be positive.”

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**E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF**

*Compiled by Lauren Rovira*

**BUDGET, PAGE 1**

<table>
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program for his personal development as a student.

O’Keefe didn’t support funding a new coordinator, because it would take a way a bulk of the money from all of the other groups.

“We just can’t afford it,” said Dawson.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the issue, with Collyer attempting to continuously vote down the proposed amount untilCLS was allocated more money.

The Council settled in giving CSL $126,780 of their requested $312,585.

With several renovations throughout the year before or less than they received the same amount as last year.

The Jordan College was given $8,000 after requesting $20,650. SGC-BBC President Denise Halpin was vocal about questioning why the Jordan College was the only academic college that SGA provides funds to.

“Why are we funding one college and not the rest?” said Halpin.

HCC’s Commerce Club Kristina Lenz added that not every student benefit from Honors College programs.

The FIU Marching Band was brought into question as an organization that SGA must pick up the tab for. The Council mentioned that Athletics should be providing them funds for expenditures like traveling to bowl games.

The only program to receive zero funding was the New York Times Readership Program, which requested $14,000.

“It has always been a burden,” said Udmuth. “One thing that we always agree on is that the numbers never add up when they give them to us.”

A unanimous vote lead the Council to not appropriate any funds for the program.

“We understand that we want to provide services for our students but if we can’t even fund our own student media then why are we funding another entity where the main reason that they use it for is class,” said O’Keefe.

All-Nighter for the Poor, Dance Marathon and Relay for Life charity programs received the same amount as the year before or less than they requested.

“[Marching Band] is open to listening to [Senate on their opinions],” said O’Keefe. “Though I feel good about our current position with the fee increase.”

Campus-specific hearings and deliberations will take place the following two weeks.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**BUDGET, PAGE 1**

President Barack Obama, accompanied by Health and Human Services Secrecy Kathleen Sebelius announces the revamp of his contraception policy requiring religious institutions to fully pay for birth control, Friday, Feb. 10, 2012.
Panthers go undefeated in Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial

ANTHONY GUIVAS
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After starting the year off at 1-4, FIU (6-4) has flipped the switch and has won four straight contests, going undefeated in the Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial.

“...and delivered a sacrifice fly inching the runner closer. Third baseman Jessy Alfonso was plucked by a pitch, leading the game to be tied at 3-3, forcing extra innings. Despite UIC scoring a run in extras, the FIU persistence prevailed. Erika Arcuri laid down a near-perfect bunt to place the tying run on third for Ashley McClain. The right fielder took two pitches before launching a deep drive to center field, giving FIU the walk-off win.

FIU 5, PROVIDENCE 0 (F/5)

It was a pitcher’s duel as sophomore Mariah Dawson pitched a complete game despite allowing six hits for the win. Dawson allowed three earned runs, striking out eight on the day as FIU took care of UIC 5-4 in the opening game of the Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial on Feb. 17. Down 3-1, the Panthers clawed back by scoring four runs in the final two innings.

With the bases loaded, first baseman Shelby Graves came to pinch hit and delivered a sacrifice fly inching the runner closer. Third baseman Jessy Alfonso was plucked by a pitch, leading the game to be tied at 3-3, forcing extra innings. Despite UIC scoring a run in extras, the FIU persistence prevailed. Erika Arcuri laid down a near-perfect bunt to place the tying run on third for Ashley McClain. The right fielder took two pitches before launching a deep drive to center field, giving FIU the walk-off win.

FIU 5, PROVIDENCE 0 (F/5)

It was safe to say that the Panthers were running on all cylinders in game two as they shut out Providence 8-0 on Feb. 17.

Jenn Gniadek earned her first win of the year with her five innings of shutout ball. The shutout being her fifth of her career, tying her fifth of her career, tying Vanessa Preston. FIU now stands at 3-4 on the year.

The Panthers scored a total of 40 runs during the tournament en route capturing the Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial title.

Men’s Basketball

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Mired by a four-game losing streak, the Panthers return home to U.S. Century Bank Arena to conclude their regular season schedule with contests against Troy on Feb. 23 and South Alabama on Feb. 25. Although playing at home has been everything but an advantage for the Panthers this season, the Panthers have defeated both Troy and South Alabama on the road this season.

