GC pit undergoes renovations

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
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University students will now have to wait until next year to host events at the Graham Center pit.

The Graham Center at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus has placed a barricade around the pit for renovations.

Renovations include audiovisual enhancements, acoustical treatment, lighting and a video wall of 150 inches, according to GC director of administrative services, Carlos Carrasco.

Carrasco said the pit will be ready sometime in January.

The size of the pit will not be increasing, but there will be an improvement in the quality of the space, he said. According to Carrasco, past presentations at the pit have been substandard.

“It’s hard to hear, the lighting is poor and the audio is muffled sometimes,” Carrasco said.

“Today we have to hear the lighting is poor and the audio is muffled sometimes,” Carrasco said.

“Students who made reservations to use the pit were notified two or three weeks in advance. Plans to renovate the pit began in November 2014, Carrasco said.

Carrasco also said that the Center planned to start the renovations in November because of holidays and final exams.

“So, there’s not a whole lot of events going on,” Carrasco said.

Students will now be holding events mainly at the lawn on the north side of campus, the Green Library Breezeway and the Betty Construction Plaza.

Highlights from Board of Governors meeting

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
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The University hosted the Board of Governors and Trustees Summit Wednesday, Nov. 4 and Thursday, Nov. 5. Representatives of the 12 Florida public universities discussed the future of academics in the state.

The State University System’s Board of Governors updated the performance funding model and approved for the first time a systemwide Strategic Plan for Online Education during their two-day marathon of meetings.

The Board approved a tiebreaker for its performance funding model and agreed to change the model from a 25-point to a 50-point scale.

The Strategic Plan for Online Education charts a path for online education out to the year 2025 and continues the system’s growth in online student enrollments, as well as strategies to reduce student and institutional costs.

The BoG focused on innovation and student success with their passing of the above measures, which were former Board Chairman Mori Hosseini’s initiatives.

“The opportunities in front of us with online education are enormous,” Hosseini said. “Our state can only gain the full benefit of that if we establish ambitious goals and a plan to meet them.”

He said.

For the second consecutive year, the University hosted the Board of Governors’ Trustee Summit which took place simultaneously with the Board meeting. The event took place at the Graham Center Ballrooms Wednesday, Nov. 4 and Thursday, Nov. 5.

The University’s Board of Trustees members and University President, Mark B. Rosenberg, welcomed speakers Benno Schmidt, chairman of the City University of New York and Ken Ford, founder and CEO of the Institute for Human Cognition and Albert Manero, the inventor of the bionic arm prototype.

Manero, the founder of Limbitless Solutions, announced during the meeting that his nonprofit is working on a “12 Arms for Christmas” initiative, which will deliver 12 prosthetic arms to children in 11 states around the country in time for the holidays. Limbitless has now added a team of students from the University of Florida as the first Limbitless branch site.

“This initiative provides an opportunity for us to give arms to more children while at the same time training dozens more engineers to use this technology,” said Manero, who’s earning a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering. “It puts us one step closer to ensuring that families do not have to pay for their child to receive an arm.”

Governor Rick Scott spoke to the Board of Governors and the university’s boards of trustees Nov. 4 about the importance of being responsive to the state workforce and preparing students for successful careers.

The speech followed a letter to university stakeholders in which he asked for feedback on how universities can meet the demand of Florida’s fastest-growing companies and increase communication with students about the salaries they can expect by degree.

Department of Economic Opportunity Director, Jesse Panuccio, who was Scott’s general counsel’s office from January 2011 to 2013, updated Board members on the health of Florida’s economy.

Jobs in Florida grew by 3.4 percent since Scott took office. It’s the fastest of the nation’s ten most populous states.

Panuccio also touted Florida: A Higher Degree for Business, the State University System’s unified campaign to build connections with the business community.

The Board heard a presentation on the success of Florida’s Targeted Educational Attainment Grant Program. The TEAm Grant Initiative, funded with $15 million from the Governor and Legislature, debuted in early 2014 and is “helping to close workforce gaps in accounting and computer information and technology,” according to an SUS press release.

