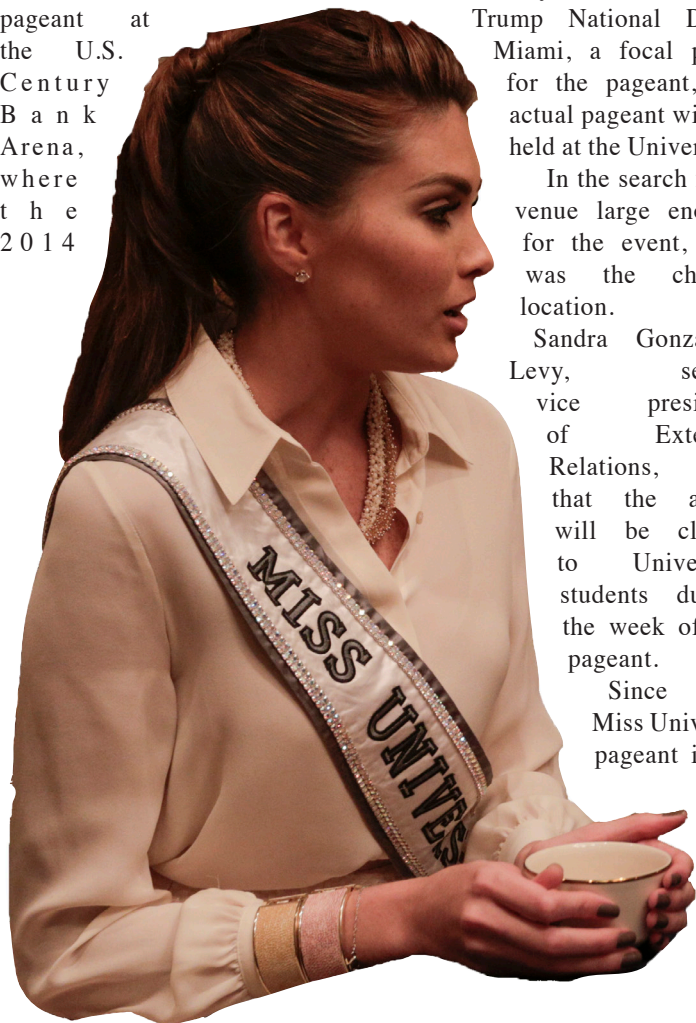


University holds high hopes for hosting pageant

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This weekend, FIU will host the Miss Universe pageant at the U.S. Century Bank Arena, where the 2014



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

Miss Universe 2013 Gabriela Isler, from Venezuela, won last year's pageant. This is the first time the pageant is held at the University.

winner will be crowned in front of a global audience.

Although Donald Trump, the owner of the pageant, is hosting his guests and multiple events in the City of Doral and the Trump National Doral Miami, a focal point for the pageant, the actual pageant will be held at the University.

In the search for a venue large enough for the event, FIU was the chosen location.

Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, senior vice president of External Relations, said that the arena will be closed to University students during the week of the pageant.

Since the Miss Universe pageant is an

internationally recognized event, President Mark B. Rosenberg hopes to gain recognition on a global scale, according to the minutes of a Faculty Senate meeting.

In the minutes, Rosenberg commented that global recognition at this level is difficult to find.

"We have chosen to invite representatives from more than 130 media outlets from around the world to tour our campus and learn more about our University," Gonzalez-Levy said. "FIU will be mentioned at least three times during the telecast of the final competition."

FIU will benefit from hosting the pageant in a few ways.

According to Gonzalez-Levy, FIU students are interning with the Miss Universe Organization.

Scholarship opportunities have also become possible for students. The First Generation Scholarship Fund, an opportunity only for FIU students, has raised \$140,000 for the scholarship, \$75,000 of which came from the Miss Universe Organization.

Gonzalez-Levy said the state of Florida may potentially match this fund.

FIU Athletics is also expecting to gain revenue through concessions, parking and ticket sales, which is projected to be between \$50,000-\$70,000.

But is the pageant worth the publicity?

The event will be costly for both FIU and the City of Doral, with Doral paying the pageant roughly \$2.5 million.

While FIU originally estimated to spend only \$70,000,

"I don't think hosting the pageant is as beneficial as it may seem."

Francisco Ripoll
Junior

Broadcast Journalism Major

that figure has increased.

According to the Miami Herald and a public expense report, FIU will spend approximately \$544,073 to host the pageant. This includes arena roof work for cameras and lights during the broadcast.

In a memo cited by The Miami Herald, due to the costs of accommodating the pageant FIU will "likely scrap" the new bleacher project and the softball/golf locker room facility project, which were both intended to help expand and strengthen FIU's Athletic Department.

Executive Director of Sports

and Entertainment Pete Garcia was recently quoted in The Miami Herald ensuring FIU will make its money back.

Students and faculty expressed their opinions on the pageant being hosted on University grounds.

Their reactions have not been positive.

In a recent article in The Miami Herald, FIU Associate Professor Susanne Zwingel expressed her disappointment of FIU hosting the pageant in a letter she sent to President Mark B. Rosenberg.

Zwingel said FIU should defy the status quo by showing people worldwide that the University stands for something larger than just judging a woman by her looks.

Francisco Ripoll, a junior broadcast journalism major agrees with Zwingel.

"I don't think hosting the pageant is as beneficial as it may seem," Ripoll said. "It can cause controversy on how FIU views women and I just don't think the spending is worth it. It's sad that FIU would contribute so much money to fix something for this event."

The final portion of the competition will take place on Sunday, Jan. 25, at 8:00 p.m. EST. Tickets for the final show are sold out.

Winners of Relay for Life pageant announced

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
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While some relay for their parents, Vivian Castro relays for her aunt, neighbor, and grandmother, a two-time breast cancer survivor.

