Law professor writes article on straight supremacy

VICTORIA RONDEROS
Contributing Writer

Last week, law professor Jose Gabilondo’s essay, “Los Fueros de la Heterosexualidad en Su Ocaso” (The Twilight of Straight Supremacy), was published in “La Discriminación de Género en el Derecho y Sus Expresiones en la Legislación y en la Práctica Jurídica, or, the Gender Discrimination in Law and Its Expression in Legislation and Legal Institutions, by the Association of Cuban Jurists in Havana.

Gabilondo’s essay describes the fear the heterosexual identity has over the current gay rights movement. His article also happens to be published on the same week of the Supreme Court’s hearings of California’s Proposition 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act, two landmark same-sex marriage cases. Proposition 8, which has been on the California ballot since 2008, prohibits the ban of same-sex marriage in California. The second, DOMA, which has been around since 1996, has been seeing a little over $3 trillion worth of infrastructures and a population of nearly 5 million exposed to the sea-level rise.

“We can’t come up with any kind of definitive, binding plans for people to follow but we can come up with strategies and try to understand the whole process,” said Sukop.

Miami is ranked first in a list of 20 cities worldwide as having the most infrastructures exposed to the sea-level rise and coastal flooding. The value of these economic assets are estimated to be $416.29 billion as reported by the Cities and Climate Change project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

A currently exposed population of 2,003 puts Miami in ninth place in an additional list of 20 cities. The estimations are projected to only go up from there to the point of year 2070 seeing a little over $3 trillion worth of infrastructures and a population of nearly 5 million exposed to the sea-level rise.

“Sea-level rise is a huge issue for us in the sense that there has always been seawater intrusion; seawater intrusion means that the saltwater from the ocean comes underground into the wells that supply our water and sea-level rise will make this problem worse,” said Sukop.

The SFWC research team is made up of a group of diverse and multi-disciplined scientists, including hydrologists, engineers, behavioral scientists, economists, ecosystem scientists and landscape ecologists. According to Sukop, ecologists are focusing on the need to prove forests which are collecting a lot of peat, an organic sawdust.
WORLD NEWS

Striking Guantanamo prisoners say war denied

Prisoners taking part in expanding hunger strike at Guantanamo Bay leveled new complaints about their military jailers Wednesday as a team from the International Committee of the Red Cross made a fact-finding trip to the U.S. base in Cuba.

In an emergency motion filed with a federal court in Washington, lawyers say guards have refused to provide drinking water to hunger strikers and kept camp temperature “extremely frigid,” to thwart the protest. A spokesman for the detention center denied the allegations.

Pope Francis forces Argentine political about-face

Catholic doctrine considers the pope to be God’s delegate on Earth. That alone might explain the remarkable about-face that Argentina’s pope-designate, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, has managed to pull off in the days since he became Pope Francis.

In Issue 77, Vol. 24, the article titled “Vendors might need more than bling to lure students in” was incorrect. Also, in Issue 76, the correct names are Mini Getaways Inc. and Miami Wow and Mini Gateway Inc. are mentioned.

Miami faces concerns with rising sea levels

Behavioral scientists are working on the decision-making aspect of the research, particularly on aspects such as the economic valuation of ecosystem services and the value of water for other uses.

So far, Sukop has attended 10 days of the field work, which is part of a larger research team.

At a hearing that took place on March 27, plaintiff Richard Moran, sophomore in political science, held the position that each political party should have the opportunity to put up a candidate for each seat. However, defendant Charles Perretti, elections commissioner for the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus (left), contended that particular circumstance is unjust and would be jamming the ballot.

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Media Arts Festival: A night of visual creativity

MICHAEL BAISDEN  
Opinion Editor

As the end of Miami’s Film Month drew to a close, the School of Journalism and Mass Communication premiered its first Media Arts Festival Tuesday night at the University’s Miami Beach Urban Studios. The theme of the festival was “Only in Miami.” The event was not only a platform for local artists to showcase their visual storytelling talent but also a significant step for Miami, and FIU, to highlight this city as a part of the film culture.

