Teen weed smoking goes up where it’s legal, study shows

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Lisa Stolzenberg keeps a keen eye on the intended and unintended effects of new laws and policies as a University professor and Chair of the Criminal Justice department.

In one of her recent studies, she researched teen’s use of marijuana in states where it’s medically legal and the effects of legalizing the drug.

Stolzenberg’s research, as part of a University study, suggests that if Florida legalizes medical marijuana, it could lead to increased pot use among those under 18.

According to Stolzenberg’s research, it’s happened in other states that have passed laws allowing marijuana to be used to treat pain, nausea, vomiting and other medical conditions.

During 2010-2011, the most recent year in the study, 9.7 percent of high school students reported using pot in states that had legalized medical marijuana, compared to 6.8 percent of high school students in states that outlawed it.

“We did not expect to find an increase in recreational use of marijuana among juveniles because the law is aimed at medical use,” Stolzenberg said.

The survey showed that pot use among youth in states that legalized it has risen since 2004 and has consistently been higher than in states where it’s illegal.

“I think recreational use among juveniles increased because the law helped reduce the stigma associated with marijuana use,” Stolzenberg said. “And because juveniles probably have more access to marijuana in states where doctors are prescribing it to their parents. Well-meaning social policy often has unintended and detrimental effects for society,” Stolzenberg said.

Despite her findings, Stolzenberg said she supports legalizing marijuana for medical and recreational use.

“I do not believe that cancer patients should be denied access to a drug that could help them. Likewise, I also believe that adults should have the freedom to use marijuana,” she said. “It is up to parents and the school system to educate youth on the potential hazards associated with the use of drugs.”

Right now, 19 states allow medical marijuana, while an additional four states and the District of Columbia permit recreational use. Sixteen states allowed it during the 10-year period that Stolzenberg studied.

Last year, 88 percent of Florida voters supported a ballot initiative legalizing medical marijuana, but was shy of the 60 percent needed to pass a constitutional amendment. Supporters plan to bring it back in 2016.

Ben Pollara, of the Miami-based United for Care pro-legislation campaign, questions the study’s conclusions.

He pointed to a study released in June 2015, led by a researcher at Columbia University in New York, that found that while teen marijuana use was higher in states that legalized medical pot, this had been the case before pot was legal and usage had not increased.

Alexa Lee, director of programs for the Palm Beach County Substance Abuse Coalition, said the results of the FIU study didn’t surprise her.

“Any time you have more access to a drug, the youth usage rate will be higher,” she said. “There are some states in the north where you can only buy alcohol from state-licensed facilities, and many of those have lower instances of underage drinking than states where there is more availability.”

Stolzenberg acknowledged in her report, which was recently published in an issue of the International Journal of Drug Policy, that other studies have found different results, but have used small, non-representative samples.

She said her data uses a nationally representative sample from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health which is administered in all 50 states.

“Our results do not suggest that an increase in marijuana use is necessarily harmful or that prohibiting it outweighs the benefits to cancer patients and the state economy,” Stolzenberg said.

New human rights certificate offered

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Beginning fall 2015, the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs will offer a certificate in human rights and political transitions.

The program aims to introduce students to the globalized presence and progress of human rights, as well as its ties to diplomacy and democracy. Students from varied majors with an interest in human rights can partake in the interdisciplinary program.

The certificate requires 18 credit hours, which include courses taken from a range of departments, followed by a three-credit internship or study abroad program that focuses on human rights.

There are two core program courses, Politics of Human Rights and Transitions, and a second of the student’s choosing from four program approved courses.

The remaining credits are fulfilled by electives that are categorized under Law and Diplomacy, Discrimination and Inequality, Crimes against Humanity/ Large Scale Human Rights Violations, and Political Transitions. While the certificate does not have any prerequisites, students should be aware that elective courses may have requirements.

When asked about the program Keren Soto, a freshman political science major, said, “For someone who is interested in understanding the world, it’s beneficial to only study human rights and how it affects everything in whole. It’s just great!”

Specifics can be found online at http://havel.fiu.edu/academics and students may also contact the certificate director, Dr. Susanne Zwingel, at szwingel@fiu.edu.

