

FIU ALERT!

University ups ante on sexual violence awareness

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A phone call, a text and an email in a span of ten minutes on Sept. 4: that's how the University notified students of the most recent incident involving the bicyclist who grabs women's behinds at night on campus.

"On two separate occasions, an unknown male on a bicycle has grabbed two females' buttocks at the Modesto Maidique Campus. Contact FIUPD if you have any information," read the text alert.

This new use of the alert system in an incident of sexual harassment is part of the University's plan to adhere to the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act.

Campus SaVE requires all universities and colleges in the United States that participate in the federal student aid program to increase awareness and transparency about sexual violence on campus.

"The fact that the University notified us about just a groping incident lets me know that the University takes this issue very seriously," said Lorena Rivera, a senior majoring in dietetics and nutrition.

Campus SaVE was introduced in

2013, and the University is required to implement its new plans for education and notification about sexual violence by Oct. 1.

The University already has extensive programs in place that teach students how to protect themselves from sexual violence and offer counseling to victims, all of which are included in the cost of tuition. The services can be sought out at any time during the year.

In April, since it's Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the Women's Center at FIU hosts a march and rally to raise awareness about sexual violence called "Take Back the Night." Throughout the year, the Center provides other programs and services, such as the monthly "Wild Succulent Women" forum to help men and women "improve their lives," as mentioned on their site.

Through the Office of Counseling and Psychological Services, students can seek advice and services for any emotional issues, mental health issues, stress counseling or even just someone to talk to after a harsh exam.

Students can visit CAPS any time during the day for a walk-in counseling session with a University psychologist who will evaluate their needs and refer

REPORT CARD			
SEXUAL OFFENSES ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES			
	2010	2011	2012
Number of sex offenses reported on college campuses nationally:			
Forcible sex offenses:	2,986	3,443	3,948
Non-forcible sex offense:	34	49	45
Number of sex offenses reported in public, 4-year universities in Florida:			
Forcible sex offenses:	38	33	52
Non-forcible sex offense:	0	2	0
Number of sex offenses reported at FIU, MMC:			
Forcible sex offenses:	3	3	4
Non-forcible sex offense:	0	0	0

Statistics from U.S. Department of Education

"The fact that the University notified us about just a groping incident lets me know that the University takes this issue very seriously.

Lorena Rivera
Senior
Dietetics and Nutrition

Professor finds link to better grades

IRECH COLON
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Tia DeCerbo, sophomore special education major, does not worry about taking sloppy notes, instead just rushes to assure she gets all the information a professor is spitting out.

"Einstein didn't have the best handwriting, but he was still a genius," she said.

One University professor focused on a study intended to show proof of a correlation between penmanship and grades.

Laura Dinehart, assistant professor in childhood education, composed a study consisting of about 3,000 students from low-income households in Miami-Dade County at a Pre-K level, whose assessments were compared to their test scores when they first entered public school.

One of the assessments done was a fine motor skills test, which included manipulating objects such as playing with Play-Doh or utilizing building blocks.

The other portion of the assessment involved writing numbers, letters, shapes and drawing pictures.

group resulting to have better test scores in both reading and math in the second grade.

"If we don't test it, we don't teach it," Dinehart said.

However, she believes now that fine motor skills should be taught as a foundation early on because it will have an impact on how a student develops

choice by selecting low-income household students as the sample group.

Because a large amount of students in Miami-Dade County are low-income, it is understood that these children are less likely to have access to resources that would promote strong educational outcomes.

Associate professor, Charles Bleiker, who focuses on school readiness, agreed with Dinehart's idea that although it is important for all kids, it is especially important for lower income students.

"At risk children are the first ones that are affected by school practices because a lot of times their parents are not able to fill in the gaps at home," he said.

Another factor of this study also shed light on the decline of handwriting which in turn has followed a strain on academic development.

"At risk children are the first ones that are affected by school practices because a lot of times their parents are not able to fill in the gaps at home,

Charles Bleiker
Associate Professor
College of Education

Of the students that better completed these fine motor assessments, they were also the

academically in the future. Dinehart also made a convenient yet important

SEE PENMANSHIP, PAGE 2

students who experience abuse at home and helps those who wish to press charges against their attacker.

VEP also hosts events on campus to educate students about how they can protect themselves from sexual violence and harassment.

"We try to make sex education appealing to students. For instance, we designed the T-shirts you see around campus that say 'I mustache for consent,'" said Wendy Ordóñez, VEP's coordinator of outreach and educational media.

Between Sept. 15 and Sept. 24, VEP

SEE ASSAULT, PAGE 2

Car fire extinguished in PG5

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A University student extinguished the flames bursting out of his car on campus Wednesday.

A small engine fire broke out on the sixth floor of Parking Garage 5 at approximately noon on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

It appeared to be an electrical short that ignited flames in a 1997 Toyota Paseo.

According to University Police Chief, Alexander Casas, the student driver noticed flames coming out from the hood of his car.

As soon as the student opened the hood and noticed flames, he ran to grab a fire extinguisher.

University police were called to document the incident. No damage was reported to other vehicles or to PG5.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Mexico becoming a major force in world's automotive industry

It might be a stretch to describe Aguascalientes in north-central Mexico as the new Detroit. But it wouldn't be a huge stretch. Mexico's automotive sector is at full throttle, and Aguascalientes is one of several cities primed by foreign car manufacturers to rev its engines. Once a sleepy railway crossroads, Aguascalientes now has two massive auto plants and a third on the way. "We're going to produce 1.1 million vehicles just in Aguascalientes by 2020," said Rodolfo Esau Garza de Vega, head of economic development in the state. Nearly every major global automaker now either builds in Mexico or plans to erect an assembly plant in the country. Billions in investment have arrived. Mexico has leapfrogged other auto producing nations. In 2009, Mexico was the world's 10th largest auto producer. But it's soared past Spain and France, and earlier this year it surged by Brazil to become the world's No. 7 automaker.

