**CrossFit Keep Charging moves into Parking Garage 6**

**ALIANA ZAMORANO**
Contributing Writer

For CrossFit fans, the University opened its own CrossFit Keep Charging and Campus Chiropractic Aug. 31.

CrossFit Keep Charging, a CrossFit recreation center that offers classes with trained coaches, is located on the west side of Parking Garage Six, along with Campus Chiropractic, a chiropractic-physical rehab center.

“That is definitely going to be a community-based environment where people can come in and learn something new,” said Mike Ramirez, head coach and manager of the CrossFit program. “It’s going to create friendships and bring something new to campus life.”

The new state of the art fitness center is fully equipped with the resources needed to train for CrossFit, strongman and gymnastics.

As of now, the center has close to 100 enrolled members and, according to Ramirez, there will be a limit to the amount of memberships the facility can accommodate.

“With a huge discount promotion for our first semester here,” said Ramirez, “Students can get 20 percent off, and pay a cost as low as $97 a month.”

Other discounts are also available for faculty, alumni and the general public within this first semester.

Regular rates average to $150 a month, depending on the monthly package. Class drop-in options are available for those with crossfit experience not wanting to commit to a membership, but wanting to participate in a class. A drop-in fee of $20 for the general public allows accesses to any class.

“I did CrossFit in high school and I think it’s great to be out of the classroom,” said Orlando Delleria, a junior biology major. “I think it really helps prepare

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**Foot fetishist case leads to arrest**

**CAMILA FERNANDEZ**
News Director

A short statement on a foot fetish suspect was released Tuesday evening by Alexander Casas, FIU police chief. Police received a report and a photograph of an unknown individual with foot fetishism laying under a table at the Miami-Dade police department library Saturday, Aug. 29.

It states: “Based on recent media coverage of a suspicious incident at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus, the Crime Stoppers program received multiple tips leading to the identity of the person involved. This matter was investigated jointly by members of the Miami-Dade Police Department along with the FIU Police Department. On Tuesday afternoon, a member of the public saw the person and called Miami-Dade Police. Officers saturated the area and located the individual riding a scooter. The individual attempted to flee and was apprehended and arrested.”

FIUPD appreciates the involvement of the concerned citizens of Miami-Dade County, who provided the information that led to this arrest.

The reporter said the person appeared to be smelling the feet of a female student sitting at the table; however, the student said she was not aware of the person’s presence, according to FIUPD.

There were no other reports and no known victims.

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**One-Stop building to open fall 2016**

**NICOLE MONTERO**
Asst. News Director

The opening of the new Student Academic Support Center continues to be set for April 2016, according to construction project manager, Maria Guillem.

Construction for the $30 million building will house different departments and services for students at the University.

Plans for the Center, a One-Stop facility that will allow students to solve their financial and academic troubles in one place, began in 2008 with funding from the state but wasn’t started until November 2014.

“The purpose of the building was to create a service center for student success, where they would be able to come from the first time they ever visited the University to the last,” said John Cal, associate vice president of Facilities Management. “It’ll all be in one place and the notion was that, if you combine all these things, it will combine student success.”

The 81,450 square foot facility will consist of four floors, accommodating departments stationed at the Graham Center and Primera Casa.

SASC will house Enrollment Services and One-Stop enrollment services Financial Aid, Bursar’s Office and Student Financials and Advisement.

The second floor will accommodate advising offices, Student Affairs, Study Abroad and the International Student & Scholar Services, while the third floor accommodates Career Services.

The Honors College and another department will share the fourth floor. SASC will also include five classrooms and a 750-seat auditorium, according to Maria Guillem, construction project manager.

Lesley Northup, dean of the Honors College, had known for years that the college would be moving from its current Deuxieme Maison position, where they’ve been for over 10 years, and into SASC.

“We are really overwhelmed and it was a real lifesaver to be offered this,” she said. “I was very happy to be part of the process and glad that I was able to talk to the architect about our needs, so I sort of had an opportunity to include design a portion of our floor.”

The College was set to share the fourth floor with the University Graduate School – which will not be happening anymore due to its disbandment, according to Northup.

“The problem with the University is that it has various functions and has spread all over,” she said. “It’s different units that have started up different versions of programs and, now, the provost is asking FIU to consolidate and be more coordinated.”

Northup said it’s not yet known which department will be sharing the floor with the College, but Northup hopes to get more space for expansion within the department.

