County mayor cuts Youth Fair land swap deal

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As the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair pulled in to the area adjacent to Lot 5 for its annual event, FIU’s proposal to acquire the land for University expansion fell through under opposition from County Mayor Carlos Gimenez.

The 86-acres section in the corner of Coral Way and 107th St, is currently occupied by the Youth Fair as they set up for this year’s event. In about three weeks, the fair will have concluded, leaving the land unoccupied for another year.

“We do not see it as an attack on the environment. We see it as a measure by which we can save property that will eventually in its totality be paved over and houses will be put there,” Mark Rosenberg, President of FIU, said.

A proposal submitted by FIU to state legislation proposed a land swap, where FIU would receive the grounds and the fair would move to a 350-acre wetland area bordering the Florida Everglades.

“If you look at the Youth Fair grounds, those 86 acres are only used 18 days a year,” University President Mark Rosenberg said at a Faculty Senate meeting on March 6. “Most of us can agree that may not be the best use for that valued property.”

Relocation of the fair has been in talks for more than a year, as the University seeks to expand to accommodate a growing student body.

“We sat down with the Youth Fair about 20 months ago and said that we’d like to begin a conversation in a win-win context for the Youth Fair to find another location,” Rosenberg said. “We sat down with the county under the same circumstances and asked if we can set up a tri-party working group to identify possible alternative sites for a Youth Fair relocation.”

FIU and the county identified 16 sites for potential relocation of the fair. Of the 16, one site was chosen for consideration by the Youth Fair, the wetlands.

According to Rosenberg, the county was in agreement with this, which is why the University proceeded with the proposal. A letter from the Miami-Dade Mayor to the legislature, stating his disagreement with the moving the fair to an area outside of the County’s Urban Development Boundary ended the proposal.

The county originally purchased the area, worth $3.7 million, as part of the Preservation 2000 conservation land-buying program for a water management project, which was later dissolved in 2008.

“There are varying interpretations on the use of that property,” Rosenberg said. “We do not see it as an attack on the environment. We see it as a measure by which we can save property that will eventually in its totality be paved over and houses will be put there.”

Rosenberg also added that the University would be respectful of the UDR. Plans for amendments to current proposal are also underway.

“This is a set of initiatives that will take ten years to get done, if we’re lucky.”

“[The ruling] sends a very powerful message,” said Wilson. University faculty and staff are among the 560,000 state and county public employees the law affects, including law enforcement officers and firefighters and city workers. Florida had not required workers to contribute to their retirement funds.
Wellness Expo 2012 exposes students to health resources

LAUREN ROVIRA
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The Graham Center was alit March 6 and 7 with a University Health Services event as a critical gathering in GC to learn about their bodies and how to make their lives better.

Tabling along the main corridor by the Pit were a number of local health care providers as well as University organizations focused on improving student’s overall well-being.

A similar event took place at the Wolfe Center at Biscayne Bay Campus on March 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Interested students stopped to ask questions to UHS employees and participate in the events.

Upon requesting to take part in the activities, students received a card and were told to visit the booths along the corridor in order to fill the card with stickers from the various locations.

Inscribed with “Passports for a healthier you”, the cards demonstrated the theme of the event for this year.

“The theme for this year is the seven areas of wellness,” explained Camilo Pham, senior health educator at University Health Services Wellness Center.

“These are the physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, environmental, occupational and social dimensions of wellness.”

Once a student had acquired the necessary stickers on their card they could return to the pit and claim their prize.

UHS aims to provide access to quality health care to the University community and to encourage healthy lifestyles through health promotion, education, mentorship and research.

Pham explained that the event is held every year.

“I expect that students that can’t afford health care, or don’t have cars, can take away knowledge of the local practices that are available to them as well as those services they have right on campus,” she said.

Some of the booths at the event were offering free screenings.

Among the screenings available were spinal, blood glucose levels and fat content.

“Students should know where they stand health-wise,” Pham said.