FIU enters the game with a 1-8 record at home. With the regular season coming to a close, the Panthers must find a way to right themselves before the conference tournament.

“We don’t have no other choice,” Dominique Ferguson said. “[We] have to bounce back.”

In the Panthers’ first meeting against Troy (8-17, 3-11 SBC) on Feb. 2, FIU relied on a 17-5 run in the second half to defeat the Trojans 63-50. The catalyst for that run was guard DeJuan Wright, who scored seven of the Panthers’ 17 points in that game-defining run. Defensively the Panthers held Troy’s leading scorer, Will Weathers, to three points in the game. Wright finished the game with 18 points and 13 rebounds in the first meeting. Since losing to FIU, the Trojans have dropped three of their last four games in conference play. Weathers, Justin Wright and Alan Jones have carried the offensive load for the Trojans in their last four games. Combined, the trio has averaged 57 points per game for Troy in the last four games.

THOMAS’ SUSPENSION

With 13:03 remaining in the game against UALR on Feb. 16, head coach Isiah Thomas was ejected from the game for making contact with an official while arguing a foul on Ferguson. According to the television broadcast by the Sun Belt Network, official Brad Gaston is overheard stating to broadcast commentator Dave Odom, “He is ejected because he hit me on the back.”

In college basketball, the penalty of an automatic technical foul and ejection is assessed if contact is made with an official.

An attempt was made to appeal Thomas’ one game suspension to the Sun Belt Conference but the ruling was upheld, forcing Thomas to miss the Arkansas State game on Feb. 18. Thomas was unavailable for comment after the Arkansas State game.

TAKING THE REIGNS

Because FIU (7-19, 4-11 SBC) will be without the services of point guard Phil Taylor on Feb. 23 against Troy...
Ferguson is averaging 9.2 points and 6.4 rebounds per game. Ferguson grows both on and off the court.

Head Coach Isiah Thomas has reiterated that he believes in running his offense through the forwards and centers. “We’ve gone out and recruited size,” Thomas said. “Even though our size is freshman and sophomores, we still want to play inside-out.”

One of his big men who has made an impact since entering the program has been sophomore Dominique Ferguson. At 6-foot-9, Ferguson possesses the ideal size, strength and quickness as a forward. As one of Thomas’ prized recruits in 2010, Ferguson’s game began to flourish during his sophomore year in high school. “I played on a good high school team. We had about seven or eight guys go [to] major schools,” Ferguson said. “I did not start until the end of the season.” Throughout that season Ferguson slowly worked his way into the starting lineup. By the end of the season, Ferguson was a starter and obtained his career high at that time.

“In high school, I never got the feeling of accomplishment. I thought I had finally started making a name for myself,” Ferguson said.

Some of the programs who began recruiting Ferguson were Arizona, Duke, Kentucky, Indiana and UCLA. The one school that drew his interest was FIU. Although the other universities had higher-profile basketball programs, Thomas’ personality and message made an impression on Ferguson. “When I talked to him, he did not put me on a pedestal like other schools did,” Ferguson said. “He did not tell me that I was the only one. He was pretty much straight up with me.”

For Thomas, Ferguson’s skill set was intriguing to him. “I had a great skill set in terms of handling the basketball. He was a good dribbler [and] a good passer,” Thomas said. “I think that he is just starting to get a pretty decent understanding of his size and strength.”

Thomas also said Ferguson on the opportunity that FIU would provide to him as a person. “I told him that my job and responsibility was to make him a better person and a better player and the person comes before the player.”

Once Ferguson made his way to campus in 2010, he had to wait until December due to an issue with the NCAA. “It was hard because it was my freshman year… and I had already bonded with the guys.” Once he was allowed to play, he made an impact. In his first game against Florida A&M, Ferguson finished the game with 10 points, five rebounds and four blocks.

Jury will decide whether Wyche acted in self-defense

For Thomas, he has been more impressed with the growth and success of Ferguson off the hardwood. “His biggest wins have come off the floor in terms of growing and maturing,” Thomas said. “We are starting to see that maturity come up to the floor in our practices. By the time he is a junior and senior, the full compliment of the person and the player should be on display.”