My night started off with drinks, conversations and yummy appetizers to eat. I arrived much earlier than most so my boyfriend and I walked to the small bar area and we lucked out because it was first beer until 6:30 p.m., which is exactly when all the traffic started to come in. The place was casual and the main area was very open so they had a few tables and pedestals set up so that attendees could view the videos on either iPads or on a computer desktop. There were another two rooms where they had a few videos on rotation. Though I did not submit anything into the festival, I was interested in seeing what some of my classmates, the alumni, and locals had done for the festival and there was some really cool and creative videos showcased.

The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau submitted “It’s So Miami,” definitely one of the stand out videos of the evening. Krysten Medina, an SJMC student, submitted a very colorful video, Wynwood Walls, that showcased one of the artists whose work is displayed around the vibrant neighborhood of Wynwood. A few of my classmates had their submissions featured at the event and I was happy to see their hard work recognized not only by their peers but also by the faculty and staff.

I think this event needs to become a staple for SJMC. For instance, a similar rape case occurred in Connecticut, involving two high school football players raping several 13-year-old girls. Their case was not as highly recognized as the Ohio case, but the media have very similarly regarded them with higher esteem than should be given to sexual assaulters. Many people want to rule out the possibility of a ‘rape culture’ brewing in our society, but after watching that CNN broadcast, I was completely convinced. The media are only further fueling this ‘rape culture’ with their stories. News stations are subtly itemView the victims; News stations report on various social networks.

How the media further victimizes the victims

LAUREN BANA  
Contributing Writer

Some of us might have heard about the Steubenville, Ohio rape cases involving two of the local high school’s star football players, Trent Mays and Ma’lik Richmond. There have been numerous accounts where newcomers have portrayed these underage rapists as the victims of bad timing, and personally, I am completely enraged and repulsed by the response. The boys, these media outlets who ruined the lives of these two girls, said they had a few beers and their victim was too drunk. The boys, these media outlets who ruined the lives of these two girls, said they had a few beers and their victim was too drunk.

When CNN broadcasted the news of the boy’s guilty sentences, the reporter seemed sorry for the victim the night of the party because she was drinking heavily. They both said she has a history of drunkenness of the rape victim as well. The last line in an article on USA Today said, “Both Weaver and Anlane [former friends of the victim] testified that they were upset with the victim the night of the party because she was drinking heavily. They both said she has a history of drinking and has lied about things in the past.”

After reading the entire article, it became clear that they were deliberately trying to plant the thought in their reader’s heads that maybe she was drinking too much. The way these news sources have handled sexual abuse cases like this one is absolutely repulsive. For instance, a similar rape case occurred in Connecticut, involving two high school football players raping several 13-year-old girls. Their case was not as highly recognized as the Ohio case, but the media have very similarly regarded them with higher esteem than should be given to sexual assaulters. Many people want to rule out the possibility of a ‘rape culture’ brewing in our society, but after watching that CNN broadcast, I was completely convinced. The media are only further fueling this ‘rape culture’ with their attempts at squeezing out sympathy from their viewers and readers.

Newspaper sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its sections.
José Manuel Ballester’s “Concealed Spaces” is a truly innovative collection showcasing the deconstruction of famous paintings throughout history.

Through digital manipulation, Ballester managed to remove all traces of life from every painting, allowing the original artist’s intended setting to be the sole and main focus. The narrative is, therefore, not showcased and instead, the setting and background are able to become the center focus. Francine Biehrgather, the exhibit’s curator, praises this by saying, “Ballester’s series ‘Concealed Spaces’ presents a unique interpretation of western art history. By removing all references to action from iconic works by Bosch, Botticelli, Da Vinci, Géricault, Goya and Velázquez, among others, he rediscovers their magnificent landscapes and architectural backgrounds.”

The exact artistic process is a bit complex and meticulous, but in short, Ballester photographs the images, digitally removes all life, and then proceeds to use Photoshop to fill in the voids brought upon by the elimination of portions of the original artist’s intended setting to be the sole and main focus. The Photoshop process of restoring the painting’s backdrop after the removal of all life is an art form in and of itself. Ballester shows his immense talent by recreating the brush strokes, coloring and textures and filling in the blank spots using just a computer.

By doing this, he creates a new work of art of his own through the works of other famous artists. “For an art historian, José Manuel Ballester: Concealed Spaces is a ‘dream exhibit’”, said Birbragher. “Not only does it introduce to the public the works of one of the most important Spanish contemporary artists but it also presents the works of art history’s master in an interactive way through the use of QR codes.”