Student Dietetics Association was among the booths offering free screenings.

SDA offered a body fat content test that would let students know how they are currently doing, and later offered students options on how to improve.

“Today we’re here promoting healthier alternatives,” Monika Arenas, public relations officer for SDA said.

On their booth, SDA had laid out a group of sugar cubes under some popular beverages to show the normal sugar consumption students intake when ingesting Pepsi, Brisk and green tea.

To offset their sugar intake, students were encouraged to turn to healthier options like those offered by the SDA.

At the booth students were handed a low-sugar content juice made with frozen fruit, orange juice and water.

“I expect that students that can’t afford health care, or don’t have cars, can take away knowledge of the local practices that are available to them as well as those services they have right on campus.”

Camilo Pham

University Health Services Wellness Center, senior health educator

These are simple and fast options,” Arenas said of the juices. “We’re bring awareness to students.”

Kendall Regional Medical Center was also tabling at the event.

According to Hyun K. Kung a podiatry surgical resident at the hospital, they were present to provide information to students about the hospital, its services and to inform interested pre-medical school students about opportunities available to them at the hospital.

Further along GC towards the atrium, spinal screenings and a sexual health group were available to participants.

A booth from the recently re-vamped FIU Health Faculty Group Practice also took part in the event.
BOYS AMONG MEN
FIU’s bats cooled off by Miami Marlins

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
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Miami Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton has a way of attracting attention.

An hour before the game, FIU players stared as he stepped into the batting cage and crushed home run after home run, peppering Marlins Park with souvenirs.

As each ball was hit farther and farther, their jaws dropped lower and lower. This was their competition on March 7.

And they were supposed to treat it “like a regular ball game” according to head coach Turtle Thomas.

“At about 4 p.m. it hit me that I’m actually facing the Marlins,” said left-hander Logan Dodds, the Panthers starting pitcher.

On a night where more than 18,000 fans came out to watch the exhibition match between FIU and the Marlins, the score was the last thing on anyone’s mind.

Before the game, Marlins closer Heath Bell invited the entire FIU team to stretch before the game, breaking the

FIU batters were forced to only one run on six hits, striking out 11 times in an exhibition game against the Miami Marlins on March 7.

Miami fans got what they asked for, now they must walk the talk

“The City of Events” has gotten yet another reason for fans to show up whenever they deem it is a good night to go out. The brand new stadium that is still trying to finish up its final touch ups before its official debut when the Marlins take on the Cardinals on April 4. So the FIU Panthers got to take it for a test drive. With the local flavor, came a surprisingly large crowd.

Now, fans, prove that you deserve this stadium. Show the owners around the league why you deserve this monument. The South Florida fan base as a whole has the worst reputation of any sports city in America. There is no excuse anymore for fans to not show up and watch this team play.

Gone are the dreary days of Joe Robbie, now Sun Life Stadium, which Marlin all-time great Jeff Conine said he did not miss one bit. The only issue is what have the fans done to show that they will come out to a game like this.

Over the past four years, they have finished 28th, 28th, 29th, and dead last in attendance overall in the league. One game was even reported to have had less than four hundred people actually in attendance.

Fans in this area are not true die-hard fans. As we have seen at FIU over the years, it has even been a struggle to get people to come to football games. Now you’re expecting people to come to a very slow-paced game and pay the outrageous ticket prices that they are sure to charge.

Fans are going to have to prove to me, and to the rest of the baseball world, that this stadium deserves to be here. Especially on this hallowed ground where the historic Orange Bowl once stood. This gem of a park that cost $515 million dollars to the city needs to be packed every single night that there is a game in town.

And that won’t even cover the full cost this season. The stadium is going to have to host many concerts to try and help recover what this shrine to baseball’s past and future cost Miami.

Not to mention other sporting events, such as small baseball games or possibly even soccer matches.

But then again: how many fans will show for that?

