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Proposed legislation to ban texting while driving

MARIELLA ROQUE  
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Texting while driving has now become the new drunk driving, studies show.

A research done by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety motorists found that drivers using cell phones while driving are four times more likely to get into crashes than those who do not. “I [text and drive] all the time,” said art history major Linda Aragon. “I think it’s dangerous...but I can’t help it. I still do it and that is most likely not changing.”

Thirty-five states and Washington D.C. currently have varying degrees of a ban on sending text messages while driving, since the use of phones is a major cause of car accidents nationwide. “I would consider [texting and driving] more dangerous than talking on the phone and driving,” said dietetics and nutrition major Karla Reyes. Idaho may soon also be added to the list of 35 since its House passed a ban on texting and driving this week.

The bill was originally accepted by the Senate and an amendment is now being sent back to the Senate for approval. “I support laws against [texting and driving] in other states,” said political science major Kenneth Dyche. “I would also support a ban here.”

Florida is not among the 35, as it does not have a set law against using a mobile device while driving. “I can’t pull you over because you’re texting,” said Assistant Chief of the University Police Alphonse Ianiello, “[but] if you’re driving erratically, you can get pulled over.”

The Florida Senate recently failed to pass a bill restricting the usage of cellular devices while conducting a motor vehicle. “Even if there was a ban, it wouldn’t stop a lot of people,” Aragon said. “Phone providers need to come up with a better

SEE BAN, PAGE 2

IN MEMORIAM

Journalism student dies in crash

ESRA ERDOGAN  
Life/Editor  
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A University journalism student died in a head-on collision on early Sunday, along with her sister and her sister’s husband. The car accident occurred on the Gratigny Expressway around 5 a.m.

Senior Amy Lopez, her sister Germania “Germ” Huntington and Shawn Huntington, both alumni of the University, were killed immediately upon impact. The other driver, Anwar Janania, a law student at St. Thomas University, also died during the crash.

“Those of you who knew Amy remember her as a [School of Journalism and Mass Communication] bright light, as lovely in spirit as she was gifted in her studies. We all mourn her loss,” said Raul Reis, the dean of SJMC in an email to journalism students.

According to Florida Highway Patrol, the accident may have been caused by one of the vehicles turning onto a ramp in the wrong direction. All of the passengers were trapped inside when their vehicles burst into flames. “It was a very bad accident,” said FHP spokesman Joe Sanchez to the Miami Herald.

Lopez and Huntington’s parents were unavailable for comment. The journalism senior was set to earn her diploma in the fall after

SEE STUDENT, PAGE 2

REGISTRATION

Fall enrollment now merged with summer

AARON PABON  
Staff Writer  
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Class registration will be off to an early start for the 2012-2013 school year.

Beginning on April 2, currently enrolled degree-seeking students will have an early start to register for the upcoming summer and fall 2012 semesters.

“The University wants to provide a first opportunity to students who are currently enrolled,” said Steven Kelly, interim associate vice president of the University Registrar.

“One of the main problems that we have during enrollment is that classes are full for students who enroll at the last minute” said Kelly. “We are hoping to alleviate the situation by having students enroll ahead of time.”

The registration appointments will begin on April 2, and continue until April 18. Registration will continue from April 19 till May 6 for currently enrolled degree-seeking students for fall 2012 and open registration for summer 2012 will continue.

Registration will be closed from May 7 until August 5, and will reopen on Aug. 6.

According to Kelly, one of the reasons for both the early enrollment and the enrollment being closed during the month of June, is to observe the enrollment patterns and make adjustments accordingly and add classes if necessary.

“The office of planning and institutional research, will be able to look at the enrollment patterns and say, we can see that all of our ENC 1101 classes are full, so we need to add some more sections before next fall starts,” said Kelly.

You can see class schedules and registration appointment times on PantherSoft.