The sophomore criminal justice major and sister of Phi Mu was one of five sorority women who participated in the Mr. and Miss Relay for Life pageant, which was hosted on Tuesday, Jan. 20 in the Graham Center Ballrooms at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

The pageant, which started in 2007 featuring only female contestants, intended to find a University representative for Relay for Life. Two years ago was when the pageant began accepting applications from male contestants.

Now the pageant features five female and five male contestants, all members of Greek and other campus organizations, and was divided into four segments: introduction, costume, fundraising, and question-and-answer rounds.

In the introduction round, contestants stated for whom they relayed and how they spent the previous week fundraising money for the organization.

Among the costumes that contestants

donned were those of Daenerys Targaryen from the Game of Thrones series, Giuliana Rancic, Robin Roberts, Batman, Clark Kent, and Miss Rosa from Orange Is the New Black.

Some channeled the medical theme. Like Angelica-Joy Dumervil, a senior political science and international relations double major, who dressed as Meredith Grey of Grey's Anatomy.

"We need people like Meredith Grey, like people in the medical industry working hard, working to find that cure, and people like us that come out every year...and help raise funds for a better tomorrow," she said.

Upon completion of the costume round, contestants prepared themselves for the next round, which ordered them to run through the crowd to see which one could collect the most donations.

The question-and-answer portion followed soon after.

Contestants were individually asked a Relay for Life trivia question along with one that allowed them to elaborate why they wished to win.

Before the 2015 winners were announced, 2014 winners Kristen Nyman and Nijat Zeynalov spoke to those in attendance about their experience throughout the previous year.

Both spoke about their progress in inspiring the group of Relay for Life participants at the 2014 event, going

"Because of [Relay for Life] I can have another birthday."

Nijat Zeynalov
Mr. Relay for Life
2014

from booth to booth encouraging those in attendance to continue working, to resist the urge to sleep and continue fighting.

They also displayed their gratitude. "I realized that because of you guys I'm alive today," said Zeynalov, a cancer survivor. "Because of [Relay for Life] I can have another birthday."

He also thanked those who donated money and hair, citing that they are the ones helping people with cancer live.

Nyman also had a special message for

the new winners.

"Do more than what [Nijat and I] did, set goals, reach them, inspire people," she said.

Soon after the votes were rendered, the results were announced.

The 2015 winners were Joseph Paz and Natalie Agramonte, of Phi Kappa Phi fraternity and Alpha Xi Delta sorority, respectively.

The recent winners will serve as the keynote speakers at Relay's opening ceremony, and be charged with cutting the ribbon for the inaugural lap, according to Kawi Gonzalez, a senior biology major and associate director of Relay for Life 2015 at FIU.

"What I hope [students] get out [of the event] is hope. This event is open to the whole entire community, and it brings a lot of closure to a lot of people. Everyone goes through some type of connection with cancer and when students come to our event [the community gives] them the closure that they need and the hope that they need," she said.

The Relay for Life event will be held overnight between Feb. 27-28 in the Ryder Business loop at the MMC.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Palestinian held in stabbing of 14 on Israeli bus

A Palestinian who boarded a bus in Tel Aviv stabbed 3 people on Wednesday, wounding four of them seriously, before he was shot and arrested, a police spokesman said.

The assault was the latest in a series of “lone-wolf” attacks by Palestinians who have used knives and cars to attack Israelis on the streets in recent months. The attacker was identified as a 23-year-old man from the West Bank city of Tulkarm.

Witnesses said the man, who was riding the bus, went up to the driver and stabbed him before turning on the passengers.

Report: Israel didn't know Iranian general was in bombed convoy

With the Israeli army on alert for possible retaliation for an airstrike in Syria that killed an Iranian general, there were increasing signs Tuesday that Israel had been unaware that the top officer was in a targeted Hezbollah convoy.

Israel has kept silent about Sunday's strike, but Reuters cited a senior Israeli security source as saying the attack had been launched without advance knowledge that Iranian Revolutionary Guard Gen. Mohammad Ali Allahdadi was in one of the vehicles. The remarks appeared to be an effort to avert escalation after Iran and Hezbollah threatened retaliation for the assault, which reportedly also killed five other Iranians.

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CORRECTIONS

On page 2 of Vol. 26, Issue 51, the names of Marie McLaughlin and Maytal Maor were combined to Maytal McLaughlin in the 2015 Panther Camp Facilitator listing.

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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Board of Trustees proposes new graduate programs

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Two new degree programs were proposed during the last Board of Trustees meeting.

The board proposed a Master of Arts in Disaster Management and a Master of Science in Cybersecurity, two fields that, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, are growing faster than the average for all occupations.

The Bureau said that the homeland security and disaster management fields are growing at a constant 42 percent through 2016 and that computer system analysis is projected to grow 25 percent from 2012 to 2022.

Both of the motions were approved by the FIU Board of Trustees. They were excited about the doors that these proposals could open for our nation, university and students.

“I can't imagine the opportunities for the private and public sectors that these two master's could bring,” said Claudia Puig, Chair of the Board. “I'm glad to know

that we are getting ahead.”

The new degree programs were proposed by Elizabeth Bejar, Vice President of Academic Affairs.

First on the agenda was the Master of Arts in Disaster Management, Puig said. The initial launch of the program is built to be funded by auxiliary dollars, not impacting the budget.

According to Bejar, the point of the program is to

corporations and NGOs.

“In a catastrophic disaster—either natural or manmade—there is a real need for educated professionals and leaders,” Bejar said.

The Master of Science in Cybersecurity program is designed for students who hold a Bachelor's in computer science, computer engineering, information technology or a related

which includes the social and economic aspects.

According to the agenda, this program was constructed through a survey conducted on students and alumni in the computer sciences field. The results showed that cybersecurity was of great interest to the FIU population.

Gabriel Molina, a sophomore majoring in information technology, finds cybersecurity very interesting.

“I think that it can benefit FIU and many businesses in the international gateway community,” he said. “It can obviously benefit students who are interested in cybersecurity and it can help postgraduate programs grow.”

The board spoke about the importance of a cybersecurity program in Florida -- all because it's home to tourism, banking and international business.

