

The man behind the suspenders Larry King back in Miami

SELIMA HUSSAIN
Staff Writer

Behind the infamous suspenders, thick rimmed spectacles and legendary television/radio personality that is Larry King, lies a comical, down-to-earth man who enjoys the simple things in life – like peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

“You have to be insane not to like peanut butter,” said King. “If you give me a peanut butter and jelly sandwich on fresh white bread, crunchy peanut butter, strawberry jelly and a tall glass of cold chocolate milk, I’m happy.”

Larry King, a highly acclaimed journalist who has conducted over 60,000 interviews throughout his radio and television career on “Larry King Live,” came to Biscayne Bay Campus on Thursday, March 28, to discuss the future of journalism and the beginning of his broadcasting career in Miami.

The Student Government Council at BBC was the main organizer of the event, in addition to the School of Journalism

and Mass Communication and the Office of Vice Provost.

“Whenever we plan lectures we try to bring people that will interest the student body,” said Pablo Haspel, president of SGC-BBC. “We thought that King would be a great addition to the lecture series, and students found him to be personable and engaging.”

King grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., and came to Miami to pursue his dream of becoming a broadcaster – something he had wanted since he was nine.

“I started here in 1957 at a small radio station. One of my kids went to North Miami High School. I started here, wrote for the Miami Herald and the Miami News. I was very much a part of Miami,” said King in an interview prior to the event.

After a nerve-wracking but successful debut on radio in May of 1957, King’s career began to skyrocket. In 1985, King’s success on radio led him to host his own global talk show on CNN, “Larry King Live,” in which he interviewed celebrities, comedians, actors, actresses, musicians, police

officers, politicians and world leaders.

King has interviewed people such as Oprah Winfrey, Frank Sinatra, Jon Stewart and President Barack Obama. The one person he has not interviewed, that he wished he could have, is Fidel Castro.

“He fascinates me,” said King. “Forget politics. He led a country for 50 years. I don’t know anyone who’s led a country for 50 years. He was a revolutionary and, whether we agree with his politics or not, we were a country that was born in revolution.”

King’s ability to make such diverse guests feel welcome and comfortable is a gift and something that seems to come to him instinctively.

“I can tune out the world when I’m interviewing someone. It’s very unusual. I can get bad news, but when the light comes on, I never think of home, I’m never distracted. I don’t think of yesterday’s show, I don’t think of tomorrow’s show, I think about now,” said King.

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SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Larry King, the former host of “Larry King Live” on CNN, spoke at the Biscayne Bay Campus about journalism’s future and how he got into broadcast journalism.

Yoani Sanchez spreads message of courage

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer

The closed doors of Cuba and its people have been cracked open by Yoani Sanchez.

Sanchez stepped on U.S. territory on Thursday, March 28 and has an itinerary that includes a visit to the University today, April 1, where she will also be awarded the University’s Medallion of Courage.

Sanchez rose to national fame with her blog “Generation Y” that receives 14

million hits a month and is translated into 17 languages.

Cuban Research Institute Director Jorge Duany said Sanchez is an accomplished writer who uses all kinds of literary and rhetoric strategies to convey her messages – messages on topics such as freedom of speech, politics and everyday life of Cubans.

Sanchez will speak on the topics of social media and Cuba.

“Her visit is going to promote exchanges of ideas between Cubans, particularly in South Florida,” Duany

said. “It will be an opportunity to be open and frank about difficult topics.”

Sanchez, 32, reunited with her family when she arrived at Miami International Airport, and she expressed via Twitter that her and her sister had been separated for two years with 90 miles in between them, which is the “drama” a lot of Cuban families go through.

Sanchez also writes of the issue of family separation in “Generation Y.”

“Most Cubans sympathize with Yoani’s very honest and very personal criticism of the lack of freedom in Cuba,”

Duany said. “That’s what she stands for.”

Sanchez has been awarded the Ortega y Gazett Prize for Journalism, the Maria Moors Cabot Prize, the World Press Freedom Hero and the Prince Claus Award. In 2012, she was among the top 10 most influential Ibero American Intellectuals by Foreign Policy magazine.

Sanchez was unable to claim these awards because the Cuban government refused to let her leave the island until recently receiving permission to leave in

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A controversial topic with a matching title

VINSON PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

When a student hears the phrase “slut walk,” the initial reaction may be shock or to take offense to the phrase. But, there is a purpose behind the words.

On April 3, the National Organization for Women at FIU will organize a “Slut Walk” to spread awareness about the many forms of violence against women. The walk will begin at 4:30 p.m. at the Graham Center Fountain at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

Gabriela Bonilla, president of NOW said the purpose of this

event is to call to action an end to rape culture, victim blaming and sexual violence.

“We teach people ‘don’t get raped’ instead of ‘not to rape,’” Bonilla said.

Bonilla said the latter philosophy should be embraced, encouraging people not to rape or harm others; this philosophy differs because it holds the perpetrator accountable for their violent acts, not the victim; unfortunately, the latter philosophy is not always applied to survivors of traumatic experiences.

