Graphic pro-life display starts discourse between students

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Feb. 16, the Center of Bio-Ethical Reform set up an anti-abortion demonstration on the GC lawns. The demonstration, a part of CBRs Genocide Awareness Project, included large display boards depicting graphic images of mutilated fetuses along with texts comparing abortion to mass genocide.

Devorah Gilman, a CBR spokesperson said to Student Media, “We are here because we understand that this is a conversation that students are having on campus.”

“I’m here because I believe human rights are for all humans and we know that if two human beings reproduce then their offspring are going to be human,” she said.

“Because of that, we need to give human beings human rights form the very moment they are born,” Gilman said.

Gilman described abortion as “human rights violation.”

According to Gilman, the blood “The images we’re showing today are very bloody and disturbing because abortion is a bloody and disturbing ending to a child’s life.”

“We have pictures of bloody fingers, arms, legs and other body parts because that’s what abortion looks like,” she said. “To show anything else would not be abortion.”

According to a press release to Student Media, the GAP display has been put up over 200 times and at nearly 75 universities, CBR partners with a team of pro-life students to stand by the display and engage in respectful dialogue with interested passers-by.

She said, “If the pictures of the act of abortion are so offensive, wouldn’t it follow that the act itself is even more offensive?”

“There were some students who are disturbed by the graphic imagery. “I got to class at 9 a.m. this morning and when I saw this [display] I was disgusted,” said Michelle Chavez, a first year marketing student.

“The worst part is that the information is inaccurate,” said Chavez. “Abortion should be the woman’s choice. Men will never have the opportunity to be pregnant; they’ll never have to make that choice.”

Chavez said. Danielle Vachon, a second year medical student at FIU and a leader of Medical Students for Choice, was also present during the demonstration. “I feel like it’s very important to have a medical presence [at the demonstration],” said Vachon.

She said, “We [medical professionals] are the ones providing [abortion] services to women. We’re the ones providing access to abortion to women all over the United States.”

“The display evokes a lot of terror, rage and fear and that’s a very destructive way to have this conversation.”

“Abortion is a safe medical procedure and I think anti-abortion evokes a very visceral and emotional reaction. It’s not constructive nor intelligent,” she said.

Though some students were uncomfortable with the demonstration, Gilman assures that the vivid display is necessary in discussing abortion. She said, “People are pregnant and are considering abortion, so we’re traveling around the country to spread the truth about who the ‘preborn’ are. They are human beings and this is what abortion does to them.”

In the aforementioned press release, Gilman said that CBRs goal is to “change minds and save lives.”

“We’ve seen abortion victim photography accomplish that time and again,” Gilman said. “Moreover, we recognize that abortion hurts women and have seen how the images can help move a woman from denial into seeking help and healing.”

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Devorah Gilman
Spokesperson
Center of Bio-Ethical Reform

Lecture explores spirituality in Shakespeare

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Shakespeare’s First Folio will be housed in the Frost Art Museum at the MMC for the rest of February. The Program for Studies in Spirituality hosted a lecture last Monday, Feb. 15, in the Frost Museum in honor of the Shakespeare’s Folio month festivities. The lecture, titled “Shakespeare, Music and Love” was introduced by the Spirituality Director Erin Weston.

Weston spoke briefly on the Spirituality program at FIU, emphasizing how they have made the attempt to “explore traditional and contemporary spirituality, and host lectures for interdisciplinary studies.”

“We’ve seen more presentations, regardless of what majors students study,” said Weston. Laura Pomar, a junior studying physics, who attended the lecture, said, “I feel like there should be more events like this because it helped clarify the concept of romanticism to those who may not study literature.”

The lecture lasted about an hour and half and drew in an array of students from different disciplines, all with different purposes of being there.

“I am taking a class on this now, and they should have more presentations like this. I thought it was really good,” said Gabriela Rodriguez, a junior studying history, post-lecture.

This lecture specifically was headed by Peter Rogan who, as Weston introduced, is “a dramatic performer and speaker.”

He was accompanied by a duo of musicians. Karen Carlisle-Neal and Brian Neal, who performed as well as accompanied Rogan’s delivery of the Shakespearean monologues.