“Our goal and mandate isn’t to take over what other people are doing perfectly well, but to aid and support them,” she said. “We’ll need to hire more people to do this… We’re going to be moving in here and we’re coming from a building that doesn’t exist, and we’ll spread all over,” she said. “It’s different units that have started up different versions of programs and, now, the provost is asking FIU to consolidate and be more coordinated.”

Northup is glad for the bigger space.

“The University continues to grow and there’s still a demand for more access and better education,” said Cal. “Today’s modern university education is far more infrastructure-intent in terms of what it needs and what it requires, so that translates into facilities.”

The project’s current cost is $30,993,383 but they are still looking for other ways to enhance funds, said Cal.

“With a huge discount promotion for our first semester here,” said Ramirez, “Students can get 20 percent off, and pay a cost as low as $97 a month.”

“Foot fetishist case leads to arrest”

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The reporter said the person appeared to be smelling the feet of a female student sitting at the table; however, the student said she was not aware of the person’s presence, according to FIUPD.

There were no other reports and no known victims.
Voting machine study finds problems, but not ones easily fixed

Finding that many of the nation’s voting machines are “perilously close” to the end of their useful life, a study of voting systems in all 50 states recommended a series of steps that could be undertaken before voters cast their ballots in coming years. Estimating it as a $1 billion problem, the experts from the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law said it likely was too late to replace equipment in most places before the 2016 election.

Navy agrees to restrict offshore training to protect marine mammals

To settle litigation brought by environmental groups, the Navy has agreed to curtail use of sonar and underwater explosives during training to protect marine mammals off Southern California and Hawaii. The settlement between the Navy, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Natural Resources Defense Council and Earthjustice was signed Monday by U.S. District Judge Cki Molloy in Honolulu. In April, Molloy sided with the environmentalists in their assertion that the Fisheries Service had violated federal environmental laws when it decided that the Navy’s training would have a “negligible impact” marine life.

Stanford Business School dean steps down after lawsuits, affair allegations surface

After months in the shadows, a high-stakes drama of sex and betrayal among the loftiest echelons of Stanford University burst into the open Wednesday, as the school announced that Garth Saloner would step down as dean of the Graduate School of Business. The shocking announcement came shortly before a news report linking the South African-born economist to a wrongful termination suit by a former Stanford professor whose wife was allegedly having an affair with Saloner.

University presents annual TEDxFIU talks

The University prepares for inspiring conversations at this year’s fourth annual TEDxFIU. Since its day-view 31 years ago in a small conference room in Monterey, California, Technology, Entertainment and Design talks have expanded worldwide. Some of the world’s leading thinkers have been a part of TED’s 18-minute shows. Speakers include renowned entrepreneur Bill Gates and Al Gore, 45th vice president of the U.S., and environmentalist.

Universities across the country have partaken in the movement as a way to enlighten their student population. The event was first introduced to FIU Nov. 5, 2012 and has evolved into an FIU tradition.

Previous speakers at the university include high school English teacher David Menasche, who recently passed away due to terminal brain cancer. His diagnosis forced him to leave the classroom.

Despite his cancer, Menasche decided to visit his former students to see what impact he had on them. He wrote about his experience in his book, “The Priority List.”

Other speakers include Xi Liu, dean of the College of Engineering who distributed 250 solar powered lights to different villages in India, where there is little energy. Alexa Chavarry shared her experience of performing with a Butterfly Project, which aims to reduce the number of depression and self-harm effects.

For the last three years, faculty, alumni and students at FIU have taken the TEDx platform to share ideas and performances from the FIU community, said Eduardo Merille, marketing and new media director.

“Always Forward, a nod to the future,” said Merille. “The slogan celebrates the University’s 50 years anniversary to remind students about the importance of thinking forward, according to the TEDxFIU website.

To satisfy the theme, the TEDxFIU Selection Committee sat down and chose from a variety of speakers, all with great ideas and dominance in their field of expertise.

One of the chosen speakers, Carolyn Runowicz, a doctor and an innovative ovarian cancer researcher, looks forward to the event where she will share about her treatment research.

She said she has prepared a speech to enlighten students and faculty next to her co-researcher Sahkrit Khizroev, Electrical and Computer Engineering professor.

“The treatment is very novel and innovative. [Khizroev and I] are very excited with the results that we have obtained in the lab, and in mouse models,” said Runowicz.

“We have developed a method that seems to treat the cancer cell and spare the normal cells. Of course we have more studies in the lab and eventually in patients, but the concept and results today are very exciting,” she said.

