LACC partners with Uruguay for marijuana research project

NICOLE MONTERO
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The Latin American and Caribbean Center at Florida International University (LACC) has partnered with the Uruguay-based Universidad Católica del Uruguay to study the impact of marijuana legalization on public health and security. This cooperation reflects the growing interest in the transformation of drug policy in Latin American countries.

Starting with over 300 students, the dual enrollment program has expanded to include a variety of courses and offerings. According to Jorge N. Zumaeta, director of Dual Enrollment at LACC, the program was designed to provide eligible high school students with the opportunity to take college-level courses while still in high school. The program benefits include a head start on college-level coursework, the chance to earn college credits, and the potential to reduce the financial burden of higher education.

Adrián Suarez Avila
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The University of Miami and the University of Florida are collaborating to study the impact of marijuana legalization in Uruguay. The research team, led by Professor Martha Barantovich, is studying the transformation of drug policy and its implications for public health and security. The study aims to provide insights into the potential outcomes of marijuana legalization and inform future policy decisions.

Student feedback on the dual enrollment program has been positive. Marcus Ghent, a junior criminal justice major, has benefited from the program, stating that it provided him with the opportunity to become more self-disciplined and succeed in his academic career.

In order to highlight the growth and impact of the program, Zumaeta invited Marcus Ghent to speak. Ghent admitted that the dual enrollment program influenced his decision to attend FIU, commenting that it was his professor’s methods of teaching that attracted him. "It brought some sense of confidence," Ghent said. "I had my introduction to college in high school, so I came to college with a better understanding of what I needed to do and I was better equipped to succeed."

Lambri will present their findings and current field research in a presentation on Wednesday, Feb. 25 in the MMC’s MARC Pavilion at 9 a.m. For more information, go to lacc.tamus.com.

Recognizing contributions of dual enrollment faculty mentors

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
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The dual enrollment program is made possible by the efforts of the faculty mentors who have contributed significantly to the program. The mentors' contributions have been instrumental in helping high school students to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the program.

The targeted goals for the program were growth of enrollment and targeted goals for the program were growth of enrollment. According to Jorge N. Zumaeta, director of Dual Enrollment at LACC, the program has been effective in achieving these goals.

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Jordian fighters strike Iraqi State positions

Jordian warplanes bombed suspected Islamic State hideouts in Syria in a show of the kingdom’s determination to maintain its presence in the U.S.-led coalition even as other U.S. allies hold back.

State-run Jordian TV on Thursday said the royal air force carried out a mission without saying where. Arabiya TV said it was over Raqqa, the group’s de facto capital, in Syria.

The jets “rocked the cowardly terrorists in their holes and hideouts since the morning,” Jordan’s Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh posted on his Twitter account. The planes flew over the pilot’s hometown of Karak on their return as he, the king and other officials were with the father offering condolences, he said.

Former members of France’s military have joined Islamic State

At least 12 former members of the French military are among the estimated 1,000 French citizens who have joined the Islamic State group, including one highly trained special forces commander who was radicalized while working as a security contractor in the Persian Gulf, according to French officials and analysts as well as Arab security services.

One French intelligence official said the number is a reflection of France’s changing demographics, even though mandatory military service ended in France in 2001.

Torn apart by Tiananmen, father and son still fight for free speech in China

He spends his days under house arrest in a grungy west Beijing apartment block. Government minders track his every move and communication. At age 82, Bao Tong has every right to be bitter. He once was a top dog in China’s Communist Party, but for a quarter-century, his former comrades have kept him on a leash.

Yet even when he recalls the seven years he spent in prison — mostly in solitary confinement — Bao shows few signs of anger. He exudes the air of a man who feels unshackled, even with the partial loss of his personal freedom.