The Panthers were short-handed beginning this season in the interior with Josy De La Rosa and Brandon Moore joining the team in December. For Ferguson, it was about him doing his job and leading by example. “I was already mentally preparing,” Ferguson said. “I just played my role.”

After only scoring in double-figures in three games in the first month of the season, Ferguson has registered 10 games scoring at least 10 or more points.

In order for the Panthers to make a run in the Sun Belt Conference tournament, he knows the team must play as a unit. “Everybody has to come together,” Ferguson said. “We are definitely on the same page right now.”
Fashion model signed to agency, questions industry

Imagine that you are flipping through a magazine and you come across an ad for a big name clothing company. You see a tall, thin model with a captivating face. This girl could very well be Ashley Garner, a University of Miami student who has been making waves in the modeling industry.

Garner is no newbie to the modeling industry. With two years of freelance modeling experience in Miami, she has already been published in three magazines and has become very involved in the beauty industry. Although freelancing has been Garner’s preferred route in her modeling career, an agency in New York has recently snapped her up as their very own.

The Sharlet Grier agency signed Garner this year. Although this company is in New York, they are opening a branch in Miami in June and Garner will be able to work for them without having to relocate.

“I did a shoot with a photographer who recommended I send [the pictures] to Sharlet Grier,” said Garner. “I got a call the next day.”

Garner expressed the major perks of the modeling industry: free champagne, free clothes, admission to events and being the center of attention. “You meet some amazing and interesting people,” said Garner.

One of Garner’s most notable achievements was working with the popular chain store, Banana Republic. Icon Magazine published a four page spread featuring her in two of the four pages.

“It was really great to see that all my hard work had paid off in such a beautiful way,” said Garner.

Despite the glamour that is associated with modeling, Garner shared that it has its difficulties.

“Modeling is really difficult because you put so much on other people who don’t even know you,” said Garner. “There are a lot of people that don’t really care about you.”

The beauty industry is known for being cutthroat. Garner explained that although freelance modeling has been an interesting experience, she has had moments where she questioned if it is worth it.

“Being told that you are fat when you are not sucks,” said Garner.

She went on to explain that a number of agencies refused to sign her because her thighs were too “athletic.”

Standing at five feet, nine inches tall and weighing a mere 115 pounds, one wonders how the beauty industry really operates

Regardless of the industry loves or hates her, Garner has other things on her mind. She expressed that modeling not her true passion. Ashley enjoys photography, styling and journalism. She hopes to find a job in the fashion industry, but not necessarily as a model.

“[Modeling] is not my calling. It’s just fun stuff,” said Garner.

Asst. professor realizes research effects outside the lab

BROOKE WERTMAN
Staff Writer
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Recently, Dr. Laura Dinehart, an assistant professor of early childhood education at the University, has had many opportunities to see her name in the news. The attention and recognition is more than welcome.

Her most recent research may decide the future importance of handwriting in the elementary school curriculum. Though the study is not yet complete, the results thus far have many wondering if a subject that has been pushed aside may deserve more attention.

“People always seem to either love or hate research. No one ever feels neutral about it,” said Dinehart. “I never thought I would end up doing research. I always used to help people, but I thought I would be counseling and work with people one-on-one.”

Dinehart had her first experiences in research while finishing up her undergraduate degree in developmental psychology at the University. While working in the infant psychology lab, a friend noticed and commented how much Dinehart enjoyed getting the results of a study. Dinehart’s friend suggested that she research.

Dinehart continued her education and got a doctoral degree at the University of Miami before returning to the FIU to teach.

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“To be clear, the study is not distinguishing between elegant and sloppy handwriting, but rather the benefits of mastering handwriting at a young age and the positive effects this mastery has later on in a child’s educational career.”

The study measured the fine-motor skills of four-year-olds, including drawing, writing letters and numbers. These same children were then tested as second graders on their reading and math abilities. Students who tested well on fine-motor skills averaged with a B in these subjects, while those who tested poorly averaged a C.

