FOOD AND DRINK BAN IN LIBRARY LIFTED

Dannella Martinez, a junior studying recreational therapy, snacks on grapes and a Snickers bar on the sixth floor of the Green Library after the no eating policy was lifted.

NEARBY GAS STATIONS

**MMC:**
Shell Gas Station located on 10660 Southwest 8th Street, charges $3.41 for regular gasoline, $3.61 for midgrade, and $3.79 for premium.

BP station on 13900 Southwest 139th Avenue charging customers $3.69 for regular, $3.89 for midgrade, and $4.04 for premium.

**BBC:**
Students can visit the Chevron pump on 13005 Biscayne Boulevard and pay $3.59 for regular, or $3.80 for the midgrade variety.

"The higher prices for gas makes it difficult to travel to school," said Kenny Falcon, a senior business major. "It is so frustrating because as a college student, I make very little income and worrying about living costs is hard enough."

Other students shared Falcon’s sentiment, like Maria Sandoval, a sophomore majoring in international relations.

"With the higher gas prices, I end up having to take fewer classes in order to have enough money to get around," Sandoval said.

The total undergraduate population who live off campus and commutes to and from the University is estimated at 93 percent.

According to the recent 2012 Common Data Set researched by the Office of Planning and Institutional Research, transportation expenses for commuter students at the University is estimated at about $2,850 yearly if these students live at home or on their own.

Dean of Libraries relaxes rules on student snacking

KATHERINE LEPRI
Staff Writer

After an unpopular pilot program over the summer that barred food and drink from the Green and Hubert Libraries, students can once again eat while save a trip to campus.

"I think we all recognized that our students are often working under a lot of pressure, and that they have a lot of competition, and are trying to make the most of their time," said Dr. Anne Prestamo, dean of libraries, about the new policy that allows some types of snacks.

"We’re asking for students to be responsible, to help us try to minimize incidents and accidents that occur around food and to limit what they bring into the library to light snack foods and not dripping, messy, unclean foods."

This past June, Thomas Breslin, professor of Politics and International Relations who acted as interim dean of libraries, implemented a strict no food and drink except water policy in the library that irked many of the 50,000 student body who spent multiple hours a day in the facilities.

"We're asking for students to be responsible, to help us try to minimize incidents and accidents that occur around food and to limit what they bring into the library to light snack foods and not dripping, messy, unclean foods."

"It's a tremendous honor," said Ibargüen. "It's a tremendous honor."
Libraries lift ban on food and drinks after survey

While some students complained that the policy change was unwelcome, others were pleased with the new rule, saying it made the library more inviting.

Editorial: This was all over the news, and people were mobilizing to fight against the ban on food and drink in the libraries. This was a big win for those who support the right to eat and drink in public spaces.

News: The library officials agreed that the ban had disrupted the library's atmosphere. They didn't want the library to be a place where people felt unwelcome, and they were happy to see the policy change.

Opinion: As someone who spends a lot of time in the library, I'm glad to see that the policy change has brought back a sense of community. It's a great space to study and relax, and I'm happy to see that it's welcoming to everyone.

Library officials agreed that the ban had disrupted the library's atmosphere. They didn't want the library to be a place where people felt unwelcome, and they were happy to see the policy change.
Stand your ground course necessary

RAUL HERRERA
Staff Writer

“Stand Your Ground,” a term used to describe a Florida statute that promotes the justifiable use of force for self-defense purposes, has been debated by many on both sides of the aisle ever since the Zimmerman case made national headlines. The controversy may now manifest itself in Florida law to students at FAU, but also to residents of the state of Florida at large. The reasoning behind such a presumption is two-fold. First, it will be the precursor to the provable conversation on race that so many have called for. Those who believe that “Stand Your Ground” hurts minorities will come face-to-face with those who believe it helps them.

