FIU N.O.W. to host Annual Slut Walk

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FIU’s National Organization for Women’s fourth annual Miami Slut Walk will take place April 8 starting at 3 p.m. in front of the GC Lawns.

According to Drey Aradanas, president of NOW, the Slut Walk is a national movement and is in reference to a Canadian police officer’s statement on sexual assault.

“In 2011, a police officer said in order for women to stop being victimized they should stop dressing like ‘sluts,’” said Aradanas.

“Often times when sexual assault occurs, it’s asked ‘What was she wearing? What was he wearing? What were they doing?’, she said. “The [blame] is always placed upon the victim and not on the perpetrator and what something we want to change.”

This tendency to blame the victim is a product of rape culture and the annual Slut Walk is meant to combat this culture with education as well a reclamation of the word “slut,” according to Aradanas.

“Some people want to take back the word ‘slut’ and some people don’t, and that’s subjective. It’s up to what that particular person wants,” said Aradanas. “For me personally, ‘slut’ means someone who practices their own sexuality.”

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Drey Aradanas
President National Organization for Women

The Walk is a public event meaning those outside of the FIU community can also participate. This year’s event is expected to attract around 300 participants. “The first year that NOW hosted the Slut Walk, there were 100 to 150 participants, the second year there were around 200 and the third year there saw 250. So there’s been a steady increase,” she said. “This year we’re predicting around 300 people to participate.”

Some bystanders will show support and shout things like “I’m so proud of you! I’m so glad you’re doing this!” said Rayna Milfort, a junior majoring in women and gender studies who is also a member of NOW. “But I’ll think ‘why aren’t you here? Are you shy?’

There will also be a police presence following the walk as it makes its way around the perimeter of the school before culminating in front of the Parkview dorms.

“We want the police to see the Walk. We want them to be educated because often victims will report [sexual assault] and they’ll feel discouraged because the police are unresponsive or say the wrong thing,” said Aradanas.

“I don’t want to say that administration doesn’t care, because they do. But a lot of people, including students, faculty and staff, don’t know how to address sexual assault,” she said.

Student can get involved by reaching out to NOW or by showing up on the day of the Slut Walk.

According to Aradanas and Milfort, NOW hopes the event will raise awareness about rape culture, encourage the community to rethink the word ‘slut’ and the way women express their sexuality.

“For some people are empowered naked and some people are empowered with clothes on. It should be, no matter what,” said Milford.

Lawmakers against deportation intervention

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Three Republican Cuban-American lawmakers from Florida usually oppose President Barack Obama’s immigration policies, but they’re now among just five GOP lawmakers who opposed unprecedented House of Representatives involvement in a key U.S. Supreme Court case challenging Obama’s deportation decisions.

Last week, the House overwhelmingly approved allowing budget reconciliation to go through for more than 5 million immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally.

South Florida Republicans accounted for three of the five Republicans voting no: Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Mario Díaz-Balart and Carlos Curbelo.

The other two were Reps. Richard Hanna of New York, who frequently backs GOP hard-liners in Congress and is retiring after the current term, and Robert Dold of Illinois.

Fifteen Cuban-Americans voted for the measure, which passed 234-186. All 18 Democrats who cast votes opposed it.

The Supreme Court on April 18 will hear the case brought by Texas arguing that Obama’s bid to shield from deportation about 5.2 million immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally imposes unaffordable health care, education, law enforcement and other costs on them.

Texas has been joined by Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Kansas, Idaho and 18 other states.

Ryan, the Wisconsin Republican who replaced Ohio Republican John Boehner as speaker last October, acknowledged that House intervention in a case before the Supreme Court was virtually unprecedented, but he said it was necessary to prevent what he called executive overreach by Obama.

Ryan and other Republicans said Obama’s executive orders dating to 2014 amount to the president legislating immigration restructuring without going through Congress.

In a joint statement, Ros-Lehtinen and Diaz-Balart said that although individual members of Congress had the right to file briefs supporting congress, the House as a whole should not do so. Last month the brief filed by Ryan will have the weight of representing the entire body.

All amicus briefs should carry the same weight, and beginning this pattern may signal to the Supreme Court that Congress is prioritizing certain cases over others,” the two Miami Republicans said.