“Kids don’t get grades on handwriting anymore and cursive is often not taught in schools. We’re not sure what the effects of this will be,” said Dinehart.

“It takes a lot to be able to write,” acknowledged Dinehart. “It is often overlooked by adults because it comes so easily to us. Think of learning to drive a car and all the little things you have to pay attention to. See Study, Page 6
Research aims to improve early childhood education

There is no greater satisfaction than seeing a room full of students ready to maximize their workout results in my Latin Spice and Cardio Core classes. However, I often notice common workout errors that threaten their efforts. The following are a few mistakes to avoid so that you can receive the most out of your workout.

LACK OF WARM-UP
Would you ever take a test without looking at the material first? Probably not. Studying before a test prepares you for what to expect on the exam so that you receive a good grade. The same concept applies to your workout regime.

According to the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America, the purpose of a warm-up is to increase core temperature and prepare the muscles for the corresponding workout. In my Cardio Core class, I start out with low-impact knee lifts, grapevines and other exercises that prepare the body for a gradual increase to higher-impact exercises, like jumping jacks and high kicks. If you walk into the gym and start doing squats and bicep curls, you could be risking serious injury.

To avoid injury, perform a five to 10 minute warm-up that is appropriate for the workout. For example, if you are about to run three miles on a treadmill, start off with power walking, then move on to slow jogging; gradually increase your intensity.

Limbering movements, like arm circles, ankle rolls and head rolls are also great for increasing joint mobility for your workout. In addition, light stretches, like runner’s lunges, are useful, but do not hold them for more than 15 seconds.

STRETCHING

Longer stretches are saved for the end of the workout to assist joint mobility, reduce muscle soreness and decrease risk of injury. There are two major problems I notice when walking around my classes and the Recreation Center in general: people do not stretch, or stretch very little and they use ballistic stretching.

Ballistic stretching uses a bouncing movement that forces the limbs to extend further when they are not ready to do so.

The next time you go for an arm overhead straddle stretch, contain yourself from bouncing around. Instead, hold the stretch for 12 to 60 seconds. This type of stretching, called static stretching, is the safest way to go.

POOR ALIGNMENT
One of the greatest threats to any type of workout is poor alignment. If you are among the many that experience neck pain during a crunch, listen closely.

Supporting your neck and holding on for your life while you pull up is not going to engage your core.

Before becoming a fitness instructor, I fell victim to the neck pain. I learned to correct my error when I attended my first ultimate abs class and the instructor said, “Place your hands on your shoulders, and keep your ears in line with them.” She explained to the class that when you place your hands behind your neck, it is only natural to pull on those muscles when you crunch up.

This is why you may feel that your neck is robbing you of an abdominal workout.

By keeping your ears in line with your shoulders and placing your hands on your shoulders, your abs gain full control.

Another common alignment error is allowing the knee to shift past the toe during lunges and squats.

Keep the knee and ankle in one alignment to avoid knee pain or injury. When doing many that experience neck pain during a crunch, listen closely.

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Within Miami borders, poverty rate staggering

Monday, February 20, 2012

Miami is trying her hardest to compete as a real metropolitan city, but as the staggering poverty level continues to grow and the income disparities continue to widen, she and her citizens lose.

According to an MSNBC report that labeled Miami the number one “worst-run city in America,” (we beat Detroit...Detroit!), Miami is riddled with economic disparities that manifests in a few core areas. Possessing the second highest rate of income inequality and the 13th highest crime rate in the nation, Miami needs help.

The most shocking statistic in the article is that the poverty rate is 34 percent. It is an obscene concept, poverty, the word itself is as an umbrella term that a myriad of social issues fall under. If there were a philosophical synonym for poverty, the closest word would be “deficiency.” Not enough money is an obvious branch of the poverty tree, but infinite other branches include a lack of educational resources, hunger, homelessness and an inability to access proper (or any) health care.

When one looks at the reality of Miami, the closest word would be philosophical synonym for poverty, the closest word would be “deficiency.” Not enough money is an obvious branch of the poverty tree, but infinite other branches include a lack of educational resources, hunger, homelessness and an inability to access proper (or any) health care.