“The dialogue between the old and the new is particularly enriching from an educational perspective.”

The inspiration behind this concept came about with the loss of Ballester’s close friend. In order to honor her memory, he removed all signs of life from her favorite work of art, Fra Angelico’s “La Annunciation.”

He has also manipulated and deconstructed other famous works such as Leonardo da Vinci’s “The Last Supper”, Diego Velázquez’s “Las Meninas”, and Sandro Botticelli’s “The Birth of Venus”.

In a video interview conducted by the University, Ballester explains that his collection “spans history and, in some ways, is a reflection on art and how it’s understood in each historical period.”

“And with this technique of altering temporal sequences and eliminating the narrative aspect we create a series of interpretations newly appreciated, a new way to see what we understand as art.”

This is the first time Ballester’s “Concealed Spaces” will be on display in the United States. It will be open to the public at the Frost Museum until June 23.

LGBT Pride Week to become Pride Month: new initiatives

YANAISIS COLLAZO Contributing Writer

At FIU, 10 percent of the student population is LGBTQA, according to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, and Ally. In other words, out of the 50,000 students here on campus, 5,000 young adults are part of that category.

Gisela P. Vega, new associate director of LGBTQA initiatives, is their new representative with support systems and networks in the making to ensure the group there is a place for them here at FIU as well.

“They are an invisible group here on campus,” Vega said. “For me, it was the next progression, in terms of getting back to this group and having their needs met.”

Already establishing goals, Vega is setting them into three folds: create awareness and education on the campus of LGBT students, develop support systems and networks, and work together instead of working in silos.

This year LGBTQA 2013 Spring Events have huge presence in the month of April. Two weeks from now, Vega and LGBT students are wrapping up for the 10th annual Florida Collegiate Pride Coalition Conference, hosted by FIU, starting on April 5 to 7.

PCPC, a non-profit organization with a board of directors consisting students and graduate students all across of Florida, in creating an avenue for LGBT students to come together once a year and bring awareness, education about topics and issues that impact this community as students. This year, the conference is having thirty workshops in a number of different areas to help in anyway they can.

Programs such as spirituality and transgender and/or leadership, activism, career, health and wellness services will help the students.

Far from being over, Vega has turned Pride Week, beginning April 8, for LGBT students into Pride Month instead here at FIU. Within the month of April, 200 students, faculty and staff from FIU are participating in Pride Parade, located in Miami Beach on April 14, bringing in about 60,000 people.

“I have had students sitting across from me in my office, with a defeated and hopeless expression on their face telling me they wish not to go to school anymore or their parent is kicking them out for choosing who they love and be,” Vega said. “This is the reality. Discrimination happening right here on campus instead of practicing unconditional love.”

Vega said one of her other goals is to connect the students with academic and financial so they can still succeed and prosper. She does not want the students here at FIU to feel isolated or be part of the 40 percent homeless youth population statistic due to their lifestyle choices.

Ultimately, her role is providing students with the tools they need to find support, be a listening ear, and make the best decision at the moment. In doing so, she is creating a mentor program for the LGBT students. Paring students with faculty and staff in becoming another sense of support/guidance.

“We all deserve to live in respect and in dignity,” Vega said. “It is the golden rule, treat others like you would like to be treated.”

Being able to relate to the students on a personal level, Vega understands the struggles they go through. Finding spirituality and knowing affirming churches accept who you are helps a great deal for many.

During Diversity Week, The Hurt to Healing helps the LGBT community find their spot in religion. Pastors come in from different churches to educate and ensure students they have a spot in the house of God regardless of their sexual preferences/lifestyle. Utilizing the office and the resources FIU has available, LGBT students know they are not alone.

“Any experiences of harassment or discrimination on campus will be taken care of,” Vega said. “There is nothing wrong with them. It’s who they are.”

-dlife@fiusm.com
With copious amounts of blood raining down from the sky, Fede Alvarez brings us a new addition to the world that Sam Raimi created over thirty years ago, and boy, is it a great one.  "Evil Dead" introduces us to entirely new characters in the Evil Dead world, so that means no more chainsaw wielding Bruce Campbell as Ash Williams. That’s not a bad thing at all though, as it completely allows for the focus to completely shift off of the classic series outside of those subtle and blatant references thrown in for old fans and new.