The lecture’s purpose, in Rogan’s words, was “to see the connection between...
Snapchat allowing geofilters for any party, event or company for as little as $5

Snapchat Inc. on Monday unveiled a second plan to generate revenue from its unique and popular form of location sharing.

Last year, Los Angeles-based Snapchat began charging retailers, movie studios and others to promote branded geofilters as part of a number of experiments with advertising on the 4-year-old app. Those could run tens of thousands of dollars.

Now Snapchat will allow anyone, including smaller companies, to submit temporary geofilters to the service for as little as $5.

Snapchat president and CEO Bobby Murphy told the Wall Street Journal on Monday that Snapchat is not only considering the new program as a way to generate revenue, but also as a way to get people to use the app more often.

Snapchat said it is currently testing the feature with a small number of users and hopes to expand it to a wider audience in the future.

The Beacon – Wednesday, February 24, 2016

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

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Big government is a part of capitalism

G rover Norquist, an American political activist, famously remarked that the size of government ought to be small enough for one to be able to "drag it into the bathroom and drown it in the bathtub." This view is attractive to the free marketeers who like their politics with a healthy fear of the state. Government intervention in the economy is inefficient, coercive and, worse of all, it renews the lazy while punishing those industrious. Thus, the argument goes, government ought to exist solely to enforce contracts and defend the country. In the Tea Party narrative, big government is the villain that must be defeated at all costs.

It sounds nice; make the government small and let the free market decide! That's not that simple. This view of government is fundamentally incoherent. Not only does the market require a robust government to offset, but the increasing complexity and demands of the economy means that the government must grow.

The size of the United States federal government today was not inflated as a result of nefarious bureaucrats seeking power but rather the result of well over a century of American society responding to new economic conditions. To understand why, we must begin with a basic definition of capitalism: an economic system where trade and industry are controlled by individuals through private property. Property must be private. This is fundamental to capitalism. Without it, a business owner could not make decisions about their business at will nor could they trade their property. The first apparent issue with this is the question of enforcement. Suppose you own a claim on multiple houses. When you’re physically present in one of those houses, you can kick anyone out who you don’t want coming in. Yet, how can you ensure that your other houses remain yours in the absence of your physical presence? After all, if you’re not there, there’s nothing to stop me from breaking into one of your houses and sleeping in your bed.

There are two “free market” solutions to this problem. The first is to defend the property, known as the anarcho-capitalist solution: hire guards to ensure that what is yours remains yours. This poses several immediate problems, the most pressing of which is how do you ensure that the guards will remain loyal to you without simply taking over the house for their own? “You pay them!” responds the clever libertarian. Yet surely the wage you pay is worth a fraction of the value of the houses and the return on investment you get on them, otherwise you wouldn’t be able to afford to pay your guards. An enterprising rogue guard picks taking over the house every single time.

Worse still, if you can out-fight the guards and I really wanted the house, there’s not much much bloodshed whenever there are property disputes. Nor do we want property exclusively for those who can afford the toughest muscle and the biggest guns, so that won’t work.

The second solution is a contract: we agree the house is yours. Yet contracts are worth as much as the paper they’re written on. After all, even if I have a gun and I want your house, your deed is as good as toilet paper. Even if we respect the letter of the law, who provides remedies when it’s violated? There must be a third-party to enforce those contracts.

There is no private-sector version of this function. A government has the coercive authority necessary to carry it out where a private actor does not. Ironically, it’s this coercive authority that ensures property remain independent of private property owners. In a public space, a person is free to exercise freedoms granted by the government. Absent that, people would be at the mercy of whoever owns the ground beneath their feet, as property owners are sovereign over what is theirs.

You might respond that if you don’t like the rules of a person’s property you can just leave. But what if all the possible property has been bought up? Are you more free in a “free” market where your freedom is limited to a choice between which private dictator you want to live under? I don’t think so.

The moral of the story is that no “small government” remains small for very long. In my view, the real purpose behind the “big government” complaint is to carefully couch brutal austerity in moralistic rhetoric. Frankly, it’s the same benefits to society’s most vulnerable so that we rich people can pay less in taxes” doesn’t make sense. For an economy to be able to support a government slogan like an old fashioned appeal to freedom does.

For the full article, visit fiusm.com.

