University holds high hopes for hosting pageant

NATALIE ALATRISTE
Staff Writer
natalie.alatriste@fiusm.com

This weekend, FIU will host the Miss Universe pageant at the U.S. Century Bank Arena, where the pageant is an internationally recognized event. President Mark B. Rosenberg hopes to gain recognition on a global scale, according to the minutes of a Faculty Senate meeting.

In the minutes, Rosenberg commented that global recognition at this level is a goal for FIU. "We have chosen to invite representatives from more than 30 media outlets around the world to tour our campus and learn more about our University," Gonzalez-Levy said. "FIU will be mentioned at least three times during the telecast of the final competition."

FIU will benefit from hosting the pageant in a few ways. According to Gonzalez-Levy, FIU students are interning with the Miss Universe Organization. Scholarship opportunities have also become possible for students. The First Generation Scholarship Fund, an opportunity only for FIU students, has raised $140,000 for the scholarship, $75,000 of which came from the Miss Universe Organization.

Gonzalez-Levy said the state of Florida may potentially match this fund. FIU Athletics is also expecting to gain revenue through concessions, parking and ticket sales, which is projected to be between $50,000-$70,000. But is the pageant worth the publicity?

The event will be costly for both FIU and the City of Doral, with Doral paying the pageant roughly $2.5 million. While FIU originally estimated to spend only $70,000, the event is now estimated to cost up to $350,000.

I don’t think hosting the pageant is as beneficial as it may seem.

While FIU originally estimated to spend only $70,000, the event is now estimated to cost up to $350,000. Although Donald Trump, the owner of the pageant, is hosting his guests and multiple events in the City of Doral and the Trump National Doral Miami, a focal point for the pageant, the actual pageant will be held at the University.

In the search for a venue large enough for the event, FIU was the chosen location. Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, senior vice president of External Relations, said that the arena will be closed to University students during the week of the pageant. Since the Miss Universe pageant is an annual event, the University cannot have their students or other events during the week of the pageant. The news director of the pageant is an annual event, the University cannot have their students or other events during the week of the pageant. The news director of the pageant is an annual event, the University cannot have their students or other events during the week of the pageant.

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Board of Trustees proposes new graduate programs

President gives sixth State of the Union address

CORRECTIONS

On page 2 of Vol. 26, Issue 51, the names of Marie McLaughlin and Myatul Maor were combined to Myatul Mclaughlin in the 2015 Panther Camper Facilitator listing.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BIBC at 305-919-4722.

Foreign Policy

The president was quick to call out North Korea and condemned the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris by saying the US will stand with other nations in fighting terror groups.

“We will continue to hunt down terrorists and dismantle their networks, and we must do the right to act unilaterally, as we’ve done relentlessly since I took office to take out those who pose a direct threat to us and our allies,” Bejar said.

Congress had already approved the training of moderate rebels who oppose the Islamic State.

And for those 21st century internet based businesses, the president also called for a greater collaboration with the tech industry to improve the cyber security of the US and the world.

The president also asked Congress to consider legislation that would make it easier for American businesses to partner with companies and organizations from around the world.
Hypocrisy in media legitimizes violence and terrorism

MADARI PENDAS
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

On Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015 the office of the humor magazine Charlie Hebdo was attacked by radical Islamists and twelve people, including a police officer, were murdered. The magazine was targeted because of its cartoons depicting the image of the Islamic prophet Muhammad, an act not explicitly forbidden in the Quran, but some hadiths, additional materials, forbid the visual depiction of any leaders or figures. A lot of magazines and newspapers showed solidarity by reprinting some of the cartoons created by the Charlie Hebdo staff. However, none of the major American networks, like The New York Times, have reprinted any of the cartoons that Charlie Hebdo published, despite the White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest telling media organizations that “individual news organizations have to assess that risk for themselves. I might add, there are also journalists who assume great personal risk to cover stories... so there is a risk assessment made in lots of decisions journalists make.”

The mainstream news organizations in the United States are afraid of printing anything that could be deemed anti-Islamic for fear of retaliation, often they will say their refusal is out of cultural sensitivity; however other religions like Christianity, Judaism and Buddhism are easily and often criticized and lampooned. This is a blatant hypocrisy in the American media system that legitimizes violence and terrorism. Charlie Hebdo’s Editor-in-Chief Gerard Biard, who was absent the day of the attacks, criticized the United States for not reprinting any of the cartoons and not defending freedom of expression. “It’s a symbol of freedom of speech, freedom of democracy and secularism...It is this symbol newspapers refuse to publicize when they refuse to publish this cartoon. They blur it out, they blur out democracy, secularism and freedom of religion and they insult the citizenship.”