The film takes a familiar path to set up the horror story, as a group of friends head over to an old family cabin in the woods. Mia, played by “Suburgatory” star Jane Levy, is attempting to quit her drug habit cold turkey once again, and her friends and brother are determined to keep her off the drugs.

It doesn’t take too long for the wonderful world of “Evil Dead” to kick in, as the group finds a basement full of dead cats and a little book all wrapped up in a garbage bag and barbed wire that clearly shouldn’t be touched. That book, as fans of the series all know, is the Necronomicon, which is essentially the reason everything goes to hell in a handbasket minutes after one of the boys reads a few key words from it.

From here on we find ourselves thrown into a film full of all sorts of horrifying images, from ligaments being torn off clean to possessions and even ritual assault by nature rather than human. It’s an incredibly uncomfortable series of events that only serve to lead us into one wildly riveting final act that actually showcases some great horror writing. And great writing it is. What Alvarez does best is bring forth exactly the sort of film that Raimi and Campbell set out to make decades ago: a horror film. With the original “Evil Dead,” regardless of its technical prowess and intention as a straight horror film, Raimi fell into camp territory more often than not. This was quickly remedied by retelling the story of “Evil Dead,” regardless of its technical prowess and intention as a straight horror film, Raimi fell into camp territory more often than not. This was quickly remedied by retelling the story of “Evil Dead” as a masterpiece mixture of comedy and horror, but a true horror piece was never brought forth.

While the possession of multiple characters could have easily fallen into a category that was more humorous than scary, like most horror flicks nowadays, “Evil Dead” keeps from working against itself. This event is relatively new and is still working to improve. From previous years, human resources has realized that students are a vital element in making a successful event. Therefore, what is particularly significant this year is that students are not just audience members, but they are also collaborating with staff and faculty to plan, promote and participate in the Diversity Week Cultural Community Programming. It was the students themselves who came up with this year’s theme: “Connect to Make a Difference.”

The theme originated from the idea that experiences in real life are more impactful than a lecture or reading about it. The students felt that engaging in real life activities that allow them to interact directly with other people was the best way to go about this event.

Sophomore biology major Andres Lopez agrees. “Coming to FIU has opened my eyes to how big the world is,” Lopez said. “Talking about it in geography was interesting in high school, but now I sit next to students who come from places I had never even heard of. It’s insane.”

With the theme also comes a challenge, the “Connect to Make a Difference Challenge.” The challenge consists of attending as many events as possible, then tweeting to the Diversity Week Twitter account, taking a picture and posting it to the Diversity Week Instagram account, or blogging about it on the Diversity Week Facebook page. The challenge provides an opportunity to get to know people and learn from each other. It is open to students and faculty. The tweets and other online posts will be displayed in the Graham Center. Additionally, members of University student organizations or fraternities and sororities will also earn community service points for each Diversity Week event they attend. Freshman public relations major Karina Nogues will be doing it for her sorority. “I was going to stop by and see what it was about but now that I can get community service for my chapter I will definitely make the effort to go to as many as I can,” she said.

At the end of the week’s challenge, five special awards will be given to those who attended the most number of Diversity Week events/activities and that posted their attendance on the Diversity Week social media sites.
Defense making noise during spring practice

PATRICK CHALVIRE
Staff Writer

Cold weather was not enough to chill the energy and enthusiasm that washed over the football stadium on March 26 during the second week of practice. The defense for the Panthers came out strong even before practice officially began. Coming out of the locker room, everyone on and off the field could hear the voice of Marketh Russell, a redshirt senior linebacker, hyped and ready to take on a new day.

"Linebackers are traditionally known as the quarterback of the defense," said Tom Williams, linebackers coach for the Panthers. "You got to be vocal to get a lot of the communications made defensively, so Marketh fits that model."

During scrimmages, the offense didn't finish as well as hoped, courtesy of the defense. There were some turnovers, the ball was on the sideline due to injury. So far this spring, Rhodes feels the defense needed to show more leadership. Something Rhodes doesn't take anything away from the rest of the running backs, including Lee.