Room 101 is a column about politics and economics. For further commentary, please email Juan Salamanca at opinion@fiusm.com.

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at Snodgrass Hall. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.
School of music presents a modern version of opera ‘Venus and Adonis’

LIFESTYLE POINTS

On Feb. 21, the FIU School of Music gave a modern re-imaging to John Blow’s English opera “Venus and Adonis.”

The production was done in collaboration with the FIU Collegium Musicum and the Conchita Espinosa Academy Choir. It had been inspired by the arrival of Shakespeare’s First Folio to the Frost Museum, given that “Venus and Adonis” was based on the famous Shakespeare poem of the same name.

Aesthetically, the stage production and design was intended to be a modern-day setting. It gave the audience a “contemporary lens through which to view a 17th century court masquerade,” as written on the program.

The opera itself explored the transparency behind an idealized concept of love, and its fresh design choice was intended to reflect this ever-present notion in our modern society with the internet.

The opera is also very short -- roughly an hour. Blow’s original inception wasn’t intended to be long and drawn out, which is unusual for an opera but nonetheless, it was still an enjoyable experience.

Venus and Adonis are lovers, but Venus decides to play with his affections and desires for her own satisfaction.

This comes to play a risky decision in a deathly way, painting a poignant picture on what it really means to play with someone’s heart.

The depiction of a more modern-day setting with operatic music was somewhat jarring initially, but it was a swift draw when we were introduced to the beautiful voices of the performance.

Amanda Orihuela delivered perfect high notes in her performance as Venus, and was accent well by Adolfo Rodriguez as Adonis in their last scene together.

The opera suffered minor hitches in the execution of the production’s design, it by far doesn’t overshadow the things it does right.

It’s wit in relating the narrative to contemporary culture simply by changing its aesthetic is what made it interesting.

There was even a clever input of Venus and Adonis communicating by cell phone - which took some people by surprise when they heard a phone going off to find it was actually coming from Venus.

The last performance for the month was Monday, but this will not be the last for the semester. The opera will have one last performance at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Coconut Grove Friday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit the School of Music’s website for a calendar of concerts and events.

LifeStyle points is a column covering films and pop culture by Joseph Cardenas. For suggestions and comments email joseph.cardenas@fiu.edu

Cultural exposure enhances student experiences, legacies

It is easy to notice that the spring semester is in full swing. The crowds on campus have picked up.

Productivity is high as students are busy working on research papers or group projects or studying for their first exams. However, this semester seems unlike others. Our campus and the world feel different – a bit unsettled and a lot more vulnerable. Many of us followed the events last semester at the University of Missouri where students expressed their concerns about racial bias permeating their campus climate. Our own FIU students were impacted by the events at Missouri which led to many public discussions and acts of support and solidarity. Students, faculty and staff have engaged to examine the issue of racism both in the context of our campus and the national landscape.

We then witnessed the attacks in Paris that touched much of the world. Although there was an overwhelming rallying of solidarity and support, we were also reminded of our defenselessness when tragedy strikes. But Parisians demonstrated their resiliency to rise up and reclaim their lives by resoccupying the terraces they fled from and placing flowers through bullet holes that pierced through storefronts. But as the world denounced the attacks in Paris, a resurgence of Islamophobia has resurfaced in our public and private spaces of discourse to instigate hate and divide. We were once again reminded that educational institutions should be safe environments for all students to learn.

As we look forward into this year for hope, growth, and new opportunities, think about what you want from your campus and the world in which you live. How will you leave your mark at FIU and on the world? What will be your legacy? How will you transform our campus, our South Florida community, or our world into a better place?

As a starting point, consider taking part in the Center for Leadership and Service alternative Breaks (aB) Express Experience. Students participating in aB Express three-day service trip within the state of Florida gain a glimpse of the impact they could make on social and community issues, such as such as literacy, poverty, racism, hunger, homelessness, and the environment. The application will be open until March 6. For more information or to register, visit go.fiu.edu/aBExpress or contact the Center for Leadership and Service office.