And the superfactive part is that this will be unaffected by any shaky editing and twisting by any mainstream news network. Students of diverse backgrounds and perspectives will each have a seat at the table on this conversation on race, and how it relates to “Stand Your Ground.”

No pandering or screaming, just academic conversation.

Second, it helps students understand what the law means for them and the community, Zimmerman notwithstanding. They will realize how such a law may empower them to defend themselves and their loved ones, regardless of their skin color, against an aggressor. No longer does a woman have to worry about walking home, alone and defenseless, at night. No longer does a man have to worry about being unable to protect his family from an assailant simply because he is a few miles away from home.

Some may say that the law should be completely wiped out from the books because it allegedly promotes a violent culture. However, this argument is fallacious in the sense that it assumes that all those who defend themselves are eager to do so. Quite the contrary, many who defend themselves only believe in using violence as a last resort.

The Zimmerman case is complex, and so are the arguments regarding the “Stand Your Ground” law. But this should not deter academics from discussing the issues and looking at them from multiple angles.

I commend FAU for opening a class such as this, and I look forward to the day that FAU introduces a seminar, as suggested in a recent student medial article, on the topic.

RAUL.HERRERA@FAU.COM

What should a college be known for?

MANUELLA MOTA
Contributing Writer

In a speech given at the University of Buffalo last month, President Obama discussed the creation of a federal college ranking system that would, in theory, help students make the right choice when it comes to higher education.

Instead of relying on annual rankings, like the one by US News & World Report, which lists universities as “best” or “worst,” students would be able to evaluate postsecondary institutions by relating financial aid to college cost, considering average student loan debt, graduation and transfer rates and amount of degrees earned. According to the President, “private rankings...encourage colleges into gaming the numbers and raising costs.”

It’s not an isolated opinion, certainly. In the race to see which institution is going to make it to the top of the list, which will be considered poor in academics, many universities take advantage of students by raising costs and diminishing opportunities. It is more like a game of prestige and fame, rather than a true description of what universities can offer to students.

There are many aspects to be considered when choosing an institution of higher learning. For example, a university that offers an outstanding program for your degree but that is not on the higher section of a private ranking shouldn’t be automatically discarded from your list. It’s far more important to evaluate postsecondary institutions by relating financial aid to college cost, considering average student loan debt, graduation and transfer rates and amount of degrees earned.

This attitude has kept many from the bottom so their children are given incredible opportunities to attend a community college or trade school.

Why? Because high schools have trivialized knowledge into statistics and rankings. Not only does it trivialize education into a proverbial “pissing contest,” but gives young people an undeserved sense of entitlement. They begin to believe that they are above trade schools and community colleges.

This attitude has kept many new graduates unemployed because they have felt entitled to better than minimum wage salaries, better than entry level positions, better than unpaid internships. However, there have been many new graduates unemployed because they have felt entitled to better than minimum wage salaries, better than entry level positions, better than unpaid internships.

For example, the English Center is an educational institution with multiple campuses throughout Miami. It offers English language courses, GED testing, childcare services and vocational certification in a myriad of fields. Many immigrants, who are hoping to develop their English speaking skills, those hoping to learn a new trade, and others hoping to start raring children and need a flexible school schedule. It is a place familiar to our forbearers. Those who are not able to support themselves and Miami populace with useful skills and ability to effectively compete in the workforce.

Many reading this article would wonder what the importance of this institution is and even disparage its existence. Many would never think of attending a trade school, but will receive the “honor” that is associated with certain institutions, which may not have any real world relevance.

But the English Center reminds us of what we once were—newcomers to a nation, with dreams of success and stability. The first members of our families who arrived in the United States went to facilities similar to the English Center, they did not have the luxury to consider the merits of different institutions. They waited in long sinuous lines that barely crept forward, they went to school while fatigued from a day’s work, they dealt with the frustrations and inefficiencies of the educational system. The English Center and similar institutions allow immigrants to give incredible opportunities to their children—starting at the bottom so their children would not have to.

