The Supreme Court of SGA at FIU has ruled that Jose Sirven, Access FIU's presidential candidate, ineligible to run for SGA President.

"Sirven," according to the Constitution of the Student Government Association, is ineligible because in order to run for President he must have held an SGA position for at least a year," said Juan Gilces, vice president of SGA, in an interview with Student Media.

Sirven argues that his position as president of the Resident Hall Association counts as an SGA position, since RHA is a bureau under SGA.

"I got paid by SGA, I'm invited to the SGA banquet, I have to go to all the cabinet meetings because RHA is an SGA and SOC-MMC agency. The Senate is able to remove me [as RHA President] because the senate created RHA and made it into a governing council," said Sirven to Student Media.

Gilces said, "We are not saying that RHA is not part of SGA. What's being disputed is whether Mr. Sirven has held an SGA position before and if RHA counts as an SGA position."

However, Sirven says there is no clarification on the term "SGA position" in any government document.

"The closest to that term that the Constitution provides is that documents provide is "SGA official,"" Sirven said. "But logic tells us, anybody who occupies a position in SGA is an SGA official.""'

"Although RHA is a bureau under the jurisdiction of SGA, RHA operates under its own governing documents and conduct its own elections to its executive board, according to Gilces.

"These individuals [the RHA executive board] are not elected or appointed by the Student Government, they are elected by the students that they serve," he said.

Gilces says the RHA president does not represent the housing students, instead the president enhances resident's experiences through programming.

"The people that represent the housing students, are the housing Senators, who are part of SGA legislation," he said. "RHA and other agencies are under the jurisdiction of SGA, but their president positions and all other positions are not SGA positions.

The Supreme Court Chief Justice Sergio Molina said in a statement to Student Media, "Realistically speaking, the Constitution does not recognize RHA or RHA president as an SGA position."

Sirven and Gilces have contended that an appeal has been brought to the Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Lumsford. Student Media reached out to Lumsford for a statement but did not receive one in time for publishing.

Both Sirven and his running mate, Devondra Shaw, must cease all campaign activity as decided by the Elections Commissioner, Luis Callejas.

Initially, Sirven's application was approved by the Elections Board, according to Callejas. In a letter to Sirven, a document provided to Student Media by Callejas, Sirven's candidacy was first appealed to the Elections Board.

The letter says, "The Board has denied that there is not enough clarity in the SGA Constitution and Statutes to disqualify Mr. Sirven, therefore his candidacy stands." The decision was not final.

In a statement to Student Media about the Board's decision, Callejas said, "We looked at multiple documents that are SGA laws and these documents clash with each other."

"The interpretation of these documents was not straightforward because they do not say the same things. Some documents support Jose Sirven's candidacy and others were less clear on this point," he said.

"Beyond the documents which are inconclusive at best, we looked at the reality of the RHA President's position. RHA President meets with the Cabinet, votes on SGA matters, and gets paid by SGA. The RHA President is even in the SGA annual photos and is invited to the SGA yearly banquet. There is no difference between these duties and those of a cabinet member."

Callejas said, "the Senate to the Supreme Court, they have a right to make their own decision as we did. We stand by our decision because we took many factors into consideration and we came up with a fair ruling."

"Their ruling supersedes any decision made by the Elections Board just as their decision is superseded by the Vice President of Student Affairs. We are constitutionally bound to uphold their decision and we have already taken the necessary steps to conform with their finding. We have informed Mr. Sirven of his disqualification and will be confirming Mr. Callejas's victory in the days to come if no further appeal is requested."

Both Sirven and Shaw are still on the ballot for SGA elections. Student Media vote on April 5 and 6 with election results announced April 7.

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See Chicken Pox, page 2

10th Women Who Lead Conference talks tech industry

TALIA TORIBICA Contributing Writer
new@fiu.com

Women Who Lead is an annual conference that enhances the leadership development of female students at FIU, according to Chantae Brown, a Student Ambassador for this year’s Women Who Lead Conference.

The conference took place in the GC Ballrooms from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 22 and Wednesday, March 23, and included network breakfasts, panel discussions, keynote speakers and lunch for students on both campuses.

"It’s important to have events that empower women, so as to build society and replace the traditional gender roles placed or sterees and the air around an open blister that contains the virus would only be infectious to someone in close proximity, Schwartz says. "You’d have to be in close proximity to contract the virus from breathing it in. The virus is heavier than the air around it, and so it drops out of the air. It doesn’t remain in the air floating around," said Schwartz.