LEGAL BATTLE EXPECTED IN WAKE OF STATUS CHANGE FOR ORCA

A Puget Sound orca held for decades at Miami’s Seaquarium will gain the protection of the federal Endangered Species Act, a move expected to set the stage for a lawsuit from advocates seeking the whale’s release.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Wednesday the decision to list Lolita as part of the southern resident killer whales of Puget Sound, which are already considered endangered under the federal act.

Whale activists, who petitioned for this status, have long campaigned for the orca whales of Puget Sound, are found in many of the world’s oceans.

The southern resident population, which spends several months each year in Puget Sound, is the only group listed in the U.S. under the Endangered Species Act.

The three pods in the population were reduced by captures by marine parks and the U.S. Navy between 1965 and 1975, NOAA said previous

Participation in the program appears to have

endangered the whales, are found in many parts of the world.

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OECD

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The southern resident population, which spends several months each year in Puget Sound, is the only group listed in the U.S. under the Endangered Species Act. The controversy over releasing captive whales has been heightened by the experience of Keiko, a captive orca that started in the 1993 movie “Free Willy,” about a boy who pushed for the release of a whale.

In 1998, Keiko was brought back to the native waters off Iceland to reintroduce him to life in the wild. That effort ended in 2006, when he died in a Norwegian fjord.

Garrett, who visited Keiko in Iceland in 1999, said he was impressed by the reintroduction effort, and that there was plenty of evidence that Keiko was able to catch fish on his own.

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Get the full story, not just the hashtag

MEGHAN MACLAREN
Contributing Writer
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In decades to come we may well be defined as the "social media" generation. The ones who tell Facebook about our achievements, who judge our attractiveness by Instagram likes and find solidarity in Twitter hashtags. But the thing that makes social media so very addictive is the same thing that could cause – and already is causing – a very big societal problem. I'm not pointing at the fact that when you go out in public, you’ll see more people with their eyes glued to their iPhone screen than you will having conversations with each other. That is a big societal problem, yes, and one that frustrates me in unbelievable amounts. But I think there’s a deeper problem with the simplicity of social media – and it’s a problem because people don’t know it’s a problem.

Social media can make anyone an expert. It can do a huge amount of good – through the level of attention it can generate, it has the capacity to influence change for the better. One picture or one Twitter hashtag can cause global public interest and/or division, but that doesn’t mean it it's accurate. If only takes a few choice words to stir up controversy, and a lot of people who find themselves feeling strongly about that message in those few moments probably don’t feel strongly enough about it to actually look up all the facts and the whole story.

I read an excerpt from a book recently called "Made to Stick" by Dan and Chip Heath. It talks about a set of six principles that almost all “sticky” ideas have in common – six traits that make them memorable to others. The first one they mention is simplicity. Social media hands this to us on a plate. People browse social media during the breaks in their day, but they aren’t doing it to read lengthy articles or discussions. That’s why there’s a character limit on Twitter and that’s why Instagram is for image purposes. Yet they are hugely popular.

You only have to look at the biggest current issues to see these principles in play. “Black Lives Matter” and “I can’t breathe” both relate to the race and police problems in the United States at the moment. Chances are, you don’t have to look up either of those phrases – you already know where they came from and what brought them to public attention – they “stuck” with you. As well as simplicity, they both use other principles mentioned by the Heath brothers – concreteness, emotion, story and credibility (the video footage from the Garner case). In just three words, five out of the six principles of sticky ideas are hit, and they’ve sparked a huge movement in the US.

"Je suis Charlie" is another example, which is trying to promote solidarity with freedom of speech following the horrific terrorist attacks in France. Not many people would have known anything about the Charlie Hebdo magazine, but this simple message allows them to show their support. In both cases, the support that has been generated is overwhelming and almost reassuring – clearly, there are people that care.

The problem I have is that when something so inextricably complicated – race, religion, freedom of speech – gets boiled down to three words, surely we are missing parts of the story. We as a society shouldn’t need issues to be made concrete with specific, targeted attacks or a face we can put a name to understand that there is a bigger issue there. Maybe we want to feel a part of something in a world that is leaving us increasingly detached from each other. But it shouldn’t take a three-word Twitter trend to get us to care.