If tonight was any indication of what could be this season, then I may have to eat my words. Both fan bases, for FIU and the Marlins, came out to this exhibition in strong numbers.

But knowing how sports in this town work, its tough for me to imagine dramatic change from how things were in previous years.

Now, I’m not saying that the Marlins as a franchise do not deserve this stadium. That is not my angle at all. Any organization that has won at least two cham-

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 4

SEE BALLPARK, PAGE 4
FIU is set to host the Felsberg Invitational on March 10 close to home at the Miramar Ansin Sports Complex. The Invitational is an event that pays homage to the fallen track and field athlete Michael Felsberg. It will be the first glance at the track and field for this outdoor season.

The Panthers will go toe-to-toe against many local South Florida universities such as University of Miami, Nova Southeastern, Florida Atlantic, Florida Memorial and Johnson and Wales.

With it also being an Olympic year, a few professional athletes have signed up to compete and train as well.

“The track meet will be a good mix of collegiate competition but you’ll also get to see some of the rising stars of track and field,” said FIU track & field head coach Eric Campbell. FIU’s women’s track and field will be without two star pupils, Marissa McElveen and Benicia Gregoire, as they are headed to Idaho for the NCAA Track and Field Championships. Both have established rankings high enough to be awarded the opportunity to compete for the NCAA Championship.

Both known for their competitiveness, Gregoire and McElveen performed exceptionally well in the Sun Belt Indoor Track and Field Championships. McElveen finished third in the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.75 and third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.58, while also placing sixth in the long jump at the SBC Indoor. Gregoire, a previous Sun Belt Field Athlete of the week, set a new Sun Belt Championship record for the women’s weight throw of 19.78 meters. In the previous Fellsberg Invitational, she won the Hammer Throw with a hurl of 50.06. She also finished top 10 in both Discus and Shot Put.

Even with the absence of McElveen and Gregoire, Campbell still has confidence in his team’s abilities.

“It’s really just fun for us. The last thing we want right now is to have our kids feel that pressure to go out and run the record when they don’t have to,” Campbell said.

Coach Campbell mentions a few of the top performers for this year’s Fellsberg Invitational: T’Keyah Dunmoy, Sun Belt Champion Lakesha Kelley, La’Shae White and the Outstanding Freshman of the Year Raquara Ishmar.
Professors and their peeves

SANAH FAROKE  
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Most students can go on and on about how annoying their professors are, but they may be failing to consider that professors have a few complaints of their own.

It is apt to talk to someone while you are not paying attention, so imagine a professor lecturing to a class of 200 students and mesmerized by their phones or laptops, completely invested in their social networking, talking to their friends or coming in class late.

“There’s no point of going to class if you’re not going to pay attention,” said Alan Gummerson, an economics professor. “Does it bother me? Sure, because they’re not paying attention. So what’s the point?”

Technology can serve as a good tool for learning, but some professors are so fed up by the distractions that they have banned laptops altogether.

“The reason I don’t allow laptops or I don’t like talking because it ends up distracting other people around you. Your generation is full of distractions anyway, so my thing is, I just don’t want students to be distracted from the learning process,” said Kathryn DePalo, a politics, science and international relations professor.

Survey shows hip-hop reigns

UPROAR, PAGE 1

“Gym Class Heroes is a sick group. Hopefully Big Sean has a great performer; he has a couple of good songs. I will definitely enjoy the event with a couple of my friends,” said Rodriguez.

While students were thrilled with the announcement, others were disappointed by the lack of variety in music genres.

Journalism student Elizabeth Rodriguez was expecting a different kind of act this year, since the past two years have also featured hip-hop acts.

“A lot of young college students are into house music with artists like Avicii and Swedish House Mafia. I really don’t know what to expect of Big Sean, but hopefully the concert has a great turnout and proves me wrong,” she said.

Junior Ana Rivas, a biology major, was disappointed with the selection as well.