There are some who will say that the cartoons published by Charlie Hebdo were offensive and should not have been printed. First and foremost “offensive” is subjective, everyone has different sensibilities, and no one person or group of persons can be the morality police for the world.

This is absolutely incorrect and an encroachment on freedom of religions and on the freedom to lambaste any institution, including religious institutions. It is not normal or justified to punch someone because they have provoked you. Violence is not the tool used when one is offended or wants to send a message—that is terrorism, using violence to achieve a means.

The Pope later said, “There is an end. Every religion has its dignity...in freedom of expression there are limits.” Yes, there are some limits to freedom expression, for instance, shouting “f**k” in a crowded theater and using hate speech to incite violence are not protected by the right to free speech—these are instances where speech is limited; but social critiques of a religion do not receive special protection. Any religion is open to criticism, no institution gets a safe haven from ridicule. Any special treatment to one religion is an expression of inferiority to all other belief systems. Biard stated, “Every time we draw a cartoon of Muhammad or the prophet or of God, we defend the freedom of religion...We declare God must not be political or public figure, he must be a private figure. If faith steps into the political arena, it becomes a totalitarian argument. Secularism allows all believers and non-believers to live in peace, and that is what we defend.”

I tried to refrain from quoting South Park, but in the two part episode “Cartoon Wars,” Kyle Broflovski says, “Either it’s all okay or none of it is,” in regards to depicting an image of Mohammad. Once a person says an image cannot be shown or is offensive, that person or group has made a moral judgement for everyone, and not everyone might feel an image is offensive, they have played censure for the populace. Showing an image of Muhammad is not offensive to all Muslims, but the vocal and violent majority are the ones saying it is offense, they are attempting to speak for all Muslims. Self imposed censorship and bowdlerizing to terrorists shows how easily freedom can be inhibited and threatened. The goal of satirists is to mock the propriety, to keep the elite in check and fallible.

Hypocrisy in media legitimizes violence and terrorism...
FIU receives visit from former Miss Universe

AMANDA RABINES & KATRINA VELEZ
FUSM Staff
lisa@fusm.com

Two years ago, on Nov. 9, Gabriela Isler “Miss Venezuela,” stood in front of spotlights, judges and a live broadcast, with viewership from around the world, as a crown was placed on her head.

She has just won the title of Miss Universe in Moscow’s Crocus City Hall in Russia. This Sunday, she will pass down that crown to the next worthy contestant at Florida International University’s U.S. Century Bank Arena, where FIU will host the 63rd Annual Miss Universe Pageant.

“Giving my crown in this place filled with hispanic, latin, and Venezuelan communities just makes me feel at home,” Isler said. “I’m just happy that [the pageant] brought me here, to end this chapter in my life and start a new one.

Isler was at Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Jan. 20 to visit FIU, including the volleyball team.

There, she also spared some time to speak with The Beacon staff on some of the buzz and controversy revolving around the beauty pageant.

One big issue was last Sunday, when FIU issued a statement in response to the Miami Herald’s article, which exposed how the pageant is costing FIU $544,073. The statement read -- "The event will bring FIU and provide our first-generation students with more than $200,000 in scholarships. In addition, recent arena roof upgrades will prove to be a worthwhile investment that will make it possible to attract concerts and other events to the FIU Arena.”

The only merit Isler sees in FIU’s decision to spend that much amount of money, is based upon the hopes that it’s coverage will attract more international students.

“There’s many students around the world who are looking for options,” Isler said. “This year FIU and Miss Universe are working together and it will be an opportunity to bring into the spotlight, not just Miami/Doral but also FIU, to get exposure.”

Another international issue that arose, was the infamous Lebanon and Israel selffe.

“During my year, we didn’t have any problems between pictures, or between different countries,” Isler said. “I think that these pictures [between Miss Lebanon, Sally Greige and Miss Israel, Doron Malatohn] show that some girls like enjoying themselves during this beautiful experience and I think you really have to be sick of hearing about all the trouble and struggle between countries.”

So the struggles Isler insists the women in this year’s pageant focus on, is on the competition itself. In order to win the crown the women must succeed through three categories - swimsuit, evening gown and interview.

Isler says the best advice she can give to contestants is to, treat the experience like a job -- with great responsibility.

“It’s true, it’s a competition but also a once in a lifetime experience,” Isler said. “It’s important to enjoy the moment you yourself, but take into account that this is a job, so you have to show responsibility, commitment and that you are able to represent the brand of your country.

For Isler, the pageant is more than a beauty contest, she says it’s a sport.

