SMOKING BAN

Still ‘no official enforcement plan as of yet’

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer
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It has been over a year since the University imple-mented its policy banning the use of tobacco products on all campuses.

However, formal sanc-tions for the regulation have yet to be settled on.

“There is no official enforcement plan as of yet,” said Mariela Gabaroni, assistant director of University Health Services.

The ban became effective on Jan. 1 of last year, after the University’s Board of Trustees approved the prohibition of the use of all tobacco-related products on Sept. 24, 2010.

FIU is the first institution in South Florida to be completely smoke free.

“It is an ongoing process because we are changing a culture,” Gabaroni said. “Students are going up to other students asking them to stop [smoking on campus] and people are respectful when asked politely.”

Gabaroni was the chair of the steering committee that was created to educate the University community about the new regulation being implemented and to further communicate the resources available to students, faculty and staff.

Originally intended to last an initial six months, social enforcement, or to stop and palm cards with pertinent information on why the University has gone tobacco and smoke free are supposed to be offered for distribution. Student opinions are divided on the method of enforcement.

“I think [social enforce-ment] is ok. Smoking is a big problem in public areas, I think it is good to suggest to people to stop smoking on campus,” said Qing Ting, a hospitality freshman.

However, some think that suggesting is not enough.

“Social enforcement is not going to work. I don’t think its effective because people have their opinions engraved,” said Anthony Becerra, a hospitality senior.

According to students, smoking still occurs on campus.

“[Students] smoke a lot less since the no-smoking signs were put up. I was a little surprised because they are college kids, but I still see custodians smoking,” said Carmen Mulet, a junior chemistry major.

“The ban on smoking on campus is like making an illegal left turn at an intersection, everyone does it anyway and it’s not enforced,” said Luis Herrera, a senior psychology major. “I see friends of mine smoking right outside of class all the time.”

The Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution refused to comment on the repercussions of continuous offenses.

The ban includes areas in the proximity of University housing residences.

“Housing areas have always been smoke free,” said Joe Haefiel, assistant director of housing and residential life.

However, if smoking occurs outside the residences, “students are held accountable and are encouraged to put [their cigarettes] down,”

University Health Services continues to provide on-campus sessions and consultations for students who want to quit smoking.

They also offer resources online through the Tobacco-action being implemented and to further communicate the resources available to students, faculty and staff.

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Police: Bicyclist struck by car, falls into river

Police say a bicyclist has died in southwest Florida after being struck by a car and falling from a bridge into a river.

Palmetto Police say 44-year-old Adon Newsome of Bradenton was riding across the DeSoto Bridge early Wednesday when he was struck by a car. He fell into the Manatee River.

Police tell the Sarasota Herald-Tribune the driver stopped then drove to a nearby hospital to report the accident.

The crash remains under investigation.

Infant killed after shots fired into Detroit home

Authorities say a 9-month-old boy was killed when shots were fired into a Detroit home early Monday.

Detroit Police Sgt. Gary Diaz says the infant was pronounced dead at a hospital, not long after the 4:30 a.m. incident.

Diaz says shell casings have been found outside the home, and the shots could have been fired from a moving car. A witness told investigators a car sped away after the shooting.

No arrests have been made. Police have not elaborated further on the circumstances surrounding the shooting.

WORLD

Al-Qaida in Yemen confirms senior leader’s death

Yemen’s branch of Al-Qaeda has confirmed the death of a senior leader, who officials say died in a bloody family feud.

A statement posted on a militant website by Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula on Monday said that government agents “motivated by the hireling regime in Sanaa” were responsible for the death of its “emir,” Fargh Ali-Dahab.

It did not comment beyond that on claims by officials and tribal leaders that Ali-Dahab had been slain Thursday in a clash in southern Yemen by his half-brother Hizam. Hizam and 15 others were then reported to have been killed by Dahab’s followers.

The clashes came days before Feb. 21 elections to approve a new leader to replace President Ali Abdullah Saleh. A year-long uprising has sought to push Saleh from power.