Florida Student Association President and Board of Governors Student Representative, Tonnette Graham, updated the Board on campus food pantry initiatives. Graham said 10 universities have food pantries on their campuses and others are in the planning stages.

Students continue walk on water tradition in event

MELISSA BURGESS
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Every year, architecture professor Jaime Canaves tasks his students with an assignment. The project: to walk on water. The idea of creating shoes to walk on water should do something a little bit different, so I came up with the idea of creating shoes to walk on water.

I had a lot of fun and, even though it’s not as easy to see, I think that my students could be more creative. I thought they should do something a little bit different, so I came up with the idea of creating shoes to walk on water.

The University also gives additional $1,000 scholarships to the winners. First place gets $1,000, second place gets $750 and third place gets $500. If the student breaks the record for best time across the lake - currently set at one minute, three seconds, they get an additional $1,000.

Canaves said that students spend a lot of time in the studio preparing for this assignment.

SEE WATER, PAGE 4
Donald Trump’s SNL appearance raises questions about media ethics

In June, NBC cut ties with Donald Trump as immigration advocates led furious protests over his allegations of Mexican immigrant “rapists.” This weekend, the network is presenting Donald Trump’s SNL appearance, scheduled to meet with Obama next week in an effort to patch up strained relations.

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The appointment of a new public diplomacy chief by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu kicked up a storm of controversy Thursday when it emerged that the nominee had suggested President Barack Obama was anti-Semitic and derided Secretary of State John Kerry in Facebook postings. The controversies about

The controversy erupted over moderates’ questions at a debate hosted by one of the company’s cable affiliates, CNBC.

Just one week after NBCUniversal took heat from the other side of the political spectrum _ the Republican National Committee and Republican candidates, including Trump himself _ over moderates’ questions at a debate hosted by one of the company’s cable affiliates, CNBC.

The revelations about the anti-Semitic appointee, Ran Baratz, who lives in a settlement in the occupied West Bank and is a founder of a right-wing website, came on the eve of Netanyahu’s planned visit to Washington, where he is scheduled to meet with Obama next week in an effort to patch up strained relations.

A total of 736,322 abortions were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2011, a five percent decrease from 2010. According to Kristina Maldonado, the president of Catholic Panthers, the number is still high.

"Today, these topics are all hush-hush and avoided,” Maldonado said. “Keeping the child is not going to wreck your life and [we are] raising awareness on the negative consequences on aborting your child and the emotional consequences, which aren’t really talked about either."

Catholic Panthers, in collaboration with other organizations, will be hosting an open discussion to talk about the “right to be born” and the different options available for couples facing an unwanted pregnancy. The event will take place Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. in AHC5 Room 212. Maldonado hopes to get people to understand the pro-life mindset, a social and political movement in the United States that opposes abortion and believes that human life begins at conception, and stray away from pro-choice, a movement that advocates a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion. The pro-life and pro-choice movements may have started with the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision, which decriminalized and legalized elective abortion in a number of states.

Maldonado wants students to come to discuss this at the event, all while bringing their own opinions and viewpoints for debate. “Our event is non-religious and non-political,” she said. “It’s an educational event based on the fact that, at conception, even if people just say they’re cells, there is a baby. Scientifically, there is a child there. If the cells were not disrupted, a human would form. A person like you and I would be born.”

Some students are skeptical about attending the event. “I just don’t know why I would go,” said Emesto Menendez, a freshman biology major. “The truth is that it already seems like these people are going to try to convince me to be pro-life. Heck, just look at the title of the event: right to be born. I might just go over and fight them on this.”

Claudia Hernandez, a sophomore women’s studies major, is excited to attend. “Of course I’ll be there,” she said. “Of course I’ll be there.”

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EDITORIAL

This Funeral is Dead

For the past year, America has been aching for closure on the matter of Sandra Bland. She was killed in a Texas jail on July 13, 2015, and the events that followed led to the resignation of police chief William Swanton. On November 9, 2015, the family of Sandra Bland released a letter written by former Texas Governor Rick Perry to her family, expressing his condolences and offering to help them understand the events that led to her death.