Exit at 826 & Flagler closed for three months

Temporary detour to access West Flagler Street via southbound SR 836 ramp to eastbound SR 836

Panthers who drive south on the 826 Palmetto Expressway to reach the Modesto Maidique Campus will experience delays as the exit at West Flagler is closed for the next three months.

As part of ongoing construction on the expressway, the Florida Department of Transportation has temporarily closed the exit ramp to allow its contractor to finish a new bridge over Northwest Seventh Street.

For more, visit fiusm.com
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Offensive in Iraq gets off to a disappointing start

A U.S.-backed military offensive against Islamic State fighters faltered in its first week as several hundred militants entrenched in the provincial capital of Ramadi withstood punishing air strikes and held off a far-larger force of Iraqi ground troops, senior U.S. and coalition commanders said Saturday.

Would Congress killing Iran deal play into Putin’s hands?

As Republicans in Congress discuss rejecting what they consider a bad deal between the world’s major powers and Iran on that country’s nuclear program, European foreign policy experts are speculating that the Russians are licking their lips, hoping for that outcome.

Their take is that if after more

Watchdog blasts Turkey’s record on press freedom

Turkey remains the top jailer of journalists in Europe and should return the “laws criminalizing freedom of expression” as well as the way courts implement those laws, the European human rights watchdog said Thursday.

Auschwitz guard gets 4 years for 300,000 murders

In what was certainly among the last verdicts for Nazi crimes against humanity, the 94-year-old “Accountant of Auschwitz” on Wednesday was sentenced to four

Thursday was sentenced to four

against humanity, the 94-year-old

ing the population of the Nazi concentration camp.

But the ones in the aquarium in GC near Pollo and Chilis will be just fine.

After an apparent glue failure, one of the pumps became detached causing water, fish and corals of the aquarium to burst out on Saturday morning, according to Carlos Carrasco, GC’s director of operations.

GC, a CC employee with 29 years experience, said the malfunction is still under investigation.

He said no students, faculty or staff were hurt from the accident. Although the fish were put in an aerated bucket after some early morning coffee drinkers helped out.

Immediately after the fish hit the floor of GC, customers at Bustedo heard the commotion and arrived at the scene with empty cups to save as many fish as they could as they splattered all over the floor, according to Carrasco in a followup interview.

The tentative plan is to have a tank rebuilt by the start of the fall semester. But to recreate an aquarium setting that is as close to nature as is possible—which includes the coral and bacteria—could take a couple weeks or more, Carrasco said.

The tank was built in 2010 and cost $15,000 and the contractor who built it has been called to give the University a cost estimate and how long it will take to rebuild.

He said years went into cultivating the fish tank, which held five fish, a blue hermit crab, a spider, a few types of coral, and button polyps.

“It’s a terrible loss,” said Carrasco.

The fish are a yellow
tang named Andy, Vanessa a red sea sailfin tang, Andre a bristletooth tomini tang, a blue tag named Ruth and Maxine a fairy beasley.

Carlos is an astraus turbo snail and Rixa is the crab.

And they are all fine.

After their ordeal the marine critters were then in a tank equipped with air pumps, and placed in it were coral rocks to absorb their wastes.

GC staff will store the corals and remaining fish there until tomorrow at which point the contractor will be called to begin their work as soon as the tank is rebuilt.

“We are hoping to get the tank repaired economically,” Carrasco said and added that their plans to restore the tank includes reinforcing it.

And the fish?

“So far they are surviving,” Carrasco said.

With one more, Rigo the skunk clownfish, was lost.

Startups seek footing in growing drone industry

NANCY DAHLMAN
This Staff

Step inside Animusoft's offices and you'll see drones everywhere, large ones, little ones and a few just for fun. 3-D printers are working 24/7 to create new parts.

Animusoft is a Miami-area startup creating an operating system for drone and robot makers.

Its offices are a giant laboratory: Team members build the drones to test their operating system. The new product, Alive, was unveiled earlier this month.

The Miami-Dade County Commission is exploring declaring the area around Miami Executive Airport a drone and robotics hub because there is already a nucleus of technologists working in the area and plenty of room over the Everglades for drones to roam.