Rural 'no' votes appear to doom dream of Scottish independence

The United Kingdom appeared early Friday to have survived the threat of being ripped apart, as early vote returns showed Scottish voters rejecting independence. The first returns from Thursday's balloting, coming from the rural district of Clackmannanshire, showed a surprising 54 percent of voters opposing Scottish independence. While the vote numbers were small from the sparsely populated region just north of River Forth, the district had been counted on to vote in favor of independence and appeared to set the tone for defeat. In fact, its importance to a "yes" victory had been rated by the Scottish Parliament as 10 on a scale of 10. The survey indicated that those opposed would carry the day by a 54 percent to 46 percent margin.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 26, Issue 17, in the story "Panthers fall to East Tennessee State University in Head Coach Calabrese's visit to former team," we wrote "University of Alabama at Bahama next week" when it should have been "University of Alabama at Birmingham."

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

SaVE Act increases University standards for handling sexual violence

ASSAULT, PAGE 1

will host their annual Red Zone events, which are designed to prepare students for the first six weeks of the semester, when students are most likely to experience sexual assault on campus.

The Women's Center, CAPS and VEP are located at both MMC and Biscayne Bay Campus, and all services are free and confidential for students and faculty.

Rivera said that compared to other schools like Columbia University, which gained national media attention for a student who vowed to carry her mattress to class every day until her rapist is expelled, FIU does a good job of educating students and handling incidents of sexual violence.

As a former resident assistant on campus, Rivera was trained in all the

PROGRAM LOCATIONS TO KNOW		
Victim Empowerment Program	Counseling and Psychological Services	The Women's Health Center
Student Health Complex Room 270 MMC	Student Health Complex Room 270 MMC	Student Health Complex Room 270 MMC
Wolfe University Center Room 320 BBC	Wolfe University Center Room 320 BBC	Wolfe University Center Room 320 BBC

services CAPS and VEP offer so she could relay the information to her residents.

Overall, students like Janay Jackson think the University is handling the issue of sexual violence

in college the right way.

"I think FIU is doing a really good job on telling us what steps to take and who to contact if anything were to happen to us," said the senior event planning major.

Study: good handwriting leads to better grades

PENMANSHIP, PAGE 1

Because of today's digital era, fine motor and handwriting have been pushed to the back seat to make room for more technological guidelines in Common Core standards of elementary education.

DeCerbo, who has chosen to dedicate her future career in helping special needs children develop successfully, believes fine motor skills hold therapeutic values that can especially aim for progress in physical strength.

Although elementary education holds a great gap to college education, handwriting versus technology based guidelines affect post institutions today.

Most professors now lean on technology for submitting assignments.

Joseph Lichter, undergraduate instructor, assigns written work when asking students to solve problems, but when it comes to essays will always opt for the computer-based assignments.

"The reason I do so is not just because of legibility, but also because

it is the way we think today," he said.

According to Dinehart, we depend on technology for so much, that we lose sight of why it is essential to learn grammar, spelling and having well-controlled handwriting.

Nevertheless, she agrees technology can be utilized to promote better fine motor skills.

"We have to stop thinking about these things [technology and traditional handwriting] as being against each other," said Dinehart.

Career Services Kaplan offers free testing on campus

FIUSM STAFF

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continues on Sept. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wolfe University Center.

"ResumeFest," at Modesto A. Maidique Campus, is on Sept. 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Graham Center.

These events will give students the chance to have someone review their resumes in anticipation of the upcoming fall career fairs.

The next career fair is on Sept. 24 at BBC from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the WUC Ballrooms.

The Career Services office is hosting a series of events for students to improve their resumes on campus.

Professionals will visit both University campuses to critique student resumes so students can improve and enhance them.

"Resumania," is a two-day event at the the Biscayne Bay Campus and begins on Sept. 22 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and

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Kaplan test prep is offering free practice exams at the Graham Center on Sept. 20 at 10 a.m.

Students preparing to take exams to prepare for law school, medical school, dental school, graduate school and others can sign up to reserve a spot.

The MCAT was held on Sept. 20 at 10 a.m.

The LSAT, GRE, DAT and OAT will be held on Sept. 27 at 10 a.m.

The GMAT and PCAT have other upcoming dates available online at the Kaplan website.

Students can sign up by e-mailing kristina.alvarez@kaplan.com with their name, phone number, graduate year and the exam they wish to take. Students that reserve a seat are not obligated to attend.

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iPhones will outlast any Android phones *Online customers, users want honesty*

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With the Sept. 19 release of the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus, the timeless “iPhone vs. Android” argument has rekindled itself through tech forums, YouTube comment pages, every day conversation, and just about any medium you can think of.

I often find nothing but superficial comments arguing over specific features such as “I can use my Android in the shower!” or specifications like “my iPhone has a better App Store!”

Without context, these arguments hold no water, and you are comparing apples – no pun intended – and oranges. Features and specs are not the issue.

The key issue that most do not under-

dollars; meanwhile most Android phones are given away almost for free after only a few months, because there are always newer and more “powerful” phones being released.

There are ways to get around all of this with Android phones, but it’s so much work and maintenance that I got sick of it and personally didn’t want to bother anymore. My iPhone just works, and continues to work. That’s it. No battery saving or task manager apps and no fancy rooting processes I need to hack for my phone to work the way it should.

Android users are infamous for throwing impressive specs for their phones into iPhone users’ faces. Just look at the plethora of pictures circulating online comparing the new iPhone 6 to older Android phones, but those specifications are useless out of context.

“It is certainly true you can do ‘more’ with an Android, but as for the “freedom” Android gives you ... this comes at a very important cost: quality control.”

stand is how the software interacts with the hardware. With Android phones, anyone and their mother can make their own hardware and throw Android OS on it.

