**County mayor cuts Youth Fair land swap deal**

MELHOR LEONOR
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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-acre 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,” Rosenberg 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 valuable 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.

**Spring concert artists announced**

ASHLEY LAPPADULA
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After weeks of anticipation, the Student Programming Council finally exposed the artists that will be performing at this year’s UPROar concert. The rap-rock band Gym Class Heroes and hip-hop artist Big Sean will be headlining the stage at the annual spring semester concert on April 11 at the soccer field on the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The announcement took place in the GC Pit on March 6 after a week-long contest that SPC held on its Facebook page to let students guess the artists. Pieces of the official concert poster were revealed little by little, but no student guessed correctly.

Senior Katherine Bernardoni, a public administration major, was elated to hear that Gym Class Heroes will be performing at the concert.

"I am a huge fan of Gym Class Heroes, and I am excited to see their performance. I am hoping [they] play ‘Stereo Hearts.’ That is one of my favorite songs of theirs," said Bernardoni.

Erick Rodriguez, a business major, will also be picking up tickets for the event.

**Judge overrules public pension law**

MELISSA CACERES
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A circuit judge in Tallahassee ruled unconstitutional a recent law requiring public employees to contribute 3 percent of their pay toward their retirement.

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

A forum for free student expression at Florida International University

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The Radioactive Underground: 88.1 - 95.3 - 96.9
FIU honors acclaimed author Isabel Allende

Author Isabel Allende is getting top honors from Florida International University.

The Chilean author’s 19 books have been translated into 35 languages. On Monday, she received the Miami University’s Lawrence A. Sanders Award for Fiction.

Allende won instant acclaim for her debut novel “The House of Spirits.” It followed the generations of a turbulent Latin American family. The book was also a thinly veiled commentary on the political upheaval under Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet.

The Miami University’s Lawrence A. Sanders Award recognizes an author whose work demonstrates “the highest standards of literary excellence.”

NATIONAL

Romney pads delegate lead with Super Tuesday wins

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney padded his lead in the race for delegates Tuesday by winning Republican presidential contests in six states.

Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum added delegates by winning contests three states, while former House Speaker Newt Gingrich won the primary in Georgia, the state he used to represent in Congress.

Romney won at least 212 Super Tuesday delegates and Santorum won at least 84. Gingrich won at least 72 delegates and Texas Rep. Ron Paul got at least 32.

So far, Romney is winning 54 percent of the Super Tuesday delegates; Santorum is winning 22 percent.

WORLD

Hackers hit Spanish security co. in revenge attack

Hackers claiming allegiance to the amorphous Anonymous movement say they’ve defaced several sites belonging to online defense firm Panda Security.

Anonymous supporters have been rattled by a trans-Atlantic investigation that has exposed one of the group’s best-known hackers, Sabu, as an alleged FBI informant.

U.S. and British officials charged six men and one adolescent with a host of computer crimes linked to Sabu’s activities Tuesday, saying anger and confusion among supporters of the loose-knit network.

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Wellness Expo 2012 exposes students to health resources

The Graham Center was alit on 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 students’ 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 the year.

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

“These are the physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, enviromental, 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 aimed 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 one of 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 fruit juice made with frozen fruit and orange juice and water.

I expect that students 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.

Camila Pham

University Health Services Wellness Center, senior health educator

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

Kendall Regional Medical Center was also tabling at the event.

According to Hyun K. Kang 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 renovated FIU Health Faculty Group Practice also took part in the event.

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Public pension deductions deemed unconstitutional

The requirement allowed the state government to save around $1 billion, which was used to offset last year’s deficit.

I’m not sure what’s going to happen. [Those in opposition] will of course appeal it and it will take forever. [The ruling] sends a very powerful message.

Kathleen Wilson

FIU chapter of the United Faculty of Florida President
SPORTS

BOYS AMONG MEN

FIU’s bats cooled off by Miami Marlins

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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

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 touches 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 to watch this team play.

Gone are the dreadful 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 are going to have to prove to me, and to the rest of the base ball 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.