Curbelo, a first-term Republican from Kendall, went further. He accused Republicans of playing politics with the important issue of immigration.

“For too long, both parties have preferred to take petty political points using the immigration issue rather than passing meaningful reform to secure the border, reform our visa system and find a fair solution for the undocumented,” Curbelo said.

“The surest and most constitutionally solvent way to end the president’s executive overreach is to pass meaningful immigration reform, not by employing empty tactics that ignore the root cause of the problem,” he said.

Two lower courts have ruled in favor of the states, most recently the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in New Orleans.

With only eight justices on the Supreme Court since Antonin Scalia’s death last month, a 4-4 decision after the oral arguments might allow the lower court’s decision.

At universities across the country, centuries-old names that adorn buildings, streets and squares are under siege, from centuries-old names that adorn buildings, streets and squares are under siege, from

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Universities address controversial namesakes

KATY MURPHY
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Students from UC Berkeley, Amherst, students from UC Berkeley, Amherst, students from UC Berkeley, Amherst...
Lawmakers address Cuba-US relations

NAMES, PAGE 1

Yale, Princeton, Georgetown and many other similar campaigns, and the results are starting to show. The movement “has now reached the fulcrum moment where it is going to roll downhill and taking everything with it,” said Alfred Brophy, a professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law and an expert in reparations history and law who has been observing the trend. A Harvard Law committee this month recommended the school ditch an unofficial seal bearing the family crest of Isaac Royall Jr., an early donor who got rich from the slave trade. Ambrose follows in January to drop “Lord Jeff,” the school’s unofficial mascot inspired by Lord Jeffery Amherst, the 18th-century British army officer for whom the town was named, and who suggested that smallpox be used as a weapon against Native Americans.

The shootings at a black church in Charleston, S.C., last June moved Yale’s leaders to consider renaming a residential college named after John C. Calhoun, a statesman and vice president under John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. In a speech in August, Yale President Peter Salovey said Calhoun, an 1804 Yale graduate, “mounted the most powerful and influential defense of his day for slavery.” UC Berkeley did not agree to change the name of Barrows Hall to honor the Black Panther Party revolutionary Assata Shakur, as the Black Student Union demanded last year. But last week the school revealed senior campus officials were conducting a “comprehensive assessment of all of the building names” on campus.

Stanford is about to undertake a similar review. The president and provost have announced a new committee led by history Professor Emeritus David Kennedy to set principles for campus names. “Not all of those names are names of people that have unblemished histories,” Provost John Etchemendy told the Faculty Senate this month. “So we want to be able to apply the principles, not just to the Serra name but to other names to determine whether or not they should be changed.”

“Renaming buildings won’t fix the problems facing minority students on college campuses, but it is a powerful step nonetheless,” said Anthony Williams, UC Berkeley sociology major from Vacaville.

Williams, who is African-American, and fellow student Bradley Africian, who is Filipino-American, created an art installation outside of Barrows Hall to bring attention to the debate, and to David Prescott Barnes, an anthropologist whose book about the Philippines, published in 1905, referred to its "people" as "little savages." Africian pointed out, is on a hall housing the university’s ethnic studies department.

“We have this building named after this person who depicts us as below-human,” Africian said. “Here at Berkeley, we’re still trying to find a way to make this the public university it’s supposed to be.”

The challenge for colleges is to find “the most appropriate way to acknowledge and come to terms with the sins of the past,” said Beverly Tatum, who for 13 years served as president at Spelman College, the historically black liberal arts school for women in Atlanta.

“The foundation of our nation was built on the oppression of indigenous people and the enslavement of Africans,” Tatum said. “That is painful history for all of us.”

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

How do we make spaces inclusive in a university system that was never meant to include us?

Anthony Williams
Sociology Major
UC Berkeley

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

At least 30 killed in Brussels terrorist attacks

A series of terrorist attacks in the Belgian capital left at least 30 people dead and 230 injured on Tuesday, with the Islamic State extremist group claiming responsibility for the explosions at a subway station and Brussels’ international airport.

The Belgium’s Jewish organization, which controls a swath of territory in Iraq

White House seeks investment in water supplies

The White House on Tuesday unveiled several billion dollars’ worth of corporate commitments to water research and development during a high-level summit.

