University embraces millennial trend

LESLIE OVALLE
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“Now, the Department of Parking and Transportation partnered up with the Office of Sustainability to paint shadows, a pavement marking that reminds motorists that the lane is shared with cyclists, around campus and build bike lanes on expanding roads. To someone like Bailly, who bikes 24 miles to and from the University, this is a big help. “Human interaction is a huge part of the adventure [when I’m biking],” he said. “One thing that’s really cool is the wildlife... I’ve encountered iguanas, vultures and marabou on my average day-to-day.”

495 destroyed downtown and we continue to fund these policies of superhighways that ruin our city and create so much pollution noise,” said Bailly.

Bailly travels, in which he experienced old University’s Honors College who hasn’t been able to adapt. “I-95 destroyed downtown... I've encountered iguanas, vultures and marabou on my average day-to-day.”

Jay Farmer, an AmeriCorps volunteer at the Center for Leadership and Service located at the Biscayne Bay Campus, as he started to arrange the cans in the shape of the letter “F” on top of a row of neatly organized sheets of oversized yellow paper on the floor. On Friday, Nov. 20, Farmer, along with two more volunteers – Tanisha Noel, a junior majoring in psychology and William Stamped, a junior majoring in marine biology, built a display of the University’s initials, titled Construction, out of cans of food as a “thank you” gesture to those who donated food to the Food Pantry during the week.

The student organization that donated the most food was the Lambda Chi Alpha, with a donation of 1,000 cans of food. “I feel this is a positive thing,” said Noel. “People could get inspired and donate.” The display was hosted at the Transgender Day of Remembrance, happening simultaneously, but it was the initiative of the Health Promotion Services office.

Ludovica Virgile, office specialist at the Health Promotion Services, approached the Center for Leadership and Services days prior to the event with a request for help with collecting non-perishables for the Food Pantry at BBC. “It is the National Hunger and Homelessness Week,” said Virgile. “We thought this was a great opportunity to raise awareness about food insecurity among college students.”

Officially, the volunteers started to work on the display at noon. And after arranging and rearranging multiple boxes of canned tuna, sweet peas, mixed vegetables and Vienna sausages, the team finished the display around 13:00 pm.

In addition to the display, the Center for Leadership and Service also had a table where Ryan Keese, a coordinator at the Center, educated people about food insecurity among University students. On his table, Keese was also selling mugs that had been designed by FIU students and plastic forks that represented the number of University students dealing with food disparity.

The proceeds from the mugs the forks sale were to be donated to the Food Pantry at BBC. “Each fork represents 100 students,” said Keese. “There are 288 forks for a total of 28,800 students.”

There are 28,800 FIU students dealing with food insecurity at any given moment, according to Keese. The office of Health Promotion Services collects these data from financial aid applications.

“The pantry served 35 students this semester,” said Virgile. “That’s equal to 320 pounds of food given out.”

Farmer said that students who reach out to the food pantry for assistance receive a ratio of 10 pounds of food that’s supposed to last them for a whole week.

“Students must cook the food they receive because the pantry doesn’t serve warm meals.”

Because the display was hosted by the Transgender Day of Remembrance, attendees also had access to representatives from different organizations that help educate the general public on transgender issues, and who also offer services to the transgender community.

The Food Pantry is located at the Wolfe University Center 307 and it accepts donations throughout the semester.

Volunteers form ‘FIU’ display out of cans of food

YOEVELYN RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer
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Developing Leaders

Dr. Joffis Hardick, the Vice President of the Division of Human Resources, cohosts the Educate, Empower, Build Open Forum as part of the Campus Life Leadership Development Series Monday, Nov. 23.

The rise of self-employment is also highlighted in the book. Alonso shows the number of vendors ranging from selling t-shirts to artwork. Hernandez said she remembers the struggle of living in Cuba with large families. “A family of six struggles with what an entire household can eat for the rest of the week,” said Hernandez.

“We were given a libreta, which rations the limitation of needs for survival.” Libreta translates to a notebook.

Alonso also incorporates to her work historical references since she started her project in 1992. One of her images, for example, shows supporters for Elian Gonzalez, a six-year-old boy who brought international attention. Gonzales was found clinging to an inner tube off Florida in 1999 after his mother and others drowned trying to reach the United States. He was taken to live with his relatives in Miami, but his father, still in Cuba, demanded his return.

