Last month, the University’s Center for Muslim World Studies was unveiled to explore the mystification and diversification of Islam worldwide. “I think we all agree that it’s now time to go beyond the Middle East, as a focus of our current scale program, and to look at Islam on a global scale,” Kenneth Furton, provost for the University, told the Miami Herald.

David Skipp, associate director for advancement for the School of International and Public Affairs, was one of the individuals involved in the project. “This is the first project that I have worked on with SPIA that is a direct response from the community. It started with the direct appeal from the Muslim community. It started with the direct appeal from the Muslim American Community.”

The idea for the center originated from a request by the Muslim community in South Florida to University President Mark B. Rosenberg at the 2013 COSMOS dinner. “There is a lot of misunderstanding about Islam,” said Daniel Alvarez, interim director of the Center for Muslim World Studies initiative. “There is lots of prejudice about Islam is… and [there] are lots of fears in the West about the Muslim World.”

The main objective for this center is to address three crucial themes: the global Muslim diaspora, Islam and security and interfaith and sectarian communication. “We see how radicals have kidnapped this religion and presented it as their own version of Islam. We need something that brings about a correction to the current narrative,” Alvarez said.

Despite the initiative, there is no physical center yet. At the moment, the center consists of a group of professors who are contributing their efforts to offer academic opportunities in the University. The center will also support internships in the United States and abroad, lecture series, study abroad programs, events and community outreach activities. According to Alvarez, the Center for Muslim World Studies is seeking $5 million in funding to establish physical facilities for the center.

“The center’s directors want to engage not only students and faculty but also the community,” Skipp said. “I would like to tell all students and community that their input is valued and recorded.” The professors involved with the center are also planning to open certificate and degree programs for University students. “We are working with the faculty in developing curricula to develop a certificate program,” said Alvarez. “We are going to work with the Middle-East studies center, which is already in place.”

Their current plan is to locate the center in the University’s School of International and Public Affairs. By selecting this location, the participants in this center will work on a great range of disciplines, among them human rights and law.

They are working with the Muslim community in South Florida to create an advisory board that is strictly academic and will be part of the University curriculum. The Muslim Students Association is also collaborating with the center to help with ideas and planning. “We are very excited that we have received visits from FIU Muslim students who are excited and want to contribute,” Skipp said. “I would like to tell all students and community that their input is valued and recorded.”

Lecture to shed light on Chinese migration to Africa

Elena Barriga, a senior majoring in business, agrees with Rahier and thinks that this topic is important for her major. “I think that, for a business student, it is very important to pay attention to the economic changes in Africa as a consequence of Chinese investments.”

According to Rahier, French will take the audience through his book to different countries of Africa, where Chinese traders, farmers and entrepreneurs share their experience as settlers and their reasons as to why they made the decision to migrate to the African continent. At the talk, French will explain his perspectives and knowledge about the topic that, according to Rahier, will result in big social and cultural changes.

Elena Barriga, Senior
College of Business

I think that, for a business student, it is very important to pay attention to the economic changes in Africa as a consequence of Chinese investments.

In addition to Gonzalez, other students shared their thoughts on the lecture.

Elena Barriga, a senior majoring in business, agrees with Rahier and thinks that this topic is important for her major. “I think that, for a business student, it is very important to pay attention to the economic changes in Africa as a consequence of Chinese investments,” she said.

The event is co-sponsored by the AADS and Asian Studies Program, as part of the Ruth K. and Shepard Broad Distinguished Lecture Series of the School of International and Public Affairs. It will be held on March 18 at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus MARC Pavilion at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Mercedes Cavallas
Consulting Writer
news@fiusm.com

A recognized Ivy League journalist, I will come to the University for a presentation.

Howard W. French, associate professor at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University, will present his most recent book, “China’s Second Continent: How a Million Migrants are Building a New Empire in Africa.”

French will speak about the changes that have been happening in the last two decades, as well as the intercontinental migration of individuals of Chinese citizens to the continent. It appears that members of the Chinese population have had a hand in helping secure different ventures in Africa and China. The purpose of the movement of Chinese people was to establish business and construction companies, as well as mining and lodging companies that have helped to shape Africa in the process of economic growth.

The talk will also examine the business relationship between Africa and China. Jean Mutamba Rahier, director of the School of International and Public Affairs’ African & African Diaspora Studies Program, believes this presentation will be a good thing for the University.