Pegged to World Water Day, the summit was intended to draw attention to special water and corporate pledges as well as new Obama administration initiatives prompted in part by Western states’ drought and the Flint, Mich., drinking water scandal.

The corporate promises include a commitment by GE to invest $500 million over the next decade on water and reuse technologies, and a pledge by San Francisco-based Ultra Cap to invest $1.5 billion in decentralized “water management solutions.”

Trump endorsed by woman in Congress

Less than week after Donald Trump carried nearly every county in her district during the Republican presidential primary, U.S. Rep. Renee Ellmers, R-N.C., met with the candidate Monday and endorsed him.

Ellmers is the first woman in Congress to endorse Trump for president.

Ellmers and other Republican lawmakers had lunch with Trump for more than an hour on Monday afternoon in Washington. After the meeting, she said she was moved by Trump’s performance in last week’s North Carolina Republican primary. Monday’s meeting came as Trump seeks to win over party leaders who have so far not endorsed anyone in the presidential race but who have said they would support the eventual Republican GOP nominee.

“I wasn’t there first either. I wasn’t sure (initially) what to think of him as a candidate,” Ellmers said of Trump. “But I think of him as a candidate,” she added. “They keep saying, ‘Well, Trump doesn’t represent our values,’ and now they want to know what Trump gets all of his anti-immigrant, xenophobic views from,”

The movement “has now reached the fulcrum moment where it is going to roll downhill and taking everything with it,” said Alfred Brophy, a professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law and an expert in reparations history and law who has been observing the trend. A Harvard Law committee this month recommended the school ditch an unofficial seal bearing the family crest of Isaac Royall Jr., an early donor who got rich from the slave trade. Ambrose follows in January to drop “Lord Jeff,” the school’s unofficial mascot inspired by Lord Jeffery Amherst, the 18th-century British army officer for whom the town was named, and who suggested that smallpox be used as a weapon against Native Americans.

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Social media’s role in our smoking youth

Our phobia of failure breeds a society of sore losers

In Truth

Some in society seem to be infatuated with winning, and being in first place, getting that gold medal that shows they did something truly the best that day. This fear of losing is something that humans have fought with since cavemen started forging.

The loss of a family member can elicit the same reaction. Lebron James did in some when he left Cleveland all those years ago.

Seeing a grown man cry on live TV over a player going from one place to shoot a ball in a hoop to another is quite disturbing.

Look at sports teams with how people take team losses, especially at championship games. Fans, who are not playing or have a financial stake in the team, can become extremely angry, emotional or even violent from their team’s loss.

Losing is not a good feeling; my basketball team and I made it to the finals and we lose after we missed the potential game winning shot. Emotions were running high after the game and some failed to appreciate everything we accomplished up to that point.

There’s a group of kids losing a game they love to play, then there’s Cam Newton, who recently gave one of the saltiest post-game interviews in Super Bowl history before proceeding to walk out.

Newton, who actually glows in the face of challenges and whose team had an impressive win streak, handled the loss worse than a middle-aged man mourning his slowly disappearing hair.

“Who likes to lose? You show me a good loser and I’ll show you a loser.” were the words spoken by Newton following his loss in a tool to encourage smokers to kick their habit.

In previous years, cigarettes were one of the most pervasive environment of young people’s social and media has allowed imagery of smoking to enter the personal scope of the consumer.

Through social media, people feel like they are doing something of their own choice without outside pressure. Social media helps in creating an emotional bond that causes people to feel as though consuming something is part of their identity.

In a study published by the Journal of Adolescent Health, a survey of 1,563 tenth grade students in Los Angeles over a six-month period starting October 2010 revealed that 34 percent of respondents had at least one friend who talked about; on social media, while 20 percent reported that their friends posted photos of them drinking online.

In short, the study revealed that those who were more exposed to photos of friends smoking and drinking were more likely to engage in those activities themselves.

In addition, teens who had few friends who smoked or drank were more likely to be influenced by other pictures of people drinking or smoking on social media to engage in such activities. This suggests that the pictures, rather than actual interaction, was the primary influence.

Popular media also forms a large pervasive environment of young people’s social and environmental issues it frequently includes references to tobacco.

Even if the intention may not be to promote smoking or any kind of deliberate message, many young people feel that what they see is a realistic reflection of actual life that will not influence their own decisions.

