

Campus Safety Walk puts a spotlight on MMC's dim pathways

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At the Campus Safety Walk, FIU police identified areas on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus that require lighting and other improvements to ensure the safety of students at night.

The police department met with Parking and Transportation and Student Government Council at the Betty Chapman Plaza on Wednesday, Nov. 12, to start the tour.

Last year, Chief of Police Alexander Casas identified poorly-lit areas on campus. There's still some room for improvement.

Areas on campus that needed lighting improvements last year included the pathways near the Academic Health Centers, the area in front of the Labor Center, the fountain outside Graham Center and the walking area beside the Recreation Field.

This year, officials found that there are still lighting problems in the intramural sports field, the corridor near the GC fountain, the parking lot next to the Graham Center Ballrooms, Parking Lot 9D behind the new Management and New Growth Opportunities building and the back of the Ryder Business building.

Student Government Council at MMC President Alexis Calatayud attended the walk with Vice President Tiffany Roman Biffa to see which areas need better lighting.

Calatayud was particularly concerned over the darkness at the intramural fields, and thought that the side of the FIU College of Law building facing the stadium was not well-lit.

"[MMC] is a little scary at night," said Calatayud. "I think the point of the Safety Walk is to identify areas that can foster a negative situation."

“

I think the point is to identify areas of lighting that foster a negative situation.

Alexis Calatayud
President
SGC-MMC

Lisette Hernandez, director of Parking and Transportation, pointed out the darkness in Parking Lot 9D.

"The light balance is not sufficient here," she said.

Thomas Hartley, executive director of parking and transportation, agreed. He suggested "repurposing some lights" through measuring the bulbs and making comparisons.

Hernandez stated that the soccer field's light would turn off when not in use. She also mentioned that cutting some tree branches has improved visibility



MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Student Government Council at MMC President Alexis Calatayud (left) points out the dark areas around Panther Parking Garage along with Vice President Tiffany Roman Biffa (middle) and Lisette Hernandez (right), director of Parking and Transportation during the campus safety walk.

in the area.

Lt. Michael Gonzalez of University Police Department said that if the lights of the soccer field were off, then "that means no one is supposed to be there in the first place."

Gonzalez did not comment on whether or not there were recent incidents in most of the other areas, but mentioned that there were none in the GC corridor near the fountains.

After identifying the areas of concern, the University will take action.

"For Parking, we will contact our light vendors, and discuss the measurements so that we can make improvements," Hartley said.

Those present agreed that there is a need for brighter lights, or more lights in general.

POORLY-LIT AREAS ON CAMPUS:

- Recreation Field
- Parking lot next to the Graham Center Ballrooms
- Parking Lot 9D behind the new MANGO building
- Back of the Ryder business building
- Corridor near the GC Fountain

New telescope arrives, paid by tech fees

BELMARIE PONCIANO
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The Stocker AstroScience Center has finally received its long-awaited installment: a custom-built, 24-inch, reflecting Ritchey-Chrétien telescope.

Originally expected to arrive last November, the telescope finally landed on FIU grounds Saturday, Oct. 25.

The custom-built telescope, housed inside the automated dome of the Stocker AstroScience Center is the first telescope of its kind at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. It was funded through student tech fees, amounting to \$350,000.

"Having a telescope on campus is probably the best thing that's happened to FIU," said Andres Medina, senior physics major and Astronomy Club at FIU president.

Before the arrival of the 24-inch reflecting mirror telescope, students used telescopes half its size that provided a limited view into space for labs. The

aperture with a focal ratio approximate to six has the capacity to capture more light, creating a brighter and clearer picture.

"With this telescope, you can see much more of the night sky. We will be able to image planets, moons and star formation regions in [the Milky Way] galaxy and in distant galaxies nicely. It will be able to do a lot of things you wouldn't believe we can do from Miami," said James Webb, physics and astronomy professor.

The new telescope was lifted by crane and hoisted onto a steel frame and pole structure detached from the Stocker building. The added stability prevents regular vibrations caused throughout the building from disturbing the telescope's imaging.

The stability also allows students to mount added camera equipment to the telescope for image and video recording of their findings — a task once difficult due to instability of smaller telescope mounts.

This new addition brings the total of the University's remotely controlled telescopes

to four.

Daniella Roberts, senior physics major and treasurer for the Astronomy Club, thinks the new gadget could spark research opportunities.

"I actually want to go to graduate school for astronomy. Being able to have observatory experience with a big telescope will be awesome," Roberts said.

FIU's partnership with the Southeastern Association for Research in Astronomy grants remote access via FIU's control room to three telescopes nestled in more elevated, darker sites. These locations include Arizona, Chile and soon to be in the Canary Islands.

"Having an on-campus telescope gives students better accessibility. With the remotely controlled telescopes, students had to coordinate usage times with other universities under SARA," continued Roberts.