— Compiled by Lauren Riviera

GROWTH, PAGE 1

said in a letter to the Univer-
sity community. “The foun-
dations assure our ability to
advance our teaching, research
and engagement mission within
each of our strategic themes.”

Rosenberg said the financial
problem, but 50 percent are part
time then it would be less of a
major problem. But 50 percent are part
time then it would be less of a
major problem.

Growth would come from an influx of
new advisors.

He also hopes to make
advancing more “intrusive” processes in which advisors would help students decide their major early on.

“This process is called major mapping,” Rosenberg said. “It would give students
more of our students were full

We can afford to add more students

We can afford to add more students’

We can afford to add more students’

SARAH BREITENBACH
AP Staff

Maryland appears ready to
become one of a handful of states
in the U.S. to legalize gay marriage
after the bill to allow it passed a
long-standing hurdle in the
Maryland House of Delegates on
February 18.

After curtoring the votes of a
couple delegates initially opposed to
the measure, House members voted 72-67 to pass the bill. An initial vote count suggested the measure passed with 71 votes, leaving out an affirmative from
Delegate John Bonahman.

Next up is the Senate, which
handily passed a similar bill last
year. Gov. Martin O’Malley
sponsored the bill and has pushed for
gay marriage to be legalized.

Approval would make
Maryland the eighth state plus
the District of Columbia to legalize
the marriages, although opponents have vowed to petition the measure
to referendum.

“We took a giant step
toward marriage equality becoming law — and we are in this litigation related to the unwavering leadership and resolve of Governor O’Malley, Speaker (Michael) Busch and our legislative allies,” Joe Solomonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement released Friday.

An amendment from Delegate
Tiffany Alston, a Prince George’s
Democrat who previously opposed
the bill, was accepted by the
couple, a move opponents suggested secured her vote. It would keep the law from going into effect until any litigation related to a potential voters’ referendum on the measure is processed.

The body also added a amend-
ment Thursday evening, altering
the effective date from October to
January 2013.

Delegate Wade Kach, a Repub-
nican from Baltimore County,
said earlier in that day that his
support was contingent upon that
amendment.

Throughout the week, several
lawmakers, including Kach
and Republican Delegate Robert
Costa, made pronouncements that
after personal consideration they
would support the legislation.

Opponents say the bill does not adequately protect religious free-
doms and would force educators to
support gay marriage in public
schools.

Delegates rejected amendments
to create civil unions, allow parents
to opt out of education programs that address same-sex relationships, limit marriage for gay couples over
18 and to put the measure directly
on the ballot.

Opponents argued that Demo-
crats rushed the measure through
without proper consideration of
amendments once they knew there
would be enough votes. “We should not use brute force strength on such a weighty issue,” said Delegate Anthony O’Donnell, R-Calvert.

Earlier in the week, opposi-
tion lawmakers criticized propo-
sals for dragging their feet on the
measure in order to have enough
time to secure votes.
Graves came to pinch hit first baseman Shelby final two innings. By scoring four runs in the the Panthers clawed back trial on Feb. 17. Down 3-1, and Gold Felsberg Memo- opening game of the Blue and Gold Felsberg, Dawson pitched a complete game despite allowing six hits for the win.

Despite UIC scoring inching the runner closer. A 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. 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.

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

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 3, SOUTH CAROLINA 1**

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

**Panthers go undefeated in Blue and Gold Felsberg Memorial**

**ANTHONY GUVAS**
**Staff Writer**
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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 5, UIC 4 (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 Memo- rial 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. 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 Prov- idence 8-0 on Feb. 17.

Jenn Gnadek 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.

**Men’s Basketball**

Tempers flare as FIU enters its final stretch of season

**MALCOLM SHIELDS**
**Staff Writer**
 malcolm.shields@fiusm.com

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 must find a way to right themselves before coming to a close, the Panthers must

In college basketball, the penalty of in- thincing the runner closer. A 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. 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.