Past Cuban president, Fidel Castro, led marches calling for Gonzalez to be sent back to Cuba until American courts sided with his father. The book also serves as a visual connection for Cuban immigrants who have fled to Miami over the decades.

Some images include pictorials of Che Guevara and Fidel Castro. Guevara was a tactician of guerrilla warfare and a prominent communist figure in the Cuban Revolution between 1956 and 1959.

The book presentation is hosted by the Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs and it will take place Monday, Nov. 28 at Books & Books in Coral Gables.

University hosts book presentation

VANESSA MARTINEZ
Staff Writer
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Thais Hernandez said she grew up climbing trees and playing with rocks in Havana, Cuba.

“There was no luxury of sitting on a computer for seven hours or watching TV,” said Hernandez, a sculpting and painting double major.

Cynthia Alonso, a photographer and photo editor, exhibits artists, news events and the daily lives of people in Cuba through her book, “Passage to Cuba: An Up-Close Look at the World’s Most Colorful Culture.” Her book is made up of photographs of contemporary Cuba.

Jorge Duany, director at the University’s Cuban Research Institute, said Alonso’s shows images that are often neglected by foreigners.

“What interests me as an anthropologist are the photographs she documents that are not regularly seen in travel brochures: regular people that are not necessarily posing for the tourist gaze,” said Duany.

For more than 20 years, Alonso’s works have been published by Newsweek, Vanity Fair, Businessweek and TIME. Her works have also been presented in Canada and Latin America.

Alonso’s photographs show a contrast between the folkloric aspect to the country and the foreigner’s perspective of the less luxurious parts of Cuba. She combines the foreigner’s perspective of Cuba into an adaptation of less commonly known places over a passage of time.

Plains include the streets of Cuba with automobiles from the 1950s and she shows the contrasts between patina houses; peeling stucco apartments and the Capitol Building, Havana Cathedral and Hotel Nacional.

Alonso also highlights the different use of color palettes in Cuba, like salmon pink, sky blue, apricot and aqua green.

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NATION & WORLD

BFREBS

Occidental students end their weeklong sit-in, pledge to continue to fight campus bias

Student protesters at Occidental College have announced that they are ending their weeklong sit-in, vowing to continue their fight against racial bias at the liberal arts campus. “While the occupation is over, the movement is not,” said Abigail Abhoshe, a movement leader and senior majoring in diplomacy, US, Cuba discuss how to contain oil spills

Florida’s coral reefs and delicate marine environment could become less valuable to pollution from potential oil spills under an agreement taking shape between the United States and Cuba. The agreement would clear the way for American companies to provide the latest blowout
drills and world affairs. Since Monday, students have occupied the Arthur G. Coons Administrative Center, demanding greater funding for minorities, more diverse faculty and the resignation of President Victor Lech. Among other things, Florida’s coral reefs and delicate marine environment could become less valuable to pollution from potential oil spills under an agreement taking shape between the United States and Cuba. The agreement would clear the way for American companies to provide the latest blowout
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US, Cuba discuss how to contain oil spills

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Art Basel is around the corner and Wynwood was previously a haven for people wanting to see art for free as gallery spaces opened up. However, as more developers swooped in, one another, but gentrification has become more generations, it does mean a space with a new cultural meaning and interpretation. SoHo flair to South Florida. It exists and it makes a good point. I reached out to local Maitejosune Urregcha, a multidisciplinary artist and half of Pocket Full of Lollipops, a local alternative bad, their thoughts on the matter. “I do think Wynwood and some of the areas that have served as safe places for some artist have become obsolete, especially if you are one of the artist that are dependent on that,” said Urregcha. She explains that she will always create art wherever she will be.

The documentary “Right to Wynwood” explores the gentrification of the beloved arts neighborhood and the displacement of its old residents. “Goldman is a professional neighborhood gentrifier,” says Marcus Feldman, an urban sociologist from FIU in the documentary. Feldman goes on to speak about capitalism by referencing Henri Lefebvre’s “The Survival of Capitalism” and its explanation of how capitalism’s survival depends on space. “So, one capitalism needs new parts of the planet to exploit to make money,” says Feldman. “But there’s another special expansion right here at home.”