Apple, on the other hand, optimizes the software for the hardware and vice versa so there is no discrepancy. That’s why in three months, Android phones perform significantly worse than when they came out of the box.

As technology gets more sophisticated, the newest versions of Android are optimized for the latest and greatest. The truth is, however, that most people don’t have the latest and greatest, but rather a phone that “was” the latest and greatest.

This goes with apps as well. Developers for Android have to optimize their apps for the latest and greatest versions of Android to take advantage of the current technology, and most people don’t have it, so the more time passes, the worse their phones perform.

Apple, on the other hand, controls the hardware and the software and have designed both to work perfectly with each other.

The problem with Android’s philosophy is that technology grows so quickly nowadays that almost no one has the correct phone or technology to run the OS or any apps the way the developers intended.

A new iPhone comes out about once a year, meaning that for an entire year technology will remain relatively the same for iOS apps and software updates, which is an eternity by today’s standards.

This is why iPhones retain their value for so long and perform much better over time. Older iPhones still sell for hundreds of

It is certainly true you can do “more” with an Android, but as for the “freedom” Android gives you – i.e., being open source, allowing the users to customize more content, more ease in accessing files, etc. – this comes at a very important cost: quality control.

Apple’s more “locked down” approach ensures quality control, and in the long term is a much better user experience overall.

I personally don’t care that I can’t access raw files on my iPhone through Windows Explorer or my Macbook’s Finder like I could with an Android, because for my needs, iTunes sync is just fine.

I don’t care that I can’t have widgets on my homescreen because what iOS does have is completely satisfactory for my needs. I enjoy the graphical user interface of iOS and I enjoy the overall experience.

This may not be true for everyone but for me and a majority of happy Apple and iOS users, Apple “controlling” us is not an issue.

Android users can continue to brag about screen size and resolution, or clock speed of the processor, or pixel density or the insane amount of megapixels their obnoxious phones have. However, I’ll be the one bragging a year from now when my weaker iPhone processor makes their improved processor look like it’s running slow because of the many updates and plethora of “newer” Android phones that have turned up.

Shove cores or RAM – random access memory – down our throats, but all of those impressive and fancy features are useless if the Android software doesn’t know how to take advantage of the hardware that it’s placed with.

MCT STAFF

Creepy doesn’t begin to describe Facebook’s 2012 psychological experiment on 700,000 of its unwitting users. Any attempt to manipulate the emotional state of consumers is unconscionable. It reflects poorly on the entire tech community, confirming privacy activists’ worst fears.

This public relations disaster, coming on the heels of the National Security Agency spying revelations, reasserts the pressing need for Silicon Valley to produce an online users’ bill of rights. The alternative is an inevitable downward spiral of confidence in tech companies and their products. Could government regulation be far behind?

Social media and software companies have been hiding behind user agreements to excuse blatant invasions of privacy. Facebook’s data use agreement is nearly as long as the Book of Revelations and about as comprehensible. To sum it up: in the event of anything short of an apocalypse, Facebook is covered.

And if anyone out there claims to carefully read all the terms and conditions for a web site before clicking “Accept” to join it – get out the salt shaker.

The basis for an online bill of rights must be full

transparency. Social media users should not have to go through 8,000 words of legalese to know what they’re agreeing to.

It would help to have a shorthand summary of a user agreement in plain language. If something jumps out at users, they can read the whole thing. The Federal Trade Commission should look at requiring this, along the lines of the Food and Drug Administration labels that summarize the ingredients of food products.

The summary should include who will have access to a user’s data and how it can be used. Are photographs shared? Are locations tracked? Are online purchases recorded? Are lists of acquaintances compiled? Are political or religious affiliations shared? Are online searches tracked? These are all yes or no answers. Details can be a click away.

At a minimum, users should have access to an annual report of the material being collected and what individuals or businesses have purchased any personal information. They should be able to opt out of having their personal data sold for any purpose.

Companies such as Facebook and Google contribute enormously to Silicon Valley’s economy, creating services used by hundreds

of millions of people a day. They’ve made billions by mining the data they collect from those users and selling it to companies that profit

“Social media users should not have to go through 8,000 words of legalese to know what they’re agreeing to.”

further from it. Good for them. But they owe their customers basic honesty. And they shouldn’t play mind games with the people from whom they profit.

The European Union is ahead of the United States in protecting personal information. Brazil passed an Internet bill of rights in April limiting the data that online companies can collect from users.

Silicon Valley should take the initiative to offer Americans the same protections. If it doesn’t, the industry’s reputation will continue to unravel. And companies won’t be able to blame NSA snoops for it.



MCT CAMPUS

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. 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.

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Color lines are blurred in ABC comedy

MCT STAFF

Tracee Ellis Ross delivers perhaps the funniest line you'll hear on a sitcom this fall.

The character she plays on American Broadcasting Company's comedy, "Black-ish," is, like Ross, an appealing mix of beauty, smarts and zaniness. She is totally plausible as a savvy mother of four and the loving wife of an up-and-coming ad executive (co-star Anthony Anderson), not to mention a busy anesthesiologist.

In this upscale Afri-

can-American family, Dr. Rainbow Johnson also happens to be biracial. This occasionally spurs Andre, her hubby, who's forever fretting about the family's black cred, to question whether she is certifiably "black."

He does this in the series' premiere, to which, unfazed, Rainbow fires back, "If I'm not really black, then could someone please tell my hair and my ass!"

Reminded of that line during a recent interview, Ross cracks up.

"That's what I love about

our show," she says. "With that line, my character sums it all up: 'Are you STILL coming from the world that believes all black people are the same and all black people should think the same? C'mon, Dre!'"

With remarkable humor and finesse, "black-ish" (which debuts Sept. 24 at 9:30 p.m. EDT) addresses race, culture, socio-economics and other weighty matters.

