KENDALL BERRY MURDER SUSPECT SET TO STAND TRIAL

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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.”

Junior wide receiver for the Golden Panthers Antwione Bell, then a freshman, said in a statement to police that he saw someone other than Berry hit Wyche. In response to this attack from an "unidentified assailant," Wyche "took off running.”

Bell told police he saw Berry run after Wyche, but by the time he caught up to the two men, Berry was on the ground bleeding.

Bell said he did not see if Berry use "great force against Wyche" to justify the "use of force likely to cause death or serious bodily injury.

But James Jones, a senior defensive lineman, then a sophomore, said both Wyche and Berry were equally "ready to fight.”

He said the two men fought, Wyche took off running, Berry chased and caught up to Wyche and they would have continued fighting had their friends not arrived.

Alex Legions version of the story suggests a different persona for Wyche.

Wyche, Legion said in his statement, was “laughing and smiling” when he ran from Berry. However, there were too many police for Legion to see exactly what happened.

SEE WYCHE, PAGE 4

CRIME

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 for around 30 University wide organizations and facilities.

U-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 amounts decided upon by the Council are preliminary since they must still be reviewed by the Student Government Senates from both campuses, the Vice President of Student Affairs Rosa 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 $998,000 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 $10,780,955 to work with.

“You need to input your dollars where your priorities are,” said Marjorie Gruninger, director of budget and personnel for the department of student affairs, to the Council.

Directors and assistant directors of both campuses at the behest of the Council are in charge of the organization.

The “Top Five” recipients were the first to be discussed because they are the five that will receive their base funding. They are comprised of facilities such as the Graham Center, Wolfe University Center, MMC Rec Center, BBC Rec Center and the Center for Leadership and Service.

During the first day of deliberations, tensions arose when CLS was brought up among the Council.

Emilio Collyer, BBC vice president, and Samir Patel, speaker pro tem proprio from SGC-MMC, supported substantial increases to the CLS budget and adding coordinators to the organization.

“We’ve left them in the back burner in the past years,” said Patel, who credited the CLS-regulated Alternative Breaks Program, among others, for the funding gap.

See Budget, Page 2
President Barack Obama, accompanied by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, revamps the reqvpl of his contraception policy requiring religious institutions to fully pay for birth control, Friday, Feb. 10, 2012.

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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 labor 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 there is no constitutional basis, it’s an overreach of the federal government,” said Rigo Vega, a Catholic campus minister at the University. “Freedom of religion trump[s] 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 Ful’s chapter of Nuns for Planned Parenthood said. “[But] it’s not just them that you have to think about—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, 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 added in January, the Religious Freedom Restoration 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 federal contraceptive methods for their employees. “It’s not a money problem,” said Janio Arrozamah, 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,” provides 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. University 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 Loynez, 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 Guis Rive, a nurse practitioner. “In some cases women have decided to between birth control and rent,” said Bean. “I think [the plan] would be very beneficial,” Camila Plam, senior health education major at UHS, said. “If it goes through, it would be positive.”
Panthers go undefeated in Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial

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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.

"We just brought a little more intensity, a little more fire to the table and it was a great week of practice so it's no accident we played so well this weekend," coach Jake Schumann said.

**FIU, UIC (F/8)**

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 plunked 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. Errika 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, PROVIDENCE (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 five innings of shutout ball. The shutout being her fifth of her career, tying her fifth all time on FIU’s list with Vanessa Preston. FIU now stands at 3-4 on the year.

FIU opened up the scoring in the first with an unearned run. But things really began to pick up for the Panthers in the second inning when the Panthers posted up three runs to give FIU a 4-0 lead.

In the fifth inning, Beth Peller came up and singled up the middle with the bases loaded, driving in two, ramping up FIU’s lead 6-0.

FIU tacked on two more runs on errors to force the mercy rule in the fifth.

**FIU, SOUTHERN MISS (F/5)**

FIU’s Dawson pitched a gem on Feb. 18, throwing her fourth complete game of the year, limiting the Gamecocks to two hits in their victory.

"My mindset tonight was to come in stronger this game and to really let my defense work behind me," Dawson said. "Mixing it up, the ladder going up, going down, side to side and throwing off-speed. So just working the pitches really good!"

Junior Alex Casals got

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

Tempers flare as FIU enters its final stretch of season

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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 Odum, “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, 4-10 SBC) will be without the services of point guard Phil Taylor on Feb. 23 against Troy.