“So many other artists have made big hits this year. Gym Class Heroes and Big Sean have only one or two well-known songs. They should change the genre so students can enjoy other styles. Not everyone likes hip-hop every year,” said Rivas.

When students expressed disappointment on the UPROAR Facebook page, SPC responded by urging students to participate in the year’s surveys to determine which artists they will bring on to perform each spring.

The surveys allow students to choose the genre of Top 100 artists they would most like to see at the concert. According to SPC, there was an overwhelming majority who voted for the hip-hop and rap genre this year.

“Every other year, students have done the readings or other assignments. ‘Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell. Everyone who’s hip-hop is really happy about it, you can tell.”

The Life! Show

Jennifer Westfeldt focuses on unique relationships

WESTFELDT, PAGE 1

JENNIFER WESTFELT'S contribution to the romantic comedy genre has been anything but conventional. With “Kissing Jessica Stein,” she explored the fluidity of sexuality far better than the Oscar-nominated “The Kids Are All Right,” and with “Ira & Abby,” she focuses on two unmarried people who rush into marriage.

Her latest feature, “Friends with Kids,” continues her trend of unconventional relationships by diving into the lives of two friends who want to have a kid together without the hassle of marriage.

Longtime friends Julie and Jason have seen the toll that having children has taken on their married friends. Both want children, but both want to avoid waiting for the right partner and having such an enormous strain placed on their relationship by bringing a child into the world.

“I don’t think students realize how aggravating if a professor makes a mistake. ‘Well, it’s just a lot of mess up in class. I don’t think any student could possibly think of me as anything but human after watching me for a couple of classes,’” said Gummerson.

DePalo is disappointed by disrespectful students who are not aware of the time put into each class.

“We have feelings, so when students come in, attacking, ‘I don’t agree with your answer key,’ Well, who are you? It’s the respect factor. I don’t think students realize how hard we worked to be able to do this job,” said DePalo.

However, some professors see it differently, like Gummerson.

Both students and professors can have grievances toward each other, but when either party goes out of their way to develop a more organic connection with one another, perhaps respect will be earned more genuinely as opposed to the kind of respect that is given to an authority figure.

“I figure I’ve got to earn respect,” said Gummerson. “I hope people don’t give me respect without me earning it.”

For the full story, see the Life! section in this issue.

LIFE! Show

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Novel highlights desires of artists

T he scrappy Henry Skrimshander showed up to Westish College with little more than his prized book, “The Art of Fielding,” which was written by his baseball hero, L u i s Aparicio. After he arrives, Skrimshander’s baseball career as shortstop takes off with the Westish Harpooners, and before he knows it, Skrimshander, as Henry is called by his teammates, ties his idol’s record for the number of games with zero fielding mistakes.

This is the basis of “The Art of Fielding” by Chad Harbach, which relates America’s pastime to our intellectual element. The book is comical. Harbach’s comedy comes through especially in Skrimshander’s roommate and teammate, Owen. Owen is the teammate who Skrimshander’s bad throw hits, and serves as comic relief throughout the play.

For example, as tension between Skrimshander and the Harpooners’ previous shortstop grows, Owen helps release this tension as he poetically jokes: “For at this back his always hears/ Henry’s footsteps hurrying near.”

The only way to truly enjoy these comedic moments is to actually read the book, but I can assure you that those looking for a few moments of games with zero fielding mistakes.

Besides a few moments, like when Skrimshander smacks Owen in the head with his bad throw, and Harbach leaves the reader thinking the lovable character is dead, the novel has too slow a pace.

Besides a few moments, like when Skrimshander smacks Owen in the head with his bad throw, and Harbach leaves the reader thinking the lovable character is dead, the novel has too slow a pace.

One of my favorite parts about this great novel is the way Harbach has maintained his desire to offer next. However, it is more than 520 pages long. And like any great novel or slow-moving parts, the book is reflective of the sport, which it is mostly focused on, and it left my eyes drooping at several parts throughout the novel.