Making his fourth appearance as host for TEDxFIU, Wynn-Strachan will introduce a lineup of speakers that include: hip-hopper Reggie Barli, an independent recording artist from Miami and Todd Crowley, a level expert and Southeast Environmental Research Center director.

Children’s advocate, Nelson Hincapie will talk about his 15 years of experience dealing with foster kids. Rhett Williamson will discuss new and improved methods for the analysis of inks, which helps trace fraudulent currency, according to the website.

Following Williamson is autism philanthropist Patricia Kayser, an FIU graduate who will talk about why she started a non-profit organization, which focuses on helping to enhance the quality of life of autistic people through music.

Aileen Marty, FIU Health clinical lab director, who has helped combat against Ebola, and Jonathan Wynn-Strachan, founder of 60 Minutes of Art will also speak at the event.

Computer scientists will be able to purchase tickets online. An announcement will be made providing information for tickets this month.

The next TEDxFIU will take place November 5 at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

CrossFit now on campus

FIT, PAGE 1

your body for any sport. It will be very common to have to center on campus,” said Delleria.

Sydney Pena, a senior psychology major, disagrees. She thinks that since the University already has a gym membership covered by tuition, the center is unnecessary.

“Pay for CrossFit when you are already paying for the FIU rec center is overkill,” she said. “It maybe a different workout style, but it’s still money.”

Even interested can enroll in a first class.

Along with the new CrossFit gym, a physical therapy suite has opened next door.

Campus Chiropractic offers physical exams for University students, faculty and the general public. The clinic is currently offering free spinal exams for anyone who signs up.

“People can come in and find out about any biomechanical parts of their body like their backs, ankles or hips,” said Richard Samperis, chiropractic physician and partner at the clinic. “We encourage patients to come in and make sure their bodies are performing at their fullest.”

According to Samperis, the clinic works with the CrossFit gym, emphasizing the importance of listening to the coaches and coming into the clinic for any strange aches or pains.

“You really need to listen to your body,” Samperis said.

According to Ramirez, who’s also the head coach, CrossFit Keep Charging will have events around campus, including tailgates and campus life events, to promote the new program.

“It’s a good way to get people to put in the extra effort and get out their comfort zone,” he said.
Sea ice loss could mean the death of polar bears

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As global warming causes temperatures to increase, bringing about unbearable heat here in Miami, polar bears in cold climate areas are struggling to survive. Recent studies show that polar bears do not have the metabolism to adapt to a warming world.

Polar bears depend on ever-melting sea ice for denning; female polar bears create dens during the fall in order to give birth, then emerge in spring once their newborns are strong enough to trek upon the sea ice. Polar bears also depend on the sea ice for hunting, as it gives access to their main food source: seals. However, because sea ice is melting, many bears enter a state called “walking hibernation.”

Walking hibernation is a state polar bears undertake during the summer and fall when they can’t access food without lowering their body temperature. As a result, this causes their metabolism to slow. Polar bears lose their strength if they do not receive the daily calorie intake they need to survive the Arctic cold during the winter.

Low metabolism risks a polar bear’s ability to resist the cold. As temperatures decrease during the winter, the bears don’t have the strength to survive due to starvation and not being able to store up enough fat reserves to keep warm.

With sea ice melting and cutting off access to hunting grounds, some polar bears have no choice but to die direly grotesque measures: eat each other. Having no way of hunting prey and suffering from starvation while waiting to see if any food would come to them, some polar bears have turned toward cannibalism: one of them will live while the other ends up being dinner.

If the ice loss isn’t resolved, the bears might be forced to eat their own young, thereby directing their own population toward extinction to the point where future generations of humans might never see a single polar bear in the wild. This is one of the reasons why the polar bear population is decreasing, which has caused it to be under a vulnerable state.

Polar bears are threatened species.

Sea ice loss also affects polar bears by forcing them to swim longer distances as they struggle to find land; they burn too much energy while swimming, thus get tired easily and could possibly drown. The average distance a polar bear can swim is 155 kilometers, according to researchers who performed a study on polar bears in the southern Beaufort Sea off Alaska.

Even with that much strength, it is hard for bears to find land - partially melted, crumbling ice does not provide enough stability under a bear’s weight. No ice means polar bears have no choice but to keep swimming until they can find land, increasing their risk of drowning.