But the issues it raises aren't limited to "black-ish"-ness. Dre's concerns, overwrought as they may be, are those of any proud member of an ethnic or racial group who worries that the very thing he may be yearning for - assimilation into a larger community - could come at the expense of his own group identity.

Dre's concerns are those of any parent who wants things better for his kids than he had it, but worries that they're influenced by changing times more than



PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEY ABC TELEVISION GROUP VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

Anthony Anderson and Laurence Fishburne star in a new ABC show 'Black-ish' where the characters attempt to redefine what it means to be black in America.

by the parents charged with raising them (that doggone generation gap!).

"Black-ish" asks, winningly, does a "colorless" society imply a betrayal of one's own identity? Or,

instead, its unleashing? (In the premiere, Dre's 13-year-old son goes out not for basketball, as Dad expected, but for field hockey - a "black-ish" sport! - then asks for a bar mitzvah,

not because he's Jewish, but because he wants to throw a party.)

In a world arguably less and less pigeonholed,

SEE TV, PAGE 5

“ ‘Black-ish’ asks, winningly, does a “colorless” society imply a betrayal of one’s own identity? Or, instead, its unleashing? ”

Lily Allen: important songs, important messages

COLUMNIST



ANTHONY PEREIRA

Lily Allen has never been known to be an overly active performer.

What she is known for, however, is making important crass music with important messages. Her performance at the Fillmore was no different - important songs performed on Lily's terms.

The show opened with a great performance by Samsaya, an up-and-coming female singer-songwriter, with a surprisingly powerful voice. Her songs received a great reaction from the crowd, and definitely served as strong warm up for the main attraction. One of the highlights of her set, and the concert as a whole, was her performance of a new song, entitled, "Beginning At the Start." It's doubtful that Lily Allen's crew could have chosen a better opener.

Lily started her set with the introduction from her "Sheezus" album, a lax performance, which still managed to excite the crowd with hopes of what

was to come.

She came out wearing a skimpy multicolored mini dress, as to summon the pop star character embodied in the majority of her latest songs. A couple songs later, she performed "LDN" off of her debut album. This performance came along with a group of scantily clad background dancers giving their best twerk renditions. It was an ironic contrast of themes, like most of her music in general, and an entertaining one at that.

Midway through the show, she changed outfits, into a more comfortable, sheer top, along with pasties. It was kind of strange, but definitely entertaining. She continued her set playing a variety of songs from "Sheezus," while mixing in classic songs from her first two albums.

A noticeable improvement in her performance was how she's now managed to sing pretty well in the upper registries, harmonizing pretty fluidly while on the higher notes. She's never been the vocal powerhouse her other British contemporaries have been known to be, so this added talent makes her show that much more interesting.

A notable piece where she performed beautifully was on "Littlest Things," where she carried the melody very well and managed to take very little interrupting breaths in between bars, which would be difficult for even the most talented of singers to do.

She "closed" her set with, "F*** You," which got the largest crowd reaction of the night. She returned for the encore and performed, "Hard Out Here" and "Smile," to close the show.

For Lily Allen fans, this was a great show, seen as how the last time she was scheduled to come to Miami, she cancelled - that was five years ago.

For the average person just looking to see a great vocalist with a five-octave range and powerful vocal chords, this might not have been a standout show. The only serious complaint, however, is that she didn't perform "Alfie." Aside from that, it was good show, and an important one.

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Facebook CEO wants more students to explore technology

MCT STAFF

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg wants to turn more American high school students into well-paid techies - and even hire some of them to work at his social-media company.

Zuckerberg told students Thursday at Redwood City's Sequoia High School that understanding technology and computers "is going to be really critical to having a lot of options and doing what you want."

The Facebook founder said the jobs of the future will be very different from today's jobs - and young people can use that to their advantage.

"If you start with the assumption that everything in the future is going to be different than it is now, then it's not true that anyone else knows any more than you guys do about what's going to work in the future," Zuckerberg said.

Facebook announced it is donating 50 laptops and creating a class to teach students how to create their own mobile apps for smartphones at Sequoia High, a short drive from Facebook's Menlo Park headquarters.

Zuckerberg's appearance is part of Facebook's campaign to encourage more young people, especially girls, to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math - so-called STEM fields.

"What we're really trying to do is to create the same types of opportunities for the next Mark Zuckerberg," said Tim Campos, Facebook's chief information officer.

Silicon Valley companies have recently come under criticism for workforces that are mostly young, male, white and Asian.

Facebook hopes to attract young techies like Rosie Valencia, a Sequoia High junior who interned at Facebook this summer and interviewed Zuckerberg on stage Thursday.

"I really want more girls to be able to code

“ If you start with the assumption that everything in the future is going to be different than it is now, then it's not true that anyone else knows any more than you guys do about what's going to work in the future. ”
Mark Zuckerberg
CEO
Facebook

because when I started none of my friends even knew what I was doing," Valencia told the audience.

Jim Wunderman, CEO of the Bay Area Council, a business advocacy group, said Facebook and other tech firms are trying to expand the pipeline of local tech talent.

"The more they can find qualified, talented people, the more successful they'll be in developing new products, new ideas and new approaches," Wunderman said.

Winging it off Biscayne Bay Campus

COLUMNIST



NICOLE ZUMMAR

Finding good food at an affordable price near FIU's Biscayne Bay Campus initially seems like a challenge.

Most students attending BBC, like myself, are likely to ride the bus or drive to campus, go to a class or two and then head back home.

But for students with breaks in between classes and who want options other than Grille Works, Moe's Southwest Grill and Subway, there are various places to choose from.

Sports Grill is one of these options.

Recognized mostly by its locations in Kendall and the Bird Road area, the popular franchise branches north to 2995 NE 163 St. - a few street lights from campus.