Medina hopes to see students become more engaged in Astronomy Club with the telescope's arrival.

"[We plan] on having as many star parties as we can," he said.

The club hosts five public events every semester, gathering crowds of interested students and community members, sometimes reaching as many as 250 visitors.

"I cannot count how many people I've shown Jupiter and Saturn and its rings using our telescopes . . . It's a really great thing. I love doing it," said Webb.

Webb hopes the new telescope continues to inspire students and community members to understand science and Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics programs, as well as enjoy the visions of the solar system and the universe.

"We want to make the telescope as student-accessible as possible," added Roberts.

Along with Webb's vision, the Astronomy Club is still working to accomplish another feat — naming the telescope.

"Personally, I was thinking of calling it Bellatrix," concluded Medina.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Average increase in college costs decline, report shows

Families remain justifiably concerned about paying for college, but there may be cause for some relief, according to a new national report.

Though college tuition and fee prices still outpaced the rate of inflation in the past year, the average increases were lower than those posted in the past five years, the past 10 years and the past 30 years, according to the report published Thursday by the College Board.

In its "Trends in College Pricing 2014" report, the College Board, a not-for-profit organization that aims to expand access to higher education, said the average price for in-state students at four-year public schools increased 2.9 percent from 2013-14 to 2014-15.

The report may indicate a move away from the ballooning cost of higher education.

As controversial EPA water rule looms, GOP prepares an assault

While the politics of climate change were at the top of the president's agenda this week, a different environmental proposal is heading to a showdown between Republicans and the White House, in part due to strong pressure from Kentucky farm interests and lawmakers.

The issue is the proposed "Waters of the United States" rule, which was announced earlier this year in an attempt to simplify and clarify which waterways are covered by the Clean Water Act and which ones aren't.

But the Obama administration's attempt at clarity has instead brought anger and confusion from many of the nation's farm interests, as well as Republicans in Congress — who until last week were powerless to do anything about it.

MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 26, Issue 40, in the article titled "2014 Comic Convention visits BBC," the name of the event is "2014 FIU Comic-Con" and not "2014 Comic Convention;" the name of the president is Gilberto Campa; the statement "The most important aspect, besides the fact that the event has a free admission, is that it is planned by students" was made by Daniela Ottati and not by the Comics Club advisor. Finally, the collaborators for this event are the Wine to Water and CREFO clubs. The BBC Bookstore will be participating as a vendor.

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

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Recent University law graduate receives top bar exam score in Florida

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Like all aspiring lawyers, Alexander Martini hoped for a good score on the Florida Bar exam.

Martini, a recent University law graduate, did more than just good—he received the top score in the state.

The examination is administered twice per year and consists of two parts: the Florida portion and the multistate portion. Each part is divided for the individuals to complete within two days.

Martini said he had a lot of experience taking licensure tests: He took an insurance/annuity exam, three security exams and four Certified Public Accountant exams.

"I was confident my study approach would be effective," he said.

Martini dedicated time outside of his work in the engineering offices to study religiously for the exam.

"For nine weeks, I studied every weekend, every evening after work, during lunch and listened to recordings in the car while driving," he said.

Martini began FIU College of Law in August 2010, after attending undergraduate and graduate school at Florida Atlantic University. Martini's background as an undergraduate was in accounting and finance, but during the pursuit of his master's degree, he began to focus on tax.

Before arriving at FIU, he stumbled through different career choices before ultimately making his decision.

"Coming from a family of modest means, I had a passion for financial planning and wanted to make a career of it," he said.

Martini began working in banking and financial services, obtaining insurance and security license, along with beginning his MBA with a focus on financial planning.

"For nine weeks, I studied every weekend, every evening after work, during lunch and listened to recordings in the car while driving.

Alexander Martini
Alum
FIU

"As fate would have it, FAU cancelled the financial planning concentration at the same time that I became tired of the instability and sales involved in the financial service industry," he said.

After that, Martini decided to shift focus, changing the area of his master's degree to taxation and taking a position with the IRS as a revenue agent.

"At that point, I knew that I was going to law school and my goal was to become an attorney in the IRS Office of Chief Counsel," he said.

While working full-time in banking after finishing his associate's degree, Martini took a full load of graduate classes.

"I think the complexity of tax law motivated me to go to law school," he said. "I recognized how pervasive the impact of the law is in society, and I felt that a legal education could make me a more informed, more empowered citizen."

He continued to work full-time while completing his bachelor's, master's and law degrees and was a revenue agent throughout law school. While accomplishing this, Martini also left a large impact on his professors.

"I was delighted to hear that Alexander had done so well, but I was not at all surprised, given his outstanding performance in law school," said Professor Jose Gabilondo. "The Florida Bar will be lucky to have him."