This is happening as the Federal Aviation Administration still heavily restricts how drones are used commercially. But scores of companies in South Florida are betting on the future of drones.

“Everyone is into this romancing of the drone,” said Howard Melamed, who started OpenSky Drones last year to offer drone sales and other engineering services.

“Right now, everyone thinks they can get into it.”

Amazon isn't the only big business investing in the use of “delivery drones” — the U.S. Postal Service is, too. In April, the FAA approved several insurers to use drones to assess property damage. The American Red Cross commissioned a yearlong study, which resulted in it calling drones one of the most promising new technologies for disaster response and relief.

In May, robotic drone maker DJI and its Dutch competitor 3-D Robotics recently released new consumer drones priced under $1,000 that are capable of commercial applications, and venture capitalists are jumping into the market with sizable bets.

According to CB Insights data, 2014 investment in the drone industry topped $108 million in 29 deals, doubling year-over-year.

Top-funded U.S.-based drone startups include the fast-growing Airware, 3-D Robotics and SkyCatch, according to CB Insights and DLA Piper law firm, referring to a forecast by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International.

Various forecasts by government and industry experts expect businesses to invest tens of billions of dollars in drones worldwide over the next 10 years. At the same time, drone sales are flying high: According to Consumer Electronics Association research, the global market for private drones will approach $130 million in revenue in 2015, increasing by 55 percent from 2014.

“You are dealing with what has been valued as an $82 billion industry over the next 10 years that could create 100,000 new jobs in America alone. When you look at that, you see a lot of opportunity, but without defined rules about what entrepreneurs can and cannot do,” said Matthew Grosack, a Miura-based attorney with DLA Piper law firm, referring to a forecast by the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International.

“What you are seeing is a lot of people out there taking the risk and just going for it.”

For now, commercial drone operation is largely prohibited, but the FAA in February issued draft regulations.

Until now, private commercial drones must be less than 55 pounds, can't fly higher than 500 feet, can only fly during daylight, and must remain in the “line of sight” of the operator. The operator will be regularly required to pass written tests that will only be administered to private pilots by the Transportation Security Administration. U.S. commercial drone operators can apply for an exemption from the FAA.

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Fish also suffer from post-traumatic stress and may end up in the toilet if they go through a harrowing enough event, like suddenly hitting the floor of the Graham Center pit.

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The subject is receiving fresh attention with an alarming trend in China. It is estimated that roughly one in 10 children between ages 10 and 19 are addicted to the Internet. Even here in the U.S. we are attached to our tech - social media, our smartphones, our tablets, the Internet - but it seems we are too attached, possibly to the point of addiction. A 2014 study showed that 16 percent of 18 to 25-year-olds deal with compulsive Internet use.

Internet addiction is not formally recognized as a mental illness, but many acknowledge that the phenomenon is more complicated than a simple social problem. Growing concerns have called for medical attention and treatment. Research has shown that excessive technology and Internet use can cause relationships, both romantic and platonic, to suffer psychologically and physically.

The brain naturally develops emotional centers for these addictions. The Internet addiction is sucking the life out of China’s and Korea’s students and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or the members of the university community. No one should know how, when, where and why it’s acceptable to be online.

The problem was the way it was shot. It was some weird fourth-wall technique which showed not only the host and guest but also the camera crew. It was some kind of weird reality documentary which still paid more attention to the people and the suspense than it did to teaching you about the shark. Another segment was the after show, "Shark After Dark," which could have been interesting - had it used the opportunity to talk with specialists. Instead it was a shark-themed late night talk show.

Dashboard is the only show that could show the whole shark, which portrayed it as a real in the bayous called the Rooken. was understandable and said he never knew that they were going to portray him like that. I don’t know what is more disappointing, that they bypassed an opportunity at a good documentary to make a fictional story or that they actually lied about it instead of just telling him the truth from the beginning. I tried to believe that this year would be different, after two segments of the special. I turned it off and vowed to not watch it anymore. One was a documentary about Mako Sharks, which, surprisingly, wasn’t completely as non-educational as they have been in the past.

With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your transcript. Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com. Whether in-person or online, don’t waste education.