The restaurant is located in a small shopping center, with large green sign visible from the main road. Beneath them is a mid-sized terrace that absorbs the breeze coming

off the Biscayne Bay, along with a large flat screen TV that never turns off.

Banners surround the entire roof, in addition to posters, jerseys, and of course, more flat screen TVs to encourage the sportsmanship spirit. There are even several Panther and Roary banners hanging from the roof in support of FIU.

The décor, however, does not compare to the food.

The chicken wings, known to be the house's specialty, have a great homemade taste and come with several dipping sauces varying in spice and flavor.

The Miami Heat sauce is a match for the courageous, made up of five spices.

The Buffalo Style goes for those who like tradition. Beware, though, the Buffalo Style will leave your fingers as sticky as honey, as the sauce engulfs the plate.

The Garlic style wings are mild and traditional. They are an interesting mix of garlic and parmesan – free of

spice, but full in flavor.

The wings are \$1 each, and the orders range from five all the way to 50 wings. On Monday's from 4 p.m. until closing, wings are 65-cents a piece.

On Tuesdays, Miami Dade County employees can enjoy a night of free beer at 7 p.m., while kids eat free on Wednesdays all day and selected draft beers are just \$1.

There is also a full bar for those 21 years and older, offering draft and bottled beers, specialty drinks and more.

Overall, Sports Grill is a pretty good place to eat for a good price – especially if you're waiting to see a Panthers' away game, or just any sports match for that matter.

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Interfraternity Council recruitment on campus

GISELLE CANCIO

Staff Writer

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While the Panhellenic Council hosts formal recruitment once a year, the Interfraternity Council hosts recruitment once every semester.

"It's a different process altogether," said Victor Javier Rodriguez, senior and IFC President. "All we ask is that men who meet the eligibility requirement of 2.75 [GPA] high school or 2.5 [GPA] FIU while taking nine credits register for recruitment on our website."

Once the man is registered, he is welcome to speak to any fraternity of his choosing while attending events throughout the week. Each organization can then distribute a bid to potential members.

Panhellenic recruitment is different in the sense that women must complete the week long process which includes visiting each organization and learning different characteristics of each.

Every night the potential new member releases organizations they don't feel match their values

or personality until they are left with one that extends a bid to membership.

The Interfraternity Council currently has 12 national fraternities. They are in the process of expansion and three new organizations will be joining FIU's Greek community over the next two years.

“

The benefits are what you make of it, but it has opened so many doors and allowed for many opportunities.

Victor Javier Rodriguez
President
Interfraternity Council

”

"Going greek isn't something I planned, but it has opened so many doors and allowed for many opportunities," Rodriguez said. "The benefits are what you make

of it, but leadership opportunities, networking, programming and development opportunities and a brotherhood that will last a lifetime are just some to name a few."

Whereas normally recruitment is done individually by each organization, IFC has become more involved this year. There are now two events during the week in order to promote Greek life as a whole.

The kick-off event featured all fraternities in the FIU Betty Chapman Plaza. Each organization was able to bring a table, tent and paraphernalia in order to promote their strengths as a fraternity.

A more intimate event, "Meet the Fraternities," was a night when fraternity men and alumni had the chance to share their current stories, some about life after college.

"The best part about it all? It's free," Rodriguez said.

After accepting membership, each fraternity has their respective dues and new member education process. The new member education process varies, but for the most part includes the history of the fraternity, open mottos, creeds and beliefs.



GISELLE CANCIO/THE BEACON

There are 12 nationally recognized fraternities at the University, all part of the Interfraternity Council. They are in the process of expansion and three new organizations will be joining FIU's Greek community over the next two years.

"The time period is also a learning process about yourself and the man you want to be known for at FIU," said Matt Atkins, a junior and new member educator for Tau Kappa Epsilon.

Outside of formal recruitment week, men are allowed to accept bids until Oct. 2, according to the

IFC rules put forth.

"Managing the 12 fraternities on campus and over 600 fraternity men is my main role, alongside working with the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Life to promote a healthy and successful greek community experience," Rodriguez said.

'Black-ish' redefines 'the black experience'

TV, PAGE 4

"Black-ish" has fun with what defines "the black experience," with what is and isn't "appropriately" black.

It's a question that Ross has dealt with in real life: She is the daughter of legendary vocalist Diana Ross and music business manager Robert Ellis Silberstein, who is white. She says early on she began to identify as being black (and is best known for her eight years as a star of "Girlfriends," a come-

dy-drama with a black cast and perspective).

Why?

"Mostly because I couldn't identify as a WHITE woman," she replies, bursting into laughter. "But while I'm very comfortable identifying as a black woman, I've really had no interest in identifying as ANYthing. On my college application, I checked 'Black' AND 'White.'"

She laughs again. "I haven't had to answer any of these questions for so many years. Then, all of a sudden in the

context of this series, because we say my character is a 'mixed' woman and apparently this is a 'black show,' it's a conversation I'm having again."

Not that she's complaining: She loves the show's message, which extends beyond laughs.

"I think what we're really influenced by is class, culture and the tradition each of us comes from, as opposed to race," she says. "We're in a new dialogue around these things, and I think this show represents it."

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VOLLEYBALL

Panthers fall to Owls in home opener

COLUMNIST



ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE

The volleyball team kicked off conference play with a home opener against in-state rival Florida Atlantic University. FAU came into the game with a 7-3 record while FIU had a 3-7 record and was looking to snap a three match losing streak. Unfortunately that didn't pan out as they lost the game and it was the first time FAU beat the Panthers in Miami since 2005. This match was the 52nd meeting between the two teams and the overall series is at an even 26-26 record.

from Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett's perspective, "It was the most errors I think I've ever seen us do."