“We are a competition of pageants and to me I think FIU is a perfect place to hold a pageant because this is a university that supports sports and this is a similar type of adrenaline,” Isler said. “It’s 88 girls competing for a title.”

Though she is losing her crown, Isler doesn’t feel she is losing a trophy. Instead she is setting her mind on another one.

“We was never able to pursue my profession, so now, I’m going to focus more on the humanitarian world,” said Isler, who has a master’s in business administration and a degree in marketing. “I want a master’s in international development, so I may be able to spread more knowledge to people around the world and not just my country.

The three-hour pageant will air on NBC at 8 p.m. Sunday and will be simulcast in Spanish on Telemundo.

‘American Sniper’ both a character study and commemorative film

HELEN ROE
fusm.com

Friday, January 23, 2015

Clint Eastwood’s “American Sniper” has Bradley Cooper on the silver screen to portray Chris Kyle, who with 160 confirmed kills, is the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history, with 160 officially confirmed kills. It stars Bradley Cooper as Chris and Sienna Miller as his wife, Taya Renae Kyle.

“American Sniper” moves at a good pace, starting off in mediares at the beginning of Kyle’s first tour of duty, then going back to his childhood, moving onto his rodeo cowboy days, until he decides to enlist in the military. The film’s story definitely relies heavily on highlights and there is no strong overall story structure. This is not a complaint, as real life is pretty much like this and most biopics are based like this as well. However, the film does have a sort of story arc (with its own beginning, middle, and end) involving Kyle going after a sniper named Mustafa during his four tours of duty. Aside from this, the film merely chronicles Kyle through his tours, his marriage, and his relationships with everyone around him.

As one should understand, “American Sniper” is a character study, one that allows its subject to, for the most part, speak for himself. I was very much impressed by not only Cooper’s disappearance into the role of Kyle, but how the film could easily be seen as both a film commemorating an American hero and as a study on a man who was greatly affected by war and how positively and negatively affects others around him.

While there is controversy surrounding Kyle and the book the film is based on, I only wanted to see this film as a film, as well as the different angles and viewpoints given by the filmmaker. I believe this film could have been completely fictional, talking about a fictional sniper that did the things seen in the film, and I would still find it to be a better-than-expected drama about a man who did his best to help others -- sometimes at the sacrifice of his own mental well-being.

I believe the film while often times predictable, does a good job showing a man who had trouble escaping the war, especially when back home. It’s the thoughts when he’s back home, struggling to get back into the regular motions of everyday life, that I find myself the most impressed with “American Sniper.”

I know many, including those in my theater, would find the war scenes exciting and of great value, but for me, nothing says more about a character and the film itself than the thought of sitting in a bar “taking a break” before returning back to his house for good.

It may not be perfect, but “American Sniper” does its job of showing us a man who was known as a legend, a man who had a family he loved dearly, and a man who is greatly revered for saving, helping, and protecting fellow soldiers.

-rafael.abreu@fusm.com
Hail Mary Mallon’s ‘Bestiary’ has ‘less than ideal’ good-to-bad track ratio

Hail Mary Mallon’s “Bestiary” is a reflection of the rap group’s similar styles, and how Aesop Rock, the more noteworthy member of the group, has managed to evolve his sound while remaining true to his rhyming technique.

Since with his 2007 album “None Shall Pass,” Rock has not deviated from the dark yet up-tempo formula fans have come to expect. His second album “Skelethon” and last November’s “Bestiary” seem to serve as confirmation that this is now Rock’s permanent style.

This new style is in contrast to how he first built his fanbase in the early 2000s; back then, the beats were much less frantic and a little more varied, and (as is to be expected for a beginning artist) the production was less sophisticated. However, with “Bestiary,” when the tracks are good, they are very good. The tracks “Jonathan,” “Dollywood,” “Hang Ten,” “Picture Day,” and “Kiln” are the standout tracks of this album. “Dollywood” is an amazing display of intricate rhyming technique and teamwork. It’s one thing for one MC to produce such a display of internal and multisyllabic rhymes; for two to do so and not get in the other’s way is amazing. The only other example of teamwork that comes to mind is Vinnie Paz and Planetary on Jedi Mind Tricks’ “A Storm of Swords,” but their intricacy is not comparable to that of “Dollywood.” “Kiln” is made special by Rock’s poignant verse in which he laments about the clunkers worthwhile.

While there are a good amount of tracks worthy of entry into your music library on this album, there are also too many that scare you away as soon as you press play. The ratio of good tracks to bad tracks is lower than ideal but all in all, the quality of the standout tracks makes dealing with the clunkers worthwhile.