According to Feldman, this special aspect of capitalism includes reinventing the space and giving the space added value. Feldman also said that added value is achieved by cultural means of production through infusing space with a new cultural meaning and interpretation. Little Puerto Rico morphed into Wynwood, where graffiti and large murals consume every plausible space. Previously, rent in Wynwood was one of the lowest in the city. However, as more developers swooped in, more artists and residents are swept out. The notion of a starving artist is constantly perpetuated in Wynwood as original galleries are forced to close to welcome in the glitter and glam of new and more hip galleries. As a fine arts major and Miami native, I find it incredibly troubling how inaccessible art in Wynwood has become. Though I once enjoyed the monthly art walks, nowadays it is cluttered with a very bourgeois crowd who can afford ridiculous bar tabs and not give a second thought to art hanging up in galleries. Every time I feel like I am drowning in a sea of these cultural norms. I will make what I want with it. I am more about being in the community then making a city. My community extends far beyond the boundaries of Miami,” said Urregcha, who makes a good point. Local residents have opened up their homes to the masses with spaces like Palacio De Los Juegos and Studio 206. Studio 206 is the studio apartment of local band The Jellyfish Brothers. It held the legendary annual event known as Art Basel Distraction held on Art Basel weekend. Sonny Youth frontman Thurston Moore even popped in one year. When The Jellyfish Brothers were unable to pay rent, they created a foodstand and met their goal in a matter of hours because a community was there to hoist them back up when they’d fallen; a community thankful that when they’d fallen; a community thankful that community was there to hoist them back up made a good point.

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*Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.*
Those of us who are trying to diminish these high statistics may have not scheduled time for exercise. We need to learn how to balance our portions with the amount of exercise that we do daily. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 23 out of 50 states had an obesity prevalence of over thirty percent. This means that more than one-fourth of the United States is being reported as obese. It's 2015 and people are becoming scared. There is an obesity epidemic in this country and those of us who aren't overweight are finding it hard to make sure it stays that way.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 23 out of 50 states in the United States had an obesity prevalence of over twenty-five percent and 18 out of 50 states had an obesity prevalence of over thirty percent. This means that more than one-fourth of the United States is being reported as obese. It's 2015 and people are becoming scared. There is an obesity epidemic in this country and those of us who aren't overweight are finding it hard to make sure it stays that way.

We as Americans have a fast-paced lifestyle. We work and go to school. Some of us even find time to lend a helping hand in our community by volunteering to make this world a better place. However, with all these scheduled daily activities, we may have not scheduled time for exercise. We need to learn how to balance out what we eat with how much we move. Want to portion out your day better? Consider the following tips. Went for a run and spent the day working hard in the sun? Go ahead and treat yourself to a larger meal; your body needs to replenish itself after a long day's work.

Take the day off and spent it watching Netflix in bed? Today you should eat a lighter meal; something to keep hunger away without over consuming or storing that unnecessary amount of fat that your body is clearly not using at the moment. Spent the day at work and studying at school? Today eat moderately, your body needs fuel to produce brain power. However, don't over fuel your body because you can flood it.

We should continue to eat at these healthier places, what we need to pay more attention to is how we can eat and keep the weight at bay. Balance is something that we can all easily learn how to do and it will keep away any risk of being obese in the long run. Our generation has the opportunity to change the world for the better. So get up America; live free, eat right and move on.

Reniel R. Nodarse is a member of the Student Dietetic Association. SDA Health is a weekly column written by members of the Association, and published on Wednesdays. For suggestions concerning health topics, email the SDA Health contributors at life@fau.com.

Walk in the footsteps of Murphy, and experience something different. This boundary pushing director has made inroads in Hollywood these days, you can find solace by watching this film to get people thinking in a different way. His newest film “Love” is a 3D extravaganza filled with an almost pornographic level of sexually explicit content, which includes full frontal male nudity, threesomes and realistic portrayal of sexual intercourse.

Filmed on location in Paris using non professional actors, “Love” tells the story of Murphy, an American studying abroad in Paris who meets and falls in love with Elektra, a French girl who fulfills every one of Murphy’s sick and twisted fantasies. This part of their life is shown through flashbacks while present day Murphy is at home with his current wife and child reflecting on his time with Elektra after her mother calls him, worried that she hasn’t spoken to her in over three months. Throughout its 2 hour and 15 minute run time we see the ups and downs of Murphy and Elektra’s modern day relationship set against the beautiful, as well as seedy underground streets of Paris.