“This is a migration of liberal Chinese investors.” According to Rahier, French will take the audience through his book to different countries of Africa, where Chinese traders, farmers and entrepreneurs share their experience as settlers and their reasons as to why they made the decision to migrate to the African continent. At the talk, French will explain his perspectives and knowledge about the topic that, according to Rahier, will result in big social and cultural changes.

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Miami airport to improve passenger experience

HANNAH SAMPSON
Miami Herald

Miami International Airport used to be famed for the hours-long lines passengers waited in when they arrived from other countries.

These days, the nation’s second busiest airport for international traffic is hoping to be better known for the way it breezes travelers through a once-lengthy process -- and connects them with better in-house amenities, including location-based alerts and, eventually, free Wi-Fi.

The changes are underway thanks to the current and planned investments of more than $10 million.

The most recent upgrade came just two weeks ago, when MIA became the second airport in the U.S. to have warplane circled, dropping two huge assault Monday.

The other foresees an Iraqi military offensive to wrest the city of Mosul from Islamic State. Such an offensive is likely would 1.5 million people to safe elsewhere.

International aid agencies see no end in sight for one of worst humanitarian crises since World War II. More than 200,000 people have been killed, 1 million wounded.

U.N. officials say, could send another 500,000 people fleeing.

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International aid agencies see no end in sight for one of worst humanitarian crises since World War II. More than 200,000 people have been killed, 1 million wounded.

The BBC Managing Editor, she is one of the Assistant News Directors.

Asst. Sports Director

ALEXANDRA ALBUQUERQUE

Asst. News Directors

NICOLE BERTON

SARAH MERSHON

Natalie Hernandez

Viva Las Vegas

“Smile!” she urged Nicastro as he took a selfie for his profile picture, took four minutes for him to download the app and create a profile, and another minute for input details about his trip from Trinidad and Tobago.

Nicastro, who was returning home to Delaware, made it through immigration and out of customs within 22 minutes total -- a process much longer of the attention of Miami Herald journalists.

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But offering free Wi-Fi on a broad basis is an upgraded infrastructure capable of supporting increased usage, the project is expected to cost about $4 million and will provide free access for 30 minutes and paid use thereafter. Customers will also need to pay to upgrade to high-speed Wi-Fi for streaming video and high-bandwidth needs.

“The hope that we’ll have something by the end of the year,” said Gonzalez. Benet Wilson, co-editor of aviation news site AirwaysNews.com, said she has been impressed with Miami’s efforts in technology and social media.

“I am not only look at Miami, but I look at airports around the world,” said Wilson, who lives in Baltimore and frequently flies from Washington, where the publication is based. “I definitely have been impressed that what people are doing. Miami tech-wise is right up there with some of the world-class airports.”
Tattoos shouldn’t be resumes

JESSICA HIERRO
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

When a person enters college for the first time, it is usually the first time they feel free to do what they want. Being able to set their schedule for class, going out to socialize and making their own decisions without their parents offering their opinions. One of the decisions that often comes across their minds at least once is: “Should I get a tattoo?”

Tattoos are common now, from the cute flowers on a woman’s ankle to a man starting a biomechanical sleeve design. They represent moments of their lives, memorializing special people and events or displaying their passions for everyone to see. Some consider those tattoos as a sign of adulthood; however, some people are actually women surprisingly enough.

Once a person chooses to get a tattoo, it is usually the first time they will have a tattoo. The people who have tattoos usually have them for the following reasons: to remember something special, from the cute flowers on their schedule for class, or simply to revisit a memory. Another reason could be to show a specific part of their role in the social importance scale, it doesn’t have to be the artist, and getting a tattoo is not a bad thing for its a person’s character and actions that get them hired by employers, not the tattoo itself.

No one should judge another person just by the appearance alone. Tattoos are something that shows about who they are as a person so it’s right there on the surface for everyone to see, they must be really proud of the work done and should not be ashamed for expressing themselves. If they are doing an excellent job, then tattoos should be the least of the boss’ worries whether they are kept hidden or not.

The same flowers mentioned previously on a woman’s ankle might be her late grandmother’s favorite flower but you can also consider it that it is not holding her back from climbing the business ladder in hopes of becoming the Vice President of a company. The biomechanical sleeve tattoo shows the man’s love for mechanics or sci-fi, as he gives a vaccination shot to a child in need. And what is wrong for a man to literally have their heart on their sleeve that announces their love for their mom?