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-

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.

Logan Dodds pitched only two innings in a losing effort on March 7.

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

CommenTary

BraNDON WISE

FIU’s bats cooled off by Miami Marlins

Logan Dodds pitched only two innings in a losing effort on March 7.

See BaSeBaLL, PAGE 4

See BaLLPaRK, PAGE 4
Gregoire and McElveen to miss Invitational for NCAA Tourney

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FIU is set to host the Fieldsberg Invitational on March 10/11 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 Fieldsberg. 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 been asked 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 Benia 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 competitive nature, 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 6.79 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 Fieldsberg 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 world record when they don’t have to,” Campbell said.

Coach Campbell mentions a few of the top performers for this year’s Fieldsberg Invitational: T’Keyah Dumony, Sun Belt Champion Lakeshia Kelley, La’Shae White and the Outstanding Freshman of the Year Raquarra Ishmar.

## BASEBALL, PAGE 3

FIU falls to Marlins in exhibition

From baseball to football games, the fans will only at FIU football games, even these past two years big buzz around the team, even in the area, like Cypress Bay and St. Thomas Aquinas, are ranked among the best in the country, according to ESPN’s Powerade Fab 50 Rankings.

It is puzzling why a school right in the heart of a fertile recruiting ground has been irrelevant for nearly two decades.

“Home runs are not my thing,” said Bonifacio before the game.

“Right-hander Ricky Nolanos held the team hitless for his two innings, and it was not until Heath Bell pitched that FIU broke through with its first hit of the night.”

Freshman Roche Woodard, who was stepping in for the injured Jabiary Henry, notched the first hit with a double to deep right as the crowd roared as he stepped sprinted toward second base.

In the bottom of the third inning, senior Christian Malbrough stepped on the mound to pitch and allowed a single to third baseman Jeff Dominguez. After getting Reyes to pop out to left field, Bonifacio hit a home run to right field to make it 1-0.

“Home runs are not my thing,” said Bonifacio before the game.

Marlborough remained in the game for the fourth inning and walked Greg Dobbs and Omar Infante to begin the fourth inning. After recording an out, catcher Brett Hayes knocked in two more runs making it 5-0.

The Panthers were finally able to break through with another base runner in the top of the sixth inning, as Julius Gaines reached base via an error and later stole second base.

Junior T.J. Shantz drove in Gaines with an infield single off Dan Jennings with the crowd coming back to life for FIU as they trailed 5-1.

The Panthers managed to record five more hits as the Marlins regulars were substituted for players from their minor league system, as FIU eventually dropped the contest 5-1.

“They were aggressive and that’s what I asked them to do,” said Thomas after the game. “I was very proud of my team today.”

Marlins manager Ozzie Guillen exchanged a few words with the players immediately following the game.

“I told them I hope to see them someday playing for me.”

## TRACK AND FIELD

Fans must show up to new park

Competition in 18 seasons doesn’t need to be stuck in a place that was never made for baseball.

But the fans have refused to show up to games over the years unless there is a big buzz around the team, like 1997 and 2003. Or even these past two years at FIU football games, where the fans will only show up to the big ones like homecoming.

From baseball to football, this city has simply never shown up consistently. They need to come out and support the Marlin who they will support.

I hope that it is not a one-year fix for this city, because that is a possibility as well.

If you are a true fan of South Florida, show up to these games. Wear your gear with pride. Stop being bandwagon fans and hide your true South Florida sports apparel in your closets.

## MEN’S SOCCER

Men’s Soccer

Kenny Arena is trading Long Beach for South Beach.

But his cross-country trek to FIU is going to be far from a leisurely walk on the sea shore.

Congratulations, Kenny. You’ve just been handed the reins of a program that hasn’t come close to relevance in nearly two decades.

But if there is anyone who might be able to miraculously raise this program from afterthought status to respectable contender, it’s Arena.

Like Mario Cristobal when he took over the football program, Arena is very young. And like Cristobal, he is a established at a recognized college program and can connect with players.