**SEE MEN’S, PAGE 4**
Ferguson grows both on and off the court

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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 are 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. We had about 20 school that drew his interest was FIU. Although the other Universities had higher-profile basketball programs, Thomas’ person and strength had a big high school and UCLA. The one schools did,” Ferguson said. “I thought I had finally started making a name for myself.”

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. “He 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.

Ferguson completed his freshman year averaging 7.1 points and 4.8 rebounds. The biggest adjustment that Ferguson made from high school to college was the level of physicality of Division I basketball. “In high school, I never got pushed around, but here I still got to battle people,” Ferguson said.

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 complement of the person and the player should be on display.”

The Panthers were short-handed beginning this season in the interior with Joey 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.”

Jury will decide whether Wyche acted in self-defense

Wyche, PAGE 1

Colt Anderson, nabot senior tight end, said Wyche was the aggressor throughout the entire confrontation. The defense’s theory of the case, according to the judge, is that Wyche attempted to get away from the fight before it became physical and Berry, along with others, chased him. Wyche found himself in the position where running was no longer possible and did what he had to do to save his own life.

Wyche’s defense attorneys are using former Gov. Jeb Bush’s “Stand Your Ground Law,” which passed in 2005, as the basis of their self-defense argument.

“He just happened to thrust himself against the scissor that the defendant had taken out apparently from his book bag when he was being chased down by this football team,” Peckins said to CBS Miami after Wyche’s Jan. 23 hearing.

The prosecution’s theory is that Wyche ran from out of the fight took place, got a hold of the most readily available deadly weapon, either returned to the area or laid in wait and stabbed Berry in the heart.

“This is someone who brought a knife to fist fight, and someone is dead because of it,” prosecutor Abbe Rftkan said to Kendall Berry passed away on March 25, 2010.

CBS Miami. Hirsch was not able to come to a conclusion in his ruling because the presented records did not give him enough information to dismiss the case due to Wyche standing his ground. “Because I can draw no conclusion, this motion must fail,” Hirsch wrote. “The defendant has met his burden of proof.”
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 studying art history.

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 snatched 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 sane the beauty industry really is. Regardless if the industry loves her 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.

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 not without cause.

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.

“I thought ‘no, no, no. I could never be one of those people who sit at a computer in an office all day.’”

Dr. Laura Dinehart
Early Childhood Education, Assistant Professor

From the start, her focus has always been the developmental outcome of children from high-risk environments.

By studying children at a very high risk of doing poorly in school, she hopes to find factors that can be altered and ultimately lead them to better academic outcomes.

It was this interest that lead Dinehart to her most recent study on the connection between handwriting skills and math and reading comprehension. “We started out studying language skills in pre-kindergarten schools. We weren’t even looking for the link we found.”

“At the same time that we were finding our results, other research was coming out stating similar findings, so it’s nice that our results are being validated,” said Dinehart. 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 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. I think of learning to read and write. It takes a lot to do it.”

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Take these steps to avoid common workout errors

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 lunge, 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 any kind of standing alignment, such as marching or dead lifts, remember to keep the knees slightly bent, shoulders back and down, knees and toes pointing in the same direction, contract your abs and place the pelvis in a neutral position.

In addition, placing the pelvis in a neutral position is an integral part of alignment while performing exercises that require you to lie down, like the crunch, because it helps to keep the lower back on the mat and reduce pain in that area.

Hydration and Fuel
I can’t emphasize this enough—drink plenty of water. Staying hydrated is important for any type of work out because it helps regulate body temperature and restores the body fluids lost through sweating. Because we all differ in weight, height and fitness level, we all have different hydration needs.

Therefore, as a general rule of thumb, make sure to drink water before, during and after exercise to avoid dehydration. Whatever workout routine you follow, avoiding these common errors will provide you with an effective workout and prevent unwanted injury during your next session.

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Within Miami borders, poverty rate staggering

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 the abject poverty looks like on a solely surface level, if you do not take a deeper look into programs that benefit the peoples’ lives within the community. It has been abandoned with wooden boards nailed over broken windows. It looks like expensive cars that roll by slowly and let out girls without ever fully coming to a complete stop. It looks like kids playing in streets with potholes that need to be filled.

In every city, income disparities exist - but in Miami, they define it. It is not just morally imperative to pour more funding into the impoverished neighborhoods of Miami, it’s a move in the right direction for overall prosperity and productivity.

Let’s assume for a moment you strongly believe in the American dream. You assert that one can get an education and if they work hard enough, sustain a career and healthy lifestyle.