In January of 2011, FIU became a tobacco and smoke free campus where under the regulation, smoking and use of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, are prohibited in all areas of FIU’s campuses. This came with the university’s commitment to providing students with a safe and healthy environment.

However, some individuals do not respect the regulation and smoking can still be found in some of the quieter, more secluded spots around campus.

Panthers should be concerned about their health as well as the health of others, especially for smokers who might be causing others harm through second-hand smoking.

Rather than allowing social media to influence students the wrong way, students can instead adopt a healthier lifestyle that reflects on their use of technology. Support groups and positive, encouraging messages can go a long way. Better yet, they can be a tool to encourage smokers to kick their habit.

Panther Health is a commentary on health in nutrition. Maytinee Kramer is a staff writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, please contact Maytinee at opinion@fiusm.com.

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During the break, one of FIU's own, Lola Chel, a public relations senior, organized a talent showcase at Studio 504, March 13.

A.R.T. Live: Soul Night saw music artist, poets and included wine tasting and pairing presented by Chef Jordan Catering Co.

The artist and poets presented hailed as far as from Central Florida and from all levels of experience. Included in the showcase: Southrn Most Poet, Ari Safari and Reginald.

Southrn Most Poet, a graduate from Full Sail University, an educational system primarily focused on degrees in the entertainment realm, takes pride in bouncing words off his tongue.

“When I’m frustrated, I express how I feel through my words and a sick beat,” says Southrn Most Poet.

As a young millennial and Dominican Republic native, Southrn Most Poet continues to define himself in the world. He exemplifies the soul behind the A.R.T. Live event, a multimedia art event whose purpose is geared towards supporting local artists as well as to inspire others in the community.

Purposefully misspelled, the word 'southern' gives him a sense of uniqueness that transcends to the other featured artists at A.R.T. Live.

Along side Southrn Most Poet, was performative poet Ari Safari.

“My name's Ari Safari...real name is Arianna but people call me Ari Safari,” said the performative poet. Safari, is a Lesbian poet originally from California. As a woman of her word, she aims to empower woman to see themselves as personal superheroes.

“The power of positive thinking makes us strong,” Safari says and this concept of pure positivity is felt throughout the A.R.T. Live space.

Safari does not wish to stop here at performing and sees herself collaborating with script writers and producers in order to communicate her message of female empowerment.

Also at Soul Night was saxophonist Reginald. Since the age of nine, Reginald views his talent as a way to relax others.

“I want people to feel therapeutic vibrations while listening to my sound,” Reginald states.

As a tri-county regular, Reginald’s first headlining gig at A.R.T. Live was beautiful, the warmth of the sound reciprocated off of the audience in the form of large smiles.

A.R.T. Live showcased talent of all kinds that all connected in the deeper, raw sense of soul and how music can communicate globally in order to unite us all.
Cannibal Kids release final independent album

The EP “Cake Daze” has finally been released by Cannibal Kids, this past week. Cannibal Kids continue their drive and alternative rock to make up their costal, up-beat sound. This EP is a tribute to the fan base of the band, who have been proudly signed to a label. “Cake Daze” is somewhat of a walk down memory lane for the dedicated fans of the band. It begins with “Graphing,” which accurately captures the band’s tropical sound that they began with. The narrator’s speaks of traveling anywhere with his mother and it not a matter of when they’ll go. This is almost like the band speaking to themselves, they have a lot of potential and it was just a matter of time before someone took notice.

The space is crammed with fantastical footwear. An enormous pair of high-tops bears signatures of employees around the world. A 50th anniversary slip-on, reserved for employees only, sits on his desk. The heel logo has the word “family” stamped in gold glitter. On the wall above Van Doren’s head is a framed picture of a pair of feet. It’s a wedding picture of his daughter, Kristy, and her husband wearing custom Vans. Vans had been made out of the same fabric as her dress.” Van Doren said.

The band is working with their label to produce a full album and Pipeline looks forward to hearing it. Pipeline is a column that covers local music acts. To submit comments and suggestions contact life@fiusm.com

VANS celebrates 50th Anniversary worldwide

ANAHEIM, Calif. When the Van Doren Rubber Co. threw open its retail doors in Anaheim on March 16, 1966, the business was so new many of the boxes on the shelves didn’t even have shoes in them. But there were samples to try on. Somewhere between 12 and 16 customers placed orders for the company’s rubber-soled canvas deck shoes that had to be manufactured on the premises overnight and picked up the next day.