If you are thinking about getting a tattoo while you’re getting your bachelor’s or master’s degree, then do it. But I suggest doing it right by doing the proper research of the artist, and getting something meaningful for it will make you a confident person to have that on your skin. Never let anyone or anything stop you from expressing who you are and your individuality.

Get ready to go back to highschool, class of 2012

HEATHER WILKINS
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

If you graduated in the year 2012, we expected an apocalypse to make sure you didn’t have to continue your education and go on to your next degree. Obviously, the world didn’t end so all the high school graduates of 2012 will go to their first five year reunion in 2017, the year after they are expected to graduate from college.

Sometimes reunions are known to be the best of times, for others it will make them relive the worst of times. High school pranks on the principal or students, the beginning to understand how difficult work and worrying about whether or not you cool enough to be considered “popular” are some of the things most people will often remember at these events.

Even though there are some people who feel that they land on the smaller side of the social importance scale, it doesn’t mean that the friendships you made during your time there didn’t happen.

Reunions are one of the many ways for people to get in touch with one another or to simply revisit a memory. Another possibility is that you can reconnect and learn things about each other you didn’t go to school with and what has happened to them in five years. It might shed some light on those tough years by talking about it with someone who went through similar experiences.

There is nothing quite as interesting as someone showing up with a college boyfriend or an engagement ring on their finger, so it doesn’t take much to strike up a conversation especially when most of the time we’re so connected through social media that we can be relatively up to date with the lives of others. To some, high school was just four years they needed to survive and if you personally do not wish to relive those don’t go. Stay home and watch Netflix , go out to dinner with someone special or just live in the moment. Who needs old memories when there’s always a chance to make new ones.

However, the good thing about reunions is that they only happen every five years. The first five is where you are standing right now after high school; the next ten to fifteen are what happens after college: jobs, marriage, moves, children, etc. It gives us an opportunity to look at ourselves and either be proud with where we stand or realize that there is room for improvement.

Sometimes people change after so much oil, maybe they don’t to it’s important to realize that the same could be true for you. Whenever you decide whether to confide in these things, just keep in mind that the bad memories can always be forgiven and to make these events a learning experience.

EEO/AA | University of Miami

EEO/AA | University of Miami

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Send us your letters

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GT 210 or UREC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Lesbian character to be included in new Star Wars canon publishing April 28

Writer of the “Star Wars” novels Peter S. Kemp has written Moff Mors, an imperial leader who happens to be a lesbian, into the upcoming novel “Lords of the Sith,” to be published April 28. “Her orientation is a characteristic in the same way as her Brunette hair,” Kemp wrote on Twitter. “It just fits with my conception of her.”

The novel takes place after “Revenge of the Sith,” but before the events of the original trilogy. For now, Mors will only exist in the novels and comic books.

There has been no official statement about whether she will be incorporated into the films. However, she would not be the first LGBTQ character in the “Star Wars” universe - not R2-D2 and C-3PO, but a pair of married Mandalorian men, Meddik Vusar and Goran Venbon. Although it is never explicitly stated in the “Star Wars” canon that they are gay, their relationship is textbook. “There should be diversity in ‘Star Wars,’” said Shelly Shapiro, the editor for the book. “‘Star Wars’ is as diverse as humanity is in real life and we don’t want to pretend it’s not.”

The more common demonstration of gay and bisexual characters in the mainstream media gives members of the LGBTQ community characters whom they can relate to, while normalizing and de-stigmatizing homosexuality - hopefully leading to the equal validation of straight and LGBTQ relationships. If Mors were included in the films, she would be one of the first lesbian characters in a global film franchise. She wouldn’t be relegated to an art house film or cult television show, but rather an international viewership. However, concerns arise when it is considered that Disney owns LucasFilm.

The conservative nature of Disney, along with its young demographic, may prevent any queer exploration or deviation from established normacy - and though one can hope for Mors to be included in the films, it is doubtful that she will ever make it to the big screen.

Every Wednesday Pride Guide will take a deeper look into the LGBT community at FIU and produce a column that will consist of keen analysis within the daily lives of LGBTQ students and faculty. Make sure to read more at fiusm.com.

