Peel and stick: Students react to decal theft

**Diego Saldana-Rojas**
*Staff Writer*

There were 11 parking decal thefts reported on University grounds this year.

Decal theft is the forced removal of a University-issued parking decal from a parked vehicle, with the majority of the cases occurring during September.

The recorded thefts occurred in Gold Garage, Red Garage, Parking Garage Five, University Park Apartments, lots four, five, six and nine at the Modesto Maidique Campus, and lots two at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Gabriel Medina, a sophomore nursing major, thinks the reasons for the decal thefts that have occurred on campus are due to mischief, intent to resell or to avoid having to pay for a duplicate decal.

“If it could be that they need a new decal and don’t want to pay or they think it’s funny to get people in trouble or maybe even [the thieves] are selling them,” Medina said.

Director of Parking and Transportation Lissette Hernandez said the Department of Parking and Transportation has a scanner that checks vehicle decals and should catch any vehicle that has a stolen decal placed out.

“We will verify car by car and if there is a stolen decal, we will immediately boot the car,” Hernandez said.

According to Chief of Police Alexander Casas, stolen decals bear signs of tampering.

“When you peel a decal and stick it, it can be that they need a new decal and don’t want to pay for it or they could be that they need a new decal and don’t want to pay or they think it’s funny to get people in trouble or maybe even [the thieves] are selling them,” Medina said.

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Building to expand College of Business and FIU Online

**Stephan Useche**
*Staff Writer*

A new building will rise for the College of Business Administration and other University departments.

The construction of the Management and New Growth Opportunities building, also referred to as MANGO, will begin early 2013 and be completed by April of the same year.

According to the Dean of University College Joyce Elam, the College of Business is running out of space and this new building will provide the space necessary to support the current needs as well as planned growth in existing programs. The college is currently renting space in the Management and Advanced Research Center building and the red parking garage.

In addition to the College of Business, FIU Online will also take advantage of this new facility. FIU Online offices have been scattered around campus, currently renting offices in MARC and the Ryder Building.

The MANGO building will be located west of the existing Ryder Business Building and it will host the R. Kirk Landon Undergraduate School of Business, undergraduate advising, Student Services, Ph.D. student offices, professional BBA program staff, Center for International Business and Research and two classrooms.

“It’s an opportunity to bring all the professionals together in one place. You’ll have the associate dean, the advisors and all the programs together,” Elam said. “It will also be so much easier.”

Master Plan committee to host public workshops

**Mariella Roque**
*Staff Writer*

In order to meet the State of Florida planning requirements, the University will be holding public workshops in December to present the students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community with information about the 2010-2020 Campus Master Plan.

The workshops will provide attendees with the opportunity to give input on the University’s plans of growth. Leading the workshop will be the Perkins+Will Planning Team and a steering committee made up of 13 University representatives.

“At this meeting, [the planning team] is going to present draft inventory analysis [of the CMP],” said Javier Marques, chief of staff to the University president and chairman of the steering committee. “It’s somewhat informal because we want to have feedback.”

Among the main topics discussed will be the University’s goal to expand on the Modesto Maidique Campus into the area that is occupied by the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition in the spring and to build another entrance for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“This is an effort to continue to be transparent and make sure that the University community is informed about the Master Plan and what [the University] is going to look like in the next 10 years,” Marques said. “[The workshops are] an opportunity for everyone to understand what the possibilities are.”

Javier Marques
Chief of Staff
Office of the President

6:30 p.m. and the second on Dec. 4 at the BBC in WUC 221 starting at 5:30 p.m.

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Panther Wire

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JOSEFINE GYLLENSPORRE
Contributing Writer

“I was told I had to flee from the country with my 12-year-old son,” said English professor Barbara Weitz.

Weitz traveled to Europe with a curiosity to explore the world and seek new adventures. In her early 20s, she not only lived in both Germany and Belgium, but also frequently traveled through Europe. However, the 1991 coup d’etat in Moscow proved to challenge her travel plans at the time.