“Not everyone will have an appointment on April 2,” said Kelly, “so be sure to check your Panther-Soft for the exact date for your appointment.”

New, transfer and transient students will still be arranged through orientation scheduling.

IN THE NEWS

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PUBLIC SAFETY

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SEE BAN, PAGE 2

COMMING UP | News

Check out Monday’s issue for a story on the New York Times national editor Sam Sifton’s lecture about how the Times covers the run for the presidency.

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Research indicates potential risks and effects of texting while driving

BAN, PAGE 1

way for us to text and drive.” Senate Bill 6416, also known as Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving, was filed in October of last year and would potentially create the “Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law.”

“I believe it should be made law,” Ianiello said. “(Using your phone while driving) increases the risk of an accident.”

If passed, the act would be made effective in October of this year. Drivers using their phones to send text messages would be pulled over and issued “citations as a secondary offense.”

According to a Tampa Bay Times/ Miami Herald/Bay News 9 Poll, 71 percent of Florida voters support banning texting while driving.

“I always annoys me to see people driving slowly or making stupid mistakes because they’re looking down at their phone,” Dyches said. “It’s almost equivalent to drinking drunk.”

A test conducted in 2009 by Car and Driver magazine showed that it takes a driver longer to hit the brakes while sending a text message than while driving legally drunk.

“I wouldn’t support a ban on texting while driving because I don’t want cops to have more reasons to pull you over,” said senior psychology student Armando Carrasquillo. “They’ll see a cell phone somewhere and give you a ticket even if you aren’t guilty.”

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, about 6,000 deaths and a half a million injuries are caused by distracted drivers every year.

“Cell phone are too integrated in our society,” Carrasquillo said. “People will always text and drive.”

Family fundraising for burial costs

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Heat bring in veteran big man in Turiaf

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Staff

Ronny Turiaf wanted a place where he could win, and the Miami Heat wanted some extra inside help.

So the sides turned to each other.

Turiaf signed with the Heat on Wednesday, and the 6-foot-10 center is aiming to practice with his new club for the first time on Thursday. Turiaf has played for the Los Angeles Lakers, Golden State, New York and Washington so far in his seven-year pro career, and was waived by Denver earlier this month after being included in a three-team trade between the Wizards, Nuggets and Los Angeles Clippers.

"Welcome aboard," Heat owner Micky Arison wrote on Twitter, "Ronny’s at this stage of the season," Heat President Pat Riley said. "Ronny's left hand."

However, with less than six months later.

Wizards, Nuggets and Los Angeles in a three-team trade between the Heat — ranks 37th in scoring (3.2) and 36th in rebounding (4.2) among centers who have started at center spot anyway — the Heat decided to add a proven veteran center at this stage of the season," Heat President Pat Riley said. "Ronny's energy will be a great addition and bolster our front line."
FIU captures Ruggerfest with wins over rivals

SHANNON COPELAND Contributing Writer sports@fiu.edu

The FIU women’s rugby club went from being underdogs, according to the Florida Rugby Union, to champions the following season. They completed that turnaround against upstate rivals University of Central Florida in the Ruggerfest. Panthers rugby club defeated the Golden Knights 15-8 to become Ruggerfest Champions.

Not only did the FIU Women’s Rugby Team win the Ruggerfest Title, they silenced their in-city rival Miami with a score of 86-0. The Panthers have dominated Miami again recently in the beginning of the month as well, 22-0 respectively.

Head coach Trevor Alfred compared his team’s play to a masterpiece painting. “A work of art, they’re beautiful like a Picasso, like poetry in motion, piece painting,” Alfred said. Victoria Villa, the president of the rugby team was optimistic about the club’s future. “I believe we can go anywhere they want, we just need to put our name out there,” Villa said.

Despite their recent success, there was a time when the team didn’t have proper uniforms, or adequate transportation. In 2009, Genna Goldsobel, an alumni and member of the club saw a future for women’s rugby at the university and that dream came to fruition later. Goldsobel trained with the men’s club to improve her skills and revive the passion she had for rugby. Soon, others saw the dream she was aiming for, and the FIU Women’s Rugby Team was formed.