Bonilla said the name of the movement resulted from an incident where a member of the

Toronto Police department said during a discussion with students that “women should avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimized.”

Some students find the practice of victim-blaming appalling and inappropriate.

“Doesn’t matter what you wear, doesn’t give [anyone] the right to sexually harass a person,” said Janina Ordonez, senior sociology major.

Sophomore social work major Yoannie Corbil said that society places the blame on the wrong person and the people who commit these acts are not held responsible for their actions.

“[There’s] a double standard in which women get usually blamed for a lot of things,” Corbil said.

Although Corbil is in favor of the movement, she is not a fan of the name “Slut Walk.”

Corbil said the title of the movement should have positive connotations and that they should not “stoop to the officer’s level.”

Sabrina O’Keefe, assistant director for the Center for Leadership and Service at Biscayne Bay Campus, said the title could be hurtful because it could evoke emotions, stereotypes or offend some people who hear initially hear the phrase “slut-walk.”

However, O’Keefe did say the title of the movement can also be helpful because since the term “slut” has the ability to grab attention and may urge people to ask for an explanation of why the movement has that title, opening the door to a dialogue and spreading awareness about violence against women.

The opinions of the title of the movement may vary, but the mission of the movement and organizations like NOW promote female empowerment and advocate against rape, sexual assault and domestic violence.

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Student Media executives appointed

FIUSM STAFF

Last week the Student Media Board appointed the Student Media executives who will start in their positions summer 2013. Brandon Wise was appointed as editor-in-chief of The Beacon, Luis Bolanos as FIUSM.com director and Kyle Pineda as general manager of WRGP Radiate FM

Current editor-in-chief, Philippe Buteau, will maintain his position until the end of spring semester.

“This was a good year as editor,” said Buteau. “I’m happy with what me and my editors did with the paper, and I hope the next editor and his staff follow the vision.”

Wise expressed his excitement for the semester to come.

“We have been working extremely hard to prepare for next year,” Wise said. “We have put out great content throughout the semester and will continue next year.

Over the next few weeks The Beacon will conduct interviews for its editorial board.



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Live webcast of blogger’s visit

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February, following the relaxing of strict travel regulations in Cuba.

“No one really knows if she’ll be allowed to go back to Cuba or what kind of consequences this trip will have on her and her family,” Duany said. “She’s a brave woman.”

Sanchez has also published two books: “Cuba Libre/Havana Real,” a collection of her blog posts, and “Word Press: A Blog for Speaking to the World,” a manual explaining how to

set up a WordPress blog. Duany noted that Sanchez is considering starting her own digital magazine in Cuba.

“I’m extremely excited, even though I won’t be able to see her in person,” said Christina Rivera, sophomore computer science major. “I’ll definitely be watching on TV.”

The event will be broadcast live on Univision, Univision Radio and via live webcast available on the University website.

“For students, it’s going to be great opportunity to see a very important public

“ Most Cubans sympathize with Yoani’s very honest and very personal criticism of the lack of freedom in Cuba. That’s what she stands for.”

Jorge Duany
Director
Cuban Research Institute

figure,” Duany said. “She have a say.”

represents a whole generation and a large portion of Cuban society that doesn’t

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King pushes students to succeed

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The nonconfrontational and laid-back style of interviewing that King has mastered is something that many people have grown to admire, particularly students studying journalism. However, although King has been involved in journalism throughout his entire life, he doesn’t consider it “work.”

“You know who works? Bus drivers work. Astronauts work... Street cleaners work. Cops work. Journalists? C’mon. You sit down. They pay you. You cover an event, you ask questions, then you get to tell people about it. It’s gotta be the world’s greatest job,” said King.

King’s love for journalism and talking to people has led him to incredible achievements and awards, including the George Foster Peabody Award for Excellence in Broadcasting and the News and Documentary Emmy Award for Outstanding Interview/Interviewer.

King advises students that succeeding in journalism is something that requires skill, heart and perseverance.

“If you have talent, you will make it if you really want to make it. You can’t give up. You’ll get turned down. When I came here, I knocked on doors of radio stations and they told me to leave,” King said. “But I wanted it so much. You have to have the tools, but [like] Woody Allen said, showing up is 80 percent of it.”

When asked whether or not he thinks Facebook, Twitter, and other social networks are helping or hindering the current state of journalism, King has two minds.

“I think it’s a mixed bag. There’s a lot of good in all the information we have, but the bad is there’s a lot of misinformation. Bad information. Wrong information. But you can’t stop the tide,” King said.

“I liked it better when the information was more accurate than it is today. But, it is what it is. I love my

daily newspapers. I like the feel of a newspaper. I like newspaper ink on my fingers. I’d be lost without The New York Times,” said King.

Although King’s reign on CNN with “Larry King Live” ended in 2010, he is staying current with “Larry King Now,” his talk show web series. King is also active on Twitter and Facebook.

If anyone is wondering whether or not his Twitter account is really Larry King, there is no need to question the blue check mark.

“My Twitter account is mine,” said King. “I dictate everything that’s said, but I don’t type it in myself.”