“The Czechs were scared,” Weitz said. In response, Weitz was told to leave the country with her son. Her trips to Europe are what sparked her interest for non-American and independent films.

“I love foreign films,” Weitz said. “They are less business-driven. It’s a passion for me.”

Her trips to Europe are what sparked her interest for non-American and independent films. However, her trips were not paid. Knowing this information, Weitz returned to Florida after receiving her Ph.D. to teach at FIU.

Weitz has made an attempt to start a collaboration with the University of Miami to create a study abroad program in the Czech Republic.

“I was contacted by the University of Miami’s Film School and asked if I could help them get students for their study abroad program. That’s how it began,” Weitz said.

Senior business management major Alberto Luaces feels his vehicle is safe on campus and mentioned that the proportion of stolen decals over the amount of students is not enough to cause serious concern.

“I feel it’s safe. Eleven cars out of the almost 40,000 people that go here is a miniscule amount,” Luaces said. Gonzalez feels neither herself nor her car are very safe, especially in the garages at night.

Media feels his vehicle is safe, despite what he describes to be a lack of supervision. “I actually do [feel safe]. You don’t see people walking around checking cars. I don’t see police on patrol but I still feel safe.”

In 2011, there were two recorded cases of decal theft, in comparison to this semester’s current 11. According to Casas, the increase in recorded thefts can be attributed to more effective data collection.

“We are trying to capture it better. That statistic may be nothing more than that we are being more accurate in our collection of data.”

Michaels
Assistant Opinion Editor

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Singer and guitarist, Johnny Reb, and his band Rezolution gather a crowd as they perform Christmas songs in the Graham Center Pit.
They say time is money. I’m a little unsure about that because I can work for about a million hours a week and I still find myself too broke to afford gas and a sandwich at Panera Bread. What I do know is that time, precious time, is a fleeting commodity that teases the likes of every college student struggling to find the balance among sleep, studying, and a social life. I’m no exception.

That being said, does anyone else stand amazed at students who seem to have all the time in the world? You know, the type of student who never has to say “no” to a new event that they rarely have time with their family in months; whose lives have become so chaotic with social events after social event that they don’t neglect anything or anyone in their busy schedules, but in all truth many either neglect others or, more importantly, themselves.

I’ve known students who have become so busy that they haven’t spent any real time with their family in months, whose lives have become so chaotic with social event after social event that they rarely have any time for relaxing by themselves.

Overloading yourself with work isn’t healthy. Many people find it very hard to say no to a new event or project, but the more they take on, the less time they have for essential things like sleep and exercise. Students then find themselves stressed out or annoyed, unable to keep up with friendships, and kept constantly on edge with a mom and dad giving the sad, “How come I never see you?” speech.

Guys, you don’t have to take on the whole world in one semester. It’s better to take on less and be able to focus more of your energy on specific tasks and relationships than to try to cram as many activities as possible into a semester under the assumption that it’s going to make you more productive or that you’ll impress your future employer or graduate school. It’s the quality with which you approach your tasks that show your capability as a student, not the quantity of jobs and obligations you have.

You don’t have to join every club or take more credit hours than you can handle. The best thing about college is that you can do everything at your own pace. It’s okay to have time to breathe.

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to jonathan.szydlo@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or MC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.
Phi Alpha Delta named top pre-law chapter in nation

**PHI ALPHA DELTA**

**DANIEL URIA**  
Staff Writer

Panthers considering pursuing law school need not look far for a stepping-stone.

Phi Alpha Delta, FIU’s chapter of the nation’s largest pre-law fraternity, was recently named the top chapter in the nation.

The co-er fraternity assists students in deciding whether law school is the right choice for them while also assisting students in preparation by providing various resources such as LSAT prep tools.

FIU’s Phi Alpha Delta chapter was awarded the Don Hutson Pre-Law Outstanding Chapter Award for its achievements last the year. The annual award is given to the nation’s top chapter at Phi Alpha Delta’s national convention.