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**THOMAS’ SUSPENSION**

With 13:03 remaining in the game against UALR on Feb. 16, head coach Isaiah Thomas was ejected from the game for making contact with an offi- cial while arguing a foul on Ferguson. According to the television broadcast by the Sun Belt Network, official Brad Gaston is overheard stating to broad- cast 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, 4-10 SBC) will be without the services of point guard Phil Taylor on Feb. 23 against Troy
FIU (0-3) suffered a sweep at the hands of the Owls (3-0) in their season opening series, having the lead only once in all three games.

**RICE 6, FIU 2**

An almost three-hour rain delay washed away FIU’s offense in its season opener as the team fell 6-2 against the number six ranked team in the country.

The Panthers and the Rice University Owls both had seven hits in the game, but the Owls made theirs count.

Despite a solid performance on the mound by R.J. Fondon, the senior left-hander was tagged with the loss after surrendering three earned runs and walking five batters in five innings. He also struck out three seven Owls.

The Panthers’ seven hits were all singles, with junior Rudy Flores having the only multi-hit game for the team after going two-for-four at the plate. The Owls were held scoreless just once in the series, with Christian Singer having a solo homerun in the bottom of the second inning off Fondon. Rice was back at it in the very next inning, pushing across two more runs to show FIU into a three-run hole.

A bases-loaded, no-out situation in the top of the fourth inning was the Panthers’ best chance to either tie the game or take the lead.

After junior Adam Kirsch struck out the Owls’ third base runner, it was a fielding error that allowed Shantz to score the first of FIU’s two runs on the night. Still with the bases loaded and one out, David Vazquez hit a ground-ball for a double play, ending the inning and shifting the momentum back to Rice.

The Owls drowned the Panther’s hope of battling back after a three-run homerun by Shane Hoelscher off redshirt sophomore Eddy Pidtemden put FIU at a five-run deficit.

The Panthers could not respond to the Owls, scratching out only one run on Kirsch’s RBI single in the top of the eighth inning.

Rice snapped its two-year, opening day losing streak and subsequently extended FIU’s to a second consecutive year.

**RICE 5, FIU 4 (F/12)**

In baseball, the saying, “you have to have a short-term memory,” is a frequently cited one, usually following a loss. For FIU, it is going to be tough to forget this one.

FIU dropped a 12-inning affair against Rice in which they blew their lead in the ninth and eventually gave up a walk-off homerun to Koe.5.4.

Making only his second career start, left-hander Mason McCoy allowed only three hits in 5.2 innings, but walked five Owls while striking out one.

Junior Jarabi Henry enjoyed a three-for-six night with the first FIU homerun of the season and a pair of runs and RBIs.

Junior Nathan Burns had three hits, including a triple, and freshman Julius Gaines recorded his first two hits of his collegiate career, two doubles.

The first seven innings were a pitching duel. A third-inning sacrifice fly by Rice gave them a 1-0 lead, but it remained scoreless until FIU tied the match when Henry scored on a wild pitch.

Senior right-hander Christian Marbrough surrendered two runs in the bottom of the frame, and the Panthers headed into the top of the ninth in a 1-1 hole.

The Panthers, however, refused to head back into the clubhouse with an “L” hanging over their heads.

After junior Rudy Flores hit an RBI single to score senior Pablo Bermudez, Henry smashed a two-out, two-strike homerun to take a 4-3 lead.

Junior Michael Gomez, the team’s closer, could not get three outs and give FIU its first career win against Rice. After walking the first batter, Jeremy Rathjen hit an infield single to tie the game and keep the Owls’ hopes alive.

In the bottom of the 12th inning, redshirt sophomore Albert Cardenas allowed Rathjen to become the hero again, surrendering the game-winning homerun to the Rice outfielder and sending the Owls home as winners.

When dealing with Rice, the Panthers simply bit off more than they could chew.

**RICE 8, FIU 1**

Sunday afternoon’s game at Reck- ring Park was the complete opposite of Saturday’s. Where as one only run was scored in the first seven innings on Saturday, five were scored in the first inning on Sunday. Unfortunately for FIU, all five were Rice’s, as FIU could not overcome the blow and dropped the match 8-1.