Like Isiah Thomas, he is a known commodity in his respective sport. While Thomas was a Hall of Fame player, Arena was a solid collegiate player and the son of former U.S. men’s national soccer team coach. But unlike Thomas, the 31-year-old coach has a solid coaching track record at some of the best schools in the nation.

As an assistant coach at UCLA, he helped the Bruins get to three Pac-12 titles, make three NCAA quarterfinal appearances and earn a trip to the 2011 College Cup appearance.

Like Turtle Thomas before taking the helm of FIU’s fledgling baseball team, Arena has worked with some of the best programs in the country as an assistant coach. And like Turtle, Arena will be charged with the job of bringing soccer back to respectability.

Name recognition. Winning background. Strong recruiter. Professional connections. Young and energetic. Arena appears to be the perfect blend of both of FIU’s program coaches and could be just the kind of outside influence the school needs to provide a jolt.

And the hire is a very good first step towards breathing life into a soccer program that came closer to winning a national championship than any other.

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And the hire is a very good first step towards breathing life into a soccer program that came closer to winning a national championship than any other.
Bad behavior in the classroom is not the only thing that upsets professors. No matter how well students think they are bluffing, a professor can usually tell whether or not their students have done the readings or other assignments. “If somebody texting, checking Facebook or playing a game in class, it usually means that they’re not doing the reading. They’re not paying attention to lecture—it is the symptom of the fact that I have not engaged,” said history professor Art Merleaux.

Merleaux believes that in order to really gain anything from a class, students must do the assigned reading so they can participate in class and learn. “It’s the one thing that makes me feel like tearing my hair out even after [condensing] the reading, and me, to that’s the point of the class. It makes it hard to do my job, and I really take it personally,” said Merleaux. Just like professors, students can have complaints as well. Delayed replies to important emails is a popular annoyance to some students, claiming that sometimes professors are not quick enough or tech savvy enough.

“Students kind of expect, ‘Well, I need this question answered today.’ Well, I can’t get it today because I have two meetings and a deadline for tomorrow to complete my own tasks and I have to teach a class tomorrow or these particular things. We want to be there for students, to answer their questions in a timely fashion. It’s just sometimes impossible when you’re pulled in different directions,” said DePalo.

Most students seem to be aggravated if a professor makes a mistake. “Well, it’s clear that I mess up a lot 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 disrespective 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 respect that is given to an authority figure. Perhaps respect will be earned more genuinely as opposed to the kind of respect that is given to an authority figure.”

Survey shows hip-hop reigns

“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 music with a couple of my friends,” said Rodriguez. While some 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 his 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 UProsor Facebook page, SPC responded by urging students to participate in their yearly 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. “As much as we want to make sure everyone is happy, we know each student has a different taste in music. But thank you for voicing your opinion. We’ll keep that in mind for next year’s concert,” said an SPC representative on the Facebook post. Tickets to the show will be available starting March 8 in the Campus Life offices in GC 2240. Each ticket admits one student and is free with a Panther ID.

Tune in on Friday mornings at 9 A.M. for REEL TO REEL

Jennifer Westfeldt focuses on unique relationships

Jennifer Westfeldt’s contributions to the romantic comedy genre have 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 “Ina & Abby,” she focuses on two unprepared 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 that 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.

It does not take long for them to come to the conclusion that the best option is to have a child together, while not staying together as lovers or a couple.

Tune in on Friday mornings at 9 A.M. for The Weekender

The Life! Show

Film critic Roger Ebert on the viral video campaign by Invisible Children.

Roger Ebert
@ebertchicago

Tweet Beat!

See KIDS, PAGE 6

Students kind of expect, ‘Well, I need this question answered today.’”
Novel highlights desires of artists

The 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. Asparagus. 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.

His future seems seamless until Skrimmer accidentally hits one of his teammates on the head, which puts him in a funk he seems unable to escape. This is the basis of “The Art of Fielding” by Chad Harbach, which relates America’s pastime to our everyday lives and the growth that we experience as human beings.