Along with Gabilondo's courses, Martini took Professor Thomas Baker's Constitutional Law and First Amendment courses and had the opportunity to work with him as one of his research assistants for his last year-and-a-half of law school.

"Alex is a credit to this law school," Baker said. "He will be an excellent lawyer."

After working very hard in law school and studying for the bar exam, Martini started working as a Chief Counsel attorney in September and fulfilled his dreams.

"It was surreal to know that I finished one long, hard chapter of my life and was beginning a new one," Martini said.

Café Bustelo offering more than just your morning cafecito

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Soon, students at the University might get more out of Café Bustelo than their morning coffee.

The company recently launched a scholarship through the national non-profit, Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement. Their mission is to promote the advancement of Latino professionals.

The scholarship titled, "El Café del Futuro Scholarship Essay Contest," will be giving the chance to win a \$5,000 scholarship.

In order to be eligible for a chance to win, undergraduates or graduates must be of Latino descent, 18 years or older, currently enrolled full time in a college or university in the United States and a permanent legal resident of the United States.

With 61% of FIU's community being Hispanic, many students on FIU's campus are qualified for this opening.

"I work hard and strive to achieve success so that my family's struggle to come to this country would not be a waste," said Julia Guerra, a freshman criminal justice major and a Cuban-American.

Leonor Diaz, another Cuban-American, said that her heritage is a part of her: cultural jokes and other little things that she learned growing up that other cultures might not understand.

"My parents won this Visa lottery Cuba had at the time, so I had the good fortune to come to the U.S. legally and on a plane. That didn't mean that everything came easy or

was easy for us," said Diaz, a freshman English major. "My parents have spent most of their lives trying to keep my sister and I happy and giving us everything we need."

Students interested can apply online in the HACE website.

After filling out the application, students must write an 800-word essay, explaining how their Latino heritage, family and community they were raised in influenced their desire to earn a college degree.

"I work hard and strive to achieve success so that my family's struggle to come to this country would not be a waste.

Julia Guerra
Freshman
Criminal Justice Major

Students would also explain what they intend to do with their degree and how they plan to give back to the community.

"My parents are very educated, and made it clear to me, from the start, that education was the way to get ahead," said Diaz.

The scholarship deadline is Jan. 15 and winners will be announced around April 15.

For more information, students may visit their website: http://www.haceonline.org/cafes_bustelo_scholarships.

Modern cartoons choose crudeness over creativity

ENRIQUE GONZALEZ
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Watching cartoons after school is a time-honored tradition, especially among the younger generations. I recall the days when I would rush to get home just to catch either the latest episode of “Teen Titans” or a rerun of “Ed, Edd n’ Eddy.”

The old school ‘toons like “Dexter’s Lab,” “Johnny Bravo,” and “Powderpuff Girls,” are what I consider to be the epitome of cartoons. Whether it was Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon or even Disney Channel to an extent (I’m biased on this), one needs to appreciate the quality of entertainment provided then, versus what kids are watching nowadays.

Enter “Regular Show.” Now, I’ve seen a couple of episodes and, at first, I was pleased with the humor involved, as well as the intricate nature of the characters. But as the show progressed, and as I watched more episodes, I slowly began

to hate it. I became annoyed with how repetitive the jokes got, how absurd some of the dialogue formulated, and just overall peevied at how one could show this to a child. It’s random, it’s weird and it gathers a following. After all, 2 million people watching can’t be a fluke. But when trying to compare this new generation of cartoons to that of the old ones, there is just no comparison.

They taught, yet they made us laugh. Some episodes were powerful and made us feel, made us cry. Nevertheless, cartoons played a huge part in most of our lives growing up.

I remember watching “Hey Arnold!” and recalling how my elementary school years were vaguely similar. I learned life lessons from “Hey Arnold!” That’s something cartoons today don’t do: teach.

It’s pure entertainment these days. Perhaps the most notable part of the old-school ‘toons is the subtle innuendos in almost every show. From Grandpa in “Arnold” reminiscing to Woodstock, to slight pot references in

“Scooby Doo;” these are all references that, as kids, we couldn’t latch on to, but as adults, we enjoy all the same.

Cartoons from the early ‘90s definitely have the potential to appeal to a wider audience, as opposed to today’s ‘pop’ cartoons, which focus on aesthetic and childish humor.

Even nowadays, I’ll turn on the television and watch some rerun of a 10-year-old cartoon, and it would be as if I was a kid again. My favorite show has always been “Courage the Cowardly Dog,” and anyone who has seen even one episode of it knows just how creepy it can get. But it was such a beautiful tale of a dog freaking out half of the time, a neglectful farmer and an oblivious wife. We can see it as a dog’s perspective on life, but when we were little, that was the last thought on our mind.

This kind of imagination is what’s lacking in cartoons today. Networks have opted for more crude humor as a way of reaching out to the children, as opposed to thought.