She also explained the student who was diagnosed was not coughing at the time of evaluation.

While most cases of Chickenpox occur in adolescence, according to the Center for Disease Control and Schwartz, adults are also at risk if they have not previously contracted the virus.

"Adults are at more risk for bacterial infection from scratching and opening the blisters. It's not active participating, in the fast environment, being left out, and left behind, in the tech industry, and we are the fast growing industry."
California pulls back on BPA warnings, angering advocates

Public health advocates are assailing California’s move to delay labeling of products containing a chemical commonly known as BPA. A 30-year-old ballot initiative requires businesses to post warnings when hazardous chemicals are present. Last year regulators added a chemical commonly found in cans linings called bisphenol A, or BPA, to the list of ingredients that trigger a Proposition 65 label requirement. Scientists found clear evidence of the substance causing “reproductive toxicity” and California moved to require labels by May. But the state is pulling back, arguing the labeling mandate would confuse customers and cut poor people off from fruits and vegetables. A proposed shift would substitute warning signs at the register for notices on grocery store shelves or on cans, bottles and other items that could contain BPA.

Belgian terror attack is another crisis for troubled Europe

In recent days, Belgian politicians had been warning of a heightened terror threat in Brussels after the arrest of one of the prime players in the November attacks in Paris. In fact, after his arrest, Salah Abdeslam, 26, admitted that he’d been planning attacks in Brussels, and police recovered weapons indicating that he was telling the truth. So Tuesday morning, shortly after 9 a.m., when explosions rocked the city, the targets couldn’t have been less surprising: the check-in counters at the busy Brussels Airport and the Maelbeek subway stop near the offices of the European Parliament and the European Commission.
NASA discovers possible extraterrestrial life

When it comes to extraterrestrial life, many would argue it means leaving the factual realm of science and entering the world of sci-fi, but according to NASA’s chief scientist, Ellen Stofan, aliens may already be a reality. “I think we’re going to have strong indications of life beyond Earth within a decade, and I think we’re going to have definitive evidence within 20 to 30 years,” Stofan said during a live webcast panel discussion in April 2015.

This statement may stem from the fact that NASA has found more concrete evidence of life, like the finding of water on Mars or the discovery of Kepler-452b, the first planet with characteristics similar to those of Earth. NASA may be preparing us so that when they do officially state that they’ve found life, we won’t panic. Though, their search for life may have ended sooner than planned with the latest discovery of KIC 8462852, a distant star that was discovered by astronomer Tabetha Boyajian through Planet Hunters, a citizen science program at Yale University. Using NASA’s Kepler Space Telescope, scientists have been tracking the emitting light of about 150,000 newly discovered stars for slight periodic dips in order to find distant planets but what made this star unusual is that its brightness dips are extensive and completely random. “Straight away, we know we’re not dealing with a planet here. Even a Jupiter-sized planet only blocks roughly one percent of this kind of star’s light, and that’s about as big as a planet gets,” Phil Plait, an astronomer at Slate, told the Atlantic.

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“Aliens should always be the very last hypothesis you consider, but this looked like something you would expect an alien civilization to build,” Jason Wright, an astronomer from Penn State University, told The Atlantic.

While they’re still trying to figure out what this megastructure really is, if we do discover aliens, how will it affect our life in terms of religion, government and our safety? The existence of extraterrestrial life will jeopardize the fundamental belief of any religion. It will bring into question everything we know, such as Jesus’s ascension into heaven in body and spirit as proclaimed in the New Testament, the prophet Muhammad’s spirit visiting heaven like the Quran states and the origin of the giant Goliath that is found in the Old Testament.

It also brings into question how the government will react, but most importantly, what will happen to our safety? “If aliens visit us, the outcome could be much like when Columbus landed in America, which didn’t turn out well for the Native Americans,” theoretical physicist Professor Stephen Hawking said during an interview with Spain’s El Pais and he’s right.

History has shown time and time again that the more technologically advanced civilization always defeats and conquers. Through the years, NASA has sent things like The Golden Record, which has music, photos and other documents that explain our humanity into space in hopes that extraterrestrial life will find it, but have they thought of the repercussions? We’re assuming that the aliens will be friendly, but they probably won’t be. We’ll end up in an intergalactic war where humanity will either end up dead or enslaved. While it’s egotistical to think that we’re the only planet that could possibly have life, if this megastructure truly turns out to be what we think it is, perhaps its best we stay hidden in the shadows and try to avoid ever crossing paths with them. Our safety may rely on it.