Freshman right-hander Jose Lazaro had a rude introduction to Division I baseball, as the Rice hitters knocked him around hard in the first inning. Recording only two outs in his start, Lazaro gave up two hits, five walks and hit two batters, leading to the five earned runs.

Sophomore Mike Ellis was called in relief and surrendered only one run in 5 1/3 and striking out three. The damage, however, had been done.

No Panther had more than one hit, and junior Rudy Flores had the team’s lone RBI.

The Owls exploded in the first inning after a bases-clearing double by Craig Manuel, RBI single and a bases loaded walk to give them a 5-0 lead.

After freshman Julius Gaines led off the third inning with a single, Flores drove him home with a two-out double. The Rice pitching staff silenced the Panther bats afterwards, allowing only three hits. The Owls tacked on three more runs as the game progressed, eventually earning the sweep.

This is the second time since 2008 that the Owls begin the season 0-3. FIU returns to the mound on Friday to take on No. 20 Florida State University (3-0) at 4 p.m.

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**FIU looking for second win at home this year**

**MEN’S, PAGE 1**

because of his ejection for two technical fouls against Arkansas State, freshman guard Deric Hill will be the probable starter in place of Taylor.

Although not the scorer that Taylor is, coach Thomas has credited Hill for his ability to be a facilitating point guard when called into action.

“He moves the team,” Thomas said after the Feb. 11 game against Denver. Hill’s first start of the season against UALLR.

In 32 minutes, Hill scored four points and registered two assists against the Trojans.

**FIU looking for second win at home this year**

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

**THURSDAY, FEB. 12**

TROY AT FIU, 5:30 p.m.

U.S. CENTURY BANK ARENA
Monologues shed light on women’s issues

HOLLY MCCOACH  
Staff Writer  
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The Department of Theatre is not the only department that puts on a display of plays. The Women’s Studies Student Association at the University is hosting their annual show this month, “The Vagina Monologues,” as they have been for more than five years.

With a title like that, one would think that it is an event that is intended for women only. Yes, and no. Female students from any department of the University perform the intimate experiences and feelings they have had with their vaginas.

These experiences can include rape, sex, birth, or simply how they each feel about their “down there.”

Despite this, audiences of men and women are encouraged by WSSA to save the date and attend.

The women of Haiti have been the focus both this year and last year. The plan worked. The girls warmed up to their home, and began attending school again.

Juarez.

What we decided to do was to go into their rooms and completely redecorate them.”

The girls of the Rios family are victims of College Brides Walk.

Although the girls have received treatment, their home environment still existed, as well as the memories that were created there. As a result, the girls slept elsewhere many nights and dropped out of school.

“We learned about the Rios family, and we decided parts of the proceeds would go to them,” said Juarez.

“You can “do it your way” for the benefit of the Rios family, who are in their late 20s, and dropped out of school.

As for “The Vagina Monologues,” anyone can participate, women or men. It is free to join, but devotion to the production is a must. With auditions beginning in October, rehearsals run from then until the day of the actual show. Although everyone is free to participate, women are the only ones allowed to act.

“We love to have men involved. They can help us with the set, they can help us at the door selling tickets, and they can help with reception areas,” said Juarez.

Attending “The Vagina Monologues” is not free, but money received is donated to organizations that assist women who are victims of rape, abuse, prostitution and even human trafficking.

Students with IDs pay $10; however, presale tickets can be bought from DM 212 for $6. University faculty and staff tickets are $15.

“It’s not free to come into the event because, with the help of students and everyone that attends, we are able to impact [women],” she said.

With the amount of purpose and intrigue behind “The Vagina Monologues,” WSSA can provide audiences with the art of theater, with undertones of social and political impact.

HAUTE TOPIC

NYFW: designers revive trends from previous season

Another New York fashion week has come and gone, and my color palette hurts from clicking through all the shows on Style.com.