For the purpose of helping polar bears from sea ice losses, a solution suggested by a number of people is the installation of floating platforms. Floating platforms can keep polar bears from drowning by providing stability and a place to rest. Unfortunately, rafts are not a viable solution, since they won’t solve their hunting dilemma. The rafts would not provide polar bears a chance to catch prey, but simply block them from gathering food.

Polar bears also rely on the ice for breeding and denning. Female polar bears create dens during the fall to give birth, then emerge from their dens in spring when the cubs are strong enough.

Sea ice is also important not only to provide a way for polar bears to obtain food, but as an integral part of the Arctic ecosystem. Within the ice, salt generates bubbles which allow microorganisms to grow - they play a significant role in the arctic food chain. So, floating platforms are not a good idea to use for saving the bears - they would block them from retrieving the necessary nutrients they need to live. Each day that passes by, a polar bear suffers because of the burning of fossil fuels. With the melting of sea ice comes the risk of sea levels rising and polar bears dying from hunger and drowning. If carbon emissions aren’t reduced, wild polar bears will cease to exist by the end of the century.

To give polar bears a future, we should be a part of saving our planet and find ways in becoming green so they can be protected. The life of all polar bears depends on us changing our ways.

Sea World article gets facts wrong

I often read The Beacon and quite enjoy keeping up with the ins and outs of FIU and the local community. However, when I read Ariel Weinstein’s column “SeaWorld: Always two sides to a story,” published Sept. 3, I had to sit up in my seat and really digest the fact that my eyes were not deceiving me.

Weinstein started her opinion piece by stating: “For as far back as I can remember, my strongest passion in life has been animals.” She goes on to say that she was offered a job at SeaWorld and accepted, for which I congratulate Weinstein!

The basis of her acceptance, however, was made after receiving validation from SeaWorld that their treatment of their aquatic wildlife was other than she had personally assumed after viewing the movie “Blackfish,” a documentary about the capture orcas from the wild by SeaWorld, and their subsequent mistreatment of orcas while in captivity.

Apparently, Weinstein received sufficient information from SeaWorld to satisfy her doubts—an article I assume was written in the hopes that readers would agree with the notion that there are “always two sides to a story.”

My response to the title of the piece is: There are more than two sides to a story. There is SeaWorld’s version, the “Blackfish” story. There is the version and the version by the orcas captured against their will and cannot speak for themselves. Somewhere in the middle lies a true story.

Regardless of whose version of the story we want to believe, the truth will never change in that these orcas were once free mammals, roaming the waters of the North Pacific Ocean. The young orcas were hunted, placed in transportation containers on ships and transported miles away from their homes and families, whom they would never see again.

Now, I ask you to give this some thought. Close your eyes and envision the scene of chaos, of parents frantically trying to save their children. Second, I ask you to compare this orca situation to another human situation, where one species of mammal rounded up his same species to transport elsewhere.

This type capture reflects the capture of men, women and children who were hunted in Africa and forced into slavery. It mirrors how slaves were chained and their movement or escape restricted. It mirrors how slaves were loaded onto ships and transported to America to perform slave duties for others.

Claire D. Scott-Bacon
Student Psychology

To read the full letter, visit fiusm.com.
The Beacon – 4 Thursday, September 17, 2015
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LIFE!

‘That’s the Spirit’ strays from metalcore roots

Renovating oneself is a risky choice in the music industry and can lead to career suicide. Despite this, long-time British rockers Bring Me the Horizon have chosen to completely alter their image and style with their new album “That’s the Spirit,” released on Friday, Sept. 11.

Although Bring Me the Horizon’s previous album “Sempiternal” strayed far from their metalcore roots, “That’s the Spirit” deserves its own spotlight.

The 11-track album is one of the band’s best.

One of the more unique galleries, and a main attraction for the museum, is the “Celestial Traveler” exhibition by Carlos Estevez, a contemporary Cuban painter and an experimental mixed media artist.

The exhibit showcases an eclectic collection of different forms of artwork that he has worked on for years as he experimented with expressing different thoughts on the universe, religion, emotions and other topics. Viewers are provoked to think on an existential level, trying to guess the meanings behind Estevez’s intricate and symbolic pieces.

Upon entering, different works of mixed media pieces are placed throughout the room, all sharing a central subject: vintage telephones. Each telephone is a mishmash of different objects that represent different ideas, such as the “Texting Phone,” a retro telephone combined with an old typewriter, and the “Daydream Phone” which utilizes a sewing machine and old Candlestick-style telephone.