“These programs reinforce FIU's mission to achieve excellence in global studies and international understanding,” Bejar said.

“In a catastrophic disaster—either natural or manmade—there is a real need for educated professionals and leaders

Elizabeth Bejar
Vice President
Academic Affairs

develop the next generation of disaster professionals who possess the academic tools to meet the aspects of disaster management.

The agenda states that this is a program that will yield a professional degree to the field of disaster management in government, international organizations, private sector

discipline.

The curriculum consists of three complementary perspectives, including a hands-on approach on the best practices and limitations of the field, information on the different principles of the growing science of cybersecurity and the human context of cybersecurity --

President gives sixth State of the Union address

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On the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 20, President Barack Obama entered congressional chambers to a roar of applause.

The president delivered his sixth state of the union address in about an hour. In that time he mentioned several plans to address issues the U.S faces, both foreign and domestic.

Education

Citing future tech jobs like coding and robotics the president said he wants to ensure Americans are “ahead of the curve” when it comes to education.

According to Obama, more Americans are completing a college degree than ever before. Those numbers might increase with his plan to make community colleges “as free as high school.”

The president highlighted Tennessee, a republican majority state, and Chicago, a democratic majority city; as two places with opposing party majorities who both have free community college. He also asked business owners to provide more paid apprenticeships as well as to provide job hiring preference

to military veterans.

The president said the average modern household has two parents working full time to get by and use this as a point in advocating for universal child care.

He also asked Congress for a raise in the minimum wage.

“If you truly believe you could work full-time and support a family on less than \$15,000 a year, go try it. If not, vote to give millions of the hardest-working people in America a raise,” Obama said.

Continuing on issues related to the workforce, the president said, “It's time” that women receive equal pay to which he received wide applause. Speaker of the house John Boehner did not stand to applaud the president's words.

Due to both a senate and house controlled by republicans it is speculated that either a raise or a change to equal pay legislation will not come to pass.

The president also asked to have guaranteed sick pay and paid maternity leave for the \$43 million americans he claims do not have access to it.

“Forty-three million workers have no paid sick leave. And that forces too many parents to make the gut-wrenching choice between a paycheck and a

sick kid at home. Send me a bill that gives every worker in America the opportunity to earn seven days of paid sick leave. It's the right thing to do.”

Economy

“Middle class economics” was a key word the president kept referring back to throughout his speech. Calling on a lowering of taxes, raise of the minimum wage, an increase of exports and reforming the tax code to benefit middle class families.

And it's those exports that are intended to compete with large economies like Japan and Europe, which the president also claimed put less people back to work than the U.S.

Google, Tesla, and Ebay were cited as examples of the technology industry that has surged in the past decade. Companies and industry the president explicitly wants to flourish in the country.

And for those 21st century internet based businesses, the president also called on faster internet access. The United States lags behind in internet speed in comparison to other industrialized nations.

Foreign Policy

The president was quick to call out jihadists and referenced the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris by saying the U.S will stand with other nations in fighting terror groups.

“We will continue to hunt down terrorists and dismantle their networks, and we reserve the right to act unilaterally, as we've done relentlessly since I took office to take out terrorists who pose a direct threat to us and our allies.”

Congress had already approved the training of moderate rebels who oppose the Islamic State. The president also stated that American military actions have prevented the advancement of the terror network.

He would go to ask congress for an authorization of military force against the radical Islamic group.

Continuing with foreign matters, he condemned Russia's involvement in the Ukraine and said the country is suffering for it.

“Some suggested that Mr. Putin's aggression was a masterful display of strategy and strength. Well, today, it is America that stands strong and united with our allies, while Russia is isolated, with its economy in tatters,” Obama said.

Hypocrisy in media legitimizes violence and terrorism

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On Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015 the office of the humor magazine Charlie Hebdo was attacked by radical islamists and twelve people, including a police officer, were murdered. The magazine was targeted because of its cartoons depicting the image of the Islamic prophet Muhammad, an act not explicitly forbidden in the Quran, but some hadiths, additional materials, forbid the visual depiction of any leaders or figures.

A lot of magazines and newspapers showed solidarity by reprinting some of the cartoons created by the Charlie Hebdo staff. However, none of the major American networks, like The New York Times, have re-printed any of the cartoons that Charlie Hebdo published, despite the White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest telling media organizations that “individual news organization have to assess that risk for themselves. I might add, there are also journalists who assume great personal risk to cover stories...so there is a risk assessment made in lots of decisions journalists make.”

The mainstream news organizations in the United States are afraid of printing anything that could be deemed anti-islamic for fear of retaliation, often they will say their refusal is out of cultural sensitivity; however other religions like Christianity, Judaism and Buddhism are easily and often criticized and lampooned. This is a blatant

hypocrisy in the American media system that legitimizes violence and terrorism.

Charlie Hebdo’s Editor-in-Chief Gerard Biard, who was absent the day of the attacks, criticized the United States for not reprinting any of the cartoons and not defending freedom of expression. “It’s a symbol of freedom of speech, freedom of democracy and secularism...It is this symbol newspapers refuse to publicize when they refuse to publish this cartoon. They blur

people with the most courage and valiance are the writers and cartoonist--the most powerful agents of social critique and reform.

However, in regards to the events concerning Charlie Hebdo, Pope Francis condemned the actions of the magazine saying, “One cannot provoke, one cannot insult other people’s faith; one cannot make fun of faith. If my good friend Dr. Gasparri says a curse word against my mother, he can expect a punch. It’s normal.”

theater and using hate speech to incite violence are not protected by the right to free speech--those are instances where speech is limited; but social critiques of a religion do not receive special protection. Any religion is open to criticism, no institution gets a safe haven from ridicule. Any special treatment to one religion is an expression of inferiority to all other belief systems. Biard stated, “Every time we draw a cartoon of Muhammad or the prophet or of God, we defend the freedom of religion...We declare God must not be political or public figure, he must be a private figure. If faith steps into the political arena, it becomes a totalitarian argument. Secularism allows all believers and non-believers to live in peace, and that is what we defend.”