Co-captain Lucia Castro, a junior, led the way for the Panthers with 14 kills in the match with junior co-captain Gloria Levorin, backing Castro up with nine kills. Castro also added 12 digs which led to her third consecutive double-double and fifth double-double for the overall season. One of the younger starters for the Panthers also had a good game; freshman middle blocker Jennifer Ene totaled six kills and a team best .385 hitting percentage.

One of the focal points that Buck-Crockett stressed

ball, then we can play."

Volleyball is a team game and if you do not pass the ball, then it may lead to the mistakes which were displayed. The Panthers only totaled 40 assists in the match and 36 of them were by sophomore setter Anabela Sataric. When asking Buck-Crockett about any adjustments that were made in the game or that need to be made for the rest of the season, she said, "We need to make adjustments within ourselves."

An issue that's been mentioned constantly before and now during the season is the number of youth on the team.

Buck-Crockett agreed that there are a lot of young players on this team which can lead to more mental mistakes, but with more experience that can easily be avoided. What she didn't agree with is the idea of not letting them play.

One of the few bright spots for the Panthers was junior libero/defensive specialist Maria Coukoulis who had set a career high with 10 digs. She came off the bench to replace starting libero Adriana McLamb.

"When I had the chance to come in after the first set, I just wanted to go in there and bring as much energy as possible and be there for my team, because I knew they needed someone out there to bring some energy and be a spark plug," Coukoulis said. "I wanted to be that person."

When someone is not having a good game or is injured, the coaching staff has options on their bench to backup and support the team.

"I think we just got to keep working towards our goals that we set in practice... so as long as we just keep going and making sure that we are working on what we need, we are going to get there," she said.

The Panthers look to shake off this home opener loss and break this four match losing streak.

"We are that close and I know this team and I know how much passion everyone has and if we just keep doing what we are doing, I know that we are going to make it," Coukoulis said.

The team got back on the road on Sept. 19 for its last non-conference tournament at the Crimson-White Invitational hosted by the University of Alabama. The Panthers will take on Alabama, Clemson and San Diego State.



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

Sophomore setter Anabela Sataric (right) and junior Gloria Levorin (left) walk back to the bench together after a tough play. The team lost 1-3 to Florida Atlantic University Sept. 17.

The Panthers lost the match three sets to one as they were overpowered and out-hit from the very first serve. This was a rough way to start off conference play and

before and during the game was to pass the ball. "I was telling them we got to pass the ball... if we get aced, that means that we have to pass the ball and if we pass the

sports@fiusm.com

COLUMN

Cursed Panthers: Series of lost home openers lead to a belief in bad luck

COLUMNIST



ISAIAS FERNANDEZ

At the start of every season, athletes are excited to get on the field and hear that first whistle, receive the first snap or dig the first ball. But sometimes, the adrenaline and early season jitters can get to the heads of our young and inexperienced Panthers.

With our program being fairly new to the conference, our athletes have experienced some difficulty. Something that has really caught my attention is that every one of our teams has lost their home opener in the 2014 season.

Let's start with the women's soccer team, who began their season at home against Arizona, and experienced a 2-0 loss. The Panthers got to produce various opportunities, but in the end, Arizona was a

much stronger squad.

The football team opened up the season on the Ocean Bank Field at FIU with a 14-12 loss versus the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats. The team was extremely close to winning it late in the game, but a last second missed field goal attempt ended the contest.

Our men's soccer team played their home opener against Stetson University and also lost 2-1. Despite having a 23-6 shot advantage over the Hatters, the Panthers couldn't come up top.

Most recently, our volleyball team had their home opener versus Florida Atlantic University which resulted in a 3-1 loss. The Owls almost never leave Miami with a victory; this was the first time in nine years that Florida Atlantic came up top against our women's volleyball team.

Who do we have to blame? The coaches? The athletes? The fans? Is it superstition?

Could this be something new to our university and the community?

Although very few people believe in curses, these have been around for a long time. From the legendary "Curse of the Bambino" that supposedly impeded the Boston Red Sox from winning a championship for 84 years, to the infamous videogame Madden NFL 15 cover curse that spooks football players just by hearing it. Truth is we all believe in something, right?

It's not like we've seen this before. This happens very rarely in college sports. Usually we see one or two teams struggle in their home opener. But all four? This leads to another question. Who cursed our Panthers?

Could it be the change of name of our football stadium, the incoming freshmen, or the unhappy fans? Well this is something that we may never know.

All that is left to do is to sit back and see how next season's home openers pan out.

One thing that we can do though, is attend our sporting events and support our Panthers with pride and passion. I've noticed that our football team has gotten very little support these past weeks here at home.

So come out with your family and make the university community proud. This is something that we can all work on. And hey, it's fun. Even if they may lose.

With the help of our community and our students, our teams can definitely surpass this curse and come up on top in their next home opener.

Hopefully I won't have to mention this curse ever again and this will be a thing of the past. Until the next sport's home opener, it still looms over the University.

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FOOTBALL

Freshman running back accomplishes his ‘big goal’ and breaks records

JORGE CORRALES
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Running back Alex Gardner has arrived at the University, broken the freshman single-game rushing record and earned a starting job – all before his 19th birthday.

His birthday was celebrated Sept. 8, two days after he helped the University earn their first win of the season against the Wagner College Seahawks. It was also the Panther's first win at home since Sept. 8, 2012.

Gardner is just a humble kid from Jacksonville, Florida. He attended William M. Raines High School, where in his senior year, he rushed for 1,135 yards and 10 touchdowns.

He received offers from Florida Atlantic University, University of Massachusetts and Appalachian State University, but ultimately decided to become a Panther.

“I chose to come here for a few reasons,” said Gardner. “It was close to home and I thought I could come in here and compete for some playing time.”