On a deeper level, the novel highlights the desire of the uprising of the artist, student or professional to achieve perfection.

In The New York Times, Gregory Cowels compares this underlying theme to the uprisings of the new novelists, looking forward to Harbach’s next novel and stating, “Welcome to the big leagues, kid. Now, get out there and play.”

The book is a simple, easy-going read, however, it is more than 520 pages. And like any great novel or sport, it effectively provides readers with a temporary escape.

Because of all of these facts, and even with all of its slow-moving parts, the book definitely has me, and some others, like Cowels, looking forward to what Harbach has to offer next.

Cover to Cover is a biweekly book review column. Email at kelly.malanbr@hotmail.com.

Unconventional film is refreshing

KIDS, PAGE 5

as the two best friends, Jason and Julie. Both of their performances are entirely believable, making the progression relationship between the two characters an interesting one to watch, but it is Scott who arguably gets one of the most intense scenes in the film.

The supporting cast is quite the collection, featuring a large harvest of the people that made “Bridesmaids” the hilarious film it was. Chris O’Dowd and Maya Rudolph play the more lighthearted of the two couples and show audiences the hopeful side of a movie that does not seem to care much for marriage.

Kristen Wiig and Jon Huarake take the opposite route with their couple, diving into the darker themes that the film explores. Even Megan Fox, who might seem entirely out of place, finds just the right role for her as Scott’s love interest, proving that she is more than someone Michael Bay follows with a camera while robots fight. The film does falter a bit in its ending, which features some very unfortunate closing lines that should have been cut.

It also leaves a bit toward the conventional, but it leaves the door open enough for further exploration of these two characters. “Friends with Kids” may be Westfield’s directional debut, but there is no doubt that it is a great effort on her part.

It is a film that avoids falling into the realm of cliched romantic comedy through its witty script and great acting, and it is one that will be a refreshing break for those who want a slice-of-life movie that is not morphed into a fairy tale.

— Guisane Banques is an intern for the Miami International Film Festival.

Unusual NEWS DAY SERVICES IS LOOKING FOR VERBAL BEHAVIOR TECHNICIANS TO TEACH CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER LANGUAGE AND ACADEMIC SKILLS USING THE METHODS OF APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA), WE PROVIDE EXTENSIVE TRAINING AND SUPERVISION TO ENSURE COMPETENCE, PREFERRED TIMES OF SERVICES INCLUDE MONDAYS-SATURDAYS 3:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. WE PROVIDE SUPERVISION FOR BEHAVIOR ANALYST CERTIFICATION FOR FREE. PLEASE FAX OR EMAIL YOUR RESUME TO: 305-597-3863 OR RESUME.NWDS@GMAIL.COM.

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UPCOMING WEEKEND EVENTS

9 FRIDAY

NEW MUSIC MIAMI FESTIVAL: GUEST COMPOSER SEBASTIAN MARINE AT THE SPANISH CULTURAL CENTER WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m. HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public WHERE: Spanish Cultural Center

SPC MOVIE “CAPTAIN AMERICA” WHEN: 5:58 p.m. HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: MMC GC 140

WORKSHOP-WHEN CHILDREN REFUSE SCHOOL: A PRESCRIPTIVE TREATMENT APPROACH WHEN: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. WHERE: MMC ACH 1 Room 140 ENGAGE WORKSHOPS: IDEAS FOR GROWING YOUR CLUB ORGANIZATION WHEN: 12:30-1:30 p.m. HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: MMC GC Pit

10 SATURDAY

IPS A - COPYRIGHT REGISTRATION EVENT WHEN: 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: MMC RBD 1000 DIVERSITY WEEK CULTURE FEST WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: MMC GC Pit

FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: ARABIAN NIGHTS WHEN: 8-10 p.m. HOW MUCH: General Admission $15.00, Students and FIU Faculty/$ Staff $12.00, FIU Students and FIU Alumni Association Members $10.00 WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Main Stage

FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: ARABIAN NIGHTS WHEN: 2-4 p.m. HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: MMC RBD 1000

11 SUNDAY

FIU THEATRE PRESENTS: ARABIAN NIGHTS WHEN: 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. HOW MUCH: Free WHERE: MMC RBD 1000

FIU BASEBALL VS. FORDHAM WHEN: 1-7:30 p.m. WHERE: HOME

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED EMAIL: CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM
Students unaware of Chick-fil-A’s anti-gay endorsements

PAULO RAMOS
Staff Writer
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Our University is known for being diverse and respectful of culture and race but most students are unaware that they are indirectly supporting a prejudiced cause.

Most students at FIU will be able to tell you how good Chick-fil-A tastes. What they won’t know is that by eating at Chick-fil-A, they are giving money to a company that endorses organizations with anti-gay views.

Our University is supposed to be a school where students should not feel oppressed or uncomfortable; but by choosing to do business with an organization such as Chick-fil-A, the atmosphere on campus is tainted.

Chick-fil-A was founded by Samuel Truett Cathy, who infused much of the franchise’s philosophy meant to embody the comic extreme of the Republican ideology. He is not only a character, but a caricature who creates an interesting conversation. Through Winshape, Chick-fil-A has endorsed organizations including Exodus International, Focus on the Family and the National Christian Foundation, all of which have demonstrated anti-gay rhetoric.

A particular incident mentioned in the Huffington Post involved Chick-fil-A co-sponsoring a marriage conference by the Pennsylvania Family Institute, an organization which directly opposed and contributed to the downfall of Prop 8 in California and the banning of discrimination legislation in Pennsylvania, which is why all branches are closed on Sundays, the day of worship.

As a result, Chick-fil-A has been associated with several Christian organizations, most of which have anti-gay agendas. The degree to which Chick-fil-A supports these organizations is extensive. Since 2003, Chick-fil-A has contributed over $3 million through the Winshape Foundation, Truett’s charitable organization.

Winshape has also held its own marriage retreats, with its contract stating “We do not accept homosexual couples because of the statement in our contract,” as revealed by the organization Good As You, an Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender news website.

As a response to the growing controversy, President Dan Cathy went on record saying, “While my family and I believe in the Biblical definition of marriage, we love and respect anyone who disagrees.”

This response is hypocritical in its use of the word “respect.” To respect is to accept something for what it is and to not degrade or offend; Chick-fil-A’s has done the exact opposite.

By supporting anti-gay organizations, they are condoning their behaviors and ideals, which inevitably reflects the company’s true beliefs.

Students at FIU need to decide whether grabbing a bite to eat is more important than hurting fellow members of their community.

Limbaugh’s commentary empowered by Democrats

ALEX SORONDO
Staff Writer
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Rush Limbaugh, the conservative talk-radio star of current media attention for calling college students “wannabe chicks” and an avocado Fluke a “slut,” does not exist.

At least not in the way that he and his producers would like you to think.

The Rush Limbaugh we all know – the explicitly racist, sexist, deliberately naive Republican shoulder devil – is a radio personality. He is not only a character, but a caricature meant to embody the comic extreme of the Republican ideology.

This is the Rush Limbaugh who poses on his website’s background – and seemingly anywhere else he can – with a billowing cigar and the most pompous expression a human face can manage. It’s the kind of face your brother would give you after successfully lying to your parents and getting you in trouble. It’s a face that suggests he’s beating you at a game you can’t even realize you’re playing.

All of this, the offense and the radicalism and the know-it-all posturing, is provocation. If you hate him, he wants you to hate him more – to hate him to the point that you can’t stop talking about him. You can’t stop referring to his show in conversation.

Because a large part of Limbaugh’s allure to his millions of listeners, perhaps more so than his bombastic self-assuredness, is the ease, the consistency, the efficiency with which he enrages liberals.