"Fullback. We really expect him to play any position asked of him," said Hayes-Stoker. "Being able to handle that pressure and ability to execute as an offense, obviously is what gives you a chance to win."

Earlier in the spring, Jerico Lee, who missed last season for personal reasons, had been practicing with the running backs as a possible fullback for the Panthers. Lee had even been seen on campus carrying around a football, but not Tuesday morning as he was back in a blue jersey alongside the defensive linemen.

Lee had been willing and able to play any position asked of him. According to Head Coach Ron Turner during the first spring practice, he seemed to have the body type of a fullback. Hayes-Stoker didn't take anything away from Lee, but felt his talents were best suited back to where he began his FIU career.

"Fullback. We really expect that position to be a guy that can pound and hammer," said Hayes-Stoker. "We pulled him over because we thought he might have some trace to play fullback, we evaluated him, and we thought he fit better on the defensive side of the ball right now."

FIU SWINGING QUIET BATS

With a five-game winning streak, the softball team rode a wave of momentum into this past weekend that was quickly crushed in their home stand against University of South Alabama.

FIU gave up 29 runs in a weekend series sweep, allowing USA to remain in first place both in the Sun Belt Conference.

During the first game of the series, freshman Corinne Jenkins (11-3), who has been FIU’s most dominant pitcher, suffered her third loss of the season giving up four runs in only 3 1-3 innings. Junior Mariah Duwon (4-10) picked up her 10th loss of the season after allowing 10 runs in a complete game pitched in the second game of the double header. Junior Shelby Wagonon was not much different. Picking up her second loss of the season, she gave up five earned runs in just 2 1-3 innings. Long balls proved to be an issue as well; FIU pitchers gave up seven home runs, four in the span of just one inning.

“We’re just not pitching well,” said Head Coach Jake Schumann. “We gave up a couple long balls with people on after a couple walks, good teams like that are going to pounce on you and make those mistakes hurt.”

During the first game of the double header, FIU’s opponent held them to just six hits and struck them out 14 times in just the first two games of the series.

During the first game of the double header, FIU was only able to carry out five runs off three hits and committed five errors. USA knocked out 11 runs off 10 hits committing no errors. Game two was not much better as FIU scored no runs off three hits, while USA scored 10 runs off of 10 hits.

Game three was much improved for FIU, they were able to attain five runs off seven hits, compared to USA’s eight runs off eight hits.

“We have to step it up when it comes to hitting,” said senior Brie Rojas. “We have to make fewer errors and tighten up defense. Our hitting isn’t enough.”

GETTING BACK UP

After holding down the top two spot in SBC softball in week six, FIU drops to fifth place in the division and SBC after losing three straight to South Alabama this past weekend. The Panthers look to revamp their energy by taking on teams that all fall below them in the SBC standings.

This upcoming weekend, they start a road trip in Louisiana taking on Louisiana-Lafayette and Louisiana Monroe.

Louisiana-Lafayette (19-11, 2-4 SBC) is seventh place in the standings. Louisiana-Lafayette’s 7-2 home record proves that they feel more comfortable playing on home turf, while FIU has an away record of 4-4.

Summarizing this weekend, they start a road trip in Louisiana taking on Louisiana-Lafayette and Louisiana Monroe.

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Louisiana Monroe (14-14, 1-5 SBC) is eighth in the standings, with just one win in conference play. Their winning percentage in the overall division and in the SBC falls below .500 and they have a record of 4-1 at home.

FIU looks to take advantage of the lower-ranked Louisiana squads.

“During the last game of the series against USA, we were able to score when they made their mistakes,” said Schumann. “We did a better job and we will build on that going on into the next series.”

The softball team’s bats were dwarfed by the University of South Alabama this past weekend, getting outscored 29 runs to 10.

JOLSON DIAZ
Contributing Writer

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FGCU savors its ride to NCAA tournament’s Sweet 16

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Writer

Sherwood Brown only wanted a bagel.

The Florida Gulf Coast star walked into a restaurant on campus Monday and was quickly surrounded. People wanted autographs. People wanted photos. People just wanted to yell words of encouragement.

The Eagles can be seen at anytime during the school week. Some choose to even include themselves in student activities to stay in shape, outside of basketball.

“I see most of the players on campus,” said Jessica Curran, a sophomore majoring in Legal Studies at FGCU. “[Sherwood] Brown goes to spin class with us.”