According to chapter’s president, Daniel Villavisanis, the University sent 47 representatives to the recent national convention, the highest total from any of the 362 chapters in the nation.

“\[Daniel\] Villavisanis, the University sent 47 representatives to the recent national convention, the highest total from any of the 362 chapters in the nation."

Villavisanis, a junior FIU English major, believes the chapter is the best place for students, regardless of major, looking to prepare for law school or who are unsure whether or not they should pursue law school.

“Being top chapter means that we are offering the most resources for undergraduate students considering going to law school,” he said. “We offer a wide variety of programming to meet the needs of different majors.

As a newly appointed pastor, Father Gaetano is finding it difficult to restore that faith and not until he stumbles upon a box filled with once abandoned toys does he discover the means to reach out to those in need. However, in an attempt to bring new life to the old stories of the Bible, he also unknowingly brings new life to these orphaned children left homeless by the tragedy of war and forced to refuge in the village’s local Church of San Domenico.

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‘The Wild Party’ introduces audiences to abusive characters

ALFREDO APARICIO  
Staff Writer

The decadence, extravagant, alluring, but potentially disastrous lives of vaudeville performers will be at the heart of Roxy Performing Arts Center’s production of Andrew Lippa’s “The Wild Party.”

It tells the story of Queenie and Burrs, a couple who began their relationship with a fire so bright it burned out in three years. Tired of Burrs’ abusive ways, Queenie eventually decides to throw a party with one thought in mind: embarrass Burrs, a decision that will bring about consequences no one expected.

Based on Joseph Moncure March’s narrative poem of the same name which was banned in 1928 upon its publication in 1928 for its content, “The Wild Party,” premiered off-Broadway in 1928 and was welcomed with more success than its counterpart LaChiusa. “There’s a good array of characters: a lesbian, two brothers who may or may not be involved in a relationship, a scarlet, a clown, a producer, etc.,” said Ana Andreu, programs director and alumna. “When we first opened our cast were a lot younger, this is our first big cast of older students so we wanted to provide more opportunities. This was an opportunity to do something more controversial and cutting edge.”

Aside from the notable music, “The Wild Party” also counts the story. “This is the first time seeing any incarnations of his character. “This is the first time I’ve played someone who is an evil maniac so full of himself. I’m very serious when I get into character during rehearsal so I hope I didn’t offend anyone even though they know it’s rehearsal.”

Patrick Rodriguez, a junior performance major, who plays Eddie, a hothead fighter, sees his character as the foil to the main character, Burrs and has been working on developing his voice and movements. “It’s one of my favorite shows so it’s been a good experience. Everyone involved in musical theater has heard at least one song or two.”

“Eddie can represent what’s great about the show, there’s a great balance,” said Sothers. “It’s been a good collaboration because we have people who sing, act and dance really well.”

THE WILD PARTY

December 7 & 8  
Where: 8 p.m.  
December 9  
Where: 7 p.m.  
December 14  
Where: 8 p.m.  
December 15  
Where: 7 p.m. & Midnight

Have IDs present as the show is for 18 years and up because of mature content unless accompanied by a parent. For more information call 305-226-0030.
**SPORTS**

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

**FIU splits weekend tournament with Iowa and LSU**

**RUBEN PALACIOS**
Staff Writer

After struggling on the road against Western Kentucky, the Panthers were hoping for some home cooking over the Thanksgiving holiday. They got just that when junior guard Jerica Coley hit a buzzer beating lay up to stun the Iowa Hawkeyes on Nov. 23, for a 66-65 win.

However, they failed to carry the momentum two days later in the championship game against Louisiana State University, losing 76-69 in the 18th Annual Thanksgiving Classic.

The loss dropped the Panthers to a record of 2-3 (0-1 SBC) on the year. LSU improved to a 3-2 (0-0 SEC) record.