The letter reads:

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of Sandra Bland. She was a bright young woman with a life full of promise, and her tragic death is a loss for all of us. I want to express my deepest sympathies to her family and friends.

As Governor of Texas, I am committed to ensuring that our justice system is fair and just. In the wake of Sandra’s death, we have taken steps to improve the way we handle criminal cases and ensure that law enforcement officers are held accountable for their actions.

I want to assure you that we are committed to learning from this tragedy and working to prevent it from happening again. Thank you for your understanding and support."
Students showcase the beauty of Latin jazz

RICARDO CHAVEZ
Contributing Writer
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The University is well-renowned due to its eclectic vibe and multicultural student body. It’s no surprise then that, Tuesday, Nov. 3, the Florida International University Jazz ensemble enticed viewers not only with their renditions of well-known Latin classics, but with their original compositions. They attempted to purvey the Spanish ambiance that seemingly fills the university in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center. Some of the selections that were played during the show included “Pure Spirit,” “Five for Elvin,” “Iracuba” and “To Brenda with Love.” The musical spectacle was directed by Mike Orta, an associate professor and the Director of Jazz Performance, who has also traveled across the globe in an attempt to display the importance of musical knowledge to foreign individuals. Many students and university staff alike came to witness the event. Some individuals stressed the importance of a culturally driven event. “Musical showcases like these display the hard work and dedication put forth by the performers of the event, all of which are students,” said Natalie Lopez, one of our university students, said. “Their perseverance is not only an attempt to play good music, but to bring a culturally enriching atmosphere to an already diverse campus.” Another student, Jose Fuguet, also enjoys the eclectic side of Jazz. “If there is one thing I like about Latin jazz, it’s the pure and raw feeling that it conveys.”

Students to walk on water

Matt Bendet, BBC Library Staff and Alumni, Class of 2008, Major: Political Science, Journalism

“Actually, I’ve been asked a couple of crazy questions. One time it was, ‘Where’s the exit?’ So I’m kind of like... ‘over there’ (points to door about 10 feet away from him). I think they were probably new students that had no idea what this building was. Maybe they thought it was the bookstore. Who knows.”

Canaves said that this project is important for students because it’s very similar to the complexity of designing and constructing a building. “In any exam, you are testing memory and knowledge, but it doesn’t build anything at all,” Canaves said. “Students are going to be responsible, in the future, for designing buildings and making sure they have strong foundations. This project is a similar process where the students have to design, build, look at the collections, see how it performs and how it works. It’s similar to the cycle of the designing of a building.”

But Kasmai is nervous. “I would love to say I’m only excited for the competition, but an entire exam grade is riding on the success of the shoes. I’m pretty nervous,” he said. “At this point, I’m going to be happy by just making it across the lake.” Kasmai said he’s making his sister walk across the lake due to her small size. “I don’t want to make a fool out of myself so having [her] do it alleviates me of some of my nervousness,” he said.

Canaves said the youngest person to ever participate was a 9-year-old girl who competed in place of her mother and came in ninth place, while the oldest was a 67-year-old female student. “It doesn’t even matter who you are, what their size is, anyone can do it,” Canaves said. Walking on Water has been an FIU tradition for the past 26 years. Previously, the event has been covered by news stations, including Channel 10, Channel 7 and Channel 2. This year, the event will take place Tuesday, Nov. 11 at 11:30 a.m. behind the Green Library. The event is free and open to the public.

“There will be a documentary about this event that will cover the past 25 years, and it would be a dream for more students around the world to participate in Walk on Water, turning this annual tradition into an international affair,” said Canaves.
People with autism do not live in their own world, they live in ours, said Patricia Kayser.

Kayser, a senior liberal arts major, talked about her purpose in life to help people with autism through music at the fourth annual TEDxFIU on Thursday, Nov. 5.

TEDxFIU is a self-organized event branded TEDs, which is a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas in the form of short, powerful talks.

Kayser and a group of six other women have served more than 250 families who cope with autism. Two years ago, she created a nonprofit organization called, “Autism and Music,” to enhance the quality of life for people with autism through music interaction.