The 3D cameras that Noe used to capture the action are meant to bring you into the bedroom so to speak, right there with Murphy and his many different partners throughout the course of the film. The technology feels fresh in this aspect, instead of using the 3D for massive stunts or computer generated effects, Noe embraces the technology and provides a much more personal and intimate use of it.

The story does start to meander in the second half of the film and the constant explicit content may leave the audience feeling exhausted, but the way Noe blends the right music with the perfect imagery and the curiosity of what happens to Murphy and Elektra are enough to keep the audience involved all the way to the end.

Some may say that “Love” is just pornography dressed up as an art film, but Noe provides us with realistic sexual experiences without going too far. When you watch this movie you know it’s not porn but you also know that it’s unlike anything you’ve seen before.

The blend of artistic expression and its guerilla style cinematography in “Love” make it the perfect addition to Gaspar Noe’s already eclectic filmography. You may leave this film feeling disgusted, or you may walk out of the film feeling invigorated, but you will feel something. After all, this is the goal of a director like Gaspar Noe: to get people thinking and talking about everyday subject matter that most of the time gets pushed to the side and ignored. Going against the norm and further evolving the art of film making are all staples of Noe’s films and I guarantee whatever he does next will continue to surprise, confuse, and astound us.

Gaspar Noe’s “Love” in 3D, rated R, is now playing through Dec. 9 at Miami Beach Cinematheque. For ticket information go to www.mbcinema.com.

For suggestions and comments, email life@fau.com.

The Beacon – Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Luis Cuevas performs freestyle modern dance alongside Carolina Buse on the Viola.

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Walking are core to a healthy lifestyle. The Beacon – Wednesday, November 25, 2015

GABBY ARIZOLA

Nacho cheese with food.

IO TO Mojitos Y Cafecitos is one of the newest restaurants on Collins Avenue. Located on 7450 Ocean Terrace, they are a couple blocks from the beach, but not wanting to spend too much money on food, or you may walk out of the film feeling invigorated, but you will feel something. After all, this is the goal of a director like Gaspar Noe: to get people thinking and talking about everyday subject matter that most of the time gets pushed to the side and ignored. Going against the norm and further evolving the art of film making are all staples of Noe’s films and I guarantee whatever he does next will continue to surprise, confuse, and astound us.

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F I U  M i a m i  G u i t a r  O r c h e s t r a  p r e s e n t s  T A N T R A

R I C A R D O  C H A V E Z  
C o n t r i b u t i n g  W r i t e r
l i f e @ f i u . c o m

Florida International University’s guitar orchestra, directed by Mesut Ozgen, performed TANTRA on Friday, Nov. 20. The musical pieces orchestrated during the show were quite varied. One piece by the name of “Mountain Mission,” purified a modern and contemporary style. Another piece, known as “Alma,” epitomized the classic Latin tunes that one may easily distinguish.

“Each piece, however, illustrated a harmonious tune that focused on the layering of sounds. As stated by Ozgen, this “allows for listeners to delve deeper into the music, only to find an entirely different melody within the song itself.” Ozgen is the first to be awarded the prestigious “Dean’s Prize” by Yale University. Shows such as these are quite unique considering the musical instruments used and talent required to perform it. Those who attended TANTRA believe that the FIU’s Miami Guitar Orchestra is not as promoted as it should be.

“I have never heard the guitar orchestra within FIU. Spectacles like these deserve much more publicity throughout campus than they are receiving. Perhaps The Beacon can help spread the word,” said Jean Rosenberg, an attendee of the event.

Student Natalie Lopez commented on the tremendous efforts put forth by Ozgen. “A Guitar orchestra isn’t something you have the opportunity to see every day. Mesut Ozgen is probably the biggest contributor this program has ever had,” Lopez said.

Performer Carlos Serrano emphasized on how hard everyone has been working towards making the show a success. “We have been practicing ever since the beginning of the semester. We have worked really hard, and have done everything we possibly can to prepare for this night,” said Serrano.

The FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra was able to display their skills after an entire semester of difficult practice. Those who attended the TANTRA concert were given a glimpse of what the FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra expects to accomplish in the near future.