Despite the loss to the Tigers, the Panthers were impressive throughout the Classic. The highlight of the tournament was their stunning upset of the Hawkeyes in their opening game of the tourney.

Before the Panthers could upset the Hawkeyes, though, there were some growing pains that had to be surpassed. Less than two minutes into the game, Head Coach Cindy Russo, benched All-American Jerica Coley.

“Jerica was just forcing things again. She wasn’t focused. She was sloppy and careless,” Russo said. “And I said next time she acts like that, I’m just going to sit her down and let her refocus and let her know that we can play without her, but not really, maybe just for two minutes or so.”

In the end, Coley’s heroics lifted the team to a win against a team that received five top 25 votes in the AP poll.

With 18 seconds to play in the second half and her team down by four, Coley hit a pull-up three point jump shot to cut the lead to one.

The Panthers were forced to foul Claire Till and send her to the free throw line for two shots. Till missed her first free throw and shortly miss the second as well.

Sophomore Kamika Idom rebounded the miss with eight seconds to go in the game, she then found Coley, who drove the length of the floor to put up a well-contested layup that swished in as the final buzzer rang for the win.

For the first time all season, the arena erupted with loud screams and cheers. The referees had to review the play from a monitor courtside to confirm that the shot was good. After they gave the thumbs up, the crowd, along with the players, jumped up and screamed at the top of their lungs.

Coley finished with a season-high 31 points and also pulled down six rebounds in the win.

**FOOTBALL**

Team has plenty on the horizon following down season

A nd just like that, the season is over.

At FIU football made its unofficial exit out of the Sun Belt conference with a snivel instead of a snicker after a 3-9 finish to a season where they were picked to repeat as conference champions.

Speaking of which, it’s fair to say this year’s talent was untested. With a seemingly comfortable seven-point lead, it was only FIU’s game to win. Senior Night, the last game of the season, the last Sun Belt game ever, the miraculous touchdown that tied the game, it seemed as if Cinderella had arrived to the ball.

But, just like the other eight games they lost, the shoe would not fit. After two prompt first downs, the Panthers were pushed out of the red zone on back-to-back plays to the opposing 24 yard-line. Kicker Jack Griffin’s ensuing 41-yard field goal attempt was blocked and three plays later, Browning connected with his receiver Brett Leonard for a 15-yard touchdown, handing the Warhawks the ballgame.

Once again, the Panthers succumbed to the expectations. Despite the strong effort, FIU could not capitalize on a golden opportunity, similar to how the rest of the season has played out. Picked to finish first atop the conference rankings in the preseason by Sun Belt coaches, they ultimately finished second-to-last with a 3-9 (2-6 SBC) record, only one game better than conference newcomer South Alabama.

Despite the 3-9 season, the Panthers have much to look forward to including freshman quarterback Eli Hilliard returning and competing with sophomore Jake Medlock for the starting job.

Team has plenty on the horizon following down season USA. Jake Medlock returns as a redshirt junior next season after throwing for a formidable 2,127 yards, to go along with 13 touchdows and just two interceptions in his first year as FIU’s starting quarterback. Hilliard, who stepped in for Medlock on spot occasions throughout, will bring back experience into next year, an asset FIU did not have heading into this past season.

Former prized recruit and Louisiana State University signee Jakhari Gore will make his debut in 2013, much needed with the departures of Darian Mullay, and Jeremiah Harden from the backfield.

Wills Wright, who came onto the scene late for the Panthers with three straight 100-yard games, the first in program history, is expected to return for his senior campaign alongside freshman Deandre Jaaper, who showed flashes of pure speed at times throughout and Nick England, who saw substantial playing time at the slot.

FIU will have to fill its fair share of voids to fill as all seven preseason Sun-Belt conference players graduate, including Jonathan Cyprien, Terrek Williams, Winston Fraser, Caylin Hauptmann, and Rupert Bryan. Head Coach Mario Cristobal may wind up receiving offers from other programs this offseason, but FIU needs to move forward with or without his commitment.