I tried to refrain from quoting South Park, but in the two part episode “Cartoon Wars,” Kyle Broflovski says, “Either it’s all okay or none of it is,” in regards to depicting an image of Mohammed. Once a person says an image cannot be shown or is offensive, that person or group has made a moral judgement for everyone, and not everyone might feel an image is offensive, they have played censure for the populace. Showing an image of Muhammad is not offensive to all Muslims, but the vocal and violent majority are the ones saying it is offense, they are attempting to speak for all Muslims. Self imposed censorship and kowtowing to terrorists shows how easily freedom can be inhibited and threatened. The goal of a satirist is to mock the propriety, to keep the elite in check and fallible.

“First and foremost “offensive” is subjective, everyone has different sensibilities, and no one person or group of persons can be the morality police for the world.”

it out, they blur out democracy, secularism and freedom of religion and they insult the citizenship.”

There are some who will say that the cartoons published by Charlie Hebdo were offensive and should not have been printed. First and foremost “offensive” is subjective, everyone has different sensibilities, and no one person or group of persons can be the morality police for the world. Even if the cartoons were offensive, that does not warrant the use of violence. No cartoonist or writer should lose their life over a satirical cartoon. We are now living in a world where the

This is absolutely incorrect and an encroachment on freedom of expression and on the freedom to lambaste any institution, including religious institutions. It is not normal or justified to punch someone because they have provoked you. Violence is not the tool used when one is offended or wants to send a message--that is terrorism, using violence to achieve a means.

The Pope later said, “There is a limit. Every religion has its dignity...in freedom of expression there are limits.” Yes, there are some limits to freedom expression, for instance, shouting “fire” in a crowded

GYM, TREAT, LEAVE



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

THE BEACON | Editorial

Dear FIU: Move on and Learn

When we as an executive board first heard about the 63rd Miss Universe Pageant being hosted at our University, we decided against giving a collective opinion.

We came to the decision of not stating our collective opinion because we felt an editorial with its limitations would not allow us to tell the full story, in terms of the advantages and disadvantages that we anticipated would come from the presence of the pageant on our campus.

Instead, we presented the advantages and disadvantages in two separate pieces appropriately labeled as the pros and cons of hosting Miss Universe on our campus.

Something that was briefly touched upon on the con piece was the question of how the University would pay for the costs associated with the hosting of the pageant.

Now, as we near the final days of our time as the hosting venue of the pageant, the Miami Herald reported on just how much the University would have to go through to complete this task. What was reported was not only the expenses towards hosting the pageant itself, which amounts to an estimated \$544,073, but also the sacrifices the University will have to make to gather the money needed for the previously mentioned expenses.

The University has taken a lot of scolding for gambling with the expenses of university projects towards our growth and improvement for the sake of being the hosting venue of a beauty pageant with elaborate roofing and lighting.

We think with reason, as we can’t be certain how any of this will eventually benefit the University, if at all. Money that could have been used towards university projects, like those for the school’s female student athletes, is instead being used for the benefit of the pageant way beyond the originally estimated \$70,000 for roof repairs of the U.S Century Bank Arena.

Unfortunately, scolding doesn’t do much at this point, as we are well into the final days of the beauty pageant’s presence on our campus. While it does not change a single thing that has happened throughout this entire ordeal, it can hopefully act as a learning experience for the university’s community. We can only hope that this experience as a whole presents a new perspective for the University representatives on how they should be careful about how they gamble with the future growth and improvement of our institution.

Given the backlash it received for being the host of a beauty pageant, which can be troublesome on its own beyond expenses in the sense of appearances and the message being given in a university that recently had to deal with a campus proper, it would only make sense that the community’s consensus is taken into consideration when going forward with significant deals such as this.

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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EDITORIAL POLICY

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FIU receives visit from former Miss Universe

AMANDA RABINES &
KATRINA VELEZ
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Two years ago, on Nov. 9, Gabriela Isler "Miss Venezuela," stood in front of spotlights, judges and a live broadcast, with viewership from around the world, as a crown was placed on her head.

She had just won the title of Miss Universe in Moscow's Crocus City Hall in Russia.

This Sunday, she will pass down that crown to the next worthy contestant at Florida International University's U.S. Century Bank Arena, where FIU will host the 63rd Annual Miss Universe Pageant.

"Giving my crown in this place filled with hispanic, latin, and Venezuelan communities just makes me feel at home," Isler said. "I'm just happy that [the pageant] brought me here, to end this chapter in my life and start a new one."

Isler was at Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Jan. 20 to visit FIU, including the volleyball team.

There, she also spared some time to speak with The Beacon staff on some

of the buzz and controversy revolving around the beauty pageant.

One big issue was last Sunday, when FIU issued a statement in response to the Miami Herald's article, which exposed how the pageant is costing FIU \$544,073.

The statement read -- "The event will bring international attention to FIU and provide our first-generation students with more than \$200,000 in scholarships. In addition, recent arena roof upgrades will prove to be a worthwhile investment that will make it possible to attract concerts and other events to the FIU Arena."

The only merit Isler sees in FIU's decision to spend that much amount of money, is based upon the hopes that it's coverage will attract more international students.

"There's many students around the world who are looking for options," Isler said. "This year FIU and Miss Universe are working together and it will be an opportunity to bring into the spotlight, not just Miami/Doral but also FIU, to get exposure."

Another international



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

Gabriela Isler, Miss Universe 2013 from Venezuela visited the University on Tuesday, Jan.20 where she will watch her successor be crowned on Sunday, Jan. 25.

issue that arose, was the infamous Lebanon and Israel selfie.

"During my year, we didn't have any problems between pictures, or between different countries," Isler said. "I think that these pictures [between Miss Lebanon, Saly Greige, and Miss Israel, Doron Matalon] show that some girls like enjoying themselves

during this beautiful experience and I think you really have to be sick of hearing about all the trouble and struggle between countries."