Cheers to dating: The difficulties of our 20s

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In your early 20s, as you begin to go out and mingle, you may easily dismiss guys with bad pickup lines regardless of their age. That being so, most guys you meet are a definite no.

I hope that when you go out, you would be classy and not white-girl-wasted, because the only men you will attract when you’ve had too much to drink are creepy, or none at all. Trust me, he’s not going to want to hold up your hair, no more than your girl friends want to.

Keep in mind that you attract people based on how you act. If you want to meet a gentleman, then act like lady! I’m not saying you can’t be yourself and let loose a bit, but there is a fine line between being fun and being a complete mess. Unless, of course, you meet someone who gets down and silly like you. I would save the embarrassment, but that’s just me.

When I say dating older, I don’t mean seeing someone who is actually way old. I mean going out with someone who is relatively close to your age, but just old enough where you can still relate. When talking to my friends about dating, I’ve noticed we set age limits to our potential partners. Beginning from our age to no more than 5 years older and 10 years being the limit.

Although I personally think that going out with someone who’s 30 and has their life sorted out more than a 21-year-old college student still living

at home could be tricky, because you’re not completely independent as they are. Most probably, you still live at home; your interests, hobbies, friends and your whole realm defines the age difference making you feel young. I’m already stressed thinking about it! Staying within the 5-year range can have a better outcome. It’s safer. You’re both close enough in age where your circle of friends can intermingle, meeting the parents will be a less awkward and you have more in common.

Don’t be scared to date someone 10 years older, though! It can be intriguing and fun because most of the appeal in their age.

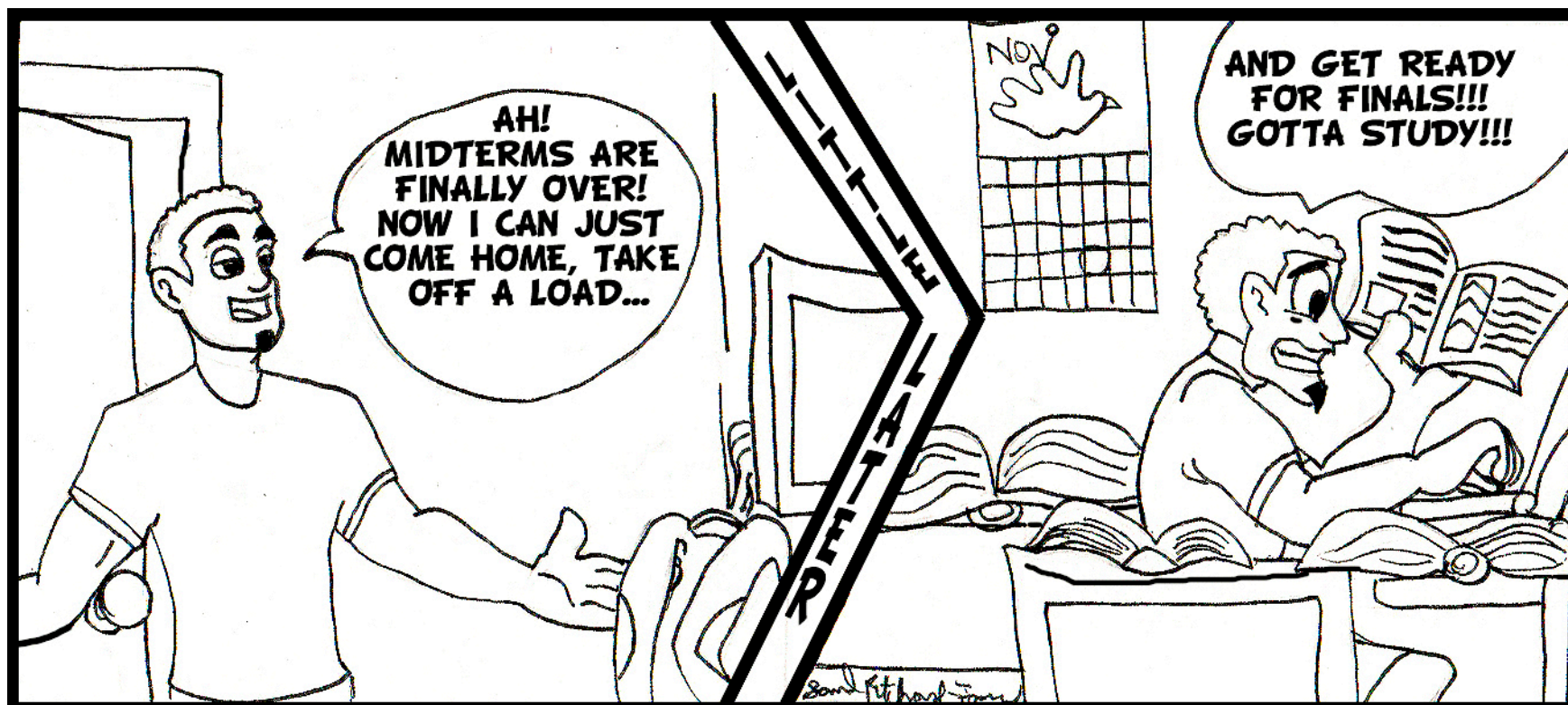
Ideally, the same level of maturity is preferred. Just because you’re 20-something does not mean you have to play dumb. Both of you can show each other new interests. He will bring a different point of view and it will definitely be more challenging than dating a guy with a frat boy mentality who will play games with you.