While King’s 25 years on CNN are over, there is much to look forward to with “Larry King Now,” and King is content.

“I raised children, I go to movies, I go to theatre, I go to ball games and I try to stay young. I have children, and that will keep you young. I have a full life,” said King.

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Getting creative with the University's curriculum

ASHLEY VALENTIN
Staff Writer

I found out the University is going to start an entrepreneurship class in fall 2014. The addition of such an important course in the curriculum reminded me of the University's more... relaxed courses made to fill up time and provide easy As – I'm looking at you, History of the Beatles!

If the University had room for four more ridiculous classes, I think these should be put on the curriculum:

Wine tasting classes are a thing. Why aren't croqueta tasting classes a thing? I mean really, think of all the lunch money we'll be saving by eating croqueticas every afternoon instead of buying pizza and "crack cookies."

I am putting a firm vote on making croqueta tasting classes a mandatory part of our curriculum. And it can be one of those classes that teaches you about Miami culture or something.

Croquetas are the backbone of Miami culture. Without it our society would unravel and our lives would

First section: how to approach a girl without looking like Sir Derps-A-Lot. Second section:

at the end of the course, we could go into a deep analysis of how to give the appearance of swag.

TWK 1101- Introduction to Twerking.

My only reasoning for this one is that it's kind of hilarious and if you're looking to impress that special someone, twerking is obviously the only way to win their hearts.

At a birthday? Twerk. Bar Mitzvah? Twerk. Your cousin's quinceñera? Twerk. A job interview? You know the only way they'll hire you is if you show off those #twerkteam skills! FIU, this class is a must!

Now, I know there is a Quidditch team and as a diehard Potterhead I support that team like I've never supported any team in my life. But I think it's time FIU recognizes Pokémon training as a sport.

It takes a lot of effort to level up your Pokémon. Did you know that in the pro-gaming world of

Pokémon, fighting your Pokémon against certain other types of Pokémon in certain places of the game gives special increases to your stats? I didn't until yesterday! I didn't even know Pokémon pro-gaming was a thing! Pokémon has made enough of an impact on youth culture that it should be studied and played with vigor.

Homework would be to beat the gym leaders and write essays on battle strategies. My time and my Pell Grant money would be well spent.

On a more serious note, we need classes on safety.

I'm a little surprised and slightly appalled that FIU wouldn't take the needs of the students seriously enough to help us prepare for a very serious disaster.

This is why I'm proposing ZOM 3386 - Zombie Apocalypse Training.

The course would help students hone their survival skills like: hunting, fishing,

hand-to-hand combat, treating wounds, how to distinguish zombie types, and raising moral questions such as "Are zombies people, too?" And once a week we can watch the TV show "The Walking Dead" and play the video game "Plants vs. Zombies" to help us gain more real world experience. When the zombies attack, every student in the class would be that one friend who can successfully lead a survival group to safety.

These classes would enrich our learning experiences and help every student to be successful outside of the confines of our school walls. If not that, then they would at least make for hilarious conversation and an interesting use of a credit hour.

The day when one of these classes is brought into the curriculum is the day I'll probably never want to leave school again.

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“These classes would enrich our learning experiences and help every student to be successful outside of the confines of our school walls.”

hold no meaning. The extra credit assignment can be an argumentative essay about croquetas versus empanadas.

However, what we desperately need is a class that teaches students how to avoid a bit of social awkwardness which I like to call "being thirsty."

It can be divided into four sections.

how long should we wait before getting in contact with someone cute we met at a party? This includes wait time to text back and whether or not finding them on Facebook without them telling you to send a friend request is a little creepy. Third section: how to avoid being an online stalker – or at least how to hide it. And



ILLUSTRATION BY CAROLINA GUILLOT/THE BEACON

The Youth Fair: fun time, hellish traffic

NERLYN GALAN
Contributing Writer

The Youth Fair always brought me a little nostalgia with its games, carnival shows, concerts, elephant ears, candy apples, cotton candy and tons of rides including the iconic Ferris wheel.

Each year the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition comes to town settling in its usual spot next to the Modesto Maidique campus bringing with it the usual, slightly overpriced, family friendly entertainment and attractions.

This attraction, while it may bring joy to many people and the general public, gives plenty of headaches to University students. As we all know, the majority our student body commutes, so traffic and parking in and around MMC are pretty rough on a normal schedule.

When the fair shows up, they're impossible.

The number of cars increases drastically, all of them trying to make it to the fair parking next to the stadium. So much so that extra police officers are called in to direct the flow of traffic to, from, and around the fair as well as the pedestrians that are crossing the streets and walkways.

Sure if you have classes in the morning you have no problem, but if you come to school or are leaving anytime after 6 p.m. expect to be at least 20 minutes late to wherever you're going. A student told me how it took her nearly an hour and a half to take the exit ramp off the tumpike into the school.

I was stuck for at least an hour just trying to get

out of campus. It was ridiculous.

While the fairgrounds did have extensive parking in the open field, eventually that whole area became a sea of cars, which you could see perfectly from some of the taller attractions at the fair. When that happens, the University allows the fairgoers to park on campus without any problems.