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Do you ever have feelings of guilt and pleasure when your image shows up on a screen? Do you grab your phone first thing in the morning? Even worse, do you text and drive? Have you ever looked at the news, seen yourself, and realized that you look ridiculous? Or perhaps you’ve noticed that people are posting selfies rather than engaging in conversation. All people are different, with some using technology more than others. We all have and need access to Pearson’s MyLab – which contains many resources to help students succeed as a part of their education. Online classes are economic pressures and cheating. Although professors often require the use of programs like Respondus Lockdown Browser, students in the same section of an online course often must take tests and quizzes together in order to better their chances of passing their exams. While study groups might not benefit from online classes, the fact is, taking a test with other members of a course is cheating.

English majors are the latest group of university students to be at the mercy of the University’s online initiative. University-wide, students and faculty are divided on the effectiveness and validity of online classes, and this editorial board is no different. While some members of this editorial board use online classes to advance and to make classes more beneficial to most classes, the fact is, students hold gadgets instead of books. Students who want to accelerate their education and graduate early or on-time, FIU students are notorious for their propensity for graduating within five or less years. This is not the fault of the student, but of the university. The more and more students who want to graduate early or on-time, while some members of this editorial board use online classes to advance and to make classes more beneficial to most classes, the fact is, students hold gadgets instead of books. 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Frost Art Museum exhibits the wonders of Latin America

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The songs of Ismael Rivera, a Puerto Rican composer and singer, play inside Carlos Luna’s warehouse in Miami. This is where the contemporary Cuban artist compiled “The Green Machine,” one of the latest exhibits in FIU’s Patricia & Phillip Frost museum.

Much like the songs he plays, Luna is strongly influenced by the multiculturalism of Latin American and how its traditions tie history and art together.

Luna’s references to Afro Cuban traditions, Cuba’s culture, and the modern artists of Mexican paintings can be seen through his mixed media and ceramic works as well as his paintings and tapestries. Luna said he draws his influence from different artists like Rufino Tamayo and Wifredo Lam as well as his own experiences in his life.

During the Frost’s opening ceremony for his exhibit, Luna was there to talk about his process.

He said he marveled at the technology made available by Magnolia Editions, which would weave the fine art tapestries he’d paint.

Luna also commemmated his family, including his two grandmothers.

“They are the reason for my vision and my passion,” said Luna.

Luna grew up in Cuba until he moved to Mexico in 1991, where he lived for 13 years, before settling in Miami.

His displayed artworks show his cross-pollination of influences from Cuba, Mexico, and Miami. One of the highlighted pieces of The Green Machine is Luna’s “Gran Mambo” or “The Great Mambo” which towers at nearly 12 feet. Its vibrant blue and gold colors entrap the words, “Mirame Siempre,” or “Look at my Always,” in the center of the piece.

Luna said in the written description of the painting that “El Gran Mambo” tells the story of his journey through three countries. “The musicality and rhythm of El Gran Mambo are powerful elements of this centerpiece,” said Luna in a written description.

But Luna’s work is not the only exhibits that captures the ties between different Latin cultures.

Fine art and media photographer Richard Sexton, whose photos are exhibited worldwide, has his photographs of New Orleans and the Latin Caribbean Sphere on display. His picture trip to visit later turned in Bolivia on a road trip to visit his college friend in South America, but later turned into a six month journey from Mexico to Bolivia on a station wagon.

His photos explore and capture different regions of Latin America and also connect them to their influence in New Orleans architecture, color of ironwork, and dynamic of street culture. “Creole World” will be on display until Aug. 23. Admission is free.

“Empigated” by Carlos Luna, a contemporary Cuban-American artist, exemplifies his unique blend of cultural influences.
PANTHER PRIDE, LOVE, UNITY, RESPECT

wonders of Latin America

2015 Summerfest brings Panthers together

Cuban-American artist, exemplifies his

"Empigated" by Carlos Luna, a contemporary

influence in New Orleans architecture, color of

Latin America and also connect them to their

Bolivia on a station wagon.

A trip to visit his college friend in South America, but

Sphere on display at FIU's Frost museum, too.

Admission is free.

His photos explore and capture different regions

of Latin America, and includes photos of Haiti,

Argentina, Brazil, and Cuba, among others.