TANTRA served as a preview to the upcoming Miami International GuitArt Festival. The festival will be featuring respected musical artists from around the world and will take place at the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center on Feb. 24-28.

Mojitos Y Cafecitos offers twists on classic meals

ITO Mojitos Y Cafecitos recreates traditional meals by infusing new flavors, such as chicken empanadas with a garlic aioli, fried cheese with guava sauce, yucca bites with creme fresh and croquetas with blueberry jam pictured above.

**WOLFSONIAN-FIU EXHIBITIONS**

Miami Beach: From Mangrove to Tourist Mecca

Margins of Error

Orange Oratory

Philodendron: From Pan-Latin Exotic to American Modern

An Artist on the Eastern Front: Feliks Topolski, 1941

Art and Design in the Modern Age

Americans All: Race Relations in Depression-Era Murals

**FIU Miami Guitar Orchestra presents TANTRA**
Panthers end the season with crushing defeat

JACOB SPIWAK
Asst. Sports Director
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There were many ways FIU’s season finale could’ve gone. Very few of them would have resulted in FIU upsetting the highly favored Western Kentucky University Hilltoppers, but anything is possible, so FIU fans and players were optimistic nonetheless. Unfortunately for fans, the Hilltoppers were the worst team, most depressing possibility imaginable for the Panthers.

After getting embarrassed by Marshall University 52-0 just a week prior, the Panthers’ loss margin actually increased against WKU. FIU (5-7, 3-5) got smoked by the Hilltoppers (9-2, 7-0) in a 63-7 blowout. This game was over before it started, as WKU came out firing and FIU’s underwhelming performance against Marshall clearly carried over into this one.

Not only did the Panthers lose, but they were expected by just about everyone who predicted the outcome of the game. But the overall atmosphere made the whole afternoon that much worse; hardly any fans in the seats, pouring rain that resulted in three lightning delays (and the game being called five minutes early), and no fans in the seats, pouring rain that resulted in three lightning delays (and the game being called five minutes early), and the list continues to go on.

Right from the start, WKU was the better team. On their second play from scrimmage, the Hilltoppers aggressively called for a flea flicker, which resulted in a 73-yard touchdown pass from Brandon Doughty to Taywan Taylor since absolutely nobody on the FIU defense or coaching staff was expecting it. I’ve wanted to see from FIU all season long, but instead they stuck with their same conservative playbook on both sides of the ball.

The FIU defense had no answer for the talented and aggressive Hilltoppers, as WKU put up 21 points in the first quarter and 35 in the first half. As well as WKU played on offense, FIU’s offensive corps played about as poorly as one could imagine. Their only score came after an Alex Gardner rushing touchdown in garbage time and committing three turnovers with only 168 yards of total offense pretty much tells the story.

Despite coming off one of the best seasons FIU has ever seen at the quarterback position (aside from his bowl performance against Marshall and WKU), sophomore Alex McGough was visibly upset after the game. He discussed how he needs to improve individually first and foremost in order to help the team win games.

“I didn’t do enough to win the game,” McGough said. “Simple as that. When I turn the ball over three times, you’re not going to win a game against a good team like [WKU]. I have to focus on myself, get better and turn the ball over less.”

It was as cloudy as how disappointed the players were after the game, especially the seniors who had played their final game at FIU. Cornerback Richard Leonard and defensive end Michael Wakefield each used phrases such as “not doing what they needed to do as a team” to sum up the end of their final season.

Head coach Ron Turner shared the feelings of his seniors and spoke about how disappointed he is that those guys won’t be able to partake in postseason play.

“I feel bad for the seniors,” Turner said. “We had a chance to go out and win one of the last two and go to a bowl game, and we didn’t get it done. They fought everything we asked them to do, and provided good leadership, and I’m very disappointed in how the season ended.”

So what’s next for FIU football? First and foremost this team needs to take some time off and get healthy. Turner continued to bring up how many injuries the Panthers had to deal with in 2015 and with a lot of young players ready to shine FIU should be fine moving forward. However, that won’t make this loss any easier, especially now that the long offseason is underway than the Panthers would’ve wanted.

Kyle Busch becomes new NASCAR champion

Kyle Busch

NASCAR Sprint Cup series raced for the final time this season on Sunday, Nov. 22, at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

The series came to Homestead to determine a champion and to say goodbye to a racing icon.