This causes even more traffic and congestion within our own school roadways.

Adding to the problem is the fact that when the fair arrives the University closes down the parking lot next to the music building making it even harder for students to find a spot.

I find that to be just a little unfair. Especially when you take into account that our University doesn't own or sponsor any part of the Youth Fair. The county and the mayor denied us ownership of the land, and yet here we are stuck with this downpour of fair-goers. Why should our students, faculty, staff and visitors suffer because Miami-Dade couldn't find an area with more available parking?

So while the fair might be a good thing for the community and great thing for the economy, it's not such a fun thing being a student dealing with the increase of traffic and the parking issues it brings.

To be quite honest, I had plenty of fun when I went the other day but I'm glad it's over so I can finally find some parking.

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Seniors producing shows for final semester projects

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

For Mariana Vallejo, her senior project is the defining moment of her years as a theater student.

Embodying La India Catalina in her piece called "Huellas," Vallejo said the project taught her not to be so hard on herself and "so final about things"

"I used to write my drafts like they were the final ones and then realized during rehearsal that a line or action had to be changed," Vallejo said. "It made me realize that, while I have a lot of ability to change everything, it can't be about ego. It has to be about what fits the greater need of my show."

Vallejo is one of 12 seniors who will explore the final frontier of their education at the Department of Theatre's BFA performance program by starring, writing, directing and producing their own 30 minute one-person shows for their senior projects at the end of their final semester.

The process begins with choosing a person the project will be based on, the key is that this person has to have existed.

"This makes sense because part of the idea of theatre is to take an idea and information and translate them into the language of the stage," said Michael Yawney, assistant professor in the theater department. "If you use someone who's fictional, half the work is done for you because their whole life is exciting. The challenge is to take someone from the real world and make the monotony of life speak on stage. That's more of an achievement."

Zakiya Markland, whose project,



ALFREDO APARICIO/THE BEACON

Senior bachelor of fine arts performance students at the Department of Theatre will bring to life various historical figures for two weeks as part of their senior projects.

"Color Me Blue" will be based on Josephine Baker, stresses that the projects, while based on real people, shouldn't play like a biography and audience members should leave with a message from the piece. "We have to honor these people. They had lives and said these words and even though we may change or alter the truth for the sake of telling this story, it needs to be necessary to the central truth of the story. The choices can't be arbitrary."

For Markland, the responsibility of making all the creative choices as well as others was her biggest challenge to beat.

"I have a hard time making decisions but when every responsibility lies on you, you have to make a choice," Markland said. "My choices during this project are the things I'm most proud because I didn't think I could do it."

Julissa Perez, whose senior project on Etta James is entitled "Etta: In Color," has made it a point to make her character something other than "At Last" James' most famous song.

"She's a big name, and whenever I mention her people tell me they love 'At Last' but to me she's someone that should be acknowl-

edged for more than she was," Perez said. "There's something about every person that is us and I think that's something that's really interesting for artists and for people to come and see."

Choosing James was not a task that came easy for Perez, however, and as the project has evolved Perez has become more protective of her work.

"She kept coming back to me to the point where I was like 'yes I'll do it' but at the time I didn't understand why," Perez said. "Now, I feel like had to tell her story and help people discover things about her you

can't look up on Wikipedia. She was someone I thought I knew but has been completely different from what I thought."

For Tatiana Pandiani, whose project "(estoy) Viva" will be based on artist Frida Kahlo, hopes those who attend realize the immense amounts of hard work that has gone into preparing these projects.

"Us as actors are making the editorial decisions, building costumes, choosing when to input video and sound, establishing lighting design and I think it reflect the intention of the program that has always wanted us to learn beyond the scope of the actor," Pandiani said. "They will see that each of us are responsible for many other things besides being actors."

Pandiani's biggest challenge when working on her project was noticing her own flaws while on stage by herself. "Because it's a solo performance, you become more aware of everything and it highlights all the traps and things you've been told from the beginning not to do. The basic stuff I still can't do like walking and saying your line because you're out of practice so you have to relearn some things."

Despite all the hard work and adjustments and trials, Dana Chavez, whose project is based on Typhoid Mary and entitled, "Yumm, Yumm, Sick," has one final piece of advice.

"You get what you give," Chavez said. "What you put into the project, the more you care, the better it will be."

Missy Franciscus, whose project, "Inside My Head", is based on Helen Keller, was not available for an interview.

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Overfishing causes disruption in marine ecosystem

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

The ocean is home to a complex ecosystem that contains many diverse creatures. But this ecosystem is also fragile, and according to members of the Marine Science Program it faces serious threats from humans in the form of overfishing.

Overfishing refers to the practice of catching marine species faster than they are able to reproduce. Over time the removal of these species through overfishing causes a disruption in the marine ecosystem.

According to Kevin Boswell, a fisheries ecologist and assistant professor with Marine Science Program, the most common form of disturbance comes from the removal of the top predator.

"The classic case is the trophic cascade, whereby removing the upper trophic level, those below are actu-

ally impacted and can impart substantial shifts in lower trophic level," he said.