Although Rock’s production style has evolved, his rhyming technique, which includes heavy use of (almost undecipherable) metaphors and borderline genius introspective lyrics, have been his calling card since the start of his career. Rob Sonic, the other member of Hail Mary Mallon, has been collaborating with Rock for a decade; the two seem to share similar values, and it shows in their subject matter and rhyming techniques, which resemble subconsciously altering his style for greater mass appeal. The beat on “Hang Ten” draws you in immediately and compels you to listen to the track in full. As deep as Hail Mary Mallon lyrics can be, they’re also skilled at a light-hearted approach, displayed in “Jonathan” and “Picture Day.” While there are a good amount of tracks worthy of entry into your music library on this album, there are also too many that scare you away as soon as you press play. The ratio of good tracks to bad tracks is lower than ideal but all in all, the quality of the standout tracks makes dealing with the clunkers worthwhile.
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Panthers look to snap losing streak at FAU

REBECCA CHARUR  Staff Writer rebecca.charur@fiusm.com

On Saturday, Jan. 24, the women’s basketball team will take on Florida Atlantic in their second head-to-head of the season. In their first outing, the Panthers were handed their ninth loss of the season and their first loss against Conference USA opponent.

Inconsistency has struck before against Marshall University. In the first half against the Hilltoppers they seemed to adjust their early-season losing pattern. FIU has fallen to this conference's top team, lost.

In the loss, FAU displayed impressive second half play which allowed them to pull away and secure a 79-63 lead. Therefore, in order to pull off the win and snap their five game losing streak, the Panthers will have to open the half well and play at a high-energy level from beginning to end.

In addition, FIU will have to focus on shutting down sophomor Shamese Bailey who finished with a career-high 29 points in their last meeting. She also scored FAU’s first 16 points of the contest in the first six minutes of the game. Between the explosive play of Bailey and freshman Melinda Myers and the team’s lock-down defense, the Owls were able to come back in the second half and build an 11-point lead.

On the Panthers side of the court, center Marita Davydova had a big game with 16 points to lead the team. She also finished with 10 rebounds, notching her fourth double-double of the season.

Saturday’s game will decide whose losing streak will end and whose will continue. If FAU wins, they would move one game above .500 with a record of 9-8. Furthermore, they would improve their C-USA record to 3-3. FIU will be looking for their first win against a C-USA opponent and their fourth win of the season.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

9-9 record reflects lack of playing consistency

DAVID DRUCKER  Columnist

It’s the night of Saturday, Jan. 17, and the biggest ensemble of Panther fans this season looks on as their team attempts to knock off the conference heavyweights. Senior guard Dennis Marvin's squad has less than a minute to erase a five-point Hilltoppers lead. He breaks down the court to the top of the key and slides to his left. He feigns a drive, but instead takes a sharp hop back and shoots the jumper – freezing a helpless Western Kentucky University defender on his heels. Swish. Three-point game.

The tale of two halves pattern that the Panthers are experiencing may be due in part by the management of junior forward Adrian Diaz, the team’s leading rebounder. Head Coach Anthony Evans chooses to sit him out during major parts of games.

The Panthers' 9-9 record after Saturday night’s game is a perfect indication of the inconsistency that the team has struggled with all season.

The opportunity is still available for the Panthers to become one of the top teams in the conference. Thirteen conference games remain for the Panthers before the conference tournament. Their support system is strong as well; the student section, which now stretches into the second level of stands, has grown with every competitive home game.

But for now, .500 is where the Panthers glide, with the chance to soar above if they could just play a complete 40 minutes of basketball.
The Panthers tennis team participated in their first event of 2015 at the University of Central Florida Quad Tournament in Orlando, Florida. They were one of four teams competing this past weekend including UCF, the University of Iowa, and the University of Illinois.

The tournament was a success for the Panthers, as they went on to win the event on Monday, Jan. 19, with twelve singles victories and five doubles wins.

The team also competed against UCF that day in doubles matches. Nema Caluk/Yana Koroleva won a close match that went into tiebreaker 7-6, 7-5 against Sofia Baptist/Cortney Cesarini, and Valentina Brizeno/Orlando won 6-3 against Annikka Hepp/Monica Mattas. The first day turned out to be a success and the Panthers would look for a better outcome on day two of the tournament.

On Sunday, Jan. 18, the Panthers played UCF in singles and ended up winning four of the six matches as well. Koroleva won 6-2, 6-3 against Caroline Eberhart, Orlando won 6-1, 6-2 against Cesarei, Nagode won 6-2, 6-3 against Baptista, and Brozovich won 6-3, 6-3 against Clare Mendall. Caluk lost a nail biter 3-6, 7-6, 5-7 against Kennan Johnson. However, the singles got the job done on the second day of the event.