Every thing was beautiful and inspirational, save for the witch shoes and funky hats of Marc Jacobs.

The funny thing about his collection was that the clothes were breathtaking but the accessories were horrible.

Maybe Jacobs was making some sort of commentary about how designers make their accessories the high point of their designs instead of focusing on the garments.

Once upon a time, accessories were mere afterthoughts, but with the explosion of street-style fashion on the Internet, images of shoes and bags permeate more quickly and become easier to identify, and therefore, make tons of dough for designers.

While browsing through the runway shows and presentations for next fall, I noticed something very peculiar: color was everywhere.

Bright oranges and reds popped up all over town, making the neon trend that still continues more accessible for the wearer.

Longer hems, especially pencil-skirt length, dominated almost everywhere as well. Fashion is not ready for us to bare our legs yet, which will take some adjusting to for those of us who live in warmer climates.

Marchesa and Marc Jacobs showed many colorful, back-infused textured damask and paisley prints that look wonderful when contrasted with darker-colored knits.

Band of Outsiders and J. Crew Collection also showed printed pants in plaid, polka dots and paisley, and paired them with fun, bright-colored jackets.

Oversized jackets and tops are still big at Band of Outsiders, meaning you can keep your Forever 21 blazers in rotation for another year.

I know many of you are probably sick of stripes by now, but do not write them off just yet. Stripes in various widths and colors are still in, especially on pants.

You can “do it your self” by sewing craft ribbon in bright colors on
Sleigh Bells' new effort flops

Sleigh Bells’ sound is very peculiar. The combination of heavy guitar riffs and sweet pop vocals allow in a controlled manner, an orderly chaos that proved hard to reproduce, even for its own authors, as it happens in this second album. What once seemed exciting and energetic seems simply disorganized and dull—a messy injection of layer upon layer of sound, often discontent just for its own sake, with no real sense of purpose.

This absence of sonic unity, in turn, leads to disinterest on the part of the listener, something that may not necessarily be considered a negative, as the album blows through in a rather brief 36 minutes.

The album lacks any catchy, easy sing-along tracks like “Rill Rill,” the closest to this being “Comeback Kid,” which has overcomplicated synth, drum machine percussion and metal riffs, and often sounds more like an amateur mixture of Cradle of Filth, Marilyn Manson and southern hip-hop than past tracks’ rhythm and cohesive stump and clap qualities, which can be found in “Crown on the Ground.”

Over the course of the production of the album, Derek Miller and Alexis Krauss expressed how the album would take a much darker turn, lyrically and melodically, with a heavier emphasis in instrumentation and pulsating rhythms. Based on these descriptions, I expected a heavier rock-based version of “Crystal Castles,” but instead found myself confused, wondering the record’s goal.

While, indeed, the lyrics have taken a more complex turn, one is not really expecting epic stories or a much deeper artistic output. What once seemed exciting and new if anyone will pick it up if you were born to lose. All charm gone, it truly is tragic to see this seven piece.

Based on these descriptions, I could followup the type of perfor - tion in various colors, as well as produced a lot of textured leather

Colors, prints and stripes gain popularity in fall

NYFW, PAGE 5

the side seam of jeans, shorts or trousers. While most of the above have been done before, albeit not without twists here and there, there were a few completely new ideas. Alexander Wang introduced a lot of textured leather in various colors, as well as 3.1 Phillip Lim with a suede-green leather jacket that I cannot get out of my head. Lim also presented subtle bell sleeves on sweaters and jackets that surprisingly do not look like costumes. Metallic accents in unlikely colors, like green and orange, were all over Rag and Bone and Thesyskens Theory in the form of military jackets and boleros.

My absolute favorite looks were by Derek Lam and Victoria Beckham. Lam’s inverted lace prints seemed to have fun.