The Panthers ended their tenure in the Sun Belt under some of the worst of circumstances. They could not start to expedite their transition into Conference USA the same way.

-sports@fiuam.com
Women’s Ball, Page 6

The FIU all-time scoring list with 1,366 points. But was this performance her best ever while at FIU? "Maybe, I guess," Coley said. "Maybe, because it was a game winner, but I mean, as long as we won it was a good game." 

Coley received a lot of help in taking down Iowa. Most of that help came from senior Finds Mansare, who scored 17 points (seven of 14 shooting). She also snatched down eight rebounds, five of which were on the offensive glass. 

The team came together and we made a decision as a team that we can’t let any more teams beat us like Florida Gulf Coast did. We learned from our mistakes," Mansare said. "It was a team effort, everybody contributed. Whoever stepped on the court contributed, even those on the bench they cheered us on and that helped a lot."

“We are really emphasizing focus, discipline and concentration. If we are disciplined and concentrated then we are going to win games," Russo said. "I thought they were beatable and we prepared them well. We were much more disciplined and focused.”

The championship game against LSU can be summed up in one word: sloppy. The Panthers committed 22 turnovers in the game, something quickly becoming this team’s Achilles heel. Coley accounted for seven turnovers; senior Carmen Miloglav also committed seven turnovers.

“We just have to focus more and be ready. We really wanted to win this tournament. If we can just keep on this course we will be good," Coley said. "We just have to hype ourselves up before every game.”

Following the game, Coley and Mansare were named to the FIU Thanks-giving Classic All-Tournament Team.

It would be nice to compete with badminton clubs from schools like UF, and FSU too. I think it will be great. It will make it more competitive and more fun, and we can play against new people. - Quinghao He, Badminton Club

One of the fastest growing clubs in FIU is also one of the least known. With currently 49 members, FIU badminton is seeing more and more people joining each week, according to club president Quinghao He. 

"So far we have a lot of people and it’s growing real fast,” he said. “Almost every week we have like two or three new people that join.” According to He, all students are welcome.

Once a member, players attend weekly meetings on Sundays at 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the FIU Recreation Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus. For four hours, the basketball courts belong to the badminton club, where the members play in pickup games, usually playing two on two. 

“We have so many members, so we usually play in doubles. We do that especially since we have three nets up for every time we meet and it gives everyone a chance to play," said He. 

Don’t question the competitiveness of the club members, according to He. There are players who play for the fun, but also skilled players who take the game seriously. 

Besides the weekly meetings, the club holds an annual competition in January. It is a competition between all the members in the club. In last year’s competition, the players have a men’s doubles tournament and a men’s singles tournament. Then they also had a mixed co-ed doubles, and a women’s single tournament. He expects the competition to have a lot more participants because of the club’s doubling in size since last year.

Before becoming president, He was a regular of the club, showing up and playing every meeting. Now, as president, he will have to hype himself up before every game against LSU. Some people may have felt we were slippin a little bit," defense end Jared Odrick said; "and we were.”

Seattle netted only 96 yards rushing, including 38 by Russell Wilson on quarterback scrambles. 

Even so, Philbin said, there’s room for improvement across the board — the spin expected from a coach about to face Tom Brady and the Patriots. Against a team averaging an NFL-best 37 points per game, Miami will need stingy run defense, a clock-eating ground game and more. 

“We’ve got an excellent team and it’s going to be hard to bring them down. Philbin said after reviewing videotape of the game. “We’ve got an excellent team and it’s going to be hard to bring them down. Philbin said after reviewing videotape of the game. “We’ve got an excellent team and it’s going to be hard to bring them down.”

The badminton club is clearly on the rise with an increase of membership each week, and with He trying to expand competition outside of FIU, it looks like a bright future ahead for the badminton club.

If you would like to include other schools and compete against their badminton clubs. "It would be nice to compete with badminton clubs from schools like FSU, and FSU too," He said. "I think it will be great. It will make it more competitive and more fun, and we can play against new people."