The next section is dedicated to his two-dimensional works, which are paintings and drawings with different subject matters that reflected his view of the world.

The first sets of paintings are watercolor sketches of animals with industrial schematics of different machines to represent the skeleton of each animal.

According to Estevez, man made machinery is “a projection of our own being,” thus we are inspired by our own design to make things like sewing machines, which he related to a chicken pecking the ground.

The next set are minimalist mixed media paintings revolving around existential concepts, like “El arte de la política”, which translates to the art of politics. This piece displayed multiple puppet-like figures in straight rows with black triangles at their core, and over all of them was a larger figure that seemed to be impaled by the triangles, as if it were lying on a bed of nails.

Supplementing the work were dozens of large pages from Estevez’s sketchbook that showed scenes that he has imagined and reinterpreted through quick sketches.

“My work is part of my limited experience,” Estevez explains, “so it is my visual life, what I feel or dream; [it] is a way to say it.”

These are just some of the many diverse pieces on display that expressed Estevez’s worldview and attracted many art lovers, both associated with FIU and not.

Camila Miorelli, a senior art history major who was working the event, explained that it was a great turn out for the exhibition.

“I think it’s because all the artists here [on display] are great, and this event had very good coverage,” Miorelli said.

Hailey Dun, a third year student from Johnson and Wales University, came to view the art for herself.

“All of his pieces are very interesting and make you think about what he’s trying to say: it’s one of the more unique contemporary art galleries I’ve been to,” said Dun.

Estevez’s industrial inspired works, along with many other pieces in the gallery can be seen at the Frost Art Museum from Sept. 12 through Jan. 3, 2016.

SEE ART, PAGE 5

‘That’s the Spirit’ strays from metalcore roots

The painful lyrics of “Sempiternal” are centered around self-hate, depression and various other emotional issues. This is unsurprising, given that singer Oliver Sykes was addicted to the drug ketamine prior to writing “Sempiternal.” In “That’s the Spirit,” Sykes tackles his demons in a brighter light, reflecting his new sober life.

The first few lines of “Shadow Moses,” a single off “Sempiternal,” are: “Can you tell from the look in our eyes/ We’re going nowhere/We live our lives like we’re ready to die/We’re going nowhere” Compared to “Throne,” a single off of “That’s The Spirit,” one can see the improvement of Sykes’ emotional state: “The sticks and the stones that/You used to throw/Have built me an empire/ So don’t even try/To cry me a river/Cause I forgive you.”

One main reason why “That’s the Spirit” deserves the five stars it has received in many reviews is the lyrical impact of each song. Impactful songs include “Oh No,” where Sykes writes about former addicts, “True Friends,” where he touches upon betrayal and “Avalanche,” where Sykes mentions suicide and mental illness.

Although “That’s the Spirit” consists of material that is emotionally heavy, other songs lighten the mood. Songs such as “Happy Song” and “Avalanche” achieve this change in tone through various instruments. Syke’s anger and sadness, combined with the sound of instruments that convey hope, creates an album that can be listened to over and over again.

Even though Bring Me the Horizon has left their metalcore and deathcore roots in the past, the band has matured.

Bring Me the Horizon is currently on tour with Parkway Drive and Issues, stopping by Florida on Thursday, Oct. 1 at the Hard Rock in Orlando. Tickets are available on Ticketmaster.
COLUMNIST

M E L I S S A  L A N D E R S

“Alienated” follows the story of Cara Sweeny, a young teenage boy named Aelyx. His arrival changes Cara’s life completely. Whether for the better or the worse is open to discussion.

I originally bought this book because the cover attracted my attention. I had no idea what it was going to be about...other than aliens and a possible love relationship. I was both right and wrong.

It was a fun read because it was not exactly what I expected it to be. Yes, there was the obvious romance between Aelyx and Cara but it was not the main story plot of the book. Their relationship did not bloom in any way until the last 60 pages of the book.

The story focused on the idea of how we, humanity, are so reluctant to adapt to and accept something new. There are people who do not like the L’eihrs and want nothing to do with them. So much so that they go as far as to try to pass a bill to get rid of the three L’eihr students from Earth! Humanity’s fear of new things was mesmerizing because it can be applied to the current world. I do not know if that was Landers’ key goal in this story, but it is scary that humanity’s fear stops us from learning new things.