This is part of his trick. Limbaugh is an entertainer, and a large part of his success as a showman is contingent on his ability to cause a stir now and then, to make liberals gasp and yap at their hair and flap tilt and miss the toilet. And because he’s so easy to despise with the arrogance and the pig-semblance and the small popularity – his detractors can hardly help but give him the negative attention he needs.

Another problem is that, silly a character as he is and much more – in his own words – “the illustrators the absurd with absurdity,” a lot of people take Limbaugh seriously, which makes him dangerous.

Last week, Sandra Fluke, a law student at Georgetown University, stood before Congress to request extended medical coverage that would encompass the price of birth control.

Limbaugh called Fluke a “slut” and a “prostitute” and, ever the sage, reasoned that the only way to justify “paying [for Fluke’s] contraceptives and thus pay[ing] [her] to have sex” is to have Fluke “post the videos [of her having sex] online so we can all watch.”

Understandable. Whenever one of my roommates has I have toilet paper, I often dispense it with similar stipulations. “Leave the door open,” I say, “and I’ll see what I can do.”

Calling a student a slut and a hooker for wanting to use contraceptives is, however, a little over the top.

According to hollywoodreporter.com, as of March 7, 43 sponsors have pulled their advertisements from Limbaugh’s show. President Barack Obama has called Ms. Fluke personally to extend his support, and the Great Glibba himself, Mr. Limbaugh, has even issued a rare public apology for his choice of words.

It’s gratifying to see Limbaugh sweat a little, to see that he’s facing some consequences for his inhumane shamelessness. The fault for the resonance of his words, however, is ours.

For years now we have allowed ourselves to get upset at what he says, have responded to his on-air comments are productive or dangerous, or cogent, or even defensible.’

The responsibility comes, first and foremost, on the part of the listeners and the non-listeners and how much power they will choose to give a public figure, how much attention and credit. This was a responsibility we lost our grip on years ago, apparently.

Maybe it’s too late to change, though. It seems, from its current susceptibility to public outrage (at least insofar as it divides his advertising) that the man can still be hurt; the façade can still be cracked.

Maybe we can all still do ourselves a big favor and just stop listening.
Kovens center provides venue for insiders and outsiders alike

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The Roz and Cal Kovens Center hosts the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management’s Advanced Food Production course until the current renovations to the CSHTM’s teaching kitchen and restaurant are complete.

The Roz and Cal Kovens Center, endowed by philanthropists Roz and Cal Kovens, is renowned for its location and educational environment. Being a part of the International Association of Conference Centers makes the center adhere to IACC quality standards which promise excellent meeting experiences with proper equipment such as in-room screens, in-room audio systems and fast ethernet port per room.

Considered the isolated location of the center from the rest of the buildings and general population of the Biscayne Bay community, perception is often that the Kovens Center operates as a completely separate entity from the rest of the University.

However, the Kovens Center is a part of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. It works directly with the hospitality students, by training and giving them the experience that they need for their desired hospitality-based professions, which range from catering to event-planning services.

"We use the facility for us to teach classes through the Case Study rooms," said CSHTM Dean Mike Hampton. "Most students in other hospitality programs don’t have that so it’s a great learning lab." The center provides professional panels for meetings that range from corporate, association, and government, to training-and-development, team building, and virtual nature. Their Case Study rooms are intended for training and development.

"Meetings are our business. It’s what we do," said Kovens Center’s Director Jean Harris. Organizations conducting their meetings at the center are the primary financial contributors for its maintenance and professional setup. According to Harris, just for the 2012 year alone, and in terms of events and conferences planned, projections are expected to be well over $1,000,000. The center has a fully-staffed and frequently operating on-site kitchen and "is subject to weekly inspections. There is a balloon on the second floor for conferences, as well as countless other rooms for meetings of all set-ups, based on how large or small the meetings.

"We use it academically and professionally," said Hampton. Other than conferences and meetings, the center holds open houses and open-site inspections by the interested general public, to inform the community that their professional meeting and events' needs aren’t far.