Even then, they still had difficulties. They did not have a coach, or even a proper training facility, let alone training equipment. Goldsobel’s parents reached out and gave the club some financial support by paying for them to get into tournaments and even assisted with transportation.

The squad has had to do fundraising, from car wash to bake sales and canning in order to maintain competitive in tournaments. According to Villa, the club is still in search for permanent sponsors, as transportation is still an issue for them. “When training first started, the girls weren’t able to make a full lap, or do regular push-ups, as well as passing the [rugby] ball. Now they have advanced to the point where they can train by themselves, and their ball-passing skills have improved dramatically,” Alfred said.

Alfred has his team watching highlights of professional rugby players so that they can learn their techniques. “Girls even watch professional players and study how they maneuver in their position, then they work on their skills,” said Alfred.

Despite their low budgets, Alfred’s club still hopes to become the top team in Florida. When asked about the Team’s future Alfred said, “The sky’s the limit. I want the team to be state champions.”

GOOODBYE NORTH BLEACHERS

The football stadium is beginning the construction on the north side of the stadium. Today, University President Mark Rosenberg, FIU Executive Director for Sports and Entertainment Pete Garcia, FIU Head Football Coach Mario Cristobal, Members of the Stadium Campaign Task Force will break ground for phase three of the project.

Wreck does not prevent win for AJR

pits were enough to get von Moltke’s Porsche back out on the track for the final stint. The crew guys told us that it was just a bent rim and we went back out and somehow the car held together for the last hour and a half, because it was a pretty big hit,” von Moltke said. “It ended up bringing a little extra drama to the race.”

Despite overcoming the right rear wheel damage, von Moltke still had some worries about the performance of his car during the rest of the race. “The first time that we went through a double left hander, which was flat out 150 miles per hour, kind of closed my eyes a little bit and hoped that the car was going to hold together and it did. Every single lap through there I was a little bit nervous but it held together,” von Moltke said.

Although the race was served as the opening round for the FIA World Endurance Championship and the American Le Mans Series, von Moltke still plans to race for APR Motorsport in the Grand-Am series, the team he originally raced for in 2011. APR Motorsport gave von Moltke permission to go behind the wheels of the Porsche 4.0 L Flat-6 for AJR.

“Alex [Job] is another South African like me and we always wanted to work together but never just never really found a way to work,” said von Moltke. “They needed a third driver before they [AJR] start their Lotus program in North America.”

As for his midterm: von Moltke scored a 92 percent, still not as high as his ranking on March 17 at Sebring. “It’s very difficult [dealing with school and auto racing]. It has been a balancing act to say the least,” von Moltke said.
**Cell phone pictures can be considered art, too**

**ASHLEY LAPADULA**
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Scrolling down a Twitter feed, one could easily come across a tweet like the following: “I love Instagram, but I kind of hate that [it promotes] the idea that iPhone photography can be art.” This kind of statement, which has become increasingly popular, brings up an interesting discussion: whether or not cell phone photography can be art.

Instagram, the popular application for the iPhone, allows users to take and edit photos in various filters and then upload them to social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. Other apps like it exist for Android and Blackberry phones. The apps focus on improving pictures taken with cell phones to make them appear as though they’ve been taken with a much better camera.

Cell phone cameras have improved a lot over the years, with some featuring megapixels that come close to rivaling digital cameras that can cost hundreds of dollars more. But the thing that makes cell phone photography so appealing is that a cell phone goes wherever its owner goes, meaning that the photographer will always have a camera with them. “I like to photograph things in the moment I see them or I want to remember and it’s way quicker because it’s right there on your iPhone,” said junior Anna Drescher, an architecture major. Now, with a variety of apps that can enhance, distort, decorate and share photos, anyone can become a sort of novice photographer with a camera they already own that is sitting in their pockets.