Michelle Marchante is the Assistant Opinion Director for FIU Student Media. Her column, M Talk, focuses on new and innovative events and ideas. For suggestions or comments, please email Michelle at michelle.marchante@fiusm.com.
ENGINEERING THE FUTURE

Engeneering students display hi-tech class projects

Top left: Jonathan Rolon, a biomedical engineering senior, holds a robotic hand with wires as part of the project of a group of engineering students.

Top right: Will Oberndorf, an electrical Engineering junior, works with a robot designed to act like a shipyard machine.

Bottom left: Juan Trujillo, a senior mechanical engineering major, and Luis Rojas, a senior mechanical engineering major, work in collaboration to put together a car with their fellow classmates.

Bottom right: Mechanical engineering students Eddy Martinez, Nick Augustin, Naseem Ahmed, Juan Trujillo and Luis Rojas work together on a car in the Green Library Breezway on March 23.

10th annual Women Who Lead Conference discusses women in tech industry

WOMEN, PAGE 1

According to the Black Girls CODE chart, out of all students earning a degree in computer science, 3 percent are African American women, and 1 percent are Latin American and Native American women.

Bryant said, "I hope to provide young and pre-teen girls of color opportunities to learn in-demand skills in technology and computer programming at a time when they are naturally thinking about what they want to be when they grow up."

The programs range from web design, robotics and games developments.

"It is not just about teaching [young girls] how to utilize technology . . . but to make them creators, not just consumers," said Bryant. The organization was launched in California in 2012, and has spread to the East Coast, South Africa, and will be launching a chapter in Miami this year.

"There is a heavy need and desire for these types of programs in our community," said Bryant. During Black Girls CODE workshops, girls are taught to work together and collaborate. "We have a heavy focus on teamwork and collaborations . . . in almost all our sessions girls are working in pairs."

Working in a team setting prepares these girls for their future jobs in the field. "Chantae Brown said, "Programs like Black Girls CODE help our girls build their confidence and the skills necessary to enter into a male dominated field, such as programming. [Such programs] also help educate them on certain biases in life and what they can do to overcome them and achieve success."

During the Q&A portion, Caroline Berances, the President of Advancement of Women in Stem, and a senior majoring in biomedical engineering, asked Kimberly Bryant "How are you able in your programs to teach these girls, that yes, around you these people are like you, but it won’t always be that way?" Kimberly explained that throughout the program, they are focused on creating a level of resilience within the girls. Black Girls CODE trains young girls to "understand the realities of the industry, as well as [to] build self-confidence skills", said Bryant.

The second keynote speaker was Marly Q, Casanova, known as "Marly Q", a two time FIU alumna and the founder of the FIU Relay For Life. Casanova is the founder of PARK project, a non-profit organization inspiring people to PARK- Perform Acts of Random Kindness.

In her personal life, Casanova said that only a few years ago, she did not have the courage to say proudly who she was. "I have been working on my own personal and professional growth and development, and I feel confident now and [I am] proud of who I am.

Casanova describes her job as consisting of three things: speaking, teaching and creating events. Her mission is to globally spread kindness and be the SPARK (Someone who Performs Acts of Random Kindness). She chose to go to FIU because she believed she would be able to leave a mark by doing what she does best, planning events and motivating people.

"Events were my way of getting people together," said Casanova. Founding the FIU Relay for Life was Casanova’s way of planting a seed and watching it grow. "I may have planned the first four [FIU Relay for Life] events . . . but it’s the students that have taken that tradition and raised over $1,000,000."

Casanova told the audience that everything they learn in school, and all their experiences are going to benefit them now and in the future, if they embrace all the opportunities they are presented with. "Ask people to be your mentor," Casanova advised the audience. "Talk to people, exchange ideas."

Casanova had a theme about the importance of self-love and self-care, stressing that doing things with passion and our heart allows the best results.

"You must practice self-love and kindness . . . you need to honor what you love and what makes you happy."
Caffeine and its negative and positive outcomes on our physical being

H ave you already had your daily shot of espresso? Your favorite energy drink? What about a Cuban colada? After Spring Break Plateau, what is next?

The second season of "Marvel's Daredevil" saw the introduction of iconic comic book heroes Elektra Natchios and Frank Castle's "The Punisher" to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Unlike a hyped event for months since their appearances were first confirmed.