Local artists give fun performance

ARBOLES, PAGE 8

Even Miami blues-man, Jesse Jackson looked as if he had fallen over head for the barroom Game. The contrast of cozy knits with sheer, long skirts in creme and white is easily replicable and totally chic. Beckham’s collection was all body-conscious dresses with either a short volumi-

UPCOMING EVENTS

22 WEDNESDAY

5GA APPLICATIONS ARE DUE
WHEN: 5 p.m.

CLUB FOR MINDFUL CONSCIOUS LIVING WELCOME MEETING
WHEN: 12-12:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free to public
WHERE: MMC ROB 2001

SGC BBC LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS: RUSSELL SIMMONS
WHEN: 6:30-7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Tickets are available at the WUC Info Desk
WHERE: WUC Ballroom

23 THURSDAY

FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC DEPARTMENTAL RECITAL
WHEN: 3:30-5:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: MMC Poster Room

MIAMI HERALD SMALL BUSINESS FORUM
WHEN: 8-1 p.m.
WHERE: FIU’s College of Business Complex, Ocean Bank Audito - rium

BSU AND ATHLETICS “BLACK OUT BAS - KETBALL GAME”
WHERE: US County Bank Arena

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED EMAIL:
CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM

Arboles, page 8

With a bit of metal, a dash of blues, and a trip down rabbit hole, the set was brought to a close with the members of Ketchy Shuby joining Arboles Libres on stage filling the pint-sized Churchill’s stage with 10 guys jamming to a 10 minute cover of The Grateful Dead’s “Fire on the Mountain” that caused my heart to grow triple it’s size.

With a three song encore wrapping up a three hour show that had members of both bands shuffling on and off the stage bringing different personalities within the different sets, I can’t help but give this show two thumbs up.

The crowd was jamming, the bands were having a blast and it oozed out of each note played, and the venue was vibrating with the sounds that do justice to the three decades of Miami music history that has set off the careers of countless local acts.
Students become increasingly indebted to their college or university by borrowing loans to advance in their studies, unaware that they may not find a job with a salary adequate enough to pay that debt in a timely manner.

This is still a large enough sum that some students will eventually need to deal with all because of this idea of wanting to graduate early.

Many students will eventually need to deal with all of these ideas of wanting to graduate early.

And, as a result, we are now seeing a large number of students who are choosing to continue their education instead of seeking experience wherever they can find it. This is not necessarily decreasing the number of students who are taking time off from their studies, even though their aid might not fully cover tuition without loans.

Still, students should take the opportunity of remaining as debt free as possible, even if it means delaying their graduation date.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey of 2009-2010, unemployment rates for some majors, such as engineering, business, law, and psychology, were all within the range of six to 15 percent for recent college graduates.

In contrast, most unemployment rates significantly dropped to the three to six percent range the more experienced the college graduate was.

Besides being in debt, students could also be incapable of paying their debt if their rushed degree does not lead them to the career with the necessary salary to start paying it off.

As mentioned in an article published on Jan. 12 by Paulo Ramos for FIU Student Media on the subject of a stable employment, “The unemployment rate for college graduates is at an all-time high of 9.1 percent.”

Employers are seeking applicants with experience rather than those having only the degree itself.

Instead of looking at delaying graduation in a bad light, students should see it as more time to further prepare themselves for their field.

It is not enough to simply attend class. Student should instead use the time presented to seek experience wherever they can find it. Furthermore, opportunities for experience is one thing our University does not lack.

As stated by Ramos, “The University offers career services that introduces students to important aspects of the professional world, offer networking opportunities and provide consultations with those already employed in various industries.”

In conclusion, Ramos stated that “Many departments and organizations within the school also have connections with internships that students should take advantage of to get a head start in their careers.”

The possibility of being debtless and the opportunity of gaining experience in their fields with the time presented should encourage students to not rush through college, as much as they may want to graduate as early as possible.
Tip based laborers battling a potential drop in minimum wage

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In the state of Florida, restaurant waiters/waitresses, bartenders, and other workers who make their living off of tips, are outraged about a bill that is being pushed by the Florida Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.