The brutality of family members, acquaintances, and strangers against the women in their lives is absolutely devastating.

As crime continues to overflow into greater Miami-Dade, the poorer neighborhoods will get more attention. However, the attention must not be solely on erecting playgrounds and repaving decrepit streets; there has to be outreach to the systemic roots of poverty and crime.

As local politicians focus energy and resources on building swing sets and painting rust colored fences white, they have to shift their focus on giving resources directly into programs that benefit the peoples’ lives within the communities.

In other words, the $200,000 park that was funded by the Miami Community Redevelopment Agency and built by the Omni Parkwest Redevelopment, is a nice start and all but, the fact that it is impermanent, a concept that would be humorous if it were not a reality, and could after two years turn into a convention center, gives total pause to the entire idea.

Overtown and other poor neighborhoods in Miami need not just redevelopment but smart, citizen-oriented redevelopment.

After all, it was the construction of I-95 that fragmented Overtown in the first place and largely caused its economic decline.

A comment left by an anonymous user on an informal travel site to Miami had this to say about Liberty City, another neighborhood plagued by poverty and crime: “Do your best to avoid this place. It is by far the most disgusting and human presence I have ever seen. The existential squatter is even worse than the South Bronx!”

The insensitivity and elitism in this comment is obvious, but its also a poignant statement. Miami’s poorest neighborhoods, as a whole, are indeed being avoided, when instead, they should be rediscovered.

In next month’s column, read about educational initia-tives and grassroots organizations in Overtown.

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Send your letter to: neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com
Students getting whipped into shape for festival weekend

SHANNON COPELAND
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The Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management will be participating in the annual South Beach Wine & Food Festival presented by the Food Network from Feb. 23-26.

The festival, which in its eleventh year, will include the presence of celebrity chefs such as Paula Deen and Bobby Flay.

The staff of CSHTM, the chefs and students all are preparing for the festival. Participating students work in almost every aspect of the festival including logistics, operations, public relations, marketing, auction coordination and cuisine preparation.

“I hope to gain hands-on experience while working with the students and the chefs,” said Celine Filipi, nutrition and dietetics major with a minor in hospitality and tourism management.

Filipi, who focuses her culinary skills on baking, will be preparing her signature low fat carrot cake and zucchini bread dish in order to practice her baking skills on baking, will be preparing

Students commit an average of 36,319 hours to the festival. Students not only gain job experience for their future and education, but also scholarship offers and employment opportunities.

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The students partake in tasks ranging from golf carting to inventory management, giving a summary of what his day will be like.

“My days are longer than the average student,” Bloom said. “I will start at the Grand Tasting Village assisting with setup of the tents, then assist with supervision of students and transport the food to the convention center. He describes the preparation process as “crazy. Everything is boiling down.”

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Russell Simmons, most notable for being a co-founder of Def Jam Records, is scheduled to speak about the evolution of hip-hop and its effect on society on Feb. 22 at Biscayne Bay Campus in Wolfe University Center Ballroom 244.

The event, sponsored by the Student Government Association at BBC, will open its doors at 6 p.m., while the presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Simmons is also the driving force behind numerous ventures including Phat Farm apparel line, the television series Def Comedy Jam and the footwear line Rush Athletics.

The entrepreneur is responsible for the success of LL Cool J, Run–D.M.C. and the Beastie Boys. Simmons’ net worth is estimated at $340 million.

Hip-hop mogul set to deliver a ‘phat’ lecture

Nubia Heuett, a chemistry graduate student, is developing a method to test the Biscayne Bay Campus sewage water for any levels of explicit drugs such as cocaine, LSD, and heroin.

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Rush Communications, Simmons’ multimillion-dollar corporation, is one of the largest African American owned media firms.

When the corporation is not busy launching careers, it spearheads projects like UniRush, which offers prepaid cards and a basic set of financial services to families with lower incomes.

Simmons is also a vegan, animal activist, gay rights supporter and has taken part in the recent Occupy Wall Street protest movement. Tickets for the event are available at the SGA office in WUC 301. The event is free for students with an FIU One Card and five dollars for the general public.