The older guy will be assertive and you’ll know he’s into you — no games and no roommates. He will hopefully show more chivalry than the frat boy, too; those details are highly appreciated.

With age comes experience, which results in better judgment and performance. Dating someone older shouldn’t be scary.

Although age is significant, the important thing is that as you grow and date different people. You’ll learn and know what you want and don’t want, and what you will put up with in a relationship.

THE GRAND FINALE



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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City wrestles with philanthropists and do-gooders who feed homeless

COLUMNIST



CRISTINA GARCIA

In case you didn't hear, Fort Lauderdale has a vendetta against Arnold Abbott, a retired 90-year-old World War II veteran, and anyone else who insists on feeding homeless people in major public spaces without following rules and regulations. Abbott has been heavily criticized and lionized for his actions; yet something remains to be said about homelessness. We need to talk about policies and programs function in real life.

According to the Miami Herald's Fred Grimm, "For years now, Miami and Fort Lauderdale have wrestled with the tension between the individual rights and needs of itinerants and a tourist-dependent community's right to control the safety, sanitation and aesthetics of parks, beaches and public plazas."

In an attempt to answer the issue, Fort Lauderdale officials declared a city ordinance that states organizations must obtain written permission

from the property owners, be 500-feet from any residences and must have toilets available for visitors whenever organizations want to feed the homeless, according to Grimm's article.

I assume this makes it difficult for compassionate individuals and groups to help their neighbors in need. What if a group of grannies wants to take a basket full of sandwiches to the needy people lingering at the park?

"They're using law to make people on streets less visible for promotion of tourism. They're not addressing the root of the problem," said Matthew Marr, assistant professor of sociology in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies. "There needs to be more ways to address structural problems: affordable housing, living wage employment and health and welfare services."

Andy Cagnetta, owner and operator of Transworld Business Advisors that has helped feed the homeless for the past 13 years, feels having these unregulated public feedings distracts homeless people from finding shelter and other city-approved programs.

Marr doesn't agree.

"Public feedings provide a chance for people to serve the community not just by providing food, but [by performing] community outreach activities. People living on the streets could learn about services they hadn't known about before," he said. "It's also a way to develop trust."

According to Marr, people living on the street have a hard time trusting police and other officials, but they trust the people feeding them.

Rayid Sakib, a senior biomedical and mechanical engineering major that has volunteered with a similar program for the last four years, could attest to that. Project Downtown was started several years back by students sick with the treatment of homeless and needy in Miami. It's about "treating people like people," as stated on their Facebook page.

"They don't have anyone to talk to. If you give them time, they talk. Some go to school. One studies accounting, another computer science," he said of the people he serves every Friday by Government Center Metrorail Station. "The majority of them are people like us. They were educated, some of them

lawyers, but something happened and now they're homeless."

Some programs that are meant to help the homeless are forced to turn some people away because they're not in enough "need."

"Healthy people wouldn't qualify for housing because many of the programs and services, due to available funds, mostly focus on people with disabilities and problems," said Marr.

Among the homeless that Marr interviewed in Overtown, he found some were physically healthy, but couldn't find work because of competition. For example, one person wanted to work in construction, but couldn't because he couldn't speak Spanish.

According to Sakib, that's why Project Downtown was needed: to fill the gap.

"The fact that they're waiting in line in the sun for hours says [other programs] can't provide enough food," he said. "They know Project Downtown is going and even if it's storming out, they wait for us to arrive."

Sakib said there are usually 80 to 90 people waiting for the group of six or seven volunteers to arrive with supplies. Lately, the volunteer attendance has significantly dropped.

Supplies are gathered using a humble program budget or donations from families, friends, or those sympathetic to the cause. The group doesn't just take food; they bring clothes, sanitary products, (non-prescription) medicine and an empathetic ear.

"Organizations are generally feeding people that haven't been able to access services," said Marr.

Sakib noted one homeless person that was ill with what he believes is bladder cancer. His wheelchair has been broken and stolen, as well as his money and medicine. The group always tries to help him as best that they can.