So the struggles Isler insist the women in this year's pageant focus on, is on the competition itself. In order to win the crown the women must succeed through three categories - swimsuit, evening gown

and interview.

Isler says the best advice she can give to contestants is to, treat the experience like a job --with great responsibility.

"It's true, it's a competition but it's also a once in a lifetime experience," Isler said. "It's important to enjoy yourself, but take into account that this is a job, so you have to show

responsibility, commitment and that you are able to represent the brand of your country."

For Isler, the pageant is more than a beauty contest, she says it's a sport.

"We are a competition of different nations so I think FIU is a perfect place to hold a pageant because this is a university that supports sports and this is a similar type of adrenaline," Isler said. "It's 88 girls competing for a title."

Though she is losing her crown, Isler doesn't feel she is losing a trophy. Instead she is setting her mind on another one.

"I was never able to pursue my profession, so now, I'm going to focus more on the humanitarian world," said Isler, who has a master's in business administration and a degree in marketing. "I want a master's in international development, so I may be able to help spread more knowledge to people around the world and not just my country."

The three-hour pageant will air on NBC at 8 p.m. Sunday and will be simulcast in Spanish on Telemundo.

'American Sniper' both a character study and commemorative film

REEL-TO-REEL



RAFAEL ABREU

Movies have immortalized all sorts of fictitious characters, as well as characters that represent people who actually existed.

By their nature, films are a dramatic medium which can portray its subjects in a variety of lights, from quite negative to patriotically positive. It's always best to let the movie be the movie, meaning that we do not take the information that the movie gives us as pure fact.

When a film represents people and events that did happen, it's best to view the film as the filmmaker's representation; if a film goes to know more about the events and people in the film, they can look it up. Otherwise, it's always wisest to watch a film as it is -- no filmmaker can ever keep their bias from entering the picture.

Directed by Clint Eastwood and written by Jason Hall (based on the book by Chris Kyle, Scott McEwen, and Jim DeFelice), "American

Sniper" is about Chris Kyle, who is said to be the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history, with 160 officially confirmed kills. It stars Bradley Cooper as Chris and Sienna Miller as his wife, Taya Renae Kyle.

"American Sniper" moves at a good pace, starting off in media res at the beginning of Kyle's first tour of duty, then going back to his childhood, moving onto his rodeo cowboy days, until he decides to enlist in the military. The film's story definitely relies heavily on highlights and there is no strong overall story structure. This is not a complaint, as real life is pretty much like this and most biopics are like this as well. However, the film does have a sort of story arc (with its own beginning, middle, and end) involving Kyle going after a sniper named Mustafa during his four tours of duty. Aside from this, the film merely chronicles Kyle through his tours, his marriage, and his relationships with everyone around him.

As one should understand, "American Sniper" is a character study, one that allows its subject



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAHIL KHAN VIA CREATIVE COMMONS

Clint Eastwood's "American Sniper" has Bradley Cooper on the silver screen to portray Chris Kyle, who with 160 confirmed kills, is the most lethal sniper in American history.

to, for the most part, speak for himself.

I was very much impressed by not only Cooper's disappearance into the role of Kyle, but how the film could easily be seen as both a film commemorating an American hero and as a study on a man who was greatly affected by war and how he positively and negatively affects others around him.

While there is controversy surrounding Kyle and the book the film is based on, I only wanted to see this film as a film, as well as the different angles and viewpoints given by the filmmaker.

I believe this film could have been completely fictional, talking about a fictional sniper that did the things seen in the film, and I would still find it to be a better-

than-expected drama about a man who did his best to help others -- sometimes at the sacrifice of his own mental well-being.

I believe the film, while often times predictable, does a good job showing a man who had trouble escaping the war, especially when back home. It's the moments when he's back home, struggling to get back into the regular motions of everyday life, that I find myself the most impressed with "American Sniper."

I know many, including those in my theater, would find the war scenes exciting and of great value, but for me, nothing says more about a character and the film itself than a scene with Kyle merely sitting in a bar "taking a break" before returning back to his house for good.

It may not be perfect, but "American Sniper" does its job of showing us a man who was known as a legend, a man who had a family he loved dearly, and a man who is greatly revered for saving, helping, and protecting fellow soldiers.

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FIU'S VERY OWN WINTER WONDERLAND



CLINTON WALKER/THE BEACON

Physics Department Lab Instructor Mike Smith looks through a telescope set up by the Astronomy Club at FIU during the Winter Wonderland CSO Club Fair.

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On Tuesday, Jan. 20, students filled the Graham Center Ballrooms as dozens of clubs held a club fair.

The fair ran from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., providing free lunch choices. Multiple clubs and organizations came out to table and advertise themselves, gathering interested individuals and possible new members.

The clubs ranged from fraternities the Astronomy Club at FIU, which had a

telescope set up in front of their table as an indicator to check them out. Besides clubs, the fair also provided giveaways, with barely any student leaving empty handed.

If students are interested in joining clubs but were unable to attend the club fair, they can get information about various organizations and clubs via the website OrgSync. Most organizations and clubs have scheduled meetings for the next week, providing enough time for students to get accustomed to their new semester before settling into clubs.

Hail Mary Mallon's 'Bestiary' has 'less than ideal' good-to-bad track ratio

COLUMNIST



ANGELO LOPEZ

Hail Mary Mallon's "Bestiary" is a reflection of the rap group's similar styles, and how Aesop Rock, the more noteworthy member of the group, has managed to evolve his sound while remaining true to his rhyming technique.

Since with his 2007 album "None Shall Pass," Rock has not deviated from the dark yet up-tempo formula fans have come to expect. His second album "Skeleton" and last November's "Bestiary" seem to serve as confirmation that this is now Rock's permanent style.