Skrimshander’s struggle with his ability to play well after his mistake is reflective of the issues and struggles that many face, especially in adulthood, as they attempt to find careers and opportunities that suit their talents and desires.

One of my favorite parts about this great novel is the way Harbach laces literary references to the works of David Foster Wallace, Emerson, Dickinson, Melville and more.

Harbach is the coeditor of the literary magazine “MWW,” and he writes to his talents and literature fans all throughout his novel, making it richer for both those who understand the references and those who would be driven to look them up.

Besides having this 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 his 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 humor in a novel will not be disappointed in this one.

My only complaint about the Harvard graduate’s novel is that it is mostly focused on, it left my eyes drooping near. However, it is more than 520 pages.

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 few slow-moving, action-packed moments.

While the speed of the book is reflective of the sport, which it is mostly focused on, it left my eyes drooping near several parts throughout the novel.

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

In The New York Times, Gregory Cowells compares this underlying theme to the uprising of the new novelist, 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 Cowells, looking forward to what Harbach has to offer next.

Cover to Cover is a biweekly book review column. Email at kelly.malambri@fiu.com.
Students unaware of Chick-fil-A’s anti-gay endorsements

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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 business operations with Christian values. Since 2003, Chick-fil-A has contributed over $3 million to organizations with anti-gay views. These organizations are giving money to a company that endorses organizations with anti-gay views. Uncomfortable; but by choosing to do business with Chick-fil-A, the University is supposed to be a school where students should not feel oppressed or uncomfortable; but by choosing to do business with Chick-fil-A, the image of acceptance and diversity on our school is supposed to have.

If the University wishes to continue to be a place of true diversity and acceptance, then the leaders of our school need to realize that having a business like Chick-fil-A on campus does not promote a positive attitude. Universities such as New York University and Duke University have already banned Chick-fil-A from their campuses due to successful student campaigns. FIU students 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

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Rachel Limbaugh, the conservative talk radio star of current media attention for calling college students “a bunch of a**holes” and referring to his millions of listeners, perhaps more so than his bombastic self-assurance, is the ease, 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 tear at their hair and flip tables and miss the toilet. And because he’s so easy to despise – with the arrogance and the pig-resemblance and the sound of his voice and the arrogance and the sound of his voice and the bombast and the sound of his voice and the bombast and the sound of his voice and the bombast and the sound of his voice – 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, “that’s the stuff they [the media] would like to see” – is that, so many of the “illustrators” he uses to skewer public figures, are the things that people like. People like to think that they’re good at what he says, have responded to his words, have thus put him in a spotlight that has carried his voice farther and made him – both in terms of fame and power they will choose to giveLimbaugh – 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 tear at their hair and flip tables and miss the toilet. And because he’s so easy to despise – with the arrogance and the pig-resemblance and the sound of his voice and the arrogance and the sound of his voice and the bombast and the sound of his voice and the bombast and the sound of his voice – his detractors can hardly help but give him the negative attention he needs.

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Kovens center provides venue for insiders and outsiders alike

ALTAGRACE L. GUSTAVE
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Opening its doors in 1996, the award-winning 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 IACCT 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. Considering 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 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 offers professional rooms 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 ballroom on the second floor for conferences, as well as countless other rooms for meetings of all set-ups, based upon 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 Andreas Boduszynski.

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 suddenly on March 3 leaving behind a staff that feel as though they have lost a mother. “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 who, without her, would not have been able to attend the University.

A native of Taipei, Taiwan, Hershoff broke from her own binds and earned two 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 classmates in the FIU Libraries. Her enthusiasm was infectious, and she was able to persuade them to share their talents with our community.”

Students to trek through Amazon during two-week trip

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During the summer 2012 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 sorelying 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 Belem, 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 Raul 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]t 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 more scientific approach. Student interested 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 $4000 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 visas.

“It seems worth it,” said Klopatera Markou freshman Biology major.

“Biology students get hands-on experience with indigenous species and the journalism majors can report it.”

Tariq 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.

“It 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 that 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.