Kayser was inspired by her 15-year-old brother who was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. She realized that music helped him to socialize more when she played with him the guitar.

“It’s like music unlocked something in him,” said Kayser. “It’s through him that I found my path in life.”

One in 68 U.S. children has an autism spectrum disorder, a 30 percent increase from one in 88 two years ago, according to a 2014 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to the American Music Therapy Association, music therapy brings into effect changes in behavior and it facilitates development of skills.

“Music lets people with autism feel free. It gives them the opportunity to release stress and to interact and socialize with others,” Kayser said.

Todd Crawl, co-founder of the University’s Sea Level Solutions Center, also spoke at the event.

“We’re not sure if that’s why sea levels are historically higher, but the science indicates that we need to look for alternative fuel that has yet to be thought of,” Crawl said.

Other speakers at the event included Nelson Hincapié, a University 2006 alumnus, who works with children in foster care. He is currently mentoring adolescents who have aged out of foster care and are making a transition to independent living.

Carolyn Runowicz, Academic Affairs executive associate dean and a gynecologic oncologist at the University’s Herbert Werthen College of Medicine, talked about a breakthrough in removing cancer cells.

She and Sakhrat Khizroev, an electric and computer engineering professor, are using nanotechnology to selectively target cancer cells to possibly offer new and innovative treatment.

University presents TEDxFIU
WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

Panthers to celebrate Senior Night in final home game

Stefano Rivera

The Florida International University women’s volleyball team will be bringing its final game at Home Court this season on Sunday, Nov. 8, at 1 p.m.

The Panthers will be celebrating Senior Night, as four players will be taking the court at home for the final time. These include outside hitter, Lucia Castro, Middle blocker, Gloria Levorin and libero, Adriana McLean and Jovanna Santamarina.

The Panthers will face off against University of North Texas (16-11, 8-4 in Conference USA). The Mean Green are currently third in the conference standings and will look to improve their record in their final road game of the season.

FIU is sixth in the C-USA standings, but will need to gather up a few more wins in order to remain one of the top eight teams to make the conference championship. The Panthers are tied with Florida Atlantic for the East midway through the season.

Last season, the Mean Green swept the Panthers in straight sets as they dominated throughout the match. North Texas finished with 23 kills and a .092 hitting percentage over Florida. FIU finished with 23 kills and a .292 hitting percentage. Castro and Levorin combined for nine kills and McLean had a match-high 15 digs.

The Owls are in their first year on campus. How about Marshall at East Tennessee?

But the defense may be the game. Owls outgaining the Owls 455-281 for the game.

Of seven sacks by the Owls (2-6, 1-3), the Owls have a good shot at winning three more games.

Two teams need to win the closest game.

The Owls can become bowl eligible with a strong close.

In: WKU, Marshall, Louisiana Tech and Southern Miss.

It might be better theater for Conference USA. How C-USA bowl chances shakier?

Florida Atlantic (2-6, 2-3) this Saturday, gets a week off and travels to Florida International (4-5, 2-3); MU travels to TSU this weekend and hosts FIU.

In the West, Louisiana Tech (6-3 overall) and Southern Miss (6-3) are tied at 4-1, with the Bulldogs playing North Texas on Saturday and the Golden Eagles off. The only team that can mess the “semifinal” up is Rice (4-4, 2-2), which hosts Southern Miss on Nov. 14.

Tech booted the Owls out of the upper echelon with a dominating 42-17 win last Friday in Houston. The Bulldogs jumped to a 35-7 lead after the first possession of the second half, outgaining the Owls 455-281 for the game.

Jeff Driskel threw for four touchdowns and Kenneth Dixon ran for two, as the Bulldogs took the Owls by the nose.

Tech coach Skip Holtz. They have been scoring over 30 points a game and we held them to 10 points before the final drive when our ‘tows went in. Their quarterback scrambled so much because our secondary did such a good job that there was nowhere to throw the ball.

Growing pains at Rice

Speaking of Rice, the Owls have another Friday night, this time against Texas-El Paso. If the Miners (3-5, 1-3) win, the schedule favors them to become bowl-eligible. If they win, the Owls will be in very good shape.