This, you say, is a reality not just a mere notion of possibility. Thus, one must support initiatives that reinforce this mantra. By equalizing the playing field in these neighborhoods where children and young adults never had a fair start and is not just “right”, it’s American.

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 city.

In the larger city, we are all living on college campuses. Studies show that men’s ideas about what other men think is one of the strongest deterrents of men having consent. They say yes, but they mean no. They may feel pressured to have sex under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or just “having fun.” But in the end, they’re not in control of their own bodies.

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Letter to the Editor

VP Joe Biden: Together we must end dating violence

More than twenty years ago, I read a study of high school students in Rhode Island that included one finding I’ve never been able to get out of my head. Students were asked if a man who spent money on a woman during a date was entitled to force her into sexual activity. An astounding 25 percent of the young boys said yes – and even more astounding, 17 percent of the junior high school girls agreed.

You may think that sounds like a long time ago – and it was. But, sadly, dating violence remains a very real problem in our country – especially on college campuses.

Today, while in college, nearly one in five women will be a victim of sexual assault and one in ten teens will be hurt on purpose by someone they are dating. These aren’t just statistics, these are people you know: your roommates, your friends, your sisters, your classmates. This is a problem we all have to face.

My dad used to say that there’s no such thing as one person alone. Whether it was raising a band to someone weaker, or using any advantage to pressure people around, he taught me that if you saw abuse, you had an obligation to attempt to stop it. It’s a lesson to remember every day, but especially this February, during Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

Awareness is the first step to pushing back against a problem this big. When I held Senate hearings on violence against women more than two decades ago, domestic abuse in American society was rarely spoken about in public. I’ll never forget the stories of abuse I heard in over a thousand hours of hearings. The brutality of family members, acquaintances, and strangers against the women in their lives was absolutely devastating.

It was those hearings that led to the Violence Against Women Act, and since then annual incidents of domestic violence have dropped by more than 50%. But for women in college and younger today, the risk is still much too high.

That’s why I joined with Education Secretary Arne Duncan last April to announce historic new guidelines for colleges and universities under Title IX to prevent sexual assault. Under the federal civil rights law, schools have an obligation not only to respond appropriately when an assault occurs, but also to create a climate on campus that makes such violence unacceptable.

I also started an initiative called It’s2many to help reduce dating violence and sexual assault among teens and young adults. We harnessed the power of technology to get our message out, launching a national contest to develop “Apps Against Abuse.” The two winning apps – which will be available later this spring – will let you get in touch with your friends quickly and safely so you can call for help if you need it and stop violence in its tracks. We’ve also made sure the National Dating Abuse Helpline can be reached by text, online, or phone 24/7.

Last month, the FBI changed the way the federal government defines rape. The narrow, outdated definition – unchanged since 1929 – said the assault had to be forcible and against a woman’s will to be classified as rape. It’s just not true, and it’s a point that I make on college campuses all across the country. Rape is rape and no means no. No means no whether drunk or sober. No means no whether in the dorm room or on the street. There is never an excuse. Young women and men alike need to understand this. Under the new definition, rape occurs when there is no consent, and it also includes sexual assault by boys and young men in national law enforcement reporting.

These are important changes, but ending dating violence and sexual assault isn’t just a matter of laws and legislation. It’s about education. It’s about attitudes. It’s about your participation. I need your help to address this issue in your dorms and on your campuses. Studies show that men’s ideas about what other women think is one of the strongest deterrents of men having consent. They say yes, but they mean no. They may feel pressured to have sex under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or just “having fun.” But in the end, they’re not in control of their own bodies.

The ultimate measure of a civilized society is how its laws and culture treat the abuse of women. Attitudes can change. Violence can end. But it can’t happen without universal understanding that dating violence and sexual assault will never be tolerated anywhere, at any time, for any reason. Period. That’s all of our responsibility.

VP Joe Biden, Vice President of the United States
Students getting whipped into shape for festival weekend

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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 is 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, action coordination and cuisine preparation.

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

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

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.

“I consider my students to be the glue,” Moran said. “We have the big companies and sponsors at this event, ranging from golf carting to inventory companies and sponsors at this event, 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 transportation to the convention center. He describes the preparation process as “crazy. Everything is boiling down.”

Mohammad Qureshi, Assistant Dean for the CSHTM, believes this event will “benefit the students and the school, as it allows the student to make contact with the industry, which will be helpful for them.”

LACED WATERS

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.

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

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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 Run 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.

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.