A school that opened a mere 16 years ago finds itself front-and-center in March Madness, one of only 16 college basketball teams left from a field of 68, hoping to win the NCAA national championship.

“I had no idea it was going to be like this, but I’m loving it,” said Mrs. Brown as he made his escape from the shop. “I feel like we’re getting a lot of America behind us. I guess you could say we’re a part of America’s team at this point.”

And the Eagles spent the day savoring their moment.

Lines in the campus bookstore snaked from one side to the other, more than 100 people waiting for the chance to pay for their FGCU shirts and hats.

Phone lines were jammed by those seeking tickets for this weekend’s South Regional, and even the university president half-seriously wondered if he would be able to obtain what he needed. And as they arrived at classes, players were met with applause.

“It’s so brand new,” Eagles coach Andy Enfield said Monday, as emails popped into his mailbox at a fairly dizzying rate. “No one knows — no one knew — what FGCU stood for, the letters. Now it puts our university in a national spotlight and rightly so, because this is a great place. It’s a young, vibrant university with just a lot of energy. I’ve been trying to tell that story to a lot of people.”

The Eagles play Florida in the South Regional semifinals Friday night, two wins from a most-improbable trip to the Final Four. Seeded 15th in their region, FGCU knocked off both No. 2 Georgetown and No. 7 San Diego State in Philadelphia over the weekend to keep their season going.

Enfield’s lone mistake so far in the NCAA tournament may have been what happened when he went to bed around 5:30 a.m. Monday, roughly two hours after the Eagles landed home in Fort Myers after punching their ticket to the regional semifinals.

Before Enfield went to sleep, he forgot to silence his ringer. Sufficient to say, he was awakened long before he wanted.

“It’s part of the moment,” Enfield said. “We’re happy to sacrifice a little sleep for the success of our program.”

Here’s maybe the best way to explain what’s happening right now with FGCU: In a state where the Gators are back in the regional semifinals, where the Miami Hurricanes (who lost to FGCU early this season) are still alive in the field and look very much like a title contender, and as the Miami Heat took 26-game winning streak into their game at Orlando on Monday, it’s the Eagles who might be the best story.

The Eagles — 26-10 overall and 13-5 in the Atlantic Sun Conference — are starting their own tradition, since they have no real tradition yet.

Of the 19 banners that sway in their gym to commemorate various accomplishments, the earliest entry on them is for a women’s volleyball trip to the NCAA Division II tournament in 2004.

The school has about 11,300 students, half of whom come from the state’s southwest section. FGCU is in such infancy as a school that its oldest alumni probably have yet to turn 40.

“I’ve been in higher ed for a long time, worked at several institutions, and I have not experienced anything like this phenomenon,” FGCU President Wilson Bradshaw said. “What has happened in the last three or four days has been exceptional. We’re getting, I’m getting, my staff members are getting emails and texts from all over the country, and it’s been very gratifying.”

“I think everybody’s shocked, mostly,” said senior Kristi Hursdon. “We went out to watch the game Friday and were all joking that this wasn’t going to be a big deal. And then it was."

Her friend and fellow shopper Erica Turczyn used three words to describe the mood on campus right now — crazy, nuts and chaos.

“Professors canceled classes today, some of them,” Turczyn said. “I don’t know how anyone can focus right now.”

Give FGCU guard Brett Comer some credit. He was trying to focus, anyway.

Comer got three hours sleep before waking up Monday to hit his statistics class. As he arrived, his professor asked why he was there.

“A lot of students didn’t seem to make it to class today,” Comer said.

“But I was.”

He won’t be at any classes later this week.

The team’s annual banquet is scheduled for April 2. Someone in the lobby of the arena saw that sign Monday and asked if it would be canceled if the Eagles make the Final Four.

A good question, one that no one even a few days ago would have imagined would have ever been uttered at FGCU.

“Our heads have not gotten bigger,” Bradshaw said. “But we really are excited about the attention that we’re getting. And I’ve said this before: If it takes our very successful basketball team to get people to come to our website and learn more about Florida Gulf Coast University — and there is so much more — then I’m fine with that.”

Monday night ended with a pep rally to congratulate and support the team. It didn’t start there, the party on campus has been going on since FGCU made the tournament according to Curran.