The question of whether or not cell phone photos have artistic value remains. Dr. Carol Damian, the director and chief curator of the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum, thinks so. “[Using a cell phone as a camera demands] the same process to conceptualize and take the picture,” said Damian. In very basic terms, what makes an image interesting is what the photographer captures and the way or she captures it.

Sometimes, the camera doesn’t matter. Photographers use their skills to make an image: lighting, focus, contrast, texture and other techniques. The camera is only a tool and it can’t teach photographers any approaches to a “good” image without the photographers having the knowledge or experience themselves.

Where a cell phone camera lacks, the photographer can make up for by using their technique and creativity. A cell phone camera can also provide a different perspective for photographers than through the lens of a film or digital camera. “Whenever I didn’t have my camera, I always took pictures with my phone. It would help me out when I didn’t have my camera because it helped me notice a different view,” said senior and photographer Sophya Vega, a fine arts major.

Shows and exhibitions of cell phone photography are already popping up. The Lunchbox Gallery in the Wynwood Art District, which focuses on contemporary photography by emerging artists, has an image interesting is what the photographer captures and the way

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Carol Damian, Director and Chief Curator Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum

SEE INSTAGRAM, PAGE 6

**REEL TO REEL**

**T**his Tuesday night, I attended a special screening for Turner Classic Movies’ “Road to Hollywood” programming at the Olympia Theater in Miami. While the TCM television channel is dedicated to airing classic films 24 hours a day with no commercials, this short tour features a few standout classics in 10 locations in the U.S. and Canada.

Each screening shows the feature film and a short interview between the hosts—Robert Osborne, Leonard Maltin and Ben Mankiewicz—and stars or directors from the film. The film shown in Miami was none other than the Academy Award winning film, “Elmer Gantry,” with special guest Shirley Jones who won an Oscar for her supporting role in the film. While many people may not have heard of “Elmer Gantry,” it was quite the controversial picture at the time of its release in 1960. Winner of three Academy Awards for acting and writing and nominee for Best Picture, “Elmer Gantry” brings many surprises in its handling of subjects like prostitution and religious corruption in a time period where censorship ruled the nation.

The film focuses on Elmer Gantry, a traveling salesman who can get around any situation. Cheating his way from town to town, he stumbles upon Sister Sharon Falconer, a woman whose revivalist preaching has gathered a large following within religious communities.

With an extensive knowledge of the Bible and his impressive way with words, Gantry works his way into Sister Sharon’s road show, becoming an indispensable part of the tour. It isn’t until he encounters Lulu, a prostitute he knew long ago, that things get heated and his shady past begins to catch up to him. The true magic of “Elmer Gantry” comes in the performances of the cast, not only from those who claimed Oscars for it. Burt Lancaster, whose rich performance is so real that one can almost claim that he was born for this role, delivers a performance well-deserving of an Oscar from start to finish. With each sermon he gives, Lancaster dives deeper into Gantry, giving it his all and making the audience forgive and embrace this despicable character. Shirley Jones, who was as much of a delight during the pre-film interview as she was in the film, stuns viewers during her short time on the big screen. Her work as a vengeance prostitute was brave and risky for the times; the scene where she tells her brother sisters of a sexual encounter with Gantry was enough to lock her in for the Oscar she won.

Aaron Simmons catches attention within minutes of her first appearance in her role as Sharon Falconer by emitting the purest of auras in her character’s naïve and religious ways. Arthur Kennedy plays Jim, the investigative reporter who provides a voice of reason and compassion in a world full of corruption and conflict.