Additional reporting by Andres Bedoya.

OUTLOOK

Hubert library loses an invaluable team member

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The Glenn Hubert Library has lost a familiar face from behind its circulation desk.

Nancy Sun Hershoff, Integrated Library System Coordinator and Planning Officer at the University’s libraries, passed away unexpectedly on March 3. Leaving behind a staff that feel as though they have lost a mother, "She always went the extra mile for everybody," said senior Library Technical Assistant Ana Cabrera. "She was like a mother to us. She worked with each one of us at one point and made sure things were going smoothly."

She secured work-study funds for many low-income students, and "without her, would not have been able to attend the University."

A native of Taiwan, Taipei, Hershoff broke away from the usual education path of Master Degrees from the University of Texas in Austin. According to Cabrera, Hershoff worked to rearrange and redesign the library and helped with hiring work-study students.

"She used to take me to all of these Chinese restaurants and introduce me to new Chinese food," said librarian Scott Kass. "She cared about what happened to this [University]."

A scholarship will be established in honor of Hershoff, although the details have not yet been finalized. A service will be held today at 4 p.m. in front of the Hubert library to celebrate the life of Hershoff with the rest of the library staff. All faculty and staff are welcome.

“One of my favorite memories of Nancy is her involvement in planning the first FIU talent show in 2009,” said Dean of Libraries Laura Probst.

“In addition to serving on the planning committee, she was tireless in recruiting performers from among her colleagues in the FIU Libraries. Her enthusiasm was infectious, and she was able to persuade them to share their talents with our community.”

STUDY ABROAD

Students to trek through Amazon during two-week trip

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During the 2012 summer B semester that begins on June 25, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Department of Biological Sciences will be offering an interdisciplinary, unique experience for students of all majors: a course sorowing a two-week trip to the Amazon rain forest.

Students will be able to gain firsthand experience with exotic animals and plant life and learn about Brazilian culture in Belém, one of the largest cities in the Amazon region.

The course, Science and Environmental Communication in the Brazilian Amazon, will focus on science and environmental communication with an emphasis on multimedia. The course will be taught by Ruil Reis, the Dean of SJMC and Richard Brinn, professor in the department of Biological Sciences.

The first week of the course will feature discussions and lectures, as well as selected scientific readings aimed at preparing students for the two-week trip to the Amazon River estuary.

"I created the course as a joint opportunity for students to find out about Brazil and Brazilian culture and open their horizons," said Reis, who had been teaching the course since 2002 at California State University, Long Beach.

"Technology made it easier for students to get more reporting experience, so the course became a little more hands-on toward the end," said Reis, referring to the inclusion of video blogs and reports which students are required to submit by the end.

Reis invited Brinn to take part in teaching the course and add some scientific approach. Student interest in the past has been steady: an average of 10-12 students accompanied Reis each year.

While general student input on the class is positive, the price for the trip can be a setback for some. The overall expenses come out to near $4,000 to cover the round-trip plane ticket, which students must buy themselves. There will also be miscellaneous expenses including potential boat trips and research center visits.

"It seems worth it," said Kleopatra Markou freshman Biology major. "Biology students get hands-on experience with indigenous species and the journalism majors can report it."

Tarig Darwish, a freshman majoring in Computer Science, doesn’t find price to be a deterrent either.

"Price is an issue for everything anyway, so it’s not that big a hindrance," said Darwish, noting that the course would likely be a great opportunity to explore the world in a place aside from the classroom.

Alisson Ho, a sophomore Business Management major, feels the price is “not a turn off, but a setback.” Others, however, seem less enthusiastic about hearing the accompanying expenses.

“Sounds like an extended field trip, honestly. It may be a good experience, but if you need your own plane ticket, you could just go on your own,” said Samantha Meteyer, freshman Public Relations major.

Reis hopes that the number of University students who will be interested will remain around the average of the past.

"Students have gained much experience and insight from the course in the past," Reis said.