L’eihrs have similar DNA to humans but as Aelyx always tells Cara, “They are not humans”. The L’eihrs are obviously much more advanced than humanity, since they were the ones to make contact with Earth, but at the same time the L’eihr race is a lot like humanity. They have as much fear of humans as humans do of them. The difference is that they don’t act upon it rashly like the humans do.

I am not the biggest fan of plain romance novels, and if you are like that too my dear reader, then you will not be disappointed with this novel.

Cara’s character took a while for me to fall in love with due to the fact that she would let other people influence her. Once she wanned up she was a joy to read. Cara is willing to stand up for what she believes in even if it means the rest of her classmates don’t.

It takes a lot of guts to be able to keep a strong face when everyone pretty much hates you because you have an alien living in your house.

Aelyx’s character was my all time favorite, mostly because he is a bit sarcastic and he is 110% done with human food as it apparently has too many flavours. From the very beginning Landers makes him very likable even if he do not like the L’eihrs and want nothing to do with them. Personally, I fell in love with him when he had to start reciting the human periodic table, for reasons you’ll understand if you read the book.

My biggest complaint about this story is that it lacked descriptions. There were times where I couldn’t picture the scene clearly and it bothered me because I wanted to have a clear image in my mind. There were a few plot holes, but this is the first book of the trilogy, so hopefully the holes are filled as the books progress.

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Super foods to power your super semester

The Beacon – Thursday, September 17, 2015

Exams and quizzes have already begun and by now you probably have at least one due date for a major paper. The sleepless nights become endless and the pressure builds up. It leaves us wishing that there was a way to get through the week.

Well, the foods you eat can help a lot. As a matter of fact, there are a few delicious, natural foods that can help you concentrate more. A healthy diet is one based on variety. All foods have different nutritional value and provide certain health benefits for the human body. There are some foods that are healthier and better used for a specific bodily functions and more specifically, the mind.

Here is a list of superfoods to sharpen your mind:

**Tomatoes**
Tomatoes are a great source of antioxidants because they contain lycopene and Vitamin C. They are good for the brain because they help protect against free radical damage to cells. For an on-the-go snack, take a tomato and cut it in half. Add a pinch of salt and eat it like an apple or an orange. After all, it is a fruit.

**Almonds**
Phenylalanine, which is an amino acid found in almonds, has the ability to cross the blood-brain barrier where it stimulates the brain to induce adrenaline. Almonds are also high in riboflavin, which is known to boost memory. So, keep a pack of almonds in your bag and enjoy a healthy snack during those late-night study sessions.

**Berries**
Berries to enhance cognition, coordination and memory munch on some berries. Blueberries improve the potency of neuron signals. They are also known as the “brain berry,” and are considered a super food when eaten in their natural form.

**Eggs**
Eggs are a great source of high quality proteins and are rich in vitamins and minerals. A nutrient called choline, found in eggs, improves the memory center in the brain. Choline has been found to increase the size of neurons, which helps them fire strong electrical signals.

Brains need proper nourishment. This nourishment is vital to creative thought, positive mood, memory and good overall health. It’s no surprise that your diet affects how you think, feel and remember. Get creative and prepare combinations that are easy to snack on when you need a little boost.

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CELESTIAL FROST

Above: “Daydream Phone” One of the many vintage telephones that Carlos Estevez used to communicate a certain concept. This one communicates “Hold onto Your Dream” using a sewing machine and an early 20th century phone.

Right: Carlos Estevez’s gallery entrance and his artist statement on display for viewers to read before entering.
FOOTBALL

WELCOME HOME, BOYS

FIU highly favored against North Carolina Central University in home opener

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If there’s one thing I’ve noticed about this year’s FIU football team, it’s that they’re nothing like the team of a season ago. Sure, they returned a lot of starters and Ron Turner is still the head coach; however, the mindset and maturity of this team has changed drastically in a positive way.

You could tell how much different this team is than they were last year just by looking at their first game in each season.

In the 2014 season opener, FIU played an incredibly sloppy game and were upset by FCS opponent Bethune-Cookman University.

This year? FIU had a Week 1 upset of their own against the heavily favored University of Central Florida Knights.

Despite their close loss at the hands of the Indiana University Hoosiers over the weekend, the 2015 FIU Panthers are the real deal.

This year’s team shouldn’t have to worry about losing against FCS schools like they did last season, which brings us to this weekend’s home opener against the lone FCS team on FIU’s schedule: the North Carolina Central University Eagles.

Coming off a heartbreaking loss last week, FIU should be more motivated than ever. NC Central is (on paper at least) the easiest opponent that they’ll face all season, and the Panthers need to win games like these if they want to make a Bowl Game this winter.