 Surprise love triangle complicates the ‘Last Man on Earth’

The “Last Man on Earth” has proven in the past few weeks that it is full of surprises and that it’s also comfortable with changing the status quo. Phil, has gone from completely alone, to meeting a woman, to getting married, to meeting another woman’s much more interesting. Episode three, Rainin Balls and Wedding Belles, has Phil marrying the woman he met in episode two, Carol, played by Kristen Schaal, who will only have sex with him if they’re married since she does not want to risk her conception of her. The show begins with Phil and the remaining people who are trying to make Phil do something different, from trying to be a handyman to so obviously show his interest in another woman.

Many of these moments, such as Phil getting tattooed on his leg, may be interpreted as Phil wanting to get together with Melissa despite being married to Carol. It can be seen as slightly disappointing that the show did not spend as much time as it could have focusing on Phil, but the redeeming fact is that it does not seem to be losing steam just yet. On every new surprise and challenge the show brings up is an opportunity to make Phil do something different, from trying to be a handyman to so obviously show his interest in another woman.

This episode also reinforces the strong differences between Carol and Phil by reminding us that Carol likes to keep things as they were. She is throwing away meaningful moments, as the last few episodes did, the idea behind what to do at the end of the world and the nature of humans regardless of situation remains in the back of every action.

As for the comedy, it stays well balanced between anything Phil does and the reactions between Carol and Melissa. The “Last Man on Earth” is a show that managed to make things work in the first episode and continues to bring laughter and enjoyment when others are thrown into the mix. However, what keeps me coming back is the unique take on the end of the world that I have not been able to guess what will happen next.

On the tube is a column that reviews and critiques different ongoing series on television. rafael.abreu@fiusm.com

Take Action Tour gives a close and personal show

The Take Action Tour is an annual spring concert created back in 1999, with bands such as Jimmy Eat World and Coheed and Cambria performing across the nation. What makes this tour different from others, however, is its purpose. The Take Action Tour’s goal is to spread awareness about teen suicide and ways to prevent it. Recently, they have also begun educating people about sexually transmitted diseases.

This year, along with a powerful message, the Take Action Tour brought along bands like Memphis May Fire, Crown the Empire, Dance Gavin Dance and Palisades to each stop. With such energetic groups, there was not a dull moment on Earth. With such energetic groups, there was not a dull moment on Earth. For Crown the Empire, Dance Gavin Dance and Palisades, it was no surprise that they helped them up and off the stage.

Midway through the show, Mullins stated that each person in the room that night was beautiful, and whether or not they believe it, they deserved to live and to find their purpose. Needless to say, his statement caused any dying energy in the crowd to come back to life, the fans joining in to chant the final two songs, “Without Walls” and “Legacy.”

Overall, the Vero Beach stop on the Take Action Tour was one to remember. The small size of the venue provided a raw closeness with the bands that led to a personal, transparent encounter.

Vocalist Jon Mess of Dance Gavin Dance, has a powerful performance during the Take Action Tour. The tour’s focus is to spread awareness about teen suicide.
Local bar hosts monthly ‘Nerd Nite’

KATRINA VELEZ
Staff Writer
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Thursday, March 12 gave rise to a group of Miami inhabitants who seem to roam the Wynwood streets unnoticed – nerds.

With trivia questions to challenge your nerd knowledge, Nerds Rope candy and all things punny, the monthly Nerd Nite at Gramps Bar is a place for geeks to interact with people of niche passions and style.

Exploring unexpected connections between math and humanities, artist-turned-mathematician Chelsea Hoff spoke on notable math and humanities, artist-turned-mathematician Chelsea Hoff spoke on notable mathematician Chelsey Hoff...
Baseball loses season C-USA opening series

ALIEJANDRO AGUIRRE
Asst. Sports Director
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The FIU softball team (18-11, 3-3 C-USA) won the weekend series and took all three games against the Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders in five innings of the first game of the series. The Panthers dominated the Blue Raiders and took a 4-1 lead in the first inning. The Panthers came back in the fifth as their six game road trip. They defeated the Blue Raiders 7-6 but battling back to the series with an 8-4 win at the Blue Raider Softball Stadium.

Freshman outfielder Evan Holland fist bumps Coach Turk Thomas after a successful play in the game against Manhattan College on Feb. 28. The Panthers will play their next home game on Friday, March 20 at 7 p.m.

Baseball sweeps season C-USA opening series

ALANNAH ALFONSO
Staff Writer
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This past weekend in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, the FIU softball team (18-11, 3-3 C-USA) won the weekend series and took two out of three games against the Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders (11-10, 1-5 C USA). The Panthers won 8-0 run-ruling the Blue Raiders in five innings of the first game of the series.