Now that "Daredevil" has passed and we know just how bad a female assassin and a vindictive vigilante can be, the question remains - where can the show go from here?

From where we left off, Frank Castle fully embraced his identity as the Punisher and leaves to continue his vigilantist role. He spent much of the season struggling with his mentality, silently questioning if he was the best. The purpose of this is that he never truly verbally expresses this and greatly explored by Jon Bernthal’s performance.

What would be interesting to see is if Punisher would have a more recurring role in the series in the future. Based on the season finale, it could be likely as it isn’t stated where he went after the season finale. It’s also worth noting his police job couldn’t be his own entity, separate from Daredevil and Frank Castle’s "The Punisher" to the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

What should be his own entity, separate from Daredevil and Frank Castle’s "The Punisher" to the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

"Daredevil" last season hits big prevalences and it would be a shame to introduce such rich characters with now high standards that only will your body plateau, but your mind and fitness rather cause you stress. So if you are not caffeine.

We are living in a state of overeating and under-exercising; it is very important to be aware and consider this a top topic, email lifestyle@fiusm.com

"Daredevil" is out to binge now, but be prepared. Each episode is at minimum close to an hour. Once you’re into the show, though, it’s prepared. Each episode is at minimum close to an hour. Once you’re into the show, though, it’s prepared. Each episode is at minimum close to an hour. Once you’re into the show, though, it’s prepared. Each episode is at minimum close to an hour. Once you’re into the show, though, it’s prepared. Each episode is at minimum close to an hour. Once you’re into the show, though, it’s prepared. Each episode is at minimum close to an hour. Once you’re into the show, though, it’s prepared. Each episode is at minimum close to an hour. Once you’re into the show, though, it’s prepared. Each episode is at minimum close to an hour. Once you’re into the show, though, it’s prepared. Each episode is at minimum close to an hour. Once you’re into the show, though, it’s prepared. Each episode is at minimum close to an hour. Once you’re into the show, though, it’s prepared. 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sports and the language of sexism

in my next life, when i come back, i want to be someone in the WTA because they ride on the coattails of the men. They don't make any decisions, and they are lucky. They are very, very lucky. If i was a lady player, i'd go down every night on my knees and thank god that Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal were born, because they have carried this sport.

Needless to say, Moore resigned his position shortly after his statement. Moore's phrasing was nothing but sexist, women on their knees does not only bring forth the antiquated ideas of subservience, but also conveys the image of sexual acts, completely undermining the female players.

The accepted sexism rooted in our language, like calling someone who is deemed "weak" derogatory names of female genitalia or c-word, only promotes hateful stereotypes - as if being a woman is an insult. This is not exclusively a sports problem, but rather one of western society: feminists such as Julia Kristeva have deconstructed language and made connections to how a mistreatment of women is rooted in the way we speak.

Images of LeBron James in the 2014 NBA Finals against the San Antonio Spurs come to mind. In game one, James had cramps in his legs due to poor hydration and a faulty air conditioning unit in the Spurs' building.

What followed James' injury was memes of him with makeup and name calling so grotesque to publish in a newspaper, almost all exclusively using the base of womanhood for their insults.

"Be a man," is something thrown around a lot in youth sports, as if there is a sports nobility in whatever their concept of manhood is. From a young age we tell young male athletes to "be a man." This is cultivated and enforced throughout their lives until they reach the apex of their profession. By then it's already ingrained in who they are. Calling other players vulgar names for female genitalia becomes common practice and you can be heard on any pickup basketball court in America.

When this is the reality can we really be surprised at Moore's comments? It's intertwined with the identity of male athletes. How surprised can we be when Chicago sports anchor Julie DiCaro receives threats on Twitter, while reporting on the Patrick Kane rape case, calling her a w--e and a c--t.

It's where we are as a sports culture. America likes to do a lot of back peddling as to how far they have come on a lot of social issues.

To say we live in an equal sports society isn't true and some of it's roots are in the way we speak.

Be Real is a sports column that focuses on the social issues surrounding sports. For commentary and suggestions, email Giancarlo Navas at giancarlo.navas@fiusm.com

mlb opening day: the most exciting time in sports

jake's takes

There are few things better than spending a spring or summer day at an MLB ballpark. The smell of hot dogs and fresh-cut grass, a cool breeze and watching your favorite team in action - there's a reason baseball is regarded as America's pastime.

we're less than a week away from mlb opening day. Francisco Liriano will deliver the first pitch of the season for the Pittsburgh Pirates against their division rival the St. Louis Cardinals and just like that regular season baseball will be back in our lives for the next six months.

the problem is, it seems like fewer and fewer people care about the beautiful sport of baseball these days. Local ratings are still through the roof in most markets, but in the current digital age, the NFL and NBA are consistently more popular nationally and on social media than the MLB.