A quartet of Jeff Gordon, Martin Truex, Jr, Kevin Harvick, and Kyle Busch all entered Homestead with the championship in sight.

Under NASCAR’s new “Chase” system, each racer entered the final race ever in points.

Therefore, whoever finished the best of the four would be crowned champion.

Each racer had a story to tell, with the most prominent story being that the Ford EcoBoost 400 at Homestead was Gordon’s final race.

Busch won the race over second-place Harvick. Gordon finished sixth in points and Truex finished third.

Since Busch beat the other three “Chase” contenders, he is the 2015 NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion.

Busch pulled away from Harvick, who lined up second, on the restart and cruised to the finish, securing his first NASCAR Sprint Cup Series championship and the first championship for Toyota, Busch’s manufacturer.

Instead of celebrating a new champion with cheers, several NASCAR fans let out a collective groan as fans pointed out that Busch missed a chance to secure a third of the season and shouldn’t be called champion because he didn’t win enough races.

In my opinion, I believe that Busch earned his championship through his dominance during the season.

To come back and win a championship after breaking your leg is an amazing feat in itself and no fan can discourage that.

A new rules package awaits NASCAR competitors in 2016. Low-downforce aerodynamic packages are a change from this year’s high-downforce package. In other words, aerodynamics will not affect drivers as much as it did this year.

Therefore, closer racing should result from this change in the rules.

2016 also marks the debut of Chase Elliott, who will replace Gordon in his famous #24 car.

Elliott, the son of 1988 Winston Cup Series champion, Bill Elliott, has dominated the Xfinity Series, securing the 2014 Xfinity Series championship along the way. Elliott has a lot of expectations to live up to since he’s replacing Gordon.

But, the main headline of 2016 is: What will post-Gordon NASCAR look like? Gordon had a big following throughout his career. Some fans, like myself, have grown up with Gordon and don’t know how NASCAR was before Gordon arrived.

If NASCAR can attract as many viewers without Gordon, I believe that the season is a success on its own.

For now, the man NASCAR fans call “Rowdy” is the champion and new faces will soon shine down on Daytona International Speedway in Feb.

Until then, several drivers need a new team to work for, including Clint Bowyer, whose former team, Martin Truex Jr., shut down after the final race of the 2015 season.

Bowyer’s new agency, the new rules package and Elliott’s debut all headline the 2015 offseason will be the first NASCAR offseason without Gordon since 1992. 
Panthers fall in first round of C-USA tourney

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The Florida International University women’s volleyball team (15-13) ended its season on Friday, Nov. 20, losing to the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunners in the first round of the Conference USA Tournament in San Antonio, Texas.

After winning the first set, the Panthers dropped the final three as the Roadrunners proved to be too much. The set scores were 25-21, 22-25, 20-25 and 19-25.

In the first set, the team took advantage of its stellar hitting percentage. The Panthers hit .452 and were able to spread the ball around to their hitters.

Junior middle blocker, Katie Hogan, and sophomore middle blocker, Jennifer Ene, contributed with four kills each.

UTSA defeated the Panthers in the second set to tie the match. Throughout the set, the team held a five-point lead, but saw it slip away after committing three costly service errors towards the end of the set.

In the third set, the Panthers struggled to hit the ball, finishing with a hitting percentage of .321. The Roadrunners used a late run to take the set and a 2-1 lead.

In the final set, the Panthers found themselves up 7-2 early, but UTSA outscored them 23-12 down the stretch to take the match. The Roadrunners advance to the semi-final round and will face off against the sixth seed, University of Southern Mississippi.

Overall, the Panthers finished with a hitting percentage of .205, with 57 kills and 26 errors. The team only recorded seven blocks, compared to UTSA’s 12. Going into the match, FIU led the conference in blocks.

Although they lost, the Panthers had a healthy dose from their hitters. Hogan finished with 17 kills, Ene with 15 kills, senior outside hitter, Lucia Castro and sophomore outside hitter, Tia Clay, both with nine kills. Freshman setter, Katie Friesen, collected 30 assists and senior libero, Adriana McLamb, led the way defensively with 17 digs.

The Roadrunners posted similar stats, finishing with a hitting percentage of .252, with 54 kills and 19 errors. As a team, UTSA tallied six aces and gained several points off their 12 blocks.