His work demonstrates the unique blend of cultural influences.

As the sun set, the lineup created rapid excitement amongst
dancers who added on to the life of the party. Most importantly,
the message of the event was to celebrate Panther Pride by
promoting the Class of 2015 to never give up on their dreams.

The annual event featured DJs Andres Fresko, Konflikt,
Obscene, and BassJackers playing the hottest tracks of the year.

As enjoyable and positive as the first part

of the film is, the latter half is necessarily

brutal. Images of Winehouse’s descent into

madness cut deep. But rather than going

for someone, anyone to step in and save

someone incapable of saving themselves. It

is difficult to watch, even anger-inducing,

yet is highly commendable for showing the

human being as opposed to Amy Winehouse

die-hard fans will surely be moved by videos

of a young, shy, yet already powerful Amy

trying out early versions of songs like “In My

Bed,” and a particularly sassy performance

of “Stronger than Me,” in a small, dimly lit

nightclub. Yet even those unfamiliar with

the Winehouse catalog will be stunned by

these early videos, as they show what an

effortless, natural talent she was without the

need for flashy production or arrangement -

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VANESSA MARTINEZ
Staff Writer
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Last Thursday FIU held its rowdiest Summerfest party yet.

The annual event featured DJs Andres Fresko, Konflikt,
Obscene, and BassJackers playing the hottest tracks of the year.

The crowd was so rowdy that they made the night a success. It

was a night to remember, and a night that will go down in history.

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University alum representing his country and the Panthers in the Gold Cup

LUIS DIAZ  Contributing Writer  sports@fiusm.com

It seems as though no matter all the moves the Miami Marlins have made throughout the first half of the season, they just haven’t been able to move up in the standings.

The record of 38-51 doesn’t tell the whole story of our season, but it definitely paraphrases this as a rebuilding year for Sean McFarlane has ever been simply handed to him.

Throughout his life, he has played soccer with a chip on his shoulder, but he is pretty fast and it seemed like a glimmer of hope for the Miami Marlins as the entire city was awaiting the arrival of the new iteration.

What they got was a front office that decided to hold on to the title of Manager, naming instead General Manager Dan Jennings as the new coach for the Fish.

Go ahead and google all the synonyms for the word “weird.”

That’s exactly what this move was. But that wasn’t even the first unexpected change to be made during the first half of the season. Here’s the list, in chronological order, of the most significant roster moves the Marlins made.

On May 5, the Marlins gave the only player on their active roster with a World Series ring the boot, releasing catcher Jarrod Saltalamacchia.

On May 17, Mike Redmond joined his family on the couch to watch the Marlins’ games. Struggling closer Steve Cishek was the next to lose his job, however he doesn’t have to watch the games from home like Redmond.

On May 18, AJ Ramos was promoted to closer giving the lanky, side-armed Cishek just another spot in the bullpen.

On July 5, Big Bear Marcell Ozuna was given the news he would now don the uniform of the front office.

And it seemed like a glimmer of hope for the Miami Marlins as the entire city was awaiting the arrival of the new iteration of Jack McKeon. But instead, they left their title as Manager of Jeffrey Loria’s office that day, and the Panthers in the Gold Cup.

Island.” And after leaving serious underperforming and things have remained the same.

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JOSEPH BUSATTO
Contributing Writer

Since J.K. Rowling released the “Harry Potter” fantasy series, fandom has spread throughout the world.
Many would attend the movies dressed as characters and many continue to reread the books. Of course, the “Harry Potter” world found its way onto FIU’s campus and it seems like it will be a staple for years to come.
The “Harry Potter Alliance” Club created a fun club sport at FIU in 2010 called the “The Quidditch Club.” Quidditch is a competitive sport that is prominent in the “Harry Potter” series that is basically a combination of soccer, football and broom flying.
It has become a competitive sport in collegiate sports around the nation and even the world. Currently, the FIU Quidditch Club has about twenty to twenty-five members.
Quidditch rules are easy to learn. It consists of seven versus seven.
The offense is run by three players called “chasers” who attempt to score a goal in one of the three goals resulting in ten points.
The defense consists of two players called “beaters.” They try to prevent goals by using dodge balls. If an opposing player is hit by a dodge ball, he or she has to go back to the other side of the field to continue playing.
There is also a “keeper” who basically plays goalie like in soccer.
And finally the last player on the field is the “seeker” whose only job is to pursue the snitch.
If the snitch is caught, the game ends and thirty points are awarded to the team that caught the snitch. The snitch is a player dressed in all yellow with a tennis ball attached to him.
The game of Quidditch is surprisingly physical. The snitch can push and throw down the seekers during game play and there are many collisions. The administration just implemented a mouth guard required for quidditch practice, which takes place every Monday and Thursday evening by Panther Hall.