What cheaper gas really means for us

AMID BENNAIM
Staff Writer
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Aside from the obvious benefit of paying less at the pump, many FIU students will feel the effects of lower gas prices in ways that they perhaps did not expect.

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LIFE!

AMANDA RABINES
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As a young child growing up in Jamaica, Michael Barnett, wanted to start a record collection of reggae music.

“I would eat some really dreadful food or a piece of cake because I wanted to save lunch money to buy a vinyl,” said Barnett, a sociology professor who specializes in Caribbean culture and African diaspora studies. “I still have a few of those seven inches [records].”

Barnett grew up listening to reggae his father would play on his old turntable. He was in his pre-teens when his father would play classic Bob Marley albums such as Catch a Fire, an album released by The Wailers in 1973.

“He was into music so maybe I got that from him,” Barnett said. “The seventies for me was the golden age of roots reggae, that’s when you had the culture, like the Mighty Diamonds and many other quality reggae groups.”

Today Barnett is a panelist at The Marley Symposium, an academic discussion seminar that was constructed to take a critical look at Marley’s life, music and message.

“It’s about having another look and another perspective about what Bob was about and what he had to offer to the world in general,” said Barnett. “It was more than ‘One Love’, it was about fighting against oppression, social injustice and fighting for equality.”

The Marley Symposium will be on March, 6 at 7 p.m. in WUC 155 at FIU Biscayne Bay Campus.

Including, Barnett, participating panelists are Jahbulani Tafari, founder and editor of Rootz Reggae and Kulcha Magazine, a local business in Hallandale Beach, Florida, and Roger Steffens an author and international multi-media lecturer who is known for having one of the world’s largest Bob Marley archive collections.

According to Barnett, Steffens will share rare footage of Marley.

“That’s a special treat for anyone who attends,” said Barnett. “It’s a big plus for us. It’s his passion. It’s his life, his career, his music, personal journals, and class assignments. It’s his passion.

The symposium will also serve as a celebration of the artist’s life.

Friday, Feb. 6, as most Marley fans would know, would have been the artist’s 70th birthday and Barnett said he would celebrate in a cliché manner.

“Not to sound corny, but I intend to be listening to a lot of Bob Marley music,” said Barnett. “I’ll be going on the internet, seeing what documentaries are being shown and what interviews are being scheduled.”

Some key points that come up often when discussing Marley include his legacy as well as activism, the decriminalization of marijuana and his music.

All of which, Barnett has studied and familiarized himself with.

“One of the first things that comes up is the legalization of marijuana,” said Barnett. “The decriminalization of marijuana, the smoking of Marijuana. Why is it so stigmatized? And why do people class it as a narcotic drug?”

He continues.

“Another topic that comes up is his message, regarding the fight against social injustice,” said Barnett. “The song ‘Get up, stand up for your right’ he co-wrote with Peter Tosh and ‘Get up stand up for your right’ is about positive affirmation.”

The discussion will also tie Marley’s songs to Africa, neo-colonialism and the fight against oppression.

“Some people say that he was so revolutionary in his thinking, that the truth of the matter is he probably wouldn’t have lived till 70 anyway,” said Barnett. “I really wonder if the world would be a different place.”

Johnny Mnemonic: a movie so bad, it’s actually good

CULT CLASSICS

Released in 1995, directed by Robert Longo, with a screenplay by William Gibson (based on his own short story), the film stars Keanu Reeves as the titular character Johnny, playing a data trafficker in the year 2021. After overloading his brain with data, he must find a way to safely dispose of it before it seeps completely and kills him.

It’s a classic example of cyberpunk fiction in film, featuring cyberspace, weird fashions, a dystopian MegaCorp run world, and VCRs.