The English Center and Miami Dade College are seen as “safety schools,” portrayed as afterthoughts in the educational system. The current educational model and pervasive thought among its students has created cultural elitism.

Any solution offered is only a half solution, because the methods of rectification require an adjustment in attitude—a hampering of the individual as well as a change in the educational model. Instead of using a tier system to evaluate after high school options, a supportive attitude of all education should be encouraged. If a student chooses to continue their education they should automatically receive reverence, rather than criticism as is the current system. Because school is not regarded as prestigious.

All education is prestigious. In the English class, food education; the quality of the mind is not determined by the acronyms shouted at football games.

A hierarchical educational system

MADARI PENDAS
Contributing Writer

The educational system, prior to entry into college, has systematically turned education into a hierarchy. Colleges with more prestige are at the top of the educational pyramid and are the schools counselors encourage attendance to. Therefore, a student’s worth is assessed in terms of collegiate acceptance, rather than the internal pursuit of higher education.

If a person goes to a “prestigious” school, they are thought to have the right education for their specific major, than to be enrolled in one of the top 20 universities of the country.

Also, private college rankings provide some sort of shield for universities that are more interested in getting more and more money from students. They are able to mask certain costs behind their prestigious name, while other universities offer way more opportunities to students, from all different backgrounds, and are considered as prestigious as the ones first mentioned.

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-AACU

My opinion is free of editorial control, but it is subject to the opinion of the staff. There is no guarantee that the Beacon will publish or even consider any submission. The Beacon reserves the right to reject any content without explanation.

DISCLAIMER
The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These are separate opinions of individual writers and/or members of the University community.

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When I began my academic journey into higher education in 2010, I initially believed that the "college experience" would happen to me on its own. Granted, my ideas of what comprised the ultimate college experience were only what I had seen in movies or the stories my older cousins shared with me. None of these served as accurate depictions of what I would be experiencing when I embarked on this new stage of life.

I am the only member of my immediate family who has been to college. My parents, both Cuban immigrants, never had the chance to pursue higher learning due to a dictator-ship that almost decided what would come our way. My brothers, born and raised in this country, decided early on not to go to college. They have been resourceful and successful in their endeavors without a degree. Although bringing without a degree has worked out for them, the importance of having a college education has become more apparent to me. None of these served as motivational pieces to push me to make the effort, to create opportunities for myself. Thus, I applied to write for The Beacon, and I declared a communications field. By the end of the second semester of my freshman year, I declared a major in public relations.

Adjusting to the rhythm of college was easy. The challenges I have faced have been on a more personal aspect. Isn’t college supposed to be where I meet fascinating people and make lifelong friends, discover who I am and what I want? But is the place where I can try new things, fail miserably and then try something else? Why do I have memories only about late night cramming at the library? It took me a long time to realize that the "college experience" I had heard about and longed for does not just happen. In a school of about 50,000 students, no one is going to come to me and hand me the "college experience" on a silver platter. I became stagnant and I felt like I was missing out on something great.

It took me until my junior year to branch out. I had been stuck in a dark, stationary bubble that was on the verge of popping into nothingness. The French have a word for this: ennui. Ennui is an overwhelming feeling of nothingness. Finally, I was done living with ennui and done waiting for something to happen. Slowly but surely, I took my step towards my "college experience" getting involved. I decided to merge my love for writing into my need to be a part of something, so I applied to write for The Beacon. When I’m reading on an article or story about the University, I’m learning more about my school and what I can do for it. As soon as I started actively writing and meeting people who shared the same interest, I felt a sense of belonging. It makes me feel comfortable, productive and fulfilled.

Now, I decided to go even further outside of my comfort zone and join a sorority. Misconceptions and stereotypes of sorority girls held me back from participating at the start of college, but after much consideration, I realized that I am motivated to at least give it a try and go through recruitment. Believe me when I say that this will be the most uncomfortable I have ever been. To willingly walk into a room full of women who are judging me is something that scares me to the core. So why am I doing it? Because it’s an insecurity I don’t want to live with. I don’t want to be stuck and I’ve learned that pushing myself to do something I am unsure of will propel me forward.