SEE GANTRY, PAGE 6
The perfect place to get a late night meal in Brickell

Backed with bars, lounges and other places that are hard to categorize, Brickell is growing into a robust alternative to the South Beach scene. Nothing helps ease a tough day like cold drinks, which would explain why Brickell sees a lot of me during testing weeks. There are plenty of places to help you maintain the liquid diet, but what about when the night is over? Your stomach is looking at your kidneys, picturing them next to a side of fava beans and a nice Chianti. Time to eat, but there is a problem: it is long past happy hour and the kitchen is closed. Not to worry—just a few blocks down lies a tasty solution that can be healthy if you control yourself.

La Baguette is a place I frequented when it opened in late 2010. I have a friend who works in the area, so it was the default “let’s meet for lunch” spot. Since then, they have added tons of stuff to the menu. Hot dogs, burgers, smoothers and an array of sandwiches round out a very extensive menu for a place that is open 24 hours.

Now, they offer delivery; from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. you can call in and place your order. I would not recommend it, though. They are notoriously understaffed with about two to three people helping out in the front and the cook in the back. Naturally, this situation will turn into long periods of waiting for any type of service. All is well since they counter that with great quality food and free parking. I recommend trying the prosciutto and mozzarella on your first visit. The prices are more consumer-friendly than you might expect for a place near Brickell; the sandwiches range from $6 to $8.

As I was waiting for my entree, I put in an order for the salchipapas, an appetizer that consists of sausage over curly fries. These are definitely a good way to help kill time as you wait for your entree and it will be the best $4.75 you spend there. Soon after, I started my Wi-Fi hunt. On the menu, you can find the Facebook and Twitter icons. Considering their totally free Wi-Fi (no need to sign up), I immediately “liked” their page and tweeted that I was there working on my figure.

I decided to try one of their new menu items, a Hawaiian-inspired hot dog brilliantly named “The Hawaiian,” a beef frank topped with house sauces, a pineapple glaze and those prolific potato sticks. I really got to figure out what these house sauces are made of because they are delicious.

Growing up in the northeast, hot dog toppings are traditionally mustard, sauerkraut, cooked onions and relish, so these novel toppings were a welcomed sweet variant for just $5.69. My food actually came out in good time and the guy helping me out was a rather funny character. For not much more than standard street corner food, you get more care, taste and better portions at La Baguette.

My appetite, hot dog and cold beverage of choice totaled around $20, so if you are not like me and become a “hungry, hungry hippo” at the table, you can eat a decent late night meal for around $10.

The rise of iPhoneography

Instagram, Page 5

Oftentimes, cell phone photos can capture smaller, intimate moments in a photographer’s life that can be overlooked by the lens of a more traditional camera.

Applicants were asked to submit up to three photos for the show. The submissions were accepted from anyone who took a picture with their cell phone—photographers or not.

“In order to be honest with the iPhoneography movement (since nowadays everyone is taking pictures with their phones), everyone who applied was accepted. That was our sincere approach: the good next to the not so good, next to the conceptual, next to the landscape, next to the artistic, next to the quotidian,” said Elaine Minionis, a gallery owner.

The aim of the show is to mimic an Instagram feed; the viewer walks through the gallery and, instead of scrolling, a number of images are taken to communicate something or nothing.

“All of them aren’t necessarily artists or photographers. That’s the fascinating thing of taking images with mobile phones: it can really expand you at some point, and you don’t have to be this or that to take a wonderful picture,” said Minionis.

Cell phone photography, whether it has been edited to look older or is grainy and rustic on its own, offers a different perspective. If the image was calculated by the artist, it doesn’t matter which camera he used, whether it was a Nikon or an iPhone. The images have flooded social media, which may lead artists and critics to dismiss many if not most of them, but they are still undeniably art.

Additional reporting by Alexis Escalante and Sana Ullah.

Satire key in Brook’s film

Gantry, Page 5

Due to the limitations placed upon filmmakers in the 1950s and 1960s, Richard Brooks’ film raises critical commentary on Christian revival meetings from the 1920s in blatant,extreme violence like many of today’s films, it addresses such controversy through satire.