This new style is in contrast to how he first built his fanbase in the early 2000s; back then, the beats were much less frantic and a little more varied, and (as is to be expected for a beginning artist) the production was less sophisticated. This is not a judgment of one style over the other, but merely an observation of his career arc. This observation is necessary to understand why "Bestiary" sounds the way it sounds.

each other. The only major difference between the two is Rock's metaphor mastery, which no one else in the genre can replicate.

Almost every track on the album features a dark but fast-paced beat; Rock and Sonic make no dramatic departure from their rhyming norm. What is left to analyze is not their formula for making good music, but the execution of said formula.

With "Bestiary," when the tracks are good, they are very good. The tracks "Jonathan," "Dollywood," "Hang Ten," "Picture Day," and "Kiln" are the standout tracks of this album. "Dollywood" is an amazing display of intricate rhyming technique and teamwork. It's one thing for one MC to produce such a display of internal and multisyllabic rhymes; for two to do so and not get in the other's way is amazing. The only other example of teamwork that comes to mind is Vinnie Paz and Planetary on Jedi Mind Tricks' "A Storm of Swords," but their intricacy is not comparable to that of "Dollywood."

"Kiln" is made special by Rock's poignant verse in which he laments

scare you away as soon as you press play. The ratio of good tracks to bad tracks is lower than ideal but all in all, the quality of the standout tracks makes dealing with the clunkers worthwhile.

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Artist: Hail Mary Mallon
Album: Bestiary
Rating: 3.5/5

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While there are a good amount of tracks worthy of entry into your music library on this album, there are also too many that scare you away as soon as you press play.

”

Although Rock's production style has evolved, his rhyming technique, which includes heavy use of (almost undecipherable) metaphors and borderline genius introspective lyrics, have been his calling card since the start of his career. Rob Sonic, the other member of Hail Mary Mallon, has been collaborating with Rock for a decade; the two seem to share similar values, and it shows in their subject matter and rhyming techniques, which resemble

subconsciously altering his style for greater mass appeal. The beat on "Hang Ten" draws you in immediately and compels you to listen to the track in full. As deep as Hail Mary Mallon lyrics can be, they're also skilled at a light-hearted approach, displayed in "Jonathan" and "Picture Day."

While there are a good amount of tracks worthy of entry into your music library on this album, there are also too many that

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers look to snap losing streak at FAU

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On Saturday, Jan. 24, the women's basketball team will take on Florida Atlantic in their second head-to-head of the season. In their first outing, the Panthers were handed their ninth loss of the season and their first loss against Conference USA opponent.

Since that game earlier this month, the losses have continued to pile up for FIU. However, before the first contest, the Panthers had finally earned their first wins of the season against UCF, Wofford and Bowling Green. Unfortunately, the loss against the Owls seemed to put an end to that good luck streak and officially reacquainted the Panthers with their early-season losing pattern.

The Owls, on the other hand,

have also found themselves stuck in a three game losing streak since their first outing against the Panthers. These three losses came against Middle Tennessee, Western Kentucky and Marshall, all C-USA teams that FIU has fallen to this season. They did, however, manage to pull out one win against UAB in the game immediately following the first competition.

In the loss, FAU displayed impressive second half play which allowed them to pull away and secure a 79-63 lead. Therefore, in order to pull off the win and snap their five game losing streak, the Panthers will have to open the half well and play at a high-energy level from beginning to end.

In addition, FIU will have to focus on shutting down sophomore Shaneese Bailey who finished with a career-high 29 points in their last

GET YOUR BUDOKON ON



VINCENT RIVES/THE BEACON

FIU Budokon instructors Natasha Rashinge and PJ Fung perform stretches and poses to promote their class. Budokon is held at the Rec center Fridays at 10:45 a.m.

meeting. She also scored FAU's first 16 points of the contest in the first six minutes of the game. Between the explosive play of Bailey and freshman Melinda Myers and the team's lock-down defense, the Owls were able to come back in the second half and build an 11-point lead.

On the Panthers side of the court, center Marita Davydova had a big game with 16 points to lead the team. She also finished with 10 rebounds, notching her fourth double-double of the season.

Saturday's game will decide whose losing streak will end and

whose will continue. If FAU wins, they would move one game above .500 with a record of 9-8. Furthermore, they would improve their C-USA record to 3-3. FIU will be looking for their first win against a C-USA opponent and their fourth win of the season.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

9-9 record reflects lack of playing consistency

COLUMNIST



DAVID DRUCKER

It's the night of Saturday, Jan. 17, and the biggest ensemble of Panther fans this season looks on as their team attempts to knock off the conference heavyweights. Senior guard Dennis Mavin's squad has less than a minute to erase a five-point Hilltoppers' lead. He breaks down the court to the top of the key and slides to his left. He feigns a drive, but instead takes a sharp hop back and shoots the jumper -- freezing a helpless Western Kentucky University defender on his heels. Swish. Three-point game.

U.S. Century Bank Arena howls as Western Kentucky inbounds the ball. The Panthers quickly commit a foul to send a Hilltopper to the charity stripe, but the Western Kentucky player sinks both free throws. FIU throws its next possession into the dirt and they're out of time; the energy that they built after tangoing

back and win in big-time fashion.

The tale of two halves pattern that the Panthers are experiencing may be due in part by the management of junior forward Adrian Diaz, the team's leading rebounder. Head Coach Anthony Evans chooses to sit him for significant minutes towards the end of the first half to keep him out of foul trouble. The team loses its only true paint presence when this happens and can allow their opponents to rip big scoring runs going into halftime. The Panthers will either need another player to emerge or Diaz to better manage his fouls in order for them to "play big" for the majority of a game.

The opportunity is still available for the Panthers to become one of the top teams in the conference. Thirteen conference games remain for the Panthers before the conference tournament. Their support system is strong as well; the student section, which now stretches into the second level of stands, has grown with every competitive home game.

But for now, .500 is where the Panthers glide, with the chance to soar above if they could just play a complete 40 minutes of basketball.

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The Panther's 9-9 record after Saturday night's game is a perfect indication of the inconsistency that the team has struggled with all season.