"Good services and housing are there. So far, it's been successful in reducing the number of homeless, but there is not enough subsidized housing. Not enough supply to meet

SEE HOMELESS, PAGE 4



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UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
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Project Downtown feeds needy, homeless

HOMELESS, PAGE 4

demand; people have to wait a long time,” Marr said. “They’re told to call a number, then as they wait in the streets and one-day shelters – often disabilities get worse.”

It’s a waste of our tax dollars and our manpower.

Marr said there is research to confirm that “it’s cheaper to put people with problems in subsidized housing and provide them with services – they’re physically going to get better. It’s cheaper to do that than have them go through cycles of emergency shelters and jail.”

Instead of sending police to crack down on Abbott and people/organizations like him/his, the State could be sending the police on more important assignments and bank on the fact that money that isn’t theirs is being used to help these people.

“As for the drugs, alcohol and violence, that could be found among the population that has housing as well,” said Marr. “For that, the best place to go is South Beach.”

Homeless people are much more than a stereotype. They’re a population that deserves to be invested in.

“They’re smart, you know. They know a lot about what’s going on in the country. They just don’t have the opportunity, they’re always being suppressed,” Sakib said.

Project Downtown is currently collecting supplies for winter. If you want to contribute, you can contact Rayid Sakib at 305-923-2079 or visit www.projectdowntown.org for more information.

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PERSEVERE TO PRESERVE



DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS/THE BEACON

Above in pink, sophomore marketing major, Briana McGuire, helps widen a walking path by pulling out grasses, while Tyri Moring, business management junior (top right, in white) and Vainquer Delome (top right in red), criminal justice freshman cut and pull weeds on a walking path. Ryan Emigh (bottom right), finance senior, dumps limestone rocks that will be dispersed along the sides of the walking paths.



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FOOTBALL

Panthers fall to Old Dominion 38-35

COLUMNIST



ANTHONY CALATAYUD

A Miami-based football team can't capitalize late in the fourth quarter with the game tied or down a few points. Seems like it happens to every football team that calls Miami home.

This past week was no different. FIU had a chance to drive down the field in the waning moments of a tied game versus Old Dominion University 35-35 and came up short.

If you've read this column enough, you'd know that I am the biggest proponent for freshman quarterback Alex McGough being the unquestioned starter on this FIU Panthers football team.

In my last piece "Rumble, Young Man, Rumble," I was advocating for him to have the game all to himself. Meaning that junior quarterback E.J. Hilliard's number wouldn't be called unless the game was out of reach for either team. Well, my first victory as a writer came this past Saturday, Nov. 8, when FIU traveled up to Virginia to play Old Dominion.

Alex McGough played the whole game and E.J. Hilliard was nowhere to be found. Yes, I marked that as a victory for me even though the coaching staff or players didn't



BRIAN TRUJILLO/THE BEACON

Freshman quarterback Alex McGough celebrates a touchdown scored at the beginning of the season against Pittsburgh on Saturday, Sept. 13. McGough's performance has made him starting quarterback in many games.

actually read the column because it was printed after the game. Nevertheless, my point got across and somehow the game plan was finally tailored to McGough's strengths.

The Panthers went with a run-heavy game plan this past weekend versus ODU, running 55 times for 256 yards and two scores. One rushing touchdown by junior running back Anthon Samuel and one by none other than Alex McGough. McGough

had 16 carries for 49 yards and was second in the carry department only to Samuel who registered 25 of his own for 137 yards.

Right out of the half, on the Panthers' first drive in the third, Alex McGough fumbled the ball on a passing play. Instead of jumping on top of it to avoid a turnover, the savvy freshman picked up the ball, rolled to his left and threw it to freshman running back Napoleon Maxwell who weaved in and

out of would-be tacklers down the sideline for 57 yards into the endzone.

It was the single most exciting play that happened this season. After an FIU rally in the third and fourth quarters, the Panthers found themselves in an eerily similar situation.