Maria McLaughlin (right), a senior psychology major, and her teammates choose their broom sticks for quidditch practice, which takes place every Monday and Thursday evening by Panther Hall.

MLB BASEBALL

Marlins at the half: important moves to be made

JOSEPH BUSATTO
Contributing Writer

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lose when pitching in Marlins Park. Knock on wood.
With one more half to go, there are some individuals that are on pace to break some franchise records. At the break All-Star Dee Gordon has accrued 122 hits.
If he can get as many hits in the second act of the season as he did in the first, he’ll finish with 244 hits on the season, shattering Juan Pierre’s total from 2004 of 221.
Giancarlo Stanton is on route to break three franchise records this season. The slugger has hit 27 home runs to go along with his 67 RBIs in the first half.
If he can match those totals in after the All-Star break, Stanton will finish the season with 54 home runs, breaking Gary Sheffield’s stranglehold of that record with a number of 42 that has stood since 1996 and 134 RBIs, dismissing Preston Wilson’s 2000 season where he batted in 121 runs.
The last record Giancarlo Stanton is on pace to break was also a part of Preston Wilson’s 2000 campaign.
With 95 strikeouts at the break, the Hundred-Million Dollar Man can erase Preston Wilson’s infamous record of 187 strikeouts in one season with his own number of 190.
The Marlins’ 38 wins to their 51 losses is not what anyone wanted this season, except for Braves fans. The talent is in this locker room to surprise some people and to hoist up the World Series trophy.
Some have even argued that there is more talent wearing the Marlins uniforms this year than there was in 2003. But the right moves must be made so that this team can make the most important one. If only Jose Fernandez could throw out the first pitch in every home game.
All or nothing season for football

FOOTBALL FRENZY

If you follow FIU football, it’s quite obvious that expectations are extremely high for a team that finished 4-8 last season.

The team was in rebuild mode two years ago when Head Coach Ron Turner took over the program. Two years later, after recruiting heavily in the state of Florida, returning starters are back and expectations are higher than ever. For the head coach or the returning players, this is a make-or-break season.

FIU fans should have every right to be excited for this coming football season. Eight players were selected as Preseason All-Conference, the first two games are away and just recently four players from FIU were placed on the national watch-list as the best in their respective positions.

At the same time, Coach Turner is now in the hot seat and his job could be in jeopardy if they don’t finish the season above 500. Donna Smith received the John Mackey Award for best Tight End. It’s no secret Smith is one of the best tight ends out there.

He finished last season 61 rushes for 710 yards and six touchdowns, led the nation for most receiving yards as a tight end and broke the school record for most catches, receiver yards and touchdowns.

He was also selected first team All-Conference USA was All-American honorable mention according to CBS Sports.

Smith is ranked no. 87 in the college football top 100 by jersey numbers and was selected as All Preseason All-Conference USA. Not to mention he’s very active in his community, as he’s also on the Wuerffel Award Watch list for best Community service.

Richard Leonard won the Jim Thorpe Award for best Defensive Back. Arguably the best athlete on the team after finishing last season with five interceptions two went in the endzone for touchdown, Leonard led the nation in fumble recoveries including one he recovered that resulted to a 100-yard touchdown against FAU.

With a remarkable football résumé, he could have easily gone to the NFL, yet he’s still got a score to settle. He’s projected to be the C-USA Defensive Player of Year and is ranked no. 42 best defensive back in the country.

The Panther’s defense will be much better now that he’s back for one more year.