NC Central opened their season with an impressive 72-0 rout of St. Augustine’s University, though in their first game against a Division I opponent last week they were shut out by Duke University 35-0.

Although the Eagles looked great in their season opener, the Panthers are still a heavy favorite.

The key for the Panthers to avoid a colossal upset this weekend is to move the ball productively and limit turnovers.

Turnovers killed them against Indiana, as the Hoosiers scored a touchdown off each of the 3 FIU turnovers in the game.

Against an inferior opponent such as NC Central, however, they should have a much easier time holding onto the football.

Though they weren’t all his

SEEN OPENER, PAGE 7

WOMEN’S TENNIS

Women open with Milwaukee Tennis Classic

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The FIU women’s tennis team opens their 2015-16 season Friday, Sept. 18 at the 2015 Milwaukee Tennis Classic hosted by Marquette in conjunction with The Town Club. It will be the Town Club’s fifth year as hosts for this tournament. The tournament runs from Friday, Sept. 18 through Sunday, Sept. 20.

Also participating in the women’s side of the tournament are Cincinnati and Wisconsin. Matches will be held at Fox Point.

“Milwaukee was one of my favorite places to visit!” senior Carlotta Orlando said. “It was fun going to see that city.”

The tournament is a round robin for both singles and doubles, which means every player or team plays against every other opposing player or team. Points are awarded if a team or player wins.

The player with the most points from singles and doubles combined wins the tournament.

Seniors Kaitlin Brozovich from Michigan and Carlotta Orlando from Italy look to start their final year strong. Last time FIU played in that tournament was in 2013 and Orlando won all her singles matches in straight sets and lost only once in doubles. FIU went on to win all their singles matches on day one and won 11 singles matches along with five doubles matches.

Last season was the last year for Yana Koroleva, who lead FIU in wins and winning percentage by sporting a 16-3 record in singles. Without Koroleva’s production the Panthers will have to look to to junior Nina Nagode who won the singles tournament in 2013 and also had a singles record of 23-8 last season. Nagode did not lose in conference play last season going 7-0.

The doubles team of Nagode and Koroleva was 12-0 in 2015. The Panthers are going to look to replace the production of Koroleva with the depth on the team. Carlotta Orlando, who had a career best 21-10 singles record last season, will have to step up for this Panther team. She won 16 matches last season in straight sets and went 6-1 versus conference opponents, including 2-1 in the Conference-USA championships. And the Bosnia/Herzegovina native Nerma Caluk who has a WTA (Women’s Tennis Association) ranking nearly in the top 1000 will have to make up for the loss of Koroleva.

On Friday, Sept. 18 at 12 a.m. FIU gets things kicked off with a doubles match vs Cincinnati. Then at 11 a.m., they play women’s singles against Wisconsin. On Saturday Sept. 19th at 9 a.m., FIU plays doubles against Wisconsin and at 11 a.m. the Panthers take on Marquette in singles. Finally, on Sunday Sept. 20, FIU has a doubles match with Marquette at 9 a.m. and they close out the tournament playing singles against Cincinnati.

With the 2015-2016 FIU season looming, the Panthers look to this Friday as they begin their season in Milwaukee. The juniors and underclassmen on the team look to grow. Players like Orlando and Nagode had improved years from their previous campaigns. They look to build on that.

The Panther’s next tournament is in mid-October when FIU attends the Bedford Cup in Ft. Meyers, Fla.
**Swimming and Diving aim for repeat title**

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As the Panthers are in preparations to win another swimming and diving Conference USA Championship, Head Coach Randy Horner isn’t even blinking when it comes to him and his team watching up and coming challenges to their back-to-back campaign.

FIU won the C-USA Title last season, in an amazing run led by Johanna Gustafsdottir, last year’s FIU Female Athlete of the Year. Gustafsdottir was one of many dominant swimmers and divers here at the University.

Gustafsdottir is one of many on the team who were recruited from another country, something that Horner began doing “more so out of necessity,” considering most student athletes in the U.S. are enamored with the dream of going to school like the University of Florida, or FIU’s big brother, the University of Miami.

“They grow up wanting to have the Gators on their chest,” Horner said.

Horner, because of this, has been forced to go across country lines for recruits, but it’s become a bit of an advantage for him. His recruits have always been head and shoulders above the competition, and this freshman class looks to be no different. He’s not letting it go to his, or his swimmer’s, heads, though.