Freshman setter, Amanda Gonzales, led the way for the Roadrunners. Gonzales distributed the ball evenly finishing with a match-high 44 assists. Three players posted double-figures kills, including junior outside hitter, Kasey Kiefer, who finished with a match-high 18 kills.

In a season that saw many ups and downs, the Panthers more than doubled their win total from a year ago when they finished with only seven wins. This improvement merits recognition and the team will try to improve on its success next season.

Western Kentucky outplay Panthers in season finale

PETE’S PICKS

Western Kentucky outplayed the Panthers on Saturday, Nov. 21.

The Hilltoppers not only snapped FIU’s home game winning streak, they eliminated the Panthers only shot at being bowl eligible.

FIU finished their season 5-7 (3-5 in C-USA) and gave a total of 115 total points in two games.

Despite Ocean Bank Field turning into a ocean river bed because it rained heavily the entire game, WKU wasn’t phased at all. On the second play of the series, their starting quarterback Brandon Doughtey ran a flea flicker that turned into a 73 yard bomb for a touchdown to his primary target Taywan Doughtey ran a flea flicker for a touchdown to his primary target Taywan Taylor. That touchdown pass alone was basically the turning point of the game, and it was only the first quarter. Doughtey finished the game 16-21 for 224 yards and three touchdowns.

“I thought we had a good week, came out with a lot of energy,” said Head Coach Ron Turner. “It seemed like when they threw the flea-flicker left touchdown on the first drive, it was like putting a pin in a balloon. That deflated us a bit. We’ve got to bounce back from that.”

Panthers’ offense never had an answer until later in the fourth quarter when starting running back Alex Gardner scored a rushing touchdown. The sophomore finished the game with 9 carries for 44 yards and one touchdown.

He also led the game in rushing with 9 carries for 48 yards and one touchdown.

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LGBTQA talks about transgender issues

In the world we live in today, the value of everything is measured in dollars. This seems to be very easy when talking about goods or products, but what about when you’re talking about nature?

If you removed a forest, how much would it cost to replicate the services that forest does for the people who live in and around it? If we removed all of nature, how much would it cost for us to do the things nature does for us? Some say without ecosystem services, humans would pay the ultimate price and perish.

Ecosystem services are done by the environment which provide benefits for humans. As a community of living and nonliving things, the ecosystem can, and usually does, provide multiple services.

For example, a forest provides timber, shelter, food and recreational opportunity among other benefits. Each one of these services is worth something because people are willing to pay for its preservation or else we would have to make for those services.

Add up how much each service costs and it will give you how much the forest is worth. Although I do believe that nature has a right to exist on its own without any benefit to humans, it is a great way to put a dollar sign where others don’t see a tangible value.

The market economy that dominates today’s society strictly sees things in a cost-benefit struggle. They take nature as being a free service that we can use at our will.

But now that we’ve caused large impacts on nature and must pay the price for it, we understand that we do have a value. And if legislation only cares about dollar signs, then it’s a great way to show how valuable nature can be. Nature has a right to exist on its own and it will give you how much the forest is worth.

Nature is truly invaluable for without it we wouldn’t be able to exist. And although ecosystem services cannot be assigned a dollar value of nature and only continues the current market paradigm we are in, it also helps show its current worth.

One of the junior English students and a close friend of the University’s Women’s Human Rights Ordinance added for students, “It allows you to relate to many different kinds of people. It also helps you to be more sensitive to the needs of others.”

“Understanding the T” ended with a testimony from Campbell Alexander, who wants to establish a level of comfort and openness concerning a topic that people may tend to shy away from. In December 2014, the Human Rights Ordinance added gender and expression to be protected so that trans people cannot be denied public services.

Cordon and Alexander are hopeful about the future of the trans community.

This is a real issue,” Alexander said. “We are not just some fabrication. Having this opportunity and being given that audience means the world to me.”

Put a ribbon on it

World AIDS Day is a nationally recognized day that commemorates and raises awareness about the AIDS syndrome caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Each year, FIU hosts an event on Tuesday, Dec. 1 to raise awareness about AIDS in the community and last year happened to grab the attention of Local 10 News.

The event this year at FIU’s IRC, coordinated by Multicultural Programs and Services and LGBTQA, will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 1 in Panther Square from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“We are going to have a resource fair where there will be booths talking about services they provide such as Health Services as well as free HIV testing for students,” said Mario Lara, graduate student for Higher Education and graduate assistant at BC in LGBTQA.