My purpose in writing this is to remind myself and others of what it’s like to be on the verge of something greater than oneself. Maybe you are a sorority or an alumnus, or maybe you are someone, like me, who needs an extra push to go for something that scares you.

Niko Sanchez, sophomore in criminal justice, and Kevin Paz, freshman in computer engineering, waited to be the first to test out the new swinging benches put in front of DM Tuesday.

NEW BENCHES

Tay K -- "Touchy Feely," just another indie disappointment

Always in search, this year, but she still somehow manages to bring something compelling to an otherwise lacking narrative. Her bare-there subplots with Scout McNairy, an unrequited romance of the unlikeliest kind, is one of the most interesting features of "Touchy Feely,“ even though it ends up in as much disappointment as the rest of it.

As interesting as Lynne Shelton’s premise and cast were, "Touchy Feely" never manages to get past its narrative shortcomings, leaving it to fall into the same trappings as most indie films.
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Starting from the bottom: Panthers vs. Cardinals

RHYS WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

After a week of intense preparation, the FIU football team is set to take on the 7th ranked team in the nation on Saturday when they step on the field against the University of Louisville.

The Panthers 0-3 start has been rough, but they seem to have their eye on what can turn their season around.

Mental focus, the team is indicating, is the key to a successful future.

“We are going through the film like we do every week and correcting all the mistakes that we have had previously,” center Donald Senat said. “It is all about moving forward and we have bigger things to focus on like winning and doing well in Conference-USA.

We know we are playing against a really good team but we are going out and focusing on ourselves from the inside.”

Senat was the subject of an interesting play last week against Bethune-Cookman. His helmet came off at one point during play and subsequently he had to take the next play off.

This is a new rule implemented by the NCAA.

Even if a player is not hurt, they must still sit out one play if their helmet comes off.

“There was no injury concern but we had to go by the rule of the NCAA. I had to come off for a play and that is when Mike (Montero) came in,” Senat added.

Injuries, however, are a concern for the team as Jake Medlock, the only returning starter on offense, is listed as day-to-day with a concussion that he suffered late in the fourth quarter of the loss to B-CU.

Head Coach Ron Turner went into detail Wednesday after practice.

“I haven’t heard anything official yet but he didn’t practice today and it is not looking good for Saturday, but I haven’t ruled him out yet,” Turner said.

If Medlock is not cleared to play then E.J. Hilliard will get his first start of the 2013 campaign. This will come against his former Northwestern High School teammate in Cardinals quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, who is in the running for the Heisman trophy this season.

In his press conference, Cardinals Head Coach Charlie Strong addressed questions about the game Saturday with the Panthers coming to play.

“I didn’t show film from two years ago to my players now. It’s a different coaching staff and a different team from two years ago. You look at two years ago and T.Y. Hilton was there and now he’s playing for the Indianapolis Colts. He caught those two big passes,” Strong said.

“Think about this also: we would’ve beat Kentucky two years ago and then we came home and lost to Marshall. That’s what we can’t let happen. We can’t have that let down where we’re coming back home where we’re going to have a great crowd. Our fans did an unbelievable job following us to Lexington. We’re coming back home and we’re going to have a good crowd here.”

He also addressed the new coaching staff of the Panthers and how some of his team knows some of the roster for the Panthers, while knowing that the Cardinals recruit heavily in Florida and specifically the Miami area. There are 37 players on the roster from Florida, 16 from the Miami area alone.

“As I don’t know their staff, I knew Mario Cristobal when he was there. Mario was in Miami, so he did a great job at recruiting Miami. This new staff, I do not know much about,” Strong said. “The guys on both sides, FIU and here, know each other because they played against each other in high school or they were teammates. To go there and recruit is special.