Sinclair Lewis’ satirical novel of the same title is adapted for screen in the best of ways; it presents humanity in all its beauty and ugliness. It shows religion as a double-edged sword—one that can provide a helping hand for those in need while leaving the most devout souls to disaster.

Whether or not you were able to attend TCM’s screening of “Elmer Gantry” at the Olympia Theater, you can always keep track of future showings on TCM or watch them on DVD.

If you’re lucky enough to have TCM available, you can experience a few other films directed by Richard Brooks, such as “Take the High Ground” on March 28, “Lord Jim” on April 12 and “Cat On A Hot Tin Roof” on April 26. The Last Time I Saw Paris” and “The Happy Ending,” which also features Jean Simmons, are now available to watch on Netflix.

Reel to Reel is a weekly film review column. Juan Barguin was an intern for the Miami International Film Festival.

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KONY 2012 activists mislead by inaccurate video

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The recent phenomenon of the Kony 2012 campaign by the interest group Invisible Children has exhibited the enormous utility of the Internet as a mass medium for the dissemination of information, or, in the case of Kony 2012, misinformation.

The campaign, heralded by the 30-minute video produced by Invisible Children co-founder Jason Russell, is an attempt to educate viewers on the injustices committed by Joseph Kony, the head of a Ugandan guerrilla group known as the Lord’s Resistance Army, which seeks to mold the Ugandan government according to its theocratic beliefs.

The investment of Invisible Children in this issue stems from the fact that the LRA recruited children as sex slaves and child soldiers in its activities.

LRA recruited children as sex slaves and child soldiers in its activities.

The Ugandan people have also expressed anger with the Kony 2012 campaign.

An article in Al Jazeera covered a public screening of the video. It was followed by negative reactions, particularly towards the lack of perspective from actual Ugandan people.

The most significant effect of the Kony 2012 campaign is the encourage of “slacktivism” through its viral marketing techniques.

The campaign utilized YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter to perpetuate the message.

The spread of information through these channels calls for inevitable simplification, which should not be applied to situations occurring in Uganda.

By simplifying the details, the nearly 80 million viewers of the video are left with nothing but a gross generalization of the conflict.

Also, the usage of social networking has created a false sense of responsibility among the technologically savvy younger generation.

By simply sharing the information through their social media, people feel like they have done their duty when it simply isn’t enough.

True activism requires careful consideration and full understanding of the issue.

Kony 2012 has shown that although the Internet has increased the flow of information, it does not have safeguards against inaccurate information.

Objective analysis is a tool that seems to be at risk in the social networking age.

Everything online needs to be taken with a grain of salt, no matter how noble the cause.

To the Student Body,

I have been a member of the Student Government Association for the past two years. I joined this organization so that I could make a positive difference for the students of FIU. I was democratically elected as a College of Education Senator and this year as one of the At Large senators.

I have been involved in many areas of FIU including Relay For Life, Alternative Breaks, numerous Council for Student Organization clubs, and most recently, the very first political party open to all students at FIU, the Coalition of Students for Reform. And this is where problems start.

In an attempt to have me impeached from the office to which I was democratically elected, a grievance has been filed against me for an alleged code of ethics violation.

The basis of claim is essentially that I am a member of the CSR.

This was not an easy journey, as my initial entry into SGA was rejected as freshman intern. But I did not let that rejection stop me from being active in student life.

Likewise, this grievance will not deter me from doing what is right to achieve the SGA that we all deserve.

The grievance does not even attempt to hide its malice towards the CSR, which has done nothing illegal or wrong.

In fact, most of the grievance is pure accusation, holding no actual fact. It alleges that CSR meetings were nothing more than meetings to decide how I would vote in the Senate on matters affecting the student body.

To be clear, this is an outright lie. It is not illegal to have a philosophy on how to vote, nor is it a crime to consult with my constituency on how they think I should vote.