You can forgive the film for its outdated look at the internet and the future, and other things. However, you can’t forgive a film for strange direction, awkward acting, and a plot hole ridden story that makes almost no sense.

With all the wrong that “Johnny Mnemonic” does, I can’t help but like it. Maybe I’m just a sucker for the genre and the type of film it is, but something about it makes me enjoy it all the way through.

From the visuals to the soundtrack to the overall concept, it’s a film that’s become somewhat of a cult favorite for a reason. Whether it’s the hammy acting by Dolph Lundgren, the not-even-worth-talking-about plot, Ice-T, or Keanu Reeves screaming about room service, there is a certain charm to “Johnny Mnemonic.”

P.S. If you watch this film and genuinely like it, you can look up the rarely seen Japanese cut, which is almost ten minutes longer, has a different soundtrack, features more screen time by famous Japanese actor Takeshi, and uses alternate shots of scenes, among other differences.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

ANA ARENAS
Contributing Writer
lifefiusm.com

For Enrique Rosell, a Communications major of class 2018, writing is everything. He writes his own music, personal journals, and class assignments. It’s his passion.

“Preserving people, memories, and thoughts through writing lasts throughout all time. If a writer falls in love with you, you can never truly die,” Rosell said.

Based off Humans of New York from the NYTs, Student Spotlight captures FIU students as their natural self. Ana Arenas, FIUSM Staff, will spotlight a new student every Monday, with a photo and quote that eludes to their personal story and goals.
First annual Rolling Loud ‘mega-concert’ to be on Feb. 28 in Miami

VINCENT RIVES
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It’s springtime in Miami. As the days get warmer and the sands of South Beach fill up, the Ultra promoters show up in full force: girls in eccentric outfits, flying banners and EDM tunes blaring from every direction. Miami’s local scene has returned.

We had this nice oak bar, this kegerator that fit two kegs, and a 120-inch projector screen to watch football games.

Tariq Cheriff Co-Founder and CEO Dope Entertainment

But why is it the only major music festival happening in Miami? That’s what Tariq Cheriff, Co-Founder and CEO of Dope Entertainment asked himself year ago.

If you’re living under a rock, Dope Ent. has been the force providing Hip-Hop concerts throughout Florida for the past five years, with acts as big as Wale and Waka Flocka, to more underground artists like Dom Kennedy and The Underachievers.

On Feb. 28, Tariq and the rest of the Dope boys will bring in Hip-Hop acts for Dope Ent.’s first annual mega concert Rolling Loud. Rolling Loud has 30 acts featured, with more to be announced as well.

Schoolboy Q is headlining, with other notable MC’s: Action Bronson, Juicy J, ASAP Ferg, Current$y, Domo Genesis, Travis$cott, and Casey Veggies. Expect to see Miami’s local scene represented by Denzel Curry, Pouya, Robb Bank$ and Yung Simmie.

Tariq, who comes from a Western Sahara background, found himself moving around the United States every 2-3 years, living in Washington, D.C.; Cambridge, Mass.; Hollywood, Fla.; Albuquerque, N.M. until he finished in Fort Lauderdale during his last years of high school before eventually enrolling at FSU.

Before throwing Dope concerts throughout Florida, Tariq was already throwing parties back in high school.

“My grandma has a pretty cool house in Fort Lauderdale. She would let us throw parties there. So it started like that. Remember Hurricane Katrina? Yeah, so we threw a massive rager, bro. We charged everybody $5, had like four kegs, and if you were a freshman, we charged you $20. We raised $3,500 and donated it to Red Cross. We promoted it as a Hurricane Katrina relief party, and we did it through our school. I remember coming in to school with all that money in fives and ones. They asked us how we got the money and we told them we went door-to-door.”

Which eventually led Tariq to where he’s at now, booking rappers for shows throughout the Sunshine State.