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with the conference's best team, lost.

The Panther's 9-9 record after Saturday night's game is a perfect indication of the inconsistency that the team has struggled with all season. Their last six results are two wins, two losses, a win and a loss. This back-and forth play goes beyond the final results too; the Panthers can never seem to stay consistent on the court.

In the first half against the Hilltoppers they seemed to adjust to their opponent's full-court press just fine; they had spacing and moved the ball up the court. In the second half, however, they panicked and coughed up turnover after turnover.

Inconsistency has struck before against Marshall University on Thursday, Jan. 15 when the team allowed a 50 percent 3-point shooting first half from the then 4-12 Thundering Herd. In the next half, however, they overcame the 36-21 halftime deficit to come



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Junior forward Adrian Diaz, the Panthers' lead rebounder, rises over the defense for a jump shot against Marshall University on Thursday, Jan. 15. His high tenancy for fouls has led him to sit out during major parts of games.

TENNIS

Tournament provides boost as Panthers look for a strong 2015 season

STEFANO RIVERA
Contributing Writer
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The Panther tennis team participated in their first event of 2015 at the University of Central Florida Quad Tournament in Orlando, Florida. They were one of four teams competing this past weekend including UCF, the University of Iowa, and the University of Illinois.

The tournament was a success for the Panthers, as they went on to win the event on Monday, Jan. 19, with twelve singles victories and five doubles wins.

The first day of the tournament, Saturday, Jan. 17, the Panthers had six singles matches, all against Illinois. The team went on to win four out of the six matches. Yana Koroleva won 6-1, 6-4 against Alexis Casati, Carlotta Orlando won 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 against Melissa Kopinski, Nina Nagode won 6-2, 6-3 against Grace Tapak, and Kaitlin Brozovich won 6-3, 6-2 against Jade Hilton.

The team also competed against UCF that day in doubles matches. Nerma Caluk/Yana Koroleva won a close match that went into tiebreaker 7-6, (7-5) against Sofia Baptista/Cortney Cesarini, and Valentina Briceno/

Kaitlin Brozovich won 6-4 against Annika Hepp/Monica Matias.

The first day turned out to be a success and the Panthers would look for a better outcome on day two of the tournament.

On Sunday, Jan. 18, the Panthers played UCF in singles and ended up winning four out of the six matches as well. Koroleva won 6-2, 6-3 against Caroline Eberhart, Orlando won 6-1, 6-2 against Cesarini, Nagode won 6-2, 6-3 against Baptista, and Brozovich won 6-3, 6-3 against Clare Mendell. Caluk lost a nail biter 3-6, 7-6, 5-7 against Kennan Johnson. However, the singles got the job done on the second day of the event.

Once again, the Panthers' doubles won two out of three matches, but this time against Iowa. Caluk/Koroleva won 7-5 against Annette Dohanics/Shelby Talcott, and Nagode/Orlando won decidedly 6-0 against Morven McCulloch/Anastasia Reimchen.

After having the same results two days in a row, the Panthers looked to be in a comfortable position going into the final day of the event.

On Sunday, Jan. 19, the Panthers faced off against Iowa in singles. Winning four out of the six

matches, the team proved to be too much for the Hawkeyes. Orlando won 6-2, 6-2 against McCulloch, Caluk won 6-3, 6-2 against Reimchen, Nagode won 3-6, 6-2, 10-6 against Dohanics, and Brozovich won 7-5, 5-7, 10-7 against Katie Zordani.

The Panthers fell short against Illinois in doubles, only winning one of the three matches. Nagode/Orlando won 6-3 against Casati/Tapak.

Overall, the Panthers beat every team they faced and finished tied with Illinois for the five doubles matches they won. Orlando, Brozovich, and Nagode ended the tournament a perfect 3-0 in each of their three their singles matches. Collectively, they carried the load for the Panthers' throughout the events.

The Panthers will look to use the victories they had in the UCF Quad Tournament as fuel for upcoming events.

The team will host its next two events against Liberty University and Stetson University before heading up to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to face the University of Pennsylvania.

They'll look to ride this strong start all the way through the conference tournament in April.

BASEBALL

Newly hired assistant coach Mark Kertenian provides experience to baseball team

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FIU's baseball team has a new acquisition -- not on the diamond but in the clubhouse. Head Coach Turtle Thomas added Mark Kertenian as an assistant coach to an already knowledgeable coaching staff. Kertenian spent last season with the University of Nevada, and was the recruiting coordinator there and California State University, Northridge. He is known for developing young talent. Kertenian has coached five Major League players, 60 drafted players and 15 players signed to independent or overseas leagues.

Kertenian has had experience in a winning environment and helping a team to succeed. Kertenian helped Nevada to a 31-win season.

Nevada went on six, three-game win streaks in the 2014 season. The Wolf Pack ranked first in the league in home runs (34), and fourth in team batting average (.283) and team ERA (3.94).



MARK KERTENIAN

Before coaching at Nevada, Kertenian spent nine years on the Cal State Northridge staff from 2001-10. In Kertenian's first season in 2002, the Matadors won the Big West title with a 41-17 overall record. Kertenian has spent some time coaching in summer collegiate baseball leagues.

He coached the East Texas Pump Jacks of the Texas Collegiate League in Kilgore, Texas, in 2013. He also was the head coach of the Oahu Paddlers of the Hawaii Collegiate Baseball League from 2005-06, leading the team to the 2005 championship. From a player's standpoint, Kertenian was used as a productive utility player and pitcher.

He played three years of college baseball, beginning with two years at Los Angeles City College under Head Coach Steve Rousey,

Kertenian provides playing experience from all aspects of the field and these FIU players will be fortunate in having him be

“

Kertenian has coached five Major League players, 60 drafted players and 15 players signed to independent or overseas leagues.

”

who would later hire Kertenian to be a part of his Cal State Northridge coaching staff. Kertenian finished his collegiate career at Point Loma Nazarene University.

a positive impact on a successful season. Hopefully Kertenian hopes to bring that winning culture to FIU like he has done with his former teams.