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Dean’s Desk is written by the Dean of Students office. The Dean of Students office, in the Division of Student Affairs, creates a culture of care for students, their families, faculty and staff by providing proactive education consultation, resources, and response to distressed students or students in crisis. The Dean of Students will provide a monthly column in the Beacon, to acquaint students with some of the important campus resources in place to support their success.
LISTENERS DISSECT KANYE’S ‘THE LIFE OF PABLO’

BY JULIAN BALBOA & ANDREA GARCIA

Kanye West has confined his audience since the beginning of his career. From his comments on President Bush, his controversial racial tensions on ‘My Name Is,’ and his erratic Twitter presence, these last few years have all contributed to an image of a man who has lost touch with his mind no matter what the audience feels.

Now, after months of hype and mystery, West has finally released “The Life of Pablo.”

“Ultralight Beams,” has all the goosebump inducing qualities and the star power that have the makings of a classic West song. The production here harkens back to the minimalist style he had while making Pusha T’s debut, “My Name Is My Name,” which the track “Nosetalgia” combines.

The same West used a blend of guitar, bongos, and a kick for the drums, whilst the vocals of the “Nostalgia” sound; here, he uses only a swelling main melody of the “Nosetalgia” of guitar, bongos, and a kick for the drums, whilst the vocals of the “Nostalgia”. The track “Low Lights” features a sample of Sister Nancy’s “Bam Bam” and the instrumental version features a small outro from the G.O.O.D. Music rapper’s fears about the threadbare state of the music industry. Whereas “I Love Kanye” is a nice, satirical sentiment made out to be self-aware and a throwback to the interludes found on “The College Dropout” and “Late Registration,” about West missing the “old Kanye.” The song “Famous” might be known for its infamous line about Taylor Swift, “For all my southside lovers— that know me best. I feel like Taylor and I may still have sex, cause I made that b---h famous…,” instead of one about the Kardashians as the new “Kanye West proclaims.”

The guest policy is certainly a big detriment for the families and relatives of the students who want to spend quality time with their loved ones, as well as explore the city. These concerns voiced by the international student community living on-campus call for strong amendments to the guest policy in the residence halls.

Resident Hall Association should provide some sort of relaxation or flexibility to international guests. If that is not possible, the RHA should at least provide some sort of student discount at nearby lodging facilities. RHA should take this issue into consideration as soon as possible, because numerous international students are voicing their frustration against the guest policy. Because they make up such an integral part of the university, and contribute to the diversity of the student population, the university should do what they can to solve this matter.
NO STRIKING OUT
Panthers finish tournament with winning streak

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The softball team improved to 8-2 for the season after dropping just one game on the weekend. The Panthers went 4-1 overall, winning two straight to end the weekend strong.

The Panther invitational featured four teams and had the attention of Felsberg field during this past weekend. On Friday, Feb. 19, FIU started the tournament off with Abby Summers on the mound against Holy Cross.

FIU took an early lead in the first inning at 1-0, and wouldn’t look back for the rest of the game. The final lopsided score of the first contest was 7-0, as FIU won with ease.

It was a good day for the Panthers, as the sun set and the night time shone with three hits in three at-bats. Meanwhile in the offense side, the bats stayed clanging. The Panthers scuffled 14 hits off Holy Cross, with Ashley Belans shone with three hits in three at-bats.

The Panthers had very little time to rest, as the sun set and the night time matchup against Indiana was up next to cap the double header with a sweep.

Corrine Jenkins started the game for FIU against Indiana, but it was Hunter Scharf who pitched three innings and came in as the relief, picking up her first loss of the season (1-1). FIU had the advantage until the fifth inning. The bases were loaded after a strikeout and flyout to end the inning. The winning streak would soon come to an end, as the next day featured the Panthers only loss of the weekend. A two run home run by Delaware’s Anna Steinmetz would define the first game of the day, as Delaware went on to win a close one with a final score of 5-4.

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Junior Dani Mowry then cleared the bases with a double to put the Panthers up for the first time. Hunter Scharf picked up the win for the Panthers, allowing just one hit and three walks over five innings. The victory extended the Panthers winning streak to six games. The final score of the first contest was 7-0, as FIU scored 8 runs in the first two innings, including all 9 starters going up to bat in the first inning. The win put the Panthers back in the winner’s column, improving them to 7-2.