Michael Heithaus, an associate professor of the Department of Biological Sciences has experienced this type of disturbance in his studies with sharks. The shark population has been declining rapidly in recent years due to rampant overfishing.

"As top predators, sharks can keep populations of their prey in check," he said. "If sharks disappear, the numbers of their prey can go way up and then they over-consume their foods and the whole ecosystem could be disrupted."

He cites his studies with tiger sharks in Australia's Shark Bay as an example. "If we lose tiger sharks, sea cows and sea turtles might eat too much sea grass and the system could collapse. Without enough sea grass

there won't be places for small fish, shrimps and crabs to grow up - that would mean less there for people."

Aside from sharks that Boswell says are, "certainly among the top of the list of concern for species experiencing overfishing," he also said that regional species such as blue fin tuna and gulf red snapper and certain groupers are also victims of overfishing.

Overfishing occurs all over the world for a variety of different reasons. In the case of sharks, Heithaus said, in Asia they are fished for a delicacy known as shark fin soup that is in high demand.

"The increasing demand for fins to be used in shark fin soup, as well as for meat, has led to increasing pressure on shark populations," Heithaus said.

Boswell says that the largest contributor to overfishing is the lack of

systems to temper the habits of overzealous fisherman.

"The main causes of overfishing are often mismanagement and greed. And unfortunately the

thereof) as they don't have the resources for enforcing sustainable practices. The biggest problem is not controlling the exploitation, and can be a lack of

in place to help stop overfishing and reverse its effects. According to Heithaus, Asian countries are seeking to curb the intake of shark fin soup and the dish is no longer served at official Chinese functions.

And with a move towards more responsible fishing it is conceivable that the effects of overfishing can be erased or at the very least minimized.

"There is quite a bit of compelling evidence that appropriate management strategies can act to provide sustainable resources with a reasonable level of harvest," Boswell said. "It takes the willful buy in of the managers and stakeholders. Can you reverse its effects? Maybe. Can overfishing create noticeable changes in the marine ecosystem? Yes, indeed."

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“If sharks disappear, the numbers of their prey can go way up and then they over-consume their foods and the whole ecosystem could be disrupted.”

Michael Heithaus
Associate Professor
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systems, often the underdeveloped countries that are most fraught with overfishing are a result of poor management (or lack

useful information or willingness to enforce the sustainable practices."

But despite all of this, there are several campaigns

Behind the fabric: fashion across cultures



ASHLEY GARNER/THE BEACON

Does fashion need to have a guidebook for political correctness? I've been pondering this question for a while now.

COLUMNIST



ASHLEY GARNER

It's one that is hard to approach for me especially as I feel like I am someone that is on the outside looking in.

By that I mean that I am from the foothills of North Carolina and I have no real culture that I consider myself to be a part of outside of my mixed Western European heritage.

A few months ago I became friends with a girl named Anam who is originally from Tanzania. I was fascinated by her traditional garments and she was generous enough to give me a few pieces.

I see many girls around FIU campus wearing these long scarves as hijabs, yet my friend does not, even though she follows the religion Islam.

I became curious and asked her if it was a choice or if people's parents make them wear it? She told me that it was a choice and that from time to time she will wear hers but uses it more as a fashion accessory that also is revealing her spiritual beliefs.

I myself have always wanted to wear scarves in these same styles but have never wanted to be seen as wearing it frivolously or disrespectfully and thus have not. Strangely I have no issue wearing other traditionally rooted garments but when it comes to wrapping my head with a scarf I feel like I am trespassing on taboo territory.

Perhaps because the hijab is such a major symbol for the religion of Islam, my lack of belief makes the wearing of a hijab style feel insulting.

Nevertheless, I still love the style and understand

its history and think it is beautiful and the history behind its meanings is beautiful. Art history major Jackie Velken commented on the subject saying, "I know a lot of girls that wear scarves in the style of hijabs that aren't from that culture and it's really hard to say because I think a lack of knowledge and artistic expression can change the way the piece is interpreted." With Google at our fingertips in today's day and age it is unacceptable to claim ignorance.

Maybe you don't know what you bought into when you purchased that tribal print skirt but if you are confronted with the knowledge of its deeper historical roots one day it is your job to take the time to read more into. To understand what it is you are presenting yourself as and from there you can understand what you are doing differently with it and if you're ok with that.

Fashion is a serious and extremely complex industry. It can be looked at from multiple perspectives with extreme differences in meaning ranging from surface frivolity to cultural and individual insight.

It is clearly an industry of both which makes it all the more challenging sometimes to understand or fully accept.

The frivolousness of fashion makes it easy for us to look past the ways it could be mocking or poking fun at religions or cultures.

So whether you are wearing bindi jewelry, scarves wrapped around your head, tribal prints or logo sweaters it's important to understand its history so as not to reinforce the frivolous and trivial reputation fashion already has.

I believe morality can exist in fashion; we just have to be willing to put in the research hours.

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Volleyball player shines on and off the sand

DANIEL BREY
Contributing Writer

Her presence is undoubtedly noticeable, her demeanor unique.