Faded color photographs of that first factory show an unsung building painted warehouse white, with a storefront almost willed into existence through a few hundred square feet of brick and stone. A wood-paneled station wagon parked out front seems to take up half the block.

That building, that day and those doors or pairs of freshly cut, assembled and boxed shoes could have been just another blip on the radar of 1960s youth culture, but it turned out to be something much bigger. The Van Doren Rubber Co. would become Vans, makers of the super-casual Skate Footwear with the waffle-bottom sole that goody-footed its way into our collective consciousness.

Now a multibillion-dollar action sports brand owned by North Carolina-based VF Corp., Vans will mark its golden anniversary Wednesday with half a dozen simultaneous music-fueled parties in six cities around the globe including Austin, Texas; Cape Town, South Africa; Hong Kong and Mexico City. The same day, it will release limited-edition $175 Van Doren-inspired sneakers and republish a 2009 book chronicling the label’s history. That Vans, which has come to symbolize Southern California youth culture, is old enough to join AARP is surprising enough, but, as it notches the half-century mark, Vans isn’t just surviving, it’s thriving.

In 2004, Vans was a $252 million business annually and essentially breaking even, making, no money,” said VF President and Chief Operating Officer Steve Rendle. “Fast-forward to where we are today: Vans is our second-largest brand at $2.2 billion [in 2015 revenue], and they are one of our most profitable businesses.”

Vans’ journey from storefront start-up to global lifestyle brand has as many curves as a skate park. Along for every moment of the ride has been Steve Van Doren. Now the son of company co-founder Paul Van Doren is officially vice president of events and promotions. But unofficially he is brand historian, mentor and keeper of the family flame.

In advance of the bash, Van Doren, who is scheduled to attend several of the global birthday parties with Vans-loving skateboarders Tony Alva and Steve Caballero, no less, ushered a reporter into his Cypress, Calif., office to talk about the brand’s past, its present and where it might be in another 50 years.

Steve Van Doren cites two factors that helped the fledgling business survive. An early embrace by SoCal skate culture, plus the company’s ability, and desire, to churn out custom shoes.

That part of the Vans story began two years before the company was founded when his father, then an employee of Massachusetts-based Randolph Rubber Co., came to Southern California from Boston in 1964 to help turn around a Garden Grove factory. By the next year, his father had parted ways with the company, leaving Van Doren and his employer had parted ways, but before he left, an encounter with surf legend Duke Kahanamoku planted the seed for a future business model.

“My dad was down in Huntington Beach,” Van Doren said. “Duke Kahanamoku was there. He said, ‘Duke, I can make you a pair of shoes out of that Hawaiian shirt... ’ Duke gave him Fred’s shirt, my dad went back to the Randolph factory and made a pair of shoes for him.”

Randolph briefly sold versions of the aloha-print slip-on in 1965 (vintage pairs have been valued at $5,000 in online forums), with Vans reissuing its own version over the years.

Determined to build his own shoe business from the ground up, Paul Van Doren teamed with his brother, James Van Doren, and business partners Gordon Lee and Serge D’Elia. By early 1966, the wheels were in motion, and in March, the Van Doren Rubber Co. sold its first shoes. The very first style was a lace-up canvas deck shoe known as the Style 44 Authentic.

Skateboarder were early fans. “They adopted us, no ifs, ands or buts about it.” Steve Van Doren said in a 2009 interview with The Times. “When you’re skateboarding, you tend to wear out one shoe because you’re dragging it to brake or you’re sliding with it. And the shoes were $8 back then, and they could buy one shoe for $4.”

Vans signed Stacy Peralta as its first sponsored skateboarder and, later, Alva. In 1976, they helped the company create the first dedicated skateboarding shoe.

If there was a single strike of luck in Vans’ first two decades, it was the black-and-white checkerboard, a pattern so much a part of the brand DNA it covers millions of pairs of Vans, the facade of company headquarters and even a tricked-out Fiat in the parking lot.