Gardner has done more than



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

Freshman running back Alex Gardner attempts to run out of his own red zone against the Pittsburgh Panthers. The team went on to lose 25-42 on Sept. 13.

compete, he's a starter. After a strong camp, Gardner's 138 yard rushing performance against Wagner impressed the coaches enough to give him the starting role.

“It was great,” said Gardner when asked about breaking FIU's single-game freshman

rushing record. “That was one of my big goals coming into this year. I'm real happy I was able to accomplish it.”

The transition from high school to college is never an easy one. When asked what he thought was the toughest part about being at FIU, Gardner said,

“Most people would think it's the heat, but I'm from right up the road, so the heat is about the same and I'm pretty much used to it. I'd have to say the toughest part would have to be managing my time. It's a lot different from high school.”

Even with his busy schedule,

Gardner makes time for himself and his friends.

“If I'm not studying or in the film room, I'm usually singing with some friends. Either that or hanging out with some of my teammates, playing video games and stuff like that.”

Student attendance at Panther games has been down the last two weeks. The tailgates are full of school spirit, but it doesn't always find its way into the stadium. Gardner believes that people in the stands will give the Panthers a better chance to win.

“I know [fans] want to see wins. The more support we have, the more energy the team is going to have,” he said. “If they come out and help us, then we'll go out and get that [win] for them.”

This week, Gardner and the Panthers are preparing to welcome the Louisville Cardinals. Gardner was not here for last year's game against the Cardinals, but he already knows how tough the Atlantic Coast Conference opponents can be.

When asked about his game plan for the Cardinals, Gardner said, “I'm just going to put my team in the best position to win.”

INTRAMURALS

New app makes life easier for students and administrators in ‘REC’ sports

NICOLE MONTERO
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After working on the business side of intramural and recreational sports for almost two decades, REC*IT President David Oestreicher has come up with a free app that completely modernizes the intramural sports world and brings it to every college kid's smart phone.

REC*IT, launched on Aug. 26 of this year by Moko Social Media, is an app that allows college students and administrators to manage all of their intramural and campus recreation activities right from their cell phones.

“REC*IT's mission is really to bring this new age of connectivity to intramural and rec sports,” Oestreicher said. “Intramural sports and fitness are the largest active community in a college campus and they're actually vastly underserved from the technology perspective.”

Through the app,

students can access their sport schedules, results, news, announcements and more. The app also allows students to discover new activities, track personal statistics and send in-app messages to teammates.

The app has been launched in over 850 colleges across the U.S. – including the FIU.

“Eighteen to 25 year olds are always on-the-go,” said Oestreicher. “So, there's a need to reach people through these devices. Usually,

traditional programs for intramural sports – like the one at FIU – put up bulletin postings that never get viewed or send out e-mails that never get opened, so this tool was a natural fit.”

The app is not only for students to stay connected, but also for administration and staff in charge of the intramural and rec sports. Kyle LeDuc, Intramural Sports coordinator from the The University of Texas at San Antonio, is one administrator who is excited to roll out this app on his campus.

“No one at FIU really brings this to students, so we stood up and made this commitment to this campus and over 800 other ones.”

David Oestreicher
President
REC*IT

“Students at university level almost depend on instant access to information and almost all of them are carrying around at least one mobile device at all times,” LeDuc said. “REC*IT is a resource that is providing real-time information to students and we were never able to access this in the past.”

Oestreicher brought the free app to the intramural community in the hopes of making a “game changing difference” in the way that communication was handled. The app now provides real-time announcements – including class cancellation notifications and meeting dates and times.

“Now you don't have to scroll through a bunch of junk to get what you need,” Oestreicher said. “You can have your desired sport or activity right in front of you in real time... No one at FIU really brings this to students, so we stood up and made this commitment to this campus and over 800 other ones.”

Initially, the app was launched as a back-to-school program. But Oestreicher and other rec directors are surprised and pleased at the positive feedback the app has received.

Sheena Harvey, member service coordinator at the Campus Rec & Wellness center in the University

of Nevada, loves the app and recommends it to both students and administrators.

“Everyone seems to be enjoying the usability of the app,” she said. “With the stress-free access and use, individuals can stay connected and gain easy access to what's important to them – their recreation activities.”

University student Kristen Magnus, a junior psychology major, agrees with Harvey and believes that the app is probably one of the best things at the University.

“It's so great that we finally have this,” she said. “I don't have to go to my Zumba, spinning or pilates classes without knowing that they won't get cancelled. It sucks when I drive all the way to campus and there's no class. I'm definitely going to be using this all semester.”

The app, available for iPhones or Android devices, is easy to use. Users log in as a guest, or with their IMLeagues account and type in their

institution's name. Once they do that, the app finds all activities and sports available within that school.

Even though the app has just been launched, Oestreicher hopes to launch a REC*IT 2.0 – this time with a lot more information for students and administrators.

Jason Incurvati, associate director of Campus Recreation at the University of Massachusetts, is another administrator that thinks REC*IT has saved time and made information readily available to students and staff.

“It's the best thing since sliced bread,” he said. “I think the challenge for any college administration is finding ways to communicate that will reach their audience. It's changing all the time. REC*IT is the next step in the evolution and I'm sure there will be more.”

NETWORK, BABY, NETWORK

Students network and follow their dreams at hospitality event

ALEX BLENCOWE
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Network, connect, bridge or socialize – no matter what you call it, creating a relationship with professionals in an industry is the first step to getting your foot in the door.

On Sept. 17, that's exactly what students of the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management did during Hospitality Day in the Restaurant Management Lab.

This day gave students a chance to meet with hotel managers, restaurant managers and various members of Chaplin clubs (not to mention free pizza for visiting four tables or more).

"Dive in. Make as many connections as you can," said Nourbese Joseph, director of People Services-Thompson Miami Beach at Thompson Hotels. "It's not about the hotels or the buildings, it's about the people and making that personal connection."