Junior Maryna Samoday is a rare breed of sand volleyball player.

What separates Samoday from the average athlete is not her six-foot one inch frame, or even her bone-chilling kills, it is her attitude.

The manner in which Samoday conducts herself within the confines of the sand courts and in the classroom is what really highlights her various attributes.

"Maryna is such a great player," sand volleyball head coach Rita Buck-Crockett said. "She is so disciplined inside and outside the classroom."

Samoday, a native of Sumy, Ukraine, has been playing volleyball, both indoor and sand, since she could stand on two legs.

"I have been playing volleyball my entire life," Samoday said. "I think that as soon as I started to walk is when I began to play volleyball."

Samoday's father, Valeriy Samoday, a former Soviet Union national team player, can be properly

credited for the development of her mentality and skill set.

"My dad was my coach my whole life," Samoday said. "He taught me everything I know about sand volleyball, it is sometimes very difficult to be away from him."

Valeriy has also influenced another close individual in Maryna's life, her brother, Valeriy Samoday Jr.

Samoday Jr., a two-time under-21 sand volleyball world champion, grew up with Maryna in Ukraine, and both continue to have a sister-brother relationship that could only be described as inseparable.

On Maryna's 20th birthday, in a phone call, Valeriy surprised his sister with a rather permanent method to solidify their relationship.

"When my brother surprised me with a tattoo of our initials together I started to cry," Samoday said. "I was never a fan of tattoos, but it meant a lot to me that he would do that, so when I arrived home in Ukraine I got a tattoo as well."

Not only does Samoday have an air-tight bond with her family in Ukraine, but even in Miami she has

managed to find a family contrived of her sand volleyball teammates, and women's basketball player Marita Davydova.

"We are like a family," Samoday said. "Marita and I have a really great bond because we are both from Europe. "As for the team, they really support me, and I feel that [Miami] is my home away from home."

Although Miami may provide a temporary home for the sand volleyball superstar, Samoday noted that her mother's cooking far surpassed any "arroz con pollo" or "bistec" Miami had to offer.

"Don't get me wrong, I like Miami food," Samoday said. "But my mother's cooking is just so good."

Before taking her talents to FIU, Samoday attended Seminole State College in Tallahassee, Fla. where she earned All-Region recognition in 2010, and led the Trojans to a 35-5 record in her final year at the institution.

After the end of her sophomore year at SSC, Samoday was heavily recruited by various schools including Louisiana State University, Oregon State University, and Arizona State University.



ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Despite missing the majority of the volleyball season, junior Maryna Samoday has broken out in sand volleyball with a 7-1 overall record with partner Jessica Mendoza.

Maryna finally decided to dock in South Beach to be a part of the inaugural season of FIU sand volleyball.

Her decision to come to FIU was a no brainer, said Samoday, once the University hired the great Olympic silver medalist Buck-Crockett to become head coach.

"The main reason I came to FIU was because of Rita Buck-Crockett," Samoday said. "I felt that

she would give me the best coaching, being that she is very knowledgeable, and a former player."

Her career at FIU began with a sudden speed bump, which sidelined her for the 2012-2013 indoor volleyball season with a serious elbow contusion.

Since the injury, Samoday has played her best volleyball of her sand volleyball career.

Samoday has put on quite a show in her first year

at FIU, managing to win all of her duals matches this season except for a lone loss coming against her teammates Kate Stepanova and Ksenia Sukhareva in the Hawaii tournament finals.

"I feel that I have played well so far this season," Samoday said. "My teammates, especially my duals partner Jessica [Mendoza], have really been the reason for my success."

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Tennis players adjust from clay to hard courts

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

As if the foreign players on the tennis team didn't already have to worry about the culture shock when coming to Miami, they also had to deal with a radical change in the courts they played on.

In Europe, where six of the nine tennis players hail from, courts tend to be red clay courts. That's a stark contrast to the hard concrete courts in the U.S. and on the FIU courts.

Players such as junior Giulietta Boha, freshmen Carlotta Orlando, and Aleksandra Trifunovic recall playing the majority of their tennis on clay courts back home in Europe.

Head Coach Katarina Petrovic recalls playing on grass and clay courts when she was living in Serbia.

"In Serbia, I grew up playing on clay courts but the best results

I ever had were on hard courts and on grass courts," Petrovic said.

Whether playing on concrete courts or on red clay courts, the type of surface has an impact on how players have to play and the approach and style they need to have.

Boha said that red clay courts slow down the game because the ball bounces slower with more

spin, causing a player to run more and extend rallies.

"On the red clay courts, you have to be better conditioned since the points are longer and you are able to run more," Orlando said. "Also on clay courts usually the player stays back towards the baseline the whole time."

Concrete courts, however, speed up the ball and make it

difficult to catch balls that hit the corner, Orlando said.

According to Petrovic, Trifunovic, Boha, and Orlando, who are all European natives, the biggest difference in the style of play from clay courts and hard courts is that on clay courts, players tend to be more defensive while on hard courts players are forced to be more aggressive.