The CSR IS the student body. I will not beat around the bush. This grievance is an obvious attempt to try and disqualify me from participating in the SGA elections.

More importantly, it is an attempt to denigrate my image and the student body’s perception of me.

The CSR stands for change in SGA, and there are those in SGA who fear change, as it would mean an end to business as usual.

Had more CSR members been listed on the CSR website, the baseless grievance filed against me and fellow Senator Carlos Rodriguez would have included more names for impeachment proceedings.

Currently there is a witch hunt going on in SGA, and CSR members are the target.

I implore the student body to pay very close attention to upcoming SGA elections. Do your research on the candidates you elect will be the ones who will determine the course of our government for the next year.

You have a choice between those who would resort to dirty politics using SGA’s time and resources for outright political persecution, or those who strive to bring you a better SGA and a better FIU.

-Samir Khan Patel
2012 SGA Presidential Candidate

To read the Writ, please visit http://tinyurl.com/8sskgka
The architectural designs for the renovation of the Wolfe University Center have been finalized. The project’s commencement is pending the approval of the activity and services fee allocations for the 2012-13 fiscal year, said President of Student Affairs Dr. Rosa Jones.

Following focus group discussions with student leaders at Biscayne Bay Campus and an evaluation of the facility by architecture firm MC & Harry Associates Inc., Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus Speaker of the Senate Pablo Haspel divulged the three-phase plan to renovate the facility.

It will include replacing the floor with blue tiles and adding glass balconies on the second and third floors. SGC-BBC and WUC Senior Director Greg Olson collaborated on creating the outlet.

“I’m extremely excited for what will possibly turn out to be the vision,” Haspel said. “The vision” also includes a new student lounge where the current computer lab is located in WUC 200, similar to the game room that was opened in Fall 2011 in WUC 222. The computer lab would be relocated.

According to Haspel, the students desired more lounge space on campus. In addition, a structure will be added to the Panther Square similar to the “Pit” in the Graham Center at Modesto Maidique Campus. Haspel said the upgrades will help create more of a “panther spirit.”

However, plans didn’t always exist to renovate the entire facility. During 2011 budget allocations, money was allocated to replace the tiles in the building. But Haspel said that plan was short-lived.

“We came to the conclusion that it was kind of illogical to replace the tiles without thinking of the building as a whole,” he said. “If you would have started to replace tiles then you have to start changing other elements of the building.”

The funds for Phase one were allocated during the Spring of 2011, when $299,000 were supposed to be used to replace the tiles and upgrade the Mary Anne Wolfe Theatre before renovations plans. The funding for Phase two of the project is awaiting Jones’ approval of the 2012-2013 budget for an additional $250,000.

Haspel said the funding for Phase three is expected next year.

The plan will be completely funded by activity and services fees, giving the building’s standing as a student-funded facility.

Former SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein feels that it is a good use of A&S fees and the change is needed.

“When I was president, that was one of my main priorities, to change that title up there, because there was plenty of people that were complaining, especially women, who had heels tripping over because there is an uneven structure on the tiles,” Neistein said. “It was also hard for the custodial workers. I think it is a very good use of it. One, for aesthetic reasons, and two, it also has to do with the functionality of the whole building.”

Lordana Guillaume, a sophomore health services administration major, feels that the campus experience will improve with renovations.

“I feel like the renovations would be positive for BBC,” Guillaume said. “Maybe with the addition of the renovations people will feel more motivated to participate more when they have events at the [Panther Square].”

Guillaume added that Panther Square could use the added appeal.

According to Haspel the process would take two to three years. There could also be delays in the project if a roadblock occurs, which Haspel says they are anticipating.

On March 21, the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus Supreme Court met to rule on two cases, but were only able to move forward with a decision on one of the grievances submitted due to the court’s inability to follow procedure.

The first court found the case that presidential hopeful Pablo Haspel brought up against the SGC-BBBC Elections Board March 7, as being in violation of the SGC-BBBC Elections Code.