Colin Scarlett, spoke about preparing for a career with CSI Management Services, which means applying for a community associates management degree.

"When it comes to managing properties, we are more of a high-end brand. So we try to deliver and add value to a building," King said. "It's rare to find applicants who have a CAM license and a degree, so it's a way to differentiate yourself from others."

"Most condominiums run like hotels these days," said Scarlett. "It demands a lot more, so people who are trained in hospitality have a good combination of skills they can use to 'climb the ladder.'"

Students were able to meet with professionals from various hotel chains that stressed applying for internships, even the ones that may not necessarily fit one's ideal job description.

Femke De Groot, assistant restaurant manager for Hilton Hotels and Resorts, said bosses want workers who are willing to work hard and put their all into their career. For this reason, De Groot and her business partner helped students improve

said, "Put your foot in the door while you're still in school. Managers look for students who have that exposure and experience."

Hospitality management junior Shai-Lea Penta never thought she would hold a degree in baking and pastry arts from The

Culinary Institute of America six years ago. She encourages fellow students to always follow their dreams and never settle.

"You never know what will happen," Penta said. "The sky is definitely not the limit."

Student Health Services menu not so healthy

BBC MANAGING EDITOR



SOFIA GALIANO

If pizza had the same nutritional value as a bowl of whole grains or spinach, health practitioners would recommend a slice a day to keep their clients away. Same goes for popcorn.

That is why I find it paradoxical for a University department whose mission is to promote "healthy lifestyles" to serve pizza and popcorn to students and faculty during their annual open house.

The Student Health Services Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus, formerly known as "Big Blue" before being painted beige and receiving other renovations recently, failed to revamp its annual open house menu of Papa John's Pizza and popcorn during this year's event on Sept. 18.

During the event, the center displayed the range of services offered, from health screenings to consultations, covered by the \$93.69 health fee students pay each semester.

Every year, students and University staff attend the event for walk-in fitness and nutrition assessments to check their cholesterol and undergo vision screenings – in addition to other basic health exams – to see if they are at their optimal well-being or what they need to achieve it.

Ever since I started attending FIU three years ago, Student Health Services has found it appropriate to serve two of the saltiest and greasiest foods to guests.

I'm not sure this is in line with the vision statement listed on the SHS website that says, "We are committed to the belief that optimal health is essential for each individual to attain his/her highest potential."

Good luck finding that in a box of pizza or at the bottom of a popcorn bag.

Before receiving food, attendees fill

out a survey on the event's success and what the center can do to improve future open houses. I've got one suggestion: take pizza and popcorn off the menu.

Healthy snacks such as granola bars and bananas are also handed out at the event, so the center shows some level of awareness. But I would much rather see the main meal change to something that isn't lacking so much in the nutrition department.

You're not going to get there by just going to classes. It's so important to get involved and put yourself out there.

Beatrice Correa
Junior
Public Relations

Student Event Planners Association, Turnberry Associates, B.R.E.W. FIU, High Speed Rail America Club, and the Four Seasons were among the 60 plus companies present.

International business junior Demetrius Villa was at the event to gather research and promote High Speed Rail America, a group dedicated to change what they claim to be slow, outdated and expensive railroad systems across America.

"What people don't know is that there are bullet train systems in Japan and Germany that have been running continuously for years," said Villa. "Our first priority is gathering hospitality students who can change this business and make this dream a reality."

Director of Talent Acquisition Mark W. King and General Manager at Fisher Island

their resumes.

"Try to do everything you can to broaden your knowledge," said De Groot.

"Always put more details on your resume, like where you volunteer, if you've done work at a homeless shelter, if you're willing to travel to different locations for a company," De Groot said. "It tells a lot about a person and what kind of character they have."

Beatrice Correa, a public relations junior and Study Abroad representative, said the most important thing to remember is to build connections and expose oneself to different businesses.

"You're not going to get there by just going to classes," Correa said. "It's so important to get involved and put yourself out there."

Scarlett of CSI Management Services

Although healthier options may cost more, providing healthier eating options...is in favor of what the department strives to do...

Publix Super Markets' subs made of whole wheat bread and low-sodium ham, turkey and tuna are a much better alternative. Or they can stick with Italian cuisine, but instead serve whole wheat pasta and caesar salad.

Although healthier options may cost more, providing healthier eating options at the annual SHS open house is in favor of what the department strives to do, which is to show the University community "ways to adopt a healthier lifestyle."

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BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, SEPT. 22

SGA VOTER REGISTRATION
WHEN: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
WHERE: Campus Life Hallway

SPC DANCING WITH THE WOLFE: SALSA AND BACHATA
WHEN: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
WHERE: Rec Center

RESUMANIA
WHEN: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.
WHERE: WUC 255

TUESDAY, SEPT. 23

RESUMANIA
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
WHERE: WUC 255

THE "N-WORD" DISCUSSION
WHEN: 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
WHERE: WUC 253

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE
WHEN: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
WHERE: WUC 159

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24

BBC CAREER FAIR
WHEN: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
WHERE: WUC Ballrooms

SGA VOTER REGISTRATION
WHEN: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
WHERE: AC 1

BSU UNION WEDNESDAY
WHEN: 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
WHERE: WUC 159

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25

BANNED BOOKS WEEK READ OUT
WHEN: All Day
WHERE: Outside Glenn Hubert Library

3-D SERIES WORKSHOP
WHEN: 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
WHERE: WUC 155

PANTHER POWER TAILGATE
WHEN: 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
WHERE: Panther Square

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26

3 ON 3 BASKETBALL
WHEN: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
WHERE: BBC Courts

SPC DANCING WITH THE WOLFE: HAITIAN KOMPA & MODERN DANCE
WHEN: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m., 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.
WHERE: Rec Center

LGBTQA MENTORS KICK-OFF
WHEN: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
WHERE: WUC 155