FOOTBALL

'Deflate-gate' won't ruin Super Bowl XLIX

RHYS' PIECE



RHYS WILLIAMS

in Glendale, Arizona, on Sunday, Feb. 1 is between the Seattle Seahawks (last season's champions) and the New England Patriots, and there is already controversy for the game.

During the AFC Championship game on Sunday, Jan. 18, where the

This year's Super Bowl - Super Bowl XLIX - which will be played Patriots defeated former FIU star wide receiver T.Y. Hilton and the Indianapolis Colts by a score of 44-7, held a lot of controversy with the 'Deflate-gate' investigation which followed.

For those of you who haven't heard, 11 of the 12 footballs provided by the Patriots were not to the inflation requirement set by the NFL.

This is a benefit for the offensive players who would catch the ball, as it's easier for the quarterback to throw the ball, and the running backs to carry the

ball without fumbling.

The way that the first issue was seen was an interception by a Colts defensive back. He apparently then brought it to the attention of the referees.

I have already heard a lot about how the controversy of ball deflation would ruin the biggest game of the year in the NFL and how the Patriots, who are yet again at the center of a controversy involving the super bowl (see spy-gate) shouldn't even be there.

That, to me, is a bunch of malarky.

Now, don't get me wrong. I am not a fan of the Patriots. However, they showed that they were the best team in the AFC during not only the postseason, but also they ended the regular season with a 12-4 record as the No. 1 seed in their conference.

They are also not the first to deflate game balls for a high stakes game, as former Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Brad Johnson has reportedly said that he paid for people to tamper with the footballs prior to the super bowl in 2003, when

the Buccaneers played the Oakland Raiders. The Buccaneers won that game 48-21.

Also, even with the findings of the investigation of the NFL showing that all but one football was deflated, the Patriots could not be removed from the super bowl as punishment as it is against league rules to vacate wins from a team. The most likely punishment will be a fine and a loss of at least one draft pick in this upcoming May's draft.

I'm done with hearing

that they shouldn't be in the game.

If you're a football fan, you are going to watch anyway.

A side note on the game, by the way: if the Patriots do defeat the Seahawks on 'Super Bowl Sunday', then former FIU offensive lineman Caylin Hauptmann will have two championship rings in two seasons in the NFL.

He was a member of the active roster for the Seahawks for part of last season and is a member of the Patriots practice squad this year.



CARL-FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

KING FOR A DAY

Since 1994 the MLK Day of Service has been a National Day of Service, and been referred to as a "Day On, Not a Day Off." This year's celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, held by the Center for Leadership Affairs, took place on Monday, Jan. 19. Participants in the Day of Service were asked to honor King's legacy by giving back to their community, and in celebration of the University's 50th Anniversary, community members were asked to "Give 50," or dedicate 50 hours of service.

To the left, members of the football team wave to spectators as they walk in the Martin Luther King Day parade in Liberty City.

Seminar discusses impact of social media in journalism and society

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As social media spreads news at a faster rate, consumers are more likely to be misinformed by unreliable sources.

To address this issue, the Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication will focus this month's seminar event on the use of social media and its affect on society Wednesday, Jan. 28.

According to Lillian Kopenhaver, dean emeritus at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, more young people are getting messages through social media than any other kind of medium.

Whether it be in the field of journalism, advertising or public relations -- social media is used everywhere. However, it's important to learn the responsibilities of social media usage and to discern which news is accurate.

"It's so important for people who are in communication to realize that social media is important, but also the fact that it has to be accurate and you can't just rush to judgement," Kopenhaver said.

To bring light on the issue, the center has invited renowned Local 10 News Reporter Glenna Milberg and Don Silver, chief operating officer at the marketing and public relations firm BoardroomPR.

"[Social Media] is much faster. It's a speedy kind of no-filter way of getting things out and that could have a great downside," Milberg said in an interview with Student Media.

As co-host of "This Week

in South Florida," Milberg has covered stories on issues and events on Cuba's revolution and evolution, earthquakes in California and

To bring in another perspective, Silver, who has worked for 30-plus years in public relations and marketing management, will

community outreach. Students like Ingrid Faust, a junior advertising major, agree that social media is like a double-edged sword, that it

around the world... now it's seconds," Faust said.

She said that for advertising, social media allows advertisers to find out what the public wants to know what to sell. However, she said socially, it is also regressing our society.

"Socially, I think it's something that's setting us back. Everyone is on their phone. No one communicates face to face," Faust said.

The seminar, "Social Media: Adding Impact to the Message," will be held at the Biscayne Bay Campus in the Academic Two Building room 252 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

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[Social Media] is much faster. It's a speedy kind of no-filter way of getting things out and that could have a great downside.

Glenna Milberg
New Reporter
Local 10 News

”

Colombia and the plight of orphans in Ukraine.

She has also been awarded the Big Impact Award from Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Greater Miami and graduated with a broadcast journalism degree at FIU. Milberg said that as a country with free speech, anyone can record things on Facebook, report on Twitter and upload videos on YouTube without having to be professional journalists.

"You always have to be a smart, discerning news consumer, but with social media, that just ramps that up logarithmically -- I mean to the nth degree," Milberg said. "So you really never know what is credible."

On the other hand, she said that social media has provided her with many platforms to work with at a faster rate and to a wider audience in real-time.

"All of the sudden I have all kinds of sources that I never had before," Milberg said. "If something happens in the field, I immediately know who are the eyewitnesses because they're Tweeting about it or on Facebook with it."

also speak at the event. He is known for assisting the state's top entrepreneurs and corporations in public relations, marketing and

has it's upsides and downsides.

"Before, without social media, it would take us days to find out something that happened half-way

STRETCH IT OUT



NELLIE REYES/THE BEACON

Yoga instructor Bonnie Quiceno teaches yoga by the bay on Friday, Jan. 16.