Once again, the Panthers’ doubles won two out of three matches, but this time against Iowa. Caluk/Koroleva won 7-5 against Annette Dohanics/Shebly Talcott, and Nagode/Orlando won decidedly 6-0 against Morven McCulloch/Anastasia Reimchen.

After having the same results two days in a row, the Panthers looked to be in a comfortable position going into the final day of the event. On Sunday, Jan. 19, the Panthers faced off against Iowa in singles. Winning four out of the six matches, the team proved to be too much for the Hawkeyes. Orlando won 6-2, 6-2 against Reimchen, Nagode won 3-6, 2-10 against Dohanics, and Brozovich won 7-5, 5-7, 10-7 against Katie Zordani.

The Panthers fell short against Illinois in doubles, only winning one of the three matches. Nagode/Orlando won 6-3 against Casati/Tapak.

Overall, the Panthers beat every team they faced and finished tied with Illinois for the five doubles matches they won. Orlando, Brozovich, and Nagode ended the tournament a perfect 3-0 in each of their three their singles matches. Collectively, they carried the load for the Panthers throughout the events.

The Panthers will look to use the victories they had in the UCF Quad Tournament as fuel for upcoming events. The team will host its next two events against Liberty University and Stetson University before heading up to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to face the University of Pennsylvania.

They’ll look to ride this strong start all the way through the conference tournament in April.

**BASEBALL**

He played three years of college baseball, beginning with two years at Los Angeles City College under Head Coach Steve Rousey, who would later hire Kertenian to be a part of his Cal State Northridge coaching staff. Kertenian finished his collegiate career at Point Loma Nazarene University.

Kertenian provides playing experience from all aspects of the field and these FIU players will be fortunate in having him be a positive impact on a successful season. Hopefully Kertenian hopes to bring that winning culture to FIU like he has done with his former teams.

**FOOTBALL**

Kertenian has coached five Major League players, 60 drafted players and 15 players signed to independent or overseas leagues.

The Beacon – Friday, January 23, 2015
As social media spreads news at a faster rate, consumers are more likely to be misinformed by unreliable sources.

To address this issue, the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication will focus this month’s seminar event on the use of social media and its affect on society Wednesday, Jan. 28.

According to Lillian Kopenhaver, dean emeritus at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, more young people are getting messages through social media than any other kind of medium.

Whether or not it be in the field of journalism, advertising or public relations -- social media is used everywhere. However, it’s important to learn the responsibilities of social media usage and to discern which news is accurate.

“It’s so important for people who are in communication to realize that social media is important, but also the fact that it has to be accurate and you can’t just rush to judgement,” Kopenhaver said.

To bring light on the issue, the center has invited renowned Local 10 News Reporter Glenna Milberg and Don Silver, chief operating officer at the marketing and public relations firm BoardroomPR.

“Social Media is much faster. It’s a speedy kind of no-filter way of getting things out and that could have a great downside,” Milberg has said in an interview with Student Media.

As co-host of “This Week in South Florida,” Milberg has covered stories on issues and events on Cuba’s revolution and evolution, earthquakes in California and Colombia and the plight of orphans in Ukraine.

She has also been awarded the Big Impact Award from Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Miami and graduated with a broadcast journalism degree at FIU.

Milberg said that as a country with free speech, anyone can record things on Facebook, report on Twitter and upload videos on YouTube without having to be professional journalists.

“You always have to be a smart, discerning news consumer, but with social media, that just ramps that up logarithmically – I mean to the nth degree,” Milberg said.

“So you really never know what is credible.”

On the other hand, she said that social media has provided her with many platforms to work with at a faster rate and to a wider audience in real-time.

“All of the sudden I have all kinds of sources that I never had before,” Milberg said. “If something happens in the field, I immediately know who are the eyewitnesses because they’re Tweeting about it or on Facebook with it.”

To bring in another perspective, Silver, who has worked for 30-plus years in public relations and marketing management, will also speak at the event. He is on their phone. No one communicates face to face,” Faust said.

“The seminar, “Social Media: Adding Impact to the Message,” will be held at the Biscayne Bay Campus in the Academic Two Building room 252 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Since 1994 the MLK Day of Service has been a National Day of Service, and been referred to as a “Day On, Not a Day Off.” This year’s celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, held by the Center for Leadership Affairs, took place on Monday, Jan. 19. Participants in the Day of Service were asked to honor King’s legacy by giving back to their community, and in celebration of the University’s 50th Anniversary, community members were asked to “Give 50,” or dedicate 50 hours of service.

To the left, members of the football team wave to spectators as they walk in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade in Liberty City.