Becoming a member of the group requires minimal paperwork that you can get by contacting He. The badminton club is clearly on the rise with an increase of membership each week, and with He trying to expand competition outside of FIU, it looks like a bright future ahead for the badminton club.

“My main focus will be to get more people out to play, and that’s what I’ve been trying to do,” Coley said.

-Cindy Rodriguez

The Beacon – Wednesday, November 28, 2012
HIV: 1 in 5 unaware of their infection

KATHERINE LEPRI
Staff Writer

Every nine and a half minutes, a person in the United States is infected with HIV and one in five Americans living with HIV is unaware of their infection, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Experts argue that while major developments have been made in the fight against the spread of HIV, it is still crucially important to arm newer generations with the best method to prevent infection: knowledge.

“It always shocks me, semester after semester. I think it should be in the classroom, junior high school, high school. I think they have to ramp up public education,” said Allan Richards, associate dean for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication who has studied the HIV epidemic since the 1990s.

To bring HIV awareness and education to Biscayne Bay Campus and commemo-rate World AIDS Day, Campus Life will host the “Does HIV look like me?” event on Friday, Nov. 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Panther Square. The event is sponsored by the Student Government Council at BBC.

“This is a global initiative to make the students more aware of preventative measures and to hear the story of someone who is infected,” said Andres Bermes, marketing coordinator for the Office of Campus Life.

Todd Murray, who was diagnosed HIV positive in 2001, is the speaker of the event.

He is the president and founder of Hope’s Voice, an organization that arranges events on college campuses about topics that are relevant and often misunderstood, such as LGBT discrimination and expectations of beauty put on by the media.

Miami-Dade county has the highest numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS in the state, according to 2009 statistics by the Florida Department of Health.

Since June 1981, when the first AIDS cases were reported in the U.S., 1.7 million people were estimated to have been infected with HIV, including over 619,000 who have already died and 1.2 million who were living with the HIV infection at the end of 2008.

Nearly 70 percent of all people with HIV/AIDS are Latino and African-Americans — which constitutes a large part of the Miami-Dade and, similarly, the FIU community.

Free HIV testing is available to students at the BBC Wellness Center every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

“A lot of the diseases are being transmitted in minorities who are not being exposed to the information,” said Richards, who produced a two-part documentary on the topic. “There are cultural biases, religious issues. It carries a stigma so that people don’t necessarily want to talk about it in their religious settings and in the home; there is a lot of shame.”

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No authority, no order: WUC game room struggles

GENE YLLANES
Contributing Writer

The game room on the second floor of the Wolfe University Center has a ping-pong table, television; and video games, but some people seem to see it as a fighting ring, a dumpster and a football field.

The game room was opened in the spring 2012 semester, transformed from office space into an area for students to unwind, but not all of them find the place peaceful.

“37 ping-pong balls, the ping-pong table, missing ping-pong balls and garbage on the floor. “I have no problem with the high schoolers; most of them are okay,” Brown said."

Damages to the the game room in the second floor of the Wolfe University Center include a broken ping-pong table, missing ping-pong balls and garbage on the floor.

"The room is open."

Morais Brown, freshman studying biology, doesn’t mind the high schoolers in the room.

“I have no problem with the high schoolers; most of them are okay,” Brown said.

Herrera said recklessness comes from University students too.

“They feel it’s okay to toss a football in there. They think it’s okay to use it to play video games,” he said. “There is no form of authority. That is about change, according to Zach Trautenberg, IT and marketing coordinator for the Division of Student Affairs. He agrees that the room needs authority.

“[The room] is heavily utilized, and in order to keep it fun, we need to have someone there,” Trautenberg said. “We will be implementing a staff at all hours the room is open.”

With these changes down the line, students can expect some order.

“We are looking into new controllers, new games. Once we have more stability, we will survey the students to find out what’s best for the students then, and get them what they need,” Trautenberg said.

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