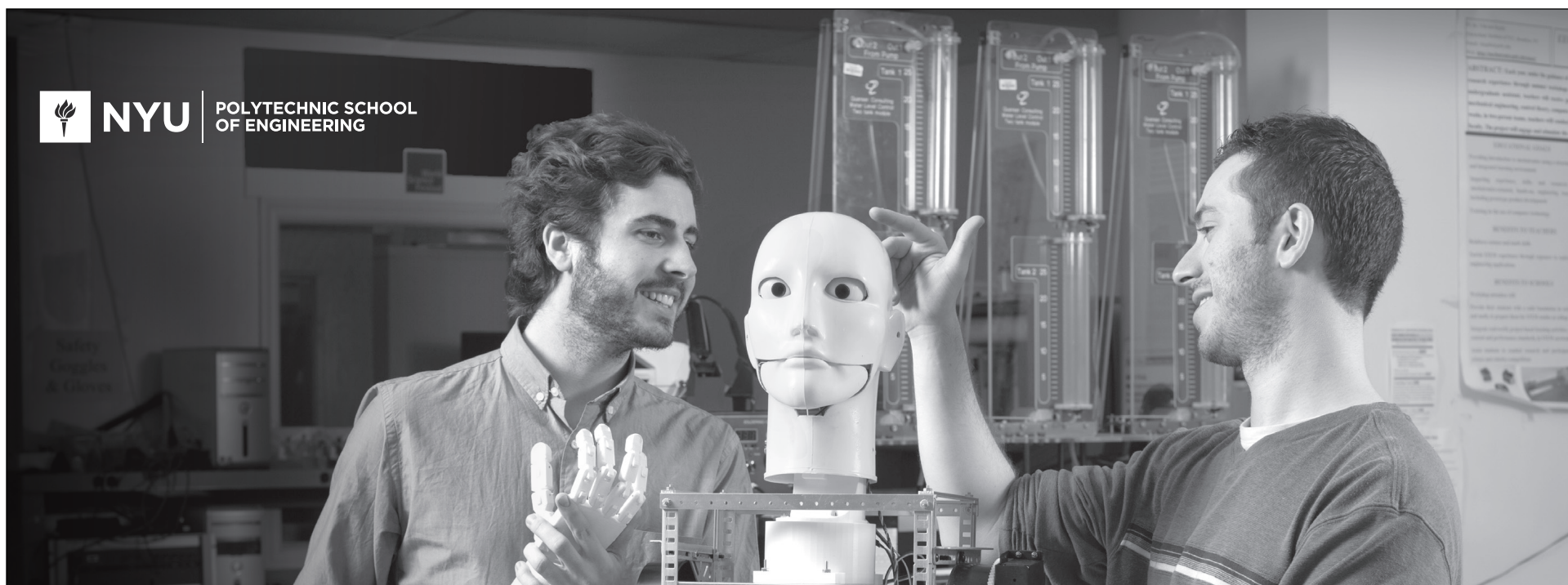
The next play was a designed pass in which Alex McGough felt the pressure of the pocket collapsing on him and tried to do a Brett Favre/Ben Roethlisberger flip pass in which the ball hit the hand of the intended receiver and was intercepted by ODU. It set up the game winning field goal for Satchel Ziffer, Old Dominion's kicker who had never kicked a collegiate field goal in his life.

Even though I've been praising McGough for a few months, I also have to come down on him when freshman mistakes cost FIU the game. Those kinds of passes barely work in the NFL, even less in college football.

But don't fret FIU faithful, you want your young quarterback making those first year mistakes. It only forces him to grow and mature faster.

For the rest of the story, visit fiusm.com

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VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball team ready to regroup after rough season

COLUMNIST



ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE

Finally, it's over! Those are the words many fans are saying after the volleyball team's second season in Conference USA. Saying that this season for the volleyball team was bad is a major understatement. Far worse things can be said, but then again, just like in any sport, there were a few bright spots the team displayed that can be helpful next season.

The volleyball team has a lot to improve on in the offseason, as C-USA is only going to get more competitive. As mediocre as this season was, it's safe to say that the only direction for this team to go is up, a frequent trend for many sports at FIU.

Starting off with bad news always seems to be what people want, and with this volleyball team it is pretty much all there is to talk about. From a general standpoint, the Panthers looked out of their league when playing against C-USA opponents. Constantly getting swept in three straight sets, it seemed like they should have called for mercy rule for a few matches.

Right out of the gate, the Panthers played in three different tournaments in which all their opponents were not in C-USA. In that span they played ten matches and went 3-7. Right away people started noticing the main problem for the Panthers was their youth. From the first game to the last game, young players have been a wild card for this volleyball team. Sometimes it played out in their favor and was effective, and majority of the times it hurt the team.

Experience is crucial in sports, especially in college sports because the people you play with will be your teammates for the next four years. The Panthers only had two seniors on the roster, while the bulk of the team was made up of sophomores and freshmen.

After those tournaments the team had their home opener against in-state rival Florida Atlantic University in the cozy rec center. No, not the arena. There is where I had my first in game look at the team, and I picked the wrong game to go to.

"It was the worst volleyball game [I] have ever seen them

play," said Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett after the game.

That convinced me that the things were bad but should get better; I was completely wrong. The Panthers went on to lose five matches in a row. Surprisingly, they snapped that losing streak to win three games in a row, and once the season ended it was not only the longest winning streak of the season, but also their only wins of the season. After that small moment of glory the team's season hit a never ending downhill drop and went on to finish the season losing the final ten games, nine of them being C-USA games.

Obviously, without seeing their record the losses outweigh the wins. The Panthers finished the season with a C-USA record of 3-12 and an overall record of 6-23. The team finished in 12th place out of thirteen teams. This was a major step back from last season because they made it to the C-USA tournament which is their version of the playoffs.