With the different challenges and the different style of play each court has, there come the adjustments Boha, Trifunovic, and Orlando needed to make when coming to FIU to play college tennis.

"Of course it is a big difference and you have to get used to it, you will probably need one or two weeks to get used to hard court," Boha said. "When I got here, it took getting used to. I had to make sure I had a good serve and a good spin ball."

"I never practiced in Italy on

the hard court, so here is the first time I really practice and play on the hard court," Orlando said. "The first week I got here it was tough because I couldn't move a lot but working with the coaches really helped me get better."

Orlando said she plays better on clay courts than hard courts, but Petrovic downplays that idea and thinks she can play well on any court.

Petrovic says that it is easier to adjust from clay courts to hard courts than from hard courts to clay courts, but that it's nothing any college player can't handle.

"It's only a matter of adjustment and any good tennis player can play good no matter the type of court," Petrovic said. "For these girls, I think the bigger adjustments are getting used to going to classes, and being ready for practice."

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Few spectators, lots of losses likely for Marlins

STEVEN WINE
AP Writer

Rain delays are a thing of the past, but otherwise, Marlins home games this season will be a lot like the old days.

That means no waiting for hot dogs, modest competition for foul balls and lots of appeal for folks who like to be by themselves.

As the Miami Marlins begin their second year in a futuristic, retractable-roof stadium that was supposed to transform the franchise, they're returning to the past. A small payroll will likely ensure a familiar combination: few spectators and plenty of losses.

The latest roster sell-off angered fans who expected the team to be more competitive financially in its new home. Instead, after a brief spending splurge, owner Jeffrey Loria ordered the payroll reduced this year to about \$40 million — second-smallest in the majors — from \$90 million in 2012.

As a result, the roster is a mix of young, unproven players and thirtysomething veterans trying to stave off retirement, such as outfielder Juan Pierre. He was with the Marlins when they won the 2003 World Series and subsequently dismantled, so he has performed for swaths of empty seats before.

"The front office, whatever they did with the fans, that's something they're going to have to mend," Pierre said. "And I know how it goes in Florida. If you win, fans will come out. Usually."

"All we can do is control how we go about our business on the field, and hopefully the city will get behind us, especially a bunch of young guys going out and busting their butt every day."

The best of the young guys do bear watching. There's Giancarlo Stanton, the reigning NL slug-

ging champion at age 23. Donovan Solano, 25, and Adeiny Hechavarria, 23, form a promising double play combination. Closer Steve Cishek, 26, won raves for his pitching in the World Baseball Classic. Starting pitchers Jacob Turner, 21, Henderson Alvarez, 22, and Nathan Eovaldi, 23, are touted as potential fixtures for years to come.

And then there's right-hander Jose Fernandez, 20, and outfielder Christian Yelich, 21, who will begin the season in Double-A but are top prospects likely to join the Marlins by summer.

That might not be enough to prevent a 100-loss season, though.

Last year, the additions of manager Ozzie Guillen and All-Stars Jose Reyes, Mark Buehrle and Heath Bell made the Marlins the buzz of baseball. Then the team went 69-93 and finished last in the NL East.

Reyes, Buehrle, Bell and Guillen are all gone, as are 2009 NL batting champion Hanley Ramirez and 2010 NL ERA leader Josh Johnson.

"It kind of stinks for fans," Pierre said, "because you do get attached to a player, and they trade him away for business purposes. Fans don't want to hear that. But these guys who own the team are businessmen first."

Loria waged a brief, widely mocked public relations campaign at the start of spring training, saying the Marlins needed to hit the restart button, so he ordered the breakup of a losing team going nowhere.

A year ago, the Marlins' baseball people thought they had assembled a playoff-caliber team. What do they anticipate in 2013?

"They're 0 for their last 1, because they said we weren't going to lose 93 games last year," team president David Samson said. "Last year they said, 'Here are the five things that have to happen and we're a very good team.' Those five things didn't happen."

Hauling it in

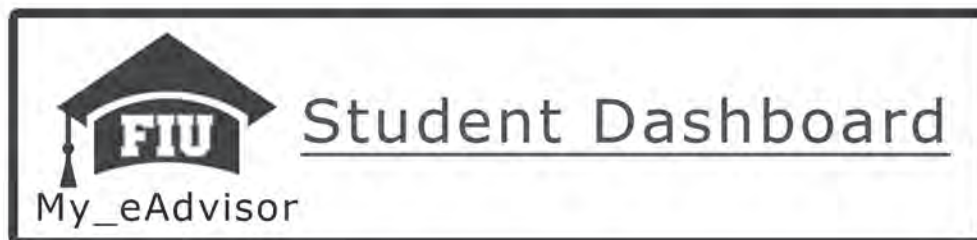


ROBERTO JIMENEZ/THE BEACON

Redshirt sophomore wide receiver Clinton Taylor participates in pass and catch drills last Thursday during the fifth of 15 practice sessions of spring football.

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A look back at three-day class schedule

REBECA PICCARDO
Contributing Writer

According to a study conducted by the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, the University was one of the least efficient state universities in utilizing classroom space.