Younger demographics continue turning toward faster-paced sports like football and basketball, while the median age of a baseball fan has raised to 35 years old according to a study done by ESPN.

MLB changed the game when they released their MLB.tv online streaming service, which is still by far the most successful and revolutionary one of its kind in the entire industry.

While people complain about the lack of quality in the NFL and NBA All Star Games, MLB's is year in and year out the only one (besides the NHL) that matters and resembles an actual game.

They're also starting to implement rule changes to speed up the pace of play and attempt to modernize the game. If that isn't enough to appeal to a younger audience, that's our generation's fault and our fault alone.

Much too often I see people argue how boring baseball is and they'd much rather watch a meaningless early season NBA game than the World Series come late October. This baffles me, that as a so-called sports fan someone would skip out on watching the most important series in our country's most important sport.

Instead of taking America's pastime for granted, enjoy it for what it is. What other sport guarantees you multiple games almost every day for six months? What other sport is as stat-driven and analytical? What other sport was literally built on father-son bonds and continues to be arguably the most family-friendly environment in all of professional sports?

I understand that everybody has different tastes and i can't sit here and tell you which sport you have to watch. It's up to everyone what they enjoy and what they don't and I understand that this column won't bring a youth audience back to the MLB. But instead of calling it boring and refusing to watch a game, give it a shot on Opening Day and understand the beauty that is Major League Baseball.

While seemingly everyone else is tearing up their March Madness brackets or making crying Jordan memes of Michael Jordan, i'll be gladly watching my favorite sport for the first time since early November all day April 3 and 4, and I urge you to do the same.

jake's takes is a weekly column on baseball. For commentary and suggestions, email Jacob Spinak at jacob.spinak@fiusm.com
Marlins seek spring changes to aid transition to season

CLARK SPENCER
The Miami Herald
TNS Staff

Marlins manager Don Mattingly is in the fourth game of spring training, and it’s showing in the eyes of many fans and players. Mattingly said a few games in order to control their pitch for starting pitchers in spring training.

“One purpose of spring training is to make sure pitchers are working at the right level,” Mattingly said. “You can’t go out and throw 120 pitches in a game, then come back and throw 40 pitches in the next game. That’s not how you prepare for the season.”

They’ll close out their Grapefruit League slate with a four-game series against the New York Yankees. The Yankees have won their last five games in a row to get ready for the regular season.

“Your eyes get used to hitting in artificial lighting. You need, I’d say, five to seven games for your eyes to adjust to hitting in artificial lighting,” Mattingly said. “This was Beckham’s fourth game this week, and it showed in his second at-bat against the New York Yankees at Marlins Park on the night of April 1.

During the season, 80 percent of games will be played at night. They’ll close out their Grapefruit League slate with four consecutive day games. “You start drinking coffee at hours you can never imagine,” Phelps said of going from a day to night schedule.

Then there’s pitching. One purpose of spring training is to help starting pitchers gradually build their endurance and arm strength. “You’re building then to a pitch count,” Mattingly said. “You’re kind of like adding 15 a day - 30 to 45 to 70. Once you get to 90, you’re kind of there.”

But we don’t want to see pitchers such asJose Fernandez while teams could control their usage. Spring training rules are already less rigid. On Thursday, for example, the Minnesota Twins went by American League rules, using a designated hitter in their game against the Marlins. The Marlins let pitcher Adam Conley hit for himself.

And extra-inning games rarely go beyond 10 innings even when the score remains tied.

Former manager Joe Torre, who now works for Major League Baseball, said changes involving spring training could be forthcoming, especially Mattingly’s proposal involving starting pitchers.

“I love that, but I’ll probably get my hand slapped for saying it, because I’ve been raising that issue for years,” Torre said.

On the other hand, Torre said baseball must be cognizant of fans. “When people have money to come to the game, and they really come to see baseball played by the rules,” Torre said. “It’s not like we polled the public on this, and we don’t want it to happen in any way. But you’re not really cheating the fans. You’re giving them the opportunity to see [pitchers] longer.”

MEN’S SOCCER

Beckham’s group buys needed land for soccer stadium

The David Beckham-led group looking to bring a Major League Soccer team to Miami has purchased the private land needed to build a stadium, they announced Thursday, March 24.