In addition, Lara informed that there will also be entertainment, a keynote speaker, giveaways and free food.

“There is going to be a student performer as well as a Keynote presentation,” said Dr. Mary Jo Tepko, professor at FIU who has been funded by the National Institute of Health since 2009, in the Mary Ann Wolf Theatre and there will be t-shirt and bag giveaways and students will be provided with lunch after the event.

The event is expected to have at least 200 student participants, just as many as they did last year, according to Lara.

Last year, a quilt was fashioned from smaller pieces of cloth, each symbolizing someone who has died from AIDS related causes, with the help of the student participants.

This year, the quilt will be put up on display for students to observe, but as for the student participants, the event is going to challenge students to think about the theme of the event and what it means to them.

“This year we are pushing for the theme ‘Put a Ribbon on It’. It tells people that HIV is an infection that hasn’t gone away and is still a problem today,” said Lara. “It means to wear condoms, raise awareness about AIDS and to try and prevent more people from getting it.”

“I believe that this is a good event because it’s reaching out to the community and helping raise awareness, express feelings of sympathy and explaining how it’s okay to have AIDS,” said Sebastian Llanos, sophomore in mechanical engineering. “The fact that this is a student organized event is beneficial to the community in the sense that it is providing reassurance to people who do not have the infection and awareness those who might.”

Wednesday, November 25, 2015

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“Understanding the T” was an event held to honor members of the trans community, one that has been largely ignored. This discussion is a part of our University’s goal to bring about social awareness.

“Understanding the T” was held last Thursday, Nov. 19 in WUC 155 and organized by Mario Lara, a graduate assistant in charge of the LGBTQA initiative at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Guest speakers included Alina Tello-Cordon and Campbell Alexander. The open forum presented by Cordon allowed students and faculty members to start a dialogue addressing the misconceptions held in society about trans people.

“IT’s great to actually have a conversation with someone and have them see that we’re just regular people," said Alexander, who is on the Board of Directors for the AQUA Women’s Foundation, a community partner of our University.

“Unfortunately, there is a lot of stigma against the letter ‘T’.” I am trying to take away that stigma," said Alexander.

The debate covered the difference between gender identity and gender expression. However, participants were also informed that members of the trans community are disproportionately affected by unemployment, homelessness, risky sexual behavior, dropping out of school, anxiety/depression and STI’s more than any other group in LGBTQ.

“The best thing is to ask questions about how a trans person prefers to be addressed instead of making harmful assumptions,” said Cordon, who works with the Switchboard of Miami as a LGBTQA Therapist/ Care Coordinator and Alexander. “We want to create a safe space for people to communicate about these issues.”

She emphasized that trans men and women should be addressed with their pronouns. For example, a trans male should be referred to as “him” if that is what makes him comfortable and that people should avoid transphobic or invalidating language and use Gender inclusive language. This includes terms like “he” and “he/she.”

Cordon makes it clear that being trans is not the issue.

“Trans is not synonymous with a mental health issue,” said Cordon. “Psychological processes and societal treatment of trans people.”

Gender policing also has a big impact on the trans community. They are forced to perform based on how society views their gender.

“Gender policing is the imposition or enforcement of normative expressions," said Cordon. “But some people go outside of their gender identity through expression.”

As an ally of LGBTQ, Meredith Morgan, a coordinator of the University’s Women’s Center and a close friend of Cordon and Alexander, addressed the fact that a person’s internal gender does not always match their biological sex.

“Trans issues are overlooked and misunderstood,” Morgan said. “For example, a lot of people think that people should use restrooms that match their gender at birth. They don’t understand that some people don’t feel that their gender identity aligns with the gender they were assigned so we need to bring more awareness.”

One of the junior English students and a close friend of the University’s Women’s Human Rights Ordinance added for students, “It allows you to relate to many different kinds of people. It also helps you to be more sensitive to the needs of others.”

“Understanding the T” ended with a testimony from Campbell Alexander, who wants to establish a level of comfort and openness concerning a topic that people may tend to shy away from. In December 2014, the Human Rights Ordinance added gender and expression to be protected so that trans people cannot be denied public services.

Cordon and Alexander are hopeful about the future of the trans community.

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