In 2007, the University changed its class schedule from a two-day schedule to a three-day schedule to improve classroom utilization.

Math Professor Dev Roy referred to in a 2007 article in *The Beacon* on his website saying that building funds would be held back unless classrooms were used more efficiently, and that switching to the three-day schedule was the way to do this.

According to the 2007 article, an appointed Classroom Space Utilization Committee, which consisted of faculty and staff members, had to “come up with a solution to the classroom utilization problem.” The solution was to implement a Monday, Wednesday, Friday schedule, rather than a Monday and Wednesday schedule.

Jeffrey Gonzalez, associate vice president of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, explained how the goal between the different academic departments and the Office of Class Management is to “maximize the use of classrooms.”

Students and faculty hold different views on whether this change was beneficial overall, and some doubt over the matter remains today.

“I don’t mind taking

classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, but I prefer a two-day schedule,” said Jessica Pascual, a freshman in journalism. Pascual said she did not mind longer classes if it meant making the commute less often.

Ashley Chavez, a sophomore interior design and construction management major, also prefers the two-day schedule because it gives her enough flexibility in her schedule “to work and go to school at the same time.”

Some professors still opt for a three-day schedule, but understand students’ busy schedules.

“When you had a Monday, Wednesday class—that space between Wednesday and next Monday was a really long time for students to remember what they needed to do,” said English professor Kenneth Claus.

Therefore, Claus sends out emails to his students on Fridays.

“Most of my students work, they have other

my students in terms of continuity.”

On the other hand, Roy designed an alternative model to maximize class-

“I would rather take a three-day class than a one-day class, because after an hour and half, it becomes harder to focus.”

Francesca Rosario
Sophomore
Journalism major.

classes, and they have a life,” Claus said. “While I don’t particularly enjoy working on Fridays, the reality is it seems to work much better for

room utilization using a two-day schedule rather than a three-day schedule.

According to the website, Roy’s two-day model proposes 75-minute

classes that alternate between “Monday, Wednesday; Wednesday, Friday; and Monday, Friday.” Royd said this model allows students to “fit in more classes and allow for 15-minute breaks between classes.”

While some departments have embraced the three-day schedule, other departments show a preference for a two-day, or even a one-day, class schedule.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication only offered three courses this spring semester that had a three-day schedule. Instead, the department offered 37 two-day courses, 31 one-day courses and nine online courses.

“I would rather take

a three-day class than a one-day class, because after an hour and half, it becomes harder to focus,” said Francesca Rosario, a sophomore journalism major.

According to the 2013 summer schedule on the SJMC website, the department will offer three courses with a three-day schedule, 20 courses with a two-day schedule, three courses with a one-day schedule and eight online courses.

Similarly, the Honors College shows a trend in their class schedules that favors two day and one day class schedules instead of three day class schedules.

The upper division class options for fall 2013 include 14 one-day courses and three online courses,

but only one three-day course and one two-day course.

“Although I like the three-day schedule because the classes are shorter, I still prefer a two-day schedule,” Rosario said. “Sometimes, with a three-day class schedule, I’ll have only one class a day and at times like that, I would much rather take that class twice a week.”

Six years after implementing the three-day class schedule, some students and faculty still seem to have reservations about having shorter classes more times a week.

Claus said regardless, it is a matter of getting used to a schedule.

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Map it out



SANA ULIAH/THE BEACON

The Geospatial Information Systems Center celebrated its first GIS Day at the Glenn Hubert Library in room 124 on Friday, March 29. Steve Switzer, GIS service assistant, introduces the “Spatially Puzzling Map Contest” in which students had to identify The Great Lakes. The prize was a bookstore gift certificate. Moses Shumow, assistant professor in School of Journalism and Mass Communication started the GIS Day with a workshop on how to find affordable GIS resources through the internet.

Laughing the end of the semester away

JENNIFER SANS
Contributing Writer

April begins the end of the semester countdown and the Student Programming Council knows students deserve a good laugh.

SPC will host a comedy show on Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Sofia Bodniza, SPC comedy director at BBC, organized this and last semester’s comedy show.

The comedy show will feature comedian Chello Davis, who performed last semester as host, and stand-up comedian and actor, Gary Owen.

Owen has been featured in movies such as *Think Like a Man* and *Daddy Day Care*, and in the television series, *House of*

Payne.

“We definitely had to bring back Chello Davis to perform again for this show because everyone was talking about how much they loved him as host,” said Bodniza.

Bodniza not only organized this show, but she is also going to perform as host, introducing Davis and Owen to the stage while also doing some of her

own stand-up.

“I’ve got some jokes written out. I want to go into comedy and acting so doing this event is exciting for me,” said Bodniza.

There will also be students featured in other shows, including the FIU Live Concert on Friday, April 12.

Students are looking forward to the laughs the comedians’ acts will bring, some for the second

time.

“Gary Owen is so funny,” said Larry Prince, freshman sociology major.

Tamicha Roger, undecided junior, said, “last semester’s show was really funny. I can’t wait to go to this show, as well. I like Davis’ type of humor and I’m excited to see Gary Owen.”

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