The Panthers split on Sunday first falling 10-0 in seven innings. The game ended early when Louisville defeated FIU and the runner on base was out. The Panthers open a three-game home series against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers on Friday March 20. This will be their first Conference USA home series of the season.

Panthers take weekend series at Middle Tennessee

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE
Asst. Sports Director
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This past weekend the sand volleyball team continued their dominant play this season in the UNF sand invitational as they won the first team for their opponents. The Panthers took down the Blue Devils, Louisiana State University, and the College of Charleston. The Panthers opened a three-game home series against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers on Friday March 20. This will be their first Conference USA home series of the season.

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Volleyball sweeps competition at UNF invitational

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE
Asst. Sports Director
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This past weekend the sand volleyball team continued their dominant play this season in the UNF sand invitational as they won the first team for their opponents. The Panthers took down the Blue Devils, Louisiana State University, and the College of Charleston. The Panthers opened a three-game home series against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte 49ers on Friday March 20. This will be their first Conference USA home series of the season.

The Panthers came back in the fifth as Ashley Belans, Rebekah Sanchez, and Ashley Leon all singled to load the bases with no outs. Teixeira and Spallone hit sacrifice flies to bring the score to 4-3. Junior Dominique Grossman helped the Panthers’ lead in the top of the seventh with a triple that brought home freshman Jessica Hallet, who walked, from first base. Grossman came around to score on the play following a throwing error from right field. The FIU softball team ended up winning 8-4 and taking the series 2-1.

Graves retired the first nine batters before giving up a leadoff single and exiting the game after 3.1 innings. The Panthers came back in the fifth as they continued to score runs and ended up winning 9-1. Right hander Cody Crouse started the game and pitched seven solid innings of one-run ball to earn his second win of the season. The game started off great for the Panthers when Chris Mourre tripled and pitched five scoreless innings and allowing only two hits but he still lost the game when he surrendered five of the six runs in the sixth inning. FIU heads to USF on Wednesday with a 20-6 record.

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Bracketology is not a science – it's hysteria. The NCAA Basketball Tournament accepts every method of predicting games, multiplies it by the error that accompanies choosing the victors of 63 matchups, and spits out results that put basketball analysts and average fans on the same playing field. Therefore, I will not attempt to predict every result of every game in this column. Instead, I'll talk about the two teams I'm monitoring closest.

Let's start at home: the University of Alabama at Birmingham will represent Conference USA in the bracket. It has been a rough year for UAB after football, rifling, and bowling were axed in December. Their basketball program, however, remains strong; the Blazers won the Conference USA Championship versus Middle Tennessee State University in a 73-60 victory.

Florida International University had beaten these two teams in the final home stand of the regular season, but was eliminated from the C-USA tournament and a chance at an automatic bid in the tournament by the University of Texas at El Paso Miners.

To me, it seems like the Blazers are in fate's hands. Sure, they have the basketball prowess to justify their seeding – they defeated the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs (25-8) by a score of 72-62 – but it also feels as if they're playing to right a wrong. Making the tournament is an accomplishment in itself, but if they could even keep it close in a matchup versus heavyweight Iowa State University, it would be a nice reward for a program that will likely be looking for a new conference to play in next season.

The consensus favorite to win the tournament is the University of Kentucky. The No. 1 overall seed Wildcats are a perfect 34-0 as they head into the round of 64. Kentucky is 43-10 all-time in season openers and 21-1 in second round games.

Head Coach John Calipari has at least half a dozen NBA-ready players on his squad and his team already defeated the next top-seeded team in the Midwest during the regular season in the University of Kansas Jayhawks.

Some believe that the University of Arizona or the University of Wisconsin will have a chance against the perfect Wildcats if they meet in the Final Four. Arizona has been blowing out opponents lately and Wisconsin almost became a dangerous No. 2 seed in the Midwest before being elected the No. 1 in the West. Atlantic Coast Conference champion Notre Dame University, a team that is gathering some steam of its own, may also get a crack at Kentucky. All of these teams are great in their own right, but their imperfect records is what keeps them out of the championship game in most people's brackets.

Just imagine, though, what will happen if Kentucky falls before the Final Four.

The tournament will be thrown into chaos. Every No. 16 seed will believe they can beat any No. 1 seed. Everything we know about math and logic will be called into question.

It would be the greatest thing ever.