For Quarterbacks, it’s hard enough to deal with one elite pass rusher attacking their blindside.

Unfortunately, if you’re a QB playing against FIU this season, you have to deal with two elite pass rushers, Michael Wakefield and Denzell Perine Rotary Lombardi.

Have you heard of a one-two punch for running backs? This is a one-two-punch for defensive ends.

Both ends finished the season with 14.5 sacks combined. Wakefield led the team in tackles for loss (14.5) and was ranked no. 3 at C-USA in sacks and was second team All C-USA. Perine recorded 40 tackles and 9.5 tackles for loss, was the second on the team in tackles for loss and no. 15 in C-USA.

Perine was also selected All-Conference USA Honorable Mention.

With these two ends and Richard Leonard at cornerback, it’s not hard to see why FIU’s defense was ranked no. 1 in the nation in fumble recoveries, (19) and no. 35 for overall defense.

It’s time for the team to make a huge leap under coach Turner and prove not to be all hype, but it won’t be an easy task, since their first two games are away. If the panthers get a 2-0 start, it will be the first time since 2011, when Mario Cristobal was head coach.

For the seniors on the team, it’s all-or-nothing to finish on top and on a positive note before they become alumni.

It’s time for Panther Nation to come out and support the team.

Under all that pressure, the team needs us to be roaring fans.

The Panthers’ first home game is Sept. 19 against North Carolina Central - when we will all find out if the team lives up to our expectations.

Peter Holland @fiusm.com

Drilling for oil in Everglades’ Big Cypress National Preserve

COLUMNIST

Kanter Real Estate. LLC. owns 20,000 acres of land in West Broward County. Two weeks ago, the company applied for permits to bore an oil well on the undeveloped land five miles west of Miramar.

This land is currently occupied by the Everglades. Though it may sound strange to be looking for oil in Florida, drilling has been occurring for the past 90 years.

Starting in the 1930s, with the hope to live off the Florida economy the state established a $50,000 prize to the first group to find oil.

In 1943 a team in Collier County claimed that prize. Now there are 162 oil and gas wells in the state: 25 in South Florida and seven in the Everglades.

The oil being pumped up from under the Everglades is not the same stuff that is being imported from Saudi Arabia.

Florida oil is of lower quality than that in the Middle East, with a thicker crude called Bitumen that is only suitable for asphalt roads. But oil is oil, and money is money.

Some advocates for oil drilling in the Everglades go as far as to say the act would spur the next oil boom.

David Mica, former State Representative and Director of the Florida Petroleum Council, calls the expansion of drilling practices in South Florida, specifically fracking, “a no-brainer,” even though fracking has seen massive backlash in the last few years as the impact it has is more publically realized.

The deaths of livestock, wildlife, plant life, crops and humans are brought on by fracking, which poisons ground water. Fracking can also cause geological instability.

In Oklahoma, citizens can sue fracking companies for injury and damages brought on by fracking-induced earthquakes.

Proponents of the industry claim they are capable of safe extraction, but they are talking about the immediate safety of workers on drilling platforms.

Those proponents cannot honestly say they support both the expansion of oil fields and the maintenance of the ecosystem.

The proposed Broward well would be two miles deep and employ fracking with native water. Should it prove to be lucrative, this first well would pave the way for drilling operations on the property and in the area.

There is, of course, opposition. In fact, most people – traditional environmentalists, grassroots movements and state politicians – have all opposed drilling and fracking.

In fact, during his time as a state representative, Mica was the only one to regularly vote in favor of expansion. So why do corporations still think drilling is viable?

The persistence of the oil industry and their spokespeople means the message isn’t strong enough. There is a way to make it stronger.

Currently, the two largest parts of the Everglades are the Everglades National Park and the Big Cypress National Preserve. The difference being that a park’s natural resources are protected, while a preserve’s can be extracted.

To make it clear to drilling companies that they aren’t allowed to poison the state, Big Cypress National Preserve should be made into a National Park.

The Everglades are more than a swamp; they are a one of a kind, incredibly delicate World Heritage Site. They may be territorially encompassed by the United States, but they are a beauty that belongs to the world, and it is nobody’s right to destroy them.

Peter Holland @fiusm.com

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