“It’s been wild, everyone is wearing FGCU attire to class and taking pictures with the basketball players,” said Curran. “Everyone is so excited and I think it’s having a really positive impact on our university.”

Additional reporting by Patric Chalvitre.
CAPS offers empowerment to survivors of violence

VINSON PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

Individuals who have endured and survived violent situations have a group of people ready to help them overcome their traumatic experiences. The Counseling and Psychological Services office has the Victim Empowerment Program, which offers confidential help to FIU students, staff, faculty and university visitors who have survived traumatic experiences. The Victim Empowerment Program will also explain options, accompany students who need medical services and help during the healing process.

Liane Dornheim, a licensed psychologist for CAPS at Biscayne Bay Campus, said that the Victim Empowerment Program office has individuals who specialize in dealing with the traumatic experiences that survivors go through. Dornheim mentioned that the Victim Empowerment Program will go with the survivor to the hospital to receive medical attention, help them with the legal process and ensure the abuse stops as well as give them information about how to receive shelter if they have no where to go after the situation.

According to Dornheim, although the Victim Empowerment Program specializes in dealing with victims, she noted that the CAPS office at BBC can also handle those types of situations. Dornheim also mentioned that the University itself and University President Mark B. Rosenberg are “psychology minded” and provide a “wonderful work environment to take care of our students in-house.”

“They’ve been a big and longstanding facility here at FIU, providing psychological help and connections to the [right] places,” said Gabriela Bonilla, senior sociology major and president of the National Organization for Women, which has worked with the CAPS office for over a year. Bonilla discussed that the CAPS office along with the Victim Empowerment Program has experience dealing with any type of abuse and understands the process of stopping violence.

Bonilla mentioned several ways of stopping sexual violence toward women by ending the “culture of silence” and eliminating the myths and stigmas surrounding survivors of such abuse. “[Women] are viewed not as a survivor but as a victim,” said Bonilla, which unfortunately lead to stigma. Bonilla discussed that victims are sometimes blamed for the violence that they received and feel powerless and fear how society will view them as a victim.

Although a survivor’s recovery and healing process may be long, students believe that the Victim Empowerment Program can help and support students. Richard Smith, freshman accounting major, believes that the services on campus that help victims get through tough times are reliable. “That’s really good, nowadays, people are afraid to go to friends or parents [to discuss problems],” said Smith. Smith also mentioned talking to friends about tough situations may not always be the best option. “Friends suck sometimes, if they haven’t gone through it and don’t know what to say” Smith believes that CAPS provides students with the chance to open themselves up to someone who can’t legally share their intimate information with others.

The sentiment of the Victim Empowerment Program helps victims overcome what they experience and help them get back on track faster.

The sentiment of the CAPS office toward the students is summed up in every flyer that they post: “Students Are Our Priority.” The Victim Empowerment Program could not be reached as of press time.

FIU LIVE CONCERT

The Student Programming Council at Biscayne Bay Campus will host a concert event next Friday, April 12. Students will be able to take part in the FIU Live Concert held at BBC in the Ballrooms where many acts will perform.

“We like to call it the week long end of the year bash with comedy shows and concerts. The last day will be the concert featuring Travis Porter, DJ Cato K, DJ Zelaya and DJ Sloter,” said Kayvien France, public relations assistant at Campus Life-BBC. “During previous years, the genre of music was usually just electronic dance music, but this year, it’s going to be a mixture of hip hop, rap, and electronic dance music.”

DJ Cato K has worked on Y100 and plays multiple types of music. Henry Zelaya, also known as DJ Zelaya, and Christian Clark, also known as DJ Sloter, are actually students at FIU and are excited to be the opening performance for Cato K and Travis Porter.

Clark and Zelaya have worked together doing performances. Their biggest performance so far was at The Grey Area located in Wynwood, Miami. “We’ve done gigs before, but this is our biggest performance yet,” said Zelaya and Clark. Zelaya and Clark expressed that they are nervous but are excited to see their faces on all the flyers.

“This is the third year we’ve done FIU Live and are excited to have another successful event,” Franco said. Tickets for FIU Live are free to students and can be picked up at the Office of Campus Life in BBC and MMC with their student IDs.