My advice: when you're filling out your bracket, don't rely on a science. If everyone out there is going to pick Kentucky to win the tournament, then you'd need a freak coincidence of upset picks to win your group's contest anyway. Instead, choose the teams that you would like to see make a run yourself.

If it's going to take a near impossible set of circumstances to have the world's perfect predictions, you might as well take a chance on those conditions fitting to your liking.

In other words, be the bracket you'd like to see in the world.

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MARCH MADNESS: 2015 NCAA Basketball Tournament Challenge

FIU Student Media is having a competition for the NCAA March Madness tournament this season. To qualify you must bring in your bracket to GC 210 or WUC 124 prior to Thursday, March 19 at 11:30 a.m. You must write your name, your valid fiu.edu email address and your championship final score as a tie breaker. A prize will be given to the winner at the end of the tournament. The winner will be contacted through his/her fiu.edu email address.

**FINAL FOUR: Sports Staff Predictions**

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To celebrate women’s achievements, the BBC will host a day of events focused on equity and how to advance in society. According to Meredith Morgan, coordinator at the BBC’s Women’s Center, the event is a great way for students and faculty to recognize women’s accomplishments and how they can continue to advance in society. Morgan said, “We could see what we are doing right [now] in the United States and what can be done [that] other countries are already doing.”

There will be a table of panelists at the forum with women from different countries. The panel includes Yvonne Eda Chang, assistant professor at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, as well as Miaheila Plugarus, Director of Administrative Services at the Chaplin School. Attendees will be able to ask them questions and learn from their experiences as women living in their home countries and in the United States. They will also talk about equity and how women are being treated by society as a whole. “It’s important for FIU students to be culturally aware,” Ashley Spearman, ISSS Graduate Assistant, said. According to Spearman, several organizations will be at the event to inform students about women’s lifestyles in other countries, their issues, and what can be done to help women in need. This includes organizations like the United Nations Children’s Fund, a non-profit organization that assists children and mothers in developing countries, as well as Wine to Water, the BBC Wellness Center and the Biseexual, Transgendered, and Bisexual (BTB) Marriage Fund, a non-profit that offers marriage licenses and other legal services.

Fraternity’s racist song could lead to lasting change at universities

NIGEL DUARA AND MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE

Los Angeles Times

Year ago, a University of Oklahoma fraternity held a series of “Mekong Delta Parties,” replete with camouflage, fake machine guns, and Indians, Fiesta, Border Patrol,” she said. “That is the face I saw on that bus.” In the grainy video, two smiling white men dressed in tuxedos lead the song: “You can hang him from a tree, but he’ll never sign with me, there will never be a (N-word) SAE.”

The university swiftly closed the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter and expelled two of its members, actions that stand in stark contrast to the handling of such incidents years ago, even under the same university president, David Boren. Stephanie Eyocko, 20, of Dallas, who is black, insulted several sororities her freshman year as a condition of a $2,000 scholarship she received from a Panhellenic council. She enjoyed the parties at first, but soon sounded on Greek life. “The kind of parties they have here aren’t really sensitive: Cowboys and Indians, Fiesta, Border Patrol,” she said. “They had a whitetrash party that wasn’t even sensitive to themselves.”

When she saw women in the background of the SAE video, some singing along, she immediately thought of sorority sisters she met while rushing and later parted with. “I want the girls on the bus to speak up … I want the girls to come forward,” about what happened, she said.

“I’ve been on buses like that,” Eyocko said, noting they are often asked to take on responsibilities traditionally assigned to women. She went to one of the invitation of a black fraternity member, and found herself the only other black person on the bus, constantly being asked to dance or “twerk.” She told her date afterward she didn’t want to go anymore because of “the constant assumptions.”

“When’s happening? Come home,” her parents told her. “They hate you there.”

There were 27,278 students on the campus in Norman at the beginning of the school year, and 60 percent of them were white. The rest are a combination of international students and Blacks, Asians, Latinos and Native Americans, along with students of two or more races. They talked about what it felt like to be told they “talked white,” to have a professor of color, to see Native American art displayed in a way that reinforces stereotypes of Indians as noble savages incapable of living in a modern world.

Mica Wormald, who was born a man but identifies as female, said she had no place on campus to feel comfortable. “That is the kind of thinking that spread on that bus,” she said. “That is the face I saw on that bus.” In the grainy video, two smiling white men dressed in tuxedos lead the song: “You can hang him from a tree, but he’ll never sign with me, there will never be a (N-word) SAE.”

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