“We’re all-in on Overtown and we couldn’t be more excited about moving forward with plans to deliver the most responsible stadium in Miami history.”

This was Beckham’s fourth attempt at purchasing a site for an MLS expansion team. His group had previously targeted sites at PortMiami and PortMiami-Airlines Arena. Then another attempt near Marlins Park was

Hampered by the nearby Miami Heat’s AmericanAirlines Arena.

Now, the group handles the next three weeks.

“It’s this simple: Miami won Thursday’s NBL game played for the first time since the team formed in 98. The Heat will play their 4-34 game against the New York Knights on Saturday and 4-34 on Sunday.

“We got to put this behind us and move forward,” Johnson told them.

“This can’t be our year. This can’t be the way we’ve been playing.”

“We know that what we’ve been seeing is going to continue, and that’s not acceptable.”

The group has outlined its plans to build a stadium in the Overtown neighborhood of Miami, just east of Marlins Park, in December.

“We have the right site, the right ownership group and a loyal base of fans,” said DeVos, speaking to the community of Overtown.

“We are all-in on Overtown, and we couldn’t be more excited about moving forward with plans to deliver the most responsible stadium in Miami history.”

— Marcelo Claure

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Heats lose to Spurs, Joe Johnson cautious team to move on

JOE JOHNSON

Johnson scored 29 points, and then Joe Johnson said, "We’re all-in on Overtown and we couldn’t be more excited about moving forward with plans to deliver the most responsible stadium in Miami history."
Determined whether students were in the “right relationship” was the question posed at BBC’s third event as a part of the LGBTQA 3-D series.

Attendees gathered to “Discuss, Dine and Deliberate” issues affecting the LGBTQA community. More specifically, the discussion delved into the subject of relationship violence and how this could manifest in LGBT relationships.

Justin Santoli, a peer educator for FIU Counseling and Psychological Services, led the presentation and exposed the myths and truths of circumstances that can contribute to relationship violence.

Not all relationships are the same. There are different types of relationship violence, but the most dangerous form is coercive, controlling violence.

This type of violence consists of one person having power over another and using it in a series of actions and behaviors in order to control the abused, like intimidation or manipulation.

Within this context, there are three types of violence: emotional, which is the most common, physical and sexual. How can you spot the signs of these in a relationship? Emotional abuse can come in different forms. If someone is angry with their partner and ignores them, they are the same. There are different types of relationship violence.

Physical violence can include throwing objects at one’s partner, driving recklessly, which causes possible harm to one’s life, pulling, pushing, hitting or threatening someone with weapons. Examples of sexual abuse range from catcalling, to forcing your partner to dress more or less provocatively, minimizing someone’s feelings about sex, extreme jealousy and forcing someone to have sex against their will.

Often times, sexual abuse in the LGBTQ community is discarded and even dismissed, although, according to the CDC, sexual assault in the LGBTQ community is the same or higher than in the heterosexual community.

“Approximately one in eight lesbian women and nearly half of bisexual women experience rape in their lifetime,” as mentioned by the National Center for Lesbian Rights. Further, the center said that four out of 10 gay men, and almost half of bisexual men have experienced sexual violence other than rape. This rate is likely comparable or higher than that among heterosexual men.

“As with most hate-based violence, transgender individuals are the most likely to be affected in the LGBTQ community. A staggering 64 percent of transgender people have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime,” the center states.

There are many similarities between heterosexual and homosexual relationships. Among these is that either can potentially experience emotional, physical and sexual abuse. However, LGBTQQ victims will have a more difficult time finding proper support because of homophobia and heterosexism.

According to the National Center for Lesbian Rights, “Denial, misrecognition and the dismissal of outside-the-community concern as latent homophobia are examples of responses to sexual assault that occurs between members of the LGBTQ community.”

“Moreover, because many LGBTQ communities are small and tight-knit, survivors of assault may not know where to turn, either because they fear they will not be believed or supported, or because they do not want to malign another member of the community or reinforce negative stereotypes.”

Often times, many people in the LGBTQ community do not know of the resources available to them and having sessions like these at FIU gives students exposure to the realities of relationship violence and the avenues that can be taken in order to seek help.

CAPS offers a range of free services to students here at FIU, as they are included in every student’s tuition. Services are confidential and walk-in appointments are available. Individual and group counseling are offered, as well as support groups to choose from, like LGBT, men’s, women’s and many more.

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