It would be a boost for a team that has played 29 freshmen this year, tying Big 12 contention and a .250 hitting percentage for the national high.

Nineteen of the Owls’ 29 freshmen are redshirts, but 10 are in their first year on campus.

How will they recover from being roughed up last week?

“Many things you learn at Rice University, nothing’s impossible,” said ninth-year coach David Bailiff. “You just have to keep working with them.”

FIU’s bowl follies

Conference USA’s chances of filling all seven guaranteed bowl spots took a hit last week when Florida International fell to Florida Atlantic 31-17. FIU (4-5, 2-3) now has to beat Charlotte on Saturday, thus split a Marshall/ WKU final stretch.

The Panthers were held to 262 total yards, partly a product of seven sacks by the Owls (2-6, 2-3) for 57 yards. Two turnovers, including the “pick-six” throw by Lex McGough, didn’t help.

“Did we don’t protect-well enough, and that’s not just on offense,” said FIU coach Ron Turner. “It’s everyone involved, and we have to get rid of the ball.”

How C-USA bowl chances stack up:

In: WKU, Marshall, Louisiana Tech and Southern Miss.

Schedule favors it: Rice, MTU (even if it loses to Marshall and falls to 3-6).

On shaky ground: FIU, UTEP. On very shaky ground: Old Dominion (3-5, 1-3).

Gasing: FAU

Gone: North Texas (1-7, 1-4), Texas-San Antonio (1-7, 1-3).

Around the league

North Carolina has settled in as WKU’s featured back after the loss of Leon Allen. He ran for 186 yards and four touchdowns last week against Old Dominion, his third 100-yard game in a row. He was named C-USA’s offensive player of the week.

In WKU and Louisiana Tech, the envy are the envy of line coaches across the nation, let alone in Conference USA. How have they come to the wire? 10-2 in all their games.
Panthers’ defense get grounded

DAVID J. NEAL
The Miami Herald TNS

Remember when FIU’s 2012 defense, with 11 starters back and two future NFL players, mitigated the mortgage market collapse that made Goldman Sachs a lot of money? Now, in a sequel, FIU’s 2015 defense is starting to resemble the Greece of money? Now, in a sequel, FIU’s 2015 collapse that made Goldman Sachs a lot of money.

“I don’t know if I’ve ever heard of a bank that was good one year and bad the next. But no scabs had grown over the scrapes left by Saturday’s loss. The latest to redshirt in 2015 will likely be back this week against Charlotte. And the Nov. 12 2:30 p.m. regular season finale against Western Kentucky remains. For the latter, FIU might have to outscore one of the NCAA’s most prolific offenses for bowl eligibility.

“I could change a lot of things. Controlling what I could control, trying to lead the guys, push them harder, stuff like that.”

McGough didn’t mention the continual offensive line injuries prompted by the season’s recent sting in their season-high total tackles.

“Hey, it’s not all on Dyson, the most talented defensive player we have,” Turner said Saturday for seven sacks.

“’The football smarts they bring is just tremendous,” said senior middle linebacker Jephete Matilus.

“Neither of those guys have a lot more. Housemade tuna salad, provolone, homemade Italian vinaigrette. jammed into one of our homemade French bread, fresh veggies and the finest meats & store! It tastes better that way!

“Your mom wants you to eat at Jimmy John’s!” ®

WE DELIVER! 7 DAYS A WEEK

PHOTO BY DAVID J. NEAL

Panthers try to rebound from tough loss

DAVID J. NEAL
The Miami Herald TNS

“We need all 11 starters back and two future NFL players, that’s what made our defense good.”

Senior tight end Javon Thompson said Saturday after the loss to FAU. “Our guys played hard defensively. Those guys found the creases and outmaneuvered us a bit.”

The loss hurts FIU’s bowl eligibility chances. Video by David J. Neal

FOOTBALL

ATTENDANCE GOAL CLOSE

The official numbers say FIU will manage to stav off NCAA attendance probation.

FBS schools are required to average 15,000 per home game in actual or paid attendance. FIU’s total official paid attendance after three of five home games is 48,327, an average of 16,109 per game.