“Sophomore year I moved into a house with my two really good friends, and it had a three car garage, and we built the dopest party area ever. We had this nice oak bar, this kegerator that fit two kegs, and a 120-inch projector screen to watch football games on. We got a written arrest for charging entry, charging for alcohol, but we found a little bit of a loophole. The promoters for the arena show had rented out the only real nightclub in Tallahassee at the time, and they promoted that the whole lineup was going to their after party, meanwhile we were just doing the EDM parties and booking DJs. Frat kids were promoting Rick Ross at our club. The fact was they didn’t have anybody, but we only did 200 people, but they had 5,000. We had Rick Ross and they had nobody. But they made money and we lost money. We lost a lot of money. At the same time, I was finding out I was having kids. I locked myself up in my room for the next 24 hours. I was like, ‘I need to go back to my original plan and get Current$y. I’ll just do it next year.’

I got the money for the deposit. I didn’t have the rest of the money yet, but I was willing to take the risk so I paid them the deposit, signed contracts and set up three shows in Florida in February of 2011. Orlando did 500, Tampa did 800 people, and the Miami show sold out, like 1000 people. From there we kept going. After we found a little bit of success, then we were like ‘Alright, we’re not gonna be doing the after parties or anything like that. We’re gonna book rappers for shows and that’s it.’
Addition of quarterbacks may lead to competition

JACOB SPIWAK
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National Signing Day saw FIU land a lot of new, exciting talent on both sides of the ball. Along with the optimism this day brings to coaches, players and fans alike, it also brings controversy about which true freshmen may have a chance to win a starting job from players already on the roster.

Specifically, one of the positions where there is at least a possibility of a new starter is at quarterback.

Sophomore Alex McGough took over that spot in his true freshman season last year, and is expected to start when the season opener rolls around on Saturday, Sept. 5 against the University of Central Florida.

The other quarterback on the roster is Christian Alexander, an early enrollee from Lakeland Christian High School. Alexander was a five year starter in high school who finished fifth in the history of Florida in career touchdown passes with 110 and ninth in career passing yards with 8,299.

Coach Turner has spoken very highly about him, and really likes what he offers the Panthers.

“He’s a very smart, instinctive guy and a natural leader,” Turner said. “He has everything that we are looking for in a quarterback.”

The other quarterback commit of FIU’s 2015 class is Maurice Alexander from Booker T. Washington High School. Alexander was named First-

However, he will have to beat out two dual-threat players who were recently added to the roster to retain his position.

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Basketball

Looking forward to March Madness

JORGE CORRALES
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March Madness is just around the corner and college basketball’s best teams are lacing up their dancing shoes.

For those who don’t know, March Madness is a term used in college basketball to describe the post season tournament; it is also sometimes referred to as “The Big Dance.”

In total, 68 teams get invited to dance in this single-elimination tournament. Teams can get in by winning their regular season conference title, winning their conference tournament or being invited as an at-large participant.

Tournament games take place all over the country until the “Final Four” which will be played at Lucas Oil Stadium in Houston, Texas.

With just a few weeks left in the regular season, the University’s men’s basketball team finds itself floating around .500 and living in the middle of the pack in the Conference USA standings.

Despite outstanding play from both Dennis Mavin and Adrian Diaz, it is unlikely that the Panthers will receive an at-large bid to the dance.

Their only hope will be to make a run in the C-USA tournament and earn the automatic bid.

The Panthers only have one tournament title in their history. They earned a bid in 1995 when they won the Trans Atlantic Athletic Conference (now the Atlantic Sun Conference) tournament. They entered the tournament as a 16 seed and fell to eventual champion UCLA by a score of 92-56.

They got close again in 2013. The Panthers, then members of the Sun Belt Conference, entered the conference tournament as the four seed.

They were one game away from an automatic bid before losing to Western Kentucky in the conference championship game.

That would be the Panthers’ final run in the Sun Belt Conference as they made the switch to C-USA the following year.