The proposed bill, SBP 7210, will allow restaurants to slash Florida’s minimum wage for servers from $4.65 to $2.13 an hour, provided that the restaurants guarantee that their servers would make at least $9.98 an hour after tips.

The bill has conflicted views between the restaurant owners who are supporters of the bill and the servers who are against it. Supporters argue that the bill is needed to help the state’s restaurant industry. Opponents say it is ‘ridiculous’ that they would even try to cut wages with the way the economy is now.

Students and faculty in the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management opined that it will have a long term negative effect for the industry. They also feel that the cost of living is rising and wages seem to be diminishing. “If they make a good amount of tips, it doesn’t matter what they are getting from the employer, the tips balances their pay and guarantees the brunch workers a check,” said Rakesh Kamal, a Senior Teaching Lab Specialist and Food Labs Manager.

That balance is not always certain, however. “It could be hot and cold in terms of wages,” said Kenneth Borkowski, an Academic Advisor in CSHTM, who doesn’t feel wages should be cut. "The $4.65 minimum wage, plus the employee meals, plus tips, which is an average of 15-20 percent, can be very lucrative in a good restaurant. On the other hand, those restaurants that do not have a high volume of customers, the wages could be inadequate." Freshman hospitality and tourism management major Rebekah Knight concurs that the money from tips will not always compensate for a drop in wages. “I don’t believe the minimum wage for tipped employees should be cut,” Knight said. “Servers and waiters who work the evening shifts get the most tips. What will happen to the morning shift servers?”

Supporters of the bill argue that it is needed to save the state’s restaurant industry. The CEO of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, Carol Dover, told The Orlando Sentinel that the current $4.65 minimum for tipped workers is “killing” her members. “It’s ridiculous. Servers’ pay has always been low because it is anticipated that they make 20 percent from gratuity, which is not the case. Very rarely do restaurants mandate that servers receive 20 percent of tips,” said Sharee Brice, hospitality and tourism Management major. “When they do, they don’t take into account that servers have to pay out of their tips the bus boys and other people that get tipped out from servers.”

New York Times editors to teleconference with students

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A live teleconference with two editors from The New York Times at the Biscayne Bay Campus will engage students on Feb. 23 and 29 to discuss civic involvement and global awareness.

According to Graduate Assistant of the Office of Global Learning Initiative Eric Feldman, the topic on Feb. 23 will be “Civic Engagement,” which will cover the importance of involvement in the community. dean Bouquet, N.Y. Times managing editor for news, will lead the conference.

On Feb. 29, the topic will be “Global Awareness,” and he will discuss the importance of global awareness among students.

Feldman said the editors were chosen by The New York Times to lead the teleconferences and the Times invited FIU to be one of the participants because of their strong academic partnership with the news outlet.

The partnership is known as the Global Learning Initiative is for our students to develop a sense of global awareness, a global perspective, and an attitude of global engagement,” said Feldman.

JOURNALISM

BEAT STREET

With every kick of the bass drum a cloud of dust and ash from the past three decades of local acts rises from the ground like the holy ghost tending to its flock at Churchill’s Pub. After three years as a band, and countless shows throughout the Miami scene, Arboles Libres threw themselves a birthday party on Feb. 18 with Ketchup Shuby opening up the shindig and setting the bouncing off the walls vibe of the night.

The show kicked off at midnight, and in no small part thanks to Ketchup Shuby’s amazing showmanship, the seven piece band turned Churchill’s into a scene straight out of Animal House, you know, the one where they stumble into Otis Day and the Knights playing Shout.

Needless to say, the crowd was getting down, like Downtown Julie Brown. You had shoeless vixens on the left and lady killers on the right, all of which get together for a sloppy dance party with all dignity lost in the wind.

Ketchup weaved back and forth through the musical realms with some Beatles like tunes that had the sax man put down the brass and pick up the flute sending his band mates into a synchronized shuffle, to the surfer rock drum beats that lead to the closing of their set that gave a Ramones meets salsa feel.

Arboles Libres takes the stage at Churchill’s Pub on Feb. 18 for their three year anniversary show.