In “Fast Times at Ridgemont High,” Sean Penn wore his own checkerboard pair as part of his Jeff Spicoli wardrobe.

“‘Fast Times’ definitely put us on the map,” Van Doren said. “We were about a $20-million company before the movie came out, and we were on track for $40 million to $45 million after that.”

But the brand’s biggest break nearly became ending. “In 1982, my uncle decided we should do athletic shoes _ we actually had two shoes inRunner’s World, “ Van Doren recounted, “and we ended up with running flats, basketball, volleyball, wrestling and even break-dancing shoes. We poured all the money from the [success of the] checkerboard into that stuff, but it wasn’t.”

In 1984, Vans filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, from which it emerged in 1986. Two years later, the co-founders sold the company to banking firm McCan De Leeuw & Co. In 2004, it was purchased by VF.

For the last dozen years, the parent company has let the design, sales and marketing sides of the Vans business do their own thing. Between that hands-off approach and Steve Van Doren’s longtime role as standard-bearer of what Rendle calls “the Van Doren spirit,” it’s easy to forget it’s not a family-owned business.
Season kicks off at ‘Canes Invitational

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March 18-19, 15 schools including FIU competed at the 2016 Hurricane Invitational hosted by the University of Miami. This was a rigorous task for the Panthers’ track and field team as they competed in 34 different events between the two days.

The other schools who were invited to compete included Boston University, Virginia Tech University, Bowdoin College, George Mason University, College of the Bahamas, ASA College, Nova Southeastern University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Memorial University, Saint Thomas University, Keiser University, Johnson and Wales University and Palm Beach Atlantic University.

There were teams from all over the country and even outside the US. Since the event had such a wide range of competition, all the teams got to gauge exactly where they are at to begin this season.

Of the 34 events, the FIU team were represented in 18 of them and finished as high as second in multiple events. FIU’s ‘A’ team which includes Brandon Ballard, Alton Elphap, Earnest Hamilton, and Todd Jackson finished second in the Men’s 4x400 Meter Relay Finals and Chandra Fullwood finished second in Women’s Shot Put Final.

A standout, Alex Del Rosario, Redshirt Junior ran an impressive 48.64, which was the best of all the FIU men and eighth in 400 Meter Finals.

When asked about it he said, “Well honestly I was really disappointed with it. I think I can go 47.46. I’ve had a groin injury all year and it was hurting me as I was running and I couldn’t really go into that next gear. I felt like it held me.”

An interesting story was that of Oriel Anu and her FIU career. After an injury ridden Junior Season, Anu was eager to get back on the track, especially at an outdoor event. Unfortunately a false start derailed her opportunity to compete in the 100 Meter Hurdles.

“I was pretty relaxed coming into the race. I didn’t get nervous until I got into the blocks and I got overwhelmed all at once. I just got nervous and jumped the gun,” Anu said.

As far as her road from recovery of a broken foot, she said that the hardest thing was “just being patient, because I’m not patient at all and I had to learn to develop patience over the last year.”

Jermaine Felix, an assistant coach and 2011 FIU graduate offered his opinion on the team and the event. When asked how the meet went, coach Felix said, “As a whole I would say our Men’s and Women’s teams came out and competed strong, we had quite a bit of top three to five finishes. For a kickoff meet, I would say the team did pretty well overall. As for the upcoming meets coach Felix said, even though a lot of us did well today, we expect their performances to get better and better throughout the season.”

Panthers off to slow start in C-USA play

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FIU started conference play off with a 10-11 record, which was lukewarm for a team coming off of a Conference USA Championship.

The short, five game road trip began with a split series at Jacksonville University. The first game went to FIU with solid pitched and good backup on offense, but the Dolphin bats proved to be too much in the second, and final game of the series, What with JU notching 13 hits, three of them being home runs.

That was on Wednesday. By Friday, the Panthers were in Charlotte, North Carolina to begin their first series against a conference opponent all season.

The ball was in Andres Nunez’ (2-3) hand to start the weekend against the 49ers from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

As has been an unfortunate trend for the big right-hander, he got behind early, by allowing the 49ers to score two runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Nunez managed to pull things together and pitch seven whole innings with only three hits and five strikeouts.