Neither team let down heading into the sixth inning. Junior Dani Mowry then hit a one run shot out of Felsberg field to give FIU the lead and the win. It was Mowry’s first homerun of the year and she became the fifth different FIU player to knock one out of their home field.

The win not only secured some revenge for their only loss of the weekend, but it also improved the Panthers to an 8-2 overall record, a phenomenal ten game start.

The stage was set for an FIU-Delaware rematch on Sunday, Feb. 21, afternoon to close the tournament for FIU. The Panther picked up the 3-2 victory, while Summers picked up another win, pitching 6.1 innings and allowing one earned run. Scharf got her second save of the season after a standout and flyer to end the game.

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FIU is hot both on the mound and with the bats and they look to carry this momentum against Central Connecticut State, who comes to South Florida for a one game night Thursday, Feb. 25.
Cupp looks forward to another successful year

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As the women’s beach volleyball team prepares for its upcoming season, junior Aren Cupp will look to have another spectacular season. Cupp said she brings a lot of experience and a great attitude.

Cupp served as the team’s captain last season. Only a sophomore, she showed that it doesn’t matter how old you are, you can still be dominant while being younger than most, as long as you believe in yourself. “You just gotta bring it all. You can’t leave anything off the court,” Cupp said, “you have to have confidence, that’s the biggest thing we talk about on our team.” Cupp looks to bring what she accomplished last season to tournaments and practices this season. “It’s always a different experience when you go into a tournament versus practicing,” Cupp said, “so knowing the mentality that I need to have everyday going into a tournament, and bringing that into practice everyday.”

However, preparing for an upcoming season is more than just repeating what the team did the previous year. Changes need to be made in order to be as successful as possible. “This is just one of the various challenges why having repeated success is so arduous,” Cupp said. “Knowing what’s it’s like playing different teams other than your own, in college, is a very big deal as well.”

Different teams play a different system in a game, so we’ve really worked to change our system and make it even more competitive and to give us that edge”, Cupp said. She would like to emulate what last year’s team accomplished, as well as improve on her own record once again. The team will have to play collectively and as a whole to exhibit such success.

“I would like to place first in the nation. I would like to keep our team first in the East Coast. I would like to win all of my games,” Cupp said.

Cupp will look to lead her team as the Panther’s are set to take the court first half points over 13 times or more in each tournament and practices this season. As a duo, they defeated Florida Atlantic University Owls on Saturday, Feb. 20, in an 86-70 rout of the Panthers. The blowout loss is the highest win percentage in field goals per game in the FBS with a 42.79

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On Feb. 20, students were given the opportunity to Try a Triathlon thanks to BBC Recreation.

The event, a sort of mock triathlon allowed participants to swim, bike and run trail distances in order to simulate the experience of a real triathlon, with the training and assistance of coaches.

Christina Reddick, assistant director of aquatics and event coordinator, was expecting over 100 students alumni and community members to participate.

"The event was an open call to all," said Reddick. The event was free for University students and open to all ages and skill levels.

"The goal is to grow not only physically, but both mentally and spiritually," said Diane Calloway, one of the coaches. The event helped beginners like senior and psychology major Alejandro Rizzo.

"I don’t know how to swim, but I saw a pool and jumped right in. It was hard, but I made it through," Rizzo said.

Intermediate swimmers were given quarter-mile goals in the Aquatic Center Pool. Following the pool workout came a four-mile bike loop out to Biscayne Boulevard and around the Covens Conference Center. The biking was convenient because participants weren’t even required to bring a bicycle; organizers provided rentals and helmets. Stationary bikes were also accessible in the gym and used to keep time as an alternative.

The final physical test was a mile run along side the Bay. Following the physical trial, there was both food and refreshments to recharge the athletes and attendees.

Wendy Bonilla, a senior and biology major, said the event allowed her to meet people like her interested in healthy living.

"Trainers are super expensive. I don’t understand why more FIU students don’t take advantage or get involved in this free training event," Bonilla said. The day was capped off by a cooldown stretch. Coaches, volunteers, sponsors and participants mingled with representatives of local businesses like Alex’s Bicycle Pro Shop while eating the free food and hydrating.

"The event is really really awesome. It gets you back on training, into getting back in shape and putting your health before anything else," Bonilla said.