“What [Otuwabik Aderoju] Adekoya had asked for was in the interest of the student body,” said Fu Zhou Wu, SGC-BBBC elections board member, in reference to the Election Board’s decision to allow Adekoya to drop Haspel as her running mate and create his own presidential ticket. “Since we live in a capitalist society, competition would always lead to progress. [Our decision] would give students the opportunity to choose who they want to elect and not have to make due with [a single candidate].”

The SGC-BBC Supreme Court ruled against the SGC-BBBC Elections Board. The court has found the elections board to be out of order in violation of subsection XII, and will not recognize the split ticket, said Martha Ochoa, SGC-BBBC Supreme Court Chief Justice in her ruling. “If we don’t follow our statutes then no one else will. Before the elections board makes any more decisions, read the statutes first.”

As a result, all positions in the 2012 SGC-BBBC elections will be uncontested. The court then began hearing procedure to end the petition for legal review filed by Adekoya contesting Haspel’s eligibility to run for president.

The court decided to hear the case on March 19. The petition was officially filed on March 21, the same day as the hearing.

“So you want me to prepare my defense in five minutes?” Haspel asked the court after being handed the official petition that was filed against him that same morning.

Along with the petition being filed on the day of the hearing, Adekoya, the accuser, was not present.

The SGC-BBBC Supreme Court scheduled the case to reconvene on March 26 at 8 p.m. to hear the petition filed by Adekoya. If the court rules in favor of Haspel and dismisses Adekoya as a presidential candidate and allow Adekoya to run for SGC-BBBC president by default.

Judicial Reviews

The court demands elections board to ‘read the statutes first’

Alumna portrays her roots using bold techniques

Whether it’s dipping a brush into paint, using a palette knife or wood burning, Kaye Penner is a local artist infusing her Miami roots and love for music with artistic endeavors.

According to Penner, with the exception of a couple of marketing classes, there was rarely ever a still moment during her education at the University. Penner worked while she was in school, but always made sure to put time into the pool since she mostly attended Biscayne Bay Campus.

Penner majored in Marketing and enjoyed a plethora of education from "someform" and advertising, marketing, public relations, and journalism professionals.

According to Penner, she learned a lot about working with groups, creating good group dynamics, and resolving issues.

Using her bold colored technique, she brings to life artists such as Celia Cruz and puts out one into the middle of a tropical landscape. Projects reflect her inspiration from living in South Florida, the colors and the portraits she paints all being representatives of her home town.

The BFA alumna recognized her passion for art at a young age.

“I loved all my required art classes growing up,” Penner said. “My work was often singled out during art classes when I was young, so I knew I had some artistic talent, and I knew I loved it because I spent so much of my spare time drawing.”

Music is another influence to Penner. “I have no musical talent at all and can’t carry a tune to save my life, so I express my love [for music] by trying to paint it through my music series,” she said. “People inspire me, I first started painting portraits of people that were close to me: family, friends. Now I also paint actors and musicians I like and respect.”

Penner also makes sure to stay involved with the community and attend art shows showing cases her paintings. Recently, the artist was at the Carnival on the Mile art festival. She is heavily involved with Viernes Culturales, the Calle 8 Hispanic version of Art Walk.

Moving forward, the artist would like to explore different techniques from what she usually paints. Sculpture is a medium which she has not tapped into yet. Also, she would like to revamp her landscape series using the same bold color but using only palette knives, unlike her usual style with a brush in hand.

In one of her paintings, Passion of Tango, the artist manages to translate the “gaze” into something new. The artist is heavily involved with Viernes Culturales, the Calle 8 Hispanic version of Art Walk.

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When asked about what is more important, the subject of her paintings or the way it was they were created, Penner said, “Definitely how it was executed. I have been asked to paint many objects that don’t seem like they are interesting but turn out to be pleasurable with a new version of it that I created.”