While the Panthers had one more hit that night than the 49ers, they came a run short in extra innings, when with runners on both 2nd and 3rd, Charlotte second baseman Brett Netzer hit a walk-off single in the bottom of the 10th to win 4-3.

Chris Mourelle (3-2) got the nod again Saturday against the 49ers. The bats were hot for the Charlotte team coming off of Friday night’s win, with 12 hits, but FIU’s bats were all but on fire.

The Panthers were able to get 16 hits and two home runs in the first three innings. One belonged to Nick Day, and the other to Zach Files, counting for two of the pairs four hits on the day.

This was help that Mourelle would need on a less-than-dominant day. Jack Schaaf and Kolby Folis also had a couple of hits each in their more-than-dominant showing Saturday, propelling their team to an 8-5 win.

The rubber match on Sunday would be a boring one, for FIU’s standards. Notching one of their lowest hit-totals of the season, the Panthers left it up to the anchor of their rotation to have a great fire.

While Garrett Cave (1-2) did have five strikeouts in this outing, he also allowed three earned runs. He didn’t help his cause one bit, as Charlotte left-hander Josh Maciejewski posted eight strikeouts off of the FIU hitters, and didn’t allow more than two runs to cross home plate.

That would have been enough, but three more runs would eventually come across for the 49ers before all was said and done, and FIU would miss their shot at winning the first CUSA series of the season.

FIU has a chance to get back over, or at least get to .500 this weekend, March 25, when The Thundering Herd of Marshall University make the trip to Miami to take on the Panthers.

It’ll be interesting to see how much Head Coach Turtle Thomas changes around his line-up and/or pitching rotation before the series begins.

So far this season, Thomas likes to stick to his guns, but fans have to wait and see, once again, what he’ll do to try and win some games.

Garrett Epperson/The Beacon

Track and field team members participate in events during the Hurricane Invitational, held March 18-19.
### SOCCER

**Panther Profile**

**Naomi Ruele to compete in 2016 Olympics**

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The Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics will be welcoming a redshirt freshman from FIU: Naomi Ruele. Ruele will be able to glorify her hometown country of Botswana. Ruele clinched the spot after swimming a 26.07 on Sunday at National Championships from the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center.

Swimmers must compete a set distance inside the pool, which in different cases, it involves a specific style of swimming and must compete for the shortest possible time. For those who don’t know about the growing star, Ruele has ascended some of the fastest times in the world. Ruele earned five gold medals at the Botswana Nationals in December 2013. She qualified for the Youth Olympic Games in the 50 yard backstroke at the South African National Aquatics in 2013 and became the first ever to do so representing Botswana.

She is coming off a historic season here at FIU, eclipsing a mark in the record books. Ruele now holds the all-time fastest times in the 50 yard freestyle (22.23), 100 yard freestyle (49.30) and also second all-time in the 100 yard backstroke (53.09).

Most impressive about Ruele is that she is only opening the door to the next episode. Swimming is one of the most physically fit sports in the world. These athletes practice day in and day out to become these swimming machines. It takes everything in your body at full speed and technique to compete with highest of highest talent.

The Olympics is the grandest stage of them all, everyone from all over the world, tunes in to watch these amazing show their gifted talents. Even if you’re not a fan of the sport, everyone wants to know who will win that gold medal. Athlete’s dream to one day represent themselves and their country till it becomes a reality.

Not many can suppress the idea of becoming an Olympics because the toughest of the toughest competition will be center stage at this global event that begins August 5, 2016. That day will the day of journey for Ruele, a day to remember.

Ruele has the chance to finally represent herself in her first Olympic competition and FIU is proud to have such talent.

She will be traveling with her fellow countrymen with hopes to show the world why swimming is her life.

This passion has driven her to the point that she is ready to deliver her name in the history books. We as FIU students and alumni from all over will be rooting for her.

May the best of luck be behind Naomi Ruele as she swims another chapter into her life.

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### NFL

**Pete’s Pick Draft: Spots 6-10 sees mostly offensive players receiving opportunity to play in NFL**

**Pete’s Picks**

**Peter Hollard, Jr.**

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With only six weeks away until the 2016 NFL Draft, its only best to countdown the days by making a first round mock draft. Before spring break, I gave the first five overall and projected with whom the teams should pick. Now it’s time number six through ten.