Joe Lunardi or ESPN predicts only two C-USA teams in the tournament: Old Dominion (17-4) and Louisiana Tech (17-6). C-USA has a storied history in basketball.

The only C-USA to ever win the NCAA tournament was Texas Western University, now known as Texas Tech.

This year’s March Madness tournament will be held from March 19 to April 6. The final four games will be played at the University of Houston’s NRG Stadium.

A trip to the Final Four could be the ultimate reward for the Panthers this year.

With the tournament out of reach, they can focus on the conference tourney and winning out the rest of the season.
The FIU women’s tennis squad faltered against the Penn State Quakers (2-0), 4-1 on Friday at the Hecht Tennis Center in Philadelphia.

The loss signified the first loss of the season for the Panthers, who were undefeated heading into the match against the Quakers.

The lone bright spot for the Panthers came in the form of junior Kaetlin Borozvich. In the match, Borozvich claimed her 12th singles victory of the season and the second of the spring, defeating Lina Qostal of Penn State in consecutive sets 6-3, 6-2.

Borozvich’s victory would represent the Panthers’ sole point in the match against the Quakers. The meet against Penn State did not begin the way the Panthers had envisioned, however, as they dropped two of the three doubles matches.

The duo of Borozvich and senior Yana Koroleva defeated the Quaker pair of Sonya Latycheva and Luba Vazhenina, 6-2 in the first doubles match.

From there, though, the Penn State Quakers rallied to take the following two doubles matches and claimed the doubles point. Trail 1-0 heading into singles play, the Panthers looked to its players to spark a rally of their own, hoping to earn a come-from-behind victory.

Unfortunately, the Quakers claimed the first two singles matches on a 3-0 lead before Borozvich defeated Qostal to make the score 3-1.

The Penn State Quakers finished off FIU when Sol Eskenazi defeated Koroleva in three sets, 6-4, 3-6, 6-1. Eskenazi’s victory ended the match with the Quakers defeating the Panthers by a final score of 4-1.

The team will look to rebound against a warm St. John’s University in Jamaica, New York, on Saturday, February 7.

The Red Storm then swept LIU Brooklyn, 7-0, to claim their second win of the season. The first serve is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

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2014-2015 Heat Season: a buzzkill we will all get used to

This team needs upgrades at point guard, depth at shooting guard, and better scorers on the wings. If the day comes when Wade returns, Bosh finds himself again, and Whiteside continues to produce, then the Heat may be one of the better teams in the East again – if that day ever comes.

Now, the Cavaliers are riding the NBA’s best winning streak and are the third seed in the East. Sure, David Blatt still does questionable things from time to time and Cleveland still relies heavily on isolation offense but they are getting it done.

The Cavaliers have too much sheer talent for failure. The Miami Heat, however, can’t get enough players working together to maintain a ten-point lead over the Timberwolves.

The worse part of it all, The Heat has no quick fix. A stroke of luck came along in the emergence of Hassan Whiteside, but even his dominant play has not been enough to get his team even close to .500.

His team needs upgrades at point guard, depth at shooting guard and better scorers on the wings. If the day comes when Wade returns, Bosh finds himself again and Whiteside continues to produce, then the Heat may be one of the better teams in the East again – if that day ever comes.

Now that Miami is just clinging on to a playoff seed in the NBA’s weaker conference, the concept of “every game will count” is no longer some misdirected sense of hope for fans anymore – it’s a reality that the Heat have to deal with.

Until the next free agency extravaganza in 2016, Miami Heat fans should be prepared. There will be plenty of back-and-forth, a ton of missed opportunities and an overwhelming abundance of normal.

March Madness approaching quickly, teams prepare

March Madness, Page 6

known as the University of Texas at El Paso.

In 1966, the Miners won the NCAA Men’s Division I Basketball Championship. They are the eighth seed in the East by just half a game. Both Milwaukee and Charlotte claim better records than the Heat.