With 26,673 over the last two home games, 13,337 per game, FIU will meet its attendance requirement. Saturday’s noon game against Charlotte and the Nov. 21 2:30 p.m. regular season finale against Western Kentucky remains. For the latter, FIU might have to outscore one of the NCAA’s most prolific offenses for bowl eligibility.

With two of five home games being attendance-crippling noon starts and no Power Five conference opponents visiting, there was concern at FIU that the school would fall short of the requirement for a second consecutive season. Two consecutive seasons would put FIU one missup from receiving a conference championship game ban and a bowl game ban.

This Saturday, FIU’s attempt to boost the in-house attendance with a Salute to Hometown Heroes Day. Active or retired military personnel and first responders (fire, police, emergency, medical folks) and their groups will receive free admission.
Objectification vs. empowerment discussion at BBC

FRANCOIS CARDIER
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Students met up last Wednesday at the Biscayne Bay Campus at the “Lunch, Learn and Lean in” event organized by the Women’s Center of FIU.

The event was set as an open forum for the discussion of the subject “empowerment versus objectification” and it raised the question “who has the power?”

The event started with a presentation that encouraged people to voice their opinions and preferences. The presentation was conducted by Roghanne Avh, a senior English major, who attended the Women’s Center.

“There, now what is objectification for you?” said Avi. Attendants pondered for a while. One by one, people casted their opinion. During a discussion about Miley Cyrus’ appearance at the “MTV Video Music Awards” in 2013, the participants were asked whether her performance was empowering or objectifying.

“Objectification depends on a personal line and everybody knows when to draw their personal line,” said Michael, a business major.

Questions led to opinionated answers that divided the luncheon attendees on the different topics discussed during the presentation.

Meredith Morgan, coordinator of the Women’s Center, voiced her opinion during the event and maintained the topics moving so that everyone had an opportunity to talk.

“...As the society structure is set, the way society is, women are more objectified than men,” said Morgan, during a discussion about the objectification between men and women.

During this discussion, the example of Caitlyn Jenner and her public gender change this past year came up.

“Take, for example, Caitlyn Jenner. When she was Bruce Jenner, people talked about his athletic achievements and stuff like that, but when he became Caitlyn all she was, was her gender and her body,” said Morgan, illustrating her previous point.

“Chicken wings, chips and salsa provided fuel for the debate of ideas that lasted until 2 p.m.”

Coral reef in danger: can they be saved?

DAVID HELVARG
Los Angeles Times
TNS

Two Steps is a perfect snorkeling spot on the Big Island of Hawaii. Black lava rocks step down twice into the clear waters of a small bay where, on a good day, you’re guaranteed to see brightly colored fish and green sea turtles schooling through myriad forms of coral in shades of brown, green, yellow, pink and purple.

If you happened to visit last month, you would have found about 40 percent of the corals bleached — white as Levin's photographs of Hawaii’s future will become as starkly black and white as Levin's photographs of Hawaii’s marine life.

“The blue is defied. We can stay on our present path of overfishing, pollution, and climate change,” says Sheila McKenna, a marine ecologist at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. And a problem that seems to be accelerating.

With the return of a strong El Nino in the Pacific Ocean and the continued effects of global warming, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has just declared the third global coral bleaching event in history (the first two took place in 1998 during an earlier El Nino and in 2010).

“...Almost all the beautiful plate coral along the drop-offs was bleached. Yesterday I dove Ho'okena (Beach) and all the cauliflower and antler coral was bleached. I was completely blown away... When I left in mid-September all seemed fine. When I returned in mid-October complete devastation.”

Two Steps, it was even worse. Almost all the beautiful plate coral along the drop-offs was bleached. Yesterday I dove Ho'okena (Beach) and all the cauliflower and antler coral was bleached. I was completely blown away... When I left in mid-September all seemed fine. When I returned in mid-October complete devastation.

Come December and the U.N. climate summit in Paris, our choices for the future will become as starkly black and white as Levin’s photographs of Hawaii’s bleached corals.

We can stay on our present path of multiplying disasters or adopt that most basic of survival axioms: If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.

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