“We have a lot of things to accomplish, and a lot of things to get done, to repeat as champions,” Horner said.

FIU swimming and diving looks to carry this sort of chip on their shoulder into, and through the season, on the road to repeat. Their first meet is Saturday, Oct. 3, so they have just over two weeks to finish getting ready, but with Horner at the helm, that won’t be much of a concern.

**FIU highly favored to win**

**OPENER, PAGE 6**

fault, quarterback Alex McGough was responsible for all three of FIU’s turnovers against the Hoosiers. His status is still uncertain after leaving last week’s game early with an undisclosed injury, but there is optimism that he’ll be able to play on Saturday because he was taking first team reps at practice this week.

Regardless, I think they’ll pick up a lopsided victory against NC Central. Not quite the 55-point blowout that Duke handed to NC Central last week, but I don’t think FIU will have too much of a problem in this one.

At the end of the day it all comes down to talent, and FIU simply has more talent than NC Central.

The Eagles have some great players on their team, most notably their star linebackers Reggie Hunter and Jordan Miles, but the Panthers have more playmakers on both sides of the field.

The playmaker with the most potential is freshman Anthony Jones. He showed flashes of what he’s capable of against UCF, but I think this week we’ll finally see him worked into the offense even more.

If Jones is able to get significant playing time along with McGough’s top targets Thomas Owens, Jonnau Smith, and Ya’Keem Griner, this offense should look incredible in Saturday’s game.

Prediction: FIU defeats North Carolina Central 41-6. You can never underestimate an opponent no matter who they are, but I’d be shocked if the Panthers weren’t a 2-1 going into their Conference USA opener against Louisiana Tech on Sept. 19.

Last year when these two rivals collide, the Panthers came on top with a 2-0 victory against the Owls. One of the scores was lead by then freshman and now sophomore Darren Rios. Expect both Rios and Senior Midfielder Daniel Gonzales to lead the Panthers and put them in scoring position.

The game will be at FAU and begin 7 p.m. in Boca Raton.  
*Additional reporting by Alejandro Aguirre*
The University will celebrate its Hispanic student population during Hispanic Heritage Month from Monday, Sept. 16 to Wednesday, Oct. 14. The national commemoration recognizes the contributions and heritage of Hispanics and Latinos across the country. Hispanic Heritage Month typically starts Sept. 15 and ends Oct. 15.

The Biscayne Bay Campus Student Programming Council will host different events throughout the month, including discussion panels and a “Pachanga by the Bay” concert. Panels include topics on race and identity in Haiti and Dominican Republic as well as the significance of black populations in Mexico and Peru.

“Some may say we touch on sensitive topics, but it’s important because it’s current happenings right now. We like to get students’ input and thoughts on the matters at concern,” said Kaytien Franco, marketing assistant for BBC Campus Life.

Franco said her favorite event is the Hispanics in the Media Roundtable, where students will be able to network with professionals in the Hispanic media industry. It will take place Tuesday, Sept. 22 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center room 224B.

They will provide insight and encouragement in all media fields such as print, marketing, advertising and broadcast, said Franco.

“I hate to be biased, but since I helped coordinate the event, this will have to be one of my favorite events,” she said.

Speakers include staff from the Miami Herald, the Dream Team Agency, a Latin public relations agency and Grizelle De Los Reyes, School of Journalism & Mass Communications professor.

“I’m very excited. This is a celebration but also an opportunity to educate. All students are welcome; this is not limited to Hispanic culture,” Franco said.

Brent & Du Beatz and Bachamambo will perform at the “Pachanga by the Bay” concert, which will also feature a first-ever “La Hora Loca” fiesta hosted by DJ Zog, Thursday, Sept. 24. It will take place at the Panther Plaza from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

There will also be a Don Motoigo food truck at the event where first 50 participants will receive a food voucher. Free tickets are available at spcpachanga2015.eventbrite.com. Admission to general public is at $10.

The event has shown to be a student favorite bringing in the largest crowds, said Franco.

Discussions on race and identity in Cuba will take place Tuesday, Oct. 13 hosted by the Black in Latin America Series. It will be led by Harvard University professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., an American historian, filmmaker and writer.

There will also be a showing of the film “Furious 7,” which follows Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel) and Brian O’Conner (Paul Walker) and a rogue special forces assassin. It will take place at the WUC room 157 at two different showings, 12 p.m. and 5 p.m.