It wasn’t bad to begin with this year; the Heat was 5-2 at one point and Chris Bosh was earning every cent of his top-dollar contract. Shawne Williams even looked like the second coming of Ray Allen for a stretch.

All was well, but it was not going to last. The Heat was exposed for what they are: a team with an insufficient backcourt and scarce decent shooters. Tack on a season-ending injury for Josh McRoberts and a hamstring strain for Whiteside, but even his dominant play has not been enough to get his team even close to .500.

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Women’s tennis suffers first loss of the season

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I bought it all. After a successful offseason maintenance program, Dwyane Wade would be healthy enough to play all season.

I was hooked on the idea that Danny Granger, rusty but accurate as ever, would become the Heat’s secret shooting weapon off the bench.

Even Pat Riley’s ridiculous claim that Luol Deng would be “one of the most important free agent signings we have ever had” stuck to me.

Looking back, I ate it all up for one reason: it only seemed right.

Teams don’t just go from all-time greats – and yes, the Miami Heat teams of 2010-2014 are some of history’s best – to playoff-hopefuls because one guy decided to take his talents to colder weather. The NBA cycle of justice can’t work that way, and even if it did, Pat Riley wouldn’t tolerate it.

This season was going to be fun because every game counted, I convinced myself. This was based on the assumption that the Heat was not going to lose focus and let games against Milwaukee (3-0 versus Miami) and hobbled Indiana (2-1 versus Miami) get away from them. The stakes – proving to the world that the four-time Eastern Conference champions were alive and well – were too high for that nonsense.

With Wednesday’s loss to the league-worst Minnesota Timberwolves, the Heat fell to 28-21 on the season. They are the eighth seed in the East by just half a game. Both
Survey finds college freshmen party less, worry more

LARRY GORDON
Los Angeles Times

The current crop of college freshmen showed up at school as less experienced party animals than their older peers but with more mental health and emotional issues, according to a national survey by the University of California, Los Angeles researchers.

At the same time, the new college students, who entered their teens when many of their parents grappled with the recession’s economic fallout, are more concerned about financial success and aspire to attend graduate schools to enhance their career prospects, the annual American Freshman study found.

However, it remains unclear whether these students will prove on average to be a tame group, as some said.

In fact, he said their relative abstinence during high school may mean they could be more tempted to binge drink and get into other trouble as social newbies away from the constraints of home.

That risk, along with reportedly higher levels of depression and other emotional problems, will challenge colleges to provide enough counseling support and substance abuse education, he said.

Nearly 11 percent of respondents said they spent six hours or more a week at parties during their senior year of high school, down from 23 percent a decade ago, the survey found.

Additionally, 61 percent reported that they spent only an hour or less a week at parties, up from 39 percent 10 years ago.

Along the same lines, those who said they occasionally or frequently drank beer dropped to 33.5 percent, compared with 45.5 percent a decade before and 69 percent in 1984.

Just 39 percent of current freshmen said they drank wine or hard liquor in the last year, compared with about 53 percent 10 years ago and 68 percent in 1987, when the poll addressed the issue.

Colleges around the country are struggling to meet higher demands for psychological and crisis counseling, heightened by fears that their campuses could face incidents of violence and suicide.

The survey, which was taken by 153,000 students mainly during last summer’s orientations at 227 four-year colleges, bolstered those concerns.

Nearly 12 percent of the freshmen rated their mental health as worse than most others their age; that compared with roughly seven percent about a decade ago and 3.5 percent in 1985, when the question was first asked.

In addition, 9.5 percent said they frequently felt depressed, up from the six percent low point, recorded in 2009.

Yet whatever problems the freshmen have, a lack of ambition is not one of them.

A record 82 percent said that it was very important or essential that they become well-off financially, compared with nearly 77 percent in 2008 before the recession hit and almost double what it was 40 years ago during the countercultural era.

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"The Beacon – 8"

Monday, February 9, 2015

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