As mentioned before there is something positive to take from this season. Unfortunately, they didn't make the playoffs but they did battle for a good portion of the season for that final No. 8 seed to try to make it to the tournament.

Individually, the volleyball team has a few players that are ready to step up and play larger roles on the team and statistically have a better season next year. Without a doubt the standout player was team captain, junior outside hitter Lucia Castro. She led the team in almost every offensive category and also made her imprint on the defensive side. She displayed a unique blend of offense and defense that any collegiate team would want to have, but we are glad that she is wearing blue and gold. Going into her senior year she is expected to have the veteran presence on and off the court.

All the freshmen the team had now have a year of C-USA experience under their belt, and from what I have seen and from what the coaches tell me this team has a bright future. In a way it is good to have a lot of freshmen on the team. This is where the youth wildcard plays into effect.

With all these freshmen, the coaching staff will be able to develop and hopefully keep this core group of players because the stronger and better teams are the ones that have played together

the longest. This is the philosophy the coaching staff is bringing and it started to show late in the season when all these talented individuals were starting to mesh into a unit.

As mediocre as this season was it's safe to say that the only direction for this team to go is up, a frequent trend for many sports at FIU. At least they didn't get last place.

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CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

Junior middle blocker Gloria Levorin spikes the ball during the game against Florida Atlantic University on Friday, Sept. 19.

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Miami International Boat Show moving to Marine Stadium; renovations closer

MCT STAFF

The Miami International Boat Show is taking its luxury yachts and crush of customers and setting sail from Miami Beach for a new home farther south on Biscayne Bay. The new digs: hurricane-battered, graffiti-tagged Miami Marine Stadium. Starting in 2016 and running through at least 2017, the Boat Show will be hosted outside the abandoned waterfront concrete hulk where speedboats once zoomed and pop superstars crooned. Boat Show representatives declined to answer questions Tuesday about its future beyond 2017, but sources with knowledge of the agreement say the event – one of South Florida’s largest tourist draws – could remain at the venue long-term and play a key role in the financing of a \$30 million renovation of the dilapidated stadium. “Calling Miami Marine Stadium a home in 2016 and 2017 unites two of the City’s most celebrated boating institutions and solidi-

fies Miami’s place on the map as an international boating destination,” said Thom Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association, which runs the show. Details of the arrangement are still in flux. But it’s close enough to fruition that stadium booster Gloria Estefan and Miami City officials plan to cruise over to the stadium Thursday morning on a yacht to officially announce the deal. Dammrich is also expected to release further details, as questions linger over whether the show will return to Miami Beach, where renovations to the city’s convention center all but forced the show’s relocation.

“We have not been told anything yet by the boat show about whether they’re leaving or they’re staying,” said Max Sklar, Miami Beach’s director of tourism and culture. What seems more concrete for the time being is that come 2016, for the first time in more than 20 years, tourists will flock to the Marine Stadium for a major event. The boat-show announcement is a major boost to

the long-running campaign to renovate and reopen the city-owned stadium, which, though closed after Hurricane Andrew in 1992, is now widely regarded as an architectural and engineering jewel with no match in the world. Supporters say the deal confirms the project’s viability, and will help nail down a long-term operating contract with the city and rope in big donors who have been on the fence about committing. “This is absolutely wonderful news,” said architect Jorge Hernandez, co-founder of Friends of Miami Marine Stadium, the nonprofit group running the restoration project. “Had we heard five years ago that the Miami International Boat Show show would be coming to this site, we would have thought, no, this is too much of a Disney ending. But it’s like the glass slipper. There is no better fit for the site.”

Under an agreement with the city, the Friends organization has until January to show successful fundraising and a viable operating plan in order to secure a long-term lease.

BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY, NOV. 17	TUESDAY, NOV. 18	WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19	THURSDAY, NOV. 20	FRIDAY, NOV. 21
SPC DANCING WITH THE WOLFE: SALSA & BACHATA WHEN: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. WHERE: Rec Center	LUNCH, LEARN & LEAN-IN WHEN: 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. WHERE: WUC 157	SPC DANCING WITH THE WOLFE SERIES: BELLY DANCING WHEN: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. WHERE: Rec Center	FIU COMIC-CON 2014 WHEN: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. WHERE: Panther Square	PANTHER PACKED FRIDAY WHEN: 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. WHERE: Panther Plaza
BADMINTON CLUB SESSION WHEN: 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. WHERE: WUC Ballrooms	TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE WHEN: 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. WHERE: SGA Conference Room		3-D SERIES WORKSHOP WHEN: 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. WHERE: WUC 155	SPC DANCING WITH THE WOLFE SERIES: HAITIAN KOMPA & MODERN DANCE WHEN: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. & 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. WHERE: Rec Center

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