Injuries played a huge role in the Ravens’ losing season, including their quarterback Joe Flacco. Stanley could be a steal for the Ravens, and their young offensive line unit.

His main strength is run blocking and can put a pass rusher on their backs, then get to the next level to block the linebackers. If the Ravens pick Stanley, most likely they would start him at right tackle and develop him to be their left tackle in the future.

7. San Francisco 49ers (5-11) Jared Goff Quarterback University of California-Berkeley 6’4 205

Yes, Colin Kaepernick is still on the 49ers roster. However, it is pretty clear that they are moving forward with the struggling QB. In comes Jared Goff from CAL. For starters he doesn’t have to leave the Northern California region since Cal-Berkley is not too far away.

Goff is a day one starter, and could fit in any NFL system. Despite his 9 inch hands, which is the smallest hands in this year’s quarterback class, his deep ball throws and excellent footwork make up for his small hands. Look for first year Head Coach Chip Kelly build this team around Goff if the Niners pick him.

8. Philadelphia Eagles (7-9) Laquann Wroth Wide Receiver Ole Miss 6’3 216

The number eight pick was originally for the Miami Dolphins, but during free agency, both teams settled on a trade in which the Eagles sent cornerback Byron Maxwell and middle linebacker Kiko Alonso to the Dolphins in exchange of switching five spots in the first round of the draft.

So now the Dolphins currently hold the number 13 pick. As for the Eagles, this is basically a rebuild mode after they went on a release spree to the overpaid players that didn’t produce. The Eagles need more weapons for Sam Bradford, who received a two-year extension earlier this month.

Treadwell has the whole package to be the Eagle’s deep threat. His great hands, dynamics skill set and size is everything the Eagles are looking for. He is worth trading up five spots.

9. Tampa Bay Buccaneers (6-10) Noah Spence Defensive End Eastern Kentucky University 6’2 251

The Bucs have no pass rushers whatsoever, and drafting a defensive end makes more sense for Tampa Bay. Drafting Spence this high might be a reach due to his time playing in a small school like Eastern Kentucky, or the baggage he carried back at Ohio State University, where he was dismissed.

Yet, his production on the field still remains. With 63 tackles, 22.5 tackles for loss and 15 quarterback hurries last season at EKU, not to mention one of the most talk about player by scouts after his showcase during the Senior Bowl, Spence could be one of the biggest steals this year.

10. New York Giants (6-10) Myles Jack Linebacker UCLA 6’1 225

Jack could arguably be the best all-around athlete in this year’s draft class, and something the Giants could use after resigning Jason Pierre-Paul and bringing Olivier Vernon from Miami during Free Agency to solve their pass rush problem.

Now the next need is linebacker help, that’s where Jack comes in. Back at UCLA, he was everywhere on the field as a linebacker and running back. Last season was a down year for the former Bruin due to his season-ending knee injury he sustained earlier last season.

Good news is that whoever picks him, he will be ready for training camp this year. The Giants were one of the worst defenses in the NFL. It’s not surprising that the main focus is bringing in defensive players. Jack can play anywhere in the linebacker position because of his speed and instincts.
Red Robin honored FIU’s Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management students Michelle Diaz and Yolanda Suarez on the Burger Bash stage at last month’s South Beach Food & Wine festival.

Diaz and Suarez teamed up for Red Robin’s Golden Robin Contest and their original Loaded Baked Potato Burger recipe took the prize, beating out more than 300 submissions by other students to win a $10,000 scholarship. The prize winning burger has a chance to appear on Red Robin’s menu in the future.

 “[The festival] brought us all together…we worked over 96 hours together,” Diaz told FIU Student Media as she reflected over the time spent at this year’s festival.

The Loaded Baked Potato Burger recipe came to life after Diaz and Suarez looked to see what Red Robin didn’t have on their menu. The duo also wanted to combine two favorite American bar classics.

This was the final year for Diaz and Suarez, both seniors who have plans to pursue careers in the hospitality and culinary industries. Suarez will enter in the food and beverage developmental program training at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside while Diaz will continue to grow in her kitchen manager role at Latin House.

Diaz and Suarez got to serve their winning burger to attendees of the event alongside Red Robin. The South Beach Food & Wine festival has raised more than $22 million for the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management at FIU.