The players here actually get a chance to go home and everyone gets a chance to watch them play.”

FIU Student Media was permitted to use the Coach Strong quotes by the Louisville Cardinals Athletic Department.

The game will kickoff at noon Saturday from the Papa John’s Cardinal Stadium in Louisville, Ky.

Juan Hernandez, The Beacon

FIU has had trouble getting any type of offensive going this season, leading to lower scoring games and multiple turnovers.

RUBEN PALACIOS

As the Panthers begin the 2013 season 0-3, some feel this is the stages of a rebuilding period.

There is a process when you have a bad football team on your hands.

First, you get a little disappointed that the team is expected to be awful. Second, you realize first hand how bad that team is and you partake in the bashing of a down on our program. And finally, you open your eyes in a moment of realization and figure out that if the team will ever prosper again, they must continue to be awful for the foreseeable future.

Ever hear the saying, “It’s always darkest before dawn?”

Well that’s my point exactly. The football team is 0-3. They got blown out by an above average ACC team in Maryland 43-10. They got shutout in by-instate rival UCF 38-0. And they were kind enough to provide Bethune-Cookman University with their first ever win over an FBS school in a 34-13 route.

And if you were at all cringing at the site of that last graph, this next one will definitely have you running for the hills.

Next up for the Panthers is the nationally ranked University of Louisville. I think I might of understated Louisville in that last sentence so let me play them up because they deserve that much respect.

The Cardinals come into the FIU game 3-0, with wins over Ohio, Eastern Kentucky and Kentucky. Now those are not names to be impressed with whatsoever but it is not whom they have beaten that is impressive, but the way they have beaten these teams. The Cardinals have allowed a combined 27 points in their first three games. In comparison, the Panthers have allowed a combined 115 points in their first three contests.

My point is the Cardinals are way, way, way better than anything FIU has seen this year and that this game could be the darkest moment in the Panthers season.

But remember, it’s always darkest before the dawn.

And maybe there are a few glimpses of light shining on this team. The B-CU game was a coming out party for T.J. Lowder, who caught six passes for 125 yards and a touchdown. Maybe, just maybe he’s the second coming of another famous two-intailed first name wide receiver who once donned the Panthers colors. The guy I am talking about, T.Y. Hilton, once torched Louisville for some 200 plus total yards en route to probably the biggest win in FIU football history.

With the 100-yard performance last week, Lowder became the first FIU receiver since Hilton to have a 100-yard game by his third career start. Freaky ain’t it.

Lowder, who was a true freshman when Hilton was a senior in 2011, has kept in touch with the Indianapolis Colts star in order to get help on how to become a better player. Well, at least last week it looked like whatever Hilton has been preaching, Lowder has been listening.

Lowder has a ton of upside. He’s just a redshirt sophomore and still has two years to hon in on his craft and become that unstoppable force that Hilton once was for the Cardinals.

And if he ever wanted to be “The man,” like Hilton was, there could not be a better stage to do it on than against Louisville on Saturday. Remember, that was the same stage T.Y. once took and he took the Cardinals by storm.

Ruben Palacios, The Beacon
Nasty weather plaguing NFL, causing concerns for players

BARRY WILNER
AP Writer

Nasty weather often plagues the NFL. Everyone knows about the Lambeau Field wind or the whipping winter winds off Lake Erie in Cleveland.

But for Mother Nature to wreak havoc with games in September? That doesn’t bode well for the rest of the season.

Already, three games, including two in prime time, have been disrupted by weather issues, mostly lightning. Kickoff for the New Orleans visit to Tampa Bay was interrupted for nearly an hour on Sunday. "We have a security system, a sound system announcements, public address system announcements and word of mouth all are used to clear a stadium. Fans generally are sent to covered corridors or areas. We coached throughout the playing field, only to return to the field, we had to start over."

"We did the same pregame meeting at 100 minutes (before kickoff), at 90 minutes a meeting with the TV teams, and we go through the scenarios in case there is weather."

"We go through our meteorological services and the services the stadium uses. Safety is paramount."

Lightning is the biggest worry because it’s so unpredictable and dangerous, Kensil said. The NFL and stadium authorities track any storm that includes lightning, and when it gets within 5 miles, meteorologists try to predict its path toward the stadium.

"Last night, it was tracking to come right over the stadium," Kensil added. "We knew within a mile and a half of the stadium we would have to clear the field. As we were clearing the field, we had a bolt of lightning somewhere (nearby)."

Scoreboard messages, public address system announcements and word of mouth all are used to clear a stadium. Fans generally are sent to covered corridors or areas. We coached throughout the playing field, only to return to the field, we had to start over."

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Second private company rockets toward space station

A commercial cargo ship made its successful debut Wednesday, rocketing toward the International Space Station and doubling the number of NASA’s private suppliers for the high-flying lab.

Orbital Sciences Corp. launched its first-ever supply ship from Virginia’s Eastern Shore, the departing point for a NASA moonshot less than two weeks ago.

“We look out ISS, here we come,” the company said in a tweet.

The capsule named Cygnus — bearing 1,300 pounds of food, clothing and goodies for the astronauts — is due at the space station on Sunday, after four days of testing.

The Virginia-based Orbital Sciences is only the second business to attempt a ship launch this year.

A test launch in April went well. So did this one, with a camera on the rocket providing dramatic views of the coastline.

The entire commercial effort dates back five years. It was Wallops’ second high-profile launch this month.

On Sept. 6, the company took part in a NASA moonshot that dazzled skywatchers along the East Coast.

Wednesday’s late-morning liftoff, while at a much more convenient hour, was not nearly as visible because of the daylight.

The rocket exhaust plume, at least, was visible from Washington, D.C.

The three space station residents, circling 260 miles high, watched the launch via a live link provided by Mission Control in Houston.

Great launch! Excited for Cygnus arrival on Sunday!” said astronaut Karen Nyberg in a tweet.

But a place where people of all interests can take something back home.”

Lockyear will also discuss the importance of South Florida and the Keys on the history of diving.

The event will take place at the Murray E. Nelson Governance and Cultural Center in Key Largo on Friday, Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. The night will start with a meet and greet then at 7 p.m. the presentation will begin.

The Ocean Life Series was founded by the FIU School of Environment, Arts and Society in partnership with the Friends of The Key Largo Cultural Center, a committee in charge of the theater whose members and founders had a mission statement to "use the facility to attract affordable entertainment, educational programs and events to Key Largo.”

The series features academic experts from the University and the Florida Keys.

According to Elaine Pritzer, the coordinator of SEAS, the partnership with FKLLC grew out of a mutual goal to feature our researchers working in the area,” says Pritzer. “The purpose of the series is to bring researchers and academics to the Keys to educate and inspire audiences of all ages about the unique environment in which they live.”

This event is free and open to the public. Food and beverages will be provided.

Second private company rockets toward space station

We categorize it as disposable cargo,” said Orbital Sciences’ executive vice president, Frank Culbertson. “Others may call it trash.”

If all goes well, Orbital Sciences hopes to launch another Cygnus in December with about 2,800 pounds of supplies.

That will be the first true operational mission under a $1.9 billion contract.

If you needed more tangible proof that this is a new era of exploration, it’s right here, right now in Virginia.

“For us, it’s exciting,” said Culbertson. “We’d be happy to help a mission go to Mars,” said Culbertson, a former astronaut who lived on the space station in 2001.

The capsule was named in honor of G. David Low, a former astronaut and Orbital Sciences executive who died in 2008.

He flew on three shuttle missions but not to the space station. This was a way for Low to get there after all these years, Culbertson said after the launch.

If you needed more tangible proof that this is a new era of exploration, it’s right here, right now in Virginia.

Robert Lightfoot
NASA Associate Administrator